

We Learn with our Outstanding Staff



Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels is the heart of Beth Shir Sholom. He brings his passionate expression of Judaism and his strong sense of social justice to the pulpit and his teachings.



Cantor Ken Cohen inspires, educates and empowers us through sacred music. He has helped to build an extended spiritual family that nurtures its members in song and prayer.



Brenda Barrie Our Executive Director likes to share her interest in writing, books and Jewish history. She always has an interesting point of view.



Karen Waldman Our religious school director and youth group leader, Karen brings a women's perspectives and writings to her inspired teaching.



David Katz He dances, he writes liturgy...and now, he teaches us to read Hebrew!

BETH SHIR SHOLOM

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BSSyoU

On-going Jewish Learning and Study

At

Beth Shir Sholom



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1827 California Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403

310-453-3361

Welcome to On-going Jewish Learning and Study

You will see several components to our program.
Design a curriculum that excites you!

Please read through the catalogue and course descriptions to choose the learning path that suits your interests.

There is sure to be something here for you!

BSSyoU

BSSyoU is just one component of Beth Shir Sholom's commitment to on-going Jewish learning and study. The successful completion of the "U"s courses over two years can lead to private study with Rabbi and Cantor for adult B'ney Mitzvah, and/or a certificate of *Maven* (Expert) and the joy of an intellectual and spiritual curiosity enriched and sustained.

Jewish Learning: not for Kids only!

Parents: show your children that learning never ends or loses its excitement. Programs designed with Families in mind!

You Learn Something every day!

Here is where we have listed all those wonderful learning experiences that defy categorization, like book clubs and chavurot, choirs and movies!

Making Shabbat even more Special

Read about ReJEWvenate™ and
Our Underground Choir

Making Shabbat even More Special

reJEWvenate!

Select Third Fridays (watch for announcements)

You've loved the Tish for years! Ice Cream Shabbat for the younger you that loves ice cream and a great original story! You've been uplifted by our latest offering, Shir Shabbat, a Shabbat celebration **completely** in song. Now experience our latest offering: **ReJEWvenate!** a complete Shabbat experience with activities for all ages. Here are the elements of a complete Shabbat:

Prozdor - "The Entry Way": Wine and Cheese, or... "Shabbat for Me" (ages 4-7) is a Shabbat celebration includes snacks, singing, dancing, or... "Give Me Something to Do!" – A Social Action Project for kids ages 8-12, or... "The Best Shabbat Ever!" for teenagers – music, discussion, values and more

Bifnim - "Inside Ourselves": Shabbat for Me continues or...

Ba-Leyv - "For the Heart and From the Heart": Dance, Art, Torah Study, Yoga then..

Shabbat Dinner

Mini Tish.

Come for the whole evening or just an option or two!

Underground Choir

Everything you always wanted to know about our special melodies, but were afraid to ask.

Selected Shabbat evenings at 7:00pm

David Katz and Cantor Ken will lead a musical workshop, familiarizing you with BSS's favorite melodies for our Shabbat prayers. Our overall goal is to build an empowered, singing congregation, joined in prayer, by hosting a series of these prayer/musical workshops throughout the year — all are welcome!

Torah Study

Saturday Mornings 8:15 am

It's never too early to sit around the table and study the weekly parshah with our regular band of scholars and newcomers as well. Whether study is led by Rabbi Neil, Cantor Ken, Karen Waldman or Brenda Barrie, it is always stimulating, evolving and often controversial! A wonderful way to start a Shabbat morning.

You Learn Something Every Day!

The Do it Ourselves Book Club Chavurah

Third Wednesdays 6:30pm for potluck-7:00pm discussion

The Beth Shir Sholom Book Club is entering its second year. This is a chance to read members' choices of books, and comment from the viewpoint of our Jewish heritage. The choice of books is eclectic and is arrived at democratically. Plus, a half hour before each meeting (at six p.m.) there's an optional pot luck dinner where the food is as good as the conversation.

A Women's Chavurah

First Thursdays 7:00pm

This monthly meeting (first Thursday of every month) features Wine, Women and Song. We'll, we don't sing much, but the women do drink wine. (Two out of three isn't so bad.) The Women's Chavurah is a friendship group in the every sense of the word. We have addressed topics like additions to the seder, stories about each others' families, and other topics of interest to women of every age. Friendships have blossomed.

Movies that Matter

Selected Sunday evenings 7:00pm

From classics like "Gentlemen's Agreement" to contemporary films like "Counterpoint" - 16 months in the life of an Israeli settler; from comedy "Frisco Kid" to Human Rights "Sisters of Selma" and several new movies from filmmakers within our Beth Shir Sholom community, this updated Movies that Matter is a series you won't want to miss. All showings are on Sunday evenings at 7:00pm, followed by discussion and often Q & A with the filmmakers. Please visit our website: www.bethshirsholom.org for dates, films and ticket prices. (Purchase the series and save!)

The Classes of BSSyoU

Basic Hebrew Reading—A Crash Course!

5 Wednesdays at 7:30pm beginning September 30

The National Jewish Outreach Program's innovative introductory Hebrew program teaches participants to learn to read Hebrew in only five 1-1/2 hour weekly sessions. Designed for those with little or no background in Hebrew, the course concentrates on teaching the Hebrew alphabet and reading skills. Students will receive a free copy of NJOP's Hebrew primer. Taught by our wonderful David Katz, no prior Hebrew experience is necessary.

Intro to Judaism—

You don't have to be non-Jewish to Love this Class

18 Wednesdays at 7:00pm beginning November 11

You've got questions? He's got answers! Rabbi Neil's fabulous Introduction to Judaism class will be held for 18 (nearly consecutive) Wednesday evenings (yes, it's a commitment!). This course is perfect for couples from different religious backgrounds and works well as a beginner's course or as a "refresher"!

This is not a conversion course as such, but those interested in conversion may use the course's content as the basis for moving in that direction. The fee for the course is per household and includes a host of books that forms a basic Jewish library! The class covers all major Jewish holy days, holidays and life cycle events and includes a Shabbat dinner and a Shabbaton (a Shabbat day experience).

General information about the course (which is sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism) the Syllabus and the Registration form can be accessed on our Website: www.bethshirsholom.org.

Prayer Book Skills—No Hebrew Necessary

5 Wednesdays at 7:30pm beginning January 6*

In this class students will be able to gain knowledge of the Shabbat Evening service—its structure, sacred melodies and meaning of the prayers. More than telling us *what* we are saying, Cantor Ken will help us discover *why* we are praying these words. The overall goal of this course is to introduce participants to our Shabbat liturgy so that they feel empowered and comfortable in a worship service.

