



Congregation B'nai Emet
*From generation to generation, making
your family part of ours.*

Michele Paskow – Rabbi
Michael Russ – Cantor
Dr. Les Sutton – President

2020-2021 Membership Renewal

Dear Member,

We live in a very uncertain and precarious world. There are so many questions with so few answers. When will we return to normalcy? When will we be able to resume contact with our extended family, hug our children and grandchildren, or shake hands with our CBE family? Like technology, what you buy today is obsolete by tomorrow, and so it seems with new guidelines emerging every day. Will social distancing, face masks, Purell be the new way we conduct our everyday lives? What happens if we only stand 5'11" apart and only wash our hands for 15 seconds? I cannot answer any of these questions but I can tell you that this year it is even more important than ever for you to renew your membership and continued commitment to Congregation B'nai Emet.

We may be living in isolation, but our community is still there for each and every one of you. We must maintain a sense of family during these challenging times. I hope you have tuned in to our Zoom services and Nosh 'n Drosch.

The Board of CBE recently met with the following proposals and objectives:

1. CBE has established an ad hoc committee to review all the state and local guidelines for a "soft" reopening of live services and how to implement the changes necessary to protect our congregants during this unique health crisis.
2. Although no definitive decision has been made for the High Holy Day services, CBE will explore different options:
 - A. Live services at Mt. Sinai or our own facility but maintaining social distances and other requirements deemed necessary for religious organizations
 - B. Combine live services with streaming as an alternative to give people the option of whether they feel comfortable to attend a live service or to remain segregated

Included in our membership renewal packet will be a form for our congregants to purchase additional HHD tickets for extended family members and friends. We hope that the Covid-19 pandemic will not deter you from purchasing additional tickets even if you do not intend to come to a live service. Please think of your "ticket," not as an entrance to a physical facility, but as a means for fulfilling the Mitzvah of celebrating the High Holy Days.

As in past years we are always trying to improve and beautify our facility. With this in mind I would like to apprise you of what capital improvements will hopefully come to fruition within the next fiscal year. Steve Rossman, Michael Hollander, and myself, Les Sutton, have met with two contractors to design and remodel our restroom facilities to conform with current ADA standards. At present, we are awaiting a concrete bid which will be within our budgeted amount.

Although not a capital improvement, Rabbi Paskow, with the help of a few members, have consulted with and contracted, Chana Gamliel from My Parochet, to design and create new every day and High Holy Day Torah mantles for our Torahs. I believe you will be excited and thrilled when you see how beautiful these covers will be. We are hoping to exhibit the new mantles for the High Holy Days.

For a non-profit organization such as ours, we depend on our membership for support throughout the year. When you fill out your membership paperwork for this year, please consider making an additional pledge to CBE, no matter how small, or if you can, perhaps jumping up a notch and paying your membership at a higher level. No contribution is too small, but the bigger the better. Without your extra support we would not be able to grow as a congregation or provide the myriad of activities we present each year.

The board, staff, and I are sincerely grateful for your ongoing support of Congregation B'nai Emet.

L'shalom

Les A. Sutton, DDS

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President

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