BETH AM WELCOMES YOU

Beth Am is an urban, egalitarian and inclusive Synagogue. In Isaiah's words, we are "a house of prayer for all peoples." We open our arms to anyone who would like to join our community for friendship, learning and prayer. Beth Am welcomes individuals and families of all ages, races, professions, sexual orientations, gender identities, and upbringings. This enriches our community through diverse perspectives and experiences. Whether you are a Jew by birth, a Jew by choice, in partnership with someone of the Jewish faith, or someone seeking greater understanding of Jewish life, we encourage you to learn and pray with us, attend our many educational programs, join us in celebration, and share in holiday celebration.

If you are a non-Jewish spouse or partner in a Beth Am household, we are grateful for your presence. Whether you are affiliated with another religious institution or Beth Am is your only congregation, you are part of our spiritual family. We want Beth Am to feel like home. Access to clergy, learning opportunities, and participation in synagogue life are available to you just as they are to Jewish members. We provide support and encouragement for parents who, although not Jewish themselves, are often lovingly and supportively raising their children as Jews. You are among the heroes of Jewish life, raising a future generations of Jews. We encourage you to become a full and active participant in our congregation.

Here are some ideas for how you are encouraged and invited to be involved:

- Gain understanding of Beth Am services and Jewish traditions through <u>continuing education</u> classes.
- Get involved in the volunteer projects, educational activities, and committees.
- Meet with Rabbi Daniel Burg. Our Rabbi will teach you about Jewish traditions, or endeavor
 to place his interfaith connections at your service, if you wish to speak with clergy of your
 own faith and are not sure who to contact.
- Participate in the Jewish Discovery Lab activities and life-cycle events with Rabbi Kelley Gludt and your kids.
- Connect with other interfaith families at Beth Am. Help organize an event for interfaith families. Give Beth Am clergy or officers a call and we'd be happy to help connect you.

Wherever you are in your knowledge about Jewish Life, we welcome you. Our staff and officers will be happy to discuss opportunities to help you become a vital participant in our community, whether you are of the Jewish faith, another faith, or no faith. There is a place for you at Beth Am.

Beth Am is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), and we honor our egalitarian tradition through inclusiveness. There are some rites and honors that are reserved for those who are Jewish, whether by birth or by choice. Some members from different faith backgrounds are interested in exploring a deeper connection to Judaism. We welcome and encourage your interest, and also, we ensure that there is no pressure for a non-Jewish member to convert. To foster this exploration, our Rabbi is available should you want to learn about and discuss the options related to Jewish observance. Our Rabbi also can connect you with other members who have converted or are in the process of conversion.

If you have additional questions, please feel free at any time to contact <u>Rabbi Burg</u>, <u>Rabbi Gludt</u> or Executive Director <u>Henry Feller</u>.

RESOURCES FOR INTERFAITH HOUSEHOLDS

Our clergy are pleased to direct you to additional resources related to your specific interests. Below is a list of resources that may be helpful. Please know, however, that information and opinions found on external web sites may not always represent the views of Beth Am Synagogue or its members.

Interfaith Family

Jewish Community Services (Baltimore)

Big Tent Judaism

The Mothers Circle (JCC) for non-Jewish moms