

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Reform Judaism ?

A: Reform Jews balance the wisdom and celebrations of Judaism with modern life. We are heirs to beliefs and practices described in the Torah and other Jewish sacred writings. We embrace the opportunity to learn about Judaism and then make an informed choice about the beliefs and practices that are meaningful to us.

Q: I'm Jewish but I haven't gone to a synagogue in a long time. How will I know what to do?

A: The service is conducted in English, with Hebrew spoken during prayers and songs. They'll announce when it's time to stand, sit, read aloud or be silent. You participate or not depending on your comfort level. Page numbers of the prayerbooks (provided), are announced and there are passages in English, Hebrew, and Hebrew transliterations throughout.

Q: My spouse/partner is not Jewish. Is she/he welcome at TBT?

A: Absolutely! We have many couples where only one member is Jewish. We pride ourselves on being respectful and inclusive of all people.

Q: How do I dress for services? Do I need to wear something on my head?

A: The dress code is business-casual. Most men and some women wear a kippah (yarmulke) on their head during services but it is a personal decision. They are available at the sanctuary entrance.

Q: Is there childcare during services?

A: Children are very welcome in the sanctuary with their families. You can go into the lobby if noise is a problem.

Q: I'm not religious. What does TBT have besides worship services?

A: Judaism teaches that we can encounter God and community through various paths, including social action, community service, music, and lifelong learning. Inherent in all of it is the chance to meet, socialize and celebrate with others.

Q: I'm interested in becoming a member. Whom should I speak to?

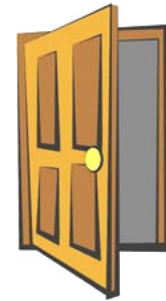
A: Call the office and speak to the Synagogue Executive Director or email Membership@TempleBethTorah.com.

More Questions? Call the Temple office at (805) 647-4181.

TBT is a Member of the
Union for Reform Judaism and an
Affiliate of the
Jewish Federation of Ventura County



Welcome to Temple Beth Torah



A Reform Jewish Congregation
Serving West Ventura County

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller
Cantor Michael Anatole,
Synagogue Executive Director
Janis Knight, Temple Educator
Marion Levin-Welch,
Early Childhood Education Director
Russ Charvonia, President

7620 Foothill Road
Ventura, CA 93004
(805) 647-4181
www.TempleBethTorah.com



Shalom!

Temple Beth Torah's mission is to inspire people to lead meaningful Jewish lives.

We welcome families, individuals, and couples of all backgrounds including people in interfaith relationships, representing diverse ethnicities, GLBT, and anyone seeking information about or conversion to Judaism.

Shabbat Worship Services

Get rejuvenated with words of Torah, prayer, singing and fellowship. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary.

Worship Schedule

Every Friday at 7:30 pm: A lively service with singing and music! Stay after for dessert and socializing.

Every Saturday at 10 am: A great opportunity to delve into the message of each week's Torah portion.

For Families with Young Children:
Every Third Friday at 6 pm: A half-hour of singing and storytelling designed especially for families with children from infant to 7 years old.

Holiday Observances

Rosh Hashanah	Hanukkah
Yom Kippur	Passover Seder
Sukkot	Holocaust
Simchat Torah	Remembrance

Social Groups

- Women's Group
- Men's Group
- Youth Groups: Middle + High School
- 60+ Renaissance Group
- Havurot* (friendship groups)

Lifecycle Events

- Baby Namings*
- Pre-Marital Counseling*
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah*
- Weddings*
- Confirmation
- Bereavement Support*
- Memorial Plaques
- Funerals*
- Yahrzeit Notification*
- Jewish Cemetery Plots (at Ivy Lawn)

Children's Education

- TBT Jewish Preschool
- Children's World Preschool (secular)
- Torah School for K-12
- Hebrew School for grades 3-6*
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation*

Adult Education

- Basics of Judaism
- Beyond the Basics - Ongoing Studies
- Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah*
- Adult Confirmation*
- Preparation for Conversion
- Hebrew Classes
- Library

Community Service and Social Action

- Family-to-Family Breakfasts
- Foodshare
- Clothing Drive
- Blood Drive
- Support for Israel, Darfur and other causes

Other

- Jewish Film Festival
- Judaica Shop (open year-round)
- Hanukkah Shopping Boutique
- Camp Haverim (summer day camp)
- Biblical Garden

*Temple membership required

Want to receive The Shofar, our monthly newsletter?

Call or email the office and let them know. We encourage you "go green" and request an electronic version of The Shofar. Paper versions can also be sent via regular mail.

(805) 647-4181

tbtventura@templebethtorah.com