

# *Kehillat Shalom*



What is your favorite memory of Jewish learning? Maybe it was a *ruach*-filled song session at summer camp, or dipping the parsley into salt water at a Passover *seder*, or dancing at a wedding. Perhaps it was last week at services, when you learned why we turn toward the door during *L'cha Dodi*. For some of us, the best times involve food, song, or dance; for others they might be about reading a good book, hearing an inspirational and informative speaker who relates religious texts and teachings to contemporary issues, or spending time with friends and family during a holiday celebration. For many of us, Jewish learning is at its best when it is about *participation* and *experience*.

## Q: What is Kehillat Shalom?

A: *Kehillat Shalom* (“Community of Peace,” our Temple Shalom Community) is our new, enhanced learning and community building initiative at the religious school. *Kehillat Shalom* includes:

- An expanded session on Sunday mornings (9-11:30 a.m.) for preK-5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- All 6<sup>th</sup> graders attending Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m.
- Extra *Chugim*, or activity choices for students. Examples: Israeli dancing, *Krav Maga* (Israeli martial arts), cooking, art, singing.
- School-wide themes (rotating from year to year) beginning with Holidays and Rituals (other themes may include Torah, Israel, Social Justice).
- Congregation-wide learning opportunities based on the theme.
- Experiential and Project Based Learning for students (more projects, ritual practice, active learning).
- Whole family learning opportunities with field trips, adult education, and retreats taking a larger role as part of the family education experience.
- “Shabbat in Real Jewish Time” experiences, for example: welcoming Shabbat on Friday evening and Saturday morning and observing *Havdalah* on Saturday evening. These will be pre-scheduled.

## Q: How will Kehillat Shalom change affect my family?

A: Timing for some programs will change from previous years. Parents will be expected to participate in some additional whole-family Jewish learning experiences. Calendars for each grade will be distributed before the start of the school year.

- Most Sundays, preK-5<sup>th</sup> graders will attend a longer session (9-11:30 a.m.)
- Students in each grade (along with their families) will participate in Friday evening, Saturday morning, or Saturday evening Shabbat programming on pre-scheduled weeks during the school year, some of which will be in lieu of regular Sunday religious school. (Shabbat in “Real Jewish Time.”)
- Parents will attend adult-focused programming (some will be available to the entire congregation) on certain pre-scheduled Sunday mornings (approximately once per month during the school year). This could include but is not limited to: special lectures from outside experts; discussion groups with the clergy; activities or projects; book discussions; and more!

## Q: What about my 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders?

A: For this phase, most of the changes will take place for pre-k-5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families. Middle and High School students will continue to attend religious school in two hour blocks on Sundays from 6-8pm. They will experience, however, a new emphasis on project-based learning, beginning with a renewed focus on mitzvah projects for 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders as well as a more traditional academic learning option. As *Kehillat Shalom* continues to grow, programming will continue to expand.

### ***Kehillat Shalom Mission***

Through education to build an intentional Jewish community in which all ages:

- acquire knowledge;
- develop Jewish identity and values;
- and participate in and live a meaningful Jewish life

**Questions?** Rabbi Ackerman ([rabbiackerman@templeshalom.net](mailto:rabbiackerman@templeshalom.net))