

EDUCATION 2008-2009

Every congregant has been touched by Education at Temple Aliyah. Whether you have a child in Mommy-n-Me, the ECE or Religious School, whether you have attended an Adult Education program, a lecture or a temple service, learning is an integral part of Temple Aliyah.

For many, ECE is the first experience our congregants have with the Temple Aliyah community. Thanks to Andrea Segall and her staff, the ECE enjoys a stellar reputation in the community. This past year, the ECE was 100% full! Registration is on track for next year with spaces filling quickly. Camp Yofi is almost full with three 2 year old classes beginning this summer, a first for Camp Yofi. Highlights from this past year are too many to name all but the always amazing Pre K Art Show is always a yearly treat. The children are very involved in bringing tzedekah every Friday and then deciding where their tzedekah will go to help others. One organization the children chose to help was the Guide Dogs of America. To show their appreciation, the Guide Dogs came to visit the children and demonstrated how their support trained dogs to help others. There is always so much happening at ECE. The joy of learning begins with Mommy-n-Me and continues through Gesher and Kindergarten.

Debra Kellner, our Religious School Principal continues to mold and grow the many Religious School programs. Enrollment was up last year and the school is on track to increase enrollment in the coming year. Highlights of this past year include the Ramah Shabbaton, Sing Alongs in the Courtyard for the holidays with Hazzan Stein and the new Family Education Program that, by being credit based, allowed many opportunities for families to explore their Judaism at Temple Aliyah and in the community at large. One of the Religious School's growing program is "Our Space", a special needs program providing classes for students in need from grades 2 through 7. The biggest change in the Religious School is the creation of TCN – Teen Community Night at Aliyah. In conjunction with USY, 7th to 12th grade classes move to Wednesday night offering a full range of learning, discussion and teen community. Look for the TCN brochure in the synagogue office to learn more about this exciting new program.

In Adult Education, we sent out a survey to every congregant to get feedback about their educational needs. Gayle Nadler and Wendy Klier are working with Rabbi Oren to create dynamic and meaningful adult education opportunities that will appeal to every member of the Temple Aliyah community.

It has been an honor to serve as VP of Education for the last three years. A special thank you to my directors and committee members and it has been a true joy to work with the clergy and administration as we all worked towards excellence in Education at Temple Aliyah.

Respectfully submitted, Tami Schnitman, VP of Education