



JEWISH EDUCATIONAL CENTER ELMORA AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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Dear Members of the Elmora Avenue Shul,

I write to you on behalf of our Shul's Board to update you on various changes that will be occurring during the upcoming Yamim Noraim.

While the *Yamim Noraim* are a month and a half away the shul's board and its subcommittees have been busy preparing for this most solemn time of year. The goal has been to provide to our membership and guests, a meaningful, inspiring and gratifying davening and learning experience over the Yom Tovim.

To this end there will be two changes to the davening. The first is our new *Ba'al Mussaf*. Our chazan, Meshulem Epstein, who we had the pleasure and good fortune to hear for eight years, has decided to move on. His leaving is a loss to our shul, but we wish him all the best in his new position. Our new *Ba'al Mussaf* will be Dovi Rabinowitz. Dovi is a young married man with a beautiful and powerful voice. He has led the davening for many shuls in North America, as well as Eretz Yisroel. He has davened in many yishuvim throughout the Gush, Shomron and Chevron, as well as Mir Yeshiva in Yerushalayim on Yomim Tovim. He is currently enrolled in a Semicha program and facilitates a music program for a local yeshiva high school. He impressed the search committee and we are confident the congregation will be pleased with this choice.

The second change involves the blowing the shofar. For many years Rabbi Shlomo Wohlgemuth has volunteered to blow the shofar for our shul and has done so with proper attention to details, quality performance and with all of his energy. We have been very fortunate to have him be our *ba'al tokea* for all these years. Rabbi Wohlgemuth will continue to be the *ba'al tokea*, but he has graciously agreed to divide the blowing of the one hundred *tekios* with Rabbi Herman. Rabbi Wohlgemuth will blow the first thirty *tekios d'myushav* and the last ten at the end of mussaf, while Rabbi Herman will blow the sixty *tekios d'meumad* during the repetition of mussaf. It is our expectation that this combination will further enhance the sounds of the shofar.

Our Shul Board has worked diligently in hearing the opinions of our membership and have made an effort in being responsive to them. Recognizing the diversity of preferences among our congregants, we worked hard to put into place *Baalei Tefillah* and *Baalei Tokea* who can provide an inspirational davening.

We look forward to everyone coming together this *Yamim Noraim* to engage in *Teshuva*, *Tefillah* *U'Tzedakah* so that we can see the fulfillment of *ma'avirin et ro'a hagezeira*, the annulment of any evil decree.

JEC Elmora Shul Board

Gordon F. Haas, Chairman