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Rabbi Saul E. White (z"l)
1935-1983
Rabbi Alan Lew (z"l)
1991-2005
Cantor Joseph Levy (z"l)
Cantor Israel Reich (z"l)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in Congregation Beth Sholom. Our mission is to nurture the spiritual and personal growth of our members and the larger community using the principles of Judaism as a foundation. By doing so, we sustain the Jewish people, help people live more meaningful lives, and inspires them to make the world a better place.

Congregation Beth Sholom values:

- Balance of Tradition and Innovation (*Halacha v'Shinui*)
- Community (*Kehillah*)
- Egalitarianism and Equality (*Shivyon*)
- Teaching and Learning (*Torah*)

We are a joyful and inspiring community that meets the very diverse needs of our congregants. We provide a variety of paths for people to become engaged and explore, practice and celebrate our traditions.

Our community includes a religious school, educational programs, daily prayer services, meditation, and many community and social action groups and events that inspire and give back to our community and beyond. These groups include activities for all demographics: families with small children, teenagers, young adults, Chicken Soupers, our LGBT congregants (also known as *Keshet*, which means "rainbow"), the Breakfast Club, and so many more. In addition, we have a very active, strong, and thriving preschool that adds immeasurably to the vitality of our community.

If you decide to join us, we would like to explore with you ways in which you would like to participate in our vibrant congregation. There are numerous avenues for Beth Sholom to contribute positively to your life, and there are many opportunities for you to contribute to Beth Sholom and the larger community. Included in the membership package, you will find a membership information form to fill out. This will help us learn what types of programming you might like to participate in and for you to learn about our committees and activities.

Please visit www.bethsholomsf.org to learn more about the congregation. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Beth Jones, our membership and events coordinator, at 415.221.8736, ext. 105, or BJones@bethsholomsf.org.

We look forward to welcoming you, your family, and your friends into our very special community.

Sincerely,

Joninna S. Simpson
Executive Director

History of Congregation Beth Sholom, San Francisco

In the years before the great San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, waves of Eastern European Jews arrived on the West Coast of the United States. Congregation Beth Sholom was founded in 1904, and in 1921 the congregation purchased a Baptist church on Fourth Avenue to house its services. In 1935, Beth Sholom built its first synagogue at the corner of 14th Avenue and Clement Street and installed its first rabbi, Saul E. White, that same year.

Under Rabbi White's leadership, Beth Sholom prospered and became a leading voice in the Jewish community, firmly supportive of change involving women's rights and social justice issues. At the time, Rabbi White appeared to be involved in every major issue of the day. Wearing his tallit and carrying a Torah, he marched down Market Street as one of the Bay Area's first clergymen against the Vietnam War. The lay leaders of Beth Sholom followed Rabbi White's example of advocating for the disadvantaged and pushing issues of social justice. In the 1960s, Rabbi White was the guiding spirit and a founder of Brandeis-Hillel Day School. He served as Congregation Beth Sholom's rabbi for 48 years until 1983.

In the 1960s, Beth Sholom became the Bay Area pioneer in presenting scholarly lectures by educators, historians, and international personalities on Jewish topics and Jewish heritage, and also brought outstanding musical artists and prominent authors to the pulpit of the synagogue. Inspired by the success of these activities, an adult studies program evolved, featuring seminars by rabbis, authors, and local scholars. These were supplemented with classes in Hebrew, Yiddish, and current events.

Following Rabbi White's retirement due to illness, Rabbi Allan Schranz was elected to succeed him and, in 1986, Rabbi Alexander Graubart was elected spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Sholom. Rabbi Graubart served the congregation until 1989. In 1991, Rabbi Alan Lew became Beth Sholom's fourth rabbi. Rabbi Lew exercised a profound influence on the congregation and the entire Bay Area Jewish and secular communities. He was a poet and writer, and was a practitioner of Zen Buddhism before reconnecting with Judaism.

While at Beth Sholom, Rabbi Lew cofounded, with Zoketsu Norman Fischer, the popular Jewish meditation center Makor Or, which is now a program of the Taube Center for Jewish Life at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and Makom Sholom. A formidable speaker, activist voice for social justice, and advocate for the homeless, Rabbi Lew was regarded by many as Beth Sholom's spiritual heir to Rabbi White. Rabbi Lew retired in 2005 and served as the congregation's rabbi emeritus until his untimely death in January 2009.

Rabbi Kenneth Leitner served the congregation for two years until Rabbi Micah Hyman joined Beth Sholom in July 2007. Rabbi Hyman is ushering in Beth Sholom's renaissance and new era with his infectious personality, engaging manner at the pulpit, and ability to relate to congregants of all ages. With the opening of the new synagogue, Rabbi Hyman is dedicated to educating, enriching, and challenging all congregants within Beth Sholom's mission: to support the diversity of Jewish tradition.

Beth Sholom has always been a vanguard for change within the Conservative movement. It was among the first Conservative synagogues to provide women equal participation in all aspects of religious life, including aliyot and the daily minyan, and also among the first to recognize its LGBT members; it was the first to house a Jewish meditation center.

In the 1990s, it was clear that the congregation was moving to a new paradigm for Conservative Judaism: while remaining committed to significant Jewish observance, the state of Israel, social activism, and egalitarianism, Beth Sholom laid new and important groundwork within the

congregation, including the creation of a lasting framework for lay leadership development, strong affinity groups, and proactive engagement with the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community.

Beginning in 1998, a planning process for a new synagogue and multiuse building was launched. In 2000, Beth Shalom's board of directors voted to form a building committee and develop a plan to demolish and reconstruct the synagogue. Stanley Saitowitz of Natoma Architects was selected to design the new 24,000-square-foot building. In August 2006, Beth Shalom broke ground on the new sanctuary, and construction was completed in May 2008.

Welcome!

Mission

Congregation Beth Sholom's mission is to make the richness of Torah relevant to our modern lives. We seek to make Beth Sholom a joyful and inspiring community by joining together to study, worship, and support each other in the continuity of our Jewish heritage. We welcome individuals and families to explore, practice, and celebrate our traditions.

About Us

Congregation Beth Sholom exists as a source of inspiration and support for people interested in Jewish life, culture, and tradition, regardless of their level of observance or knowledge of Judaism. There is a place at Beth Sholom for people seeking their Jewish roots, as well as for those who already feel entirely at home in a synagogue community. Beth Sholom aspires to cast a new light on Jewish thought and practice, and strives to create a Jewish life that is in tune with our modern lives.

How do we arrive at a place in life that has us feeling alive and engaged, grounded and moved—and hopeful about the future? Like many synagogues, Beth Sholom offers religious services, cultural and educational programs for children and adults, preschool and religious school, social action groups, holiday observances, social gatherings and activities, special events, and more.

So how is Beth Sholom different?

We have a whole new look! In May 2008, we moved into our new, modern synagogue, and it's teeming with life and activity. And we have a whole new outlook. Our young, dynamic rabbi, Micah Hyman, is probably quite different from any rabbi you've known before. Rabbi Hyman has tremendous skills and knowledge, believing that we must communicate the great truths of Judaism as they relate to our lives and the issues of today, and in a language we actually use.

At Beth Sholom, we offer a fresh take on 4,000 years of tradition. How? By recognizing that no single approach to Judaism fits all. By holding wonderful traditional services as well as new and inviting religious practices; our services are built on familiar ritual stressing the joyful over the solemn. And by getting to truly know each of our members and understanding what they hope to gain and how they hope to grow. For congregants to become fully engaged in their own religious experience, we need to know them so we can be supportive.

To connect to Judaism and make it meaningful in our lives, it should feel honest and accessible, and it needs to be manageable in these hectic times. And though we strive to illuminate the varied paths a person can take on his or her own spiritual journey, there is strength in numbers. We aspire to create something special together as a community, being there for one another along the way. We want to fill our sacred space with members and seekers of all ages, lifestyles, cultures, and backgrounds to sing, pray, be, learn, mourn, love, lead, question, grow, share, ponder, teach, laugh, and celebrate.

We think our membership best articulates what it means to be part of Beth Sholom. Here's what a few of our congregants have to say:

~ "Beth Sholom is my shtetl, in the best sense of the word. I am part of a warm, caring community, sharing in the flow of Jewish life."

~ "I came to Congregation Beth Sholom unable to read Hebrew and not knowing basic things about Jewish practice. Despite my ignorance, I always feel welcome and never judged. I've learned a lot in the past five years but continue to stumble and continue to feel supported. The CBS community is very special."

~ “I converted to Judaism and our children attend preschool here. The preschool is such a loving and happy place—our kids are getting just the right combination of Jewish immersion and secular school readiness. And even though I’m not Jewish by birth, I feel very welcomed and connected at Beth Sholom. We’ve made a lot of good friends.”

~ “I was raised and became a Bar Mitzvah in a Conservative congregation on the East Coast, and it always felt too rigid and authoritarian, and I couldn’t relate. When I moved to the Bay Area, I had no interest in joining a synagogue, until I attended services at Beth Sholom. I loved the familiarity of the sung Hebrew, and to my surprise, I found Rabbi Hyman’s sermon refreshing and the shul atmosphere a definite departure from the synagogue I grew up in.”

Religious Services at Congregation Beth Sholom

Daily Minyan

Twice daily we join as one and carry on our rich tradition of communal worship. Beth Sholom is the only congregation in San Francisco and Marin that gathers twice daily, every day – we want to be there for every person who wants to pray or mourn, recite Kaddish or recall the anniversary of a loved one's passing with communal support. Minyan takes place in the intimate and inwardly focused Gronowski Family Chapel.

Minyanim schedule: Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Friday at 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The minyan meets at 8 a.m. on the following national holidays: Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; the day after Thanksgiving; December 25 and January 1.

Shabbat

Shabbat is the gift of time to move from the secular world to the holy, an opportunity to set aside weekday pressures, rejuvenate our spirits, reconnect with family and friends, and reflect upon what is most meaningful in life.

At Beth Sholom, we offer a wide range of worship services that speak to the varying facets of Shabbat observance. All of our Shabbat services are welcoming and are conducted with a sense of joy, deep feeling, and humor.

Kabbalat Shabbat

Our Friday 6:30 p.m. prayer service welcoming Shabbat.

PJ Shabbat and PJ Havdallah

Our wonderful PJ Shabbat and PJ Havdallah programs invite families with young children to join our vibrant Shabbat and Havdallah services. Families participate in singing, music, dancing, and blessings with Rabbis Hyman and Philmus. The interactive services allow even our youngest participants to experience the joy of Shabbat in a warm, welcoming setting. Families will take with them some of the basic rituals they can use to enhance their own Shabbat, Havdallah, and holiday observances at home. All services are followed by a vegetarian potluck-style community dinner. No experience is required. Ages newborn through six years old, with older siblings welcome.

Shabbat Morning

Services are held every Saturday at 9 a.m.

Munchkins & Mishpacha

A Shabbat service that is held most Shabbats at 11 a.m. (please check the website calendar at www.bethsholomsf.org). This service is for children from birth to five years of age and their parent(s). Munchkins & Mishpacha has its own siddur—a basic structure of the adult service, with colorful stuffed Torahs for the Torah parade, a discussion of the holidays or other events marking Jewish life as they occur, a story, and songs.

Complimentary Shabbat Childcare

Free childcare is available during Shabbat services on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Shabbat Mincha, Shiur, Ma'ariv

Shabbat Mincha, Shiur, Ma'ariv services are held every Saturday at 5 p.m. during Pacific Standard Time; Shabbat Mincha services are held every Saturday at 6 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time.

Torah Readings

Beth Sholom conducts a Torah reading every Shabbat. Sometimes a full reading, sometimes a Triennial (shorter reading) is done to allow new readers to read from the Torah. We also read the haftarah on Shabbat morning. In addition, the Torah is read during morning minyan on Mondays and Thursdays.

To sign up for Torah or haftarah reading, please e-mail Adam Hertz at adam@adamhertz.com.

Parking

Street parking is available for all services.

Holidays and Festivals | Life-Cycle

Holidays and Festivals

Major or minor, all the Jewish holidays are observed at Beth Sholom; each has its own unique feeling, music, and spiritual influence. The core teachings and wisdom of Judaism are found in the Jewish holidays – slavery and freedom, sin and restitution, celebrating life, assimilation and survival, work and rest, and so much more. By participating in the holidays, we feel, live, and experience Jewish history; learn fundamental Jewish values; and gain insight from classic Jewish texts and their modern interpretations.

From Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot to Pesach, Shavuot and everything in between, we invite you to relish in the beauty, powerful traditions, and meaning of the Jewish holidays at Beth Sholom. All High Holidays, celebratory events, and festival information details are always found in our weekly e-newsletter (*HaLuach*), our bimonthly e-publication (*HaRuach*), and on our website.

Life-Cycle Events

Beth Sholom is a constant partner in its members' lives. We are here for one another's joys, challenges, and sorrows. Life is simply better when shared with a loving community that cares.

Observing life-cycle events is an integral part of Jewish tradition and connects us to our families, our community, our shared heritage, and to God. Jewish customs and rituals for marking birth, coming-of-age, marriage, and death enhance celebrations of life and provide comfort in times of mourning.

Beth Sholom offers its professional services and expert staff, as well as new synagogue and modern, state-of-the-art facilities, for special observances including baby-naming ceremonies, Brit Milah, B'nai Mitzvah, conversions, weddings, anniversaries, and more.

Connect

Congregation Beth Sholom is a hub of human interaction, from which all individual and communal change begins. In a nonstop urban setting such as ours, creating community and contributing to its health and well-being is challenging. Jewish ethos—the powerful trilogy of Torah study, tzedakah (giving), and tefillah (prayer)—guides us to embrace activities of *Tikkun HaOlam* (healing the world) and *Gimilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) that enhance life for others and cultivate meaningful connections among us all.

It's not about what we say or believe, but about what we *do*. We are a highly participatory congregation that is passionately committed to supporting the state of Israel and the Jewish imperative of social action. There are many ways to get involved, whether it's compassionate practice toward becoming a mensch or joining with other members to learn, expand your perspective, have fun, or just relax.

The community and social action groups listed below are just a sampling of what can be. If you have a passion or seed of an idea to help repair the world, improve the lives of others, or invigorate your own, we'd love to hear about it. Contact Rabbi Micah Hyman to explore your thoughts and ideas.

Beth Sholom Professional Network

The Beth Sholom Professional Network is dedicated to supporting the professional and business lives of our congregants. We offer friendly, informal networking opportunities to all interested congregants. The entire synagogue community is encouraged to actively support us by making referrals and introductions to Beth Sholom professionals and businesses.

Blood Drive

Organizing and overseeing the biannual blood donation drives at Beth Sholom.

Chicken Soupers

Preparing and delivering hearty Jewish meals to people with AIDS, chronic illness, disabilities, and those who are homebound. This is a joint program with Congregation Sherith Israel through Jewish Family and Children's Services. Meeting days are generally the third or fourth Sunday of each month, either at Congregation Beth Sholom or Congregation Sherith Israel. Cooking is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Delivery begins at 3 p.m.

Community Engagement

Welcoming new members and helping them get involved in the Beth Sholom community.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between a community and a local farmer. Community members receive a share of the weekly harvest in exchange for supporting the farm for an entire season.

Dr. Ernest M. Weitz Breakfast Club

The Breakfast club currently meets one Sunday of each month (except summer months). There is a brief business meeting followed by an informal talk on topics of interest to the Jewish Community. Speakers have included many community leaders of the San Francisco Jewish Community, along with members of Beth Sholom. Meetings are held at 9 a.m. and start with a delicious breakfast.

Jewish Prisoners Outreach Project

Supporting Jewish inmates in California prisons. Participation includes visits to Folsom State Prison and sending packages to prisoners. Our goal is to link prisoners to the Jewish world.

Keshet (LGBT) Chavurah

Keshet (Hebrew for "rainbow"), the Gay and Lesbian Chavurah/Outreach Program of Congregation Beth Sholom, was formed in December of 1997 for the purpose of socializing and discussing issues related to being lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgendered in the context of the Conservative movement of Judaism. Meets for monthly Friday Shabbat dinners and LGBT events in the Bay Area.

Nachamu ("Comfort") Network

The Mental Illness Support Group is for people whose lives are affected by mental illness, including persons with an illness, family members, and friends. We will gather in a safe and confidential setting to share our experiences and support each other.

PJ Shabbat/PJ Havdallah

Our wonderful PJ Shabbat and PJ Havdallah programs invite families with young children to join our vibrant Shabbat and Havdallah services. Families participate in singing, music, dancing, and blessings with Rabbis Hyman and Philmus. The interactive services allow even our youngest participants to experience the joy of Shabbat in a warm, welcoming setting. Families will take with them some of the basic rituals they can use to enhance their own Shabbat, Havdallah, and holiday observances at home. All services are followed by a vegetarian potluck-style community dinner. No experience is required. Please join us in the coming months as we create our very own birkon (bencher), celebrate the High Holidays, daven, and dine. Ages newborn through six years old, with older siblings welcome.

Shechinah Project

The Shechinah Project helps members in need through acts of loving kindness. Assistance for the sick and homebound, elderly, bereaved, and new parents is provided by cooking meals, leading or attending shiva minyanim, running errands, providing transportation, and conducting home and hospital visits. All members are warmly encouraged to take part with whatever time commitment they can afford and fulfill the mitzvah of caring for one's neighbors. We provide volunteers with training and ongoing support.

Women's Book Group

Meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Books are generally written by Jewish authors or are popular novels or works of nonfiction.

For more information on these community and social action groups please contact Beth Jones at 415.221.8736, ext. 105 or BJones@bethsholomsf.org.

Lifelong Learning

Beth Sholom's integrated program is designed to bring Judaism into our everyday lives. Whether it's through our preschool, religious school, USY & Kadima, special holiday programming, Makom Sholom meditation workshops, or adult education, learners of all ages can gain insight into Judaism and themselves enriching their lives spiritually, physically, socially, and intellectually. At Beth Sholom, Jewish values, culture, rituals, and texts all come alive as they are learned in the context of modern life.

Beth Sholom Religious School (K through sixth grade)

Our mission is to:

- Support parents in the *mitzvah* of teaching our children.
- Teach *middot* (Jewish values) through Torah study, personal reflection and acts of *Tikkun HaOlam*.
- Create powerful Shabbat and holiday experiences with the greater Beth Sholom community.
- Teach our children to pray as Jews.
- Cultivate an awareness of God in nature and in human relationships.

In September of 2011 we are launching "Shabbat Sholom" our new Shabbat-centered religious school program for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade. Students will attend religious school on Saturday (instead of Sunday). A typical week of Beth Sholom religious school will be as follows:

Saturdays: Kindergarten through sixth grade, 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Tuesdays: Third through sixth grade, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursdays: Second grade, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Seventh grade, 4 p.m. to 6:30 pm.

This new model is the result of research and discussion seeking ways to deliver a curriculum more powerfully rooted in our core values of Torah, *Tefillah* (prayer), community and Shabbat as the center of Jewish life. Our new school model will familiarize students with Torah through study of each week's Torah portion and provide in-depth knowledge and familiarity with each component of the Shabbat morning service. Through this new curriculum, modeled on existing and successful programs in other synagogues around the country, our students will be better prepared for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah and beyond. In addition, parents will be able to participate in adult education, traditional prayer, or family-centered Shabbat services. At 12:15 parents can join children and the rest of the congregation for a delicious and joyful Kiddush.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah

Congregation Beth Sholom celebrates each Bar and Bat Mitzvah with great joy. We view the period of B'nai Mitzvah training as a time for all family members to deepen their connection to our community. Our priority is to ensure that this milestone is a positive educational and ritual experience for the students and their families.

Sixth grade students participate in a Shabbat morning program designed to prepare them for B'nai Mitzvah. Seventh grade students meet on Thursday afternoons to discuss teen ethical questions and learn cooking skills as they help with Shabbat Kiddush preparations. B'nai Mitzvah preparation includes regular meetings with the rabbi and B'nai Mitzvah tutors.

Congregation Beth Sholom Family Preschool

Our preschool reflects our core value that is “each child is our curriculum”. Who they are matters. What they say matters. What they think and feel matters. We offer an emotion-based developmentally appropriate curriculum.

Parent education workshops, ongoing teacher education, and individual counseling with families are an integral part of our program and philosophy. The strength of our preschool comes from the sense of community that is built through family participation.

We offer an 11-month school year, September through July, with programs available five days a week from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for two- to five-year-olds, and a Pre-K class for four- and five-year-olds. We also offer a summer program in August.

Toddler Parent & ME play classes for parents, infants and parents, and toddlers and parents, and a variety of educational programs pertaining to raising young families are offered through our preschool.

Adult Education

Beth Sholom offers a range of classes, interactive and casual learning opportunities, and social gatherings for adults that enhance a sense of self and community and contributing to broad-based knowledge. A sampling of our past adult education courses includes Torah Study, Israeli Folk Dancing, Jewish Art, Hebrew Ulpan, Learners’ Minyan, Film Forum, and more.

We help expand our social and cultural horizons with visiting Jewish scholars and professors, Judaic art and photography exhibits, Jewish authors, political pundits and humorists, artists and journalists, rabbis, and more. For a current schedule please contact the synagogue office.

Beth Sholom plays a proactive role in the Bay Area Jewish community, cosponsoring special lecture events, cultural and political presentations, and more with other Jewish and community-based organizations.

Makom Sholom Meditation Practice

Makom Sholom is a program dedicated to enriching Jewish practice with spiritual depth promoting Jewish study, prayer and ritual with a meditative environment. All are welcome, regardless of background, knowledge or experience.

Meets in the ground floor meditation space near the administrative offices. Current programming includes:

- Monday and Wednesday evening meditation at 5:20 p.m. leading into minyan.
- Kabbalat Shabbat meditation led by Makor Or* on Friday evenings at 5:50 p.m. leading into services.
- Meditation room is available for sitting and quiet contemplation for a half-hour in the morning before services, for one hour in the evening before services, and during Shabbat services.

*Makor Or is a program of the Taube Center for Jewish Life at the JCCSF.

Rabbi Hyman



Rabbi Micah Hyman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom. Prior to joining our synagogue in 2007, he served as an interfaith chaplain at UCLA Medical Center for four years, providing spiritual care for families and patients in chronic pain and for those facing death. Rabbi Hyman coordinated care and resources for all patients, their families, and staff and developed a new model of hospital rotation for rabbinical students, helping them deal with trauma in the hospital in their capacity as spiritual caregivers.

In 2002–2003, Rabbi Hyman served as interim rabbi at Adath Shalom, a Conservative synagogue in Paris. While in France, he was the liaison for Masorti Olami, helping develop new Conservative Jewish communities in underserved regions in France.

From 1999–2002, Rabbi Hyman served as assistant director of Camp Ramah in Ojai, California, where he organized and facilitated the camping experience for participants, families, and seniors at the facility. He also worked as an educator and served on the curatorial staff of Jewish museums in New York, Chicago, Morocco, and Los Angeles.

A native of southern California, Rabbi Hyman received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in Hebrew letters from the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, and rabbinic ordination and a master's degree in Jewish art from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 1999. He is married to Erin Williams Hyman and is the father of Nathan and Theo.

Rabbi Philmus



Rabbi Aaron Philmus is the Director of Congregational Life and Learning. He seeks to help people discover God in their lives in unexpected ways and uncover their internal Jewish memory through story, ritual, nature, food meditation, and music. He hopes to make Beth Sholom the destination for inspiring family and experiential Jewish education.

Rabbi Philmus grew up in New Jersey. In his former life he was a Jewish Nature Educator and Wildlife Ecologist. He continues to learn Torah from the earth, but now he also learns Torah from books and people. His wife, Valerie, is a professional kosher chef. His children Sophie and Aeden are the greatest joys in his life today. When he is not at work, Rabbi Philmus can be found dancing or exploring nature with his children, eating Valerie's delicious food, riding his bike, wandering in the woods, studying Chassidut and Kabbalah, or playing his guitar.

Rabbi Philmus received his ordination with awards for homiletics and academic achievement from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He received his undergraduate degree with Honors from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Rabbi Philmus has taught at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Northampton in Massachusetts, the Teva Learning Center in Connecticut, Columbia University Hillel, Ramah Nyack, and the 92nd Street "Y" in New York.

In 2009 Rabbi Philmus co-created a pilot program for the new Camp Ramah in the Colorado Rockies. Last year he served as a Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Fellow for Congregation Emanuel in North Carolina. Rabbi Philmus helped revitalize the community through innovative Family and Adult Education, Inspirational Davening, and Interfaith Couples Work. He also developed very popular High Holiday family services for Congregation Beth Israel in Massachusetts. At the United Synagogue of Hoboken in New Jersey he served as the Rabbinic Intern developing special family holiday programs, and teaching classes with his wife about the new Jewish Food Movement. In the summer of 2006 Rabbi Philmus completed 400 hours of hospital chaplaincy and pastoral training.

Join Us

Congregation Beth Sholom is a place to pray, celebrate, and learn. It is a place of solace and refuge, contemplation and elation, song and discovery. With open hearts and minds, we honor tradition and embrace change. It is a place where personal choice is respected and lifetime friendships are made. For 500 families, Congregation Beth Sholom is home, an accessible and authentic community built upon sacred relationships, where people join together to grow spiritually and make sense of what it means to be Jewish in our world today.

Whether you offer financial or human capital or both to Beth Sholom, we genuinely value the contributions, talents, and dedication each person brings to our synagogue. The generous personality and soul of our community is enhanced by the unique gifts of each person, including our clergy, staff, lay leadership, and all the like-minded individuals who are attracted to our shul.

We recognize that not everyone can contribute financially at the same level. If we provide something meaningful to you, we ask for your monetary support and volunteer expertise in return, in amounts that are comfortable for you. Volunteers and lay leaders are the backbone of our congregation, liberally giving their time and talents to satisfy a great and ongoing need, making Beth Sholom the best it can be.

Any Jewish individual or household that wants to become a member can join the congregation; no one will ever be turned away from Beth Sholom due to personal circumstances or financial constraints.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

301 14th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94118
Phone 415.221.8736 Fax 415.221.3944
www.bethsholomsf.org



Please attach your photograph(s) so we can recognize you when you come to services and events.

ADULT MEMBER 1*

Mr.____ Mrs.____ Ms.____ Dr.____

Name:_____

Birthdate:_____ M____ F____

Occupation:_____

Company Name:_____

Business Phone:_____

E-Mail:_____

Are you a: **Cohen____? **Levi____?

Hebrew Name:_____

ADULT MEMBER 2

Mr.____ Mrs.____ Ms.____ Dr.____

Name:_____

Birthdate:_____ M____ F____

Occupation:_____

Company Name:_____

Business Phone:_____

E-Mail:_____

Are you a: **Cohen____? **Levi____?

Hebrew Name:_____

**If you are unsure about the meaning of these terms, please contact the clergy assistant at 415.221.8736, ext. 101.
If you do not have a Hebrew name and are interested in choosing one and participating in a naming ceremony at the synagogue, please contact the clergy assistant at the number above.

HOME ADDRESS

Street:_____ City:_____ Zip:_____

Home Phone:_____ Cell Phone:_____ E-mail:_____

If married, date of marriage:_____

*If you are joining as an individual but have a spouse or partner and would like his/her name to be included in mailings and the directory, please provide us with his/her name:_____

How would you like your mail to be addressed? (i.e., Mr. and Mrs. Bob Levy; Bob and Janet Levy, Mr. Bob Levy and Ms. Janet Cohen):_____

Preferred correspondence salutation: Dear _____

The policy of Congregation Beth Sholom is to welcome anyone who is interested in Judaism. Our membership requires that one family member be Jewish. We welcome individuals and family members to participate in our events and activities as is appropriate and encourage their involvement. It is expected that all members make a commitment each year to help support the general operations of the synagogue. Families joining our community through preschool enrollment are exempt from a financial commitment during their first year of membership.

CHILDREN

Oldest Child: _____ Birthdate: _____ M _____ F _____
First Name Last Name

Address: _____

Name of school and current grade: _____

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date: _____ Haftarah: _____

Will your child be enrolled in Beth Sholom's religious school? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when?: _____

Will your child be enrolled in Beth Sholom's preschool? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when?: _____

Second Child: _____ Birthdate: _____ M _____ F _____
First Name Last Name

Address: _____

Name of school and current grade: _____

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date: _____ Haftarah: _____

Will your child be enrolled in Beth Sholom's religious school? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when?: _____

Will your child be enrolled in Beth Sholom's preschool? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when?: _____

Third Child: _____ Birthdate: _____ M _____ F _____
First Name Last Name

Address: _____

Name of school and current grade: _____

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Date: _____ Haftarah: _____

Will your child be enrolled in Beth Sholom's religious school? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when?: _____

Will your child be enrolled in Beth Sholom's preschool? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when?: _____

Yahrzeit Notices

The synagogue will send Yahrzeit reminder notices for your loved ones corresponding to their date of passing on the Jewish calendar. Please assist us by providing the following information. Thank you.

First and Last Name of Deceased: _____

Hebrew Name (Transliteration): _____

Date of Death (include year and if before or after sunset): _____

Relationship: _____ To Member 1: _____ To Member 2: _____

First and Last Name of Deceased: _____

Hebrew Name (Transliteration): _____

Date of Death (include year and if before or after sunset): _____

Relationship: _____ To Member 1: _____ To Member 2: _____

First and Last Name of Deceased: _____

Hebrew Name (Transliteration): _____

Date of Death (include year and if before or after sunset): _____

Relationship: _____ To Member 1: _____ To Member 2: _____

PLEASE LET US KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU!

Do you have relatives or friends in our congregation? If yes, please list their names and, if family, their relationship to you:_____

Your Background

Tell us what brings you to Congregation Beth Sholom. Where are you on your “Jewish journey”? What have your previous experiences been at other synagogues? What experiences in any Jewish community have been the most enriching and inspiring to you? Which have been the most difficult? _____

Your Talents

As a self-sustaining community, Beth Sholom depends upon the wide-ranging talent, expertise, and involvement of our members. What do you do well? What passions, abilities, and interests do you bring that would enrich your experience and help strengthen our community? Just a few examples involve working with children, interest in community building, development, scholarship, social action/social justice, Web design, support for Israel, cooking, public speaking, teaching, singing, music and arts, event coordinating, reading Torah, leading services, marketing and communications, construction, wine, film, etc.._____

Your Other Commitments

Many Beth Sholom members support other causes or organizations: Please tell us about any of your community affiliations, nonprofit work, and other interests:_____

We welcome and encourage you to share your time and talents with our synagogue community. Our many groups, activities, and committees provide a great way to become involved and meet other members. Please put your name(s) beside the activities that interest you:

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- _____ | _____ **Cooking**
- _____ | _____ **Event Planning**
- _____ | _____ **Finance/Investment**
- _____ | _____ **Graphic Design**
- _____ | _____ **Marketing and Communications**
- _____ | _____ **Public Relations**
- _____ | _____ **Reading Torah (or learning to read Torah)**
- _____ | _____ **Web design or Computer skills**
- _____ | _____ **Writing, editing**

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

- _____ | _____ **Beth Sholom Professional Network** (A strong and supportive forum for professional development, job searchers, informational exchange.)
- _____ | _____ **Blood Drive** (Organize and oversee the biannual blood donation clinic.)
- _____ | _____ **Chicken Soupers** (Prepare and deliver kosher meals for homebound and ill.)
- _____ | _____ **Community Engagement** (Welcome and help new members get involved.)
- _____ | _____ **Community Supported Agriculture Program** (Partnership with farmers.)
- _____ | _____ **Daily Minyan** (Our daily morning and evening prayer service.)
- _____ | _____ **Dr. Ernest M. Weitz Breakfast Club** (Increasing involvement in Jewish issues through monthly meetings featuring guest speakers.)
- _____ | _____ **Hosting – Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Morning** (Meet and greet congregants and visitors at Friday night and Saturday morning services.)
- _____ | _____ **Jewish Prisoners Outreach Program** (Visit and exchange letters with incarcerated Jewish persons in the Bay Area.)
- _____ | _____ **Keshet Chavurah** (A group for Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Jews to create visibility, support, and awareness for issues related to LGBT.)
- _____ | _____ **Makom Sholom** (“A place of peace”. Our meditation space.)
- _____ | _____ **Munchkins & Mishpacha** (Shabbat program for our youngest children and families.)
- _____ | _____ **Nachamu (“Comfort”) Network** (Mental Health Support Group for people whose lives are affected by mental illness, persons with an illness, family members, and friends. Share experiences and support each other in a safe and confidential setting.)
- _____ | _____ **PJ Shabbat/PJ Havdallah** (Vibrant Shabbat and Havdallah services for families with children ages newborn through six years old, with older siblings welcome. Services are followed by a vegetarian potluck community dinner.)
- _____ | _____ **Shechinah Project** (Serving the needs of Beth Sholom’s new parents, bereaved families and the homebound, elderly, and ill.)
- _____ | _____ **Women’s Book Group** (Discuss books of Jewish and general interest.)

301 14th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone 415 221 8736
Fax 415 221 3944
www.bethsholomsf.org



Membership Dues, 2011–12

Membership at Congregation Beth Sholom includes the following: High Holiday seats, rabbinic counseling, religious services, *HaLuach* (our weekly e-newsletter), and all communications (by postal mail and electronically). Preschool, religious school, Bar/Bat Mitzvah training, and some holiday programming require additional fees. Family membership includes High Holiday seats for two adults and children ages 10–25; individual membership includes High Holiday seats for one adult and children ages 10–25.

We rely on our members to contribute to our kind and caring community through financial support. Please support our congregation as generously as you can.

In keeping with your faith and our vision, no Jewish person will be turned away from membership due to an inability to provide financial support to our community. Please contact Beth Jones, membership coordinator, at 415.221.8736, ext. 105, or BJones@bethsholomsf.org; or Joninna Simpson, executive director, at 415.221.8736, ext. 104, or JSimpson@bethsholomsf.org if you need to discuss an adjustment to the standard level of dues.

Regular Membership

	Family	Individual
Standard	\$2,000	\$1,000
Young Adults (under age 30)	\$1,000	\$500

Parnas Fellowship Membership

Higher levels of financial support allow us to uphold our commitment to include everyone seeking to join our religious community.

	Family	Individual
Parnas (Chaver/Friend)	\$3,000	\$1,800
Parnas (Koach/Strength)	\$4,000	\$2,800
Parnas (Amit/Fellow)	\$5,000	\$3,800
Parnas (Ne'eman/Faithful)	\$10,000	\$7,500
Parnas (Nadiv/Generous)	\$18,000	\$12,500



Name(s) _____

Membership Financial Support
July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012

Dear Friend(s),

Thank you for joining Congregation Beth Sholom. On this form please indicate your financial support for this year.

Regular Family Membership
 \$2,000 or more _____

Regular Individual Membership
 \$1,000 or more _____

Young Adults Family (under age 30)
 \$1,000 or more _____

Young Adults Individual (under age 30)
 \$500 or more _____

Parnas Fellowship Membership

	Family	Individual
Chaver/Friend	\$3,000 _____	\$1,800 _____
Koach/Strength	\$4,000 _____	\$2,800 _____
Amit/Fellow	\$5,000 _____	\$3,800 _____
Ne'eman/Faithful	\$10,000 _____	\$7,500 _____
Nadiv/Generous	\$18,000 _____	\$12,500 _____

___ \$18 to support Youth Programming

Payment Schedule

- ___ Full amount now
- ___ Quarterly (July 2011, October 2011, January 2012, April 2012)

Method of Payment

- ___ Check enclosed. Amount \$_____.
- ___ Please send me an invoice.
- ___ Pay by credit card. Amount to charge \$_____. See authorization below.
- ___ Appreciated securities. For donation instructions, please contact Darrell Reeves at 415.221.8736, ext. 108, or DReeves@bethsholomsf.org.

Authorization Statement for Visa/MasterCard/Discover Card

- ___ I authorize Congregation Beth Sholom to keep my signature on file and charge my credit card.
- ___ Credit card already on file.

Name as it appears on card _____
 Visa/MasterCard/Discover Card _____ Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

Please return this form to:
 Congregation Beth Sholom, Attn: Beth Jones
 301 14th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118.
 Phone: 415.221.8736, ext. 105; Fax: 415.221.3944
 BJones@bethsholomsf.org