



July 15, 2009
23 Tammuz 5769

Dear BIJ Youth and Families,

I would like to introduce myself and welcome you to the 2009-2010 / 5770 school year at Congregation Beth Israel Judea. We have a wonderful year of Youth and Family Programs in the works for you and look forward to all the opportunities to learn about and experience Judaism.

The Talmud (Shabbat 31a) teaches us that Hillel, the ever-patient teacher, was once asked by a prospective convert to teach the entire Torah, while standing on one foot. When faced with the same question, Hillel's contemporary, Shammai, dismissed the individual. Hillel, on the other hand, saw in this person some degree of appreciation for the Torah and gave heed. Hillel responded "What you don't like done to you don't do unto others. This is the entire Torah; the rest is commentary. Go and learn." Eventually, he came to appreciate Judaism for its true worth.

The basics of Judaism are just so, treat others fairly and nicely. Even our youngest students understand this concept. However, Hillel postulates that our Jewish learning is a lifelong endeavor. Study a little every day, each week, for your whole life. It's never too early to start – nor too late.

You know the essence of Judaism, but now we must "go and learn." You may stand on one foot with Hillel, but I hope you'll join me as we continue to learn and explore our Jewish heritage together. Then, may we skip, jump rope, walk and run as we do Judaism. *Mitzvot, tikkun olam, tefillah*: helping others, repairing the world, participating in services – the opportunities are endless and I look forward to seeing you!

Our Youth and Family Program is designed to be engaging, experiential, educational and of course FUN! I hope you'll join us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rabbi Glazer when she returns from vacation on August 1.

This is your registration packet...

In order to register your child for our Youth and Family Programs (formerly RELIGIOUS SCHOOL), the following items are due to the BIJ office by **August 7, 2009**. The sooner you can return these forms to us, the better we can plan for the Fall. We realize that this packet may arrive while you are away on vacation and we hope that you are enjoying the summer sun! Everyone who submits their registration and emergency form as well as their tuition by August 7 will be entered into our raffle drawing. Prizes will be awarded at *tefillah* the first day of regular classes.

Enclosed in this packet you will find the following:

- ✧ Registration and Emergency Form (Please complete one per child)
 - We are in the process of merging the old religious school database with the BIJ congregational database. Please check the information on the pre-filled forms and make corrections and additions as necessary. We thank you for your help in streamlining our information.
 - Be sure to **fill out the back** and SIGN the bottom
 - A **photograph** of your child should be attached
- ✧ Tuition Form (one per family)
- ✧ High Holiday Children's Programs Form (please note deadlines)
- ✧ A brief bio about me, just in case you are interested ☺

There has been no change in the tuition costs for the coming year. In the current economic climate, we are doing all that we can to ensure that **no** child will be turned away from any of our programs for financial reasons. You may request a scholarship application by checking the appropriate box on the Tuition Form.

We have worked hard to keep fees to a minimum while maintaining an excellent staff and program. Please keep in mind that the actual per-child cost of running the Youth and Family Programs (religious school) is greater than the tuition rates we charge. We encourage anyone who is able to include an additional contribution of **\$180** per child above the standard fee to please do so.

Please take a moment to read through this packet of materials. Following enrollment, our **Parent Handbook** and finalized **calendar** will arrive in your mailboxes. If you have any questions about programs or the registration process, I am happy to provide you with additional information at any time. You can reach me at 415.586.8833 x24, via email rgoodman@bij.org or stop by on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays this summer.

L'shalom,

Rebecca Goodman, RJE
Director of Education

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