

From: Phil Sher

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 08:20:43 PM PDT

Subject: update on shul

Greetings,

This may be the final update for awhile. Yom Tov approaches, and it's doubtful that we will have more news for awhile.

The person who was found to have started the fire to the shul has been in court. He pleaded guilty to the charges against him. His projected top sentence is 4 years, however, the county attorney has informed me as to her doubts that the person will serve that long. There are 'circumstances' regarding the individual. This is a long story which may be addressed later.

For now, we have continued to meet in member's homes. Obviously the 'feel' is not the same, yet, we are together and we are able to daven. We wish to especially thank the following:

Beth El Jacob Congregation of Des Moines, IA. Sent us Torah Mantels and machzorim. We will be able to daven on yom tov. Also, they sent beautiful table covers.

Rabbi Goldberger and Keneseth Israel in Mpls, have been wonderful. They loaned us Torah mantels, yom tov machzorim, chumashim, and siddurim, as well as a few tallesim. We can daven thanks to them !

Darchoi Noam in Mpls has sent us some Torah Mantels (note, all of ours were destroyed).

We have been offered Birnbaum (this is what we previously used) siddurim from a shul in Baltimore, MD. We can't thank them enough.

MANY have reached out to us, including Temple Israel of Duluth and many local churches. Many have attempted to raise funds for us. Again, we are not accepting funds at this time.

We are planning upon having yom tov services in a hall. Sometime after Simchas Torah, I assume, we'll have a congregational meeting to decide where and how we will proceed. So far, my sense of our congregants is that we will continue.

Finally:

By popular demand (ok, not so popular and not that much demand), I hope to write a history of the shul. I have every bulletin dating back to the 1950's, many old articles from local newspapers, some old shul records, and many many memories of the history of the shul. If I do write this, I hope to sell the book (perhaps at an elevated cost) as a means to raise money to replace what was burned and lost in the fire. For example, we had an Eicha on Chlof (parchment), which is very rare. It would be nice to engage a sofer to write one as a replacement. Similar items, also, may be commissioned.

There are too many people to thank. Please convey our thanks to them all, as well as our apologies for not personally contacting them.....400 calls in one week to me, alone, as well as many to others has simply been overwhelming.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year,

Phil