



Chavaya (Experience) is our Jewish Education program for youth in K-12th grade

Chavaya is inspired by the powerful learning and identity formation that takes place at Jewish camps and in youth groups. By the time a participant has been through the entire program, culminating in graduation from our High School program, he or she will be acquainted with:

- Prayerbook Hebrew
- Bible
- Israel
- Jewish Rituals
- Holiday & Life Cycle Events
- Jewish values
- Ethics
- Theology
- The Holocaust

The program promotes the free expression of ideas and questions about Jewish identity and the role of religion in a person's life. Participants are taught and mentored by caring and knowledgeable adults and teens.

Similar to a camp-like atmosphere, groups learn together in two-grade units through art, music, stories, bayit time (small groups) and more. The purpose of Chavaya is for learners to feel a deep connection to the Temple Israel community and the Jewish community as a whole, and to be able to express how Judaism is relevant and meaningful to our learners.

Youth in our Kindergarten-2nd grade groups experience conversational Hebrew integrated into their curricular topics. Our Hebrew program for 3rd-6th grade emphasizes prayer Hebrew through Mitkadem, a self-paced program that promotes independent as well as group work and allows for the individual growth of all learners. We strive to create a feeling of comfort and familiarity with Jewish prayer, helping participants fully engage with the ceremonies and rituals of Jewish life.



Units and Meetings Times



Zera'eem=Seeds (Kindergarten)

Sunday, 9:30 am – 12 pm

Shorasheem=Roots (1st and 2nd grade)

Sunday, 9:30 am – 12 pm

Nitzaneem=Buds (3rd and 4th grade)

Sunday, 9:30 am – 12 pm

Tuesday, 4 pm – 6 pm

Ahleem=Leaves (5th and 6th grade)

Tuesday & Thursday, 4 pm – 6 pm

Aytzeem=Trees (7th grade)

Tuesday, 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm*

Thursday, 4 pm – 6 pm**

High School (8th -12th grade)

Tuesday, 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm*

*includes dinner

**B'nei Mitzvah preparation with clergy

What Participants Like Best About Chavaya



"I love being Jewish! I enjoy that I am with my friends and that I can say my prayers to God."

~ Olivia Barsky, Zera'eem (Kindergarten)

"Having the choice to work alone or in a group in Mitkadem."

~Nicole Weiss, Ahleem (5th grade)

"I like that we learn the colors in Hebrew."

~ Adam Relkin, Shorasheem (1st & 2nd grade)



"Because I like to learn in a group."

~ Ryder Proudian, Shorasheem (1st & 2nd grade)

"Rabbi Weiner dressing up as a prophet!"

~ Milo Freedenberg, Nitzaneem (3rd & 4th grade)

"Getting to pick where our Tzedakah goes."

~ Ella Miller, Nitzaneem (3rd & 4th grade)

"Being with my friends!"

~ Jon Cohen, Ahleem (5th grade)

"Theories about the Torah and art activities."

~ Zachary Hiken, Ahleem (6th grade)

"Ivrit time, I like reading in the Hebrew book and learning about prophets."

~ Adam Cohen, Nitzaneem (3rd & 4th grade)

Chavaya Contact Information

Rebecca Elkus-Ferst
Chavaya Director
relkusferst@tinr.org
235-1800 x221

Ellen Egan
Education Administrator
ellenegan@tinr.org
235-1800 x220

Co-Chairs:

Katherine Dennin
katherinedennin@gmail.com

Mara Roberge
mararoberge@hotmail.com

Karen White
karenwhite18@gmail.com

