



Congregation Beth Chaim

Rabbi Brian Beal

Rabbi Adena Blum

Cantor Stuart Binder

Rabbi Eric B. Wisnia, *Emeritus*

Anne Berman-Waldorf, RJE, *Director of Lifelong Education*

Mira Berzofsky, *Executive Director*

Ken Pogrob, *President*

Dear Fellow Congregants,

Please join me on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 9am as we celebrate Beth Chaim and our congregation's accomplishments for FY 20.

I want to thank the entire Congregation for adapting wonderfully to our current stay at home environment during the pandemic and for participating in the many offerings that are available to each of us.

Congregants should be aware that the Board adopted Emergency Powers, as explained in NJ Statutes in instances when the Governor of New Jersey declares a state of emergency, to take such actions as may be required for the benefit of the Congregation. Under these Emergency Powers, the Board voted to apply for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan. It took until the second round of funding, but the Congregation did receive a PPP loan. The pandemic has created revenue uncertainties for many non-profit organizations, including our own. Fortunately, we were able to apply for the PPP, which serves as a short-term financial fix that enabled the Congregation to continue to pay its employees, including teachers and staff and to continue the educational and spiritual programming that we have enjoyed since the stay at home order began in March.

Our treasurer, Dan Valentine, will present the proposed 2021 budget to the Congregation. Many budgeting uncertainties remain surrounding COVID-19. We don't know, for instance, when and in what capacity Pre-School may open. Therefore, the proposed budget will be treated as a "living" document and the Finance Committee and Board will act quickly if circumstances warrant it.

I want to thank our entire Finance team led by Lori Derman, our VP of Financial Affairs, and Dan Valentine, our treasurer, for their tireless efforts and dedication in bringing us a budget that will ensure that Beth Chaim will continue to provide the same high level of programming as in prior years. I would also like to thank the Board and the Senior Staff, who worked collaboratively with the Board on the budget. Together, we have a true Sacred Partnership. A summary of the proposed 2021 budget is included in this mailing.

We are sensitive to the financial hardships that many of our families are facing. We are here for you and want to ensure that you remain a part of our Temple family. Congregation Beth Chaim remains firmly committed to providing financial assistance to families experiencing financial challenges. Funds used for this assistance are raised through our Sustaining Member Program. We are proud of all who participate in this important program. If you are not a sustaining member yet, please consider becoming one. If you are a member, please consider increasing your support, especially those that are in the fortunate position to be able help those less so.

We have challenges ahead and are grateful for our congregants who have increased donations in this time. Our Sustain Beth Chaim campaign has been a success and has raised over \$33,000. I want to thank everyone in our community (near and far) that have donated to help ensure that Beth Chaim continues to thrive. With events planned surrounding Rabbi's Blum's installation and our upcoming 50th anniversary, there will be plenty of additional opportunities to support Beth Chaim.

Rabbi Brian Beal's term as our Interim Senior Rabbi will end on June 30, 2020. I cannot thank Rabbi Beal enough for what he has meant to the Congregation over the past 16 months. He has positioned Congregation Beth Chaim for success for many years to come. Plans are underway to honor Rabbi Beal on June 26th.

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You will have the opportunity to hear from our incoming president Rhonda Schaffler-Wydra. As current VP of Education and Chair of the Transition Committee, Rhonda understand the needs and values of the Congregation and will use them to formulate her agenda for the coming year.

In closing, I want to thank the outgoing officers for serving the congregation and setting an example of leadership and service for us to follow. I also welcome the new trustees and officers who will be joining the board in July. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

As this is my last Congregational meeting as President, I want to thank each of you for your support during the past 2 ½ years and I am looking forward to see Beth Chaim continue to thrive both as our spiritual and social home.

L'shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Pogrob".

Ken Pogrob
President