



Dear Yachad Religious School Parents,

As this school year concludes, we look back with great satisfaction at what we have accomplished. Our two congregations (Congregation Beth Shalom and Temple Emanu-El) have successfully joined together as one to have a stronger school program than before.

Arlene Keller, our interim school director, did a wonderful job as she gave up the start of her retirement to join our school for this past year. We want to thank Arlene for all that she did for us this year.

As you may know, our search committee engaged in an international search and after considering many candidates, our two congregations selected Abi Taylor-Abt as our new Educator. Abi grew up in London but is coming this summer with her family from Israel. We are all so excited to welcome Abi to our community.

So with this great news, we are now sending you the registration materials for this upcoming year. We want to encourage you to sign up again to our Yachad school program as early as you can to facilitate our planning for this upcoming year.

We, Rabbi Gamer and Rabbi Kalfus, can answer any questions that you might have and we will gladly receive any comments about our school that will help our new educator succeed. Abi will be reaching out “virtually” to all of you in the next few weeks.

We hope that you and all your family have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you and your children over the summer and in our school again this coming fall.

Shalom,

Rabbi Arturo Kalfus
Temple Emanu-El
248-967-4020
Templefamily@emanuel-mich.org

Rabbi Robert Gamer
Congregation Beth Shalom
248-547-7970
Yachadrelschool@congbethshalom.org

Abi Taylor-Abt

Abi Taylor-Abt has been a Jewish educator her whole career. She was born in London in the UK and finished school in Israel. After going to college in South Africa, Abi began in her field of Jewish education in Israel working as the teen director at Moshav Nevellan. In England Abi started as a Judaic Studies and Modern Hebrew Teacher, moving on to become the Principal of the Religious School of Stanmore and Canons Park Synagogue in London. With managerial responsibilities for programming and curriculum, she continued to work within the Jewish School System in the UK while serving on the Board of Management of her local Temple. In 2008, Abi moved to Boise, Idaho to take up the role of Kehillah Programs Director before returning after a few years to Israel to spend time with her older children while they served in the IDF. Her passion for Jewish education is shown in her belief that Jewish learning is for everybody. Using music and creativity, Abi thrives on running educational programs that bring Judaism into everyone's daily lives.