

## **Shabbat Policy**

Each week the Jewish people celebrate Shabbat -- the Sabbath -- as a holy remembrance of God's acts of creation. Six days a week we engage in our busy lives, on the seventh (Friday at sundown until Saturday, one hour after sundown) we turn our energies to holy, rejuvenating rest, community and prayer.

***Our congregation observes many of the customs of traditional and modern Judaism. We hope you will be comfortable in respecting them:***

Electronic recording and photography is not permitted during any religious services and on the Beth El premises on the Sabbath. Please be sure your cell phone is silenced while in the synagogue. It is not appropriate to write during services in the sanctuary.

All Jewish males in the congregation wear a head covering called a *kippah* or *yarmulke* during services as a sign of respect for being in a holy space. We ask that our male visitors observe this custom as well. Many women also wear head coverings but are not required to do so unless they wish.

Many children attend our services and we welcome them enthusiastically. Of course, it is often hard for some small children to sit through a lengthy service. Some parents bring along a book or quiet toy. We ask parents to be aware of their children's behavior, even if your child is not sitting with you. If behaviors become disruptive to other worshippers, or to the proceedings on the bimah, please bring your child into the Social Hall. A member of our Board may remind you of this policy.

Congregation Beth El has been thriving in the Central Susquehanna Valley since 1919. Members come from all branches of Judaism; our congregation is not affiliated with any one Jewish movement. We are united by a common heritage and a shared desire to live and raise our families in a vibrant Jewish community. We welcome members from all backgrounds of Jewish learning, including interfaith families committed to Jewish life. Our full-time spiritual leader, Rabbi Nina Mandel, was ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Her balance of innovation and tradition suits our diverse membership well.

In addition to weekly Shabbat services, we observe all of the milestones in the Jewish year and life-cycle as a community. We offer a full Hebrew School experience for our children, life-long learning classes for adults, and a variety of religious and social events throughout the year. Our community also owns the Beth El Cemetery in Northumberland, PA where plots are available to Jewish families. For more information, please contact us directly.