

## Religious & Hebrew School Update Cont'd

### FAQ's About the New Timing and Offerings:

- Q: Why is the Religious School day being elongated by 30 minutes for K4-7th Graders?
- A: Given the amount of special electives that we offer, we want to be sure that we are able to maximize our learners' quality time in the classroom as well. Furthermore, this change enables us to keep our *madrachim* program thriving, while engaging our teens in their own learning experiences in the morning.
  
- Q: How does this affect me if I do not have a child enrolled in Religious School, Pre-Confirmation or Confirmation?
- A: This change enables us to bring back Adult Education offerings such as Sunday Forums on Sunday in the early afternoons, in addition to being able to use the building during the early afternoon time for all kinds of educational and programmatic purposes geared toward our adult members.
  
- Q: What is the Individualized Hebrew School Program?
- A: The Individualized Hebrew School Program is a concentrated hour of Hebrew School that will take place early on Sunday Mornings, before Religious School. The class ratio will be between 1-5 students for every teacher. The classes will be assigned by ability, rather than grade level.
  
- Q: For whom is the Individualized Hebrew School Program designed?
- A: The Individualized Hebrew School Program is designed with two groups of learners in mind, the first being learners who cannot make it to Hebrew School during the week, the second are learners who might have learning differences that make it difficult to attend Hebrew School in the late afternoon on a weekday.
  
- Q: What happened to Family Hebrew?
- A: We have eliminated Family Hebrew due to its low registration rates. It is our hope that the Individualized Hebrew School program will appeal to the families for whom Family Hebrew was the best choice.
  
- Q: What happened to Chai School in the afternoons?
- A: We have moved Chai School to the mornings, in order to better meet the needs of the learners. We heard the feedback that Sunday afternoon is simply not a good time slot for today's teens. It is our sincere hope that this time change will fit better into more of our teens schedules, and that more teens will make the choice to continue their Jewish education here at Congregation Shalom, once they become Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
  
- Q: Can 8th-10th Graders still be *madrachim*?
- A: Yes! Any 8th, 9th, or 10th grader who is enrolled in Pre-Confirmation or Confirmation Classes will be eligible to be a *madrich/a* during the hour and a half of Religious School that takes place outside of their own learning, and they will be compensated accordingly. Any 11th or 12th grader who has already participated in our Confirmation program will be eligible to be a

*madrich/a* for the entirety of the Religious School morning, and will be compensated accordingly. Any 11th or 12th grader who has not yet participated in our Confirmation Program will be eligible to be a *madrich/a* and to participate in the Confirmation Class, and will be compensated accordingly.

- Q: What are the costs associated with all of these changes?
- A: The cost for Tuesday/Wednesday Hebrew School remains the same. Additionally, the cost for 8th-10th grade enrollment remains the same. There will be a modest increase in Religious School fees to help us fairly compensate our faculty for the extra teaching time. The Individualized Hebrew School cost will be significantly more than the cost of Tuesday/Wednesday Hebrew School. Please keep in mind that we never turn a family away due to finances, and are always happy to be able to offer scholarships.

Upon my return from maternity leave at the end of May, I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have about all of these changes. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email to set up an appointment to talk.

And though the times, they are a changin, in so many ways, what remains a constant is our commitment to transmitting our sacred tradition to all who want to come and learn.