



## **Congregation Children of Israel**

A Reform Congregation Serving the CSRA  
3005 Walton Way, Augusta GA 30909  
(706) 736-3140, [office@cciaugusta.org](mailto:office@cciaugusta.org)

Jeshayahu (Shai) Beloosesky, Rabbi, D Min  
Gail Erlitz, Co-President  
Murray Freedman, Co-President  
Elyse Kronowski, Administrator

June 4, 2022

Dear Congregants:

Your support of Congregation Children of Israel is greatly appreciated and through your commitment to our synagogue we have a congregation in which we can all take pride.

Our Temple has been blessed with generous gifts but most in our endowment accounts are restricted for special purposes or limited to what we can withdraw annually. Our membership numbers have decreased to approximately 100 units/families. As noted in our June Temple Times Newsletter Message from the Co-Presidents this decrease is due to a number of factors. Some factors outside the congregation's control are deaths & moves, however, what is in your/our control is continuing your commitment to the temple for more than life cycle events such as Bar & Bat Mitzvah, weddings and funerals. We understand fully that for the past 2 years or so, we have provided very limited in-person experiences other than our Friday Shabbat Services. You may be thinking why do I need to continue membership here when I can watch other congregation's live stream for free and/or I don't have a need for any life cycle events? As we slowly return to "business as usual", with our activities returning to the building, we hope you will continue your commitment to CCI, and if at all possible, consider increasing your financial commitment. The primary means of keeping our operating budget on track has been your membership commitment along with fund raising activities. While our number of members has decreased our bills, such as salaries, electricity, utilities, lawn care, etc. remain the same if not higher.

You may know that in 2020 we received a Non-Profit Security Grant from DHS/FEMA and the Georgia Department of Emergency Management. The monies received (\$97,800) was used to improve the security of our building to include: a new security camera system, an upgrade to our alarm system, new windows with security film installed in the social hall, bullet proof glass and panels for the front doors, improved lighting around the perimeter of the property and other smaller purchases. What this grant did not provide for is the money for the Security Officer present at every Service and most activities in the building. The cost of the Security Officer has increased (as with everything else these days!) and to help defray these costs, we once again are asking you to pay a Security Fee in the amount of \$75 for an individual and \$150 for a family.

Enclosed is the annual financial commitment worksheet. It would be extremely helpful if you could complete and return this worksheet by July 1, 2022 for the start of our new fiscal year. **Receiving this information from you allows us to maintain accurate financial records and enables us to provide you with current statements.** If you prefer you can call or email your financial commitment to the office: [office@cciaugusta.org](mailto:office@cciaugusta.org). Please include your commitment level and expected payment schedule.

As the financial commitment worksheet clearly states, Congregation Children of Israel never denies anyone membership due to financial hardship. If you have any questions or concerns please call the Temple office at 706-736-3140 or call our Temple Treasurer, Morris Cohen, at 706- 832-2477. We truly thank you for your support as it enables us to continue our commitment to Reform Judaism.

Sincerely,

*Gail*

Gail Erlitz  
Co-President

*Murray*

Murray Freedman  
Co-President