

June 2016/Sivan 5776



CONGREGATION KEHILLAH

RABBI BONNIE SHARFMAN

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Dear Friends:

It's that time of year again when we are asking you to renew your membership with Congregation Kehillah.

This has been a year of tremendous growth and progress for our community and I am extremely excited as I look to the coming new year.

Among the many things we can celebrate as accomplishments:

A vibrant and dynamic Women's group (GNO) and Men's group (Brotherhood) that each meet regularly to participate in activities, discussion, and awareness of how to be of service to our community.

Greater and steadily increasing programming refinement and efficiency led by our Administrator Renee Joffe whose strong commitment will help take Congregation Kehillah forward to better serve its communal members.

A consistently strong and enriching musical presence at Kabbalat Shabbat and High Holy Day services.

Access to our communal leadership and to our Rabbi in particular. Rabbi Sharfman's availability and accessibility to her congregants is a unique and deeply personal benefit to those who seek and develop a relationship with her as a teacher and spiritual guide. Learning from Rabbi Sharfman as a scholar and a catalyst for personal growth is a precious gift that is aligned with her teachings of the 18 core values that define Congregation Kehillah. For those who have sought this relationship with Rabbi Sharfman, it is truly what makes us different and vibrant.

A thriving YEP! program that is attracting new families hungry for the experience of Jewish education for their children.

These are just a few of the things we can look back on with satisfaction and with inspiration to build and improve upon.

The coming year will be an important and opportunity filled one for Congregation Kehillah. I am asking that all of you respond to this call to renew your membership. You will notice slight changes in our dues structure, necessary for our continued operation. The value and benefit derived from membership in our spiritual community should far exceed the small increase.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions and discuss particular concerns if you have any.

Wishing all of you a peaceful and restful summer.

L'shalom,

Rich Goldman

President
Congregation Kehillah

What is Congregation KEHILLAH?

KEHILLAH IS... intimate.

The Kehillah experience is centered on a series of relationships – personal rather than institutional – relationships between members and the Rabbi, among each other, and between individuals and G-d. Members have the opportunity to develop a loving partnership with our Rabbi.

KEHILLAH IS... radically inclusive & egalitarian.

You will be welcomed. We are multi-generational – newborns through *nonagenarians*. *We are women, men, gay, straight, married, single, working, retired, and veterans. We speak different languages and were born in different countries. Some of us were born Jewish; others were not. We are a Jewish spiritual home for all who seek it.*

KEHILLAH IS... joyful & spirited.

We sing, dance, laugh, joke, learn, challenge, seek, support, and grow together. There is a never a dull moment.

KEHILLAH IS... independent & unaffiliated.

We are an independent synagogue community, intentionally unaffiliated with any particular denomination of Judaism. We draw inspiration from a wide range of prayer styles, musical traditions, and Jewish spiritual practices. We are open to new ways of expressing our Judaism.

KEHILLAH IS... candescent & inspirational.

Rabbi Sharfman makes Judaism relevant for us. Kehillah is a place to explore and practice your spirituality. We are moved by what we see, hear, feel, and experience.

KEHILLAH IS... what you make it.

We were founded in 2008 by a small group of individuals hungry for new ways to explore their Judaism – they wanted more meaning, relevance, inspiration, connection and joy in their spiritual and religious practice. Kehillah members are partners in every sense of the word; we 'create kehillah' anew as we participate.

KEHILLAH IS... ever-evolving.

By our nature, Kehillah evolves, responding to the needs within our community and aspiring to live our Core Jewish Values. As the world changes, we adapt and continue to grow and learn. We never do something only "because that's the way we've always done it."

KEHILLAH IS... contribution.

Kehillah means "community." Rabbi Sharfman is eager to help each individual find his or her own personal connection to Judaism, connection within Congregation Kehillah, and connection within the 'kehillah' as a whole. Together, we explore new ways to connect with the world, practice acts of lovingkindness, and carry out social justice.