

Beit Midrash Teen Program



Confirmation

Confirmation in 10th grade is the cornerstone of teen education at Beth Am. Through classroom learning with Beth Am clergy and educators, preparation for your class's own unique Shabbat morning Confirmation service, and other *tikkun olam*, worship, and social activities, you will bond with your Confirmation class while reflecting on your Jewish identity. The Confirmation program is changing this year, in order to better meet teen education goals. See below for the exciting new pieces!



Requirements for Confirmation:

In order to offer more choice and flexibility, as well as recognize current involvement, Confirmation students will work at their own pace over the 9th and 10th grade years to accumulate and log 180 "hours" in three pillars:

- * Jewish learning (*Midrash*): Options include one year of PHH, Confirmation class, Torah study, and Hebrew study
- * Worship (*Avodah*): Options include attending and leading services at Beth Am or elsewhere
- * Community (*Kehillah*): Options include retreats, youth group, madrichim, and community service
- * A minimum of 50 hours will be required in each pillar, with a maximum of 80 for any one pillar, assuring breadth of Jewish involvement.

While there are many ways to fulfill the 180 hours, there are several mandatory requirements for everyone:

- * Enrollment in at least 1 year of PHH
- * Participation in 9th grade and Confirmation retreats (see "retreats" section)
- * Attendance at monthly Sunday Confirmation class in 10th grade

This year's Confirmation service will be held **Saturday, May 16, 2009**.

Graduation

Jewish involvement does not stop in 10th grade! Beth Am wants to recognize the work you are already doing in the Jewish community. Log 50 hours in your 11th and 12th grade years, and you are eligible for a graduation ceremony, certificate, and more. Note: This year's 12th graders may count last year's 11th grade hours retroactively.



Madrichim

Be a leader in your community by working as a *madrich* or *madricha*, a teaching assistant in one of our fabulous Beth Am youth education programs! Being a *madrich/a* means role modeling for young students, learning and teaching Judaica, seeing new and old friends, and participating in valuable leadership seminars. More information about the program requirements and options can be found on the enclosed application. You may choose to be paid or receive community service hours for your work. **To apply, please fill out the application and return it to Sarah Lauing no later than August 1st.** Please mark your calendars for the Madrichim Orientation on **Sunday, August 24th**.

Beth Am Babysitting List: Love kids and helping out but not ready for a regular gig at Beth Am? Join the Beth Am Babysitting list! Congregant parents looking for sitters will receive your contact information and call you with jobs. To sign up, email Sarah Lauing at slauing@betham.org.



Retreats

Beth Am offers exciting retreats at Walden West filled with song, dance, arts & crafts, sports, programming, services, food, friends, and more! They are an amazing way to bond with other Jewish teens. Confirmation students are required to attend retreats in their 9th and 10th grade years, and teens are eligible to be madrichim on the younger grades' retreats. Please note the changes in grade breakdown for this year's retreats.

Beth Am Retreat Dates 2008-2009:

October 17-19:

6th-7th grade retreat
11th & 12th grade madrichim

November 14-15:

9th-10th grade retreat
9th & 10th grade participants,
12th grade madrichim

February 6-8:

4th -5th grade retreat
9th-12th grade madrichim

BATY

Beth Am Temple Youth (BATY) is our senior youth group for all high school students. It's an incredible way for teens to make lifelong friends by hanging out with their Beth Am peers, learning about their Jewish identities, saving the world through Tikkun Olam projects, and of course, having fun. Throughout the year, BATY hosts many social, cultural, and community service events.

To become a member and join the BATY mailing list, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to Sarah Lauing at Congregation Beth Am.

Save the dates for these great BATY events:

September 7: BBQ Kickoff

November 8: BATY/BAJY Laser tag Showdown

April 4: San Francisco Adventure

May 24-25: Annual River Rafting Trip

Being at Teen at Beth Am High Holidays

BATY sponsors a variety of activities just for teens during the High Holidays!

- * Teen Services & Study Sessions
- * Rosh Hashana Pool Party
- * High Holiday Food Drive

NFTY

As a member of BATY, you are automatically also a member of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY). Our region, Central Western Region (CWR) hosts regional retreats at Camp Newman for teens from all over Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii! This year is also a national Convention year—thousands of teens will gather in Washington DC to sing, study, pray and play together! Check it out!

NFTY Retreat Dates 2008-2009

October 24-26

Central Machon Conclave (CMC)

December 12-14

Fall Inter

February 13-17

NFTY Convention in DC

March 20-22

Spring Conclave

May 1-3

Mitzvah Torah Corps (MTC)

