

# CONGREGATION BETH YAM

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A warm and welcoming community sustaining and celebrating  
Jewish Life in Southern Beaufort County, South Carolina

## **SHALOM: About Us**

Congregation Beth Yam began with just a few families who met for services and holidays. The congregation, founded in 1981, is now a second home to over 300 families and continues growing. We welcome Jewish people of diverse identities, as well as inter-faith couples. Members include young families with children, active business people, empty-nesters and retirees. We completed a major renovation of our building in 2009, providing us with a beautiful facility, which can accommodate large and small services, programs and parties, and learning for all ages. We are a member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).

## **OUR RABBI: Brad Bloom**

Rabbi Brad Bloom became our full-time spiritual leader on July 1, 2009.

Rabbi Bloom was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 1984, where he earned a Masters of Arts in Hebrew Letters. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin where he received a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1977. In 1979, he was awarded a Masters of Social Work from the University of Maryland. Rabbi Bloom received a Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in June 2009.



Rabbi Bloom has 30 years of rabbinic experience having served in synagogues across the country--from Florida to California to the Midwest and Deep South. His spirituality, warmth and sense of humor compliment the Beth Yam family.

## **BEIT TEFILLAH (House of Prayer)**

Sabbath services are conducted every Friday evening. They include abbreviated (Kabbalat Shabbat) and multi-generational services. Our members, as well as outside speakers participate in Shabbat services. Shabbat services are accompanied by cantorial soloists or our choir chanting music from traditional to contemporary melodies. Holiday services are always special. On the High Holy Days we have a student Cantor from Hebrew Union College chant with our choir. Our





spiritual and inspirational sanctuary is harmonious with the pristine natural beauty and serenity of the Lowcountry. It houses a special Holocaust Torah.

Together with our members we commemorate their major life events, such as Brit Milah, naming ceremonies, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings and funerals. Together we grieve at the passing of our members' loved ones. Our Congregation maintains

Beth Yam Gardens, a section of the "Six Oaks Cemetery" at Sea Pines Plantation, for the use of its members and their families.

## **BEIT MIDRASH (House of Study)**

Being Jewish means to never stop learning, and our Congregation provides myriad educational opportunities. Torah study is frequently offered on Saturday mornings as well as programs with outside scholars. Once a month there is a Saturday service called the "Hot Topic Shabbat" with timely discussions. Additionally, our members enjoy a yearly Jewish-oriented movie series and have an opportunity to attend URJ conferences.

The synagogue's libraries offers an extensive collection of adult and children's books on religion, history and art.



Our extraordinary Religious school wing, boasting contemporary technology, serves children from pre-K to 7<sup>th</sup> grade; Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation for grades 5 to 6; and High School Judaic studies for grades 8 to 12. All students receive training in Hebrew as part of the Religious School Program. In addition, students in grades 4, 5, and 6 are required to participate in our Thursday after-school Hebrew program as a means of achieving a high level of proficiency in reading Hebrew and in leading prayers.

Our junior and senior Youth Groups (BYYG) are comprised of energetic and committed young people who realize the difference they can make in the life of our temple and in our entire community. While most of the BYYG members are enrolled in religious school classes, after-school activities, jobs and more, this group still sees the importance of helping those less fortunate among us. Teens of Congregation Beth Yam (TCBY) participate in a variety of social and religious activities as part of NFTY (The Reform Jewish Youth Movement). Scholarships are available for children to attend a URJ sponsored summer camp.



## BEIT AM (House of the People)



Members consider Beth Yam the focal point of the Lowcountry's Jewish community. Social events include festive activities such as dinners, theater parties, and concerts.



The social hall and premier kitchen provide the ideal facility for synagogue and community social events. Our children enjoy their playground, decorating the Sukkah, and joining the adults for holiday celebrations like Purim and Pesach. We also Break-the-Fast as a Congregation after Yom Kippur services.

Our Sisterhood sponsors the weekly Oneg Shabbats and organizes fundraising, philanthropic, and social activities that benefit the Congregation, Jewish and community causes. The Men's club offers educational programs, hosts social gatherings and sponsors activities to support the synagogue.

Our synagogue features a complete well-stocked Judaica gift shop.

## TIKKUN OLAM (Repairing the World)

Tikkun Olam is a major element of our congregation's focus. The Social Action



Committee leads our involvement in the community's Martin Luther King Day activities and literacy projects for children's centers. Additionally, our members participate in Mitzvah Day and partner with local churches in Family Promise, a community project to house and feed homeless families to facilitate and empower their independence. Our Care Committee conducts hospital visits to Jewish patients.