

Temple Beth El

3 Woodlawn St. ~ PO Box 871 ~ Augusta, Maine 04332
Phone 207-622-7450 ~ Email: bethelaugusta@gmail.com

Dear Prospective Temple Beth El Member(s):

On behalf of the entire Temple Beth El (TBE) community, we want to thank you for your interest in our synagogue.

Temple Beth El (TBE), a small, vibrant synagogue located in the state's capital city of Augusta, is the only Reform Jewish congregation in Central Maine. We are located on a quiet side street only a few blocks from the State Capitol. TBE is the center of Jewish activity for approximately 100 plus member households living within a 50 mile radius of Augusta. Our membership spans a broad spectrum of ages, professions, interests and backgrounds.

In the early 1940s, TBE was founded as the Augusta Hebrew Community, meeting in a third-floor space in downtown Augusta. In the 1950s, the Lipman brothers moved their chicken processing plant to Augusta, bringing more Jewish families to the area. The Lipmans spearheaded the building of our current space on Woodlawn Avenue, which was dedicated in March 1957. In 1973 the Gardiner synagogue, Beth Israel, merged with Temple Beth El and brought its members and its Torah scrolls to Augusta. The combined community made a decision to join the Reform movement in 1987. TBE is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, but our members practice a wide range of Jewish traditions.

We are currently exploring an expansion and renovation project of our existing Woodlawn Avenue space to meet the growing need of our community. With the addition of prospective new members such as you, we feel such an expansion and renovation project is imperative.

TBE offers a range of religious, cultural, and social activities that belie our small size. Our congregation encompasses all age groups; we have a robust and growing Hebrew School program (Pre-K through a teen group), an active adult community, and a significant group of seniors, many of whom live in Maine year-round. We hold regular services and study sessions for Shabbat and holidays, and host numerous adult education programs, including adult B'nai Mitzvah classes, conversions groups, a chavurah, visiting scholars, Torah study, lectures, annual Ice Storm Wine Tasting, and theater trips. Through the temple, our rabbi and congregants also engage in community and social justice activities.

Please find included in this welcome packet a Membership Application and our 2015-16 Dues Schedule. We invite you to learn more about our congregation by exploring our website www.bethelaugusta.org. Our current and immediate past months' newsletters are on our website along with the calendar of events for this month and future months.

If you have any questions, please contact Nan, our Office Manager, or Rabbi Erica Asch at 207-622-7450 or bethelaugusta@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to TBE!

Sincerely,

The Temple Beth El Board of Directors