

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
invites you to explore

Pathways for Jewish Youth

At CBSRZ, we call it **Kivvun**.

*We believe our role is to outfit
your child with tools for self-awareness
and fearless learning that will guide them
in finding their unique self expression,
meaning, and purpose in life through
the traditions and teachings of Judaism.*

*Growing up is mostly about pathfinding,
obstacles and all.*

*Your children have
always turned to you
for love and guidance;
that's forever.*



*Who will become the other
meaningful guides in their lives?*

Working with the rich stories and traditions of our Jewish ancestors, Kivvun stimulates our children's questions and passions with a values-based method of inquiry.

We create opportunities for children to explore relationships with each other, with the larger universe and with themselves. We challenge them to wrestle with complex ideas using dialogue, debate, experiential and project based learning.

As we explore ancient texts, rather than give tests or homework, we understand the importance of action and teach our learners to "speak with their feet". We cultivate the inner compass of every child enabling them to find a direction to walk their own Jewish path, sometimes traditional and sometimes new.

In the spirit of thoughtful inquiry, we've provided responses to questions that might be on your mind. We look forward to further conversation and thank you for including CBSRZ in your family's exploration.

We're not sure what kind of religious education we want for our children.

Some adults wish to recreate the experience they had growing up. Others are looking for something very different.

Some opt for their own special path. We can be a valuable resource to families

having difficult conversations or searching for a way to give form to their vision of what's best for them. We all bring powerful and beautiful stories to the conversation. Let's keep talking.

We are an interfaith family. How will we fit in?

You will be in good company. Over 95% of the children in Kivvun are raised in families where one parent is not Jewish. We welcome and appreciate the participation and support from both parents in all areas of life within our community.

Drawing from 32 Connecticut towns, at CBSRZ 'we' means Jewish, interfaith, married, single, divorced, elderly, multigenerational and LGBT. No one is an exception to some expected typical member. You will find that once here, it's hard to feel like an outsider. We like it that way.

What learning opportunities are there for me?

'Lifelong Learning' takes many different forms here.

Parents and children can learn together at a 'Breakfast with the Rabbi'. They can study Jewish history, provocative cultural issues, Adult

Hebrew and Yiddish or prepare to become an adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah

Other programs include social justice, field trips, lectures and ancient and innovative forms of spiritual exploration.

Do all CBSRZ students have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

That is certainly part of the journey for many of our kids. For some it's the destination, but not for all. Those are family decisions with options to thoughtfully consider.

The period leading up to Bar or Bat Mitzvah includes more intensive preparation and study time. We support families to make this a manageable and positive time.

We have to ask: It's a journey—where does it go?

On any Sunday morning at CBSRZ, you will see teens serving as Madrichim, Teaching Assistants and role models for the younger set.

They stay because they want their journey to continue as they inspire, support and share in the fun they experienced during their earlier years. The journey of self-awareness continues through programs such as Mussar Theatre and Avodah Service Projects.

Other teens participate in our Gesher and Confirmation programs. Still others enjoy seeing friends at a variety of social events such as sleep-overs and laser tag. Our teens know they have a home they can always come back to wherever they are on their paths.



What's in store for our very young children?

We enjoy and honor their open minds and curiosity. As children grow, we want to be a place that truly means something to them.

We (and they) may not be able to name that 'meaning' but we do know it isn't something static. So we have designed activities that are age- and developmentally appropriate. Babies and preschoolers

can begin gently by joining our play group twice a month or attending Tot Shabbat.

For every age we challenge ourselves to be a warm and stimulating place: not quite school, not quite home, not quite piano lessons or sports.

Having said that, at any time we may blend aspects of each or all of them along the way.



Are there fees?

One obstacle we don't want to put in your child's journey is cost. At CBSRZ we believe in helping to eliminate financial obstacles.

For children in Kadima, grades K through 3 we invite a free-will 'Gift of the Heart' contri-

bution. Simply put, this means that in lieu of a specific fee to participate in this program, parents are encouraged to contribute what they are comfortable giving at the time. For more information, please see the fee structure enclosed.

A lot to think about. What's our next step?

Consider bringing your family for a Sunday morning visit to see Kivvun in action. The children and mentors of CBSRZ love to share time with visitors.

We find they are great at articulating what it is they enjoy here and why this has become a meaningful place in their hectic and complex media heavy, 21st century, sometimes daunting lives.

We love guiding them as they find their own path to being informed, tolerant, reflective and thoughtful citizens.

And we look forward to the adolescents and adults that these inquisitive and fearless learners will be as they embrace and mold the future.

Kivvun: Finding your child's Jewish Path

Whatever our individual dreams for them may be, we love watching children navigate their present, bringing meaningful illumination from the past to create their own future





Beth Shalom
Rodfe Zedek

Contact:

Belinda Brennan, Cantor/Educator

edcant@cbsrz.org

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek

55 East Kings Highway, Chester, CT 06412

860.526.8920

www.cbsrz.org