



Erev Yom Kippur 5772

Dear Friend

Tomorrow, we begin *Yom Kippur*, the day in which *Hashem's* plan for our year is signed and sealed. As we say in the "*Unetaneh Tokef*", *tzedakah* will remove any harsh decrees in store for us. Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain said "by distributing one's possessions with *tzedakah*, one turns the promise of *Rosh Hashanah* into the abundant fulfillment of *Yom Kippur*: a year of sweetness and plenty".

I was taught by my first employer that a person, who gives *tzedakah*, will make double his money back. If you look at what the financial markets have done lately, you will realize that this is your best investment. Charity is something I have lived my life by, and what I attribute my success to. It is with this thought that I reach out to you with our annual *Yom Kippur* appeal.

Historically, the revenue from the annual *Yom Kippur* appeal has accounted for over 5% of our annual operating budget. As we have taken on additional expenses as we carry both our existing building and our new home, our expenses have significantly increased. Our goal for this year's appeal is to raise \$15,000, far more than in any of our previous years.

The Rabbi and the Executive Board are in agreement that there is no better and appropriate goal then to raise the funds needed to outfit our new *ma'kom tefillah* with a new *mechitzah*. As you have seen in prior communications, our Interior Design Committee has been reaching out to all of our members for their input, and are putting together the final touches on their presentation and proposal. Ultimately, the membership will choose the final design of our *mechitzah*.

As we sit in this building, our tenth year here, utilizing partitions in lieu of *mechitzot*, one can only imagine the integral role the new *mechitzah* will play in our *shul*.

For those of you who will be *davening* with us on *Yom Kippur*, you will find this year's appeal card on your seat. We urge everybody who attends Shaare Tefillah, whether regularly or on a seldom basis, to make a donation. You can return the card with your pledge to me or any member of the Board. Checks can be sent via mail to: PO Box 3131, Teaneck, NJ 07666 or contributions can be made online by visiting the shul's website at: www.shaaretefillah.org/Members/yizkor-appeal.html

On behalf of the Rabbi and the Board of Directors, I thank you for your generosity and support and wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year and a *k'tiva va'chatima tova!*

Sincerely,

Mendy Schwartz
President