

G'MAR TOV! WELCOME ALL TO 5785. WHETHER MEMBERS OR GUESTS OR LIVE STREAMING YOU ARE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY, AND AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW YEAR, WE WONDER WHAT IT NOT ONLY BRINGS TO US BUT WHAT WE WILL BRING TO IT.

BUT ONE THING WE DO KNOW. WE ARE STILL HERE. WE ARE HERE AS A COMMUNITY WITH A CLEAN SLATE AHEAD OF US.

AS I ALWAYS SAY, ASKING FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE SPIRIT OF YOM KIPPUR, BUT NEVERTHELESS NEEDS TO BE DONE.

OUR SYNAGOGUE COMMUNITY IS A KEHILAT KODESH, A HOLY COMMUNITY. WE AIM TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE. WE THOUGH LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD WHERE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS ARE PART OF OUR EXISTENCE.

THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH BUDGET WISE SINCE LAST YEAR. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ARE THAT EXPENSES HAVE GONE UP AND I DO NOT SEE ANY DECREASE IN ELECTRICITY, GAS, FOOD, SERVICE CALLS AND WE WANT OUR PHYSICAL SPACE TO BE ONE IN WHICH WE FEEL GOOD WHEN WE GATHER TOGETHER.

I HATE MENTIONING IT, BUT ALL OF YOU CAN SEE HOW BADLY WE NEED TO REPLACE OUR WALLPAPER. BUT IT SEEMS OTHER EXPENSES KEEP US FROM DOING THAT.

BUT THIS COMMUNITY KEEPS PROVIDING STIMULATING PROGRAMS, CLASSES AND SERVICES. AND I HOPE THAT AFTER HEARING MY WORDS THAT YOU WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER HOW YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP CAH OUT.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS WE OFFER. WE ARE SMALL IN SIZE BUT WE OFFER MORE THAN MANY OF THE LARGER SYNAGOGUES DO. DESPITE OUR DEFICIT BUDGET, WE WILL NOT CUT BACK ON WHAT WE OFFER AS WE FEEL IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY!

THIS PAST YEAR, WE LAUNCHED A TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAM SERIES, *LIMNOT YAMEINU KEIN HODA: GRACEFUL AGING*, WHICH ALLOWED US TO EXPLORE THE BEAUTY AND WISDOM THAT COME WITH TIME AND EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER THROUGH LIFE'S TRANSITIONS WITH GRACE AND COMPASSION. THIS SERIES WAS LED BY RABBI LAURA GELLER AND WAS FUNDED IN PART WITH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

FRAN LANDE'S CLASS ON *MUSSAR: DEEPENING OUR CHARACTER* OFFERED A PATH TO PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH THE WISDOM OF JEWISH ETHICAL TEACHINGS, RESONATING DEEPLY WITH ALL WHO PARTICIPATED.

OUR SIGNIFICANT JEWISH BOOK CLUB, LED BY FRAN LANDE, CONTINUED TO FOSTER RICH DISCUSSIONS ON THOUGHT-PROVOKING TEXTS. EACH BOOK OPENED NEW DOORS TO UNDERSTANDING OUR HISTORY, CHARACTER AND PLACE IN THE WORLD. AND WILL CONTINUE TO BRING YOU THOUGHT PROVOKING READINGS IN 2025.

COMING ALSO IN 2025 WILL BE A SPECIAL SERIES: ANI V'ATA-TOGETHER WE WILL CHANGE THE WORLD-LEARNING ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM - TO TAKE ACTION IN A CORNER OF THE WORLD. WE WILL HAVE SPEAKERS ON "WHEN IS ANTI-ZIONISM RACISM AND WHEN IS IT NOT" AND A WORKSHOP ON AN ACTION COMPONENT WHICH WILL SUPPORT JEWISH STUDENTS ON LOCAL COLLEGE CAMPUSES. THESE SESSIONS WILL DEAL WITH ANTI-

SEMITISM. THE FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM WILL ALSO BE HELPED BY A GRANT FROM UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM.

OUR RABBINIC SEARCH COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF VOLUNTEERS MIRIAM MACK, FRAN LANDE, NEAL ABRAMSON, MARK RICH AND ESTHER TAXON, WORKED TIRELESSLY TO FIND A NEW LEADER FOR OUR CONGREGATION, AND WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME RABBI BEN GOLDSTEIN. HIS GUIDANCE WILL LIGHT OUR WAY FORWARD AS WE CONTINUE TO FOSTER A COMMUNITY OF LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE CELEBRATED 13 YEARS WITH RABBI J.B. SACKS, WHO WILL NOW SERVE AS OUR RABBI EMERITUS. HIS LEADERSHIP HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON OUR HEARTS, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HIS DEDICATION.

THE REINS ARE NOW IN RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S HANDS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO PROGRAMS THAT HE WILL BE BRINGING US.

YOU HAVE HEARD ME MENTION TONIGHT WORDS LIKE LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, COMPASSION. LET ME ADD GRATITUDE. THESE VALUES HAVE SUSTAINED OUR COMMUNITY, AND WITH YOUR FINANCIAL HELP WE WILL DO SO FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN HAS EXPLORED WITH US MANY OF THESE VALUES IN HIS D'VREI TORAH DISCUSSIONS. SO HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY?

OCTOBER 7, 2023 WAS DEVASTATING – NOT ONLY TO ISRAEL BUT TO THE WORLD. THE RISE OF HATE AND ANTI-SEMITISM WERE UNPARALLELED. SO HOW CAN WE HELP OVERCOME THIS VOLATILE ATMOSPHERE?

MAYBE PUTTING THESE ACTIONS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE CAN HELP.

LIVE EACH DAY AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST. SO NEVER MISS SAYING I LOVE YOU.

GIVE COMPLIMENTS FREELY. IT NOT ONLY LIFTS THE MOOD OF THE RECIPIENT BUT ALSO LIFTS THE MOOD OF THE GIVER. AND NEVER TURN ONE DOWN. JUST SAY, THANK YOU.

HAPPINESS IS A CHOICE YOU MAKE. YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR HAPPINESS.

BE KIND, COURTEOUS AND ACCEPTING TO ALL. DEGRADING COMMENTS ABOUT GENDER, RACE OR RELIGION SHOULD NOT BE UTTERED OR TOLERATED FROM OTHERS.

PRACTICE THESE LESSONS NOW. DON'T WAIT!

WHEN YOU ENTERED THE SANCTUARY, YOU MAY HAVE RECEIVED AN ENVELOPE. YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE ENVELOPE. IF YOU HAVE A MEANS TO PUT ANY TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION IN THE ENVELOPE, THEN PLEASE FOLD DOWN A TAB OF YOUR CHOOSING, ENCLOSE YOUR IDENTIFICATION AND HAND IT TO A VOLUNTEER. IF NOT, PLEASE TAKE THE ENVELOPE HOME, FOLD DOWN A TAB OF YOUR CHOOSING, PUT YOUR NAME ON THE CARD AND SEND IT BACK TO CAH. THE ENVELOPE HAS OUR ADDRESS ON IT.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE AN ENVELOPE, A VOLUNTEER WILL HAND YOU ONE.

THOSE WATCHING VIA OUR LIVE STREAM CAN MAIL THEIR PLEDGE TO CAH. WE ALSO HAVE ON OUR WEBSITE A TAB BUTTON THAT YOU CAN HIT AND MAKE YOUR DONATION VIA PAYPAL

AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR CONTRIBUTION, KNOW THAT IT IS YOUR GIFT -NO MATTER THE SIZE- THAT ENABLES US TO CARRY ON THE WORK WE HOLD SO DEAR. LET US CONTINUE TO GROW IN STRENGTH, LOVE AND PURPOSE AS WE ENTER 5785, READY TO EMBRACE THE BLESSINGS AHEAD.

MAY 5785 BRING YOU THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL YOUR HOPES, GIVE YOU SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND MAY CAH BE YOUR GUIDING LIGHT.

THANK YOU.

G'MAR CHATIMAH TOVAH