



**W**elcome to **Temple Emanu-El's Religious School**.

We are so happy to have you join us this **2025-2026/5786** school year!

Our first day is **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM** where students will have the chance to meet their teachers, classmates, and enjoy a special treat at the end of the day! Parents can join us on **Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM** for a Parent Meet & Greet Breakfast.

**Meet Your Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) Teachers!**



**Zahava Streit**

[zahava120@gmail.com](mailto:zahava120@gmail.com)

Zahava grew up in Israel and studied in Tel Aviv. She received her degree in early childhood education and has been working for the past 40 years with children of all ages.

Over the years, she has taken a variety of courses and workshops. She teaches Hebrew to children as well as adults.

Zahava has worked at different schools and synagogues, and currently works at the Preschool of the JCC in Tenaflly, as well as another Jewish school, in addition to private lessons.



**Sammy Shiff**

[sammyjshiff@gmail.com](mailto:sammyjshiff@gmail.com)

Sammy graduated from Drexel University in 2024 with a degree in Elementary Education and, in 2025, earned a master's degree in Advanced Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum with a concentration in Creativity and Innovation in the Classroom. In addition to work in the classroom, Sammy teaches at a school in the Bronx and hosts the *United Jewish Podcast*.

Sammy firmly believes in fostering a learning environment that is both engaging and academically enriching and is delighted to be joining Temple Emanu-El this year.



**LEAH GOLDSTEIN**

[leahgoldstein6@gmail.com](mailto:leahgoldstein6@gmail.com)

Leah Goldstein is excited to be working at Temple Emanu-El for her fourth year and her first working in Kitah Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Grade). During the year Leah works as a preschool teacher at Lubavitch on the Palisades and in the summer teaches art at Camp Shalom for kids age 3-10. She has taught in various Hebrew schools in Bergen County throughout the years. She is the proud mother of six children.

**Questions, Comments, Concerns? We're here to help!**

## **Administration**

**Adam Schwartzbard**

Director of Youth Engagement

[schwartzbard@tecloster.org](mailto:schwartzbard@tecloster.org)



**Shelby Effron**

Administrative Coordinator, Lifelong Learning

[effron@tecloster.org](mailto:effron@tecloster.org)



**Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg**

Rabbi for Lifelong Learning

[ruberg@tecloster.org](mailto:ruberg@tecloster.org)



# **Temple Emanu-El Religious School Curriculum**

## **Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)**

### **Learning Hebrew:**

We will begin by reviewing the words and concepts we learned in Gan the previous year. Additionally, we will use words that are commonly used in Hebrew language and synagogue life including such words as Ani, Yeled/Yalda/Yeladim, Rosh Hashanah, Chai, Chayeem, Shofar, Rav, Chazzan, Beit Knesset, and Ma Nishma. We will also learn the Hebrew words for some colors and body parts. We will introduce the letters Aleph, Lamed, Mem, Chaf, Hei, Reish, Dalet, and Vav.

### **Teaching Israel:**

Building off learning about Israel last year, we will continue to introduce our students to the land and State of Israel and how special it is to the Jewish people. Additionally, we will introduce the students to “Hatikvah,” the Israeli National Anthem, and learn about Israel’s capital city, Jerusalem.

### **Tefillah – Prayer:**

Singing and praying as a community is an important value that will be emphasized to our Aleph learners. The students will sing prayers like “Modeh/Modah Ani”, “Mah Tov”, and “Shema”, and learn the basic meaning of these prayers.

### **Music with Moreh Matt:**

For a half hour each week, Moreh Matt will visit our class and lead us in Jewish holiday and Shabbat songs. Throughout the year and during the holidays, he will teach primarily Hebrew songs.

### **Special Programs:**

Throughout the year, our class will have special on-site programs to complement our lessons including programs focused on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. Activities include planting parsley for Tu B’Svat, and Lag Ba’Omer Field Day. Throughout the year, we will incorporate singalongs in our classes as a way to learn through music and many art-based projects that allow our students to take the Jewish learning in school home with them.

### **Clergy Involvement:**

During the year, our clergy – Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg, Rabbi Gabe Cohen, and Cantor Israel Singer – will visit the class. Our Rabbis will participate in “Ask the Rabbi” sessions, and Parasha/Torah portions.

### **Teaching Torah/“Chumash”:**

In our study of the Torah, we will focus on stories from the books of Genesis and Exodus, including the story of Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, Moses, the Ten Commandments, and more. We will also learn portions of the Bible, such as Jonah and the Whale, David and Goliath, and story of the Megillah for Purim.

### **Teaching Mitzvot/Values:**

Teaching mitzvot/values is an important component of our study at Religious School. We will address concepts such as, Tzedakah, Chesed/kindness, blessings for food, lighting Hanukah candles, Shabbat, the special nature of Torah, prayer, Israel as the Jewish homeland, honoring one's parents; V'Ahavta L'Reiecha Kamocha – respecting all people, and Tikun Olam – repairing the world.

### **Teaching Holidays and Shabbat:**

As we celebrate Jewish holidays throughout the year, our guiding focus word will be “identification.” Through special programs and fun class activities, we will teach the basic concepts of each holiday so that the students will be able to confidently identify a holiday and the reason for celebrating. As students grow older, we will begin to shift our focus to explanations and applications as guiding concepts. For now, we want students to understand the basics of each holiday.

### **Teachers**

Zahava Streit  
[zahava120@gmail.com](mailto:zahava120@gmail.com)

Sammy Shiff  
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Leah Goldstein  
[leahgoldstein6@gmail.com](mailto:leahgoldstein6@gmail.com)

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