

Dear Fellow Congregants.

On behalf of the Temple Har Shalom Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your continuing commitment to our congregation. We are so grateful that we have made it through the past year separated, but together as a community. Being back together in person with our Shabbat Summer Series is so joyous and wonderful! Though we were not in person for over a year, we celebrated Shabbat sixty four times over Zoom with more than a hundred congregants every week. Rabbi Levinsky's positive vibe could be felt through the screen and we all joined our voices together from our own homes or cars or, wherever we were. Our High Holiday services online were moving and beautiful and we will incorporate some of the more personal elements we all loved in our **In Person** High Holidays this coming September! Rabbi Levinsky's Torah study occurred each week and engaged us body, mind and spirit. As the THS Kindergarten teacher, I can brag that our team of staff and volunteers, led by the Education Director Michael Greenfield, managed to create connections to Judaism and teach grade appropriate curriculum to all of our religious school children every week, online. Thanks to our our passionate Executive Director, Deb Sheldon, we have all felt connected in ways large and small all year long. From our Purim Spiel to our Zoom Cocktail Party to our new outdoor Summer Shabbat Series, our amazing staff have been creative and innovative all year, looking out for how they can take care of all of us. I am proud to share that we have recently introduced a new Social Action initiative in the form of our **THS Community Partners** program in which each month we will learn about a different local non-profit and the valuable services that they provide, as well as get informed about how we can all help them to be successful. The concept of *tikkun olam*, that we should each do our part to repair the world, is something we can strive for daily and this program is designed to give us concrete ways to do that. Expanding on the idea of our annual Mitzvah Day, we are aiming to make *tikkun olam* a part of every day at THS.

After the year we have all had, the board of directors has decided for the second year in a row that there are no increases of dues or tuition. The enclosed invoice is the same as your current year's amount, **which you may adjust up or down**. We know that these have been trying times for many of us and we as a congregation have experienced a significant decrease in revenue without any facility rentals, and especially without a full Sundance festival. So, if you are able, please consider increasing your level of support. Whatever you're in a position to do, however, please do so (or make a plan to pay over time) by July 30, 2021. 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, nor 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/FamilyAdjustment2021-22.pdf> and sending it to Wayne. The process is easy, confidential, and not invasive.

Please update your membership information at <https://www.harshalomparkcity.org/member/>. Indicate which information is to be made available in the online membership directory. Please do post a photo to 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 a marvelous summer together, to fully opening our doors, to being in the sanctuary for High Holidays, and to finally celebrating our (postponed) 25th Anniversary in February. 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.

With Love and Shalom,

Casey Lebowhl, Board President
(312)339-1908, caseylebowhl@mac.com