

The Chavurah Program

The *Chavurah* Program at Temple Beth El of South Orange County provides a wonderful shared Jewish experience for everyone who participates. The *Chavurah* celebrates Jewish life.

Through programs of study, observances of holidays and festivals, socializing and sharing of simchas, members personalize and vitalize their Jewish experience. They also participate together in Temple life and in community concerns.

At Temple Beth El of South Orange County, we strongly encourage our Chavurot to be involved in Temple activities by volunteering their time for at least one Temple occasion, service or activity. It is one of the many ways to enhance your experience as a Temple member.

1. What is a *Chavurah*?

Chavurah (plural is "Chavurot") comes from the Hebrew word, *chaver*, meaning friend or fellowship. Each *Chavurah* is a group of Temple members – adults, families, couples or singles – who come together to socialize and to enjoy Jewish living with their families. For many, the *Chavurah* is an extended family.

2. What Does a *Chavurah* Do?

Each *Chavurah* decides on its own blend of socializing, Jewish celebrations, community service, Temple activities and Jewish learning. One *Chavurah* may meet regularly at Torah study at the Temple, while another may go camping and hiking. One *Chavurah* may get together for adult-only dinners, while another may alternate between activities with children and activities without.

3. When and Where Does a *Chavurah* Meet?

A *Chavurah* usually meets once a month. It might meet in the homes of the members or wherever a particular activity is taking place. Each group decides on the most convenient dates and times for themselves.

A *Chavurah* provides a unique opportunity for self-growth, involvement, friendship, and for a feeling of true belonging. The programs are self-directed. Responsibility for activities rests with the members of the *Chavurah*.

4. How Large is a *Chavurah*?

Chavurot vary in size, based on the desires of its members. Some are small with 4 to 5 families; others have as many as 8 or more families. It is recommended that the groups have no more than 10 families.

5. Why should I belong to a *Chavurah*?

The *Chavurah* program is designed to bring together congregation members with similar interests who might otherwise not have an opportunity to meet. It is a chance for congregation members to get to know each other outside the synagogue, yet it is designed to build relationships within the synagogue. A *Chavurah* provides a smaller and, in many cases, more familiar Jewish network for its members. When you and your *Chavurah* come to the synagogue, you have a greater sense of belonging because your "extended family" is there with you too.

6. How do I join a *Chavurah*?

Please complete the Chavurah Membership form. New *Chavurot* are formed on the basis of age, children, spheres of interest, etc. You will be placed in a *Chavurah* just as soon as enough applications are received to form a new group or if there is an opening in an existing *Chavurah* which fits your needs.

TEMPLE BETH EL
of
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

Invites You to Celebrate
The Joy of Jewish Life

JOIN

A

CHAVURAH

TODAY



TEMPLE BETH EL OF SOUTH
ORANGE COUNTY
2A Liberty
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
949-362-3999

TEMPLE BETH EL
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY
 2A Liberty
 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
 949-362-3999

CHAVURAH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Privacy Statement: All personal information provided herein is confidential and will not be made public on an individual basis. Information may be included in statistical and summary reports without reference to specific individuals.

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Adult Ages: _____

Marital Status: Married Single Divorced Widowed

Children:

Name: _____	Sex: _____	Age: _____	Birthday: _____	Live at home? _____
Name: _____	Sex: _____	Age: _____	Birthday: _____	Live at home? _____
Name: _____	Sex: _____	Age: _____	Birthday: _____	Live at home? _____
Name: _____	Sex: _____	Age: _____	Birthday: _____	Live at home? _____
Name: _____	Sex: _____	Age: _____	Birthday: _____	Live at home? _____

Type of Chavurah you would like (check as many as apply):

- Adult Couples Senior Singles Adult Singles
- Singles w/Children (under 6) Couples w/ Children (under 6) Singles w/Children (6-12)
- Couples w/Children (6-12) Singles w/Children (teens) Couples w/Children (teens)
- Varied types and ages Interfaith Couples Other _____
- Is there a particular Chavurah you would like to join or another person or family with whom you would like to be with? _____

Please check the things you would like to do with your Chavurah:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Celebrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Social Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shabbat Celebrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel to places of Jewish Interest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities with Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies/Theatre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Temple Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Temple events/activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Please rank your goals for joining a Chavurah (1 being most important):

- Celebrate Holidays
- Socialize with other Temple members
- Create an "extended family"
- Expand Jewish knowledge
- Become more involved in the Temple
- Meet Jewish people who live nearby
- Meet religious school classmates/families
- Meet people of similar age/situation

What size Chavurah do you think would be more comfortable for you?

- Small (4-5 families) Medium (5-7 families)
- Large (7-10 families) not sure

Please tell us a little about your background:

Please describe your interests and hobbies:

Have you ever belonged to a Chavurah before? What was your experience like?
