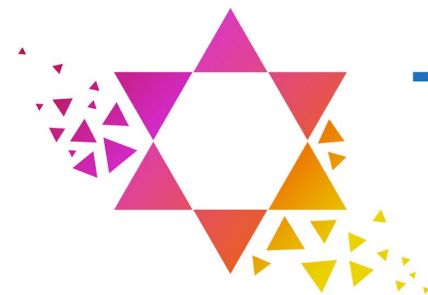


OPEN TEMPLE CREATIVE TORAH ACADEMY



THE OPEN TEMPLE
RE-ENCHANTING JUDAISM

IN VENICE, CA

“

Judaism is the evolving religious civilization of the Jewish people.”

--Mordecai Kaplan

What if creative spiritual practice was a part of Jewish education? If the paintbrush, dance shoe, sense of humor, yoga mat, and drum kit were as integral a part of Jewish education as a tallit, siddur, and Hebrew letters? Open Temple's Creative Torah Academy is a unique Jewish Journey for students to engage in Torah, Jewish Civilization, Thought and Traditions through art, music, dance, theater, nature and spirituality.

CTA brings the Open Temple methodology of “performance art ritual”- engaging prompts, contemporary conflicts, creative departures from text and tradition - into the “Hebrew School” classroom, where the classroom is transformed into an atelier, dance and yoga studio, and black box theatre. Our students are young people who thrive in the creative and individualistic curriculum, who think for themselves and enjoy sharing their individuality with others to create something larger together.

Our students are the children of intermarried couples, assimilated Jews, Jews without Jewish education, or Jews with too much Jewish education, Jews who feel disenfranchised or alienated from Jewish life as the prayers and rituals seem remote or Jews on the periphery and their children. Open Temple provides a place for all of the “Jew-ishly curious” to reclaim our spiritual center. What we all have in common is that we are curious and willing to create something through our curiosity. Together.

VENICE

Demographic studies indicate a resurgence of Jewish and interfaith families in the Venice area. However, there is a dearth of Jewish institutions that embrace these couples and meet them “where they are at.”

With the branding of Silicon Beach, the need for innovative and engaging community for people to “Do Jew-ish” together locally is more acute than ever.



Open Temple Disrupts “Judaism as Usual,” and Cracks Open Tradition through Creative and Radical Ritual Happenings and Jewish Education.

2020/21: Creative Torah Academy

A New Way To Do Jew School

- Ages 0-5: Parenting, Tot Shabbat
- Ages 6-9: Arts36
- Ages 9-11: Venice Yeshiva
- Ages 12-13: B. Mitzvah
- Ages 13+: Family Engagement

COMING SUMMER 2021
Venice Beach Summer Camp





Creative. Torah. Academy.

PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Students will develop *Enduring Understandings*
2. Students will master lesson and unit *content objectives*
3. Students will practice *Jewish values*
4. *Families* will be empowered to *do Jewish* together
5. Students will actively participate in *Jewish Community*

PROGRAM TRACKS

Arts36

Students follow a Spiral Curriculum where they learn Holidays, LifeCycle, History and Jewish texts through the Arts while studying and creating Jewish ritual.

Creative outputs may include a Hagurah or Gartel (Torah Belt), Building a Sukkah, Woven Challah Cover on OT Loom, Decorating a Channukah Float to “Advertise the Mitzvah of Channukah”, Pottery Kiddush Cup and Seder Plate fired in OT Kiln, Havdalah Candle, and Shabbat Candlesticks.

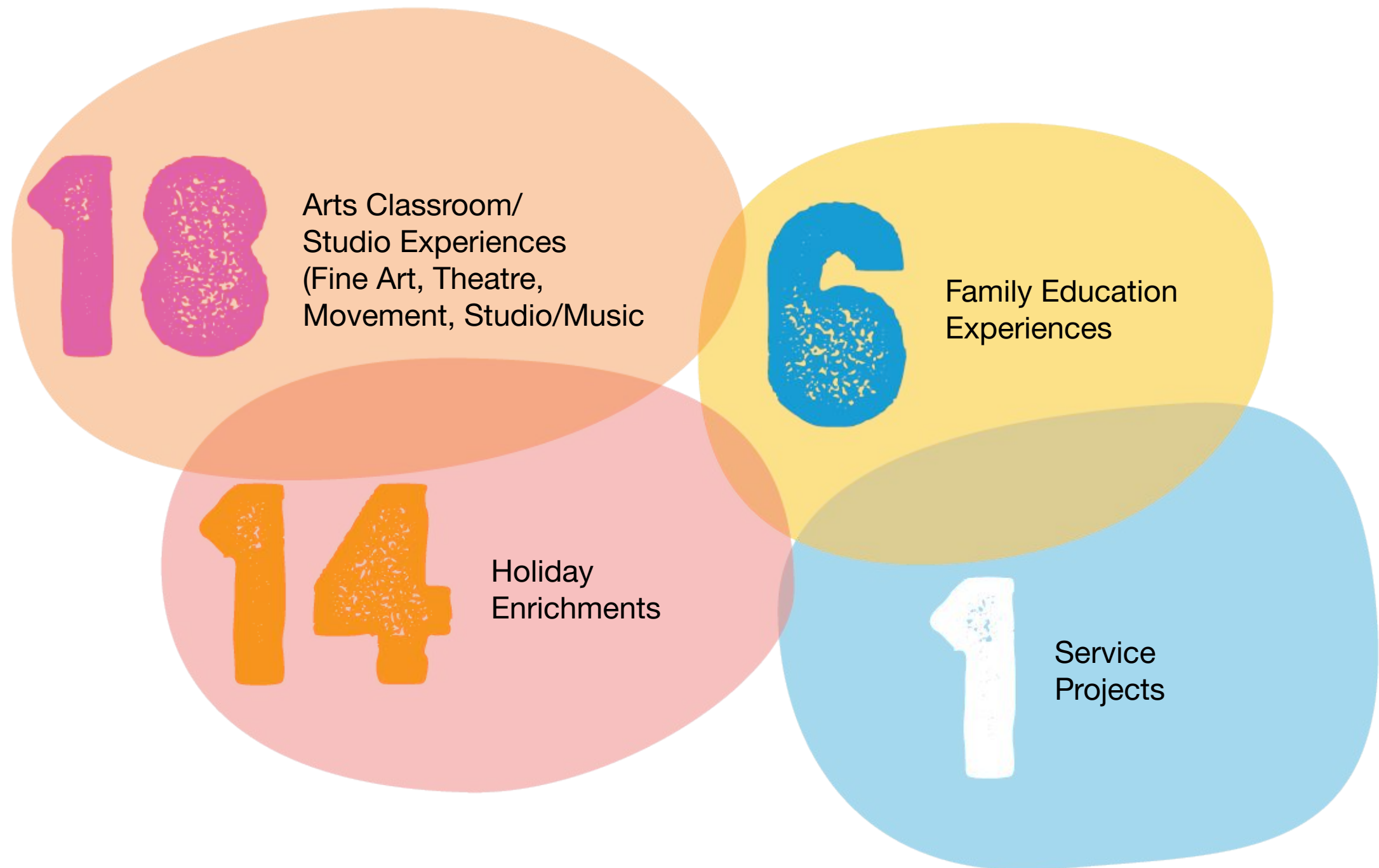
Venice Yeshiva: Where Yentl meets The Chosen

Students experience the vitality of the Jewish Traditions of *Machlochet*, *Chevruta*, and *Yeshiva* as they bring to life ancient Jewish texts and thoughts. Texts studied include: Torah, Mishna, Talmud, Midrash, Codes, Commentaries, Hasidut, & Jewish Thought.

BMitzvah

Your home. A backlot studio. The Baal Shem Tov Forest in the Galilee. A golf course. The Western Wall in Jerusalem. The beach. A community synagogue in Los Angeles. The Open Temple creates sacred spaces in the world surrounding us. At The Open Temple, each B. Mitzvah is an opportunity for our community to renew our Jewish Journeys and renew our vision through the lens of our bar or bat mitzvah - the newest innovation of Jew.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Special COVID19 Update:

Arts36 and The Venice Yeshiva meets live two Sundays/month from 3:00 - 4:30 and on Zoom two Sundays/month from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm during our COVID-19 schedule. Because every family has its own preference, families can choose to participate in live meetings in private residences outside and/or also on Zoom. Once “Stage 4” recommendations are approved, we will return to OT House and resume CTA’s normal twice monthly schedule from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm and/or Third Friday Shabbat every other month.

For live classes through COVID19 restrictions, students will meet in small pods of 4 - 6 students. All families will be invited into the Zoom classes bi-weekly. Families will be offered home engagement both independently and through Zoom.

Core Commitments: We strongly encourage your entire family to attend at least FIVE Open Temple Happenings this year including High Holidays, Channukah, Purim, Tu b’Shevat, Shavuot experiences together during the course of your child’s B. Mitzvah training.

Because Open Temple is unique, all families are encouraged to experience Open Temple Rituals and get inspired for your own ceremony. In addition, engagement supports welcoming you into the greater OT community. Our Co-Creators are a great resource, and can share and support you through this big life transition.

OT Family Covenant: At the Beginning of the B. Mitzvah Year, families will create a Family Covenant for the commitment made to the year ahead. Families will choose from all of the OT experiences and commit to levels of engagement, leadership, volunteering and study that they will do for the year ahead.

COVID-19 Plan for 5781

Each will be augmented for Arts36/Venice Yeshiva/B. Mitzvah and include Fine Art, Theatre, EcoArt, Movement, Studio/Music.

18

Arts Classroom/
Studio Experiences
(Fine Art, Theatre,
Movement,
Studio/Music)

HOME CHEDER (both Live and on Zoom):

Students will meet in small groups on Co-Creator's outdoor areas. One Teacher who receives training in instruction with Social Distancing will lead each class.

In addition, an arts specialist will visit each class when it is outside of the teacher's discipline (most of our teachers are also artists).

14

Holiday
Enrichments

Bike Shabbat, Drive-In Shabbat Take Me Higher, Experiential High Holidays, Beach Shabbat (once permitted), Scavenger Hunts, Hikes, Shabbat on the Lawn (Shabbat Programming at Co-Creator Homes), Judaism in the Reeds (Kayaking and Torah Study on the Venice Canals) and more

6

Family Education
Experiences

Including many of the above as well as Zoom invitations to special events (Challah baking, Shabbat Candlelighting, and Take Home Suggestions)

1

Service
Projects

OPEN TEMPLE CREATIVE TORAH ACADEMY

Arts 36 Sample Calendar

9/15 Sunday, Derekh Eretz (3-6pm)
9/20 Friday, Shabbat Take Me Higher: The Pause (6-9pm)
9/30 Monday, Rosh Hashanah Family Day Service (4pm)
10/9 Wednesday, Yom Kippur Family Service (4pm)
10/13 Sunday, Sukkot on the AK Farm (3-5pm)
10/18 Friday, Sukkot Dinner & Shabbat in The Sukkah (6-9pm)
10/21 Monday, The Celebration Dance Walk (5pm)
10/27 Sunday, Keshet Judaism: Torah is a Rainbow (3-6pm)
11/3 Sunday, Trip to Museum of Tolerance (1-4pm)
11/10 Sunday, Weaving God's Torah I (3-6pm)
11/17 Sunday, Weaving God's Torah II (3-6pm)
12/8 Sunday, Hanukkah on the Canal Parade Preparation (1-5pm)
12/15 Sunday, Hanukkah on the Canal Parade Party (2-5pm)
12/20 Friday, Shabbat Take Me Higher (6-9pm)
1/12 Sunday, Justice (Tzedek) League (3-6pm)
1/26 Sunday, Ivrit v'Rikud (3-6pm)
2/2 Sunday, Clowning for Purim I (3-6pm)
2/9 Sunday, Tu b'Shevat Hike (3-6pm)
2/21 Friday, Shabbat Take Me Higher (6-9pm)
2/23 Sunday, Clowning for Purim II (3-6pm)
3/ 8 Sunday, Purim Unmasked (3-6pm)
3/22 Sunday, Passover Freedoms (3-6pm)
4/9 Thursday, Passover: Second Night Seder (4-7pm)
4/19 Sunday, Studio Project: Podcast (3-6pm)
5/3 Sunday, Studio Project: Divine Rhyme & Band (3-6pm)
5/15 Friday, Shabbat Take Me Higher (6-9pm)
5/29 Friday, Shavuot Hike (6pm)

CREATIVE TORAH ACADEMY CURRICULUM

A Look Inside



OPEN TEMPLE

CREATIVE TORAH ACADEMY

Arts 36 Sample Curricular Overview

UNIT ONE: ARTS SEPT-OCT		UNIT TWO: THEATRE NOV-DEC		UNIT THREE: MOVEMENT JAN-FEB		UNIT FOUR: MUSIC MARCH-MAY	
CTA SUNDAYS	SHABBAT/ ENRICHMENT	CTA SUNDAYS	SHABBAT/ ENRICHMENT	CTA SUNDAYS	SHABBAT/ ENRICHMENT	CTA SUNDAYS	SHABBAT/ ENRICHMENT
	9/15: Opening Beach Picnic Shabbat. 5:30PM	11/5: Biblical Time Machine I	11/17: Shabbat Take Me Higher // Program and Biblical Time Machine II	1/7: The 11 Words for Dance in Hebrew.	1/19: Shabbat Take Me Higher & The Song of the Sea.		3/3: Purim Dance Party. 5:30PM
	9/22: Rosh HaShanah Family Service. 4PM		11/26: Trip to Skirball Museum - Jewish Life from Antiquity to America		1/28: Wilderness Torah Tu b'shevat Hike (Dogs invited). 3PM	3/11: The Band Project: What I say and Prayer.	
9/24: Opening Day of Arts Classes: Creation and Creativity I.	9/30: Yom Kippur Family Service. 4PM		12/1: Shabbat Dinner at OT House and Biblical Time Machine III.	2/11: Movement and Storytelling.		3/16: The Band Project: Diving Rhyme.	Week of 4/1: Wilderness Torah Passover in the Desert Retreat Option.
	10/1: Sukkah Raising. 10AM		12/10: Chanukah on the Canal Parade and Party.	2/25: Israeli Dance and Meaning.		4/15: The Band Project: Music is a Creative Process.	4/29: Service Project TBA.
	10/8: Sukkot on the AK Farm and Blessing of the Animals. 3-6PM		12/15: Shabbat Take Me Higher // Program and Presentation of BTM.			5/6: The Band Project: Soul Journey Studio Session.	5/18: Shabbat Take Me Higher Performance and End of School Year.
10/22: Creation and Creativity II.							

From Arts36 to B. Mitzvah:

How does this work?

Enchantment. Creativity. Intellect. Neshama.



Arts36 (Age 6 - 9)

A Spiral Curriculum where student learn Holidays, LifeCycle, History and Jewish texts through the Arts while studying and creating Jewish ritual.

Students will:

- Engage with Torah, Jewish History, Ritual, Culture and Holidays through Fine Art, Theatre, Movement and Dance.
- Learn Torah Stories from the Books of Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus, Prophets and Writings.
- Study and create rituals around Birth, Learning, Shabbat, Holidays, and Creative Ritual.
- Engage in Shabbat Take Me Higher services and share their creative ritual and Artivism (Art Activism) with the greater open temple community.

Creative Outputs:

Hagurah or Gartel (Torah Belt) | Building a Sukkah | Woven Challah Cover on OT Loom
Decorating a Channukah Float to “Advertise the Mitzvah of Channukah”
Pottery Kiddush Cup and Seder Plate fired in OT Kiln | Havdalah Candle | Shabbat Candlesticks

Venice Yeshiva (Age 9-11)

The Venice Yeshiva focuses on Torah Study. With a foundation in both Written and Oral Tradition, Students focus on deepening their foundation in Jewish Texts. The curriculum follows a Civilization Model, and students build on their understanding of Jewish tradition through an understanding of the evolution of Jewish Texts throughout History and Geographic Region.

The Venice Yeshiva focuses on:

Chevruta Study

Students pair with one another to study assigned texts in the style of traditional Yeshiva.

Mussar/Ethical Studies and the Making of a Mensch

Students engage in regular journaling and spiritual practice assignments to deepen their understanding of values, character and conditioning through Jewish Spiritual Practices of writing, meditation, candlelighting, and a personal definition of Shabbat observance.

Jewish Ritual / Ritual Object Creation

Students will continue to engage in Ritual and Ritual Object creation through working with guest artists in writing prayers through Jew School of Rock, engagement in Israeli Dance, and creation of Judaica including the creation of:

Woven Tallit and Hand Dyed Tzitzit | 3D Printer Dreidels |
Yod for their B. Mitzvah



B. Mitzvah (Ages 12-13)

B. Mitzvah (OT's gender neutral term for Bar or Bat Mitzvah), in essence, means someone who engages with the concept of seeking Divinity in one's life through Mitzvot.



The word “Mitzvot” is the plural form of Mitzvah, which literally means “commandment.” While many Jews believe that this means a literal obedience of Jewish Law (or, *Halacha*, which is expressed through codified legal documents), Open Temple offers an alternative approach inspired by Jewish Thinkers - from Moses Mendelssohn to Franz Rosenzweig to Mordecai Kaplan and beyond.

We begin with this interpretation: the word Mitzvah shares the same root as the Hebrew word for “imperative”. This concept informs our approach to B. Mitzvah.

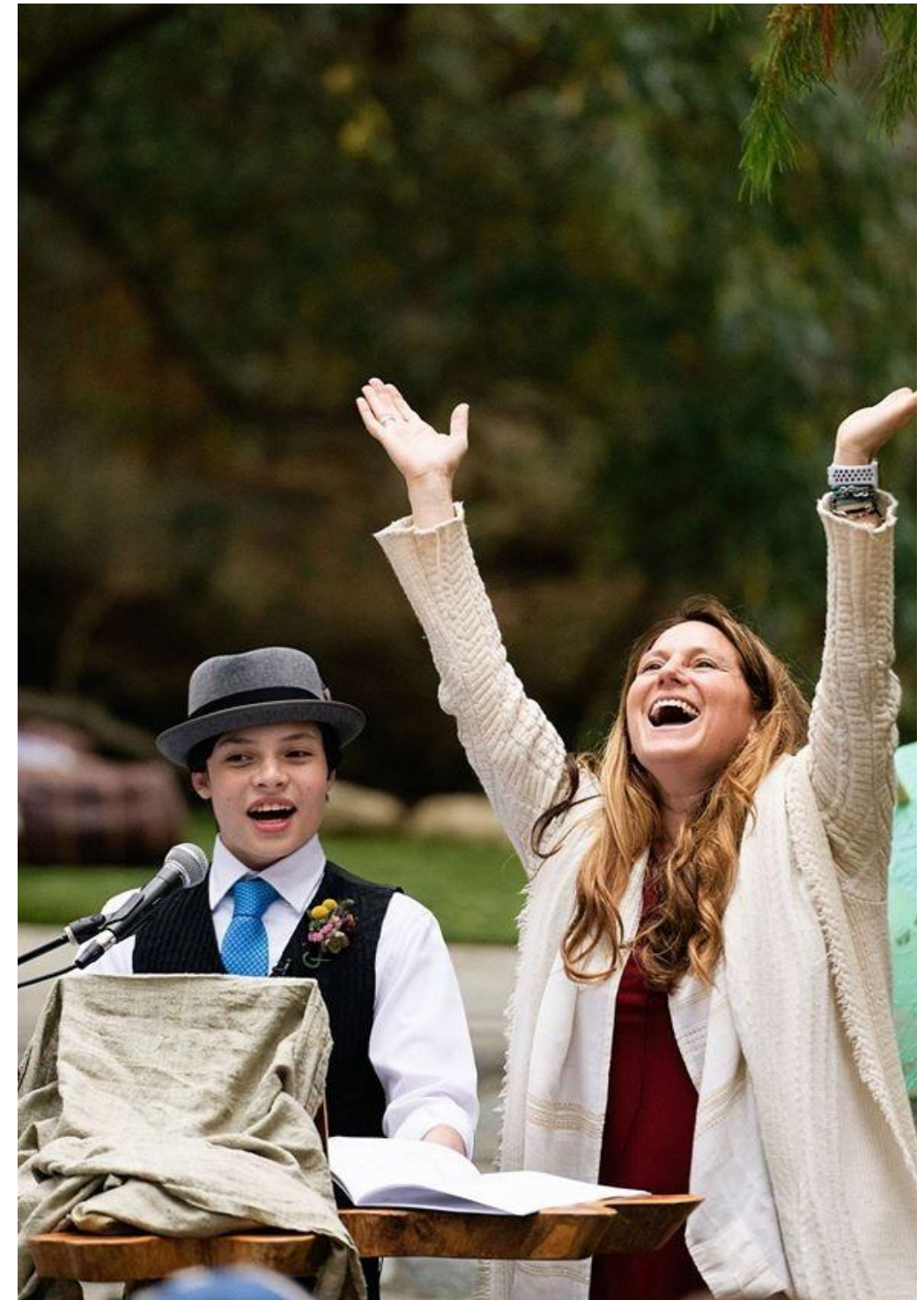
At Open Temple, B Mitzvah students study prayers, Torah portions, Jewish History, Culture, Law and more in pursuit of one essential question:

What is “the imperative” that drives Intellectual Curiosity, Creativity, Order and Love in this world?



Our B. Mitzvah student begins to answer this question in their own unique way.

Our Creative Torah Academy Program brings the student through a four year experience of Spiritual Creativity, Intellectual Curiosity, History, Culture, Language and more in service of each student’s personal expression of what it means to engage in this imperative.




What does an Open Temple Mitzvah project look like? How does it engage the community?

VALUES DRIVEN: Open Temple's core values are Creativity, Love and Truth. Students engage in Artivism (Art Activism), Philanthropy, and Acts of Loving Kindness. Open Temple focuses on Earth, Homeless and Community of Care as Core Issues. Activities include: Venice Community Garden planting, Artist Disruption at Services, Hot Cocoa Stand Fundraising on AK Blvd., Projects involving Seniors such as Silver Screen Studios and more.

OT does happenings, art & music, soul journeys, inclusivity, hyper local involvement, & straight up fun so well - would dig into those areas for mitzvah projects, e.g., traveling band of troubadours at hospitals and/or assisted living centers for sing-a-longs, Jewish-inspired soul journey mini sessions for teens at high schools or community centers OR partner w/ Modern Elder Academy-style org.

Also, could be projects within & for the OT community, e.g., comfort committee for OT people/families experiencing hardship of any kind (incl. but not limited to grief) AND projects in / with the broader community (e.g., teaming up with other religious/spiritual communities for relationship building and tradition sharing)

The Open Temple Virtual Siddur: B. Mitzvah Project



Take me Higher
Shlomo Carlebach

Lord, get me high get me high get me high
Lord get me high get me higher

Higher and higher
Higher and higher
Higher and higher and higher

Higher and higher
Higher and higher
Higher and higher and higher

Lord let me pray let me pray just one prayer
Lord let me pray just one prayer

Lord let me say let me say just one word
Lord let me say just one word

Lord let me sing let me sing just one song
Lord let me sing just one song

Lord let me meet let me meet just one friend
Lord let me meet just one friend

Lord let me live till the great morning comes
When the whole world will sing just one song

Open Temple is on the vanguard of Jewish Innovation.
Our **Open Source Siddur** reflects the value of innovation and is Open Source and inclusive with writings from all denominations of Jewish Thought.

Students are encouraged to learn traditional prayers at CTA; that being said, all are encouraged to create their own unique expression of Jewish Prayer Book. Students work with Rabbi Lori to create a prayer book that reflects their values, understanding and translations of Jewish Prayers, God Concepts and is also inclusive of Poetry from Ecumenical Sources.

Here, Rose integrated a painting that her father painted of her into lyrics for Shlomo Carlebach's "Take Me Higher."

FIELD TRIPS

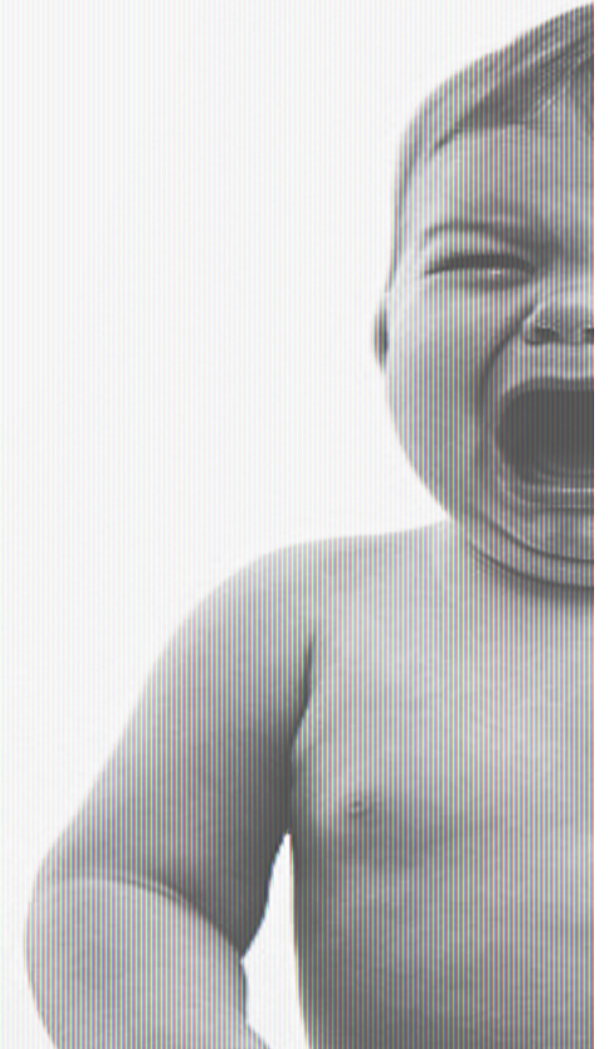
Each year, families are invited to attend various experiences including:

- Shabbat Take Me Higher
- High Holiday Ritual Lab
- Shabbat Dinners
- Hikes
- Beach Shabbat
- Trips to Jewish Museums
- Scavenger Hunts
- Channukah on the Canal Parade and Party
- Recruitment House Talk Information Session



OPEN TEMPLE CREATIVE TORAH ACADEMY: Parallel Parenting Programs - A Place for Parents

BARBARA
OLINGER
IS A PARENTING
GENIUS.



Parenting Professional Barbara Olinger guides us through the perils of parenting.
(ages newborn - teen)

Spiritual Chevruta: Families Connecting

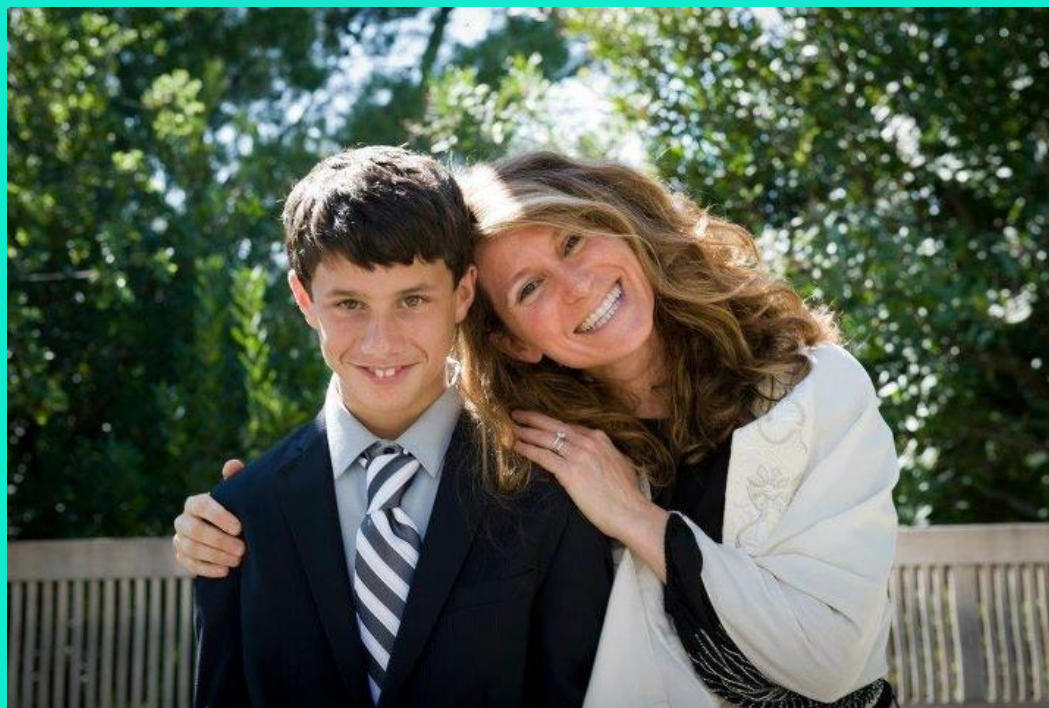
Open Temple creates an Open Door for Everyone to go on their Jewish Soul Journey. In order to help identify why you want to be a co-creator in this community, you will be paired with a family to help discover this, articulate this and share it with us. We call this process “onboarding.”

The purpose of onboarding is to:

- to get to know a new OT family
- For new OT families to get to know our staff, rituals and methods
- to engage one another in mutual interests
- to provide opportunities to take ownership and action and feel more responsible to/for the health and growth of OT.
- to help the family find at least one spiritual / community building experience to take ownership of

Onboarding involves all new families in Creative Torah Academy.

Examples of Goals: B. Mitzvah - Family Spirituality, Spiritual Parenting Education, Community, Social Action and Artivism, Rituals and Holidays, Jewish Learning.



Some Final Thoughts from Rabbi Lori:

One of the first Open Temple B. Mitzvah was Joel and my nephew, Max. Together, we created the service together, and this experience was the beginning of what was to become Open Temple's B. Mitzvah curriculum.

The service was in the synagogue created in memory of Max's grandfather. All of the cousins, grandparents and moms (Max has two) participated. There were poems written by family members based on Jewish prayers, moments of memorializing his grandfather and even a little Journey (our closing song was "Don't Stop Believing").

The experience of working with our family so intimately informs how I work with every family. I know that this experience made our family stronger, gave us moments to mourn and celebrate together, and just deepened our commitment to one another. My life's work, I feel, is to do this work with families as I believe that the B. Mitzvah is a liminal space through which a young person claims their Soul Journey.

I'd love to keep doing this work with you.