

Religious School Committee Annual Report

May 3, 2020

Though the religious school year was cut short for in person teaching and learning, there was no shortage of teaching and learning via the virtual world. Our school is lucky to have such a dedicated staff that continues to guide our students and keep them engaged even through the computer. The teachers from TAPT to Hebrew High (extra thanks to Rachel Hanson for guiding the Hebrew High students and providing us all with such a fun and entertaining Purim spiel) have all kept their students enthusiastic and committed to their Jewish and Hebrew studies during the school year!

The religious school committee is a dedicated team of parents and congregants. We are always trying to find new ways to improve the school and help the teachers in any way that we can. At the end of last year, we worked hard together on the curriculum for the 2019-2020 school year. We would love to see some new faces at our meetings, no children in the school is necessary and no experience required. We welcome any new ideas and are happy to have the support. If interested, please let either me, or any member of the Temple Emanu-El staff know.

Cantor Vera and her incredible talents keep us all involved; whether it is collaborating with other religious communities or within our own community or, lately, through the computer. She always helps put together, not only our regular and special services, but also the beautiful class services that the students participate in. The Cantor will be busy this coming year getting a few of our students prepared for their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. She also encourages involvement in many services from our post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students. It is so wonderful to see and hear all of the torah readers!

Rabbinic Intern Jenn Stevens has been a welcome addition to the temple, as well as to the religious school. She has been involved with many of the temple services including some class services. The kids also enjoyed snacks with Jenn during Sunday school! Thanks to Jenn for all of her support.

Cheryl provides the Religious School with organizational help and keeps the parents informed of all the happenings taking place throughout the year. We appreciate the support.

Don always keeps our classrooms, as well as the entire building, clean (we really appreciate that). Don also sets up for all of our special events. The religious school students always notice Don's hard work. THANKS Don!

Thanks to Lisa Desberg and the rest of the PTO for hosting the fun events we have all grown to love! The Sukkot Hot Dog dinner, as always, was a big hit and we can't forget about the 'Make your own Sundae' event on a Sunday after religious school. The PTO hosted a Read-A-Thon again this year and; the students received a Barnes & Noble gift card for reading Jewish related books. Kudos to all the readers out there...keep it up! Also, the PTO has taken on the Purim Carnival. Though we didn't get to enjoy the carnival this year, we look forward to some Purim fun in 2021. Thanks PTO for working so hard for our religious school kids!

Debbi always does what she can to support all aspects of the religious school. She truly cares about each child and wants to make sure they have the best religious school experience possible. Debbi has been teaching the TAPT kids and they have all enjoyed her lessons and crafts. She greets every child on the way into school and sends them off with a smile. Debbi has a great working relationship with the BCA which helps keep the line of communication open and allows for any collaboration of events between the religious school and the BCA.

We as families and as a community must come together to support the religious school, our children and the teachers. Please remember that coming to services and getting involved with events that go

on during the year helps promote Jewish learning and shows the children how important it is to be connected to other generations of temple members.

Respectfully,
Andi Hannula