

Yom Kippur 2024/5785

Hello friends.

Thank you for being an important part of our cherished CBT community!

One of Judaism's greatest strengths is to provide stability and comfort in a world that is often neither stable nor comforting. It is in trying times that the constancy of our connection to one another and the eternity of our community is so important. As we continue to navigate the aftermath of October 7, 2023 and pray for the return of the remaining hostages as a community, we feel how interrelated we are. At times like these, we must consider our priorities and how we will support our synagogue so that we can continue being Congregation Beth Tikvah — A House of Hope.

While 5784 was fraught with challenges we could never have imagined, CBT had a remarkable year. We found healing and strength as we navigated an interim year of rabbinic leadership and found our way to a new, dynamic rabbi who will lead us into the next stage of our communal life. We are working hard to hear all of your voices and develop programming, grow membership, and support each other as our *haimish* community continues to be there for one another. We are grateful to each and every one of you and your membership.

It has been the deliberate and longstanding goal of the Board of Trustees to strive to keep our annual membership dues as low as possible so that payment is not an obstacle to being part of our *kehillah kedusha* (holy community). Dues cover approximately 60% of our total annual operating budget (professional staff, electric, programming, etc.). Each year at this time we conduct an appeal to help meet the financial needs of **our** congregation, including funding engaging and unique programs and initiatives.

Please take a moment and reflect on what Congregation Beth Tikvah means to you and your family, the relationships you have built, the value your fellow congregants have added to your life, and your desire to support our community. We hope everyone will make a donation of some amount. For those of you who are able, challenge yourself to increase your generous gift from last year. You can donate through Venmo (search Congregation Beth Tikvah and add a note saying "KN donation"), by using the link on our website (and noting "KN donation"), by calling the office at (856) 983-8089 with your credit/debit card, or by mailing a check to the office.

During the past few years, we have demonstrated that we are a community of giving – help us reach 100% participation in this year's drive, so we can continue to do great work and elevate our community. No amount is too small to make a difference.

L'Shana Tovah and best wishes for a happy, healthy and sweet year!

Marissa Whitmore
President
Congregation Beth Tikvah