

SPIRITUALITY & TRADITION

SHABBAT, FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS SET THE RHYTHM OF LIFE AT TEMPLE ISRAEL. Our Conservative egalitarian and Reconstructionist services integrate voices of all ages and backgrounds, and we encourage congregants to read Torah or chant *haftarah*, lead services, and take on other ritual roles as their comfort permits. Rabbi Fine begins every service with coffee and a bite to eat with a Mishnah lesson “Muffins and Mishnah”. The Rabbis’ lively interactive discussion of the weekly Torah portion and the congregation’s singable melodies bring more and more people to Shabbat morning services each week. The synagogue also has regular minyanim on Sunday mornings.

When an individual or a family celebrates a significant life-cycle event, the congregation turns out to *kvell* and celebrate. There is nothing quite like holding your *simcha*, be it a bar mitzvah, an *aufruf*, a *b’rit milah*, or a baby naming, in the shul’s beautiful sanctuary. Temple Israel & JCC is also proud of its longstanding tradition of giving full support to mourners in the community with minyanim in their homes throughout the Shiva week, as well as providing meals.

Temple Israel offers many programs for deepening connections with spirituality and the community, including Kabbalat Shabbat services and Nosh & Drash, a learning breakfast on Shabbat mornings and a community seder. All members are encouraged to participate in ritual life and to that end offer opportunities to learn synagogue skills such as giving a *d’var Torah*, chanting Megillat Esther, prayer leadership, and Jewish home life skills such as keeping a Kosher home and making your *Pesach Seder* more relevant and meaningful.

We have recently introduced musical instruments at some of our Friday night services with wonderful member participation.

Come, experience our services and see how warm, welcoming, and participatory worship can be!