



Congregation Ner Tamid

on the Greenspun Campus for Jewish Life, Learning, and Spiritual Renewal

Nashville in the Time of Corona

This past week I have been on vacation with my sister Lisa in Nashville. Someone asked me, “Why Nashville?” And I responded, “Why not Nashville?!” And as it turned out, it was a pretty fun city to visit. From attending the Grand Ole Opry to riding a boat down a river while being entertained with a terrific Country music show to just getting away, we had a lot of fun.

I can also tell you that masks were rare. Not on employees and not on visitors or locals. While I wore my mask out of an abundance of caution, it became clear that what we hear on the news of vaccine hesitancy is real.

No, I didn’t take a poll. My eyes understood and that was enough.

We have a ways to go to make our way through the Time of Corona. And while for those who are vaccinated it feels good to get out and enjoy life again, we do so in the shadow of those who are doing the same, but taking enormous risk. The world has increasingly become divided between those who are vaccinated and those who are not. And whether that world is Nashville or Las Vegas or another part of our country, it seems to me that everyone really needs to hear the music, and listen to the melody that calls us to care about each other.

We may visit many places, but ultimately we have but one country. One planet. And we are in this together. The virus doesn’t care whether we are in a red state or a blue state. Whether we feel it is time to have fun or stay at home. The virus has a melody all its own, and we need to listen.

Rabbi Sanford Akselrad