Mission Statement

Kehila Chadasha's mission is to create a fellowship (*chavurah*) community drawing on Jewish teachings throughout history, interpreting them through a present-day, progressive lens, and applying them toward repairing the world (*tikkun olam*). We do this through:

Nurturing Community through Shared Values of Intention (*kavannah*) and Inclusivity

- We focus on strengthening personal bonds rather than putting roots into a physical structure.
- We aspire to ensure that singles**,** couples and families of all ages and backgrounds—including interfaith couples and those of any sexual orientation, gender identity, race, class, ability or ethnicity feel welcome and at home.
- As an extended family, we offer a welcoming home for our community, support one another in times of sorrow (*chesed*) and celebrate each other's joy (*simcha*).
- We express and promote Jewish values in all that we do – especially the values of justice (*tzedaka*), joy (*simcha*), loving-kindness (*chesed*), peace (*shalom*), truth (*emet*), gratitude (*hoda'ah*), humility (*anavah*), generosity (*nedivut*) and connection with each other, nature and our own unique spiritual path (*kesher*).
- We welcome doubt as much as belief, questions more than answers.
- Our events aim to inspire compassion and grow awareness of interconnectedness among all people.
- Members regularly work together on diverse projects related to social justice, environmental sustainability, and human rights. Our efforts include advocacy as well as dialogue and direct service.
- We seek to open our minds and hearts to other religions, nationalities and cultures, and thereby to facilitate interdenominational, international and inter-ethnic understanding, harmony and peace.
- We are an independent chavurah, not affiliated with any denomination or mainstream organization.

Educating Children and Adults

- We prize the role of learning in informing our thoughts, words and actions at any age. We draw inspiration from the full spectrum of Jewish heritage - theological, historical and cultural - and we accommodate a wide range of Jewish beliefs and practices.
- Our formal education for children and teens integrates social action and leadership along with Jewish texts**,** prayers, ethics, history and culture (especially music, art, humor and languages like Yiddish, Hebrew and Ladino).
- We focus on experiential learning through hands-on activities**,** field trips, service learning and the latest technology and pedagogy.
- Weekly adult education encompasses historical, literary, religious, political, and scientific themes, as well as arts and entertainment. Simultaneous learning across generations is intended to model the values of progressive and intentional life-long learning.
- We seek diversity among our teachers as well as participants.
- We put our money where our mouth is, spending much more on children's and adult education than any other expense.

Celebrating Jewish Holidays and Observing Life-Cycle Events

- Judaism is about joy! We practice a joyous Judaism, celebrating Jewish holidays and lifecycle events with music, art, games, food and fun for all ages.
- We celebrate Jewish holidays at Sunday gatherings, during monthly *onegs* and at special events as a way of prioritizing the needs of the community over the calendar.
- Our spiritual leaders provide practical support and spiritual inspiration to members observing life-cycle events.

Encouraging Member Participation

As a member-driven community, all are expected to actively give of their time, talents and treasure.