

Dear Bet Torah Community,



Bet Torah is always there for us. From joyous life-cycle events to supporting us during the hard times and all the fun and friendship in between, how wonderful it is to be a part of the Bet Torah community. Covid-19 has impacted us all, and Bet Torah has risen to the challenge. Even though our building's doors are closed, Bet Torah's mission of community was never placed on pause. Our congregation is engaged in amazing programming and outreach provided by clergy, teachers, staff, and lay leaders.

So, with this in mind, we are asking you to contribute to the Bet Torah Annual Fund High Holy Day Appeal. Funds raised through this appeal are a key revenue source to the shul's operating budget and will sustain Bet Torah as it continues to deliver all the meaningful offerings we have come to treasure. With your support, Bet Torah will be able to ensure its high quality while providing the expected (and costly) necessities such as hosting High Holy Day services, meeting fixed expenses, and cultivating its schools of excellence.

Bet Torah remains vibrant as we have gone online. Congregation-wide gatherings such as the Passover Community Seder and weekly Friday-night Shabbat Schmoozes allow us to stay connected while we need to be physically apart. Both the Nursery School and Kulanu had its students learning with its virtual classes through the end of this past school year. Our youngest learners continue with their weekly Shabbat Sha-Zooms. Talking to Our Kids about Racism and teen discussions about Power, Privilege, and Vulnerability have educated our community about battling racial inequality. Monday Morning Mindfulness and Movement, Thursday Happy Hour Meditation, and contemplative Saturday-afternoon services keep us centered all week long. Both the Sisterhood and Great Jewish Books book clubs and the film-discussion group keep us engaged. A mainstay of Bet Torah is our prayer services. Now there are twice-daily midweek minyans and Havdalah every Saturday night in addition to Sunday-morning and Shabbat services. A highlight has been seeing the proud, happy faces of the many Bar and Bat Mitzvah families. All this and Bet Torah's USY youth group won regional Chapter of the Year!

The Shabbat Meal Program shows that there is no substitute for in-person interaction. Shabbat meals are delivered by Bet Torah volunteers to other congregants isolated or vulnerable due to Covid-19.

A thank you says it all.

"I was truly overcome with appreciation and awe at the whole process that all of you put together. From top to bottom, it was amazing. The call to say it was coming, the smile (from a distance) when it was delivered, the amount of food, the way it was packaged and the way it looked... I even took a little taste already and it was delicious. This synagogue takes care of its members in the most phenomenal way!"

- Congregant and Shabbat meal recipient

Now more than ever, we are grateful for Bet Torah. At a time when so much feels uncertain, we find comfort and encouragement knowing that our community remains strong. While many in our Bet Torah family are currently facing great challenges, we are humbled by the compassion and generosity of our congregation. We invite you to join us in the sacred work of lifting and supporting our community. If you are able, please contribute to Bet Torah's Annual Fund. To indicate your Annual Fund pledge, please complete the enclosed sheet (which includes your High Holy Day virtual-login request) and return it in the enclosed envelope. You may enclose a check now, or we can invoice you. You may also contribute online at bettorah.org/AnnualFund.

Bet Torah is **our** community and **our** responsibility. By joining together, and with support of the Annual Fund, we can continue to provide the vital programming and services for this generation and those to come.

Thank you!

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Shanah Tovah Umetukah – Have a Good and Sweet Year,

Joanna Segal – Annual Fund Chair

Neil Klar – VP, Development

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