



Dear Emanuel Family:

I hope you all have been enjoying the beautiful late spring weather as we move toward summer. It will not be long before the High Holy Days are here.

The Emanuel Synagogue has entered in a contract with The Children's Museum to lease our upper floor of our school wing for purposes of their pre-school program. The Museum has always had a prominent part in the life of West Hartford and wants to use our space as they are building a permanent home. The lease is for three years with an option for two more years. The Board of Trustees further authorized our Executive Director Kobi Benita and me to enter negotiations with The Museum to lease our lower floor for use of The Museum's exhibitions. In addition, The Museum requested use of our Library in a Letter of Intent. It should be understood our Library has had very limited use in the last two plus years. It should further be understood our Religious School will have enough room to maintain its excellent program. Both Rabbi Small and Principal Barbara Fink have endorsed this plan.

We are a synagogue of roughly 500 families that uses a building designed for 1,000 families. You may recall that Lollipop Tree, the longtime nursery school on our premises, terminated their lease two years ago, creating a hole in our annual budget of some \$90,000. Added to that is the fact that during the last year due to Covid, we have opened and closed, as well as restricted access into our building to keep everybody safe. Consequently, our ability to fundraise (among other things) was limited compared to past years. You also may know that in 2020-21 we received **one time** PPP money of approximately \$165,000 that helped us balance our previous. A combination of these factors has resulted in a deficit for this year of approximately \$100,000. I am confident the actual amount will be less than this as dues continue to come in, plus we have had a modest success so far with our Book of Gratitude which is still open for contributions.

We have consulted with USCJ on financial sustainability, and we really are doing most, if not all things, recommended. One major way to be sustainable is to make good use of our building, both in short term and long-term rentals. Leadership believes this rental opportunity will help to stabilize our budget for the next three to five years, at least, allowing us to continue our Mission of service to all our congregants. In addition, it is consistent with our values of being a good citizen and assisting a treasured asset of our community in their time of need. It also follows our time-honored tradition, going back to Noah, of caring for our animals (some of their wildlife will come to us, but not all).

On Monday, June 27, 2022, at 7:30 pm, a Special Board of Trustees Meeting will be held via Zoom, open to all members of our congregation. Our Rabbi, Principal, and Executive Director will be available to answer your questions as well as Atty. Mitchell Jaffe (who has done an amazing amount of work on lease) and Real Estate Agent Lisa Sadinsky (also a congregant). After a full hearing, eligible Board of Trustees members will vote on whether to authorize execution of this second lease. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

[CLICK for Zoom link](#), meeting. ID: **574 409 4495**. Voting Rules to be sent separately.

May we go from strength to strength,

Ken Simon
President, Emanuel Board of Trustees