



Dear fellow Shaar Shalom member

Kehillat Chaverim is pleased to offer you membership in our shul.

Who is Kehillat Chaverim?

Kehillat Chaverim is a new Traditional congregation that began operating immediately after the closure of Shaar Shalom, on the morning of July 1, 2016, with our first Shacharit service. Since then we have held more than 1000 twice-daily minyanim – weekdays, Shabbat, Yom Tov and, this year, High Holidays. There is a great feeling of friendliness and informality at our minyanim.

Our founders are former members of Shaar Shalom. But, we have also attracted members from outside the Shaar Shalom community. Our minyanim are habit-forming – we have several men and women who come regularly to our services who, previously, were never regular shul-goers. We have proven to be a convenient, warm, and welcoming location for people commemorating Yahrzeiten or saying Kaddish for a loved one. We extend an invitation to you to observe these important moments with us whether you become a member or not.

We have been holding our services (other than High Holiday services) at the German Mills Community Centre, a heritage one-room schoolhouse at 80 German Mills Road. It used to house a day care but now we are the only tenant. Ian Schlifer, who used to read Torah at Shaar Shalom, is our Torah reader. We don't have any other clergy but, Rabbi Howard Morrison is our Mara d'Atra.

We have continued some other traditions from Shaar Shalom – we study Talmud every Wednesday morning after services and we just had very successful High Holiday services that included Rabbi Martin Berman and Michael Black as Cantor. We send our weekly bulletin to more than 120 families. Although completion of our website had to wait for charitable status approval, we have been accepting donations as we transition from our former partner, Shaarei Zion Congregation.

We initially branded ourselves as the German Mills Minyan but last January we were incorporated as Kehillat Chaverim and in recent days our application for charitable status was approved by the Canada Revenue Agency. Having overcome this hurdle, we are now in a position to make an attractive offer to you to join with us to become a member of Kehillat Chaverim – our community of friends.



Our offer to you

This offer is made to all members of Shaar Shalom who received a letter from Shaar Shalom, after it closed, confirming that they were members in good standing at Shaar Shalom.

For those Shaar Shalom members who paid their building fund and are entitled to a cemetery plot from Shaar Shalom:

1. A Kehillat Chaverim cemetery plot, likely at Pardes Chaim cemetery, will be made available to the member at time of need provided that membership is maintained for at least two years
2. No membership contribution for two years, from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019
3. There is no Building Fund contribution requested from new members. Ordinarily, our annual membership contribution, based on current rates, is \$1,080 per couple or \$540 for single
4. The 2018 High Holiday tickets will be free, thereafter the Board will decide what, if any, charges will apply
5. If membership is terminated after January 1, 2020, that is after two years, the cemetery plot entitlement can be maintained by the member with a donation of \$100 per year per plot

For those Shaar Shalom members who did not pay their building fund and who are not entitled to a cemetery plot from Shaar Shalom:

1. A Kehillat Chaverim cemetery plot, likely at Pardes Chaim cemetery, will be made available to the member at time of need provided that membership is maintained for at least four years
2. No membership contribution for one year, from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018
3. There is no Building Fund contribution requested from new members. Ordinarily, our annual membership contribution, based on current rates, is \$1,080 per couple or \$540 for single
4. The 2018 High Holiday tickets will be free, thereafter the Board will decide what, if any, charges will apply
5. If membership is terminated after January 1, 2022, that is after four years, the cemetery plot entitlement can be maintained by the member with a donation of \$100 per year per plot

To follow up on this membership offer please contact either Stephen Lebner at 647-866-4744 or Tom Fischer at 416-317-0080