



## BETH MENACHEM CHABAD *of* NEWTON

August 2018

Elul 5778

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin by wishing you all a heartfelt MAZEL TOV!!! This year marks 18 years since the founding of our beloved Beth Menachem Chabad – a year which we have designated as our “Chai Anniversary Celebration.” Our progress to our current beautiful full service Jewish Center is an extraordinary achievement, especially in the current environment of diminishing synagogue memberships. How did we get here in such a short period of time and under these circumstances?

As many of our members have stated, “It’s a miracle – nothing else can explain it.” While we can certainly point to Hashem’s blessings and those of the Rebbe, this miracle was facilitated by the hard work of our Rabbis, their wives and many members who have been so generous with their time and money.

Each time I enter our building, attend a Shabbos service and Kiddush, watch the many children enrolled in our school programs playing in our new outdoor recreational area, or when I participate in a family or Yom Tov simcha, I “kvell” at what we’ve accomplished. This sense of pride and nachas never gets old.

Having said that, we will never be satisfied with the status quo. A stagnant Jewish Center won’t suffice, and we must continue to grow and offer more and more Jewish opportunities to our members and community. In the next few months we will be submitting our application to the City of Newton for a comprehensive Early Childhood Education program which includes construction of new classrooms and other facilities on our lower floor to support an enrollment of 48 children; it will also include a realignment of our outdoor parking capacity to support additional parking spaces. This will be no small accomplishment both in effort and cost, and upon its completion I believe we will be competitive with all the large area Synagogues and able to attract young Jewish families to our warm, friendly and accepting Jewish environment.

I would not be truthful if I left out the other “ingredient” that was necessary in our evolution from a traveling minyan to the small house to our current large and modern beautiful home. Nothing can be done without the financial contributions of our members and other generous individuals who have recognized the need and importance of our existence as the leading Chabad Center in New England. Beth Menachem Chabad now supports the religious, educational and life cycle needs of hundreds of Jewish individuals, families and the Jewish community at large throughout Newton and the surrounding communities. Our Chabad Jewish Center provides:

- Daily minyans for all three prayer services

- Ritual mikvah facilities for both women and men
- Shabbos services with a weekly sponsored elaborate kiddush
- A licensed preschool with comprehensive services
- CTeen (Jewish programming for public high school students)
- Hebrew School for grade school children
- Adult Jewish and cultural education
- Complete services for all Jewish life cycle events including Bar and Bas Mitzvah training, Bris Milah and wedding celebrations with full catering capability
- Major Jewish holiday family dinners and Jewish holiday themed celebrations

We are now just days away from the High Holidays. Last year we hosted nearly 300 men, women and children. This year we have retained a new Chazzan with a beautiful enchanting voice who will lead us joyfully through the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur holidays. I'm certain you will enjoy his rendition of the traditional Jewish songs and prayers.

Our ability to support the needs of the community can only be maintained by the contributions of our members and supporters. We do not receive financial support from outside organizations, and we must raise money to cover our annual operating deficit. This is the time of year that we turn to you - whether you come every Shabbat or just for the High Holidays - for your support so we can continue providing a welcoming Center for every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation. As you know, we do not require "tickets" and we turn no one away based on financial hardship. The financial viability of our Center depends on you.

The Board of Trustees has instituted a Supporting Membership at Beth Menachem Chabad in the amount of \$1500 per family or individual. If you have not been a Supporting Member, we urge you to do so this year. Many of you have given more than this in the past and we hope you will continue to do so by becoming a Benefactor with a \$2000 donation or a Guardian with a \$3600 donation.

Lastly, please mark October 28<sup>th</sup> on your calendars and save the date to attend our "Chai Anniversary Dinner Gala," featuring TV star comedian Marc Weiner from "Nickelodeon Weinerville" and the formal installation of Rabbi Shalom Ber Prus as Rabbi and Director of our Jewish Center. This promises to be an entertaining evening, with musical guests and a lavish full course dinner from Catering by Andrew.

Enclosed please find a membership card which outlines the different donor designations. Your donation is 100% tax deductible and we truly appreciate your generosity.

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Sweet New Year,



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