



We call the Torah “Etz Hayim,” the “Tree of Life.” It is a powerful metaphor for how we stand proud, roots firmly planted in the ground, with our solid foundation in Jewish traditional texts and *halacha*. And like a tree, we change with the seasons. Together, we grow in our learning as a congregation, broaden our understanding of Judaism, and create new ways to experience our rich traditions and heritage.

Congregation Etz Hayim, like the Tree of Life, is a deeply rooted historic institution of countless legacies and lives intertwined. For more than 75 years, we have been at the core of Arlington’s vibrant Jewish community and have branched out throughout Northern Virginia creating memories and bonds. Whether it was standing in a circle with fellow congregants at a potluck Shabbat, listening to the plaintive melody of Kol Nidre, or dancing to a klezmer band at Simchat Torah, your experiences have connected you to our community and each of us to one another.

Envision an Arlington Jewish community engaged in communal participation, social action and lifelong learning—both inside and outside our synagogue walls. By drawing on the vast and varied experiences of our members, we seek to learn from one another, maintain the continuity of our honored customs and cultivate a new generation of leaders to sustain our future.

Every contribution you have made and experience you have had at Etz Hayim—whether through sustained membership, capital donations, volunteering time, leading services or organizing events—has directly shaped our future. A legacy gift honors the significant impact you have made at Etz Hayim and will help sustain the future of Arlington’s Jewish community.

Congregation Etz Hayim pursues the ideal of *kayamut*—sustainability. To this end, we strive both as individuals and as an organization, to be an asset to the Arlington community and beyond. Maintaining our commitment to this synagogue, which was founded more than 75 years ago, is an essential part of demonstrating gratitude and respect for those who came before us.

Annual dues and other donations are just one aspect of our financial sustainability. To establish a legacy for future generations, we encourage you to take advantage of creative ways to give back to our community with no immediate financial obligation. Including Etz Hayim in your estate planning as a beneficiary in your insurance policy, will, or retirement plan is a way to ensure a legacy of support that will sustain us for the next 75 years.

# CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY



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