

Temple Beth Tikvah

A Reform Congregation Embracing our Jewish Tradition

Membership Information



9955 Coleman Road
Roswell, Georgia 30075

770-642-0434
www.bethtikvah.com

Welcome to Temple Beth Tikvah!



Thank you for your interest in Temple Beth Tikvah. Our congregation has a proud history, and we are looking forward to an exciting future.

This information has been assembled for those searching for a synagogue to call home. It introduces you to our congregation and answers some of the questions you may have about our approach to worship, our commitment to education and our active role in the community.

Let's Get Acquainted! We encourage you to review this information carefully and invite you to visit Temple Beth Tikvah to participate in one of our special prospective member events and worship services. Rabbi Fred Greene and Cantor Nancy Kassel are available to meet with you and you are welcome to sample our educational opportunities and community activities. We are certain you will enjoy the experience!

We're Here to Support You. Synagogue affiliation is one of the most important challenges we face as a Jewish community. Let us help you evaluate Temple Beth Tikvah in light of your specific circumstances, needs and objectives. If you have any questions, please call us 770-642-0434 or send us an e-mail at membership@bethtikvah.com.

A **membership application** accompanies this brochure. You can also obtain an application online at www.bethtikvah.com/aboutus/membership/.

Come, enter our gates...



These gates represent a vision for how Temple Beth Tikvah congregants and the broader community can engage in synagogue life. As you figuratively enter these gates in your own way and in your own time, we believe the experience will be meaningful and satisfying to you.

Visit us online at www.bethtikvah.com



Synagogue Life

Temple Beth Tikvah offers programs that appeal to all segments of our diverse congregation. From small gatherings to events that bring us all together, there's something for everyone. Most activities are held on the Temple Beth Tikvah campus, while others take place throughout the city and in the homes of our congregants.

Youth Groups

We believe that Jewish communal life is as significant for our youth as it is for our adults. In a day and age of competition and increasing pressures, our youth need a safe place to find community, to ask their questions, seek thoughtful answers, and to explore their spiritual growth in meaningful ways.

We are also committed to our partnerships with the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), the Reform movement's national youth organization, and its Southern Area Region, our local chapters of BBYO, URJ Camp Coleman, Atlanta's JCC Camp Barney Medintz, and more.

Sisterhood and Men's Club

The **Sisterhood** is an active group of women of all ages who program some of the congregation's most popular activities. Past events have included:

- Book club
- *Rosh Chodesh*: Women's Spiritual Journey Group
- Evenings at local theatres
- Purim Carnival



The **Men's Club** hosts a variety of events through the year that appeal to men, such as:



- Atlanta Braves and Hawks games
- Whirlyball
- Bowling
- Trivia night
- Speakers on Jewish and topical issues

The Men's Club also organizes TBT's Atlanta Synagogue League softball and basketball teams.

Both the Sisterhood and Men's Club play active roles in many *mitzvah* projects throughout the synagogue.

The synagogue is where Jews are made, where the individual soul and the community are joined...Only the, synagogue creates Jews child by child, family by family...

— Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler





Chavurot (“Friendship Groups”)

Through our active *Chavurah* program, Temple Beth Tikvah offers congregants an opportunity to get to know each other outside of the synagogue and in a more intimate way. Our many *chavurot* range in size from 10 to 24 adults, who have come together by choice to participate in special activities. In some cases, *chavurot* have been formed by congregants at the same stages of life (e.g., young families, empty nesters). In other cases, *chavurot* are comprised of more diverse membership.

Kehillat Chesed (Caring Committee)

The *Kehillat Chesed* Committee is involved in a variety of outreach efforts to support congregants during significant life cycle events, including:

- Preparing *shiva* meals and providing other assistance to families grieving the loss of a loved one
- “Checking in” to help find resources in the community for special needs (transportation, support groups, pastoral care, visits to nursing homes, etc.)
- Celebrating births, adoptions, marriages and other *simchas*

Social Action

Temple Beth Tikvah congregants are committed to meeting the needs of the broader community through a variety of activities, including:

- Food and clothing drives for North Fulton Community Charities and the Atlanta Food Bank
- *Gan Tikvah* – Temple Beth Tikvah’s “Garden of Hope” – where we grow our own vegetables to donate to the Atlanta Food Bank
- Volunteering at homeless shelters
- “Greene for Green Campaign,” an initiative led by Rabbi Greene that explores ways to make our synagogue an environmentally “green” house of worship
- Activities focused on improving our environment

Seniors Group

Temple Beth Tikvah is a place for everyone. Our more mature members seek out ways to come together to learn and share. They often host guest speakers who enlighten, entertain and inform, while the group enjoys lunch together.



Volunteer Committees

Temple Beth Tikvah is proud of its many volunteer committees and the essential role they play in the leadership of our congregation. All congregants are encouraged to contribute to our ever-growing community by sharing their skills, talents and interests as a committee volunteer. Here is a sampling of some of our most active committees:

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|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| • Adult Learning | • Budget and Finance | • Communications | • Religious School |
| • Fundraising | • Gift Shop | • High Holy Day Experience | • Ritual |
| • House/Facilities | • Men’s Club | • Youth | • Seniors Group |
| • Membership | • Sisterhood | • Israel | • <i>Kehillat Chesed</i> (Caring Committee) |
| • Social Action | • Interiors | | |



Worship and Ritual

Temple Beth Tikvah was formed in 1987 by a handful of committed people and Rabbi Donald Tam, now our Rabbi Emeritus. The families who founded Temple Beth Tikvah sought to shape a warm community in which they could experience Reform Judaism with a traditional tone. Under the guidance of Rabbi Fred Greene, their vision continues to this day.

Services

We conduct *Shabbat* services on Friday nights (typically beginning at 8 p.m.) and Saturday mornings (beginning at 10 a.m.). In addition, we occasionally hold special Friday night *Shabbat* services, including “*Shabbat Shalom Yeladim*” for our youngest children and their families, along with other “*Family Shabbat*” experiences. These special services typically start earlier than regular services. Our worship service schedule is posted monthly at www.bethtikvah.com.

How We Worship

Tradition takes many forms. For example, we encourage the wearing of *kipot* (yarmulkes) in our facilities and a *talit* (prayer shawl) is worn as a matter of custom on *Shabbat* mornings and during High Holy Days and festivals.

While a significant portion of our service is chanted and sung in Hebrew, we create a compelling worship experience that includes contemporary Jewish melodies and classic chanting, as well as English and Hebrew readings.



Music

Cantor Nancy Kassel prepares a beautiful selection of music whenever we come together to worship. This music greatly enhances the worship experience.

The Adult Choir is made up of congregants whose remarkable voices set the tone for meaningful prayer and contemplation in our service. The Junior Choir is made up of our young congregants who work hard to learn both traditional and contemporary music. Their enchanting voices accompany us on special occasions throughout the year.

When I pray, I speak to God; when I study, God speaks to me.

– Rabbi Louis Finkelstein



A Commitment to Lifelong Education

At Temple Beth Tikvah, we believe Jewish education is a lifelong experience. We instill a love of Judaism in our children, giving them a solid foundation upon which to build later in life. But we also strive to educate and inspire adults through a variety of engaging programs.

Religious School

Pre-K through 12th Grade

- **From Pre-K through Bar or Bat Mitzvah.** Temple Beth Tikvah's Religious School curriculum is carefully designed to meet the individual needs of each child, from Pre-K students to those preparing to become *Bar or Bat Mitzvah*. Our children are introduced to the core concepts of Judaism through the classroom, field trips and special performances, enabling them to learn, discover and "feel" Judaism.
- **From Bar or Bat Mitzvah through High School.** Becoming a *Bar or Bat Mitzvah* is an important lifecycle moment when our students affirm their commitments as Jews and look to the future with a new perspective. That's why we are so committed to helping them continue their Jewish journeys as they become young adults. Students in grades 8 and 9 participate in a program called *Kesher*, designed especially for their unique needs and stage in life. Our 10th graders study with Rabbi Greene for their *Confirmation* year. Our 11th and 12th grade students participate in *Kivunim* ("Pathways") to prepare them for Jewish life after high school. The students gather on Monday nights as a single community, where they enjoy an informal dinner with their friends and small, interactive classes designed to help them explore Judaism from a new vantage point.



To Request a Religious School Application

Call 770-642-4168 or download an application at www.bethtikvah.com/study/school.



Early Childhood Education Center

18 months through Pre-K (Monday through Friday)

We believe that a Jewish preschool is really a Jewish “head start” experience. Temple Beth Tikvah offers preschool children a loving and nurturing environment in which to learn. Classes begin at 18 months and continue through Pre-K. Our curriculum integrates Jewish and secular themes designed to expose our youngest members to our Jewish traditions and faith.



Teachers plan monthly units that take the children on an exciting tour of Jewish holidays and traditions, engaging them in activities that stimulate all five senses. Through arts and crafts, cooking, music and play, our preschoolers learn to love being Jewish even as they prepare for the academic challenges ahead.

All major Jewish holidays are taught and observed, and each week is capped off with a wonderful *Shabbat* celebration led by our Cantor and Rabbi. The weekly *Kabbalat Shabbat* offers the children an opportunity to participate in synagogue life in a developmentally appropriate way. Once a month, all parents are invited to join their children for this worship experience.



High Holy Day Experience

The High Holy Day Experience offers a meaningful way to engage children from age 3 through 3rd grade in the observance of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. This multi-faceted educational program is held in the education wing concurrent with High Holy Day services, allowing parents to worship in the sanctuary while their children participate in the “Experience” just down the hall. Each year, this program is a big hit for both children and parents.

Teach us to use all of our days so our hearts will be full.

– Psalms 90:12

Adult Learning

Adult learning is one of the most important activities at Temple Beth Tikvah. From our regular small-group Torah study that precedes our Saturday morning *Shabbat* service, to Sunday morning adult classes led by Rabbi Greene, Rabbi Tam and Cantor Kassel, our congregants enjoy access to a variety of opportunities to continue their Jewish education.

The Michael Benjamin Zalkin Memorial Library

The Michael Benjamin Zalkin Memorial Library, which is located in Temple Beth Tikvah’s education wing, houses a diverse collection of Jewish books, periodicals and other resource materials, which are available to all congregants. We continually enhance the library’s collection to ensure access to the information congregants need to continue their Jewish journeys. The library is named in memory of Michael Zalkin, z”l, son of congregants Andrew and Ilana Zalkin. Michael was a dedicated student and lover of books.



A Compelling Sacred Space and Extraordinary Facilities

The unique design of our sanctuary presents both a beautiful and compelling setting for worship, while our social hall, classrooms and outdoor spaces offer attractive places to learn, celebrate and congregate.

Build for Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.

– Exodus 25:8

Sanctuary

Throughout the sanctuary, representations of our Jewish heritage abound. The sanctuary's ten columns represent the ten stages of the manifestation of God prior to creation (the *sefirot*) as described in Jewish mystical sources. The twelve tribes of Israel are represented by twelve recessed windows on the upper sanctuary walls. As Martin Greenberg, architect of the sanctuary, has explained, "the dome itself has been lighted in a manner so that the actual surface of the dome cannot readily be seen. Only a glowing light is visible, symbolizing our concepts of an infinite, indefinable God, who is beyond human description and understanding."



The Ark at the center of the sanctuary houses an impressive collection of Torah scrolls, which are readily visible by all congregants when the curtains are open. The four steps below the Ark allow the Torah to be brought down to the congregation as it was "brought down from on high down into the midst of the people for acceptance."

We are proud that the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has chosen to feature our sanctuary on its "Sacred Space and Synagogue Architects" web page at <http://architecture.urj.org/photo/worship/>.

Social Hall

The social hall is a perfect setting for any type of *simcha*, including weddings, *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* celebrations, anniversary parties and baby namings. It includes a large dance floor, a stage for bands and disc jockeys and convenient access. A fully equipped kitchen adjoins the social hall. Outside the social hall is the picturesque Alterman Chapel. The chapel has served as a beautiful *chupah* (wedding canopy) during wedding ceremonies and as a backdrop to many other special occasions.



Community
קהילה

Prayer
תפילה

Study
לימוד

Healing
תיקון

Our Clergy and Education Directors

Temple Beth Tikvah is fortunate to have a dynamic, committed clergy that seeks to open doors to Jewish life. They are our leaders and partners in building a sacred, caring community. In addition, our professional staff is second to none, with years of experience both within the Jewish community and in the broader community.



Rabbi Fred Greene

Rabbi Fred Greene moved to Roswell with his family in June 2006 to take the pulpit as the congregation's second Rabbi. Previously, Rabbi Greene served as the associate Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he was responsible for outreach and synagogue community initiatives, youth programming and social action activities. He also partnered with fellow clergy in the area to strengthen the praying, learning, and caring community in Fairfield County.

Rabbi Greene received his B.A. in Political Science and Jewish Studies from Hofstra University, Long Island, an M.A. in Hebrew Literature and ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York, from which he has received numerous awards and scholarships in Bible, liturgy, religious action and social justice, and service to the Jewish community.

Prior to his ordination, he served several congregations and organizations, including the New Israel Fund and the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), focusing on adult learning, youth, outreach, and leadership development. His summers as a student, as well as on the faculty at NFTY's Leadership Center at Kutz Camp, Warwick, New York, were defining moments in his own Jewish journey.

In 2003, Rabbi Greene was selected to participate as one of 19 recently ordained rabbis for the first Professional Education for Excellence in Rabbis (PEER) program, sponsored by STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal) – an initiative to help rabbis strengthen non-profit management skills and develop a roadmap toward creating vibrant communities.

Rabbi Greene is a member of the Rabbinic Council of the New Israel Fund and the Israel Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He is engaged in the work of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta and is a member of the Atlanta Rabbinical Association, building partnerships with other rabbis, clergy, synagogues, and agencies.

When not at the synagogue, Rabbi Greene can be found playing with his three daughters, Yael, Leora and Noa, or enjoying a cup of coffee and chatting with his wife Deborah on their porch in Roswell.





Cantor Nancy Kassel

Cantor Nancy Kassel joined Temple Beth Tikvah in 1997. She is an invested cantor, having earned her master's degree from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religions, School of Sacred Music in 1991. Cantor Kassel also earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Georgia State University, having graduated Cum Laude, in 1985.

Cantor Kassel works closely with Rabbi Fred Greene in all areas of synagogue life. She co-officiates worship services and many life cycle events observed and celebrated by members of the congregation.

Cantor Kassel is an integral part of the Religious School and adult learning initiatives and coordinates the tutoring of *B'nai Mitzvah* students. She oversees both the adult and junior choirs and participates in concerts and educational programming both locally and nationally.

Cantor Kassel is featured on "A Solo Collection: Music of Stephen Richards," a CD published by Transcontinental Music Publications.

When not singing Jewish music or attending to her son Jacob, Cantor Kassel enjoys performing classical, Broadway and cabaret music.



Rabbi Donald Tam (Rabbi Emeritus)

In 1987, Rabbi Donald Tam, along with a core group of congregants, founded Temple Beth Tikvah. His service as a rabbi and to the community has been manifested through his teaching and his pastoral work.

After graduating with a degree in history from the University of Florida in 1966, Rabbi Tam attended Hebrew Union College (HUC) and was ordained in 1973. He received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from HUC in 1998. Prior to founding Temple Beth Tikvah, Rabbi Tam served on the pulpits of congregations in Glencoe, Illinois; Dothan, Alabama; Atlanta; and Ottawa.

Rabbi Tam's community involvement has made him a very recognizable and sought after leader in the Jewish community both locally and nationally. He has played a significant role in a variety of community and spiritual initiatives, including serving on the Board of the American Jewish Committee (Atlanta Chapter), the Jewish Practices Committee of The Weber School, the Rabbinic Advisory Committee of The Davis Academy, teaching in the Melton Program at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, and as a member of the Atlanta Rabbinical Association.

Congregants Arthur and Stephanie Blank paid tribute to Rabbi Tam by endowing in his honor the Rabbi Donald A. Tam Institute for Jewish Studies at Emory University. Today Rabbi Tam serves as Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Tikvah and spends a good part of his time teaching and attending classes in Jewish Studies at Emory.





Hassia Levin (Religious School Director)

Hassia Levin has been the Director of Education at Temple Beth Tikvah since the congregation's founding. She was born, raised and married in Israel, and graduated from the Teachers College of Petah Tikvah before moving to the U.S. in 1970.

Hassia taught Hebrew and Judaic studies in California along with tutoring B'nai Mitzvah students. She also led an Israeli dancing group that performed at local *B'nai Mitzvah* celebrations and at Disneyland. After teaching in a Day School and Congregational School in Florida, Hassia and her family settled in Atlanta in 1977. She worked as the Hebrew School Principal for Temple Emanu-El for 10 years before founding Temple Beth Tikvah with several other families. Hassia and her husband, Baruch (Barry), hosted the first meetings of Temple Beth Tikvah in their home. Prior to Rabbi Tam's arrival, Hassia co-officiated services along with fellow founding member, Steve Gerson.

When Hassia started the Religious School as a volunteer, she recruited an entirely volunteer faculty and staff. The school, which began with 40 students, now serves more than 265 students. In 1992 Hassia completed a two-year program that was organized by the Jewish Agency for Israel. She was certified to train other teachers the art of teaching Hebrew in the Diaspora. Hassia also participated in the Dolev program through the Center for Jewish Education and Experiences (CJEE). After visiting Israel with Atlanta-area religious school teachers and directors, she was instrumental in hosting Israeli teachers from our sister city of Yokneam and Megiddo. Hassia is a member of the TBT choir, and in 2005 she was honored as a Woman of Achievement by the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta.

Hassia and Baruch have two adult sons, Amir and Ron, who is married to Lindsay.



Jenifer Friedman (Early Childhood Education Center Director)

Jenifer Friedman brings to her work a passion for child development and the dedication to ensure that the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) remains a vital part of our community. She has been a member of the ECEC faculty for six years and has been the Summer Camp Director for four years. Prior to becoming the ECEC Director, Jenifer served on the Temple Beth Tikvah Board of Education for two years and was on the faculty of the Religious School for two years. She has served on several committees and has played an important role in fundraising projects benefiting the Religious School and the ECEC.

Jenifer is an Atlanta native and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from Georgia State University. She also earned a Child Development Associate degree from the Council for Professional Recognition. Jenifer and her husband Rory have been Temple Beth Tikvah congregants since 2002. They have two children, Abby and Evan, who attended the ECEC and are now enrolled in the Religious School.



We Invite You to Enter Our Gates

We hope that this introduction to Temple Beth Tikvah has provided you with the information you need as you consider synagogue affiliation.

Rabbi Greene, Cantor Kassel and all of our congregants stand ready to help you in your selection process. We invite you to visit our synagogue to participate in a worship service, meet with Rabbi Greene and Cantor Kassel, sit in on an adult education activity or just take a look around. For more information, please call us at **770-642-0434** or send an e-mail to **membership@bethtikvah.com**.



Visit us online at www.bethtikvah.com

Temple Beth Tikvah wishes to thank congregants Ric Mershon of Ric Mershon Photographers (www.ricmershon.com) and Ron Sherman of Ron Sherman Photography (www.ronsherman.com) for their contributions to this brochure.

