

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN BETH EMETH?

There are so many ways for you to GET INVOLVED in temple life at Congregation Beth Emeth. Check out our committees and affiliates described below. Please complete the HERE'S HOW YOU CAN START GETTING INVOLVED IN BETH EMETH Checklist and send it to the temple office. Or, contact Gail Kendall at (518)436-9761 ext 225 or gkendall@bethemethalbany.org and she will connect you to appropriate person to get you involved in what interests you.

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1. BROTHERHOOD:

Brotherhood has been a vital part of Congregation Beth Emeth since 1923, a tradition that has been passed on from generation to generation. The mission of the CBE Brotherhood is to foster social, cultural, and educational advancement amongst its membership, and progressive Judaism; to promote social interaction and the spirit of camaraderie, and through affiliation through membership in the Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ), to advance the goals of Reform Judaism. We accomplish this through sponsoring independent programs, events, and activities, and in coordination with the temple religious school, the Social Action Committee, and Sisterhood.

Specifically, Brotherhood sponsors the annual Chanukah Dinner and organizes and coordinates the annual Yom HaShoah candle distribution project. Brotherhood worked closely with the Temple's Social Action Committee in building a Habitat for Humanity home. Brotherhood has a special membership breakfast each fall with a guest speaker. In addition, Brotherhood sponsors several social events such as a Valley Cats baseball game, a day at Saratoga racetrack with Sisterhood, and a UAlbany basketball game.

Every man who is a member of Congregation Beth Emeth is welcome to be a member of Brotherhood.

2. SISTERHOOD:

Sisterhood, an auxiliary of Beth Emeth, provides a venue for the women of Beth Emeth to meet, socialize and together promote the programs and goals of Beth Emeth. Sisterhood is an affiliate of the national Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) organization. Membership in Sisterhood is open to all women who wish to participate in its programs and embrace its objectives. All women members of Beth Emeth are encouraged to become members of Sisterhood. Non-members are also welcome. Payment of annual dues entitles women to Sisterhood membership, listing in the annual Sisterhood Directory and free admission to the Membership Brunch.

Some of the events and programs which Sisterhood supports with its dues and fund raising include the following:

Provides gifts for those celebrating their B'Nai Mitzvah;

Sponsors the Limud Fund which is used to defray the costs associated with Confirmation;

Contributes funds for Religious School activities;

Contributes funds for Parenting Center activities;

Contributes funds for CBEYG activities;

Provides funding for Temple special administrative needs;

Makes contributions to assist with special designated Temple needs. This year Sisterhood is providing funds to purchase a number of the new M'ishkan T'fillah prayer books.

Presents a gift to women on the occasion of their choosing Judaism.

Sponsors and prepare the annual Simchat Torah family dinner

Joins with WRJ to assist in activities such as providing social services for women, children, the disabled and elderly; and funding rabbinic and cantorial students.

Sisterhood programs include:

Annual YES Dinner

Membership Brunch

Annual Donor Dinner

Mah Jongg Tournaments

Knit and Nosh Group

Theater trips to New York City and Glimmerglass Opera

Speakers on topics of interest ranging from wardrobe to women's health and wellness.

We, the women of Beth Emeth Sisterhood are waiting to welcome YOU. All are encouraged to join. Whether you wish to become an active member or a dues paying member only, your participation is important to us.

3. GENERAL OFFICE HELP: The office needs help with stuffing mailings and assembling the monthly bulletin. Our volunteers have fun! Contact Joan Paley at Joan@bethemethalbany.org or 436-9761 ext 222.

4. SCHOOL TRAFFIC ASSISTANCE: On Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, we can use help ensuring the safety of our Religious School students as their parents drop them off and pick them up.

5. ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Mission: To collect, catalog and preserve all significant historical data relative to Congregation Beth Emeth from its origin in 1838. These data have been compiled through past generations and are kept updated by this committee.

Anyone with some free time is welcome to join the Archives Committee. We are looking for people with library skills, who could sort and put material into the appropriate files; people with computer skills to label folders; and, people who could continue to maintain and update the Index of Archival Material currently in progress.

6. CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

Mission: To oversee the maintenance of the Congregation's cemeteries, and establish policies regarding fees and use of the cemeteries, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees. The work of this committee is among of the most sacred work to be done in our Beth Emeth family.

Beth Emeth has two beautiful cemeteries; a historic cemetery in Bethlehem and a cemetery that includes generations of temple families in Loudonville. These cemeteries are maintained by two full-time caretakers. The Mendleson Chapel at the Loudonville Cemetery is the site of the annual High Holy Day Season Cemetery service, and is also an option for intimate funerals and memorial services. An evocative Holocaust Memorial, provides a place for our community-at-large, and for those families who lost loved ones in the horror of the Holocaust, to recite the kaddish (memorial prayer) for these martyrs of our people.

7. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Mission: To raise the financial resources to support programming and facilities for the current year and for the future of the congregation.

This work is divided into two sub-committees. One focuses on planned giving and major gifts and the other focuses on event planning and annual giving opportunities such as the Yom Kippur Appeal, the Religious School Tree of Life Program, and Voluntary additional dues.

8. EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Mission: To provide congregants the opportunity to have input into different aspects of the religious school community ~ from "Consecration to Confirmation!" For example, work on details for Opening Day, implement and work on fundraisers, address issues that deal with parents, assist with programming and provide support to the Education Director and her staff.

Anyone who has a love of children, education and Judaism is welcome to join the Education Committee!

9. ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Mission: Responsible for oversight of the Congregation's endowment funds. The funds include the general endowment used to support programming, and "lots and structures" used to maintain our cemeteries. The Committee also engages in educational programs and other activities to encourage planned giving.

Individuals in the financial community, attorneys familiar with planned giving and estate planning are prime candidates for our committee. Anyone with an interest in ensuring the future of Beth Emeth is welcomed to join this committee! For more information, contact Michael Lurie at MLurie@luriecpas.com/456-4094.

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mission: To ensure that Congregation Beth Emeth is in existence well into the foreseeable future. We accomplish this by:

- a - Reviewing and assessing the financial status of the Congregation to ensure that the Congregation is solvent.
- b - Noting financial trends and making recommendations to the Officers and Board on financial policies and practices.
- c - Reviewing the annual budget prepared by the Officers.

This committee is appropriate for anyone with the ability and acumen to review and question numbers; to note trends, and to communicate positively, fairly and professionally with temple staff and members of our community. Special expertise is always needed and welcome, especially from individuals with backgrounds in: accounting, business management or contracting procurement. For more information, contact, Lee Rosen at leejrosen@yahoo.com/857-3084

11. HOUSE COMMITTEE

Mission: To review the needs for major repairs, equipment replacements, or renovation projects in our temple facility. Our Temple was built in the 1950's, with a major renovation and addition in 2000. We continue to work to make our building energy efficient through electrical and lighting upgrades, and to address structure and systems issues such as the roof, drainage, hvac, etc.

12. INTERFAITH OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mission: Welcoming and supporting interfaith families within the context of Jewish community life. An interfaith family, for this purpose, is a family whose life is influenced and impacted by family members who are not Jewish. This may include individuals with a non-Jewish spouse or partner, as well as those whose children, grandchildren, or other relatives are a part of an interfaith relationship.

The Outreach Committee makes available a variety of programs designed to provide information, support, and opportunities to communicate. Together we can learn from the lives and stories of those who have found a road map for their journeys as interfaith families.

Any individual who is interested in participating in the on-going development of this committee and its programming within the Beth Emeth community, and whose family is impacted by another religion, is welcome to join this committee.

The Outreach Committee sponsors a variety of programs designed to provide information, support, and opportunities to communicate for families whose lives are impacted by more than one religion. For example, those families where one spouse or partner is not Jewish, families where one member has converted to Judaism, or individuals with children or grandchildren who are part of an interfaith relationship.

The outreach committee is composed of temple members who have experienced the joys and challenges that can occur when more than one religion intersects your family life. If you have a question for the committee or would like to suggest an idea for future programming, please email Beth Monaco at bsm23@hotmail.com.

13. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Mission: To support the information technology infrastructure at Beth Emeth by providing policy guidelines and recommendations on: data security, storage and back-up; software inventory selection, licensing and support; systems architecture; file server usage, web-site access, security and content; e-learning; and e-mail distribution lists.

14. LIBRARY

Beth Emeth's Adult Library is well stocked with Jewish periodicals and books on subjects ranging from Religion to Social Studies, to Literature, to History. The library has lots of great fiction. Volunteers cull through book donations, highlight new books, and decide on book and periodical purchases.

15. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

At Beth Emeth we want our members to "Get Connected and Stay Connected". You can show prospective members and new members just how great Beth is by helping with the New Member Shabbat and Dinner and other new member, delivering Shabbat gift bags, and encouraging and welcoming new members to get involved.

16. PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE:

Mission: To develop programming for the entire Beth Emeth community; from infants to grandparents; from children to adults; from singles to families. It is our hope that through our programming, temple life will be enriched and congregants will be able to develop a better sense of community within Beth Emeth and to the Jewish people as well. If you are interested in joining our Programming Committee,

please contact Deb Sokoler at dsokoler@bethemethalbany.org/432-1392.

17. REYUT COMMITTEE:

REYUT is the caring community committee that reaches out to members and families in need within Beth Emeth's membership. The members of this committee visit the elderly in various nursing homes, deliver bereavement Shabbat bags with challah and wine after a loved one has passed away; deliver new baby bags with a mezuzah, wine and challah; run the Hanukkah gift collection in conjunction with Sisterhood and the Social Action Committee to make sure other needy families can celebrate the holidays with some much needed assistance; head the Alzheimer's Care Team that specially trains individuals to visit with family members with Alzheimer's and give the family caretakers some respite; and deliver Mitzvah Meals to members who may be ill or just home from the hospital.

We always welcome new members who have an hour or more each month to help out other Beth Emeth members in need.

MITZVAH MEALS: The Reyut Committee would like to provide a cooked dinner for you - consider contacting us if you are experiencing:

- * arrival of a baby
- * ill or home from the hospital
- * family in mourning or distress

If you or someone you know could benefit from Mitzvah Meals, OR if you would like to join our Mitzvah Meal cooking crew, contact Jo Anne Milhausen at jmilhausen@nycap.rr.com or call her at 439-1760. Co-chair of Mitzvah Meals is Jane Sanders - jrs0991@gmail.com or 439-0991

BETH EMETH ALZHEIMER CARE TEAM: Alzheimer Care Teams exist to provide support and companionship to individuals with some form of memory loss whether it is due to Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias. By providing much needed respite to caregivers and socialization to the person with the disease, these caring individuals strive to make life better for both the caregiver and the patient. The Alzheimer's Care Team consists of 4-10 volunteers who are matched up with a Beth Emeth family. This program is run in conjunction with Eddy Alzheimer's Services at the Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center who also provides training and support for care team members. To find out more about being connected with our care team, please contact Cantor Groper at 436-9761 cantor@bethemethalbany.org

VISITING CONGREGANTS IN A NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING: Members of the Reyut Committee regularly visit congregants in local nursing home/assisted living facilities.

18. RITUAL COMMITTEE:

Mission: To explore ways to enhance the life cycle and worship experience at Beth Emeth through suggesting innovations; providing feedback and guidance to the Clergy; being a liaison between the Congregation and the Clergy; staying in touch with changes in ritual within the Reform Movement; seeking to reflect the spiritual and worship wishes and needs of the Congregation; and, increasing interest and participation in communal prayer and musical liturgy.

Anyone interested in enhancing our worship experiences, but who are also willing to regularly attend and participate in the broad spectrum of services we offer should consider joining this committee. We also believe young people seeking meaning in our ritual and those with musical interests would find the Ritual Committee stimulating and worthwhile.

19. SOCIAL ACTION:

Mission: To spearhead the commitment of our congregation to Tikkun Olam and to espouse the social justice values of Reform Judaism. We accomplish this through: hands on social action programs and activities; identifying and addressing community problems through programs and volunteer activities; advocating Reform Jewish values and teachings; engaging in tzedakah; and encouraging and recruiting Beth Emeth members to participate in social action and social justice programs and activities.

Social Action programs and activities provide the opportunity to work with individuals and organizations that provide direct services to those in need of assistance, and to educate and advocate on behalf of needed public policy change.

EQUINOX needs drivers to deliver Thanksgiving meals early on Thanksgiving morning. Helpers are also needed to assist in clean up of the Convention Center on Friday. This is a great activity for families with teenagers.

REGIONAL FOOD BANK needs assistance stocking shelves.

SOUP KITCHEN: Every Sunday, Beth Emeth runs a Soup Kitchen at the Holy Family Church 52 weeks a year. The Soup Kitchen serves members of the community who need a hot meal and a place to go. Volunteers work from about 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM, preparing and serving the meal as well as cleaning up afterward.

20. WELCOMING COMMITTEE:

Mission: To make people feel welcomed as they enter our building on Erev Shabbat and on holidays. We want people to begin their Shabbat or holiday experience in a warm, peaceful and welcomed way.

Anyone should join our committee! This is an all-inclusive committee whose work can be done by: new members, long time members, pre-teens, teens, CBEYG'rs, men, women, families, singles, partners, etc. All we need are people willing to be there on a given evening, wear our Shabbat Shalom label, smile, reach out and say those wonderful, welcoming words, "Shabbat Shalom!"

21. YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Mission: To give people the opportunity to have input into different aspects of the youth "culture" at Beth Emeth. In particular, the Youth Committee assists the board, members and advisors of CBEYG in any way necessary and addresses issues that pertain to teens and youth programming in general.

Anyone who has interest in teens, programming and Judaism is welcome to join the Youth Committee.

IF YOU DON'T SEE SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU ON THIS LIST, CALL 436-9761 AND TALK TO OUR PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR DEBBIE SOKOLER (X228) OR OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GAIL KENDALL (x225)