

EDUCATION & LEARNING

ONE OF THE KEYSTONES OF THE TEMPLE ISRAEL COMMUNITY IS A PASSION FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING. Whether it be pre-school children learning about the holidays, teenagers preparing for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or adults learning about Jewish life past and present, our young, old, singles, couples and families are able to enrich their Jewish experience in one of our formal or informal educational programs.

NNJJA, the Northern New Jersey Jewish Academy, a consortium school of Temple Israel, Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Sholom of Teaneck, Kehilat Kol Haneshama of Englewood, Temple Beth Sholom in Fair Lawn, and Temple Emanuel of North Jersey Franklin Lakes meets at Temple Israel. Religious School provides the opportunity to introduce your children to Judaism and familiarize them with its customs. Children can learn about the holidays and traditions through stories, song and crafts. Starting as early as 2 years old, our school begins with a Torah Tots program for 2-4 year olds one Sunday a month. Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade and 2nd Grade meet weekly on Sundays. Following 2nd grade, children enter our two-day program for grades 3 to 7, and learn to read and write Hebrew, study Israel and its history, Torah and Prophets, as well as study with the clergy of the consortium synagogues to learn some of the deeper themes of Judaism and how the rituals of the past impact the ethics of our modern society. Our students participate in Jewish cultural activities, including Israeli Dance, Art, Music and Jewish Cooking. Our religious school provides a great foundation for lifelong Jewish learning and a terrific introduction to all Judaism has to offer.

Our religious school whets the appetite of many of our graduates to continue their journey into Judaism at The Bergen County High School for Jewish Studies.

Scholarship is the byword of ADULT EDUCATION at Temple Israel, designed to nourish the search for knowledge across Jewish thought and experience, to enhance connections to text and tradition and deepen personal Jewish identity. The Adult Education Committee each year plans a dynamic program that includes free classes offered by Temple Israel's outstanding clergy in everything from ritual skills to traditional text study from film screenings/discussions to lectures/workshops. In addition, the Committee, through the Adele Rebell Memorial Scholar in Residence series, arranges appearances by outside scholars, authors, religious and communal leaders. Dr. Seth Schwartz, Lucius N. Littauer Professor of Classical Jewish Civilization at Columbia University, formerly on the faculty at the Jewish Theological Seminary, David H. Lissy, executive director of the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel, David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, about the agency's important work on behalf of Jews everywhere, and Benjamin Gampel, Associate Professor of Jewish history, jtsa.edu. Special programs are also planned in conjunction with other committees at the synagogue - Israel Action; Tikkun Olam; Ritual. The goal of Adult Education is to make the spiritual and educational experience at Temple Israel as meaningful as possible to adults of all ages and stages of Jewish literacy.