

About Reconstructionist Judaism

Reconstructionist Judaism is a progressive movement that makes Judaism relevant to contemporary life, with an emphasis on social action, the arts, and community, while still honoring Jewish tradition. We constantly experiment with new ways of worshipping, studying, and strengthening the community to make our Jewish experience more meaningful.

Our services include many of the same prayers as a Conservative service, but with a more dynamic approach. Like a Reform synagogue, we freely incorporate musical instruments into our services. And we incorporate new music and all of the arts as we explore spirituality.

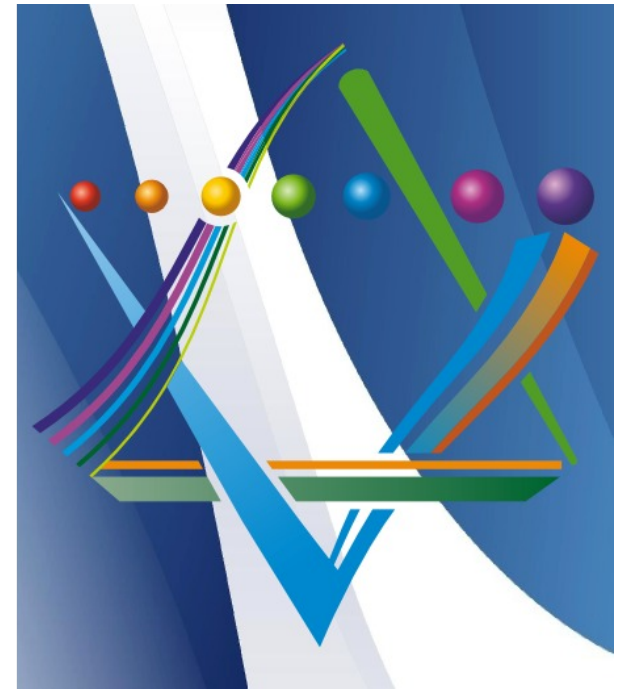
Egalitarian, democratic, welcoming of interfaith families, participatory, innovative, and with diverse ideas about God, Reconstructionist Judaism infuses the wisdom of traditional Judaism with modern sensibilities. You will be amazed at how great it feels to practice Judaism in a way that is meaningful and relevant to your life.



Shir Hadash Founding Rabbi Eitan Weiner-Kaplow embraces the pillars of community, creativity, and caring to enhance the practice of Judaism and ensure “L’dor vador”—from generation to generation. He was ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and holds degrees in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Middle Eastern archaeology from Rutgers. He was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity.



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Welcome to Shir Hadash. We are a progressive, inclusive, dynamic Reconstructionist congregation located in Wheeling and serving the Jewish community in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago. In Hebrew, “Shir Hadash” means A New Song, symbolic of our commitment to celebrating Judaism with meaning and creativity.

Our Rabbi

Founding Rabbi Eitan Weiner-Kaplow brings meaning and music to every Shabbat service, b'nai mitzvah, lifecycle event, adult education class, and religious school service. He is extremely accessible and involved in the congregation.

Creative Worship & Ritual

Our services are inclusive, unique, and enriching. We bring creative ways of interpreting Torah stories and lessons. We incorporate contemporary, traditional and original melodies, dramatic skits, and modern and interpretive dance. Performances by our choir, the Lahaka, enhance many of our services.

Our Director of Lifelong Learning

Rabbi Scott "Seeg" Segal brings enormous energy, creativity, a love of Judaism and teaching, and a willingness to try new things to Shir Hadash. He oversees our youth programming, religious school, and adult education opportunities.

Adult Programming

We offer many adult learning and social activities, including a book club, men's club, movie nights, open mic nights, and cooking demonstrations. Classes include Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Torah Study/Modern Jewish Philosophy, Adult Hebrew Reading, and more. We also offer programs on genealogy, travel, history, and current events.

Tikkun Olam

Our community holds annual blood drives, volunteers at local soup kitchens, holds food and coat drives, packs High Holiday food baskets for needy families, and conducts social action through our school and our youth group.

Dynamic B'nai Mitzvah Services

At Shir Hadash, each bar or bat mitzvah ceremony is unique and personalized according to the skills, interests, learning styles, talents, and abilities of the individual student.



Shir Hadash Religious School

At our Sundays-only religious school, our goal is to teach history, tradition, music, Hebrew, holidays, ethics, culture, Torah, prayer, the State of Israel, and the Holocaust while focusing on making Judaism relevant to today's kids. Our cutting-edge curriculum inspires students to care, question, and think deeply about Judaism, the Jewish community and their own personal Jewish identity.



Teen Programming

- Our BBYO chapter, Ra'am BBYO, offers our teens many social and philanthropic opportunities within the Chicago area and the national and international BBYO communities.
- Our religious school's "Madrichim" program employs our high school students as teacher assistants. They act as role models, lead small-group activities, and assist individual students.
- The 8th-12th grade "Chai-Tech" program is split into three "tracks": tech (coding, app/game design), production (art/music), and investment (financial, investing in the community), each with a Judaism-infused approach. Students can participate in one, two, or all three tracks.

