

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee

Written by Linda S Trapasso

Find Your Place in Community

Temple Beth Abraham is a Jewish community, and we are part of the larger Jewish community of New Hampshire, New England, the United States, the diaspora, etc. But what exactly is my place, and your place, in community?

According to myjewishlearning.com:

It is no accident that the Jewish people call themselves “Am Yisrael” – “the people of Israel” – rather than “Dat Yisrael,” or “the religion of Israel.” A sense of peoplehood has long been the defining characteristic of the Jews.

Community is a defining characteristic of Jewish life. Most of us are familiar with the [Jewish Community Centers](#) or JCCs. They are major recreational, social, and fraternal outlets for the Jews they serve. And lately, these communities also advocate for the rights and values of Jews in their communities and around the world. What began as the Hebrew Young Men’s Literary Association in 1854 has grown into 350 centers and camps across the United States and Canada, according to the [JCC Association](#).

The world is changing, and [Jewish] communities are changing.

[Jews for Judaism](#) is an international organization that provides a wide variety of counseling services, along with education, and outreach programs, that enable Jews of all ages to rediscover and strengthen their Jewish heritage. There are a variety of programs, some of which may be useful if you’ve been a target of pro-seletizing or Christian outreach. This is a worldwide community for those wanting to keep Judaism strong for themselves, their family, and their community.



On the West Coast, if you are Latin and Jewish, you can find kindred souls at the [KEN Jewish Community](#). Here you can maintain your Latin values and culture while strengthening your Jewish identity and building a connection to Israel. KEN was founded by Mexicans and other Central and South American Latin Jews to meet their needs for community and Judaism.

[Jewish Community Action](#) brings together Jewish people from diverse traditions and perspectives to promote understanding and take action on social and economic justice issues in Minnesota. When Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz comes to TBA in December, we will learn about these issues. And we will continue to hear about these issues now that the presidential campaign has begun.

[Keshet](#) is a national grassroots organization that works for the full equality and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Jews in Jewish life. Here in New Hampshire, we are a state that allows gay marriage. So it makes sense that we be aware of the LGBT community and the Jews in that community who are our family, friends, and neighbors. Attending a retreat through [Nehirim](#) may help our understanding and strengthen our bonds with the LGBT community.

So, have you figured out what community you are in? In reality, does it matter? Just remember these five things:

- ✧ Be Generous
- ✧ Volunteer
- ✧ Be Aware
- ✧ Be Considerate
- ✧ Get Involved

WE ARE A
COMMUNITY

We can all make a huge difference in our communities by following those simple steps. So what are you waiting for? Go make a difference ([source](#))