



Dear CBE Community,

First, I hope this message finds you and your families as safe, healthy, and well as possible.

This is the most urgent message I have had to write as CBE's president. While I am prouder than ever to be part of this congregation, our financial health has been seriously impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

**I am writing today to ask for your help.**

CBE was in strong financial shape prior to COVID-19, but we have never had an endowment or large cash reserves. We are facing a sharp decline in crucial revenue due to the forced cancellation of the spring semester of our after school program, event rentals, and pool and gym programs, and we simply do not know what to expect about future revenue. Additionally, we canceled our annual spring community run, a fundraiser that is essential to our budget.

CBE's leadership acted thoughtfully and swiftly, making difficult decisions to reduce costs while still providing needed services and programs. We continue to consider all options, and we were quick to pursue government assistance through the CARES Act. But the harsh reality is that these measures will not be enough to maintain the CBE we all love.

**CBE needs you. We have established the [CBE Emergency Stabilization Fund](#) to raise critical capital to sustain us through this crisis.**

I believe in CBE today more than ever—our clergy, our professionals, and our members like you. We are doing what must be done to care for our community and our synagogue. Our response to this crisis is a measure of our values.

In a matter of days, we transformed ourselves into a virtual community, live-streaming Shabbat services and Passover seders. Now, when we need it most, our clergy are caring for us in every way, while continuing to officiate online services, classes, b'nei mitzvah and, sadly, funerals and shivas.

Our Yachad and ECC teachers engage and delight our nearly 700 K-12 students with meaningful Jewish learning. Participation in our adult education offerings is at its highest levels.

And through our community-building initiative, CBEEConnects, more than 70 volunteers are in regular contact with our members to offer support, camaraderie, and assistance.

**As a community we are stepping up, not back.**

During an emergency meeting of the Board, every trustee committed to this effort, collectively giving over \$550,000. Our need is greater still. CBE needs a minimum of \$2 million, and we ask you to give what you can to help us get there. Once we have stabilized our finances, we can thoughtfully plan and adjust to meet the needs of our community into the future.

**Today, we ask you to commit to the CBE Emergency Stabilization Fund. Whether \$36, \$360, \$1,800, or \$180,000, every gift matters. With your help, I know that CBE will emerge from this challenging time more deeply connected and with a stronger**

sense of who we are, together.

[Make Your Gift](#)

Thank you. May we be together again soon.

With gratitude, urgency, and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Raich", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob Raich, President