



Parent Handbook  
*2011-2012*  
*5771-5772*

ושנתם לבה'ק וזבחת הם

Impress our tradition upon your children and share  
it with them with love



GLORIA & PETER S. GOLD AND  
EDGAR F. MAGNIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS  
WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
A Message from Rabbi Karen Fox	3
A Message from the Head of Religious School, Sarah Hanuka	3
A Message from the RS Advisory Board Co-Chairs, Nancy Lovett & Nancy Madwin	4
10 Ways to Support Your Child's Jewish Education	4
2011-2012 Religious School Administration	5
Schedule	5
School Policies	6
Our Expectations of Students	6-7
Health Policy	7
One Call Now/School Closing Emergencies	7
Books/Materials	8
Tzedakah	8
Progress Reports	8
Pizza Snack Program & Sunday Snack Time	8
Youth Choir Program	9
Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Wilshire Boulevard Temple	9
One-page Master Calendar	10



## **A Message from Rabbi Karen Fox:**

Dear Families,

Our tradition reminds us that “it is all there” by saying “Haphoch Ba, Haphocha Ba, HaKol Bfneem.” The essence of social conscience, the embracing kindness of family and friends, the presence of God—all are found within our Torah tradition. It is all there!

The beauty of our Torah tradition encourages us to study and yet, each year we interpret, envision and understand with new and different eyes. Our growing eyes and ears experience stories and history, dance and song in so many different ways. As we learn and learn, our learning enters our hearts and souls.

And we are delighted to learn, build and share with Sarah Hanuka, our Head of Religious School, at Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Sarah guides a team of excellent and experienced educators to challenge and nurture each and every one of our students, from the entering kindergartener to the graduating 12<sup>th</sup> grader. Sarah, Vinny Green, Eran Bar-Adon, Terry Wunder, Jenna Sices and Rabbi David Eshel and Rabbi Lindy Davidson bring a lifetime of Jewish educational experience and genuine love for Jews and Judaism.

Together, our educators, faculty and parents commit to a creative and dynamic Jewish future. Our Reform Jewish tradition gives us important contemporary and insightful views into our ancient tradition, and we add to that chain of Torah tradition through our creativity and vision. Our RS programs at both Temple and the Audrey and Sydney Irmas Campus do just that. Our Clergy regularly participate with and teach our students, as do Hebrew specialists, Arts instructors and classroom teachers.

Bring Sarah Hanuka and her Educational Team any questions that concern the sacred partnership between home and Temple and fill her in on your family life and special interests. We are reminded in the *V'ahavta* prayer that it is all about love—the love between parents and children, the love between faculty and students, the love for our received heritage and the love for a dynamic Jewish future.

I encourage you to enter the pages of Jewish learning as well, both as parents and as independent adults.

And, as always, may you be blessed with a year of health and strength, kindness and peace.

From all of the clergy, *L'shana Tova Tikateivu*--- May we be inscribed for blessing in this New Year, 5772.

*Rabbi Karen L. Fox*

## **A Message from the Director, Sarah Hanuka:**

The 2011-2012 school year is going to be great! Our team of administrators and educators is working on many exciting projects for our school. We are adding different components to our Hebrew and Judaic curricula and plan to share many new ideas with our students and their families.

I strongly believe in the importance of our children's Jewish education. In our school, we help our students in their journey by encouraging them to develop their own love and understanding of the Hebrew language, as well as the importance of Jewish history, community, beliefs, and practices.

I look forward to sharing programs, celebrating holidays, and attending our special events together this year. Thank you for your continued, strong support. I hope to see all of you in the coming year. My door is always open.

*Sarah Hanuka, Head of Religious School*

## **A Message from the Religious School Advisory Board Co-Chairs, Nancy Lovett and Nancy Madwin:**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Religious School year. The Religious School Advisory Board is made up of parents from our two Religious School campuses who are passionate about their children's Jewish education and who work tirelessly in conjunction with staff and clergy to help the school fulfill its goals and purpose. Our Board helps plan and execute programs such as Chanukah Fun Day, PURIMland, Big Sunday, grade level dinners, special Shabbat services and Teacher Appreciation.

We work directly with the Head of Religious School and her team of administrators. Most importantly, we are your advocates for the Religious School community.

Our Advisory Board encourages Religious School families to find ways to participate in the community. Throughout the coming year, there will be activities and special events that facilitate family involvement. By participating in these activities, your children will feel an emotional sense of belonging to their Jewish community, and we hope that you will support them in their Jewish journey. Some of the many practical ways that you can get involved include participating in grade level Shabbat dinners, attending family educational programs, lending a hand during our holiday specific activities, or, if you are a Temple Campus family, helping to organize the Sunday morning Bagel Café.

We look forward to seeing you on the first day of Religious School and at the events throughout the year.

B'Shalom,

*Nancy Lovett and Nancy Madwin  
Religious School Advisory Board Co-Chairs*

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### **10 Ways to support your child's Jewish Education:**

*(Judaism Begins at Home, by Rabbi Morris Adler)*

1. Encourage school attendance.
2. Ask your child what he/she learned in RS every day.
3. Participate in family education programs in your child's classroom.
4. Visit your child's classroom.
5. Support and get to know your child's educator.
6. Pray with your entire family.
7. Encourage your Hebrew School child to practice Hebrew every week.
8. Encourage your child to live Jewishly at home.
9. Support the WBT Religious School Advisory Board.
10. Make it known that a child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah is the beginning of his/her advanced Jewish education, not the end.

**2011-2012 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**  
**Center for Learning and Engagement ADMINISTRATION**

Sarah Hanuka, Head of Religious School  
 Vinny Green, Kindergarten – Grade 6 Administrator  
 Terry Wunder, Teen Programs, Grades 7-12 Administrator  
 Eran Bar-Adon, Hebrew Program and Family Education Administrator  
 Jenna Sices, Operations Administrator  
 Shanna Brandow, Religious School Registrar  
 Lisa Joy Wolkow, Administrative Coordinator  
 Rabbi David Eshel, Rabbi for the Religious School  
 Rabbi Lindy Reznick Davidson, Rabbi for the Religious School  
 Rabbi Steven Z. Leder, Rabbi  
 Rabbi Karen L. Fox, Rabbi

**SCHEDULE**

<b>Sunday, 10:00am – 12:30pm</b>	Grade K	Religious School, Temple & Irmas
<b>Sunday, 9:00am – 12:30pm</b>	Grades 1-7	Religious School, Temple & Irmas
<b>Sunday, 10:00am – 12:30pm</b>	Grades 8-12	Beit Midrash, Temple
<b>Tuesday, 4:00pm – 6:30pm</b>	Grades 1-7	Religious School, Irmas
<b>Wednesday, 4:00pm – 6:30pm</b>	Grades 1-7	Religious School, Irmas
<b>Wednesday, 6:00pm – 8:30pm</b>	Grades 8-12	Wednesday Night Program, Irmas

## **SCHOOL POLICIES**

To achieve the goals we have for your children, we ask for your help in guiding them through the policies that we have created to ensure an environment of learning for all.

### **OUR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS**

While it is true that our school is a supplementary one, it is nonetheless a school. As such, there are certain expectations of students that are required. We encourage parents to do everything they can to help their child(ren) meet these expectations.

1. We look forward to seeing the students every session. Class attendance is a vital element to learning and creating a sense of community. Students who attend sporadically will have difficulties keeping up with the curriculum and the social component. Temple policy expects 80% attendance from all participants. Please help us by:
  - Letting the RS know in advance if you anticipate an absence.
  - If the absence is unanticipated (such as an illness), let us know as soon as possible.
  
2. Tardy students, or those who leave early, disrupt the flow of learning for themselves and for others. Please assist us by having your children join us for the entire day.
  - a. If you are late, between 9am and 9:30am or 4pm and 4:30pm, please go directly to class or chapel, depending on the day (check your schedule). After 9:30am or 4:30pm, please park your car and escort your child to the RS office. 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who are late must check into the RS office before going to class. They will be given a green tardy slip for the teacher. This procedure will help us make sure that each student is counted present even when they are very late.
  
  - b. When a student needs to leave early, we ask that you come to the office to sign him/her out. The office Ozer (helper) will take your completed purple slip (early dismissal slip) and retrieve your child from his/her classroom and bring him/her to the office. This procedure will help us ensure that we know where your child is at all times.

The RS is responsible for the safety and security of all of our children during school hours, and we take this responsibility very seriously.

3. Please have students on campus a few minutes before class starts to enable them to get to their classroom on time. Late students disrupt the entire classroom. We have limited time with your children, and every minute counts! Please turn your cell phones off before entering the parking lot to keep your children safe. If students are going home in a different carpool than usual, please send a written note to the teacher indicating with which family to send them home.

**Irmias carpool pick-up:** At the end of the day, students are brought to the sidewalk opposite the nursery school playground at the turnabout. Please pull your vehicle forward as far as possible before allowing your child(ren) to enter the car. Alternatively, if you wish to park your car and walk up to retrieve your child(ren), you may do so as well.

**Temple carpool pick-up:** At the end of the day, students are brought to the Davidson Patio, where they will wait to be picked up. Enter the parking lot off of Harvard Street. Please make sure to follow the direction of the security guards. Alternatively, if you wish to park your car and walk up to retrieve your child(ren), you may do so as well.

4. Our Temple is a place of worship and community. We treat the buildings both inside and out in a thoughtful and respectful manner. The sanctuary is a special place. Please speak and behave in a spiritual manner when we are in it. When in the sanctuary, please refrain from using your cell phones.
5. Please remind your child(ren) to bring her/his tote bag and books to class, and include a notebook and pen or pencil.

### **HEALTH POLICY**

Please notify the RS office immediately if you or your child have been directly exposed to the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu). Temple safety and security policy require that anyone who has been directly exposed wait a three day incubation period prior to returning to campus.

If your child is showing flu like symptoms, Temple safety and security policy insist that your child be kept home. Please contact your physician immediately to get tested for Influenza. If your child tests positively for Influenza, but negatively for H1N1 (Swine Flu), Temple safety and security policy require you to keep your child home for 24 hours after all symptoms disappear and only return with a doctor's note.

If your child tests positively for H1N1 (Swine Flu), Temple safety and security policy require that the campus shut down until authorized for reopening. Please contact the RS office immediately if you experience any of the above situations.

### **ONE CALL NOW/SCHOOL CLOSING EMERGENCIES**

In case of an unforeseen emergency, the Temple is prepared to send out a mass message via telephone and email. Your contact information has been submitted to this service and in the event of an emergency (fire, earthquake, etc.), you will receive a message providing you with all necessary information and instructions.

## **BOOKS/MATERIALS**

Books may be used in the classroom and at home. If your child is issued a RS tote bag to facilitate carrying their Religious School books/supplies, please ensure that the tote bags, along with the books and other supplies and materials are returned to the RS each week.

## **TZEDAKAH**

Tzedakah means “just/righteous action.” One of the many mitzvot we are commanded to fulfill is tzedakah. **Tzedakah is collected every week in class.** The RS has been privileged to donate money to many different organizations both locally, nationally and internationally. Students participate in deciding which organizations will receive donations.

It is important that children take responsibility for their own tzedakah. We encourage the money they bring to the RS to be money they have earned, not money handed to them by their parents. The giving should be thoughtful and meaningful, not automatic. Work with your child, whatever age, to find a way for them to earn their tzedakah money.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports will be issued once a year and give teachers the opportunity to let you know whether your child is progressing well or if your child is having difficulties in class. However, this is not the only means of communicating information during the school year. Any time you have questions about your child’s progress you are encouraged to contact the teacher or Head of the Religious School and a conference will be arranged.

## **PIZZA SNACK PROGRAM and SUNDAY SNACK TIME**

The Religious School offers a Pizza Snack Program for those who attend Religious School on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. On the first day of Religious School (Tues., Sept. 6 and Wed., Sept. 7), the RS will provide pizza free of charge for all participants in the Courtyard from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm to allow some time to connect with old friends and make new acquaintances. Please join us!

The RS will continue to offer the Pizza Snack Program on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a fee. Parents can pre-order **plain cheese pizza** and water or Capri Suns for their children to enjoy each week from 3:30-4:00pm. Families who choose not to order pizza will be expected to provide snacks for their children. Sign-up sheets can be found in the RS office and in the courtyard near the pizza. Sign-up sheets are also available via email and on our website.

For Sunday participants, the RS provides challah for each classroom to share. We also suggest that you send your child with a snack (no peanuts or peanut butter) to enjoy during snack time.

Temple Campus: On Sunday mornings, the Bagel Café is staffed by parent volunteers selling bagels, juice, fruit and muffins. Please send your child with a few extra dollars to purchase these items.



## **YOUTH CHOIR PROGRAM**

The Youth Choir is for all students enrolled in the Religious School or Brawerman Elementary School (2nd grade - High school). The Youth Choir is a beloved monthly feature at our Shabbat evening services (Irmas campus from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.) and on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Choir members from second grade and up rehearse weekly at the Irmas Campus. For a schedule of rehearsals or more information, please contact Nancy Daum at (213) 388-2401 x550.

## **BAR/BAT MITZVAH AT WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE**

The curriculum for grades 5, 6 and 7 leads to deeper Jewish and Hebrew studies, meaning and connection. The basis of this curriculum allows for:

- an enhanced Jewish identity and commitment to further Jewish education at Wilshire Boulevard Temple;
- a better understanding of the responsibility that accompanies Jewish maturity;
- a higher level of Hebrew proficiency;
- an increased sense of belonging to the Jewish community in general and Wilshire Boulevard Temple in particular;
- a significant level of achievement in the preparation and understanding of specific Torah studies;
- feeling great about yourself!

Bar/Bat Mitzvah students learn to read from the Torah and Haftarah (a reading from Prophets), as well as to translate both portions. In addition, the student writes a short *D'var Torah*, or explanation of the Torah portion, and how it relates to his/her life.



**Wilshire Boulevard Temple**  
Religious School 2011-2012



9/1/2011						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 11						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 11						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 11						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
<del>1</del>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<del>15</del>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<del>19</del>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<del>18</del>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<del>8</del>	9	<del>10</del>	<del>11</del>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 12						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

~~X~~ = No School

○ = School Day