



Shabbat Ekev/19 Av 5777
August 11, 2017

Dear Shir Tikvah:

Yesterday I sat down with Rabbi Rosenberg to continue planning this year's K'hilah u'T'filah experience - our Community and Prayer gathering held during Hebrew School each Wednesday at 6pm.

Wednesday nights of the school year, students join our teachers, Ozrim (post-B'nei Mitzvah teaching assistants), clergy, family members, and other congregants as together we encounter and explore blessings, Torah, and connection... all in a prayer environment. It is a highlight of my week, and I already look forward to welcoming you and our young people to our Opening Night on September 6th at 6pm.

While sketching out our matbeia - the arrangement of prayers that are part of our service each week - Rabbi Rosenberg and I agreed on the importance of chanting V'ahavta with our students. Among other lessons, V'ahavta commands us to teach Torah to our children.

I have long been enamored of Jewish life because of our high regard for the presence of young people. The Four Questions at Pesach, our camps and youth movements across the world, the B'nei Mitzvah process itself... these are but a few examples of what I find to be some of the most powerful, inclusive aspects of Judaism.

Rabbi Pinchas of Koretz taught that if we as adults truly learn from and wrestle with Torah and Adonai, with our minds, souls, and hearts like the V'ahavta says, our words will enter our children's hearts. In short, we are commanded to be role models, to be both learners and teachers as Rabbi Rappaport would put it.

I hope you will join me this Shabbat in sharing love and learning with our children. Discuss something meaningful over dinner. Call up a niece or nephew with whom you have not spoken lately. Teach Religious School or Hebrew School with us. Whatever it is, find your opportunity to welcome someone of the next generation.

Shabbat Shalom,
Forrest