



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

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Dear Fellow Congregants,

August 25, 2020

It's that time of year again.....

The High Holy Days, or Days of Awe (*Yamim Noraim*) will soon be here. It is a time for us all to reflect on the past year, to be thankful, repent, and also for *tzedakah*, gifts to charity.

It is now nine months since becoming president of Temple Beth Sholom, a position that I assumed with both pride and humility, and I reflect on the wonderful attributes of TBS and the good fortune of belonging to such an embracing congregation, filled with great warmth and friendship among its members.

We are blessed to have the assistance of our dedicated administrative staff who work tirelessly on our behalf, often working beyond their normal daily hours. Rabbi Siegel brings new energy, innovation and uplifting erudite sermons for our spiritual fulfillment.

The purpose of this letter to you is to encourage you to make a generous donation to TBS this year for this year's Kol Nidre appeal, the largest and most important fundraiser of the year.

Why is Temple Beth Sholom and its future so important to us all?

TBS is the oldest functioning synagogue in Sarasota - Manatee County and the only conservative shul in this area. The services are egalitarian, with a daily minyan, the only available egalitarian minyan in this region.

The strength of this congregation can be seen in the regular attendance at Friday night services and the large attendance on Saturday mornings throughout the year, followed by a kiddish where congregants will sit and schmooze long thereafter. We have a caring support committee that reaches out to congregants and their families in times of illness and stress. Rabbi Siegel and his team are there for you.

Although we are physically separated but spiritually connected, we all look forward to resumption of religious services and social events in our synagogue. A dedicated committee has been hard at work all these past months in the further renovation of our beautiful chapel, so upon your return you will be amazed by the exquisite new Hebrew lettered quotation below the neir talmid, new bimah furniture and enhanced lighting.

The TBS cemetery, established way back in 1932, is the only Jewish cemetery in the area and a source of great pride. It is extremely well maintained and with serene gardens and tranquil setting it is the most beautiful in the entire region.

TBS is financially sound and continues to be managed by lay leaders with expertise. In addition our endowment continues to grow and is extremely well managed.

Security for our members, guest and staff remains a top priority, especially in the light of local and national anti-Semitic incidents. Security guards are present at weekend services and larger social events and we will continue to make further security improvements to our campus this year and in future years.

Our program and continuing education committee has organized the finest selection of programs for our congregants and the Jewish community at large in the area. The concert featuring renowned Cantor Azi Schwartz at the beginning of this year was a phenomenal success filling the entire 1100 seats of the Sarasota Opera House. We are proud to have partnered in a program that featured the role of women in WWII with the US Holocaust Museum in Washington DC. TBS was one of only three sites in Florida chosen to host this event. In addition, our program honoring pioneers and early members of TBS, held before the lockdown, was enormously successful and demonstrated our commitment to past members as well as to our present and potential members.

I am appealing to you, our fellow congregants, for your help this year in making a generous donation to our Kol Nidre appeal. A pledge card is enclosed with this letter. Please return in the self-addressed envelope as soon as possible.

Our balanced budget for this year depends on the ability to raise \$150,000. Please match or exceed your donation from last year. I hope that we will have 100% participation this year. With your help I am sure that we will reach this goal, enabling us to maintain all that we hold dear at Temple Beth Sholom.

We miss you, our *mishpachteinu*, congregational family, and we look forward to the time when we will be together again at Temple Beth Sholom. Stay well and safe.

Best wishes to you and your families for a good and sweet New Year, *shanah tovah m'tukah*, and well over the Fast.

With my sincere appreciation and best wishes,



Eric N. Faerber
President

The joy of giving is the joy of living
- Betty Schoenbaum