

Welcome to The Temple

A Guide to Jewish Services



★ THINGS TO SEE

- **The Ark** – located at the center of the bimah (pulpit), it contains the Torah scrolls. We rise whenever the Ark is open as a sign of respect.
- **The Torah** – a parchment scroll which is handwritten in Hebrew. It is a most sacred object, containing the Five Books of Moses, the first five Books of the Bible.
- **The Ner Tamid** – (The Eternal Light) hangs above the Ark. It reminds us of the continuous presence of God and the permanence of the Torah.
- **The Menorah** – a seven branched candelabra reminding us of the lampstand which was placed in the Tabernacle in Biblical times. It is a symbol of the seven days of creation.
- **Tallit and Kippah** – (Prayer Shawl) the Tallit is worn by adult Jews during morning services. It is a fulfillment of Numbers 15:37-41. The fringes represent the mitzvot (commandments). The Kippah is a traditional head covering. Everyone is welcome and invited to wear a Kippah.
- **The Siddur** – (Prayerbook) is written in Hebrew, English, and Hebrew with English letters (transliteration). It opens and is read Hebrew style, from right to left. On the outside margins, you will find the current prayer's place within the service.

★ THE WAY WE PRAY

- Whenever we **sing**, we are singing prayers, please feel free to join in.
- Throughout the service, the Rabbi will direct the congregation about when to **sit and stand** (as people are able). Bowing is a sign of humility, like one would historically bow before royalty, so today we bow before God in acknowledgment of God's reign.
- **Prayers of welcome** – psalms and prayers to prepare us for the service to come.
- **The Sh'ma & Its Blessings** – from Deuteronomy 6, affirming the Oneness of God. The Sh'ma is surrounded by prayers of our love for God and God's love for us. We stand when we say the Sh'ma.
- **The T'filah** – (The Prayer) the central part of the service, a collection of prayers or blessings giving thanks for God's role in our lives.
- **The Torah Service** – on Shabbat morning (Saturday) we read from the Torah. The same portion will be read in all congregations throughout the world. Following the reading, the leader will give a D'var Torah (a word of Torah) an explanation, or teaching, about the portion.
- **Aleinu** – The prayer in front of the Ark, is a prayer of praise of God.
- **Kaddish** – The prayer we say when remembering those who have died; there is no mention of death or dying, it is a prayer of praise of God.

***This is a worship service so please no flash photography.**

★ WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF SHABBAT?

Shabbat (Sabbath) is observed each week in fulfillment of the biblical commandment: "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of Adonai your God" (Exodus 20:9-10). Shabbat begins on Friday evening (all Jewish days begin at sunset) and ends on Saturday night. We make blessings over lighting candles to usher in Shabbat, wine as a symbol of joy and life, and challah (dough), a special twisted loaf of bread eaten by Jews on special occasions. After the service, **we invite everyone to join us as we rejoice in the Shabbat (Oneg Shabbat) by eating and enjoying the company of others.**

***For more information on Shabbat, please visit thetemplelouky.org/shabbat-services/**

Where Jewish Tradition Meets Tomorrow

New to Louisville or our Synagogue?

Shalom and Welcome!

We are a family and community, proud to be a part of a vibrant Jewish community here in Louisville, with a variety of fun programming, educational opportunities, community service activities, and worship services. We invite you to look around our website and join us for some of our upcoming events, learn more about our Religious School and top-rated Preschool, meet our rabbis, and worship with us.

★ EMBRACING OUR 175 YEAR LEGACY

The Temple is Kentucky's oldest and largest Jewish congregation. Established in 1843 as K.K. Adas Israel, The Temple was a founding member of Reform Judaism's Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism) and an early proponent of Reform in American Jewish life. By the 1880's Congregation Brith Shalom was formed for the next generation of Jews to settle here in Louisville, and joined the Reform movement in 1920. The two congregations enjoyed cordial relations for nearly a century before reuniting in 1977 to become The Temple of today. From its earliest beginnings in Louisville, The Temple has taken pride in its commitment to instill in each generation of our congregation, the essential values of our Jewish faith, the deeper understanding of our heritage and our future, and the involvement of our people toward the betterment of our community as a whole. The Temple is led by Senior Rabbis, Joe Rooks Rapport and David Ariel-Joel, and Rabbi Emeritus, Chester B. Diamond, and Rabbi Emerita, Gaylia R. Rooks.

★ ENGAGING JEWISH OPPORTUNITIES

The Temple offers a wealth of educational opportunities, open to all, including weekly Torah Study and Temple Scholars programs. In addition, and as part of its mission of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), The Temple has a host of volunteer and service opportunities, led by several groups including the Social Action Committee and the Caring Committee, that connect to not only congregants, but activities to better our Kentuckiana Community.

★ WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TEMPLE?



YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS



TRAGER ECEC PRESCHOOL



ADULT EDUCATION



BROTHERHOOD POKER



LGBTQ PRIDE PARADE



WRJ INTERFAITH COFFEE



MONTHLY TOT SHABBAT



MLK JR. MITZVAH DAY

For more information about The Temple or the Jewish community in Louisville, please visit our website at www.thetemplelouky.org.



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