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Dear Members and Friends,

Over the past couple tumultuous months, we have been afforded the opportunity to reflect upon the blessing of a shul like we call home. Unprecedented times have tested our community in many dimensions. However, the primary function of our shul, a place of communal prayer, is something we look forward resuming in the coming days. With tremendous gratitude to Hashem we plan to reopen for minyan on Sunday May 31st.

It is said that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Teffila is referred to as עבודה שבלב (Avodah Shebalev), service of the heart. This is a time to reflect and contemplate how we can better our relationship with Hashem that teffila Ershur offers us. As we exercise our central place of prayer I am excited to, as a rabbinic approach teffila with renewed appreciation and reverence.

I am grateful for the collaborative efforts of Rabbis Goldstein and Zach, the executive board, the Orthodox Union and medical experts in our community who have worked tirelessly to develop a plan that prioritizes the the health and safety of our community. Our cautious reopening will be a learning process and we count on everyone's cooperation to ensure its success.

Please read the guidelines carefully as we ask that you adhere to them meticulously. All rules and regulations will be strictly enforced by an appointee of the rabbis. By following these guidelines you will ensure that everyone can continue to feel safe and secure in our shul. Disregarding them could potentially lead to putting many at great risk.

Social Distancing Policy

- Minyanim will be limited in size and only open to pre-registered individuals. Priority will be given to those with a chiyuv to pray/ran.
- All yeshivos must wear masks or face coverings at all times.
- All yeshivos must maintain at least a 6 foot distance at all times.
- Everyone must bring their own talis, siddurim, chumashim, etc.
- Congregants should remain by their seats throughout services and not toss the Torah.
- Congregants who do not follow the social distancing policies will be asked to leave.

Restrictions

- Minyanim will be held outdoors on the Ershmans side. In the event of inclement weather, minyan will be moved indoors, upon the decision of the rabbis.
- Seats may not be rearranged.
- We will have our Israel Torah Chugim, Kiddush or Shalosh Seudos.
- Those over the age of 65 or with any serious medical conditions are strongly encouraged to stay home. Yeshivos please contact congregation Bnei Avoseinu to attend minyanim.
- Men and women are welcome to submit a registration request.
- No children under age 13.
- All members should see their physicians if they have any concerns before attending shul.
- People arriving from outside Columbus may not attend minyanim for 14 days.
- Anyone experiencing fever, sinus pain, cough, reduced or altered sense of smell/taste, stuffy nose, chills, fatigue, sore throat, joint pains or diarrhea should not attend.
- If you don't feel well, wait without any of the above symptoms you should not attend.

CLICK HERE FOR THE MINYAN REGISTRATION FORM

Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the executive board with any questions or concerns.

May Hashem send a speedy recovery to all in need and bless us with the strength and wisdom we need to continue to gradually create a safe and spiritually uplifting environment.

Sincerely, Rabbi David Claman

zoom **PIRKEI AVOS SUNDAY - THURSDAY at 8:30PM**

Join Rabbi Claman for a brief shiur on the timeless teachings of Pirkei Avos nightly at 8:30PM Sunday through Thursday

Click HERE to join Password: torah

zoom **SEFER NECHEMIA TUESDAYS at 11:30AM**

New Class on Sefer Nechemia with Rabbi Claman

Tuesdays at 11:30AM Click HERE to join password: nechemia

Important Updates

Dear Members and Friends,

We want to wish all of our members, families and friends good health and good spirits during these difficult times.

We are extremely grateful to those who participated generously in our Chanukah Matching Campaign. These donations have dramatically helped the shul during this Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the donations are helping pay shul expenses at this time.

The physical, spiritual, mental and financial health of our members has been our priority. Many of our members and friends have joined Zoom classes, given by Rabbi Claman. Aside from the excellent learning and discussion opportunities, Rabbi Claman has also been helping members in need, in a variety of ways, solution. Social distancing, masks, hand washing, and online meetings will have to continue for a while. We all want the shul to open, but in a way that is safe for our members and families. The Orthodox Union has been in touch with all of the Columbus Congregations about "the best ways" to open our doors when the time comes, in a coordinated approach, while discussing with experts the best standardized safety measures that should be in place.

The Columbus Jewish **Cemetery Association's** $200,000 cemetery improvement plan has completed several of its major goals. We thank Jewish Columbus for their matching grant, which paid for about one-half this project. Jewish Columbus members have represented at the Agnes Ravitch Association meeting.

The **$85,000 project to improve the Columbus Jewish Historical Society Performance Pathway Cemetery** is complete! Most of the cost was for the installation of an underground irrigation system, which will be very beneficial to the cemetery. After the last 2 heavy rains, there were no areas of standing water. The rest of the expense was for landscaping, including the creation of new paths, cleaning up the trees, roots and debris. The result is spaces for hundreds of new burial plots.

In the cemeteries of the 5 synagogues, about 200 toppled gravestones have been up-righted with new foundations placed.

The cleanup of the shul **Ohavas Sholom Ahavi Creek Cemetery** is also complete.

Although the shul is closed, there are several **building updates**:

Dale and his team thoroughly cleaned the building, including wiping down all contact surfaces.

$12,000 of the Chanukah Campaign funds paid for the installation of **two new air conditioner units** on the roof. In addition to the two new units installed last year, 40 feet units that cool the sanctuary and lobby have been replaced.

This fall and winter, a team of our members have done a **major kitchen renovation**. Thousands of dollars worth of cabinets, counters, sinks, and utensils were discarded and new ones purchased. A company was hired to inspect all the ovens for safety and function. All dials, lines and burners were checked. Two thermocouples were replaced, and all the ovens were cleaned.

The Shul received the approval for a **Federal Emergency Management Agency Nonprofit Security Grant** for $93,000 to install security enhancements. This includes funding for an exterior and interior video camera system, panic buttons, an intrusion detection system, video door bell and more.

The shul entered into a bargain with the government **Paycheck Protection Program** to reduce our expenses in May and June. After that, with your generosity, the gala ad journal will hopefully produce income for the next few months.

Ahavas Sholom is delighted to recognize our dear members **Lily and Ed Lipsey** for their 70 years of membership in our shul. Ahavas Sholom has earned the honor by their many contributions to the shul and to the broader Columbus Jewish community. Ed served 10 remarkable years as the Columbus Commissioner on Aging, and Lily has been instrumental in the life of our community. Lily and Lipsey Center were both graduates of the Lipsey school, both Lily and Lanes culinary skills were well known, helping at our shul, Ed was a leader in our minyan, and they have raised their family. Lily's decades of selfless work for the Columbus Chorus Kadima is exemplary.

In one of the pandemic, the Ahavas Sholom gala committee is busy working on a virtual alternative for both the gala and the journal. News and details to follow.

If you or someone you know has an unmet need, whether spiritual, financial, emotional or other, please contact Rabbi Claman to discuss this in confidence. May everyone stay well and help others stay well during these trying times. We look forward to time together, in person, on Zoom and in our prayers.

With warm wishes, Dotan Hanoupe, President and Philip Weiserman, Chairman

Videos for Yom Ha'atzmaon and Yom Ha'atzmaut

PROGRAM DETAILS (CLICK TO OPEN each LINK to the videos)

- Rabbi Moshe Hauer, Incoming Executive Vice President, OU
- Winter Parsa in conversation with Rabbi Avi Berman, Executive Director, Chi Israel
- Lt. Col. Ehud Abramovich, IDF 98 Shakedown Recruiter
- Lt. Col. Ehud Abramovich, IDF, Rail Watch Recruiter
- Rav Betzalel'ch Part One: The role of the UK's right of the Rambam's introduction to Yesodei HaTorah
- Rav Betzalel'ch Part Two: The story of how a wicked British Foreign Minister became instrumental in creating the State of Israel
- Rav Betzalel'ch Part Three: A land which remains faithful to its people, and a people who remain faithful to its land
- Rabbi Moses Tangier, Rare Yeshivat Har Etzion: For the First Time in 2000 years, 27 Celebrating Yom Ben Ze'ev in Jewish History
- Lt. Col. Shai Abramson, IDF, Hakkiah Recruiter

Joint Statement from the Columbus Orthodox Rabbis Regarding Pesach Plans

Dear Members and Friends,

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus continues to pose a very serious threat around the world. In order to protect the health and safety of our community we feel obligated to affirm the following policies for the upcoming Pesach holiday.

1) Family and friends should not visit for Pesach. This includes parents and/or married children.

2) Individuals and families should not travel to other cities for Yom Tov as it would violate the spirit of the above mentioned policy.

3) Local guests should not be invited for a Seder or any Yom Tov meal.

Any specific question must be discussed with your physician and rabbi. Anyone who ignores or is skeptical regarding the above rules is guilty of putting their own lives and the lives of others in danger.

We recognize the difficulty that these restrictions entail, but by abiding by them we are fulfilling the tremendous mitzva of ensuring our physical well-being and that of others (וחי בהם אמר ה' ולא שיהא בהם שמתים).

May we all merit a happy, healthy and kosher Pesach!

Respectfully,

Rabbi David Claman, Congregation Ahavas Sholom

Rabbi Avi Goldstein, Beth Jacob Congregation

Rabbi Howard Zach, Congregation Torah Emet

Resources and links during the Covid 19 Pandemic

Here are a number of helpful resources and links for your use:

Davening Times Please be mindful of the proper prayers for Rosh Chodesh, Yaaleh Veyavo, Al Hanisim, Mashiv Haruach, Tal Umatar (Remember Eretz is summer time!). To find the earliest and latest times for each day please visit https://www.chabadohio.com/search-zmanim?zip=43229

Daily Tehillim

Please join the Orthodox Union community for the recitation of Tehillim (chapters 20, 24 and 130) and shiva chiuck each afternoon at 1:00PM The call in number is 773-970-9170

Online Platforms for Learning and Classes

https://www.torahanywhere.com/

https://outorah.org/

https://www.aishlatv.org/

https://www.simplyhela.org/

https://torahlive.com/ (Nefesh of Torah Learning)

Chesed If you or anyone you know is in need of help getting groceries, medicine etc. please be in touch at rabbiclaman@gmail.com

There is a Baby Gear Gemach Sponsored by Judi & Jen Lynch, which is a great way to get baby gear for a fraction of the cost of new clothes and wares. Please in touch with Judi at jdlynch@aol.com or 614 408 7242 for more information.

Rabbi Claman will have live classes and updates using Zoom live stream video. Look for future announcements. The Sunday night Zoom class was very successful. **Shul meetings** will also be by Zoom.

A Message from JewishColumbus

We are here for you and if you know someone in need, please contact Joel Mazurovich, CEO JewishColumbus at joel@jewishcolumbus.org or Rachel Ginsburg, Director of Family Services at rginsburg@jewishcolumbus.org

A Message from Shalom Task Force We know that this stressful time can lead to an increased tension and violence within families and households. Shalom Task Force is committed to provide support, a listening ear, help with safety planning and a place to be heard. Our advocates have recently trained to help those who may be experiencing domestic violence. As always, Shalom Task Force is here to support you.

Remember, You are not alone.

If you or a loved one is in an abusive or unhealthy relationship, please call our confidential Hotline at **(800) 934-2223**

Monday/Wednesday- 9am-6pm

Tuesday/Thursday- 9am-10pm

Friday/Sunday- 9am-12pm

When our hotline is closed, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

At this time, as community members navigate through increased stress and abuse in the home, Shalom Task Force and Shalom Task Force remain committed to safety planning and support.

If you or a loved one is in an abusive or unhealthy relationship call **(800) 934-2223**

NO ONE DESERVES TO BE ABUSED

PLEASE NOTE: We should make lists of people to call and check in on their within our friend groups and beyond. Every step taken away from another person in terms of physical presence must be replaced by a step toward them in terms of emotional presence. Unfortunately, it happen via phone, internet, or other means. Unfortunately, there are individuals and families in our community who are under emotional and physical duress. Please be compassionate. Please consider joining Isaiahs HERE to assist those in need.

Best wishes, Rabbi David Claman

Ahavas Sholom is now affiliated with the Life and Legacy program to promote endowments for our shul and the Jewish community .

Ahavas Sholom is excited to be chosen as an affiliate of the Life & Legacy Program with the objective of increasing endowments to help ensure our Jewish future. This program is sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and JewishColumbus.

Please click here, join us, Like and Learn more

Please email development@ahavasshalom.com or contact **Rabbi Claman or Phil Weiserman for more information or to join our team**

Whatsapp — **WhatsApp Isaiahs Q&A Chat**

Join Rabbi Claman's WhatsApp Isaiahs Q&A Chat!

Please click HERE from your smartphone or text your NAME to 614 800 8855

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