

Leadership. Identity. Courage.

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Kesher to College/ Beren Scholar Fellowship



2026-2027

Kesher to College/Beren Scholar Fellowship is a two semester College Preparatory program for 11th and 12th graders at Congregation Beth El and Temple Beth Sholom.

Facilitated by Beth El/TBS faculty and topic-specific guest educators, the program consists of 20 regular sessions (10 Tuesdays, 10 Wednesdays) during the 2026-2027 academic calendar year, as well as an optional Teen Community Summit in Los Angeles.

Each session on Tuesday nights from 6:45pm-8:15pm includes an opening activity, a full dinner, enriching learning from Beth El & TBS clergy together with students from both Beth El and TBS, and dessert. Each session on Wednesday nights from 7:00pm-8:30pm includes an opening activity, a full dinner, dessert, learning with Rav Chai Respes and local speakers with Beth El students.

The **Kesher to College** curriculum seeks to equip our students with the life skills and Jewish perspective to help them to choose a college, find greater success when they get there, and empower them in making important decisions about their Judaism and their future. Additionally, the curriculum focuses on cultivating a love and understanding of the State of Israel, sharing tools for Israel advocacy and activism locally and on campus, and developing the skills to articulate one's personal expression of Zionism with passion, clarity, and nuance. New this year is our **Beren Scholar Fellowship**. Sessions will include a blend of virtual learning, high-level guest speakers, and an in-person learning activity, building both knowledge and community. The highlight of the program is the Leadership Summit in Los Angeles over MLK weekend, which will gather fellows from across the country for immersive learning through the lens of Adaptive Leadership.

Beren Scholar's Previous Year's Speakers:

Rabbi David Wolpe - *Max Webb Rabbi Emeritus of Sinai Temple*

Barak Sella - *Harvard Middle East Initiative Research Fellow*

Elishava Rimon - *Orthodox Black Jewish Educator*

Behnam Ben Taleblu - *Research Fellow at Foundation for Defense of Democracies*

Shanie Reichman - *Director of Strategic Initiatives and director of IPF Atid at Israel Policy Forum*

CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays from 6:45-8:15pm

with Rabbi Englander, Rabbi Marshall, and Rabbi Peltz at Beth El:

October 27, November 10, December 1 & 8, February 2
at TBS:

February 23, March 9 & 23, April 6, May 4

Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm with Rav Chai Respes at Beth El:

September 9 & 23, October 7 & 21, November 18,
January 13 & 27, April 14, May 12 & 26

Tuition: \$400 for the year (includes dinner)

Beren Scholar Summit - January 15-18 in Los Angeles

Optional In-Person Leadership Summit with students from synagogues across the country including NYC, San Diego, St. Louis, and more.

Cost: \$360 plus airfare