

2011-12

## Schedule of Classes

- Pre-Kindergarten — 6th grades  
Sundays 9:30 am — 12:00 pm
- Hebrew, 4th — 6th grades  
Wednesdays 4:30 pm — 6:00 pm
- Temple Chai Junior High 7th grade  
Tuesdays 5:15 pm — 7:30 pm
- 8th Grade Program at the JCC  
Tuesdays 7:00 pm — 9:00 pm

## Religious School Dates

- Optional Meet your Teacher- PK-6th – Aug. 28 – 4:30pm
- Mandatory New Families Orientation – Aug. 28 - 5:00pm
- 7<sup>th</sup>(TCJH) - Information Night for Parents and Students – Aug. 30 — 6:00pm

(See Chai Lights for monthly updates and changes)

- School Registration Deadline : Fri. July 15th  
(\$50 late fee will be assessed after that date)

## Grade Level Events

See school calendar for additional grade level social events.

## Who are the People in your Religious School?

- Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin, Director of Education
- Debbie Popiel, Director of Early Childhood Education
- Sherie Siegel , Director of Elementary Education
- Erin Wynn, Director of Junior High/High School Programs & Youth Advisor
- Debbie Wink, Administrative Assistant
- Rabbis Mari Chernow, Bonnie Koppell
- Cantor Peter Halpern

*Dear Parents,*

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Temple Chai Religious School. We hope you will see this brochure as an invitation to become a part of our learning community.

*Our goal as Jewish educators, teachers, and parents in partnership with our school is to create 'literate practicing Jews' whose own goals include life-long Jewish learning who are committed to Jewish life and Jewish people hood.*

There are six core values that guide our work: community, relationships, Torah, tradition, Hebrew and Israel. Through sharing these values we ensure the continuity of the Jewish people l'dor v'dor (generation to generation). We encourage and cultivate a lifelong Jewish culture of philanthropy and respect for others that fosters the ideals that all of us are b'tzelem Elohim (made in God's image). Part of Jewish education is a social experience, which promotes "relationships" and "community" among our students.

We look forward to spending an exciting year with you as your family learns, strengthens friendships and Jewish values while fulfilling the commandment of making a difference (tikkun olam – repair of the world)!

**L'shalom,**

**Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin, Debbie Popiel, Sherie Siegel and Erin Wynn**



## Registration Instructions

Religious School, Pre-K through 8th grade and Confirmation, is open to children of Temple members in good standing. Classes for grades 8-12 are offered at the Community Hebrew High. Call the Bureau of Jewish Education for information about Hebrew High, 480-634-8050.

### To Register Your Child(ren) Please:

1. Fill out the school registration form and interest sheet and return it to the Temple as soon as possible. Total fees must be paid prior to July 15th (unless arrangements are made). A late payment fee of \$50/per child will be assessed after that date (except for new members).
2. Notification of class and room assignments will be mailed home prior to the optional meet your teacher program.

Notices and additional information of classroom placement will not be available until after the mandatory parent meetings.



8th-12th grade Madrichim Program (teaching assistant) registration forms and special training sessions are available in the school office.

Detailed information regarding Jr. and Sr. High School programs and classes will be mailed separately.

### Classroom & Grade Placement

Classroom placement is made based on a variety of factors, including teacher recommendations, class size, class composition, academic level, and individual academic needs. All children will be placed in the same grade attended for their secular studies, unless there are special circumstances. If you feel special placement for academic reasons is necessary, please call the Director of Education by July 15th for consideration. Final placement is decided by the Director of Education.



TEMPLE CHAI



## Religious School Brochure

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2011-12



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E-mail: school@templechai.com

## School Year “Chai” Lights

### Integrated Youth Group Programming

Exciting social and community building programs for our youth include Chai Kids for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders and Jr. TCTY for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. All of our students are automatically registered in their respective groups! We also have a vibrant high school youth group – TCTY (Temple Chai Temple Youth).

### Retreats/Shabbaton

Our Shabbaton for 3rd/4th graders and retreats for 5th-7th graders offer unique programs where students spend time together sharing in fun, meaningful and educational programs, which allow them to grow spiritually and develop a feeling of camaraderie. Eighth graders will have their own unique program where they will be a part of a larger Phoenix community retreat.

### Students with Disabilities

Temple Chai provides support systems for physically, mentally and emotionally challenged students making Jewish education accessible for everyone. Special learners are encouraged to participate in all aspects of religious school and temple life. Placement options will be determined upon review of each individual's needs.

### School-wide Social Justice

There will be many opportunities for students and parents to put our study of “G’milut Chasadim” (acts of loving kindness) into action including specific grade level program



## Curriculum Overview

The Jewish Sages teach us that “the world stands on three things: “*Torah, Avodah* (worship), and *G’milut Chasadim* (loving kindness),” (Avot 1:2). These pursuits- study, worship, and deeds of loving-kindness- provide the framework within which Jews build their relationship with God, with one another, and with the world. These ideas serve as the “core” of the URJ Chai Curriculum, providing students with the foundation for a lifetime of Jewish learning and living. Informal Hebrew is taught in grades Kindergarten-3rd with formal Hebrew begging in 4th grade.

Each child is helped to:

1. Develop a positive feeling about oneself and relate to others within a Jewish framework
2. Develop the eagerness to learn more about our Jewish heritage
3. Develop a feeling of Jewish pride and identity
4. Develop concepts of sharing and concern for others

- **Pre-K & Kindergarten**- focuses on Bible Stories and “God as part of us”.
- **Grade 1** - Concept of One God, Shabbat, Family Tradition, Jewish identity and Bible characters in the Book of Bereshit (Genesis).
- **Grade 2** - Study, worship and acts of loving kindness are the three strands and the personal relevance and power of Torah in the Book of Shemot (Exodus).
- **Grade 3** - Refining an understanding and definition of *kedusha* (holiness) and apply that understanding to how ritual objects, symbols, prayer, and our behaviors can make moments and places special, holy and closer to God are part of the Torah Strand in the Book of Vayikra (Leviticus).
- **Grade 4** - A direct relationship between being a member of a community and our behaviors is found through study of the relationship between the People and the Land (*Eretz Yisrael*) in the Torah Strand in the Book of B’midbar (Numbers). Students are taught the significance and structure of communal prayer, and how acts of *G’milut Chasadim* affect relationships. (Formal study of prayer Hebrew begins.)
- **Grade 5** - The theme of Reform Judaism and the power of community will connect the strands. The message of the prophets; the role of the individual in a community; the meaning and relevance of the prayers in the siddur; and reaching out to those in our community.
- **Grade 6** - Life Cycles and History—Middle Ages through WWI. They will also strengthen their Hebrew skills as they prepare for their own life cycle event--b’nai mitzvah.



## Temple Chai Junior High (TCJH)

- **Grade 7 (TCJH)** - Students spend a third of the year engaged in learning skills to become synagogue leaders as they prepare to become B’nai Mitzvah, including skills for prayer leadership, Torah study, mitzvah projects and other social justice activities. They will also spend a third of the year of the year learning about Jewish history focusing on the period of World War II and the Holocaust. The last third of the year is spent learning about being leaders through social justice. Students will also enjoy classes learning modern Hebrew through classroom style learning, cooking, art, and spirituality.
- **Grade 8** - The 8<sup>th</sup> grade program is a Reform program in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel and Temple Solel hosted by the Bureau of Jewish Education on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:00. This program talks about subjects such as Israel, prophets, the Jewish view on everything from gossip to choosing friends. This program provides 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a number of topics which keeps the program always new and interesting.

## Back to School Orientation

New Families (all grades) Sun., Aug. 28 5:00pm  
Optional Meet your Teacher Sun., Aug. 28 4:30pm  
7th Grade (TCJH) Tues., Aug. 30 6:00 pm  
Confirmation Tues., Aug. 30 7:00 pm

## Mandatory PK-6th gr. Parent Meeting

Tuesday, August 30 at 7:30-8:30pm  
OR  
Wednesday, August 31 at 5:30-6:30pm

## First Days of School

### Religious School 4th-6th Grade

Wednesday, September 7, 2011  
Religious School PK-3rd (and 4th-6th)  
Sunday, September 11, 2011

### Temple Chai Junior High (TCJH) 7th grade

Tuesday, September 13, 2011  
Valley Wide 8th Grade Program at the JCC  
Tuesday, September 13, 2011

## Retreats/Shabbaton \*

3rd Gr. Shabbaton— Jan. 27  
4th Gr. Shabbaton— Jan. 27-28  
5th, 6th, (TCJH) 7th Gr. Retreat—Oct. 21-23  
Family – Feb. 24—26  
L'Taken – Jan. 20-23





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