

Shabbat Children's Services

Part of our vision at The Fierverker Religious School is to help students participate comfortably in Shabbat services. Beginning in the third grade, religious school students are required to attend a minimum of 10 Shabbat morning services each year. This year we have restructured Shabbat Children's services to meet the diverse needs and learning abilities of our students and their families.

Tot Shabbat is the service for our young children, from birth to first grade and their parents. The service meets 12 times a year from 10:30am to noon and provides our youngsters with a great introduction to Shabbat morning services. During Tot Shabbat, participants are engaged in singing prayers and songs in both Hebrew and English, and connecting their meanings, and the meaning of Shabbat to their own lives.

Tot Shabbat will be led by Liz Weinberg. Liz is a long time Beth El congregant and has been our wonderful Tot Shabbat leader for many years! We thank Liz for offering this great service to our younger children and their parents.

Junior Congregation is our service for children in second, third, and fourth grades. This service, which meets 12 times a year from 10am to noon, affords each of our students the opportunity to learn the structure of the Shabbat morning service and begin to gain confidence in leading the prayers in a fun, non-threatening environment. During Junior Congregation, students also are exposed to the Torah service, the weekly Torah portion and there is always a game or two to test their Jewish knowledge. Parents are always invited and encouraged to participate in the service.

This year our Junior Congregation service will be led by Francesca Axe. Francesca has been teaching in religious schools for over fifteen years and was the Shabbat and holiday Junior Congregation leader at Beth El several years ago. We are excited to welcome Francesca back and hope that you and your children will share in her energy and passion for Judaism!

**All services will be held on
the dates listed to the right.
Mark Your Calendars Today
& Spend Shabbat Mornings
at Beth El!**

Family Service is our new service for children in fifth and sixth grades, as well as their parents. This service also meets 12 times a year from 10am to noon, and will model Beth El's Shabbat morning service in the main sanctuary. The purpose of this service is multi-faceted. We want both children and parents to feel comfortable with the flow and structure of Beth El's main service. It is important to give pre-b'nei mitzvah age students opportunities to gain comfort and confidence in leading the Shabbat morning prayers independently. It is also a goal to get parents involved in taking leadership roles in the service, especially in the Torah service. Lastly, it is our experience from the pre-b'nei mitzvah learning sessions we have held in the past, that both parents and children enjoy the camaraderie created in this setting and benefit from the hands on learning experience.

The Family Service will be led by Phyllis Schachter and Karen Lewin. Phyllis is a long time Beth El congregant and has been teaching b'nei mitzvah students at Beth El and other synagogues for many years. We are excited to begin this new initiative and hope that both students and parents will participate.

Shabbat Children's Services Schedule

October 17, 2009
November 7, 2009
November 21, 2009
December 5, 2009
January 9, 2010
January 23, 2010
February 6, 2010
February 20, 2010
March 6, 2010
March 27, 2010
April 10, 2010
April 24, 2010
May 8, 2010 (Youth Shabbat)