



**TEMPLE
BETH ISRAEL**

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Rabbi Audrey Korotkin

President Dr. Jonathan Thaler

1st VP Tom Levine

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Treasurer Andrew Katz

B'ruchim Haba'im! Welcome!

Temple Beth Israel is a warm and welcoming Reform Temple with all the strengths and advantages a small congregation has to offer.



Temple Beth Israel offers a variety of worship, study, and communal experiences in a relaxed atmosphere. We welcome all into our Temple family and strive hard to meet the needs of each of our members –singles, couples, families with children of all ages, “empty-nesters” and older congregants – regardless of race, sexual orientation, or level of observance.

Our approach is creative and inclusive. We invite you to experience Judaism at every level of comfort and interest. We are committed to Jewish outreach and welcome interfaith couples as an integral part of our Temple family.

About Temple Beth Israel

History

As many histories go, the actual “incorporation” date eludes us, but what evolved into the congregation of *Beth Israel* was founded sometime in the late 19th century. The first recorded history of “Mountain City Hebrew Reformed Congregation” comes to us on October 4th, 1874 and for the first 20 years or so, services were held in the homes of members and various rented halls in the city.

In 1922, the name changed to “Beth Israel.” The congregation moved from its original structural home at 13th Avenue and 15th Street to its present location on Union Avenue on June 9th, 1927, when the 3004 Union Avenue building was dedicated as *Temple Beth Israel*.

About Our Rabbi

Our current spiritual leader is Rabbi Audrey Korotkin, who has been on our pulpit since July 2010. She brings a vitality and enthusiasm to our congregation. She comes to us with a wealth of experience serving reform congregations in Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky before arriving at Temple Beth Israel. She lives in Tyrone with her husband, Don. Rabbi Audrey is active in the local interfaith community and with animal rescue organizations.

Service Schedule

Shabbat evening services are held every Friday night at 7:30PM. Torah Study and Beginner’s Hebrew classes are typically scheduled on Saturday mornings throughout the year.

Special family services and dinners are periodically held for Shabbat and the Festivals. High Holy Day services also include special children’s services.

Please check our online calendar for dates & times of specific events!



Temple Groups and Programs

Our Temple Sisterhood is a vital part of our Temple Community and is in charge of coordinating our annual Hanukah dinner, Break-the-Fast and other social gatherings throughout the year.

Our Tikkun Olam Committee sponsors a variety of community service projects both within the Temple and in the larger community, such as food collections and participation in the annual Love Feast with the Altoona Jewish Federation.

Temple Beth Israel is always happy to organize new groups as the need arises.

College Jewish Support Activities

Temple Beth Israel maintains contact with the Penn State Altoona Campus, St. Francis College, Juniata College and Mount Aloysius inviting students attending these colleges to all of our Shabbat Services, particularly the High Holy Day Services. Students are encouraged to join us for our Second Night Passover Seder held at the Calvin House. Please contact the Temple Office for more details.

A Proud Member of the Reform Movement

Temple Beth Israel is a proud member of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) and its Temple Sisterhood of Women of Reform Judaism. We are strongly committed to the principles of Reform Judaism, including respect for Jewish diversity and pluralism, freedom of thought and conscience, creative and flexible modern Jewish living, complete gender equality, a commitment to inclusion, social justice and Tikkun Olam (repair of the world), living the ethical precepts of Torah and the Prophets and a serious commitment to Jewish worship and the study of Jewish texts.

Learning Opportunities

Temple Beth Israel offers a variety of opportunities for life long Jewish learning.

Hebrew School (Grades 2-7)

Beginning in Second Grade, our students begin learning the fundamentals of Hebrew, and begin their journey to become B'nei Mitzvah. A few times throughout the year the students are asked to lead parts of our Shabbat evening services. This helps to familiarize our students with our liturgy from an early age.

"Sunday" School (Grades Pre-K—8)

Children from pre-school thru 8th grade attend the Altoona Jewish Community School on Sundays from 10:00AM to 12:00 PM along with children from Congregation Agudath Achim.

B'nai Mitzvah Program:

As our Hebrew students approach their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, individual tutelage is emphasized to prepare each student to be called to the Torah for the first time. Our approach emphasizes an understanding of Jewish prayer and the meaning of Torah & Haftarah portions as well as the mastery of Shabbat evening liturgy.



Confirmation (Grade 8-10)

Students receive additional instruction to prepare them as they journey into adulthood. Confirmation is a ceremony cementing the students' Jewish identities as they are nearing adulthood.

Adult Education

Our adult education program is wide ranging and flexible, designed to meet the needs of a variety of life long Jewish learners. Recent programs include Beginning Hebrew, Prayerbook Hebrew, and in-depth study of the Book of Joshua.

Community Education/Outreach

Temple Beth Israel assists the Greater Altoona Jewish Federation with community-wide Jewish education. The Jewish Community brings in many guest speakers throughout the year. Our community also enjoys an annual Jewish Film Festival each Spring. Rabbi Audrey Korotkin is a regular in the community as a guest speaker on Judaism and Jewish ethics.

Membership Benefits & Privileges

Membership is open to any interested Jewish individual or family (including interfaith) unit.

Here are just *some* of the benefits of becoming a member of Temple Beth Israel:

- * A Loving and Welcoming Jewish Community!
- * Monthly Newsletter
- * Celebration of Life Cycle Events & Use of Facilities
- * Jewish Education Opportunities for Adults & Kids
- * Pastoral Care by our Rabbi
- * Funeral/Burial privileges at Mt. Sinai Cemetery
- * Opportunities to use your voice for Social Justice
- * No-cost High Holiday Seating
- * Participation in Temple governance
- * And so many more!

Once you become a member, we encourage you to get involved in the life of the organization. Temple Beth Israel is our community and our members support, nurture, and sustain it.

Membership Dues

Each member unit is asked to contribute to the ongoing upkeep of our congregation and our nearly century-old historic Temple building. These contributions are referred to as "dues" and are the main source of funding for our congregation. Our dues structure is a "fair share" system, based upon the ability to participate.

No one will be denied membership due to financial hardship or difficulty!