

PROGRAMS

TEMPLE ISRAEL & JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IS THE COMMUNITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS. Whether you are young or old, single, married, with or without children, there are many ways to become engaged and enrich your Jewish experience at Temple Israel.

Programs for Families and Children

Shabbat isn't just for adults at Temple Israel. In addition to welcoming children on the bimah to join the Rabbi, we offer babysitting and Shabbat morning programs for children. Tot Shabbat (a monthly service for infants - age 4 with their parents) – songs, prayers, stories, challah and juice.

We also hold a monthly Junior Congregation service through the school year geared toward young people in grades 3 through 7 so that they can further their ritual and prayer skills, and become comfortable leading services for a congregation of their peers.

Our weekly Shabbat celebrations are accented by family activities and events around the major holidays and festivals, and include Sukkot dinners, Simchat Torah dancing, a Chanukah celebration & boutique, a Purim costume parade & carnival, and Passover Storytelling.

Those planning for *B'nei Mitzvah* celebrations will find discussion groups and 6 months of private tutoring available to help children and parents prepare for this important milestone. There is a 15-20-hour community service commitment for *Kitot Dalet & Hey* (6th & 7th grade in our religious school) children to help our children understand that they are part of a larger community and that Jewish life requires that we give of ourselves to others.

Socializing and Community-Building

It's easy to connect with other Temple Israel members at one of our many socials, such as membership parties, concerts, progressive dinners, pool parties, Casino Night, and movie nights.

THE BRANDEIS MEN'S CLUB offers the opportunity for friendship and community as well as fund-raising for the greater good. Some of the fun and fund-raisers hosted by Men's Club include Casino Night, outings to sporting events, wine tastings and pool parties.

Men's Club is also behind many of the community-wide events at Temple Israel, such as *The World Wide Wrap (Tefillin)*, erecting the synagogue's Sukkah, aiding congregants in purchasing and erecting Sukkot, serving latkes at the annual Chanukah celebration and hot dogs at the annual Purim Carnival. Camp Ramah stipends for members' children are also provided by the Men's Club.

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD offers women the opportunity to develop social connections that can lead to life-long friendships. Sisterhood women often take on leadership roles in the synagogue to give back to the community by fundraising and supporting the homeless. Sisterhood sponsors the annual break-the-fast at the conclusion of Yom Kippur, presentations by authors and scholars, weekly yoga, monthly Mah Jongg, special education programs as well as cultural outings to Broadway shows and The Jewish Theological Seminary.

The Sisterhood Gift Shop offers beautiful Judaica including *kippot* and *talitot* to commemorate *B'nei Mitzvah* and other special *simchas*.

Our active HAZAK GROUP for seniors holds topical discussion groups, sponsors outings to local cultural events and attractions, and hosts socials such as dinners, bridge nights and pool parties.

TEMPLE ISRAEL YOUTH GROUPS further the shared bonds among our children with a full schedule of social activities from bowling parties and movie nights to overnights at the synagogue. Our youth program begins with Kadima for grades 6-8, and USY for grades 9-12. Our Kadima and USY groups are part of a strong consortium with congregations in Fair Lawn and Paramus. Kadima & USY members also have an opportunity to meet other Jewish teens at regional events sponsored by United Synagogue throughout the year.

Social Action/Tikkun Olam

Temple Israel & JCC sponsors blood drives, fund-raisers, river clean-ups, food & clothing drives, cooking and feeding the homeless and many other initiatives to give back to the community. Temple Israel participates in the Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities (J-ADD) walkathon, Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey programs, National Conferences in Washington, DC as well as Bonim, a Jewish initiative that helps build houses for the underprivileged.

Israel Action

Through a combination of learning and social action, our vibrant Israel Action Committee provides a vehicle for interested members to monitor events in Israel, discuss their impact on world Jewry, and demonstrate their commitment to the Jewish State. The committee sponsors lectures by distinguished speakers, political and community leaders; organizes attendance at pro-Israel rallies in Washington, D.C., NYC and NJ colleges; and hosts film screenings, discussions and concerts. Temple Israel is a co-sponsor of Zahal Shalom, an annual program which brings disabled Israeli army veterans to the U.S. for two weeks of respite.