

## AARC's Beit Sefer open for Fall 2017 enrollment

Clare Kinburg, special to the WJN

**A**nn Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation's Beit Sefer/Religious School is currently enrolling new students for the up-coming school year. The school's multi-age, small classrooms offer students from tots through b'nei mitzvah a personalized introduction to creative, open and evolving American Judaism.

The Beit Sefer begins and ends the school year with active, outside learning. From students building a Sukkah in the fall, to lighting a bonfire for Lag b'Omer in the spring, the small school is big on family involvement and hands-on learning.

A tenet of Reconstructionist Judaism is that the traditions of the past "have a vote but not a veto" on current practices. For the Beit Sefer, this

means that students are taught Jewish tradition with a goal of having them both be comfortable in any Jewish setting as well as feeling confident to create new rituals and observances with contemporary meaning. Students learn Hebrew, prayer, holiday observances as well as Jewish history and culture around the world. Each Beit Sefer class helps lead a Shabbat service during the year, with the oldest class (pre-b'nei mitzvah) culminating the year by helping to lead a Shabbat morning service.

One parent reports, "I really like that the Beit Sefer and AARC have led my son to developing an enthusiastic, proud Jewish identity that's not tribal or elitist. I think the real sign that we're on the right track is that my kids are excited to go to Beit Sefer and AARC events, and were

bummed when Beit Sefer wrapped up for the summer."

Membership in AARC is not required for enrolling in the religious school. There will be several upcoming ways to find out if AARC Beit Sefer is right for your family. Prospective families are invited to an ice cream social the last week in August and to an Open House during Sukkot. For details about these events or any other questions regarding the AARC Beit Sefer, contact School Director Clare Kinberg at (734) 395-4438 or ckinberg@gmail.com.

The AARC Beit Sefer meets at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m., September through May. ■



Ann Arbor  
Reconstructionist  
Congregation

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Religious school  
(for children K – 7)  
uses an innovative project- and  
inquiry-based approach.  
Non-member children welcome.



Summer shabbat services  
on the fourth Friday  
of each month



Beautiful and ticketless  
High Holiday services.  
Non-members welcome.



Evolving, active  
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Religious school and most events  
held at the JCC of Ann Arbor,  
2935 Birch Hollow Drive,  
Ann Arbor MI 48108

High Holiday services at the Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation,  
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.,  
Ann Arbor MI 48103