



TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

840 Highland Road
Sharon, PA 16146

July 1, 2011

Dear Fellow Congregants:

This past year, our congregation celebrated Chanukah with a dinner and party enjoyed by all, Passover with our annual congregational Seder, a joint Purim party with Congregation Rodef Sholom of Youngstown and many other events

We offer weekly Shabbat services every week of the year.

In fact, the only thing lacking was the support of many of our congregants. There is no way to sugar coat it. We have offered excellent programs and services that have been enjoyed by only a few of our members.

Along with the decline in attendance, there has been a decline in the amount of dues voluntarily paid toward the maintenance of the temple. Once again we have provided the services needed and wanted, but at a costly deficit.

This time, however, there is a difference. We no longer have the funds to cover those deficits. From 2001 to this year, dues have dropped more than 37,000 dollars – a drop of more than 34 per cent in ten years. As a result we are cutting back on the hours that the temple will be open, on the staff time we can afford and on the amount of services we will be able to expect from our rabbi.

As you consider your dues contribution this year, please understand that your financial support – your increased financial support -- was never as critical to the survival of our congregation as it is now. If you value the temple, the congregation and the central meeting place for the Shenango Valley's Jewish community, we must be able to count on your increased support. Please consider raising your pledge by ten or 20 per cent. In the past we relied on "somebody else" to take care of the dues responsibility. This year there is nobody else.

Sincerely,

Stanley H. Bard
President