

A TASTE OF:

Welcoming and Integrating New Members

Rabbi Maurice Harris



**RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM**

**Promotion /
Outreach**

**Lowering Barriers
to Membership**



**Pathway Construction for New
Members**



**Bonding / Social &
Spiritual Glue**

1

**“Path to Belonging”
Series**

2

**Survey Members about What’s
Going on in Their Lives**

3

**Deepening Personal
Narrative
Connections to
Jewish Sacred Texts**

1

“Path to Belonging” Series

“A Path to Belonging” Series

The Main Concept: have an annual series of programs that are primarily aimed at new members but are open to all members. The series minimally covers these four areas:

1

your congregation's physical space, activities, and offerings

2

meeting your clergy, staff, board and main committee leaders

3

ways to get involved as a volunteer or leader

4

an introduction to the basics of Reconstructionism



**RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM**

“A Path to Belonging” Series

Aug 25	Building and Grounds Tour with Ken Brocklin	Come to Kehillat Haverim and let our past president, Ken, give you a 5-star 45 minute tour of our building and our community garden. Coffee, tea and delicious baked goods from Fernando’s Hideaway Bakery provided. Get to know new and longtime members!
Sep 1	Reconstructionism 101	Whether you’re new or just want a refresher, join Rabbi Ross for an hour of learning and conversation about the key elements of a Recon-structionist approach to Judaism that inform our warm, welcoming congregation. Coffee, tea and snacks courtesy of Sun n Stars Market.
Sep 15	Getting Involved at Kehillat Haverim with Grace Kahn	What’s going on at KH? What opportunities exist to learn, volunteer or work with others on a new idea? Our Executive Director, Grace Kahn, will fill you in! Coffee, tea & snacks by the Jewish Federation of James County, who’ll share info about ways to get involved in their good work.
Oct 13	Lifelong Learning at Kehillat Haverim with Anton Barges	Join our adult education committee chair, Anton Barges, and several KH teachers for an overview of planned classes, lectures, and workshops for the coming year. Share your suggestions for future topics! Coffee, tea & snacks courtesy of the Board of Directors, several of whom will be there!
Oct 20	Meet our Board, Rabbi, Staff and Committee leaders of Kehillat Haverim	This special vegetarian buffet brunch is sponsored by our Torah School. The event is free but registration is required. You’ll hear from the people who make KH work on a daily basis and come away knowing how the congregation operates and ways you can get involved. Register by Oct 17 at [link].
Oct 27	Social Justice / Tikkun Olam at Kehillat Haverim	Come and meet the members of our Social Justice / Tikkun Olam committee. They’ll describe their plans for the year, let you know how you or your family can participate, and ask for your ideas and interests. Coffee, tea and snacks courtesy of Fernando’s Hideaway Bakery.

2

**Survey Members about What's
Going on in Their Lives**

Doing a “People Survey”: mapping the lives of your members



The goal is to move away from "What do you want from us?" toward "What is the shape of your life right now?"

Sample questions

Which of these "Life Chapters" describes your current daily experience?


(Select all that apply and write in your own as well.)

- Parenting teens / tweens
- Navigating life post-divorce
- Caring for an aging loved one
- Living in addiction recovery
- Adjusting to retirement
- Looking for a job
- Going through grief
- Expecting a new child
- Working hard just to make ends meet

Sample questions

Are you currently managing a chronic health or accessibility challenge (for yourself or a family member) that impacts how you move through the world?

Use the space below to describe the situation if it applies to you.



Sample questions

Outside of work and family, what is one activity or hobby that currently brings you a sense of "flow" or joy?

Use the space below.



Sample questions

1. Where does the bulk of your "daytime" energy go right now?
2. What does your typical "commute" or daily transition look like?
3. When you have 30 minutes of "found time" in your day, how do you most often spend it?
4. Which of these "Active Pursuits" are part of your regular weekly or monthly routine?
 - Checklist: Community activism/organizing, gardening/homesteading, competitive or recreational sports, artistic creation (painting, writing, music), cooking/baking for others, outdoor exploration (hiking, birding).
5. If you are a caregiver, what does your "caregiving labor" primarily involve right now?
6. What is the "heavy lift" in your life right now that people might not see?
7. What is a "micro-joy" that consistently shows up in your daily routine?

Report back to the congregation



Use findings to shape programming, leadership development and volunteer recruitment



3

**Deepening Personal
Narrative
Connections to
Jewish Sacred Texts**

Deepening personal narrative connections to sacred Jewish texts

put the Jewish story out and invite people to come tell their stories



put the life topic out and invite people to learn Jewish stories while sharing their stories