



Serving the communities
of Central Ohio

August 9, 2020

Rabbi Claman

Congregation Ahavas Shalom

2568 E Broad St

Columbus, OH 43209

Dear Rabbi Claman,

From all the days in the year to honor pillars of the Ahavas Shalom Congregation, tonight is surely the most fitting, as we begin reading this week's Torah portion of Re'eh, in which it focuses on the establishment of a central place of worship for the Jewish people, describing how Hashem "will choose to have His name dwell" in one particular place and there, they were commanded to "celebrate before Hashem." The verse is referring to the Temple in Jerusalem, the place where Hashem's presence was most revealed.

Now Hashem is everywhere. There is not a place in this world where He is not present. Why then must His worship be centralized? Why can't we serve Him anywhere and everywhere?

Hashem wanted man to have one place where he could sense the spiritual, where he would be uplifted above material concerns. Therefore, He "chose to have His name dwell in the Temple" and commanded man to journey there at least three times a year. For the awareness of Hashem he experienced there would stay with him even after he returned home and enable him to live spiritually even when involved in ordinary day-to-day activities.

The Ahavas Shalom Congregation truly encapsulates this message, through elevating and inspiring all those who enter. It is an oasis of Torah learning and prayer, loving kindness and hospitality. Even upon exiting the physical edifice, one remains energized and uplifted.

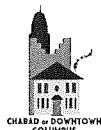
Congratulations to Eddie and Lily Friedman upon receiving the *Amud Hachessed Award* and to Gary Covell for the *Lev Tov Award*. May you continue to pave the way for future generations in illuminating Columbus with your exemplary efforts.

Yours truly,
Areyah
Rabbi Areyah Kaltmann
Executive Director

lots & lots of never ending blessings & much success! Mazel too!



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