

June 2024

Dear Members of Kehillah,

Thank you for the privilege of continuing to being your President this past year. As our current fiscal year will soon be ending and we embark upon the 2024/25 year, I wanted to point out a few highlights of the past year that we can celebrate together:

- We held in person and Zoom services to accommodate the various needs of our congregation's members. We added additional Saturday services and Kabbalat Shabbat pre-Oneg events. Several Kiddush luncheons were added including after the Saturday morning service during Passover.
- Our High Holy Day services, which were well attended in person as well as on Zoom, were inspirational, and uplifting.
- **YEP!** continued to thrive with special programs such as "a trip to Israel" and **Ve-ahavta** Jenga (Rabbi said this was the coolest lesson yet).
- **CKYA** (Young Adults) programming is continuing with great success and is a great addition to our community.
- **FYC** (Families with Young Children) enjoyed Sippy Cup Shabbats that were creative and fun.
- **WNO** (Women's Night Out) and **MOK** (Men of Kehillah) are continuing with monthly events.
- **Social Action** participated in helping those less fortunate in the Greater Phoenix Community with several hands-on volunteering projects.
- Kehillah congregants enjoyed our **1<sup>st</sup> Chanukah Carnival**.
- **CK Golden Friends** was formed to provide daytime programming for our 55+ community. They delivered *Shalach Manot* to those who were homebound or unable to attend services in person.
- The **3rd Annual Purim Carnival** was a great success and enjoyed by both children and adults. The adult Purim event was also a great addition with a Shpiel, food, costumes, and entertainment.
- Rabbi led a trip to Israel, for a small volunteer group to aid Israelis traumatized by war and to show support for Israel. She plans to take another group in October, to connect our members to their Jewish heritage.

Once again, I would like to recognize how our wonderful Rabbi, Renee, our cantorial soloists, and the Board of Directors continue to operate and improve every aspect of Kehillah's environment. The amount of hard work and dedication is appreciated by all.

On a personal note, I am energized by the resilience of our community. We have embraced the challenge and grown stronger with continued participation and enthusiasm. We created momentum that will continue as we enter our next fiscal year which begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. Kehillah's wellbeing depends on your continued support. The Board of Directors reviewed our current financials and due to our increased expenses has voted to raise the dues for the 2024/25 fiscal year. Dues helps us pay our Administrator, Cantorial Soloists, Security, Building Maintenance, CKYA staff and YEP! staff and keep our doors open.

For those who can, please consider increasing your financial commitment to Kehillah. **Kehillah Community Supporters (KCS)** represent the financial pillars of our Kehillah (community), contributing beyond their basic membership commitment, helping to ensure our financial stability, safeguard our ability to retain staff, add additional clergy and staff as the need increases, and allow us to continue to deliver the high quality of care, programming, and services that you have come to know with Congregation Kehillah.

We also recognize that financial commitment may be difficult for some, and we will continue, as we always have, to work with you so that you can remain members of our community; and for those with children, continue to educate your children here at no extra fee. Please contact Renee. All conversations are strictly confidential.

We ask that returning members please fill out the **Membership Renewal Form** so that our records are up to date. Please return this form along with your financial commitment form and payment.

I look forward to growing Kehillah with you.

*L'Shalom,*

Jane Neely, President