



## After-school Hebrew immersion play-group for pre-school through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

### Registration Information/FAQ

#### **What are Kochavim and PreKochavim?**

**Kochavim** (Stars) is a fun and dynamic after-school Hebrew immersion program for PreK (4 year-olds) through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Children in Kochavim learn through play, music, art, active games, stories, yoga, dance, computers, and drama, all in a Hebrew-speaking environment. Children of all learning types are engaged and take great pride in the skills they build while enjoying a warm and social environment.

**PreKochavim**, for 3-4 year olds, is a weekly after-school program (currently offered only at our Neveh Shalom location) in which children are immersed in art, play, and music. PreKochavim helps children gain comfort in a Hebrew-speaking environment and make the connections between songs and basic Hebrew vocabulary.

#### **When & Where is Kochavim held?**

Kochavim now has two locations: Congregation Neveh Shalom in SW Portland, and through Congregation Shir Tikvah at Bridgeport Church in NE Portland.

**At Neveh Shalom** (2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland 97239), we offer:

Kochavim on Mondays & Wednesdays 4:15-5:45. Childcare optional 3:00-4:15

PreKochavim on Wednesdays, 4:15-5:45. Childcare optional 3:00-4:15

**At Bridgeport** (621 NE 76th Ave, Portland 97213) we offer:

Kochavim on Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:15-5:45.

#### **Are there similar programs for younger and older kids?**

Notz'tzim (Sparkles) is the younger-sibling program for Kochavim. In Notz'tzim, our youngest children (ages 0-3) are engaged in Hebrew music and active play. Tots and parents (or grandparents!) soak up new language skills and songs through music, instruments, balls, bubbles, and games. Register for a session and receive a free cd providing a treasury of songs to sing for all of the rituals of your day and year.

Notz'tzim is offered in 14-week sessions at Neveh Shalom on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons and at Shir Tikvah's Nashira program on Sunday mornings (Emerson School on the Park Blocks) and (with enough interest) on Tues or Thurs afternoon in conjunction with Kochavim at Bridgeport Church in NE Portland.

For 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and up, Neveh Shalom offers an Immersion track of our Hebrew school on Mondays & Wednesdays OR Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:15-5:45. The Hebrew School is part of Neveh Shalom's ALIYAH Jewish Learning Program and requires membership to participate.

**I don't know Hebrew myself... How would I support my children in this class?**

Kochavim is committed to offering parents the resources they need to help support their children in their Hebrew learning. Vocabulary words, song transliterations, video or game links, and frequent emails from teachers are routinely sent home.

Machon Ivrit Hebrew Institute is a new, comprehensive Hebrew learning program for adults. With engaging teachers and a cutting-edge curriculum, these once-a-week year-long programs bring learners to higher levels of speaking, reading, and understanding.

**Why immersion? Why twice a week?**

In a language immersion environment, children are picking up two different skill-sets at once: feeling at ease and gaining understanding in their second-language environment; and learning the discreet vocabulary and structure of that language so they can express themselves in their new language. The immersion environment is a very natural, developmentally appropriate setting for learning a language, and children ages 0-8 are uniquely primed to succeed in this setting. The more points of contact children have with their second language, the better.

**Do I have to be a synagogue member to sign up my kids?**

No! HaMerkaz: Portland Center for Hebrew Immersion programs are open to the entire community. Members of our host congregations do receive a discount on Kochavim fees.

**How much does Kochavim cost?**

Thanks to a Community Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, families that are NEW to Kochavim or Notz'tzim receive an automatic 25% discount on Kochavim or Notz'tzim tuition this year (2011-12). New families must contact us to receive the discount from the fees listed below.

	<b>Neveh Shalom/Shir Tikvah member</b>	<b>Neveh Shalom/Shir Tikvah non-member</b>
<b>Kochavim (East or West)</b>	<b>\$160/month</b>	<b>\$192/month</b>
<b>PreKochavim</b>	<b>\$80/month</b>	<b>\$96/month</b>
<b>Notz'tzim</b>	<b>\$12/class or \$168 for session</b>	<b>same</b>

We offer a sibling discount of 20% off the younger child's program (the sibling discount cannot be combined with a new family discount).

**Who do I contact if I have further questions?**

Mel Berwin, [mberwin@nevehshalom.org](mailto:mberwin@nevehshalom.org) or 503-246-8831

## Who is behind this exciting program?

**Kochavim and Notz'tzim** are programs of HaMerkaz: Portland Center for Hebrew Immersion, developed at Congregation Neveh Shalom, and open to the entire community. Check out all of our programs for children and adults on our new website: [www.PortlandHebrew.org](http://www.PortlandHebrew.org).

We are proud of the national recognition and support our programs have received. We are deeply grateful to be recipients of generous funds from the Covenant Foundation (2011), celebrating excellence and innovation in Jewish Education and of a Community Impact Grant from the Greater Portland Jewish Federation.



**Congregation Neveh Shalom** has been running unique Hebrew immersion programs for children and adults across the community for the past six years. All of the programs of HaMerkaz: Portland Center for Hebrew Immersion were developed at Congregation Neveh Shalom.

**Congregation Shir Tikvah** is a liberal Jewish community in Portland, Oregon, built on a partnership between members and friends, lay leaders and professional staff. The goal of Nashira, our educational program, is to nurture participation, foster responsibility, and grow Jewish families who view Judaism as a vital presence in all aspects of their lives.



**Covenant Foundation**, celebrating excellence and innovation in Jewish education.



**Jewish Federation of Greater Portland**