

Sacred Choices Interview
Please Return This Completed Interview by January 16th!

Student/Mentor name _____ **Date** _____

Student/Mentor: *Your job is to first read all of the questions to yourself and then ask your parent(s) or guardian(s) the questions out loud and make sure that you understand the answers. Here is how it works: Sit down and read each question to the person or people you interview, and you “the interviewer”, record the adults’ responses. If you are doing separate interviews and do not have enough room for all of the answers, you may copy this form before the interviews or attach more pages. Please write neatly or type the answers.*

Student/Mentor: Before you begin, please read the following to the person or people you are interviewing:

Thank you for taking the time for me to interview you about this important topic. If I am too uncomfortable to read one of the questions, I might just let you read that one. If you don’t want to answer any of the questions, we can just go to the next question. If you don’t know the answer to one of the questions, I can write “not sure” or “doesn’t know” for that answer. Now I am going to read you a question, and then you will answer it. I will make sure I understand your answer before I write it down. Then I will read you what I wrote and it’s not what you meant, please tell me so we can make sure I understand and I can make the changes on this paper, too.

1. What do you think about our Geshet class learning about sex and sexuality from a Jewish perspective in 7th grade as part of our Chai School program at Mount Zion?

2. Do you feel like you know much about what Reform Judaism says about sex and sexuality? Why or why not? Regarding what you do know about Reform Judaism’s perspectives on sex and sexuality (what it says in the Shabbaton letter you got, for example), what do you think?

3. What messages about sex and sexuality (spoken and unspoken) do you think we (as 7th graders) get from these different places:
 - a. You

 - b. Our peers

 - c. School

 - d. Mount Zion

 - e. Media

 - f. Somewhere else (where?)

4. What do you think about teenagers my age having access to birth control/barrier methods? At what age do you think teenagers should start having access to birth control/barrier methods?

5. How important do you think it is for people my age to know how our bodies work? Where do you think we should learn that? (ideally and practically)

6. What do *you* mean when you say “hooking up”?

7. What do *you* mean when you say “virginity”?

8. What do *you* mean when you say “sex”?

9. What do *you* mean when you say “sexuality”?

10. Reform Judaism says sex is appropriate within a holy, committed, mature relationship. What do you believe is a “holy, committed, mature” relationship?

11. Reform Judaism says masturbation is healthy and okay. Do you agree?

12. The URJ (Union of Reform Judaism) adopted a resolution in 1993 in support of gay and lesbian partnerships. In 2000, Reform rabbis adopted a resolution in support of officiating at weddings of gay and lesbian couples. In 2013, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism encouraged all to support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (EDNA), which would update federal civil rights laws to include protections in the workplace against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Lastly, at Biennial this November, the URJ passed the Resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Non-Conforming People; this resolution affirms the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and calls upon Reform Movement institutions to take action to ensure the inclusion and respect of all gender identities. What do you think of the Reform Movement's stance on LGBTQIA issues?

13. When do you think it is appropriate for two people to have sex?

14. When do you think it becomes appropriate for teenagers to start having physical relationships in which they don't have sex (however you defined 'sex' in question 8), but do kiss and do other things – what other things? What physical things do you think it is okay for teenagers my age to do?

15. If there were ever a time I couldn't or didn't want to talk with you about sex or sexuality, who would you *hope* I would choose to talk with? Why that person or those people?

16. We know HIV can be transmitted through four body fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions, and breast milk. Judaism says *pekuach nefesh* – saving a life – is just about *the* most important thing. Do you think we are taught enough about HIV, other STIs (sexually transmitted infections) and how to protect ourselves?
17. On the Sacred Choices Shabbaton, we will be asked to be extra careful not to use any derogatory language toward or about other people or ourselves. (That is the same as in class at Mount Zion, but we will be asked to be extra careful.) How would you explain what derogatory language is? What is an example of derogatory language that really bothers you? Why does it bother you?
18. Judaism says we are each created *b'tzelem Elohim* – in the image of God. What does that mean to you when you think about the idea of making sacred choices about relationships – emotionally and physically?
19. What do you think it means to make *Jewish* decisions about sex and sexuality, or about how we talk about things related to sex and relationships?
20. How important is it to you that I make *Jewish* decisions about sex and sexuality in my life? Why?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Parent/Guardian signature(s) _____ Date: _____