



LOWER MERION SYNAGOGUE

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CHARLES B. PARKER, *PRESIDENT*

AVRAHAM J. SHMIDMAN, *RABBI*

ABRAHAM A. LEVENE, *RABBI EMERITUS*

August 18, 2009
28th of Av, 5769

Dear LMS Members and Friends,

As summer begins to ebb and the Yomim Noraim approach, preparations have begun to make certain that seating arrangements and other services are as comfortable as possible. In past years our shul was close to full capacity in all minyanim and we anticipate that these attendance levels will continue this year. Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday evening, September 18, and we will do our best to accommodate every individual request.

Please read the enclosed seating policy guidelines and promptly return the completed seating form along with the other related forms in the enclosed return envelope. Babysitting forms are included in your package. You will note that a modest charge of \$36 per family will be required for babysitting service. ***Please be sure to include any payments needed to insure that you are a member-in-good-standing.*** This will make the jobs of the administrative office, the treasurer, and the seating committee much more efficient. An updated statement showing any outstanding balances is enclosed for your convenience.

Your statement reflects the new membership dues schedule which was approved during our last General Membership meeting. The 6½% dues increase was recommended after extensive discussions and consideration. Even with this increase, membership dues only pay 45% of the shul's annual expenses. Tremendous efforts have been made to minimize expenses and all expenditures are carefully monitored. As overdue balances on dues and pledges adversely affect the shul's operations and finances, it is important that your account is current with regard to all obligations. Our shul depends upon all of us to honor our obligations, past and present. Please note that when paying any pledge balance, the shul welcomes contributions of stock as consideration of those balances.

If needed, please contact our Executive Director Gwen Horowitz, Treasurer Ed Altman, or me to discuss any financial arrangements you feel may be required. All requests for financial relief are kept in strictest confidence.

All forms, requests, and payments must be submitted to the shul office no later than September 4, 2009. Forms that arrive after this date may be considered, but actual seat assignments will not be guaranteed. Please remember that the seating committee is comprised of volunteers and a tremendous amount of time is involved in trying to accommodate everyone's requests.

On behalf of the officers and entire Board of Directors, I would like to wish each and everyone a *Shanah Tovah U'Gemar Chatimah Tovah* – a sweet New Year filled with peace, mazal and brachah.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Parker

Charles B. Parker, President