

Dear Prospective Member,

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is delighted to welcome you as you consider membership in our synagogue family.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom is a conservative congregation serving the Jewish community in the Clear Lake area. We are affiliated and active in the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism. Both women and men are welcome to participate equally in our Shabbat and Holiday services as well as serve on our congregation board.

The CSH goals are to reach out to all aspects of Jewish living: religious, educational, social, including guidance and counseling in all life cycle events. Our true uniqueness lies in our ability to meet the needs of our members and families while continuing the closeness of our Jewish community. Our primary goal is to support and strengthen our Jewish identity along with continuing the growth of our vibrant Jewish way of life for those in the Clear Lake community.

Our synagogue is our place to meet, study, learn and discuss all aspects and topics related to Judaism not to mention the Jewish community. We support both a Hebrew and Religious school to educate our children moreover providing two active age groups for our youth. Our members participate in adult education classes and programs, support both an active Sisterhood and Men's Club, also participating in community service activities in our Social Action committee.

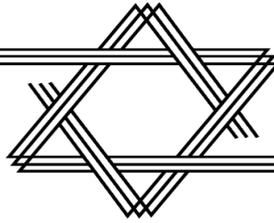
Our Rabbi, Stuart Federow, and our board members are eager to share more information or answer your questions. To learn more about our congregation and our community, we have included a letter from Rabbi Stuart Federow, an application form, information about our schools and activities, including Sisterhood and Men's Club.

Please feel free to call our office with any questions regarding further information, [281-488-5861](tel:281-488-5861) or visit our website, www.shaarhashalom.org.

We are a family and as such, we value both your affiliation and your participation. Please come join us in making a strong Jewish presence in the Clear Lake area.

L'hitraot,

Anita Eakman & Holly Hirsch
Membership Committee



Dear Prospective Member,

Please join our congregation, and make yourself a home!

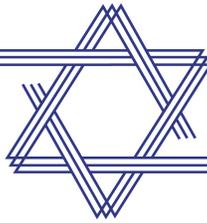
So often, people express their dislike for “organized religion.” But they will organize with others for the things they wish to accomplish. Two examples are that they will create with others a little league for their children to play baseball, or they will join a civic organization to help the community in which they live. People organize to get things done, they organize to accomplish goals that they have in common with others and to create a safe environment to do the things that interest them. Organizing around religion is no different. We organize around our common religious Belief System known as Judaism to educate ourselves and our children in our common history, values, beliefs, and rituals. We organize around religion to pray together with others of the same faith, and those who are interested in our faith. Judaism is not what your rabbi or your congregation does for you. ***Judaism is what you do for yourself!*** If you should join us and become a member of Shaar Hashalom, you would not be alone in living your Jewish life. You would be a part of a congregation that organizes together to be active, involved, and creative.

As a member, should you have ideas for any kind of programming please share them with us, and together we can turn your ideas into reality. We look forward to working together, but we cannot do anything without your help. Attend our Shabbat and Holiday and Holy Day services. Volunteer for our congregational committees and/or serve on our Board of Directors. We need you to make Shaar Hashalom an environment where you will be free to take advantage of Jewish programming in a variety of areas of possible interest. I will be teaching classes in Judaic studies, and we have discussions concerning the Torah Portion at every Shabbat morning service. We have active adult education programs, and a vibrant religious school which serves toddlers through Confirmation. We have educational, social, as well as social action, and religious events throughout the year.

I would love to become your rabbi! I will help you in any way I can and for anything that concerns your religious needs. Ask questions of me, learn about Judaism and the Jewish People. I will be there for you to the best of my ability, so long as you make your needs known to me. Please feel free to call me at home, at the office, or on my cell. If you want to meet with me, please call and we schedule an appointment.

Again, I invite you to join us!

Rabbi Stuart Federow
Home: 281-499-8080
Cell: 281-732-4206



About Congregation Shaar Hashalom Sisterhood

Shalom!

The Shaar Hashalom Sisterhood would like to invite you to become a member. Our CSH Sisterhood group is nationally affiliated with the Women's League of Conservative Judaism, and offers a rich mosaic of benefits to its members. Sisterhood is a way to enrich Jewish life in the synagogue as well as in the community. We are active in the promotion of women's roles in Judaism, and in our egalitarian synagogue.

Our Sisterhood sponsors many social events and holiday celebrations, High Holy Days babysitting and a Yom Kippur breakfast. Sisterhood manages a comprehensive and lovely gift shop, is supportive of our religious school and has always been a loyal and generous supporter of our synagogue. Once a year, we provide a synagogue directory that includes a complete listing of the congregants. Through the years, we have made major financial and other contributions to the synagogue including such items as sanctuary chairs, multi-purpose six and eight-foot folding tables, room dividers, the office copy machine, and a kitchen when the synagogue was constructed.

Sisterhood has programs, scheduled speakers, meetings, and other social events. Some of our social gatherings include our annual paid-up membership event and Chanukah social. We also support, each year, an author presentation at the JCC Book Fair. We have had enriching and fun experiences at our Sisterhood Shabbaton, and each year provide "Mishloach Manot" bags for each congregation family.

Our annual dues are \$36 for Shaar Hashalom members; \$40 for non-members; and special new congregation member 1st year offer of \$20. Dues even include the special paid-up event held in the fall!

As a vital arm of the synagogue, the Sisterhood reaches out and supports the women of CSH.

Our vision is to include every woman at Shaar Hashalom.

Together, we can accomplish anything!

Officers

Sheila Bass, Co-President

Gin Nixon,, Co-President





Welcome to CSH!

I want to personally invite you to become a member of our Men's Club. CSH Men's Club provides programming, activities and events that connect men of all ages within our congregation and encourages lasting friendships based on camaraderie, common interests, and Jewish values.

Men's Club activities include breakfasts, social events, and supporting the congregation and religious school. In past years, we organized/supported:

- Football tailgating parties
- Going to sporting events
- Poker nights
- World Wide Wrap: Teaching Children to use Tefillin
- Kosher Chili Cook-off
- Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle Project
- Religious School Purim Carnival
- Annual Congregation Picnic
- And much more...

We look forward to adding new activities and more exciting programming this year, so make sure to ask for an updated calendar of events. Dues are free for the first year as a new member of the synagogue and then only \$45 per year thereafter. Whatever your interests are - we try to have something for everyone.

If you have any questions or would like to join Men's Club, please contact me by telephone at (281) 777-3671 or by email at dfhirsch7@gmail.com. On behalf of the officers of Men's Club, we look forward to meeting you in person and sharing a bagel and coffee with you at our next breakfast.

Sincerely,

David F. Hirsch

Men's Club President (2017-2018)



Congregation Shaar Hashalom Youth Group

Welcome to CLUSY!!

Clear Lake United Synagogue Youth (CLUSY) is an organization for Jewish teenagers in the Clear Lake Area. Teenagers from **9th to 12th grade** are eligible to join CLUSY. The youth group keeps young members involved with their religion while they spend time with their friends. CLUSY members are involved in community service projects and participate in social programs. CLUSY plans both local and Houston city-wide events that include USY groups from all over the Houston area. There are also regional, national and international USY conventions.

For more information about participating in CLUSY, contact Kelley McGuire at kelley80401@yahoo.com or [281-630-8513](tel:281-630-8513) or Lauren Izygon at lizygon@gmail.com or [\(281\) 948-7371](tel:281-948-7371).

Welcome to Kadima!!

Kadima is an organization for Jewish pre-teens and teens in the Clear Lake Area. Kids from **5th to 8th grade** are eligible to join Kadima. Like CLUSY, this youth group keeps members involved with their religion while they spend time with their friends and enjoy making new ones.

Kadima members also participate in social programs and have local, city-wide events as well as regional conventions.

For more information about participating in Kadima, contact Kelley McGuire at kelley80401@yahoo.com or [281-630-8513](tel:281-630-8513).

CSH Social Action Committee

Coupon Bank

The Shaar Hashalom Coupon Bank wants your food coupons. Place your coupons in the Coupon Bank located just inside of the school entrance at CSH. They are then donated to various Food Banks in the Greater Clear Lake area.

Yom Kippur Food Drive

One reason for the Yom Kippur fast is to remind ourselves of the hunger many people face throughout the year. Make this year's fast still more meaningful by bringing nonperishable foods to donate on Yom Kippur.

Our tradition at CSH is to donate the equivalent of food that each of your family members would normally eat during a 24 hour period. Each year the Yom Kippur Food Drive donations go to various Food Banks in the Greater Clear Lake area.

Purim Food Drive

Giving of Mishloach Manot - The source for Mishloach Manot is found in the book of Esther in chapter 9. Immediately after the military victory over their enemies the Jews celebrated and established a day of festivities and joy, called Purim. The way they celebrated this holiday was by having a big feast, the giving of "Mishloach Manot Ish L'Re'ehu" (gifts of food to one's friends) and giving money to the poor (9:19,22).

Here at Congregation Shaar Hashalom (CSH), we also have a tradition. Each year the Purim Food Drive donations go to various Food Banks in the Greater Clear Lake area.

Blessing of the Animals

The Mishnah teaches that the beginning of the month of Elul was "the new year of the animals" used to calculate the age of animals used as offerings. At CSH we recast that designated date as one of celebration of our animal companions. We bring our dogs, cats, chickens, guinea pigs, fish, etc. to the CSH playground where we will offer a blessing to our animal friends!

Bagel Brigade Project

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Bagel Brigade project is to organize volunteers to pick up and deliver food that would otherwise be wasted to people that are in need.

This project was started on September 15, 2003 in cooperation with Einstein's Bagels in Clear Lake. Volunteers are able to pick up their end of the day leftovers, every day, and deliver them to five area shelters and food pantries. These shelters and food pantries include the Bridge in Pasadena, *Bay Area Turning Point in Webster*, Boys and Girls Harbor in La Porte, St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Clear Lake, and Interfaith Ministries in League City. Currently there are over twenty people actively participating in the Bagel Brigade. The schedule is arranged so that each volunteer only has to commit to one pick up and deliver once a month to only one shelter. Congregation Shaar Hashalom has been involved in this project since 1999 and has been delivering Bagels to the Women's Shelter in Webster for over seven year!

The Social Action Committee of CSH invites you to participate in these important communities activities. For more information contact the office 281-488-5861.

Risa Stein and Wendy Kane
Social Action Trustees

Congregation Shaar Hashalom School Curriculum

Our religious school's mission is to provide our students with a warm environment and a comprehensive Jewish education. We have programming for children from Pre-Kindergarten through the Tenth Grade. The school offers a curriculum that stresses a strong foundation in Jewish history, Israel, observance of Jewish rituals, customs, ceremonies, and Modern Hebrew as well as Hebrew prayer skills that enable them to be comfortable with the Conservative prayer book.

The school is open on Sunday mornings for Pre-K to Tenth Grade. Children from the Third to Seventh Grades also attend an extra Hebrew class on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00pm. Parental involvement is strongly encouraged. It is only with the parents' help, participation and encouragement that our children will embrace our teachings with joy.

Using drama, story telling, crafts, and songs, children in the primary grades (Pre-K to 2nd Grade) are introduced to Torah stories, Israel and Mitzvot. They experience the classroom as a model Jewish home where they give Tzedakah, celebrate Shabbat, and discover the rituals and customs of our Jewish holidays. They learn about the synagogue by visiting the sanctuary, dressing the Torah, and participating in children's services. In a playful, entertaining setting, they begin developing a basic Hebrew vocabulary while learning the Alef Bet. When they get to Second Grade, they begin reading and writing basic words in Hebrew.

In the middle grades (3rd to 7th grades), our students learn about Jewish wisdom in action. They connect the Jewish values they discover through stories and biblical texts to their daily life, and they understand the role they can play in the community. They not only celebrate the holidays in the classroom, but understand their meaning and learn the main prayers. They are introduced to the ceremonies surrounding life cycle events such as Brit Milah, Naming, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, Weddings and Funerals.

They travel through time to discover the secrets of Jewish history from Abraham to the present time, in Israel and the Diaspora. They learn about significant Jews throughout the generations and explore which of these "heroes" can serve as role models. By the Seventh Grade, our students know more about our past so that they can better understand our present.

In Hebrew, they progress with more reading and writing skills and expanding their vocabulary as they discover Modern Hebrew stories. The focus is on being comfortable with the Conservative prayer book. Our teachers also try to interject modern conversation skills wherever they can. Shaar Hashalom prides itself on our children who are essentially able to LEAD Shabbat services by the end of the Seventh Grade. We have an excellent Bar/Bat Mitzvah program with months of one-to-one instruction that is geared towards the child's skill level. Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Shaar Hashalom is a very special community event as the whole congregation is invited to witness and celebrate each child's entrance into Jewish adulthood at our Shabbat services.

Our Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation programs (8th to 10th Grades) are very exciting for the students as they delve much deeper into Jewish issues and finding their place in the world using Judaism as their springboard. Subjects such as

ethics, mitzvot (commandments), tikkun olam (repairing the world), social action, the Holocaust, Jews around the world, Israel, the Middle East, responding to missionaries, and life cycle events are all explored in a deeper way to give our students a solid foundation on the meaning of being Jewish and developing a personal Jewish identity. The last year, Tenth Grade, is spent with the rabbi as their teacher and many subjects are explored such as the afterlife, abortion, medical research, euthanasia, and anything about which the children have questions. The school year culminates in a lovely Confirmation service led by the students.

We also have an active Education committee consisting of parent volunteers who help to support the school, offer assistance with the special programs that are held throughout the year, problem-solve issues that may arise, and help to advise the Education director. We try to offer as much family involvement as we are able, and hold special events such as Seders and a huge Purim carnival. The congregation Men's Club and Sisterhood also work to support the school programs as everyone recognizes that our future lies in our children. Shaar Hashalom has a wonderful welcoming warm attitude towards our children, and we hope you will join us.

Congregation Shaar Hashalom

16020 El Camino Real

Houston, TX 77062

281-488-5861

Fax: 281-488-3561

Membership Application

Today's Date: _____

Family Information

Family Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Married? _____ Date Married: _____ Single Widow Divorced Years in Houston _____

Household Members

**All members, regardless of gender or color, are to be accorded equal status in all areas of congregational life, including but not limited to religious rights and privileges.*

Adult Male:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ DOB: _____

Hebrew Name: _____ Cohen Levi Yisroel

Religious Tradition: Conservative Reform Orthodox Reconstructionist Non Jewish Other

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

What exactly do you do? (for networking purpose) _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fathers Name: _____ Hebrew Name _____ Cohen Levi Yisroel

Mothers Name: _____ Hebrew Name _____ Cohen Levi Yisroel

Adult Female:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ DOB: _____

Hebrew Name: _____ Cohen Levi Yisroel

Religious Tradition: Conservative Reform Orthodox Reconstructionist Non Jewish Other

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

What exactly do you do? (for networking purpose) _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Fathers Name: _____ Hebrew Name _____ Cohen Levi Yisroel

Mothers Name: _____ Hebrew Name _____ Cohen Levi Yisroel

Children:

Name	Hebrew Name	DOB	Living at Home? In College?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Yarzheits

English Name	Hebrew Name, Ben/Bat	Relationship/Related To? (ex. Mother of <i>Whom?</i>)	Date of Death (MM/DD/Year)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Areas of Interest

	Male	Female
Education Committee		
Ritual Committee		
Bulletin (Shofar)		
Finance Committee		
Membership		
Youth Advisor		
Facilities		
Fund Raising		
Men's Club		
Sisterhood		

	Male	Female
Religious School		
Building Expansion		
Choir		
Social Action		
Office & Clerical		
Havurah (social)		
Publicity		
Library		
Singles Group		
Teaching		

Special talents or hobbies: _____

How can we best meet the needs of your family? _____

Are you now a member of another congregation? Yes No

If so, which congregation? _____

Location? _____

Have you been a past member of another congregation? Yes No

If so, which congregation? _____ When? _____

Location? _____



Membership Financial Commitment Form

Member Information

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Determining your level of commitment:

Member dues commitments account for 70% of the synagogue's revenue, all of which goes to fund the education, programming and services CSH provides for our Jewish community.

		<u>Amount</u>
Annual Dues <i>(2.5% of AGI from your tax return)</i>		
<i>(For example, AGI from your 1040 is \$50,000, then calculate \$50,000 x .025 = \$1,250)</i>	\$	_____
Building Maintenance & Capital Improvement Fund	+	\$75.00
USCJ Annual Dues Assessment	+	\$74.50
Cantor Annual Assessment	+	\$70.00
Security Assessment	+	\$36.00
Total Annual Commitment	\$	_____

By signing below, I/we commit to pay the amount above per fiscal year (July-Jun)

Date: _____

Member(s): _____

Please return this form to the address below, attention FINANCIAL SECRETARY. Thank you for your generous support of Shaar Hashalom!

