

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Beth Am need an annual campaign? Each year 80% - 85% of our operating budget is covered by dues and fees; the rest must be secured in other ways.

Why don't you just charge more for membership and education programs? We believe that every person who wants to be a part of our community or our education programs should be, regardless of their ability to pay the full cost. We look to the generosity of members to help make that possible.

Why doesn't the endowment cover the budget gap? While we are thrilled to be able to draw from the income of our new Fund for the Future endowment, it is young and needs to grow for some time before it fully meets our needs.

How will my gift be used? Annual campaign gifts go to our General Fund, which covers operating expenses such as staff salaries, program expenses, and subsidies for families who need assistance paying for membership or education.

How can I make my gift? Annual campaign gifts can be one-time or can be paid off over multiple quarters, before June 30th. We accept checks, all major credit cards, and gifts of appreciated stocks. Gifts can be made using the enclosed donation envelope or through www.betham.org.

For questions about the Beth Am Annual Campaign or to make a credit card gift over the phone, please contact Mandy Eisner at 650.493.4661 ext. 504.

Our Mission: We strive to live as a holy community whose study and practice of Judaism inspires and challenges us to "do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God."

MICAH 6:8



Congregation Beth Am

26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 (650) 493-4661 (650) 494-8248 (fax) www.betham.org



Congregation Beth Am

**Annual Campaign
2011-2012**

YOUR HOME YOUR COMMUNITY FOR LIFE



Beth Am has touched thousands of lives every year, since 1955. From cradle to grave, we are committed to supporting and strengthening one another through every step of our lifelong Jewish journeys.



Beth Am is a place for our community to come together, to strengthen the ties that bind us and to ensure that the ties remain strong for generations to come. Our parents and grandparents had the foresight to build up our Jewish community. Let us each share in the responsibility of strengthening the foundation they laid — for those who come to us now, and for those who will come after us.

Our outstanding array of programs enriches our members on many levels – from youth education to worship experiences to adult learning to support groups. Our community supports each other through the joys and sorrows of a lifetime – at our baby-namings, b'nai mitzvah, weddings and funerals.

We need your help, above and beyond membership dues, to keep our community financially stable and thriving. Each year, our membership dues and education fees cover only 80% - 85% of the cost of running the congregation and all its programs and services. This is not unique to Beth Am; this is a fact of life for virtually all synagogues. The gap is filled by the generous gifts of our members.

We encourage all our members to think of Beth Am beyond membership, and beyond a “fee for service” relationship. We invite you to make Beth Am a high priority in your philanthropic giving decisions each year by participating in our new Annual Campaign. We need your partnership to sustain our community through thick and thin – just as it sustains us. Please give generously.

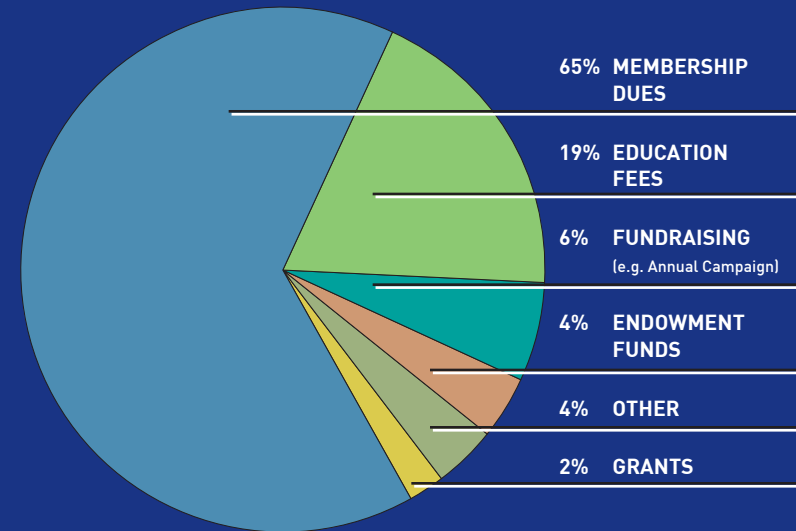
To make an annual campaign gift, please return the enclosed donation envelope or visit www.betham.org, click on the “Donate Now” button at the top of the page, and select Annual Campaign from the list of funds. Thank you very much for your generous support.



“Lots of organizations raise funds; only synagogues raise Jews.”

RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER

Congregation Beth Am Funding Sources



We also welcome planned gifts such as bequests, trusts, pension or life insurance designations, or gifts of life insurance or real estate. Make your planned gift permanent by designating it to the **Fund for the Future** endowment. For more information please contact Mandy Eisner at meisner@betham.org or 650.493.4661 ext. 504.

“... each with a personal gift, according to the blessing that Adonai has bestowed upon you.” DEUTERONOMY 16:17