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July 15, 2019

Dear Fellow Members of the Anshe Emeth Family,

Last week I was reflecting back to my childhood synagogue and tried to remember what summer was like. I couldn't remember much. Then I remembered, the Shul was closed in the summer months. I cannot imagine Anshe Emeth closed! Summer at AEMT is busy. Shabbat Services, Shabba-BQs, Torah study, committee meetings, and the rummage sale are just a few of the activities during the summer months. In addition, our clergy and staff are busy getting us ready for the High Holy Days, religious school, and the new program year.

October 11th marks Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple's 160th anniversary. We are looking forward to a year of celebration with special events marking our anniversary. We are also planning events celebrating Cantor Ott, in her final year as our Cantor. Sara Levine and Allison Warzala are chairing the 160th Anniversary & Cantor Ott Retirement Celebration Committee. Please contact either Allison or Sara if you would like to be involved.

The Cantor Search Committee has been formed and has begun to meet. The members of the Cantor Search Committee are:

Ina Horn and Allison Warzala (co-chairs), Debbie Cohn, Sandi Feller, Josh Furr, Connell Hutkin, Zoe Lipkin, Joyce Nussbaum, Michelle Silver, Rickey Stein, Paola Tartakoff, and Phil Trechak.

They are in the process of reviewing the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) guidelines and delineating the committee directive and timeline. This will allow them to start the process to ensure we have the best cantorial candidates.

The Budget & Finance Committee has worked diligently to present and have approved a balanced budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. In addition, we closed this past fiscal year with a small budget surplus. This was accomplished by strong fiscal planning and a dedicated community of giving.

After careful thought and consideration, Anshe Emeth has agreed to rent classroom space for one year to Central Jersey College Prep (www.cjcollegeprep.org), a local charter school that was looking for space in New Brunswick. This will be a satellite location for approximately 80 seventh grade students. The school will not impact the day to day activities of the temple. We are looking forward to this new partnership.

During my installation speech, I spoke about our community of inclusiveness. Is the Anshe Emeth community inclusive? Daryl Lipkin, our immediate Past President, asked this very question to the Temple Board at our retreat last year.

We came to the conclusion that we are an inclusive community, but we acknowledged that we have work to do to be even more inclusive. I will be establishing an Inclusion and Diversity Committee that will create a framework of guidelines and develop programming to make sure we can be our best selves.

Yes, it's a busy summer here at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple. Thank you all for the honor of being your President. I am so proud of my Anshe Emeth family. Your tireless work and dedication to making our community better will ensure that Anshe Emeth will be here for another 160 years.

L'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D-2' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Levine
President