



A Message From Our President

Dear friends:

I want to write to you with an update on a few things, but more importantly, to wish everyone an early happy Hanukkah! I hope that the lights of the season illuminate your homes and hearts.

First, our outgoing Executive Director Josh Blumenthal's time with us is drawing to a close. His last day in the office will be Thursday, December 15th. We encourage you to drop him a note to thank him for all of his many years of hard work and dedication to our community.

On a parallel track, we have begun the hiring process for a new director and are excited about the prospects of reimagining this position. While the search is underway, our congregants, Lynda Gordon and Caryl Goodman, have stepped forward to work with Kate and Carlo in the office. We are grateful for their assistance and availability and they, along with Kate, will try hard to address all of your needs. We ask you for your patience during this transition.

As they step into their temporary roles, Lynda and Caryl have asked me to invite all of our members to let us know whenever you have simchas and sad news alike. Mishkan Tefila is a community of people who care about each other and we want to be there for you, no matter what the circumstance.

I'm also pleased to report that we have been meeting with our campus colleagues at Kehillath Israel and we were happy to learn just last week that the construction goal of a late spring start is still on schedule. This means that we can look forward to celebrating the 2018 High Holy Days in our new space. Services for the 2017 High Holy Days, this fall, will once again be held in Epstein Auditorium where we had this year's uplifting services.

Coming off the overwhelmingly, well received and moving spirit of this year's High Holy Days, we are pleased to have the continued support of Rabbi Marcia Plumb. The Rabbi will be in the CMT office on Mondays and Tuesdays and at the synagogue for Shabbat. On Sundays, she concentrates her efforts on education at the campus. In addition, if you would like to meet with her privately, she is also available two nights a week by appointment. Of course, Rabbi Plumb, as well as KI's Rabbi Hamilton, will always be there for us for listening and spiritual guidance as the need arises.

Together with our Rabbinic Intern Micah Shapiro, Rabbi Plumb has launched our new Hebrew School, which meets twice a month on Sundays. This child-centered, STEAM-based curriculum has been getting very good feedback from families and, if you know anyone who would like to participate, please let her know! Our two rabbis make for a terrific team and you can catch them every Friday night at our musical Shabbat service that everyone is talking about.

Finally, we have many exciting events planned for the balance of 2016, including this week's campus wide Menorahfest on Sunday, December 18th and Sisterhood's How Latke We Are To Have Each Other on Tuesday, December 20th. We hope you will join us.

Thank you for all you do and for being part of our strong tomorrow.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Gershkowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Paul Gershkowitz