

H A R Z I O N T E M P L E



TEKIAH 100+ תקיעה

HEAR THE CALL. STAND TOGETHER.



HEAR THE CALL
STAND TOGETHER

A CASE FOR GIVING

Har Zion Temple has always answered the call!

For 100+ years, Har Zion Temple has been a local, national, and global leader in Conservative Judaism. This sustained strength is reflected in our ability to adapt, thrive, and be responsible using best business practices in an ever-changing environment.

Har Zion has a proud heritage and a legacy of community building and philanthropic leadership in all aspects of Jewish life in the Greater Philadelphia area, such as the Jewish Federation, JFCS, JRA, and The Weitzman Museum. You will find Har Zion leaders and congregants continuing to shape society at every level – from medicine to education to law to business to finance to sports to culture and the arts. Our singularly talented and community-minded congregants are Har Zion's greatest resource and blessing.

Har Zion congregants are forward thinking, dynamic, and passionate. We are a community of innovative worship and leading-edge educational initiatives. We are a people that sing, dance, and celebrate together. We are a community that welcomes all, nurtures families, and cultivates lifelong friendships. We stand up for the State of Israel, speak out against antisemitism, and promote the strength and security of the Jewish people.

We now proudly launch **Tekiah**, the first campaign in a generation, which celebrates the holiness that exists when our members stand together face-to-face in sacred relationship.

This campaign consists of three integrated faces (Capital, Program, and Endowment) that will raise funds to:

- reimagine and enhance our 88,000 sq. ft. facility and 25-acre campus
- enrich current engagement initiatives and implement innovative, transformational programs for all ages and stages
- strengthen the endowment to effectively respond to unforeseen needs, weather economic shifts, and ensure affordability for all who will call Har Zion home

Together, we will write the next chapter in Har Zion's distinguished history. The investment we make today in all three faces of **Tekiah** will bring the bold vision for our community to life and bolster Har Zion's position as a leading 21st century synagogue. Together, we will write the next chapter in Har Zion's distinguished history.

Hear the Call. Stand Together.



“Har Zion Temple has been like home to the Fishman family for 75 years. It is the place our family has turned to for our mitzvahs and our sorrows. We have a responsibility to make sure it continues to be that place for generations to come. L'dor V'dor.”

Mark Fishman

CAPITAL

The resources secured through full participation from the congregation will enable our community members to more meaningfully and joyfully interact with one another in an improved and modernized facility and campus, with a multi-faceted approach to worship and programming.

The **Sanctuary** is the heart and soul of Har Zion; it reflects the core values of our community. The envisioned improvements will preserve and enhance the beauty and grandeur of this most sacred space, while increasing its functionality and accessibility for ourselves, Jewish organizations, and the community at large. We will add a lower, hydraulic *bimah* that can extend into the congregation and retract into the floor. This reimagined *bimah* configuration allows enhanced warmth and intimacy as we can face one another during times of prayer, celebration, joy, and sorrow. Sacred moments and experiences will be placed at the very center of the gathered community. The renovations will offer more natural light, flexible seating, and greater accessibility to the *bimah*; they will celebrate the majesty of our beautiful Ark and exquisite stained-glass windows.

The **Chapel** is filled everyday with the voices of our community - in prayer, conversation, and learning. It hosts a variety of offerings for all generations and constituent groups. The improvements will allow for more natural light and an accessible, flexible layout and *bimah*. This new configuration will enhance the Chapel as a vibrant ritual and educational hub for our synagogue.







“As a member of Har Zion’s House Committee, I look forward to a reimagined facility, dedicated to serving congregants of all ages, as we build upon our success for the next 100 years.”

Doug Sayer



The **Kitchen** is already a favorite space for volunteers and caterers to prepare meals for Shabbat, holidays, and celebrations. The proposed renovations will add an entirely new dimension of social and educational opportunities. The Kitchen will be an excellent catering space, and it will be a warm and engaging space for us to gather. The transformation of the kitchen relies on a programmatic investment as well as a capital investment. Some of the highlights of the reimagined kitchen will include significant audiovisual upgrades for teaching purposes, capabilities for livestreaming and recording, and additional supplies to facilitate experiential participation.

The **Memorial Room** is a uniquely sacred space at Har Zion; it houses the congregation's collective memory of loved ones, and it spans the past one hundred years. The Memorial Room has run out of space for dedicatory plaques, and our planned expansion will allow us to continue to honor our loved ones in the years to come.

The Den, a reimagined space just off the Kramer Entrance to the synagogue, will be a comfortable lounge and work area for both casual social gatherings and learning. It should be a great space to read a book; discuss current events; to watch the Birds, Phils, Sixers, and Flyers; enjoy an espresso; and to reconnect with members and friends.

The **Teen Lounge** will be a new, welcoming space designated for our post *b'nei mitzvah* students to gather. It will have the resources to offer a variety of leisure activities, such as state-of-the art audio-visual equipment, high-speed internet, foosball, air hockey, ping pong, and board games for interaction and conversation. This space, coupled with "The Link," is integral to our investment in teen discussions and learning.

Har Zion's **25-acre Campus** affords our community the opportunity to engage with one another inside our building and in the beautiful nature that surrounds us. Our new hiking trail, playgrounds, and the beautiful Sayer-Berkowitz Pavilion promote healthy outdoor interaction. Our vision for the campus includes additional athletic activities and resources.

It is a blessing that the Har Zion community thrives in a **facility** that was built over fifty years ago. After decades of loving use, there are always **necessary renovations** to offices, classrooms, and hallways, as well as repairs and replacements to HVAC systems and roofing. Har Zion takes great pride in being at the forefront of **security measures**, and we anticipate additional investments in the coming years to protect our people and our campus.





PROGRAM

Har Zion Temple enables meaningful interaction and lifelong relationships, and we stand ready to further increase the investment in our members and their families at all stages of life and learning. Har Zion is proud of the award-winning Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education and Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School. Our constituent groups and synagogue programming explore topics such as Israel education and advocacy, antisemitism, social action, Jewish authors, education, and prayer.

Tekiah is an opportunity to enrich these offerings and to create exciting new programs.

Gesher

Gesher is the “bridge” between religious school education and *b’nei mitzvah* preparation for our students and their families.

The significance of students becoming *b’nei mitzvah* comes from the understanding that they are powerful, trustworthy, and responsible Jewish adults. Har Zion affirms that these young teenagers have wisdom and talents that are needed to add beauty and holiness to the world; we celebrate the *b’nei mitzvah* journey as a transformational experience for students, their families, and the community.

The *Gesher* experience begins in 4th grade with a family Parsha Party and culminates after 7th grade, when *Gesher* students gather on the *bimah* and sound their own Shofar as the sun sets on Yom Kippur. Through unique, enriching experiences like these, Har Zion invests significant resources to enhance students’ knowledge and mastery of the material and build meaningful friendships and connections among their peers, their families, and their clergy.

The success of *Gesher* encourages us to expand the offerings and bring families closer together. These offerings include parent/family education, travel to Israel, *Gesher* Shabbat and holiday experiences, and incentivized opportunities to chant Torah and lead the congregation in prayer.

The community cultivated through *Gesher* will inspire and prepare families and their teenagers to take advantage of the opportunities to further Jewish growth and connection through “The Link.”



“The *Gesher* program does a wonderful job of creating community around mitzvah prep, allowing children to practice together, while also providing individual attention to each child’s unique learning profile. My older son came out of the program confident and prepared for his bar mitzvah. My younger son is still in the program, and it’s been a joy to see him grow his abilities as he leads prayers and strengthens his Hebrew.”

Kirsten Wilf Baritz





“My grandparents and parents taught me that the greatest gift we can give is our investment in our Jewish children. This is my legacy to carry forward. Our children and our teens represent our future and guarantee our Jewish continuity and our commitment to God. May we inspire our teens to embrace Jewish values, hold onto the words of Torah, and have an unwavering and unconditional support of the State of Israel. This is how Jewish leaders are created.”

Rachel Wachs

The Link

Teenagers are the future of the Jewish community. To support their well-being and foster their Jewish identity and sense of belonging, we must provide opportunities for meaningful connection with Jewish peers. Current programming for teens at Har Zion includes participation in Lower Merion Area Hebrew High School (LMAHH) and our celebrated teaching certificate program, which run through senior year. Teens and parents have expressed a desire for additional pathways to Jewish connection.

“The Link” is a newly imagined program designed to serve and invigorate our teen involvement. The purpose is to link our teens, educationally and socially, between the culmination of *Gesher* and when they head off to college or their next adventure. When teens gather in their space, supervised by a dedicated professional, we will create opportunities for them to discuss experiences and Jewish values around relationships, college, antisemitism, and community service. This engagement can occur on Har Zion’s campus or around the greater Philadelphia area in collaboration with partnership organizations. The relationships formed through these teenage years will help form a support network for these students as they navigate the blessings and challenges of life at college.



Teaching Kitchen

So much time together is spent in our home kitchens: cooking, sharing, eating, laughing, consoling, and storytelling. The kitchen is a sacred space in our homes; it can and should be one in our spiritual home as well. The Teaching Kitchen will be one of the most active spaces in the synagogue. It will be a center for building community through both peer-based and intergenerational gatherings. We anticipate it being regularly enjoyed by Men's Club, Sisterhood, teens in The Link, *Gesher* students, families, young adults, and empty nesters.

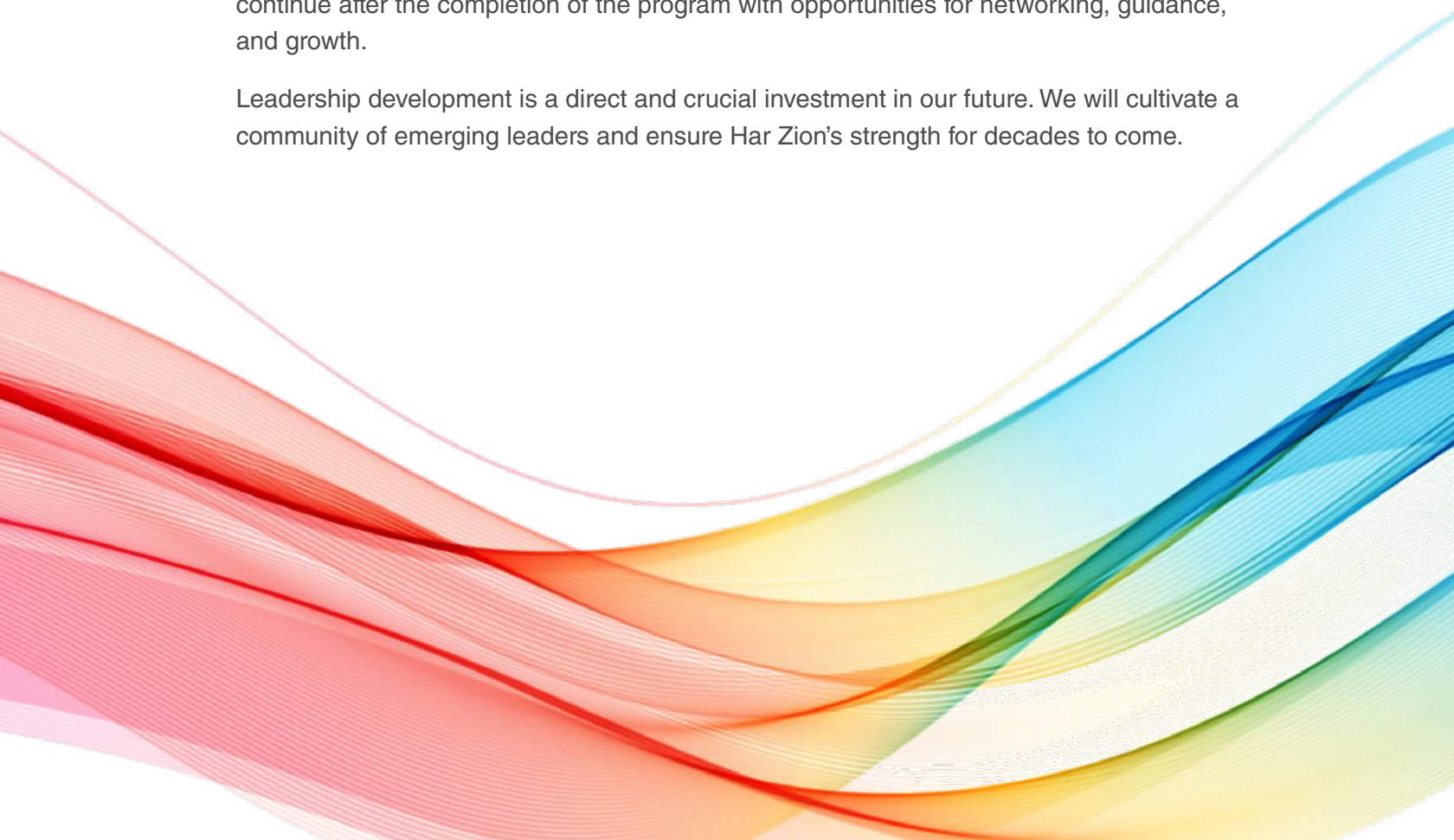
We will hire a professional to coordinate and supervise all related activities in the Teaching Kitchen. We envision a wide range of offerings including cooking and eating for health and wellness, holiday celebrations, and text study around food. We will share our food and our hearts through community service, and we will also entertain through cooking competitions, kids cooking seminars, food expos, and chef demonstrations and tastings. There will be a full menu of exciting options— from soup to nuts, as it were.





Har Zion continues to be a fount of leadership for the greater Philadelphia Jewish community, as well as for the State of Israel. We understand that the changing demands of the 21st century require American Jewry to evolve in vision, resources, and skills.

Leadership development is a direct and crucial investment in our future. We will cultivate a community of emerging leaders and ensure Har Zion's strength for decades to come.





ENDOWMENT

Har Zion is fortunate to have an Endowment set up through the generosity of donors over the last century. Their gifts have ensured that Har Zion serves the community, above and beyond what current revenue could afford. It is our turn to add to that Endowment, so we can continue everything we have come to love about Har Zion now and into the future.

A commitment to the Har Zion Endowment will provide earnings that will help to offset anticipated annual operating expenses, keep Har Zion affordable, and provide resources for unanticipated future capital and programmatic needs as they arise.

Every commitment to our Endowment makes us stronger.



“We have been blessed with parents who modeled life-long commitment to synagogue and Jewish life. We want to continue that legacy here at Har Zion by helping build a strong endowment that will perpetuate the programs, staff, and facility that enable us to reach our members and the community in unique and very personal ways.”

Bob and Julie Levine



A message from our Co-Chairs

Over the past year, we've gathered in joy, reflection, and pride to celebrate a remarkable milestone: Har Zion's first 100 years. Together, we've honored our past — the generations who built and sustained our sacred community — and, now, we turn with hope and purpose toward the future.

We are proud to introduce the **Tekiah** Campaign — the first comprehensive synagogue-wide fundraising campaign in more than 25 years. "**Tekiah**," the strong and clear blast of the shofar, calls us to attention, to action, and to unity. This campaign is our call — a bold and visionary step toward ensuring that Har Zion thrives for the next 100 years.

As co-chairs of this historic initiative — and as four families whose roots at Har Zion span generations — we are deeply honored to lead this effort. This moment is not just about raising funds; it's about reaffirming our commitment to each other, to Jewish life, and to the values and traditions that have sustained Har Zion for a century.

Tekiah will enable us to:

- Preserve and modernize our sacred spaces and facilities
- Strengthen and expand programming for every stage and age of Jewish life
- Build our endowment to support long-term financial security and innovation

We begin this campaign from a position of strength: Har Zion is financially stable, spiritually vibrant, and guided by devoted leadership. Now is the time to build on that foundation — to invest in the next century with the same vision and generosity that our founders once showed.

This campaign is not about a few doing everything — it is about everyone doing something. We are striving for full participation because every member of our community matters, and every gift — no matter the size — brings us closer to our goal.

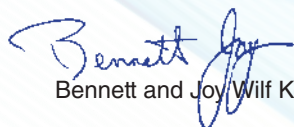
We invite you to hear the call, join us in this sacred work, and help write the next chapter in Har Zion's story — for us, for our children, and for the generations still to come.

With deep gratitude and shared hope,

Tekiah Co-Chairs



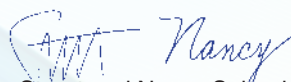
Arthur and Lisa Berkowitz



Bennett and Joy Wilf Keiser



Ronald and Jayne Perilstein



Stuart and Nancy Selarnick

A message from our Senior Rabbi

I am in awe of the impact that Har Zion has had on the lives of its members and on global Jewry over its storied history as a flagship congregation of the Conservative Movement and of Greater Philadelphia. Har Zion has hosted thousands of preschool and religious school graduates, thousands of weddings, thousands of *b'nei mitzvah*, thousands of baby namings, thousands of funerals and shiva minyanim, and tens of thousands of prayer services. The enumeration of these life-cycle events and prayer services is not nearly as remarkable as what these events inspire – millions, if not tens of millions, of smiles, laughs, tears, and hugs.

I am fortunate to be the Senior Rabbi of Har Zion and blessed to serve alongside talented and committed staff and volunteers. The yearly calendar is replete with social events, rituals, and learning opportunities, yet we know that a synagogue is not about programs but about people. Life is not about *what* happens to us but about *who* happens to us. The thriving synagogue of the twenty-first century understands that holiness is created when we open and nourish relationships between families, friends, and community members.

Har Zion has inspired generations of Jews, built community institutions, and championed the State of Israel. As we embark on our next one hundred years together, we are privileged to strengthen Har Zion as an essential voice for vibrant, dynamic Judaism in America.

As we accompany one another along our life journeys, we will embrace all who yearn for a spiritual home and introduce them to the depth, wisdom, beauty, and relevance of our Jewish tradition. Jewish education and ritual practice must be conduits that discover and enhance the holiness in our relationships. This campaign, **Tekiah**, will focus Har Zion's efforts on the holiness that is found when we turn toward one another. We will turn toward one another in every space on our campus, from the sanctuary to the playgrounds. We will turn toward one another in each of our programs: our prayer services, our classes, and our celebrations. We will turn toward one another in our peer groups and through the generations. **Tekiah** is not a campaign about dollars but about people - not a campaign about transactions but about transformation. I invite you to share and champion this vision. I invite you to *Hear the Call and Stand Together*.

With enthusiasm and gratitude for the coming years of blessing,



Rabbi Haaz
Rabbi Haaz

“Once in a
generation
opportunity”

I have been a member of Har Zion since 1950. Har Zion has been my home away from home. Our family's most joyous moments have been at Har Zion and Har Zion has helped us get through some of our darkest times. When I was twelve, I was placed in Samuel Sussman's class. He was a teacher who had a profound impact on my life and he inspired me to be a more committed, observant, and educated Jew in partnership with my parents. My love of basketball was honed at the Har Zion gym, and I played on our championship teams. I even won championships, twice, as the coach. I have taught in the high school and my wife, Maxine, was a teacher at Har Zion for 32 years. I have received many honors and awards over the years and held almost every office including having been President of the Men's Club and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Our extended family ties are long, deep, and wide.

It can be overwhelming when I think of the legacy our congregation has shown by creating and supporting programs, institutions, and initiatives that have made Har Zion a flagship congregation locally, nationally, and internationally. We have had professional and lay leadership during our first 100 years that have not only built and nurtured our congregation, but that have shared their talents in leading and mentoring both Jewish organizations and secular organizations in the Philadelphia area, the US, and Israel. Our Har Zion home has become the place where diverse Jewish communities and organizations have been able to rely on to provide facilities that serve and welcome the greater community.

Serving as co-President when we determined it was time to embark on this campaign has made me proud. We are a stable and financially sound organization that is not resting on its laurels. We acknowledge the tremendous record of accomplishments our ancestors have bequeathed to us. At the same time, we recognize the need to address the ever-changing demands to serve our community and our descendants by building an enhanced, stronger, and even broader foundation for the 21st century.

Over the years, we have benefitted from the generosity of our community with funds to our appeals, our capital campaigns, and our endowment. That is how we have been able to become such a strong flagship institution. Now is the time for our current members, friends, and supporters to step up and help fund the challenges and opportunities of the next 100 years. Whether you and your family have been here for multiple generations or if you are a first generation family with more to come, the future is our responsibility and our honor.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to have a direct effect on the future of our beloved congregation. It is my privilege for our family to make a significant contribution to **Tekiah**. I urge you to please join us in making a gift that makes you proud, so that your family will help provide for succeeding generations in the same way our predecessors did for us.

B'shalom,



Elliot Rosen, Immediate Past Co-President



“It is now time
to look to
the future”

My family's association with Har Zion Temple began with my maternal grandparents who were early members of Har Zion when they lived in Wynnefield. My parents were married by Rabbi Goldstein. After skipping a generation, I became a member in 1983 when I married my husband, Bill, who had joined Har Zion in 1981. Ever since, Har Zion has been a large part of our family's life. Our son, Mitch, attended the day camp, pre-school, and religious school through Midrasha. He had his Bar Mitzvah here. All three of us have developed great friendships through our involvement. Bill chaired a committee, served on the Board of Directors, was an officer as Counsel, and is now a Trustee. Mitch helped lead some of the children's services during the High Holidays for many years. I have been proud to serve as HSA Treasurer and President, member of the Har Zion Board of Directors, and Sisterhood President, as well as in other leadership positions in Sisterhood. Serving as your Co-President of Har Zion Temple has been my greatest honor.

For the past century, Har Zion has consistently upheld the principles outlined in its original charter while remaining responsive to evolving societal needs. Significant milestones include the 1977 integration of women into service participation and leadership, the development of our *Madregot* program, and our recent commitment to inclusivity. Through these initiatives, Har Zion strives to foster an environment where every member feels valued and included.

Har Zion is very fortunate to have such wonderful clergy and professional staff who lead, teach, inspire, and comfort us. The staff members of the Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education, Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School, Madregot, *Gesher* program, and Lower Merion Area High School are helping us teach and inspire the next generation of leaders and volunteers of our sacred community. We are also fortunate to have so many congregants who volunteer their time and energy in our constituent groups of Sisterhood, Men's Club, and HSA, as well as all our committees, and the many activities happening at Har Zion.

It is now time to look to the future. To be sure that Har Zion is here for our children and grandchildren and to strengthen Har Zion for the next 100 years, my family and I, along with Har Zion's leadership team, are committed to supporting **Tekiah**. Please the call and join us to ensure Har Zion's great legacy continues to grow for future generations to come.

B'shalom,



Lynne P Landsburg
Lynne Landsburg, Immediate Past Co-President

“As we look to the next 100 years”



I have the honor of serving as President of Har Zion as we embark on our next 100 years. When my wife Lynn and I moved to Philadelphia in 2010, the simple act of being welcomed as newcomers at a Shabbat kiddush by many of the past presidents drew us to join Har Zion. Through evolving times, Har Zion has been there for us for both celebrations of happy occasions as well as comfort during times of sadness. Our varied programming as well as vibrant members have been a source of both knowledge and friendship as we have set roots in our new community.

We have just completed a wonderful year celebrating our centennial. As we look to the next 100 years, it is critical that we not rest on our laurels but step forward to invest in our future. **Tekiah** is our opportunity to do just that, as we strategically invest in the future of our congregation to meet the needs of our community. Capital improvements, programming and staff development are all critical to our continued success.

In these challenging times for the Jewish community locally and throughout the world, investing in a strong and vibrant Har Zion community will help ensure continued success for the next 100 years.


Gary Falk, President

“Inspire the next generation”



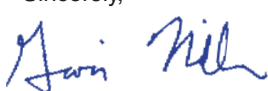
This campus has been our home for 50 years. A brilliant building design from 1975 has served us well, and now we need our facility to reflect the communal needs of today and beyond. Security, environmental efficiency, and overall aesthetics are just the first three areas where we need improvements, and while Har Zion has already begun to address those over the years, there is much more to do.

Our goal is to renovate the building over the next decade, from the mundane, where the roof, HVAC, security, and plumbing will need replacement, to the visionary, where renovations to our beautiful sanctuary will include the construction of an extended, lower, and easily accessible *bimah* with new lighting, carpeting, flexible seating, and more.

We also need to invest in our unrestricted endowment. Aside from the facility itself, staffing and programming are our greatest annual investment, and those costs continue to rise. Our current endowment will be insufficient to subsidize increased costs over time. A larger endowment will enable us to preserve the level and quality of our professional staff and programs, serving the size of our growing membership base.

To remain competitive, programming must evolve and expand. Educational needs are changing, from the youngest members of the community to the oldest, and everyone else in between. Antisemitism is a real threat. Lifecycle events look different. Har Zion needs to find ways to continue to engage our community, and additional resources for staff and programming will ensure that we can continue to provide and expand that engagement.

Har Zion will continue to be successful in providing a Jewish home for our community as we have done for our first 100 years. Har Zion is well positioned to inspire the next generation, and we will do so with clarity of vision and purpose.

Sincerely,

Gavi Miller, Executive Director

“Together, we join
in one voice to
express our full
support for this
initiative”

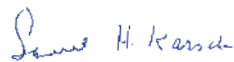
For the last one 100 years, Har Zion has been our bedrock of worship, education, community participation, and comfort. During life's most joyous times and saddest, we are grateful to be enveloped by a communal heart of caring, compassion, healing, and love.

A lot has changed over the years, and Har Zion, a proud Conservative Movement congregation, remains steadfast in its sacred purpose to support our community through life cycle events, worship, education, and social engagement. Today, we are blessed to have Rabbi Seth Haaz serve as our Senior Rabbi, an anchor of support, counsel, and wisdom. He, along with our incredible professional team of rabbis, cantor, educators, and administrators, teach our children, console our families, celebrate our joys, and are a very important part of the social fabric of our community.

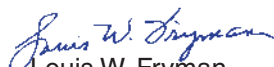
As Past Presidents, we have been honored to serve our beloved congregation, home today to over 700 families. Our dedication is due to Har Zion's Jewish values and commitment to make the world a better place.

Together, we join in one voice to express our full support for this initiative.

In so doing, we will ensure that Har Zion's future is strong for the next generation. We will bequeath them a vibrant synagogue community that we inherited and has been so central in our lives. Standing on the shoulders of our ancestors, our commitment is to pay it forward and enable Har Zion every opportunity to grow and prosper. Your participation is critical, and we humbly ask that you join us in supporting **Tekiah**.

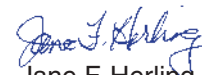

Samuel H. Karsch


Dr. Ana S. Kolansky


Louis W. Fryman


Nancy Kurtzman


Carole W. Karsch


Jane F. Herling


Lewis Grafman

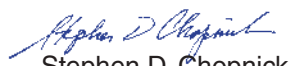

Michael Perlstein

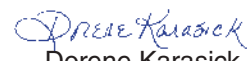

Alan R. Greenbaum


Lee S. Kirschner

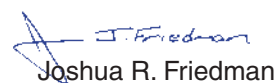

Harry J. Sauer

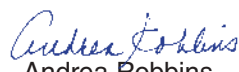

Arthur Berkowitz


Stephen D. Chopnick


Dorene Karasick


Dr. Joseph R. Carver


Joshua R. Friedman


Andrea Robbins

300+

*Number of
B'nei Mitzvah
over the past
decade*



2100

*In-person and
on-line High Holiday
Attendance in 2025*



170

*Children and
families in
Religious School
in 2025*

700

*Current Membership
Units, over 2,000
individuals*

1250

*Campers at
Har Zion Day
Camp over the
past decade*

5000

*People attended
major events
(excluding High
Holidays) in 2025*



500+

*Meals cooked
in our kitchens
every year*



82

*Children and
families with special
needs served in 2025*



750

*Programs and
events per year,
plus over 700
religious services*



Total	5-Year Annual	Monthly	Daily
\$ 1,000,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 16,666	\$ 548
\$ 500,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 8,333	\$ 274
\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,167	\$ 137
\$ 180,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 98
\$ 100,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,667	\$ 55
\$ 72,000	\$14,400	\$ 1,200	\$ 39
\$ 54,000	\$ 10,800	\$ 900	\$ 30
\$ 36,000	\$ 7,200	\$ 600	\$ 20
\$ 27,000	\$ 5,400	\$ 450	\$ 15
\$ 18,000	\$ 3,600	\$ 300	\$ 10
\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 167	\$ 6
\$ 7,200	\$ 1,440	\$ 120	\$ 4
\$ 3,600	\$ 720	\$ 60	\$ 2
\$ 1,800	\$ 360	\$ 30	\$ 1



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