



2020-21/5781

Shalom,

Thank you for your interest in our congregation. We are eager to welcome you to our community.

This prospective congregant packet contains information about Netivot Shalom and the many opportunities for Jewish learning, ritual, and practice that are available to members. We hope this material will be useful for you in making your decision about joining our congregation.

If you have questions about our community and how to join, please contact our Office and Rabbinic Assistant, Emma Gobler at [ra@netivotshalom.org](mailto:ra@netivotshalom.org).

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### **About Netivot Shalom**

Netivot Shalom invites you to engage in a cross-generational discovery of Jewish inspiration and purpose. Our community is defined by the values of:

- **Belonging** – we nurture connectedness with each other, with the broader community, and with Israel.
- **Learning** – we provide introductory and continuing encounters with Jewish wisdom.
- **Ritual** – we strive to deepen personal engagement with the sacred.
- **Justice** – we embrace Judaism's call to repair the world through deeds of loving kindness and social action.

Netivot Shalom comprises more than 380 households of couples and single adults with and without children, seniors, young adults, and students. We are Jews from Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Mizrahi, and non-Jewish backgrounds; from Reconstructionist to Orthodox religious traditions and no religious tradition at all; Jews in traditional families and Jews in LGBTQ+ families--all exploring our Jewish identity in a non-judgmental, nurturing environment. And we warmly welcome non-Jewish partners in interfaith households.

We celebrate our community's range of personal philosophies, practices, and needs. Netivot Shalom offers many ways to meet these diverse expectations: weekly Shabbat morning services, holiday services, Wednesday morning services, and many other educational, spiritual and community activities. Throughout the year, there is weekly programming during the day and evening, covering a range of interests including, but not limited to, Israel learning, knitting, youth community, concerts, adult Jewish education, and much more.

## **A Brief History of the Congregation**

In 1989, a small group of families began holding their own Shabbat services together in their homes, calling themselves members of the “Berkeley Conservative Congregation.” Their founding principle was to combine traditional Jewish practices with the Berkeley ethos of participation and egalitarianism. That *havura* grew over the years into a spiritual home for traditional, egalitarian Jews in the East Bay.

In 1992, we renamed ourselves Congregation Netivot Shalom (Paths of Peace). In June 2005, we moved into our home at 1316 University Avenue in Berkeley. The building was made possible, in large part, due to volunteer labor as well as the contributions of our members.

Netivot Shalom has benefited since its inception from the wisdom, guidance, and leadership of Rabbi Emeritus Stuart Kelman. Rabbi Kelman retired in 2007, but we benefit from his continued participation in our community.

Upon Rabbi Kelman’s retirement, Menachem Creditor became Netivot Shalom’s rabbi for the next 11 years and continued the development of Netivot Shalom as a spiritual home for progressive, Conservative Judaism in the East Bay.

In 2018, we welcomed Rabbi Chai Levy as our new spiritual leader. Rabbi Levy brings tremendous strengths to this position, including her participatory ethos, 16 years’ pulpit experience with exposure to all aspects of congregational life, and her gift of music. Rabbi Chai Levy is known for compassionate pastoral counseling, an ability to relate to people of all ages, and a commitment to spiritual leadership within our participatory synagogue model.

## **Our Traditions**

Members of our congregation lead our religious services along with the rabbi; lay members usually present the weekly *d’rash* (comments on the weekly Torah portion). All levels of familiarity with the texts and prayers are represented among our members, and, for those who wish to learn more, we have many opportunities to learn. While not all of our members come from kosher homes, we have a kosher kitchen in our synagogue and all meals at the synagogue are kosher.

We celebrate and memorialize life-cycle events reflecting our Jewish values: new babies, brits, *Simchat bats* (daughter’s naming), weddings, B’nei mitzvah, and the passing of loved ones. Volunteer committees devote time to helping families make their way through life-cycle events, whether expected or otherwise.

## **Youth and Family**

The preschool at Netivot Shalom offers children from ages two through five years a curriculum rich in Jewish content and Hebrew language.

We have developed nationally recognized children’s programs and continue to innovate and develop programs that meet the changing needs of our families. These include Shabbat B’Yachad (ages 0 to 5 years and their parents), Ketzav Youth Chavurah (K – 5), and Amitim for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders preparing for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

## **More Information**

If you have additional questions, please call the office (510-549-9447 ext. 101).

If you are interested in any of our educational programs, feel free to reach out to Preschool Director, Ruth Levitch, at [preschool@netivotshalom.org](mailto:preschool@netivotshalom.org), or Youth and Family Education Director, Rebecca Goodman, at [yfed@netivotshalom.org](mailto:yfed@netivotshalom.org).

Once again, thank you for considering Netivot Shalom. After joining our community, we are confident that your membership here will be an avenue for personal and spiritual growth and your participation in synagogue life will enrich our entire community. Please feel free to attend services or any events that appeal to you before making your decision. We hope to see you at shul sometime soon and to welcome you as a member of our Netivot community!

B'Shalom!

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2020-21/5781

Shalom and welcome to Congregation Netivot Shalom!

I'm thrilled that you're considering joining our community. I look forward to sharing the beauty of Jewish life with you. There are so many ways to get involved; whether you're interested in Jewish study, ritual, social action, or simply being part of an extended Jewish family, we warmly welcome you!

In these difficult times of sheltering in place, we need community and connection more than ever. Even as the coronavirus pandemic has necessitated social distancing measures, Netivot Shalom is staying strongly connected through a variety of online services, classes, social gatherings, holiday celebrations and opportunities to care for each other and for our wider community. We've heard from our members how much our community has been a lifeline for them in these challenging times.

Netivot Shalom's unique strength lies in our participatory ethos. We continue to live by our founding principles of participatory, egalitarian Judaism, where our members are empowered to take ownership over their Jewish lives and experiences and to create the community they desire for themselves. As rabbi, I serve to guide our community's vision and direction so that our members can come together in shared purpose. It is also my privilege, as rabbi, to guide our members through life's transitions and celebrations, whether it's birth or death, illness or healing, b'nei mitzvah or wedding, and everything in between. I look forward to getting to know you and to helping you find your place in our wonderful community. Wherever you might be on your Jewish journey, it is my hope that Netivot Shalom will be a warm home for you to deepen your Jewish life and to connect to others in community.

Rabbi Chai Levy



2020-21/5781

Dear New Member,

Welcome to our Netivot Shalom family. We want you to feel part of our community. We want you to find ways to meet other members and form lasting relationships. Of course, this year is different from other years. A year ago I would have encouraged you to come to services, meet people at Kiddush, attend weekly Torah or Talmud study with some of our learned teachers, join in meditation, knit with Netivot Knits, see films with V'zot Yisrael, bicycle or hike with other members, get involved with social action. Or bring your young children to our Shabbat b'yachad program and have your older children and teens join Shabboptions or Ketzev or Amitim. You get the idea.

But this year is different. Covid-19 and the resulting shelter in place have changed everything. We are now zooming everything! You can join us for services: Wednesday morning minyan, Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning, Havdallah. We offer Torah and Talmud study on zoom, classes on zoom, game night on zoom, "Offerings of Hope and Gratitude presented by Rabbi Chai, and much more.

We take social action seriously; we formed a group to work on climate change and have also begun the hard work of becoming an anti-racist shul. We have created a Membership Experience Team to work on creating relational opportunities for our members. This group of congregants along with the ritual committee, our new youth education director, Rebecca Goodman, and of course Rabbi Chai are working hard to create meaningful and participatory High Holiday experiences for all.

We hope you get involved with the Netivot Shalom community. Please feel free to contact me. I would enjoy having a more personal conversation with you. You can email me at [l.yellenberg@gmail.com](mailto:l.yellenberg@gmail.com). I look forward to getting to know you.

B'ruchim Habaim,

Lynne Yellenberg, President of the Board



Congregation Netivot Shalom  
1316 University Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94702  
510.549.9447

**NEW MEMBER HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION FORM 2020 - 2021**

We/I wish to join Netivot Shalom as a: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Household headed by a couple, with or without children\*
- Household headed by an individual, with or without children\*
- Young Adult(s) (head or heads of household not yet age 30 on Erev Rosh Hashanah)
- Full-Time Student (graduate or undergraduate)
- Associate membership (member of another synagogue). Synagogue name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Out-of-Town member (must be a member of a shul outside the nine-county Bay Area)

\*'Children' refers to children still living at home (when not away for school), who will not yet have achieved the age of 25 by Erev Rosh Hashanah of the current year (September 19, 2020).

For special membership situations (such as disabled or unemployed family members over age 25 living in the household), or any other questions, please contact Office & Rabbinic Assistant, Emma Gobler at ra@netivotshalom.org.

**CURRENT HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION**

**Adult #1 [this last name will be used for family-name alphabetization purposes]:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew name \_\_\_\_\_ bat/ben \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset? \_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult #2:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew name \_\_\_\_\_ bat/ben \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset? \_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**For Adults 1 & 2, Anniversary date \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)**

**PLEASE NOTE** Names of family members, the family home address, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses on this form will be included in the Netivot Shalom membership roster unless you request otherwise:

Please omit the following from the roster: \_\_\_\_\_

Please omit *all* of my family's information from the membership roster.

**Information About Children Living at Home:**

**Child #1:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew name \_\_\_\_\_ bat/ben \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset? \_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah date \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School or University Attending/Attended \_\_\_\_\_

**Child #2:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew name \_\_\_\_\_ bat/ben \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset? \_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah date \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School or University Attending/Attended \_\_\_\_\_

**Child #3:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew name \_\_\_\_\_ bat/ben \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset? \_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah date \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School or University Attending/Attended \_\_\_\_\_

**Child #4:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew name \_\_\_\_\_ bat/ben \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset? \_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah date \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School or University Attending/Attended \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation Netivot Shalom - Membership Pledge Form**  
**Fiscal Year 2020- 21 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)**

Member Names \_\_\_\_\_

Family Email Address for Financial Statements: \_\_\_\_\_

***Pledge:***

• For this year, my/our annual member pledge is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (see reverse side for standard dues rates). Please select a payment option from one of the following options:

**1) ACH Plan:**

- I/We would like to register for the monthly ACH plan (*strongly recommended*) Please complete the attached authorization form and include a voided check- 12 payments over the course of the fiscal year.
- I/We opted for ACH last year and wish to continue ACH this year.

**2) Personal Checks:** I/We will pay according to the following timeline:

- Monthly -10% of my/our pledge is enclosed, and the balance will be paid in 12 equal monthly installments.
- Quarterly - 25% of my/our pledge is enclosed, with subsequent payments sent in October/November, January/ February and April/May.
- Semi-annually - Half of my/our pledge enclosed; the second will be sent in January.
- Annually - Full payment of my/our pledge is enclosed.

**3) Credit Card:**

- I/We will pay our pledge with my/our credit card in ( ) annual or ( ) semi-annual payment(s).

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: ( ) Visa or ( ) MasterCard ONLY

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

***Initial here that you understand credit card charges include a 3% transaction fee:*** \_\_\_\_\_

**4) Securities Transfer:** I/We will pay our pledge by transferring securities to Netivot Shalom.

- Please send us an authorization form

FOR ALL PLEDGE OPTIONS ABOVE, PLEASE SIGN HERE:

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 2020-21 Standard Membership Categories & Pledges

Our standard membership pledges shown here are set so that we are able to meet our budgetary needs each year. We do not charge a separate building assessment but encourage those who can afford more than the standard pledge to consider a gift to the Building Fund. If a pledge at the standard dues level represents a financial hardship, please contact Emma Gobler at [ra@netivotshalom.org](mailto:ra@netivotshalom.org) or call (510) 214-3806 for assistance.

### 1. Family Memberships (all include children under 25 living at home)

Household headed by a couple, at least one 30 years of age or older	\$3,150
Household headed by a couple, both under 30 years of age.	\$1,575
Household headed by a couple who are both full-time students.	\$683
Household headed by a single adult who has reached the age of 30	\$1,575
Household headed by a single adult under the age of 30.	\$788
Household headed by a single adult who is a full-time student.	\$342

### 2. Individual Memberships

A single adult who has reached the age of 30.	\$1,575
A single adult who has not yet reached the age of 30.	\$788
A single adult who is a full-time student.	\$342

### 3. Associate membership (member of another synagogue) - 50% of any choice from above.

### 4. Out of Town Memberships \$116 per adult

For friends of the congregation, including former members, and relatives of members, who live outside the Bay Area. Out of town members are listed in the roster but do not receive High Holy Day passes unless they make special arrangements.

### 5. It's Complicated

We know people often don't fit neatly into categories . . . if your situation is not easily described by one of the categories listed above, don't hesitate to contact us. We are eager to have you as members, and we consider special circumstances as well as financial hardships that require non-standard memberships.





# Congregation Netivot Shalom ~ Berkeley, California

## AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS [Automated Clearing House (ACH) Debits]

I (we) hereby authorize **CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM** to debit my/our checking account indicated on the attached voided check, at the depository financial institution indicated thereon, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, in payment of on the following time schedule (please check one):

**A one-time debit of the full amount**, to be made at any time after receipt of this form.

- Standard arrangement for monthly payment of pledges for annual dues:** a recurring debit on a monthly basis, divided equally among the remaining months of the current fiscal year (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021) following receipt of this form.
- Standard arrangement for monthly payment of tuition and other education fees:** a recurring debit on a monthly basis, divided equally among the remaining months of the current school year (September 8, 2020 - June 30, 2021) following receipt of this form [or, tuition for fees for summer programs, two equal debits in July and August of the year of attendance]. **In addition**, I authorize debits not to exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in any given month for miscellaneous additional charges, including but not limited to extra days of education, challah, supplies, and other fees, provided that I have been sent an invoice and had a reasonable opportunity to review the charges in advance of the debit being made.

**Other schedule of debits and their amounts:**

- Authorization to arrange future debits via e-mail:** I/We hereby authorize CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM (CNS) to debit my/our checking account as directed by e-mail instructions originating from e-mail address(es) that I/we have provided to CNS, for the purposes and in the amounts directed by me/us in our e-mail instructions.

**Name(s)**

\_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK FROM YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT TO THIS FORM**

**I (we) acknowledge that this authorization is to remain in force until Congregation Netivot Shalom (CNS) has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination, in such time and in a manner as to afford CNS and the depositor financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.**

**Congregation Netivot Shalom ~ Berkeley, California**  
**Securities Transfer Authorization**

1. Please complete this form and make two copies of it.
2. Send one copy to Congregation Netivot Shalom (VERY IMPORTANT!)
3. Send one copy to your securities broker for processing

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**To Your Stock Broker or Other Agent:**

Please accept this letter of authorization to transfer the following:

Stock #1	Stock #2
Number of Shares: _____	_____

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please wire this transaction or send the stock certificate to:

1. Charles Schwab & Company/Citibank, NA  
111 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005  
Phone: (212) 627-3999  
DTC no. 0164 code 40  
For Deposit to: Congregation Netivot Shalom  
Account no. 4566-3899

or

2. Congregation Netivot Shalom  
1316 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702  
e-mail: ra@netivotshalom.org

**My/Our donation is to be apportioned as follows:**

**Please indicate percentages from the proceeds of the sale of the securities.**

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation Netivot Shalom**  
1316 University Avenue Berkeley, CA 94702

**Yahrzeit Registration**

Instructions: To add name(s) to our Yahrzeit list, please fill out the information below and mail it to the office. When indicating a Hebrew name, please use transliteration. It is only necessary to give the civil date of death; our software will automatically generate the Hebrew date. If you know that the death occurred after sunset, please mark the appropriate box.

**About the Deceased**

English Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Civil Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the Deceased to You: \_\_\_\_\_

**About the Deceased**

English Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Civil Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the Deceased to You: \_\_\_\_\_

**About the Deceased**

English Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Civil Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ After Sunset \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the Deceased to You: \_\_\_\_\_

**About the Deceased**

English Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Civil Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the Deceased to You: \_\_\_\_\_

**About the Deceased**

English Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Civil Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the Deceased to You: \_\_\_\_\_

**About the Deceased**

English Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Civil Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the Deceased to You: \_\_\_\_\_

**About the Deceased**

English Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Civil Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ **After Sunset** \_\_\_\_\_

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the Deceased to You: \_\_\_\_\_