

# 10 REASONS YOU SHOULD JOIN TEMPLE BETH EMETH TODAY



1. The way Rabbi Shalhevet chants from the Torah in both Hebrew and English

2. How comfortable interfaith families feel when they join our close-knit congregation



3. The great fun families have every year at our Hanukkah and Purim parties



4. Our adult education classes and scholar-in-residence programs



5. Our Religious School's innovative program and flexible schedule.

In no particular order ...



6. The way everyone sings along with Cantor Green and her musical guests



7. The annual Kumzits bonfire on the beach and our summer picnic at the Longwood Estate

8. Sisterhood and Men's Club, the softball team and youth events



9. Our volunteers — from the barn sale team to our dedicated bar and bat mitzvah tutors



10. Storytime at our monthly Family Service and all the musicians at our monthly Music Shabbat



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Cantor  
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## Welcome home!

That is how I feel each time I walk through the doors of Temple Beth Emeth, and I know that you will soon feel this way as well. I am proud and honored to serve such a wonderful congregation made up of people who sincerely care about one another.

Upon entering Temple Beth Emeth for the first time, I will admit that I was nervous. I did not know anyone yet. And past experience of walking into temples has shown me that they are not always the “warm and welcoming” places they profess to be. But upon returning home after my interview for the position of rabbi at Temple Beth Emeth, I turned to Jaimee and said, “If we were looking for a congregation to join, I just found us one. What a wonderful group of people!”

Temple Beth Emeth is a community of people who come together to celebrate with one another at every opportunity. It is a congregation where, when someone – anyone – loses a loved one, the shiva house is filled with extended family comprised of the congregation. It is a congregation I can smile with on a Friday night as we pick up our tambourines and celebrate Shabbat with joy. It is a congregation where everyone is welcome and no one is judged, as we recognize that all of us are unique individuals who all bring something of value to our community.

We have a wonderful Religious School that instills a sense of pride and provides students with an opportunity to grow as thinkers and learners; individualized one-on-one Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutoring; thought-provoking Adult Education; an active Men's Club, and an engaged Sistehood. Our High Holiday and Shabbat worship is filled with invigorating and meaningful songs, enhanced by our Youth and Adult Choirs. Our Israel Activities Committee helps us connect to our homeland, and our Tikkun Olam Committee provides us with care and support in times of need. But more important than any of these programs or committees are the people who fill the room; we are truly a synagogue of relationships.

Now that you know a bit of my story, I invite you to come and tell me yours. I look forward to getting to know you more as you become a part of the wondrous community I am proud to call my temple family.

L'hitraot, Until We Meet Again,

Rabbi Helayne Shalhevet

## TEMPLE BETH EMETH OF MOUNT SINAI

# Frequently Asked Questions

Is this a Reform temple? Though Temple Beth Emeth has no formal affiliation, our approach to Judaism is firmly rooted in the Reform tradition. Our services, led by Rabbi Helayne Shalhevet, contain a blend of English and Hebrew, modern readings and traditional prayers, and men and women participate equally. Singing, led by Cantor Lisa Ann Green and her guitar, is an essential part of our Shabbat services. So is participation.

When are services? Every Friday evening at 8 p.m., except for the first Friday each month, when our Family Service begins at 7:30 p.m. This special service makes it easier for families with young children to attend; instead of a sermon, Rabbi Shalhevet shares a story with the youngest congregants sitting at her feet. Children are welcome at all services at our temple. Recently, we also introduced a Music Shabbat that turns up both the music and participation. If you come to one of these energetic services, generally the third Friday of the month, you'll see what we mean. High Holiday services are at Newfield High School in Selden to accommodate the many visiting worshippers. Members, their parents and their children do not require tickets to attend.

How large is the congregation? Our congregation began with 40 families in 1986 and has grown to about 100. There are single members, working couples and retired couples, households with young children and households with grown children, adoptive families and families with roots in different heritages. Our building is handicapped accessible.

How does Religious School work? It begins with a Festival class designed to introduce 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students to Jewish learning and continues through our Aleph, Bet, Gimmel, Dalet and Hay classes, which lead to bar or bat mitzvah. Each involves an afternoon in the classroom supplemented by a variety of educational sources emphasizing Jewish experiences. A teen's education continues with our Confirmation and Havurah programs, taught by Rabbi Shalhevet. Our Religious School and bar and bat mitzvah programs connect what happens in the classroom, sanctuary and home and involve the whole family.

What about Adult Education? From our Scholar in Residence sessions to the Torah classes taught by Rabbi Shalhevet, adult education is a big priority. We have an active Adult Education Committee that organizes a variety of programs, from movie nights to museum trips. We also host an annual Rabbi Alan Abraham Kay Scholar in Residence program, carrying on a tradition started by our late rabbi emeritus.

What else is there to temple life? We have a busy Sisterhood and Men's Club, and a host of other committees that host and arrange events and activities for our congregation and community. Each year, for example, we have an interfaith Thanksgiving service involving neighboring faith communities. We also have a softball team that plays on Sunday mornings.

What does it cost to join? A family membership costs \$1,725 or \$143.75 a month. There are discounts for retired couples, young married couples and single members. Religious School tuition varies depending on the class (Festival through Havurah). See the 2015 Fee Schedule for specifics. There also is a building fund commitment of \$1,000, payable at \$250 a year if you haven't paid for a building fund at another synagogue.

Are there other ways to contribute? Each family adopts a Shabbat once a year, partnering with another family to participate in the service and provide refreshments afterward. Families are also expected to contribute their time and ideas by getting involved in one aspect of temple life, e.g., joining a committee, helping in our Religious School, etc.

# So how much money are we talking about?

Temple Beth Emeth keeps dues and tuition levels down by operating on a very tight budget. We rely heavily on volunteers like our dedicated bar and bat mitzvah tutors, and our mortgage is held by temple family members. Members do not have to buy High Holiday tickets. If you're part of our congregation, you, your children and your parents are all welcome at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at no extra charge.

## Membership categories and fees

	Monthly	Quarterly	Annual
FAMILY	143.75	431.25	1725
RETIRED (Both spouses)	110.92	332.75	1331
SINGLE / SINGLE PARENT	78.83	236.50	946
YOUNG COUPLES (kids under 5)	78.83	236.50	946
ASSOCIATE			200
Associate membership is available to dues-paying members of other congregations			
BUILDING FUND	20.84	62.50	250

## Membership categories and fees

Katantan	10 per class
Festival	385
Alef	565
Bet	565
Gimmel	565
Dalet	565
Hay	305
Confirmation	245
Havurah	245
Bar / Bat Mitzvah Fee	400

\* Note: The Building Fund is a \$1,000 commitment to be paid over four years. It does not apply to families that have already fulfilled a temple building fund requirement at Temple Beth Emeth or any other synagogue.

**To sign up or, if you have any questions, please contact Alice Klein, our financial secretary, at 476-9211 or [alicemklein@hotmail.com](mailto:alicemklein@hotmail.com) or Phil Paskowitz, our vice president in charge of membership, at 345-3246 or [agsilver2@msn.com](mailto:agsilver2@msn.com).**