



THE HISTORIC KIEVER SYNAGOGUE

August 18, 2020

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Over the last few weeks the board has been delighted to connect with so many of you by phone, and the response of the membership to our fundraising campaign has been especially moving. At this point, we have raised nearly \$100,000 toward our goal of \$250,000 for the **David Pinkus Building Fund**, which does our President Emeritus great honour. To those of you who have pledged—thank you most sincerely, and we will look forward to receiving your payments. To those still considering a gift, please come forward; any member of the board or I will be happy to speak with you further. As you will have seen in the Annual Report that was sent to all members, we have concrete repair plans, and your gifts will help us to maintain our historic building.

It is important not only to preserve our building but also to grow our **membership** and increase the activities we provide. Among the most important ways you can support the Kiever is by renewing your membership or becoming a full member for the first time. Doing so sends a strong signal that you are willing to invest on a regular basis in the ongoing wellbeing of the synagogue. It is a signal directed at ourselves, our families, and the community at large. The more *we* commit *ourselves* to the Kiever, the more compelling is our case when we turn to outside sources for additional support. Above all, being a member means having a say in the decisions and directions of the congregation. More information about membership can be found below.

Many people think of their membership as equivalent to **High Holiday tickets**, and although tickets for these services are an important benefit of membership, they are not the same. The synagogue functions all year round, and costs like insurance, security, utilities, maintenance, and salaries need to be paid well after the holidays have come and gone. Of course, now is the time to plan for the High Holidays, which is especially challenging in the age of COVID-19. We are determined to protect the health of our congregants and fellow Torontonians, and we will hold services in accordance with provincial health guidelines. This means limiting the number of people inside the building in order to maintain safe physical distancing (and requiring masks). It is vital that, if you wish to join us for services, that you register by clicking [here](#). This link will take you to a form, where each individual person should check the appropriate boxes. We hope that we will be able to accommodate all who wish to come; we will keep this registration open until September 1 or until we reach 70 people per service, whichever comes first. We fully support those who choose to be prudent and stay away from services this year, and despite the smaller number, we will strive under the leadership of Rabbi Cohen to offer a spiritually meaningful experience for those in attendance.

On behalf of the board, let me close by wishing you and your families the traditional new year's greeting, which is all the more powerful this year: **Shanah Tovah u'Metukah**—a sweet New Year, and may 5781 (2020–21) be filled with health and happiness.

Dr. Adam S. Cohen, President