

Congregation Beth Hatikvah High Holidays

Youth Program Overview 2010

Our programming for young people will draw on all we've learned the last few years about what works for both kids and parents. There will be a special focus on creative expression through art for most of our kids, with a faculty of professional artists specially recruited for these High Holidays.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah and the day of Yom Kippur, we will offer babysitting for children 5 and younger and programs for children in grades K through 7. (Parents of kindergartners can choose whether to place their children in babysitting or the youth program. Please choose on the basis of your child's ability to separate and his or her comfort in a classroom setting.) Babysitting and activities for children in grades K-2 will start at 9:30 each morning and run through the end of the morning service, approximately 1-1:15 p.m. Activities for children in grades 3-7 will begin at 10:15 and run through the end of the morning service. The later start time reflects our community's desire to have our young people spend some time with their parents in services during the holidays. Likewise, we encourage young people in grades 8 and higher to fully participate in services, including the breakout sessions. There is NO youth program for children in grade 8 or higher, and recruitment of teens for babysitting and teacher's aide positions has been completed.

As in recent years, there will be services for families with young children at 2:30 p.m. on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur. Families may want to make their own arrangements for child care in the mornings so that parents can worship with the community and young children can participate in the 2:30 p.m. family services with Rabbi Amy.

Our youth activities will center on the fundamental themes of the holidays: creation and *t'shuva* (turning, or making things right). The programming for grades K-5 will include music, art and other forms of creative expression, under the leadership of professional teachers and artists whom we are hiring to provide a thought provoking, well managed and fun environment for our kids. A snack will be provided, and there will be an age-appropriate Youth Service included in the activities each morning. Students in grades 6-7 will devote their time to a major art project; those kids, too, will participate in a Youth Service.

The activities WILL NOT WORK if kids are pulled in and out of the various sessions. To that end, parents are asked to make every effort to arrive before the start of a period and to not interrupt the program. Except in the most urgent circumstances, parents will be asked to wait until the end of a period to retrieve their kids.

We encourage your family to discuss the program and our expectations. Children are always welcome to worship with their parents in the regular service. Parents are welcome to join their children for the Youth Service, which will be held in the Youth Lounge starting at about 12:15 p.m. It is scheduled to end at roughly the same time as the regular service each morning.