

CONGREGATION
Shir  Ami

June 1, 2026

Dear Friends:

It's that important time – the Shir Ami annual membership drive. Why are you receiving this in June? High Holy Days are early this year. Preparation for all aspects has already begun, and assuring membership numbers and dues revenue is an essential part of that.

It's a privilege to be a member of a Jewish congregation. Congregation Shir Ami provides a sacred, supportive environment to practice our faith, live our Jewish values, and enrich longstanding friendships. Shir Ami is a small shul with a big vision. We are undeniably part of the global community of nearly 16 million Jews, and closer to home, we seek to engage fully in the local Jewish and faith communities. Perhaps most important, at this challenging point in congregational life, we strive to be an extended family for each one of us, serving both the spiritual needs of each member and the well-being of the institution.

This past year illuminated differing opinions. We offered numerous opportunities, public and private, for congregants to express their views. We were as transparent in our decision-making process as circumstances allowed. Leadership responded timely and sensitively to what was said. We are excited at the prospect of further implementing member perspectives in the ritual (member innovations and participation), social (e.g., book club, movies), and social action (possible regular commitment to JFS) arenas.

Consider your commitment to Shir Ami and your attachment to fellow congregants. Remind yourself of the benefits of membership:

- A small, intimate, engaged spiritual congregation.
- A dynamic, hardworking, creative, and responsive rabbi.
- A strong, competent, and accessible lay leadership team.
- An innovative portfolio of services, classes and social gatherings, designed to satisfy the spiritual needs and expressed preferences of Shir Ami's diverse community.
- An activist commitment to tikkun olam and social action.
- A visible and respected presence in outreach, multicultural and multifaith activities.
- A close community of faith and friends who enjoy each other's company (and love to eat together)!

As with most faith-based organizations, **membership dues fuel everything we do yet account for only 60% of our annual budget.** Our dues are modest for where we live, and we work with congregants to find meaningful membership levels that reflect their resources. If you have questions about membership, please reach out to one of the co-presidents.

Consider what Shir Ami brings to your life, and know that your membership is crucial to Shir Ami. **Please complete the brief online membership form no later than July 15, 2026.** Thank you.

<https://www.congregationshirami.org/membership.html>

Bivrakha בברכה,

Abby Ross, Co-President
(203) 747-1359 / aar1@optonline.net

Fran Pribish, Co-President
(203) 249-8796 / faprib807@gmail.com

David Green, Co-President
(203) 637-1541 / davidmarkgreen@outlook.com

Julie Preng, Secretary
(203) 912-3151 / juliep817@gmail.com

Jenny Lake, Treasurer
(203) 395-5687 / jennyober@hotmail.com