

**RODEF CHOCHMA – ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH
PROGRAM OVERVIEW
2011-2012 CLASS**

Coordinator:

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Objective:

The Rodef Chochma (Pursuer of Wisdom) program is Temple Rodef Shalom's version of a group Adult B'nai Mitzvah, an opportunity for adults to learn the skills to be called to the Torah. Each class member will read from the Torah and will also lead the congregation in prayer in a group Shabbat service scheduled for the **Shabbat of January 25-26, 2013**.

Our program offers adults a unique opportunity to gain an introduction to Jewish thought, practice and ritual. Classes are held about twice a month taught by our clergy who focus on a different topic of Jewish life such as liturgy and prayer, holidays, lifecycle, theology, Reform Judaism, etc. In addition, students work on their Hebrew reading ability in concurrent or private classes and/or tutorial sessions. **The Hebrew component is a separate component to the Rodef Chochma curriculum.** The class is designed to create community through learning, mitzvot and social opportunities

Class Calendar:

The class meets approximately 2 times per month, generally on Sunday mornings between September and May. See the last page for the class calendar.

The Rodef Chochma Service:

The service will take place the weekend of January 25-26, 2013. The number of students will determine whether there will be a Saturday morning service only or a combination of morning and Mincha services. This will be discussed at one of the first few meetings.

Hebrew Requirement:

Students should start working on learning Hebrew right away, either through classes, a personal tutor, a computer Hebrew learning program, or all three. **Your goal is to be able to read prayer book Hebrew by June 1, 2012.** In the months after that, you will be working on specific Hebrew prayers to lead at the service, and the verses that you will be reading from the Torah. There will be tutors available to help you with your specific service assignments.

There will be two upcoming opportunities to study Hebrew at TRS in a class environment"

1) Na'ava Feder teaches a **Beginning Hebrew Course**. This level 1 course is specifically designed to introduce the Aleph Bet and put the letters together to read. Please contact Naava for more information, at naavafeder@hotmail.com. Na'ava's class will be offered on 8 Wednesday eves. 7:30pm - 9:00pm: October: 19, 26 November: 2, 9, 16, 30 and December 7, 14.

2) **Sandy Saydah will begin a new Beginning Biblical Hebrew** class in the fall, on Tuesday October 18 at 7:30. It will likely meet monthly on Tuesday nights, ongoing. The class will start with Aleph Bet as well, but it will include grammar and translation of biblical texts. There is no charge for this class, although there is a book to purchase. The actual schedule will be dependent on the class members.

For very beginners, Sandy's class is suggested as a supplement to Na'ava's class more than an alternative. This is because it means only monthly and its scope is broader than reading alone; since you will be reading from the Torah and leading prayers at the service, it is important that you maximize your training in Hebrew reading. For more information, contact Sandy Saydah at sandra@saydah.com.

Class Topics:

Below is the list of topics which will likely be covered. More than one session will be devoted to some of the topics. Dates will be put together with topics once the schedules of all the clergy members have been coordinated, and that syllabus will be handed out at the first class in September.

Torah	Spirituality
Halachah (Jewish Law)	Jewish History
Rabbinical Texts	Reform Judaism
Jewish Ethics/Basic Beliefs	Understanding the Liturgy
God in the Bible and in Jewish Thought	

Text:

The text book for our class is: Jewish Literacy by Joseph Telushkin, a great reference book for your personal Jewish library. You can order this at any bookstore or online bookstore. It should cost around \$25. Please order this as soon as the class begins.

Cost:

The cost of the Rodef Chochma program will be \$130 plus the cost of the reception following the service, which, in previous years averages around \$200 additional per person. The entire fee is **not to be paid until after July 1, 2012**. The \$130 fee includes 3 private 1-hr sessions with a TRS tutor to prepare your Hebrew for the service, group rehearsals and materials. The costs associated with the oneg Shabbat or Kiddush reception following services is dependent on how many services the class requires (Saturday morning and/or Mincha) and therefore how many receptions are needed.

Requirements of the Service:

Each class member will participate by leading a section of the service (Hebrew and/or English) and reading or chanting at least 3 verses of the Torah portion of the week. Depending on the size of the class, each student will likely make a personal statement. The service assignments will be given out in the summer 2012. Students will choose a Hebrew tutor to work with. The cost of the program includes three 1 hr sessions with the private tutor. If you would like more than those three sessions, you can hire the tutor and pay through the Temple.

Class Expectations:

Many past classes have shared reactions to their experiences in this program. Based on their comments we encourage the members of the class to participate in the following activities:

- Attend at least one service per month.
- Participate in a class mitzvah project(s)
- Attend TRS Adult Education classes
- Participate in a few social events (including spouses or partners at least once)
- Work as a group with a service coordinator (to be selected later) to make the service special and personal
- Stay active in Temple life after the Rodef Chochma service and participate in activities or services and minyanim.
- Complete a notebook of individual projects to help one understand the idea of becoming responsible for commandments.

Class Chair:

The class, at one of the first few meetings will choose a chair person who will take on the responsibility of coordinating and scheduling class projects and events. This person will also serve as the liaison to the Cantor Shochet and other Temple staff. This person will also help Cantor Shochet in coordinating the service for the class.

Social Coordinator

One of the great benefits of this opportunity is to create new relationships with other Temple members. The class can truly become a unique community or havurah, if we create opportunities for this to happen. The class will elect a “social coordinator” to help create those opportunities outside the classroom to interact.

Mitzvah Coordinator

The Mitzvah Coordinator will coordinate opportunities to create social action projects or mitzvah opportunities as a class throughout the year.

Service Booklet Coordinator

A coordinator of the booklet that will be handed out at the service containing your essays/reflections.

Class Schedule

The topics to be discussed on each class will be given later. These dates are subject to change, but will be at **TRS on Sunday mornings** during early Religious School session.

Class times are 9 am – 10:30 am.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TOPICS:

Date	Topic	Instructor	Reading Topic in Telushkin Book	Entry #'s in all Editions		
				1991	2001	2008
9/11/2011	Orientation, HHD	Shochet	High Holy Days	291-294	293-296	297-300
9/18/2011	HHD, Jewish Time	Shochet				
10/2/2011	Liturgy, Part 1	Shochet	Part 15: Synagogue and Prayers		334-338	337-352
10/16/2011	Liturgy, Part 2	Shochet				
11/13/2011	Jewish Ethics/Basic Beliefs	Saxe	Part 12: Jewish Ethics and Basic Beliefs		255-290	256-294
11/20/2011	Jewish Ethics/Basic Beliefs	Saxe				
12/4/2011	Halacha & Rabbinical Texts	Schwartzman	Jewish Texts	1, 83, 84, 96, 107, 247-254	1, 83, 84, 96, 107, 247-254	1, 83, 84, 96, 107, 248-255
12/11/2011	Halacha & Rabbinical Texts	Schwartzman				
1/8/2012	God in Bible/Philosophy	Berkowits	tba			
1/22/2012	God in Bible/Philosophy	Berkowits				
2/5/2012	Modern Spirituality	Shochet	tba			
2/26/2012	Modern Spirituality	Shochet				
3/4/2012	Jewish Music	Scher	tba			
3/18/2012	Jewish Music	Scher				
4/15/2012	Shabbat & Jewish Holidays	Leider	Hebrew Calendar and Jewish Holidays	290, 295-317	292, 297-319	296, 201-323
4/29/2012	Shabbat & Jewish Holidays	Leider				
5/6/2012	Reform Judaism	Guest rabbi	Modern Period	116, 117-120, 204-205, 221-222	116, 117-120, 205-206, 222-223, 226, 228	116, 117-120, 208-209, 225-226, 229-230
5/20/2012	Reform Judaism	Guest rabbi				
6/3/2012	Class Assignments	Shochet				
Fall	Jewish history, Holocaust	Tba	tba			
	Torah	Tba	tba			
	Other topics as discussed	Tba				

