

Congregation B'nai Israel Survey – 2017 Copyright ©2017 by Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport, CT, USA

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
Page 1: General Questions			
Q1: To what extent do you agree with the following statements about B'nai Israel?			
We are a warm and inviting community	93%	3%	348
Our community exhibits Jewish values and practices that resonate with me	94%	3%	345
I find that B'nai Israel serves as an anchor and haven in times of our individual needs, for personal support and celebration	84%	12%	345
B'nai Israel has enabled me to develop meaningful friendships and social relationships	80%	13%	347
We have an appropriate number of opportunities for social relationships and social connectedness during the year	82%	11%	344
B'nai Israel provides me with opportunities for social action/Tikkun Olam	87%	10%	343
We are a welcoming and inclusive community for interfaith families	89%	8%	341
We are welcoming and inclusive to diverse groups of people	92%	7%	344
Our physical space meets the needs of the congregation	93%	4%	344

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
Our community is open and responsive to suggestions	75%	18%	344
B'nai Israel provides me with opportunities for interfaith outreach activities within the larger community	80%	20%	336
Ways to connect with Israel are found here at B'nai Israel	79%	18%	338
Page 2: Communications			
Q2: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?			
Our synagogue does a good job of informing us about events, services, and opportunities.	97%	2%	331
Q3: Which of the following do you utilize to learn about what is happening at synagogue?			
Weekly Hashavua email	86%	8%	333
Monthly Bulletin	81%	12%	333
B'nai Israel Website	16%	37%	322
B'nai Israel Facebook page	11%	15%	319
Preschool emails	4%	3%	296

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
Religious School emails	24%	6%	306
Q4: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?			
I find the office staff at B'nai Israel to be friendly and helpful.	94%	5%	339
Page 3: Education			
Q5: Do you have a child who participated in Preschool or religious education at B'nai Israel within the last 5 years? (35% Yes [119 respondents], 65% No)			
Page 4: Education - Children 7 years old or younger			
Q6: Do you currently have young children (under the age of 7)? (19% Y [23], 81% N)			
Page 5: Education - Attend Bonim Preschool			
Q7: Do/did any of them attend the Bonim Preschool? (72% Y [18], 28% N)			
Page 6: Why Not Attend Bonim Preschool			
Q8: If you chose not to send your child/children to Bonim Preschool, please tell us why.			
Page 7: Education - Bonim Preschool			
Regarding Bonim Preschool/Nursery School...			
There is a supportive and warm environment at our Preschool	94%	0%	18
Preschool provides a sense of Jewish identity for my child/children	100%	0%	18

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
Preschool staff is approachable and inclusive	100%	0%	18
Our Preschool is well-organized	94%	0%	18
We have high quality and engaging teachers	94%	6%	18
I have found the curriculum to be meaningful and enriching for my child/children	89%	12%	18
Communications from Preschool staff are clear	89%	6%	18
Preschool staff is accessible and accommodating	100%	0%	18
I enjoy the programs where parents are included	94%	0%	18
Preschool presents opportunities for me to interact socially with other temple parents	94%	6%	18
I feel that our Preschool is a safe space for my child/children	100%	0%	18
Page 8: Education - Religious School participation in the last three years			
Q10: Do you have children that currently attend or attended religious school at B'nai Israel within the past three years? (69% Y [84], 31% N)			
Page 9: Education - Religious School			
Q11: Regarding Religious School			

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
There is a supportive and warm environment at our Religious School	83%	9%	82
Our Religious School provides a sense of Jewish identity for my child/children	93%	3%	81
Religious School staff is approachable and inclusive	84%	7%	82
Our Religious School is well-organized	83%	8%	81
We have high quality and engaging teachers	78%	9%	80
My child/children has/have found the curriculum to be meaningful and enriching	63%	19%	81
Communications from Religious School staff are clear	79%	15%	80
I have found our Religious School staff to be accessible and accommodating and sensitive to the needs of differently-abled children	53%	35%	77
Our Religious School provides opportunities for social interaction among our kids	67%	20%	81
Our Religious School provides appropriate Hebrew language instruction	73%	15%	80
I enjoy the programs where parents are included	56%	30%	81
Religious School presents opportunities for me to interact socially with other parents	53%	27%	81

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
I feel that our Religious School is a safe space for my child/children	93%	5%	81
Q12: Will your child continue with Bar/Bat Mitzvah? (99% Y [79], 1% N)			
Q13: Do you expect your child to continue with Confirmation/Merkaz? (43% Y [35], 11% N, 46% Uncertain)			
Page 10: Had A Bar/Bat Mitzvah?			
Q14: Do you have a child who had a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the past five years? (44% Y [53], 54% N)			
Page 11: Bar/Bat Mitzvah			
Q15: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?			
Overall, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience at B'nai Israel met or exceeded my expectations	89%	4%	55
Q16: Regarding specifics of Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience...			
My child was very well prepared	95%	6%	54
Our temple helped my child and family find meaning in the process	81%	4%	54
Our clergy and synagogue's staff helped make the day very special for my child/children	89%	4%	54

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
The process at B'nai Israel made my child/children feel more connected to our Jewish community	76%	15%	54
Our synagogue staff was very attentive to my child's/children's specific needs	76%	15%	54
Page 12: High School			
Q17: Do you have a child that currently attends or attended high school within the past three years? (44% Y [53], 56% N)			
Page 13: BIFTY Participation?			
Q18: Does/Did your child participate in BIFTY? (25% Y [13], 75% N)			
Page 14: BIFTY			
Q19: Regarding BIFTY...			
My child/children find(s)/found the BIFTY programs to be meaningful	92%	8%	12
The BIFTY programs are/were enjoyable for my child/children	92%	8%	12
BIFTY offers a warm and welcoming environment for all teens	92%	8%	12
Page 15: Why not BIFTY?			
Q20: Why did your child/children choose not to participate in BIFTY?			
Page 16: Participate in Confirmation?			

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Q21: Has your child been confirmed or will your child participate in confirmation? (76% [40] Yes, planning on it or currently in program, 5% Not Sure, 19% No)			
Page 17: Confirmation			
Q22: Regarding Confirmation...			
The Confirmation process was a meaningful experience for my child/children	86%	8%	36
Page 18: Why Not Participate in Confirmation?			
Q23: Why did your child/children choose not to participate in Confirmation?			
Page 19: Participate in Merkaz?			
Q24: Does/did your child participate in Merkaz? (77% [41], 23% N)			
Page 20: Why Not Participate in Merkaz?			
Q25: Why did your child/children choose not to participate in Merkaz?			
Page 21			
Q26: Regarding Merkaz...			
My child/children find(s)/found the curriculum to be meaningful and enriching	78%	5%	41
The opportunities for social interaction with other kids are/were very appealing	73%	17%	41
–			
My child/children find(s)/found the teachers engaging and knowledgeable	83%	10%	41
–			

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
Merkaz is well organized	71%	12%	41
Page 22: Adult Education/Adult Jewish Learning			
Q27: Regarding Adult Education/Adult Jewish Learning...			
I find the opportunities for Adult Education to be meaningful and informative	(47% Y [157], 3% N, 50% Don't Attend)		
I find that the Adult Education offerings cover a range of topics that interest me	(50% Y [166], 8% N, 42% DA)		
Q28: Regarding Torah Study...			
I find Saturday morning Torah Study engaging and enriching	(14% Y [47], 1% N, 85% DA)		
Page 23: Religious Services			
Q29: How often do you attend the following?			
High Holy Day Services (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur)	93%	4%	333
Youth or Family High Holy Day Services	27%	14%	322
Sukkot, Passover, Shavuot Services	24%	33%	327
Shabbat Services	33%	50%	331
Events and Holiday Celebrations (Hanukkah, Purim Carnival, Concerts)	29%	37%	333

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Q30: To what extent do you agree with the following statements about Shabbat Services?			
I find these services welcoming and inviting	92%	6%	331
I find the services engaging	88%	7%	332
The services are scheduled at convenient times for me	81%	9%	330
I find that these services have an appropriate balance of music and spoken prayer	89%	6%	331
These services are meaningful to me	84%	9%	328
Q31: To what extent do you agree with the following statements about Major Holiday Services?			
I find Holiday Services welcoming and inviting	94%	4%	330
I find Holiday Services engaging	89%	6%	330
Holiday Services are scheduled at convenient times for me	92%	8%	327
I find that Holiday Services have an appropriate balance of music and spoken prayer	89%	8%	329

Percentage not shown is for people that did not agree with the statement made (e.g. 4% for the first question)	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	# Respondents
Holiday Services are meaningful to me	91%	5%	329
Page 24: Clergy			
Q32: Regarding Rabbi Prosnit, Rabbi Schultz, and Cantor Blum...			
Our clergy provides spiritual guidance for our community	97%	2%	332
I find our clergy to be accessible and approachable	98%	2%	332
Their commentary and sermons resonate with me	94%	5%	332
Our clergy is sensitive to my background and the different backgrounds within our community	91%	7%	329
The clergy provides comfort and support to our community overall and to each of us when in need individually	94%	5%	330
I find our clergy to be accepting of others' viewpoints	87%	9%	331
Q33: With which rabbi do you have the most interactions? (Rabbi Prosnit 54% [177], Rabbi Schultz 10%, Both Equally 36%)			
Page 25: Closing Thoughts			
Q34: Why do you belong to the B'nai Israel community? (please check all that apply) (Social opportunities and friendship 67% [214], Childhood Religious Education 42%, Connections with Clergy 44%, Religious/Spiritual Growth 70%, Other			

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(Social Action/Justice and more 26%]			
Q35: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?			
B'nai Israel is heading in the right direction to meet the evolving needs of our community	79%	14%	328
I feel part of B'nai Israel	87%	7%	324
I feel my interests are well represented by the synagogues professional staff	81%	13%	325
I feel my interests are well represented by the synagogue's lay leadership	73%	18%	321
Q36: Overall...			
How satisfied are you to be part of the B'nai Israel community?	91%	6%	327
Q37: Overall...			
Do/would you recommend B'nai Israel to others who are looking for a synagogue?	94%	5%	326
Q38: What would you like to see change at B'nai Israel over the next five years?			
Q39: Are there any other issues or comments you would like to share?			

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Page 26: Demographics			
Q40: At some point over the last three years, I have participated as a: (please check all that apply) (Volunteer 90% [189], Committee Member 47%, Committee Chair 15%, Board of Trustees 22%)			
Q41: In which of the following towns do you live? (towns with small numbers of congregants have been grouped together to maintain anonymity of respondents) (Fairfield 52% [159], Trumbull 21%, Easton/Redding 9%, Stratford 6%)			
Q42: How long have you been a member of our congregation? (0-5 years 16% [51 respondents], 6-10 14%, 11-15 13%, 16-20 13%, >20 45%)			
Q43: Please indicate how many adults are in your household (1 13% [43 respondents], 2 79%, 3+ 8%)			
Q44: Please indicate your gender identification (Male 34% [112], Female 62%, O <1%, Choose Not To Answer 3%)			
Q45: Please identify your age range (<=40 5% [16], 41-50 20%, 51-60 29%, 61-70 27%, 70+ 19%)			