

Sustaining Membership Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to become a Sustaining Member?

No, of course not. This is an entirely voluntary commitment, and there are many reasons why it may not be suitable for some of our member households.

What if I would like to make this commitment for one or two years only?

We will accept your pledge with gratitude. However, Sustaining Memberships require a three-year commitment.

If I decide to become a Sustaining Member, what changes from the way I made donations or bought event tickets in the past?

Nothing. You donate and buy event tickets just as you have in the past. Near the end of the fiscal year, your total donations to Temple Shir Shalom are added up, excluding dues, annual assessments, building fund, religious school tuition, and any contributions that are directly passed through to another organization. If this total matches the amount of your pledge, that's it. Nothing more needs to be done.

What about dues, building fund, and religious school tuition, is that part of Sustaining Membership?

No. Dues, annual assessments, building fund, and religious school tuition are outside the scope of the Sustaining Membership program and will continue to be charged as they have been in the past.

Are there any other events or donations that are not part of the Sustaining Membership program?

Contributions which go to outside institutions, such as Bread of the Mighty or Family Promise, will not count toward your committed pledge since the Temple receives no financial benefit from them. Additionally, since tickets to the Passover Seder only cover the cost of the Seder, that event will not count towards your committed pledge. Everything else does.

If I sign up for the program, will I still be contacted for event tickets or other donation requests?

Yes. Whatever you choose to attend or donate will simply become part of fulfilling your pledge, with the exception of the previously mentioned categories.

What happens if my total donations are below my pledge at the end of the year?

You will receive a friendly reminder near the end of the year regarding the difference between your pledge and your actual contributions.

Do I still have to pay for event tickets or Yahrzeit donations after I've fulfilled my pledge?

Yes. You donate the same way you did in the past. See the next question regarding exceeding your pledge.

What happens if my donations are above my pledge?

You have a choice. Any amount above your pledge can be a credit for the next year's pledge amount, or you can choose to go above and beyond and simply treat the excess as an additional donation.

Who will be contacted for the Sustaining Member Program?

Every current and incoming Temple member will be contacted.