



Dear Fellow Member(s) of CBTBI,

Summer brings beaches and holidays and the time to renew memberships and commitment to CBTBI. Hebrew school planning and teacher hiring starts now. 2016 High holiday planning has already commenced. This year's beginning is accompanied by new bylaws, revised dues structure, new board members, new board officers, a new executive director and a new office assistant as well as many new ideas. We would like to invite all of you to join us on our ongoing journey to make CBTBI the Jewish community of choice for all in the Southern NJ area.

Our community is a vibrant one. Our religious activities, led by Rabbi Jordi with the input and assistance of many on the ritual committee, the choir and the general membership, support a religious home across a spectrum of Jewish traditions. We have worked hard to maintain a balance between traditional and modern, and to ensure that our religious observances meet the needs of all. Last year, the members of the Opportunities and Boundaries committee made a huge and substantial contribution to our future with their thoughtful work, much of which advised the revisions of our bylaws. While our membership diversity guarantees that we will never be 100% in agreement with everything, we can agree to support each other's efforts, accomplishments and final collective decisions with an open mind and a kind heart.

CBTBI is more than a building and a Hebrew School. We are a collection of people with many shared interests and agendas- religious, social and larger community based to mention a few. We urge everyone to find their place- and all levels of engagement are welcome.

Enclosed with this letter are the membership forms which include financial requirements. CBTBI will never exclude any person or family that is unable to meet the financial requirements; there is a private process for requesting financial assistance if needed. We would like to point out however that we can only provide the activities and services that we have the means to support. Dues and Hebrew School tuition alone do not cover the annual costs of maintaining CBTBI; thus while many of us would prefer not to be asked to participate in additional fundraisers, we must recognize the work that those who ask us are doing for all of our mutual benefit. If you are in a position to make a donation to a cause you believe in, please consider CBTBI, both now and in the future. The more that we are able to build a reserve now, the less we will need or have to ask for in the future.

All of us at CBTBI work hard to support the communal good. Please help us to grow our synagogue, our programs, our outreach, and most of all our sense of affection, support and community for each other. If you ever have any suggestions, questions, concerns or want to share a story about someone in the congregation who did something positive, feel free to reach out to any one of us.

Sincerely,

Lynn Helmer, President
Steve Blocher, Executive Director
Rabbi Jordan Gendra