

Supporting Synagogue is an important mitzvah

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Over these past few weeks, the concept of community has changed before our very eyes. For as long as any of us can remember, community included physical gatherings for social interactions, prayer, ritual, learning, eating, and every facet of life. In what seemed like the blink of an eye, all of that changed as the Coronavirus struck and social distancing became the order of the day. Yet, even as the concept of how community gathers has been altered, its definition remains the same. Community is formed when people find ways to gather together, no matter what: for happy times and sad, for celebration, social interaction, prayer, ritual, learning, and even eating.

At this confusing and disturbing time, Congregation Tifereth Israel has served as a focus for our community and an anchor for our faith. Our shul has provided us with a regular schedule of services, classes, and activities via Zoom and other social media. It has helped us stay connected to one another. Our clergy and staff have continued to serve us, succeeding under truly difficult circumstances. We remain members of a strong, vibrant congregation that continues to move forward to meet our spiritual, educational, and social needs.

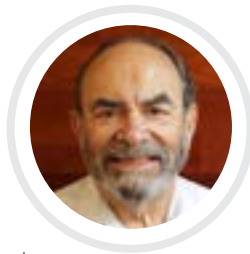
In the past few weeks we have celebrated a bat mitzvah, had a communal seder, read from the Torah, taught religious school, sung songs with our tots, marked anniversaries, mourned loved ones,

laughed, cried, and kept up our regularly scheduled activities and services. In other words, we continued to be a *k'hilah k'dosha* – a sacred community. Without question, regardless of the what the weeks and months ahead bring, that will not change

Of course, our shul is not immune to the economic circumstances we all are experiencing. We have actively pursued means of helping us smooth over this very rough patch, including applying for a federal SBA loan under the Payroll Protection Plan.

We know well that these uncertain financial times have hit many members of our congregation. Let me be clear that we will be here as your community, irrespective of the financial toll this crisis has taken on your family. Even so, we are counting on members to help, as much as they are able, maintain our financial health as we work through this difficult time. And though your financial contributions are crucial, what is most important are your personal and your spiritual contributions as a member of this community. We are happy to work with you and are more committed than ever to making sure that no one is ever turned away due to the inability to pay.

Our world is set to construct a new version of normal. With your steadfast dedication, we know Tifereth Israel will play a leading role in the world as a model of sacred community.



Office Closings

The Tifereth Israel offices will be closed the following days:

- **Monday, May 25** - Memorial Day
- **Thursday, May 28 @ 1:00 pm** - Erev Shavuot
- **Friday, May 29** - Shavuot Day I
- **Friday, July 3** - Independence Day

Mazal Tov



To Sandy & Bernie Sencer on the birth of their grandson, Sonny Ray Sencer

Welcoming Shabbat Mindfulness Practice

Weekly | Fridays | 12:00 to 12:40 pm

Join Beth Brown each week to explore and experience two new meditation techniques from a Jewish perspective. We will ease ourselves away from the stresses of the week in preparation for Shabbat. Beginners and those with “Beginner’s Mind” are all welcome.

[ZOOM Link](#)/Meeting ID: 94107344940

Boker Tov ZOOM

Sundays @ 11:00 am

On Sundays, spend time playing games, singing songs, and catching up with friends.

[ZOOM Link](#)/Meeting ID: 526873863

Rabbis’ Study Circle

Wednesdays | May 6-June 10 | 9:30 am

Join Rabbis Skolnik and Braver for an exploration of, *What is the Zohar? Mysticism, Mystery & Lore*. No Hebrew required. Drop in or drop out as your schedule permits.

[ZOOM Link](#)/Meeting ID: 243651229

Save the Date:
PRIDE SHABBAT
Friday, June 19, 2020
Service: 6:00 pm
Speaker: 7:15 pm (approx.)