

# Rabbi Joseph and Rosalie Gitin Religious School

## Parent Handbook

5769 – 5770 / 2009 – 2010

*Come Grow with Us!*

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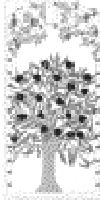
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## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	2
Letter from the Principal .....	4
Mission Statement for the .....	5
Rabbi Joseph and Rosalie Gitin .....	5
Religious School of Temple Emanu-El.....	5
Goals.....	5
Registration/Enrollment .....	6
Religious School Admission Policy.....	6
Admission Guidelines .....	6
Registration/Enrollment Procedures.....	6
Temple Emanu-El Religious School.....	7
Scholarship Policy and Guidelines .....	7
Policy .....	7
Guidelines .....	7
General Information .....	8
School Hours .....	8
Attendance and Punctuality.....	8
Late Pickup Fee .....	9
Drop-off and Pick up Procedures within the School.....	10
Safety and Parking Concerns .....	10
Early Dismissal.....	10
Updated Emergency Contact Information .....	11
Medication and Medical Needs .....	11
During School and at Services .....	11
What to Wear at School .....	11
What to Wear at Services .....	12
Classroom Visitation Policy .....	12
Illness .....	12
Behavior Code and Discipline Policy.....	13
Temple Library.....	14
Judaic and Hebrew Programs .....	14
Jewish Studies.....	14
Mishpacha Sheli (My Family) .....	14
Kindergarten.....	14
Grade1 through Grade 7 .....	15
Teen Jewish Studies (8 <sup>th</sup> – 10th Grades) .....	15
Confirmation (10th grade) .....	15
Moving On! College-Bound and Confident.....	15
(11th & 12th grades).....	15
Hebrew Studies .....	16
Aleph.....	16
Bet (Year 2), Gimel (Year 3), and Dalet (Year 4) .....	16
Intro to Modern Hebrew .....	16
B'nai Mitzvah Program .....	16

Adult Education .....	17
Tzedakah .....	17
Student Evaluations and Tracking Student's Progress .....	17
Snack Policy .....	17
Madrichim Program .....	18
Faculty.....	18
Educational Staff (2009 - 2010) .....	19
Jewish Studies Teachers .....	19
Hebrew Studies Teachers.....	19
Family Involvement .....	20
Mandatory Parent Participation .....	20
Religious School Committee .....	20
Fundraising .....	21
Donating Money .....	21
Signing up for e-Scrip.....	21
Additional Opportunities for Family Involvement.....	21
Co-curricular Activities.....	22
Family Service and Minyan Participation .....	22
Congregational Potluck Dinners.....	22
Youth Groups .....	22
Jewish Summer Camps.....	22
Israel.....	22

## Letter from the Principal



Temple Emanu-El  
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

A Lifetime of Tradition and Innovation, since 1861

Welcome to the Rabbi Joseph and Rosalie Gitin Religious School of Temple Emanu-El. We hope this parent handbook will provide you with a valuable resource throughout the school year.

This handbook describes our goals for Religious and Hebrew education, some general information and guidelines, as well as opportunities for parents and students to get more involved in the activities which help to achieve the Religious School goals.

We urge all new and returning families to carefully read through this book. New families will learn a lot more about our school and returning families will see that many changes have taken place in our curricula and school guidelines.

We look forward to continuous communications and to hearing your ideas and suggestions.

L'Shalom

Paula Marsh  
Principal

# **Mission Statement for the Rabbi Joseph and Rosalie Gitin Religious School of Temple Emanu-El**

The Rabbi Joseph and Rosalie Gitin Religious School of Temple Emanu-El exists to provide a positive reform setting that promotes, teaches, and instills a sense of Jewish culture, values, knowledge, and identity among its students.

## **Goals**

The Religious School will provide:

1. A student-centered environment designed to develop Jewish identity, Jewish values, and kinship with other children.
2. Experiential activities as a process of creating a knowledge base in Judaism and Jewish identity including helping the individual determine what being a Jew means.
3. A balance of academic and experiential learning of Jewish tradition, rituals, and holidays.
4. Knowledge and experience of (prayer), as it relates to each unique individual.
5. Knowledge and exposure to the Hebrew language, both as it is used in prayer and as a living language in Israel.
6. Knowledge and exposure to Israel's customs and current issues as well as affirmation of historic bond to the land of Israel.
7. Activities that promote critical thinking to facilitate making educated and moral choices.
8. Opportunities to further the causes of justice, peace, and freedom by pursuing mishpat (justice), tzedek (righteousness) and chesed (loving deeds).
9. Opportunities for all family members and students to work, study, and play together as a team.
10. Support and participate in the life of the synagogue, including celebrating Shabbat and the festivals and Jewish ceremonies which mark significant occasions in our lives.

# **Registration/Enrollment**

## **Religious School Admission Policy**

Any child of one or both Jewish parents who wants to receive a Reform Jewish education is welcome to seek admission to the Temple Emanu-El Rabbi Joseph and Rosalie Gitin Religious School.

### **Admission Guidelines**

1. Admission to Hebrew School is dependent on enrollment in Religious School.
2. Prospective students must reside with a member in good standing of Temple Emanu-El at the time of registration in the Religious School.
3. Placement in the appropriate grade is determined by the Rabbi and/or a representative of the Religious School education staff, according to each child's educational background and needs.
4. We encourage parents of mixed faiths to have their children study only one religion.

### **Registration/Enrollment Procedures**

Enrollment packages are available in early summer to enable families to enroll students for the school year that typically begins in the fall. Enrollment packages include a Registration Form and Tuition Worksheet for each family.

Early registration (typically by the end of June) helps the Religious School understand class sizes so we can plan for the number of teachers needed for the coming year. Families paying tuition before the early enrollment deadline receive an early bird discount.

Temple policy states that all previous financial obligations must be met before registration may be accepted. Tuition payment (or the appropriate portion, if paying in installments) must be received with registration.

# **Temple Emanu-El Religious School Scholarship Policy and Guidelines**

## **Policy**

1. A student of parents who are members in good standing of Temple Emanu-El may apply, under strict confidentiality, for a scholarship.
2. Scholarship applications that enable a student to begin class by Opening Day must be submitted by the deadline stated on the current year enrollment package.
3. Applications must include an explanatory statement of financial need. Families may need to supply further documentation of financial background if requested.
4. The scholarship committee reviews all applications and notifies applicants of acceptance and scholarship amounts before Opening Day of Religious School.

## **Guidelines**

1. Students will be awarded scholarships based on need.
2. The maximum amount of a child's scholarship is generally no more than 50% of the cost of the child's tuition.
3. Students may apply for scholarships for any academic year in which their need exists.
4. Scholarships are granted only for the current year enrollment. Applicants must submit a new application for each Religious School year.

# General Information

## School Hours

### Judaic Studies Program

*Mishpacha Sheli, (Pre-K)	Sundays 10:15 am – 12:30 (8 Sundays)
Kindergarten – Grade 7	Sundays, 10:15 am – 12:30 pm
Teen Jewish Studies (TJS) Grades 8 - 10	Wednesdays, 6:15 pm – 8:15 pm (includes dinner)
Confirmation (Grade 10)	9:00 am – 10:00 am, Sundays mostly. Refer to course syllabus for specifics. Students are encouraged to participate in TJS studies and dinner for additional cost of dinner.
*Moving On!, Grades 11 & 12	Wednesdays, 6:15 pm – 8:15 pm

### Hebrew Studies Program

Aleph-Dalet	Sundays, 9:00 am – 10:00 am Wednesdays, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Intro to Modern Hebrew	Sundays, 9:00 am – 10:00 am
B'nai Mitzvah class with Rabbi	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Wednesdays, as specified in course syllabus.

\*Enrollment open to community.

## Attendance and Punctuality

To make the most of your child's time in school, we encourage students to be in class on time, unless they are sick, or they will miss important steps in their learning. We urge you not to let your children lose valuable moments of their education or disrupt the education of others by late entrances.

## Late Pickup Fee

We appreciate your efforts to pick up your children from school by dismissal time on Sundays (12:30 pm) and Wednesdays (6:00 pm for Hebrew; 8:15 pm for TJS and Moving On!). We understand that there are occasions when you might be delayed and ask that you call the office to notify us if you will be a few minutes late due to emergency situations or traffic conditions.

Our office staff and faculty often have meetings directly after school is out, or must leave the school campus when school is over, and we simply do not have the personnel to watch children after school.

Late fees for pick up of your children on Wednesdays after 6:05 pm (or 8:20 pm for TJS or Moving On!) is \$15 for the first 15 minutes and \$1 for each minute thereafter **per child**. Late fees for pick up of your children after 12:35 pm on Sundays will also be \$15 for the first 15 minutes and \$1 per minute per child thereafter. **If children are part of a carpool and the carpool driver is delayed, each family is still financially responsible for the late pick-up fee for each of their children.**

### **Pick up policies in a nutshell:**

***Sundays:*** Regular pickup is at 12:30 pm.

- Late fees begin to accrue at 12:35 pm at \$15 per child for the first 15 minutes (until 12:50 pm), \$1 per minute per child thereafter.

***Wednesday Hebrew Studies:*** Regular pickup is at 6:00 pm.

- Late fees begin to accrue at 6:05 pm at \$15 per child for the first 15 minutes (until 6:20 pm), \$1 per minute per child thereafter.

***Wednesday TJS/Moving On!:*** Regular pickup at 8:15 p.m.

- Late fees begin to accrue at 8:20 pm at \$15 per child for the first 15 minutes (until 8:35 pm) and \$1 per minute per child thereafter.

## Drop-off and Pick up Procedures within the School

Please do not drop off your children more than ten minutes prior to school starting time (either Sunday or Wednesday) regardless of student's age as there is no supervision for the children at that time.

**Drop off and pick up for Grades 2 and below:** Children should be walked to their classroom and must be picked up by a designated adult or older sibling from their classroom. Teachers will wait until all students are picked up. If you are more than 5 minutes late, your children may be in the Religious School Office (please refer to above section on Late Pickup Fee).

**Pick up for Grades 3 and above:** Given the congestion and noise level in the Religious School building, please arrange to pick up your children in front of the Temple. We ask that parents not wait for their children in the Religious School building.

## Safety and Parking Concerns

On Sunday mornings, use the NO PARKING zone in front of the Temple ONLY for dropping off or picking up passengers. Out of consideration to others and to alleviate traffic congestion, DO NOT park or wait in your car in this zone or you will be ticketed by the San Jose Police Department.

Please be extra cautious while dropping off children and ensure they follow safe practices (use crosswalks) when crossing the neighborhood streets. **Note:** The drop off area is NOT always supervised, so parents must ensure children's safety when crossing or during drop-off.

Please be aware there are very specific parking restrictions in this neighborhood and there are many areas that require permit parking. A copy of the Parking Guidelines map is available from the Temple Office. Rules vary depending on the time of day and day of week so please be cautious and read the signs carefully.

## Early Dismissal

For our students' safety and to help us keep track of the whereabouts of the children entrusted to us, we ask that parents either send a written, signed request or make a request in person to the Principal if a student must leave (for any reason) while school is in session. Parents must meet the student at the Religious School Office, and the teacher will be notified to dismiss the student from class. Prior to leaving the premises, the parent must sign the student out in the LOG book that is kept in the Religious School Office.

## Updated Emergency Contact Information

Parents/guardians are asked to supply emergency contact **and** medical information when completing the Student Information Enrollment Form. Please ensure that the office has up-to-date information on emergency phone numbers and medical information in the event that you need to be reached during the school hours. Parents are responsible for keeping this information current throughout the school year.

### Medication and Medical Needs

For legal reasons, the Religious school staff cannot dispense medication. **Children with asthma should generally keep their inhalers with them.** (However, please ensure that we have a written statement from the child's physician and parent/guardian indicating that the child must do so and is able/permitted to use inhaler.) **Parents must keep the school informed about a child's health condition and any changes.**

## During School and at Services

### What to Wear at School

We are housed in a synagogue and often enter the sanctuary for lessons, T'fillah (prayer), and assemblies. Please have your children dress appropriately and respectfully, with this in mind.

The school encourages students to wear clothing that is safe, comfortable, clean and appropriate. Student clothing must not disrupt the education of any student. For instance:

- Sport or tennis shoes are the best bet for school, as they are most appropriate for play at recess. All shoes must have a back strap (no thong sandals). Platforms and higher heeled shoes should only be worn on special occasions, such as services. Shoes with wheels should not be worn to school or services.
- Hats and hoods are not to be worn inside the classrooms or the sanctuary. Hats with bills (such as baseball caps) must be facing forward to shade eyes from the sun.
- Undergarments may not show. Oversized pants must be worn with a belt.
- Cut-off tops, halter tops, tank tops with spaghetti straps and short shorts/skirts may not be worn to school.
- Clothing with disruptive or inappropriate logos or words may not be worn to school.

## **What to Wear at Services**

For attendance at Services, we highly encourage you to have your child dress a bit nicer in honor of Shabbat when s/he attends services (long pants and polo or button shirts for boys; long pants or dress, skirt or blouse – no bare shoulders or midriffs – for girls). Please pay particular attention for students participating in a service (at the Bimah) and display the appropriate Kavod (respect).

## **Classroom Visitation Policy**

We are as excited to share what we do in our classrooms with the parents as we are with your children. It is, after all, your support and encouragement of your child's Jewish education that will help ensure life-long Jewish learning. If you would like to set-up an observation, a conference, or volunteer in your child's classroom, your child's teacher will be happy to find a mutually convenient time. Please contact the Religious School Office (408-292-3223) to leave a message for the teacher, and you will receive a call back to schedule a date and time. While in the classroom, please refrain from conferencing with the teacher or chatting with the students. Reserve your comments for after class.

Students may bring a guest to class if the teacher and Religious School Office are notified by a parent, a full 48 hours in advance, and receives approval of the visitation. The visitor must bring a written note with his/her parent's/guardian's approval and emergency contact telephone numbers. Guests are expected to observe all school rules.

**Note:** Parents are welcome to join T'fillah (prayer service), which takes place in the Sanctuary at 10:15 am on Sundays and on Wednesdays. On Sundays feel free to either sit with your child or elsewhere in the Sanctuary.

When attending T'fillah, we ask that parents and visitors remember that they are role models not only for their own children, but also for the other students present who will imitate the behavior they see. Visitors should stand when everyone stands and wear appropriate clothing for attending services. This will help us teach our students proper synagogue behavior.

## **Illness**

Please do not send your child to school with a contagious disease or fever. (Apply the same judgment that you would at secular school!) We will notify you if your child becomes ill while at school. Sick children are brought to the office to await their parents' arrival (so please ensure we have your emergency contact information).

## **Behavior Code and Discipline Policy**

Maintenance of an appropriate classroom environment for all students is of high priority. Teachers will discuss behavioral standards with students on the first day of school and will create a list of classroom rules. These rules will be displayed in the classroom at all times. The following examples are incorporated in the classroom rules:

1. Follow directions
2. Be prompt/in class on time
3. Raise your hand if you wish to speak
4. Complete class assignments
5. Keep your hands (and feet) to yourself
6. Treat your teacher, administrators, and other students with respect and courtesy
7. No eating during class time (except for the allowed snack time held by some classes)
8. No swearing
9. Fighting, hitting, or kicking *even in play* is not permitted
10. Use school facilities and equipment correctly and safely
11. Keep the classroom and playground clean
12. Students may not kick balls, even on the playground

A student who is behaving in a manner that disrupts the class may be sent to the office. The child will be sent back to class when they are able to control their behavior.

When a student repeatedly behaves in ways that interfere with the rights of others, or behaves in a way that threatens the physical safety of another, the teacher will do the following after reporting the behavior to the Principal:

1. The teacher will contact the parent(s), discuss the problem and try to resolve it.
2. If the problem continues, the Principal will speak with the parents in order to resolve the problem.
3. If the behavior persists, the Principal and the Rabbi will meet with the parent(s), teachers and students in order to resolve the issue.

In summary, our Discipline Policy is intended to enhance the learning environment of our school. Students will be most successful in an educational setting that is supported equally by parents, teachers, and the administration.

## Temple Library

We are fortunate to have a well-stocked library of books and periodicals for all ages, including a reference section. The Library is open during school hours – Jewish Studies, Hebrew Studies, and Teen Jewish Studies. Temple members may also use the Library during regular business hours after checking in with the Religious School Office. Students will be taken to the library during class and will be allowed to check out books. Please be sure they return their library books within two weeks so other students may use them.

## Judaic and Hebrew Programs

### Jewish Studies

The Jewish Studies program is offered for children of all ages during the school year. There are several components to the Jewish Studies Program in the Religious School. Some subjects are studied every year with increasing depth based on the student's grade and level of understanding. In addition to general Jewish studies, each grade generally focuses on a specific subject as appropriate to the grade level. Jewish Studies include: holidays, Jewish values, Torah, mitzvot, ritual, Jewish history, Israel, and Tzedakah.

One of the added benefits expressed by many of our students of being a part of Temple Emanu-El's Religious School programs throughout the years is the sense of community that is created. Students progress through the curriculum with the same children each year and share the common experience of learning about Judaism and learning about their role in the broader Jewish community. By the time they are ready to become Bar/Bat (B'nai) Mitzvah, the friendships and support are firmly grounded.

### Mishpacha Sheli (My Family)

#### Pre-K Family Education

**(Children must be 3 years old by Dec. 2, 2009)**

A program designed for pre-kindergarten aged children and their parents who would like a "whole family" experience. We offer an introduction to Jewish values, holidays, traditions and customs through singing, storytelling, art, movement, games and cooking. **(This program is open to families in the community.)**

### Kindergarten

The core Jewish Studies program begins in the Kindergarten class, where students enrich their understanding of the Jewish holidays and the meaning of T'fillah (prayers). In addition, they are introduced to the world of Torah, mitzvot, ritual practices, tzedakah, and Jewish ethical values. Kindergarten has a special focus on Shabbat.

### **Grade 1 through Grade 7**

As the students grow and mature, they will revisit some of the same topics each year, with an increasing depth of understanding. Additionally, each grade will focus on a particular subject as is appropriate to their age level. For example, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class has a focus on the 10 Commandments; the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class spends a good portion of class learning about the history of the land of Israel; and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade focuses on Jewish life cycle events and rituals from brit (covenant) to burial.

### **Teen Jewish Studies (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

Keeping our youth involved in active Jewish learning after B'nai Mitzvah has always been a challenge. We now offer an exciting educational program on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 – 8:15 pm for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above, which includes elective-style classes that rotate throughout the year, along with special one-time activities.

### **Confirmation (10th grade)**

This course, taught by Rabbi Dana Magat, explores the essence of what it means to be a Reform Jew. Confirmation students explore the depths of Judaism. They write and lead a prayer service that expresses their hopes, fears, and discoveries. A confirmation ceremony takes place on Erev Shavuot after a year of meaningful study with the Rabbi. The fee includes a retreat trip to Sacramento, along with other California synagogue youth. A Confirmation syllabus and course schedule is passed out during the first class. Students are also encouraged to participate in Wednesday's Teen Jewish Studies (TJS) classes (no additional cost for TJS, however there is a charge for dinner).

### **Moving On! College-Bound and Confident (11th & 12th grades)**

Moving On! is a program designed to help students transition from high school to college with confidence in their Jewish identity. It incorporates URJ's acclaimed Packing for College curriculum (including parent sessions) and our multigenerational Beit Midrash classes. Cults on college campuses and comparative religions will be among the topics of discussion as students prepare for the challenges of campus life. The cost of tuition includes dinner. (This course is open to teens in the community.)

## **Hebrew Studies**

Hebrew Studies is a four-year program, beginning with the Aleph class and continuing through the Dalet class. Classes meet on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings, and are in addition to, and separate from, the Jewish Studies curriculum. Students typically take the Aleph class beginning in 3rd grade.

**Aleph through Dalet** focuses on prayer book Hebrew (reading and meaning). Prayer book Hebrew is taught through increasing exposure to letters, vowel sounds, reading, prayer vocabulary, and prayer chanting. T'fillah is a central part of our Hebrew studies and is incorporated in the Sunday and Wednesday Hebrew classes. Students are given the opportunity to lead a Family Shabbat service and a Saturday morning Minyan service.

### **Aleph**

The first year of Hebrew Studies is critical in building a foundation for a lifetime of and learning engagement with the Hebrew language. In recognizing this, we keep our student to teacher ratio very low for the Aleph class. The cost of tuition includes the child's own siddur (prayer book), which will be presented to him/her in a special ceremony. Parents are also encouraged to enroll, at no additional charge, in the adult Aleph class.

### **Bet (Year 2), Gimel (Year 3), and Dalet (Year 4)**

The completion of the four year (Aleph-Dalet) Hebrew program (or its equivalent) is required for becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Temple Emanu-El. The focus of the program is the use of Hebrew in services, holidays and other rituals. Our Hebrew students have T'fillah together weekly; each class leads an erev Shabbat service and Minyan during the year. Gimel students begin to learn Torah Trope.

### **Intro to Modern Hebrew**

Pre-requisite: Completion of the Hebrew program (described above) or its equivalent. Our students will enhance their basic Hebrew vocabulary, conversational skills, as well as introductory grammar and reading comprehension in a fun and interactive classroom setting.

## **B'nai Mitzvah Program**

To become Bar/Bat (B'nai) Mitzvah at Temple Emanu-El, students must be concurrently enrolled in our Jewish Studies program and the B'nai Mitzvah preparatory class during the year of their B'nai Mitzvah and have successfully completed four years of Hebrew and Jewish Studies or its equivalent, as determined by the Rabbi and/or the Religious School Principal. This class meets for approximately two thirds of the school year. The Rabbi will send a syllabus to students before the first class meets. Four mandatory parent sessions, which will meet on Saturdays, take place during the course of this program. For further information, please contact the Religious School Office or the Rabbi.

## **Adult Education**

There are many opportunities available for adult education classes taught throughout the school year. These may include Adult Hebrew, Adult B'nai Mitzvah, Introduction to Judaism, Exploring Interfaith Issues, Israel and the Sacred Identity of American Jews, Jewish Ethics, and others. Offerings vary each year. There is a special Adult Aleph Hebrew class, for parents of Aleph Hebrew students, who would like to learn Hebrew with their children. Please contact the Religious School Office for more information.

## **Tzedakah**

Integrated throughout Jewish life is the concept of *righteousness*, giving of oneself to help others. The Hebrew word for this charitable behavior is *Tzedakah*. In the Religious School, students are asked to practice *Tzedakah* by bringing money to class each week, as well as to services and other Temple events. The money is collected in a *Tzedakah* box and donated, at the end of the year, to the charities selected by their classes. A portion of the *Tzedakah* from each class is reserved for a *Tzedakah* project that students will perform during their Confirmation year. Additionally, students are encouraged to do *Tzedakah* projects with their families, friends, and classmates, and these projects are an important part of the B'nai Mitzvah program. Also, families will have the opportunity to join together through class Mitzvah projects.

## **Student Evaluations and Tracking Student's Progress**

To keep you apprised of your student's progress, reports are mailed home in January and June for Hebrew students and in June for students in Kindergarten through Grade 7. If there is a serious problem during the school year, the teacher will notify the parents and the Principal promptly.

There are other ways to keep track of your child's progress. Ask "What did you learn in school today?" or "What was the most interesting thing you heard today?" or "Tell me a story that you learned ..."

## **Snack Policy**

Kindergarten and First Grade have snack rotations on Sundays. Students in Second Grade and above can choose to purchase a bagel or bring a snack from home, either of which can be eaten at recess. Students can pre-order bagels for the whole school year; order forms are available from the Religious School Office. Wednesday Hebrew students do not have an option to purchase snacks. Please give your child a snack before coming to Hebrew Studies or send a snack to eat at recess.

# **Madrichim Program**

Some teachers in the school have been assigned madrichim (Hebrew for “leaders” or “guides”, functioning in our school as teaching assistants). Madrichim are high school students who have been trained or are in training to better assist in the classroom. Priority is given to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are enrolled in the Temple’s educational program.

Madrichim must successfully complete a training program as well as an internship (unpaid) for 1 year and receive positive evaluations prior to being hired on a paid basis. Students must reapply each year for available positions, and will be selected based on their performance evaluations, attendance record, and availability.

By working in this program, teenagers are given the opportunity to experience a love and value of the Jewish classroom, to see the need and importance of Jewish education, and to develop the techniques of imparting quality Jewish education. Madrichim are seen as role models by Religious School students and are expected to act accordingly. We hope these students will become the teachers of the future.

## **Faculty**

We have a talented group of teachers, many of whom are drawn from our own congregation. Our staff is selected for their ability to be strong Jewish role models and solid Jewish educators. In addition to secular and Jewish teaching experience, many of our teachers have camp experience and knowledge of the issues facing American Jews. Faculty meetings and frequent in-service training workshops enable the teachers to resolve problems and develop new teaching techniques. Teachers are informed of the latest materials, films, and texts as they become available. Our teachers have an extensive resource room and video library from which to select materials that enhance their classes.

# **Educational Staff (2009 - 2010)**

## **Principal**

Paula Marsh

## **Jewish Studies Teachers**

Pre-K (Mishpacha Sheli)	Cherie Ravel
Kindergarten	Pam Hoffman
Grade 1	Maggie Newman
Grade 2	Rebecca Sherman
Grade 3	Missy Marsh
Grade 4	Lynn Offenhartz
Grade 5	Shay Salhov
Grade 6	Suellen Haggerty
Grade 7	Laura Danoff Robinson
Art	Deborah Jacobstein
Music	Cantor Meeka Simerly

## **Hebrew Studies Teachers**

Aleph	Maggie Newman & Paula Marsh
Bet	Cheriel Magat
Gimel	Joelle Wolf
Dalet	Shay Salhov
Intro to Modern Hebrew	Merav Talmor
<b>Hebrew Coordinator</b>	Joelle Wolf

# **Family Involvement**

## **Mandatory Parent Participation**

This is a full-life Jewish school that recognizes the parent is the child's most important teacher. We feel that your children can most effectively build Jewish identities and memories by learning and celebrating Judaism with their families and the rest of the community. We depend on the partnership of parents and the synagogue to provide an enriching educational experience. Parents are required to participate for a minimum of six (6) hours per family for the school year, regardless of the number of children in the family.

The Parent Participation Opportunities form lists all the available activities to which you can volunteer. You will be able to sign up for these activities by filling out the form in the Religious School enrollment package, or when you attend a "Back to School" Parent Meeting on the first day of Religious School. You can also contact the Religious School Office at any time for a copy of the form.

## **Religious School Committee**

The Religious School Committee is an advisory committee that reviews and develops policy on the school's operations. Made up of member representatives from the Temple Board of Trustees and auxiliaries, the school faculty, and the parent families, the group of volunteers not only meets once a month to discuss current issues, but they help with school social and educational activities and they assist in volunteering activities for the Religious School's needs. Parents of Religious School students are valued members of the Religious School Committee and are welcome to attend Religious School Committee meetings even if not members. If you wish to attend a meeting or be on the Committee, advise a Committee member or the Principal.

# Fundraising

## Donating Money

The Religious School can obtain additional funds in several ways. You can contribute by direct donation to one of the accounts listed here or by participation in one of the various fundraising programs described on the Parent Participation Opportunities form. Here are some of the accounts in which donations will benefit the Religious School:

- Scholarship Fund
- Youth Enrichment Scholarship Funds
- Religious School Enrichment Fund

## Signing up for e-Scrip

Go to the e-scrip website, [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and Temple Emanu-El will receive a percentage of your purchases at participating stores. Funds from this program go to the Religious School and other Temple programs.

**Note:** This does not count toward the Parent Participation hours, but it is an easy way to raise funds and is a big help to the Religious School.

## Additional Opportunities for Family Involvement

In addition to the Parent Participation Program, we encourage you to attend all family education programs and participate in your child's education in these additional ways:

- Accompany your child to Family services.
- Read the Temple Connections Bulletins and review children's work in school.
- Participate in Congregational Potluck Dinners prior to Family services.
- Take advantage of Tot Shabbat services and other offerings as it applies to you and your family.
- Participate in the Congregational Mitzvah Day.
- Share T'fillah services with your child before Jewish studies on Sunday or on Wednesday.
- Volunteer to become a guest speaker in one or more of our classrooms.
- Attend adult education classes.

# Co-curricular Activities

## Family Service and Minyan Participation

Every Jewish Studies and Hebrew class will take part in one of our Family services or Saturday morning Minyan services. Dates of each class service are printed in the Religious School calendar, found on the Temple website and sent home at the beginning of each school year. Families whose students are taking part in the Family services are asked to provide food for the *Oneg* for that service.

## Congregational Potluck Dinners

Each class is invited to participate in a Congregational Potluck Shabbat dinner before the Family service in which they participate. This custom enables students, families, and teachers to experience the joy of Shabbat together and to interact with other families.

We ask parents to ensure that their children behave in appropriate manners at the dinners (no running in the Temple House; no playing unattended in the courtyards of school playground etc.).

## Youth Groups

The Temple Emanu-El Senior Youth Group (grades 9-12), also known as EESY (Emanu-El Synagogue Youth) meets regularly under the leadership of Rabbi Magat. They participate in sub-regional activities with the youth groups from other Reform congregations in the South Bay area. The Temple Emanu-El Junior Youth Groups (Kadima, grades 4-6, and Noar, grades 7-8) meet under the leadership of parent volunteers.

## Jewish Summer Camps

Because the activities are concentrated, the feelings are intense and the friendships are strongly-bonded, camp can often be a key experience that makes your child feel indelibly like an important part of the Jewish community. This positive, energizing adjunct to our educational programs is highly recommended. You can obtain a list of Jewish camp programs in the Religious School Office, and watch for Campership/Scholarship opportunities for Jewish Summer Camps from the Temple and other organizations.

## Israel

Traveling and living in Israel is often the most positive Jewish experience for our young people. We encourage you to plan in advance to provide your child with the trip of a lifetime. Many organizations offer youth summer trips to Israel, Confirmation class trips, Gift of Israel programs, and even longer work-study programs. *Birthright* offers a free ten-day trip for Jewish college students (18 to 26) who have never been to Israel. Information on these possibilities can be obtained in the Religious School Office.