

Dear members of our BHBE community,

We hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and well. It's springtime; the ground is thawing, we see trees starting to blossom, and we are all feeling hopeful towards the future as more and more of us get vaccinated against the virus.

Here in Wilmette, we are looking forward to the High Holidays and the coming year in our synagogue as we anticipate being able to be together.

This past year has certainly looked different than any other year. Though the parking lot on Big Tree Lane has been unusually empty, our computer screens have been filled with connection, learning, prayer, and laughter as we turned our efforts toward our Virtual Shul.

We are so grateful for your past support -- the year of the pandemic has been difficult for all of us, and we appreciate that you have chosen to continue your membership. Membership in a synagogue is truly a partnership -- while members contribute their talents, ideas, passions, and financial support, the synagogue strives to provide everyone with a community, engaging and educational events, supportive clergy, and loving friends who are there for you in happy times and difficult times.

This year, we are asking you to be as generous as you are able. If you have been affected by the economic challenges of this year, we are here for you -- anyone who wants to be in our community is welcomed with open arms -- and if you are able to give more than you did last year, your support will go a long way in helping to make our community thrive for generations to come.

The enclosed membership renewal form contains multiple opportunities to offer support. One involves a favorite communal activity -- the Shabbat Kiddush -- a beautiful time to build community and schmooze with our clergy and congregants. (G-d willing, we will be schmoozing and noshing again before long!) This lovely tradition is expensive, with a cost per person of approximately \$400 per year. Please help offset this with a suggested contribution of \$180 per person (or any amount you can do).

We wish you a shana tovah, and we look forward to bringing in the new year of 5782 with all of you.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Nate Crane

Cantor Pavel Roytman

Michael Kahn, Executive Director

Keri Bahar, President

Jay Goldstein, Executive Vice President

Dan Galvin, VP of Membership, on behalf of Membership Committee

As we work on our marketing materials for potential new members, we want to hear from you: Why are you a member of BHBE?

What do you love about BHBE? Why are you here? Please check all that apply.

- Warm, inclusive community
- Shabbat and holidays
- Academy (religious school) / bar mitzvah
- Clergy
- Life cycle events
- Programming for children
- Programming for teens
- Programming for adults
- Educational opportunities
- My friends belong here
- Sisterhood
- Men's Club
- My family members belong here
- Other: _____

How would you describe BHBE to a potential new member?

When you think of your time at BHBE, can you share a particular memory that comes to mind?

Do you have talents or skills to share with our community? (web design, leadership training, cooking, etc.)

When the COVID-19 crisis is over, what are you most looking forward to in your involvement/participation at BHBE?

Name: _____ Date _____

Address: _____