



Temple Beth Israel
Religious School

Parents Manual

Temple Beth Israel

TENTH AVENUE AT FLOWER STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

AM 5-1311

Dear Parents:

I am happy to welcome back again the children to our Religious School classes. It is the joy of my ministry to work with your children. Together we can build a generation that will assume its place in Jewish life, and through education develop a way of life which will deepen their understanding of the joy of Judaism.

My teachers, Religious School Committee, and Temple officers have sought a well-rounded program through which we can prepare our children for intelligent and active participation in Jewish life.

Our goal has been to bring harmony between the social ideal of Judaism and the democratic spirit of America. Here is a great opportunity, of which we must take every advantage and strive with all men for the improvement of humanity under the Fatherhood of God.

The teachers and my Committee deeply desire your cooperation in this joint venture. We know that you are sincerely concerned about the welfare of your children, and want them to obtain the very best for their future.

Therefore, we urge you to give us your constructive suggestions on how best to improve our School. This Manual has been prepared so that you can best know our programs and our activities.

With best wishes for a happy and successful year of achievement, I remain,

Cordially,

RABBI ALBERT PLOTKIN

CALENDAR FOR TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 1957-58

- September 22 — Opening Session of Religious School
- September 23 — Opening Session of Religious School
- September 26 — Children's Rosh Hashonah Services, 2 P.M.
- September 30 — Opening of Hebrew School
- October 5 — Children's Yom Kippur Services, 1:30 P.M. No Religious School
- October 6 — No Religious School
- October 9 — Succoth Under The Stars, 6:30 P.M.
- October 10 — Succoth Morning Services, 11:15 A.M.
- October 16 — Consecration Services for Kindergarten, 7:30 P.M.
- November 30 — No Religious School
- December 1 — No Religious School
- December 8 — Chanuko Workshop, 3 P.M.
- December 20 — Candlelight Service, 8:30 P.M. Rabbi Krohn's Anniversary
- December 21 — Chanuko Programs and Parties
- December 22 — Chanuko Programs and Parties
- December 28 — No Religious School
- December 29 — No Religious School
- February 1 — Tu B'shvat Tree Planting Ceremonies
- February 2 — Tu B'shvat Tree Planting Ceremonies
- March 1 — No Religious School
- March 2 — Purim Carnival
- March 5 — Megillah Reading, 7:30 P.M.
- March 23 — Passover Workshop, 11:30 A.M.
- March 29 — Passover Model Seder
- March 30 — Passover Model Seder
- April 5 — No Religious School
Passover Services, 11:15 A.M.
- April 6 — No Religious School
- May 4 — Awards Assembly
- May 10 — No Religious School
- May 11 — Mother's Day Brunch
- May 17 — Close of Religious School
- May 18 — Close of Religious School
- May 24 — Confirmation

These dates are subject to change, if necessary

ASSEMBLIES FOR TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL RELIGIOUS

SCHOOL 1957-58

- September 22 — Welcome Back Worship Assembly
- September 29 — Film: "With All Thy Heart"
- October 6 — No Religious School
- October 13 — Succoth Assembly by Junior Choir
- October 20 — United Nations Day Assembly by 5-A
- October 27 — Film on United Fund
- November 3 — Worship Assembly by Grade 6-A: "What Is Torah?"
- November 10 — Worship Assembly, Tribute to Those Who Gave Their Lives to our Country, by 8-A
- November 17 — Film: "This is Our Faith"
- November 24 — Thanksgiving Worship Assembly by 5-B
- December 1 — No Religious School
- December 8 — Worship Assembly on the Concept of Jewish Charity, by 7-B
- December 15 — Film: "The Fourth Commandment"
- December 22 — Chanuko Program by Junior Choir.
- December 29 — No Religious School
- January 5 — Panel Discussion: Youth and Parents Exchange Notes, by 8-B
- January 12 — Worship Assembly on Zeduka, by 7-A
- January 19 — Film: "Story of Our Village"
- January 26 — Jewish Book Month Assembly by 6-B
- February 2 — Tree Planting Ceremony
- February 9 — Great Americans Assembly, by 9-A
- February 16 — UJA Assembly with Special Film
- February 23 — Purim Program by Junior Choir
- March 2 — Carnival
- March 9 — Worship Assembly: "What is Prayer", by 9-B
- March 16 — Film: "The Seventh Day"
- March 23 — Passover Program by Junior Choir
- March 30 — Model Seder
- April 6 — No Religious School
- April 13 — Film: "The High Wall"
- April 20 — Talent Show
- April 27 — Combined Campaign Assembly, by Confirmation Class
- May 4 — Awards Assembly
- May 11 — Mothers' Day Brunch
- May 18 — Closing Day Picnic

INFORMATION PLEASE

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

- A. Registration. Children are accepted in our Religious School who will be four years old by the following January 15th, and whose parents are members in good standing. Children may be registered through the mail or the Temple office.
- B. The fee for the Religious School is \$6.00 per child for the entire school year, and must be included to complete registration. Non-members pay \$10.00 a month.
- C. There are four Religious School sessions, in order to accommodate the large number of students. They are as follows:
- Saturday mornings: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade:
- Session I — 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.
Session II — 10:40 - 12:40 P.M.
- Sunday mornings: Pre-Kindergarten and grades Five through Nine:
- Session I — 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.
Session II — 10:40 - 12:40 P.M.
- Pre-Kindergarten meets in one session: from 10:45 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

HEBREW SCHOOL

- A. Registration. Children are accepted in Hebrew School from age nine and up, whose parents are in good standing.
- B. The fee for Hebrew School is \$5.00 per child each month and \$10.00 each month for non-members.
- C. Sessions are held twice weekly for each of Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Classes, as designated by the Hebrew teacher.
- D. Policies Governing Bar Mitzvah.
1. Each boy must have attended Religious School for three years prior to Bar Mitzvah.
 2. Each boy must attend two midweek sessions of Hebrew School for at least two years prior to entering Bar Mitzvah class with the Rabbi.
 3. Private classes with the Rabbi must be attended for six months prior to actual date of Bar Mitzvah.
 4. Minimum achievements for Bar Mitzvah shall be the ability to read the Maftir portion from the Torah, Torah blessings and translation, Jewish customs and ceremonials.
 5. Candidate must be able to pass simple test on major holidays and festivals and basic Jewish beliefs.
 6. Those candidates who fall short of the above requirements shall be referred to the Religious School Committee.

III. POLICIES GOVERNING CONFIRMATION

- A. Students must have attended Religious School for at least three years prior to Confirmation. Exceptions must be referred to the Religious School Committee.
- B. Students' eligibility will be determined by the Rabbi.
- C. Every student of the Confirmation Class must attend classes as designated by the Rabbi.
- D. Attendance at Friday night services is required at least once a month.
- E. Confirmation will be held on Shavuot.
- F. All candidates who fall short of the above requirements will be referred to the Religious School Committee.
- G. Students who will not be in town for the winter classes but who want to be confirmed with their class, must contact the Rabbi for special eligibility through absentia work.

WHAT IS THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE?

The Religious School Committee is a group of people who have accepted the grave responsibility of administration of our Religious School, so that your children will have the opportunity of learning under the best possible circumstances. It includes a chairman, appointed by the President of the Congregation, parents of children attending the School, at least one member of the faculty, and others from the Temple membership.

The Committee meets regularly with the Rabbi, and whenever necessary, with the faculty, to set policies, rules and any other factors affecting the conduct of the Religious School. It concerns itself primarily with problems which may arise in the School, and reviews the curriculum for each grade prior to the school year, as well as approves the appointment of members of the faculty.

Please feel free to attend meetings of this Committee, or to call upon any member for consultation or discussion whenever you feel it necessary.

MUSIC IN OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Music in our Religious School expedites the emotional growth of our children. In every subject and on each grade level, music is employed to give the child an opportunity for creative, meaningful Jewish expression.

On an interclass basis, the children will sing together, thus developing a source of kinship and a feeling of belonging to the same community. We shall teach prayers and thus develop a sense of religious feeling through the medium of music. Music shall serve as a background to our total school life.

The Junior Choir, too, is an integral part of our Religious School. This group furnishes the music for children's services and offers those who participate a real opportunity to develop themselves into the very vital part of Temple life.

One member of the faculty will devote her time exclusively to the musical program of our Religious School, and another faculty member will do likewise for the Junior Choir.

MUSIC CURRICULUM

SABBATH: Sholom Aleichem; Come, O Sabbath Day; Kiddush, Welcome The Sabbath Bride.

PRAYER RESPONSES: Bor'chu; Sh'ma; MiChomocho; May the Words; En Kelohenu; Adon Olom.

HIGH HOLY DAYS: Shana Tovah; The Shofar Calls; Kol Nidre; Ovinu Malkenu.

SUCCOTH AND SIMCHAS TORAH: Open the Gates; What's Our Succah For; Ono Adonoy; Come Children, Let's Build a Succah.

CHANUKO: My Candles; My Dreidel; Sov, Sov; Oh, Chanuko; Who Can Retell; Rock of Ages; On This Night.

TU BISHVAT: Olive Trees Are Standing; It's Time for Planting; Tu Bishvat Is Here.

PURIM: I Love The Day of Purim; Hag Purim; A Wicked, Wicked Man; In Shushan Long Ago, Eutzu Etza; Esther in Your Garden Fair.

PASSOVER: Behold it's the Spring-tide of the Year; Blessings For the Wine, Matzo and Moror; Addir Hu; Our Souls We Rise; An Only Kid; Dayenu; Go Down, Moses; God of Might; Chad God Yo.

SHAVUOS: Blessed is the Lord Who Gave us the Torah; Torah Li.

FOLK SONGS: Zum Gali, Gali; Artz Ah Lenu; Kadima; Dundai; Early Will I Seek Thee; Ahshab.

OUR TEMPLE LIBRARY

We are very proud of our Temple Library. Started only a few short years ago, it now consists of over seven hundred volumes, and is considered one of the best Judaica Libraries in the City. Every year several hundred more volumes are added, and under the guidance of a part-time librarian, each book is catalogued and classified. This makes it possible for adults as well as children to borrow books regularly for reading pleasure and research work. You are strongly urged to make use of this fund of knowledge. Our librarian also conducts regular library classes as part of the curriculum, each course geared to each grade level.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is the voice of the student in the administration of the School. It is composed of representatives chosen by each class from the fifth grade up. These students are duly organized and receive leadership training. They help set up School policies, help determine expenditures of Zeduka monies and set up the participation of classes for the annual Purim Carnival.

TEMPLE YOUTH

The Beth Israel Temple Youth group is an organization designed to help keep the high school youngsters closer to their Temple. Through cultural, religious and social channels, the Youth group endeavors to supplement the formal religious learnings for the teen-ager.

Bity, as the group is affectionately referred to, is directed and subsidized by our own Temple. The group is organizationally under the jurisdiction of the Southwest Federation of Temple Youth (Swifty), which includes the States of Arizona, New Mexico and western Texas.

The various regions throughout the country combine to make up the national organization, National Federation of Temple Youth (Nifty). In addition to the national officers, each region elects one representative to sit on the national board.

All high school youth are eligible to join Bity, provided their parents are Temple members in good standing. Dues are extremely nominal, with all proceeds going directly to the furtherance of Temple Teen-age welfare.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

We are listing the Rules and Regulations covering conduct and scholarship in the Religious School as adopted by the Religious School Committee. These were adopted only after a great deal of careful thought and discussion between the Religious School Committee, the faculty and the Student Council.

I. ABSENTEEISM.

- A. After two consecutive absences, the teacher will call the parent for an explanation. After the third consecutive absence a member of the Religious School Committee will be requested to contact the parent, unless the teacher has previously received a satisfactory explanation. After three consecutive absences without good cause, the parent will be required to accompany the child for re-admission into class. Where an alternate absence pattern has been established, the same rules will apply.
- B. Tardiness. Any child tardy for his session will be required to obtain a class entry slip from the office before being admitted to class. Students of the second session who do not arrive in time for the opening of the assembly, will be considered tardy. After the student is tardy three times the teacher will notify the parent.

II. SCHOLARSHIP.

- A. Progress reports will be issued three times during the school year to keep you, the parents, advised as to how your children are progressing in their work. If, in the teacher's opinion, your child has not progressed satisfactorily, the teacher will ask you to meet with him to discuss the problem.
- B. At the end of the school year, only those children who have satisfactorily completed their work will be advanced to the next grade.

III. GENERAL CONDUCT.

Please remember that your children are attending a Religious institution and that many times during the school year, will be attending services in the sanctuary itself. Therefore, it is most important that your children attend school properly dressed. Children should not wear Levis or other extremely casual wear. This rule applies for any function that takes place on the Temple grounds, with the exception of carnivals, picnics, etc. Dressing your child as for a special occasion helps make him feel that his attendance at Religious School is a special experience.

**TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULA
AND TEXTS
PRIMARY DEPARTMENT**

- AIMS: 1. Basic Introduction to Judaism Through Units:
a. Jewish Holidays
b. The Jewish Home
c. The Synagogue
d. Bible Heroes
2. To develop the Shabbos spirit through worship in the Sanctuary; to develop the ability to participate in home observances of religious festivals.

Kindergarten:

Convey the appeal of the holidays through stories, games, handcraft work, dances, stories of great Jewish personalities. Experience of ceremonial and worship through class participation in festive holidays.

Text: The Jewish Kindergarten, by Pessin Behrman's Holiday Books

Grade I:

1. The Jewish Home: to familiarize the child with Jewish objects of the home.
2. Develop child's attitude to objects in ceremonies with sense of delight.
3. Build miniature home in room.
4. Relationship existing between home and parents.
5. Learning the simple Hebrew prayers:
a. Shema
b. Borchu
c. Blessings for Festivals and Sabbath.

Text: "The Jewish Child Every Day", by Kovich
"God's Way", by Hahn

Grade II:

The Sanctuary is the essence of the year's program. The child is acquainted, through many visits to the Sanctuary, with all ceremonial objects. Main program of the year: to build a miniature Sanctuary, furnish it with ceremonial objects. Conduct services on level of child in relationship to his experience. Selections of stories dealing with holidays and Hebrew blessings as part of service.

Text: "Hillel's Happy Holidays", by Gamoran
"In God's Way", by Hahn

Grade III:

More formal study of Biblical heroes. (Earlier classes focus on home and Sanctuary. This class begins new Unit on selected Bible Tales.)
Text: Lenore Cohen's "Bible Stories"
Hebrew vocabularies

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT (Grades IV Through VI)

- AIMS: 1. Introduction to historical Jewish backgrounds.
2. The study of Jews in many lands.
3. More serious study of the Bible in somewhat chronological order.

Grade IV:

Study of Jewish personalities beyond the Biblical period. Covering the Roman period and the great Rabbis of the Talmud. Some Biblical stories, but center attention on post-Biblical material.

Text: "The Great March I", by Lurie.

Supplementary Text: Lenore Cohen's "Bible Tales II"

Grade V:

Study Jewish history in the period from the beginning to the Destruction of the Second Temple. The course is designed to give background and information of outstanding events in the development of the Jewish people. The most important concept is "How the Jewish People Originated".

Text: "When the Jewish People Were Young", by Soloff.

Second phase of curriculum: introduce youngsters to Jews of different lands and how their customs relate to ours.

Text: The reading of "The Holy Bible". This is the child's first experience with the Holy Bible as reading material.

Grade VI:

Jewish post-Biblical history from Second Temple to the Expulsion from Spain, 1492. Begin a study of the Bible not as history but as religious inspiration; reading selections from the Bible text itself.

Text: "How the Jewish People Grew Up", by Soloff.

"Pathways Through the Bible" (Begin a four-year study of the Bible through the use of this text.)

JUNIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT (Grades VII through IX)

- AIMS: 1. Understanding basic Judaism.
2. Familiarity with some great Jewish books.
3. An appreciation of Jewish ethical concepts.
4. An understanding of our Reform movement.
5. An introduction to comparative religions.

Grade VII:

The study of Reform Judaism as it developed in our time, and the study of our form of worship in relevance to modern Jewish needs.

Text: "The Story of Reform Judaism", by Sylvan Schwartzman. A study of the major prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, plus reading from the Ethics of the Fathers, Union Prayer Book I.

Grade VIII:

Study of development of American Jewish History. Highlight important events in our American Jewish life in relationship to American history. The contributions of Judaism to democracy and its spiritual foundations in the Bible.

Bible: Begin study of writings, minor prophets and writings, stressing Amos, Hosea and Micah. Reading selections from Psalms and Proverbs.

Study of Union Prayer Book and knowledge of Jewish liturgy.

Text: History of Jews in U. S.
Union Prayer Book.

Grade IX:

Ethics and How Shall We Live with our Neighbor.

Text: "The Still Small Voice", by Rabbi William Silverman.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Grade X:

The foundations of basic Judaism, dealing with basic Jewish beliefs. The Books of the Bible and the great Jewish books. Problems dealing with modern Jewish life. Comparative Religion.

Text: "Pathways Through the Bible".

The Five Scrolls (Megillahs)
The Book of Job.

(A creative experience for the confirmands in working for Confirmation. A Period of personal conference with each child.)

HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT: Grades XI and XII
Problems faced by Jewish youth will be considered in the light of Jewish ethical teachings through free discussion, by following the interests expressed by the students. Dealing with teen-age problems in the light of Jewish experiences through the development of a Jewish philosophy of life.