

Temple Isaiah Future Vision Project

Dear Fellow Congregants,

It may look like winter out there, but what I am sharing with you is in the spirit of spring. Spring is all about fresh starts, imagining new ideas for our gardens or meals or activities. This year in particular, we imagine emerging from the effects of the pandemic.

In our community, this means imagining a new future for our temple, a Future Vision. This message announces the start of building our Future Vision that builds on the work that yielded our purpose and values statements—our [Sh'ma and V'ahavta](#) messages.

30 SECOND VERSION:

Temple Isaiah is embarking on a project to define a Future Vision that we will use as the basis of Strategic Planning. A core working group will oversee the project, but there will be opportunities for anyone to be involved. Watch for further announcements.

Want to learn more? Join either of our information / Q&A sessions (links on temple website):

Thursday, February 18, 7:30 - 8:30PM

Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 - 8:30PM

THREE-MINUTE VERSION:

Before “2020 happened” we were already aware of many changes in the environment in which Temple Isaiah operates. From shifting patterns of where Jewish households settle, to changing perspectives on religion, it's become abundantly clear that what it means to be a temple and Jewish community is shifting. Our Temple Board has been learning about this changing environment.

Change is scary, but it also presents an exciting opportunity for communities that embrace what change can offer. We proved in 2020 that we can pivot, adapt and innovate--critical success factors for the thriving Jewish communities of the future.

We are excited to announce our continued embrace of this spirit of innovation through the Temple Isaiah Future Vision project. This project will be spearheaded by our First Vice President, Dan Ostrower and congregant, Karyn Cohen, who are both deeply experienced in innovation, strategy and design. They will partner with a third-party innovation expert. At the end of the work, this project will result in a deep understanding of the needs you and future members have for Jewish community. The basis of these findings will come from you--your input into defining the Temple Isaiah identity. This understanding, combined with our Sh'ma and V'ahvta Statements, will be used as the launching point to paint a picture of the Temple Isaiah of the Future. This Future Vision will then become the basis of a Strategic Planning effort (the steps and decisions we'll take to reach the Vision).

The success of this project is 100% dependent on your voice and participation. There will be multiple opportunities for every member of our community to have input, starting with information / Q&A sessions on (links on temple website):

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We hope you will embrace this special moment to shape our common future. Please keep your eyes open for further announcements and requests for your active contribution to this work. If at any time over the course of this effort, you have a question, thought, or idea to share, please feel free to do so at futurevision@templeisaiah.net.

We're looking forward to this new “spring” in our community and to learning so much about you and what our shared future will be. In advance, thank you for your participation.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rachel Hayes
President