



## Membership

*- Because we all need a sense of belonging*

## **Welcome!**

### ***- The Path to Membership is a Journey to Deeper Commitment***

Beit Haverim membership represents a deeper connection with your spiritual community.

Beit Haverim is a dynamic Reform congregation, which has succeeded in creating an open, inviting, and spiritually alive Jewish community.

Beit Haverim welcomes people all along the Jewish spectrum. Membership and participation in our congregation is open to Jews by birth, Jews by choice, and anyone with a connection to Judaism.

*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught that Judaism is not only adherence to particular doctrines and observances, but also, and primarily, living in the spiritual order of the Jewish people. It is not a doctrine, an idea, or a faith, but the covenant between God and the Jewish people. We acquire our share in holiness by living in Jewish community. It is not by what we do as individuals, but rather, by what we attain as the community of Israel, which causes us to become a part of eternity.*

*-Adapted from: Man's Quest for God, p. 45*

## **History of Beit Haverim**

When the founding members of Beit Haverim launched its Religious School in 1992, it was in an unheated classroom at Cedaroak Primary School. On a gray, drizzly Sunday, a pint-sized number of children attended, hungry for knowledge about their heritage, anxious in their desire to find Jewish peers. This grassroots endeavor enabled residents of the South Metro area of Portland to find a Jewish community close to home.

From what was first known as South Metro Jewish Community (SMJC) sprang a vibrant congregation, one that is now a highly respected member of the larger Jewish community, drawing members from throughout the greater Portland area.

Over the years we've watched our children blossom into adults, secure in their Jewish identity. We've seen unaffiliated Jews, single members, and families of all types find kindred spirits and make enduring friendships. We've danced at weddings, rejoiced at mitzvahs, and cried together in times of loss. We've transcended religious differences and joined hands in interfaith worship. We welcome you to join us.

**Some of the highlights of our history include:**

1996 – SMJC adds a worship program in addition to religious school, and Ann Brown becomes Cantorial Soloist.

1997 – Rabbi Larry Halpern joins SMJC as its first Rabbi.

1998 –The Reverends Paul and Cathy Quackenbush make Emmanuel Presbyterian Church available to SMJC for services.

1999 – SMJC celebrates its first Torah and Ark.

2001 – SMJC joins the Union for Reform Judaism and establishes a Jewish Cemetery in Lake Oswego.

2005 – SMJC celebrates its Bat Mitzvah.

2006 – Rabbi Halpern retires. SMJC hires Annette Koch as its new Rabbi.

2007 – We adopt our Hebrew name and become Beit Haverim.

2009 – Rabbi Alan Berg joins us as our Rabbi.

2017 – Beit Haverim celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **Benefits of Membership**

- As a member of Beit Haverim, a Reform Congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, you'll become part of a vital and dynamic community
- With membership comes Rabbinic leadership from Rabbi Alan Berg for pastoral needs and for your family's life cycle events.
- Membership enables you to enroll your children in our Religious School and Hebrew classes, where they are taught by teachers who love Judaism and love teaching it and where they can make friends with other wonderful Jewish children.
- Members are eligible to vote on budget decisions and other important issues at our biannual meetings, and at other member meetings as outlined in the temple bylaws.
- You'll receive the Reform Judaism magazine, a publication from the Union for Reform Judaism, in addition to our informative congregational newsletter.
- Our members gain a truly welcoming community.
- Membership provides a rewarding social and intellectual calendar of opportunities.
- Membership enables you to participate in positive social action projects, making a real difference in our community.

## **Getting Involved:**

### **The Key to Membership with Meaning**

Attending Shabbat Services is a very special experience, but most members find that over time it is not enough to sustain their commitment to the congregation. We know of no better way to deepen your connection, as well as increase your reward, than by active engagement in a program that most closely matches your needs. Find a group or activity with which to involve yourself as soon as possible. This is how you will start feeling a part of the congregation, and in return, the people of Beit Haverim will become a community for you. Here is a small sampling of the opportunities for personal and spiritual growth:

- Adult Education
- Tikkun Olam/Social Action
- Family Shabbat Potlucks
- Torah Study
- Holiday Celebrations
- Men's Group and Ladies' Group Activities

For a full list of our committees, along with information on our Rabbinic leadership, Religious School, worship schedule and more, please visit our web site at [www.beithav.org](http://www.beithav.org).

## **Membership Dues**

Our congregation is a self-sustaining organization; our primary source of financial support comes from our members.

Our dues structure is detailed on our website and is based on the age and number of adults in your household. If your current financial situation does not permit you to contribute the suggested dues, you may opt to calculate dues based on 2% of adjusted gross income, as also detailed on our website.

Membership dues are paid monthly and continue until membership is withdrawn. No annual renewal is necessary.

Please know, we are here to work with you. Everyone is welcome as a member of our congregation regardless of their ability to pay.

## **Become a member of our community today**

All you have to do to become a part of the Beit Haverim family is complete the Membership Form on our website at <http://beithav.org/about-us/membership>.

## Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the membership process, please contact Membership Chair Dena Gutterman at 503-989-0015 or [dena\\_gutterman@comcast.net](mailto:dena_gutterman@comcast.net). You may also contact our office at 503-310-9184 or [office@beithav.org](mailto:office@beithav.org).

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