WELCOME!

Temple Beth-El, Embracing Jewish Diversity

“My house will be called a house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:7)

The Temple Beth-El community welcomes Jews by birth, Jews by choice, persons of any culture, race, or ethnicity, and those of other faiths interested in exploring Jewish traditions. All are welcome to attend services and programs.

Join the TBE community—You do not need to be a member to attend services and activities at Temple Beth-El. This includes services on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Jewish individuals and their families are encouraged to become members so they can participate more fully in Temple life. Membership benefits include a warm and caring community, voting privileges, access to publications and announcements, and the opportunity to support the synagogue through regular dues. The Membership Committee considers financial needs and respects privacy when recommending dues structures. Members may be, for example, unmarried individuals, couples, families that include people of another faith or no faith tradition, or grandparents with children. For more information about membership, please contact membership committee Chair, Ariel Avgar (membership@tbeithaca.org).

Interfaith families and individuals of other faiths and traditions—Temple Beth-El welcomes individuals of any faith tradition to attend services, classes, and other synagogue activities. Interfaith families participate actively within the synagogue community, at educational programs for individuals of all ages, and within our Sisterhood (local chapter of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism). Open to all, Basic Judaism classes are offered regularly at Temple Beth-El, and these classes may be a good starting point for individuals considering converting to Judaism.

LGBTQ+ individuals and families—Individuals and families within the LGBTQ+ rainbow are welcome at Temple Beth-El, are represented in our membership, and participate fully in the life of our congregation.

Special needs—Temple Beth-El accommodates individuals with a wide range of special needs.

- Most of the TBE facility is wheelchair accessible, thanks to ramps and a lift. Accessible areas include the sanctuary, chapel, libraries, offices, social hall, and most classrooms.
- The new loop-assistive listening system in the main sanctuary can be accessed by a personal t-coil enabled hearing aid, with portable receivers available for those without a compatible device.
- The Religious School provides individualized attention to students with a variety of special needs.
- Additional accessibility requests can be addressed, as needed.

This page was created with input from the congregational meetings in 2019 and was approved by the TBE Board in January 2020. Please contact a Board member if you have any questions or suggestions.