
Rabbis Bess Wohlner and Jeremy Simons | Rabbi Emeritus Greg Wolfe

Robin Kulakow, President | Wendy Haworth, Interim Executive Director

Ardyth Sokoler, Director of Education and Youth | Jennifer Heath, Director of Gan Haverim Preschool

June 10, 2024. 4 Sivan 5784

Dear Haverim,

This annual pledge letter comes to you at a turbulent time - for our world, for our town, and for our synagogue. We are writing this letter as war continues to wage in the Middle East, as students and faculty on our local university campus and individuals throughout our town face discrimination and antisemitism, and as our CBH community navigates an extremely challenging economic climate.

We have so much to be grateful for. Our clergy, our staff, and our partners make us who we are. Our campus is beautiful and spacious and 100% ours. Our organizational will is strong, and our leadership never gives up on trying to make this home of ours as good as it can be. And so, we face a challenge: celebrating all that we have and, at the same time, striving for what we could become. We want to grow - in numbers as well as in impact. We want to be vibrant and innovative - in the programs that we offer and in the facilities that we utilize. We want to be safe and secure - of mind, body, and soul. And we want to be a warm and welcoming sacred home.

As you are considering making your annual pledge to CBH, we want to give you clear visibility into how our dues structure works today. We are asking for a significant financial contribution, and it is important to us as lay leaders and senior staff that this process be as transparent as possible.

Costs. Each year the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors spend a great deal of time and effort to create a budget for CBH that is as lean as possible while ensuring that we have vibrant religious, educational, and cultural programs, and a safe, clean, and well-functioning campus. Over 60 percent of CBH's budget is for staff – our Rabbis, our teachers, and our administrative staff. The remaining 40 percent goes for utilities (i.e., PG&E, sewage, etc.), campus landscaping, janitorial services, operational costs, and the costs of maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure on our aging campus.

Over the past few years, staffing, electricity, security, and other operational costs have risen significantly due to inflation. Although the CBH budget was already very lean, the Finance

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Committee and Board of Directors have carefully scrutinized expenditures in the budget for 2024-25 and made a number of further reductions. Nevertheless, the 2024-25 Budget approved by the Board estimates that the costs of operating CBH increase by 7.5 percent (\$120,000) over the estimated actual expenditures for 2023-24.

Revenues. As part of building the annual budget, the Board of Directors calculates a Sustaining Pledge. This is an amount that will cover the majority of our operating costs for the year if each partner household steps up to the challenge. Last year, we unfortunately collected only 77% of the needed revenue, causing a budget shortfall. While many partners pledged amounts greater than or equal to the Sustaining Pledge, more than one-half of our partners pledged less than the Sustaining Pledge, and *many pledged significantly less*. To offset the resulting revenue shortfall, the Board of Directors dipped into CBH's emergency reserves last year. However, these reserves are limited and not renewable and need to be maintained for emergencies. The amount that we are able to raise through pledges this year will determine exactly how long these reserves will last - but our reliance on them right now is not sustainable past 1-2 years.

With this increased insight into how we operate and what we require from our partners, we are asking each partner household to pledge at our Sustainer level for the 2024/2025 year. We recognize that there are people within our community who truly cannot afford to pay the sustaining amount. This is why it is so important for those who can to make the full pledge or consider going beyond. If you can, please consider stretching your pledge (suggested levels are outlined below), allowing us to continue to be the regional center of our Jewish community, and ensuring that Davis will always be a town with a synagogue. The unfortunate truth is that if we cannot raise the pledge revenue we need using a voluntary pledge system, we will be forced to make reductions that will cut into the services and programming that CBH can provide next year.

Sustainer	\$3,000
Builder	\$5,400
Guardian	\$7,200
Pillar	\$10,000+

It is important to note that the budget continues to rely on fundraising, in addition to the requested pledge amounts, to fully fund our annual operating costs. It is our hope that you feel inspired by this community to pledge as generously as possible.

We look forward to a year of health and healing, growth and building connections.

L'Shalom,

CBH Board of Directors

Rabbi Wohlner

Rabbi Simons

Wendy Haworth

***As with past years, all households pay a \$500 Security Fee and a \$275 L'dor V'dor fee. Your L'dor V'dor fee funds the Capital Replacement Reserve for the campus and facility. Your Security Safety Fee directly enables us to address real-world security, including professionally trained guards, and safety concerns within the Congregation and during off-site programs.