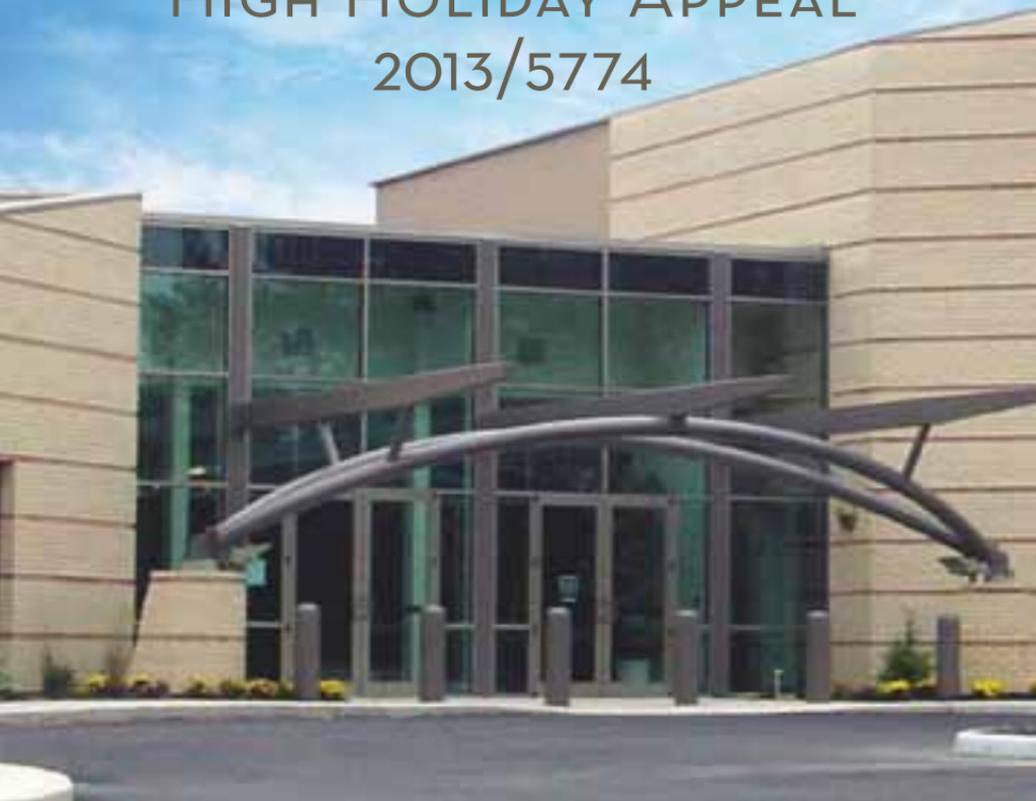


HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL 2013/5774



NORTHERN HILLS SYNAGOGUE

A CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION



5714 Fields Ertel Road | Cincinnati, Ohio 45249
513-931-6038 | www.nhs-cba.org

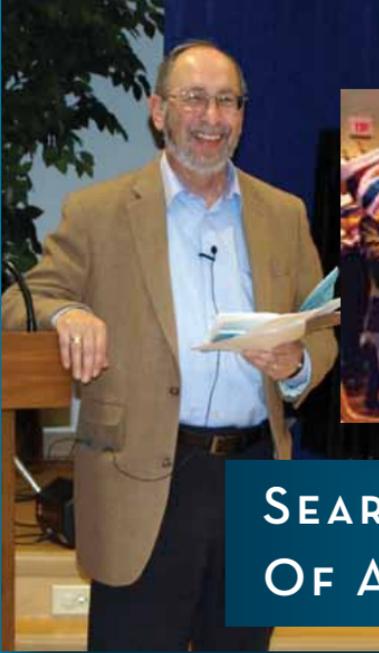
Dear Members and Friends,

Where you're **welcome,** Where **YOU count!**

This phrase captures the Core Values of our Congregation. These Values serve as guiding principles for who we are and what we do. They focus on following the practices of Conservative Judaism and express our commitment to:

- **Synagogue Community**
- **Professional Leadership**
- **Education**
- **Community Involvement**

Taken together, these values define Who We Are and can be found in detail at <http://www.nhs-cba.org/values.htm>. They were developed in a collaborative process that involved our members and representatives of the Jewish community.



SEARCH AND SELECTION OF A NEW RABBI

In June 2014, Rabbi Barnard will retire after thirty-nine years of dedicated congregational leadership. As we look back on his tenure, we are appreciative of the growth and changes he has inspired in us individually and as a Congregation. His leadership in religious, social and administrative areas will be greatly missed.

For the past 7 months, a Search Committee has been meeting and following a process put together by the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism (USCJ) and the Rabbinical Assembly (RA) aimed at identifying and hiring our next rabbi. Consistent with our core values, the Search Committee is going beyond the USCJ and RA guidelines to make certain our process is inclusive of our entire congregational family. In order to better understand what attributes our members feel are most important for our next rabbi to possess, the Committee conducted a series of focus groups. Impressively, over 100 congregants participated.

Using what was learned from the focus groups, the Committee is continuing its work by preparing the information that will be used by candidates to apply for our position. The Committee will communicate progress as significant milestones are reached.



Our Strength Today Leads To A Stronger Tomorrow

As we approach the High Holiday season, we thank you for your continued support. A critical component of our financial stability is our Kol Nidre Appeal, which accounts for approximately 40% of our annual budget. We cannot overstate its importance to the operation of our Congregation and ask that you continue to demonstrate the generosity that you have shown in the past.

Join us in being generous. We ask you to consider a substantial increase in your pledge, so we can further our goals within and far beyond our beloved community. Say yes to our future, in keeping strong today and even stronger tomorrow. Your support is vital.

We Are Strong And Vibrant Due To How We Live As A Congregation:

- Because of those who have worked passionately for our Congregation, before us
- Because so many of us care deeply about the health and strength of our Congregation
- And because of your generosity and your participation

We Are Strong Today Because Our Programs Provide:

A full range of ritual and congregational activities lead by Rabbi Gershom Barnard, who is our halakhic and spiritual authority, and Maksim Shilkrot, who is the Director of Education and Programming.

They embrace:

- Weekly Shabbat services, morning minyanim on Sundays and Thursdays, as well as shiva and yahrzeit minyanim
- High Holiday and all other major holiday services. Our volunteer choir sings at High Holiday and other selected services
- Counseling members of the Synagogue community on a wide range of subjects using the Torah's advice for living as a guide



Education of adults and children that includes:

- Offering a full program of award winning Adult Learning with sessions in Talmud Study, Adult Education, and Siddur and Conversational Hebrew classes
- Providing quality education for our youth through the Kehilla School for Creative Jewish Education, in partnership with Congregation Ohav Shalom, offering classes from K-7 to children of both Congregations and the community
- Participating in Mercaz, the joint high school program of the Conservative Congregations in Cincinnati

Activities for all segments of our Congregation that incorporate social components:

- Youth and family programs that include family Shabbat Dinners
- Youth Groups - Chaverim for K-2nd grades, Kitanim for 3rd-5th grades, Kadima for 6th-8th grades and USY for 9th - 12th grades. Held jointly with Congregation Ohav Shalom
- Social programming for young adults who have children
- Sisterhood and Men's Club events for all ages, such as our Synagogue picnic, rummikube, and book review groups
- Hazak serving the social, educational, and religious needs of those 55 and over

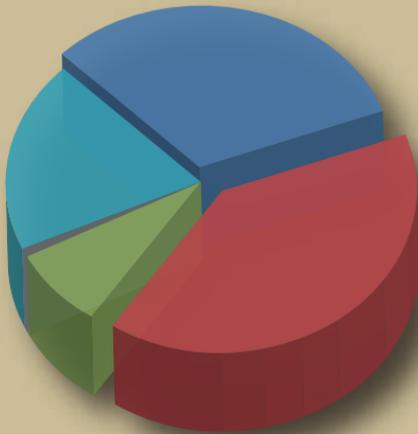
We Are Taking Steps Toward A Stronger Tomorrow

- We have formed a strategic planning committee to examine our future direction and provide recommendations
- We have established a Legacy Endowment Fund to provide for our financial future
- We are continuing to broaden the base of our congregation

How The Total Budget Works For Us

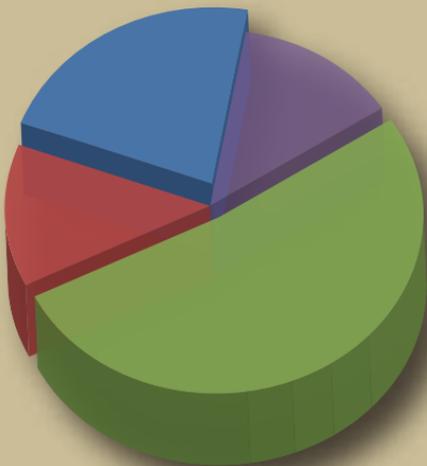
Northern Hills Synagogue Summary of
Income and Expenses

FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014



INCOME

- Dues: 32%
- HH Pledges: 40%
- Fundraising: 8%
- Building Usage: 1%
- Other Income: 19%



EXPENSE

- Utilities, Supplies, Insurance, Maintenance: 22%
- Mortgage: 13%
- Rabbi, Education, Admin, Support: 52%
- Programming: 13%