

Beth Shalom Annual Guide 2020 - 2021 5781



Who's Who?

Clergy and Staff

Rabbi Seth Adelson.....	Senior Rabbi
Kenneth A. Turkewitz.....	Interim Executive Director
Audrey Glickman.....	Rabbi's Assistant
Rabbi Jeremy Markiz	Director of Derekh & Youth Tefillah
Marissa Tait	Director of Youth Programs
Hilary Yeckel	Director of the ELC
Pamela Stasolla	Assistant Director of the ELC
Rosie Valdez	ELC Operations
Lonnie Wolf.....	Cemetery Director
Rabbi Larry Freedman.....	Director of J-JEP
Kate Kim	Assistant Director of J-JEP
Dale Caprara.....	Controller
Amira Walker	Bookkeeper
Michelle Vines	Events Coordinator
Kristin Zappone.....	Marketing & Communications Specialist
Tika Bonner	Receptionist
John Williams	Maintenance Supervisor

Executive Committee

Debby Firestone.....	President
Kate Rothstein.....	Executive Vice President
Alan Kopolow	Vice President of Finance
Joseph Jolson	Vice President of Operations
Mindy Shreve	Vice President of Member Engagement
Jordan Fischbach	Vice President of Synagogue Life
Adam Kolko	Vice President of Youth
Paul Teplitz.....	Secretary
Fred Newman.....	Treasurer
David Horvitz	Immediate Past President

Emeriti and Scholars

Rabbi Mark N. Staitman.....	Rabbinic Scholar
Stephen E. Steindel, D.D.....	Rabbi Emeritus
Moshe Taubé (z"l).....	Cantor Emeritus
Amir Pilch F.S.A.....	Executive Director Emeritus
Fern S. Moscov.....	Preschool Director Emeritus

Board of Trustees

Steve Albert	David Horvitz	Fred Newman
Ari Chester	Joseph Jolson	Kate Rothstein
Mitchell Dernis	Michael Jolson	Betsy Schwartz
Debby Firestone	Rhoda Judd	Mindy Shreve
Jordan Fischbach	Rona Kaufman	Evan H. Stein
Ira Frank	Judy Kobell	Paul Teplitz
Deborah Sales Graver	Adam Kolko	Elinor Young
Alan Himmel	Alan Kopolow	Roger Zimmerman
Sandra Hirsch	Elisa Recht Marlin	

Past Presidents

Norton Freedel	Harvey Robins	Ira M. Frank
Harriet N. Kruman	Julian Elbling	Connie Pollack
Alan Greenwald (z"l)	Barry J. Palkovitz	Stefi L. Kirschner
Marianne Silberman	Judy Kornblith Kobell	Howard Valinsky
Milton Eisner (z"l)	Jay L. Fingeret	David Horvitz
Yale Rosenstein	Steven H. Schwartz	

Committee Chairs

Finance (under Alan Kopolow)

Finance – Alan Kopolow
Oversight & Audit – Arthur Goldberg
Fundraising/Development – open

Operations (under Joseph Jolson)

House – Marc Schwartz
Catering – Frayda Cohen
Security – Steven P. Albert
Cemetery – Tammy Hepps and Burt Wald

Synagogue Life (under Jordan Fischbach)

Religious Services – Sheldon Catz
Constitution and Bylaws, and Rules – Elisa Recht Marlin
Derekh and Adult Education – Chris Hall

Member Engagement (under Mindy Shreve)

Membership - open

Youth (under Adam Kolko)

Early Learning Center (ELC) – Kate Wrenshall
Joint Jewish Education Program (J-JEP) – Carol Smith
Youth – Judith Kadosh

Personnel

Michael Yoffee

Nominating

To Be Named

Mission

Congregation Beth Shalom is a thriving Conservative synagogue located in the heart of Pittsburgh's historic Squirrel Hill. Our Judaism is egalitarian and transformational. We welcome members of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Through daily religious services, holiday celebrations, Torah study, education for members of all ages, and lifecycle events, we strive to grow and enrich our lives as Jews in today's world.

Vision

We envision a congregation:

- where every member cherishes their shul connection, expressed through participation, volunteerism, and a culture of giving;
- that operates sustainably and in a way that reflects our values;
- that celebrates children and youth as integral to our entire intergenerational community;
- that embraces diversity, inviting individuals and families of all backgrounds to grow Jewishly and help lead our community;
- where programs deepen and enhance our members' connection to *halakhah* (Jewish law), Jewish culture, and Israel;
- where the study of Torah, practice of Judaism, and the pursuit of justice lead to improving our own lives, our community, and our world.

Welcome to our Community

Congregation Beth Shalom is a special place of community. It didn't take me long to realize that when I arrived in July 2019.

Beth Shalom numbers about 600 family units, and I still see quite a bit of closeness and cross-fertilization amongst the contingencies within it. As an egalitarian Conservative Jewish kehillah, we serve the multi-generational needs of many people.

For young families, our Early Learning Center (ELC) teaches and cares for infants through pre-kindergarten age. The school is bristling with activity and vibrancy, caring for about 140 of our children, in a Jewish environment, as our children play together and learn together. The building is buzzing with activity each weekday with these children. Our youth tefillah program offers these same children Manny's weekly Youth Tefillah experience and our monthly "Shababababa" program. The latter allows them the opportunity to welcome Shabbat together with music and fun, and their parents form lasting bonds with one another. See our ELC and Youth Tefillah pages for more information on these.

As our children get a little older, our Youth Tefillah offerings include the "mini-minyan" on Shabbat mornings, with an abbreviated, age-appropriate service. This in-person activity is in hiatus during the COVID-19 period. Other Youth Tefillah activities are in the process of being re-envisioned at this writing.

Jewish education is a key component of Beth Shalom's structure. The Joint Jewish Education Program (J-JEP), in conjunction with Rodef Shalom, helps give our children the Jewish education they need, leading up to Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and a little beyond. See our J-JEP page for more on that program.

Our Youth Programming caters to kids from kindergarten through high school, divided into different grade bands, with activities geared towards age appropriateness. The older groups work in coordination with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's (USCJ's) United Synagogue Youth (USY). Our Youth Department page describes these programs.

Our Adult Programming offers many educational, social, and cultural opportunities, all under the umbrella of Derekh. Educational/learning events are conducted most weekdays, often on Sundays, and sometimes on Shabbat, as well. Social events occur sporadically around the year. Cultural activities are often tied to events occurring around us or to Jewish holidays, and have in the past few years included a civil rights trip to the south and examination of racism in our culture. Some of Derekh programming is tied to specific interest groups or demographic groups, including some music programming, gatherings for families of newborns, or discussions on specific technologies. See our Derekh page for more details.

Our adult affiliates, the Men's Club and the Sisterhood, offer activities in support of their specific contingencies, tailored to the interests of those groups. They also provide synagogue-wide programming, and support of the synagogue as a whole.

Consistent throughout all of our activity is our commitment to tefillah. Congregation Beth Shalom proudly continues to offer daily services, with a minyan in the morning, and again with *Minhah* (when it's not already dark) and *Ma'ariv* in the early evening, as well as a full slate of Shabbat and holiday services. Our continued support of these services has allowed us to serve not only our Beth Shalom community, but also the needs of other Jews who are in need of a prayer service in the Squirrel Hill and Greater Pittsburgh area.

We have a good-sized facility, allowing us to serve the needs of others, as well, including leasing space to a Vaad-approved caterer (Elegant Edge Catering), and providing space and support for our fellow-Conservative *kehillah*, New Light Congregation.

Our recent strategic planning process, completed in 2019, helps us to continue to move forward, improve, and address the ever-changing needs of our Beth Shalom community. We have instituted an implementation team to ensure that all of the arms of the synagogue are following through and executing the plan to which the congregation agreed.

As I write this, in the fall of 2020, we are operating in the world of COVID-19. Most of our operations described above continue, though some in altered modes. Some activities, sadly, are put off for the year, and we very much look forward to getting back to them or some form of them, as we continue to find opportunities to engage with one another. We pay attention to our theme for the year, "Back to Basics," and concentrate on what's important to our mission and to our congregation.

Even through the pandemic, this congregation continues to feel vibrant and engaging. Please join with us and be involved!

Ken Turkewitz
Interim Executive Director



Greetings from the Rabbi

Beth Shalom is Here for You

What is a synagogue? Is it a place to fulfill arcane rituals conducted in a language we do not understand? Is it a cultural center? An event space? An anchor to the neighborhood? Is it a place to talk to God, or to Mr. Cohen?

I am very proud of the fact that Congregation Beth Shalom is in the middle of a grand transformation from the synagogue of the past, mission-driven to a communal center where a diverse set of offerings, from prayer to learning to celebrating to dancing and breaking bread together, enrich our lives and our neighborhood.

As a sign of this transformation, we are publishing for the first time since I have been here an Annual Guide, to help you appreciate Beth Shalom's many offerings and to guide you to the program or happening that will help you find your way into the varied richness of Jewish life. And in particular, in this pandemic time, we understand that your needs may be different this year, and of course the way we offer our services and programs right now is also quite different.

But we do know that, despite the fact that gathering in person right now is fraught, we all still need Beth Shalom as a virtual gathering place, a place wherein we can find community and wisdom from Jewish tradition and a framework to hold onto in these challenging times. So I strongly encourage you to take a look through these pages and find something to check out, something that perhaps you have never considered before. As I have said frequently in the past year, the key to beating our current isolation and frustration with these times is by leaning into Jewish tradition, by digging deeper into our texts and rituals to uncover the inspiration therein.

We are here for you. Take advantage of what Beth Shalom offers. And please give me a call if you need to talk.

Rabbi Seth Adelson



Greetings from the President

2020 has been a year like none other! When this year began before anyone had ever heard of COVID-19, we'd actually considered a trial use of zoom for meetings. And now confronted with an actual need, it is amazing how far we have come in our transition to Zoom services. The world has shrunk significantly as we are able to participate virtually in global events. All of our committee meetings and Congregational meetings and our twice daily *minyanim* are virtual. Believe it or not, this has proven to help the attendance in some instances. Having Zoom or internet virtual capabilities has been a blessing which continues to connect members near and far and is particularly important when experiencing a *shiv'ah*.

Perhaps our ability to adjust to this new world is a good indicator of how far we've been able to come. As a member of Congregation Beth Shalom for over forty years, I'm gratified to be a part of its current renewal and growth. Along with generations of members we also are a congregation of new and young families. We have had a long history of being a central establishment in our Squirrel Hill community and in the greater Pittsburgh area.

I am extremely proud of our Shul's members who continue to make up a significant volunteering presence in many local organizations as was evident recently in the Jewish Chronicle's Volunteers of the Year article, dated November 27, 2020. Our Shul has operated for quite a number of years with minimal staffing and during this difficult time have adapted to today's challenging times.



With the news of several vaccines available in the not-too-distant future, we look forward to returning to our beloved Shul. Here are some special memories to evoke as we think about returning to Beth Shalom, our home of peace.

When we are able to resume our normal synagogue schedule, any new faces coming to religious services will be welcomed and probably asked if they would like a part in the service. For each Shabbat, after services, we always have some nosh to encourage everyone to schmooze and linger. Our desire is to make visitors feel welcome!

We have strong lay leadership for service participation every weekend and on holidays and enjoy and appreciate the many members who have the knowledge, capacity and desire to lead davening. I'm remembering two very lovely Shabbat experiences; when a baby naming occurs and an *aufruf*. It's always an especially joyous time sharing the many lifecycle events that we experience along with a bar or bat mitzvah.

As we leave the *Ne'ilah* service each year, the Shul sets out slices of honey cake to ease one's fasting, a welcome to the new year. On the last Friday of every month, one can participate in a musical service led by our Rabbi and a group of musicians that share the love of this special service. Right now, during our COVID shutdown, Rabbi Adelson has been creating the experience himself for all. On our first Friday night of the month is the Shababababa service for young families which also has been an on-line virtual experience since April. We are all looking forward to the time when these very meaningful services are in person.

Our Sukkah, decorated by our member, artist Ilene Winn-Lederer's beautiful *ushpizin* (worthy guests), is the location of outdoor *yom tov* dinner celebration these past few years... large enough to hold almost 100 people. And most recently, we've had a Second Seder which was welcomed by our Shul community. This has been a shared celebration and a very enjoyable one.

Adult programming is a very strong component of our congregation and has continued virtually during COVID. At least once a month after kiddush we have the opportunity to enjoy a program like our Shabbat *shi'ur* with many dynamic speakers from our community arranged through the Derekh program.

The caring and devotion of our synagogue leadership, clergy and staff, executive committee, board of trustees, committee chairs and members make our organization a very strong institution which is the driving force to lead us forward. We cherish our past and look hopefully to the future.

Debby Firestone

Our History

Whether you are here to celebrate a special occasion, happen to be visiting Pittsburgh, are a regular member of Congregation Beth Shalom, or are “shul shopping,” we are delighted that you are here with us.

Enriching lives through community, lifelong Jewish learning and spiritual growth.

Over one hundred years ago, the founders of Congregation Beth Shalom dreamed of establishing a great Jewish institution as a vital center of prayer, learning and culture. Those 35 families gathered in September of 1917 for services on the second floor of 5802 Forbes Avenue. At Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, services were conducted in the Orpheum Theater. Together they found the need to prepare for the anticipated growth of the Jewish Community in Squirrel Hill. It was a foresighted decision that ultimately resulted in continuing growth both structurally and in the range of services to the community which have enhanced the quality of religious, educational and Jewish communal life.

In addition to organizing services, a Sisterhood Auxiliary was formed in November of that year. By February, 1919, a Hebrew School began with classes held at the Colfax School. In July of 1919, the name “Beth Shalom” was adopted and in September on Yom Kippur day, the first Building Fund had pledges for \$15,000.



On March 18, 1922, ground was broken for a structure on the corner of Shady Avenue and Beacon Street. The building housed religious services, the Hebrew School and community activities. A few years later, in 1925, the Men's Club was organized and the cemetery grounds were purchased in Shaler Township. The growth of the Squirrel Hill Jewish population from 1919 to 1930 necessitated a building expansion of the original structure. By High Holidays of 1931, the congregation held services in the new sanctuary as well as in the old sanctuary which became the auditorium.

As we celebrated our 50th Anniversary in 1967, it became clear that once again we had outgrown the present facility. In 1970, the expansion was completed encompassing a new sanctuary, a smaller chapel, both adult and children's libraries, a new school facility, a youth lounge, Sisterhood gift shop, the Samuel and Minnie Hyman Ballroom, Shirley and Alvin Weinberg Pavilion and a renovated kosher kitchen.

On October 6, 1996, an extensive fire ravaged the synagogue. With help from the entire Pittsburgh community, the congregation was able to rebound with remodeling and expansion of the synagogue. The Faye Rubinstein Weiss Sanctuary and the Milton and Sarita Eisner Commons were dedicated and the Halpern Center for Education Preschool was added. The Homestead Hebrew Chapel, the Jack and Esther Palkovitz Grand Lobby along with resource centers in the Stofman Library and Zweig Library were completed. Additionally, spaces were created for our youth in the Jeannette B. and Samuel T. Shear Youth Center, the Rice Auditorium, the Stephen M. Plung Preschool Lobby and the Wagner/Klein Preschool Playground.

The original families who formed the nucleus of Congregation Beth Shalom would be proud of the congregation that has impacted the lives of so many individuals.

Congregation Beth Shalom is a Conservative, egalitarian congregation, and a proud member of the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism (USCJ).

Youth

The Youth Department thrives to create dynamic and diverse events that engage our youth and build relationships with each other, staff, clergy, and the Beth Shalom community. Ultimately we want to provide a safe place for our young voices and leaders, where they can be their authentic selves and develop a deeper commitment to our community. Through intentional and thoughtful youth programs, we help them gain a strong sense of Jewish identity, develop into life learners and be active members of our *kehillah*. This is made possible by our wonderful advisors and director who lead our youth with passion and dedication. We are proud of the progress and look forward to building onto our success!

CHAVERIM (K-1ST GRADE) COME JOIN YOUR FRIENDS!

Chaverim is our youth group for children in Kindergarten-1st grade. We have a variety of programs throughout the year that are both fun and engaging. This time allows children to have a good time and begin feeling the sense of community we foster in our Congregation.

ATID (2ND-4TH GRADES) LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE!

Atid is our youth group for children in 2nd-4th grade. This is an exciting and crucial time for Congregational youth to be involved and create friendships within the community. Through our programming, we are able to bring youth together in a fun, engaging setting, allowing them to make new friends and feel connected to the Congregation.

KADIMA (5TH-7TH GRADES) EMERGE AS A LEADER!

Kadima is our youth group for 5th-7th graders. In addition to awesome monthly programs, we have open lounge nights every other Monday where we hang out, eat pizza, play basketball and other games, and learn together. Kadima is a time where we engage and motivate our middle school group to become active USY members and develop into leaders.

BSUSY (8TH-12TH GRADES) MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS!

BSUSY is our high school youth group for 8th-12th graders. This program provides opportunities for our teens to take on leadership roles, create and lead events and services, and allows for an enormous amount of personal growth. In addition to monthly programs, USY has open lounge nights every other Monday evening, as well as several convention weekends throughout the year. Together we provide a solid foundation allowing space for our youth to cultivate and nurture their Jewish identities and their place within our Kehillah.



Derekh

Programs for Adults at Beth Shalom

One of our favorite stories from Talmud is about Rabbi Hillel. He desperately wanted to study, but he had no money to pay admission to the study hall. He found his way to the roof and listened to the scholars learning below through an open skylight. Hillel, tired from a long day, fell asleep on the roof even as snow began to cover him. At Derekh, we love this story because we appreciate the drive that inspires Hillel to struggle so hard to learn. However, we also hate this story because Hillel has to suffer to learn; the gates of the study hall are closed against him. Derekh's goal is to inspire this passion, but to never close a door to learning.



We've found inspiring learning through Derekh and a strong community in Beth Shalom's study halls. We hope we'll see you soon at a Derekh event.

Chris Hall, Sam Ferris, and Rich Feder: the Derekh Leadership Team

What is Derekh?



Derekh is Congregation Beth Shalom's adult programming department. We employ the ideas of targeted programming and engaging learning with the ultimate goal to foster fantastic experiences. We see ourselves as an engine for innovation, experimenting with new programs and ideas, striving for creativity.

Do you have an idea for a Derekh program?

Derekh projects are driven by teams of Beth Shalom members. To get started, find two others who are interested in your idea and contact Rabbi Jeremy Markiz (derekh@bethshalompgh.org). He is excited to help facilitate the next steps to make your idea into reality.

Who is Derekh for?

Derekh is for you! We want to help you build your engagement with Judaism, to inspire your curiosity, and to bring you closer to our community through targeted learning, collaboration, and innovation.

Derekh

Do you want to build your Jewish engagement in relation to your curiosity about the world while growing closer to the Beth Shalom community?

These events meet every week - please refer to the Beth Shalom web page for information about how to join.

"Working on the Speaker Series program was rewarding because I could see the project through from beginning to end."

- Derekh Leader

Online Parashah Study Group Sundays at 8:30 p.m.

Dig into the language of the weekly *parashah* and unpack a difficult section of Torah in this lay-led, discussion-based class.

"Derekh provided me a pathway, a way into, a deeper fuller and more connected Jewish experience."

- Online Parashah Study Group member

Morning Talmud Study Mondays at 9:15 a.m.

Rabbi Jeremy Markiz leads a group of learners from Pittsburgh and Israel in learning *Masekhet Rosh Hashanah*, a tractate of the Talmud about the many new years that comprise the Jewish calendar.

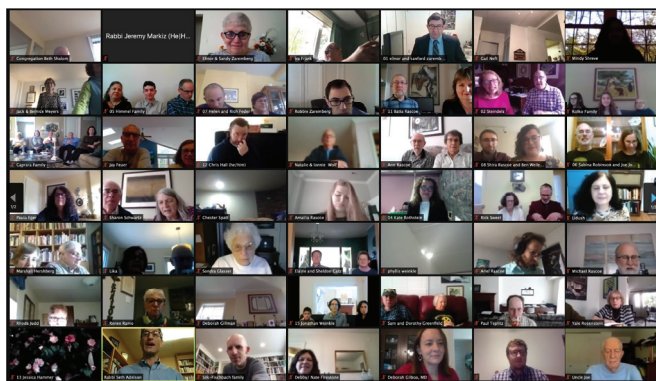
"Learning with Derekh was my way to 100% participation in all aspects of the community."

- Life and Text class member

Life and Text Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.

Bring the *parashah* alive and make it personally relevant and meaningful through discussion led by Rabbi Mark Goodman.

***"Derekh is an engine for change within the congregation."* - Rabbi Seth Adelson**



"Whenever I go to a Derekh event I know that there will be people like me there."

- Lunch and Learn class member



For more information and a complete list of program offerings, see:

- The Derekh web page - <http://bethshalompg.org/derekh/>
- Congregation Beth Shalom's Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/bethshalompg/>
- Congregation Beth Shalom's weekly emails sent to your inbox

J-JEP

Welcome to J-JEP, a joint religious school between Congregation Beth Shalom and Rodef Shalom Congregation. We take the best of the Conservative and Reform Movements allowing for a strong mix of tradition and meaning. We are a 160-student-strong educational experience where students have a mix of class and electives. Our Judaics curriculum is Shalom Learning, a spiral style where students explore a number of values - *teshuvah*/repentance or *achrayut*/responsibility, for example - from different points of view each year. Along the way we engage holidays, Torah and more. Electives are an exploration of Jewish heritage through a variety of disciplines. It could be anything from cooking to yoga to drama to gardening and more.



Leaning on the idea of experiential education, we aim to get the students out of their seats to have not just activities but experiences they can reflect upon. From such reflection does true learning arise.

We want our students to have spiritual growth meaning a sense of being connected to something larger than themselves. We want our students to be more than exposed to Judaism. They should feel their Jewish heritage as something personal and important to them individually. We also help them understand their Jewish heritage as something that binds them to Jews around the world. And when it comes to Jews around the world we remember that Jews come in all colors, all countries, and span the variety of humanity in all ways.

On the Hebrew side of the program, we offer three approaches to reading and writing, focusing on liturgy that include 1) Hebrew with parents (or grandparents!), 2) once a week class, or 3) twice a week. This last option adds modern Hebrew language.

J-JEP is a place where everyone belongs, where every Jewish identity is valued and encouraged. We are a place that aims to provide the breadth of Judaism to our students from the warmth of Jewish foods to the intellectual challenge of understanding what we stand for.

Classes are held at Rodef Shalom Congregation Sundays and Wednesdays. Twice a week Hebrew on Tuesdays and Thursdays is held at Congregation Beth Shalom. Due to COVID-19 we are able to switch to online learning as needed.

Contact Kate Kim or Rabbi Larry Freedman at 412-421-6566 or via email at Kate@jjep.com or RabbiLF@jjep.com with any questions.

Ready to register? Go to JJEP.org and select the register button at the top.



Early Learning Center (ELC)

Beth Shalom Early Learning Center (ELC) is an early childhood program serving children infancy through pre-kindergarten. Our youngest children are 6 weeks old, and our graduates are between 4 and 5 years old. The Early Learning Center has been around for over 30 years achieving and maintaining a four star accreditation with Keystone Stars, as well as the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The ELC offers families highly experienced and qualified educators who work collaboratively to nurture, support, and teach early learners. Our philosophy of education is play-based while incorporating rich Jewish traditions and education in child-friendly themes. The environments that our team of educators create allow for students to grow physically, socially, and emotionally all while exploring age-appropriate materials. Our physical space involves ten beautifully decorated classrooms, a playground, a gym, and an art studio. The ELC is fortunate to be housed within a synagogue allowing access to many areas for special learning opportunities. Classroom educators collaborate with our Art Specialist to study with the Reggio Emilia approach. This art philosophy inspires our students as they work with natural elements and reusable materials. Our program operates Monday through Friday for all twelve months of the year. During a school year families can look forward to annual gatherings sponsored by the parent teacher organization, school-wide holiday programming, parent teacher conferences, and various other programs. We invite anyone interested in learning more about our program to contact the ELC office at 412-421-8857. Thank you!



Hilary Yeckel
Director



Men's Club

Beth Shalom Men's Club is proud to be an auxiliary to Congregation Beth Shalom. We are here to support our congregation and its members. You do not have to be a Beth Shalom member or even male to join.

We provide activities during the year that include our annual Sports Lunch. During our Sports Lunch, local professional and college-level athletes attend to meet and greet our youth and special needs guests. We support the synagogue with funds for special projects and activities that are not in the congregation's budget. This year, we plan to help our synagogue repair several of our Torah scrolls so they can be kosher for use in services. We are part of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, which works on social, religious, and cultural education to promote the well-being of our members, the country, and the world.

Please join us in our mission in any way that meets YOUR needs. Give me ideas on anything that you think YOUR Men's club should be doing.

Ira Frank



Sisterhood

Sisterhood has been an integral part of Congregation Beth Shalom since its founding over 100 years ago. We are an affiliate of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, an auxiliary of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

With an active nucleus of women, Sisterhood sponsors a monthly book club, a weekly Latin Cardio Class, holiday parties, many dinners and social and educational events. We work with Men's Club and other committees to present programs of interest to the entire Congregation.

Also, Sisterhood offers beautiful Judaica items through our Sisterhood Judaica Shop. The monies raised are used to support Congregation activities and youth programs, including the Purim Carnival and Latkapalooza.

We look forward to having new members join us and we welcome new ideas and suggestions from all our members.

Judy Kornblith Kobell



Religious Services

Beth Shalom is proud to be a Conservative egalitarian synagogue with services offered every morning and evening during the week and on Shabbat and Festivals throughout the year.

Services Schedule

- Weekday mornings (Monday - Friday) at 7:30 a.m. (*except on major national holidays, which begin at 8:00 a.m.*)
- Weekday evenings (Sunday - Thursday) at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday morning services begin at 8:00 a.m.
- Friday night services begin at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday morning services begin at 9:30 a.m. (*except Festivals or when celebrating a special event such as a bar or bat Mitzvah and then they begin at 9:00 a.m. or 9:15 a.m.*)

Festival services begin at 9:15 a.m., except on Yizkor days, when we begin at 9:00 a.m. Shabbat and Festival morning services are always followed by a Kiddush and sometimes a full lunch.

Saturday night services begin 1-1.5 hours before Havdalah, so check the schedule to find the exact time for any given week. And if it's between Sim^hat Torah and Pesah, Saturday afternoon attendees enjoy a *Se'udah Shelishit* (third meal) between *min^hah* and *ma'ariv*.

On the last Friday of each month, the Rabbi leads an instrumental service called *Hod veHadar*, and from November to June, he leads a monthly alternative Discussion Service on Shabbat mornings beginning at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to become involved or participate, please contact Sheldon Catz, the chair of the Religious Services Committee (sheldoncatz50@gmail.com) and he will put you in touch with the appropriate service coordinator or the Rabbi as needed. Other roles (*aliyot*, Torah *gabbaim*, *hagbahah* and *gelilah*, Torah carriers, ark openers, *Ashrei* and prayers for Country and Israel) are assigned during the service by our team of Floor *gabbayim*, who are always happy to include new participants (please let them know if you are observing a *yahrzeit* or celebrating a special occasion). We use the recently published *Siddur Lev Shalem* and the *Etz Hayim Humash*. We read the Torah on the triennial cycle.

We also offer several children's services on Shabbat morning and a popular youth service the first Friday of each month. Check out details in the Youth Tefillah section.



Youth Tefillah

Over the years, we've had many opportunities for our youth on Shabbat and holidays. Right now, we have two main opportunities from before the pandemic that have continued through the pandemic.

Youth Tefillah for children ages two to five, otherwise known as "Manny's Service" is led by Manny Theiner. Each week, on Shabbat mornings, he leads a truly fantastic experience for our youngest children. Prayers, songs, games, and stories fill this weekly service with joy and Torah. You can find Manny and other families on Shabbat mornings at 11:00 am, now over Zoom.

Shababababa and *Shabbat Haverim*, our monthly Friday night youth services, are a highlight of the month. While we met in person, Shababababa, for our youngest attendees, was led by Rabbi Adelson in the round in the Samuel and Minnie Hyman Ballroom. *Shabbat Haverim*, our early elementary school cohort joined, the drum circle with Yamoussa Camara and Rabbi Jeremy Markiz in the Eisner Commons. These both joined together for a wonderful community dinner. Now, during the pandemic, Rabbi Adelson leads Shababababa at 5:15 pm on the first Friday of every month, over Zoom from our wonderful Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary.

We hosted a weekly Mini-Minyan for our early elementary school-aged youths. This service, a partnership between lay leaders and Rabbi Jeremy Markiz, was full of song and spirit, full of dancing and learning. It is our hope that this service will return soon as we navigate the future with and after the pandemic.

YOUTH TEFILLAH
AT BETH SHALOM

Cemetery

Meeting all of your memorial needs with an understanding of tradition and an eye for the future.

Give your loved ones a sense of peace by planning ahead. Pre-need enables you to help ease the last minute challenges that can arise when death occurs.

There are several burial options available throughout our Beth Shalom Cemetery to accommodate varying needs and price points. Deciding now can save your family from worrying, and can help ease the burden of increasing costs.

Please let us know how we can help you make the right choice.

Contact Lonnie Wolf at 412-421-2288 x293



Annual Contribution

As with all congregations, Congregation Beth Shalom requests an annual contribution to help meet its expenses.

Beth Shalom's membership year runs January through December. Its standard annual commitment rates are based on the number of adult members in the household, and on the age groups of the members.

To keep our expenses down, Beth Shalom incentivizes members by giving a 3% discount on annual commitment payments if the payments are made by cash, check, or ACH withdrawal.

Beth Shalom's priority is in its engagement and support of its members. We do not want anybody to avoid membership based on perceived or actual difficulties in paying any particular amount. Any member or potential member is encouraged to contact the Interim Executive Director, Ken Turkewitz, to discuss confidential payment options.

Other questions on account status or payments can be addressed to the Controller, Dale Caprara.



Legacy Circle

The Legacy Circle is an opportunity to help Congregation Beth Shalom serve Pittsburghers for generations. Whatever you cherish most about Jewish life, whether it is the community, the learning, the prayer services, or caring for those in need, by leaving a legacy gift, you ensure that the things you value are sustained for the future.



The Legacy Circle is a community of people who are committed to sustaining Congregation Beth Shalom and our families. Members of all ages and at all financial levels are participating in our Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle is for everyone.

The Legacy Circle is a commit-now, provide-later planned giving mechanism that gives you control over the course of your life to decide levels of giving that are appropriate for you. Planned giving is any gift, made in lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning. These include gifts of equity, life insurance, real estate, personal property, or cash, including appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, a retirement plan, etc.

Through the relationship between the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Beth Shalom's Legacy Circle has joined the dozens of other Jewish organizations in the Life and Legacy Program. This Program is an intergenerational four-year program built on relationships that will ensure our important, supportive Jewish institutions, like Congregation Beth Shalom, are around for decades to come. Through this Program, over the next several years, we have incentives and opportunities for extra funding from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. We hope to have set numbers of congregants make a promise to Congregation Beth Shalom to help ensure it will be around for the next 100 years and beyond.

We hope you will join with us to secure a strong Jewish future by making a legacy gift to Congregation Beth Shalom. If you already have included Beth Shalom in your estate planning, please let us know so we can acknowledge you as part of our Legacy Circle. The Declaration of Intent form indicating your commitment to make a legacy gift is on the Synagogue's web site or we can mail you a hard copy of the form. Thank you for teaming with the Legacy Circle and helping to ensure that Beth Shalom will be a thriving community for future generations.

**Want to talk to someone about Legacy Circle?
Ask questions and learn more?**

Please contact: Rabbi Jeremy Markiz at jmarkiz@bethshalompgh.org or 412-421-2288 x111, Ira Frank at natfabira@juno.com or 412-849-2937, Mindy Shreve at mindyshreve@gmail.com or 412-215-4700 who will be happy to talk with you and answer your questions.

Events & Catering

Celebrate with us!

You can trust that your event will be managed with the utmost respect and care. We all work tirelessly to ensure that the space is clean, perfectly set up, and staffed if needed.

Congregation Beth Shalom is a vibrant and engaging egalitarian Conservative Jewish community. It is our wish to be a part of your family and community as well, whether *mishpacha* or friends.



We Offer:

- Singles, Young Professionals, and Families
- Shabbat dinners and luncheons
- Entertainment
- Holiday celebrations
- Social outings
- Retreats
- Happy hours
- Networking opportunities

With over 88,000 sq. ft. of space, Beth Shalom is an ideal location for meetings, business presentations, and, of course, religious services.

Our Available Spaces

Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom

The Samuel and Minnie Hyman Ballroom is perfect for dinners and shows for up to 400 people. The ballroom includes a full stage and grand piano, and separate kosher meat and dairy kitchens. The ballroom will hold 350 people with the dance floor open.

Shear Youth Lounge

If you're looking for a place to hold a fun kids or teen event, the Shear Youth Lounge is ideal.

Other Available Spaces Include:

- Rice Gym
- Stofman/Zweig Library
- Hoffman Library
- Eisner Commons & Homestead Hebrew Chapel



Call Michelle Vines at
412.421.2288 x113
for pricing
and availability.

Events & Catering

Host Your Event at Beth Shalom!

Our elegant event space can be configured for any occasion.

Free Parking • Full Security
Stage & Dance Floor • Dietary Laws Observed
VAAD Glatt Supervised

For more information, contact:
Michelle Vines, Event Coordinator
412.421.2288 x113 or
catering1@bethshalompgh.org



**Anniversaries
Baby Namings
Birthday Parties
Benei Mitzvah Parties
Fundraising Events
Business Meetings
Bridal Showers
Weddings and more!**



Membership

Membership at Beth Shalom means being a part of a community of people who recognize the value of caring for each other, volunteering, living an ethical life, and fully expressing their spirituality. Membership means so much more than completing an application and making an annual contribution. There is a basic human need to belong to something greater than oneself and that need is met in community. As Beth Shalom members, we share the blessings of community and belonging.

We, the Membership Committee, see our place in the Synagogue as creating connections between people. That means connecting:

- Current members to each other and to the right programs and services,
- Potential members to our community and the Beth Shalom experience, and
- New members to existing members.



We do this by fostering relationships through events that bring people together, such as the New Members' Welcoming Ceremony, in which those who have recently joined grasp hold of a Torah scroll and mark the beginning of their journey with Beth Shalom, and our Greeters program, which ensures that all who enter Beth Shalom for services are welcome. Our aim is to enhance your connection to Beth Shalom and to each other.

To learn more, please contact membershipcbs@gmail.com or call Mindy Shreve at 412-215-4700.

Volunteers

Volunteering is an important part of the strength of the Beth Shalom community, and we always can use your help. We provide numerous volunteer opportunities that allow you to be connected to our community in a way that is most meaningful to you. Just some of the many ways to volunteer:

- Visit people in hospitals or nursing homes (when permissible to do so)
- Shop for others
- Make phone calls to connect member
- Drive to medical appointments
- Provide meals to families with new babies and homebound elderly
- Garden or other maintenance work
- Assist with Congregational meals (when permissible to do so)
- Shiv'ah assistance (including leadership)
- Run a program (art class, movie night, book club, etc.)
- Data entry projects
- Write articles for *Mishpachtenu* or the web site
- Chair or serve on a Committee or assist with an annual or one-time event or project (virtual or in-person) such as Come Together Event, Torah Fund Brunch, Volunteer Awards Brunch or a task force



Of course, we welcome and encourage new ideas for volunteering. Please share your ideas and let us know how you want to help. Please contact Mindy Shreve at mindyshreve@gmail.com or 412-215-4700 and we will connect you!

Beth Shalom Trips

Travel in the future? We hope so! Definitely both trips should be on everyone's bucket list!

Several members of our congregation have had the most wonderful travel experiences. Two different groups of Beth Shalom congregants have traveled not only to Israel but also to experience the Deep South. The Israel trip, "Journey of the Spirit," was organized by Joe Jolson with help from Jane and Chuck Yahr. Twenty-four people attended this two-week adventure. During the trip, our guide, Avi Ben-Hur, from Da'at tours, along with Rabbis Seth Adelson and Amy Levin provided historical, religious and spiritual context. We visited many places of interest including Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Zippori National Park, Karmiel-Misgav, Tsfat, the Old City of Jerusalem, the Kotel (Western Wall), the City of David, Yad Vashem, the Dead Sea, Qumran, and the Israel Museum.



Josh Dubin, our guide, Bishop Calvin Woods and Billy Planer

The Derekh Civil Rights Trip was organized by Lois and Alan Kopolow with help from Rabbi Jeremy Markiz. Our traveling group consisted of thirty-one people. We were introduced to Billy Planer, founder of Etgar 36, a Jewish program that engages teenagers and adults on issues of the day through the lens of civil rights history. We visited these locations:



- **MONTGOMERY** – Visited Rosa Parks and Dr. King sites, Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Memorial to victims of lynching, Freedom Rider's Exhibit
- **SELMA** – Learned of Bloody Sunday where the events happened & walk the Edmund Pettus Bridge
- **BIRMINGHAM** – Met Civil Rights activist Bishop Calvin Woods Sr. and hear his story in person, see the 16th Street Baptist Church
- **ATLANTA** – Visited Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park

Both trips were not only learning experiences, but also community building. In preparation for each trip, attendees were asked to read several books for personal reference: "My Promised Land" by Ari Shavit for the Israel trip and "White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo and "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson for the Deep South trip.



ELEGANT EDGE

CATERING
CO.

**Unforgettable Flavors for an
Unforgettable Event**

**Curbside Shabbat Takeout
Available Every week**

**Check out our website for up to date
info and menus:**

eedgecatering.com/menu

**Follow us on facebook:
eedgecatering.com/fb**

**Office Phone: 412-385-2332
Cell: 412-657-9767**

