

Religious School Handbook

2013-2014

5773-5774

Rabbi Shira H. Joseph

Cantor Steven I. Weiss

Michael Teller, President

“The world rests more securely because of the sounds of children in the schoolhouse...”
—Talmud

Congregation Sha’aray Shalom
1112 Main Street
Hingham, MA 02043
781-749-8103
781-740-1480 (fax)
www.shaaray.org

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Congregation Sha'aray Shalom 2013-2014 / 5774 Religious School Calendar

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October

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November

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December

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29	30	31				

January

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February

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March

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30	31					

April

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May

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Shabbat L'Kulam Services at 10:30am, Followed by a Kiddush Luncheon

Date	Leading	Assisting
Dec 14th	7th Grade	6th Grade assisting
Jan 11th	6th Grade	5th Grade assisting
Jan 25th	5th Grade	4th Grade assisting
Feb 1st	4th Grade	3rd Grade assisting
*Mar 21st	8-9-10th Grades	7th Grade assisting
Mar 29th	3rd Grade	2nd Grade assisting
Apr 12th	1st & 2nd Gr.	Tot - K Grade assisting

*7:30pm Friday Night Service

Class Attendance at Friday Night Services

October 4 th – 7 th Grade	October 25 th – 6 th Grade
November 1 st – 5 th Grade	November 8 th – 4 th Grade
November 22 nd – 3 rd Grade	

KIDushat Shabbat will be held on:

October 5 th	November 2 nd
December 14 th	January 4 th
February 1 st	March 1st with Pancake Breakfast
April 12 th	
May 10 th at 5:00 pm KIDushat Pajama Havdalah Services	
May 17 th (Teacher Appreciation for Preschool through 2 nd Grade Classes)	

Limud - Parent Education Programs:

Oct 6 th	Shabbat (Kindergarten & 1 st Grade)	Jan 5 th	Jewish Ways in Death & Dying (8th-10th Grades)
Nov 17 th	13 Principles of Faith/Tzedekah Ladder (5 th Grade)	Feb 2 nd	Blessings (4 th Grade)
Nov 24 th	6 th Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kallah (9:00-12:45 pm)	Mar 2 nd	Everything you wanted to know about the Passover Seder but were Afraid to Ask
Dec 8 th	Pathways through the Jewish Calendar (2 nd & 3 rd Gr.)	Apr 6 th	The Music of Israel

Hey/5

Charlotte Gruber

781-925-5751

charlottegruber@comcast.net

Vav/6

Toby Wolk

781-740-4545

toby@tobywolkdesign.com

Janette Furman

781-986-6046

Janfur51@hotmail.com

Zayin/7

Liat Leibovici

781-424-3641

liatml@comcast.net

Leah Shafritz

610-850-1313

leah.shafritz@verizon.net

David & Renee Rudolph

781-749-6237

drudi@verizon.net

Chet/8

Barbara Aharoni

508-465-0357

ababa@juno.com

Linda Myer

617-697-0385

linda.myer@comcast.net

Tet/9

Leah Shafritz

610-850-1313

leah.shafritz@verizon.net

Yud/10

Rabbi Shira Joseph

781-749-8103

rabbijoseph@aol.com

rabbijoseph@shaaray.org

Special Needs

Linda Myer

617-697-0385

linda.myer@comcast.net

Religious School Faculty & Administration

ADMINISTRATION

School Director:

Cantor Steven Weiss	781-749-8103	<i>Hazansn@aol.com</i> <i>cantorweiss@shaaray.org</i>
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School Office:

Annette L'Heureux	781-749-8103	<i>relschool@shaaray.org</i> <i>annetteski3@aol.com</i>
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Sunday Office Assistant:

Tena Tanderes	508-224-7374	<i>doubletme@hotmail.com</i>
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FACULTY

Parent-Tot

Anna Shapiro	508-857-1492	<i>laurenszky@aol.com</i>
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Preschool

Linda Charam	781-803-2411	<i>proteinldy1@aol.com</i>
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Pre-K

Rhona Maple	781-592-2036	<i>Gtmom913@aol.com</i>
Jenny Fischer	781-337-2356	<i>jfishb718@aol.com</i>

Gan/K

Stephanie Gertz	617-515-5556	<i>stephjlg@aol.com</i>
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Aleph/1

Lesley Sullivan	784-447-5497	<i>lesleysull3@verizon.net</i>
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Bet/2

Janette Furman	781-986-6046	<i>Janfur51@hotmail.com</i>
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Gimel/3

Toby Wolk	781-740-4545	<i>toby@tobywolkdesign.com</i>
Suzanne Rubenstein	781-545-0347	<i>sbeandinn@aol.com</i>

Dalet/4

Sara Zwicker	781-848-8962	<i>smz53@yahoo.com</i>
Nancy Rotman	508-224-4340	<i>nkr1209@aol.com</i>

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Congregation Sha'aray Shalom Religious School. As we begin another school year we are so excited to share with you exciting changes and additions to our religious school programs. This handbook has been prepared to help you understand the policies and goals established for the Religious School. Please review the handbook together so that everyone is familiar with its contents.

The role of providing an excellent Jewish education for our children can only be fulfilled through the collaborative efforts of our students, teachers and parents. We aim to strengthen the bond between the home and the temple; that bond is essential to the effectiveness of the school. We urge parents to get involved through your cooperation, your support and through your reinforcement of the lessons we teach. We are excited about our New Hebrew program which will start this fall. More details are in this booklet.

Please make sure to mark your calendars with the important dates including our special events, our new Limud - Parent Education Programs as well as Shabbat L'Kulam services for this coming year.

Please plan to join us for our opening days of school — Sunday, September 8th for our preschool through 6th grade students and Monday, September 9th for our 7th through 10th grade students. As part of our opening day program, parents will spend time with the teachers learning about the curriculum and goals for the year.

Through this handbook we have tried to anticipate and answer many of your questions. We are supported by the wonderful efforts of our lay leadership, who support us in our continued efforts to provide the most outstanding Jewish education possible for our students. The Education Committee is an essential ingredient to the proper functioning of our school. The committee is always looking for new members. If you would like to serve on the Education committee, if you would like to serve on the Education committee, please contact one the committee chairs Karen Maravel (*karenmaravel@verizon.net*) or Lisa Veldran (*Veldrans@verizon.net*). We look forward to your participation in the education of our children and participation as members of our synagogue community throughout the year.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Shira Joseph

Cantor Steven Weiss

Michael Teller, President

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Please do not drop off students any earlier than 15 minutes before the start of classes. In the event you need to bring them earlier, they must be supervised by a parent.

It is expected that parents will pick-up students no later than 10 minutes after the conclusion of school. In the event of an emergency that would prevent timely pick-up, please call the school office (781) 749-8103 so that we can be aware of the circumstances.

EARLY DISMISSAL

In order for a student to leave school early, they must have a note signed by a parent. The note should be brought to your child's teacher. Whoever is picking the student up must come into the building in order to sign out the student. Students will be waiting in the school office.

NAMETAGS

Parents are asked to wear their name tags when in the building for ease of identification. All members of the teaching staff will be wearing name tags this year.

OTHER SAFETY ISSUES

For emergency situations, Congregation Sha'aray Shalom has procedures to evacuate children from the building and/or bring them to a safer location, if necessary. Fire drills will be conducted at the beginning of the fall and winter terms for the benefit of our students and teachers.

Congregation Sha'aray Shalom also has procedures in place should it be necessary for students and faculty to shelter in place. This will be practiced at the beginning of the school year.

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If the Hingham Public Schools are closed or dismissed early, Sha'aray Shalom Religious School will be closed that day. School closing announcements will be made on WBZ News Radio 1030, WBZ Channel 4 TV, WCVB TV 5 and WHDH Channel 7 TV. If there is any doubt whether or not school will be open, the Temple telephone answering machine will have a recording giving the status of school that day. The synagogue phone number is (781) 749-8103. As always, we recognize that parents will use their best judgment when deciding on whether to drive in extreme weather.

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Lunch

Preschool through 2nd Grades — Saturday, May 17, 2014 — 9:00 am

Dinner and Oneg for Confirmation

Grade 7-9 — Tuesday, June 3, 2014. — 6:00 pm

In addition to the activities listed above, all grades will participate in our Friday Night Dinners & Shabbat L'Kulam Services. Further information is found earlier in this handbook.

ROOM PARENTS

Each class will have a room parent who serves as an important link between the school and the home. Room parents will work hand in hand with the teacher and are there to assist in coordination of volunteer help throughout the year.

In addition to the class parents, once again, there will be a point person selected for each class in order to coordinate a class mitzvah project. The purpose of the project is to promote social action and responsibility in our students beginning at the earliest age, as well as to provide an opportunity for parents and students within the same grade to spend time together outside of the classroom.

SNACK

In order to maintain proper health codes and to assure the best education possible for our students, with the exception of students in our parent-tot, Pre-school and Pre-k classes, there will no longer be snacks served during the school day. Appropriate foods will be distributed throughout the year in keeping with Jewish holiday celebrations. Breaks will still be given in order to allow students to get a drink of water or to use the restrooms.

TRAFFIC

The temple parking lot can be a dangerous place. To promote our children's safety we ask that you follow the guidelines outlined below when bringing them to or picking them up from Religious School classes.

- The preferred approach is to park your car and walk your child or children into the building or to your car.
 - * **Children should NOT cross the parking lot unaccompanied, to get to or from your car.**
- If you choose not to park your car, please follow the directions for drop off and pick up that will be posted in the synagogue parking lot.
 - * **All cars entering the parking lot should go to the right and not drive straight through to the temple entrance.**

Educational Mission

THE MISSION OF EDUCATION AT CONGREGATION SHA'ARAY SHALOM IS:

- To enable children and adults to affirm and strengthen Jewish identity by promoting the goal of Jewish education within the Reform Movement.
- To deepen Jewish experience and knowledge in order to strengthen faith in God, love of Torah, and identification with the Jewish people throughout the world.

GOALS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

The Religious School program at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom is an integrated program of Hebrew Prayer and Judaic study both on Sunday as well as mid-week. In addition, participation in the life of the synagogue community including worship, mitzvah and programming outside of the walls of the congregation are essential elements of our program.

The purpose of our Judaic curriculum is to promote a positive Jewish identity through the study of Jewish beliefs, ideals and history, and the performance of Mitzvot. Our goal is to have students think and act in a Jewish way. The Hebrew curriculum is a Siddur program, designed to enable students to become proficient in reading the Hebrew prayers, and to gain an understanding of both the prayers and the service. Students surpassing these goals will have an opportunity to learn the rudiments of conversational Hebrew.

2013-2014 Curriculum Additions And Changes:

New Hebrew Program

Starting this year, we will introduce a New Hebrew program which should help each student reach his or her full potential in Hebrew prayer fluency and literacy.

All students' grades 5 & 6 will be placed in ungraded small group instruction beginning in November 2013 in which benchmark prayers will be reviewed. With the acquisition of V'ahavta, Avot, Gevurot, Chatzi Kaddish, additional prayers will be taught. Students who wish to move ahead in their prayer literacy are welcome to study these prayers through use of an on-line guided prayer program accessible through our website www.shaaray.org.

Objectives For The Program:

1. Students are responsible for completing the basic prayers on his or her grade level. The expectation is that it will take 2 years to fully implement this objective.

2. The student will demonstrate competency in individual prayers by being able to read them with complete accuracy and have a basic understanding of their content, including where in the liturgical structure of Shabbat Evening or Shabbat Morning Service, these prayers occur.

Format:

In order to facilitate the progression of prayers and of students being able to successfully master a particular prayer and then move on, Hebrew instruction will now be taught for 5th and 6th grade on Sundays from 12:00 until 12:45. During the week, prayer Hebrew will be taught for grades 5th and 6th from 4:30-5:15 following our regularly scheduled student worship service.

Text:

A new instructional prayer book entitled Kavannah Complete will be used by students in grades 4 through 6. This book will follow them through the upcoming years of Hebrew study. Prayers are now on-line (www.shaaray.org) for additional practice during the summer and throughout the year.

Note:

This is a two year pilot program. Additional standard prayers are now being added to the regular curriculum following the structure below. Each grade assumes the prayers from the previous level. This is an ongoing curriculum project in which changes will inevitably be made.

At the conclusion of two year, it is our expectation that student's will be able to make these prayer benchmarks.

Kindergarten	Shema, Shabbat blessings (by rote)
1st grade	Modeh Ani, Barchu (by rote)
2nd grade	Morning blessings, Oseh shalom (phonetic decoding of prayers; assumes aleph bet acquisition)
3rd grade	V'ahavta, Adon Olam, Kiddush
4th grade	Avot, Gevurot, V'Shamru, Mi Chamocha, Ahavat Olam
5th grade	Torah blessings, Haftarah blessings, Chatzi Kaddish, Mourners Kaddish, Ein Keloheinu, Shalom Aleichem
6th grade	Kedushah, Yismechu, Sim Shalom, Shalom Rav, Mah Tov
7th grade	Ashrei, Yotzeir, Ma'ariv Aravim

For the coming 2013-2014 school year, first semester, the following competencies will be shown as follows:

DISCIPLINE

If a student fails to meet academic or behavioral standards, the following progression of steps will be taken, as necessary.

- The teacher will discuss the problem with the student and develop a plan to resolve the issue.
- The teacher will notify the parent(s) of the problem.
- The teacher and Cantor Weiss will confer with the parent(s).
- A child may be suspended from class and assigned an independent study Mitzvah project at the direction of the Cantor and Rabbi should inappropriate behavior continue.
- In extreme circumstances, and with the approval of the Rabbi & Cantor as well as the Education Committee, a child may be expelled from the religious school program. Such expulsion would jeopardize continued opportunities in the Congregation Sha'aray Shalom education program such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation.

PARENT INQUIRIES

If a parent has a concern with regard to school programming or a member of the staff, it is recommended that the particular member of the staff be contacted directly to share the concern. As always, Cantor Weiss or Rabbi Joseph will be available should additional consultation be necessary.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The members of our Religious School staff work in close partnership with the parents and larger community to promote Jewish education. Parents at different grade levels are asked to accept the responsibility to help organize and participate in specific school or congregation events. Members of the Education Committee will serve as liaisons. The activities and responsible classes are listed below.

Sukkah Decorating

Preschool through 2nd — Sunday, September 15th at 10:00 am

Parent Open House

All Grades — Thursday, October 10, 2013 from 6:30-8:30 pm

Purim Carnival

3rd and 4th grades — Sunday, March 16, 2014 — 10:30 am

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Oneg

3rd through 10th Grades — Friday, May 16, 2014 — 7:00 pm

MATERIALS

All students will be provided with the appropriate textbooks at the beginning of the year. In general, each student is expected to bring his/her textbooks, notebook and pencil to each class, and to arrive in class prepared to work. All students in grades k-10 will be charged a fee in order to cover the increasing cost of books and materials used in the school. Students will be given their books to take home at the end of the school year.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are issued twice each year for students in grades K-7 to report on your child's strengths, in addition to areas needing improvement. Teachers are available throughout the year to discuss your child's progress. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher. Contact information is included in this booklet.

TUTORING

Congregation Sha'aray Shalom is committed to assuring a quality Jewish education for all children enrolled in our school. We now have in place a Special Needs Coordinator to work with students who learn differently or are in need of additional assistance. The coordinator will assess what additional resources are needed to help students succeed.

In order to assist those students that we identify as needing additional assistance, the religious school will provide a limited amount of tutoring both in small groups and individually. In the event a child misses a large number of classes, or falls behind significantly, parents will be encouraged to pursue private tutoring at their own expense.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices of any kind by students during religious school hours is prohibited. This includes cell phones, pagers, game boys, I-Pods, etc. Students found using these items will have them confiscated and will only be returned to a parent.

BEHAVIOR

All students are expected to be respectful and considerate of others, to follow school rules, and to dress in an appropriate manner, typical of everyday school dress. For service attendance, students should be dressed in a manner befitting the sanctuary.

* *No jeans, tee-shirts, sneakers, bare shoulders, sneakers or flip flops etc.*

It is assumed that all incoming 5th and 6th grade students are already proficient in the V'ahavta, Avot & Givurot. These prayers will be reviewed from the start of school in September through the beginning of November.

At the conclusion of year two of this new program, it is our expectation that students will be able to make these prayer benchmarks:

5th grade V'ahavta, Avot & Givurot, V'Shamru, Torah Blessings, Haftarah Blessings

6th grade V'ahavta, Avot & Givurot, V'Shamru, Torah Blessings, Haftarah Blessings, Chazi Kaddish, Kedusah, Yismechu

December 2013

Ungraded Pods:

Adom V'ahavta, Avot & Givurot, Modeh Ani, Morning Blessings

Kachol Avot, Givurot, V'shamru, Adon Olam, Ahavat Olam

Lavan Haftarah Blessing, Chazi Kaddish, Mourners Kaddish, Shalom Alechem

Modern Hebrew

Another new addition to our Hebrew curriculum will be the addition of a Modern Hebrew component for students in grades 5 and 7. Students will have the opportunity to learn about Hebrew as a vibrant living language. This program will supplement the prescribed Prayer curriculum outlined above.

Guest Reader

With the completion of our new Yaschik Library, students in our preschool through 2nd grades will have the opportunity to visit the children's section of the library and have story time led by guest parent readers. Parents are invited to sign up for this fun activity to read a Jewish Holiday book to their child's class. Sign-up information will be available from your child's teacher.

Overview Religious School Curriculum

We are extremely excited to have some new and innovative programs and curriculum as part of our school. A brief outline of the curriculum topics for each grade is listed below.

PARENT-TOT/PRE-SCHOOL & PRE-K

Three distinct weekly programs for children ages 15 months and older. Each one focusing on the following subjects:

- Introduction to the synagogue, Shabbat, and the holidays
- Introduction to the Hebrew Letters and Shabbat Prayers
- Parashat Ha'shavua - a study of the Torah Portion of the week

GAN/KINDERGARTEN

- Introduction to Hebrew letters
- Continued study of Shabbat and daily blessings
- The synagogue building, the Torah, the Ark, the Rabbi, the Cantor, the service, bar/bat mitzvah, weddings.

Major Holidays

Texts:

Let's Discover the Alef-Bet
Jewish and Me — Holidays
Jewish and Me - Mitzvot
Shalom Sesame DVD & Magazine Series
Alef to Tav Activity Book

ALEPH/FIRST GRADE

- With comprehension of the Alef/Bet, Introduction to basic Jewish words
- Learning of basic Shabbat Prayers
- Shabbat, Havdalah, the Sh'ma, God, Jewish Community
- Introduction to Israel
- Introduction to Torah Stories

Texts:

Sam the Detective
I can Celebrate the Jewish Holidays
Teach Me Torah
Let's Discover Israel

PASSPORT TO ISRAEL

The Myra and Robert Kraft Passport to Israel program is a unique savings plan to help parents send their children on a life-changing teen Israel experience. The program is designed so that the community, the synagogue and CJP, helps families make a trip to Israel during the high school years a reality.

So, give your child the passport he or she needs to become a proud part of the Jewish future. Enroll now in the Myra and Robert Kraft Passport to Israel Program and join us in planning for your child's future.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: Any child in third or seventh grade enrolled in a formal Jewish education program whose family is a member of a participating congregation.

Q: How much are the yearly contributions?

A: The contribution for the regular seven-year program (beginning in 3rd grade) is:

- \$200 jointly from your family and congregation each year.
- \$700 from CJP will be contributed at the end of the program.

The contribution of the three-year option (beginning in 7th grade) is:

- \$400 jointly from your family and congregation each year.
- \$700 from CJP will be contributed at the end of the program.

Q: How much money will the fund be worth by the end of 10th grade?

A: Based on current economic conditions, contributions plus interest should total approximately \$2,200 for seven-year participants and \$2,000 for three-year participants.

HOMEWORK

Homework assignments are an essential part of the learning process and are intended to complement classroom learning. *Parents can expect their children to have regular homework and are strongly encouraged to study with them.* This provides a great opportunity to emphasize the value of Jewish learning through modeling. Given our busy schedules, teachers will work to ensure that homework assignments are of appropriate length. Spending just 10-15 minutes doing Jewish learning on most evenings has the potential to have an enormous impact on your child's learning and Jewish identity.

* *Students will be able to work online to complete assignments and to practice their prayers through our new prayer's section on our website www.shaaray.org.*

CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL — JULY 7-18, 2014

Join Cantor Steven Weiss of Congregation Sha'aray Shalom
On an Amazing Tour to
ISRAEL
July 7-18, 2014
Eilat/Petra Extension: July 18-21, 2014

Explore the Best of Israel

Dear Friends,
 It is a pleasure to invite you on this amazing journey to Israel. This trip promises to be a once in a lifetime experience. Together we will explore the important sites and cities of Israel, as we celebrate the Jewish state's past, present, and future. I hope you will join me on this truly memorable tour!
 Shalom,
 Cantor Steven Weiss

	Cash/Check	Credit	Additional Cost for Single Room	Additional Cost for Single Room by Credit Card
Main Tour - First Class Hotels	\$2,699	\$2,780	\$1,099	\$1,132
EILAT/PETRA Extension	\$1,299	\$1,338	\$449	\$462

Find the full itinerary and register online at:
www.ayelet.com/July2014ACC.aspx
 800-237-1517

Making the journey yours.
Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

Your family is invited to join Cantor Weiss on this exciting trip to explore the land of Israel. This trip is open to families of all ages. Additional information is available through the temple office or contact Cantor Weiss bazzanaw@aol.com.

BET/SECOND GRADE

- Review of the Aleph Bet
- Continued learning of prayers and an introduction of Hebrew Vowels
- Study of Jewish Holidays throughout the year
- Chai Curriculum — Level 1

Texts:

Ready, Set...Go Alef Bet
The Jewish Holiday Treasure Hunt
Chai Curriculum — Level 1 Workbooks

GIMEL/THIRD GRADE

- Aleph bet with an introduction to block writing
- Introduction to the prayer book and word roots
- Bible from Moses through Exodus and Deuteronomy
- The Great Scavenger Hunt — An introduction to the sites and cities of Israel
- Study of the Jewish Holidays

Texts:

Alef-Bet Quest (On-Line Edition)
Alef-Bet Quest Workbook
The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt
Chai Curriculum — Level 2 Workbook Set

DALET/FOURTH GRADE

- Major prayers from the Shabbat Morning Service
- Improved reading comprehension and a better understanding of the prayers
- People and events from Prophets and Writings
- Study of God in our lives
- A study of Jewish Values and how they relate to our daily lives

Texts:

Kavannah Complete
Artzeinu — An Israel Encounter
Living Jewish Values — Best Self, Family Connections, Be a Good Friend, Our Shared World
Bible Stories

HAY/FIFTH GRADE

- Prayers from the Shabbat morning liturgy, blessings, understanding of structure of the service, key words, and concepts of prayers as well as learning about Jewish Values.
- Modern Hebrew Component

Texts:

Kavannah Complete
Building Jewish Identity Program — Our Community, Sacred Time, People of the Book & Jewish History & Heritage
Chai Curriculum — Level 4 Workbook
Ulpan Alef

VAV/SIXTH GRADE

- The Shabbat morning service with a focus on the Torah service
- American Jewish history, focusing on the colonial, Civil War, settling of the West, and the immigration periods
- Detailed study of the Jewish Life Cycle

Texts:

Kavannah Complete
America: The Jewish Experience
The Melting Pot
The Time of Our Lives
Chai Curriculum — Level 5 Workbook

ZAYIN/SEVENTH GRADE

- Review of the Shabbat morning service
- Introduction to Modern Hebrew
- Major emphasis on values and ethics, including the importance of performing mitzvot in our daily lives
- A study of Jewish Wisdom in Action
- Jewish Heroes

Texts:

Jewish Heroes/Jewish Values
A Life of Heschel
Great Jewish Debates
Let's Talk to Ulpan Alef and BetNight
Chai Curriculum — Level 7 Workbook Set

Shabbat & Chanukah Dinner Celebration Friday, November 29, 2013

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Service

Join us as we gather together to celebrate Shabbat and the third night of Chanukah with lights, food, crafts and song. Bring your family and your Chanukiah and join us as we welcome the Festival of Lights together.

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

To accommodate families with younger children and to allow maximum participation in our Teacher Appreciation, we will hold two teacher appreciation events this coming year

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat (Grades 3 through 10)

Friday, May 16, 2014 — Kabbalat Shabbat dinner at 6:00 pm with the service to follow at 7:00 pm.

A tradition in our congregation, our annual service of tribute to our religious school faculty and staff will be held on Friday, May 16th at 7:00 pm with a dinner prior. Students in grades 3 through 10 are expected to attend and participate in the service. Please mark your calendars now for this important service.

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat (Preschool through 2nd Grade)

Saturday, May 17, 2014 — 9:00 am Service with Breakfast to Follow

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL — 10TH GRADE

There is no better culmination to a student's formal religious study, than to travel with hundreds of other teens from around the country to Israel. NFTY (The North American Federation of Temple Youth) is the largest provider of Israel trips in North America and every year, Congregation Sha'aray Shalom has sent students to Israel for the summer. Further details about the summer 2014 trips will be forthcoming or you can get detailed information on the NFTY website, which is www.nftyisrael.org. There are other programs that are tailored to the needs to each individual student. Please contact Cantor Weiss for further information on NFTY as well as other Israel programs.

Eisner and Crane Lake New Camper Weekend
October 18-20, 2013



For first time and prospective Eisner and Crane Lake Campers

This weekend is designed for current 2nd-5th graders interested in attending Crane Lake or Eisner Camp for the summer of 2014. Campers will have an opportunity to see both Eisner Camp and Crane Lake Camp, and parents will be able to tour both camps during the weekend as well as join us for Shabbat dinner and services.

Each fall Eisner and Crane Lake Camps host a fun and exciting weekend at camp for children in 3rd-5th grades who are considering a summer at either of our camps. This weekend is a great opportunity for a child to receive a taste of what a summer will be like at Eisner and Crane Lake while enjoying Shabbat together, enjoying camp activities and making new friends. We'll provide these prospective campers with a taste of our camp community and ruach as they sing, play, create, dance, hike and celebrate Shabbat together. .

Eisner and Crane Lake Camps Presentation (pending)



As an adjunct to your children's Jewish education, please consider sending your children to the URJ Eisner and Crane Lake Camps. These full service summer camps will offer your children an unforgettable experience, which will change their lives. The camps located in the Berkshire mountains offer

numerous program options for children as young as 7. Further information about camp as well as scholarships is available from the school office. We will hold a special program about camp on a representative of the camps will be with us that morning to talk more about camping and the programs offered.

CHET/EIGHTH GRADE

- Anti-Semitism
- Holocaust
- Ethics
- Sacred Choices

Texts:

Sacred Choices

TET/NINTH GRADE

This year's Curriculum for our 9th grade students will be based on the TELEM Program which is a program of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). TELEM is a Jewish service learning program which integrates community service with learning, reflection, and opportunities to effect real change. Along with engaging in action, our students will learn about Jewish values and social justice issues connected with their volunteer work. Our focus for this year will be Connecting Generations.

By the end of this year long program, our 9th grade students will:

- Understand that honoring seniors and engaging in community service are both key Jewish values
- Understand Jewish texts and values as a lens through which to understand their service experience with seniors
- Apply Jewish learning to real life situations and choices
- View service as a vehicle for positive contributions to the Jewish and general communities
- Challenge problematic societal perceptions of seniors
- Confidently employ skills to work with the elderly and engage in community service
- Experience Judaism as a tradition committed to social justice.

In addition to the TELEM program, ninth grade students will focus on studying Hot Topics - Jewish responses to current social justice issues.

YUD/CONFIRMATION

Confirmation students will study the 10 Commandments and apply these ancient laws to today's world. The students will also create a modern set of commandments by which they wish to live.

Tet/Ninth Grade & Yud/Confirmation

Ninth and Tenth grade students will join us for our trip to the L'taken Seminar in Washington D.C. February 7-10, 2014. In the weeks prior to the trip, ninth and tenth grade students will study the current issues that will be covered during the seminar.

The 9th and 10th grade year concludes with the Service of Confirmation, a creative service written by our confirmation students on the evening of Shavuot (Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm), the holiday which celebrates the receiving of the 10 commandments. 9th grade students will participate as the service leaders.

L'Taken Seminar (Washington D.C. Trip) — February 7-10, 2014

The highlight of the 9th and 10th grade program will be their participation in the L'taken Seminar, sponsored by the Religious Action Center, the political advocacy arm of the Union of Reform Judaism. The Bernard and Audrey Rapoport L'Taken Social Justice Seminar is an intensive four-day study kallah in Washington, DC, focusing on Jewish values and social justice. Every year more than 100 congregations from across the country bring their high school students to participate in this exciting event. This unique Washington opportunity enables students to hear from experts both inside and outside the Jewish community. Every L'Taken Seminar covers several different issue areas in a variety of interactive formats. Each seminar includes an opportunity for students to tour the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and participate in Havdalah services at one of the memorials. Students also sample the vibrancy of Georgetown and other exciting areas of Washington, DC.

Tzedakah

Tzedakah and Gemilut Chasadim are two important themes in our Religious School curriculum. Tzedakah is not charity but rather doing what is right and just. Gemilut Chasadim refers to deeds of loving kindness, action-oriented approach to improving the world in which we live. We believe that tzedakah and Gemilut Chasadim go hand-in-hand and that their importance can be taught from an early age, both in the school and at home. The goal is not only that our students experience the process, but also that they learn to *build tzedakah and Gemilut Chasadim into their lives, as a fundamental Jewish value.*

We encourage students to make weekly contributions when we collect tzedakah money and to participate in class discussions concerning the allocation of the money collected. Students and parents are asked to participate in social action projects undertaken by the school or congregation.

March

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|----|----------|--|
| 2 | 9:00 am | Limud — Parent Education — Everything you wanted to know About the Passover Seder but were Afraid to Ask |
| 16 | 10:30 am | Purim Megillah Reading & Carnival (All Grades) |

April

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|----|---------|--|
| 6 | 9:00 am | Limud — Parent Education — The Music of Israel |
| 14 | Sundown | Erev Passover — First Seder |
| 15 | 5:00 pm | Second Night Community Seder (Reservations Required) |

May

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|----|----------|---|
| 16 | 6:00 pm | Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner |
| | 7:00 pm | Shabbat Evening Service
Teacher Appreciation Shabbat for Grades 3 through 10 |
| 17 | 9:00 am | Teacher Appreciation Shabbat for Preschool through 2nd Grade |
| 18 | 11:00 am | End of Year BBQ & Carnival |

June

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|---|---------|------------------------------|
| 3 | 6:00 pm | Confirmation Dinner |
| | 7:00 pm | Shvauot/Confirmation Service |

SPECIAL EVENTS

Community Sukkah Decorating: Sunday, September 15th at 11:00 am

Please join us as we gather to fulfill the mitzvah of decorating our beautiful outdoor sukkah. Coordinated by members our Religious Practices Committee, we welcome children and adults to assist us in decorating and preparing for the holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Refreshments will be served. Please join us.

Vav/6th Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kallah

Once again, we will hold a special program for those students who will become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the coming year. The purpose of this program will be to work together as families learning and studying together as you begin the journey toward beginning a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The program, taught by Rabbi Joseph and Cantor Weiss will be held on **Sunday November 24, 2013 at from 9:00 am-12:45 pm.** Attendance at the session is required of parents and students

SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE 2013-2014

2013

September

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|----|----------|---|
| 8 | 9:00 am | Opening School Assembly for all School Families (PT-3) |
| | 11:00 am | Opening School Assembly for all School Families (4-6) |
| 9 | 6:00 pm | Opening School Assembly for all School Families (7-10) |
| 15 | 11:00 am | Sukkah Decoration Party with Lunch |
| 27 | 6:00 pm | Shabbat/Consecration Dinner (For Kindergarten Families) |
| | 7:00 pm | Simchat Torah Service/Consecration/ Dancing with the Winiker Band |

October

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| 6 | 9:00 am | Limud — Parent Education — Shabbat |
|---|---------|------------------------------------|

November

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| 17 | 9:00 am | Limud — Parent Education — 13 Principles of Faith/ Tzedekah |
| 17 | 9:00 am | Sisterhood Craft Fair |
| 24 | 9:00 am | 6th Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kallah |
| 27 | Sundown | Erev Chanukah — First Candle is lit |
| 29 | 6:00 pm | Shabbat/Chanukah Dinner |
| | 7:00 pm | Shabbat/Chanukah Service |

December

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| 8 | 9:00 am | Limud — Parent Education — Pathways through the Jewish Calendar |
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2014

January

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|---|---------|---|
| 5 | 9:00 am | Limud — Parent Education — Jewish Ways in Death & Dying |
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February

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|------|---------|---|
| 2 | 9:00 am | Limud — Parent Education — Blessings |
| 7-10 | | L'Taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington D.C. (9th & 10th Grades) |

Important Life-Cycle Celebrations

CONSECRATION — KINDERGARTEN AND NEW STUDENTS

Consecration is the ceremony that welcomes new students at the start of their formal Jewish education. In addition, Consecration welcomes students of all ages who are new to our school. It is Jewish tradition, that as we celebrate the conclusion of the Torah reading cycle on Simchat Torah, so too, do we celebrate the beginning of a child's Jewish education. On the evening of Simchat Torah these students receive a blessing from the Rabbi and Cantor, and a certificate and miniature Torah from the Congregation commemorating their entry into Jewish education.

** This year, our service of Consecration will be held on Friday, September 27th at 7:00 pm. The service is preceded by a dinner at 6:00 pm for our new students and their families. Immediately prior to the service, there will be a formal class picture, which will be on permanent display in the school wing.*

** We will once again be joined by the Winiker Band to help us celebrate this milestone in our student's lives with festive dancing during the service.*

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

The tenets of Judaism hold that when a child turns the age of 13, they are considered an adult and therefore are responsible for upholding the 613 commandments. In celebration of this entry into Jewish adulthood, one becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. As part of the ceremony, the child will participate in leading the Shabbat morning service, read sections from the Torah and Haftarah portion for that week, as well as delivering a D'var Torah (speech) to the congregation focusing on their interpretation of the Torah portion. All students must satisfy their Shabbat service requirements as well as complete a significant mitzvah project.

The process for selecting a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date occurs approximately two years prior to the year of the event. In the late fall, families will receive a list of available dates along with a selection sheet. Families will be asked to list three potential dates and return the sheet to the office as soon as possible. Dates are given in the order that they are received.

Further information concerning the requirements as well as the training process for becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah can be found in the Congregation Sha'aray Shalom Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook.

** Bar & Bat Mitzvah families are expected to attend services weekly either on a Friday night or a Saturday morning during the month prior to their sacred event.*

Service of Confirmation

Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm

The service of Confirmation takes place on the holiday of Shavuot, celebrating the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai. The Confirmation service is a creative worship service written and led by the Confirmation class, assisted by the 9th grade class.

** This year, Confirmation will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm. A dinner for confirmation families will be held at 6:00 pm organized by our 7th through 9th grade families and a class picture will be taken prior to the start of the service.*

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance at Religious School demonstrates your commitment as a parent to your children's Jewish education; promotes an optimal learning experience and helps foster the development of important social relationships within the Jewish community.

The following are the total acceptable absences for the school year:

- Kindergarten through 2nd Grade — 4 classes
- 3rd Grade through 7th Grade — 8 classes
- 8th Grade through 10th Grade — 4 classes

If a student exceeds this number of absences, he/she may not be eligible to matriculate to the next grade without make-up work and tutoring as determined by the teacher and Cantor Weiss.

SHABBAT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Families are encouraged to worship together at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom. The Service experience combines singing and learning, promotes Hebrew fluency, along with comfort and familiarity with Jewish religious practices, and helps build a sense of commitment and community- all of which are crucial for young Jews growing up on the South Shore. Because service attendance is essential to gaining proficiency in the curriculum, students are required to attend religious services on a regular basis. If by March of the school year, a child is falling behind in meeting the service requirements, parents will be contacted by either the Rabbi or Cantor to discuss how to develop a plan to meet this extremely important requirement.

REGARDING CHILDREN

We welcome children of all ages at our services and request that young children sit with their parents. While older children may wish to sit with friends, parents should be nearby to monitor any distractions.

The rear of the sanctuary is especially well suited to families with young children. The deeper row provides ample room for strollers and floor sitting. The occasional sweet noise of a child is welcome and adds a warm cozy feeling to our community, and we request the patience of the entire congregation as our children grow and learn to worship in community. Should your child become loud or physically active, please leave the sanctuary as quietly as possible.

For those times when you need to take your children out of the service, we now have an area of the social hall which is set up for little ones with books and activities should they need a distraction. You will still be able to follow along with the service as it will be playing over the audio system in the social hall.

At the conclusion of services on Friday evening, children of all ages are invited to join the Rabbi and Cantor on the Bimah to assist us in making Motzi

LIMUD - PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

This year, we will offer a series of special education programs for parents in conjunction with our Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. These programs will offer a variety of different learning opportunities about the Jewish Holidays as well as learning about different Jewish concepts and cultural programs.

These programs are open to parents of all grades. However, parents in the grades indicated are expected to attend the program listed for them.

October 6, 2013 — Shabbat (Kindergarten & 1st Grade)

November 17, 2013 — 13 Principles of Faith/Tzedekah Ladder (5th Grade)

November 24, 2013 — 6th Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kallah (9:00-12:45 pm)

December 8, 2013 — Pathways through the Jewish Calendar (2nd & 3rd Grades)

January 5, 2014 — Jewish Ways in Death & Dying (8-10 Grades)

February 2, 2014 — Blessings (4th Grade)

March 2, 2014 — Everything you wanted to know about the Passover Seder but were Afraid to Ask

April 6, 2014 — The Music of Israel

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK ABOUT SERVICES

The Religious Practices Committee has been asked to address the issue of sanctuary behavior and decorum. A small task force was formed to develop and communicate some guidelines for our congregation. It is our hope that this may help to provide a mutually respectful communal prayer environment which will improve the worship experience for all; congregants, clergy and guests. We realize that such guidelines may need constant revision as we determine what works best for our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a member of the religious practices committee. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

General Requests

- Please try to arrive on time to participate fully in the joyful experience of the service. Service times are easily accessible on our website, in the bulletin, through the weekly email, or by calling the temple office.
- Before entering the sanctuary, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
- While our attire in the sanctuary has relaxed somewhat over the years, we ask that you be respectful of the prayer environment and fellow worshipers by selecting attire appropriate for the occasion. If you are participating on the bimah you may consider something more appropriate as a prayer leader. (Jeans, shorts, sneakers, etc. are not appropriate.)
- Food and drink are not permitted in the sanctuary, unless medically necessary. We enjoy refreshments in our social hall following services, when we gather to greet each other.
- Please do not move about unnecessarily in the aisles, the side ramp, or onto the bimah during the service. Please be aware that noise in the hallways travels easily.
- We request that you refrain from the distraction of picture taking during services.
- You are welcome to take pictures at the conclusion of the service (Some people have set up stationary video equipment at the back of the sanctuary, prior to the start of the service).
- If it is necessary for you to have prolonged conversation with others, please do so outside the sanctuary. So too, extended vocal distractions or raised voices are not appropriate to the prayer space.
- Coming and going should be kept to a minimum. Our volunteer ushers are there to assist you and may let you know when it is appropriate to be seated. Please feel free to call on them if you need something in particular or if they can be of help in an emergency.

The following are the number of services students are expected to attend during the school year:

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade — 4 services

3rd Grade through 7th Grade — 8 services

8th Grade through 10th Grade — 8 services including Confirmation

Credit will be given for services attended as part of SHASTY events.

Only Shabbat services (Friday or Saturday) at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom count toward the fulfillment of the service requirements. Shabbat L'Kulam Services and KIDushat Shabbat (for preschool through 2nd grade) will count towards this requirement.

New Shabbat Service Check-In Procedure:

Beginning in September 2013, students will report their Shabbat service attendance to their classroom teacher on a weekly basis. A chart tracking each individual student's and cumulative class service attendance will be on display in each classroom. Students must report their attendance to their teacher to receive credit.

The class with the most cumulative number of services attended will receive a special treat at the end of each school semester. Index cards will no longer be used.

DRESS CODE

Participation in leading worship, whether it is leading the Kiddush in the lobby or on the Bimah in the Sanctuary is an honor that comes with the expectation of appropriate dress. Jeans, shorts, sneakers, flip flops, are **not** acceptable forms of dress. Girls should have their shoulders covered and boys should be wearing long dress pants with a button down shirt (at a minimum).

CLASS ATTENDANCE AT FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Once again this coming year, we will be designating one Shabbat service in which each grade will join us as a class to help us lead the Shabbat Evening Kiddush at the beginning of the service. Classes will be encouraged to arrange for a simple Shabbat dinner for parents and students at 6:30 pm prior to the service.

The dates for the services are:**October 4th** — 7th Grade**October 25th** — 6th Grade**November 1st** — 5th Grade**November 8th** — 4th Grade**November 22nd** — 3rd Grade**SHABBAT L'KULAM (SHABBAT FOR EVERYONE)**

Shabbat L'Kulam services are held on selected Saturday mornings (see schedule below). Students in each grade will assist with the planning and leading of the service. These services are an important element of the school curriculum and all students are required to attend at least two services throughout the year. Each time a Shabbat L'Kulam service occurs, there will be a grade that leads the service, as well as a grade that will assist with the service and coordinate the Shabbat luncheon following its conclusion. Further information about services will be provided during the year.

SHABBAT L'KULAM SCHEDULE — SATURDAYS AT 10:30 AM EXCEPT WHERE NOTED:

- * The assisting grade will lead the closing song of the service as well as coordinate the Kiddush Luncheon

DATE	LEADING	ASSISTING*
December 14	7th	6th
January 11	6th	5th
January 25	5th	4th
February 1	4th	3rd
March 1 (9:00 am)	Kindergarten & Preschool	Pancake Breakfast
March 21 (Friday)	8th – 10th	7th (Oneg)
March 29	3rd	2nd
April 12	1st & 2nd	1st, K & Preschool Classes
May 16 (Friday)	3 – 10	Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

KIDushat Shabbat Services

KIDushat Shabbat are Shabbat morning services geared towards families with young children. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes and is followed by snack and an arts and crafts project. Birthday blessings will be done during these services.

All KIDushat Shabbat services begin at 9:00 am.

KIDushat Shabbat will be held on:**October 5****November 2****December 14****January 4****February 1****March 1** with Pancake Breakfast**April 12****May 17** (Teacher Appreciation for Preschool through 2nd Grade Classes)**KIDUSHAT PAJAMA HAVDALAH SERVICES**

This years KIDushat Pajama Service will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 5:00 pm. There will be a short service followed by a craft activity and dinner. Don't forget to wear your favorite pajamas!

USHERING AT SERVICES

In order to help students and parents feel more comfortable during services, students and parents in grades 5-7 will be asked to assist as ushers and greeters at a service during the year. Fifth grade families will be asked to serve as ushers on a Shabbat evening and sixth and seventh grade families will be asked to serve as ushers at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service during the year. Date selections will be forthcoming.