

Dear Parents of Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades,

At Temple Shalom, we view every student in our Religious School and our community as automatically a member of our various youth groups. TaSTY (Temple Shalom Temple Youth) is our youth group for 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders that hosts events and coordinates with the North American Federation of Reform Temple Youth, Mid Atlantic Region (NFTY-MAR). This larger group hosts overnight conferences multiple times a year and has strong connections to many Jewish Summer camps.

**TaSTY Junior serves our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and TaSTY Senior serves our 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (yes, if you are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade you can participate in both youth groups! ).**

We have had great success over the past several years rebuilding our youth programs through a combination of regional activities and events planned by our TaSTY board and our Youth Group Adviser, Pamela Wilcox. Please continue to look for communication about events from Pamela and the board by adding **youth@templeshalom.net** to your address book and reading school emails . We urge your renewed support and attention to this important arena of congregational life.

The dues for these youth groups, of **\$18 for our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and of \$36 for our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders**, are a vitally important part of our planning. In the case of our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders 50% of the dues go to support NFTY-MAR, our regional youth group. To attend a regional event you must be a dues paying TaSTY member.

Please “opt in” to our youth programs even if you do not yet know how often your own children will be able to attend. Your support and involvement are critical as we move towards the next generation of informal youth programming at Temple Shalom. By opting in, you agree to pay the appropriate dues based on your child's age. Paid membership has its benefits in membership pricing for all events, saving you money throughout the year. There is at least one event a month for both age groups- here are some to look forward to this year!

- *Apple picking*
- *Sleepover in the Sukkah- Senior only*
- *Havdallahween- Junior only*
- *Outings to 6<sup>th</sup> and I Synagogue programming*
- *Volunteer opportunity with SSL credit*
- *Movie Nights*
- *Glow in the Dark Mini Golf*
- *Paintball- Senior Only*
- *Social Justice and Educational Programming*
- *Youth Services*
- *Gaga Games*

(over)

By opting in and paying dues at the beginning of the year, you enable us to do more and support important youth engagement. We appreciate your contribution, and please do not hesitate to contact Pamela with questions through [youth@templeshalom.net](mailto:youth@templeshalom.net).

Yes! Enroll my child(ren) in TaSTY  
 No, we do not want to participate at this time.

# of students 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18 annually = \_\_\_\_\_

# of students 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ x \$36 annually = \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list your child's name below and if we can email your child directly about events and youth opportunities, also include their contact information:**

Child 1's name: \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_

Child 1's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child' 1's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 2's name: \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_

Child 2's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child' 2's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Child 3's name: \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_

Child 3's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child' 3's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Rachel Ackerman  
Rabbi-Educator

Pamela Wilcox  
Youth Advisor