

Temple Beth Shalom of the North Shore

All are welcome!

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www.templebethshalom.org



What our congregation is missing is....

YOU!

Look inside to discover why our temple community
is where you belong.

About Temple Beth Shalom....

Temple Beth Shalom of the North Shore was founded in 1959 by thirteen families to help fulfill the religious needs of unaffiliated Jewish families within the Greater Peabody area. Today, we are proud to be a vibrant temple community which welcomes everyone; provides a warm, spiritually nurturing environment; encourages the religious and educational exploration of children and adults; and makes social action, or *tikkun olam*, a priority.

We are pleased to have as our spiritual leader Rabbi Emily Mathis, a graduate of the Hebrew College Rabbinical School, a pluralist rabbinical program in Newton, MA. A St. Louis native and a resident of Providence, RI for the past 24 years, Rabbi Mathis graduated from the Hebrew College Rabbinical School in 2009, having served in a variety of congregational and organizational settings over the past 11 years. She has taught in Reform and independent religious schools, and served as the education director both at Tifereth Israel Congregation in New Bedford and The Friday School in Providence.

She taught a two-year adult bat mitzvah course at Temple Habonim in Barrington, RI; she also served as a rabbinic intern at Temple Beth El in Sudbury, and at Orchard Cove, a continuing-care community affiliated with Hebrew SeniorLife in Canton. For the past two years, she also led Reform High Holiday services at Brown University.

Prior to her work in Jewish settings, Rabbi Mathis worked at several non-profit educational organizations in Providence, working with city elementary-school students, faculty, and families in the fields of environmental education, vegetable gardening, and family literacy. She lives in West Roxbury with her spouse, Hali Diecidue, with her 10-year-old stepdaughter and 9-month old daughter.

Religious Observances....

Temple Beth Shalom is a Reform congregation whose worship style is rooted in the principles of Reform Judaism. We use the Reform movement's siddur, ***Gates of Prayer***. In its various Shabbat and Festival services, Hebrew and English language are utilized which speak to the ever-evolving needs and aspirations of congregants. Our prayer is enriched as contemporary expression is woven into traditional forms of Jewish worship.

Music has always been an integral part of our worship experience. Our musical staff blends elements of classic chazzanut with more modern themes to create an atmosphere conducive to prayer. Of course, we encourage our congregants to participate in the singing!

In addition to our regular Shabbat evening services, Family Shabbat celebrations occur monthly with an early congregational dinner followed by a specially designed family service. Our Religious School classes and Shir Shalom our youth choir, often participate in Shabbat services as well.

During Shabbat morning services we are privileged to share with our children in the joy of their becoming B'nai Mitzvah. Our young people participate fully in the service. In doing so, they express their willingness to respond to our traditions in a personal and positive manner. Educationally, we capitalize on the experience as our B'nai Mitzvah continue their studies for three additional years. This culminates with Confirmation, when once again our children ascend the *bimah* and with increased maturity reaffirm their commitment to God and Judaism.

In all our religious life-both for our children and for ourselves-Temple Beth Shalom strives to address the eternal needs of the spirit and the temporal demands of our world. By addressing these forces we have forged a worship experience which is uplifting and warm.

Reform Judaism - What We Believe (by Gilbert Rosenthal)

Reform sees Judaism as an evolving ever-dynamic religious culture that adapts to every age. Flux is only constant in Judaism. Reform believes in a varied interpretation of God, with wide latitude for naturalists or mystics, super naturalists or religious humanists. The ethical aspects of Torah are God's revelation and forever binding. The ritual mitzvot are valuable means of infusing spirituality, ennobling the individual installing God-like traits and uniting the People. The Halakah...is to guide. Not govern, the life of the Jew whose conscience must be (the) final guide. Reform believes in the unity of the Jewish People as a spiritual world entity. It urges all Jews to help one another and it seeks cooperation with Jews of all stripes. Reform is deeply committed to the survival of the State of Israel, which it hopes will become a religious spiritual center to the world and a beach light of social justice and morality. Reform is a movement in flux. It is "process" rather than a static fixed movement. Hence, liturgy, ritual practices and theology must constantly be revised and changed. Reform is passionately committed to social activism in battling for equity, justice and peace for all (humankind). In a word, Reform believes that the strength of Judaism has been its ability to evolve and change. The survival of Judaism depends on the maintenance of that protean quality in the future.

Get involved....

Sisterhood

Sisterhood is devoted to the advancement of Jewish and humanitarian causes. Its work brings women from different backgrounds together for friendship and service to Temple Beth Shalom. Our activities include meetings, educational forums, fund-raising and social programming. Complementing our many accomplishments over the years has been the excitement and enthusiasm with which we have achieved them. The warmth and hospitality of our Sisterhood have earned a cherished reputation throughout the community. We are affiliated with NFTS (National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods), which works on behalf of Reform Judaism, Israel and many noble causes. In addition, our international organization takes pride in being the patron of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, which prepare men and women for the Reform rabbinate.

Chai Club

Our membership requirements are unique: a person must have been a member of a synagogue, whether at Temple Beth Shalom or elsewhere, for 18 consecutive years, thus our name—the Chai Club. Formed in 1984 to continue to engage members who have moved beyond the child-raising years, our group offers social and cultural programming designed for the more mature congregant. We gather approximately eight times a year, with social activities ranging from weekend trips and financial planning seminars to game nights and museum visits. In addition, we participate in activities which benefit both the Temple and community. We offer a special informality and the opportunity for individuals to share in appealing activities with contemporaries

Adult Education

The goal of the Adult Education Committee is to provide the TBS and area community with Jewish-themed adult programs in a variety of settings. We run a series of Sunday morning Bagel and Lox breakfast programs which allow attendees time to socialize over breakfast and participate in adult education. We also invite speakers to join us at Friday night services and have run programs on Saturday nights after Havdallah. During each of the last two years we have also organized a "field trip" to a Boston-area place of Jewish interest. We rely not only on committee members

to help organize events but also on the temple community to volunteer to lead programs in their area of expertise.

Interfaith Outreach Committee

Temple Beth Shalom now has an Interfaith Outreach Committee. The goal of the group will be to build on what is already a welcoming atmosphere for interfaith families. We plan on hosting a yearly interfaith-themed Shabbat service. We also plan to gauge the needs of our interfaith families for educational and social events and work to do our part to see that these needs are met.

Rosh Chodesh

Jewish women meet monthly to celebrate the distinctly female holiday of Rosh Chodesh, during which we learn about the significance of the month, read and discuss the weekly Torah portion, participate in spiritual ceremonies and fun activities, and enjoy good food! This fall we are excited to launch a program called *Rosh Hodesh, It's a Girl Thing!*, which is geared towards girls in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. This monthly program will focus on issues important to girls, such as self-esteem, body image and honoring your parents while they drive you crazy, in the context of our history and tradition.

Social Action

Fulfilling Judaism's call to social action and tikkun olam, Temple Beth Shalom runs on-going donation baskets for HAWC and the Jewish Food Pantry, meal delivery to the elderly and infirm on Easter and Christmas, and a tzedakah box which goes to various charities and organizations on a monthly basis. More social action events are in the works!

Shir Shalom

Shir Shalom, our children's choir, is open to all students of our religious school beginning in third grade. Temple Beth Shalom maintains a strong commitment to the inclusion of music in our worship services. Shir Shalom provides a unique opportunity for the children to participate in services as well as develop a love of Jewish music.

Education at Temple Beth Shalom...

Our Preschool program is open to all children from age 15 months through 6 years. Our program is accredited by the Massachusetts Office for Children. At the TBS Preschool, a happy child is our primary goal. The school offers a safe and secure environment where a child may make friendships and build mutual respect and caring for others. Through our program, children develop confidence, self-expression and independence. We offer a variety of activities which allow children to create, explore, discover and experience success each at their own readiness level. We accomplish this through music, art, creative movement, language arts, math, science, cooking, dramatic play, special classroom events and family celebrations. Our religious content is intended to develop awareness and understanding of Judaism as it relates to our children and their homes. We explore Jewish life through the sharing of holidays, traditions and Shabbat celebrations.

For our older children and for our adult members, the goal of education at Temple Beth Shalom is to deepen our Jewish experiences and knowledge as we strengthen our relationships with God, Torah and the Jewish people. It is hands-on. We seek actively to involve ourselves in our synagogue, community and Jewish life in general. We believe that Judaism contains answers to the challenges and questions that confront the human spirit. We further believe that the only Jewish person who can successfully discover these answers is a knowledgeable Jewish person.

To implement these goals for our adult membership, we offer a wide range of educational opportunities, which in the past have ranged from Beginning Hebrew and Torah Study to Adult B'nai Mitzvah. Each year our Adult Education Committee plans cultural and educational programs which enhance our congregation and community. The Temple's Sisterhood supplements these activities with a wide variety of educational programs.

Temple Beth Shalom's Religious School offers a full program, beginning in Kindergarten. Each segment of learning is tailored to the age level of the child. We focus on building Jewish foundations of learning in Hebrew, Jewish Holidays, Bible, Culture, Israel and other topics related to Judaism. Jewish ethics and values are an integral part of this program. The children will participate in social service projects that will help build the community and their own self-esteem.

Students in Grades 8-10 will participate in courses that will combine leadership training and a general knowledge base of information about Judaism. Mentoring with Jewish leaders in the community is part of the program. Students are taught information which they will then learn how to teach to others. Building their Jewish self-esteem through the requirements of social service benefits the community and empowers them to realize their value in the world. Meeting and socializing with other teens in the program helps build community.

Our Professional Staff...

Rabbi Emily Mathis:

I am honored and excited to be the new rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom, a congregation that provides something of a home and family for so many members. Fostering a spirit of openness and welcome seems to be a quality that has long been achieved here, and is a spirit I hope we will continue to cultivate.

As a rabbi, I certainly view our community and our building as a home – a home, that is, for challenge, comfort, reflection, expansion of our souls, learning, and a springboard towards a more sustainable world, for meaningful *tikkun*. For me, that often comes in the form of Jewish time (think holidays, life-cycle moments), Jewish culture (music, cooking, literature), the interconnections between Judaism and the natural world, learning & communal obligation, and certainly in the richness of relationships developed over time.

However we are drawn to Jewish life, we are certainly a people blessed with an abundance of *mitzvot*, with openings to holiness, in our lives. Shabbat dinner can be yet another item on a to-do list – or it can be an opportunity to take the phone off the hook and eat dinner without distraction, whether it is roast chicken or take-out pizza. Tutoring a child can be yet another good deed crammed into a busy schedule – or it can be an opportunity to help turn around the cycle of poverty, one family at a time.

I hope that in the year ahead, we will each and together have many opportunities to elevate our lives, wherever we each are on our life's journey. What I love about Jewish tradition is that our teachers and communities have written and spoken tremendously about the myriad ways in which we can enter Jewish life, and as you may have already heard me say, I want TBS to be a community with multiple points of entry: a Rosh Hodesh group, a service in the woods of New Hampshire, a re-invigorated youth group, an adult education series on health care, or a class on the meaning/ practices/ roots of Jewish holidays.

Finally, while I am so glad that this is a home for so many, we are also a coalition of many different groups and interests. If you have a concern or idea that could use a bit more attention, please do not hesitate to drop me a line or call. In whatever ways our community continues to evolve and unfold, my hope is that we will be an expression of vibrant Jewish life in the year ahead.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Emily Mathis

Cantorial Intern Colman Reaboi:

Colman began his singing career at age thirteen in Southfield, Michigan. His major debut came as the role of a Bar Mitzvah boy! He attended Yeshiva Beth Yehudah, a Jewish private school and later went on to the Interlochen Arts Academy, where he trained in music for the first time.

Mr. Reaboi later attended the Boston Conservatory of Music where he majored in Vocal Performance and Opera. He has sung with several opera companies, and has performed concerts of classical, Broadway, Jewish repertoire. Colman Reaboi has served in three synagogues in Tampa Bay, FL and a temple in Cranston, RI before coming to Beth Shalom. In Boston, Colman is a member and a soloist of the distinguish Zamir Chorale. He is also a guest Cantor for the Prague Jewish community, where he conducts services, performs concerts, and lectures at the Prague Jewish Museum. Colman is currently enrolled in the

Cantor/Educator Master's program at Hebrew College in Newton.

As a first-generation American (his parents immigrated from Romania), he credits his Eastern European background for inspiring him to sing *chazzanut* with an Old World style. He also loves the music of the Spanish tradition (Ladino), Chassidic *niggunim*, and the contemporary Jewish composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

"My goal is to inspire the congregation to pray from their hearts," says Colman. "I believe that music is the gateway to the soul. Whether they have a deep understanding of the prayerbook text, or if they are just beginners without familiarity of the liturgy, congregants can always find meaning in the melodies and the way in which the prayers are expressed."

"I strive to have a mixture of musical styles at services. Whatever the reason, if you come for active, upbeat musical participation, or if you come to listen, relax, and meditate in silent prayer, you will hear the music that speaks to your heart. The prayers are the same- it is the music that gives it the flavor!" Among his other duties, Colman is the Temple's primary B'nai Mitzvah tutor, and conducts *Shir Shalom*, the Temple's youth choir.

Colman is married to another singer, Julia Jaffe-Reaboi. Blessed with an exceptional voice, Julia occasionally participates at services, and also sings in the High Holy Day choir. Colman and Julia perform together in various concerts. They can both be heard on their latest CD, *Remembering Larissa: A Tribute to Jewish Heritage in Song*.

Their son Leo, enjoys coming to services and is an aspiring singer as well.

Dawn Sudenfield, Director of Religious Education (K-7)

Dawn has worked at Temple Beth Shalom as the Preschool Director and as a Religious School teacher for the past five years. She has been a teacher and administrator since 1989 when she received her Masters in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College. Dawn, her husband, Phil, and their children Ariane and Justin are also members of Temple Beth Shalom.

As parents, we continue to encourage you to participate in your child's Jewish education in any way you can. There are many ways to get involved, including: joining the school committee, attending family Shabbat services, joining us for holiday celebrations or signing up for special classes that parallel what your children are learning in religious school.

Andrew Allen, Director of Pre-confirmation

Andrew has been involved in education since 1995. He has a Masters degree in Reading. For the past 12 years he has worked as an elementary school teacher in the intermediate grade levels. He also works as an adjunct professor for Salem State College and Lesley University. As a religious school teacher he has worked for the North Shore Hebrew School in the upper elementary and middle school levels. Andrew, his wife Kristin, and children Joshua and Rachel are members of Temple Beth Shalom.

Dawn Sudenfield , Pre-School and Toddler Program Director

Dawn is our Preschool and Toddler Program Director/Teacher. Dawn has a Bachelors Degree in Human Services from Northeastern University, and a Master in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College. She has worked with young children as a teacher and director for 17 years. Dawn has also taught Religious School for the past 17 years.

Beth Davison, Temple Administrator

Beth has been a member of Temple Beth Shalom for over 23 years. Her participation in temple life began when her children attended preschool and continues to this day. Beth has worked as a volunteer over the years and she has been working in the temple office for the past ten years, running the daily operations of the temple.

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