

כִּי בֵּיתִי בַּיִת-תְּפִלָּה יִקְרָא לְכָל-הָעַמִּים:

“For my house shall be a house of prayer for all people.”

*Isaiah 56:7*

Judaism is clear that God’s House should be open to all, not only those who can walk into the building, hear the prayers, see the Torah, or have a learned discussion about the Torah’s deepest meanings.

The Inclusion Committee of Beth El is committed to removing barriers of architecture, communication, and attitudes that exclude people with disabilities from full and active participation in our synagogue.

## Beth El Values Inclusiveness

As Abraham welcomed the stranger into his tent, Beth El welcomes all people with warmth, respect and understanding. For those with physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral or other challenges who need or would benefit from special accommodations that would enable their full participation in any aspect of community or religious life, Beth El makes a good faith effort to remove barriers.

-Vision Statement

The mission of the Inclusion Committee is to facilitate the accommodation and appreciation of individual differences, so that all members of the temple community can participate in all religious, educational and life cycle events and acts of loving kindness to all humanity.

## Welcome Everyone With Joy

*Pirke Avot 1:15*

As an inclusive community Beth El offers the following:

- An ASL interpreter upon request, for services, meetings and educational opportunities;
- a class teaching the signing of Jewish prayers via American Sign Language;
- assistive listening devices for use during services and community events;
- lightweight copies of High Holiday prayer books;
- wheelchairs available for members and guests;
- page magnifiers;
- regularly scheduled Inclusion Committee meetings open to all;
- educational opportunities to increase awareness, acceptance and inclusion;
- individual B’nai Mitzvah preparation and educational plans for children with special learning needs;

- a religious school that welcomes children with special needs and makes every effort to provide necessary accommodations;
- recorded DVD of services provided for homebound members, and
- services, educational programs and events streamed on our website.

Our continuing goals are to address physical barriers in our building, focus on educating our congregants and religious school students regarding acceptance of all, and ultimately, welcoming all who come through our doors so that they can participate to the full extent of their desires and abilities.

## All Of Israel Is Responsible For One Another

*Shavuot 39a*

If you would like to help, Beth El has an Inclusion Fund. Whether increasing awareness through educational programs, improving access via architectural projects, or contributing towards future inclusion goals, your giving can help ensure that Beth El programs and worship services are fully accessible to all. Please consider making a contribution to the Inclusion Fund.

For information about the Inclusion Committee, or for assistance or accommodations, please contact Liz Leavitt at [lizleavitt@cox.net](mailto:lizleavitt@cox.net) or Julienne Bramesco at [jwbramesco@gmail.com](mailto:jwbramesco@gmail.com)

### Useful Links:

The Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning (PJLL) connects people with disabilities and their families to Jewish programs and resources.

[www.pjll.org](http://www.pjll.org) <http://www.pjll.org/>

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) provides a comprehensive range of supportive services to individuals of all ages with chronic mental illness, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and hearing impairments. JSSA understands that a disability affects not just the individual but the entire family, and its programs address the needs of each family member.

[www.jssa.org](http://www.jssa.org) <http://www.jssa.org/home>

The Jewish Information and Referral Services (JIRS) provide comprehensive information about Jewish resources locally, nationally and internationally. JIRS staff is able to assist families seeking information about special needs services and resources.

[www.jirs.org](http://www.jirs.org) <http://www.jirs.org/>