



Breman

EDUCATION CENTER

at  **THE TEMPLE**

Sparking Positive Jewish Identities.

2022-2023 Confirmation Handbook

ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF REFORM JEWISH EDUCATORS

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HISTORY & GOALS

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CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

WELCOME TO CONFIRMATION

It is our pleasure to welcome you to your confirmation year. Our congregation has been celebrating this life cycle ceremony for over one hundred years. It is a sacred and central part of our Temple's history and future. We thank you for the many years of dedication and learning that have enabled you to reach this Jewish milestone.

Many congregants have told us that one of the most meaningful areas of The Temple building is the confirmation class gallery (in the hallway between the Covenant Chapel and the Sanctuary). For so many, those pictures are a physical symbol of their ongoing dedication to our faith and our community. We look forward to seeing your picture added to the gallery next spring. May this year be for you one of inspiration and exploration. May you always find the space to reveal and discover the beauty of our religion and our heritage. And may you always feel comfortable sharing of yourself and your experiences with your classmates and your clergy.

We are looking forward to a meaningful and memorable year together.

Scott Edlein, Confirmation Teacher

Colette Bernstein Walker, Confirmation Teacher

Rabbi Peter S. Berg

Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus

Rabbi Lydia B. Medwin

Rabbi Steven H. Rau, RJE, Director of Lifelong Learning

Cantor Tracey Scher

Cantor Deborah L. Hartman

Elizabeth C. Foster, Jewish Identity & Experiences Educator

Rebecca L. Good, Hebrew & Jewish Life Educator

Marjorie Vaughn, Education Coordinator

HISTORY OF THE CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

Confirmation is a relatively new Jewish life cycle ceremony, dating back to the early 1800s. The first confirmation ceremonies were substituted for bar mitzvah ceremonies and were organized like graduation exercises. In 1822, a class of thirteen-year-old boys and girls were confirmed at the Reform synagogue in Berlin. Eventually, bar (and later bat) mitzvah ceremonies came back into popular Reform practice and confirmation was postponed until a later stage in a student's religious education, between ninth and twelfth-grades. Since then, confirmation has been firmly linked to advanced Jewish learning.

(Taken from The Book of Jewish Life by Jo David and Daniel B. Syme)

GOAL OF THE CONFIRMATION YEAR

It is our resolute belief that the confirmation year be an extraordinary experience in the lives of our young adults. Our goal is the creation of a sacred sense of community, and a nurturing and accepting environment. In classes led by The Temple clergy and our confirmation teachers, students explore their personal beliefs and begin to determine where they fit with the rest of the world. In addition, students discuss the issues of being a modern Jew and making adult Jewish decisions.

COURSEWORK & INFORMATION

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attending class is the most important requirement for confirmation. Not only does it give students an opportunity to learn, it also builds community and friendships among the students. If a student needs to miss a class or leave early, please notify your confirmation teacher, or Rabbi Lapidus (preferably in advance). If a student misses more than 50% of the total classes, 50% of an individual unit, or the mandatory shul-in, a make-up assignment will be given.

CONFIRMATION CLASS GIFT TO THE CONGREGATION

There is a tradition in most congregations for confirmation students to present a gift to their congregation on confirmation weekend as a token of gratitude for their education. In previous years, students have staffed the BEC Snack Shuk for our younger students and the proceeds from this will be used to purchase a gift. Examples of previous gifts to The Temple have been a silver yad for a Torah, our congregation's *megillah*, a kiddush stand, and donations to Temple funds.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Confirmation students are responsible for writing and conducting the confirmation service held on **May 7, 2023**. Students will be encouraged to take ownership over this service by selecting the service theme, writing, prayers, and selecting liturgical music. Students may either write a service part or chant Torah. Students with special talents (such as guitar-playing, singing, video editing, art, etc.) are encouraged to use their talents in the confirmation service. More information about the timeline for service preparation will be given at the beginning of the year. This ceremony has been a part of our congregation for over a century and is considered a sacred rite of passage. We look forward to sharing our bimah with our confirmation class at this holy ceremony.

COURSEWORK & INFORMATION [CONTINUED]

SHUL-IN

On **February 4-5**, confirmation students participate in a mandatory shul-in. Students should arrive at the Temple on Saturday night at 6:30 PM and should be picked up at 9:30 AM on Sunday morning. There is no confirmation class on Sunday, February 5, 2023. During the shul-in, students participate a community service project and discuss their service theme and group-building activities to further strengthen their connection as a class. If a student is unable to attend the shul-in, we ask that they complete a make-up assignment.

NEW YORK TRIP

As part of the confirmation curriculum, students travel with their teachers and rabbis to New York, **October 21-23, 2022**. On this trip to the largest Jewish community in the United States, students trace Jewish immigration patterns through the Lower East Side, attend a “rockin” Shabbat evening service, see a Broadway show, and participate in a fun Saturday night in NYC. We encourage 100% participation. Although the trip is costly, we want to make sure that the cost does not preclude a student from traveling. If funding is an issue, please contact Rabbi Rau as soon as possible to apply for financial assistance.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE ATTIRE

At the confirmation service, all students will wear white robes and follow a dress code to continue the tradition of uniformity in attire. Tallit and kippah are optional. Height information from the Confirmation Information Card (emailed to parents in the fall) is used for robe ordering. More information about attire will be shared in class.

CONFIRMATION INVITATIONS

At the beginning of April, all confirmation students will receive 10 invitations that may be sent to people whom you wish to invite (more invitations are available upon request). All Temple members are, of course, invited to attend. The service will be available online and in person.

CONFIRMATION FEES

The cost for the confirmation life cycle is **\$400 per student**. This fee includes robes, flowers for the Sanctuary and The Temple, the reception following the confirmation service, invitations, and the class picture. Please make your check payable to The Temple and mail it to The Temple office by **January 31, 2023**. If you have any concerns regarding the fee, please contact Mark Jacobson at 404-873-1731.

CALENDAR

Confirmation Class will meet on:

August 21 (First Day)

August 28

September 11

September 18

October 2

October 21-23: New York City Trip (no class)

October 30

November 6

November 13

December 4

December 11

January 8

January 22

January 29

February 4-5: Confirmation Shul-in (no class)

February 12

February 26

March 5

March 12

March 19

March 26

April 16

April 23

April 30

May 6 Final Confirmation Service Rehearsal 12:30-4:00 PM

May 7 CONFIRMATION 10:00 AM, Students arrive at 9:00 AM

We are The Temple:

Inspiring Lives, Transforming Our World



WE SEEK MEANING.

Our learning, prayers, acts of justice, and commitment to Israel create sacred connections guided by Torah.

WE NEED EACH OTHER.

Our dynamic community builds enduring relationships from generation to generation.

WE ARE OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE.

We are a proud Reform Jewish community where our past and our future meet.

GOD NEEDS US AND WE NEED GOD.

God lovingly cares for us and gives us tools to better ourselves and repair the world.

WE ALL HAVE GIFTS TO OFFER.

Each person's unique contribution enhances our mosaic of diversity.

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL.

We are a warm and welcoming home for all who seek an inclusive Jewish community.

We are The Temple:

Inspiring Lives, Transforming Our World

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www.the-temple.org

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BEC STAFF

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Nalo Grant: *Clergy Administrative Assistant*

Summer Jacobs: *Engagement Coordinator*

Audrey Henderson: *Assistant Director of WELC*

Heather McKerley: *Accounting Staff & Facilities Maintenance Coordinator*

Dianne Ratowsky: *Administrative Assistant to Rabbi Berg*

Joya Schmidt: *Engagement Admin & Tour Coordinator*

Laurie Simon: *Engagement Coordinator for Special Events*

Lt. Justin Strom: *Head of Security*

Rita Zadoff: *Donation & Events Coordinator*