



Looking for a way to connect with others
at Temple Ner Tamid?

How about joining a Chavurah?

Chavurah

Welcome! As a member of Temple Ner Tamid (TNT) we invite you to join a Chavurah and to take part in a wonderful, unique experience that has enhanced many people's lives.

What Is A Chavurah?

A Chavurah offers friendship, an extended family, and a great way to be a part of a close-knit group within the expanding Temple Temple Ner Tamid family. Chavurah comes from the Hebrew word chaver, meaning "friend." A Chavurah is a small group of families, couples or individuals (usually 8-10 couples or families, or up to 20 individuals) who share common interests and the desire to get together on a regular basis to socialize, learn and celebrate Jewish life together. Chavurah events do not replace other events at Temple Ner Tamid, rather they supplement and support the synagogue's social, religious and intellectual activities.

What Is The Advantage of a Chavurah?

Meeting people in a larger congregation can be overwhelming, but membership in a Chavurah can make a large congregation seem more intimate and personal. Members of a Chavurah can truly become your extended family at Temple Ner Tamid and can be counted on to both celebrate life cycle events together and when necessary, provide comfort and support during times of sadness, illness and loss.

What Kinds Of Things Does A Chavurah Do?

It's up to you! Each Chavurah determines its own programs based on its own interests and needs, which could include sharing holiday celebrations and life cycle events, socializing and attending Temple Ner Tamid events together. One Chavurah may celebrate holidays such as enjoying a Shabbat dinner together, building a Sukkah or having a Hanukkah party. Another Chavurah may want to perform mitzvot by participating in community service projects. Other Chavuroth may go camping or invite speakers to their meetings to discuss a variety of topics related to Jewish life. Some may socialize together by going out for dinner, seeing plays, game night, or ladies' night out.

Who Runs The Chavurah And Plans Events?

Every Chavurah runs itself. Each Chavurah establishes its own guidelines as to where and how often (usually monthly) it should meet and the type of activities it will hold, such as social, religious and/or study. Each also decides such issues as which family should lead the Chavurah, should the group center around the children, how big the group should be and if the number of members should be limited. Typically the size is limited to what is considered a workable number of members. The most successful groups normally choose a “leader” who ensures that member contact information is current and that events are being planned and attended. Members usually take turns planning events. The “leader” should rotate annually to make it fair for all. The clergy, senior staff, and Chavurah coordinators are always available to answer questions and support to help your Chavurah thrive.

How Is A Chavurah Formed?

You can fill out a “Chavurah Application” form. After returning a completed application, you will be “matched up” with others who have similar interests, backgrounds and requests. At the first meeting of your new Chavurah, a Chavurah committee member will be present to help break the ice, to explain about how a Chavurah functions and to give programming ideas.

How Are New Members Added To Existing Chavuroth?

If your Chavurah is in need of new members, call the TNT office (973-338-1500; pick the option for Laurie Schifano) and you will be directed to the current “Chavurah Coordinator”, who will assist you. You may also personally invite any TNT member to be a part of your group. Please inform the Chavurah chair of any changes in your Chavurah.

Why is Temple Ner Tamid Doing This?

Friendships formed among temple members make our congregation feel more like a family and community. A Chavurah will ensure that your connection to TNT’s family will be a solid and meaningful one. To this end, TNT will help you connect with congregants that share your interests, are at similar places in their lives, and are similarly committed to providing a special Jewish experience for themselves and their families.

How Can I Start the Process of Joining A Chavurah?

Please return a completed application to lschifano@nertamid.org or mail it to Temple Ner Tamid, Attn: Chavurah Coordinator, 936 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003. We will try to match people of like interests to form successful Chavurot. If you already have a group of 6-8 families with which you would like to start a Chavurah, please let us know and we will help you get set up.