

Tifereth Israel

March 20 · 🌐

Tifereth Israel President and Clergy share A Thought Before Shabbat - Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of Congregation Tifereth Israel,

If there was ever a need for Shabbat M'nucha, for Shabbat rest, this Shabbat is it. Between the mental energy we've all exerted in taking almost all aspects of our lives online, the emotional toll that comes along with not being able to interact with each other as we have done for all our lives, and the physical strain many of us have expended on childcare and homeschooling, a day of rest is just what the doctor ordered. It is a moment to take a pause from the stress of this new reality and, just as we do each week, sanctify this holy time. We will be doing it differently this week than we ever have before, but the K'dusha (holiness) of the moment will not be diminished.

Of course we know what is waiting on the other side, another week of social distancing and isolation as we all do our part to flatten the curve. Even so, with each passing day will come higher numbers of those infected and new projections of how long this will last. The economic impact of the pandemic has already been dramatic and harsh, and threatens to grow worse. We wish we could say with certainty that the week ahead will be better than the week that is coming to close...if only wishing made it so.

Through it all, we have been inspired by the number of congregants who have reached out and asked what it is that we all can do to help. It inspires us and serves as a reminder that we are a community that always supports one another, especially in an et tzarah (time of trouble) like this one. So with this "Thought Before Shabbat" we would like to share a few thoughts on how we can all continue to support one another in the coming weeks:

After coordinating with Jewish Family Services, we have created the attached survey, which we would encourage you to complete. It asks if you have the means to offer some kind of assistance, require assistance, or would like to share with us in confidence the name of someone who might need assistance but does not know how to ask. We are constantly brainstorming ways to protect the health of everyone in the community while still offering a way to help. Please fill out the survey and thank you in advance to all those who are able to help and to those who have the courage to ask for help in this time of need. Asking requires strength as well.

Tifereth Cares COVID-19 Response Survey

We've received the following call for volunteers and an assessment of needs from the city of Bexley. If you have information about ways to help in other communities around town, please share them with us and we will disseminate it to the congregation

If you are a Bexley resident, and are in need of assistance or are able to provide aid, please fill out the applicable survey. Furthermore, please assist Bexley residents in completing the appropriate survey if they are unable to do so independently. Those who have already filled out the survey do not need to do so again. These surveys will also be available on Bexley's website, social media, and included in the quarterly newsletter. For questions or concerns, please contact the City's Volunteer Coordinator at (614) 559-4200 or eellman@bexley.org.

Bexley Needs Survey
Bexley Volunteer Network Survey

JewishColumbus has been a source of leadership and guidance to the Jewish community of Columbus in a number of ways, and they are doing so as well in gathering funds to support those in need during this crisis. You can visit www.GiveToColumbus.org to be a part of this emergency campaign.

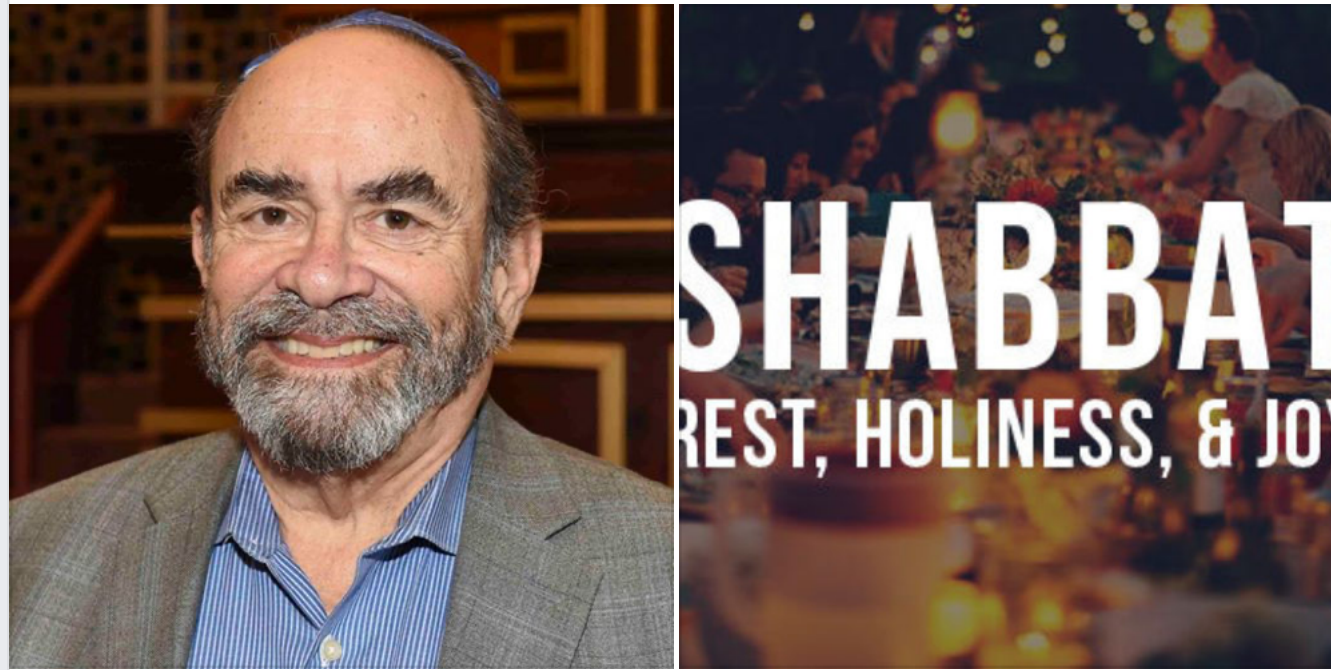
Jewish Family Services continues to offer emergency food services, counseling, and unemployment assistance for those who find themselves navigating these turbulent times without a job.

We would also be remiss if we did not take a moment to express our gratitude to all those who continue to support Tifereth Israel. These are going to be trying times for all non-profit organizations, and the fact that this is all happening at the end of the fiscal year (never an easy time for non-profits) makes the situation that much more serious. Our staff has worked tirelessly this past week, taking the entire synagogue online and hosting as much of our regularly scheduled programming on Zoom as possible. Our religious school director and teachers are also working to offer Zoom learning when school resumes. At the same time, our maintenance and kitchen staffs have done a deep clean of our physical space and have set to work preparing it for our eventual return. All of this comes thanks to the generosity you all have shown this year and for more than one-hundred prior. We will be with you throughout this crisis and humbly ask that you be with us as well by supporting our ongoing efforts in any way that you can.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to be part of your lives in these challenging and uncertain times. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces on our Zoom Friday evening service (Meeting ID:416257518) and Zoom Shabbat morning (Meeting ID:628 202 612), and God willing in person soon. May it be a Shabbat full of m'nucha, full of rest that grants us the energy and perseverance to face the week ahead.

Shabbat Shalom,

Ron Solove, President
Rabbi Hillel Skolnik
Rabbi Alex Braver
Cantor Jack Chomsky
Rabbi Harold Berman



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