

CONGREGATION SHAARIE TORAH

ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 28, 2020

A Musical Start



Cantor Aaron Vitells

Agenda

1. D'var Torah and President's Message
2. The Year in Review: COVID-19 Edition
3. Congregational Status
4. Education Update
5. Financial Update
6. CST's Future

I. D'VAR TORAH & PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE





II. THE YEAR IN REVIEW

COVID-19 Edition

The year started like any other

- Shabbats in the Park
- Morning Minyan
- Shabbat and Holiday Services
- Twice-monthly Torah Study
- High Holy Day preparation
- Family Sukkot Fun
- Young Adults Shabbat
- Latke making & Chanukah party
- What's the Big Idea speaker series
- Gates of Light Kabbalah class at MJCC
- Tu B'Shevat tree planting with OBR
- Annual Hamentaschen project
- Purim party



And then this happened...

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

So we pivoted to a virtual shul...

- Morning Minyan
- Weekly Torah Study
- Live-streaming Shabbat and Holiday Services
- Twice-monthly Kabbalah Study
- Espresso Yourself
- Young Adults Shabbat and Happy Hour
- Zoom Gali Gali Shabbat for Young Children
- What's the Big Idea series: Crisis at the Border
- Hope and Resilience with Corey Pressman
- The Space Between Us: Rabbis in Dialogue
- Cooking demonstrations

That's not all...

- Feather and Candle: Prepping for Pesach
- Live Lag B'Omer Quarantine Haircuts
- Niggunim Singing Circles
- Yarn Crafting
- Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration
- Yoga on the Way to Sinai
- Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot
- Member-led Evening Minyan
- Good Morning Prayers
- Regular Check-in Calls from Chesed Volunteers
- Surprise Challah Delivery



ANG ADULT
APPY...
OUE
MAY 14, 5:30

20'S, 30'S & 40'S VIRTUAL HANG
GRAB YOUR FAVORITE
BEVERAGE AND CONNECT

BREAKING GOOD
CRISIS AS THE FOUNDATION OF HOPE
MAY 28TH, 7:20 PM | WITH RABBI JOSH ROSE

We often think of the ideal spiritual life as one of tranquility and wholeness. But what happens when our personal or communal lives are challenged by the old paradigms just don't work? What happens when the challenges we face are so great that they challenge us to re-examine our lives in a new way? To find moments of crisis as the foundation of hope.

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/8111111111>

A Lunchtime Taste of
FRIDAYS AT NOON ON ZOOM
with Rabbi Rose

Thursday, May 21, 7:00 PM
Join Cantor Vitells and Rabbi Rose for a night of spirited Jewish song, connection, and community.

Surprise!
You've been randomly selected to receive challah this week.

Enjoy these delicious loaves and know that your Shaarie Torah family is thinking of you.

Shabbat Shalom!

Challahman
Lump - Kugel
Handful - Kugel

A loaf has also been donated to the Holocaust Survivors Program of Jewish Family & Child Service.

Morning
with Rabbi Josh Rose

15 Minutes of Blessings and Intentions to Start Your Day
Wednesdays & Fridays @ 9:00 AM

body & soul
YOGA ON THE WAY TO SINAI
with Rachel Stern

THURSDAY, MAY 28 @ 6 PM
A VIRTUAL YOGA WORKSHOP EXPLORING SHAUVOT & HONORING EXPANSIVENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT & BREATH.

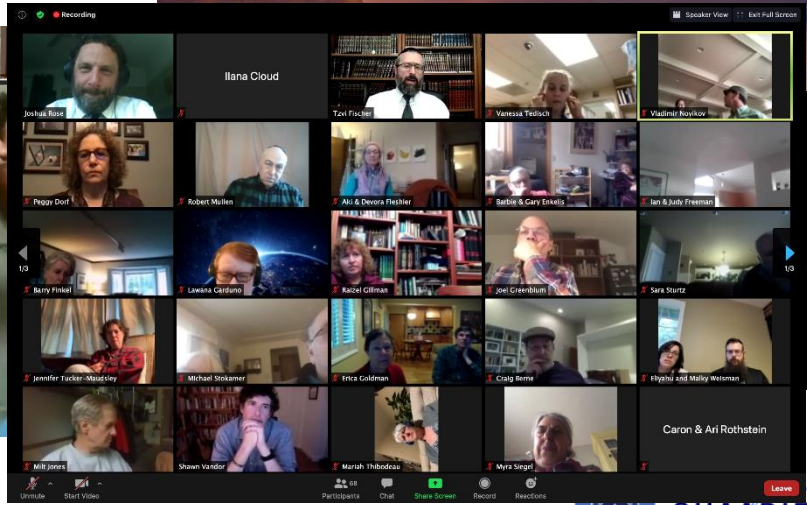
SHAARIE TORAH
REGISTER FOR THIS FREE WORKSHOP AT: [ZMUR.COM/CSTSHAVUOT2020](https://zmur.com/cstshavuot2020)

IN DIALOGUE ABOUT
MONDAY, JUNE 1
WITH RABBI ROSE WITH RABBI DEBRA

ESPRESSO YOURSELF
A COFFEE BREAK FOR THE SOUL WITH RABBI ROSE

shaarietorah.org

IN DIALOGUE WITH OTHER RABBIS AND THINKERS RABBI ROSE WILL EXPLORE CORE QUESTIONS OF JEWISH BELIEF AND OPINION. REGISTER AT SHAARIETORAH.ORG



Reaching more people

- Every Saturday there are an average of 60 to 100 views of our services on our website. Usually about 1/8 of viewers watch the recorded version on our website after it is live (but on facebook that number is higher). Sometimes we have up to 1,000+ views on Facebook throughout Saturday and Sunday. Facebook generally reaches many more people for our streaming services - with an average of 200+ views each week, and sometimes as high as 450 or 1,010 on holiday services!
- We've had over 250 unique viewers on our website for services throughout the time we have been streaming. Which includes people who tune in every week.
- Highest attendance at Shabbat & Yizkor Services during Shavuot and Passover. Comments indicate that viewers really appreciate being able to watch holiday services online.
- Most people watch from Oregon. In the US, viewers from 11 other states have tuned in. We've also been viewed in Israel, Mexico and Ireland.
- Most people watch for an average of 30-40 or more minutes when they tune in! Average of 5-10 comments every week where people let us know they are watching and where they are watching from! Super fun to see who is tuning in and that they are loving it!
- Morning minyans regularly attract 15+ participants from the start of service
- Classes (Torah Study, etc.) range from a dozen to 20 participants.
- The dialogue with Rabbi Fischer drew in over 70 participants, a mix between our congregation and the Kollel/Kesser community
- Most popular event was Lag b'Omer haircutting

On the road to reopening...slowly

- Ad-hoc taskforce convened and is meeting/talking regularly
- Multiple resources studied, including from collaborative nationwide conversations between USCJ and URJ
- Church Mutual, our insurance provider, has been invaluable in providing guidance and tools
- Strict adherence to all state and county guidelines during each phase
- Masks and hand sanitizers on back order (expected mid-July to early-August)
- Additional cleaning has been added to schedule
- Just because it is allowed doesn't mean we have to do it. The health and well-being of the community is our highest priority, and we will continue to exercise an over-abundance of caution

III. CONGREGATIONAL STATUS



Introductions: The Board

OFFICERS

Daniel Petcher, President
Sara Staggs, Vice-President
Raphael Rosenblatt, Secretary
Peter Lyman, Treasurer/
Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS

Melissa Cohen
Mitch Cohen
Tamir Heyman
Daron Horwitz
Linda Nemer Singer
Robert Sturtz

AUXILIARIES

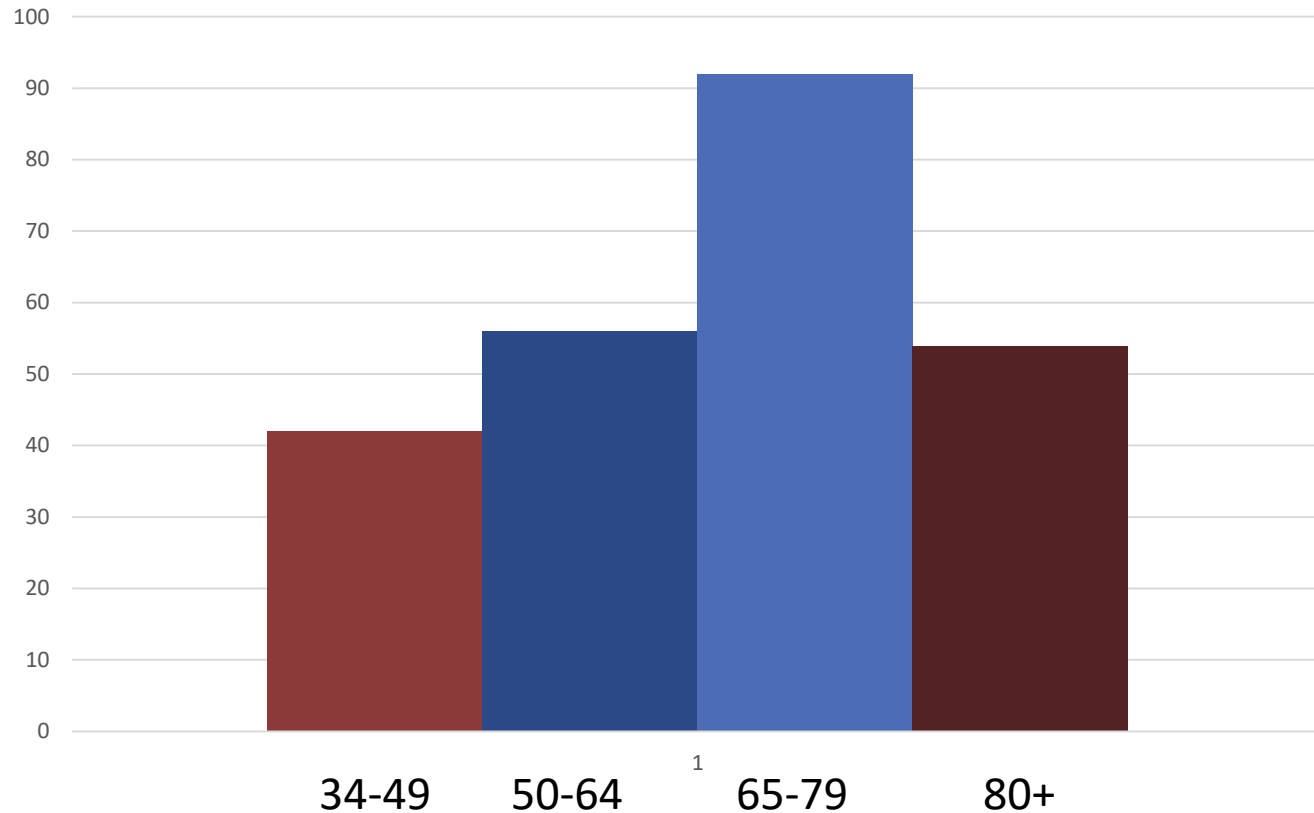
Judy Freeman, Sisterhood President
Richard Cohen, Men's Club Representative

CHAIRS

Steph Kotkins, Cemetery Committee
Annette Demsey & Leslie Beard,
Chesed Committee
Sara Staggs, Education Committee
Peter Lyman, Finance Committee &
Nominating Committee
Rabbi Rose, Ritual Committee

By the Numbers in FY2019-20

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN BY AGE *(based on age of head-of-household):*



- **Our members care**, with a reliable, far-reaching core of active, dedicated congregants
- **Net loss of 4 members:**
 - 12 new; 4 deaths; 2 out-of-state moves; 3 to other congregations; 3 for no payment/communication; 5 for other
- **Regular participation** relative to the shul's size is higher percentage-wise than in larger congregations

IV. EDUCATION UPDATE



Youth Education in an age of COVID...

- A thorough and careful search process for a professional, full-time Educator was interrupted and ultimately ended with the outbreak of the pandemic
- After March 7 and the closure of schools, Jude Kassar transformed the program from in-person learning to virtual Zoom classrooms for K-5 and WNS students
- A hybrid learning model is being planned for 2020-21 due to uncertainties about gathering
- Shalom Learning, a nationally proven curriculum for both online and in-person learning will be instituted for the coming year
- Sharon Pollin has been engaged for the year to oversee the curriculum, train and guide teaching staff, and assist with visioning and strategic planning within the Education Program
- Students will have increased opportunities to learn with Rabbi Rose in an expanded 2-day class program
- A permanent Education Director will be hired before the 2021-22 school year begins

Thank You, Jude!



For your hard work and all you've done to elevate our Education Program over the past two years:

- Building curriculum
- Implementing Shabbat School in a creative and halachic way
- Transforming WNS into a fun, social setting for the middle and high schoolers
- Engaging students and parents
- Bringing your energy and special skills into everything you do

YASHER KOACH!

Welcome Dr. Sharon Pollin

Sharon Pollin is an experienced and highly skilled educator whose educational philosophy places learners at the center. She believes that students learn best, and community thrives, when school, families and community join together. Dr. Pollin has earned a B.A. in elementary education, M.S. in educational supervision and administration, studied Jewish text at Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and possesses Doctoral Certification in Jewish Education Leadership, and earned her Doctorate in Education Leadership. Dr. Pollin successfully led the revitalization of the Jewish Community Day School in New Orleans, where she most recently served as Head of School.

Dr. Pollin is a collaborative and reflective educator whose work is consistently informed by best practice. She has a deep love of Judaism and for Congregation Shaarie Torah, and is devoted to ensuring a warm, joyful learning experience for all. Sharon believes the current circumstances provide an opportunity to reimagine what a vital, meaningful, engaging 21st century Jewish education can be, and is excited to be a part of the shul's visioning work to ensure its future. She is delighted to come home to Shaarie Torah to serve as Education Director for the 2020-21 school year.



V. FINANCIALS



Your Generosity in 2019-20

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Dues	\$364,774
Yom Kippur Appeal & High Holy Days	\$126,392
Donations	\$90,352
Fundraiser/Community Events	\$9,160
Bequests	\$44,361
Endowments	\$10,000
Rabbi funds	\$13,284

2019-20: Current Year Results

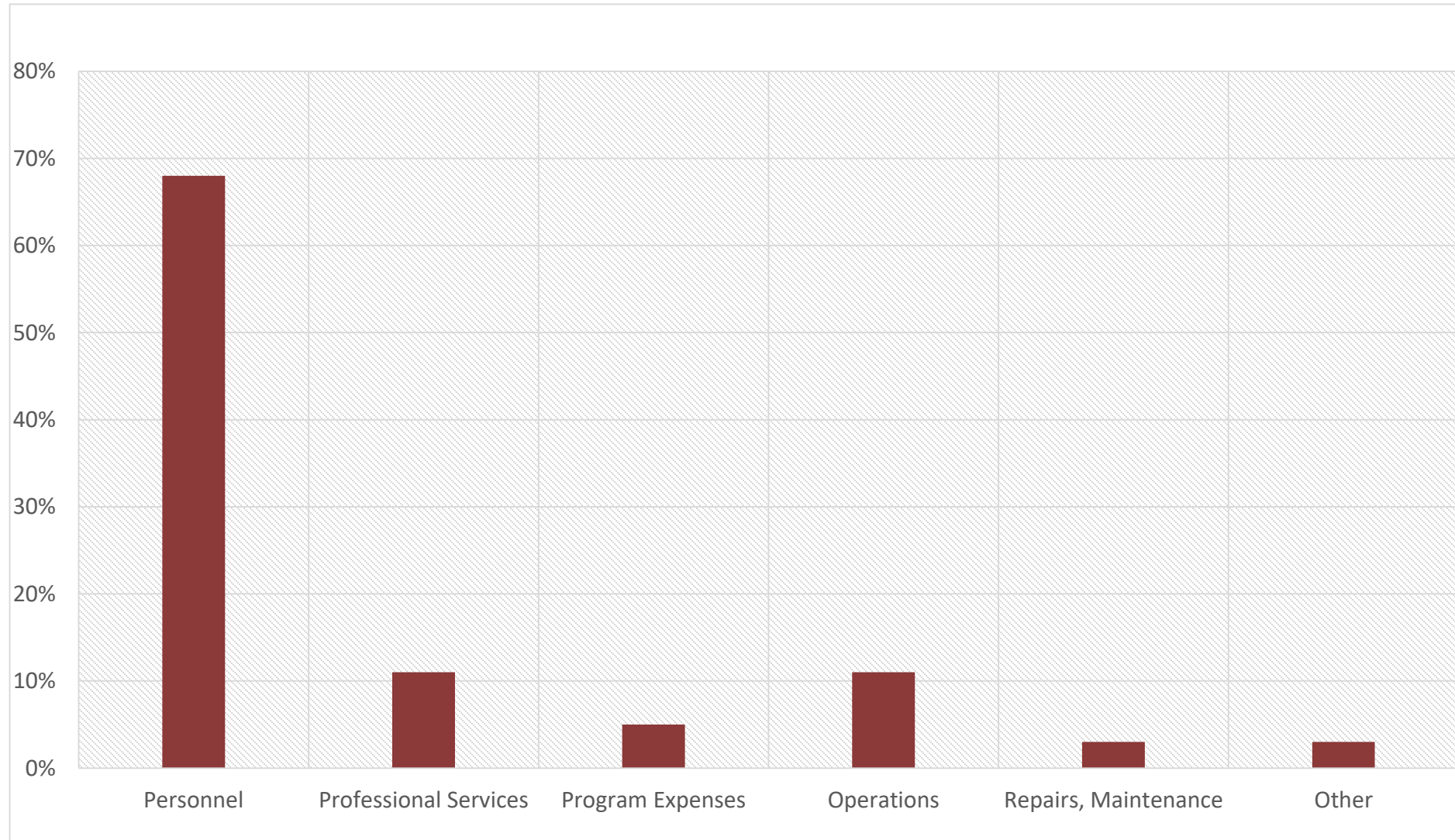
INCOME

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
*Transfers from Restricted to Operating Budget	70,000	57,988
Dues	364,774	387,000
Donations, Bequests, Endow	167,157	172,500
YK Appeal & HHD	126,392	135,500
Transition Funds	73,586	100,856
Grant: JFGP (Covid)	15,000	-
Program Revenue	133,238	93,075
Rental Income	152,229	155,446
Interest from Investments	9,514	6,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,111,890	1,108,365

EXPENSES

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Personnel (Sal & Benefits)	682,371	732,989
Professional Services	107,137	130,000
Program Expenses	39,564	56,950
Operations	122,218	133,950
Repairs & Maintenance	56,757	31,000
Other: USCJ, Rabbi fund	33,843	31,976
TOTAL Ordinary EXPENSES	1,014,890	1,116,865
Investment Gains	-	30,000
*Transfers from Restricted to Operating Budget	-70,000	-57,988
TOTAL NET INCOME	-	-36,488

2019-20 Expenses



2020-21 Budget

INCOME

	Q1	ANNUAL MINIMUM
*Transfers from Restricted to Operating Budget	-	58,880
Dues	220,000	300,000
Donations, Bequests	31,375	81,500
YK Appeal & HHD	57,000	114,000
Grant: SBA PPP	-	125,790
Program Revenue	15,389	68,5015
Rental Income	39,511	158,044
Interest from Investments	1,500	6,000
TOTAL INCOME	364,775	932,715
% of Total	39%	

EXPENSES

	Q1	ANNUAL
Personnel	170,892	732,989
Professional Services	28,375	130,000
Program Expenses	9,775	56,950
Operations	33,550	133,950
Repairs & Maintenance	7,750	31,000
Other: USCJ, Rabbi fund	7,375	31,976
TOTAL EXPENSES (Quarterly)	257,717	1,116,865
Investment Gains	-	-
*Transfers to Operating Budget (Cemetery deficit)	-	-58,880
TOTAL NET INCOME	107,058	-157,033

2020-21 Budget Call to Action

SOURCE	ESTIMATE	CHALLENGE
Dues	\$300,000	Can we top \$340,000?
Yom Kippur Appeal & Book of Remembrance	\$105,000 & \$9,000	Strong campaign in spite of no onsite services
Fundraisers/Community Events	\$20,000	Frieda Event Will Milt Carl Way event occur?
Rental & Parking Income	\$158,045	Pipster and Alano operating?
Program Income	\$68,501	Education programming -- different models
Expenses per Quarter	\$257,717	Can we sustain throughout the year? If not, what to cut?

2020-21 Budget Highlights

SOURCE	AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
Dues	\$300,000	32%
Rental & Parking	\$158,045	17%
Yom Kippur & Book of Remembrance	\$114,000	12%
Program (Education & Cemetery)	\$ 68,500	7%
Donations, Bequests & other gifts	\$81,500	9%
Fundraising & Community Events	\$20,000	2%
Grant: SBA PPP loan converts to grant	\$125,790	13%



שערי תורה

VI. CST's FUTURE: A 'BORDERLESS' SYNAGOGUE

Futures Committee Plan



Building
Community



Investing in
Spiritual Life



Educating the
Next Generation

PHASE 1: SHORT TERM

Quick wins synagogue leadership can realize now

PHASE 2: LONG TERM (POST COVID)

Requires community input, member participation, and donor involvement

What is a Borderless Synagogue?



Building
Community



Investing in
Spiritual Life



Educating the
Next Generation

PHASE 1: SHORT TERM

Quick wins that we synagogue leadership can realize now

PHASE 2: LONG TERM (POST COVID)

Requires community input, member participation, and donor involvement

BORDERLESS SYNAGOGUE

- Accessible to community outside of NW Portland
- Rooted in our physical space
- Leaning into our *haimesh* atmosphere

Examples of a Borderless Synagogue in Practice



Building
Community

**CREATIVE, DIVERSE, & REGULAR PROGRAMMING
FOCUSED ON BUILDING INROADS TO WHERE PEOPLE
ARE ALREADY TURNING FOR COMMUNITY**

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING

- Adult education
- Community Shabbat meals
- Rabbi's regular learning opportunities
- Hebrew for adults



SECULAR PROGRAMMING

- Book clubs
- Virtual happy hours
- Guest speakers
- Yoga
- Cooking

Phase 2, Next Steps, and Community Involvement

NOW

Borderless
Programming



JULY

Community
Surveys



SUMMER

Community Zoom
Meetings



Futures Committee

We want you involved!

Please reach out to the Futures Committee to see where you can help: CSTFuture@Shaarietorah.org.