



CONGREGATION MOGEN DAVID

Dear Mogen David Members and Prospective Members,

Just five months ago, in the midst of planning a variety of shul programs, Friday Night Dinners, Youth Programs, Women's Group events, Pesach and Shavuot programming, a range of scholars-in-residence, and celebrating several upcoming member smachot, our whole world suddenly ground to a halt. For the first time in our community's history, we closed the doors to our building and moved into our new virtual reality, and have only carefully begun the return to our physical facility in June.

And yet, although everyone expected it to be a very dark time for our community, it has turned into something truly amazing. Our community bond grew stronger. Utilizing technology like Zoom, WhatsApp, and Facebook live, we launched regular online Torah classes, social "gatherings" and Tefilot, and initiated WhatsApp group connections. Within our community, members started to take on chesed activities, grocery shopping for some of our homebound members, regular phone-call check-ins, and much more. In this new world of uncertainty, connection to the Kehila proved to be more important than ever.

With that being said, we still cannot be sure what things will look like a month or three months from now. What we do know for certain is that whatever the situation may be, our Kehila will continue to thrive and flourish because of you and our entire membership. We would therefore like to invite you, once again, to renew your membership to Kehilat Mogen David (July 2020 – June 2021). Membership dues will remain at \$1674 for Family and \$870 for Single membership for this coming year. There will be a \$25 discount if you pay your membership by August 31, 2020. As security costs and Covid-related costs continue to rise, we are asking our members to help in sharing this cost. Additional funds raised will be used to secure our Kehila.

To stay compliant and to keep our members safe, the shul incurred additional costs due to social distancing requirements, additional sanitation, and protective equipment. We have sanitizers available at central locations throughout the synagogue. Our Custodians and cleaning crew diligently cleans our synagogue, and disinfects surfaces and doorknobs on a regular basis. We provide facemasks for members attending the services and have protective equipment available to keep our members safe.

We will certainly be having High Holiday services in some capacity, although at this stage we cannot plan them with any meaningful detail. Nevertheless, whatever the High Holiday plans may turn out to be we want you to know that we – the Rabbis, office personnel, and board members – are all here for you, and we intend to cater to your needs through this very difficult time until it is finally behind us.

As you know, membership dues represent the largest portion of our operating budget, and we are therefore counting on your continued loyalty and generous support. Our Kehila offers many services to our members beyond services in the building, and we also work hard to keep everyone connected to each other. Your membership donation provides us with the resources to continue offering the level of service you are used to, which we are so proud of.

Let us conclude by saying that it is you, our members, who make it possible for our Kehila to forge ahead, and it is you who make us who we are. Thank you so much in anticipation of your generous support.

Plan for upcoming Chagim:

We at Kehilat Mogen David are making plans for a meaningful and inspirational Chagim that also prioritizes the safety and health of everyone. We have plans for both indoor and outdoor services depending on circumstances during that time. On Rosh Hashanah, we will hold additional Shofar blowing for members that are unable to attend the Tefillot. We will have multiple Minyanim at different times to accommodate all congregants while maintaining enough physical distance between congregants, and observing CDC guidelines and rabbinical advice.

We hope that B'H we will have services indoors for upcoming Chagim. We will use the main sanctuary, social hall and school building, if needed. If we need to have services outdoors, we will use our basketball courtyard, the school's courtyard and a third additional space, if needed.

We will ensure that every Minyan will have a rabbi, chazan and proper staff during Tefillot.

Please note that we are ready to respond to shifts in the pandemic. These plans were made with an eye towards best practices and guidelines, which we understand are subject to change. We will keep you updated as things progress.

All the Best,

Rabbi Yehuda Moses
Rav HaKehillah/Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Michael Abraham
Executive Director/Associate Rabbi