



HAR ZION
West Suburban Temple Har Zion

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ENSURING OUR FUTURE

A 5-Year Operating and Future Funds Campaign

West Suburban Temple Har Zion

Our congregation is home to a diverse group of individuals and families united by a dedication to Judaism and a love of the Jewish people.

From young families raising their children to seniors sharing their experiences, Temple Har Zion nurtures faith and friendship. We pray, learn, and live, inspired by our Jewish faith, tradition and each other.

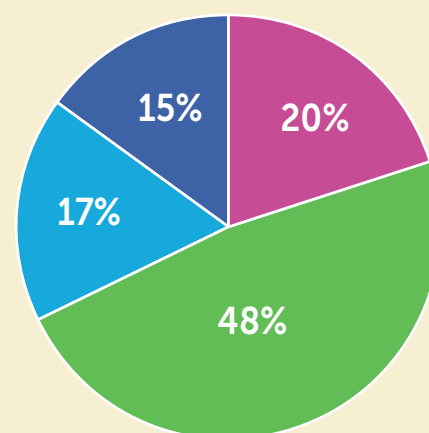
In the last several years, our synagogue membership has been growing as many young families are attracted to the programs we offer. We are excited about this growth as we are positioned in the community to provide a place for people to find comfort with others in their Jewish faith.

Now more than ever, it is crucial that we stand together as a community. That's why we have launched a 5-year, \$2 million campaign – **ATID: ENSURING OUR FUTURE.**

With your support Temple Har Zion will have long-term fiscal strength to continue serving the community and funding special projects.

ANNUAL EXPENSES

- Religious & Spiritual Life
- Our Jewish Future
- Adult Education
- Building Community



ANNUAL REVENUE

Dues **27%** • Contributions **32%** • Tuition **27%** • Other **3%**

Ensuring Our Future Campaign Co-chairs:

Jeffrey Levine

Renee Slade

ENSURING OUR FUTURE

Your support will make a direct impact on our mission.



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Religious & Spiritual Life

Prayer is the spiritual engine of our community.

It brings joy, inspiration, and unity to our congregation. We host Tot Shabbat, Junior Congregation, Musical Shabbat, and virtual services to meet the spiritual needs of our diverse community. In addition to our regular Friday and Saturday services, we offer a daily morning minyan and festival services.

Help us continue to enrich the religious and spiritual life of our congregation.



Building Community

Belonging to our synagogue is about being part of a community.

At Temple Har Zion, we pride ourselves on how quickly we welcome newcomers into our dynamic community. We engage members through holiday celebrations, after services Kiddush, Kallah (annual congregational retreat), and Tikkun Olam (social and environmental action). We also provide care for and support congregants in need.

Your pledges nurture the bonds and relationships that are the foundation of synagogue life.



Our Jewish Future

Preschool and Religious school are just the beginning.

Children learn their first Hebrew songs and blessings in our highly acclaimed and DCFS-licensed preschool, while our dynamic religious school presents a comprehensive, supportive, and fun curriculum leading to their bar and bat mitzvah and beyond. Our preschool is currently at capacity and the religious school has seen a recent increase in the number of children. The entire staff of Temple Har Zion spends their time and talents working with these students to prepare them for their Jewish Future.

Your support helps us educate and inspire future generations of leaders.

How your gift helps.

Future Fund

Ensuring long-term sustainability to serve future needs.

Our Future Fund will allow us to maintain our growth and secure long-term financial strength as we continue to offer new programs, maintain our exceptional staff, make improvements to our historical building, and commit to other special projects.



Adult Education

Many adults seek our synagogue to continue their Jewish journeys of learning.

We offer many choices at Temple Har Zion for someone to grow in their Jewish education. In addition to regular classes taught by Rabbi Glick, Cantor Figa and our Education Director, David Schwartz, the synagogue has a vast number of talented congregants who offer classes and lectures. We host visiting speakers, both in person and virtually, for intellectual, experiential, and spiritual growth on a wide variety of subjects from Israel to the Jewish diaspora, Talmud to Kabbalah, baking challah to preparing holiday meals, and more.

Help us strengthen the Jewish knowledge and identity of our congregants.



ENSURING OUR FUTURE



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Thank you for your support in ensuring our future in serving the Jewish community.

Atid Pledge Form

Please indicate your pledge over the five-year campaign years of 2024-2029. Please fill out and sign this form and return it to the Temple Har Zion office. You can also visit harzion.org/atid to download this form in fillable PDF format.

West Suburban Temple Har Zion (FEIN 36-225-8538) is a tax-exempt charitable organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your pledges to Securing Our Future are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PLEDGE DETAILS

Total Pledge (over 5 years): \$ _____

My Pledge Payment Schedule from 2024-2029:

I plan to submit my pledge:

- ☐ Now (*one-time pledge*)
☐ Annually (*one-time per year over 5 years*)
☐ Quarterly (*January, April, July, October*)
☐ Monthly (*one-time per month*)
☐ Other: _____

\$ _____ on _____ (Date)

\$ _____ on _____ (Date)

\$ _____ on _____ (Date)

\$ _____ on _____ (Date)

\$ _____ on _____ (Date)

Your pledge supports:

- Our Jewish Future (*Preschool & Religious School*)
- Future Fund
- Building Community
- Adult Education
- Religious and Spiritual Life

CONTACT & PAYMENT INFORMATION

Would you like your pledge to be *anonymous*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like the pledge amount to remain *confidential*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Contact Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

How would you like your name to appear on campaign materials? _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Pledge Payment Method:

☐ Check (*preferred*) ☐ ACH/EFT (*preferred*) ☐ Credit Card (*incurs transaction fee*) ☐ Stock

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Optional Second Signature (If Joint Pledge) _____ Date: _____

☐ *Please contact me to discuss my legacy-giving plans.*

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Thank you for considering a pledge.

FAQs to help you decide your pledge.

What is the current state of Har Zion?

Our congregation is thriving! Our membership has grown steadily since 2015. Our calendar is full of social, educational, and religious programming. We host the western suburbs daily minyan. Our younger religious school classes have larger class size; in 2024, we had the largest enrollment in the religious school in the past decade. Our preschool is at capacity. Post-Covid, we have restarted Kallah and the Sisterhood. We are able to celebrate 75 years of wonderful history while we begin to build for our financial future.

Why are we launching the campaign now?

We have exhausted our other sources of funding support. Specifically, L'dor V'Dor, a campaign which was funded nearly two decades ago and raised approximately \$800,000, was depleted in 2019. Since then, we bridged the funding gaps first through Endowed Positions and then through Payroll Protection Program grants. The PPP program has expired, and the congregation needs new sources of funds to support operations and development.

The additional funds will help the Synagogue reach its potential. While the number of families in the Congregation have been steadily growing, the Synagogue's revenues have not matched its expenses, in part because historically, newer members have not created the same financial growth as members with longer tenure. These funds will help bridge the gap as our revenue growth will more closely align with expenses.

What will the funds be used for?

The funds raised in the campaign will be used to fund ongoing operations and invest in our Congregation's continued future development. Additionally, in the next decade, we anticipate significant needs to our building including the roof and flooring.

What is the impact of my pledge?

Pledges to the Atid Campaign ensures that our Congregation thrives and will be able to continue to provide robust religious and spiritual life, quality programming and a welcoming Jewish community. Our Congregation is growing, especially relative to other Jewish communities in the Chicago area. Our

membership has been steadily rising, especially with younger families. For example, in the 2024-2025 school year, we have eight new families in the religious school, the younger religious school classes have large enrollments, and the pre-school is at full enrollment. Programming has expanded drastically post-covid. We often have musical shabbat, both in-person and virtual classes and have resumed significant activities such as Kallah and the Sisterhood. Your pledge provides financial security so that the Congregation will continue to grow and be a home for our Jewish community to learn, pray and develop life-long friendships.

How much do we need to raise in order to keep the congregation viable and what happens if we do not reach that goal?

The goal of the campaign is \$2,000,000 in aggregate over the five-year period. This amount should ensure the Synagogue's future into the next generation. We expect this amount to allow the Congregation continue operations, meet its fiscal obligations and invest funds to generate additional income for the future. It will provide financial stability as the Synagogue continues to grow. If the campaign does not reach its goal, financial strain will require the clergy, staff, board, and entire congregation to spend more time on fundraising activities (and by default have less energy for social and ritual activities) and may require the Synagogue to eliminate important resources and activities.

How will the funds be managed?

The Funds will be managed by a professional money manager at Morgan Stanley. The funds will be invested in a mix of equity and debt in both domestic and international markets. Additionally, assuming we meet our fundraising goals, the intent is to invest in higher return assets that have lower liquidity.

I've heard that there is a deficit in the budget, but we're not using the Atid funds to pay for operating expenses. Please explain.

Money from dues, Yom Kippur Appeal, and general contributions are used first for our annual operating expenses. The Atid funds will be used to help mitigate deficits and shortfalls.

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Who (or what committee) is managing the funds and determining their use?

The fund will be managed by a Committee separate from the Board.

How long should the funds last?

We expect the funds to last well into the next generation. The length of time depends on several factors such as the amount raised, when those funds are collected, the needs of the Synagogue (especially dependent upon the status of the building), membership growth, the size of other revenue generated, inflation's impact on the Synagogue's expenses and the rate of return on the Atid funds pledged.

How will this campaign change dues and the Yom Kippur Appeal?

At the current time, dues and Yom Kippur Appeal have not changed. If your financial situation is stable or improved, we ask that you continue your current level of dues and Yom Kippur Appeal, or increase your amounts as you are financially able. As always, membership is inclusive regardless of financial ability; we value your personal contributions (such as participation in committees, attendance at events, and friendship).

What is the average pledge to Atid?

If every member family contributes \$10,000 to the Atid campaign (or \$2,000 annually for five years, or \$167 monthly over five years) over and above their current level of dues and routine contributions, we would exceed our goal. We recognize that not all families can do this. Members who can pledge larger amounts subsidize and sustain us. Leadership levels include those from \$30,000-\$1,000,000 and beyond.

What does a "leadership level" pledge mean?

Pledges of \$30,000 or more (\$6,000 per year over 5 years) are "Leadership" level. There are naming opportunities for leadership level pledges.

Do I have to pledge over a five year period?

No! You can submit funds however it works best for you. For tax (or other) purposes, some people prefer to give all or most of their pledge in the first year of the campaign, or some particular year(s). However, most people prefer to distribute their giving over the entire campaign.

I truly love Har Zion, but I do not have enough funds to contribute a significant amount to this campaign at this time. Do I belong here?

We hope that you can contribute any amount, even a modest one. We hope for 100% participation, however, it is optional and every member is still a part of the Har Zion family. Part of the rationale in creating a five year campaign is that if you have a difficult year, perhaps you will be able to contribute in the future.

How can I ensure that my pledge is anonymous?

You can deal directly with Charles Shapera or Rabbi Glick to discuss an anonymous pledge or an undisclosed amount and mark it on your pledge form. (Or just drop off a suitcase filled with cash!!! 😊) We already have several anonymous and/or undisclosed pledges!

How will my pledge be acknowledged?

We plan to design a display with the names of donors. For leadership level pledges, naming opportunities are available. Please discuss with Charles for specific availability. Pledges of \$5,000, \$3,600, \$3,200, and \$1,000 may name a portion in the Haftarah scroll (a great way to honor a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, birth, or another milestone).

How can I make a pledge?

To pledge, please contact Charles or the Rabbi. For questions about the campaign, you can contact either of them or any Atid committee member (Jeff Levine, Renee Slade, Mike Weinstein, Barb Yong).