



An Ever-widening Circle

Congregation Kehillath Israel

July 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

The past year, however challenging, revealed many **blessings of belonging@KI** including:

- Our return to **in-person Shabbat morning and Yom Tov services** was greeted by Torah readers and service leaders who have elevated our worship with their beautiful voices and *kavanah*.
- **Daily minyan** reached new levels of intimacy, friendship, and support for those seeking communal prayer and for those saying kaddish over this challenging year.
- New-found engagement with sacred text - **New Week Pick-Me-Up, Mishna-in-a Minute, The Ideas That Got Us This far, Intergenerational Learning.**
- **Teen-Take Over** on several occasions including Purim and Shabbat HaGadol were innovative opportunities for meaningful participation in service planning and Torah study for our young people. We look forward to learning more from our talented and knowledgeable teens!
- **2020 KI Gala Honoring Rabbi Hamilton's 25th Year at KI** in virtual format brought together scholars and teachers from around the US and Israel to celebrate Rabbi Hamilton and our KI community.
- **KI Chesed/Lotsa Helping Hands Team** distributed and delivered thousands of kiddush lunches and made hundreds of phone calls providing opportunities to serve and to meet the needs of our KI family.
- **Base BSTN/A Project of KI** led by Rabbi Elizabeth Bonney-Cohen, was a lifeline of uplifting quality programming and support to young adults during a year+ of social upheaval.
- We welcomed **Barnet Kessel, KI Executive Director** and **Lisa Redisch, KI Director of Family Engagement**, both of whom have quickly impressed us with their warmth, competence, and positive energy.

We ask that you, our members, make an Annual Membership contribution that helps sustain your KI community while in-line with your financial reality. KI has always believed there should not be a financial barrier to synagogue membership.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- Updated 2021-2022 **belonging@KI**/Membership Materials
- KI Membership: Sustaining Share Guidelines

You will see we have moved away from a myriad of defined membership categories and funds and the need for awkward/transactional conversations regarding financial adjustments. Our hope is that this Sustaining Share Membership model is more transparent, simpler, and personally fulfilling.

Support of our Annual Appeal, Kiddush sponsorship, and regular donations in honor of a simcha or to mark a *yahrzeit* are just a few of the other ways to help sustain KI. In addition, invaluable donations of time, talent, energy and chesed strengthen our community every day, all year long.



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belonging@KI has never meant more

If we could accomplish all this and so much more in a year of many challenges, then there is indeed much optimism and excitement for what we can do together, *with your support*, to grow and strengthen our KI synagogue community in 5782!

With friendship and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shari Lecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shari" being more prominent than the last name "Lecker".

Shari Lecker, VP Membership
membership@conghi.org



Welcome to Congregation Kehillath Israel!

Whether you are new to KI, a multi-generational KI family, or somewhere in between, we hope you will join us in KI's ever-widening circle. Congregation Kehillath Israel is a Welcoming, Authentic and Inclusive Conservative synagogue that promotes Judaism that is intellectually alive, morally powerful, and personally transforming.

Kehillath Israel offers its members:

KI WORSHIPS

Uplifting and Inspirational Shabbat and Holiday Services led by Rabbi William Hamilton, who recently celebrated 25 years as KI's Senior Rabbi and as a spiritual leader in Greater Boston.

Innovative Educational and Family Programming led by Rabbi Elizabeth Bonney-Cohen, KI's Assistant Rabbi and Director of Outreach and Innovation and by Lisa Redisch, KI's Director of Family Engagement.

KI Daily Minyan, the only thrice-daily inclusive minyan in Brookline and a benchmark of our KI community.

KI Community Kabbalat Shabbat (KICKS) is a warm community of spiritually-engaged Jews that strives to create soulful, energetic Friday night tefilla and nourishing inclusive communal activities.

KI YOUTH

KI Preschool is a Brookline community school providing a discovery-based curriculum that promotes traditional Jewish values and customs, encouraging each child to explore the beauty of Shabbat and holidays.

KI Religious School (KIRS) provides teaching that cultivates a deep love of Judaism, strong fluency in prayer, and an excitement around holidays, mitzvot, culture, and community.

Youth Services are offered each Shabbat and all Holidays. Nitzanim is for the youngest children, Mini-Minyan for young elementary school-aged, and Minyan Atid for older elementary and middle school-aged students.

B'nei Mitzvah Seminars integrate our Day School and Religious School families through grade-based Shabbat dinners, as well as holiday programming. Innovative **"Teen Takeovers"** promote ongoing engagement with text-based learning and service competency after bnei-mitzvah.

KI CONNECTS

KI 6+1 Arts and Learning Initiative recognizes Shabbat as the crowning of our week, and strives for daily opportunities for classes, activities, lectures and more at KI and on the 384 Campus, including Talmud Study, KI READS, Library of Gratitude Series, FILM@384, TasteBook with Rabbi Hamilton, Israel Advocacy, and more!

Base BSTN/A Project of KI - led by Rabbi Elizabeth Bonney Cohen and Matt Bonney-Cohen and the first ever synagogue partnership with the national Base Movement. Base BSTN is KI's community of 20's and 30's focused on authentic engagement through home hospitality, Torah learning, and community service.

Jews by Choice are welcomed at KI with a whole heart, along with many other congregants who have made the same spiritual journey.

KI SERVES

KI Social Action makes a difference through partnerships with local organizations (Jewish Family Services, Brookline Insp/Expo) and national organizations (HIAS, Springs of Hope, Multifaith Alliance) and more.

KI Chesed, led by our KI Lotsa Helping Hands Team, is continuing to distribute and deliver Kiddush Lunch Boxes each Shabbat, KI Baby Train provides meals to our growing KI families, and the synagogue provides a Shiva meal to all in need.

KI Inclusion Committee facilitates the full participation of people of all abilities in Jewish life, promoting sensitivity to diverse populations, and cultivating a culture of inclusion at KI.

We look forward to greeting you personally and answering any questions you have about belonging@KI!



KI Membership: Sustaining Share Guidelines

Our new membership model asks you to make an annual contribution that helps sustain your KI community at a level that is in line with your financial reality.

Sustaining KI

To sustain KI at its current size and budget costs an average of \$4,300 per household in 2021-2022, based on projected expenses of \$1.72 million and 400 households.

Our new model of Sustaining Share Membership contributions is as follows:

	Annual	Per Month Option
Alef	\$3,600 - \$5,400	\$300 - \$450
Bet	\$1,800 - \$3,600	\$150 - \$300
Gimel	\$1,200 - \$1,800	\$100 - \$150
Dalet	\$600 - \$1,200	\$50 - \$100
Hey	\$72 - \$600	\$6 - \$50

In order to maintain the same dues revenue as last year, we need at least 40% of families to support in the lower bound of the Alef level. Please consider “reaching” if able, and if you have not financially supported KI in the past, please consider committing at an amount both meaningful and in accordance with your circumstances.

Determining Your Sustaining Share Membership Contribution

To determine which Sustaining Share contribution is appropriate for your membership, we suggest you begin by considering your income, and adjust as necessary based on other factors that may affect your financial situation and how you engage with KI.

As a starting point, here are the suggested membership contribution based on income:

Alef:	Over \$150,000
Bet:	\$100,000 - \$150,000
Gimel:	\$75,000 - \$100,000
Dalet:	\$50,000 - \$75,000
Hey:	< \$50,000

Factors that may affect your financial situation include your ease of meeting monthly expenses, savings, and your stage of life, etc.

Factors that may affect how you engage with KI include whether KI is your primary synagogue, where you attend high holiday services, and the size of your household (individual, couple vs. family), etc.