

# The HAMC Post Graduate Learning Program

ה' תש"ע 5770 / 2009-2010

We are excited to begin our third year of the HAMC Post Graduate Learning Program. Over the last couple of years, we have adjusted and refined the program in a number of ways. With the help of the students' and families' feedback we are implementing some modifications and improvements as discussed below.

We are sensitive to the fact that our graduates have busy academic schedules and many are involved in extracurricular activities that limit the time available for extracurricular Judaic academics.

Our goal for this program is to provide our graduates with a realistic opportunity to maintain their growth in Judaic subjects, ensure continued involvement in the Jewish community, to expand and build upon the breadth of knowledge they have acquired over their years at the HAMC, and to help them internalize their identity as involved Jewish adults.

We would like to very strongly point out that although we will be providing exciting and engaging courses, these courses are only a drop in the bucket compared to a full week Judaic curriculum provided by Jewish high schools. The HAMC encourages all our graduates to seriously consider continuing their education in a Jewish high school.



## HAMC Post Graduate Learning Program

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This year, in addition to the to the course subjects described on the following pages, we are adding 20 sessions of **modern conversational Hebrew**. There will be **8 sessions (4 days) dedicated to unique films** supporting the curriculum's goals. A day of Jewish ethnic cooking (with Moreh Moshe), and special guest speakers.

## **The structure of the program will be as follows:**

There will be thirty sessions throughout the year (see calendar online). Each session will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM, which will include two 50 minute classes, light refreshments, and a short Tefillah service (Mincha or Ma'ariv). There will be two courses in each of the three semesters.

Although there will be no formal homework, we will encourage the students to apply the lessons learned, and be involved in various aspects of Jewish community life. The students will also be encouraged to be involved in sharing their knowledge and skills with the greater community through various programs, Divrei Torah, and other outreach activities.

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## **Course Descriptions**

### **Great Jewish Films - Instructor: Moshe Vaknin**

In each class the students will view a great movie that has a Jewish theme. Throughout the film, the students will engage in meaningful conversation that will stimulate their thinking of the various topics. Topics will include: The Holocaust, Israeli military, comedy, and more. Films shown will include: *Swing Kids*, *School Ties*, *Avanti Popolo*, *Kazablan* and others.

### **Classical Jewish Philosophy - Instructor: Rabbi Gil Hami**

Middle school and high school years are the time when students begin to ask more prodding questions about what they are taught. No longer do they simply accept the teachings of their parents and teachers unquestionably. They begin to ask "How do you know?" and "Why should we follow this particular approach as opposed to others?". They begin to wonder about the validity and genuineness of their heritage and how it compares to the traditions of other peoples.

In this course, the students will delve into some of the classical Jewish Philosophical texts. These will include Maimonides' 'Guide for the Perplexed', the Kuzari, and others. Topics to be discussed, at an age appropriate level, will include *What is G-d, can science and Judaism be reconciled*, and *morality good and evil in classic Jewish thought*. One of the goals of this course is to give the students a strong foundation in their traditions, helping to prepare them for the many difficulties and challenges they may face as young Jewish adults on campuses in the face of sometimes strong anti-Jewish and missionary influences.

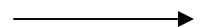
### **Anti-Semitism Today - Instructor: Moshe Vaknin**

After a short introduction of this historical concept, students will learn how to recognize and deal with anti-Semitism in America and the world. From the high school campus to college campus and abroad, the students will see the real threats and today's challenges. Topics will include: the KKK, David Duke, Jean Marie Lappen and European Anti-Semites, Iran—the new leader in Holocaust deniers, and more.

### **Total Talmud – Instructor: Rabbi Gil Hami**

The Talmud is the great body of Jewish legal knowledge. It is recognized by many scholars as a tremendous resource in legal and ethical values and principles. The Talmud's method of legal/halachic derivation is a powerful way to sharpen one's logical and intuitive thinking processes. Less well-known is the fact that the Talmud also incorporates a wealth of Midrashic and mystical teachings touching on fundamental Jewish concepts.

In this course, selected Talmudic portions will be studied in depth, analyzing the logical structures of the arguments, their rationale, and their legal and moral implications. The same section will be then looked at from an historical perspective. Next, the students will be surprised to be introduced to yet a deeper dimension of the particular topic. They will discover a new dimension of interpretation in the very same



legal debate that can be understood in spiritual terms.

An important goal for this course is for the students to appreciate the depth of their heritage. They will begin to see the powerful interconnectedness between all facets of Judaism — how the Torah and its teachings are interpreted on various levels, such as the Pshat (simple/literal), Remez (allegorical), Drash (interpretive/midrashic), Sod (Kabalistic/mystical) and how they are all ultimately part of one body of Jewish knowledge. This course very often inspires continued independent study.

### **Middle East Politics — Instructor: Moshe Vaknin**

Dealing with teachers, professors, Arab students and other individuals on campuses in America and abroad is very difficult when it comes to Middle East politics. This class will survey myth vs. reality with respect to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The students will learn what and how to answer critiques when they are challenged. Topics will include: The real truth on Arab Refugees; Who really cares about Jerusalem?; Water, water, water; Holy wars; and more.

### **Uniqueness of the Hebrew Language – Instructor: Rabbi Gil Hami**

Throughout their years at the HAMC the students have learned to speak and use the Hebrew language in many ways. Their experience with the language ranges from Biblical texts to modern spoken Hebrew, from songs and plays in Hebrew to traditional prayers and services.

In this course, the students will gain a broader appreciation of the language of their heritage by studying its uniqueness. The Hebrew language is also called the Holy Tongue. This is the language that was used in the Torah in the creation of the world, and many secrets and lessons can be learned from each letter, word, and grammatical rule. The class will learn about the history of the language, various forms of scripts that have been used for Hebrew over the millennia, the evolution of the language, the numerical significance of the letters, the kabalistic teachings about the shapes of the letters, and much more.

This course will, hopefully, arouse the interest of the students and motivate them to continue to learn and use this significant aspect of our culture. The Midrash states that one of the three crucial factors that helped the Jews keep their identity in a powerful Egyptian culture during the slavery was that they did not give up using their language. Hopefully, by strengthening their connection and appreciation for their language, we will help ensure Jewish continuity and pride.

### **Israeli Film Festival - Instructor: Moshe Vaknin**

In this course the students will watch Israeli movies in Hebrew with subtitles. The movies will deal with social, cultural, military and Israeli comedy themes through the years. During and after the each movie, the students will engage in lively conversations and go deep into understanding modern Israel through films.

### **J for J: Jews for Judaism – Instructor: Rabbi Gil Hami**

In a previous course, the students will have discussed anti-Semitism in its various forms. One very dangerous and insidious form of anti-Semitism that young Jews are experiencing daily on college campuses around the world is targeted missionary confrontations.

This year 5,000 young Jews walked across the line that their grandparents would never consider - they bought the Christian message. 5,000 added last year to the more than 150,000 Jews already in Christian churches around the country. Jewish continuity is in a crisis of monumental proportions. Missionaries know that youth, especially college students are often seeking. And this is being exploited with the result of many youth getting involved with all kinds of cults.

In this course we will learn about the motivations, goals and tactics of cult and Christian missionaries. The students will learn to recognize these kinds of approaches and be given the tools to answer and withstand the pressures of these assaults. This will be done by both looking at the common arguments and

“proofs” that the missionaries claim, as well as understanding the uniqueness and truth of their own heritage in contrast to the falseness of the cults.

This session will hopefully, arouse the interest of the students and motivate them to continue to learn and delve into the heritage of their parents and grandparents, thereby strengthening their own Jewish identity and sense of continuity and pride.

### **It Says So in the Newspaper - Instructor: Moshe Vaknin**

in this class we will read various newspaper articles both in Hebrew and in English. All topics will deal with current events. The topics will range from politics, sports, fashion and social aspects of Israel and the Middle East. The main idea of this course is reading between the lines and understanding the real motive of the writers.

### **Teen Kaballah - Instructor: Rabbi Gil Hami**

Kaballah—Jewish Mysticism—is not at all what many people assume it to be. Although there certainly is the Esoteric aspect of Kaballah, Jewish Mysticism also has a real practical relevance for people of all ages. In this course we will discuss the Kabbalistic understanding and spiritual dimension of the Jewish observances which we all already do. We will see what Kaballah has to say on many things, from giving Tzedaka to Blowing Shofar to Honoring Parents, to understanding G-d. This will give a new perspective and motivation in the fulfillment of Mitzvot and Jewish customs.

### **Milta DeB'dichuta- (Aramaic for “Words of Humor”) – Instructor: Rabbi Gil Hami**

The Talmud tells that a certain sage, when he noticed his students falling asleep, would say some humorous remarks to arouse them. After the heavy course on Kaballah, it would be fitting to lighten things up a bit in this second session.

Another incident related in the Talmud, relates how, before beginning to teach his lesson, Rabah used to tell the sages a few words of humor, and only then begin his halachic discourse. Humor is nothing to laugh at. The Sages have used humor throughout the ages to help bring their points out and in various contexts, besides just Purim!

This course will analyze Jewish humor in traditional texts, its uses and the lessons that can be learned from it. In addition to the serious analysis of humor, there are bound to be some hearty laughs and fun resulting from our discussions...

### **Why Do Good People Suffer and Bad People Succeed? — Instructor: Moshe Vaknin**

Through the reading of the Book of Job (ee-yov), the students will explore the ancient question of good and evil. We will read selections of the book of Job and other modern philosophical materials. Making the right choices, regardless of the consequences, will be the main vain of this class.

### **Modern Conversational Hebrew – Instructor: Morah Nurit Lev**

The Modern Hebrew Language class will consist of conversation, reading of Israeli current events and some writing. The objective of the class is to sustain and increase the Hebrew language knowledge of our graduates. In addition, the class will develop an understanding of Israeli culture through modern Hebrew language, music, and pop culture.

## Registration

(Please Print)

Child's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in Sept: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: **\$25** (Non-Refundable) — Do not include in postdated checks.

Full Tuition: **\$925** Cash or Check Discounted Tuition: **\$900**

*Fees and tuition must be included with this registration form*

**TUITION PAYMENTS:** If you choose not to pay your tuition in full, you must include postdated checks dated 8/1/09 through 5/1/10. **All tuition payments must be included with this application**, either in full, in post-dated checks, or by completing the credit card information below. A \$25 charge will be added for each returned check.

Please charge my credit card the **Full Tuition** specified above.

VISA  MasterCard Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date (mm/yr) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Check how you would like your credit card charged for **tuition** payments (**fees** will be charged immediately):

one payment now  ten payments (8/1/09-5/1/10)  other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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