

Presidential Matters by Steve Aronowitz



Good news is always welcome...so I begin with information we have all been awaiting...it sounds like the time may not be too far off that we will be able to return to some sense of normalcy. If you're anything like me, I know you would much rather be sitting near your family and friends in the synagogue.

Based on declining COVID – 19 infection numbers and increasing vaccination numbers, we are in the final planning stages for a gradual resumption of in-person services. The current plan, yet to be officially announced, is to start in late May. **A letter – under separate cover – with full details of the re-opening will be sent to members sometime in the first week of May.**

We will continue to make services available online. This is our opportunity to continue to make services available to those who choose not to attend in-person, as well as distant members who might not be able to make it to services in person but still want to participate.

Our time away has been too long; that is certain. However, upon reflection, consider how we grew as a Jewish community. Participation in services was exceptional, virtual programming kept us together and we continued our traditions with a Zoom Passover Seder, a Food Drive, Shabbat Dinners, and stimulating, relevant, and spiritual Educational Programs. Somehow, the Rabbi and Cantor kept us together through their warm, friendly, and passionate concern for each of us. Along with strong congregational leaders, they created experiences that clearly rose above any perceived limitations. We laughed. We smiled. Sometimes, we cried. Through it all – well over one year – we held together and the result is a stronger congregation.

The credit is widespread as it would have to be in order to pull off this accomplishment!

Once again, we earned our reputation as the leading center of Judaism in northeast Queens. And, most importantly, once again we will soon greet each other in person.

More developing news... consolidation talks with Lake Success continue with significant progress being made. **A full report to the general membership will be presented at a virtual General Membership meeting on Monday, June 7th.** Prior to that date, we will be holding focus group meetings to present updated information. **Previous focus group meetings helped the committee in formulating our position on key issues. Your input is vital!!**

If you would like to participate in a focus group meeting, please notify Audi at the synagogue office.

You will also be receiving a letter under separate cover detailing the election process of trustees and officers for the 2021 – 2022 year. The meeting on June 7 will also provide nominated individuals the opportunity to introduce themselves.