



## Beit Ahavah

*The Reform Synagogue of Greater Northampton*

Rabbi Raquel S. Kosovske

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Shalom and welcome!

Beit Ahavah is a small, spirited Reform Jewish community that welcomes you to join us. Membership is both an opportunity to support a highly diverse and progressive synagogue that serves the larger community in many ways, as well as to engage meaningfully in all our events and services: Friday evening Shabbat, holiday celebrations, High Holydays, life cycle events, spiritual care and personal connection with our rabbi, Riqi Kosovske. We have a full array of youth and family programs including monthly Tot Shabbat, L'Chaim kindergarten through grade 2 programming, RUACH Community School for grades 3-8, Hebrew Havarah and b'nai mitzvah learning with the rabbi. There are opportunities to join in varied adult programs, social justice initiatives, committee work and other activities. As a member, you are a vital participant in sustaining and growing the vibrant and progressive community that we are.

Please visit us at [beitahavah.org](http://beitahavah.org) to learn more or call our office with any questions. We look forward to welcoming you.

On behalf of the Beit Ahavah Board,  
Robert Harris and Stephanie Pick  
Co-Presidents

## Membership Dues and Payment Information for 2017-2018

Beit Ahavah has made a major change to our dues structure that we hope will strengthen our membership and our synagogue. The categories are simplified and each offers a range for dues commitment. Please consider the size of your household and your own financial circumstances with consideration for Beit Ahavah's needs as an active and vibrant Reform Jewish Congregation in the Valley.

Category	Suggested Range
First year (New Members)	\$650-1400
Second Year and After	\$800-1800
Dual Membership (paying dues to another synagogue)	\$500-1500
Student	\$18-360

*As always, Beit Ahavah is committed to welcoming everyone regardless of finances.* If you need to elect an amount outside the guidelines, please write in the amount you feel most able to contribute.

Membership Category \_\_\_\_\_ 2017-2018 dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Support Opportunities:

**Klara Grape Memorial Music Fund** supporting musical programming \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Israel J Costin Education Fund** for educational programs and scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional gift for Beit Ahavah** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Financial Support** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Full amount enclosed  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 50% enclosed; remainder due in equal payments Sep 15, Dec 15, and March 15  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Use my automated withdrawal authorization on file for 10 equal monthly transfers on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> of August – May  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Request automated withdrawal authorization form for 10 equal monthly transfers on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> of August – May

Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name \_\_\_\_\_

You may pay by check to Beit Ahavah or use PayPal (*Donate* button on our website).  
 Please consider at 3% if you use PayPal to cover their fees.

**Beit Ahavah: The Reform Synagogue of Greater Northampton**

130 Pine Street, Florence, MA 01062; (413) 587-3770; [info@beitahavah.org](mailto:info@beitahavah.org); [www.beitahavah.org](http://www.beitahavah.org)



## New Dues Structure Questions and Answers

### **Why are we making this change?**

It has always been challenging to determine a dues structure that is fair and equitable as well as providing a solid financial base for our synagogue. This new system is an attempt to be welcoming to everyone while providing complete transparency as to our finances in encouraging members to make a dues gift that genuinely reflects their desire to support Beit Ahavah as a highly diverse, welcoming, and enriching Jewish Community. We hope that this system will result both in growth of our membership and increased financial support.

### **How do I determine my dues?**

Your dues are a gift of the heart as part of your support for Beit Ahavah. Normally we would be increasing dues this year, so please start by looking at your own dues from last year and consider the importance of an increase. As you would expect, our expenses continue to go up and we also hope to increase our programming as much as possible. The dues ranges we have suggested are based on our sense of minimum reasonable amount on the one hand and a figure that will ensure our continued growth on the other.

### **How much money does Beit Ahavah need to meet our financial goals?**

Our projected expenses for the coming fiscal year total nearly \$167,000. This includes salaries for our Rabbi, teachers, and office manager, rent, professional services, insurance, and program expenses. We hope that dues will cover 70% of this total, but that hasn't been the case in recent years. We are expecting to cover some of our expenses with existing pledges and grants, but will need at least \$20,000 in additional fundraising.

### **I really only attend a few events each year. Should this be a factor in my dues?**

We hope you will think of your dues as a way of supporting Beit Ahavah in all the value we provide for our entire congregation and the larger community. You will determine your own contribution, but we don't consider this a fee for service organization—we are an exceptionally progressive Reform Jewish Community and we believe there is value in supporting such a community.

### **Will my dues amount be kept confidential?**

Of course. Any amount you select as well as any conversations you have with us will be confidential.

### **What happens if it doesn't work?**

This is admittedly a change that involves some risk, so we are thinking of it as an experiment at this time. There has been some trend among other congregations to go to some variation of this system—many have found it to be successful in raising their income from membership, but not all. We will be evaluating throughout the year and could return to a more traditional dues structure if necessary. Your prompt response in renewing your membership will be helpful in determining how this is going.

## Member Contact Information

Please print clearly

Names of adults in the household	Email Addresses:

Names of children	Age/Grade (including if in College)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Home Phone (with area code):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Cell Phone (with area code):** \_\_\_\_\_

### PREFERENCES:

We prefer to send most communications (including invoices and statements) via email to save earthly and financial resources. If you do not have email or would prefer important communication sent via U.S. mail, please indicate that here:  I prefer U.S. mail.

Beit Ahavah will be publishing a member directory this year. Please check here if you would like to opt out of having your information in this directory.  OPT OUT

Beit Ahavah occasionally shares membership information with Pioneer Valley Jewish organizations when permission is granted, including Jewish Culture Connect. May we share your information?  YES  NO

Would additional grandparents, parents, relatives or friends be interested to receive notice of Beit Ahavah events, and/or the biweekly Highlights Newsletter? If so, please share name(s), email, and address(es) below.

Beit Ahavah staff and volunteers take photos at community events throughout the year that may be used for promotional and social media purposes (such as Highlights, School brochures, website, slide show, etc.).

Check here if you DO NOT want pictures of you or your family to be used for these purposes. \_\_\_\_\_

Please detail any special needs or anything else you would like to share with us:



## Volunteering

*...Im ein Torah, ein kemach... If there is no Torah, there is no bread!*

*- Pirkei Avot 3:21*

Beit Ahavah is a community where each person can make a difference. We rely and thrive on our members' active participation. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know other Beit Ahavah members and feel part of the community. It is also essential for keeping our community vibrant and alive. Volunteering can mean helping plan a holiday event, assisting a family in need, reading Torah at services, mentoring a student, organizing a Havdalah gathering, serving on a committee, cleaning up with a crew after Shabbat services, or suggesting and organizing a speaker. New volunteers will get plenty of guidance as they take on new roles and learn the ropes. Thank you!

Please indicate how you can contribute your time and energy to Beit Ahavah by checking the boxes below.

### I am interested in the following short-term volunteer opportunities:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher during Shabbat services  | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at RUACH, Beit Ahavah Community School or other family programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help set up or clean up for services                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Help plan a holiday celebration or community event                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host an Oneg Shabbat   | <input type="checkbox"/> Join the High Holydays Committee  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide food for Onegs and special events                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan a fundraising event  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach or coordinate an adult education event on the following topic: | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach in the school on the following topic:                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:   |  |

### I am interested in the following Beit Ahavah committees:

- Chesed:** The Chesed Coordinator responds to the needs of members who are going through a crisis or life change (birth or adoption of a child, illness, death in the family, etc.). Chair: Jessie Tropp, 413-237-1441, [jtropp@comcast.net](mailto:jtropp@comcast.net)
- Education:** The YOFIE Committee (Youth & Families Involved in Education) works with Rabbi Riqi to foster the development and operations of child and family education and programs, including the RUACH Beit Ahavah Community School. Chair: Karen Adelman, 413-320-6094, [k\\_adleman@yahoo.com](mailto:k_adleman@yahoo.com).
- Chaverim Membership:** The Chaverim Membership Committee is responsible for engaging and fostering membership growth. The committee is also responsible for presenting Beit Ahavah to the community at large and promoting the congregation's events. Chair: TBA (contact Stephanie Pick, 413-586-5652, [stephaniepick@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniepick@yahoo.com), or Robert Harris, 413-250-1304, [roberth1950@mac.com](mailto:roberth1950@mac.com)).
- Prayer & Practice:** The Prayer & Practice Committee is responsible for issues that pertain to religious practice, including the structure and content of our Tefillah (prayer), the selection of prayer books, holiday celebrations and observances, guidelines for B'nai Mitzvah celebrations, etc. Chair: Lauri Meade, 413-563-4670, [laurenbmeade@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbmeade@gmail.com).
- High Holydays (HiHo) Committee:** This committee meets seasonally starting in the Spring/Summer, to prepare for the High Holydays with study/spiritual preparation, details for services, High Holyday honors, and engagement during our busy High Holydays season. Chair: Lauri Meade, 413-563-4670, [laurenbmeade@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbmeade@gmail.com).
- Tzedek Tzedek/Social Justice:** Doing social justice, mitzvot and social action together, protecting the environment are tenets of our community. Chair: Margaret Miller: 413-586-5074; [mmiller857@comcast.net](mailto:mmiller857@comcast.net)
- Fundraising & Development:** The Fundraising and Development Committee is responsible for developing and organizing fundraising events and development campaigns for the Beit Ahavah Community. Chair: TBA (contact Stephanie Pick, 413-586-5652, [stephaniepick@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniepick@yahoo.com), or Robert Harris, 413-250-1304, [roberth1950@mac.com](mailto:roberth1950@mac.com)).
- Adult Programming:** If you would like to help plan or support opportunities, lectures, classes, and outings for adult learning, fun, and engagement with Judaism and community, please join us! Chair: Maggie Gruszecki, 413-584-9280, [wynnem1022@yahoo.com](mailto:wynnem1022@yahoo.com).

## 2017 – 2018 Scrip Subscription

We have the option of purchasing Scrip – a cash card used at Stop & Shop for either food or gas, or at River Valley Co-op.

Beit Ahavah receives a 5% rebate from all Scrip sold! Scrip is a great way to provide additional financial support to Beit Ahavah without costing you anymore than you are planning on spending on groceries in the first place.

We ask that you purchase Scrip on a monthly basis through the DIRECT WITHDRAWAL program. Please fill out the Direct Payment Authorization form found below.

I \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the following terms for my purchasing of scrip from Beit Ahavah:  
(print name)

please continue my current scrip subscription using my current payment method unless otherwise specified

I have agreed to purchase scrip on a monthly subscription basis from:

**Stop'n'Shop** for the following amount:

\$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$600 \$700 \$800 \$900 \$1,000  
(please circle one)

**River Valley Co-op** for the following amount:

\$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$600 \$700 \$800 \$900 \$1,000  
(please circle one)

Please note that you can purchase from either Stop'n'Shop or River Valley Co-op or both!

The payment must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, then new scrip card(s) in the denomination selected will be automatically sent to the address listed below, until Beit Ahavah has been notified of cancellation. Cancellation must be made with 30 days notice. All Direct Payment Authorization will be withdrawn from accounts on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

I agree that once the subscription has been purchased it cannot be returned unless there are extenuating circumstances, which have been discussed and agreed upon by the Beit Ahavah Board of Directors, that would allow me to remit my purchase and payment agreement. I agree that upon signing this document, I am bound by all statements herein.

Beit Ahavah will send by regular mail unless you **make arrangements** to pick up your monthly card at the office during regular office hours, which can be found on our website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Purchaser Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Purchaser Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
# Street/P O Box # City State Zip Code

## DIRECT PAYMENT/Bank Draft Authorization for DUES and/or SCRIP

*Im ein kemach, ein Torah... If there is no bread, there is no Torah...*  
*- Pirkei Avot 3:21*

Direct Payment saves our congregation from paying credit card fees. When you authorize regularly scheduled payments to be made from your checking or savings account, your payments will be made automatically on the specified day. Proof of payment will appear with your bank statement.

The authority you give to charge your account will remain in effect until you notify us in writing to terminate the authorization. If the amount of your payment changes, we will notify you at least 10 days before payment date.

I authorize Beit Ahavah to initiate debit entries to my checking/savings account for the amounts listed on the dues and scrip forms. This authority will remain in effect until I cancel the preauthorized transfer, which requires at least three (3) days written notice to Beit Ahavah before the next transfer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Financial Institution) (Branch)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name As It Appears On Your Account - Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

Initial payment amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Regular payment date: \_\_\_\_\_

Checking or  Savings

TRANSIT ROUTING NUMBER

␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣
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ABA

ACCOUNT NUMBER INFORMATION

␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣	␣
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**Please attach a voided check.**

**PLEASE RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

On \_\_\_\_\_ (date), I authorized Beit Ahavah, to initiate electronic entries to my checking/savings account and have agreed to the terms listed on the authorization. I may revoke my authorization by writing to the address above, providing at least 3 days notice prior to the next scheduled transfer. Initial payment amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Regular payment date: \_\_\_\_\_