



Celebrating 40 Years

Membership Information

2023 - 2024
5783 - 5784

Congregation Beth El
3900 Raoul Wallenberg Lane
Missouri City, Texas 77459

WWW.BETHELTX.ORG
281.499.5066 office | 281-261-0070 fax



Congregation Beth El is the center of Reform Judaism in Fort Bend County. Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, Congregation Beth El strives to fulfill its mission of helping each member connect to what is important to them as Jews and as part of the global community. We seek to do this by offering engaging and spiritually-uplifting Shabbat and holiday services, a vibrant educational program for children and adults, and opportunities to perform acts of tikkun olam, repairing the world. Most importantly, Beth El provides a warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all our members, Jewish or non-Jewish, as we seek to create a close-knit community bonded together by the highest ideals of our faith.

Cantor Renee Waghalter provides our spiritual leadership and she enjoys getting to know each congregant individually and making them feel welcome.

Jewish education is emphasized at Congregation Beth El and we are committed to its excellence. In addition to learning Hebrew, Jewish traditions, history, and values, we provide a safe space for our students to explore their faith and make friends with their Jewish peers. Our kids love coming to Beth El!

Throughout the year, we celebrate religious holidays and gather for social functions. We are a congregation that is ever-growing and developing, with a full range of congregational services. Our activities are continuously expanding as new programs are developed.



WHO WE ARE

- ✧ A Reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism dedicated to the development and propagation of a strong Jewish community in Fort Bend County and the surrounding areas
- ✧ Approximately two hundred members with a common goal
- ✧ A congregation committed to the continuation of our Jewish heritage through education and practice

WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

- ✧ A warm, welcoming, and inclusive Jewish community!
- ✧ Spiritually enriching Shabbat services
- ✧ High Holy Day services and joyous holiday celebrations
- ✧ Young family Shabbat and holiday programming
- ✧ Kindergarten through 12th grade religious school
- ✧ Engaging Jewish programming on Sundays for parents and children
- ✧ Bar/Bat Mitzvah training for children, beginning in grade 4
- ✧ Confirmation & senior graduation ceremonies
- ✧ BEFTY Senior Youth Group (affiliated with NFTY) and Junior Youth Group
- ✧ Active social groups for empty-nesters, young families, and seniors
- ✧ Community-building social events throughout the year for all ages
- ✧ Opportunities to create a better world through social action projects
- ✧ An opportunity to become an active part of our community with the ability to participate in and influence our present and future goals.
- ✧ Visit our web site: www.betheltx.org

For more information, contact our office at 281.499.5066 or admin@betheltx.org

MEET OUR STAFF

Cantor Renee Waghalter

Cantor Renee Waghalter has served the Jewish community as a cantor since 1996, and as a Jewish educator since 1988. She was among the first to graduate from the Cantorial Internship of the Cantors Assembly program and earned her bachelor's degree in Judaic studies with honors at Brown University. Passionate about active participation during services and in all aspects of synagogue life, Cantor Waghalter strives to make Jewish praying, living and learning accessible, meaningful, and joyful. Cantor Waghalter grew up in Houston and became bat mitzvah at Congregation Emanu El. She makes her home in Southwest Houston with her husband, Dave, and son, Zev.

Erin Bersin, Finance Director

Erin, a native of Colorado, has called Texas her home since 1998. She attended Southern Methodist University and earned a degree in Financial Accounting. After graduation she moved to the Houston area and has been here ever since. She joined the temple staff in January 2017 and does an exceptional job at handling the accounts receivables/payables as well as all of business functions for the temple. Erin is married to Michael Bersin, and they are proud parents of two daughters.

Marilyn Gorel, Office Manager

Marilyn, grew up in Laredo, Texas, and received a degree in business from the University of Texas. She has been with Congregation Beth El 1994, first working as a pre-school teacher, then the Pre-school Director Assistant. She is now the face of the congregation in her role as Office Manager Marilyn is married to Lance Gorel, and they are the proud parents of two daughters.

Norma Gonzales, Digital Specialist

Norma, fourth generation Texan, has worked in Houston's Jewish community for over 15 years. Her career began as the Temple Administrator at Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism in Houston. She then moved on to be the Senior Rabbi's assistant and later Program Director at Congregation Beth Yeshurun. Norma joined the staff at Beth El in 2017 as the Administrator and now is using her graphics and creative skills as our first Digital Specialist. Norma is married to Rudy Gonzales and they are the proud parents of one son and seven daughters and doting grandparents to ten little people.

Michelle Renfrow, Youth Programming Director

Michelle has called Sugar Land her home since she was in 8th grade. She attended the University of Houston as a springboard diver and transferred to UTSA where she earned a degree in Psychology and then earned her Masters of Arts in Counseling. Michelle has been involved in the Houston Jewish Community for over twenty years, working in schools and with Jewish youth. She has also been the resident artist (and sometimes farm director) at Greene Family Camp for over eleven years. Michelle is the proud mother of one son, and loves to support him at his many baseball games.



CONGREGATION BETH EL

The Center of Jewish Life in Fort Bend County

Staff

Cantor Renee Waghalter - CANTOR

Erin Bersin - FINANCE DIRECTOR

Marilyn Gorel - OFFICE MANAGER

Norma Gonzales - DIGITAL SPECIALIST & WEBMASTER

Michelle Renfrow - YOUTH EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

Executive Board

IRENE HELSINGER - PRESIDENT

CRAIG GOODMAN - VP, ADMINISTRATION

DANIELLE KRANTZ - VP, EDUCATION

DEB PARAS - VP, MEMBERSHIP

MARK SHAPIRO - TREASURER

CAROL SCHORN - SECRETARY

ANN SCHNEIDER - MEMBER AT LARGE

LETICIA HIMMELSTEIN - MEMBER AT LARGE

JODI KESSLER - IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Committees

Adult Education

Education

Facilities

Finance

Financial Support

Fundraising

Membership

Ritual

Social Action

Auxiliary Groups

BEFTY Youth Group

Men's Club

Caring Committee

Women's Book Club

Active Older Adults

To reach a board member or committee rep, call the temple office at 281.499.5066



CONGREGATION BETH EL

The Center of Jewish Life in Fort Bend County

Application for Membership

When you are ready to JOIN and have read the attached information, please fill out the following application and return it to our front office for processing.

Today's Date: _____ Last Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
 Subdivision: _____ Wedding Anniversary (M/D/Y): _____ Married Single
 Moving to this area from: _____ When: _____ Widowed Divorced

ADULT #1

Name: _____ Hebrew Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Email Address: _____ Cell: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Employer/Business: _____ Occupation: _____
 Work Address: _____
 Circle one: Jewish by Birth Jewish by Choice Non-Jew

ADULT #2

Name: _____ Hebrew Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Email Address: _____ Cell: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Employer/Business: _____ Occupation: _____
 Work Address: _____
 Circle one: Jewish by Birth Jewish by Choice Non-Jew

CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME (under 25, including college students)

NAME (ENGLISH & HEBREW)	DATE OF BIRTH (M/D/Y)	NAME (ENGLISH & HEBREW)	DATE OF BIRTH (M/D/Y)

ADULT CHILDREN NOT LIVING AT HOME

NAME (ENGLISH)	NAME (HEBREW)	ADDRESS

PERSONS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OTHER THAN CHILDREN

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (M/D/Y)	MARITAL STATUS	RELATIONSHIP

DECEASED LOVED ONES FOR YAHRZEIT REMINDERS

* Would you wish to be notified according to the English or the Hebrew date? _____ English _____ Hebrew

NAME	NOTIFY ENGLISH DATE * YAHRZEIT (MONTH/DAY/ YEAR)	NOTIFY HEBREW DATE * YAHRZEIT (MONTH/DAY/ YEAR)	RELATIONSHIP/RELATED TO (NAME) (I.E., PARENT,SIBLING,SPOUSE,CHILD OF ...)

Relationship to any present member of Beth El: _____

Friends who are members of Beth El: _____

Are you presently a member of another congregation? yes no

If yes, which one? _____ If no, previous congregation _____

How did you hear of Congregation Beth El? _____

Activities

Mark any of the following groups which would interest you or a family member (please indicate which member)

_____ Men's Club _____ BEFTY Youth Group
 _____ Active Older Adults

Have you or any member of your family had experience or training in leadership in any of the following: (please indicate which member)

_____ Leading Religious Service _____ Leading Youth Group
 _____ Teaching Religious School _____ Social Activities
 _____ Teaching Hebrew School _____ Fund Raising

Interests/Hobbies

_____ Education	_____ Art	_____ Social Action
_____ Photography	_____ Social Media	_____ Jewish Holidays
_____ Food	_____ Sports	_____ Interfaith Activities
_____ Jewish Culture	_____ Politics	_____ Israel
_____ Music and Dance	_____ Family Activities	_____ Nature

Commitment

It is not our intent to turn anyone away if you cannot financially afford our commitment schedule.
 Please request our special financial assistance form. Religious school forms are available in the office.
 To attend Religious School, you must be a member of the temple.

CONGREGATION BETH EL MEMBERSHIP 2023 – 2024 COMMITMENT SCHEDULE

Please look at the commitment schedule below, select the appropriate level and write in your commitment pledge. The suggested range is 2.5% of a member family's gross income.

Please note that High Holy Day tickets **ARE** included. Services including B'nai Mitzvah fees and Religious School are not included. The \$118 MUM fee (Maintenance, Utility and URJ Membership) and the Building Fund donation of \$150, and Security Fee of \$72 are not included in the below chart, you will add these at the bottom.

PLEASE CHECK ONE	TOTAL GROSS FAMILY INCOME	ANNUAL COMMITMENT (SUGGESTED RANGE)	COMMITMENT PLEDGED
	<\$25,000	\$600	
	\$25,001 - \$50,000	\$625 - \$1,250	
	\$50,001 - \$75,000	\$1,251 - \$1,875	
	\$75,001 - \$100,000	\$1,876 - \$2,500	
	\$100,001 - \$125,000	\$2,501 - \$3,125	
	\$125,001 - \$150,000	\$3,126 - \$3,750	
	\$150,001 - \$200,000	\$3,751 - \$5,000	
	<i>Chai-Life</i>	\$5,500	
	<i>Kavod-Honor</i>	\$7,500	
	<i>Tzedek-Righteousness</i>	\$10,000	

Dues Commitment	\$
MUM Fee	\$118
Building Fund	\$150
Security	\$ 72
TOTAL COMMITMENT	\$

This form and all information contained herein will remain confidential and restricted for the use by the Finance Director, Treasurer and/or Treasurer Financial Support Committee.

ADULT #1 DATE _____

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

ADULT #2 DATE _____

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____