

Temple Beth Sholom Member Agreement

YEAR 2023/2024

What is membership at TBS?

Membership at Temple Beth Sholom is an agreement to enter into a sacred Jewish community with other congregants. We will co-create meaning and connection, and will celebrate each other's gifts. In order to confirm membership we ask that you agree to uphold the mission, vision, and community goals of TBS, as well as commit to our benefits and obligations which are listed below.

Mission:

We are Temple Beth Sholom

An historic synagogue with a forward thinking membership. We are intentionally unaffiliated to allow for innovative programming alongside tradition to serve our diverse community. We create and sustain a village in which to grow and share our lives through Jewish practices.

We are committed to:

B'tzelem Elohim - in the image of the divine. We foster positive Jewish identity, the recognition of the divine in all, and growing into our best selves.

G'milut chasadim - acts of generosity and kindness. We forge positive relationships by celebrating together and lifting each other when we have fallen.

Tzedek, tzedek tirdof - justice, justice shall you pursue. We encourage positive engagement through deep listening, equitable solutions, and engagement in *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). We partner locally on social justice issues, sustainability, and community resiliency

Here you'll find:

A WIDE TENT

A warm greeting and open arms. We welcome diversity of ability, background, color, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, religious practice, and political belief. **We celebrate**

each other, we practice deep listening, we assume positive intent, and we learn how to meet each other's needs in order that we all feel respected, and are all able to participate as fully as we would like to in this community.

A CARING COMMUNITY

A shared meal. A shoulder to lean on. A hearty mazal tov! **No one celebrates or faces challenges alone** at Temple Beth Sholom. We look out for and support one another.

A SPIRITUAL CENTER

Joyful song. Vibrant discussion. Quiet reflection. Deep Prayer. **Here, tradition is affirmed and honored alongside innovation.** We develop a connection to the holy and the eternal.

A PLACE TO LEARN

Spiritual Text. Practice. Study. Pursuit. We learn together and individually, and at any age. **We learn from each other and from that which has been handed down L'dor V'dor (from generation to generation).** We keep open and curious minds.

A RESOURCE CENTER

Resiliency. Support. Stability. **A center for the whole of our lives.** We invite educators and organizations to offer teachings on navigating everyday life. A neighborhood hub in times of emergency. A place you can always count on.

A VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Compassion. Advocacy. Action. **We actively take on issues around equity and sustainability.** We partner locally with others in the community to make positive change in our corner of the world.

A GATHERING PLACE

A family room. A sanctuary. A picnic lawn. **Our campus is a home away from home.** We pitch in to keep our facilities in top shape..

A PART OF A PEOPLE

We are committed to the vitality, peace and well-being of the **Jewish people**, here in the Bay Area, in Israel, and around the world.

Community Culture and Conduct

Temple Beth Sholom strives to be intentional about community culture. This culture, based on Jewish values, described in the three areas below will be expected of our members, supported through programming, exemplified by leadership and will be reflected in marketing and messaging.

- A. **Positive Jewish Identity:** Our community loves being Jewish. We embody enthusiasm (Ruach) for Jewish life. We recognize that Judaism asks us to reflect and commit to bettering ourselves (Tikkun Middot) through education and spiritual practice. We accept the challenge and evolve alongside Judaism. We take pride in our temple's history, program for the needs of our current community, and innovate for the future.
- B. **Positive Relationships:** Our community is a village. We co-create relationships that are supportive and uplifting, We accompany each other through life's joys, challenges, and transformations. Our community members invest in one another through acts of loving kindness, deep listening, integrity, gratitude, generosity, responsibility, and accountability.. We learn from our elders and from our children. We honor diversity and we practice inclusion.
- C. **Positive Engagement:** To sustain our temple, we reach out and pitch in-- whether by serving on a committee, taking a role in services, volunteering at events, dropping off a meal for a member in need, or other creative contributions-- we show up beyond our financial support of the community. We acknowledge the interconnectedness of our synagogue village with the greater eco-system of the Bay Area and all communities within it. We walk our talk of Tikkun Olam to see all in our community uplifted and supported.

Obligations of Membership

Our membership year is August-July. Temple Beth Sholom does not charge a fee for membership. Consistent with the mission, vision, and goals listed above, and in accordance with our bylaws, Temple Beth Sholom does ask each member household to contribute in a variety of ways. This may include pledging a sustaining donation (in lieu of dues), called a "Mitzvah Pledge" towards our operations.

At our annual pledge drive, congregation members will have a chance to review the annual operating budget and a suggested donation per household to cover those expenses. Households are encouraged to pledge what is manageable for them. As TBS does not base membership on dues, all donations are welcome, and no one is turned away for lack of funds.

Additionally, each household is asked to donate 4 hours of their time on an annual basis. These volunteer hours are a great opportunity to get to know other members of the temple, give back to the community, and indulge in a hobby like baking or gardening. In the event a

household cannot donate their time, they may choose to make a donation in lieu of service hours. A suggested minimum donation is a flat fee of 3x Chai, or \$36 for each hour.

Volunteer Hours Example:

serving on a committee or task force,
Plan or set up an event,
Gardening,
Painting
And other special projects.

Benefits of Membership

Members of TBS are entitled to vote in temple elections, serve on the board and on committees as outlined in the bylaws, attend our religious services throughout the year, participate in our educational programs, are entitled to pastoral care and lifecycle events performed by our clergy (subject to some fees), and will receive support and friendship from our community.

Mitzvah Pledge

TBS does not charge dues for membership. Rather we ask for a sustaining donation - called a Mitzvah Pledge. These funds help cover the daily costs of operating TBS to keep our community thriving for you and your families. We are keeping a close eye on budgets and expanded programming as costs of doing business continue to rise.

Meeting the operational needs of TBS in year 23/24 requires an average pledge of \$2600 per member household. If you can pledge at that amount, please do. Pledging more goes a long way to supporting our community as some member households are unable to pledge at that level. As always, any pledge amount is appreciated and money is never a barrier to membership.

Please fill out and return the page below to our offices, OR fill out this electronic signature page:

[23/24 Membership and Mitzvah Pledge - Form - Temple Beth Sholom \(tbssanleandro.com\)](https://www.tbssanleandro.com/23/24-Membership-and-Mitzvah-Pledge-Form)

I, _____ as a representative of the

_____ household, agree to enter into sacred community with Temple Beth Sholom as outlined above for the 23/24 year. Our Mitzvah Pledge donation to help sustain the operating costs of the temple will be a total amount of \$ _____ for the year. I understand that any and all mitzvah pledges and donations to Temple Beth Sholom are tax deductible.

Please check at least one option from each of the preferences below.

1. BILLING METHOD PREFERENCES
 I prefer to receive my bills online (default)
 I prefer to receive my bills via mail

2. PAY FREQUENCY PREFERENCES

Please set up my account with a one time bill for the total yearly amount

Please set up my account to bill me monthly

Please set up my account to bill me quarterly

3. PAY METHOD PREFERENCES

I prefer to pay online via credit card or ACH

I prefer to pay via check mailed to the temple

4. AUTOPAY PREFERENCES

I like to pay when I see the bill, and therefore do not want to set up autopay

Please call me to help me set up autopay

5. VOLUNTEER PREFERENCES

My household plans to contribute at least 4 volunteer hours this year

My household does not anticipate being able to volunteer this year and we are including an additional \$ _____ to our Mitzvah pledge in lieu of volunteering

My household does not anticipate being able to volunteer this year and we are unable to make a donation in lieu of volunteer hours at this time.

Volunteer Interests (check all that apply)

Green Team/ Gardening

Holiday parties

Building/construction/handyman projects

Tikkun Olam- acts of service

Tikkun Olam- activism and advocacy

Chesed: errands/support tasks/meal drop off for members needing support

Ritual prep

Cleaning/Organizing

Admin tasks

other

Signature _____ DATE _____