



P'tach Libeynu: Open Our Hearts is Temple Isaiah's support and education effort for mental health. We have been providing support and education for our congregation since 2009. In honor of Mental Health Month 2017, P'tach Libeynu issues the following proclamation.

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are real and prevalent in our nation, and half of us will have a mental health diagnosis at some point in our lives; and

WHEREAS, all of us experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives, and should feel comfortable in seeking help and support to manage these times; and

WHEREAS, engaging in prevention, early identification, and early intervention are effective ways to reduce the burden of mental illness as they are to reduce the burden of other chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, individuals and their families must have access to necessary information, including prevention, best treatments, services and supports leading to recovery, and the opportunity to exercise choice over their decisions, and

WHEREAS, with effective treatment before Stage 4, all individuals with mental illness – even serious mental illness- can make progress toward recovery and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, jails and prisons have often become the default places of custodial care for even nonviolent people with serious mental illnesses: and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, religious organization and citizen has a responsibility to promote mental health and well-being for all.

THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF P'TACH LIBEYNU, we do hereby proclaim May 2017 as Mental Health Month at Temple Isaiah, and call upon the congregants, staff, and clergy to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses at all stages.

