

May 17, 2020 / 23 Iyar 5780

Dear Agudas Achim Congregants,

We do hope you are holding up okay despite these most difficult times. Please reach out to the office if you are in need of any help. This letter is an update on behalf of the board and myself.

Though we are unsure of plans for returning to minyanim & services, we are committed to returning only when it seems safest and with proper social distancing protocols. We are keeping abreast of what is recommended by the Governor, the Board of Rabbis, and the JewishColumbus Medical Advisory Board.

The local Orthodox rabbis recently sent out a statement with which we strongly agree:

"Although the Ohio economy has begun opening in stages, we have determined that it is premature to begin opening our doors for davening. Our sole consideration is the preservation of health and human life. At the present time, it still remains unclear as to when the appropriate time for reopening our shuls will be. We ask you to continue exerting patience as we monitor the overall effects of the economy's opening. It is critical that our community abide by one standard so as not to undermine our collective efforts to mitigate the spread of the disease."

Additionally, we have been meeting about the High Holidays with Rabbi Morris Allen, and are working on thoughtful plans about how we will have to adapt. Clearly this year will be different. The guidelines are still evolving so it is too soon to share any exact plans. That said, it will definitely be a hybrid model. We will keep you posted on a regular basis as plans continue to come together. Thanks for your understanding as we make our way through these uncharted waters.

A new High Holiday Task Force is being formed by Natalie Cohen, who has many creative ideas of meaningful ways for us to connect to each other and our tradition during this year's High Holidays. If you are interested in helping with her interactive 'High Holiday Kit' project for all our congregants, please email Naomi at nkurland@agudasachim.org.

We are encouraged that the Agudas Achim/Tifereth Israel representatives are energized and are interviewing professional facilitators this week and next! We will keep you posted on their facilitator decision as soon as we know it.

We are looking to purchase and install audio/visual equipment in the main sanctuary for folks to access our services who may be unable or uncomfortable coming to shul when we are able to reopen, and especially on the high holidays. If you are in a position to contribute to a special fund for this equipment, it would be very much appreciated since this was not in our budget. The project totals approximately \$8,000. Also related to technology, let us know if you are interested in doing volunteer outreach to help Agudas congregants learn how to access our online programs and services. Contact [Naomi](#) to help.

Watch for more information about/and Save the Date for our shul Annual Meeting on June 25th at 7:00 pm, via Zoom! Our next Board of Trustees meeting is tomorrow night (Monday) via Zoom and members are always welcome! Following is the log-in information.

Topic: Board/Agudas 5/18, Monday 7pm
Time: May 18, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86919120774?
pwd=M1ZUQnl3ZGxJK2orZG0zR2QzRkNxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86919120774?pwd=M1ZUQnl3ZGxJK2orZG0zR2QzRkNxdz09)

Meeting ID: 869 1912 0774
Password: 519869
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kYFBf0fpO>

Julie Saar, President
Congregation Agudas Achim

RABBI
Rabbi Mitchell Levine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ari Y. Goldberg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES
Naomi Kurland

ENGAGEMENT MANAGER
Ron Rudolph

MEMBER RELATIONS SPECIALIST
Nancy Kaunitz

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Julie Saar

VICE-PRESIDENTS
Randy Sokol
Sarah-Rachel Sribnick

TREASURER
Jerry Cabakoff

SECRETARY
Eva Fried

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
David Philips

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Reuven Clein
Laura Clubok
Jeffrey Jonas
Janyce Katz
Rachel Kleit
Gary Lichtenstein
Raisa Pesina
Hallie Raskin
Josh Ruben
Michael Shapiro
Annie Shmookler
Jonathan Silberstein
Allan Zelman

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Greg Adams
Herb Glimcher
Larry Ruben
Steve Schottenstein
Robert Shapiro
Bruce Soll
Leslie Wexner

Lifetime Trustee
Steven Shkolnik

BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENT
Jonathan Silberstein

CHAIRMAN, CHEVRA KADISHA
Neal Shapiro