



January 2010

A Message from Your President

Whatever it takes! This past spring, the members of Beth Chaverim came together to discuss how to best address our congregation's financial needs. At those meetings, the mandate was very clear from all of you: "We need to do whatever it takes."

At Congregational Forums earlier this month, the results of our recent Rabbinic Search Survey were reported. In light of the survey results and in response to preferences expressed at these forums, the Beth Chaverim Board of Directors gave the Rabbinic Search Committee direction to begin the interviewing process with the end goal of hiring a full-time rabbi.

Shalom,

In response to your call for action, the **Campaign for our Future** officially began this fall. Our goal is to raise \$200,000 in contributions from within our congregation. At this time, this campaign has raised \$68,000. Reaching our goal, and even beyond, will enable us to sustain our building and enhance our religious school for grades pre-K through 12, by supporting a permanent, ordained, full-time rabbi to serve as our spiritual and educational leader over the next two years.

Mark Raffman, Worship Vice President, was appointed to chair the Rabbinic Search Committee; to analyze and address our congregation's rabbinic needs upon the expiration of our current Rabbi's contract in June 2010. Rabbi Gallop has requested that he be considered as part of the potential candidate pool. The committee was drawn from various walks of congregational life -- seniors, young families, long-standing members, and recent arrivals.

The Rabbinic Search Committee assessed the needs of our congregation and identified the characteristics that the congregation wants in a rabbi using a survey which was emailed to all congregants. We received over 100 responses to the survey -- a very strong response for a congregation with 160 member families. We learned that our congregation wants a rabbi who is a "people person"; who is accessible, warm, and comforting in troubled times; an inspiring spiritual leader, both from the bimah and outside of services; and a capable teacher who can impart Jewish learning and culture to our youth and in adult education alike. In order to fulfill these needs, the Board of Directors determined that we should seek a full-time rabbi.

Faced with reduced income, the Board of Directors has worked diligently to decrease temple costs and put processes in place to increase revenue. However, our temple continues to struggle under the current economic environment. Without your support for this campaign, it is likely that we will need to wrestle with further budget cuts which may include additional cut backs, including the scope of our rabbinical presence.

The **Campaign for our Future** has been underway for four months and to continue its success we are reaching out to those that have not already pledged. We need every member to support our campaign so that we can continue to provide a Reform Jewish presence in Loudoun County for generations to come. We recognize the economic stresses many of our congregation face and understand that some are able to provide more financial support than others. However, the message from our membership remains very clear-- you desire the services of a full-time rabbi and each of us **must act now** to secure this rabbinical presence.

All of the funds raised from this campaign will help **fill the gap in our temple's budget shortfall** enabling us to hire a rabbi that will satisfy our needs. If you have not already done so, **please make your pledge before February 15, 2010.**

To Our Future,

Tracy J. Cirone, President

p.s. Please make your check payable to BCRC or complete a pledge card and send to the temple address below. To charge your donation or to use PayPal, please go to the Beth Chaverim website (www.bcrcva.org), "Campaign for our Future" donation. Your generosity will enable our synagogue to continue to be a beacon of light to the Jewish community in Loudoun County.

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