



## **CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM DIETARY POLICY**

**Congregation Beth Shalom ("CBS") is a Reform Temple Community and, as such, has chosen to adopt a Kosher-style Kashrut policy. This policy permits no pork, shellfish, or mixing of meat and dairy meals at the Temple facility or at Temple functions.**

This policy formalizes what has been informally practiced by CBS for years. As our congregation grows, it is prudent to clearly state this policy in writing.

CBS asks those who are less traditionally observant to respect those in our community who are more observant. CBS understands that there are members in our community who do or try to maintain some level of *kashrut*.

This policy calls only for kosher-style meals. CBS does not maintain a kosher kitchen and meats served are not necessarily kosher. CBS supports a kosher-style way of eating for all CBS sponsored events.

Imposing rules on what a person can or cannot eat requires us to learn to control even our most basic primal instincts. It elevates the simple act of eating into a religious ritual. It helps remind us that we are Jews and that the availability of sustenance is a blessing. We eat cheese pizza or a vegetable pizza and forego the hamburger or pepperoni topping at a CBS sponsored lunch or dinner. When we have chicken as the main course our sides are salads (no cheese), vegetables (no cream sauce) and fruit. If we have blintzes, we might have similar sides, but we could also bring in cream based casseroles. In this example of a dairy meal, we should avoid using chicken broth as a base.

Improper means include chicken parmesan or meat sandwiches with cheese. If hamburgers are grilled, there should be no cheese option. While it can be difficult to ascertain all of the ingredients in packaged food, the CBS dietary policy calls for no *obvious* mixing.

This is a matter of sensitivity, compromise, and accommodation. Growing sensitivity to *kashrut* in the Reform movement has touched our community. A Reform Jew has the right to decide whether to subscribe to the autonomy of the individual or conform to the community in the interest of *Klal Yisrael* (we are all Jews).

The way our members practice at home is a personal choice. At the congregation it is a communal decision. This policy is meant to unite us as Jews linked to an age-old tradition. It is to serve as instruction, a Jewish lesson and a bridge to making the ordinary holy. This policy keeps CBS a more welcoming place for both those who keep kosher and those who do not.