

## Na'aseh V'nishma Program Information 2011-12



**Program:** The Na'aseh V'nishma program is a two year program for junior high school students that combines classroom learning with active participation in Mitzvah work in the community. We will be using the text, *It's a Mitzvah...Step by Step Guide to Jewish Living*. We will use *Jewish Heroes*, *Jewish Values*, as a reference text, as well. This course takes up several key themes for early adolescence and teaches values which are essential in the development of Jewish adults. This year's monthly themes will be related to some mitzvah sites and will include the following: Pursuing Peace & Social Justice (*Rodef Shalom & Tzedek*), Feeding the Hungry (*Ma'akhil Re'evim*), Intra-faith (Who am I? What is Reform Judaism?), Jewish Unity & Israel (*K'lal Yisrael*), Holocaust Study (*Yizkor*), Ecology & Caring for our Environment (*Ba'al Tashchit*), Compassion for Animals (*T'zar Ba'alei Chayim*) & Saving a Life (*Pikuach Nefesh*).

Our overall goal is to expand the students Jewish knowledge through experiential learning and commitment to *mitzvot*.

**Class Meeting Time:** Class will be in session from **noon until 2:30** p.m. on regularly scheduled meeting days. Because we wish to start promptly at noon, we ask that students arrive by 11:55 a.m. Due to some wonderful opportunities, some sessions may meet at different times. Please note the sessions which meeting times may differ.

**Tzedakah:** Each session students are welcome to bring money for *Tzedakah*. The money will be dispersed to various mitzvah sites, based on student recommendations & a special congregational feeding project we will be doing this year.

**Special Programs:** Sunday, **February 5**, we will have a special *Mishpacha* program for parents and students together. Seventh grade will have a Mitzvah Experience. On Sunday, **January 8**, eighth grade will have a Sexual Ethics/AIDS AWARENESS day. We welcome parental chaperones on our field trips, as well. We have incorporated JYP into our program, to encourage students to further the social opportunities.

**Class Attendance:** Student attendance is essential, in order to form a community and get all of the connections to this full-bodied program. Emails are sent regularly, so that parents & students keep well-informed as to what we are doing & if absent, what has been missed. Obviously, field trips, speakers and special activities cannot be made-up, therefore we hope families will make every effort to make attendance a priority. We ask that families also make an effort not to plan Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations for times that conflict with scheduled programs.

**Na'aseh V'nishma Program Director:** Heidi Tarshish

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Mitzvah Site Information and Voice Mail #377-6700 ext.561

**Clergy:** Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Rabbi Sim Glaser, Rabbi Jennifer Gertman & Cantor Barry Abelson

7th Grade Teachers	8th Grade Teachers
Suzanne Prass	Sheri Fine
Phil Raskin	Dale Engquist/Jessica Nelson
Fran Rosen	

**Communications:** *Temple Times* Newsletter & Mitzvah Site Sign up Sheets will be emailed monthly.

**Mitzvah Requirements:** **7<sup>th</sup> grade:** Students will complete 10 hours of mitzvah work this year, beginning in October. **8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Students will complete 15 hours of mitzvah work this year, beginning in September. Over the two year period, students will complete a minimum of 25 total community service hours.