

March 28, 2008

Dear Friends,

Creating (and maintaining) a special and inspiring communal space is the goal of most religious congregations and faith communities. A house of worship, gathering and study usually reflects the combined personality and spirit of the members of community. It provides a focus for activity, programming and personal and communal growth.

In the Haftarah for this week, King David learned that it would not be his task, but the responsibility of a son yet to be born, to build a Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant that would serve as a visible sign of the divine presence in the human community. Yet, the text of Second Samuel Chapter 6 envisions God saying to David, "Did I ever reproach any of the tribal leaders: Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

That declaration is a reminder that a house of worship can engender a sense of meaning through the words we hear, the songs and prayers we sing, the discussions in which we engage, and in the feeling of being connected to a heritage of wisdom and hope. One of the reasons that synagogues are supposed to have windows is to ensure that our learning and beliefs that we express when we are together as a community will necessarily become a part of our daily lives. Whether we meet inside or outside our holy space, we strive to be a Kahal Kadosh, a holy community, reaching for the best within ourselves to share with humanity and the world. May we continue to join together to make the space and time in which we live sacred, special and meaningful. Shabbat Shalom!

**-- L'shalom,
Rabbi Larry K.**