

EDUCATION

Temple Beth Shalom's educational programs are diverse and exciting. Beginning with our preschool program, *Mishpacha*, we offer a superior learning experience for the young as well as adults. Our goal is to encourage, promote and develop life-long learning and educational excellence for the entire family. We seek to inspire a sense of Jewish identity and encourage a commitment to community through a study of Jewish heritage, tradition, custom and language.

At four years old, children can be enrolled in our accredited Religious School program. All classes are structured and based on a spiraling curriculum building on the student's skills and development. Our classes are taught by experienced, nurturing educators who have a love and commitment to our tradition and synagogue. Throughout the child's Religious School experience, family learning sessions are held so that both parent and child can learn and experience Jewish culture and Torah study together. Religious School classes meet Wednesday afternoon and Sunday morning.

Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students are encouraged to continue their education with classes tailored to areas of interest for the young adult and our active USY (United Synagogue Youth) program.

Temple Beth Shalom's Adult Education programs and other community education are offered to those interested in increasing their Jewish learning and enhancing their Jewish journey. Adults can acquire the skills necessary to read Hebrew with ease, understand common Hebrew words and gain a better understanding of the structure and the nature of services and lifecycle ceremonies.

We don't just teach children here at Temple Beth Shalom, we teach the entire family!

ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, Temple Beth Shalom offers a variety of religious, educational and social activities for all ages. Here is a sampling of the wide array of events we offer...we invite you to join in the fun!



Educational:

- Hebrew School
- Baby / Toddler and Me
- Family Education
- Adult Education
- Day Care and Nursery School (Creative Kids)
- Family Shabbaton Weekend
- Mitzvah Days/Community outreach
- Lunch & Learns
- Bar/Bat-Mitzvah classes and tutoring



Religious:

- Shabbat and Holiday Services
- Family Services
- Tot Shabbat
- Jr. Congregation
- Shabbat Dinners
- Purim Carnival
- Passover Seder
- Chanukah Party
- Sukkah decorating
- Shabbat Across America
- Interfaith community services



Social:

- Movie nights
- Comedy nights
- Family Picnic
- New Member Dinner
- Israeli Scouts Concert
- Trips to Israel
- Participation in Israeli Day Parade
- Sisterhood and Men's Club
- USY & Kadima
- Hazak - 55+ programming

Temple Beth Shalom



Temple Beth Shalom
**Discover.
Connect.
Belong.**

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A Member of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

RABBI'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the staff and lay leadership of Temple Beth Shalom, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our dynamic synagogue community. This brochure has been designed to give you a glimpse into the spiritual, educational and social programs that we offer. We are a Conservative Jewish congregation that takes pride in our

reputation as a warm and caring multi-generational synagogue family. We encourage personal, spiritual and intellectual growth as well as active communal involvement. Our goal is to teach, challenge, and support our members as they embark on their Jewish journey. We strive to create a welcoming environment to people of all ages and stages of life; inter-faith families are warmly embraced here at Temple Beth Shalom.

My greatest source of pride here at the synagogue is the notion of community. When walking into our doors you will instantly be greeted by congregants who want to help you find your place. Whether it is being an active member of our exciting Sisterhood or Men's clubs, taking one of the classes we offer in our adult education program or just attending our warm and friendly Shabbat services, we will help you discover what makes our synagogue so exciting. We also hold the commandment of "and you shall teach them to your children" seriously, and strive to make a Bar/Bat Mitzvah the beginning to a teen's Jewish exploration, not an end. This is evident by the busy halls of our exceptional Hebrew School program or through our active USY and other teen offerings.

Please come and see all that we have to offer for you and your family and I promise that you too will want to make Temple Beth Shalom your home. I look forward to meeting you.

HISTORY

For five decades, Beth Shalom has served the needs of the Jewish communities of Putnam and northern Westchester with great distinction. It is the only Conservative synagogue in Putnam County and has been an important part of the mid-Hudson Valley community since its inception.

In 1953, a group of visionary men and women gathered to organize a house of worship in Mahopac. For many years, services had been conducted in restaurants, in a clubhouse, and finally in a church. These dedicated people realized it was imperative for the Jewish community to have its own synagogue where they could worship and celebrate together. These founders pooled their resources and formed committees to seek out a location for a permanent home. They solicited funds from associates, from friends, and from among themselves. It took several years, but on July Fourth weekend in 1953, those organizers saw their dream fulfilled when dedication ceremonies were held at Temple Beth Shalom (incorporated as The Jewish Center of the Mahopacs). A rabbi was hired and religious services and religious school classes began. We owe these truly exceptional people our ongoing gratitude and appreciation for their diligence and foresight.

The congregation of Temple Beth Shalom continues to take great pride in its ability to meet the spiritual needs of the Jewish community, as well in developing an extensive program of activities in the fields of Jewish culture, Jewish history and education for both children and adults. In addition, we have reached out to the wider community and have been instrumental in building strong ties with our neighbors based on mutual respect and understanding. Temple Beth Shalom will continue to stand as a welcoming beacon to those of our faith and our many friends in the community at large.

Visit our website: www.tbsmahopac.org

CHILD CARE

Temple Beth Shalom is proud to be affiliated with **Creative Kids Enrichment** in Yorktown (just south of Mahopac on Route 6). Creative Kids is an innovative child care/learning center for children from 6 weeks through 12 years old.

Selecting a child care program is one of the hardest and most important decisions parents make. You want to be sure your child is in a safe, fun environment focused on playing, learning and growing both socially and cognitively. It is the goal of Creative Kids to provide an atmosphere that fosters individual growth. Developing self-confidence and a positive self image are emphasized. Activities provide opportunities to foster social skills and emotional maturity. The certified teachers have flexibility to adjust daily activities to meet the needs of each child. And, the low teacher/child ratio ensures every child receives the loving care and attention they need to thrive.

Jewish Enrichment is woven into the fabric of the Center's daily curriculum. The children experience Jewish traditions through songs, stories, craft projects and holiday celebrations. Taking part in weekly Shabbat rituals is a favorite activity!

Creative Kids has a variety of programs:

- Infant Program (6 weeks—18 months)
- Toddler Program (19-35 months)
- Preschool/PreK Program (3-5 years)
- Kindergarten (full or half day)
- Before and After School Programs (to age 12)
- Summer Camp (with daily field trips)

The Center has convenient hours for working parents (6:30 am—7:00 pm), flexible scheduling, delicious kosher food, a large outdoor play area, parent-teacher conferences, special events, state of the art security system and much more!

For more information, contact Creative Kids Enrichment at (914) 243-2273.