

Annual Report

5778/5779

2018/2019



Beth Sholom is a Conservative congregation that strengthens connections with each other and God. We ensure the flourishing of Jewish life through educational, social, and religious experience in a warm and dynamic community.



BETH SHOLOM
SYNAGOGUE



May 14, 2019—9 Iyar 5779

Dear Friends,

I've always felt that part of the power of Judaism is its unique ability to be an anchor in our lives. It's a home base that's there for us regardless of what we're going through in life. So I knew that I could only comfortably be a rabbi of a shul that exemplified what it meant to be that home base. I wanted to be in a community where children run into the building excitedly, where people greet each other with smiles and hugs, and where you knew that it would even be ok if you showed up JFK (just for kiddush). I am so blessed to be a part of *this* community, a shul that is a home. Beth Sholom is that anchor for me and for so many of you.

But perhaps the most beautiful part of our home is that it isn't just a home for one type of Jew. We have become a place where each member can find what's meaningful and valuable for them. In the past two years, I've found that the offerings of our Jewish community speak to people in many different ways. For some, it's the friendship and community we build. For others, it's our high school learning program, our social action work, women's Rosh Chodesh programming, Tot Shabbat, or meditation. And for some, of course, we are primarily a place of Torah learning and prayer for all ages. With all of you, we are growing our anchor, our home, in ways that are meaningful and spiritually uplifting.

Each of you makes our community vibrant and unique, and it is all the varied interests and passions of our growing membership that make the energy in our shul so incredibly alive. We hope that if you are looking for more ways that Beth Sholom can be an anchor in your life, you'll allow us to help you. After all, it is each of our member's involvement that makes us that powerful anchor. We are a shul where each person matters to us, and we hope Beth Sholom will be your home.

Rabbi Sarit Horwitz



Beth Sholom Synagogue's Vision

To be the Mid-South synagogue of choice by creating a nurturing, welcoming community, rooted in Conservative Jewish practice. We grow and are fostered by the positive and supportive relationships that members have with each other through:

- Experiencing Jewish Life**
- Prayer and Spirituality**
- Learning Torah**
- Chesed and Tzedek**
- Leadership**

“When Rabbi Sarit comes into the room, when she leads the service, and especially on Saturday morning when the children come into the sanctuary to wash hands and bless the wine and bread, I just feel like this is my family.”

-Sandy Lipman

Experiencing Jewish Life

We are building a community that revolves around a culture of Shabbat engagement, both within the synagogue and outside of its walls. This orientation towards the Jewish week binds our members to each other and tethers them to the congregation.



“Having lived away from Memphis for several years, one of the aspects of moving home that most excited us was returning to our Beth Shalom family. As expected, the congregation welcomed us back with open arms and made us feel like we were where we belong. We instantly rekindled past friendships and are continuing to make new ones. Beth Shalom is an amazing spiritual home, made up of wonderful people and we feel truly grateful to be a part of it.”
-Jeff Kay

“I have noticed an increasingly strong sense of community here on Shabbat morning. We have more people staying for Kiddush lunch, sitting and schmoozing for longer periods of time...just enjoying each others' company. This includes congregants and others who come for services, kids in the religious school, and latecomers...just for lunch! We are a warm, positive place to be!”
-Sharon Finkelstein



Prayer and Spirituality

Spirituality is a core component of our Jewish identities, and we create an environment that allows the spiritual lives of each of our members to flourish through song, prayer, and meditation. We encourage the growth of our members in their relationship to God.

“I am at home at Beth Sholom, which is my community and my family. The people of Beth Sholom have really been there for me, celebrating birth and mourning with me in the time of death. Being present at evening minyan, I feel my presence makes a major difference for someone else. This mitzvah takes 30 minutes, a time to reflect and share my gratitude to G-d.”

-Janet Rubin



“My connection to my fellow congregants transcends age—I have friends much older than I am, and friends who are much younger—political convictions, and socio-economic standing. We are united in our commitment to Judaism, Beth Sholom, and each other.”

-Jeannie Ashford



Shabbat & Holiday Programming

A Taste of Pesach
Artist in Residence:
Eliana Light
Celebration of
Jewish Learning
Exploring the
Shabbat Siddur
Graduation Shabbat
Hamentaschen
Baking
Hanukkah Potlucks
Kol Nidre Dinner
Lag B'omer BBQ
Lox Box
Mystical Readings
on the Parshah
Purim Shpiel
Renewal: A
Woman's Rosh
Hodesh Group
Shabbat Morning
Meditation
Shabbatluck
Shir Chadash:
Musical Kabbalat
Shabbat
Sisterhood Shabbat
Starbucks Shabbat
The MeshugaNotes
Tu B'shvat Nature
Walk
Women's
Forgiveness Circle
Women's Seder
Women's Visioning
World Wide Wrap
Yoga Stretching and
Strengthening the
Body

Lifelong Jewish Learning

Adult Hebrew
Adult Torah Reading
Aram Goudsouzian -
"Memory, Identity,
and the Editing of
Goodbye,
Antoura"
Bible Belt Bagel
Babe: How Place
Informs an Artist's
Work
Cain v. Abel: Who's
To Blame?
Caring for Our Dead
Chat with a Diplomat
Demystifying Kashrut
Evolution of an Idea
Facing Life and
Death in Jewish
Poland
From Text to Song
Jocelyn Wurzburg -
"Southern Jewish
American Princess
and Civil Rights
Activist"
"Lives Restarted"
Lunch & Learn
Marjorie Hass -
"Leading as a
Jewish Woman"
Neshama Yeteira: An
Extra Shabbos Soul
Rachel Shankman -
Reflections from a
Second Generation
Holocaust Survivor
Rhiannon Graybill -
"Masculinity and
Prophecy"
Sadness to Gladness
Scholar in Residence:
Rabbi Jan Uhrbach
Song of the Soul
Steve Haynes - The
Battle for
Bonhoeffer
Teen Talmud Torah
The Binding of Isaac:
Whose Test is it?
Timothy Huebner -
"Memphis and the
Making of Justice
Fortas"
Tot Shabbat
What to Say (And
What NOT to Say)

Learning Torah

We create and cultivate opportunities to engage all of our members in the vast richness of wisdom our tradition offers. From birth through adulthood, Torah has the power to impact our lives.



"I've really liked Teen Talmud Torah - it's a super fun way to spend time at Beth Sholom and learn about being Jewish."

-Abby Cassius



"It's very special to me that my children have real and textured relationships with the leadership they interact with the most often at shul. These are not adults they just have glancing engagements with, but people they have grown to respect and admire and who take a deep and genuine interest in my children and our family."

-Leslie Epstein



Chesed and Tzedek

Our connectedness to each other and the world demands the extension of ourselves to others. We create opportunities for an outpouring of chesed, lovingkindness, to each other, as well as tzedek, the Jewish imperative to pursue justice.

“Tikkun Olam is more than a committee at Beth Sholom, it's an inherent part of our culture. It is reflected in the way our congregants relate to each other and to the larger Memphis community with which we are actively engaged. We tutor, we mentor, we feed the hungry, house the homeless and work towards social and economic justice. I am honored to be a part of this committee and prouder than ever to be a member of Beth Sholom.”

-Susan Moinester



“Room in the Inn made me feel like our community was really helping people. I loved seeing the people we helped actually benefiting from the work we were doing to help them.”

-Ruth Newstok

“I'm so proud that Beth Sholom is the front-runner in the Memphis Jewish community on doing something really innovative and creative like Room in the Inn.”

-Sarah Newstok

“It is amazing to be in a room of over 1,500 people of different races, religions, and backgrounds that all share your passion for social justice. This is what compels us to work with **MICAH, Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope.**”

-Lisa Harris



- Tikkun Olam,
- Repairing the World
- “13th” Movie Screening
- 1st Presbyterian Soup Kitchen
- Coleman Gift Shop
- Glean Team
- Josh Spickler: Just City
- Mariposas Collective
- Collection
- MICAH: Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope
- MLK Day of Service
- Room in the Inn
- Team Read
- The Great Sandwich Make
- TNPromise
- Winter Harvest for the Hungry

Leadership

Volunteer engagement and leadership development are crucial to the strength and vitality of our synagogue and community. We seek to empower our lay leaders to partner with our professional staff in all aspects of synagogue life.

Kol Hakavod and Todah Rabah to our Beth Sholom Volunteers, who:

Bake for Kiddush lunch • Wash tablecloths. • Tutor B'nei Mitzvah students • Plan holiday celebrations • Read Torah
Read Haftarah • Prepare bodies for burial • Attend minyan
Host Kiddush • Build the sukkah • Deliver welcome bags to new members • Send holiday gifts to college students • Pick up guests for Room in the Inn • Make calls for the Annual Appeal • Serve as minyan captains. • Write articles for the Hebrew Watchman • Wash tallitot before High Holidays
Greet people at services • Serve on committees • & much more!

Contact us if you would like to volunteer for these or other projects.

Beth Sholom Executive Committee, 2018-19

Danny Schaffzin, President • Hallie Cohen
Leslie Epstein • Sharon Finkelstein • Susan Levko • Christine Scheinberg • Dan Unowsky
Sandy Lipman, Immediate Past President

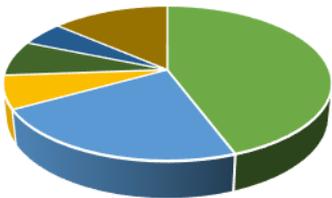
Beth Sholom Board of Directors, 2018-19

Steve Abramowitz • Dana Agranov • Seth Agranov • Lon Alperin • Jeannie Ashford
Jaynie Cohen Judaken • Rachel Feinman • Sandy Friedman • Mitch Hodus • Ron Holzer • Naomi Katz • Tresha Mandel • Susan Moinester • Janet Rubin • Dana Shefsky • Herb Slovis • Lauren Tochner • Illysa Wertheimer • Marilyn Zellner

Financial Sustainability

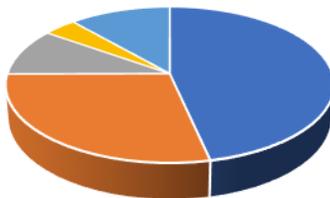
To enable all of the elements of our vision to thrive, and to ensure a strong financial future for the synagogue, we encourage a culture of fiscally responsible leadership and giving beyond dues.

2018-19 Revenues



- Dues - 44%
- Annual Appeal - 23%
- Programs - 7%
- Sustainer Donations - 7%
- Annual Fundraiser - 5%
- Other - 14%

2018-19 Expenses



- Personnel - 48%
- Building Cost - 28%
- Programs - 10%
- Office - 4%
- Other - 10%

Full Members	188
Associate Members	38
Other Member Categories	29
Total Members	255

New Members (2018-19)	22
Members on Dues Reduction	26%

Donors, 2018-19	
\$10,000+	9
\$5,000-9,999	42
\$1,000-4,999	123
\$500-999	46
\$100-499	127
<\$99	157

Beth Sholom Synagogue Sustainers

These members have committed to paying annual dues above the standard level.

Jeannie Ashford
Iris Bailey
Dot and Stanley Bilsky
Judy Bookman
Hallie and Jay Cohen
Vera and Jess Feldman
Sharon Finkelstein
Sandy Friedman
Shirley and Gordon Gruen

Barbara Hellman
Sandy and Clifton Lipman
Susan and David Moinester
Rose Morrison
Rachel and Anthony Morrison
Kate and Danny Schaffzin
Christine and Russell Scheinberg
Tresha Mandel and Barry Shulkin
Keri and Dan Unowsky

Beth Sholom Synagogue Endowment Fund

Our Endowment Fund allows us to meet our current fiscal needs and ensures the long term financial viability of our Beth Sholom community.

Some members have made current gifts to the Endowment Fund. The following donors have committed to include a bequest to Beth Sholom in their wills.

Anonymous (7)
Jody and Daniel J. Becker
Dot and Stanley Bilsky
Judith Bookman
Goldie and Sam* M. Burson
Hallie and Jay Cohen
Sheila and Robert Cohen
Leslie and Jonathan Epstein
Vera and Jesse Feldman
Katherine Fox
Alvin Franklin
Sandy J. Friedman
Suzanne Friedman
Sheri and Thomas Gadberry
Marlene and Herbert E. Gerson
Rose and Wesley A. Goldfarb*
Mimi and Ronald* Grossman
Shirley and Gordon E. Gruen
Marcia and Allan E. Hayden
Seymour Hellman*
Barbara and Leon* Hellman
Mitchell Hodus

Judith* and Doron Holzer
Barbara and Arthur Jacobs
Beverly Kay
Minette Kochman*
Mildred S. Krasner*
Elaine and David Krueger
Diane and Steve Leib
Betsy and Steve Libby
Sandy and Clifton Lipman
Sheri H. Lipman
Barbara and Earl Magdovitz
Barbara and Jerome P. Magdovitz*
Deanna and Andrew McAlexander
Susan and David M. Moinester
Rachel and Anthony A. Morrison
Rose Morrison
Ian F. Murray
Barbara and Bruce Newman
Marcia and Alvin Notowich
Marilyn and Herb* Notowich
Lyda and Joseph* Parker
Gail and Richard M. Phillips

Elaine and Maury Radin
Mona Rippe
Judy and Stanley Rosenblum
Jane* and David Ross
Susan and Skip Rossen
Joanne Levine and Noah Sabin
Andrea and Craig Sander
Kay Usdan Saslawsky*
Kate and Danny Schaffzin
Rachel and Stephen B. Shankman
Debra and Jim Shmerling
Alayne Shoenfeld
Adele and Saul* Sorg
Daniel Spector
Margie and Harold Steinberg
Mariette and Joel Turetzky
Andie and Michael Uiberall
Bert and Arthur J.* Wolff
Ellen Ziskind

**of blessed memory*

If you are interested in becoming a Sustainer or making a Legacy commitment, please be in touch with us.

www.bsholom.org • 901-683-3591

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Rabbi Sarit Horwitz • Geo Poor, Executive Director • Danny Kraft, Director of Education & Youth Engagement