



Teen Israel Club

ISRAEL
MO'ADON
מועדון

Why Israel?

- According to “Being a Jewish Teenager in America” teenagers’ attitudes to Formal Jewish Education were less positive than attitudes toward their secular education.
- The study also said that as part of their search for meaning, many teenagers cared about Israel as a topic of interest

Core Reform Jewish value, reflected in Temple Shaaray Tefila's mission statement: *K'lal Yisrael* – strengthening our support of Israel and the Jewish people wherever they live.

- Pursuing this goal, Shaaray Tefila made a commitment to a initiative to review the synagogue's Israel Engagement through collaborative efforts of ARZA and MAKOM
- This project: *Beit Knesset Yisrael* (BKY)

- The considerations articulated by Shaaray Tefila's BKY Task Force highlighted the need for a culture in which "Israel is integral in all that we do and how we think."
- This consideration is part of a change process within Shaaray Tefila that includes programming, attitudes, and education.
- This process created a criteria for Israel engagement at Shaaray Tefila:
 - Knowledge
 - Attitude
 - Behavior

Why Teach Israel to Teens?

- Developing a significant curriculum and program for teenagers is an appropriate and influential backdrop for endeavors to bring Israel into the heart of the next generation of American Jews – teens.
- The curriculum for Israel *Mo'adon*: Teen Israel Club applies the BKY criteria to a significant transitional period for our senior high school age youth community

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- Post Confirmation period - a unique and time-bound opportunity for Israel engagement and lasting impact
 - Students will enter college and will be challenged by peers and their own hearts regarding middle-Eastern affairs, the position of progressive Judaism, and their own personal views and connection to Israel.

- Overwhelmingly, the students that I interviewed for this capstone said:

“How can I defend Israel, if I don’t know enough about her?”

“Teaching about Israel is really important because it helps to give us connection to a land where our ancestors came fromyou get to see History come alive.”

Video of Teens:

<http://bit.ly/hopechernakhucjirpractica>

Israel Mo'adon: Teen Israel Club



Bringing Israel to the lives and hearts of our
teenage students

Enduring Understandings

- As members of the Jewish people, we are each stakeholders and partners in the future of Israel.
- The study of the People of Israel and the State of Israel through critical and modern lenses leads to a stronger connection to Israel.
- Developing and nurturing a relationship with Israel – its people, history and future - are essential components of a one's Jewish Identity.

Goals

Mo'adon will:

- Provide an interactive curriculum focusing on Israel education, arts, politics, advocacy, and connection to the land/people of Israel
- Teach participants how to become Israel ambassadors and advocates to fellow youth as well as adults in the synagogue community and beyond.
- To make Israel compelling and meaningful to the students.

Israel Mo'adon

Through a comprehensive and interactive Israel *Mo'adon*, the curriculum will raise awareness and deepen students understanding with a more accurate picture of Israel – inspirational, historic, and modern.

This will strengthen High School students' personal connections to Israel's dynamic vision and modern society.

Ultimately, it is the hope of the Israel *Mo'adon* will help them construct and enhance their lifelong love and support for Israel.

Format

- Combining Israel Education with an informal club will provide our students with an outlet to actively partake in a Jewish environment.
- Formal and informal methodologies for students designed to build community and to build a foundation for meaningful, critical, and constructive conversations about Israel.
- Using technology will give the students the opportunity to take the information and learning outside of the walls of the classroom and into their bedrooms, homes, coffee shops, and daily on the go web lifestyle.

- Inclusion of video, arts, music, blogging, twitter, and Facebook will provide a high impact on the teen's interest as well as share materials, tools, and discussions with the larger teen and synagogue community.
- The curriculum will reinforce the view that the connection to Israel must be a consistent, ongoing component of Jewish life - rather than a once a year *Yom Ha'atzmaut* celebration or a once in a life-time visit.
- Vision for the future: a subsidized trip to Israel for the students in this program.

Curriculum

- **Personal Relationship to Israel**
 - Why Israel?
 - My Israel: Part 1 & 2
- **Connection to the Land of Israel**
 - The People and the Land
 - Israel and Zionism: Return to the Land
 - Why is Jerusalem central to the Jewish People?
 - Modern Settlements
- **Politics and Government**
 - Understanding the Israel Government
 - Israel Diplomacy and Decision Making
- **Modern Israel/Israel Today**
 - Israel and her borders
 - Economy
- **Our Relationship with Israel**
 - Using a critical eye with a supportive frame
 - Virtual Israeli Citizen
 - Israel Culture today
- **Activism/Israel Ambassador for our community**
 - Part 1 & 2
- **My Israel - revisited**



Personal Relationship to Israel

Lesson#2: Finding & Creating your Personal Narrative

- **Enduring Understandings**
- Connections with the land, people, and history of Israel are essential components of Jewish Identity.
- Creating a community of learners fosters a healthy environment for growth.
- Personal narratives through arts and culture provide pathways to reflect and articulate how one connects to Israel.