

**Congregation  
Da'at Elohim  
The Temple of  
Universal Judaism**



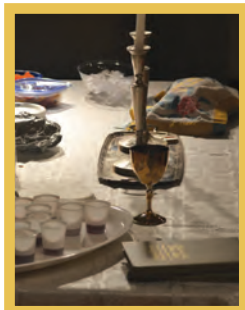
1010 Park Avenue at 85th Street  
888-590-2791 ~ Founded 1974  
Member, Union for Reform Judaism

**[www.tuj.org](http://www.tuj.org)**

## About us . . .

*"My Temple shall be a house of prayer for all peoples"*

**from Jewish Scripture, Isaiah 56:7**



Congregation Da'at Elohim: The Temple of Universal Judaism, a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, was founded in 1974 at a time some individuals and families—many of them interfaith—did not feel welcome at area synagogues. Today, we continue that tradition with inclusion of members from all backgrounds. We are a warm, growing Reform Jewish congregation—truly a “community”—comprised of

caring and supportive people. We welcome everyone: same-sex couples and individuals, those who were born Jewish and those who were not. Indeed anyone searching for a connection to Jewish life and learning can find a home with us.

## From our rabbi . . .

*Rabbi Joshua ben Parahya said: “Find yourself a Rabbi and you will also acquire a friend”*

**from the Talmud, Tractate Avot 1:6**



“A true rabbi is not just one who can teach Judaism; he is a teacher who can embrace, guide, and comfort his students. This was my purpose in becoming a rabbi; it is my goal in serving our unique congregation. I feel fortunate to join a synagogue open and proud to have a rabbi who can be both teacher and friend.”

**Rabbi Ari Fridkis**

## Shabbat . . .

*"More than the Jewish people has kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jewish people"*

words of Ahad Ha'am, late 19th c.



Shabbat is a time we gather as a shared community. Together we celebrate the wonder and miracle of the universe, of being

alive. Together we share our stories and burdens. Together we sing and pray, meditate and celebrate. We read from the Torah and glean wisdom from the magnificence of Jewish tradition.

## High Holy Days. . .

*"Today is the Birthday of the world"*

from the Rosh Hashanah liturgy



On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we are privileged to fill the sanctuary with members and guests alike. Our Cantorial

Soloist, Accompanist, Choir Members and congregants join Rabbi Fridkis in leading our magnificent services. As on Shabbat, so on the Holy Days: no one is turned away from joining us.

## Festivals . . .

*"We kindle these lights in remembrance of the wondrous deliverance the Holy One performed on this day in years gone by"*

from the Hanukkah liturgy



Sukkot, Simhat Torah, Hanukah, Purim and Passover are all times to celebrate the joy of Jewish life and history. Our services and programs attract adults and children

with meals, ancient ritual and the central message of the festivals: that Jewish celebration comes with the responsibility to create a just world for all people.

## Children and Families . . .

*"Oifn pripetchek: By the fireside, in a cozy place, the children with the rabbi, learn the Alef-Bet"*

from the Yiddish folksong



The Jewish future depends on insuring that a new generation will hold fast to the Torah's ideals of goodness and kindness.

Children are always welcome at Da'at Elohim. We organize Family Shabbat Meals and Services as well as individualized Jewish education focused on the family as well as the child.

## Bar/Bat Mitzvah . . .

*"May your eyes shine with the brightness of Torah"*

from the Talmud, Tractate Berachot 17a



At the age of 13, boys and girls are called to the Torah and lead parts of the service. Preparing to be a "son or daughter of the commandments"

is achieved through an individualized study program. As our children grow toward adulthood, we oblige them to understand the central commandment of the Torah handed down by Rabbi Hillel of the 1st century: "What is hateful to you, do not do unto your neighbor." More than learning "about" Judaism, our students are educated to "live" Judaism through a lifetime of kindness and good deeds.

## Social Action . . .

*"Don't just study Torah, 'Be Torah'"*

Rabbinic proverb



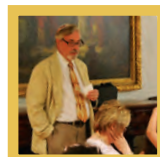
For adults too, "Being Torah" means we are living embodiments of the commandments: serving the community and working for causes

that respect all people. In alliance with five faith communities, Da'at Elohim volunteers cook and serve nutritious meals to needy New Yorkers on the fifth Shabbat of the month. With the Park Avenue Christian Church and Reverend Alvin Jackson, we present the Heschel-King Award for Interfaith Activism to one continuing the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel, both of blessed memory.

## Temple Organization

Rabbi Gamliel said: "Those who occupy themselves with the affairs of the community do the work of Heaven"

from Pirke Avot: Ethics of our Fathers 2:2



As a close-knit congregation, everyone is encouraged to take leadership roles, join committees and participate in matters

of ritual, programs, outreach, finance and communication. Involvement adds a sense of accomplishment, warm personal connections, and a shared feeling of growing together as a congregation.

Congregation Da'at Elohim: The Temple of Universal Judaism is grateful for the friendship of our hosts: The Park Avenue Christian Church, its lay leadership, clergy, and staff.

## Information & Donations

*Please hand this form to any temple member or mail to:*

### Congregation Da'at Elohim

1010 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please put me on your mailing list for upcoming events

☐ Contact me about \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Contact me about Temple membership

☐ Please invite & honor me on the occasion of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the General Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a Prayerbook

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat (\$50)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the High Holy Days Music Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Torah Fund

☐ In honor or memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach names and full addresses of those you wish to be notified)

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_