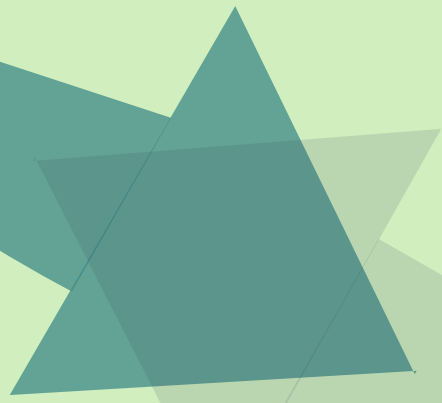
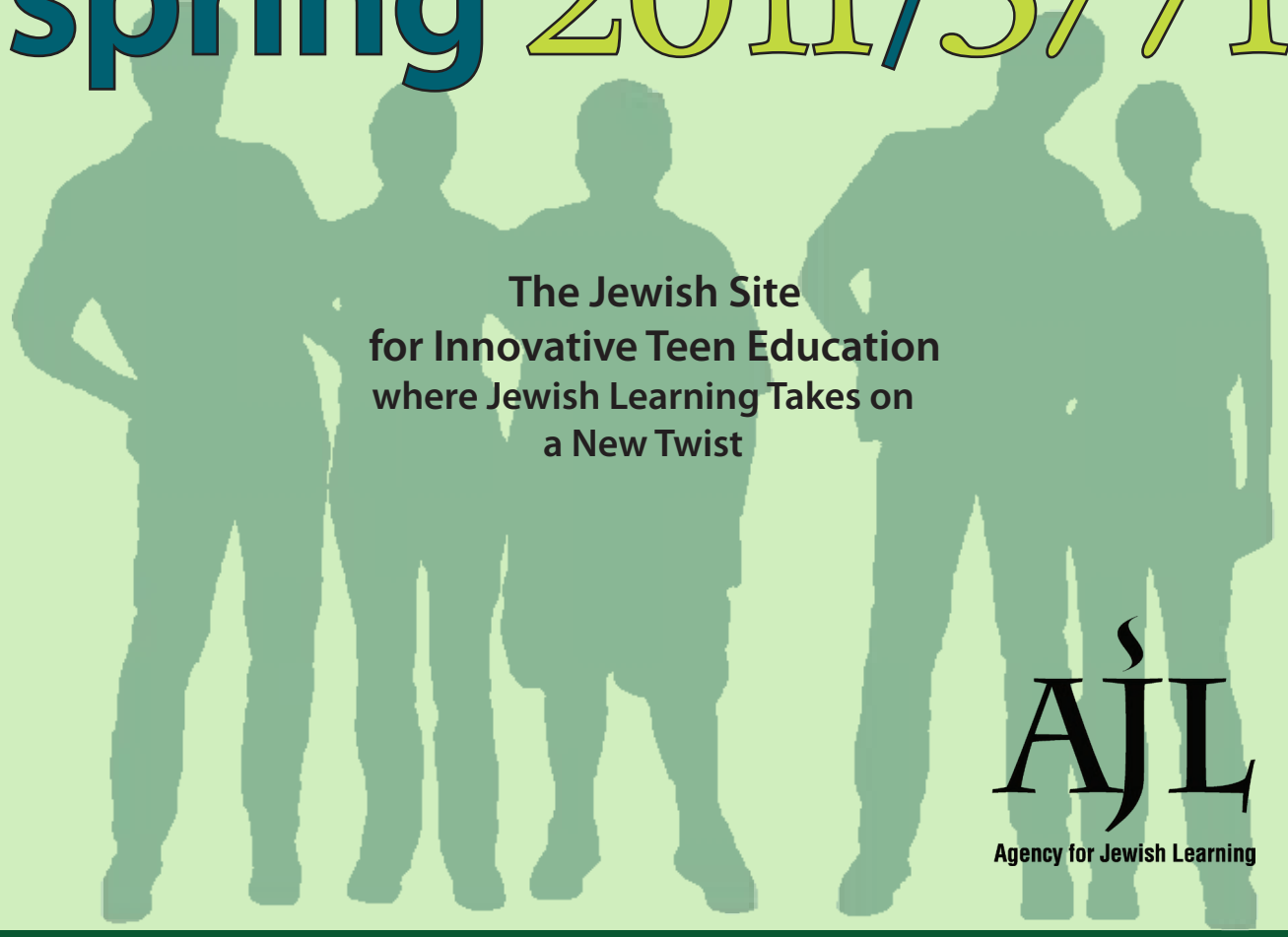


- S I T E



COURSE CATALOG

spring 2011/5771



The Jewish Site
for Innovative Teen Education
where Jewish Learning Takes on
a New Twist

AJL
Agency for Jewish Learning

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J-SITE General Information



J-SITE

J-SITE is the Teen Department of the Agency for Jewish Learning (AJL). The AJL admits students of any race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students in its programs. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship, loan programs, and other school administered programs.

Earn a Certificate at J-SITE . . .

Beginning in the 2008 - 2009 academic year, J-SITE has awarded Certificates in Service Learning and Leadership, Arts and Culture, Hebrew Studies, Israel Studies, and Jewish Studies.

A J-SITE certificate verifies that a student has developed an “expertise” in a particular area of study. Requirements for each certificate vary and can be found on the last page of this course catalog.

J-SITE certificates enhance college applications, Israel study program applications and applications to scholarship organizations.

Credits for J-SITE Programs . . .

J-SITE awards credits for successful completion of J-SITE courses and programs. One credit is equal to approximately one hour of study, once-a-week, for one semester. All J-SITE programs will be offered as part of one of the following specific departments:

HEB	Hebrew
ISR	Israel Studies
JAC	Jewish Arts & Culture
JSP	Jewish Studies
SLL	Service Learning & Leadership

In addition, several national programs are offered that grant a certificate upon completion. These include:

CTN	The Florence Melton Community High School
IMW	Isaac Mayer Wise Reform Teaching Certificate
CTC	The Teaching Preparation Program for Conservative Synagogues

Florence Melton Communiten High School

Communiten!



The Florence Melton Communiten High School is four courses over two-years. Communiten can be completed independently or together with other J-SITE tracks. Communiten participants need to enroll in both classes.

CTN 205 *The Big Ideas of Being Jewish Year 2* **(9th-12th)** **Credits: 2**
 Find the Jewish sources for a meaningful approach to your life! Explore critical ideas and questions in Judaism through text-based discussions. Year 2 of a 2 year course.

CTN 215 *Why Israel?* **(9th-12th)** **Credits 2**
 Develop a personal connection to Israel - This second-year course explores Israel’s significance to American Jewish teens through Israeli culture, geography, politics and international relations.

Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
CTN 205	Sunday	11:00a-12:00	Julie Lebowitz	Temple Ohav Shalom
CTN 215	Sunday	10:00a-11:00	David Harris Gershon	Temple Ohav Shalom

Hebrew



Students learn, refine and improve Hebrew skills so they can communicate in the language of our people. Hebrew classes are based on the NETA Hebrew curriculum.

HEB 100 *Alpha NETA*

(8th-12th)

Credits: 6

Alpha NETA is a multi-year course where students will earn 6 credits each year. Students will be placed in Hebrew 130 (Aleph), 140 (Bet), or 150 (Gimmel). By the end of the Hebrew 100 series students will be able to speak in short dialogues about daily life or customs, write a paragraph on a personal topic, read a story or a folk tale, and comprehend and summarize a short informative lecture on places, customs, groups of people, and social phenomena.

Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
HEB 130A/B	Sunday	9:00a-9:55	Orna Tal	Chatham University
	Sunday	10:05a-11:00	Orna Tal	Chatham University
	Wednesday (A)	6:30p-7:25	Orna Tal	Squirrel Hill JCC
	Monday (B)	7:15p-8:00	Orna Tal	Beth El Congregation
HEB 140A/B	Sunday	10:05a-11:00	Nitsa Ford	Chatham University
	Sunday	11:10a-12:05	Nitsa Ford	Chatham University
	Wednesday (A)	7:35p-8:30	Nitsa Ford	Squirrel Hill JCC
	Monday (B)	7:15p-8:00	Orna Tal	Beth El Congregation
HEB 150A/B	Sunday	9:00a-9:55	Ziva Lederman	Chatham University
	Sunday	10:05a-11:00	Ziva Lederman	Chatham University
	Wednesday (A)	6:30p-7:25	Ziva Lederman	Squirrel Hill JCC
	Monday (B)	7:15p-8:00	Orna Tal	Beth El Congregation

More Levels on the Next Page

Hebrew



Students learn, refine and improve Hebrew skills so they can communicate in the language of our people. Hebrew classes are based on the NETA Hebrew curriculum.

HEB 200 *Chovrot (Intermediate)* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 6**

Chovrot (Intermediate) is for students in Choveret (Books) 1-14. Students earn 6 credits each year. By the end of Choveret 14, students will be able to speak in dialogues about school, family entertainment, personal preference, the weather, or place description, write a personal letter, comprehend an informative paragraph and comprehend a short informative lecture about modern life, tradition and habits.

HEB 300 *Choveret (Advanced)* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 6**

Students who complete this level will be able to speak in conversation on any topic, read press releases and articles, write a personal or historical chronological report and have a general understanding of simple TV and radio news

Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
HEB 200	Sunday	9:00a-9:55	Nira Lion	Chatham University
	Sunday	10:05a-11:00	Nira Lion	Chatham University
	Wednesday	6:30p-7:25	Nira Lion	Squirrel Hill JCC
HEB 206	Sunday	11:10a-12:05	Orna Tal	Chatham University
	Sunday	12:10p-1:00	Orna Tal	Chatham University
	Wednesday	7:35p-8:00	Orna Tal	Squirrel Hill JCC
HEB 209/319	Sunday	9:00a-9:55	Ronit Pasternak	Chatham University
	Sunday	10:05a-11:00	Ronit Pasternak	Chatham University
	Wednesday	7:35p-8:30	Ronit Pasternak	Squirrel Hill JCC
HEB 210	Sunday	11:10a-12:05	Ronit Pasternak	Chatham University
	Sunday	12:10p-1:00	Ronit Pasternak	Chatham University
	Wednesday	6:30p-7:25	Ronit Pasternak	Squirrel Hill JCC



Israel Studies



Strengthen your connection to the Jewish community locally, nationally and globally. Construct lasting personal connections to Israel through study, travel, and interactions with Israelis.

ISR 220 *Famous Israeli People* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 1**

In this class we will learn about many of the important Jewish figures who were influential in Israel throughout history. These will include political and historical figures as well as people who have played a part in Israel’s music, art and film. Learn more about their lives, the decisions they made and how they influenced the state of Israel.

ISR 245 *Roots and Results of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 1**

Why is there a conflict between Jews and Arabs? And where did it all start? This class will try to answer these questions from both the Jewish and Arab point of view. Students will learn about each of the many conflicts between these two groups and explore the issues and obstacles which remain today. Finally, students will be challenged to create their own solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

ISR 400 *Israel Today: Continuity and Change* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 1**

This course analyzes the major dimensions of state building in Israeli democracy, politics and society as they developed since 1948. Students will study the historical background and geography of Israel. There will be special emphasis on the challenges that Israel faces in the 21st century and beyond, including absorption of today’s new immigrants and the peace process.



Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
ISR 220	Sunday	11:10a-12:05	Leehee Kanne	Chatham University
ISR 245	Wednesday	6:30p-7:25	Steve Kroser	Squirrel Hill JCC
ISR 400A	Sunday	9:00a-9:55	Steve Kroser	Chatham University
ISR 400B	Wednesday	7:25p-8:30	Steve Kroser	Squirrel Hill JCC



Isaac Mayer Wise Reform Teaching Certificate



The Isaac Mayer Wise Program is a program for 11th and 12th graders who work as teaching assistants in Reform congregations. Participants need to enroll in both sections.

IMW 310 *Bible*

(11th-12th)

Credits: 2

This course provides an overview of Torah, Prophets, and Writings with special attention given to the unique contribution each section makes to the enrichment of modern-day life. Students will analyze representative chapters and verses.

IMW 315 *Education*

(11th-12th)

Credits: 2

This course prepares students to function as entry-level teachers in Jewish supplementary schools. This course is an in-depth study of the practical areas of lesson-planning and classroom management. Approaches to teaching and content area of theology, Bible, Israel, history, ethics, and prayer are explored. Also included are teacher observations, microlessons, and student teaching.

Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
<i>IMW 310</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7:35p-8:30</i>	<i>Melissa Werbow</i>	<i>Rodef Shalom</i>
<i>IMW 315</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6:30p-7:25</i>	<i>Barak Naveh</i>	<i>Rodef Shalom</i>

The Teaching Preparation Program For Conservative Synagogues



The Teaching Preparation Program (for Conservative Synagogues) is a program for 11th and 12th graders who work as teaching assistants in Conservative congregations. Participants need to enroll in both sections.

CTC 310 *Bible* (11th-12th) Credits: 2

This course provides an overview of Torah, Prophets, and Writings with special attention given to the unique contribution each section makes to the enrichment of modern-day life. Students will analyze representative chapters and verses.

CTC 315 *Education* (11th-12th) Credits: 2

This course prepares students to function as entry-level teachers in Jewish supplementary schools. This course is an in-depth study of the practical areas of lesson-planning and classroom management. Approaches to teaching and content area of theology, Bible, Israel, history, ethics, and prayer are explored. Also included are teacher observations, microlessons, and student teaching.

Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
CTC 310	Monday	6:30p-7:25	Beth Kissileff	Beth El Congregation
CTC 315	Monday	7:35p-8:30	Vita Nemirovsky	Beth El Congregation



Jewish Arts & Culture



Interpret artistic works and create your own contributions to the body of Jewish expression through visual art, music, writing and other media.

JAC 230 *Senior Seminar* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 2**

In this year-long course, students will consider how to maintain a Jewish identity on campus, research their future Jewish communities, and discuss innovative ways for celebrating the holidays away from home. In addition, the class will focus on talking to non-Jews about Judaism and responding to anti-Israel and/or anti-Semitic propaganda.

JAC 240 *American Jewish Humor* **(10th-12th)** **Credits: 2**

This class will cover the roots of American Jewish humor through Jewish humor of today. Our study will start with the questions “What is Jewish humor and where did it come from?” and end with studying the likes of Jon Stewart and Sarah Silverman. The class will focus on humor through readings, films, documentary clips and stand-up comedy performances. **Please note: Due to the nature of the course some material will be mature in its content. Politics, religion, sex, race, and strong language are all used or dealt with by some of the humorists. The teacher will censor some of the readings and viewings but not all. Parents are urged to take this into consideration when helping their child make a decision about this class.

JAC 320 *HaZamir Pittsburgh* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 4**

HaZamir Pittsburgh offers Jewish students the chance to perform Jewish music at local ensembles and at the national HaZamir Festival. HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir creates opportunities for high school students to gather together, sing Jewish choral music, build community, and connect culturally. Pittsburgh Hazamir is a chapter of the international HaZamir program and is sponsored by the AJL at J-SITE, and hosted by the JCC. Hazamir is supported by the Dr. Solomon and Sarah Goldberg Memorial Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh Foundation.



Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
JAC 230	Sunday	11:10a-12:05	David Katz	Chatham University
JAC 240	Sunday	10:05a-11:00	Barak Naveh	Chatham University
JAC 320	Sunday	4:00p-6:00	Nizan Leibovich	Squirrel Hill JCC



Jewish Studies



Study Jewish sources and apply them to real-life decisions. Participants choose from a list of Judaic courses to find the ones that meet their needs and interests.

JSP 100 *8th Grade Core* **(8th)** **Credits: 2**

Starting with the core question “What does it mean to be Jewish?,” this class will explore the many ways others have answered this question and will provide tools for students to begin to answer the question for themselves.

JSP 130 *Jewish Current Events* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 2**

Students will learn about, discuss, and debate Jewish current events. Students will be encouraged to participate in a variety of activities that deal with issues relevant to their lives. This class will be a fun and interesting opportunity to learn about what is currently going on in the world and how it relates to us as Jews!

JSP 210 *Comparative Judaism* **(8th-12th)** **Credits: 1**

An objective approach is taken in comparing various streams of Judaism as practiced in America today. What they teach about God, Torah, mitzvot, prayer, the Jewish people, Zionism, and the role of women are all addressed. Discussion centers on how they differ, why they differ, and what they share.



Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
JSP 100	Sunday	11:10a-12:05	Shoshana Kraus and Steve Kroser	Chatham University
JSP 130	Sunday	9:00a-9:55	Barak Naveh	Chatham University
JSP 210	Sunday	10:05a-11:00	Steve Kroser	Chatham University



Jewish Studies



Study Jewish sources and apply them to real-life decisions. Participants choose from a list of Judaic courses to find the ones that meet their needs and interests.

JSP 139 *Thinking Jewish; Speaking English; The Tzedakah Edition* (8th-12th) **Credits: 1**

This course will examine the Jewish point of view on a variety of current topics, ranging from making ethical choices in our lives to giving others the benefit of the doubt and just about everything in between. During the Spring Semester, this course will put a heavier emphasis on Tzedakah and will include a Tzedakah project that the class as a whole will work on. Students will continue to have the ability to drive the curriculum by offering their own topics for active discussion.

JSP 200B *The Thinking Teenager’s Guide to Life (Continued)* (8th-12th) **Credits: 1**

This course will explore contemporary issues such as: the self, substance abuse, friendship, intolerance, Israel, and Tikkun Olam – repairing the world – through the lens of traditional Jewish text.

JSP 300 *Holocaust* (8th-12th) **Credits: 2**

This class focuses on the human experiences of the Holocaust, looking at the victims, the perpetrators, the bystanders, and those who risked their lives to rescue Jews.



Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
JSP 139	Sunday	10:00a-11:00	Shulamis Rothman	Chatham University
JSP 200	Sunday	9:00a-9:55	Rabbi Ari Goldberg	Chatham University
JSP 300	Sunday	11:10a-12:05	Barak Naveh	Chatham University



Service Learning & Leadership



Identify social issues, devise ways to effect change, and fulfill the Jewish imperative to do tzedakah u'mishpat (justice and righteousness).

RtoR *REEL to REAL: Generation to Generation... A Program for Teens and Seniors*
(8th-12th) Credits: 1

Do you like FILM and Jewish culture? Are you interested in doing a mitzvah by spending time with seniors? Do you need community service hours for school or an extra credit towards a J-SITE certificate? Then Reel to Real is for you! This 5 session course is open to all students in grades 8 through 12. Reel to Real is a great way to watch interesting Jewish-themed films, meet teens from other local high schools and spend time with senior adults. Following each film, teens will lead a discussion with the seniors. We are so excited to have Lauren Braun, from JFilm: The Pittsburgh Jewish Film Forum, as the instructor for this class.

Reel to Real will meet at area assisted living facilities in Pittsburgh on Sunday afternoons from 1:00-3:00pm. Spring dates are: January 23, February 13, March 6, April 3 (as part of J-SERVE), and May 1.

Register for Reel to Real through J-SITE by downloading the registration materials at www.ajlpittsburgh.org/j-site.html or by contacting Beth Goldstein at bgoldstein@ajlpittsburgh.org. Special price for this course is \$75 for the semester!!!

The Reel to Real course at J-SITE is a partnership between AJL, JFilm: The Jewish Pittsburgh Film Forum and J-SITE

Section	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
RtoR	Sunday	1:00p-3:00	Lauren Braun	Area Assisted Living



Rothbart Distance Learning Program of JCHS at Gratz College



This is the first on-line distance learning program focused entirely on Jewish adolescent education, and is available for English-speaking students anywhere in the world.

ISR 320 *Israel: Current Events and Controversies* (8th-12th) **Credits: 1**

This course is designed to 1) provide an introduction to the political history of Israel, from emergence of the Zionist movement through the present, 2) situate the development of an Israeli national identity, focusing on a variety of social, cultural, and political features, and 3) provide comparative perspectives on modern national states, cultures, and identities. Issues to be discussed include immigration, minorities and social integration, the political, military, and educational systems, media and popular culture, and relationships with neighboring states and the world community.

JSP 208 *Dilemmas in Jewish History* **Credits: 1**

Jewish history presents many dilemmas of Jews who lived in different societies. Jews were usually strangers and sojourners in the lands where they lived, their history the symbol of homelessness and vulnerability. They wanted to obey G-d's laws but they wanted to stay alive too. The societies in which they lived forced life choices upon them, which were rarely clear options of "right and wrong." The course will question how Jews fared in the societies in which they lived and what dilemmas they had to solve in order to survive against all odds.

JSP 212 *The Whole Megillah*

The third section of the Tanakh includes five books, originally written on parchment scrolls, that we call the Megillot. These interesting stories are each associated with a holiday in the Jewish calendar, and recall various historical events and relate biblical wisdom that is applicable today. In this course we will examine the text, learn the historical context, the liturgical connections, and the contemporary associations of each Megillah.

Section	Teacher	Location
ISR 320	Asaf Romirowsky	Distance Learning
JSP 208	Dr. Kathy Beller	Distance Learning
JSP 212	Michael Schatz	Distance Learning



Rothbart Distance Learning Program of JCHS at Gratz College



This is the first on-line distance learning program focused entirely on Jewish adolescent education, and is available for English-speaking students anywhere in the world.

JSP 213 *Reform Judaism* (8th-12th) Credits: 1

A study of Reform Judaism’s development, including its American origin, its philosophy, principles and institutions. Students will review life cycles from the Reform Jewish perspective. Students will discuss environmental issues, civil rights and the role of Israel in their Jewish lives. This course touches on topical issues like the history of anti-Semitism, homosexuality and CCAR rulings. Students will discuss various issues, dialogue with one another and explore their own belief system.

ISR 355 *Israel: Realizing the Dream* Credits: 1

This course begins and ends with a look at and celebration of the wonder of Israel. Students combine the 4MAT method used throughout the Etgar curriculum with a problem-solving approach for realistic, sophisticated, and in depth study of the many challenges Israel faces today. Lessons cover Israel’s pursuit of peace, diversity, and social justice challenges. The course is offered in partnership with Project Etgar, a joint curriculum initiative of the Melton Research Center of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. It is designed as a natural follow up for students who studied in Etgar schools in the sixth and seventh grade, but is open to any teen who wants to learn about Israel in an interactive way!

JAC 322 *Songs of My People (Continued)* (HaZamir only) Credits: 2
This class may be taken for college credit

Gratz-JCHS Online is pleased to offer an exciting opportunity for teens who sing in HaZamir choirs around the country to earn college credit while completing online course work in addition to their choir activities. This year-long course is open to members of Zamir Choral Foundation affiliated choirs. Participation in Zamir rehearsals and performances, in addition to online coursework is expected. The course is available to 11th and 12th grade students for 4 credits for the year-long course. College credit applies.

Section	Teacher	Location
JSP 213	Renee Goldfarb	Distance Learning
ISR 355	Rabbi Lori Forman-Jacobi	Distance Learning
JAC 322	Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman	Distance Learning

J-SITE Faculty



DR. KATHERINE ARON BELLER grew up in London and attended Manchester University where she obtained her first and second degrees in History. After moving to Israel in 1993, she completed a Ph.D in Haifa University in Jewish History. Dr. Beller has been working at the Israel Museum in the Judaica and Jewish Ethnography Wing since 2003. She is currently head of the Photographic Archive of the Judaica Information Center. She has taught several online courses at Gratz College. Besides the publication of several articles, she is writing her first book titled “The Jews in the Inquisition: Modena 1598-1650.”

LAUREN BRAUN is a visual artist working in mixed media collage, drawing and photography. She received her MFA in Studio Art from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and a BFA in Photography from Syracuse University. She works as the Reel to Real Program Coordinator and Assistant to the Executive Director at JFilm: The Pittsburgh Jewish Film Forum.

DR. MARSHA BRYAN EDELMAN earned degrees in general music, Jewish music and Jewish studies from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, and has taught Jewish music to students of all ages for more than 40 years. In addition, she has been affiliated with the Zamir Choral Foundation in various musical and managerial capacities since 1971, and currently serves as Administrator of the Foundation. Dr. Edelman is also the author of numerous articles on Jewish music, as well as program notes attendant to concert and recorded performances of Jewish music. Her book, *Discovering Jewish Music*, was published by the Jewish Publication Society in June, 2003.

NITSA FORD is an experienced teacher trained in NETA. Nitsa has a BA in Political Science and International Relations and is currently studying for her MA in Public Administration. She has taught Hebrew in Wisconsin and worked with American teens for the Jewish Agency for Israel’s youth department. She also worked as a madricha (counselor) with students at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

RABBI LORI FORMAN-JACOBI is the Senior Vice-Principal for the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies. Prior to this position, she served as the Director of The Jewish Resource Center at UJA-Federation, worked at The American Jewish Committee in Interreligious Affairs, and served as principal for The West Side Jewish Community School. Rabbi Forman-Jacobi is the co-author of *Sacred Intentions: Daily Inspiration to Strengthen the Spirit* and *Restful Reflections: Nighttime Inspiration to Calm the Soul*. Lori will be offering two classes to parents this fall: *A Theologian for Today: Rabbi Jonathan Sacks* and *The Trauma and Drama of Our Desert Journey*. She lives in Teaneck with her husband, Simcha and two children, Maya and Eitan.

DAVID HARRIS GERSHON has published essays and poetry in numerous magazines, and is the author of *Shrapnel* (www.shrapnel-memoir.com), a memoir partly about his experience with the Hebrew University bombing in Jerusalem in 2002. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, an MA in Jewish Education from Hebrew University. David has taught creative writing at the university level as well as Jewish Studies at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, Maryland.

RABBI ARI GOLDBERG is the director of Pittsburgh NCSY as well as the Jewish Student Union Club in Allerdice. Rabbi Goldberg brings years of hands-on experience to the table and continues to engage teens of all backgrounds with innovative classes and activities.

J-SITE Faculty



RENEE GOLDFARB joined the Jewish Community High School of Gratz College Administration full-time as Director of Community Affairs in September, 2007. Renee first joined JCHS as a faculty member in 2003, and in 2006 assumed the position of Branch Director for The Baldwin School branch location in Bryn Mawr. Renee has consistently been a most popular teacher, and as Branch Director she has been held in high regard by the parents. Renee's primary responsibilities (in addition to her on-going work as Branch Director) will be in areas related to community building, recruitment, communications, and communal relationships as well as program evaluation. Previously, Renee served as Consultant for Adolescent Education at Auerbach CAJE and the Regional Director for Youth and Informal Education for the Pennsylvania Council of the Union for Reform Judaism.

BETH GOLDSTEIN, RJE, is the Director of Teen Education at the Agency for Jewish Learning. Before moving to Pittsburgh, she served as the Director of Lifelong Learning at Congregation Sinai in Milwaukee, WI. Beth has a Masters in Jewish Education and a Masters in Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and a BA in music from Brandeis University.

MELISSA HILLER is the Director of the American Jewish Museum, where she curates exhibitions that focus on modern and contemporary art. She is responsible for advancing the museum's exhibition development, fundraising and outreach programming. Melissa earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her Masters of Arts from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.

LEEHEE KANNE was born and raised in Tel-Aviv, Israel, and has spent the past 12 years working as an educator. During her army service, she was a commander of underprivileged soldiers attempting to obtain a high-school diploma, and immediately after the end of her mandatory two year service started working at Jewish American summer camps as a counselor, educator and later unit head. Over the years she has also been a part of the screening process for other summer camp shlichim, and has trained Israelis for the position for over 9 years. She has worked with children and teens in various areas such as theater, art, teaching English as a Foreign Language, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons for special needs children. She spent two years in Pittsburgh as a Youth Shlichah, during which she taught at J-Site, and went back to Israel to complete her B.Ed. She is returning to Pittsburgh as the Community Shlichah.

DAVID KATZ has over 7 years of experience working with Jewish youth, 3 of which were spent as the youth director at Congregation Beth Shalom. David currently works at the Hillel Jewish University Center as the Director of J'burgh, an organization focused on enhancing the quality of life for Jewish graduate students and young professionals.

BETH KISSILEFF has recently moved to Pittsburgh with her family and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge. Beth has a PhD and MA from the University of Pennsylvania and has studied Bible at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In addition, she has taught Bible in universities throughout the country. Beth has also worked with teens at Ramah camp.

J-SITE Faculty



SHOSHANA KRAUS is the Assistant Director of the Teen Department at the AJL. She grew up in the Metro-Detroit area and studied Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University. She has 14 years of teaching experience in both outdoor and traditional classroom settings. Shoshana is new to Pittsburgh and is excited to teach and learn in a vibrant Jewish community.

STEVE KROSER was born in South Africa and made Aliyah when he was 16. He completed high school in Israel and became a paratrooper in the Israeli Defense Force. Steve's two greatest passions are his family and his Jewish heritage and he loves to share both. Steve is the Pittsburgh Coordinator for the Diller Teen Fellows Program. His full time job is freelance IT consulting.

JULIE LEBOWITZ began teaching Sunday school at Temple Ohav Shalom eight years ago. It was because of the influence of her experiences teaching at the Temple that she decided to return to school and pursue a Masters of Education. She has completed her certification in Elementary Education and is close to completing an additional certification in Special Education. In the summer of 2008, Julie was chosen to travel to Israel with a group of educators from Pittsburgh. During the 2009-2010 school year, Julie served as the lead teacher at Temple Ohav Shalom.

ZIVA LEDERMAN has recently moved to the states from Israel. She holds a B.A. degree in Criminology with a minor in English linguistics, as well as an L.L.B. degree from the University of Manchester. Furthermore, her practical experience includes working as a criminal prosecutor at the District Attorney's office and working as a criminal defense attorney in a law firm. This past year Ziva taught Hebrew at the Yeshiva Schools and will be trained in the NETA course this summer.

NIZAN LEIBOVICH graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Rubin Academy in Tel Aviv with degrees in both Composition and Conducting. Nizan received his Master's of Arts in Orchestral Conducting from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. He currently conducts orchestras and ensembles in the United States, Europe, and Israel.

NIRA LION is the Director of the AJL Hebrew Language Programs and the NETA Hebrew Coordinator. In 2002, Nira received the Grinspoon Steinhardt Award for excellence in Jewish education as teacher, mentor, and leader. She is a graduate of Hebrew University in Jerusalem majoring in Hebrew literature, Bible and Linguistics, where she also received teaching certification. She earned a M. Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh.

BARAK NAVEH graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, with a degree in history education. He completed his Masters degree in Administration and Policy Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He is a history teacher at Schenley High School where he teaches 10th grade U.S. History and 12th grade World Politics in the IB program.

J-SITE Faculty



VITA NEMIROVSKY has a Masters of Education with a specialization in General Special Education from University of Pittsburgh, a BA in Education from Temple University, and also spent a year studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Vita brings experience working with children of all ages in Pittsburgh Public Schools as a teacher, consultant and supervisor.

RONIT PASTERNAK received a BA in Education with honors from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a senior Hebrew teacher who began teaching Hebrew at SAJS and has now taught Hebrew for 12 years at Community Day School. Ronit was selected by the AJL to be one of the five lead teachers studying methods of teaching a foreign language at University of Pittsburgh. Ronit took the NETA training course, participated in their seminars and is experienced in teaching Hebrew using the NETA program.

SHULAMIS ROTHMAN is a graduate of Beth Rivkah Teacher Seminary, having taught at all grade levels for over 30 years. Jewish education is her passion and her students are the focus of her energy.

MICHAEL SCHATZ, the director of the Gratz-JCHS Online Program for Teens, is also the director of the Gratz Hebrew Ulpan and an Etgar Teacher Educator for Project Etgar, the middle school curriculum of the Melton Research Center at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Michael has worked in various formal and informal Jewish educational settings for twenty years. He holds an AB in Jewish Studies from Vassar College, an M.ED. in Elementary Education from Arcadia University, and an M.A.Jed from Gratz College. In addition, he is an Ed.D. candidate in Jewish Education at Gratz College.

ORNA TAL received her BA in Jewish World History as well as her High School Teaching Certificate from Hebrew University. Additionally, she received a degree in occupational therapy. Orna also earned a BEd in Education from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. She was one of five teachers selected to study methods of teaching foreign languages. In addition, Orna taught for several years both in SAJS and at Hillel Academy.

MELISSA WERBOW earned a Masters degree in Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, CA. She was a recipient of the prestigious Wexner Graduate Fellowship and is an active participant in the alumni foundation. She served for three years as the Director of the Religious School at Stephen S. Wise Temple in Los Angeles, CA.

J-SITE Certificate Requirements



A J-SITE certificate verifies that a student has developed an “expertise” in a particular area of study. J-SITE certificates enhance college applications, Israel study program applications and applications to scholarship organizations.

The requirements for certificates are as follows:

Service Learning and Leadership

- Complete at least 8 SLL credits
- Perform 40 hours of outside service hours OR serve in a leadership capacity in 2 significant year-long experiences (at least one within the Jewish community).
- Create and present a reflective product explaining the Jewish context of the student’s volunteer or leadership involvement.

Jewish Arts & Culture

- Complete at least 8 JAC credits.
- Pursue an artistic discipline (music, art, drama, etc.) for at least two years.
- Complete an independent project with a J-SITE faculty member.
- Write a reflective Jewish artist statement.

Hebrew

- Complete at least 24 HEB credits.
- Complete two levels of Hebrew OR reach Hebrew 300.
- Create and present a reflective product.

Israel Studies

- Complete at least 8 ISR credits.
- Attend an approved educational experience in Israel.
- Create and present a reflective product explaining the student’s personal connection to Israel.

Jewish Scholars Program

- Complete at least 8 JSP credits.
- Create and present a reflective product applying Jewish sources learned in the program to a real life issue(s) or situation(s).



- S I T E



J-SITE is the Teen Department of the Agency for Jewish Learning (AJL).
The AJL is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

For more information please call 412-521-1101
www.AJLPITTSBURGH.org



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