

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

For 160 years, Temple Emanu-El's Religious School has been serving the youth of our congregation. While offering a sound religious-based education, the Religious School also has provided students with various creative and social outlets over the years.

On Dec. 30, 1910, students published the first edition of the quarterly *Emanu-El School Chronicle*. In his opening editorial, Philip M. Wasserman (Class I, Age 14) writes, "The readers of the first few copies must not feel discouraged with its briefness or lack of material." He goes on to ask students to submit "articles of merit, giving details of

whatever occurs in the classroom or elsewhere."

In 1942, students created *The Ark*, a yearbook that was published well into the 1990s. Early editions featured essays, poems and even book reviews written by students. Photos documented various group activities such as the drama club's performances of "The Little People," a play about the French Underground movement, and "The Burning of Books," held in conjunction with Jewish Book Week.



Chanukah festivals and Purim celebrations were annual traditions. Assemblies—"both solemnly dignified and instructively entertaining"—were held every Sunday from 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. Other activities included student forums, a student choir (organized in 1944), a Girl Scouts troop and a Boy Scouts troop.

Wednesday classes were added in 1972 and Monday classes in the late 1990s. End-of-the-year activities featured both Closing Exercises and a Confirmation service.



Above: Photos of the Religious School Alumni Reunion held June 4, 1995 (Shavuot 5755) and the Confirmation class of 1911



Left: Variations of *The Ark*



Right: An essay about the Girl Scouts troop written by Jocelyn Feingold (Chait)

