Dear Parent:
A popular quotation from the Talmud teaches that “our world only exists for the sake of children running around the school house.” It is in this spirit that our community invites your child to engage with our Jewish tradition through our informal educational programming. At Temple Beth Shalom, we take great pride in the sense of vibrancy and excitement that our youth community brings to our synagogue. We invite you to read through this brochure and use it as a resource for helping to plan the next step in your child’s Jewish journey.

B’Shalom,
Rabbi Geoffrey Spector

For more information about USY, Kadima, El Al, or TExT, please contact:
usy@tbsnj.org
kadima@tbsnj.org
elal@tbsnj.org
text@tbsnj.org

Rabbi Geoffrey Spector
Leah Beker, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS:

**EL AL:**
4TH-5TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

El Al offers semi-monthly social and group bonding experiences that introduce our children to the idea of youth group participation.

**KADIMA:**
6TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

Kadima is the international Conservative Jewish youth organization for preteens. Membership in Kadima entitles our children to participate in monthly chapter events, as well as events sponsored throughout northern New Jersey by the Hagalil region.

**TEMPLE EXPERIENCE FOR TEENS (TEXT):**
8TH-9TH GRADE

TEXT is a unique, bimonthly program that offers a variety of presentations relevant to contemporary teens. The programming includes: physical and mental self-defense, life after death, anger, drugs, sex, bullying, and the power of words, meditation, and more. At the end of the year, teens enjoy a fully paid trip, such as a Broadway show or Great Adventure. TEXT welcomes synagogue members and non-members.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:**
10TH GRADE

Our Confirmation program, under the direction of our senior rabbi, meets weekly to explore a number of topics related to Jewish life. The group takes an annual trip together and then the culmination of their studies is the Confirmation service, which takes place on the first day of Shavuot.

**USY:**
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, 9TH-12TH GRADE

USY, United Synagogue Youth, is the international organization for Conservative Jewish high school students. The Livingston USY chapter is run by a group of peer-elected leaders who plan a variety of social, fundraising, and religious activities. USYers also may attend regional events, including dances and conventions, and have the opportunity to travel to the annual International Convention. USY also offers exciting summer travel programs, which include teen tours in Europe, Israel, and North America.

**TEEN LEADERSHIP:**
11TH-12TH GRADE

Participants in our Teen Leadership program commit to attending 14 sessions over a two-year period in which they learn about the greater Jewish community and participate in Jewish service learning. Past experiences have included packing food for homebound seniors, visits to the local Jewish senior center, and participating in J-SERVE with our local Jewish Federation. Participants who complete the two-year program receive a certificate in Jewish Communal Leadership from the synagogue.