

Funerals

The rabbi is allowed to officiate only at the funeral of a Jewish family member. However, *k'rovei yisrael* are encouraged to speak at a Jewish funeral. The rabbi will offer advice to interfaith families about burial arrangements and mourning customs and is here to guide you when a Jewish loved one passes. The congregation will be there for you in times of need, as in times of joy.

Keruv Committee

We have formed a *Keruv* (outreach) Committee to help us identify and address the needs of interfaith families. We also seek to give support to the Jewish parents and grandparents of the intermarried, and help them respectfully to encourage their childrens' or grandchildrens' Jewish development. If you are interested in participating in this *Keruv* process, please contact the TNT office



Purim 2007 -The Rabbi and Cantor



Purim 2007



Temple Ner Tamid

TEMPLE NER TAMID

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Temple Ner Tamid

Welcomes Interfaith Families



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Passionate Outreach and Compassionate Action

Welcome

A warm welcome from Temple Ner Tamid to the interfaith families in our midst! The purpose of this brochure is to tell you how much you matter to our congregation. You are a very diverse group of people and some of you do not define yourselves as religious at all. You fall at all points along the spectrum, and we acknowledge and respect your diversity.

What we want is to thank you for your interest in this congregation. Most of all, we want to offer our deepest gratitude to those of you who are parents, and who are raising your sons and daughters as Jews. Every Jewish boy and girl is a gift to the Jewish future. With all our hearts, we want to thank you for your generosity and strength of spirit in making the ultimate gift to the Jewish people.



Men's Club Worldwide Wrap 2006

Commitment to Interfaith Families

We advocate the use of the term *k'rov yisrael* (plural: *k'rovei yisrael*), which means someone who is "close to or related to the Jewish people," to describe non-Jewish partners and singles, whether or not they are currently in the process of conversion.

We chose this term because we feel it is important to define you by your positive acts, rather than by the fact that you are not Jewish. We know that *k'rov yisrael* may sound a little bit foreign for some, but as we begin to use the term, we hope it will become familiar and comfortable for you.

Life at the Temple

The *k'rov yisrael* is welcome at all synagogue religious, social and educational events, and may serve on any of our committees, with the exception of the Ritual Committee and the Board of Trustees. The synagogue directory and the synagogue dues structure do not distinguish between intermarried and in-married families. Even within the congregation there are different levels of observance. Our aim is to encourage people - no matter where they fall on the spectrum.

Brit Milah and Baby Naming

All Jewish children - that is, children of Jewish mothers or children who have been formally converted to Judaism - may be given Hebrew names. For boys, this is done at the bris (*brit milah*); for girls, it may be done at a home ceremony or a synagogue service. Every son of an interfaith couple is eligible to be ritually circumcised. The Rabbi and the Cantor will be happy to suggest meaningful English readings to be offered at the ceremony by the parent who is a *k'rov yisrael*.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

During our Bar and Bat Mitzvah services, we invite the *k'rov yisrael* parent up to the *bimah* (platform) to stand next to his or her spouse when the child goes up to the Torah, in recognition of that parent's support of their child's Jewish identity. This is a special moment for the entire family.

Weddings

In all Conservative congregations, weddings are performed only between two members of the Jewish faith. As the rabbi is eager to establish a mutually respectful relationship with intermarried couples he personally invites them to study about Jewish life with him, and lets them know that he is always available to them, whether they live near or far from the congregation, to help them in any way possible.



Chanukah Play 2006

Nursery and Religious School

Our Nursery and Religious Schools imbue our children with a love of Jewish tradition and rituals. All children whose families want them to have a Jewish education are welcome in our Nursery and Religious Schools and may participate in all school activities. However, only children who are born to a Jewish mother or who have been formally converted to Judaism may become Bar/Bat Mitzvah.