



# **TEMPLE HABONIM**

*Barrington, Rhode Island*

# WELCOME

*Welcome to Temple Habonim - a vibrant and growing congregation. We encourage all self-identifying Jewish households to join our active community and help shape our future.*

*This packet is intended to answer the most frequently asked questions about our philosophy, practices and programming. We encourage you to meet with our Rabbi, Membership Chair, officers and other members for information specific to your interests.*

## WHO JOINS TEMPLE HABONIM?

Our members' backgrounds include all branches of Judaism and many other traditions of faith as well. Jews by birth, Jews by choice and interfaith families find programs designed to meet their spiritual, religious, educational and social needs. Our diverse membership includes people from Barrington, Warren, Bristol, East Providence, as well as other Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts communities.

## HOW CAN I BECOME INVOLVED?

There are many ways to become involved in the Temple Habonim community. Joining us for our weekly Shabbat worship services is a relaxing way to separate the Sabbath from the rest of the week. The service is followed by an oneg - an opportunity to socialize with other congregants. Members volunteer to coordinate spiritual, educational and social programs through our Sisterhood, the religious school and other temple committees. Festival celebrations have a decidedly family flair. Book discussions, Talmud study and interfaith education programs are offered for adults. Our members form chess clubs, run Sunday movie afternoons, perform professional musical concerts and so much more.

## HOW DO I MEET THE PROFESSIONALS WHO SERVE TEMPLE HABONIM?

Our temple office is generally open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM through 5:00 PM and Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. You can arrange an appointment with our Rabbi or our Education Director by contacting the temple office at 401.245.6536

# WHY CHOOSE REFORM JUDAISM?

*To be a Jew is to be a member of the people of the Covenant, an heir to one of the world's most ancient, enduring, and awe-inspiring faiths. Reform Judaism affirms the central tenets of Judaism - God, Torah and Israel - even as it acknowledges the diversity of Reform Jewish beliefs and practices.*

*Since its earliest days, Reform Judaism has asserted that a Judaism frozen in time is an heirloom, not a living fountain. The great contribution of Reform Judaism is that it has enabled the Jewish people to introduce innovation while preserving tradition, to embrace diversity while asserting commonality, to affirm beliefs without rejecting those who doubt, and to bring faith to sacred texts without sacrificing critical scholarship.*

*We believe that all human beings are created in the image of God, and that we are God's partners in improving the world. Tikkun Olam - repairing the world - is a hallmark of Reform Judaism as we strive to bring peace, freedom, and justice to all people.*

## WHAT ARE THE RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES THAT DISTINGUISH REFORM JUDAISM?

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) explains:

- Reform Jews are committed to a Judaism that changes and adapts to the needs of the  day. Changes must be thoughtful, and be rooted in the history and traditions of our   people. The willingness to adapt has brought a new vitality and strength to the Jewish   community.
- Reform Jews are committed to the absolute equality of women in all areas of Jewish life.  We were the first movement to ordain women as rabbis, invest women cantors, and elect   women presidents of our synagogues.
- Reform Jews are committed to social justice. Even as Reform Jews embrace ritual,   prayer, and ceremony more than ever, we continue to see social justice as the jewel in the   Reform Jewish crown. A Reform synagogue that does not alleviate the anguish of the   suffering is a contradiction in terms.
- Reform Jews are committed to the principle of inclusion, not exclusion. Reform Jews   seek to provide experiences that will draw people into the community of the Jewish   People
- Reform Jews are committed to a true partnership between the rabbinate and the laity.

*Temple Habonim is associated with the Union for Reform Judaism.  
This information is reproduced from articles published by the URJ. For more readings on the Reform movement or the URJ, please visit: [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org)*

# WELCOME TO TEMPLE HABONIM

## OUR MISSION

Temple Habonim is dedicated to helping self-identifying Jewish households realize lifelong involvement in Judaism, guided by Jewish values. We are a focal point for Jewish life centered upon the responsibilities to fulfill mitzvot, study Torah and participate in the worship of God. As the Reform Jewish presence in the East Bay, Temple Habonim is a gathering place for social and religious programs.

We honor this mission by:

- Providing access and resources to all who seek to nurture their faith.
- Providing pastoral care and community support for our members.
- Articulating and responding to the call for social justice through Tikkun Olam - "repairing the world."
- Providing a welcoming and supportive environment for all self-identifying Jewish households.
- Providing lifelong Jewish educational and cultural activities that reinforce the positive, empowering elements of Jewish life and history.
- Sustaining a tangible Jewish presence and fostering a broad range of programming in support of the greater Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts Jewish community.
- Participating in programs and community events as part of the overall interfaith religious

*As we light the Sabbath candles,  
"...their radiance summons us to fulfill our people's mission:  
To cast the light of freedom, justice and peace upon the world."*

*- The Gates of Prayer*



# CELEBRATING THE PAST, BUILDING OUR FUTURE

In September of 1959, several families who were living on the east shore of Narragansett Bay felt the need to provide an educational and social gathering place for their fellow Jews. Thirty-five families became the Eastward Jewish Center. A few years later, a group of members decided to start a temple in Barrington and the Barrington Jewish Center was founded in 1963. There were 39 charter member families and 36 children in our religious school.

Two years later, members purchased their first building at 147 County Road. In 1967, we became the guardians of our first Sefer Torah, Holy Scroll #1133, one of the 1,564 scrolls saved from the Nazis in Czechoslovakia and assigned by the Westminster Synagogue in London to us.

Our first Bar and Bat Mitzvah services were conducted in 1969 and our first Confirmations in 1972. By 1973, our religious school enrollment had grown to 100 students. Rabbi James Rosenberg became our third full-time spiritual leader in October, 1974, and introduced guitar music to our service.

For several years, a group of members had been suggesting that we choose a Hebrew name for our community. In March of 1975, our name was officially changed to Temple Habonim - Barrington Jewish Center. Habonim means, "The Builders," and it seemed a most fitting name for our evolving congregation.

In 1976, the town of Barrington decided to sell the Civil War era school at 165 New Meadow Road. The idyllic riverfront setting of the property combined with the striking architectural lines of the structure, made this opportunity particularly appealing. After much discussion, we purchased and renovated the building to meet the needs of our growing congregation and moved in to our new home in June of 1980. September of 1980 marked the first time our facility was large enough to celebrate the High Holy Days in our own building.

Continued growth and program enrichment carried us through the 80's and 90's. At the turn of the Millenium, our facilities needed to expand again to keep pace with our congregation. In September of 2003, our renovated building was dedicated. Our expanded structure now included modern classrooms and an enlarged sanctuary and social hall. Our membership numbered almost 200 families and religious school enrollment was at 185 students.

From humble roots in borrowed facilities to a vibrant and thriving congregation -  
L'dor vador- The Builders - Temple Habonim.

# CELEBRATING SHABBAT AND THE HOLIDAYS

*Shabbat, the High Holy Days, and festivals are joyous occasions at Temple Habonim.  
We celebrate each in its own unique way.*

## SHABBAT

Friday evenings provide an opportunity for our community to gather in song (z'mirot) and worship. In addition to our weekly services, special worship opportunities are offered for families of pre-school-aged children and school-aged children.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Shabbat Service** □ □ □ □ □ □ □ **Friday at 8:00pm**  
An intergenerational worship opportunity supplemented with guest speakers discussing important topics concerning Jewish life and current events. The weekly Parsha (Torah portion) is chanted during our Friday night service. From mid-June through mid-September, we celebrate Shabbat with a Kabbalat service at 6:15 PM

**"Tot" Shabbat Service** □ □ □ □ □ **One Friday each month at 5:30pm**  
Families with young children (pre-school through age 6) participate in the "Tot" Shabbat Service that offers singing, prayers, stories and fun. Children are introduced, in an informal manner, to Shabbat, Jewish holidays and the Hebrew language.

**Children's Shabbat Service** □ □ □ □ □ **One Friday each month at 6:15pm**  
Families with school-age children created the "Kids" Shabbat Service. It offers a slightly more serious approach to Shabbat than the Tot Shabbat Service, mixing more traditional prayer and discussion with music, stories and fun. A kid-friendly oneg follows each service.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS

Our services are open to all who wish to attend. We welcome all members of the community to worship with us in the ancient tradition of "welcoming the stranger."

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings, family services are offered with a shortened liturgy and a mixture of songs and parables. Traditional services are offered on Erev Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and following the family service on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur.

There is an outdoor "Tashlich" service (weather permitting) on Rosh Hashanah afternoon. Our member families gather to chant the prayers and sing the songs of the season and "cast away" their sins in the form of bread into the Barrington River (while feeding the ducks and seagulls as well!)

One service is held on the second day of Rosh Hashanah for those members who observe Rosh Hashanah in a more traditional manner.

As Yom Kippur concludes, we break the fast as a community, enjoying a lavish buffet and the spirit of fellowship.

# CELEBRATING SHABBAT AND THE HOLIDAYS

## SUKKOT

A Sukkah is built in the back of the temple every year and is used extensively by our religious school. It is also the location of our outdoor family Sukkot service, which starts with blankets and picnic dinners and is followed by songs, prayers and treats for the children.

## SIMCHAT TORAH

We celebrate with a festive evening of singing and dancing, along with the traditional Torah reading from the end of Deuteronomy and the beginning of Genesis. Our first grade religious school students are consecrated on Simchat Torah.

## CHANUKAH

The lights of 40 or 50 Menorahs fill our social hall at the annual Chanukah Shabbat dinner. Over the years, we have included entertainment from story tellers to Klezmer bands. The Chanukah dinner is co-sponsored by our Sisterhood and Parent-Teacher Association.

## SHABBAT SHIRA

Our Sisterhood organizes this cozy annual service. We gather as a congregation to honor Miriam with poetry, prose and "songs of the sea."

## PURIM

What a magnificent ruckus... children (and adults!) with "groggers" and the wonderful story with the evil villain whose name we can't say or you know what happens....

## PASSOVER

"In each generation, everyone must think of himself or herself as having personally left Egypt." On the second night of Passover, more than 40 member families attend our community Seder. The story of the exodus is intertwined with songs and parables as we share in the communal experience of reliving our liberation from bondage.

## SHAVUOT

The annual commemoration of the giving of the Torah is significant cause for celebration. However, for our 16-year olds, the completion of their childhood Jewish education, culminating in Confirmation, gives Shavuot even more significance. A truly inspiring service by, of and for our teens.

# COMMEMORATING LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

*We cling together, as a family, to our Torah - our Etz Chaim - our tree of life. We come together, as a congregation, to mark the life cycle events of our community members.*

## BRIT MILAH AND BABY NAMING

For many years, our Rabbi has officiated at Brit Milah ceremonies in conjunction with a physician. Our members have found the cooperation of the spiritual and medical professionals to be a comforting approach to this traditional celebration.

Naming and blessing a Jewish baby or child can be integrated into a regularly scheduled Shabbat worship service. Welcoming a baby into Jewish life is a cause for celebration for the entire community.

## B'NAI MITZVAH

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah honors our children as they read from the Torah for the first time before the congregation. This ritual is the culmination of the early part of a child's Jewish education. Generally celebrated during a Saturday morning service, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a special time in the life of the child, his or her extended family and the Jewish community of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

## WEDDINGS

The beautiful surroundings and understated elegance of Temple Habonim make it a perfect setting for weddings. Our Rabbi officiates at weddings of Jewish couples in our sanctuary and elsewhere. The social hall is a wonderful location for intimate receptions and a full-service kitchen is available for caterers (Kosher style).

## FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

At times of loss, support and solace are found in our community through our Bikkur Cholim committee. Shiva minyans, food donations and additional comforts are provided to grieving families.



# EDUCATING OUR YOUTH

*Our Religious School serves families with students in kindergarten through grade ten. We aim to give our young people the tools necessary to become active, comfortable members of the worldwide Jewish community. Our curriculum is based on Jewish values, ethics, Hebrew language, prayer, ritual observance, Jewish history, comparative religion and the creation of individual positive Jewish identities for each member of our community.*

*We prepare our students for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. At completion of our program, our students chant from the Torah scroll, recite a Haftarah portion, lead prayers and have developed a deeper appreciation for their ties to Judaism.*

*Our early curriculum emphasizes Jewish history, Jewish literature, holidays and the rituals of life cycle events. Above all, our students are made aware of the value of their Jewish heritage, forming a basis for their Jewish identity for the rest of their lives.*

## JCC PRE-SCHOOL

Temple Habonim is proud to host the first satellite Pre-school program for the Greater Providence JCC. Our experienced and caring staff engages the children in age appropriate Jewish-related activities including creative arts, music, storytelling and outdoor play. The low teacher-to-student ratio insures that every child gets the focus and attention they need. This program is open to three and four-year old children with no requirement for synagogue affiliation.

## TEMPLE HABONIM YOUTH EDUCATION

From kindergarten through 10th grade, our comprehensive curriculum provides the foundation our students need to create their own Jewish lives. Younger grades learn the customs and traditions of the holidays, Jewish history and Torah, and begin to study the Hebrew language. The middle grades continue with Israel, great Jewish philosophers and leaders and B'nai Mitzvah training. Upper grades focus on Jewish literature, comparative religion, the Talmud, politics and current events, ethics and action. There is a Confirmation celebration for all students who graduate from the program in the 10th grade.



# ENDURING LEARNING

*Educating ourselves, learning together and interacting with others contributes to the richness of our lives. We strive to provide opportunities for our members and the broader community to add vitality and meaning to their religious and spiritual journeys.*

## ADULT EDUCATION

During the months of December and January, the Rabbi conducts evening mini-courses on a wide range of Jewish topics.

## TALMUD STUDY

Each year, our Rabbi selects a section of the Talmud to explore in detail. Over the course of several Shabbat mornings, a group of adults gathers for discussion and study to enrich their knowledge of Jewish history, law and spirituality.

## BARRINGTON CLERGY ASSOCIATION INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Temple Habonim participates, along with many local churches, in an annual interfaith dialogue during the month of February. With sessions rotating among the host congregations, community members exchange ideas in an environment of shared purpose, open-mindedness and tolerance.

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

A group of members meet periodically to discuss books of interest to the Jewish community. Held in our comfortable and welcoming library, book discussions offer an additional intellectual outlet for our members.

## ADULT BAR-BAT MITZVAH

Every few years, Temple Habonim offers members the opportunity to study for adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah. The program is designed for those who did not become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in their youth or who wish to add spirituality to their lives by completing the course of study from an adult perspective. Students learn the fundamentals of reading Hebrew and chanting from the Torah and receive a background in Jewish history, Bible and liturgy.

# SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

*We are proud of our diverse, multi-generational congregation and strive to provide varied programs for our members.*

## PRE-SCHOOL

Temple Habonim hosts the JCC satellite pre-school program serving three and four-year olds. We also offer a quarterly Sunday Pre-School four times a year coinciding with Jewish holidays and festivals. Our monthly Tot Shabbats are geared specifically for pre-school-aged children.

## SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

In addition to our religious school, there are many activities at Temple Habonim designed to engage our young members. Family Shabbat worship is designed to introduce Jewish worship in ways that are both accessible and memorable. Festival celebrations are specifically focused on our youth. Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates are encouraged to join the Mitzvah Team, completing "good deeds" in the community and learning the true meaning of tzedakah.

## TEENS

BCTY (Bristol County Temple Youth) is a participant in the Reform movement's NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth). In addition to local activities, our teens participate in regional and national programs. Temple Habonim participates in the Jewish Federation's Gift of Israel program, helping parents save for a teen trip to Israel.

## FAMILY MOVIE AFTERNOONS

Sunday afternoon family movies are a big hit with our young families. Entertaining G-rated movies are shown in our Memorial Hall with snacks served. Bring your blanket and pillow and share a laugh with our children and children-at-heart.

## SISTERHOOD

Our Temple Sisterhood is very active programming spiritual, educational and social events. Habonim women coordinate holiday celebrations with the religious school, enjoy social events with feminine themes and deepen their faith at spiritual events throughout the year.

## BEYOND OUR WALLS

Temple Habonim has a long history of community service. To date, almost 1,000 cartons of food have been donated by our members to the local community food bank at Tap-In. We have sponsored Jewish families in the former Soviet Union and participated in activities supporting Israel and promoting social justice. Our annual worship service honoring the achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that every individual can make a difference. Recently, Temple Habonim's Social Action Committee joined a town-wide interfaith community service initiative called, "Beyond Our Walls." As advocates for social justice and facilitators of community service, BOW adds an exciting new dimension to our concept of Tikkun Olam - "repairing the world."

# **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

## **PARTNERING**

Each member of the temple Board of Trustees "adopts" a new member family in a partnership of welcome and friendship. Our goal is to make every new member feel comfortable and valued as part of our congregation. Board/new member partners may share a Shabbat dinner, attend worship services or other temple functions together, or merely recognize a smiling face in the crowd during the High Holy Days.

## **NEW MEMBER BRUNCH**

After the hectic High Holy Day season is past, congregants who have recently joined the temple are our honored guests at the annual New Member Brunch. Coinciding with religious school hours, long-standing members and new ones join together for bagels and schmoozing - a wonderful way to get better acquainted.

## **A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER**

Temple Habonim is a partner synagogue of Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Since its founding in 1986, Mazon has granted over \$31 million in direct food assistance, education and advocacy, primarily in the non-Jewish community. We encourage our members to contribute 3% of the cost of a simcha and to make a gift to Mazon on Yom Kippur and at Passover. To learn more, visit [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org).

## **RENAISSANCE**

Our seniors join together for movie nights, heart-healthy dinners and other activities to help maintain their temple friendships after their participation in religious school and other family-oriented activities are completed. Many of our founding members are still actively involved in our congregation.

## **THE GREATER RHODE ISLAND JEWISH COMMUNITY**

If we do not have certain programs or services that you are looking for at Temple Habonim, they are likely available from other organizations and agencies in the area. The Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Jewish Seniors Agency, the Jewish Community Day School, the Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence...these and many more are accessible to members of Temple Habonim.

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

There are many other opportunities for social, intellectual and artistic interaction at Temple Habonim. Our annual Wine Tasting event gathers members for an entertaining and lively social activity. We host an annual Winter Concert at which members with professional musical skill regale us with their talents. We coordinate efforts with the Hampden Meadows Student Council to sponsor an annual blood drive for the Rhode Island Blood Center. Temple Habonim has hosted Craft Fairs at which temple members and others have displayed their skills. We field a team in the Churches of Barrington Co-ed Softball League. The breadth of our programming is limited only by the imagination of our members.



