

## Temple Kol Ami Still Enrolling for Sunday School

Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC is gearing up for another great year at our Religious School, and it is not too late to enroll your child. Our school is open to both TKA members and non-members. For more information, please go to our website [www.templekolamisc.org](http://www.templekolamisc.org) or contact Religious School Director Michelle Silva at [tka.religiousschool@gmail.com](mailto:tka.religiousschool@gmail.com).

We have been overwhelmed by our school's success. In the past few years, we have successfully held several fundraisers, acquired and managed a library to be proud of, seen the bar mitzvah of three young men and the bat mitzvah of four young women - many of whom are still vital, active members of our community, serving as lay leaders, Hebrew tutors, mitzvah organizers, and even shofar blowers. We have organized and held several programs, both community and school driven - Tu B'Shevat and Pesach

Seders, Purim Schpiel and Celebration, and Thanksgivingukkah, just to name a few.

Our students, some of whom had never set foot in a shul before, now have a mastery of Jewish life cycles and rituals, a firm understanding of Torah and b'rachot, and a beginning grasp of Hebrew. What's more, the students of Temple Kol Ami no longer feel isolated and alone. Our students are now a part of a bigger community. They are gaining the tools they need to successfully identify as "Jews" in our modern Southern world.

These impressive accomplishments have not only benefitted our students, but our community, as well. We have realized great feedback and an even greater demand for our school this year. Our teachers are, at this moment, planning their year with two great initiatives in mind - Discover Judaism and Jewish Identity. We

are not your traditional Sunday school. And we thrive on the fact that we have never attempted to put a square peg into a round hole. Today's Jewish religious school students need more. Modern students need modern environment and progressive learning. This year, we will provide just that.

Since the inception of our TKA Religious School, we have been

surrounded by ruach - spirit - from our committed families and students and out of our amazing community. We are often incredulous about what we have achieved in such a short time. It is because of a passion for Jewish education that a new generation of Jewish students, and therefore Jewish adults, will thrive and pay that same passion forward for



years to come. We hope you will make a wonderful investment in your child's future and join us for the 2014-2015 school year. ✨

## Senator Visits Charlotte

(Continued from page 19)

ter anything Jewish, and their name is Gorelick. Bill, Todd, and Rael were all for the meeting but wanted to run it by AIPAC before proceeding. That turned out to be a prudent move because it gave us the opportunity to be briefed on Senator Paul's voting record on Israel as well as his position on America's role in the international arena. There were some obvious issues to be raised but after talking with Greg Rickman, AIPAC's Deputy Director of Policy and Government Affairs, it became apparent how much more there was to know.

The meeting went well. There were Republicans, Democrats, and I'm not sure there were any Libertarians, the ideology Senator Paul identifies with, but that was of no concern because the main point was to have the opportunity to meet and discuss topics relating to the Jewish community with someone who, according to *Time* magazine, is one of the 100 most influential people in the world. The concerns on Israel included the present crisis in Gaza and its repercussions. There has been talk of taking Israel to task for war crimes against humanity and concern was expressed for how strongly America would deny those charges. Also, sometime later this year there will be a vote in the House and Senate for more funding for the Iron Dome; this aid is crucial for Israel and it's important for us to give that message to as many representatives as we can. Of course, topics veered far from Israel also. With Mark Vitner in the room, it was inevitable that the Federal Reserve and other areas of the economy would come up. People asked about Iran, the 2016 elections, and somehow the topic even got to something Senator Rand felt was an issue that needs reform—the unfair way in which African American males are sentenced in our criminal system.



Andy Dinkin, Andrew Lidner, Eric Wisotsky, Jeremy Davids, Susan Salvin, Sen. Rand Paul, Bob Salvin, Rick Abrams, Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Mark Vitner, Todd Gorelick, Sara Oppenheim.

The meeting started and ended promptly and his aides whisked him out of the office and out of Charlotte. The main purpose of the meeting was accomplished; the more he hears from Jewish communities throughout the country, the more he stands the chance to take these issues seriously. Right after the meeting, I recalled an incident a number of years ago when I was visiting a Jewish agency based in New York that deals with the local and the federal government on Jewish affairs. I was introduced to one of the political activists; when he found out where I was from, he said — jokingly — "one Jew from North Carolina is worth 500 from Brooklyn." He explained that when they speak to elected officials, one of the challenges is to make known to them is that it's not just Jews from large metropolitan areas that are concerned with a given issue, but it's Jews from all over the country.

When I thanked Todd Gorelick after the meeting for use of their office, and mentioned that I tried to keep it safe politically, he stopped me and said, "It's all about engagement." Yes, that was our goal, and our hope that in the future more elected officials from both sides of the fence are brought to Charlotte to engage and get to know the Jewish population of the Queen City. ✨

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