

# Special Programs

## Kindergarten Consecration

The consecration ceremony marks the beginning of a child's formal Jewish study. It is a chance for our community to recognize and honor our youngest learners. Our kindergarten students are called up to the Bima where they recite the Sh'ma and are blessed by the clergy. They are presented with a certificate and a miniature Torah to commemorate the ceremony.

## PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Sefer Safari

Parents join their students for this morning of learning, writing, and noshing. Families work together to create a book that is meaningful and personal. This annual program promotes the reading of Jewish books and the telling of Jewish stories for our young students. "Sefer" is the Hebrew word for book, and this event will surely be a "Reading Safari (Adventure)."

## B'yachad

"B'yachad" means "Together."

At different times throughout the year, parents are invited to join their student as the school gathers as a community to learn and create together.

## Religious School Committee

The **Temple Chai Religious School Committee** is made up of dedicated parents who meet monthly with Ariela Ben-Dor and Amanda Campbell to examine issues, create and complete projects, and help make an already amazing school even better.

## Hebrew Hangout for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

We invite all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend Hebrew Hangout on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-6:00 at no additional cost. During this 90-minute, activity-based enrichment program, students will strengthen their Hebrew skills and confidence in a relaxed, interactive atmosphere while spending time with Jewish peers and noshing.

## 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Shabbaton

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Shabbaton is mini-retreat that gives students a unique opportunity to bond with each other, experience Shabbat with friends, connect with amazing high school and adult role models, and gain a new level of comfort with their synagogue.

## Chuggim @ Chai – Elective Classes

Chuggim (electives) provide our 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders with an opportunity to learn about Judaism in a way that speaks to them as unique learners. Our students get to strengthen bonds with old friends, create connections with new friends, and explore Jewish culture through outlets that are conducive to their individual learning style. Some examples of chug options are...

Guitar and Song-Leading  
Cooking Bamitbach  
Omanut (Art)  
Maccabiah Sports

#### **4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat**

Students will spend 2 days celebrating Shabbat in a beautiful setting at Camp Stein in Prescott, AZ. The retreat helps our students strengthen their community. It provides a positive Jewish environment in which we can live our values of Torah, tradition, Hebrew, and Israel. For these reasons and more, the retreats are an integral part of the school year. The programming is fun, social, interactive, and educational. Together with teachers and clergy, our students spend the weekend singing, dancing, playing games, challenging themselves, praying, thinking, reflecting, doing arts and crafts, and more.

#### **Family Retreat**

Join other Temple Chai families for a weekend of relaxation and fun in Heber, AZ. We spend three days playing and praying together in a peaceful setting with our clergy and families with kids of all ages.

#### **Tikkun Olam Day**

This special day gives our families the opportunity to volunteer at various organizations around our community. We will participate in a morning of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world and helping to make it a better place.

#### **Kol Chai Youth Choir for 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Our older students can join Cantor Wolman for an hour after school on Sundays to create music and friendships together.

#### **Ellen Woodnick Mitzvah Mall**

The Ellen Woodnick Mitzvah Mall is run by our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and families. This project is intended to promote *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) and to provide a meaningful gift-giving alternative. The Mitzvah Mall is a fair of non-profit organizations, similar to a vendor fair. Our students and families "shop" at local and national charities to "purchase" gift certificates that are donations to the charities.

#### **PB and Fluff**

Every year on Christmas Eve, the Temple Chai community comes together to assemble thousands of peanut butter and fluff sandwiches which are then donated to St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen.

#### **TCTY**

Temple Chai Temple Youth is the Reform choice for youth groups and is connected with the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY). TCTY provides high school students with a chance to gather in a social atmosphere while celebrating Jewish events and performing acts of Tikkun Olam.

#### **Madrichim**

Madrichim are teacher assistants. Our teens can come and work with the younger students in our religious school on the Sundays that they do not have Chai School class. Teens help with teaching, supervising, role-modeling, and helping our young students engage in Jewish education.