

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

Your place to learn...grow...connect...

## Parent Handbook 2017-2018

תַּפְּלֵת הַדֶּרֶךְ

*Blessing for  
a Journey*

May we be blessed  
as we join together on  
our Jewish educational journey



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\*Enclosed is our 2017-2018 Religious School Calendar.  
Please feel free to place it on your refrigerator for easy access to our daily happenings!



**TEMPLE ADAT ELOHIM**

your place to learn...grow...connect...

**Marcy Goldberg**  
*Director of Education*  
**Becca Kalamaro**  
*Assistant Director*

## **Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year at Temple Adat Elohim!**

Welcome to another wonderful year at Temple Adat Elohim Religious School, a place for your child to be engaged in a dynamic learning environment, complete with the spirit of Judaism and a relationship to their community. Our Religious School is a place where our students activate a part of themselves, which helps them to discover the depth of Judaism and develop a sense of their own Jewish identity. These developments and growth are made through song and prayer, art and social action, educational games and thoughtful conversations.

Our Family Education Programs are a great way to bond with the community and nurture your family's connection to Judaism, through inspirational activities and discussions. Our art program is another way for your child to engage in a vibrant Jewish experience through various art mediums, which encourages them to bring home their learning to share with the family. We are excited for you and your child to be a part of both of these programs.

We are so excited to launch our new 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade one-day-a-week program, in an effort to best meet the needs of our families. With the understanding that all of our families have many other commitments, our 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders get to choose to attend Religious School on Sundays or Wednesdays and may attend on the opposite day as needed. Our 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective program was very successful last year and so we will be continuing to offer a variety of experiences for these teens. Some of the electives that we are thinking about starting with include; Jewish Art, Jews in Sports, Drama (and preparing a play for Chanukah), Let's Do a Mitzvah and Jewish Cooking.

We look forward to another incredible year together, filled with inspiring learning and continuous growth!

Marcy Goldberg  
Director of Education

Becca Kalamaro  
Assistant Director

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# TEMPLE ADAT ELOHIM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## VISION STATEMENT

Temple Adat Elohim Religious School opens gateways to Jewish life as we inspire and engage students and their families in the beauty of living and learning Jewishly.

Our unique educational experience reflects our congregation's mission of promoting spiritual growth, connectedness and a desire to heal the world. Our families and our community live and learn Mitzvot, Torah, Jewish values, a love of Israel, Tikkun Olam, and Prayer. We offer a stimulating and nourishing environment where learning is for everyone and not beyond anyone. Temple Adat Elohim Religious School creates meaningful lasting memories, cultivates a love of Judaism and supports intentional Jewish living.

## OUR GOALS

1. To teach Reform Judaism, its ideals and practices under the guidance set down by the Union of Reform Judaism.
2. To give the students a secure place in order to help them develop and discover their personal relationship with God.
3. To teach the practical skills of the Siddur (prayer book) and prayers that will enable the student to be an active participant in Tefillah (prayer service), and to gain an understanding of Hebrew as a living language that connects Jews all around the world.
4. To prepare the child for pride, participation and leadership in the Temple and in Jewish living as reflected in the holidays, customs, rituals, ceremonies and laws of our people.
5. To give each child the ethical tools and knowledge that will spark the desire to live out their life as a Jew.
6. To involve the entire family in the learning process so that Jewish education becomes a family priority.
7. To make the student aware of their obligation to participate in the community through the doing of Mitzvot.
8. To foster a deep concern and affection for the state of Israel and its people.
9. To encourage all students to gain an understanding that education is a lifelong experience and therefore the first step is to continue their Jewish learning after becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

# Meet our Temple Adat Elohim Religious School Staff

## **Marcy Goldberg, Director of Education/Confirmation**

Marcy began her career in Jewish Education as Assistant Principal of Temple Beth Hillel in 1982; she was an administrator there for seven years. In 1989, Marcy became the Director of Education at Temple Beth Israel in Pomona and nine years later at Temple Aliyah in Woodland Hills. She joined the Senior Staff of Temple Adat Elohim in 2000. Marcy was also involved with the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps as Resident Director of Gindling Hilltop Camp for five years and Education Director for two years. Marcy has been very active in the Bureau of Jewish Education, she served as the Chair of the Los Angeles Principal's Council for three years, headed many Accreditation Teams and is a frequent presenter at the Educators Conferences. In 2004, Marcy was the recipient of the Lainer Distinguished Religious School Educator Award. She shares her love of music weekly with the students of Adat Elohim as she leads them with her guitar in prayer and song. Marcy, along with her husband Neil, takes great pride in their children; Tami (and Phil), Lauren (and Scott), Rebecca (and David), and Aaron. They are delighted with the newest additions to their family, Granddaughter Ava who turned three in June and their Grandson, Gideon, who turned two in July, Granddaughters Cara and Sienna who were born February 2016 and the newest addition to their grandchildren, Solomon, born in June 2016.

## **Becca Kalamaro, Assistant Director**

Becca was born and raised in Orange County, California and graduated from the University of Arizona in May 2013 with her BS in Family Studies and Human Development and a minor in Jewish Studies. Following her graduation, Becca served as her childhood temple, Temple Beth Shalom's, Summer Day Camp Director and then stayed on as the K-8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group Coordinator and Youth Educator. As a graduate from the Graduate Center for Jewish Education at American Jewish University's Masters in Education program, Becca looks forward to continuing her experiences in the Jewish education field and lifelong Jewish learning. In her spare time, Becca enjoys being outdoors, spending time with her family and friends, and traveling to new places any chance she gets!

## **Bette Alkazian, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Rosh Hodesh**

Bette Levy Alkazian, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Parenting Coach and nationally recognized parenting expert who works with families to ease the challenges and increase the joys of raising children. Bette has worked for many years as a parent educator, speaker, and writer. She is the author of *Parenting Backwards* and *Potty Learning: The Do's, Don'ts and the Oops of Poops*. Bette was a top 7 finalist (out of 15,000 applicants) in the *Good Morning America* Advice Guru search and has vast experience helping people with a broad range of issues. Bette has been married to her husband, Jeff, for 33 years, and they are the parents of three amazing daughters.

## **Cory Berens, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Rosh Hodesh**

Cory Berens is a former Jewish Preschool teacher and Religious School teacher of 7 years. She went on to become the ECE Director of Mishkon Tephilia and Temple Akiba. Cory began her love for Jewish Education where she attended Temple Emanuel Day School. Now Cory resides with her husband and two children in Thousand Oaks where she started Yoga for Youngsters, a program that teaches Yoga classes to children.

## **Gigi Dictor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Gigi is returning for her twelfth year teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and fourteenth year teaching at TAE. A member since 1999, her 18 year old son Elijah is also on staff as a madrich after attending preschool through post-confirmation. Gigi has had lifelong involvement in the Jewish community, as Judaism has always played an important role in her life. As a teenager she was active in B'nai Brith Girls, attended URJ Camp Swig and during college was a member of both Valley and CSUN Hillels. She sings in the Temple Adat Elohim Chorale and is a life member of Hadassah in the Conejo Valley. She enjoys making Jewish activities a part of her life and is delighted to have the opportunity to share the joy of Jewish learning and Jewish life with your children.

### **Diane Eisenstein, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Diane grew up in the Los Angeles area and now resides with her family in Agoura Hills. Attending Jewish Day Schools (both Kadima and Heschel), as well as Jewish Camps has prepared her with a wonderful foundation for her strong love of Judaism. She is excited every time she has the opportunity to be in a classroom sharing, learning and growing with her religious school students! Drawing from Diane's fond memories from her religious school years that she had from Kindergarten thru 10th grade has provided a strong foundation for a love of Jewish learning. After completion of her Business Management Degree at The University of Arizona, she worked within the business/marketing side of the Entertainment Industry and then within the Culinary world. Diane is passionate about working with kids. During her time in college she volunteered through The Hillel Foundation tutoring local elementary school students. Guiding students in their exploration of Judaism and their spirituality is something she is very passionate about. Outside of teaching Diane loves spending time with her daughter (who also attends TAE religious school), her husband and friends.

### **Lisa Elbaum, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Lisa is very excited to be teaching at Adat Elohim. She grew up in the San Fernando Valley and called Temple Beth Hillel her second home, where she became a Bat Mitzvah and was Confirmed. Lisa enjoyed Jewish life, attending Jewish camps, traveling to Israel, and working as a Religious School teacher for several years before getting married. She moved to Agoura Hills where she lives with her husband Steve and their two children, Matthew and Joey, who both attend Religious School at TAE. Lisa has a B.A. in child development from CSUN and loves to teach. She enjoys spending time with her family and watching her children's sports activities keep her very busy. Lisa is looking forward to teaching at TAE this year and is eager to share her love for Judaism and teaching with her students. She believes in making learning a fun and exciting adventure.

### **Rikki Fayne, Kindergarten**

Rikki Fayne is excited to be teaching Kindergarten at TAE. She has been a Kindergarten teacher for 19 years in public school, and she grew up here at TAE. She has two daughters who also attend RS here, Madeline in 11th grade and Sophia in 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Aaron Goldberg, Sunday Night Live (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

After being born inside his childhood home, Aaron grew up in Southern California and before he could remember, was spending his summers at camp. He graduated from Royal High School in Simi Valley and went on to receive a B.A. in Anthropology with a minor in Education from UC Berkeley. While at Berkeley, Aaron worked for Hillel as a Campus Entrepreneur, developing and facilitating programs to help students create their own Jewish identities and communities on campus. After graduating, Aaron set sail for the high seas in the company of Mickey Mouse. Aaron spent over a year on the Disney Dream, a Disney Cruise ship in and out of the Bahamas, as a youth counselor, group supervisor, and children's entertainment host. In this position, Aaron created and acted out scripted programs as one of over twenty different characters. After spending time at sea and missing the land, Aaron returned to his summer camp roots as an Assistant Director at Camp Alonim. Aaron has happily been part of the Camp Alonim community and family for the past four years. Aaron has close ties to Temple Adat Elohim. TAE is where he grew up, became a Bar-Mitzvah, went through Confirmation, and even taught in the Religious School. Aaron is thrilled to be returning for his fourth year to lead the Post-Confirmation program at Temple Adat Elohim.

### **Lisa Kaplowitz-Keatts, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

Lisa Kaplowitz-Keatts, originally from Hillsdale, New Jersey, graduated from UCLA in 2000. She and her husband, Mark, now live in Westlake Village with their two daughters, Grace, 10 and Saige, 6. She taught 5th, 6th and 1st grade at Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School, and now substitute teaches with CVUSD. Lisa has a passion for Judaism and studies with a Kabbalistic Rabbi in Israel on Skype.

### **David Rosenblum, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade/ 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

David has taught in the Religious School since 1995 and is again excited to share his love of teaching and learning with our students. In 2009, David was the first TAE Religious School Teacher awarded the prestigious Lainer Distinguished Educator Award, amongst 1,500 of his peers. Since 2010, David has organized the annual drive for "For The Troops" at TAE which has collected thousands of pounds of candy, cards and letters mailed to United States troops serving around the globe. David lives in Simi Valley with his beautiful wife Marla and their four children: Nathan, Eli, Aubree and Ila. David's children have grown up at Temple Adat Elohim. Nathan and Eli are in college. Ila is entering the 7th grade. Aubree is a "child with special needs". She has overcome so much in her life and is entering high school. In 2014, in one of the most emotional days of his life, Aubree became a Bat Mitzvah at TAE. David strives to make *every* student an integral part of *each* class and to make all aspects of learning fun. Outside of teaching, David enjoys spending time with his wife and children, gardening, and tent camping.

### **Carolyn Rosenfeld, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade/8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective**

This is Carolyn's 25th year at TAE, first as a student, then a Madricha, and now a teacher to our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Carolyn also teaches early childhood education at Ikar Temple. She prepares the 3 year old students for the next year. 5 years ago, Carolyn received the Smotrich Award for Creative Curriculum from the BJE. Carolyn eagerly shares her enthusiasm for Judaism with her students as well as her love for TAE; she hopes that each student truly understands that this is their home!

### **Cantor David Shukiar, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Trope/7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Cantor Shukiar is thrilled to serve as the Cantor of Temple Adat Elohim. He brings his love for music, Judaism and children to bear on his cantorial responsibilities. At Adat Elohim, Cantor Shukiar is proud to interact with congregants of every age. As a teacher in our Religious School, he will oversee the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program, working with each candidate to not only master the Torah, Haftarah, and liturgy, but to also gain a deeper, personal understanding of our traditions and writings. In addition, Cantor Shukiar will introduce and prepare the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students in Torah Trope, the proper cantillation of Torah.

### **Rabbi Andrew Straus, Confirmation**

Prior to arriving at Temple Adat Elohim, Rabbi Straus had been the interim Rabbi at Central Synagogue of New York City. Central is one of the preeminent congregations in the Reform movement today. At Central, Rabbi Straus served in a dual capacity as part of the pulpit team and as the director of education. He worked with the staff during a period of significant transition at Central. Prior to joining Central Synagogue, Rabbi Straus was the senior rabbi at Temple Sinai in Oakland, California, a congregation of about one thousand households. Prior to this position, he served for thirteen years as the spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel of Tempe, Arizona, where, under his leadership, the congregation grew substantially, in terms of both membership and depth and quality of programs. He also served as associate rabbi and director of education at Peninsula Temple Sholom of Burlingame, California, and as assistant/associate rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom in New York. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, and is a graduate of Brandeis University. In 2012, he was awarded a doctor of divinity honoris causa from HUC.

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## Kindergarten Judaica Curriculum

### “My Jewish Self”

Theme: Torah Tales and Me, Jewish Symbols

Objectives: By the end of the school year students will be able to:

(Concepts)

- a) Associate God with the wonder of creation
- b) Name changes that take place in nature and people
- c) Relate Jewish life cycle events to experiences of growth and change
- d) Develop a relationship with the Synagogue and its community
- e) Explore ways I am like a child in Israel
- f) Explore ways to connect with the Jewish Middot in order to live an intentional Jewish life

(Basic facts)

- a) Develop Jewish functional skills
- b) Identify Jewish symbols
- c) Use key Hebrew words related to holidays
- d) Identify Biblical characters found in Genesis with a focus on creation and our forefathers and foremothers
- e) Explore the following Bible Stories: Creation, Noah’s Ark, The Exodus

(Rituals)

- a) Name festivals and their rituals
- b) Relate Jewish life cycle events to experiences of growth and change

#### Special Activities

- First Day of School will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Welcome Back for Parents & Students will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Consecration will be **on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Art project with specialist will be **on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**
- Mitzvah Day will be **on Sunday, November 5, 2017**
- Family Education Program- “Exploring & Transmitting Jewish Values” will be **on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Shabbat Tefillah (prayer service) will be **on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm**
- Pesach Arts program will be **on Sunday, March 25, 2018**

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Judaica Curriculum

### “My Jewish Family”

Theme: Biblical Families, Shabbat and Havdalah

Objectives: By the end of the school year students will be able to:

(Concepts)

- a) Identify stories from our tradition that teach about family relationships
- b) Identify the Torah as a special book of our people that tells our history
- c) Compare and contrast the types of stories found in Torah with other stories
- d) Name the important characters in our early Biblical history
- e) Explore different families in Israel (Kibbutz, Bedouin, Ethiopian, etc.)
- f) Explore ways to connect with the Jewish Middot in order to live an intentional Jewish life

(Basic facts)

- a) Identify with Biblical characters through Jewish legends
- b) Focus on family relationships and values in Torah
- c) Describe the message of important Biblical stories
- d) Identify with the Biblical characters studied
- e) Use key Hebrew words related to holidays and family
- f) Explore the following Torah Stories: Cain & Abel, Abraham, Sarah, Leah, Jacob & Esau, Isaac, Rebecca, Rachel

(Rituals)

- a) Identify ritual objects associated with Shabbat, Holidays and a Jewish home
- b) Discover blessings as a basis for Jewish religious expression with a special emphasis on Shabbat and Havdallah blessings

Student Resources

**The Jewish Holiday Treasure Trail, Behrman House**

#### **Special Activities**

- First Day of School will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Welcome Back for Parents & Students will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Consecration will be **on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Mitzvah Day will be **on Sunday, November 5, 2017**
- Art project with specialist will be **on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**
- Shabbat Tefillah (prayer service) will be **on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm**
- Pesach Arts program will be **on Sunday, March 25, 2018**
- Family Education Program – “Shabbat and Havdalah” will be **on Sunday, April 22, 2018**

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Judaica Curriculum

### “My Jewish Community”

Theme: Our Temple, Torah, Mitzvot and Hebrew

Objectives: By the end of the school year students will be able to:

(Concepts)

- a) Identify that it is the responsibility and obligation of every Jew to do Mitzvot
- b) Define their Jewish Identity in relationship to themselves, their family and their community

(Basic facts)

- a) Recall stories from our tradition that illustrate the commitment to doing Mitzvot
- b) Develop a relationship with Biblical characters
- c) Use key Hebrew words related to Synagogue, Holidays and Blessings
- d) Become familiar and be able to recognize the Hebrew alphabet
- e) Explore the following Bible Stories: Tower of Babel, Joseph, his brothers and sister Dina, Joshua, Moses, The Ten Commandments
- f) Explore the significance of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in Jerusalem
- g) Explore ways to connect with the Jewish Middot in order to live an intentional Jewish life

(Rituals)

- a) Describe the functions/ purposes of the main ritual objects in the Sanctuary
- b) Associate prayer with special moments in time

#### ***Student Resources***

**The Synagogue, Behrman House; Mitkadem Ramah 1 Behrman House**

#### **Special Activities**

- First Day of School will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Welcome Back for Parents & Students will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Shabbat Tefillah (prayer service) will be **on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 6:30 pm**
- Consecration will be **on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Mitzvah Day will be **on Sunday, November 5, 2017**
- Art project with specialist will be **on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Family Education Program – “Prayers and Blessings” will be **on Sunday, February 25, 2018**
- Pesach Arts Program will be **on Sunday, March 25, 2018**
- Unrolling the Torah program will be **on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 11:00 am**

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Judaica Curriculum

### “My Jewish World”

Theme: Jews around the world, Israel, God and Prayer

Objectives: By the end of the school year students will be able to:

(Concepts)

- a) Describe what makes them Jewish
- b) Recognize our obligation to improve our community and beyond
- c) Feel pride in having a special Jewish country
- d) Describe the differences between Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews
- e) Begin a personal search for knowledge of God and a life rooted in Jewish Spirituality
- f) See prayer as one means of expressing gratitude
- g) Explore ways to connect with the Jewish Middot in order to live an intentional Jewish life

(Basic facts)

- a) Identify Israel as the historical and modern homeland of the Jewish People
- b) Connect stories in the Torah with key places in Israel
- c) Describe daily life in modern Israel
- d) Explore how each holiday is celebrated in different parts of the world
- e) Recognize Hebrew letters and vowels and be able to read one to two syllable words
- f) Gain an understanding of the events that led to the establishment of the State of Israel

(Rituals)

- a) List ways they can express their Jewish identity
- b) Describe how various holidays are observed

#### ***Student Resources***

**Passports; The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt, Behrman House; Mitkadem Ramah 2 Behrman House**

#### **Special Activities**

- First Day of School will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Welcome Back for Parents & Students will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Art project with specialist will be **on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Consecration will be **on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Shabbat Tefillah (prayer service) will be **on Friday, November 3, 2017 at 6:30 pm**
- Mitzvah Day will be **on Sunday, November 5, 2017**
- Pesach Arts Program will be **on Sunday, March 25, 2018**
- Family Education Program “God” will be **on Sunday, April 8, 2018**
- Mitzvah Day, shopping for Manna, will be **on Sunday, April 29, 2018**

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Judaica Curriculum

### “My Jewish Life”

Theme: Jewish Life Cycles

Objectives: By the end of the school year students will be able to:

(Concepts)

- a) Relate the seasons of the year to stages of our lives
- b) Relate to Jewish attitudes towards giving Tzedakah
- c) Compare and contrast Ashkenazic and Sephardic beliefs and celebrations of life cycle events
- d) Compare and contrast the lives of bystanders, rescuers and resisters of the Holocaust period with their own personal experiences today
- e) Explore ways to connect with the Jewish Middot in order to live an intentional Jewish life

(Basic facts)

- a) Utilize key Hebrew words associated with life cycle occasions
- b) Practice Tzedakah in their own lives
- c) Give examples of Gemilut Hasadim (deeds of loving kindness)
- d) Describe life cycle customs in various Jewish communities world wide

(Rituals)

- a) Identify moments in the lifetime of a Jew and associate specific rituals with each of them
- b) Explore the origin of their names and participate in the naming ceremony
- c) Understand the components of a Jewish wedding and participate in the ceremony

#### ***Student Resources***

**Journey of a Lifetime, Behrman House**

#### **Special Activities**

- First Day of School will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Welcome Back for Parents & Students will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Naming Ceremony will be **on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Mitzvah Day will be **on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Weekend Retreat at JCA will be **on Friday-Sunday, January 26-28, 2018**
- B'nai Mitzvah Date Program will be **on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 9:00 am or Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 5:30 pm**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Wedding will be **on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 9:30 am**
- Pesach Arts Program will be **on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 OR Sunday, March 25, 2018**
- Shabbat Tefillah will be **on Friday, May 4, 2018 at 6:30 pm**
- Cemetery Field Trip will be **on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 4:30-6:00 pm**

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Judaica Curriculum

### “My Jewish History”

Theme: Lessons from Torah

Objectives: By the end of the school year students will become literate in the primary text of the Jewish people and will be able to:

(Concepts)

- a) Distinguish between Torah and Midrashim
- b) Describe the contributions to Jewish life made by leaders studied in the Torah
- c) Research Biblical figures to gain perspective on ones problems, values and human nature
- d) Study the Torah to describe such attributes as caring, loyalty and support within a family
- e) Explore ways in which we as Jews are partners with God
- f) Compare and contrast Torah stories of scapegoats and survival to stories of the Holocaust
- g) Explore ways to connect with the Jewish Middot in order to live an intentional Jewish life

(Basic facts)

- a) List the five books of the Torah
- b) Identify the three sections of the Bible; Torah, Prophets and Writings
- c) Identify the ancient leaders of our people
- d) Explore the biblical geography of Israel and contrast it with today’s map of Israel in relationship to the stories from the Torah as they are studied in class

(Rituals)

- a) Connect episodes in our leaders’ lives with episodes in their own life
- b) Identify B’ztemim Elohim and practice it in one’s own life

***Student Resources: Parashah Plays, ARE***

#### **Special Activities**

- First Day of School will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Welcome Back for Parents & Students will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Mitzvah Day will be **on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Unrolling the Torah program will be **on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 11:30 am**
- Weekend Retreat at JCA will be **on Friday-Sunday, January 26-28, 2018**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Leads Shabbat Tefillah **on Friday, March 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm**
- Pesach Arts Program will be **on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 OR Sunday, March 25, 2018**

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Judaica Curriculum

### “My Jewish Identity”

**Theme:** Jewish Identity, God, Prayer and Mitzvot

**Objectives:** By the end of the school year students will be able to:

(Concepts)

- a) Explore and gain an understanding of the Shabbat Morning Tefillah, the order and meaning of each prayer
- b) Develop personal connections to each prayer
- c) Begin a personal relationship with God rooted in the kavannah of our prayers
- d) Identify that it is the responsibility of every Jew to do Mitzvot in order to live as partners with God
- e) Describe the importance of standing up for ourselves and others through stories of the Holocaust
- f) Explore ways to connect with the Jewish Middot in order to live an intentional Jewish life

(Basic facts)

- a) Be familiar with the order of the Shabbat Morning Tefillah
- b) Define the meaning of each Shabbat Morning prayer
- c) Develop a personal understanding of each prayer and God’s place in each prayer
- d) Connect an understanding of prayer and God with the importance of doing Mitzvot
- e) Apply the understanding of Middot to everyday life
- f) Compare and contrast becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel and the United States

(Rituals)

- a) Recall stories from our traditions and personal life that illustrate the performance of Mitzvot

#### ***Student Resources***

**Putting God on Your Guest List; For Kids; Jewish Lights**

#### **Special Activities:**

- First Day of School will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Welcome Back for Parents & Students will be **on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Trope study with Cantor begins **on Sunday/Wednesday October 17/27, 2017**
- Weekend Retreat at JCA will be **on Friday-Sunday, October 20-22, 2017**
- Mitzvah Day will be **on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 9:00 am**
- Family Education Program - “B’nai Mitzvah” will be **on Sunday, December 3, 2017**
- Lead Morning Shabbat Tefillah **on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 9:00 am**
- Pesach Arts Program will be **on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 OR Sunday, March 25, 2018**

# Temple Adat Elohim Hebrew Philosophy

- ⌘ Our goal is to teach the practical skills of the Siddur (prayer book) that will enable our students to be active participants in any Tefillah (prayer service) throughout their lives.
- ⌘ Each student will develop an understanding of Hebrew as a living language.
- ⌘ All Aleph through Gimel students participate in a 30 minute Tefillah, every other week, which enables each student to practice as a community the prayers that they have mastered at their own pace.
- ⌘ Not only is “Keva” (the recitation of the prayers) taught, but “Kavanah” (the intention). It is important for each student to gain personal meaning from each prayer.
- ⌘ Each Aleph through Dalet class will participate in leading an Evening or Morning Shabbat Tefillah . The students will lead the prayers that they have learned during that school year and previous years.

## Hebrew Curriculum

### Aleph/4<sup>th</sup>

#### Books

Mitkadem Ramot 2-5

#### Phonetic Reading

All letters & vowels

1 & 2 syllable words

Letters in print

#### Prayers

Food Blessings

HaMotzi

Kiddush

Candle Blessings

Blessings for Special Times

Tallit Blessing

Blessing for Studying Torah

Chanukah B'rachot

Four Questions

Shabbat Kiddush

### Bet/5<sup>th</sup>

#### Books

Mitkadem Ramot 6-9

#### Phonetic Reading

Everything in Aleph

Print Letters

3 & 4 syllable words

#### Prayers

Torah Blessings

Barchu

Yotzer Or

Shema

V'ahavta

Mi Chamocha

Chanukah B'rachot

Four Questions

### Gimel/6<sup>th</sup>

#### Books

Mitkadem Ramot 11-21

#### Phonetic Reading

Everything in Aleph and Bet

Phrasing and Chanting

#### Prayers

Avot V'Imahot

G'vurot

Shabbat K'dushah

Aleinu

Kaddish

Chatzi Kaddish

Haftarah Blessings

Torah Trope

Chanukah B'rachot

Four Questions

## **Seventh Grade/Dalet:**

My Jewish Self – A New Look!

**Tuesday 6:00-8:30pm beginning September 12, 2017.**

**Each session begins with a Youth Group Sponsored Dinner (6-6:30pm)**

The Seventh Graders participate in a curriculum which cycles through 3 classes: Facing History and Ourselves/ Holocaust, Torah Corps and Mitzvah Corps. This special and unique program will help prepare the students for becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah, as well as help give students a clear understanding of their responsibility to remain a part of the community after becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**The B'nai Mitzvah program and Tefillah is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 9:00 am.**

**The weekend retreat for the Seventh Grade is scheduled for October 20-22, 2017.**

## **Eighth and Ninth Grade/Gesher:**

**Tuesdays 6:00-8:30pm beginning September 12, 2017.**

**Each session begins with a Youth Group Sponsored Dinner (6-6:30pm)**

Our Gesher program includes:

**Tzofim: Peer Tutors**- Teens are given the opportunity to share their newly gained knowledge and the skills they mastered with younger teens preparing for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah while earning community service credit.

**Gesher 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**- We are offering for the first time ever an elective program in which your teens set the curriculum! We have asked them what they are interested in and they have answered! We will be offering electives like Jewish cooking, Jews in Sports/Drama, and Politics and Jews.

## **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Rosh Hodesh Girls Groups**

**1 Sunday a month beginning Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**9/10, 10/22, 11/19, 12/10, 1/21, 2/11, 3/11, 4/15, 5/6**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade : 4:30-6:30 pm**

**10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 6:30-8:30 pm**

*Rosh Hodesh* is a signature program from Moving Traditions, a national nonprofit that believes that when Judaism promotes self-discovery, challenges traditional gender roles, and celebrates a diversity of voices, it has the power to move our teens, our communities, and Judaism forward. It was the first program to draw on Jewish teachings and traditions to keep girls healthy and whole, instilling in them the ability to counter narrow views of gender in popular culture. Through discussion, arts & crafts, creative ritual, games, and drama, the girls and their leaders draw on Jewish values and a gender lens to explore the issues the girls care about most, such as body image, friendship, relationships, family, competition, and stress. For more information about the program please visit

<http://movingtraditions.org/programs/rosh-hodesh-its-a-girl-thing/>

## **Confirmation Class/10<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

**Tuesday 6:30-7:30pm beginning October 10, 2017.**

**Each session begins with a Youth Group Sponsored Dinner (6-6:30pm)**

As our final formal class of our Religious School program, the year culminates with the Confirmation Tefillah (prayer service). The curriculum includes ethics and contemporary issues from a Jewish point of view. Dilemmas of vital importance to our teens are candidly discussed and explored.

While subjects are discussed from all standpoints, Jewish values are clearly stated. It is the goal of this class that students be equipped to make sound life choices for themselves in a safe, caring, non-judgmental environment.

Confirmation is taught by Rabbi Straus and Marcy Goldberg.

**Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 6:30 pm**

**Confirmation Tefillah is at 6:30 pm on Sunday, May 20, 2018.**

## Sunday Night Live/11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Specific Sundays 6:00-8:00pm

Beginning Sunday, September 10, 2017

9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10, 1/7, 2/2, 2/25, 3/11, 3/18, 4/8, 4/22, 5/7

This program is an extension of Religious School and enables us to provide a place for our oldest students to actively engage in Jewish study beyond Confirmation. Sunday Night Live provides a unique opportunity to process and question Jewish issues in an informal setting, connect with friends, strengthen their relationship to the Temple and Judaism as they explore contemporary issues from a Jewish perspective. No homework, no tests and no wrong answers; *Sunday Night Live* will take a few hours a month and make a permanent impact.

## Family Education Programs

Parents will engage in the study of relevant topics which they will then share with their children through an experiential program.

Sunday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten	9:00–11:30 AM
Sunday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	First Grade	9:00–11:30 AM
Sunday, February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Second Grade	9:00–11:30 AM
Sunday, April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Third Grade	9:00–11:30 AM
Sunday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sixth Grade	9:00-11:30 AM
Saturday, October 28 <sup>th</sup>	Seventh Grade	9:00- 11:45 AM

## Unrolling the Torah Scroll

Students and their parents will participate in the ritual of the unrolling of the Torah. They will have the opportunity to explore the many elements of the scroll and engage in conversation about the actual physical Torah and its text.

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will unroll the Torah

Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will unroll the Torah

## Tefillah

**Every other Wednesday or Sunday (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Only)** your child(ren) will participate in a 25 minute Tefillah (prayer service). Students will have the opportunity to lead the prayers they have learned in their classes and they will join as a “congregation” in chanting all of the prayers taught in Aleph through Gimel. In addition, new songs and melodies will be taught.

***Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us at 9:00 AM or 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary.***

**Every other Sunday morning at 9:00am**, we ask that you bring your child(ren) to the Sanctuary and encourage you to stay for a special Tefillah with Cantor Shukiar, Rabbi Straus, and Marcy.

**The first and third Friday of every month at 6:30pm** will be dedicated to Family Shabbat Tefillah. We invite you to attend these family oriented services with your children and enjoy the Shabbat experience together.

## **Tzedakah**

The concept of doing Mitzvot, “sacred obligations,” is an integral part of each grade’s curriculum. One Mitzvah that we as Jews are obligated to do is giving to those less fortunate. As a way of responding to that Mitzvah, Tzedakah (money) is collected each class session and put in the class Tzedakah box.

Our Third Graders participate in an important Tzedakah project at the end of the year, buying and donating food to a local food bank. All classes will donate some of their Tzedakah money to this fabulous project.

Over the course of the year various charitable organizations will be presented to all of our students so that each class may choose where to donate their Tzedakah money. Please encourage your child to bring Tzedakah each time they attend Religious School.

## **Middah of the Month**

We will continue Middah a Month: Practicing Jewish Values; as part our Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade curriculum. Each month, a different Jewish value will be explored during class, in your home and throughout the Temple. This will continue to bring our TAE community together as we enrich our lives through the study and practice of the ethics of Judaism.

## **Pesach Programs**

Each year all of our Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be participating in a special art program for Pesach. They will create a different ritual item each year that we hope will become a family heirloom and used during your Seder.

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Sunday, March 25, 2018

## **Snack**

Tuesday through Thursday, during the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade break, the Religious School will be selling snacks as a school fundraiser. Snack choices will include items such as pretzels, cookies, juice and water. Each item will cost \$1.00.

## **Getting Involved: Room Parents**

Parents have a wonderful opportunity to get involved in their child’s classroom by volunteering as a room parent. Room parents help to coordinate events and special activities in their child’s classroom. Room parents have a wonderful opportunity to help create a greater sense of community in the classroom by communicating with all of the families in their class and by supporting their teacher.

# Emergency Procedures

Safety is a primary concern for all of us at Temple Adat Elohim Religious School.

As parents, you should know that, in an emergency, the safest place for your child is in the school itself. Please be sure of the following details:



Please be certain that the student's Medical Release Form is **completely filled out and updated throughout the year** whenever necessary.



In the case of an emergency in which California phone lines are down please call Temple B'nai Israel in Galveston, TX **(409) 765-5796** in order to receive the updated general information on the Religious School and the students. In the case of a specific need of your child, we will use the out-of-state telephone number that we requested on your registration forms. It is a good idea for each family to note the out-of-state number given to the Religious School as well as our emergency contact.



Included in your registration fee is a charge for emergency preparedness materials. We want you to know that we are prepared and hope that all of this is unnecessary planning.



# Communication

TAE Religious School uses all forms of communication in order to relay information to our students and their families. Please be sure that your phone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses are correct and updated if any changes occur.

Please feel free to contact us at the following Religious School e-mail addresses and add them to your address book in order to avoid our communication being deleted by your computer spam filter.

[mgoldberg@adatelohim.com](mailto:mgoldberg@adatelohim.com) (Marcy Goldberg- Director of Education)

[bkalamaro@adatelohim.com](mailto:bkalamaro@adatelohim.com) (Becca Kalamaro- Assistant Director)

You should receive an e-mail from your child's teacher within the first two weeks of school welcoming you to the new school year. If you do not receive this e-mail, please contact us to ensure that we have your correct address. Please note that our teachers send out weekly e-mails to keep you informed of the happenings in their classrooms. We hope that this will encourage open communication between parents and teachers as well as provide an opportunity for discussion with your children about what they have learned in class that week.

## Attendance Policy

**We want to give our students a quality education;  
therefore, some rules and regulations are necessary.**



A minimum of 75% attendance is required to either advance to the next grade, participate in culmination, or to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, as per the policies set by the TAE Board of Education.



We do not encourage guests in class but, on rare occasions when it is necessary, there must be a note from a guardian, brought to the Religious School Office, stating emergency information and that no liability will be incurred by Temple Adat Elohim Religious School.



If you must take your child out of class early, please do not go to the classroom – stop in the office and we will send for your child. No child will be dismissed early on the basis of a note alone. This is for all of our students' protection.



## Pick-Up and Drop-Off Procedures

**Please read as these procedures are important for your child's safety...**

The safety of our students is a real concern for us, particularly when they are being picked up and dropped off at Religious School. In order for us to effectively provide supervision, and a safe means for controlling traffic, please observe the below procedures. Please take the time to review these procedures with your child(ren). It is important that they follow the directions of the staff directing traffic and refrain from running or playing in the waiting area.

Parents please note:

- ✓ Parking is permitted in marked stalls ONLY. **There is NO PARKING along any of the curbs or in any of the reserved spaces. Please note that the front curb parallel to Hillcrest is painted red and is a drop-off area only.**
- ✓ Speed limit is **5 MPH** at ALL times.
- ✓ **Cell phone use is not permitted at any time in the parking lot.** This applies to drivers and pedestrians.
- ✓ Traffic is one-way; enter on the north side of the property and exit on the south side.
- ✓ Right turn only out of the parking lot.

### Sunday Students

**We encourage every family to arrange carpools and to anticipate that the spaces in the TAE parking lot might be full when you arrive. For your parking convenience, we have arranged with the Conejo Elementary School and Dean Trigg School to use their parking lots on Sunday mornings.**

### K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade on Sundays

All Sunday K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students must be **escorted to the Sanctuary or classroom and signed in** by their guardian/driver. We encourage you to stay and participate in the special Tefillah led by our Cantor and Marcy every other Sunday morning. The responsible adult must **pick the student up and sign them out from their classroom** at the end of the Religious School day. If you are more than 10 minutes late, your child will be waiting for you in the Religious School Office. All children participating in Shirei Elohim (Junior Choir) will be taken to the Sanctuary after Religious School concludes.

### 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade on Wednesdays

The students, who are here in the late afternoon on Wednesdays follow a different procedure. **Children should go directly to their class when dropped off.** They must be dropped off at the front gate (parallel to Hillcrest).

**At the end of the school day the students will be led through the Sanctuary and then exit at the East Side of the building. All guardian/drivers should pick-up their child(ren) in the following manner:**

- ✓ As you go around the corner to approach the waiting area, all cars will merge into a single line. The unoccupied right lane will serve as a passing lane as needed.
- ✓ As you come forward to the waiting area, your passengers will be directed to your car.
- ✓ If you are not using the pick-up line, you must park your car in a designated area, exit your car and retrieve your child from the pick-up area.
- ✓ In case of rain, all students will be brought to the Sanctuary. Parents must park, come to the Sanctuary and escort them off the premises.

See the Director of Education regarding special needs and please call the Religious School Office if you are running late to pick up your child.

**Thank you for your patience and help in ensuring a safe environment for our school.**

# Temple Adat Elohim Religious School

## Behavioral Expectations and Dress Code

As we are committed to offering our students a quality Jewish education, we have adopted the following policies which apply to every individual in our school. It is our sincere hope that each student will have a rewarding experience in a positive, productive learning environment.

### Behavioral Expectations

- 1. In accordance with the policy of Temple Adat Elohim, students must complete three and one-half years of classes, four hours a week, prior to becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Students must be enrolled and attending Temple Adat Elohim Religious School through the school year of the Bar or Bat Mitzvah. In addition, we encourage all students to continue their Jewish Education through Confirmation.**
2. School attendance is vital to the success of the student's progress. A student missing more than 25% of sessions during the school year may not be promoted to the next grade level.
3. Students will be required to complete assignments missed during absences.
4. Behavioral problems are detrimental to the learning environment. Every effort will be made to resolve the situation in the classroom. If a child continues to have behavioral problems and must be sent out of class, the following will occur:
  - FIRST TIME – A meeting between the student and the Director of Education will occur and the student will return to class at the discretion of the Director.
  - SECOND TIME – A meeting between the student and the Director of Education will occur, the Director of Education will discuss the situation with the student's parents and a written summary will be included in the student's cumulative file.
  - THIRD TIME – A meeting between the student and the Director of Education will occur and a conference will be scheduled with the parents in an attempt to resolve the situation before the student is allowed to return to class.
  - FOURTH TIME – The student will be suspended and will not be allowed to return to class until a second conference takes place. The Director of Education, at this point, has the authority to decide when and if the student will return to class.
  - FIFTH TIME – If the behavior does not change, the student will be expelled for the remainder of the school year by a committee consisting of the Director of Education, Assistant Director, Rabbi and Vice President of Education. The student's return to school the following year will be at the discretion of the school. At this point, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date will be postponed or cancelled.
5. Students will be on their best behavior at all times, apply themselves to the best of their abilities, arrive in class promptly and complete assigned work in a timely manner.
6. Students must remain in designated supervised areas on Temple grounds.
7. Students will follow the directions of the person in charge at all times.
8. Students will care for their texts, materials and school and personal property. Any damage done will be the financial responsibility of the family. Parents must pay said cost before re-enrollment or Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
9. Fighting, foul language and violent acts will not be tolerated.
10. The School does not tolerate the use or possession of weapons or drugs, other than those drugs prescribed by a physician, which must be held in the Religious School Office. If a student is in possession of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or weapons, the result is an immediate expulsion from the School Program and Bar/Bat Mitzvah privileges shall be revoked. This policy is one of strict compliance. No exceptions will be made.
11. Cell phones are not allowed at Religious School. They are not necessary as we should have all emergency contact information on file. Students are allowed to make necessary phone calls from the Religious School Office.

## Dress Code

1. Hats may be worn to school, but must be removed upon entering the buildings. Students may choose to wear a Kippa when they pray.
2. Shirts need to cover the shoulders, back, chest, and the midriff- no spaghetti straps, halters, open backs, low cut shirts or strapless shirts.
3. Clothing that advertises or promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco or illegal activities, or contains profane or suggestive language may not be worn.
4. Pants, shorts or skirts must be worn up around the waist. Saggy pants (shorts and skirts included) displaying a low crotch or exposing underwear are not allowed.
5. Dresses, skirts and shorts must be fingertip length.
6. Shoes must be appropriate for safe play during break and weather appropriate.
7. Healties (any shoes with wheels on the soles) are not appropriate for Religious School. They are considered a safety hazard.

**Students should dress appropriately and respectfully for Shabbat Tefillah. Boys should wear nice slacks and a button down shirt and girls should wear a dress or skirt; adhering to the above dress code. Jeans are not considered appropriate.**

# Board of Education Mission Statement

The Board of Education acts as a support and an advocate for the formal and informal youth educational programs of Temple Adat Elohim: the Religious School, the Early Childhood Center and our youth groups, MAETY, JAETY, and AETY. The Board of Education encourages lifelong learning within the congregation and the local community that we serve by approving school and youth-group policies, endorsing curriculum and supporting fees and fiscal policies set by the finance committee, strongly considering the recommendations of the Senior Staff.

In assuming the obligations assigned it by the Constitution and Bylaws of Temple Adat Elohim, the Board of Education accepts the following responsibilities:

1. To approve and support educational, administrative and financial policy and goals, both long-range and short term, for ECE, Religious School and Youth and to oversee the implementation of these policies and goals.
2. To oversee the directors, who ensure the financial viability of the schools through financial management and fund development.
3. To provide long-term vision by working with both school directors and the youth group directors.
4. In addition, the Board of Education Chair and the Vice President of Education will evaluate the performance and progress of the various programs offered by TAE; and will evaluate parent/teacher/student feedback regarding program, teachers or professionals as needed. Issues may be addressed by the Board of Education when necessary.

## A Message from the Board of Education

The Board of Education is a group of parents committed to the concept of L'dor V'Dor, passing on to our children the traditions, culture and beliefs of Judaism. This year's members represent all the education communities of TAE; including the ECC, Religious school, middle school, high school, and beyond. We are committed to quality educational programming for your children and family through school programming and parent education. We are here to support our Directors; but, perhaps more importantly, we are here to support our families. Please let us hear from you; let us know what's working for your children, what they love or even what could be done differently. Your participation with your children is a key to their establishment of a solid Jewish identity.

**Cindy Scott**

*Vice President of Education*

**Amy Corin**

*Chair of Board of Education*