



Have you ever paused to think about what Temple Shalom means to you?

Perhaps Temple Shalom is your source for connection to the Jewish community, Jewish culture and to community service. Perhaps it is where you join with people who support and comfort each other in their good times and challenging times. Or maybe it is where you join with young people and adults for educational opportunities about Jewish heritage and values. Maybe it is where you go for celebration of lifecycle events. Or maybe it is where you experience meaningful worship as part of a larger community.

Temple Shalom means many things to many people. But Temple Shalom would be nothing without the dedicated support of the members of our community.

Temple Shalom, a healthy, growing congregation

In 2015 Temple Shalom had 75 member families, this year we now have 131 member families, an increase of 75%. This growth is even more remarkable in an environment of low growth and sometimes declines in membership in many synagogues. There are many reasons for this long term success: our superb clergy team, our open High Holiday services, our Hebrew program and our excellent Jewish Journeys program. However, as important as these elements are, it is the commitment and support of our incredible membership that makes all of this possible.

An important aspect of community support is your financial contribution.

Temple Shalom has always relied upon our endowment funds to heavily subsidize our dues to support our extensive programming. However, at our current rate, our endowment funds will not last forever. Your financial contribution is critical to our continued success.

Your Conscientious Contribution. Several years ago Temple Shalom implemented a new contribution model to replace our previous dues model. The new model, called a Conscientious Contribution, requires each member to pledge an amount that, in the member's good conscience, helps support the congregation in an affordable way. Unlike under a traditional dues policy no member will ever be required to petition for reduced dues, no member will ever be asked to submit documentation of earnings, and nobody will be asked to explain extenuating circumstances. All we ask is that all members look deep within their hearts to consider the value of Temple Shalom to themselves and the community and to determine what each of us can do to support the congregation. In order to receive full membership rights and privileges at Temple Shalom a pledge, regardless of amount, is required.

Guidelines and Suggestions:

What would be a generous Conscientious Contribution amount?

Under the previous dues model, the suggested contribution amount was **\$195 per month or \$2340 per year**. This level of support would be very generous and greatly appreciated! If all of our members could contribute at this level, or close to it, we would be able to cover our operating expenses with minimal withdrawals from our long term endowment. Membership support at this level along with other donations would put Temple Shalom in an excellent financial position to continue all of its many services to our community.

Consider increasing your contribution

Please consider increasing your pledge level from last year's pledge amount. Even a 5% or 10% increase, which may represent only a few dollars a month to an individual member's contribution, can have a significant benefit upon the congregation. Every contribution helps to ensure a lasting legacy at Temple Shalom, so that we can continue to offer the community everything we have come to love and appreciate.

The rabbis said, "Mitzvah goreret mitzvah": One mitzvah leads to another. Together, there's no telling what we can accomplish.

CONSCIENTIOUS CONTRIBUTION PLEDGE FORM 2022-2023

Please understand that each household that wishes to be considered a member in good standing, must partner with us at some level. We ask for your generous consideration. The vitality and relevance of Jewish life have always relied on willing hearts, heads, and hands. For purposes of thoughtful planning, your pledge and affirmation of membership, is due on or before July 1,, though your contribution may be made at any point throughout the year.

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022, we pledged \$_____.00 per month/year.

For July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, we now pledge \$_____.00 per month/year.

**Please select your payment option and
return this pledge form in the enclosed envelope before July 1.**

Select (✓)	PAYMENT OPTIONS
	<u>Credit Card</u> Visa ___ MasterCard ___ American Express ___ <i>(Transaction will occur on business day closest to the 1st of the month.)</i> ___ In Full ___ Monthly Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____
	<u>Bank Check</u> ___ In Full (<i>Enclosed</i>) ___ Monthly
	<u>Appreciated Stock</u> <i>(Our Treasurer will contact you about specifics.)</i>

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____