

## Our Community

We celebrate Jewish holidays together including the observance of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the building of a sukkah, a Hanukah party, a Purim carnival, and a Passover seder. We also mark births, deaths, and other significant events in the lives of our members. We are a community where adults and children participate in the educational process and where people with diverse viewpoints and backgrounds are welcomed.

*Join us and become part of our dynamic Jewish community!*



**For more information**, please contact our president, Elisa Lapine:

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The Secular Jewish Community & School (SJCS) is a member-run organization committed to teaching and celebrating Jewish history, culture, music, literature, values and identity in a secular, humanistic context.

We are diverse and inclusive in our beliefs, our backgrounds and our family structures. We welcome anyone who wishes to learn more about Jewish culture to be part of our community.

**SJCS is affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations ([www.csjo.org](http://www.csjo.org)) and is incorporated as a nonprofit institution. Contributions are tax deductible.**



**celebrate**  
**customs**  
**culture**  
**history**  
**music**  
**literature**  
**values and identity**

We offer Sunday school classes, holiday and lifecycle celebrations and other community activities that provide a sense of Jewish identity and transmit the values of social justice and individual responsibility.

### Our school

Our Sunday school meets three times a month from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. during the school year. We offer classes for Pre-K through 8th grade, including Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation. Children learn about Jewish traditions, major festivals, and biblical heritage from a social and cultural perspective.

At all levels, children learn conversational Hebrew and join the adults for singing (in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English) and cultural celebrations.

### Pre-school (Pre-K/K)

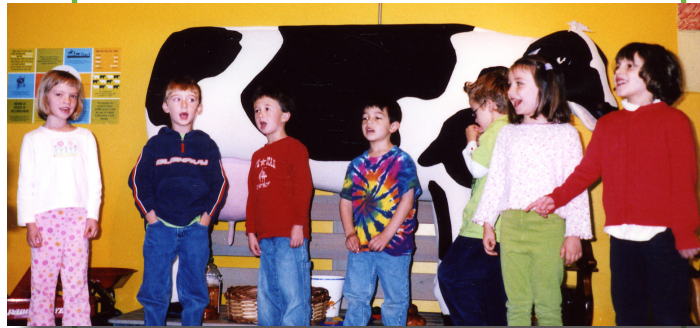
During the preschool years, children are introduced to secular Jewish life, customs and traditions through stories, art, song and play.

### Early primary years (grades 1/2)

In the 1st and 2nd grade, children explore the customs, practices, meanings and symbols for the secular celebration of Jewish holidays, and learn about heroes and heroines who exemplify positive Jewish values.

### Middle primary years (grades 3/4)

The 3rd grade curriculum focuses on the archeological and mythical origins of the Jews. Students explore the current hypotheses about the origins of the universe, humans, and Jews. The fourth grade curriculum introduces students to ancient Jewish history, cultural contentions and values (particularly social justice) from the time of the judges through the Maccabees, including a critical examination of biblical history.



### Late primary years (grades 5/6)

In 5th grade, children are introduced to Jewish history from the end of the Roman Empire to the Democratic revolutions. Topics covered include: the Diaspora; shtetl life; intellectual traditions; the history of the Jews in Spain; and the Haskala (Enlightenment). Sixth grade introduces students to the history of the Jews in the modern age, including emancipation in Western Europe, immigration to the United States, and the establishment of the State of Israel.



### Middle school years (grades 7/8)

In these grades, students prepare to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Classes focus on a deepening understanding of Jewish values, making Jewish traditions meaningful and pertinent to our contemporary lives, exploring what it means to be Jewish and where secular, humanistic Jews fit within the larger Jewish community.

### Bar and Bat Mitzvah

Our B'nai Mitzvah program includes three components: an independent study of intellectual and cultural interest to the student, a community service/social action project, and a celebratory community ceremony which indicates that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah understands and accepts the moral obligations incumbent upon an adult Jew.

### Post-B'nai Mitzvah class

Students continue to explore their Jewish roots and contemporary issues in Jewish life.

### Adult education

While children are in Sunday school, adults gather for a lively discussion of Jewish history and tradition, literature and culture, and contemporary issues, often led by invited speakers.