

## **CONGREGATION SHAARAI SHOMAYIM TALENT AND INTEREST**

As you enter into this covenant of membership and Temple family, we ask that you please complete our Talent and Interest survey. Shaarai Shomayim requests that our congregants take part in the various aspects of Jewish traditions that are of interest to them. Your participation and shared commitment will help to perpetuate our Congregational Brit, which is enclosed.

**To each adult member:** We rely on the members of our congregational family for almost every facet of life at Shaarai Shomayim, from the Oneg Shabbat to the education of our children. Each of us has a stake in the benefits of membership. The gifts you bring are an integral factor in making our Temple a place where all can experience spiritual and social fulfillment.

Please use this letter to tell us how you plan to participate. Examine the list of committees and their descriptions. There are other non-committee activities that may interest you, such as our yearly hot dog sale or Mitzvah Day. Many of our committees are responsible for dinners or celebrations, and you may want to help out on a “from time to time” basis. Perhaps you’d like to help in our religious school as a teacher or an aide. Bear in mind that you do not have to join a committee; you might prefer to be an occasional helper.

You are welcome to discuss questions or options with an officer or board member or the Rabbi before making any decisions, but please plan to help in some way. *Please contact the Temple office, 397-5575 or [office@shaarai.org](mailto:office@shaarai.org), for a list of committee chairpersons or to discuss any issues with the Rabbi or a committee chair.*

### **Adult Jewish Growth**

This committee is a priority of the Reform movement and is responsible for planning and implementing the adult education programs sponsored by Shaarai Shomayim, including adult Hebrew language instruction, Torah study and Talmud study. They also plan and sponsor Jewish Movie Night, the Monday night scholar series and the annual Scholar in Residence weekend program, as well as the biennial Adult/Family retreat.

### **Youth Education**

Members function as an advisory and oversight committee for our religious and Hebrew schools. They help with teacher recruitment and, together with the Rabbi and school administrators, develop curriculum, discuss policy, and handle many other issues. Our school is staffed primarily by parent volunteers.

### **House**

Committee members are responsible for the maintenance and repair of our building.

### **Hospitality**

Members organize Oneg Shabbats and other social events that take place in the temple.

### **Congregational Life**

This committee is responsible for working with prospective and new Temple members by welcoming and helping to integrate them into the congregational family in ways that they choose. Committee members also plan social events during the course of the year.

### **Tikkun Olam**

This group responds to and supports social action within our own community and around the world, and is responsible for planning our annual Mitzvah Day as well as our involvement in the city-wide homeless shelter project.

### **Ritual**

Our Ritual Committee works with the Rabbi in planning our ritual experience. Members work with Temple professionals in helping to design the musical and liturgical experience.

**Hineini** (formerly Caring Community)

The committee is responsible for developing programs that focus on the emotional well being of our Temple family with respect to the day to day challenges we face. Members visit the sick and elderly, drive Temple members to appointments, and are available to fulfill other needs as they arise.

**Chavrai Zamir**

Chavrai Zamir is our congregational choir. They sing at all Bar and Bat Mitzvah services as well as other special occasions. Representing Shaarai Shomayim, they perform throughout Lancaster County and beyond. If you enjoy singing, this is the place for you.

**The Chopped Liver River Band**

We have our own congregational Klezmer band. They perform everywhere, and have made a CD. You don't have to be an Isaac Stern to join this fun loving group of non-professional musicians.

**Sisterhood**

This is our women's organization banding together for friendship and fellowship while offering programs to benefit the congregation and the community. Sisterhood helps the women of our congregation develop Jewishly.

**Brotherhood**

This is our men's affiliate exploring men's issues and spirituality. They sponsor and/or support our 2<sup>nd</sup> night Passover seder, our "Scholar in Residence" program, and "Mitzvah Day". They also sponsor a high scholarship program to send our high school students to Israel.

**Shaarai Shomayim Temple Youth (SSTY)**

SSTY is our youth group for high school students. In addition to planning and engaging in local activities, the group participates with other Temple youth groups through NFTY/PAR, the National Federation of Temple Youth/ PA Region.

**Technology**

This committee looks after the technologic needs of the office environment and the Temple in general. It devotes resources to both hardware and software.

**Green Committee**

Members review all policies of the congregation to ensure we are environmentally friendly.

**Israel Committee**

This committee is responsible for making our congregation aware of the importance of Israel in our lives.

**Communications (Formerly Public Relations and Marketing)**

Members discuss and recommend how information is disseminated to both our congregation and the community at large.

**Cemetery**

The committee evaluates the condition of our cemetery and keeps it in good condition. It also coordinates funerals and sells burial plots.

**High Holy Day Seating**

Members are responsible for assuring that the entire holiday period is organized with regard to seating and guests.

**Fundraising**

This committee plans and oversees Temple fund raising efforts, and coordinates efforts with other groups that raise money through annual activities.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have the following talent, skill or interest that I would like to share with Shaarai Shomayim:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Art/Crafts          | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry           | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing/Needlework         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Baking      | <input type="checkbox"/> Leading Services    | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting the sick/elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Work         | <input type="checkbox"/> Newswriting/editing | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching            | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Work          | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer work             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance             | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking     | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group facilitating  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising         | <input type="checkbox"/> Providing Transportation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list) |  |  |

**I do not wish to serve on a committee, but I would like to help in this way:**

**I am interested in learning more about or working with the following:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Jewish Growth      | <input type="checkbox"/> Brotherhood                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Temple Youth (SSTY)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Committee          | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality              | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Committee            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Life      | <input type="checkbox"/> Israel Committee           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tikkun Olam              | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications (Marketing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ritual                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hineini                  | <input type="checkbox"/> High Holy Day Seating      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chavrai Zamir            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chopped Liver River Band |   |