

# Presidential Message

May 2019

It's hard to believe, but this is my penultimate bulletin article as your president. No, that doesn't mean it's my best article; it just means that it's my next-to-last one. I've spent a lot of time thinking about something lofty to say in my final article, but I need to use this month's article for something more mundane.... yeah, it's finances again.

By the time you read this, you'll have received an e-mail from me, Rabbi Marc, Chris Rock, and Deb Linder making an appeal to help the Temple balance its budget for the year. I wanted to use my space this month to elaborate on what's going on.

First off, this isn't necessarily bad news. Every year since I've taken office, there is a point in the spring where we start coming up short with cash on hand. That's the bad news. The good news is that this year it's happening a little later than it has in the past.

The reason for the budget gap is pretty simple arithmetic. Our expenses exceed our income. Our expenses are pretty straightforward. Our staff needs to be paid, and our bills need to be paid. We've enjoyed a fairly mild winter, and that helped keep our utility costs down, but those bills still came in. We had some unexpected building expenses, that you might remember, such as mold abatement. Our income is also pretty straightforward. Either through annual pledges or through fundraising, most of our income comes from your generosity.

Managing the shortfall is stressful for the Finance Committee, the office, and the Board in general. **Chris Rock, Tom Smith, and Roberta Reisner-Winograd** deserve your thanks for putting forth this effort. If you've been to our annual meetings (this year's is June 2!) we've explained how we've handled this situation year by year. We've either borrowed from other funds, received some individual donations, or made arrangement to make good on our bills when we begin receiving pledge payments in the summer. I'm really happy to say that, as in past years, we haven't sought extra disbursements from the Endowment. Over my four years as president, I am proud to have let the Endowment grow. Still, on a year by year basis, we continue to fall a little short in the spring.

This year, we're appealing to you, our congregants, to help bridge the gap. Based on the budget shortfall and on the number of family units we have, I'm asking for \$100 from each family unit. As I am writing of this article, I expect that the e-mail you received will include a PayPal link to help make it easier to participate. We're working on making PayPal available for our regular annual pledge this summer.

On a personal level, I'm embarrassed that I need to reach out to you this way. I appreciate the generosity that all of you share with the Temple, either through your pledges, your participation in our fundraising efforts, or your volunteerism. I'm optimistic that I can count on you again.