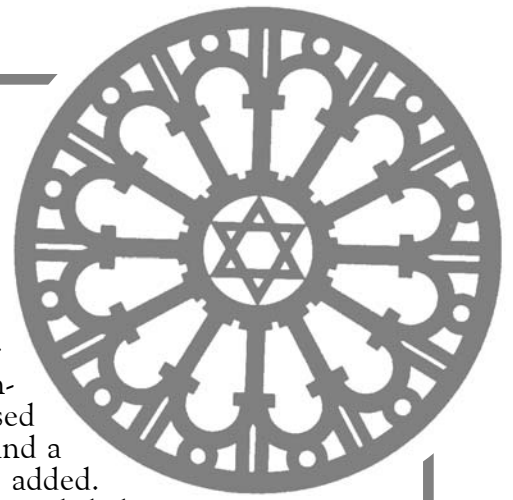


FROM THE ARCHIVES: TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S NURSERY SCHOOL



When looking through the Temple Archives, the first reference to a “Temple Emanu-El Nursery School” appears in the Trustees Meeting Minutes of June 6, 1950. Based on the results of a Temple survey, eight families expressed interest in having a nursery school for children aged 4 and 5. In May 1951, interest was growing among parents with children aged 3 and 4. And, by June 2, 1951, a full-scale organization of a school was begun.

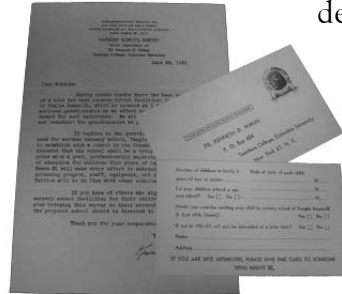
Members of the Columbia University Teachers College were engaged to conduct a formal survey to ensure demand and need. According to the introductory letter sent with the survey, the nursery school was intended to be “a truly neighborhood enterprise with a good, professionally supervised, general program of education for children five years of age or younger.” (The rate paid to the Teachers College for conducting the survey and compiling results was \$100 per day for 11 days.) Significant interest was verified, and on Sept. 6, 1951, the Temple board “unanimously voted to ratify the actions of the Religious School Committee in establishing the Temple Emanu-El Nursery School.”

The Nursery School opened officially on November 6, 1951, with 15 children (five from three member families, 10 from eight nonmember families) and a staff of teachers from Columbia. The budget for the 1951-1952 school year was \$9,200 in expenses and \$4,000 in tuition income.

By September 1952, however, enrollment increased to 35 students, and a third class was added. Tuition also increased slightly—from \$275 for member families to \$300 (plus \$10 for expenses) and \$325 for nonmembers to \$350 plus \$15 for expenses. Records show that within a few months, enrollment increased again to 42 students, including four students on scholarship.

Also during that second year, a change in operation was issued to release the “directress” from teaching duties and to authorize the hiring of additional teachers. And, a decision was made to increase tuition to a \$400 flat fee for all families, regardless of Temple membership.

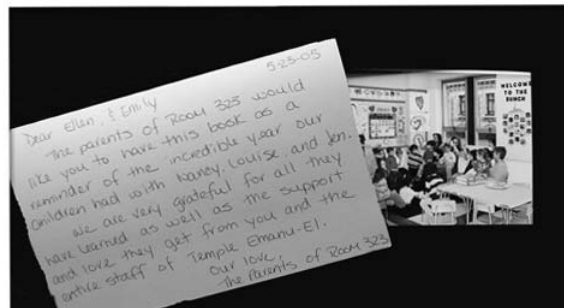
More than 50 years later, Temple Emanu-El’s Nursery School still thrives—and has no deficit (*unlike its first year!*). Current enrollment has reached 130 students from 120 families. In addition to participating in the regular academic year, families also may enroll in the Nursery School Summer Camp.



Nursery School survey from June 1951 and introductory letter



A classroom photo from the 1970s... including former teacher, now director Ellen Davis (back row, right)



A photo album highlighting students’ classroom activities and thank-you letter from present-day Nursery School parents