

2017-2018



West End Synagogue

A Reconstructionist Congregation

**For registration materials,
please contact:
Rabbi Nadia Gold
ngold@westendsynagogue.org
212.579.0777 x222**

**JEWISH FAMILY LIFE
AND LEARNING**

AT WEST END SYNAGOGUE

West End Synagogue is a diverse group of individuals and families committed to exploring Jewish life and creating an intellectually challenging, spiritually vibrant, and mutually supportive community. Utilizing the principles of Reconstructionist Judaism, we celebrate the richness and diversity of Jewish tradition through study, prayer, meditation, music, and *tikkun olam* (acts of repairing the world).

Our home, a former public library in the Lincoln Square neighborhood of the Upper West Side, provides a light-filled, intimate space for prayer, reflection, and learning. Our approach is informal and supportive of a wide range of religious backgrounds, practices, and beliefs. Under the leadership of Rabbi Georgette Kennebrae, Hazzan Ayelet Porzecanski, and Director of Family Engagement, Rabbi Nadia Gold, West End Synagogue continues to grow while maintaining its hallmark warmth and intimacy.

We formed in 1985, and are now celebrating over 30 years!



Our innovative, whole family approach to Jewish education—Jewish Family Life and Learning (JFLL)—is a major departure from your parents' Hebrew School, and is making a big impression on kids and parents alike.

Our progressive educational approach encourages learners of all ages to make personal meaning from all activities, and our JFLL program seeks to synergize classroom learning with a vibrant Jewish family and communal life.

Whether watching Hebrew hip hop videos or playing games on the computer, our students benefit from our commitment to the integration of popular culture and Jewish education. We believe that children's time in our classes and programs must be just as enjoyable as their best experiences in secular school, as well as their favorite extracurricular activities.

JFLL WEEKDAY CLASSES GRADES 2-7 TUESDAYS 4-6 PM

1. OPENING ASSEMBLY

We begin each session in community as all students gather for an engaging opening experience, which could be an Israeli hip hop video, a story, or a hands-on group project. The Opening Assembly serves as a set induction for the day's lessons, and is an opportunity for kids of all ages to bond through shared experience.

2. JUDAICS

Students engage in learning through art, drama, music, creative writing, debates, group projects and more. We favor an interactive learning model, so that classroom activities are more like camp than school.

3. HEBREW

Using the *chevruta* method of study, students with similar skill sets and learning styles work in pairs or small groups, at their own pace. Students in 2nd-7th grades apply their reading skills to learn *tefillah* (prayer) and the basic vocabulary essential to Jewish literacy.

4. CLOSING SONG WITH SHIRAT SHABBAT SONGLEADER

Our talented Shirat Shabbat songleader, Landon Braverman, concludes each session with songs that prepare the students for Shabbat and the holidays.

JFLL FAMILY SHABBAT PROGRAMMING

FIRST FRIDAY AT 6

For all ages

Our musical Kabbalat Shabbat service, the first Friday of every month at 6 pm, is led by Rabbi Georgette Kennebrae and Hazzan Ayelet Porzecanski. Followed by a communal vegetarian potluck dinner!

SHIRAT SHABBAT

School age students and families

Join Hazzan Ayelet Porzecanski and Rabbi Nadia Gold, as well as other talented Jewish educators and musicians, every Saturday morning, 11:15 am–12:15 pm. Followed by a festive kiddush luncheon.

TOT SHABBAT

Families with children 0-4 years old

Comprised of child-friendly melodies and activities that directly parallels the *Siddur* (prayer book), every Saturday morning, 11:30 am–12:15 pm, featuring music, parent-child interaction, and stories. Followed by a festive kiddush luncheon.

KEF KIDS! GRADES PRE K-1 2 SATURDAYS A MONTH 2-3:30 PM

A unique bi-weekly, experiential, fun Shabbat program. Kids will experience what it is to be Jewish in a fun, informal setting. In addition to learning about their Jewish identities, our class will also feature the groundbreaking Hebrew program, Hebrew Through Movement, an active, non-traditional way of learning Hebrew. Led by a variety of talented Jewish educators.