



7th Grade GESHER

2019-2020

September 15: **Welcome to the *B'nei Mitzvah* Program**
11:00am-1:00pm *Parents Required.*

During this session, you will learn everything you need to know about the *B'nei Mitzvah* process at CST. Some of our past *B'nei Mitzvah* parents will talk about how parents traditionally organize and support one another through the *B'nei* process. The Rabbis will answer any questions you may have about *mitzvah* projects, special requests, prayers, and the process in general. Students will be in a parallel program discussing how to make the *B'nei Mitzvah* process meaningful.

October 27: ***Mitzvah* Project Program**
11:00am-1:00pm *Parents Requested.*

Come learn about planning for your *Mitzvah* Project and learn about past student's *Mitzvah* Projects. Every seventh grader is required to complete a *Mitzvah* Project. This *Mitzvah* Project can be almost any type of community service work. We urge your family to not just collect money for a cause, but to really have a hands-on experience volunteering or learning about an organization.

There is no minimum time requirement, but just like with most things, the more you put in, the more you get out! Also, if you make this into a family *Mitzvah* Project, your seventh grader's experience will be richer.

November 3: **Program on Prayer**
11:00am-1:00pm *Parents Required.*

Families are encouraged to come and learn together on the nature of prayer and what it means to you. What is prayer? Is it useful? What do we pray for? What do our prayers during the service mean? You will also be encouraged to craft your own prayer.

November 24: **Field Trip to Glide**
7:00am - 10:30am in San Francisco *Parents Requested, Carpools Encouraged.*

We will be meeting at Glide (330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102) at 7am, carpooling is encouraged! Directions to Glide can be found here: www.glide.org/contactus#parking.

Glide is a short walk from the Powell BART station. We will serve breakfast to the community from 7-9am then we will attend Glide's celebration service from 9-10:30am. This is extremely transformative, and sometimes more emotional than expected. For more information about Glide, visit www.glide.org/serveameal.

December 8: **Jewish Culture Day -**
11:00am-1:00pm *No Parents.*

What is Jewish culture? How does Jewish culture align with Judaism as a religion and the Jewish people who are tied to Israel?

December 15: **Paper Midrash**
11:00am-1:00pm *Parents Required.*

Join our artist-in-residence Isaac & Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik for a hands-on papercutting workshop. You will learn deep Jewish scholarship together with a contemporary reinterpretation of the traditional art of papercutting. Parents, plan to attend this workshop with your student.

January 3-5: Jewish LA Trip (optional) No Parents.

We invite Shomrei Torah's 7th, 8th, and 9th graders to join us to see Jewish Los Angeles. We will spend our nights at Congregation Emanuel in Beverly Hills. On Friday night, we will have dinner and celebrate Shabbat with congregants.

On Saturday, we will go hiking to the Hollywood sign to have *Shabbat* morning services. We will visit *Beit T'shuvah*, a Jewish rehabilitation center and participate in a program led by their prevention program. We will eat an amazing deli lunch and tour Pico Robertson. We will also have *havdallah* and enjoy some free time. On Sunday, we will visit the Museum of Tolerance and debrief about their experience and thoughts concerning the Holocaust. This will be a full weekend of learning and bonding.

We estimate that the cost of the trip will be \$550 per participant. This includes airfare, transportation, meals (except Saturday night), programs, tours and admission fees. RSVP to youth@cstsr.org.

**February 2: Social Justice
11:00-1:00pm No Parents.**

We are commanded to pursue justice. In this session, we will define what justice is and what it can look like for a teen to be involved in its pursuit.

**February 8-9: Overnight Program
6:00pm-8:00am Some Parent Volunteers Requested.**

This overnight will be super fun and packed with camp-style learning. The program begins at 6pm Saturday and ends at 8am Sunday. It will include dinner and breakfast. The program will include art, cooking, dancing, music, movies and outdoor activities all set in a safe setting with a Jewish flair. We really hope that you can come!

**February 23: Rick Concoff & Brunch
11:00am-1:00pm No Parents.**

Come join Rick Concoff of *Chaverim* for an engaging morning! This will feature a lively discussion as well as fun activities which will give you an idea why nearly 100% of *B'nei Mitzvah* students in Sonoma County continue on with *Chaverim* in 8th grade. The fun never stops at *Chaverim*, the JCC Sonoma County's Jewish teen education program. Come experience it first-hand!

**March 29: Jewish Life Post B'nei Mitzvah
11:00am-1:00pm No Parents.**

What are the opportunities after *B'nei Mitzvah*? What other programs or fun things are there around the US and abroad?

**April 5: Never Again
11:00am-1:00pm No Parents.**

This morning of learning will focus on the Holocaust at an age-appropriate level. We will discuss our thoughts and feelings on anti-Semitism today. In the past we have had speakers come on this day, if you are interested in sharing your family's story please be in touch.

**May 3: Mitzvah Mall
(9:00am-11:00am) Parents Optional.**

Your seventh grader is expected to be at Shomrei Torah for the duration of Religious School. During this time students will be standing by their *Mitzvah* Board presenting their project and answering questions to the Religious School kids.