



Dear Friends:

This is an extraordinary time in the long history of Congregation Rodeph Shalom. Like so many of you I love being a part of the incredible transformation that is occurring in our lives and our community because of this great institution. These past High Holy Days were joyous and so representative of who we are and what we are trying to create,

*a Jewish community of profound connections through
transformative study, prayer, and urban engagement.*

Rodeph Shalom has been a spiritual home to Philadelphia's Jews and their families for over 200 years. During that time, both our neighborhood and Judaism have undergone significant changes. We have responded to those changes with flexibility and fortitude, emerging ever stronger.

The hard work and dedication of our congregation is showing amazing results. Rodeph Shalom is growing both in numbers and in depth of engagement. We are thriving and are proof that a bright and vibrant future for Judaism is indeed possible for congregations willing to assertively respond.

With success and the sheer realities of time, come challenges. We are blessed with a beautiful building that houses a magnificent sanctuary. However, our building is not able to meet the demands resulting from our growth; nor can it meet the security and safety expectations of the 21st century.

The enclosed booklet was written to provide you with information about:

- ***Our history, vision and many significant accomplishments.***
- ***Our spatial challenges.***
- ***Our exciting new Master Facility Plan that will address those challenges.***
- ***Our Legacy Campaign that will support our growth and vision.***

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the members of the campaign team listed in the booklet, to learn more about this critical initiative and how you can help. I look forward to working with you to fulfill the needs and exceed the expectations of our thriving community as we serve as the center for Jewish life in our region now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Dena R Herrin

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Jill L. Maderer
Eli C. Freedman

Rabbi Emeritus

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Jaime L. Murley

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