



CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Serving our Jewish Community since 1918

Shalom Bochner, Rabbi

Doug Highiet, President

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.

Beth Shalom functions as a pluralistic and welcoming, independent congregation. We also maintain affiliation with UCSJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism). We encourage all Jewish individuals and families to become members; this includes blended, interfaith, and traditional families.

Sometimes the question arises, How do I know whether I'm Jewish? 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. However, in practice, Reform Judaism considers a child of an interfaith couple to be Jewish as long as one parent is Jewish, the child is raised as a Jew, 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 is 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.

If you have any questions about your Jewish background, our Rabbi looks forward to meeting with you privately to discuss your Jewish identity, and to find ways to welcome you into our diverse congregation.

Membership Application

Please provide your information below so that we can get to know you better. We will not share any information externally.

Adult One

Name

Hebrew Name

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

Adult Two

Name

Hebrew Name

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

Anniversary Date

Month

Day

Year

Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Home Phone

Mobile Phone

Work Phone

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

Home Mobile Work

Email

Child One

Name

Child's Hebrew Name

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

Gender: Male Female

Child Two

Name

Child's Hebrew Name

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

Gender: Male Female

Child Three

Name

Child's Hebrew Name

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

Gender: Male Female

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

Kohen Levi Israelite I don't know

Yhartzeit, memorial, list:

Relative Name	Relationship	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

CONTRIBUTION

We are a member organization and utilize your annual contribution 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. **We will not turn away anyone due to lack of funds – we will work with you to find a meaningful level of support.**

We offer two types of memberships: Associate and Family

1. Associate memberships are available for up to 6 months for those who are in a conversion class recognized by the Rabbi of Beth Shalom, Modesto. Individual associate membership is \$25 per month and family associate membership is \$50 per month.

2. Family Membership is based on a 2.75% of the family's annual income. Full-Time Students (12 units or more) are \$10/month with verification of enrollment in accredited institution.

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.

Please mark the type of membership you wish:

Associate Membership Family Membership

In compliance with the above dues, I / We calculate my/our annual contribution to be:

I/ we wish to be billed (please mak an option):

Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually

STAYING CONNECTED

Congregation Beth Shalom stays connected with our members and greater Community by various social media venues: Facebook, Instagram, Tweeter, HaKol-The Voice Newsletter, and CBS YouTube Channel.

We periodically share photos online or in videos we create. We never include names and if it is for recognition we seek approval before we do.

Please let us know of your preference for postings your photos online:

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to complete our application and for your interest to joining our Congregation Beth Shalom Family and Community!

Please provide your signature: