



*Our Mission Statement:*

*To cultivate an active and engaged sacred community built on the strength of relationships, diversity and outreach, Congregation Beth El brings to our lives the joy and wisdom of Judaism through innovative, creative and spiritually enriching programs and services.*



Sharing Judaism, Enriching Lives

422 Shirley Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23517

Phone: 757-625-7821  
Fax: 757-627-4905  
[www.bethelnorfolk.com](http://www.bethelnorfolk.com)

Congregation Beth El



Welcome to  
Congregation  
Beth El

Sharing Judaism,  
Enriching Lives

## Our History



Congregation Beth El, the oldest Conservative synagogue in Virginia, is dedicated to the perpetuation of traditional Judaism in the South Hampton Roads area. Beth El's more than 500 member families take pride in its long history and its primary purpose - to enable Conservative Judaism to meet the religious, educational and cultural needs of today's Jewish community. The congregation maintains a complete program of activities in keeping with that fundamental purpose. Over the years Beth El has played a leading role in the Tidewater Jewish community as well as in the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the national association of conservative congregations. The congregation is dedicated to the continuation of this record of service to God and our community.



## Our Clergy



Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz became the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Norfolk in 2011. He came to Norfolk from Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey, where he served as the Associate Rabbi from 2003 to 2011. He received his Bachelor of Science degree Summa Cum Laude from the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Child Development and Child Care, a social work degree. While studying, he worked with special needs students at local Hebrew schools including tutoring for bar and bat mitzvah preparation. After college, Rabbi Arnowitz studied at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem before beginning his rabbinic studies at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he was ordained in 2003.

He is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly and he completed the STAR PEER Rabbinic Leadership program. Rabbi Arnowitz serves on the Board of Directors of Jewish Family Service of Tidewater and The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and he is a founding member of Hands United Building Bridges (HUBB), the award-winning inter-faith group of faith leaders in Tidewater.



Rabbi Arthur Ruberg has been Beth El's rabbi since 1988. He is a graduate of Haverford College in suburban Philadelphia as well as the Jewish Theological Seminary where he received a master's degree in Jewish studies and rabbinic ordination in 1974. He was named Beth El's Rabbi Emeritus in 2011.

Prior to coming to Norfolk, Rabbi Ruberg served congregations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey as associate rabbi and religious education director. He also directed Camp Ramah in the Poconos, one of the youth leadership summer camps associated with Conservative Judaism.



Cantor Wendi became our cantor in August, 2015. She hails originally from Houston, Texas and was brought up through the Conservative movement. Being involved in the leadership of Kadima, USY, and her local synagogue

Youth Chorale, she found a love and passion for Judaism and all forms of Jewish, Israeli and sacred music. Love of Jewish music is engrained in her family as both of her parents and two siblings sang in their synagogue choirs. She went to Israel on the Nativ program and then to the University of Texas in Austin for her Bachelors Degree. There she was a member of the prestigious Longhorn Singers. She then launched her lifetime dream of becoming a cantor, graduating from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 2004 and becoming the cantor of Congregation Shaare Tefila in Olney, MD in 2005 where she was in her position for ten years.

Cantor Wendi, as she is best known, has her musical roots in choral music and the joy of seeking out new harmonies and groups began in high school and continued through college and JTS. As staff at Ramah Wisconsin, she directed and founded the camp's first acapella group called Ramah-keyla which is still in existence today. She was also a member of the Zamir Chorale in Manhattan under the direction of Mati Lazar for four years performing in both Israel and the United States.

## Service Schedule

### Shabbat

Friday evening: 5:45 pm  
Saturday morning: 9:30 am

### Weekday

Monday through Friday mornings: 7:15 am  
Sunday mornings: 9:15 am

### Evening

Evening minyan is at 5:45 pm, and shared with Temple Israel at 7255 Granby Street in Norfolk. January, March, May, July, September, and November services are at Temple Israel, except during holidays. February, April, June, August, October, and December services are at Beth El. Please see our website for more information.