

Fellow Congregants, Parents of Gan Shalom and Synagogue School students, Students and the broader RSNS Community:

Events, including those in Charlottesville, VA, which created images and evoked memories of the darkest periods in our shared history, terrorist attacks in Spain and Finland and the racially motivated killing of law enforcement officers in Florida are all vile and tragic affronts to the values of our Community.

Our core beliefs of inclusiveness, diversity and respect for all humanity are under attack by those who espouse hate, bigotry and anti-Semitism and who use violence to instill fear as a means to achieve their objectives.

These events make this moment an appropriate time to reaffirm that the Board of Trustees and all RSNS leadership considers safeguarding the well-being of all members of our Congregation, our staff, Clergy, teachers and students of Gan Shalom and Synagogue School as a critical responsibility.

At the August 16, 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees it was agreed that in light of recent events, reviewing our security infrastructure and processes and open and transparent interaction with the RSNS Community is appropriate. This letter serves to inform you of the results of this initial review and to provide visibility into steps that are being taken to identify potential security enhancements at RSNS.

- **Members of the Board and the Executive Director have been in touch with the Nassau County Police and at this time, there are no known or reported threats to RSNS or other North Shore Synagogues.**

- **Active and passive security measures are already in place**
 - All doors are kept locked during the hours that Gan Shalom is in session
 - All doors are kept locked through the end of business, including Synagogue School hours on Tuesday and Thursday and Friday night/Saturday morning during Shabbat School.
 - Buzzer entry through the front door on the “Administration” side of the entry is controlled by the phone system. Entry is provided through the phone system at 5 separate locations throughout the building
 - The Office has been staffed to respond to building request entries when after hour meetings have been scheduled
 - All doors are kept locked in the evening with buzzer accessibility through the first half hour of scheduled events
 - Security personnel are on premises for B’nai Mitzvah ceremonies
 - Security personnel are on premises at the front entry during the High Holidays
 - Nassau County Police are present for traffic control on the High Holidays
 - New lighting was installed in the parking lot in late 2016 and additional lighting is now being installed to further enhance external security

- **Review and identification of potential security enhancements**
 - We have proactively contacted the Nassau County Police Department to request additional presence during the initial Gan Shalom and Synagogue School sessions in early September and during the High Holidays

- We are reassessing the Nassau County Police Department’s report to RSNS (based on a January 2016 site visit made as part of the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Security Survey) to identify additional security measures that may now be warranted
- We are reviewing the Anti-Defamation League’s document “Protecting Your Jewish Institution” to evaluate RSNS’ security regimen against the detailed protocol provided by the ADL to identify any opportunities to improve the security of our building and grounds
- We are networking with neighboring Synagogues to identify and share best practices related to security and emergency preparedness and incorporate any such practices in our security regimen and protocols
- We will begin a search to identify members of the RSNS Community to participate in an RSNS Security Working Group that has the following objectives:
 - Undertake a full security audit of the building
 - Determine the value of deploying cameras to monitor the perimeter of the building and the parking lot
 - Analyze the feasibility of increasing physical security presence during regular working hours and other times the building is in use
 - Identify potential sources of funding for security enhancements including working in concert with the Executive Director to identify grants, both public and private, that provide security funding
 - Make other security related recommendations and, in conjunction with the Executive Director of RSNS and the Board of Trustees, oversee the implementation of all agreed to security enhancements

As we approach the beginning of the school year and the High Holidays, we are committed to providing a safe place for our children, Congregants and all members of our Community to pray, learn, embrace and practice the values we hold dear. To that end, we will remain vigilant and proactive and will update you periodically regarding our activities and progress.

Please direct all inquiries and suggestions to Sylvia Jacobs or myself at 516-627-6274 or at rsns.org.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Guggenheimer

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President

Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore