



Salem Jewish Congregation
Temple Beth Sholom
Honoring Our Past by Building a Vibrant Future

James Greene, Rabbi

Elaine Day, President

April 2, 2009

"And you shall teach them diligently to your children..."
Deuteronomy 6:7

The staff and teachers at Temple Beth Sholom have worked to build a warm, comfortable and positive climate for Jewish learning experiences. Our children are part of a series of exciting and pioneering moments in Jewish living. These moments can be seen throughout our school and in your homes. They involve all students, teachers, siblings and parents. These moments are well planned, as well as spontaneous. They are the hopes and dreams for our Jewish future.

These moments cannot happen here at Temple Beth Sholom unless you remember to enroll your children in Religious School. Each year our school has grown and changed in new and different ways; it is an example of all the good things that can happen when teachers and parents work together to make sure our children have the best Jewish learning opportunities possible. This coming year is no different. The Religious School is shifting to better serve the needs of students and to respond to the ever changing shape of our membership.

Over the coming months, you will receive more information about many new exciting programs that we will be launching in the coming year. These include a new experiential series of Family Education days that will take place each month, holiday programming written by our staff to help bring Judaism to life for our young students, as well as a Hebrew tutoring system built on our tradition's model of *hevruta*, or study pairs, learning together. Additionally, our entire school community will come together on eight Shabbat mornings to participate in services, eat together and learn together in a more informal environment. These Saturday programs will replace the following Sunday morning classes.

With all these new and exciting changes, I know that we are all eager to get started and work to build the future that we seek for our students and families. **Registration begins today!** Please take a few moments to review this information, complete the registration form and mark important dates on your calendar now – particularly the eight Shabbat mornings which will require your attendance as part of the Religious School calendar. Also included on this calendar are the dates for Tot Shabbat for the coming year, as well as a new program called "Wake Up and Taste the Torah," which we will be launching this year for young children.

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Please contact me if you have any questions about the materials you have received today. The sooner you get your registration in, the sooner we will know how many books and supplies we will need for the coming year. As always, scholarships are available for those who request them. Please contact Judith Havas to request a scholarship application.

This coming year will be one of great excitement and joy in our Religious School. We will try new things, experiment with new models of education and strive to create meaningful moments of engagement for our students, parents and teachers. These moments will continue to grow and become a part of you and your children's Jewish history. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Beshalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Green", written in a cursive style.

Rabbi James