

A letter from the Board about membership:

Dear Congregants.

Even with the building closed, our community thrives with weekly services, religious school and youth programming. Zoom gatherings to celebrate and to mourn together, B'nai Mitzvah preparation, Torah study, four Zoom B'nai Mitzvah services in May and June, and more offerings than usual for adult engagement with Judaism. All of this helps keep us connected in this unprecedented time of social distancing. Our Rabbi, Director of Education, Youth Director, and dedicated staff have adapted marvelously to using new technologies. Our ever-expanding number of volunteers provide important support for our congregation and for other organizations serving the community. We're planning for a meaningful and beautiful High Holy Days, within or without the building. Our plans include special and personalized involvement of all member congregants who wish to be involved

Though it feels strange in this new world to reach out with a billing for dues and religious school, we must move ahead to preserve our community and beautiful synagogue building. We are not increasing dues or tuition. The enclosed invoice is the same as your current year's amount, **which you may adjust up or down.**

Unlike our monthly utility and other bills, this invoice is a reminder that we each voluntarily choose to participate in and support our vibrant, Reform Jewish community. In these trying times, we anticipate major financial challenges for our congregation with significant reductions in rental revenue because of Covid-19. Now is the time to double down on your support if you're able to do that. Whatever you're in a position to do, however, please do so (or make a plan to pay over time) by August 14, 2020. The payment may be arranged at <https://www.harshalomparkcity.org/members/my-account.php>.

Most importantly, we do not want to lose a single congregant or religious school student, or deter a prospective member from joining, because of financial concerns. Each of us are cherished members of our community. If for any reason you feel constrained to pay the basic amount, do not hesitate for a second to contact Rabbi Levinsky or our accountant, Wayne Crouch, to seek a reduction. You may request an adjustment simply by completing the online form. <https://images.shulcloud.com/925/uploads/FamilyAdjustment20-21.pdf> and sending it to Wayne. The process is easy, confidential, and not invasive.

And please update your membership information at <https://www.harshalomparkcity.org/member/>. Indicate which information is to be made available in the online membership directory. If you wish, post a photo. This will help all of us feel more connected. We do not authorize use of any information for purposes not relating to congregational matters.

We all look forward to opening our doors, physically sharing Shabbat with each other, resuming our in-person programming, being back together, celebrating our 25th Anniversary. The Rabbi and Director of Education, with the help of many congregants, are hard at work planning for a rich and meaningful High Holy Days period.

If you have any questions or concerns about our finances, please do not hesitate to email or call me or our Treasurer, Steve Volk (973) 564-7464.

For the Board

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