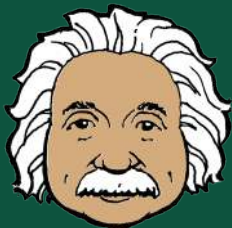


Teach-ables

CREATIVE
ENRICHMENT
LESSONS



By Helene Schlafman, RJE
Director of Education Emerita
and Deborah Geary
with illustrations by Rick Geary



Generously funded with
a grant provided by
Congregation Beth Israel





Dear friends,

Most of our years of teaching have been at Congregation Beth Israel in San Diego. This warm and loving community has inspired and nurtured us.

Our Teach-ables Mitzvah project is a tribute to our home away from home.

It is our pleasure to share these enrichment lessons with you.

Helene and Deborah

About Congregation Beth Israel

Congregation Beth Israel, the historic center of Jewish life in San Diego, is an inclusive Reform congregation that offers a warm welcome and a nurturing home to all who seek a meaningful and enduring connection to Judaism. The Jewish pioneers who had the vision and the courage to establish this synagogue in 1861 could not have imagined how their fledgling religious community would grow and prosper over 151 years. For many of its members Beth Israel is a second home. It is a “house of Israel” for spiritual reinforcement and renewal, for educating adults and children in Torah, tradition and Jewish life.

Learn more at www.cbisd.org.





Helene “Eemah” Schlafman RJE

Helene is a Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude graduate in Intellectual History with minors in Hebrew, Bible and education.

She began her career at Congregation Shaarey Tzedek in Michigan as a Preschool and Hebrew teacher and as Youth advisor. While there she produced and directed Hebrew musicals involving her students.

Helene also taught in the Head Start program in San Francisco and the Solomon Schechter Day School in Chicago.

This year Helene is celebrating her 57th year in Jewish Education. Forty seven of these have been at Congregation Beth Israel in San Diego, California where she is now the Director of Education Emerita, a teacher in the Religious School and High School, program director for the weekend camps and director of the Madrichim program.

Helene is nationally known for her innovative programming. The Religious School, under her direction, was featured in the Council for Initiatives in Jewish Education’s Lead Communities: Best Practices Project.

Her ground breaking teen age Madrichim program, now in its 44th year, serves as a role model for programs throughout the country. Helene has received many awards for her weekend camp programming and the prestigious Telly Award for the rock music video that she produced with Cara Freedman. She was honored at a URJ Biennial as a “Morah Derech” and featured in an article in the Reform Judaism magazine.

The Beth Israel Day School and the Rubin Pre-School were both developed under the tutelage of Mrs. Schlafman. She also began the summer overnight Camp Beth Israel, BIBS (Beth Israel Babies), the My Family and Me program and she developed and produced the award winning children’s theater company, SHOW BIS, with Music Director, Cara Freedman.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her years at Beth Israel is that she remains connected to so many of her students and now has the privilege of teaching Torah to their children and to her own grandchildren. She is affectionately known as “Eemah.”

Helene is married to David Schlafman. They have two children, Lani and Daniel and five grandchildren.





Deborah Chester Geary

Deborah Chester Geary was a religious school and preschool teacher at Congregation Beth Israel for forty years, from 1967-2007. During that time she ran weekend camp programs, as well as Judaica programming at Camp Beth Israel for five years. This was a sleep away camp for two weeks each summer for over 100 children. Deborah also coordinated High Holiday Programming for young children during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur while their families were attending adult services for both days. There were over 75 children in structured activities. Deborah taught third grade Jewish Studies, as well as seventh grade Jewish American History for over ten years at Beth Israel. Deborah Chester Geary in addition taught some family programming, coordinated Family night Shabbat services, and taught Confirmation and some high school courses. She is married to Rick Geary, a cartoonist, and they both live in a small town in New Mexico.



Rick Geary

Rick Geary has been a freelance cartoonist and illustrator for 40 years. His illustrations and graphic stories have appeared in *National Lampoon*, *MAD*, *The New York Times*, *Heavy Metal*, *Disney Adventures* and many other publications. His graphic novels include the biographies *J. Edgar Hoover* and *Trotsky*, as well as nine volumes in the series "A Treasury of Victorian Murder," and six volumes in "A Treasury of 20th Century Murder," the latest of which is *Madison Square Tragedy*. Rick and his wife Deborah live in Carrizozo, New Mexico.

