



Congregation Tikvat Jacob Membership & Religious School Information Packet 2011-2012

Dear Returning Member:

Welcome back to Congregation Tikvat Jacob for what promises to be an exciting year of continued traditions and new additions. It's time to renew your membership, so let me highlight what CTJ continues to offer:

- ✧ First and foremost, you are returning to a newly remodeled CTJ! Delight in our new lobby, sanctuary and exterior. We are proud to deliver this fabulous upgrade to our congregational home – designed by two of our very own congregants!
- ✧ A musical Kabbalat Shabbat service the first Friday of every month, featuring our folk-music "Light Up Shabbat" and in-house band. We of course conduct traditional Shabbat morning services each Saturday.
- ✧ A special musical meditative Shabbat experience that is held approximately every 6 weeks: join us for this popular Shabbat Neshama led by Cantor Berger.
- ✧ A thriving religious school program enriched by field trips, visits with the Rabbi, off-site retreats and opportunities for community service. As your family celebrates your child's b'nai mitzvah, you may now comfortably continue your celebration as we magically convert the sanctuary into a sit-down dining area – no need to leave CTJ.
- ✧ Lots of options for young families: High Holiday Family Services, My Jewish Gym, and an Early Childhood Education program
- ✧ Community Second Night Seder: this popular evening sells out every year!
- ✧ Social and adult education opportunities: Torah classes, Hazak (lectures and lunches geared to those over 55), poker, book club, and social action events
- ✧ Popular creative worship experiences like Pet Havdalah and Women's Healing Service
- ✧ An active Sisterhood which sponsors engaging events that form enduring friendships while supporting select CTJ programs like camp scholarships.

Cantor Beth Garden continues her excellent work as our B'nai Mitzvah Director. Cantor Beth is enriching and enhancing our systems to facilitate your family's special event. Cantor David Berger brings his guitar and passionate knowledge of world-wide music to enrich our services. Shortly after the High Holidays, Cantor Berger is taking a nine-month leave to be in Israel. We are delighted to introduce cantorial intern Sandy Bernstein, who will be with us for Shabbat services while Cantor Berger is away.

As we strive to be the best we can be in these challenging times, we are reaching out to those of you who can volunteer a few hours a week and asking for your help. We rely on volunteer support. Please give some time if you can.

If you have questions, you may reach me at Roberta.stock@ctjmb.org, or call our office at (310) 546-3667. It's wonderful to have you back.

Sincerely,

Roberta Stock
President
CTJ Board of Directors

Membership Information and Fees

Congregation Tikvat Jacob is a non-profit religious institution. The primary source of funding for the congregation's programs is derived from the dues from its members. Membership dues are different for various membership categories, as follows:

Membership Category	Annual Membership Fees	Building Fund
Family **	\$2,200	\$1,500* One-time fee
Young Family*** (22 to 30)	\$1,100	\$1,500* One-time fee
Senior Family *** (65 and over)	\$1,100	\$1,500* One-time fee
Single Adult	\$1,100	\$1,000* One-time fee
Young Adult (22 to 30)	\$600	\$1,000* One-time fee
Student (18 to 22)	\$280	\$1,000* One-time fee
Senior Single (65 and over)	\$600	\$1,000* One-time fee
Associate Membership ¹	\$370	N/A

* One-time payment for each new member family, payable over 1-5 years.

** Civilly married couples, even where one member is not Jewish, must join as a family.

*** Family rates are based on the age of the oldest person in the family.

¹ See Frequently Asked Questions for eligibility information

Membership fees are in effect for one year only, from July 1st through June 30th of the year stated above and are subject to increase at the start of each new fiscal year.

Membership Benefits:

- Synagogue Rabbi available for your personal and life-cycle needs
- High Holy Days tickets and Shabbat services
- Invitations to all Synagogue events and holiday celebrations
- Newsletter (Tikvat Times) subscription
- A regular offering of adult classes and cultural programs
- Educational and youth activities for children
(Religious School has an additional fee)
- Preparation for B'nai Mitzvah by B'nai Mitzvah Director, Rabbi and Cantor
(B'nai Mitzvah program has an additional fee)
- Supporting a Jewish community within the South Bay

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the synagogue do with our dues?

The Board of Directors conducts the business affairs of the synagogue in consultation with our synagogue staff. Through careful planning and review, dues are used to fund all the operations of the synagogue, including salaries, programming, high holiday services, and more. The costs of operations are held to a minimum and are comparable to similar costs of other congregations in Southern California.

What other events are included with our dues? Most of our religious celebrations and dinners such as Hanukkah, Purim, and Sukkot are included. Our wide variety of programs, such as our CTJ Book Club, Torah Study, Men's Poker, Choir, Musical Meals with Cantor Berger, Tot Shabbat and adult education, are either free or discounted for members.

We cannot afford full dues. Is financial aid available?

No one is denied membership for an inability to pay full dues. Membership grants and school scholarships are available on a need basis. To obtain forms and for more information, please contact CTJ's office (310-546-3667) or download it from our website.

What are my payment options?

Installment payment plans are easily available. Please choose the desired payment plan on the Payment Options Form. You may pay by check, cash or credit card (VISA or MasterCard only). For any questions regarding payment arrangements, please contact our bookkeeper at (310) 546-3667, extension 117 or by email at accounting@ctjmb.org.

Do we receive High Holiday tickets with our membership?

Yes, your membership includes High Holidays tickets at no additional charge. Members' adult children above college age must purchase tickets. Tickets for additional, extended family members over the age of 18 must be purchased. Tickets are non-transferable.

What is the Building Fund?

The Building Fund obligation is assessed when a member joins the synagogue, and is a mandatory fee for all members. These funds may be paid over a period of five years or less. Members who have paid the full amount due for their membership categories over previous years will have no further obligation for Building Fund payments.

How do I renew my membership & my children's religious school enrollment at the end of the year?

Membership renewal is done automatically every year. In the beginning of our fiscal year, we send an invoice billing you for membership and religious school fees (if applicable), assuming there is no change in your family status. In order to renew your membership, all you need to do is to send us a few forms that ARE required annually (i.e. membership renewal agreement, photo release, and payment arrangements).

Please note: Neither your membership application nor school registration will be accepted without making payment arrangements.

What is Associate Membership?

The Associate Membership category was established to enable households who pay full membership at another synagogue to support CTJ. Associate Membership privileges include: receiving all mailings and newsletters; attendance at all activities at member rates; High Holiday tickets (upon request). Religious school programs are *not* included in Associate Membership. To apply for Associate Membership, please include with your membership forms a letter from the synagogue of which you are currently a member stating that you are a member in good standing.

Religious School Mission Statement and Fees

CTJ's Religious school provides unique experiences in a nurturing setting that enables students to feel connected to the Jewish community and embrace a life rich with Jewish values, self-esteem and humanity.

Our goal is to create an educational and religious experience that inspires our students to feel a reverence for God, a strong sense of identity with the Jewish people, knowledge of the Hebrew language and a commitment to live the ethical values of Judaism.

Through a partnership - a unique relationship between home, synagogue, parents, children and teachers - we aspire to teach the Jewish values and achieve our goals. Our success is measured in the attitudes, beliefs and actions of our children. We are dedicated to making our programs the very best.

Religious School education and Jewish experience in the home are intertwined, with each part complementing and strengthening the other. When customs, rituals and celebration become part of our family practice, our children begin to appreciate the splendor and importance of our Jewish traditions.

Our program begins with kindergarten and extends all the way through 12th grade. Through creative learning experiences, innovative programming, Shabbat dinners, creative services, camp retreats and Jewish family education, we help our children self-realize what it means to be a Jew. We value the teaching of ethics, holidays, history, culture, Torah study, conversational Hebrew and Hebrew prayer. We enrich our grade-specific curriculum with ethical standards as we encourage all of our students to help make the world a better place to live.

Religious school fees vary according to child's grade level:

Grade Level	Days & Hours	Fee
Kindergarten, 1 st , 2 nd Grade	Sundays 9:00-11:15am	\$820
3 rd grade Optional Retreat \$170	Tuesdays 4:00pm-6:30pm and Sundays 9:00-11:15am OR	\$1130
4 th -7 th grade	Wednesdays 4:00pm-6:30pm and Sundays 10:45am-1:00pm	\$1300
Noar (8 th -12 th grade)	Wednesdays 6:30pm-9:00pm	\$625 *
Retreat Dates	3 rd -6 th Grades- November 4 - 6, 2011; 7 th -12 th Grades - May 4- 6, 2012	\$170
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee **		\$1125

*Non-refundable after July 31st

** Contact the B'nai Mitzvah Director for more information