



CONGREGATION SHIRAT HAYAM
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

October 2019

Dear Friend,

We wish you and your loved ones a healthy and happy New Year, Shana Tova! Rosh Hashana teaches us that we have the power to renew and revitalize our own lives and, by extension, the life of our community. With our shared values and dedicated efforts, together we can explore a world brimming with new possibilities.

It is at this time of year we wish to thank you for your past participation in Congregation Shirat HaYam and ask you to consider a gift towards our **ANNUAL FUND**. Our Annual Fund is now in its second year, having raised almost \$45,000 in its inaugural year from 80 donor families. This year, we hope to increase our participation and surpass this fundraising amount.

The strength of our congregation is its members. We are blessed with a membership that finds many ways to contribute to the Shirat HaYam community. On August 16, nearly two hundred members and friends participated in our uplifting 36th Anniversary Shabbat service held at the Unitarian Meeting House, led by our rabbi, three guest cantors and local musicians. Our volunteer committees organized Friday evening speakers, the Scholar-in-Residence weekend, Saturday morning study groups, Sunday bike rides, congregational Friday dinners, weekly Shabbat services and our ticket-free High Holiday services. We proudly celebrated a bat mitzvah, a product of our tuition-free children's religious school. And we engaged with the broader Nantucket community through our work on the Interfaith Council and its Food, Fuel and Rental Assistance Program; our partnership with the Nantucket Historical Association in its "From Strangers to Neighbors" exhibit; and our sponsorships of the Nantucket Book Festival and Swim Across America.

We are grateful for the tireless work of our outgoing president Gene Briskman, who led and inspired the Board of Trustees and the many volunteers who enabled us to achieve all that we accomplished. But none of this would be possible without the generous support of our members—including the 13 families who joined as Double Chai Members in honor of our 36th Anniversary—and the many non-members who have chosen to contribute to Shirat HaYam. A gift to the Annual Fund will enable us to continue our past work and explore new, future initiatives.

Your gift will be recognized in the following categories:

Leadership: \$5,000 OR MORE *Benefactor: \$2,500–\$4,999* *Patron: \$1,000–\$2,499*
Supporter: \$500–\$999 *Contributor: \$250–\$499* *Donor: UP TO \$249*

We urge you to give as generously as you can. Your gift will add to the strength of our community and make an impact in the lives of many.

Warmest regards,

Darren Sukonick
President

Robert Haft
Annual Fund Chair