

Why "Chai-Tech"?

One of the core concepts of Reconstructionist Judaism is that each generation must look anew at Judaism and "reconstruct" it in a way that makes it relevant for the present day. At Shir Hadash, we strive to live up to that ideal and create Jewish spaces and experiences that resonate with the 21st century Jewish community.

In a section of the Mishna (the first code of Jewish law) called Pirkei Avot ("Verses of the Fathers") we learn the following: "...If there is no applied knowledge, there is no analytical knowledge; if there is no analytical knowledge, there is no applied knowledge. If there is no flour, there is no Torah; if there is no Torah, there is no flour." This has been understood to mean that one cannot and should not limit oneself to the intellectual arena but rather that a person needs to combine his or her studies with "real world" skills.

These ideas, combined with a recognition of the importance of "resume building" for so many Jewish teens, have inspired a brand new high school program for 2016-2017.

We are very excited to be able to offer this unique program to our Shir Hadash 8th-12th graders; there is no program like it in the area. We look forward to an incredible year of learning and the creation of some amazing projects.



Director of Lifelong Learning Rabbi Scott "Seeg" Segal is an experienced teacher, curriculum designer, administrator, youth director, and Jewish summer camp instructor. He completed his Rabbinic studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, receiving his Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters in June 2009, and his Rabbinic Ordination in June 2010. He also holds a Master of Arts in Jewish Law and Ethics from HUC-JIR. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Indiana University.



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Shir Hadash "Chai-Tech" Jewish High School Program

2016-2017

For more information, visit our website at www.shir-hadash.org or send an e-mail to Rabbi Scott Segal at learning@shir-hadash.org

Havayah Goes "Chai-Tech"

Have you heard that Israel is called the "Startup Nation"? That's where the cell phone, firewall software, instant messaging, WAZE, and so many other cool technologies were invented. We Jews are change makers and this year's Havayah program, Chai-Tech, is all about getting involved in creativity, technology, and changing the world—up close and personal.

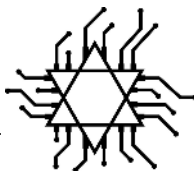
The Chai-Tech program provides an opportunity for students to participate in hands-on projects that will help to develop a variety of practically applicable skill-sets, while at the same time exposing them to some of the powerful and resonant teachings that have been the foundation of Jewish life and thought over the centuries. Oh, and along the way they will get some great material to add to their college applications.

How It Works

The Chai-Tech program is split into three "tracks": tech, production, and investment. Each track's project will be guided by the Shir Hadash staff along with a consultant who is a professional in that field. Students can participate in one, two, or all three tracks.

Tech Track

Students participating in the Technology Track will implement a Judaism-infused project of their own design that brings into play tech skills (coding, app/game design, etc), collaboration, project design, and time management. Simultaneously, students will explore social-media ethics, and the relationship between science and Judaism, as well as engaging with the content that is central to their project. Meets one Thursday per month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (includes dinner): 9/29, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, 5/25



Production Track

As part of the Production Track, students will learn about how art/music is understood in Jewish tradition and take on one of several project options: producing an album using our in-house studio, producing a play, or producing an art/photo installation. Additionally, they will have the chance



to engage with the work of various Jewish artists, musicians, and playwrights and consider how their Jewish identity impacted and influenced their work. Meets one Sunday per month from 1 to 3 p.m. (includes lunch): 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4, 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/9, 5/7

Investment Track

Students enrolling in the Investment Track will experience the double meaning of the word. One part of the course will have students learning about the basics of financial investing: the what, how, and why of the various resources available to increase wealth. The other part will see students investing in the community through projects such as setting up a foundation and providing micro-grants, and by participating in direct service projects to make our world a better place. This track will also explore traditional Jewish teachings on giving as well as Jewish ethics surrounding money and business. Meets one Monday per month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (includes dinner): 9/19, 11/2, 10/17, 11/28, 12/12, 1/30, 2/27, 3/13, 4/17, 5/15



"College Bound"

Coming in Winter 2017: A unique seminar for high school seniors to prepare for Jewish life on the college campus. Meeting dates and time TBA.