



August 16, 2011

Shalom Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Beit Am Board of Directors, I want to extend my warmest greetings to you. I hope that this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying some well-deserved Oregon sunshine.

As Past President Scott Leibowitz mentioned in his May letter to the community, Beit Am has grown in many ways over the past three years: incorporating the Keshet program into our religious school, beginning a new weekend shabbaton tradition, and expanding the adult education classes to include offerings from other rabbis. Beit Am is also becoming more visible throughout Corvallis and the mid-Willamette Valley as Rabbi Benjamin takes a more active role in social issues and interacts with the broader Jewish community. But in many ways, Beit Am has not changed. Above all, we still hold true to our commitment to build Jewish community and serve as a house of the people that is open to many different paths of Jewish expression.

Providing all these services requires money, and membership dues continue to represent our largest source of income. This year our financial goal is to raise \$125,000 in membership dues. This is about \$3,000 less than last year's goal. Meeting this goal will allow us to continue to support Rabbi Benjamin, whose salary represents the single largest portion of our budget (57%). Also, this allows us to continue our strong community commitment to supporting Jewish education by continuing to fund the majority of the costs of the VJCCS religious school.

To renew or begin your Beit Am membership for the current year, please fill out the attached registration, volunteer interests, and financials forms. Please return your pledge forms and initial payment by **August 31st**. Having your pledge by this date will help us evaluate whether we are meeting our financial goals. Alternatively, go to <http://www.beitam.org/member.php#form> for online forms and to <http://www.beitam.org/paydues.php> to pay your dues online.

Because Beit Am supports the religious school, families who plan to enroll children in VJCCS must be members of Beit Am. Once you have completed and returned the three forms to the Beit Am office, you can consider your children registered for the religious school session that begins in September 2011. Our principal, Sarah Sapon-White, will contact you with details and answer any questions.

Please give as deeply as you can so we can meet our financial goals and allow Beit Am to continue to serve the Jewish community of the mid-Willamette Valley. If you are able to give more, consider donating to the VJCCS fund in support of those families who are not able to give as much, and to help us continue developing and improving Jewish education at Beit Am. There is a space for this contribution included on the financials form.

Thank you for your commitment to this community. Your presence and support keep Beit Am thriving.

Sincerely,

Jim Kelly  
Membership Chair, Beit Am Board of Directors