

Dear Consecration Families,

Mazal tov on your child(ren)'s upcoming Consecration. This beautiful ritual celebrates the beginning of a lifelong journey in Jewish learning. We perform this ritual for our first (and new second) graders on Simchat Torah when we start the cycle of Torah.

The best way to prepare is to attend the programs below and listen to the music now. Music can be downloaded at <https://www.tti.org/consecration/> or stop by our Learning Center Office for a CD.

Sunday, September 23rd Picture & Parent Program

- 9:30 -10:00 am Pictures will be taken in the Sanctuary. Please be on time.
- 10:00-11:00 am Children will rehearse. Parents will learn how to enhance this ritual moment and make a personalized heirloom.
- 11:00 Sunday learners will continue with their day & Shabbaton will be picked up.

Sunday, September 30th Final Rehearsal (for first graders only)

- **Sunday:** Start the day in your room. Pick up will be in the Sanctuary. Your child(ren) will have a full day of learning including the rehearsal.
- **Shabbaton:** Drop off and pick up in the Sanctuary. Rehearsal is 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Monday, October 1st Consecration 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

**The Temple University Circle (Also called the Maltz Performing Arts Center)
1855 Ansel Road, Cleveland, OH, 44106**

- Rabbi Schlein will be there at 9:00 am if your child will feel more comfortable having more time to acclimate to the space.
- We ask all consecrants to arrive at 9:30 am to have time to settle in and relax.

What Should My Child Wear for Pictures & Consecration?

- If you like to wear a dress, please wear a white dress.
- You may also wear a white shirt and dark pants or skirt (dark blue or black).

If you have any questions, please contact me,

Ann Hudec
Temple Learning Center Administrator
216-455-1708, ahudec@tti.org

Multi-Generational Consecration Families

As part of our Consecration Celebration, we acknowledge multi-generational Temple families. If your child is a second, third, fourth or fifth generation Temple Family, please let us know by **Sunday, September 16th**. We will include this information in our Consecration program.

Consecrant's Name:

Parent(s) who were Consecrated, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Confirmed at The Temple:

Grandparent(s) who were Consecrated, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Confirmed at The Temple

Great-Grandparent(s) who were Consecrated, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Confirmed at The Temple.

Please email or mail this information to:

Ann Hudec

ahudec@ttti.org

c/o The Temple-Tifereth Israel, 26000 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Questions? Call Ann at 216-455-1708

What is Consecration?

<http://www.reformjudaism.org/consecration>

Source: Every Person's Guide to Judaism

You shall love the Eternal your God with all your mind, with all your strength, with all your being. Set these words, which I command you this day, upon your heart. Teach them faithfully to your children; speak of them in your home and on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up. (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

These words, which form the beginning of the *Ve'ahavta* prayer, teach us that love of God and learning are closely related. The education of a Jewish child is a joint venture, shared by both family and the Jewish community. Children begin to build their Jewish identity by what they experience at home. Certainly, for the very young, the most effective teacher of Torah is the parent. One's basic values and attitudes towards life are acquired in the home. While parents are our first teachers, there will be many other teachers in our lives, and Judaism accords them special honor. Learning and scholarship are supremely valued in the Jewish tradition.

Most children receive their formal Jewish education in a synagogue religious school, attending after school and/or weekend classes. In these classes, children study Hebrew, Bible, and Jewish history. They celebrate Jewish holidays and reinforce Jewish values. Students experience Jewish culture via art, music, dance, drama and literature.

Every religion has ceremonies to mark rites of passage. Ceremonies mark important learning milestones; Consecration marks the beginning of formal Jewish study, bar/bat mitzvah the entry into adolescence, and Confirmation the approach to adulthood.

Consecration generally takes place at the beginning of kindergarten, or whenever a child begins his or her Jewish education.* The ceremony is often held as part of the *Simchat Torah* celebration, though some synagogues may hold it at other times of the year. This is a lovely and meaningful ceremony for children and families alike. A large *talit* (prayer shawl) may be held over the students while they sing a song or recite the *Sh'ma* (the declaration of Jewish faith). The children are blessed by the clergy and are often given a certificate and a miniature Torah. How wonderful to begin a child's Jewish education with a celebration.