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בס"ד

September 8, 2023
22 Elul 5784

To Congregation Ohav Emeth,

Each of you is at the heart of our *Shul* community. Some of you will remember the year 5783 as a year of *simcha* and new beginnings, for others, this year brought personal challenges or loss. Through it all, we pulled together as a *Shul* community. Together, we celebrated with you, wished you well as you moved on and made *aliyah*, and with great sadness and grief we sympathized with some for your loss and pain. As we look ahead to the new upcoming year of 5784, may we only share in *simachot* with one another and continue to build on the excellence and *Achdut* of what Ohav Emeth continues to provide for all, a true *mokom kodosh* for each and every one of us to learn, daven, and raise our children on a righteous path.

I thank *Hashem* for giving me a vision for OE's continued growth and for the incredible people who have stepped up to support the myriad initiatives we have already put out. My apologies for being behind on communicating the next step to the many who responded to my survey.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Kaufman for his dedication and spiritual leadership of our shul and for his support in my leadership. We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated board members, committee members, gabaiim, youth director, and office manager, some who served for many years and who continue to dedicate their time to serving our *Shul*.

Each year this time of year we have a ***Kol Nidrei Appeal*** to raise the funds that the *Shul* needs to help offset operating expenses. This year, as in the past year, the budget deficit presents a concern. There has been an increase to the cost of security that the new security assessments alone do not cover. As well, operating expenses have risen as they have for all of us in maintaining our personal homes. We need additional programming for our young families, teens and youth who are the future of our *Shul* community. The only way we can achieve these things that will help sustain the richness OE provides, is to raise additional funds. I am asking each congregant / family to step up and contribute as much as each could towards the ***Kol Nidrei Appeal*** to support and sustain the future of OUR *Shul*.

I want to leave you with a final thought. This *Motzai Shabbat* we begin *Selichot*. There is a phrase we say "*lishmo'a el harinah ve'el hatefillah*" which translates 'to hear the song and the prayer'. The word *rinah* is explained as prayers in shul where the community as a whole recites praises of *Hashem* with beautiful song. To me, this resonates, as a person will be able to concentrate in his *davening* – *tefillah* when he is praying where he is happy. What better way to be happy then to *daven* in a place where you feel connected?

On behalf of my wife Nechie and our children I wish you a year filled with all the things you are in need of and to be inscribed in a year of good life, *ketiva vechatima tova*.

With gratitude,

Moishe Malek
President