



Congregation Kol Emes

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"A warm, heimishe shul, where everyone is welcome"

Every day in the daily liturgy, faithful Jews recite the following words shortly before our people's creed of "Shma' Yisrael", the words are "zore'a tzedakos, matzmiach yeshu'os" - "He who plants righteousness (or tzedakah - charity), causes salvation to sprout forth".

We want to give you the opportunity to plant a seed that will grow, to ensure a future for the Jewish people. Our sages teach that the letters of a Torah scroll represent individual Jews. Therefore; just as if one letter is missing from a scroll, the entire scroll is invalid; if one Jew is lost, then entire Jewish people loses.

We seek out those who do not fit in elsewhere, and give them a home, and we are seeing that the vast majority of Jews in this city do not have a synagogue to call home, so we become that synagogue. We strive to get those Jews through our doors, and make our synagogue welcoming for everyone who comes in.

We have daily Torah classes, weekly spirited Sabbath services and meals, and the only Mikvah within the Richmond Eruv. We offer one-on-one study for anyone who wants to learn more about Judaism, and we have a ground-breaking approach to simplifying the Bar-Mitzvah process for unaffiliated youth, with a goal of engendering a deep love for our faith, as opposed to merely memorizing some words in Hebrew.

Our synagogue is the center of the most dynamic Jewish College Outreach efforts in Richmond. Each of these institutions have considerable Jewish populations; however, these campuses lack any full-time Torah presence. Presently, our Rabbi and Rebbetzin devote a great deal of time and energy to bring Yiddishkeit to these locations, invite students to their home and to our synagogue, to experience inspiring and uplifting Jewish spiritual experiences, such as Torah study and Shabbos meals. Our vision is that our Beis Medrash will be the center of College Outreach in the city, with eventual plans to hire full-time Kollel-members assigned to the various schools to reach out to more Yiddishe neshamos. This can only be accomplished with your help.

The synagogue is the most important institution of Jewish life. Kol Emes is where we worship, educate ourselves and our children and grandchildren, extend community support to one another, celebrate life-cycle events, and come together for cultural, spiritual and social functions, and is an important contributor to Richmond's Jewish Community. The Code of Jewish Law actually teaches that the most important contribution a Jew could make to charity is to a Torah-true synagogue.

The Kol Emes Endowment provides permanent income for the current and future needs of our congregation. The endowment is a cushion against financial uncertainty and will allow us to initiate and sustain new programming. Just as a family's savings provide security and opportunity, the Kol Emes Endowment Fund paves the way for a more secure tomorrow. As the endowment grows there will be a vibrant future for Congregation Kol Emes in the decades ahead.

When thinking about the future, we all worry about the worldly needs of those we will leave behind. We also must concern ourselves with the world that they will inherit. By including Congregation Kol Emes Synagogue in your estate planning you will insure that Judaism, Torah, and community will continue to flourish. Your gift guarantees the Jewish future, planting seeds of tzedakah to cause Hashem's miracles to sprout forth in your life and in the life of the Jewish people and the whole world.