



The Jewish Congregation of New Paltz

בקש שלום ורדפהו — "Seek peace and pursue it."



27 June 2024 — 21 Sivan 5784

Dear friend,

Here in the relative calm of early summer, after the conclusion of Hebrew School and before the beginning of the High Holiday season, I'm glad to have this opportunity to write and ask you to become a member of the Jewish Congregation of New Paltz, our Jewish home. To put it mildly, this has been a very difficult year. A brutal war raging in the Holy Land without much hope for future peace, rising hatred and bigotry here in the United States and all over the world, anger and division within communities, friendships, and families – we've all felt the weight and the pain of these heartbreaks.

I've heard from many folks over these last months that time spent in Jewish space, and connections made with other Jewish people, feel more valuable now than they maybe ever have before. However we're handling everything going on, wherever we're landing on challenging and controversial topics, participating in Jewish community temporarily lifts our individual and collective burdens and helps us build strength and resilience for today and for the future. I'm immensely proud of the community we're building together, and believe we can do and be even more.

But here's the catch – none of this happens unless we make it happen. It is, ultimately, *aleinu* ("upon us") to maintain the JCNP and build upon its now sixty-year history. Today, I ask you to invest in our community by becoming a member, and to be as generous in your support as you are able. Your contribution allows us to continue to offer weekly, monthly, and yearly programs, as well as ongoing pastoral and lifecycle support. Perhaps most importantly, your generosity allows those in our community with fewer financial resources to participate fully in our vibrant Jewish community. Thank you for your support!

L'shalom (towards peace),

Rabbi Adam Cerino-Jones