



CONGREGATION
Shir Tikvah

Jewish * Progressive * Eastside

B'rukhim Haba'im
Welcome to Congregation Shir Tikvah!

Our Founding Vision

A sacred community...

whose practice of liberal Judaism grows from an understanding and love of the tradition on which it stands, centered in Torah.

A participatory community...

committed to a true partnership between our Rabbi and laity, a collaborative relationship built on reciprocity, shaped by the spirit of covenant.

An inclusive community...

where all are welcome to join in creating a Jewish congregational family – an enthusiastic, working, living community of faith.

A worship community...

where all may take part in celebration of Shabbat and holidays, drawing on fresh as well as traditional approaches to prayer, ritual, Torah, music and meditations, to nourish personal and communal spiritual life.

A learning community...

creating with our Rabbi abundant and varied opportunities for Jewish study a study which brings the practice of learning and reflection to all aspects of our existence.

An intergenerational community...

in which adults and children learn from each other through study, worship, and shared love of Judaism.

A caring community ...

responsive to members in need; one actively committed to work for social justice, to join with others in healing a hurting world.

An innovative community...

in which all aspects of how we come together in community will be open for discussion and consideration.

keyn yehi ratzon – may this be God's will.

History and Current Organization

We were founded in 2002 by fifteen Jews who saw Torah study as the most exciting part of their Jewish practice. We are proud to maintain Torah at the center of our congregational practice and priorities. Over the years since our founding with Rabbi Ariel Stone, we have grown into a warm and vibrant *kehillah* (community), which prides itself on inclusiveness and commitment to learning.

Our Steering Committee is made up of 9-11 members of the congregation who “steer” the congregation. This Committee helps to oversee as well as participate in the vital work of the congregation. During their 3-year terms, they support committee functioning, provide budget oversight, facilitate visioning and planning, and represent Shir Tikvah in the larger Jewish community. Through thoughtful leadership by example, the Steering Committee helps to set the tone for Shir Tikvah’s practices, policies and priorities. Each member of the Steering Committee commits to taking leadership responsibility for some aspect of Shir Tikvah’s functioning. The group meets monthly and has retreats as necessary.

Other committees meet on behalf of the congregational community. Members bring all their creativity and thoughtfulness to designing and implementing programs and projects in areas of *Torah* (learning), *Avodah* (prayer, holiday celebrations, and ritual) and *Gemilut Hasadim* (acts of loving kindness in the world).

Our staff: Rabbi Ariel Stone; Director of Education and Communications, Katie Schneider; and Office Manager, Amelia Schroth.

Stay up to date through: (1) the Weeks’ Worth, sent to your email inbox every Tuesday, (2) our website and its calendar, at www.shirtikvahpdx.org, (3) the Rabbi’s weekly *erev* Shabbat email, and (4) announcements at our *erev* Shabbat and Shabbat morning services. Our education programs also have a weekly e-newsletter.

Membership Packet Instructions

Please fill out pages 4-7 thoroughly.

Your signature is required on page 7.

If you have any questions or need assistance to complete this information, please do not hesitate to call the office at 503.473.8227 or send an email to info@shirtikvahpdx.org

We urge you to choose the ACH (automatic payment) option when paying dues. This reduces our processing costs, saves you time, assures a predictable cash flow and reduces cost of staff time to deposit checks and send out payment reminders. If you have questions regarding automatic payments or any other dues-related questions, please contact our Office Manager at office@shirtikvahpdx.org.

To take advantage of our auto-withdrawal program, return the completed form on page 12 with your voided check attached.

Mail all documents with your check for your first offerings of support to our mailing address:

**Congregation Shir Tikvah
7550 NE Irving Street
Portland, OR 97213**

***Todah Rabah (Thank You!)*
for your support of Congregation Shir Tikvah**

Member Information

An inclusive community...

where all are welcome to join in creating a Jewish congregational family ---
an enthusiastic, working, living community of faith.

Today's Date _____

Last Name _____ Adult 1 _____ Adult 2 _____

Adult 1 Occupation _____ Adult 2 Occupation _____

Adult 1 Email _____ Adult 2 Email _____

Adult 1 Phone _____ Adult 2 Phone _____

Adult 1 Date of Birth _____ Adult 2 Date of Birth _____

Adult 1 Hebrew Name _____ Adult 2 Hebrew Name _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child/renName _____ birthdate _____

Name _____ birthdate _____

Name _____ birthdate _____

I/We plan to enroll our child/ren in Shir Tikvah's Education Program Y N

If yes, we will forward this information to our Education Director, who will contact you directly.

How did you hear about Shir Tikvah? _____

Online Membership Directory

Our *kehillah* (community) stays in touch with an online directory which is available through your member portal. We won't share it with any third party, and we promise each other not to use it for business purposes but only for strengthening our spiritual, learning, and social congregational connections.

_____ Please list me/us in the Shir Tikvah online directory with the information I/we have provided below:

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell)

Email _____ (home) _____ (work)

Children _____

_____ Please do NOT list me/us in the Shir Tikvah directory.

Signature _____

Date _____

Financial Commitments of Support to Shir Tikvah

Fair Share Policy

All of us, as members of Congregation Shir Tikvah, commit to the mitzvah of supporting the *kehillah* in line with our Fair Share policy. Upon joining, we obligate ourselves to financial support of Shir Tikvah according to the *following sliding scale schedule*:

- If Total Household Income is more than \$30,000, dues are 2%, with a cap of \$3000.
- If Total Household Income is \$20,001-\$30,000, dues are 1.5%.
- If Total Household Income is \$20,000 or less, dues are 1%.

Use the formula above for your calculations. For the definition of Total Household Income, and other questions, see our FAQ.

There are two components to financially supporting our congregation: The yearly Fair Share (often referred to as dues) and the Keren Zeriyah Pledge (our Seed Fund.) Use this worksheet to help figure those amounts. Contact the office if you would like assistance.

Yearly Fair Share

I/We hereby commit to Fair Share support of Shir Tikvah in accordance with the formula above.

Your support may be sent in annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly. The first payment is due upon joining the congregation.

My/Our Fair Share support of Shir Tikvah annually shall be \$ _____.

I/We will send in that support:

Annually Semi-annually
 Quarterly Monthly

Shir Tikvah's fiscal year begins on October 1 and runs through September 30. First year membership support is prorated. Please divide your annual pledge (above) by 12 to determine your monthly support. Then multiply the monthly number by the number of full months left until September 30.

My/Our prorated Fair Share Support for my joining year is \$ _____.

Keren Zeriyah Pledge

In addition to our Fair Share Commitment, each of us obligates ourselves to contribute to the *Keren Zeriyah* fund an amount equal to our first annual Fair Share commitment. Payment can be made in installments over the first three years of membership in the congregation, with the minimum of the first one-third installment due at joining. The *Keren Zeriyah* (Seed Fund) provides financial security for the congregation and allows us to build for the future.

I/We pledge \$ _____ for the *Keren Zeriyah*.
(Amount is equal to your annual Fair Share from above.)

In my joining year I/we will pay _____.
_____ + _____ = _____

First prorated Fair Share payment plus the first *Keren Zeriyah* installment =total of included check.

I/We understand the two financial commitments outlined above.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Once your packet is received in the office and processed, you will be provided with a countersigned copy of this page for your records.

_____ Steering Committee Member

_____ Date

Youth Education Programs

An intergenerational community...

in which adults and children learn from each other through study, worship,
and shared love of Judaism.

At Shir Tikvah, our youth education programs are designed to encourage life-long engagement with Judaism. Membership dues allow us to maintain quality, subsidize tuition and offer need-based scholarships. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your whole family throughout the Jewish year.

If you are planning on enrolling students in one of our programs, please contact Katie Schneider, our Education Director, at education@shirtikvahpdx.org. Registration paperwork may also be available on our website, including information about tuition.

Our Programs

Nashira Education Project (ages 4-12)

A combination of Sunday classroom sessions and congregational celebrations make up our educational year. Sunday classes meet at Tucker-Maxon Oral School, 2860 SE Holgate Street, Portland.

We encourage member families to register students by the end of August for the upcoming year. Sunday sessions begin after Sukkot.

Mid-year enrollment is handled on a case-by-case basis during the fall semester. We are rarely able to accommodate new students in the spring.

The Tribe (Teen Youth Group)

Students meet for service learning and socializing. Activities range from camping to Torah Study with Rabbi Ariel to helping at local food pantries.

After registration in either the Nashira Education Project or The Tribe, we will add you to the newsletter mailing lists. **They are our primary methods of communicating with participants in these programs.**

Please don't hesitate to call the Shir Tikvah office, 503.473.8227 with any questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

A participatory community...

committed to a true partnership between our Rabbi and laity,
a collaborative relationship built on reciprocity, shaped by the spirit of covenant.

In this community, we are all needed. Volunteers keep Shir Tikvah running. Giving a few hours of your time here and there not only strengthens our community, it's a fun and easy way to get to know others here. As you attend services and events, please ask questions of anyone you see in kitchen, moving furniture or greeting folks at the door.

We also offer more formal ways to support Shir Tikvah. Please indicate your interest and ability to participate in the following groups by emailing the office at any time.

Yad l'Yad: Hand to Hand

Our Yad l'Yad group helps provide the emotional and physical support needed when members experience a hardship in life. Visiting the sick, running errands, providing meals, transportation, writing letters, or even making phone calls are great ways to help our members in need.

Tefilah (Prayer and Ritual) Committee

This Committee educates our members about Jewish prayer and ritual practice, develops our siddurim and makhzorim, and supports our congregational prayer and ritual life.

Kesher Committee

This Committee welcomes new members, often acts as ushers and greeters at our numerous events. Kesher folks work with new members to help them become familiar with the Shir Tikvah family.

K'vod haMeyt Cemetery Committee

This Committee partners with Congregation P'nai Or and Kol Shalom in maintaining our cemetery, and takes the lead in the mitzvot of helping to bury the dead and comfort the bereaved.

We welcome your help!

Congregation Shir Tikvah FAQs

1. Who do I talk to if I have questions about membership?

Call the Shir Tikvah office at 503.473.8227. We'll do our best to help clarify whatever is puzzling.

2. What are the specifics of the Shir Tikvah Fair Share policy?

- If an individual or family's total household income (THI) is \$20,000 or less, support is 1% of "THI."*
- If THI is \$20,001-\$30,000, support is 1 ½%*
- If THI is more than \$30,000, support is 2%, with a maximum of \$3000.*

3. How do I calculate my total household income?

The gross income (before taxes and deductions) used to support household living expenses. It includes wages, self-employment earnings, and pension income, but not investments earnings unless it's used for living expenses.

4. Aren't the Fair Share guidelines just a suggestion for determining my financial support of Shir Tikvah?

No, it is the resource upon which we depend to create our annual budget. As members of a small but full-service congregation, we all are mutually dependent for Shir Tikvah's existence upon our contributions of support according to the fair-share formula.

5. What about people who join mid-year?

Annual support is pro-rated for members who join after the beginning of our fiscal year (Oct 1). Simply calculate your annual dues, divide by 12, and then multiply by the number of full months remaining until next Sept 30.

6. When are payments due?

Payments are due on the 1st of the month corresponding to your choice of monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payment cycle. We offer a convenient electronic withdrawal plan for monthly, quarterly or annual payments. The form is included here.

7. What if a member's financial picture changes unexpectedly during the year?

If there is a change in your household income — up or down — during your membership, you should adjust your dues accordingly. Just alert the Executive Director (current congregational leadership is listed on our website on the "Committees" page, <http://shirtikvahpdx.org/community/committees/>). If you have adjusted your support accordingly and are still unable to meet your pledge of support to Shir Tikvah, you should contact the Rabbi in confidence to explore the possible support Shir Tikvah can offer you.

Congregation Shir Tikvah FAQs continued...

8. What expenses are paid with the financial support we contribute?

For each \$1.00 of dues, we pay: \$0.49 for Rabbi; \$0.27 for administrative staff; \$0.14 for facilities; \$0.05 for office, insurance, and administrative costs; \$0.03 to Nashira support (beyond fees); \$0.01 for other programs and services; and \$0.01 for Tzedakah.

9. Is there a Building or Endowment Fund?

The Keren Zeriyah ("seed fund") ensures Shir Tikvah's financial stability. In the future, it could become the start of a building fund, but there are no current plans for that. All members obligated ourselves to contribute the equivalent of our annual dues (based on joining year) to this fund over three years —1/3 upon joining; 1/3 on the following July 1st, and 1/3 on the next July 1st. In cases of financial hardship this can be deferred; speak to the Executive Director or the Rabbi for more information.

10. Are there fees for Nashira Project and Hevra?

Yes, registration fees are set annually. Consult with the Rabbi if these additional fees are a barrier to learning.

11. Are grandchildren eligible for the education programs?

This is handled on a case-by-case basis. Consult directly with our Education Director regarding your specific circumstances.

SHIR TIKVAH

Automatic Withdrawal Form

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. ____

Address _____ Phone (if we have questions) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bank _____ Branch _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attach Void Check Here

(Do not send Deposit Slips)

Amount of authorized debit (withdrawal): \$ _____

Withdrawal Period (circle one): Monthly Quarterly (October January April July)

Date of Withdrawal (circle one): 1st 15th

I (we) hereby authorize the Shir Tikvah to initiate debit entries to my (our) account described on this form, at the Bank identified on this form, and to debit the same to such account.

This authority will remain in effect until I (we) notify Shir Tikvah in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow the Bank a reasonable time to act on the notification.

I (we) can stop payment of an entry by notifying my (our) financial institution three (3) days before my (our) account is charged. I (we) may also change the amount of the debit or cancel it altogether by notifying Shir Tikvah in writing 30 days before that change is to occur.

Signature _____ Date _____

(Co-owner) Signature _____ Date _____