

HAVURAT TORAH, TEMPLE ISRAEL CENTER

5774 VA'ADOT (ACTION COMMITTEE) DESCRIPTIONS

For Grades 8-12

Registering for a va'adah is easy!

Below are the **Va'adot, Study Commissions**, descriptions for the fall semester. The goal of the *va'adot* is to give you the opportunity to learn about topics that are of interest to you. But there is more to it. Through your *va'adah*, you will also be making our Havurat Torah and TIC community what you want it to be.

Each *va'adah* will meet from 7:55pm-8:45pm in a *beit midrash* setting (we will all be learning in the same space). Guided by your educators and mentors, you will use various Jewish texts, as well as other resources, to help you find the answers to *your* questions. Each *va'adah* will carry out the mission of our school as you translate your answers into actions.

Va'adot (Study Commissions) descriptions:

Leadership/USY

Leadership is a word you hear a lot today. Colleges are looking for individuals that demonstrate leadership and initiative, but what exactly does that mean? Leadership is more than just having a vision and making decisions. It's about teamwork, commitment, hard work, and respect. It's about taking responsibility, but also about listening to others and compromise. These are all valuable skills that will be examined through a Jewish lens and developed through various activities. As members of this *va'adah*, you will make decisions about what type of HT and USY programs we should have throughout the year, which organizations we should support through *tzedakah*, and how to get others involved. Do you want to be a leader?

Educators: Rachel Rudman and Erin Beser

Strength to Strength, Koah L'Koah

The world is broken, now fix it!

Get ready to make a difference and have fun with your friends while doing it! Join the *tikkun olam* and social action *va'adah*, Koah L'Koah and help strengthen our TIC and White Plains community. Explore what our ancestors had to say about the problems facing our communities today and how their wisdom guides us as we

make our world better. We will spend time inside and outside of TIC helping our neighbors as we strengthen ourselves.

Educators: Ilene Bloom and Ethan Witkovsky

Mitzvot: We're commanded to do what?

Understanding and Updating the Non-Rational Mitzvot

Some commandments are truly universal and appeal to common sense, and are thus accepted by all civilized societies (e.g. “do not kill”, “do not steal”, and “help your fellow in need”). This means that the practices that make Judaism distinguishable, and often unique, are usually *mitzvot* that do not immediately appear to be reasonable. Why observe Shabbat, especially in a world in which a loss of productivity can seem like losing a race? Why observe *kashrut* in a world in which we are finally invited to be full partners in the social and cultural life of society? Why hold on to what seem like strange “tribal” rituals, such as *tefillin* and circumcision? The space in this course will be entirely safe for exploring these questions honestly, and for considering possible answers for our generations.

Educators: Rabbi Gordon Tucker and Jordan Hersh