

March 2017 / Adar 5777

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce the creation of the Lower Merion Area Hebrew High (LMAHH), a new collaborative educational program for teens from Adath Israel, Congregation Beth Am Israel, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El and Har Zion Temple.

The impetus for the creation of LMAHH is the recognition that during the teen years, perhaps more intensely than any other time of life, friendship groups are the most important factor in determining an individual's participation in a particular activity. With that in mind, we have worked to create a quality educational and experiential program that brings together as many area Jewish teens as possible under one roof. For our teens - who attend the same schools, participate in the same activities, and go to the same summer camps - dividing up by synagogue often creates an artificial barrier. This program aims to lower this barrier.

The goals of LMAHH are to:

- 1) Ensure a positive social atmosphere for all students by having a larger pool of students.
- 2) Create top-notch programming led by the best Jewish teen educators in the area.
- 3) Provide our students with a greater diversity of viewpoints among students and faculty.
- 4) Capitalize on the skills of the clergy and educators from each congregation to benefit all of our teens.

LMAHH will operate as an independent entity directed by **Norman Einhorn**, who has been the long-time co-principal of the Har Zion High School of Jewish Studies. **Steve Goldberg**, who has been the co-principal with Norman, will serve as the Sunday Coordinator and **Hazzan Harold Messinger** of Beth Am Israel will be the Tuesday coordinator. The **clergy from each congregation** will be closely involved in the planning and curriculum of this new program and will all teach in the program. LMAHH will operate under an Oversight Committee with equal representation from each synagogue.

For the 2017-18 school year, LMAHH will meet at Har Zion on Sundays (9:45 am - 12:45 pm, avoiding conflicts with religious school pick-up and drop-off) and at Beth Am Israel on Tuesdays (6:30 - 8:30). Students may choose the times and classes that work best for them. In future years, the locations will rotate among the various congregations.

In addition to the regular classes, LMAHH will also include Jewish social and communal experiences, including a teen Shabbaton, periodic Shabbat dinners and services (led by and for teens) and Saturday evening social programs.

We look forward to sharing more information about the program to our teens and their parents at an upcoming **“Launch Party” on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We will follow up shortly with the details. In the meantime, we welcome you to share any questions or comments.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Ariella Rosen  
Adath Israel

Hazzan Harold Messinger  
Congregation Beth Am Israel

Norman Einhorn  
Rabbi Shawn SimonHazani  
Steven Goldberg  
Har Zion Temple

Rabbi Marc Israel  
Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El