

**Enrollment Update:**

Enrollment in the Education & Youth Department remains strong and continues to increase. We exceeded our budgeted projections in October and outreach efforts continue. This year, we have welcomed 12 new families and 22 new children. This month, we welcomed one new student into the Confirmation Class as well as one new member into DRTY. Ardyth is currently recruiting four new families including two sixth grader students, one fifth grade student, and one second grade student.

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| <b>Religious School: current enrollment of 94</b> |
| Preschool: 6                                      |
| Kindergarten: 13                                  |
| First Grade: 11                                   |
| Second Grade: 7                                   |
| Third Grade: 10                                   |
| Fourth Grade: 13                                  |
| Fifth Grade: 12                                   |
| Sixth Grade: 7                                    |
| Seventh Grade: 15                                 |
| <b>Hebrew School (total enrollment 39)</b>        |
| Kitah Alef (Third Grade): 11                      |
| Kitah Bet (Fourth Grade): 11                      |
| Kitah Gimmel (Fifth Grade): 10                    |
| Kitah Bet (Sixth Grade): 7                        |
| <b>Teen Programs</b>                              |
| Keshet: 11  |
| Confirmation: 10                                  |
| DRTY Youth Group: 27                              |
| Madrichim: 18                                     |

### **Updated Teen Calendar:**

For your convenience, an updated Teen Calendar is attached to this report. The DRTY Board has planned events through the end of the year and our teens are very excited for the Jump Sky Chai gathering, a food scarcity and hunger educational program, an evening of DRTY dancing, an interfaith kickball game, and a nature hike. Youth group events are planned by our DRTY Board members. The DRTY Board is also working on integrating more social action initiatives into their activities.

As part of the updated Keshet curriculum, each month our teens are invited to participate in a Teen Tikkun Olam experience. These opportunities include preparing and serving a meal at the Interfaith Winter Rotating Shelter, creating blankets for Project Linus, joining Rabbi Greg at University Retirement Center to help lead Kabbalat Shabbat services, working at the CBH Purim Carnival, and learning about Camp Nefesh, a summer camp program at Congregation B'nai Israel initiated by their teens to serve local immigrant children.

### **Religious School Havdalah Program:**

A school-wide havdalah program was held during Religious School on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. With the shorter days and earlier sunset, we have a wonderful opportunity to introduce and reinforce the ritual of havdalah. The younger children each made a simple havdalah set to take home and were gifted with a new havdalah candle. The older children learned about the prophet Elijah, his stories, and role in the Jewish tradition as well as the symbolism of the havdalah objects. All children learned or practiced the havdalah blessings and participated in a havdalah service. Each year, the students participate in several different school-wide programs, generally related to holiday observances.

### **Education & Youth Committee Goals, Mission Statement:**

The EYC is in the process of brainstorming, reviewing, and updating our goals and creating a mission statement. During our recent meetings we have brainstormed areas of interest and created a long list of priorities. Some of our goals include continued outreach to new and prospective families, more fully implementing a bnai mitzvah mentoring program to support parents, strengthening community within grade levels as well as families in general, continuing to provide strong communication to parents, and strengthening opportunities and connections for families with young children. Teacher support, training, and retention as well as curriculum development remain as high priorities for Ardyth. The EYC will work in partnership with Ardyth to implement an annual parent satisfaction survey in early spring.

### **Back to School Gathering:**

A very successful Back to School Gathering was held on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ardyth provided an overview of the Religious & Hebrew School curriculum as well as our Teen Programs. A very special thank you to members of the EYC and Board Members (past and present) including Laurie Stillman, Gretchen Schroeder, Kristen Gong, Larry Rabin, Suzanne Nitzkin, Carmia Feldman, Lora Barrett, Barry Klein, Amy Abramson, Raychel Kubby Adler, Bonnie Berman and Rabbi Greg who led small group discussions and brainstorming sessions about the bnai mitzvah process, opportunities for families with young children, Hebrew School, CBH governance, and welcoming new families.

### **F3 Shabbat Program:**

Our first F3 (Family First Friday) Shabbat was held on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and honored our second grade class. Approximately 100 people attended the catered dinner by Jenni Brewster with even more people attending the Kabbalat Shabbat service. Please save the date for our next F3 Shabbat on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> honoring our fifth grade class. Catering will be provided by Chipolte. All Board Members are encouraged to attend F3 Shabbat and to support these programs by serving as greeters and an additional security presence. A flier is attached to this report for your convenience.