

SYNAGOGUE WEBSITE LANGUAGE SUGGESTIONS, March, 2011

Before putting together who “we are”, know who you are! How are interfaith families welcomed in “your” synagogue? Think about it! How are “we welcoming”? How do our clergy, professional staff and the congregation interface with the interfaith couple/family? The non -Jew? How do we treat intermarried families? What programs of interest do we have? What does our Inter marriage/keruv committee do?

Front Page:

- show inclusiveness of the synagogue
- one of the main tabs (drop down tabs): Suggestions: “Inter marriage/keruv activities” “Welcome intermarried families” “Intermarried Welcome”
- Must be a click away from (Inter marriage/keruv) interfaith family activity page
- Pictures that display the people “who we are”
- Our “vision”/“about us” has words ie: inclusive, intermarried, welcome
- Boston tagline is an example: *CJP welcomes those who would like to connect with the Jewish Community and encourages the participation of Interfaith Families in all activities*
- Must say enough to let “visitors” to your site know they are welcome if they are part of an interfaith/intermarried family

Make a Statement on the Front Page:

1. A statement welcoming interfaith families.
 - “Beth Sholom” welcomes interfaith families to join us and participate in Jewish life. Give us a call!
 - Welcome! We invite you to participate. We are a Conservative congregation that embraces interfaith couples in our community.
2. A welcome statement that mentions interfaith families along with other groups.
 - We welcome LGBT individuals and couples, interfaith families, singles, seniors (fill in what is true for YOU) to join us. We are dedicated to promoting (fill in what is right for you) Jewish values, Jewish learning, social justice...etc.
 - B’nai Shalom welcomes those who would like to connect with the Jewish community and encourages the participation of interfaith families in our congregation.
3. On the Front Page of your synagogue’s site have photos of actual members of your congregation. Show realistically the diversity you have. Gender, generations – teens, babies, elders, etc.

On the Inter marriage/Keruv or Interfaith/Keruv Page:

Who we are – Inclusive/welcoming/ Keruv works to provide fun/social/explore Judaism/synagogue events for everyone in the family. We integrate non-Jewish partner/family member into synagogue community. Want to make you comfortable. We want to know what you want!

Suggestions:

- “Beth El” is enriched by the participation of many interfaith families.
- Beth El welcomes the participation of interfaith families in the life of the synagogue.
- Beth El has many engaged and committed interfaith families.

- Beth El supports and engages interfaith families in which the supportive non-Jewish partner wishes to participate in Jewish life.
- **What YOU can do here** – Workshops, discussions, activities that enhance, educate etc.
- Descriptive statement about the Intermarriage/Keruv initiative at YOUR congregation.
- Describe events that are offered
- Beth El’s workshops in 2011 offer interfaith couples the opportunity to Learn about Shabbat, Bake Challah, Learn Shabbat Songs with the Cantor, Create a Passover Seder with the Hebrew school principal, Chanukah party. Talk about G-d with the Rabbi, holiday celebrations and how-to workshops etc.
- We offer beginner Hebrew for *everyone* in our congregation.
- Here at “Beth El” you will have the opportunity to learn about our rituals and customs, holidays and life cycle celebrations through workshops designed specifically for interfaith couples and families and with all congregational families.
- We offer family mentoring, a blessing for your home, and a mezuzah hanging ceremony for your family and friends. If you desire, one of our family members will host you for a Friday night Shabbat dinner at their home.

There is a place for you in our synagogue –

- “Beth Shalom” welcomes you, we have household membership. Attend services, social and educational activities, have your children attend religious school and youth groups. List any committees & clubs that intermarried people can join, i.e. FJMC/Womens League, Social Action, Caring Committee, etc.
- **Many opportunities to get involved in our community – we customize and personalize life cycle events so ALL members of the family feel welcome and included.**
- **How does the clergy and professional staff welcome you** - Our rabbi and staff are available to meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns you have as you begin to create your Jewish home.

Articles of interest –

On your site offer links to congregational stories of welcome and how intermarried families deal with their individual situations... ie. Dr keruv column ...nice to see that they are not alone or the “first one”.