

Temple Emanu-El Camperships!

It is not too early to begin thinking about the summer of 2009. Before we know it, school will be over and it will be time for camp. Temple Emanu-El has special *camp scholarship funds* to offer, funds generously established by benefactors who share our belief that it is important for children to have a Jewish camp experience. The *Youth Enrichment Scholarship Committee* is responsible for accepting applications and awarding financial assistance to students who wish to attend a Jewish camp, or participate in other comparable Jewish activities such as traveling in Israel or participating in the Maccabi games.

Camp scholarships were created with a variety of criteria:

- **for outstanding scholastic achievement throughout the academic year**
- **on religious school teacher or principal, Rabbi or Cantor recommendation**
- **based on financial need**

The parent organization of our Reform movement, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), operates Camp Newman. It and other Jewish camps provide a way to experience Judaism in nature at an overnight camp. If you ask someone who has attended a Jewish camp if she or he would like to go again, the answer will undoubtedly be a resounding "Yes!" Camp Newman brochures are available in the Religious School office, on the Shalom Table or in the Temple offices. On January 11, representatives from Camp Newman will be here at the Temple to share details and the excitement of attending this Jewish camp. If you would like to see a camp video or need further information, call the URJ office in San Francisco at 415-392-7080. Students planning an educational trip to Israel in Summer 2009, to participate in the Maccabi games or to attend a Jewish camp other than a URJ camp, may also apply for financial aid.

Scholarship applications are available in several places:

- **on the Temple's web site (www.temple-sanjose.org)**
- **in the Religious School and Administrative offices**
- **on the Shalom Table in the Temple House**

The deadline to apply for a scholarship is February 3, 2009. It is important that you submit applications on time, even if you are uncertain whether your child will be going to a Jewish camp or other Jewish activity this coming summer. In February the Youth Enrichment Scholarship Committee will evaluate applications and announce recipients' names privately to their parents. The amount of the awards are kept confidential.

Do you remember **your** experience at a Jewish summer camp? Maybe it was at Camps Swig, Ramah, Tel Yehudah or another Jewishly oriented camp. Recall how the experiences molded your life - participating in *tefillah*, the *ruach* created by singing, dancing, eating camp food, and, especially, the life-long friendships you made. Consider making a donation to one of Temple Emanu-El's campership or Israel funds so others can experience the same. Support our youth; they are the foundation of tomorrow.

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If you are interested in joining the Youth Enrichment Scholarship Committee, please contact the temple office. Generally, the committee meets just a few times in December, January and late February.