



BETH EL בית אל
SYNAGOGUE

the synagogue that feels like home

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**Traditional and non-traditional Jewish and interfaith families and individuals are welcome at Beth El!
Beth El's dues are affordable and no one is turned away for lack of funds.**

High Holy Day tickets are reasonably priced, and the cost of tickets can be applied to annual dues. The entire synagogue building, including the bima, is handicap accessible.

**For more information, please contact the office
at 203 264-4500 or info@bethelsyn.org.**

**124 South Pomperaug Avenue, Woodbury , CT 06798
bethelwoodbury.org**

a message from **the president**

Dear Prospective Member,

Thank you for inquiring about membership in Beth El Synagogue. You are interested in a new synagogue experience and we believe we have something for everyone in your family, from children, through teens to adults and seniors. And, we offer wonderful educational and social programs for all ages.

A synagogue or a congregation is made up of three components; its members, its clergy and its leaders. You will find that all of the elements of our synagogue are committed to enhancing Jewish life with wonderful services, programs and events - and supporting each and every member as an individual.



Our members, young through old, participate in our services and programs. Our Rabbi and Cantor are warm, dynamic, knowledgeable and extremely passionate about everything they do. Finally, our leadership, executives and Board of Directors are committed to an exciting period of growth and renewal.

Become a part of us and participate in our services and programs.

- Because we are small, everyone participates in some way.
- Because we are small, we can be relaxed and informal about what we do.
- Because we are small, we all get to know each and every one of our congregants. and are able to care about them.

We look forward to getting to know you!

Susan Sieber

President

info@bethelsyn.org

a message from **the cantor**

COME CELEBRATE WITH US IN SONG!

"Music connects us to Jewish time and space and is a wonderful way to engage and educate members. At Beth El, musical tradition and creative vision come together through song and chant adding joy and spirituality to our worship."

At Beth El, music infuses our worship, our celebrations and life-cycle events. My vision is to creatively engage congregants of all ages and abilities in various arenas of musical, liturgical and cultural programming so as to enhance our connection to Judaism and develop Jewish identity.



We offer choirs for adults and children, Friday evening Musical Shabbat services featuring instrumental accompanists, and holiday sing-alongs. There are weekly opportunities for Torah and Haftarah readers/chanters and service leaders. Beth El's Annual Cantor's Concert (a 59-year tradition!) attracts renowned musical performers who expose the greater community to the richness and variety of Jewish music, as well as classical, jazz and contemporary music in a concert setting.

In the past few years, Beth El also hosted performances by a klezmer trio from New York City and sponsored a benefit concert featuring the classic rock band, Over the Edge, to raise funds for Animals for Life.

REACH OUT AND CARE!

For me, a spiritual home is a place that not only inspires, but also soothes the soul. Beth El is the model of a caring community. We are small enough to value every individual member. On joyous occasions, we celebrate together; and in times of need, we reach out to each other.

As clergy liaison of the Gemach Caring Committee, I am privileged to serve with a group of caring individuals who offer comfort through acts of loving-kindness for the sick, homebound and bereaved of our community. For example, the committee knits beautiful comfort shawls that are delivered with loving blessings and cooks chicken soup to warm the body and spirit.

COME AND EXPERIENCE BETH EL!

Enjoy the intimacy of our services, the joy of our festivities, the excitement of our cultural programs, and the warmth and hospitality that characterizes the Beth El community.

Cantor Sharon Citrin

203 841-6192

cantorcitrin@aol.com

a message from **the membership chair**

WELCOME, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS!

Yes, we at Beth El are a vibrant community, and we invite all to be an active member of our growing and caring family. It's inspiring and nurturing to learn of the history of Beth El and how it started with only a few families almost eighty years ago.

Perhaps like so many of you, I've said to myself, "I'm Jewish, I usually attend High Holiday services at a synagogue with other family members; Pesach is an important celebration for me, so why do I have to join a synagogue on my own? After all, my husband isn't Jewish, and my children don't live with me any more."

As I pondered this question I realized I was immersed in the chaos of the world and knew I needed more. Perhaps it's our history as well as traditions that have been an integral part of my life that led me to Beth El four years ago when I saw the Open House invitation. I found a supportive haven to discover answers to the proverbial questions, "Who am I?" "What are my roots?" I quietly came to a Shabbat service, hoping to be just a fly on the wall. I was warmly welcomed and memories surfaced and tugged, arousing a new awareness of how important this part of my life really is. Since joining, I expanded and renewed my knowledge by attending the Friday night educational lessons, as well as trying to relearn the Hebrew I knew many years ago.

I personally welcome prospective members to become a part of the community that has both inspired me and enriched the heritage that has been so important. Here at Beth El, no one is just a face, or a name but, rather, a significant member. Everyone's ideas, whether they are awe inspiring or whispered thoughts, are valued. That's what makes Beth El a true family. Friday night Shabbat services led by our inspiring rabbi, Eliana Falk, and cantor, Sharon Citrin, offer thought provoking ideas as well as joyful clapping and singing.

I would be delighted to visit and chat with you and discuss question you may have regarding membership. You can call the Beth El office at 203 264-4500 or send me an email at the address below. You can also log on to www.bethelsyn.org for more information and read our bulletin.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing the comfort and joy I have found at Beth El.

Sincerely,
Lenore Sturm
Membership Chair
info@bethelsyn.org