

August 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

The Covid pandemic has raised anxiety over how Temple will conduct this year's High Holy Day services. This is one of several communications whose purpose is to address those concerns.

The Torah teaches us "Choose Life" (Deut. 30:19); Hillel the Elder taught us not to separate from the community (*Pirkei Avot* 2:5). Our Reopening Task Force is monitoring the health crisis and implementing a careful re-opening of the building. Unfortunately, attendance must be severely restricted.

- Nearly all of us will have to use the Temple's livestream broadcast.
- Those attending services in our building will be limited based on those who will be participating in that particular service. They will register in advance and will be required to follow safety guidelines, including certifying compliance with applicable health considerations, wear masks and maintain significant physical distancing. If you come to services without being registered, it will be necessary on grounds of safety to turn you away.
- Those attending services in our building will be limited to the particular service in which they participate. Almost all members will be limited to attending at most one service.
- If you are not one of those at our building, we hope you will remain part of the community by following our services on livestream.

Safety, for those in the building, and concern about computer fatigue for those following on livestream, will result in our longest services (Shachrit/Musaf) being considerably shorter than in previous years. One of the implications of this is that there will be very few honors this year. Cantor Spindler will be the only Torah reader and will handle all Ark openings, and that there will be fewer English readings. We regret that only a few members can be honored with parts in the service, but safety requires this.

Other measures that will be used to promote safety and abbreviate services will include:

- Masks and social distancing will be required. Your temperature will be taken as you enter the building.
- Omitting the preliminary readings and P'sukei D'zimra from the morning service. Congregants will be encouraged to daven these on their own prior to the start of services.
- Reading each Amidah using Heicha Kedushah (i.e., without repetition)
- No Torah processions
- Those honored with aliyot will chant the brachot from their seats (**not** approach the lectern).
- Some parts of traditional services will be moved to the days just before or between the holidays, or will be substituted for by videos that will be linked from the Temple website.

You may borrow a *Machzor* (the High Holy Days prayerbook) from Temple. Information on how this will be managed will be communicated in a variety of ways including the Temple Web site.

L'shanah tova – to a good new year,

Marcia Goldstein, President

Dr. Laurence Boxer, Chair, Ritual Committee

Harvey Sanders and Ed Case, Co-chairs, Reopening Task Force