

Cincinnati-Ohio based OurJewishCommunity.org, an online Jewish congregation, is pleased to announce that it is offering free Jewish-themed Valentine's Day eCards this February.

OurJewishCommunity.org launched September 1, 2008 and has attracted approximately 3,000 people seeking a contemporary Jewish experience.

The question often arises as to whether Jews should celebrate Valentine's Day because of its Christian and/or pagan roots.

OurJewishCommunity.org affirms that Valentine's Day has become a secular cross-cultural holiday, and Jews should enjoy celebrating it.

Rabbi Laura Baum of OurJewishCommunity.org says "we know people are using the internet more and more for communication. It seems natural, especially given the current state of the economy, that people would send eCards during the holidays. We didn't just want to create cards for Jewish holidays, but we wanted to affirm that Jews celebrate holidays like Valentine's Day, and that many interfaith families celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas."

In addition to eCards, the online congregation offers access to rabbis, Jewish education materials, resources about Jewish holidays, lifecycle, and other topics, Rabbi Robert Barr's audio podcasts (Barr's Banter), audio files of sermons and Torah readings, video podcasts, Rabbi Baum's Blog, discussion forums, social networking, and more.

Rabbi Laura A. Baum and Rabbi Robert B. Barr, rabbis of Congregation Beth Adam, have created the online congregation with the help of a group of volunteers. Both were ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

OurJewishCommunity.org capitalizes on the history of Congregation Beth Adam, an independent congregation founded in 1980 by Rabbi Robert B. Barr. Over the past 28 years the congregation has developed a unique philosophy, viewing Judaism from a humanistic perspective. The congregation has written and sells its own award-winning liturgy and serves as a progressive voice in the Cincinnati Jewish community and beyond.