



TEMPLE BETH TZEDEK

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March 20, 2018

Each and every year we appeal to the congregation to invest in the Jewish education of our youth. I emphasize the central role Jewish summer camp plays in the development of Jewish identity. And I underscore the enormous success of informal Jewish education in transmitting Jewish skills and values. This year has an even greater need than the last several.

It is good news because we have grown the pool of our children who love Jewish camping – not just because they go swimming and hiking and waterskiing and do all those summer camp things – but because of the Jewish component of their program. This year we also have several children that will be traveling to Israel. They love their Jewish friends from around Western New York and Canada who they know will be lifelong friends. And we know that what they receive in the summer by going to a Jewish camp and by going to Israel are transformative experiences that shape and grow Jewish souls. And that is very good news, indeed.

The bad news is, no matter how many of you respond each year – and thank God for each and every one of you – unless we increase our pool of available funds we will not be able to provide these important experiences to each child who so deeply wants it.

We have, thank God, a number of special funds in our synagogue that were set up to provide scholarships for these experiences. But, as generous as they are, they will eventually run out of funds. There are, thank God, other sources of scholarships that each individual family pursues. But, as generous as those sources can be, they are not enough. Even with the parental contribution, and even with a contribution from the child who might work after school, it is still not enough.

Can we join together to invest in our community children and in our future?

I am hoping you will consider making a gift so that all of our children who so desire will have the opportunity to pursue an intensive Jewish education. Whatever you can contribute, large or small, may be sent to my attention at the synagogue earmarked to the Pulpit Fund with a note for summer scholarships.

It is the best investment in the Jewish future we can make.

Yours truly,

Kimberly Ann Jones
Director of Synagogue Administration