



**CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV**  
Member, Union of Reform Judaism

290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2262  
T: 415-861-6932 F: 415-861-6081 [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

Rabbi Mychal Copeland  
Cantor Sharon Bernstein

June 2017

"Give readily and have no regrets when you do so, for in return the Eternal your God will bless you in all your efforts and in all your undertakings." *Deuteronomy 15:10*

Every year at this time, we ask you to re-commit to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav by renewing your membership pledge. Especially this year, as we mark our 40<sup>th</sup> year as a community and welcome Rabbi Mychal Copeland, you are an integral part of our community. We hope that you will consider giving your time and energy, as well as making a financial commitment.

Unlike many other synagogues, we do not use a fee-for-service model or a flat fee membership model. If we used one of these types of models, the cost would be about \$3000 per member household, based on our actual expenses. Instead, we choose to be accessible and welcoming so that everyone who wishes may enjoy full participation in our amazing community, based on our membership commitment model.

Rather than asking for a pledge based on our costs, we ask that you make a pledge based on your own evaluation of your income and assets. We hope that you will consider a pledge based on what Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has meant to you over the years--and what you it will mean to you in the years to come.

On the attached pledge form, you'll see your recent pledge history. This year, we would like to ask you to again evaluate your pledge amount--and to stretch, if possible, for this special year.

Membership pledges are the single most important source of support for our congregation. Your pledges allow us to plan for the year: in our programming as well as our staffing. Our financial stability relies on your membership pledge.

In addition to securing our financial stability, the congregation relies on our members for a host of volunteer activities. The vibrancy of our community depends on your involvement, both as a participant and as a volunteer. And, volunteers invariably find their service to be spiritually rewarding. With this letter, you will also find enclosed an annual Avodah (service) pledge form.

We hope you will give readily of yourself to strengthen the spirit of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in the world. Please review the Avodah form and indicate which activity areas may be exciting and fulfilling for you. You'll be glad to know that there's no upper limit on what you can sign up for. Choose as many ways to volunteer as you like!

Please complete both the Membership Pledge Form and the Avodah Form and return them to the CSZ office by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Both forms are also available online at [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org).  
Ami Zusman



If you are unable to renew your financial pledge at its current level, Membership Commitment Committee members are available to discuss appropriate modifications with you. Please be assured that all conversations with Membership Commitment Committee members are held in strictest confidence. The Membership Commitment form has the contact information for Pledge Committee members.

We have made so much progress over the past year based on your support. Together, we will celebrate this special year and continue to transcend the ordinary.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Sha'ar Zahav!

Membership Commitment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Commitment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Membership Commitment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I / We will honor this annual commitment as follows:

In Full (July)

2 Installments (July & January)

4 Quarterly Payments

12 Monthly Payments (beginning in July)

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

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

If you would like to discuss your pledge, please contact any member of the Dues Committee:

**Our Legacy Community:** If you have named CSZ in your will or have been thinking about doing this, or need the Letter of Intent form - please contact - [carrie@shaarzahav.org](mailto:carrie@shaarzahav.org)

*L'shalom,*

*Michael Chertok  
President*



**CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV**  
Annual *Avodah* (Community Service) Pledge

All Sha'ar Zahav members are asked to give of their time in a way that feels meaningful. Please complete this form and return it with your annual membership pledge — someone will follow up with you. Include the name/emails of each household member who can contribute.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of hours I/we commit to in 5778 (2017-2018): \_\_\_\_\_

Please put a check next to anything that you plan to CONTINUE doing, as well as what you'd like to START doing in the coming year.

- Oneg set-up (all members are encouraged to do this once a year)
- Events (e.g., Cantor Unplugged, Seder, Purim)
- Food Chavurah (prepare food for Friday night onegs)
- Greeting at Friday evening or Saturday morning services
- High holidays (e.g., ushering, set-up, logistics)
- Office/building tasks
- Fundraising
- Ritual activities (e.g., co-lead services, write drash, leyn Torah)
- Children and youth (e.g., classroom help, mentor b'nei mitzvah, teen programs)
- Bikkur Cholim* (lit., visiting the sick. Participate in our 'Lotsa Helping Hands' community)
- Jewish Gaily Forward, our quarterly newsletter
- Programming/Adult Education (helping to plan, organize, or lead)
- Membership Task Force (reaching out to new and prospective members)
- Keshet/Connections Task Force (helping to build connections among members)
- Va'ad (CSZ Board of Directors)
- Whatever is needed!

Any other ideas?

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If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us at [carrie@shaarzahav.org](mailto:carrie@shaarzahav.org)

*Thank you for contributing your time, energy and creativity to our kehila k'dusha (holy community).*