



**Welcome!** We are pleased that you are interested in Congregation Beth Shalom. We are a warm, diverse, and active Jewish community offering a wide variety of cultural, educational, and holiday programs. You are warmly invited to join us at our weekly Shabbat evening and morning services. We hope you will visit our synagogue, tour the facilities, and meet our members and staff. You can get information about what programs and events we offer on our website [www.cbsmodesto.org](http://www.cbsmodesto.org); following is a list of some of the activities our congregation offers:

- Services: Shabbat evening services are held every Friday at 7:00 pm followed by an Oneg Shabbat. We also have a monthly Tot Shabbat on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month at 6:30pm. Often during the course of the year, we vary our programs by featuring special theme services. Saturday morning services are held at 10:00 am followed by a Kiddush. In addition, we offer festival and holiday celebrations throughout the year.

- Hebrew School: Our Beit Sefer classes are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm for students in Kindergarten through 7th grade. All classes are taught by our skilled and dedicated staff using sequenced curriculum.

- Pre-School: We have an active Pre-School group for children ages 2 – 5 years old. It is a family participant program that meets once a month on Sunday at 11am – 12:30pm

-Adult Education: Our Adult Education programs provide weekly opportunities to learn Hebrew, Torah and other aspects of Jewish life and study. Courses are announced in our monthly bulletin, weekly e-letter, and on our website's calendar page.

- Conversion: We offer classes which are used to prepare for conversion to Judaism. We welcome all interested students who wish to embrace a Jewish identity through a process of individualized study concluding in a traditional Beit Din and mikveh immersion.

- Life Cycle Events: Rabbinic participation in life cycle events including: baby naming, circumcision, bar and bat mitzvah, confirmation, wedding and funeral are subject to his/her availability.

-Concert Series: The Sunday Afternoons at CBS Concert Series offers wonderful musical programs performed by artists from around the world. The concerts are open to the public and are generally scheduled from September through March each year.

- Café Shalom: Café Shalom occurs once a year in May. It is a Jewish Festival, featuring food, crafts and entertainment. The proceeds from Café Shalom help fund our religious school.

- Golf Tournament: The CBS Annual Classic Golf Tournament occurs once a year usually in

June. The proceeds from the Golf Tournament help support the day-to-day operations of our Synagogue.

- Latkes and Vodkas: Latkes and Vodkas is a cultural and social activity open to general membership and to the public. It offers an opportunity to experience live music by local artist and wide variety of traditional Jewish foods. The proceeds from Latkes and Vodkas help to fund the day-to-day operations of our Synagogue and our religious school.

-Youth Group: We have activities and leadership training for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders with Kadima and 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grader through MoUSY (Modesto United Synagogue Youth). Our tweens and teens participate in regional and national gatherings in addition to summer travel programs across the country, in Israel, and in Europe

**CBS encourages all Jewish individuals and families to become members; this includes blended, interfaith and traditional families.**

Associate memberships are available for up to 6 months for interested Jewish members and those who are in a conversion class recognized by the Rabbi of CBS. Associate membership allows one to “sample” membership in the congregation with full privileges with the exception of voting at membership meetings. Individual associate membership is \$25 per month and family associate membership is \$50 per month.

An important note on Jewish identity:

Historically, since the Rabbinic period (about 2,000 years ago), Jewish status was passed down by the mother. This is known as matrilineal descent. This means that a son or daughter of a Jewish mother, or someone who had a traditional conversion, is Jewish, even if their father is not Jewish. Prior to this period, the Bible recognized patrilineal descent, whereby one’s Jewish status was determined by one’s father.

In 1983, the Reform Jewish Movement adopted the principal of patrilineal descent. This is a bit of a misnomer: Reform Judaism considers a child of an interfaith couple to be Jewish as long as one parent is Jewish and the child is raised as a Jew and receives a Jewish education and celebrates appropriate life cycle events, such as receiving a Hebrew name and becoming bar or bat mitzvah. This also assumes that the child is being raised exclusively as a Jew and not practicing another religion. It’s important to understand that this definition of Jewish identity was not accepted by traditional (Conservative and Orthodox) congregations in the United States or by the vast majority of Jewish communities in other parts of the world including Israel.

**CBS functions as a pluralistic and welcoming independent congregation and we also maintain affiliation with USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism). As stated above, everyone who identifies as Jewish is encouraged to apply for membership. Our Rabbi is eager to meet with you to privately discuss your Jewish identity and find ways to welcome you into our diverse congregation.**

Congregation Beth Shalom is a member organization. We rely on dues and donations to maintain our facility and staff and provide a wide diversity of cultural, educational and holiday programs that are open to the entire community. Without financial support from our members and donors we are not able to sustain our congregation and our programs. **No one will be turned away due to lack of funds** – we will work with you to find a meaningful level of support.

Congregation Beth Shalom Membership Application

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate/s (year is optional - we list them in our announcements):

\_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Hebrew Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Children's Birthdates and Genders: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which number we should use for our phone tree: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate boxes and indicate who in the family is which:

Kohen \_\_\_\_\_ Levi \_\_\_\_\_ Yisrael \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a Jew-by-choice, please list the name of the Rabbi, congregation, and community where you received your conversion:

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Yhartzeit (memorial) List:

Relative Name	Relationship	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
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## DUES

Congregation Beth Shalom membership dues are based on a sliding scale according to income. The congregation's office keeps all information on this form in the strictest confidence. Please contact the office at 209-571-6060 to set up an appointment with a member of our Finance Committee if you have any questions about your dues or need to request a dues adjustment. Dues for a Family Membership are based on 2.5% of the family's annual income with a maximum of \$3,000 a year. Dues for Full-Time Students (12 units or more) are \$10/month with verification of enrollment in an accredited institution.

In compliance with the above dues schedule, I/we calculate my/our annual dues to be \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Please fill in your annual dues amount.)

I/we wish to be billed (please mark one option):

Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ Semi-Annually \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature/s