



*“Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. And, I suppose I should add, it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name.”*

*Jarislav Pelikan*

Dear Micah Members,

Jarislav Pelikan’s teaching underpins my beliefs about the continuing Jewish adventure that is Temple Micah. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to rethink and in significant ways reinvent the way we do almost everything at Micah. From overhauling Shabbat worship to reconceiving Jewish learning, we adapted to suit the virtual environment and the physical isolation of the past year and a half.

Thankfully, the world is opening up again. And, at Micah, we are reopening slowly in consultation with our medical advisors and deliberately as we seek to apply the lessons learned in the past year. We are not simply returning to the way we did things in early March 2020. Together, we are building and striving towards our post-pandemic Micah.

**It is against this backdrop that we launch our year-end, *Giving Thanks* appeal.** Just as a tradition needs to be a living faith, so a community needs to be recreating itself all the time. This is what we will do as we move into 2022.

Thanks to your continuing commitment, we survived the pandemic as a Micah community strong and intact. We have been joined by several new staff members, including Executive Director Beth Werlin, each of whom brings new energy, ideas, and insights to our vision for Micah. Now, co-creating our future needs your ongoing support.

**As Micah celebrates 58 years since our founding, seven families have stepped forward with an incredibly generous combined matching gift challenge of \$58,000! Your contribution in any amount to our *Giving Thanks* appeal will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to the first \$58,000, so long as your donation is made before December 31.**

I look forward to standing side-by-side with you as we continue to revitalize our own Micah traditions and seek to engage our new reality with as much creative zest as we can muster!

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel G. Zemel'.

Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel