



# Honoring Our Tradition, Embracing Our Future



Welcome to Temple Beth El, a place where warmth, connections, spiritual life, and dynamic programs all come together. We are proud to be the voice of Reform Judaism in Madison, Wisconsin, and we build upon a rich legacy of social responsibility and *tikkun olam*.

At TBE, the paths to sacred encounter are limitless, whether you are in a formal worship space, in conversation with another member, or simply spending a few quiet moments alone. As a place of shared community, a house of worship, a center of teaching and learning, and a center for social justice, Temple Beth El offers relevant and meaningful Jewish experiences. We welcome you to become a part of our story.



**beit kneset**  
house of community



**beit t'filah**  
house of worship



**beit midrash**  
house of learning



**beit tzedek**  
house of justice



# WE ARE A *beit kneset* house of community



## FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

We understand the importance of connection, and Temple Beth El is the place that connects us. We nurture many groups within our larger community to create more meaningful, interwoven relationships among those in our Temple family. Through shared interests, goals, and passions, groups forge common bonds as they serve to strengthen our individual pursuits and our congregational growth.



“ We've been a part of this community from the very beginning—since our parents' generation sought to form a progressive Jewish community in Madison. Our values were exemplified in Rabbi Swarsensky, who was an ardent believer in the importance of being welcoming and accepting, especially of interfaith families. We are proud to see how this congregation has grown and changed. ”

— Jeanne (z"l) and Joe Silverberg,  
members since 1939





WE ARE A **beit t'filah**  
house of worship



## REJOICE WITH US

The spiritual journey we take together is at the heart of Temple Beth El. We value the power of community, the sound of our voices lifted in prayer, the warmth of finding closeness in familiar melodies and liturgy. We realize that no single style of prayer works for everyone, and we are committed to evolving new modes of connection and spirituality that bring us closer to God and to one another. From weekly celebrations of Shabbat to uplifting High Holy Days, through life's joyous peaks and its times of transition, you will discover that acceptance and warmth are at the heart of who we are.



“ Belonging to TBE gave us a framework to build and support the growth of our relationship and our family. Even though our lives were hectic and busy, we regularly attended Shabbat worship with our kids to take a break, take a breath, and unwind. It brought us a sense of belonging and peace, a way to let go of the stress of the week. ”

—Sanford Carimi (and family),  
members since 1991



# WE ARE A *beit midrash* house of learning



## LEARN WITH US

Our students find their Jewish voices here; they take ownership of their learning and Jewish identity, and develop close friendships from the beginning of Religious School and Hebrew School, through the b'nai mitzvah years, and on to confirmation and high school. As parents, you are your children's first teachers, and we are your partners. When your family joins us on Sundays or connects throughout the week, we welcome you to our innovative community of discovery and wonder, learning and engagement for all.



“ Our son's educational experience has been exceptional, especially his bar mitzvah preparation. The experience of delivering his d'var Torah during his service prepared him in ways we never anticipated for future challenges. The team of the rabbi, the cantor, and the director of lifelong learning spent the time to help us make a plan that worked well for our son. As a result of him getting the support he needed he has been able to translate his positive bar mitzvah experience into important life skills. ”

— Rebecca Minsley (and family),  
members since 2001





# WE ARE A *beit tzedek* house of justice



## REPAIR THE WORLD

We are committed to the pursuit of *tikkun olam*—wholeness in the world. Here, you're never far from an opportunity to make someone's life a little better, or the world a little brighter. We take a stand in many ways right here at Temple through many social action projects: by making meals and housing the homeless, by strengthening our partnership with our fellow congregations, by advocating before our legislators and community decision makers, and by engaging in many other projects with partners throughout Madison.



“ For a long time I struggled with the question of whether or not to tell people I converted to Judaism. Before I chose Judaism, I had spiritual beliefs but didn't have a name for them. Then I met Dan. It was like coming home in a way. And I realized, oh, that's what I've been trying to articulate for so long. The concepts of social justice, *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, doing good by other people. ”

—Casey Becker (and family),  
members since 2010



# Welcome to Temple Beth El. Welcome home.

To hear more stories go to [tbemadison.org/memberstories](http://tbemadison.org/memberstories).  
Ready to join? Visit [tbemadison.org/join-us](http://tbemadison.org/join-us) to get started.

**Rabbi** Jonathan Blatch, MAHL, DD   **Cantor** Jacob Niemi, MSM   **Executive Director** Stefanie Kushner   **Director of Lifelong Learning** Nicole A. Jahr, RJE

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