

Project Welcome is an outreach program welcoming interfaith families, unaffiliated Jews and seekers into Independent, Renewal, Reconstructionist, Reform and Conservative synagogues.



PROJECT WELCOME

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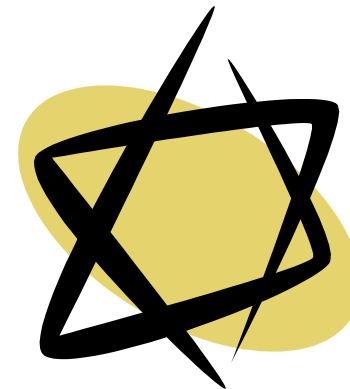
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www.projectwelcome.org

Intermarried?

Judaism Welcomes You!

Our congregation has made a commitment to be welcoming to couples with one Jewish partner. We offer support and education to adults, children and extended family.



I am Jewish and my partner is not. Are we welcome to attend worship services together?

Yes! The prophet Isaiah says: “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” (56:7)

You are welcome at all services. You can join in all the prayers and songs as much or as little as is comfortable. Let those sitting near you know that you are new and you will be guided through the prayer book.

Those who assist the rabbi in leading the service and reading from the Torah are Jewish.

I don't read Hebrew. How can I possibly follow the service?

Many of the Hebrew prayers have English translations. Many people find they learn the Hebrew prayers through the songs and repetition of the prayers when they are regular attendees at services.

Suggested reading:

Jewish Family and Life: Traditions, Holidays and Values

by Yosef Abramowitz and Susan Silverman
Golden Books, 1997

Living A Jewish Life

by Anita Diamant and Howard Cooper
Harper, 1991

The Tapestry of Jewish Time

by Nina Beth Cardin
Berman House, 2000

How to be a Jewish Parent: A Practical Handbook for Family Life

by Anita Diamant and Karen Kushner
Schocken Books, 2000

WHAT IS OUTREACH? AND WHAT IS PROJECT WELCOME?

Outreach is a Jewish community effort to welcome those seeking a stronger connection to Judaism: Jews-by-Choice, interfaith couples and families, parents of interfaith married children, and everyone interested in knowing more about Judaism.

and grandparents are important transmitters of values and traditions. Any time a parent or grandparent supports the child's religious education by spending time here adds significantly to the impact of that day's experience.

Will I be able to be part of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony of my child?

Yes. At our synagogue both parents pass the Torah to their child as a concrete symbol of their support for Jewish education.

Yes. At our synagogue partners are designated to give their child a tallis as a prelude to their reading the Torah.

I have more questions. How can I learn more?

Call us and we will set up a time to meet.

For more general information about Judaism and dual faith relationships see the Project Welcome website at www.projectwelcome.org

And www.Interfaithfamily.com

www.urj.org/outreach

We have added transliterations (phonetically written versions of the Hebrew) to our prayer book for those Jews and partners who do not read Hebrew.

We offer "learners' services" twice every fall and spring in which we teach the melodies and words to our Shabbat songs and highlight the structure and historical meaning of the prayers. A cd of our songs is available for each member family.

We do encourage everyone to learn Hebrew and offer classes. Although it looks difficult because of the new alphabet, it is actually quite easy to learn.

Do I have to be Jewish to be a member or an officer?

There are many couples like you in this congregation. We welcome your participation on every committee.

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Officers of the congregation are Jewish.

Will I be pressured to convert if we join the congregation?

No. We are grateful for your support of your partner's Judaism and your participation here. Judaism has a long tradition of avoiding pressure to convert and we understand that this is a personal decision made only after heartfelt consideration. We want you to know that we will joyfully celebrate with you if and when you should come to the decision become a Jew.

What is the best way to learn more about Judaism? I do not want to take a conversion class.

We offer a three session basic Judaism class for those new to Judaism as well as those who need a refresher course called A Taste of Judaism. The classes cover Jewish spirituality, study and community.

Throughout the year, we offer many classes on holidays such as Building a Sukkah, and Cooking for Passover. We also offer opportunities for dual faith couples to meet and share.

What will be the status of my children in the Jewish community?

Traditionally, children of a Jewish mother are automatically Jewish.

There are many children in our congregation's religious school who have other religions in their extended families and our teachers have been trained to be sensitive to this.

Since 1983, the Reform Movement has recognized the children of either Jewish parent as Jewish if they are raised and educated as Jews.