

August 28, 2025 / 4 Elul, 5785

Dear Tree of Life Congregant,

As I reflect on the past year at Tree of Life, I am filled with gratitude for the energy, generosity, and spirit of our community. Together, we have accomplished so much:

- Welcomed new members and deepened engagement among long-standing members.
- Continued our educational programs for children, teens, and adults.
- Enhanced our worship services with inspiring music and meaningful Torah study.
- Strengthened our social action initiatives, providing support to those in need in our community and beyond.
- Upgraded our security systems with new cameras, wearable panic buttons, new front doors, and new street-facing windows with ballistic glass.
- Improved our facilities to make our synagogue more welcoming, safe, and accessible.
- Appointed a Rabbinical Search Committee.

These achievements are only possible because of your continued commitment to our Temple.

As we look to the year ahead, our vision is to build upon this momentum—expanding programming, sustaining our clergy and staff, and ensuring our synagogue remains a home for spiritual growth, learning, and community.

To make this happen, I am asking you please consider increasing your membership dues for the coming year by at least 20 percent. An increase of 20 percent, or whatever amount feels right for your household, will directly support the programs, services, and sacred space that will make our congregation not only survive but thrive for many more years.

Since 2019, our membership has declined by over 40 percent. Membership growth is vital to Tree of Life's continued success as a source of Jewish values and worship. Therefore, I also ask you to help us grow by reaching out to friends, neighbors, and family who might be looking for a welcoming Jewish community. A personal invitation is often the best way to bring someone new through our doors.

Your generosity sustains us. More importantly, it ensures that Tree of Life continues to be a place of belonging, meaning, and Jewish life for generations to come.

Finally, as many of you know, Rabbi Joseph Hample will be retiring next year. His leadership, wisdom, and compassion have guided our congregation for many years, and we are deeply grateful for all he has given to our community. In the coming months, we will have opportunities to honor Rabbi Joe, celebrate his accomplishments, and share our appreciation.

Thank you for all that you do. With your partnership, I am confident that our community will continue to grow in strength and spirit.

Warmly,

Tyler Simms
President, Tree of Life

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Simms". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T" and "S".