**Congregational Meeting**

Typically, the Spring Congregational Meeting is when the BC budget for the coming year is presented for approval by the membership.  This year, determining the budget has been complicated by the possible signing of a five-year rental agreement for dedicated space in a King Contrivance business park.  The Board endorsed this option at its latest meeting on Sunday, June 2.

Readers may recall that at the December Congregational Meeting, the congregation authorized the Board to seek new rental space.  The June 23rd presentation and vote are the direct results of that action.

At the upcoming meeting, congregants will hear a  detailed explanation of the rental proposal.  The sanctuary space in the proposed property is comparable to the space at Hawthorn, and the property also includes classrooms for BCRS, which can be used for meetings by committees and events such as Torah on Tap.  The new space includes a kitchen that can be koshered and used by the congregation.

Though we will cease paying for Hawthorn and Oakland Mill High School (space for our religious school), the new rental contract almost certainly will require a dues increase of several hundred dollars per family.  On June 23, our members will decide if our vision of Bet Chaverim justifies this new commitment.

One final point - BC’s Bylaws require proxy votes be given solely to a spouse, partner or other family member at the same address.  Proxy votes may not be cast by friends and neighbors of the absentee members,

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting so that your voice may be heard.