



June 17, 2021

During this past year Temple Shalom has learned to do things in new ways. Our Learning and Engagement team offered classes both virtually and in person. Our Nursery School thrived with their outdoor program. Many of us logged on for innovative programming. Our Tzedek Team organized to Get out the Vote and our Caring Community responded to families in need. We celebrated B'nai Mitzvah in new ways. While the daily reminders (masks, social distancing, etc.) of Covid begin to disappear, the impact of the virus may live on for many more months and years. The isolation and uncertainty that came with Covid-19 will continue to be real for many people.

Temple Shalom has always been a community that supports its members and people in need beyond its immediate community. For example, a partnership between our clergy and congregational leaders mobilized our synagogue to meet the growing need for food across Newton through the Community Freedge.

Temple Shalom continues to be a place of exploration and learning. The Nursery School is wonderfully full for next year, **with families on a waiting list**. Our nature-based curriculum continues to be a sought-after way for children to learn. Our K-12 program continues to provide meaningful and engaging ways for **students of all abilities and levels to access Jewish education**.

Your annual commitment enables Temple Shalom to be a rich and vibrant community. Once again, this year, **our standard membership levels will NOT change**. We recognize

that some people may not be able to give the full amount and we welcome members regardless of their circumstances.

Temple Shalom's leadership remains fully committed to our congregation and to seeing our community thrive well into the future. As we did last year, we are calling upon you to formally express your membership commitment to Temple Shalom through [this online form](#).

We still cannot predict the full impact of COVID-19 on our congregation's financial health, so we are asking for your help. Please consider increasing your household's yearly gift from last year by any amount that is meaningful to you. Your annual membership and additional monetary contributions ensure that we can continue our wide range of spiritual, educational, and social programs.

To confirm your membership and indicate your annual commitment, please complete [this online form](#).

We are so grateful that you are a part of Temple Shalom's community.

Looking ahead to High Holy Days 2021: Look for an email early next week about the plan for High Holy Days services. You will receive access to High Holy Days worship once you [complete your membership commitment](#) and when your 2020-2021 (this year) commitment is satisfied, or when a plan for it to be satisfied is in place.

With deep appreciation,

Rabbi Laura Abrasley
Rabbi Allison Berry
David Newman, Executive Director
Fred Kraus, Temple President
Carol Berlin, Co-President Elect
Judy Levin-Charns, Co-President Elect