



Beit Ahavah

The Reform Synagogue of Greater Northampton



Membership & Renewal ~ Community Partnership

Shalom & Welcome!

This year is for Refuah - Together, we will heal.

We are excited to embark upon building Jewish community -- moving forward in a new way, together!

- Beit Ahavah is excited to bring our creativity, caring and dedication to next year, bridging Jewish tradition and new ways forward.
- We look ahead to a new beginning, with Shabbat and musical services, uplifting and transformative High Holydays, holiday celebrations, new adult learning, tikkun olam (healing the world) with tzedek social justice work, chesed lovingkindness, wildly fun and meaningful family, youth and teen programming, personalized B'nei Mitzvah, and so much more that we will co-create.
- The pandemic reinforced for us that Beit Ahavah thrives when we come together, with our spiritual leader Rabbi Riqi Kosovske, with each other and with all who seek enlivening connection and a community to help us navigate life's challenges and celebrate our joys.
- Beit Ahavah is committed to inclusive and radical welcoming, as a proud member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), connected with the Pioneer Valley Jewish community, Progressive Judaism, and interfaith and social justice partners at Florence Congregational Church and the Greater Northampton area.

Thank you for being part of Beit Ahavah!

L'shalom, peace,
Rabbi Riqi Kosovske

Board of Directors 2020-21:
Anne Bussler, President
Lois Peirent, Vice President
Morris Lainer, Treasurer
Mary Stanton, Secretary

Scott Cavanaugh
Heather Deirdre
Rachel Goldberg
Becca Herskovitz
Diane Kelly
Andy Morris-Friedman
*(New Board members will
begin July 1, 2021)*



Member Contact Information

Adult(s) in the household	Email Address(es):

Names of other family members including children	Age/Grade (including if in college)


City, State, Zip: _____

Cell Phone(s): _____

Home Phone: _____

PREFERENCES:

- To save earthly/financial resources with Jewish values, we will send most communications electronically. If you do not have email or prefer important communication sent via U.S. snail mail, please check here: ___ **I PREFER U.S. MAIL.**
- Beit Ahavah occasionally shares information with Jewish organizations that our congregation is part of, such as Jewish Federation of Western M, PJ Library (young families), NFTY-Northeast (teens), Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). May we share your information? ___ **YES** ___ **NO**
- Your community of grandparents, parents or friends can receive invitations to Beit Ahavah events, and/or the "Beit Ahavah Highlights" e-newsletter. **Please share names/emails if you would like to add them:**

-  Beit Ahavah staff and members may take photos at community events (such as for school news, website, annual slide show, Beit Ahavah social media, etc.).
 ___ **Check if you DO NOT want photos of you to be included.**
 ___ **Check if you DO NOT want photos of your children to be included.**



Volunteering & Involvement

Each person makes a difference! Beit Ahavah thrives with active participation and creativity. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get to know and feel part of the community. Volunteering can mean helping plan a holiday event, assisting a family in need, reading Torah, mentoring a student, organizing a Havdalah gathering, serving on a committee, cleaning up with a crew after Shabbat services, welcoming newcomers on Zoom, delivering holiday goody bags, suggesting or organizing a speaker, or more!

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usher and greet during Shabbat services | <input type="checkbox"/> Help out at youth and family events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help set up or clean up for Shabbat services | <input type="checkbox"/> Help plan a holiday celebration or other community event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host an Oneg Shabbat | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan a fundraising event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join the High Holydays Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Invite a friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teach youth or adults on the following topic: | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Committees are a wonderful, integral part of our community, connection, friendship and leadership. *“Be a mensch, join a committee.”* Please check below if interested:

- I am interested or passionate about being involved with _____.
- Chesed/Lovingkindness** - Support people during challenges, simchahs or life changes (i.e. birth or adoption of a child, illness, loss).
- Education** - Our YOFIE committee stands for “Youth & Families Involved in Education.”
- Membership** - Engage members, reach out to newcomers, plan welcome events and foster growth.
- Prayer & Practice** - Works with the Rabbi on community ritual, services, religious practice, and spirituality.
- High Holydays** - Dreaming up the amazing High Holydays Experience for 2022/5782.
- Tzedek Tzedek/Social Justice** - Social justice and mitzvot, leading the synagogue on issues of healing the world.
- Fundraising & Development** - Energetic approach to keeping our synagogue alive and thriving through philanthropy and healthy giving.
- Adult Programming** - Events and learning for adults to enrich intellectual and cultural engagement.



Membership ~ Flexible Dues Commitment

“Im ein kemach, ein Torah” - אין תורה, אם אין קמח, אין תורה - If there is no flour, there is no Torah. (Pirkei Avot 3:21)

About our “flour”: Four years ago, Beit Ahavah took a leap of faith to change the old-school dues structure, by creating a fair share dues commitment with suggested voluntary base ranges in order to sustain and strengthen our congregation and to make membership possible for everyone, without having to go through an abatement process. If you are able to give above the suggested range, that enables us to keep dues flexible. We rely on everyone’s energetic commitment to give what you can from the heart.

Renewing Members: My dues contribution last year: _____. *Please consider increasing this amount for 2021-22.*

Category	Suggested Range
First year (New Members)	\$800 - \$1800
Second Year and After	\$1100 - \$2200
Dual Membership (paying dues to another synagogue)	\$600 - \$1800
Student	\$36 - \$360

Beit Ahavah is committed to welcoming everyone regardless of finances. If you choose an amount outside the guidelines, please write in that amount.

Membership Category _____ My 2021-2022 dues commitment will be \$ _____.

Additional Contributions:

General Fund	\$ _____
Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund	\$ _____
Klara Grape Memorial Music Fund	\$ _____
Madison Ruth Meade Young Education Fund	\$ _____
Tot Shabbat Fund	\$ _____
Leroy Seftel Adult Education Fund	\$ _____

Please designate contributions in memory/honor of/life cycle events to be acknowledged:

Total Financial Support \$ _____

_____ Full amount is enclosed. ([PayPal](#) is also an option.)

_____ 50% enclosed; remainder due in equal payments Sep 15, Dec 15, and March 15.

_____ Automatic withdrawal authorization on file for 12 equal monthly transfers on or around the 15th of July 2021 – June 2022. ([PayPal](#) is also an option.)

_____ Automatic withdrawal authorization for 10 equal monthly transfers on or around the 15th of July 2021 – April 2022.

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Please print your name _____

You may also use our [online membership form](#) or pay by check mailed to Beit Ahavah, 130 Pine Street, Florence, MA 01062.

Please consider adding 3% if you use PayPal to cover their fees. Thank you!



FAQ ~ Membership/Dues & Payment Information

Why did Beit Ahavah introduce a major change to the dues structure back in 2017?

With thoughtful research and consideration, Beit Ahavah changed from a Fixed Share system to a Fair Share system. Instead of the synagogue Board determining your contribution (and members having to request an abatement when needed), the Board established a fair share system which determines what the synagogue needs to exist, with a suggested range of dues, while asking you to determine your capability and means to support the synagogue's growth. It has always been challenging for congregations to determine a dues structure that is fair, affordable and equitable while providing a solid financial base for the synagogue to operate and grow. This new system is an attempt to welcome everyone while providing complete transparency as to the synagogue's finances, which encourages members to make a dues commitment that reflects what is needed to sustain and grow Beit Ahavah. The goal is that this system will result in increased financial support and a growth of membership.

How do I determine my dues commitment?

Dues are a gift of the heart ("nadiv lev") from each member as well as part of our communal responsibility ("tzedakah"). Typically dues increase every year, so please review your dues from last year if you are already a member, and consider the importance of an increase - and going beyond the range if you are able to. As expected, Beit Ahavah's basic expenses continue to increase, and it is our wish to *strengthen* programming rather than have to decrease it. The dues ranges are based on a sense of *minimum* reasonable amount on the one hand and a figure that will contribute to Beit Ahavah's stability on the other. We will still need to do additional fundraising beyond dues, as does every organization. *If you are able to give beyond the range, please designate that on the membership form or via the online membership form.* This will deeply help Beit Ahavah since not everyone is in a position to contribute at higher levels. However, every single dues amount is significant and appreciated.

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

Projected expenses for the coming fiscal year 2021-22 total nearly \$170,000. Expenses include remuneration for our staff, Rabbi, teachers, specialists, office manager; professional services, space, insurance, technology, internet; programming, events, supplies.

I might only attend a few events each year/I come all the time. Should this be a factor in my dues?

Think of dues as a way of supporting Beit Ahavah and progressive Judaism in all the value generated for the entire congregation, Jewish community, next generation, world and future. Fair share dues support the ongoing operating expenses needed all year round associated with making our synagogue, functions and our Rabbi available to all our congregants for joyous events (simchahs) as well as hard times, and committed to excellence despite being a small congregation. Especially during COVID-19, we are highly engaged and working particularly hard as Rabbi Riqi, Board members and lay leaders apply all of our creativity to these new situations to ensure support for community members and for our Beit Ahavah Jewish community to thrive.

Will my dues amount be kept confidential?

Of course. Financial information as well as any conversations will be confidential. Our treasurer Morris Lainer (morrislainer@icloud.com) is happy to speak with you.



2021-2022 Scrip Subscription - Sign up for Scrip!

Scrip is a cash card (like a prepaid credit card) used at **Stop & Shop for food or gas** or **River Valley Co-op**.

Beit Ahavah receives a 5% rebate from all Scrip sold! This can add up to a significant amount for Beit Ahavah especially if everyone participates. Scrip is a great and easy way to provide additional financial support to Beit Ahavah without costing you any more than you already spend on groceries or gas. Scrip cards never expire, can be given as gifts, donated to those in need, or shared with family members.

Scrip is purchased on a monthly basis through a DIRECT WITHDRAWAL program, and the cards will be mailed to you by our member Ruth Barham. Please fill out the Direct Payment Authorization form below.

I _____, agree to the following terms for my purchasing of Scrip from Beit Ahavah:
(print name)

- For renewals: Please continue my current Scrip subscription using my current payment method unless otherwise specified.

I agree to purchase scrip on a MONTHLY subscription basis from one or both of the following (please circle):

- Stop & Shop:**

\$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$600 \$700 \$800 \$900 \$1,000

- River Valley Co-op:**

\$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$600 \$700 \$800 \$900 \$1,000

The payment must be received by the 15th of the month, then new Scrip card(s) in the amount circled will be automatically sent to the address listed below, until Beit Ahavah has been notified of cancellation.

Cancellation requires 30 days notice. Direct Payment Authorization will be withdrawn on the 15th of each month.

I agree that once the Scrip subscription has been purchased, the cards 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 (Mon/Weds 9 AM-1 PM, Tues/Thurs 9 AM-2 PM).

Purchaser Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address:

Street/P. O. Box

City

State

Zip Code



