

# Beth El Congregation

Harrisonburg, Virginia

Information + Membership Application Form

## *Our History*

Beth El Congregation began in 1859 when four Jewish families settled in Rockingham County. Eight years later, regularly scheduled religious services began in a rented room. Our first Torah (which is still in use!) was purchased in 1870. Land for the Jewish cemetery was acquired in 1876, and the following year Hebrew Friendship Congregation was chartered. On July 4, 1891, the cornerstone was laid for the first synagogue in the area. The synagogue in downtown Harrisonburg was our home for more than 70 years, until 1964, when the cornerstone was laid for our present Temple. The name of the Congregation was changed from Hebrew Friendship to Beth El, House of God.

## *Our Mission*

The purpose of this congregation shall be to worship God in accordance with the faith of Judaism; to cultivate a love and understanding of the Jewish heritage; to strengthen the ties within the Jewish community; to strengthen the bonds of loyalty with the Jewish people everywhere; to bring nearer the Dominion of God on earth through an emphasis on the principles of righteousness and harmony in society at large, and to engage in social action projects in pursuit of social justice and Tikkun Olam (repair of both the human and nonhuman components of the world).

## *Who can be a member?*

Any person of the Jewish faith or any person who upholds, embraces and adopts the Ideals of Judaism, and does not practice another religion, 21 years of age or older (or younger at the discretion of the Board of Directors) may be elected to membership in the congregation. The unit of membership is the individual or, in the case of a family, the adult head(s) of household and all unmarried children under the age of 21.

## *Definition of being Jewish*

Anyone having a Jewish parent or having formally converted to Judaism. Participation in certain religious functions and holding certain Beth El Congregation offices is limited to Jewish members.

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*Dues Schedule [June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017]*

<b>Annual Family Income</b>	<b>Dues*</b>
Under \$30,000	\$560 [ ]
\$30,000 to \$39,999	\$750 [ ]
\$40,000 to \$49,999	\$1,000 [ ]
\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$1,450 [ ]
\$75,000 to \$99,999	\$1,900 [ ]
\$100,000 and above	\$2,500 [ ]

*\* Reduced dues requests may be made to the Board of Directors in cases of unusual circumstances. In addition, a variety of payment schedules may be established with the Treasurer upon acceptance for membership.*

## *Adult Member-Applicant #1*

Name + Hebrew Name (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's + Father's Hebrew Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests or Talents \_\_\_\_\_

Are you eligible for membership based on the definition above? [ yes / no ]

Are you Jewish based on the definition above? [ yes / no ]

## *Adult Member-Applicant (#2, if any)*

Name + Hebrew Name (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's + Father's Hebrew Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests or Talents \_\_\_\_\_

Are you eligible for membership based on the definition above? [ yes / no ]

Are you Jewish based on the definition above? [ yes / no ]

## *Children (if any)*

Name	Hebrew Name	Date of Birth	School	Jewish [yes/no]
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

## *Contact Information:*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact Method? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Return To:*

Membership Committee  
Beth El Congregation  
P.O. Box 845  
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

*If you have any questions regarding this application for membership, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the membership committee, the Temple Board of Directors, or the Rabbi.  
Telephone: 540.434-2744  
Internet: bethel-harrisonburg.org*