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26th Menachem Av 5780
August 16, 2020

Dear Anshe Emes Member/Supporter,

"It's been another amazing year at Anshe Emes." That is how LAST year's membership letter began. An indeed it was true, it was an amazing year. But what can we say about this year???. Last summer, or even before Purim, who would have anticipated events and circumstances that we have witnessed in the past six months. A global pandemic with such wide-ranging effects. Illness, loss of life, loss of parnasah, loss of ability to travel and move about freely. Stress and difficulties were and continue all around us. More than anything else, we continue to have the question, "What will tomorrow bring??!" Usually we would list the wonderful things that happened this past year at Anshe Emes, and indeed, we can do this again (like the Rabbi Krohn Shabbos), but for this year we will list **ONE** amazing thing:

ANSHE EMES WAS AND REMAINS HERE FOR YOU AND THE COMMUNITY!

For 72 years Anshe Emes has been a solid foundation for its members and the community no matter what the circumstance. Through earthquakes, riots, good and bad (r"l), Anshe Emes has been a reliable and consistent force for growth. This year, Anshe Emes, its staff and Kehila, have been given an extreme test. But we came through with flying colors. With emails, phone calls, "Zoom" classes and special shiurim, davening inside, davening outside, with a tent, without a tent... Anshe Emes came through for you! Of all the glorious accomplishments of Anshe Emes throughout its illustrious history, this year's events will certainly rank amongst the greatest.

As we approach the Yomim Noraim, the future continues to be shrouded in uncertainty. We are therefore planning for different scenarios. We hope that we will be allowed to daven inside the Shul, with social distancing and other guidelines. If not, we are also working to provide outdoor davening if that is what local health authorities require.

We are proud of our efforts to persevere, get creative and flexible during the last few months. Though, at times, the Shul was forced to be physically closed, we continued to operate as a Kehila and demonstrated our strong bonds and commitment to each other. Though there are some aspects of Kehila life that we are as yet unable to perform, there is still so much that **is** going on daily. This needs **your** support! Anshe Emes has always, and continues to be, dependent on its people. Coming and participating is key to our success. If you can assist Anshe Emes in its mission to provide the many essential services for its members and the larger community, this would be a large merit for the upcoming Yomim Noraim.

Please return your membership form as soon as possible, but no later than August 25th.

You will receive, along with this letter, an online form to request seats and confirm your attendance. Your timely response will assist the office in processing everyone's request. Also please forward membership and Eruv dues (made out to LACE) either by electronic payment or with a check mailed to the Shul. We hope and pray that the upcoming year will bring health and happiness, bracha and hatzlacha for us and all of Klal Yisroel.

Thank you for standing with us and being part of this wonderful journey.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yitzchok Summers
Rabbi Benjamin Geiger