



Congregation Beth Israel  
 חבורת בית ישראל

***Authentic spiritual life,  
 and real community:  
 your Jewish home  
 in Northern Berkshire.***

## About Us

Located in the hills of North Adams, we are a community of people who study and practice Jewish traditions, and we welcome you.



## Worship

At CBI, services are song-filled, intimate and lively, innovative and authentic. Whether in person or on Zoom, expect prayer in Hebrew and in English, poetry, song, and more!



## Our Rabbi

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat is a poet and musician who brings literary and musical gifts to her service of this community. She has been our rabbi since 2011. She leads joyful worship, teaches children and adults, and offers pastoral care to all. She is our prayer leader, our trusted spiritual advisor, and our teacher of Judaism's wisdom and nurturing spirituality. Author of several volumes of poetry, she can also be found online as the Velveteen Rabbi and as a co-founder of Bayit: Building Jewish.

Additional rabbis lead services on a rotating basis, providing a perfect match for our religiously diverse congregational community.

*"Rabbi Rachel leads services with so much heart! I love it. The passion shines through."*

*"I didn't know services could be like that: so authentic, so joyful."*



## Learning

CBI is a learning community where children and adults delve deeply into Jewish tradition. We offer education for all ages, including our Journey Into Judaism class, affiliated with the Miller Introduction to Judaism program.



## Welcoming All

Congregation Beth Israel strives to be inclusive. We welcome everyone.



## Sacred Time

On holidays including the Days of Awe, Chanukah, Tu BiShvat, Purim, Pesach, Shavuot, and Tisha b'Av (and, of course, Shabbat!) we gather to mark sacred time. We also mark lifecycle moments together: we gather when babies are named, children become b-mitzvah, couples are married, and loved ones are laid to rest.

## Diverse Traditions

Our congregation includes members from a variety of Jewish traditions. CBI was founded as an Orthodox shul, was affiliated with the Conservative Movement from the 1960s-1990s, and has been part of the Union for Reform Judaism since the early 2000s.



## Care for Others

We are a founding member of Berkshire Inter-faith Organizing, deliver meals to homebound seniors each month, and participate in local social action programs. Our Refugee Support Committee and Green Team would love for you to take part in their holy work!



## Join Us!

Judaism is not a spectator sport. Living a Jewish life means being part of the life of a Jewish community. We hope that membership at CBI is an experience of genuine, lasting friendships, stimulating learning, meaningful worship, and the peace that comes with finding a spiritual home.

On our website, [www.cbiweb.org](http://www.cbiweb.org), you can download an application to become part of our community.



## The Synagogue

The synagogue (our fifth physical home since 1896) sits in a quiet bowl at the foot of Mount Greylock. The sanctuary is lined with windows that look over wetlands brimming with life and views of the beautiful Berkshire mountains and the Al and Frances Small Memorial Labyrinth outside.

*"I was awestruck. Walking into the sanctuary with the floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on a magnificent mountain view, it was hard to imagine a space that could do more to inspire appreciation of the beauty of creation."*

*"CBI is intimate, warm, inclusive, and real."*

Congregation Beth Israel

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[www.cbiweb.org](http://www.cbiweb.org)

Founded 1896

Member of the Union for Reform Judaism