



Rabbi Alexander Lazarus-Klein
Cantor Sharon Eve Colbert, M.J.S.M.
Religious School Director Hope Bongiorno
Executive Director Joanne Marquisee
President Todd Sugarman

June 2015

Dear 8th – 12th Grade Students & Parents,

This year the monthly Sunday program that runs from 9:00 – 11:00am, offered to our older, post B'nai Mitzvah students, will be taught by me. Our focus will be on Mussar, a Jewish spiritual tradition that has evolved over the past thousand years and was popularized by Rabbi Israel Salantar in the 19th Century.

While sometimes translated as Jewish ethics, Mussar is really about looking deeply into ourselves to actively improve and understand ourselves as human beings. This year we will be focusing on the following eight character traits:

- Humility
- Joy
- Patience
- Generosity
- Order
- Strength
- Courage
- Gratitude

Through a combination of text study, journaling, discussion, and project based learning, we will examine the way each trait impacts our lives and the lives of those around us. We will be using Alan Morinis' *Every Day, Holy Day* as a guide and conversation starter.

A tentative schedule of dates is as follows:

September 27th, October 18th, November 22nd, December 20th,
January 17th, February 28th, March 13th and April 24th

The cost per student is \$125.

I am looking forward to working with this particular age group. A special thanks to Gail Lewis for all of her work in building up the class, and we hope to have her back with us in the future.

Please complete the enclosed registration form and health form and return to the Congregation Shir Shalom Religious School office along with your check for \$125 per student by August 7th. Please call the Religious School office at 633-8877 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein