

A MESSAGE FROM THE BEIT TIKVAH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Members and Friends of Congregation Beit Tikvah:

Please join us in welcoming the New Year 5785! Our High Holy Day theme this year is 'Hope and Healing in Troubled Times.'

Our lives have been disrupted by the rise in anti-Semitic speech and activities in the world and the continuing tragic events in Israel and Gaza. Closer to home, our Congregation still mourns the loss of our key member Ira May last winter and long time member and Torah Reader Dr. Harold Bob.

Though difficult, these experiences can remind us of Judaism's legacy of strength and resilience, and of our own resilience as a Congregation. We are stronger together than apart.

As we enter the year 5785, Beit Tikvah has many things to be grateful for. Rabbi Doug Heifetz continues to be a tremendous source of inspiration for us with his uplifting and joyful services.

As a participatory congregation, we rely on our individual and collective efforts to make our community work effectively. Our congregation is fortunate to be sustained by dedicated and generous individuals with a keen interest in Reconstructionist Judaism and a wide array of talents, skills and backgrounds.

With respect to this year's High Holy Day services, we are again meeting in person this year. (Please take whatever precautions against COVID you personally wish.) We will also be live-streaming the services via Zoom.

We have some special High Holy Day activities planned.

- Following services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, please join us at Lake Roland for an 'artistic' Tashlich ritual, where we symbolically cast off the old behaviors and patterns that have held us back. After Tashlich, we invite you to join us for a potluck lunch.
- On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we'll be gathering at The Charmery in Towson for an enlightening discussion reflecting on the 'Al Het' Prayer.
- Following Ne'ilah services on Yom Kippur, we will host our traditional Break-the-Fast meal.

As we move forward into the New Year, we have several goals. We need people to join our Leadership Team for terms that begin in November. We also invite other members to work with us to develop programs and activities that align with our purpose. We appeal to you to join us with your time and your talents to make the coming months as exciting, fulfilling and impactful as possible.

We continue to encourage and invite members with interest to consider serving in one of the following roles:

- Newsletter editor – Put your skills to work to share important and timely information
- Creative writers – Share your literary talents to inform and inspire others
- Technical support – Update and maintain the Beit Tikvah website
- Tikkun Olam (Healing the World) – Take the lead in the congregation's Tikkun Olam efforts.

Together, our continuing commitment defines who we are as a congregation. We're ready to get the year started, and we invite you to be a part of it all! Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership today!

L'Shanah Tovah,

Eric, Karen, Miriam, Maria, Bill and Ilene – Your Beit Tikvah Leadership Team