

SIMCHA is:

- an outreach program for Jewish individuals of all ages who have special needs and /or disabilities and their families
- a chance for families, clergy, teachers, therapists, and interested volunteers to join together to support this special population
- an opportunity for Jewish families to explore and enjoy their heritage through our monthly programs
- dedicated to encouraging our members with disabilities the accessibility of the Jewish community
- able to provide sign interpreters for our members who are hearing impaired

Co-chairs:

Debby Berlin – (215) 945-1718 debby.berlin3@gmail.com

Nancy Siderits – (215) 579-1683 nsiderits@verizon.net

Program Coordinator: Paula Shavell

SIMCHA is made possible by the generosity of our volunteers and donations of our supporters.

All programs are offered at no charge to affiliated or unaffiliated families.


SHIR AMI
SIMCHA



SIMCHA

Special Individuals Meeting Challenges
with Heartwarming Activities

**Special programs
for Jewish families
with special needs**

Shir Ami
101 Richboro Rd
Newtown PA 18940
215 968-3400
Shiraminow.org



SIMCHA (Special Individuals Meeting Challenges with Heartwarming Activities) is an informal Jewish educational and spiritual program at Shir Ami in Newtown, Pennsylvania. SIMCHA is uniquely designed for affiliated and unaffiliated Jewish individuals of all ages with special needs and/or disabilities and their families.

THE GOALS:

1. To conduct meaningful informal Jewish educationally-oriented programs and activities that promote Jewish identity and enhance daily Jewish life.
2. To provide informative and relevant speakers, and opportunities to address concerns shared by special needs families.
3. To offer a caring and nurturing synagogue environment so participants may establish a meaningful connection to the Jewish community.

Through joining in prayer, song, and activities, individuals with special needs and their families can feel that they are in partnership with their Jewish community. SIMCHA also helps families continue to learn about Judaism through these informal educational opportunities. The clergy of Shir Ami, special education teachers, various health professionals and other dedicated volunteers join in supporting the goals of SIMCHA.

SIMCHA meets once a month for 2 hours. We have a brief, joyous, member-led worship experience (Shabbat, Havdalah or holiday) and an activity including arts and crafts around a Jewish theme, cooking for Jewish holidays, singing, dancing and playing musical instruments, and refreshments.

**2011-2012 Tentative calendar
(All events held at Shir Ami in
Newtown, PA unless otherwise noted)**

Sunday, October 16, 2pm: Sukkoth celebration and magic show with our friends from Gam Yachad

Saturday, November 12, 2pm: Celebration of Shabbat – challah baking and more

Saturday, December 17, 3pm: Chanukah festivities

Saturday, January 21, 3pm: Pajamas and a movie

Saturday, Feb 25, Time TBA: Care for our animal friends

Sunday March 18 - noon: Passover seder

Saturday April 21, 3pm: A trip to Israel

Saturday, May 19, Time TBA: End-of-year celebration

SIMCHA is also available to assist in the preparation for B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmation of individuals with special needs and their families.