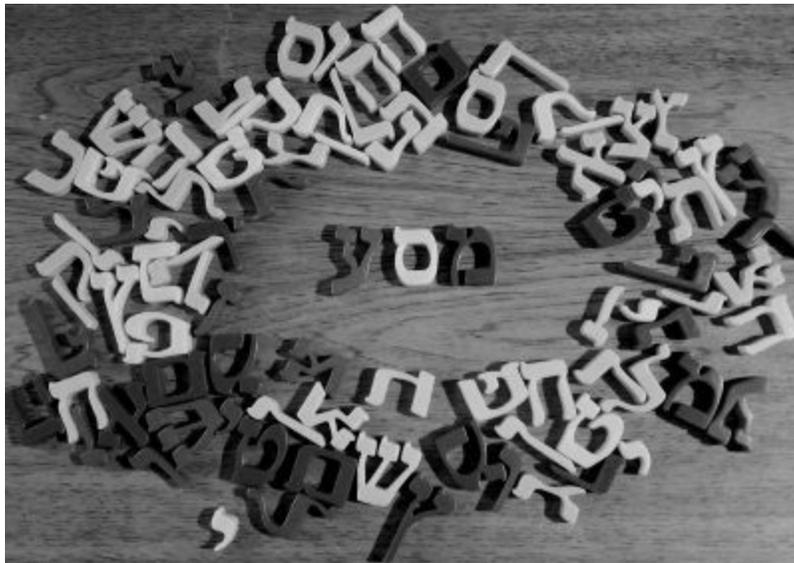


Beacon Hebrew Alliance

MASA

Student Family Handbook



5779

2018-2019

MASA at Beacon Hebrew Alliance

We are delighted that your family is joining us this year! At Beacon Hebrew Alliance, we believe that Judaism is a journey. We travel on a highway thousands of years long, and we use the traditions of our ancestors to guide our footsteps into tomorrow. We may journey together, but each of us is walking our own path. Every one of us carries some part of what our community needs to move forward. We call our learning program MASA (מסע) which means "journey" in Hebrew.

The Sefat Emet, a nineteenth century Hasidic rabbi, wrote that everyone* has their own letter of the Torah. Second century mystics suggested that the universe was created with the twenty-two letters of the aleph-bet. We will spend the year working to discover our own letters of the Torah. We'll learn some Hebrew (or perhaps just the letters, for our youngest students), and we'll study weekly Torah portions, daven together, and sing together. But there is more to Jewish life than study, so we will cook and eat, make crafts, play games, and explore the world around us. These things will hopefully help to answer the questions of who we are, and how we are going to travel.

MASA offers a wide range of tools to find and create meaning on our individual journeys. We are thankful that our paths have crossed and look forward to sharing a wonderful year of learning together!

Warmly,

The MASA Guides

Rabbi Brent, Cantor Ellen, Julia, Wendy, Danielle, Marnie, and Alexander

*The *Sefat Emet* actually said that every **Jew** has **his** own letter of the Torah, and we will explore some of the ramifications of the original statement, and our reasons for shifting it. If there is no other justification, we can fall back on the second century mystics. If the universe was created with the aleph bet, then surely we are each created with those letters, and those letters can be found in the Torah!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Grades K-2: Sundays 9:30 am – 12:30pm

Grades 3-7: Sundays 9:30 am – 12:30pm and Fridays 4:00 pm – 6:00pm

SUNDAY MORNING MASA:

MASA students in grades K-6 will meet on Sundays from 9:30am – 12:30pm. Our learning time will include Hebrew language, Jewish holidays and rituals, and Jewish values. We will connect with ourselves, each other, and the divine spark through meditation, song, prayer, art, play, and discussion.



Here is a sample schedule of our weekly gathering:

9:30 – 9:40	Modei Ani Journaling. Students will work independently to record their thoughts in words and images. Morning circle for the youngest children.
9:40 – 10:10	Davening. Students will connect with themselves, others and the Divine spark in all through meditation and song-prayer.
10:10 – 10:30	Exploratory activity to expand our understandings and practices of Mussar (character development)
10:30 – 11:05	Snack, Bentsch and New Content Presentation (Parasha, Holiday or Life Cycle)
11:10 – 11:40	Deeper dive into Parasha, Holiday or Life Cycle Ritual with lens of the monthly middah. Discussion/Activity.
11:40 - 12:10	Hebrew Learning. Aleph-bet for youngest children, Hebrew Through Movement for grades 1-5, text-based learning for oldest children.
12:15 – 12:30	Closing circle. Parents are encouraged to join us so children can share what they have learned!

FRIDAY AFTERNOON MASA:

Our older students (**grades 3 – 7+**) will also meet on **Fridays** from **4:00 pm—6:00pm** to experience the joys of reflecting on the previous week and welcoming in Shabbat through

cooking, crafting, singing, engaging in meaningful discussions and growing friendships. We'll offer quiet space and snacks to students who'd like arrive early to do homework from 3 to 4.



Here is a sampling of how we'll spend our time:

4:00 – 4:15	Schmoozing and set-up: Students will finish their snacks, set up for the potluck, and chat with their friends.
4:15 – 5:10	Students will learn about a relevant topic (Jewish values, holidays, and their relevance to current events) and discuss it while doing a craft or cooking project.
5:10 – 5:30	Song. Learn a new song that connects with the week's work and sing other favorites while building vocabulary from the lyrics. Prepare to lead Mini Minyan.
5:30-6:00	Mini Minyan: Students will lead the younger children in our community in a Shabbat service. Grades K-2 are welcome along with younger children and their parents. Come and give a joyful welcome to the Shabbat Queen!
*6:00 – 7:00	Community Potluck (MASA Optional) We encourage MASA families to bring a dish to share at the Community Potluck. Mingle with community members of all ages, build relationships, and, (bonus!) you only have to cook one dish instead of a full meal!
7:00 – 8:00	Shabbat Services (MASA Optional) We highly encourage families to join us for community-wide Shabbat services. Sing, pray, and welcome a bit of rest into your life! Children and adults of all ages are welcome.

ULTIMATE GOAL
<i>Grow up to be mensches with a Jewish identity.</i>
OBJECTIVES
SELF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know myself ● Express myself ● Ask critical questions of the world around me ● Create habits that build a path of self-knowledge, self-love and self-refinement ● Develop a meaningful and fulfilling relationship with the Source of Divinity
FAMILY (HOME LIFE AND CYCLES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be able to choose to participate in Jewish home life and cycles by knowing the beliefs and rituals associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Birth ○ Kashrut ○ Shabbat ○ Bar/Bat Mitzvah ○ Relationships and Marriage ○ Death
BHA COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participate in my community through contributing my energy to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minyans/communal davvening and singing ○ Community Service ○ Joining or creating community events ○ Taking responsibility for regular upkeep and care of community space
JEWISH COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Hebrew phonetically and follow along in a Jewish prayer service ● Understand enough Hebrew vocabulary to make some meaning of traditional liturgy ● Understand enough Hebrew vocabulary to engage in Jewishly focused discussions ● Know the meaning and rituals of Jewish holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukkah, Tu B'Shvat, Purim, Passover, Yom HaShoa, Shavuot, Rosh Chodesh, Shabbat) ● Be familiar with Jewish texts: Tanakh, Mishna (Pirkei Avot), Talmud, Chasidicism, Modern Rabbinic Teachings (Heschel, Kaplan, Feinstein, Jill Hammer) ● Be familiar with Jewish history: Biblical, Prophets, Second Commonwealth, Medieval, Haskala, Modern European, Israeli, Modern American
GLOBAL COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be a mindful global citizen ● Consider how ancient Jewish wisdom can be applied to our modern, globalized world ● Find my way to contribute to healing our world (Tikkun Olam)

CALENDAR 5779 (2018-19)

FRIDAYS	SUNDAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● September 7 ● September 14 ● September 21 ● September 28 ● NO SCHOOL Oct 5 (Columbus Day) ● October 12 POTLUCK and Mini Minyan Begin (First 3 Fridays of the month) ● October 19 ● October 26 ● November 2 ● NO SCHOOL Nov 9 (Veterans Day) ● November 16 ● NO SCHOOL Nov 23 (Thanksgiving) ● November 30 ● December 7 ● December 14 ● NO SCHOOL Dec 21 or 28 (Winter Break) ● January 4 ● January 11 ● January 18 ● January 25 ● February 1 ● February 8 ● NO SCHOOL Feb 15 (Presidents Day) ● February 22 ● March 1 ● NO SCHOOL March 8 (Beacon schools closed) ● March 15 ● March 22 ● March 29 ● April 5 ● April 12 ● NO SCHOOL Apr 19 (Spring Break/Passover) ● April 26 ● May 3 ● May 10 ● May 17 ● NO SCHOOL May 24 (Memorial Day) ● May 31 ● June 7: Either school or Shavuot Retreat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● September 9 (Erev Rosh Hashanah) ● September 16 ● September 23 ● September 30 ● NO SCHOOL Oct 7 (Columbus Day) ● October 14 ● October 21 ● October 28 ● November 4 ● NO SCHOOL Nov 11 (Veterans Day) ● November 18: GRANDFRIENDS' DAY! ● NO SCHOOL Nov 25 (Thanksgiving) ● December 2 ● December 9: CHANUKKAH PARTY! ● December 16 ● NO SCHOOL Dec 23 or 30 (Winter Break) ● January 6 ● January 13 ● January 20: CELEBRATING TU BISHEVAT and MLK Jr.'s Birthday ● January 27 ● February 3 ● February 10 ● NO SCHOOL Feb 17 (Presidents Day) ● February 24 ● March 3 ● March 10 ● March 17 ● March 24: PURIM CARNIVAL! ● March 31 ● April 7 ● April 14: MODEL SEDER! ● NO SCHOOL Apr 21 (Spring Break/Passover) ● April 28 ● May 5: FIELD TRIP ● No SCHOOL May 12 (Mothers Day) ● May 19 ● NO SCHOOL May 26 (Memorial Day) ● June 2 ● June 9: Picnic or Shavuot Retreat

CLASS ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Children are expected to arrive at Beacon Hebrew Alliance on time, so that we can begin our classes on time. For educational continuity and knowledge, students are expected to attend all scheduled classes.

The Education Director or student's teacher should be notified if the student will be absent.

TUITION

Tuition for students in Grades K-2 is \$950. (This is equivalent to ~\$10/hour.)

Tuition for students in Grades 3-7+ is \$1200. (This is equivalent to ~\$8/hour.)

You may pay in full or establish recurring payments with our Administrative Assistant. **No one will be turned away because of financial reasons.** Please contact the Education Director if you are in need of tuition assistance.

HEALTHCARE

Hebrew School Registration form must be completed to register for Hebrew School. This form contains all emergency and healthcare information.

Please do not send sick children to class.

If a child becomes ill during class, the parents will be contacted and expected to provide transportation home as soon as possible.

If your child has an allergy, please give complete details in writing on the Registration form. If your child is being medicated, please provide the treatment before class. We are unable to administer medication under any circumstances; parents are invited in to school to meet a child's need for medication.

SAFETY PLAN

To better monitor people entering the building, please use the front entrance of the building during MASA hours.

In case there is a threat posed to our building, we will leave through the nearest safest exit and gather at The Beacon Pantry, 382 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508, 845.440.8923

We will contact parents by text or phone call as soon as possible for pick up from the evacuation site, using our cell phones or the landline at the evacuation site.

NOTICE OF SCHOOL CANCELATION

If classes are canceled on a Sunday due to inclement weather, the Education Director will make the decision by 7:30 a.m. and parents will be notified through the Remind app. Whenever Beacon Public School District evening classes or extra-curricular activities are canceled because of inclement weather, MASA will also be canceled.

PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE POLICY: OPT OUT OPTION

Beacon Hebrew Alliance regularly publishes material about our programs in print and on our website, www.beaconhebrewalliance.org, and other social media sites like Facebook. We will not publish the full name of students who appear in photos or videos unless we first receive written consent from the student's parent. If you **DO NOT** permit photos and/or videos of your child to be shared, please email the Education Director, Julia Gross Alexander, at julia@beaconhebrewalliance.org.

REMIND APP/WEBSITE

Please visit the Remind App or website, and add your children's classes:

Fridays: <https://www.remind.com/join/bhafriday> (grades 3-7)

Sundays: <https://www.remind.com/join/bhasunday> (grades K-7)

BHA Masa: <https://www.remind.com/join/bhamasa> (all students)

Your child's teacher may also add a link for their own class. We encourage you to add this as well, so that we can communicate as conveniently and quickly as possible!

CONTACT LIST

Position	Name	Contact Information
Education Director	Julia Gross Alexander	Email: julia@beaconhebrewalliance.org Phone: 845-831-2012 x 4 Text: 845-282-9774
Teacher, K	Wendy Alexander	Through Remind App
Teacher, 1-2, 3-4	Alexander Ullian	Through Remind App
Teacher, 1-2, 3-4	Marnie Klein	Through Remind App
Teacher, Hebrew Through Movement	Danielle Shimshoni	Through Remind App
Cantor and Teacher, 5-B'nai Mitzvah	Ellen Gersh	Email: ellen@beaconhebrewalliance.org Phone: 845-831-2012 x 2
Rabbi	Brent Spodek	Email: brent@beaconhebrewalliance.org Phone: 845-831-2012 x 1
Administrative Assistant	Faith Adams	Email: admin@beaconhebrewalliance.org Phone: 845-831-2012 x 3