



BETH MENACHEM
CHABAD *of* NEWTON

September 2021

Elul 5781

Dear Friends,

My most exciting day this year was Shabbos March 20th 2021, two weeks after my second vaccination, and I went to shul for the first time since March 2020. Seeing all my Shul friends after such a long time, getting an Aliyah, listening to our two Rabbis chant Shacharis and the Torah and once again being able to kibbitz with “the gang”, was a blessing that I had nearly forgotten and missed so terribly due to the pandemic. We often take these “simple” things in our daily lives for granted, but we must remember just how critical our Chabad is to our well-being.

During these difficult the past 18 months, many businesses chose to close their doors. Their owners lamented “we had to close after 5, 10, 20 years or even longer”. Beth Menachem Chabad has continued serving the community, with adherence to local and state safety laws. We are in the people business – a people business that must have face to face interaction with you, our “customers”. Thank G-d, we survived and with great determination, Rabbi Sholom Ber and Itty Prus have rebuilt our operations to nearly 100% of our pre-pandemic status, under the guidance of Rabbi Chaim and Nechama Prus. Our Hebrew School, Pre-School, Summer Camp, Adult Learning, C-Teen are all operating smoothly and with wonderful attendance.

Having said that, “*just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water*”, the pandemic is still with us. While we pray that, G-d willing, this pandemic will come to an end in the very near future, Public Health experts warn us that we should not expect to return to 100% normalcy until sometime in 2022. As the economy has been affected negatively by the pandemic, it has also affected our fund raising efforts. While many of you have stepped up to help us with increased donations, especially during the recent Matching Campaign, we appeal to the community for help and support, so we can continue to serve the Newton Jewish community.

Our goal is not only to survive, but to emerge from this period in a stronger and better position than when we entered it, ready and able to serve our “customers” in a manner you expect and deserve from the leading Chabad Center in New England.

On a bright note, we are happy to inform you that the City of Newton has granted us all the permits necessary to undertake the remodeling of our downstairs space and an overhaul of the front parking area to provide additional parking spaces and an improved traffic flow.

Now more than ever before, our ability to serve the Jewish community can be facilitated only by your individual contributions. We do not receive financial aid from outside organizations, and we must raise money to cover our annual operating budget. This is the time of year that we turn to YOU, whether you come every Shabbos or only for the High Holidays, and ask for your support so we can continue to offer a welcoming Jewish Center for every Jewish man, woman or child, regardless of background or affiliation.

The Board of Trustees has instituted a Supporting Membership at Beth Menachem Chabad in the amount of \$1800 per family or individual. If you have not been a Supporting Member, your help will make a difference, now more than ever. Many of you have given more than this in the past and we ask you to continue to do so, by becoming a Benefactor with a \$2,400 donation or a Guardian with a \$3,600 donation. Enclosed please find a membership card which outlines the different donor designations. Your donation is 100% tax deductible, and we truly appreciate your generosity.

G-d Willing, I hope to be able to greet you in person “nose to nose” very soon in our shul and we all here at Beth Menachem Chabad offer you our best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and “Zeesah” (Sweet) New Year. Shana Tovah Oometukah!

Sincerely,

Fred Chanowski, President

Boris Belopolsky	Dmitry Berdichevsky	Bruce Dezube	Esther Dezube
Rami Hascal	Sid Lejfer	Martin Levitan	Marty Lurie
Zev Monisov	Lee Mondshein	Ben Saada	Alex Smolyar
Igor Stolarov	Bob Reibstein		