



# Member Benefits

## Welcome

*CSH offers multiple pathways to Jewish life, learning, and prayer. We will deliver the most fulfilling spiritual experience and the best childhood and teen education on the North Shore.*

*Every encounter with our congregation leaves you feeling welcomed, connected, and enriched.*

*We embrace our responsibility to invest in strengthening our Jewish community for generations to come.*

We are proud that you have chosen Congregation Shirat Hayam (CSH) to be your home for Jewish spirituality, education, and community, as well as your commitment to support our vision. We take your decision seriously and commit to you that we will make every effort to fill all your expectations...and then some.

Membership at CSH comes with benefits. We want to make sure you are aware of these benefits and take maximum advantage of them. Our staff is here to assist you during the happiest of your simchas as well as your most trying of times. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your experience here as pleasant and comfortable as possible.

## Eligibility

Membership benefits are available to “members in good standing”. Our fiscal year runs May 1 to April 30. The CSH By-Laws offer further definition and take precedence over this document, in the event of a conflict.

## Definition of Membership & Member Household

Membership in Congregation Shirat Hayam (CSH) is attained annually through the completion and acceptance of an annual membership pledge form, automatic renewal, or honorary membership.

A “Member Adult” is a single, married, or partnered adult in whose name/s the membership resides.

A “Dependent Child” is defined as:

- 1) a child under age 26; or
- 2) a child on Social Security Disability Insurance.

A “Household” consists of Member Adults and Dependent Children.

## High Holy Day Tickets

### Member Tickets

- 1) Members are entitled to complimentary High Holy Day tickets for
  - a) each Member Adult in the Household
  - b) each Dependent Child.
- 2) Members will be given priority over non-members in purchasing additional High Holy Day tickets.

### Reciprocity for Non-Member Relative (subject to availability)

A non-member relative of a member who presents a letter from another congregation stating:

- 1) that he/she is a member of another Jewish congregation (of any denomination) more than 25 miles from Congregation Shirat Hayam, and
- 2) that he/she has paid for HHD tickets to their congregation (or they are included in their paid membership dues), will be given the same number of tickets to High Holy Days at CSH at no charge as a courtesy.

## Child and Teen Education

- 1) Only Member Households may enroll their children in our Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Hebrew school. The school is tuition free. Note: there is an annual fee for materials.
- 2) Members will be given priority enrollment in the Center for Early Education (CEE), youth events, and teen programs.

## Milestones

### Birth

Members are entitled to our rabbi's or cantor's services for the bris/baby naming of their child or grandchild, either at CSH or in their homes. There is no charge for clergy services. Though when held on Shabbat at CSH, we kindly request kiddush sponsorship.

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Children of members are eligible to celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvah at CSH, subject to the following:

- 1) The Household has been a member of Congregation Shirat Hayam or another synagogue for a minimum of three consecutive years prior to the date of the B'nei Mitzvah.
- 2) The child has been enrolled in formal Jewish education, such as the CJE or Epstein Hillel School, for a minimum of three consecutive years immediately prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- 3) The B'nei Mitzvah fee must be paid prior to the start of tutoring.

### Marriage

CSH members are entitled to the services of our rabbi and cantor at their wedding and at their child's first wedding **when held at CSH** at no cost. Additional clergy fees apply when services are performed at an **outside facility**. To qualify for wedding member rates, one must be a member for two full fiscal years prior to the wedding date.

## Anniversary

Members are encouraged to celebrate anniversaries at CSH. Every year we hold a special Shabbat in honor of couples celebrating an anniversary year that is a multiple of five. Additionally, by request couples can take an aliyah on Shabbat morning and receive a blessing from the rabbi. Consideration of kiddush sponsorship is appreciated.

## Death

### Funeral Service

Members are entitled to the rabbi and cantor officiating at their funeral and at the funeral of their Dependent Child at no fee, provided the services are held at a **locally based** funeral home and cemetery or at CSH and subject to clergy availability. Additionally, the clergy will make a good faith effort to officiate at the funeral of non-member relatives. Standard fees still apply.

### Use of Sanctuary

Members are entitled to have their funeral or the funeral of their Dependent Children in the sanctuary of CSH at no charge from Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, subject to the availability of the synagogue. Funerals for members can be held at CSH on a Sunday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm or federal holidays, subject to a fee.

### Shiva

Members are offered shiva minyanim (clergy or lay lead) in the local area by request.

### Cemetery Plots

Member are entitled to purchase cemetery plots at the Shirat Hayam Cemetery (Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, or Interfaith section) in Peabody at member rates.

### Unveiling

Members are offered clergy services at no charge, subject to the clergy's availability. It should be noted that clergy is not necessary to hold an unveiling. The rabbi can work with you to conduct your own unveiling.

### Notifications

1. A congregational notice will be sent out via email when a member passes away or a Shirat Hayam member loses a member of their immediate family (parent, sibling, child, or grandparent).
2. Members will receive yahrzeit notices for their loved ones.

To qualify for member rates for the funeral service and cemetery plots, one must be a full-time member for two full years. Other benefits accrue to all members.

## **Voting Rights**

Eligible members, in accordance with the by-laws, are entitled to voting rights.

## **Clergy Counseling and Well/Sick Visits**

Members are entitled to clergy counseling and well/sick visits, when scheduling permits.

## **Programs and Events**

As a benefit of membership, priority enrollment and reduced fees may be offered to Shirat Hayam members for programs and events.

## **Facility Rental**

Please contact the staff for rental of CSH. Member rates will apply.