

Message from Your President May 14, 2020

WE NEED A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER REOPENING

A warm hello to everyone! I haven't reached out for some time due to my own non-Covid health issues—all of which are fully on the mend. My natural reaction in such circumstances is to circle the wagons, build more walls, and try to remove myself from the external world. So I apologize for not staying in touch with everyone. However, even if your inclination is to withdraw, like me, it is reassuring to know that Temple is and will be there for you. If you need help, even for the simplest of tasks or attentions, someone at Temple can help. Please contact me (president@templesinaivt.org), Rabbi, Stacie or any of your other friends here at Temple to assist.

There has been one constant throughout this pandemic: Someone at Temple is here for you, is more than willing to help you out and, even more than that, wants to help. I hope all of you have felt this spirit and generosity which, in my mind, sums up our members.

Good news! Springtime is in the air: the forsythia have come and gone, the tulips have bloomed in our gardens, and the leaves have begun to appear. Just as springtime seeps into our lives, the State is slowly readying to reopen businesses and events. It is more important now than ever that we collectively begin to look toward our future, and continue to figure out the best way for us to continue to be “Temple Sinai.” We have already taken one important step to return to being “open” as Rabbi has been conducting services from the Bimah even while he and several other technology-savvy members work to better bring services and other programming to you at your homes. Other typical activities for this time of year are taking place as well. We have two Bat Mitzvahs scheduled for June which we believe we can hold in a limited fashion so as to comply with State guidelines about social distancing and congregating in groups of ten or fewer persons. In addition, planning for the High Holidays is well underway. Preparations for the 2021 budget are taking hold. And, as this year's religious school winds down, planning for our 2020-2021 year is also taking place. We are planning for our future, thoughtfully and carefully.

Our next steps are to consider whether and when we should reopen and how to continue with in-house operations. More specifically, in order to reopen, we must have a fully operational plan about how to do so. Before reopening, we must establish a roadmap tailored to our needs. The first step to allow us to reopen is to form a new working group charged with considering reopening our facility and resuming operations. How do we know when the right time to reopen is? What factors should be considered? How do we prepare our Synagogue for safe worship and other events? How do we comply with State, local and federal guidelines? These (and a host of others) are essential questions needing to be addressed.

Our solution? I am looking for a half dozen or more volunteers to form a new working group charged with the responsibility to establish a reopening plan and work with Rabbi, Stacie, Ibrahim, Lenny and the Board so we are prepared to reopen when the time is right. Having doctors, first responders and other “essential” personnel to serve on this working group would be a huge help.

What do you think? Are you interested in helping out? Let me know.

Shalom.

Your President, Doug Marden