

Financial update and year-end appeal from our President, Rich Goldman

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Friends:

Recently, I wrote to you asking for your help and support by making contributions to Congregation Kehillah as the calendar year comes to an end. The purpose of this email is to follow up and a reminder with some additional information that should help you better understand the urgency of this request.

Let me begin by saying to those who have already responded, thank you for what you have generously done. Your help and its importance cannot be overstated in terms of its impact on our ability to operate as a community. To those who are able to help and are considering doing so, I hope my words move you to take action and quickly.

What has necessitated this financial appeal is the building renovation process that is just now coming to an end. While I think we all share a sense of joy and pride in the results, the story behind the story is one of significant complications and unanticipated issues having to do with the particular requirements of water retention and drainage on our site. Specifically, the approval and regulatory process we had to navigate was far longer and more costly than we had estimated. Professional fees for engineering, architecture, and approvals cost us a very large portion of the money we raised to do this renovation. Our original estimates in this area were nowhere near what it has cost us to comply and remedy the water related issues our property has.

The result was that we spent a large sum of money we didn't plan for, on something we couldn't work around. This has left us short of where we believed we would be at the end of the construction process. The reality of construction is that unanticipated and unplanned for things can and do happen. We did our best to anticipate this but even our most pessimistic assumptions were exceeded by the demands and requirements Maricopa County placed on our project. In all honesty, I believe our team led by David Goldfarb did an outstanding job of managing and containing this process despite the cost overrun.

So, what does all this mean?

It means we spent money on things we had not planned for and it now leaves us short of where we need to be. It means we must raise additional funds immediately to operate and pay our bills. It means working to reach out to all of you and ask you to do whatever you possibly can at this time to help.

What else does it mean?

It also means we need to remember and not lose sight of how extraordinarily unique and significant our spiritual community and relationships are. Our congregation has been built lovingly and with great care for each other. What makes this truly special is the value we place on being a group of caring individuals who are committed to each other and to the sacred work of healing the world. With this in mind, again I ask you to reflect on the importance of this to you and what you personally can do to support it.

This is a time to dig deep and help Congregation Kehillah by responding with any financial support you can provide.

If you have any questions or want to discuss this with your leadership, both Rabbi Sharfman and I are available to do so.

Thank you in advance.

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