



Name Your Own Annual Commitment

“Under 40’s/Early Childhood Program” Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Beth Emet is pleased to present our special “Under 40’s/Early Childhood Program” membership category for households in which the eldest family member is under 40 years of age or children are enrolled in the Synagogue’s Early Childhood Program. Under this program, you can set the amount of your membership commitment (dues) for the membership year. As you prepare to join Beth Emet, here is some important information:

Q: Who is eligible for this innovative new membership plan?

A: Those who have children in our Early Childhood program or households in which the oldest member is under 40 years of age qualify for this new membership plan.

Q: Why does Beth Emet offer this program?

A: We offer this membership plan to encourage younger families to take full advantage of Beth Emet membership at a cost that understands your financial reality and reduces the possibilities of creating barriers to membership.

Q: What does the process look like?

A: The “Name Your Own Annual Commitment” process is both confidential and easy. To participate, just complete the [online membership commitment form](#).

Q: What is the advantage of affiliation?

A: Affiliation not only provides you with a personal connection to a vibrant Jewish community, but allows you to support the mission of a Congregation that strives to *enrich and expand the Jewish content of members’ lives through worship, study, and building an engaged community*. As a member, you will receive the member rate for Early Childhood tuition, access to our clergy, tickets (name badges) for the High Holidays, free enrollment in most classes in our exciting adult education program, and more.

Q: What are the options for paying membership commitments?

A: You can choose your payment schedule and have until April 30 to pay in full. You can pay by check, automatic debit from your checking account, or through securities. You also have the option of paying by credit card, but as Beth Emet does pay a fee for each transaction, we do charge a 3% service fee to help cover these costs.

Q: What happens (if we have named our own annual commitment in the past) when the oldest member of the household turns 40 and there are no children in the Early Childhood Program?

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A: Families who do not qualify for the “Under 40’s/Early Childhood Program” will be billed at the full membership rate. However, Beth Emet believes strongly that finances should never be a barrier to affiliation. As such, there is a confidential process to determine a membership commitment that is affordable for your family. For more information, please contact Executive Director Bekki Harris Kaplan at 847-869-4230, ext. 304 or kaplan@bethemet.org.

Q: If my household chooses to name its own annual commitment is there a recommended amount?

A: We ask that you consider contributing \$1,200, which is our first-year rate, or an amount that is comfortable within your budget. The bottom line is that this is totally voluntary. It is up to you to decide how much. We only ask that you give generously within your means.

Q: What is your fiscal year? How and by when do I have to pay my membership commitment?

A: Beth Emet’s fiscal year is July 1 – June 30. Those who join after the High Holidays and/or the start of the school year we will pro-rate the membership through the end of the fiscal year. Please note that if you have a child enrolled in Early Childhood the member rate will only apply for the months in which you are members.

The membership commitment is billed the first of each month, and we ask that you please pay in full by April 30 of each year. You can choose to receive your monthly statements by email or snail mail, and if you wish to create a payment plan (e.g. credit card or by automatic debit), please note this on the membership application.

Most importantly – welcome to Beth Emet!

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