

Temple Beth-El Professional Team

Rabbi: Michael Torop
Adminstrator: Jim Green, MBA
Religious School Director: Shoshana Kroll
Religious School Administrator: Jodi Matson
Preschool Director: Randi Nash-Ortiz
Youth Director: Dean Hershkowitz



TEMPLE BETH-EL

Information

Temple Beth-El is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Membership: 500 families
Organizations include: Sisterhood, Brotherhood, National Federation of Temple Youth, Young at Heart, High Holy Day Choir , Religious School: Kindergarten through 10th Grade Confirmation Adult Education
Preschool: Though Pre-Kindergarten
Youth Groups: Grades 4-12
Special Programs: Art Festival Beth-El, Social Action, Yiddish Group, Lunch & Learn, Shabbat Morning Torah study, Mitzvah Corps
Services: Shabbat evening, Shabbat morning, Holidays, Festivals (evening and morning)



**MAKE
Temple Beth-El
YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME:**

For membership information
service times
and
program scheduling

Call: 727.347.6136
Email: reception@templebeth-el.com
or check the website:
www.templebeth-el.com

Temple Beth-El
400 Pasadena Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
Telephone: 727-347-6136
FAX: 727-343-8982

Email: reception@templebeth-el.com
Website: www.templebeth-el.com

Temple Beth El

Temple Beth-El is pleased to welcome you..

Temple Beth-El is a 500 family congregation in St. Petersburg that serves the Reform Jewish community throughout southern Pinellas County.

OUR VISION

We enrich the lives of our community through acts of holiness that embrace the warmth and joy of Jewish living and learning.

OUR MISSION

Temple Beth-El is a Reform synagogue community that warmly includes all who welcome Jewish values and teachings into their lives. Therefore, we respond to God's presence by embracing Torah, *tzedakah* and prayer in our individual and collective spiritual journeys.

We at Temple Beth-El strive to:

Create a community with an ongoing commitment to the study of Torah which leads to a life of Torah.

Embrace all who cross our threshold with a *haimish* sense of caring, warmly accepting diverse individuals and families.

Establish a strong Jewish identity among our members.

Value the essential principles of Reform Judaism.

Create a partnership between the traditional institutions of Jewish life (home, synagogue, and school).

Pursue justice (*tzedek*) in our community, nation and world.

Perpetuate Jewish values through our youth.

Commit to the unity of the Jewish people (*Klal Yisrael*).

Affirm that the Land of Israel (*Eretz Yisrael*) is central to our identity as Jews.

OUR HISTORY: Founded in 1928, Temple Beth-El has earned a place of honor in the historical record of the Jewish community. From a small beginning in downtown St Petersburg, Temple Beth-El now occupies a site on Pasadena Avenue with a sanctuary that seats 300 worshipers, a large social hall for *simchat* and congregational events, and a youth, education and programming center.

Finding it to be an egalitarian spiritual home, people of all ages continue to join the congregation, ensuring a diverse and multifaceted synagogue. Supporting the members on their individual spiritual journeys, while creating an inspiring community of meaning, is central to Beth-El.

Temple Beth-El has a thriving preschool and religious school that serve nearly 300 students. There are comprehensive youth programs offered for students in grades 4 through 12.

Fostering a life-long commitment to Jewish learning, Temple Beth-El has created an educational program that offers something for everyone such as the weekly Lunch & Learn program, Yiddish Vinkl., and an array of stimulating continuing education classes.

Beth-El's commitment to the broader Jewish community is reflected in the fact that many of its members are also leaders in other community organizations. Temple Beth El has an active Social Action Committee that leads the congregation to fulfill its obligation to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). The temple has a program for the "Young at Heart" to keep older members active in the congregation. Temple Sisterhood (Women of Reform Judaism) and the Temple Brotherhood (Boyz in the Hood) separately and together provide ongoing opportunities for members to gather, celebrate, and grow as Jews. They also provide needed scholarship funds for children to attend summer camps, religious school, and visit Israel.

Temple Beth-El is well-known in the Tampa Bay arts community for its annual Art Festival Beth-El. Held every year since 1973, the art festival attracts hundreds of artists who showcase their work by invitation only, and thousands of art patrons who come to browse and purchase art ranging from the most traditional to avant garde.