

Dear Friends,

Our fate for the year ahead may be written on Rosh Hashana, and sealed on Yom Kippur, but as we are reminded in the moving Unesaneh Tokef prayer, we have the ability to amend this depending on how we choose to give to others.

This year has been so challenging for everyone, with Covid 19 affecting virtually every area of our lives. I'm so proud of how we've come together as a community at Hale Shule to try and combat this, to try and be there for each other, to strengthen, protect and support each other. But you should know that at the Shule we've really felt the impact of Covid 19. The number of members of the community who have fallen on harder times due to the crisis has risen significantly, and there have been many other knock on effects.

Our Yom Kippur appeal includes some really worthwhile local charities: The Friendship Circle, NCJPS, The Fed, Bonei Olam, Chai Cancer Care, L'Chayim Food Bank, Trafford Foodbank and Jewish action for mental health, as well as charities in Israel: United Hatzalah, Zichron Menachem, Israeli Guide Dogs, Shema Kolenu, and the UJIA Israel Projects.

Due to the circumstances we will need to apply the idea of "charity beginning at home" this year, and retain a larger percentage of the funds raised to maintain our own shule, and to help "Covid proof" it for the year ahead. We desperately need to invest in the next generation, and our Hale Nursery is vital for this. There are so many other areas of programming; educational, social and spiritual which can only happen with your help.

We've tried our hardest as a community to be here for you during lock down, and now we have to ask you, if you are able to, to be here for us, for each other, for the Yom Kippur Appeal. The shule relies on the funds raised from the Yom Kippur appeal to keep things throughout the year, and this year even more so as we are anticipating reduced income in many areas due to coronavirus.

Ultimately, everything we have – our family, our resources and even our lives, has been given to us by Hashem on trust – on condition that we make good use of it and share what we own with those in need. The Torah teaches us to dedicate one tenth of what we earn to Tzedakah. Giving charity demonstrates that we are concerned for the needs of others, and that we will invest what G-d has given us in a meaningful way.

The time to give together is now. Each and every one of us can help us to reach our target together.

With warmest regards for a gmar chasima tova, and a meaningful Yom Kippur,

Rabbi Yisroel Binstock