



November 17, 2008

Dear Friends,

These have been challenging times for us all, as the events, which have embroiled the financial community, have been deeply troubling to us all.

We have all been affected by the economy, some worse than others. So many of us are experiencing the uncertainty, anxiety, and financial strains precipitated by the current state of our economy.

Our tradition teaches us that "*kol Yisrael Aravim ze b'ze*," we are all responsible for one another and in these difficult times, that has never been truer.

To be part of this community means to take care of each other, especially when we are in need. United Hebrew takes seriously this obligation to help, and is responding to the current state of the economy through a series of efforts and programs outlined below.

- **Job Connection Network.** In response to the state of the economy and the increase in members of our community who are seeking employment, we are establishing the Job Connection Network. The program enables us to make connections between those seeking work and those with available jobs. Please let us know if you have or know of available positions so that we can pass on the information. Please contact Ken Schwartz.
- **Employment Search Support.** Together with MERS/Goodwill, we are offering a series of workshops for those seeking employment or those who want to prepare themselves, just in case. These workshops will cover resume writing, job search techniques, interviewing strategies, and mock interviews. These workshops will be held at United Hebrew from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on the following Thursdays – December 11 & 18 and January 8 & 15.
- **Support Group.** We are working with JF&CS to facilitate a support group for those in need during these financially strained times. The group will meet from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., directly following the job search workshops in December and January. (See above for dates)
- **Spiritual Support.** The most important thing we can offer you is non-judgmental and confidential support. We may not know exactly how, but please reach out if you are feeling overwhelmed or in need of support.

- **UH Community Connection.** We are working to provide lower to no cost programs at United Hebrew to help all of us better connect with one another and feel the strong support of our community. Our first no cost program will be our first annual Chanukah Pot Luck dinner, please watch the bulletin for more details.
- **Ensuring your place at United Hebrew.** For those in real financial strain we want to help ease your burden and our Executive Director, Bob Gummers, will work, confidentially, so that you do not need to worry about your place in our United Hebrew community. You might feel awkward doing this, but we feel it is important to support people this way, without anyone knowing. It is part of our mission.
- **Jewish Federation Loans.** The Jewish Federation has launched a Lifeline Fund to provide emergency assistance to those in need in the form of direct financial assistance and interest free loans. For assistance or information please contact JF&CS at 314-993-1000.

In times such as these, we are grateful for the warmth and peace that we find within our United Hebrew community and for the tranquility and comfort of being in our Sanctuary. We invite you to look to United Hebrew as a place of refuge and strength, a place where you will feel inspired by the survival of the Jewish people and our ancient traditions which has lived on through the centuries despite repeated upheavals and turmoil.

Our lay leadership, our clergy, and our staff are here for you and your families always, and we urge you to come to services, call one of us to talk, attend one of our classes, or engage with the congregation in any way that helps to give you the peace and comfort that comes from connecting with others. In addition, our Sanctuary is open for meditation and personal prayer.

With thoughts and blessings for us all during this season of Thanksgiving,


Rabbi Howard Kaplansky


Rabbi Brigitte Rosenberg


Cantor Ron Eichaker



**HUnited
Hebrew
Congregation**

How Can We Help?

In these challenging economic times, we want to assist those in need. If you know of any job openings, are looking for a job, or you can counsel/advise for employment, please fill out this form and return to Rabbi Kaplansky or Rabbi Rosenberg.

- I know of a job opening.
- I am actively looking for a job.
- I can counsel/advise for employment.
- I need assistance with Temple dues.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Notes: _____

Please return to Rabbi Kaplansky or Rabbi Rosenberg.