

# **Religious School Handbook**

**2016-2017**

**5777**

Rabbi Shira H. Joseph  
Cantor Steven I. Weiss  
Scott Garland, President

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

Congregation Sha'aray Shalom

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Congregation Sha'aray Shalom  
Religious School Calendar

2016 to 2017

Sep 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Jan 2017						
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Feb 2017						
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Mar 2017						
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Apr 2017						
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May 2017						
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28	29	30	31			

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

L'Kulam	Leading	Assisting
12/3/2016	Saturday 5th grade	4th grade
1/21/2017	Saturday 4th grade	3rd grade
1/28/2017	Saturday 3rd grade	2nd grade

**Kiddush Fridays at 7:30pm** (Class Dinner prior to service at 6:30pm)

1/13/2017	Friday	5th grade
1/27/2017	Friday	6th grade
2/10/2017	Friday	4th grade
3/3/2017	Friday	3rd grade

**Family Education Programs**

9/25/2016	Sunday 11am	4-7th Parents
10/30/2016	Sunday 9am to 12:45 pm	6th grade students and parents
11/13/2016	Sunday 9am	2nd grade parents
11/13/2016	Sunday 11am	4th grade parents
11/18-20/2016	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 Grade Trip	to New York City
12/11/2016	Sunday 9am	3rd grade parents
12/11/2016	Sunday 11am	5th grade parents
1/8/2017	Sunday 9am	K & 1st grade parents
3/26/2017	Sunday 9am	Passover Extravaganza session 1 (PS-2 <sup>nd</sup> )
3/26/2017	Sunday 11am	Passover Extravaganza session 2 (3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> )

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Shabbatons**

Saturday, September 17 from 9am to 2pm  
Saturday, February 11 from 9am to 2pm

**Events:**

10/16/2016 - Pizza in the Hut/Community Sukkot Celebration  
10/23/2016 - Consecration Dinner & Service  
12/25/2016 - First Day of Chanukah Community Fun Day, 12-5pm  
12/31/2016 - Shabbat Service & Brunch at the home of Cantor Weiss & Stephanie Gertz, 10:30am  
2/11/2016 - Shabbat Service & Tu B'shvat Seder  
3/12/2017 - Megillah Reading, Parade & Purim Carnival  
5/7/2017 - End of Year BBQ & Mitzvah Day  
5/12/2017 - Teacher Appreciation Potluck Dinner, 6pm, Service at 7pm  
5/13/2017 - Blessing of High School Seniors & Kiddush lunch, 10:30am  
5/8 & 5/15 - Confirmation Class Rehearsal, 6pm  
5/30/2017 - Confirmation Dinner & Service

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.

Please make sure to mark your calendars with the important dates including our special events, family programs, as well as Shabbat L'Kulam and KIDushat Shabbats for this coming 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, please contact our Education Committee Chair Julie Fox and let her know. We look forward to your participation in the education of your children and participation as members of our synagogue community throughout the year

Lshalom,

Rabbi Shira Joseph

Cantor Steven Weiss

Scott Garland, President

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION

## ADMINISTRATION

### School Director

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. . . . . cantorweiss@shaaray.org

### School Office:

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. . . . . annetteski3@aol.com

### Sunday Office Assistant:

Tena Tanderes . . . . . 508-410-3042 . . . . . doubletme@hotmail.com

## FACULTY

### Preschool/ Pre-K

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### Tet/9/

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### Music

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. . . . . rabbijoseph@shaaray.org

### Special Needs

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### Floater

Anna Shapiro . . . . . 781-363-3030 . . . . . laurenzsky@aol.com

## **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.

## **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*  
*Alef to Tav Activity Book*  
*Jewish and Me – Holidays*  
*Jewish and Me - Mitzvot*  
*Shalom Sesame DVD & Magazine Series*

## **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*  
*A Child's Garden of Torah*  
*Let's Discover Israel*

## **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

### **Texts:**

*Z'man Likro – Book 1*  
*Z'man Likro – Activity Book*  
*The Jewish Holiday Treasure Hunt*

## **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*  
*My Jewish Year*

## **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:**

*Hineni – Book 1*  
*Hineni – Level 1 Workbook*  
*Jewish Holiday, Jewish Values*  
*Artzeinu – An Israel Encounter*  
*Living Jewish Values – Best Self, Family Connections,*  
*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:**

*Hineni – Book 2*  
*Hineni – Level 2 Workbook*  
*Social Action Manual*  
*Building Jewish Identity Program – Our Community, Sacred Time*  
*Jewish Values in Genesis*

### 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:

*Hineni – Level 3*

*Hineni – Level 3 Workbook*

*America: The Jewish Experience*

*The Melting Pot*

*The Time of Our Lives*

*Jewish Values in Exodus*

### 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:

*A Life of Heschel*

*Let's Talk*

*Night*

7th Grade students and their parents will attend two Shabbatons with Rabbi Joseph and Cantor Weiss and will attend 3 additional Shabbat Morning Services throughout the year which will be assigned by the synagogue. Whether preparing for or having become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Students will assist with the leading of these services.

- \* *The Shabbatons will be held on Saturday, September 17th and February 11th from 9:00-2:00 pm.*

### CHET/EIGHTH GRADE

- Jewish Values
- Ethics
- Sacred Choices

#### Texts:

*Middot – A Stairway of Virtues*

*Sacred Choices*

### TET/NINTH GRADE

This year's Curriculum will focus on the study of ethics through the study of "Hot Topics." Students will have the opportunity to struggle with some of the most controversial issues of the day. They will have the ability to explore the moral and ethical issues in depth, think about real-world scenarios, and study ancient and modern texts that will shed light on the topics at hand.

Students will also study Torah through a unique new book entitled Text messages: A Torah Commentary for Teens

- \* *Ninth Grade students will join us for our New York City Trip the weekend of November 18-20, 2016.*
- \* *Ninth grade students will participate in the Service of Confirmation on Tuesday, May 30, 2017.*

### 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.

An important aspect of the study of the commandments is a series of three parent programs giving students and parents the opportunity to learn together.

- \* *Tenth grade students will join us for our New York City Trip the weekend of November 18-20, 2016.*

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, May 30, 2017 at 7:00 pm), the holiday which celebrates the receiving of the 10 commandments. 9th grade students will participate as the service leaders.

### New York City Trip – November 18-20, 2016

A highlight of the school year will be the opportunity to travel with Rabbi Joseph and Cantor Weiss to see Jewish New York. Students will have the opportunity to explore Jewish New York including attending Shabbat Evening Services at Congregation Rodef Shalom, a tour of the lower east side, the Tenement Museum, as well as a visit to Ground Zero and an exploration of Jewish immigration at Ellis Island. We will also take in a Broadway show and see the sights of Manhattan.

Students will share their experiences in New York with the congregation on Friday night, December 2nd at 7:30 pm

## 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.

Students are encouraged to contribute canned goods for donation to the local food pantry during each family program this coming year.

Religious School classes will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of different Jewish organizations and to choose as a class where their Tzedakah money should go.

## 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 Sunday, October 23, 2016 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

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, May 30, 2017 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.

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.

#### Shabbat Service Check-In Procedure:

Students will indicate their attendance at Shabbat Evening and Morning Services by checking their name off in a notebook which will be in the lobby during services. The book will be arranged by grade level and have all of our students names printed in it. Students will put their initials and date of the service that they attend.

#### Shabbat Buddy

One of the best ways to celebrate Shabbat is to join together with other families and other students to attend services together. This year we will be asking families within each grade to “buddy” up with each other to come to services. Maybe you would like to enjoy Shabbat dinner together before or lunch on Saturday. This is a great way to attend services as a family. Shabbat buddies will be organized during the first week of religious school.

#### 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 khakis 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:

**January 27, 2017 – 6th Grade**

**January 13, 2017 – 5th Grade**

**February 10, 2017 – 4th Grade**

**March 3, 2017 – 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:

<b>6th Grade</b>	Saturday, December 17, 2016 (6th Grade Sponsors Kiddush Lunch)
<b>5th Grade</b>	Saturday, December 3, 2016 (4th Grade Sponsors Kiddush Lunch)
<b>4th Grade</b>	Saturday, January 21, 2017 (3rd Grade Sponsors Kiddush Lunch)
<b>3rd Grade</b>	Saturday, January 28, 2017 (2nd Grade Sponsors Kiddush Lunch)

### **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:

**September 24, 2016**

**November 25, 2016** (Friday) 5:30 pm service followed by dinner

**December 17, 2016**

**January 21, 2017**

### **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.

### **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 commonsense 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 worshippers 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 folks 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.

### **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.

## SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE 2016-2017

### 2016

#### September

- 11 9:00 am Opening School Assembly for all School Families (PT-3)  
11:00 am Opening School Assembly for all School Families (4-6)  
12 6:00 pm Opening School Assembly for all School Families (7-10)  
17 9:00 am 7th Grade Shabbaton  
25 11:00 am 4th-7th Grade Family Program "Getting Ready for the High Holy Days"

#### October

- 16 6:00 pm Pizza in the Hut/Community Sukkot Celebration  
23 6:00 pm Consecration Dinner (For Kindergarten Families)  
7:00 pm Simchat Torah Service/Consecration/ Dancing with the Winiker Band  
30 9:00 am 6th Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kallah

#### November

- 13 9:00 am 2nd Grade Family Program  
13 11:00 am 4th Grade Family Program  
18-20 9th & 10 Grade Trip to New York City

#### December

- 11 9:00 am 3rd Grade Family Program  
11 11:00 am 5th Grade Family Program  
25 12:00 pm First Day of Chanukah Community Fun Day  
31 10:30 am Shabbat Service & Brunch at the home of Cantor Weiss & Stephanie Gertz

### 2017

#### January

- 8 9:00 am Kindergarten & First Grade Family Program - Shabbat

#### February

- 11 10:30 am Shabbat Service & Tu B'shvat Seder

### March

- 12 10:30 am Purim Megillah Reading & Carnival (All Grades)  
26 9:00 am Passover Extravaganza  
11:00 am Passover Extravaganza

### April

- 10 Sundown Erev Passover – First Seder  
11 5:30 pm Second Night Community Seder (Reservations Required)

### May

- 7 11:00 am End of Year BBQ & Carnival  
12 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner  
7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service  
Teacher Appreciation Shabbat for All Grades  
13 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service – Honoring our High School Graduates  
30 6:00 pm Confirmation Dinner  
7:00 pm Shvauot/Confirmation Service

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Pizza in the Hut/Community Sukkah Celebration

**October 16, 2016 6:00 pm Sunday, October 5 at 11:00 am**

Please join us as we celebrate the first night of the Festival of Sukkot as a community. Bring decorations to adorn our outdoor sukkah, wave the Lulav and Etrog, do some crafts and enjoy our traditional pizza in the hut meal.

**Eisner/Crane Lake & Six Point Sci-Tech  
New and Prospective Camper Weekend  
October 14-16, 2016**

Eisner Camp, Crane Lake Camp, and 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy are offering a fun and exciting weekend for children in Grades 2-5 (as of September 2015) who are considering a summer at one of our camps. This weekend is a great opportunity for new and prospective campers to get a taste of what a summer at Eisner, Crane Lake, and Sci-Tech would be like. We'll celebrate Shabbat together, play outdoors, enjoy exciting camp activities, and make new friends.

**EISNER AND CRANE LAKE** | **6 POINTS SCI-TECH**  
UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM CAMPS

**New & Prospective Camper Weekend**  
For current 2nd-5th graders

**Hiking, Arts & Crafts, Celebrate Shabbat, Sleep in Heated Cabins, Sports & Games, Wild Science Experiments and Activities, Campfire & S'mores, and Lots of New Friends!**

Cost: \$200 includes all meals, lodging, and activities  
If you register for camp by January 1, 2017, \$100 from the cost of the weekend will be credited to your summer tuition

Arrival: Fri, Oct 14th, 4:30 pm @ Eisner Camp  
Departure: Sun, Oct 16th, 12:30 pm @ Crane Lake Camp  
[urjnortheastcamps.org/event/new-prospective-camper-weekend/](http://urjnortheastcamps.org/event/new-prospective-camper-weekend/)

**THREE GREAT URJ CAMPS  
AND A SUMMER THAT LASTS A LIFETIME**

201-722-0400 | [eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org](http://eisnercranelake.urjcamps.org)  
857-246-8677 | [scitech.urjcamps.org](http://scitech.urjcamps.org)

**Eisner and Crane Lake & Six-Points Sci-Tech Camps Presentation  
(pending)**

As an adjunct to your children's Jewish education, please consider sending your children to the URJ Eisner, Crane Lake Camp and the new Six Points Sci-Tech 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 and a representative of the camps will be with us that morning to talk more about camping and the programs offered.

Union for Reform Judaism Camps of the Northeast

**EISNER • CRANE LAKE**

**6 POINTS SCI-TECH**  
camper-selected activities • [eisnercamp.org](http://eisnercamp.org)

cabin-centered activities • [cranelakecamp.org](http://cranelakecamp.org)

hands-on science & tech • [6pointsscitech.org](http://6pointsscitech.org)

**Visit our websites to learn more,  
sign up for a tour, and register!**

**201.722.0400**  
Three Great Camps  
A Summer that Lasts a Lifetime

### **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, October 30, 2016 at from 9:00 am-12:45 pm**. Attendance at the session is required of parents and students

### **First Day Chanukah Family Fun Day**

**Sunday, December 25, 2016 from noon-5:00 pm**

Join us as we gather together to celebrate first day of Chanukah with lights, food, crafts and song. Bring your family and share the day with us.....games, bounce houses, music and of course lots of Latkes!!

### **Teacher Appreciation Shabbat (ALL GRADES)**

**Friday, May 12, 2017**

**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 12th 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.

### **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 2017 trips will be forthcoming or you can get detailed information on the NFTY website, which is [www.nftyisrael.org](http://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.



### **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](http://www.shaaray.org).**

## 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, or flip flops etc).

### 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 & Pizza in the Hut – (Preschool through 3rd)**

Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 6:00 pm

#### **Purim Carnival - ( 3rd and 4th grades)**

Sunday, March 12, 2017 – 10:30 am

#### **Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Oneg – (All Grades)**

Friday, May 12, 2017 – 7:00 pm

#### **Dinner and Oneg for Confirmation (Grade 7-9)**

Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 6:00 pm (7:00 pm service with Oneg to follow)

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.**

### **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 the school office. 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.

Congregation Sha'aray Shalom  
1112 Main Street  
Hingham, MA 02043  
781-749-8103  
781-740-1480 (fax)  
*[www.shaaray.org](http://www.shaaray.org)*