

Ode to Judaism Music and prayer come together in a soulful mix at the Nachshon Minyan in Encino, California, the two-year-old creation of Cantor Judy Greenfeld (above), who founded the group to attract unaffiliated Jews.



The atmosphere at minyan services (held on the first Saturday of each month and on holidays;

www.nachshonminyan.org) is thoughtfully nourished. The music selections (traditional nusach paired with the folksy style of Debbie Friedman), scholarly lectures and a user-friendly prayer book adapted from the Conservative and Reform movements by Greenfeld set a welcoming mood.

“Music has a unique ability to touch and inspire, to soothe and heal,” Greenfeld said. Her most recent CD release is *When You Lie Down and When You Rise Up: Jewish Prayers to Begin and End Your Day in a Meaningful Way*. She is also the coauthor of *Minding the Temple of the Soul* and

Entering the Temple of Dreams (both published by Jewish Lights).

“The bottom line,” Greenfeld noted, “is that the Nachshon Minyan, and hopefully similar congregations that will arise, are not a whim or a fad.”

—*Libby Goldberg*