June 29, 2023

Dear CBH Partners:

It’s a pleasure to greet you via this letter and to ask you to support our congregation through your 2023-2024 pledge.

Coming into post-pandemic synagogue life provided many blessings and reminded us what a thriving place of worship, friendship, and Jewish life we have created! In the past year, we have realized how fortunate we are to have Rabbis Simons and Wohlner as part of our community and family. Their many innovations and new programs have kept CBH an exciting and rewarding place to belong.

We heard your concerns regarding local and global conditions, such as growing antisemitism, and responded with a significant investment in our campus security. Our Education and Youth programs welcomed 110 religious school students back to campus, including 30 new students. In April, we welcomed Jennifer Heath as Gan Haverim Director who has been successful in charting a positive and energetic course for our preschool. And due to the overwhelming support of the partnership and your volunteerism, the Board established new Diversity/Equity/Inclusion and Countering Antisemitism committees, and a new Sustainability Task Force.

There are many more accomplishments for this year and exciting plans for the coming year. I encourage you to read the Board’s Annual report, available on our website, for a summary.

One of the most important ways we express our intent for CBH to be a joyful and vibrant Jewish community is through our financial support. As is the case for most parts of our lives, the cost of running CBH has increased over the past year. Utilities, maintenance and repair, payroll costs, teaching materials, snacks…all cost more than in past years. While much of the innovation and many accomplishments described above come from the creativity, initiative, and drive of people in our community, making these ideas happen also requires funding.

Each year, the Finance Committee calculates the average per-partner family annual pledge needed based on revenue and expenses in the budget. For the current year, through May, together we have contributed 95% of this goal – thank you! We were able to get this close to the required pledge revenue because many people contributed more than the sustaining amount, and their generous contributions nearly balanced the pledges of families that were not able to contribute the sustaining amount. This practice of those with greater means giving more in order to support others unable to contribute as much is an expression of our most basic shared value and commitment to our community.

In the coming year, the sustaining pledge level is **$2,700**. The more of us that pledge at this level, the closer we come to achieving our mission and vision as a Jewish community. For those able to contribute at a higher level, your support will help ensure that we can balance our budget and enable everyone who wants to participate in Jewish life at CBH to do so.

Along with your pledge, we continue to ask for a $275 contribution for *L’Dor v’Dor* which funds a portion of maintenance of our campus facilities.

Last year a security fee was added to the annual pledge request. This year the Board addressed the need for additional security for our employees, partners, and students by hiring a full-time security guard. This year we are increasing the security fee to **$360**, to cover the actual cost of increased security.

Please reflect on your own role in keeping CBH a thriving Jewish space. While your pledge is for the coming year, it truly is an investment in the long term sustainability of our community. Your choice to give at one of these suggested levels below allows us to continue to be the center of Jewish life in Yolo County today and for years to come.

**Pillar $5400**

**Guardian $3800**

**Builder $3200**

**Sustainer $2700**

Thank you so very much for your ongoing support of Congregation Bet Haverim. Together we will support one another in building our sacred space.

Sincerely,



Robin Kulakow,

President

CBH Board of Directors