



## Membership Package

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in Congregation Chevra Thilim. Congregation Chevra Thilim is a contemporary Orthodox synagogue dedicated to promoting a nurturing environment for spiritual, social and intellectual growth. Our community strives to develop a deeper connection to the values and ideals of the Torah in the context of the modern world.

We offer a wide variety of programming, from Hebrew School to holiday celebrations, Shabbat community dinners and prayer services, and Torah study and classes. Our community is very warm and welcoming, with a reputation for welcoming and embracing individuals with all levels of observance.

Our Rabbi, Shlomo Zarchi, is an energetic man who is respected not only within our synagogue community but throughout the Bay Area for his understanding and incredible knowledge, as well as his ability to teach and stimulate others. He is well known for welcoming and embracing individuals with all levels of observance. Just as San Francisco is known for its diversity, Chevra is a unique Orthodox synagogue where everyone is valued, respected and welcomed.

Our community includes a religious school, educational programs, prayer services, and many community events that inspire and give back to our community and beyond. These groups include activities for all demographics: families with small children, teenagers, young adults, and seniors.

We would like to explore with you ways in which you would like to participate in our vibrant congregation. There are numerous avenues for Chevra Thilim to contribute positively to your life, and there are many opportunities for you to contribute to Chevra Thilim and the larger community. Included in the membership package, you will find a member profile packet for you to fill out. This will help us learn what types of programming you might like to participate in and for you to learn about our committees and activities.

Congregation Chevra Thilim is a synagogue focused on helping all Jews of all knowledge levels learn more about Judaism and celebrate our traditions. Our doors are especially open to beginners. We are open to all Jews, regardless of background.

### **What do we offer?**

At Chevra Thilim we strive to meet the diverse needs of the entire Jewish community. Aside from conducting synagogue services, we offer adult education classes, childhood education programs, religious school, Shabbat dinners, and more.



Whether it involves affixing mezuzahs to a new home, providing religious counseling to a questioning Jew, arranging a baby naming, or any other Jewish need a person may have, the rabbi at Chevra Thilim is always a willing resource for the Jewish community at large.

### **Won't a non-observant Jew feel out of place at Chevra Thilim?**

Absolutely not! Our congregation is made up of individuals varying from absolute beginners to observant, knowledgeable Jews and every level in between. Young and old, singles and families, men and women, regardless of background, affiliation, or level of knowledge - all come together as family at Chevra Thilim.

Services are traditional, which means that during prayer men and women are seated separately. This is not in any way, G-d forbid, an act of male chauvinism; rather it is an age-old traditional assurance that in the House of G-d there will be no distractions - only a complete dedication of mind, heart, and spirit to the service at hand. In Judaism, women are not second-class; on the contrary, traditional Jewish philosophy recognizes that women are of a much higher spiritual plane than men.

### **Will I be able to follow the prayers?**

Every prayer book used in Chevra Thilim has an English translation - and some transliteration - to aid the beginner through the services.

The Rabbi and his assistants offer guidance and direction, with patience and understanding, throughout the service, to help introduce those less familiar to the traditional customs and rituals of the prayer service.

Please visit [www.sfshul.org](http://www.sfshul.org) to learn more about the congregation. If you have questions, please feel free to call the office at 415.752.2866 or email [rabbizarchi@sfshul.org](mailto:rabbizarchi@sfshul.org)

We look forward to welcoming you, your family, and your friends into our very special community.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi

Congregation Chevra Thilim

David Kimel

President, Board of Directors



## History of Congregation Chevra Thilim, San Francisco

- 1892 Five men, Emil Cohn, Jacob Biebergall, Solomon Hoffman, Michael Marks and R.S. Roberts signed the articles of incorporation of Congregation Chevra Thilim, "Society for the Recitation of Psalms." The stated purposes were "to hold religious services in accordance with the orthodox rites of the Jewish religion, for social intercourse between its members and also for charitable purposes and to buy and sell real estate." The synagogue first appears in the San Francisco City Directory of 1896 at 1036 Folsom Street, then in 1903 at 966 Howard Street, and in 1911 at 1046 Howard Street, corner of Russ Street.
- 1932 A committee consisting of Congregation President Joseph Schwartz and Vice-President Frank Blumenthal affected the purchase of a lot at 745 25th Avenue, on which a synagogue building was erected.
- 1943 The Congregation purchased the bungalow at 751 25th Avenue to house the Hebrew School and office.
- 1946 A new, larger Synagogue center, the current building was dedicated.
- 1954-1958 The congregation purchased 754, 750 and 746 26th Avenue provide space for its Hebrew School and Junior Congregation.
- 1957 A new Sefer Torah was presented to the synagogue by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Milrod and Mr. & Mrs. Sol Milrod.
- 1958 Ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the building of a new Hebrew School.
- 1960 Construction of a two-story five-room Hebrew School and playground was completed. Remodeling of the synagogue took place.
- 1961 The congregation opened a daily Hebrew Nursery School - the only in Northern California - for children ages 3 to 5.
- 1967 The name of the congregation was officially changed to Congregation Chevra Thilim
- 1968 The bimah was enlarged. New lighting and wall-to-wall carpet were installed.
- 1969 A mechitzah was installed in the sanctuary.
- 1991 A Tree of Life was installed in the Social Hall
- 1992 The congregation celebrated its Centennial celebration



- 2006            The small sanctuary was renovated and rededicated.
- 2008            The Congregation embarks on an exciting new project: a grand renovation to bring us into the next century.
- 2012            Phase one is completed, new social hall, kitchen, classroom, offices and meeting spaces.
- 2019            Sanctuary started renovation



## Welcome!

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation Chevra Thilim is a traditional Jewish synagogue community that provides a welcoming, joyful, and nurturing atmosphere where everyone can pray, learn, and grow spiritually and intellectually. We strive to develop a deeper connection to the Jewish values and ideals of the Torah in the context of our modern world.

### OUR VISION

- We are a modern synagogue that maintains Jewish traditions, values, morals, and ethics which we hope to transmit to future generations.
- We are an extended family that joins together to celebrate Shabbat, holidays, life cycle, and social events.
- We provide a supportive, welcoming, and caring community.
- We provide a sacred space for prayer and reflection.
- We offer an educational center for stimulating learning, intellectual exchange, and dialogue.
- We maintain and support our connection to the land of Israel.

### WHY SHOULD I BE A MEMBER AT CHEVRA?

- *We provide a warm and welcoming spiritual home.*
- *We offer your entire family classes and programs that stimulate and inspire.*
- *We provide a place to celebrate Jewish holidays together as a community*
- *We give you the chance to be part of something larger than yourself.*
- *Our community is comprised of all ages, level of observance, and ethnic backgrounds. We all share the one common goal of growing in Jewish teachings and tradition together.*

### MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

1. Rabbinical support
2. Voting rights at Annual and Special Meetings
3. Seats for the High Holy Days
4. Member tuition rates for Hebrew School, events and facility rental.
5. Celebrations during Shabbat services to commemorate special occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, baby naming, safe trip home, good health after illness.
6. Exciting classes, lectures, social events and Shabbat dinners
7. Chevra newsletters and weekly emails.
8. And so much more!



## Religious Services at Congregation Chevra Thilim

### Shabbat Services:

#### Friday Evening

- 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat in the summer
- 5:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat in the winter

#### Saturday Morning:

- 9:30am Shacharit/Shabbat Services and Kiddush lunch

#### Sunday Morning Minyan:

- 9:00am Shacharit

Shabbat Services are held Friday evening at 5:30pm in the winter months and 6:30pm in the summer months with lively, spirited prayer.

Shabbat morning services at 9:30am followed by a kiddush luncheon, stay, shmooze, and get to know our great community.

### Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi

Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbinical Academy in Jerusalem and New York. Rabbi Zarchi is the rabbi of Congregation Chevra Thilim, the oldest Orthodox synagogue in San Francisco.

Rabbi Zarchi comes from a Hasidic family of rabbis that goes back six generations. Growing up in Brooklyn, he learned Hebrew and Aramaic as soon as he was able to read. He began studying Kabbalah shortly thereafter, at the age of five. He has studied under some of the great Hasidic and Kabbalistic masters. He is one of the foremost experts on the Kabbalah on the West Coast and is a frequent lecturer.

Rabbi Zarchi has traveled to many parts of the world through his involvement in outreach programs. He spent significant time in the Former Soviet Union participating in the synagogue recovery program in the early 1990s.

Rabbi Zarchi lives in San Francisco with his wife Chani and their six children.



**Adult Member 1**

Mr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Dr.\_\_\_\_  
 Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate:\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation:\_\_\_\_\_ Company Name:\_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Phone:\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail:\_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Member 2**

Mr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Dr.\_\_\_\_ Mr.\_\_\_\_ Mrs.\_\_\_\_ Ms.\_\_\_\_ Dr.\_\_\_\_  
 Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate:\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation:\_\_\_\_\_ Company Name:\_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Phone:\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail:\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address**

Street:\_\_\_\_\_ City:\_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip:\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone:\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_  
 If married, date of marriage:\_\_\_\_\_

\*If you are joining as an individual but have a spouse or partner and would like his/her name to be included in mailings and the directory, please provide us with his/her name:\_\_\_\_\_ How would you like your mail to be addressed? (i.e., Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jacobs; Robert and Sharon Jacobs, Mr. Robert Jacobs and Ms. Sharon Smith):\_\_\_\_\_



**Children**

Oldest Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school and current

grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Haftarah: \_\_\_\_\_ Will your child

be enrolled in Chevra Thilim's religious school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when?: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Child:: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school and current

grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Haftarah: \_\_\_\_\_ Will your child

be enrolled in Chevra Thilim's religious school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when?: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Child:: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school and current

grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Haftarah: \_\_\_\_\_ Will your child

be enrolled in Chevra Thilim's religious school? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when?: \_\_\_\_\_





**Yahrzeit Notices**

The synagogue will send Yahrzeit reminder notices for your loved ones corresponding to their date of passing on the Jewish calendar. Please assist us by providing the following information.

First and Last Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death (include year and if before or after sunset): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death (include year and if before or after sunset): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death (include year and if before or after sunset): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death (include year and if before or after sunset): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_ To Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_