

A Happy New Year to all. Condolences to Red Sox Nation. Here we are on sleepy olde Cape Cod for the High Holidays. It is beautiful to see everyone. First of all, I must thank all those who have worked so hard to prepare CCS for this Holiday Season, especially the Ritual Committee, our dedicated staff, and clergy. We have a unique community with fingers that reach out and touch all of us in different ways. Spiritually, financially, and psychologically the synagogue supports each of our households, our local communities, and Israel as well. Cape Cod Synagogue is viewed as a leader in our community and we should all be very proud to be a supportive member. Our membership level continues to hold its own. Our financial situation is stabilizing, as so far this year, we are hitting our budget projections at a much more accurate level. We are far more efficient in what we do with our money. I would like to relate this monetary gem to you. Once upon a time there was a witch doctor...sorry, wrong story... **This story is told of a man who came to his rabbi with a request. "Make me a Cohen!" The rabbi was puzzled because a person acquires the designation of Cohen through paternal heredity -- only if his father was a Cohen. The Rabbi replied to the man, "I am sorry; I can't make you a Cohen." Before the rabbi could explain, the man insisted, "You have got to make me a Cohen; I'll give you \$10,000!" The rabbi again apologized that he couldn't help him and started to explain, but the man interrupted again to raise the offer to \$25,000. In exasperation the rabbi asks, "Why is it so important for you to be a Cohen?" The man replies, "Because my father was a Cohen, his father was a Cohen and my great-grandfather was a Cohen!"**

Our successful capital campaign is nearing completion. That committee did an amazing job as we can see from our beautiful building. We have analyzed what we should do going forward, and have come up with the goal of continuing our

Green initiative. We believe that we should provide solar energy for our building. This will make us more energy efficient. We will be able to produce roughly 30% of our energy requirements when the project is completed. CCS will contribute its small part in saving the environment. This is the first head of my two headed Presidential Appeal.

As an alternative, the other head of my appeal is for you to become a volunteer at CCS. Become an active volunteer who supports the efforts of CCS. Each and every one of you, look within yourselves. Give an extra hour this month. As you attend a program, instead of being a bystander, call the office and ask if there is anything you can do to help. Usher at a service on a Friday night or come to a Saturday morning service and sponsor the Kiddush. Be a greeter at an event. Work in the office stuffing envelopes or answering phones. Tutor a student. Be an organizer. Participate in a social or service project. Join one of our Committees... Everyone can find the time to participate in some way. I always hear comments like “no one asked me to help.” Consider yourself asked. I am asking you. Your involvement in the coming year will make a difference.

Our committee chairpersons try to hold costs down by either doing the work themselves or by looking for the best quality at the lowest price. And as your president, I continue to do my best to insure the fiscal viability of our synagogue during these challenging times.

There are members of our congregation who might be experiencing little or no impact from the economic crisis. Our tradition teaches that we are all responsible for one another. I ask those who are able to give more than they might normally give, to do so. There is a unique satisfaction in seeing your charitable giving go to good, concrete use close to home. This money will help you, your family and your friends directly, by keeping the synagogue community strong and vibrant. It will

be used this year, and will also benefit far into the future. It isn't going to disappear mysteriously from a balance sheet. It is an investment in continuing our Jewish heritage.

Contribute more to CCS this year if you are in a position to do so, so that we can provide a welcoming and supportive community to all current and potential members seeking Jewish identity here – even if they are unable to pay full dues and need to ask for dues relief, perhaps for the first time in their lives. We rely on each other to share our strengths with those who are weaker at the moment. Members help each other and their community. Be a member and be a mensch.

Tzedakah, charity, is for a lifetime, whereas what you have in the bank can wax and wane with the times.

It shouldn't take a tragic or glorious event for you to feel connected to CCS. If we are to sustain as a community, we can't afford to be complacent. We have never been a community that does things simply because "that's the way we have always done it." Rather we are a community that knows how to celebrate successes while keeping in mind the need to re-evaluate, adjusting along the way, ensuring that our journey remains positive as our needs change.

Yes we are a wonderful congregation, but as always, there is much work to be done, for ourselves, for our community and for our world. May we travel together from strength to strength, and participate as a community in the ongoing journey of the Jewish people.

Thus it goes on, step after step. Each time we are escaping from yet another aspect of our personal Egypt. It may seem an endless task. Yet in fact every step truly brings us closer to genuine fulfillment, as an individual and as part of the Jewish people. Every step forward brings us closer to the Promised Land.

I always respect and listen to your comments. We try our best to do what is right, but sometimes mistakes are made. The sanctuary may be too hot or too cold, a birthday or anniversary may be omitted from the bulletin, a yartzheit date may be off. Please help us so that the same mistakes do not happen again. It is hard to be 100% perfect all the time with all that is going on. We always strive to do our best for you.

I would like to challenge you to make yourself a memory here that you will remember forever. I have been fortunate enough to have been married here on this very Bimah. Our children attended the Religious School from pre-school on, and we celebrated both B'nai Mitzvah here. The challenge is for the young and the old, whether you have been a member for 75 years, or you are a brand new member, make yourself a memory...

Take advantage and use the CCS. Make it your business to show your family and friends what a synagogue is all about. Don't wait for the person next to you to do something, don't make it, "oh someone else will do it." There are volunteers who give their all for CCS, there are those that do nothing, those that join the Circle level of Giving, those that pay full dues, those that have hardships and pay what they are able, and of course, those that try and get away with whatever they can. But remember, everyone has to sleep at night. **In Peirkay Avot, Rabbi Shimon says, "There are 3 crowns -- the crown of kingship, the crown of priesthood and the crown of Torah, but the crown of a good name is greater than all of them."**

Amidst all of this, we need stability. We need tradition. We need roots. We need parents, who, although they can't beat us in electronics, can teach us how to be human and how to be Jewish. They are our link in the chain starting with Abraham and stretching to the Modern World. It's not only about what we do in our lifetime, but what we leave for the future... We want to make sure that our commitment and values make it into the next generation ...Thank you for stepping up, but we

can always do better. It is our duty for Tikun Olam, to make the world a better place. I recently read this pertinent quote: “Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching.”

Our extended family includes Doctors, Lawyers, Rabbi’s, Judges, Musicians, Captains of Industry, Entrepreneurs, and most important Parents, Grand Parents, Great Grandparents, and Great Great Grandparents. We have family members all over the world making us proud.

We have people come, people go, people come back again, and on and on it goes. In the past year, we have had visitors from as far away as Sweden, South Africa and Israel. We create an atmosphere so that guests want to come back. There is no such thing as a stranger here. Something special is happening here at CCS. Religious School enrollment is up. We have a student who is in Israel full time for her junior year of High School. This summer we sent 19 children to the Eisner and Crane Lake Camps, and that number is comparable to the participation of much larger urban congregations. We have, in addition to our regular Bar Mitzvah class, a group of six women who will celebrate their B’not Mitzvah this fall. Our Food Pantry regularly provides food for the needy. We prepare meals on a regular basis for the NOAH shelter. Our Community comes together to provide the Salvation Army Christmas Dinner. Our dedicated La’Am group continues to explore interesting topics. The Golf Committee has just put on another first class event. Our Family Shabbat Services and Dinners continue to be successful and satisfying. Our Caring Committee is there for those that need attention. Our Captivity Group is alive and vibrant. We are fortunate to have the support of the Jewish Federation of Cape Cod.

We will be privileged to have the newly commissioned Jewish Chaplains Plaque here at CCS later this week, as it makes a stop on its journey to Arlington National Cemetery. Our Learning Center provides you many opportunities. Please

explore our Library, as it is one of the largest Judaic Libraries south of Boston.

Things are happening here at our synagogue on sleepy olde Cape Cod, don't miss out... Keep abreast of what is going on by reading our informative Bulletin, website and e-memo...This is the time of year where we all look inside ourselves and turn over a new leaf for the better. There are many opportunities for you to choose. Please, fill out the High Holiday Appeal form on your chair and do the best you can for CCS.

May you be signed and sealed in the Book of Life for the upcoming year.

L'Shanah Tovah and Todah Rabah.