

Community Engagement Opportunities

To join or participate in one of the groups listed - or if you have questions for the group/activity unrelated to participating - please contact the member listed.

1. Building, tasks or questions:

Are you passionate about interior design? Are you interested event space rentals?

We want you to think of the Sha'ar Zahav building as a second home. As such, we welcome all those interested in lending a hand to organize records, siddurs, decorate the lobby or any other ideas you may have. We also offer space rentals if you're interested in hosting a meeting or an event. You can also simply stop by and visit our staff or read/check out one of the many books in our library.

2. Cemetery Services:

Interested in learning from Hills of Eternity Memorial Park Executive Director? Do you need information about a Jewish cemetery?

Sha'ar Zahav has a reserved space at Hills of Eternity Memorial Park. You can help him maintain the congregation's cemetery site. Upon request, watch over graves of members of the congregation who are buried in local cemeteries other than the congregation's site. Our long time member, James Carlson, is here to help and answer any questions you may have.

3. Children of the Commandment or "B'nai Mitzvah":

Is someone you know approaching the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

This one year study program is designed to give students tools they can continue using in their lives as participants in the Jewish community. Our program pairs a student with an adult congregant who becomes a guide and mentor. They work as a team throughout the process of learning Torah and Haftarah portions and becoming familiar with the Shabbat morning service. These mentors are the student's ongoing support system in the time leading up to this important lifecycle event.

All students participate in the 13 Mitzvot program, and lead services with a CSZ service leader prior to their B'nei Mitzvah. On the day of their B'nei Mitzvah celebration, they help lead Shabbat services, chant from the Torah, read Haftarah, and give a drash (sermon).

4. Children's Education:

Would you like to learn more about our religious school (BSPM)? Are you passionate about supporting our youth by providing classroom help, mentoring?

Our school's first teacher, Phyllis Mintzer (z"l), believed that every person and every word contained sparks of holiness. Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer is guided by her spirit. Weekly, we provide children K-7th grade with a Jewish education that includes Torah, ethics, ritual, Hebrew, history and Israel with an emphasis on Jewish diversity and social justice in an LGBT/queer-positive community. We say that the children of the synagogue are all our children, and we encourage adults — both parents and those who are not parents — to participate in the classroom.

5. Connection or "Keshet" Committee:

Help build connections among members! The Connection Committee, along with your Director of Engagement, meets periodically and brainstorm ways to enrich and deepen connections among members. If you enjoyed this New Member Brunch and would like to get involved in planning more events like this, or would simply like to bounce of ideas, join the Keshet group!

6. Conversions and Journeys to Judaism:

Are you or someone you know interested in exploring the possibility of conversion?

Since our founding in 1977, our members have always included non-Jews with or without Jewish partners. We understand that not everyone is interested in choosing Judaism as their spiritual path. We respect that choice. If you are, however, interested in becoming part of the Jewish people, we welcome you to explore our Journey to Judaism program. Members who have chosen to convert to Judaism serve on our board, have been elected president and co-lead our religious services.

7. Finance Treasurer (& endowments):

Good with numbers? Join the Board as Treasurer

After you've been a member for one year, we welcome you to apply to join the Va'ad or Board of directors. We are happy to have enthusiastic new faces on our team!

8. Financial Membership Commitments: (not an open group/activity)

Confused about dues, want to set up auto pay? Would you like a tax form or a copy of your statement?

While this is not an open activity or group to join – we want to let you know that we are here to provide answers to any and all financial concerns on your account. Don't hesitate to call us!

9. Fundraising:

Are you outgoing? Do you like making phone calls or schmoozing?

If so, you just might be the person Michael needs on his team! To keep our doors open and provide community; Sha'ar Zahav engages in fundraising projects throughout the year. These fundraising efforts offer congregants, family and friends of Sha'ar Zahav the opportunity to underwrite and be recognized for significant investments in projects that help us fulfill our dreams. Our fundraising makes up 40% of our annual income (60% is membership payments). Needless to say, by joining our fundraising team, you are helping Sha'ar Zahav grow strong and continue being a financially viable non-profit organization.

10. Greeting or Announcing:

Say hello to our service attendees, Friday nights or Saturday mornings!

This activity is as easy as it sounds. If you're looking for a good way to ease into engagement activities and meet new people, participate as a greeter during Shabbat Services. If you'd like a small challenge, take on the announcer role and share weekly updates to the congregations just after services wrap up.

11. High Holidays Logistics

Did you enjoy High Holidays at the Herbst?

It takes several small actions to bring everything together and make High Holidays happen, successfully. Sara Haber has been majestically coordinating logistics, with the help of many other members. If this sounds like an interesting project, give her a call now so she can get you set up with a fun task!

12. Membership:

Would you like to see your community grow? By joining the membership group, you will reach out and welcome new members or chat with prospective members. Along with the Director of Engagement, you will also take part in planning and improving the application and membership process.

13. Newsletter JGF:

Do you enjoy writing, editing or being creative? The Jewish Gaily Forward could use your talents. Our printed (quarterly) newsletter, shares stories from our staff, honors donors, celebrates new members

and more. If you would like to write a piece/article, or simply help in the production process, contact Paul or Karen.

14. Oneg Set-Up:

Do you like food? Do you love baking or cooking?

Every week we enjoy delicious treats after services. How does that happen? It's in large part thanks to you and other volunteers who sign up to purchase the treats (which Sha'ar Zahav reimburses you for) for Onegs and Kiddush. This activity is a great way to collaborate with members of our community! We also invite you to make your favorite dish and share with your community!

15. Programming/Events/Marketing/Partnerships:

Would you like to make your event happen?

Then Heidi is person you are looking for! Contact Heidi with your idea and she'll walk you through the checklist of items necessary to bring your event to fruition.

16. Ritual Committee:

Are you interested in giving a drash or leading services? Even if you have never done this, our Ritual committee will set you up with a mentor to coach you through it all. As a lay led community, partaking in services is one of the biggest perks Sha'ar Zahav offers. Take advantage of it!

17. Visiting the Sick or "Bikkur Cholim"

At Sha'ar Zahav, we show up for each other, in both care and celebration. The mitzvah of bikkur cholim (visiting the sick) can be as simple as making a call, helping with an errand, making a home visit, offering a ride or delivering a meal. In order to learn when an opportunity to help a fellow Sha'ar Zahav member arises, you are invited to sign up with "Lotsa Helping Hands" by visiting www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/721551/ or contacting the group leaders.

18. Board of Directors or "Va'ad" & Executive Committee:

Are you skilled in finance, record keeping, presenting or possess other talents? If so, you'd make a great addition to our Board.

The Board is responsible for expressing the voice of the community. They are active participants and are responsible for creating committees, managing decisions of the property. They oversee investments of congregational funds and securities. They are in charge of setting an annual budget that gets approved, as well as an annual fundraising goal. The Board also votes in and approves applicants' memberships and has the authority to engage or dismiss professional staff. If you're curious about the specific roles, come to a Board meeting. They happen every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

The Executive/Personnel Committee is appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Committee is comprised of the President, one or more Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, and two or three additional members, at the discretion of the President, at least two of whom shall be former officers. The duties of the Executive Committee are: Developing personnel policies, procedures and job descriptions; review personnel roles, functions, responsibilities, salaries and benefits and to make appropriate recommendations to the Board; review and evaluate the performance of professional staff and advise the Board on personnel matters in closed session.

Ongoing Groups/Events

The following events and groups occur or meet regularly. Attending group meetings or events is a great way to get to know other members of your new community. We encourage you to show up to any of the events listed below.

1. Talmud Study Group

Date: *Every Saturday except B'nei Mitzvah days*

Time: 9:00am

Join a lay-led weekly Talmud study group where we will look at a tractate/section of Jewish commentary called Moed Katan. No experience studying Talmud is necessary, text will be read in English translation. For more information, contact Jackie Kaplan at jackieksf@aol.com.

2. The Meditation Chavurah

Date: *First Saturday of the month*

Time: 10:30am

A typical session includes a short and longer silent sit, often with a guided portion, chanting, movement and a short teaching. All are welcome! We will meet at a congregant's home in the Castro. Contact Richard Weiner at rweiner@nelsonnygaard.com for more information.

3. Family & Friends Shabbat with Isaac Zones

Date: *Second Friday of the month*

Time: 6:00pm

The whole family is invited to a short, joyful monthly Shabbat service led by Isaac Zones and Rabbi Copeland. There will be songs and stories for kids and their adults with dinner following. Bring babies, toddlers, and young school aged kids. Isaac Zones is a Bay Area musician specializing in Jewish, spiritual, folk and family music. RSVP for dinner to office@shaarzahav.org

4. Shabbes Beat with Cantor Bernstein

Date: *Third Friday of the month*

Time: 7:30pm

It's all about that Shabbes groove! Sing, dance, and pray. Joy up, relax, breathe, sway! Join Cantor Sharon and the Shabbes Beat band and chorus at this monthly rock, jazz, Latin, and blues service and get your Shabbes rest on. Contact office@shaarzahav.org for more information.

5. Hiking Chavurah

Date: *Third Saturday of the month*

Time: 10:00am

The Hiking Chavurah is a fun group of Sha'ar Zahav folks who enjoy getting to know each other while exploring San Francisco and points beyond. Meeting location and hike leader change monthly, so contact Karen Schiller at kschiller@igc.org to find out where we're going next!

6. Social Action Committee (SAC)

Date: *Monthly, dates vary*

Time: 6:00-8:30pm

For information about our next meeting, contact Michael Rice at mrice100@sbcglobal.net.

7. Book Group

Date: *Monthly, dates vary*

Time: 6:30pm

The Sha'ar Zahav book group meets in the chapel, upstairs next to the sanctuary. Every month they choose a new book to discuss. For more information, please contact Jane Rice, janerice400@gmail.com.

8. Jewish Yoga led by Rabbi Copeland

Dates: *Fourth Fridays of the month, dates may change*

Time: 6:00-7:00 pm

We will bring in Shabbat with movement, chants and intention. Wear comfortable clothing you can move in. Bring your own mat if you have one. If not, you can borrow one of ours! Contact office@shaarzahav.org for more information.

9. East Bay Group

This group meets periodically at a congregant's home in the EB. Contact Terry Fletcher at gillianf19@gmail.com to find out about their next gathering!

10. South Bay Group

Coming soon!

If you'd like to lead this new group (or any other group listed) please contact heid@shaarzahav.org.