

July 2021



Dear Bet Torah Family,

What we are remembering most clearly about the past year is not the absence from Bet Torah -- although we missed terribly being together in person. What we recall is the comfort and connection we drew from our community in that difficult time -- and all the good that it empowered us to do. Bet Torah remained a tangible presence in our lives.

As a community, we comforted those suffering painful losses (which were our losses, too). We created networks of support for those who were alone and enduring difficult times -- we delivered meals, made phone calls, built new, reassuring connections. And we also ushered families through celebrations -- by bringing Torahs literally into members' homes.

We connected with Israel during the Gaza conflict -- and with members of our community who were living through it. We connected at Sukkot with our Muslim and Christian neighbors and learned how much we have in common. Our mobile shofar blowers brought their rousing sounds to members where they lived. New groups of members formed around Mussar study, meditation, and contemplative worship. We experienced new chapters of life -- together. And new rituals filled the absence -- the community came together virtually to pray in record numbers.

Our community must continue to nurture what we built in that "away time." We must maintain that connection to each other in times of sorrow and in times of joy.

We are especially pleased that despite the pandemic, Bet Torah has been welcoming new families to our community. We are encouraged that Bet Torah remains vibrant and strong.

In the words of Rabbi Brusso, "Thank you for being part of this sacred community. The wandering wilderness community. And the returning home one, too."

We invite you to join us in the purposeful work of lifting and supporting our community by contributing to Bet Torah's 5782 Annual Fund High Holy Day Appeal.

This appeal is an important source of operating funds that will sustain Bet Torah as it continues to deliver the meaningful offerings we treasure. With your support, Bet Torah will be prepared not only for the expected but for the unexpected, too.

Please make as generous a gift as you can. Simply indicate your Annual Fund pledge on the High Holy Day ticket request form and return it in the enclosed envelope. You may send payment 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 in support of the Annual Fund, we will be prepared for the next leg of our journey together.

Thank you!

Shanah Tovah Umetukah -- Have a Good and Sweet Year!

Joanna Segal
Annual Fund Chair

Neil Klar
VP- Development

Amy Horowitz
President