

Dear Parents of 2011-2012 Havurah Middle Schoolers (7th-8th grades)

We hope that your summer is going well and that you are enjoying our sunshine! We are planning for the upcoming Havurah Middle School year and are hoping you will be joining us.

One exciting new aspect of the program is that Havurah's new Youth Educator, Leeza Negelev (see bio below), will be joining the program to teach some classes and help organize the social activities and Tikkun Olam (social justice) projects. She has/will call each family over the next months to speak with parents and students and gain your input.

The goals of Havurah Middle School are Kehillah and Keshet: Community and Connection. The Havurah Middle School program aims to be fun and help students stay connected with their friends and/or expand their circle of relationships and community. It is structured to be less time-intensive because many families are involved with Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation or other transitions. The classes and activities tend toward a more cultural focus, rather than religious, and expose the students to diverse ways of being Jewish.

When does Middle School meet?

Please see the schedule below. Havurah Middle School classes meet on 11 Wednesday nights. Middle Schoolers join the Havurah High students to eat dinner together and socialize from 6:30-7:00 pm. From 7-8:30pm the students have class (and dessert). Another part of the program is the social activities and Tikkun Olam (Repair the World) projects. These will happen on 5 Sundays (possible Saturday evening) throughout the year.

What are the parents' roles?

All parents participate in making the Middle School program happen. Some parents join with Havurah High School parents in providing dinners for the students. Others will teach Jewish Cooking or another elective. Some parents will work with Leeza to plan social activities and Tikkun Olam projects.

What Next?

Please be sure to speak with Leeza this summer so she can get your ideas (teens and parents) about social activities, Tikkun Olam projects, and topics for the January teaching session. Also, we will appreciate it if you fill out the Middle School Registration form and send it back with a check for \$150.00, which covers dinners and program costs (for scholarship assistance, please contact Deborah Eisenbach-Budner).

We look forward to seeing you soon! Please contact us with any questions!

Shelley Sobel, Middle School Shepherdess, (503) 662-4265

Leeza Negelev, Youth Educator, 617-771-0219

Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, Education Director, 503-248-4662

Leeza Negelev grew up in the Jewish-Russian neighborhoods of outer Boston and Brooklyn, NY. After high school, she attended Evergreen State College where she continued to learn about Judaism and studied art and education. Currently she works as the coordinator of the after-school program at The Village Free School and additional theatre/arts camps. She is an active member of Havurah Shalom and thrilled to be the first Havurah Youth Educator, working with Middle and High Schools.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- **Save Sunday, September 25.** 7th-8th graders will enjoy an all day, really fun, ROPES COURSE at Camp Collins. Parents will have a short gathering in the morning, at the time of drop-off, to initiate the Middle School program.
- **Tikkun Olam Projects & Social Activities Sundays** - December 3 or 4, February 12, February 26, March 18
- **Wednesday night classes, 6:30-8:30 pm:**
 1. October 26, November 2, 9, 16: Jewish Cooking with parents
 2. January 4, 11, 18, 25: with Leeza Negelev
 3. April 4, 18, 25: "What is Jewish Art?" with Oregon Jewish Museum (different than last year).