

## *SACRED SPACE - PROJECT BEIT TEFILAH*

Our cup runneth over. At this time of Thanksgiving, I am filled with gratitude to be a part of Temple Beth Tzedek.

In the short time since the genesis of our synagogue, we have firmly defined and distinguished ourselves as a *kehilah*, a *sacred community* dedicated to serving God, a life of Torah. Nurtured and facilitated through Keshet and carried out in earnest by our members, our approach and actions underscore that we view all human beings with infinite dignity, created in the image of God. We are blessed with exceptional clergy in Rabbi Netter and Cantor Spindler, and an extraordinary congregation of caring individuals dedicated to performing deeds of loving kindness and to providing services and programs filled with ruach, richness and vibrancy in furtherance of our synagogue mission.

Our beautifully established sacred community is now blessed with the opportunity to focus on our sacred space. In September we advised you that a business had expressed an interest in purchasing our property and that we were exploring the possibilities. Let me give you an update. In November, our board authorized the signing of a **non-binding** letter of intent with the business, to prepare a proposed formal agreement of sale. This would include appropriate conditions to protect TBT, such as maintaining our right of occupancy at our current location until any move to a new building to ensure continuity of services, and making the sale contingent on our ability to finance the purchase and construction of a new location. Let me stress this: We have **not** sold the property – nor can we without your approval – but we are merely continuing negotiations. Any sale agreement would need to be presented to the board for comment and approval, and then to the congregation for approval. Court approval would also be required. **Nothing** would be binding until these events have happened, and there is much to do and discuss beforehand.

As our next step, I am delighted to announce the launching of Project Beit Tefilah (House of Prayer) to focus on our sacred space. We will be preparing a due diligence report to present to our board and congregation for informed decision-making on whether it would be in the best interest of our synagogue to repair, maintain and renovate our current building with cost-efficiency, environmental and accessibility upgrades, or whether a new building in a new location would best enable our congregation to endure and flourish. Harvey Sanders will be chairing Project Beit Tefilah, with our synagogue leadership heading teams to conduct due diligence and to develop and implement authorized steps. Rabbi Netter will be guiding and teaching us about the creation and importance of sacred space, whether in our current building or in a new building. I will be working with our leadership to ensure that we attain the highest standards in all that we do and that we engage our congregation in Project Beit Tefilah through teams, focus groups, updates and forums.

Toward that end, I would like to invite our membership to attend one of two identical informational forums on Project Beit Tefilah at a time that is most convenient for you: **Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m., or Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m.** We look forward to hearing your best thoughts, addressing your questions and concerns, and joining with you on this next exciting stage in the journey of our sacred community: development of our sacred space.