

New Yorker Architecture Critic Paul Goldberger  
to speak at Beth Sholom Synagogue Visitor Center Opening

Beth Sholom Synagogue Preservation Foundation in Elkins Park, PA will dedicate its new Visitor Center on Sunday, November 15, 2009 with Paul Goldberger, the architecture critic for the New Yorker magazine. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Beth Sholom's opening, Mr. Goldberger will speak about Beth Sholom Synagogue and its place in the work of world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Guests to the opening event will have an opportunity to see the newly created Visitor Center and to tour the National Historic Landmark Wright-designed Building.

Beth Sholom Synagogue is one of the most architecturally significant houses of worship in the United States. As the only synagogue designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America's greatest architects, Beth Sholom is a monument to both architectural design and Jewish interests. Its unique structure and beautiful interior make it a truly extraordinary experience for congregants and visitors alike.

The Visitor Center was created to give a greater understanding of the building to the public and to provide an exciting experience that will complement tours of the Wright edifice. The Visitor Center is a unique exhibition, which interprets Beth Sholom for the public in the context of Frank Lloyd Wright's life and work, American architecture and the evolution of the American synagogue. Included in the exhibition is an 18-minute film entitled: "An American Synagogue: Frank Lloyd Wright, Rabbi Mortimer Cohen and the Making of Beth Sholom."

The opening event on November 15, 2009 is open to the public free of charge. This event is co-sponsored by Partners for Sacred Places and The AIA of Philadelphia. For more information about the event or to become a member of the Beth Sholom Synagogue Preservation Foundation, please contact Beth Sholom at 215-887-1342 or [www.bethsholomsynagogue.com](http://www.bethsholomsynagogue.com).

**About Paul Goldberger:**

Paul Goldberger is the Architecture Critic for The New Yorker, where since 1997 he has written the magazine's celebrated "Sky Line" column. He also holds the Joseph Urban Chair in Design and Architecture at The New School in New York City. He was formerly Dean of Parsons school of design, a division of The New School. He began his career at The New York Times, where in 1984 his architecture criticism was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism, the highest award in journalism.

He is the author of several books, most recently his chronicle of the process of rebuilding Ground Zero, entitled UP FROM ZERO: Politics, Architecture, and the Rebuilding of New York. He lectures widely around the country on the subject of architecture, design, historic preservation and cities, and he has taught at both the Yale School of Architecture and the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley. He appears frequently on film and television to discuss art, architecture, and cities, and he has served as a special consultant and advisor on architecture and planning matters to several major cultural and educational institutions. He is a graduate of Yale University.