

UPDATE

בס"ד

CONGREGATION BAIS YITZCHOK CHEVRA THILIM 96TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Last year we included an **Urgent Appeal** letter with the fall mailing. It described the problems facing the Shul as a result of membership losses and decreased weekly attendance which led to decreased income. Thankfully the response of our members and friends was quick and successful and the immediate financial crisis was lessened. With this help and with other resources we were able to cover the normal operating obligations and other maintenance items. At that time we also acknowledged the support of those who have moved from Elizabeth or who are with family or at other locations for Yom Tov and throughout the year.

The changing demographics of the neighborhood, along with other factors, has led to the struggle we face every Shabbos and Yom Tov. We rely totally on regulars for a minyan. When a regular is away we are presented with an obvious problem. People are free to attend or not and we respect their rights to do so. However, we repeat our appeal for your physical presence when possible as well as your financial support. Thanks for your responsiveness with this difficulty.

On another note, the Shul was constructed in 1923 and has shown its age with each passing year. This past year we addressed a constant problem – the Bais Midrash floor. One of our members provided funds to stabilize the floor. Also, insect control was applied before the work began and a new tile surface was added. We hope to get many years of improved appearance and use from this work. We are currently addressing a new roof and water incursion problem which we hope will be resolved before Yom Tov. The ceiling and walls effected will be painted as well. One member has already generously contributed to this effort.

Lastly, before bad weather sets in, we will need to address the continued deterioration of the entry steps, brickwork, and masonry. We took measures a few years ago, but the problem continued. Of course, there are other problem areas which we won't describe at this time as they are not as pressing.

It is with this in mind that we ask you to consider how important the continuance of this Shul is for you. Whatever figure you have considered for your annual pledge, please consider that facts presented here. We cannot forecast what the next major requirement will be, but we know we need greater personal participation and financial support. Our dues and fees have not increased for many years and continue to be comparatively low. As a result, we rely on this annual appeal to make up the difference.

The leadership of the Shul joins in thanking you for your participation and support now and in the past and trust, you will be as generous as you can. We wish one and all a *K'siva v' Chasima Tova* - our wishes for a Good New Year – Shana Tova.

R. Moshe Abramowitz
President