

From the Rabbi's Desk

June 2018

You may have heard the news by now that after many years of serving the Temple Emanu-El religious school, our co-administrators, Barbara Kallan and Marc Goldsmith are turning over the reigns to our next co-administrators, Armi Rowe and Jennifer Zettler. In addition, several teachers who have taught generations of our students are stepping aside to make room for a new guard of dedicated teachers. Terri Goldsmith, Barbara Senges, Roberta Reisner-Winograd and Sam Winograd, are all loved by their students, respected by their colleagues and we will miss them every Wednesday and Sunday. All of them have pledged to be available for us should we need a little help or advice here and there. I have been blessed to work with all of them and to have learned from them. They have demonstrated a deep and abiding love for the Jewish people through their teaching and leading our school.

Running a vibrant religious school program takes a concerted effort on the part of many people. According to Temple Emanu-El's By-Laws, guiding the direction of our religious school is the responsibility of the Religious School Committee. The religious school committee had been dormant for several years. In February 2017, Armi Rowe began chairing our Religious School Committee and rebuilding it. Armi has done a terrific job recruiting parents and members to join the committee. It is because of the efforts of the committee during this past year that we can look to the future with confidence. During this past year, the committee worked with Barbara and Marc to support ongoing activities in the school. Additionally, the committee surveyed religious school parents and began an in-depth process of defining the mission of the school. This is a critical process in any organization. The mission of the school informs everything that happens in it from curriculum to special programs. Every child and every teacher benefits from a clearly defined and communicated mission. The mission transcends words and becomes a way of being. In addition to rejuvenating the RS Committee, a subcommittee was also formed to address curriculum needs. In the coming year, the leadership of the religious school committee will be taken up by Caryn Novick as Armi moves to co-administrator with Jennifer.

I look forward to working with Caryn, Armi and Jennifer to ensure that the Temple Emanu-El Religious School not only fulfills the basic purpose of providing a Jewish education for our young people, but also that the Religious School further evolves as a center of vitality for our congregation. I know that you will support them as I do.

Lastly, save the date on your calendar for October 5. This will be our first Friday Shabbat after the High Holy Days. On that night we will honor the many years of service of Barbara Kallan, Marc Goldsmith and our dedicated teachers: Terri Goldsmith, Barbara Senges, Sam Winograd and Roberta Reisner-Winograd. Their years of dedication are worthy of our deep gratitude, and I know you will want to join in this important celebration.

Rabbi Marc