

## **2019 - 2020 TEMPLE EMANU-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

24 students (20 families) were registered – (6 students registered in our high school program), of these 2 were new families, Faculty: 6 Faculty members, 6 Madrichim and our Administrative Assistant. We had 3 students who became a B'nei Mitzvah during this calendar year, 0 students were confirmed, and 1 student will graduate.

Teachers and students in the religious school are again sharing their classrooms with teachers and students from the Bradford Christian Academy. It has all worked out very well for everyone involved.

Here are some of the activities, which went on in our religious school this year to help enhance and enrich the education of our children:

### **On-going Family Programs:**

- TAPT program for ages two and three
- Torah Together – a Family Program for students in grades PreK through grade 2 and their parents (for 2020 – 2021 TAPT will join in this program).
- Class Shabbat Services with Share-a-Shabbat dinners, led by our students by grade level (for 2020 – 2021 we will have one dedicated class service for all students in grades K – 7)
- Tot Shabbat services were changed to Family Shabbat Services for children of all ages, offered 3 times this year

### **Holiday Celebrations:**

- Selichot Services with participation from some of the religious school children
- High Holy Day Children's Services lead by students and alumni of the religious school
- Students decorated, had snack in the Sukkah, participated in a Sukkot service and had a special sukkot hot dog dinner
- Our Annual Chanukah Party (PTO)
- Lighting the Kenneth Salk Memorial Chanukiah and singing with the students on the portico
- Tu B'Shevat celebrations in various grades
- Purim Carnival with parents, faculty and students manning booths – cancelled due to corona virus
- Passover programs and a special Passover Experience for grades 5-7 cancelled due to corona virus
- Yom HaShoah Virtual Service with students from various grades
- Shavuot – High School Graduation, Religious School Award and Faculty Appreciations – postponed due to corona virus, hope to reschedule in June

### **School Programs:**

- "Snack with Rabbinical Intern Jen Stevens" – grades TAPT through 7
- Grades Pre-K - grade 7 participated in music each week led by Cantor Vera
- Sunday morning services in the Sanctuary and Chapel lead by Cantor Vera
- High School students volunteered as Madrichim to assist teachers and students
- B'nei Mitzvah Students participated in the B'Mitzvotav Program
- Chugim (extracurricular activities) grades 3-7
- Hayom HaSefer, grade 2 students received their own Mishkan T'Fillah
- Grades 6 & 7 and some of our high school students participated in various Adult Education programs
- Annual High School Alumni Reunion
- Team Spirit Day and Bring - a - Friend to School Day cancelled due to corona virus

- B'nei Mitzvah Seminar grade 6 and their parents
- Our High School Students planned and performed a fantastic Purim Spiel

#### **Field Trips:**

- Grade 7 delivered food collected during Sukkot to Emmaus House and learned about its purpose in our community and about the Haverhill Food Pantry
- Our High School students went to the BCA Coffee House
- School went to Magic Brush to make kiddush cups
- Trip to Mayyim Hayyim (Mikvah) for grades 3 - 7

#### **Religious School Committee and PTO:**

- Andi Hannula is our Religious School Committee chair
- We have five dedicated members on the Religious School Committee
- We also have a wonderful and very active PTO lead by Lisa Desberg

#### **Fund Raisers:**

- Donations to the Adeline B. Watnick Religious School Children's Fund

#### **Upcoming for 2020-2021:**

- Breakfast with the clergy for all students in grades TAPT through 7
- New programs planned by the PTO
- Field trip to The Magic Brush to make Tzedakah boxes
- High School trip to New York City
- Change to Sunday only religious school
- Added periodic Shabbat services as part of the regular class program

#### **T'Kun Olam – Repairing the Earth:**

- Students donated money to various charities in Israel, the United States and other countries
- Students in the school sang with Cantor Vera, for a couple of assisted living facilities for Chanukah
- Students from our religious school and BCA helped with the Emmaus House Christmas Party here at the temple
- Students in grades 5-7 made no sew blankets for the children at Emmaus House

#### **Morah Devorah:**

- I continue to coordinate the High Holy Days Children's Services
- This year I became teacher of the TAPT class
- I help lead the Family Shabbat (formerly Tot Shabbat) services along with Cantor Vera
- I prepare with the help of the Religious School Committee the annual Religious School budget
- I write monthly reports for the Board, School Committee and temple Bulletin.
- I attend weekly staff meetings with Nancy and Cantor Vera
- I work with our faculty to create enriching and challenging curriculum for our children
- I participate in school related Webinars, seminars, security programs and updates and other programs which will benefit the school.
- I am a member of the Interfaith committee of Haverhill

#### **Thank You:**

Thank you to those who continue to help make our religious school so successful: Cantor Vera for helping with our class services, teaching music to our students and so much more that she does for the religious school and for all her guidance and help, rabbinic intern, Jen Stevens for all her

contributions, Nancy LaFleur for the many things she does for us; Cheryl Hill for keeping the school running smoothly; Don Kumis for helping wherever and whenever needed; Lisa Desberg for agreeing to chair the Purim Carnival; Loren Goldstein for support and advice, Andi Hannula and the school committee for all their support and guidance; Lisa Desberg for chairing the PTO and all the wonderful things they do to plan events and help raise money for our school, Paula Breger for her work with our faculty and students in HaSifriyah and for making our flyers, emails and forms look great, Karen Newborn for inviting our older students to attend Adult Education Programs and all of the faculty, parents, students, board and members of the temple for their continuing support.

We are always looking for new members to join our religious school committee and PTO, please call if you are interested. Thanks for another great year!

Submitted by Debra L. Levasseur, Religious School Director