

Shalom,

It has been another wonderful year at Temple Beth Shalom. Our beautiful sanctuary and social hall are seeing more and more events, celebrations and programs. Education programs are meeting the needs of literally all ages. There is a real feel of activity, excitement and enjoyment about the place.

Rabbi Goldstein ensures we have a program of interesting and meaningful speakers. He also leads our next Israel trip in just a few days. The Social Action committee makes a real difference in our own community. The Early Childhood Program and our Religious School continue to be vibrant and always growing and improving.

For the first time in our history, membership has reached 300 families! All of these vital and energetic aspects of our congregation say that this is a great time to be part of Temple Beth Shalom. Next year will be as full and as meaningful. As you complete the enclosed paperwork to renew your dues commitment for the upcoming year, I hope you also feel that Temple Beth Shalom is supporting your spiritual, social, educational and community needs.

Recognizing the continuing state of the economy, the dues schedule is unchanged again this year. All of us in the temple leadership are acutely aware of the economic environment, and are being as conservative and prudent with our budget as we can while maintaining the services and programming the congregation deserves. I assure you we are not being frivolous with your money. Dues are by far the largest source of income at the temple, and are vital for the continued flourishing of all that we have accomplished so far. If you have the means to pledge above your indicated level, I ask you to consider helping to ensure Temple Beth Shalom continues to grow and thrive by giving above the schedule. And I sincerely thank you.

Of course Temple Beth Shalom never turns anyone away because of finances. If you are experiencing hardships at this time, please contact one of the financial officers, Charles Goldblum, treasurer or Leon Shapiro, financial secretary, to make an arrangement that allows you to remain a member in good standing so you can enjoy all that Temple Beth Shalom has to offer. As always, financial discussions are strictly confidential, and limited to the financial officers.

Please completely fill in the enclosed Membership Information form. We need up-to-date information for our records. I also hope that you will look again at Temple Beth Shalom this year with an eye toward increasing your involvement. While money makes the place possible, it is the interactions and accomplishments of people working, playing, and worshiping together that is the heart and soul of our temple. Many of us get our satisfaction and enjoyment from being active at Temple Beth Shalom. As mentioned above, we have grown to 300 families. That's a lot of different people, and a lot of fellow Jews to have fun with, share time with, and do good things in your community with. Certainly nobody can participate in everything, and each family and individual has their own interests and time constraints. However, I urge you to find (or make) time in your lives for one or two activities at the temple. I know you'll be happy that you did.

See you at the Temple,
Morris London
President