

I here publicly acknowledge, in gratitude and love, my partner in life, my husband Jim:

“Adonai, who may sojourn in Your tent, who may dwell on Your holy mountain? He who lives without blame, who does what is right, and in his heart acknowledges the truth; whose tongue is not given to evil; who has never done harm to his fellow, or borne reproach for [his acts towards] his neighbor; for whom a contemptible man is abhorrent, but who honors those who fear the Lord; who stands by his oath even to his hurt; who has never lent money at interest, or accepted a bribe against the innocent. The man who acts thus shall never be shaken.”

*Psalm 15 [JPS, pg.1427]
A Psalm of David*

Ann

Ron,

There isn't a day that I don't wake up being grateful that you walked into my life.

You have been supportive and loving. You have been a wonderful role model for Sarah. You are my constant companion in good times and bad.

I know that Sarah and I can depend on you to be there for us. You have embraced my belief in Judaism, and in the words of my Family, you are a true mensch.

Deb

Reform Judaism holds the *mitzvah* of *ahavat ger*, welcoming the stranger, among the most important tenets of our faith. Temple Beth Am actively welcomes interfaith families into our communities and encourages their participation in our synagogue. If you or a loved one is interested in our Outreach Program, call us today.



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Temple Beth Am

Welcomes &
Honors
Our
Interfaith
Families

A Family of Families



716-633-8877

For our Families

You are the moms and dads who drive the Hebrew school carpool and bring the refreshments to Shabbatots and Onegs. You help explain to your kids why it's important to get up on Sunday morning and to learn to be a Jew. You take classes and read Jewish books to deepen your own understanding, so you can help to make a Jewish home. You learn to make kugel and latkes; you try to like gefilte fish; you learn to put on a Seder; you learn to put up a Sukkah. You join your spouse at the Shabbat table – maybe you even set that Shabbat table and make it beautiful.

You come to services, even when it feels strange and confusing at first. You hum along to those Hebrew songs, and some of you even learn to read that difficult language. You stand on the bimah as the Torah is passed to your children on the day of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and tell them how proud you are and how much you love them, and how glad you are to see them grow into young Jewish men and women.

We know that some of you have paid a significant price for the generous decision you made to raise Jewish children. You have made a painful sacrifice, giving up the joy of sharing your own spiritual beliefs and passing your own religious traditions down to your kids. I hope your children and your spouse tell you often how wonderful you are, and that their love and gratitude, and our love and gratitude, will be some compensation, and will bring you joy.

As a congregation we honor you with this ancient blessing from the Torah.... May God bless you; may God keep you; May the light of the Holy One shine on you; And may God grant you the precious gift of peace.

*by Rabbi Janet Marder
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My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isaiah 56:7)

... We give thanks for the sages and teachers of all peoples and faiths, who have brought many to deeper understanding of You and Your will...

From the Gates of Prayer

...we need to do far more for the non-Jewish spouses in our midst. We welcome all such spouses, of course, including those who do not identify as Jewish. But when a spouse involves themselves in the activities of the synagogue; offers support to the Jewish involvements of husband or wife; attends Jewish worship; and, most important of all, commits to raising Jewish children, he or she is deserving not only of welcome but of our profound thanks...

*Comments from Rabbi Eric Yoffie,
November 19, 2005
Union for Reform Judaism Biennial*

From our Temple Beth Am Families, honoring our fellow travelers

Michael

For your devotion, for your ability to compromise, for your patience during my Bar Mitzvah madness, and for your willingness to walk beside us on our Judaic life journey, the children and I honor you. Thank you for being the best husband and father.

We love you unconditionally, Michael.

*Thanks,
Colleen*

Why we appreciate Mitchell's Jewish life...

Mitchell was raised a devout Catholic. He respected and embraced the Jewish life I was raised with and questioned my lack of participation.

When our kids were old enough to notice the differences in both sides of our family, Mitchell wanted our home to take a stand.

He pushed until we joined a temple of our own and a religious school for the kids to attend regularly. He was the proudest person at our daughter's Bat Mitzvah and counts the days until both our son's Bar Mitzvahs.

Mitchell has no intentions of converting, but he lives a Jewish life he is proud of, a life we are proud and so fortunate to be a part of.

Leah

Our daughter, Liz is married to a very good man, John, who was born in ranch country near Cheyenne, Wyoming.

He wasn't brought up in a Jewish atmosphere, yet he has the fundamental kindness and gentleness we have grown to expect from a Jewish man.

He's a wonderful husband to Liz, and son-in-law to Len and me, most generous with his time and his sense of humor and is a great dad to Tim, Ali and baby Drew and a willing step-dad to Samantha.

John agreed with Liz that Drew should be brought up in Judaism. Our daughter married a most caring, thoughtful and delightful man.

Len and Phyllis