

TBH Community Engagement Coordinator

From: Temple Beth Hatfiloh <tbh@bethhatfiloh.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 3:35 PM
To: TBH Community Engagement Coordinator
Subject: Latest Update: TBH & COVID-19 (May 7, 2020)

TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH
— A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE —



Dear TBH Friends:

A quick update from TBH: in keeping with Governor Inslee's extension of the stay at home order, TBH will remain closed and all in-person programs and events we be moved online through May 31.

The Governor outlined a four-stage plan to reopen our state. Based on this plan, it looks like it will take a while before things at TBH will return to normal and we can resume in person gatherings. While this "stay home, stay healthy" order can be difficult at times, we know we are doing it to uphold the Jewish value of preserving life, protecting the vulnerable, and strengthening our community.

As we continue to take the long view, we have begun to think about what the High Holidays will look like this year. It is becoming clear that we will not be able to celebrate the holidays in the manner we are accustomed. However, that doesn't mean we cannot craft an experience of meaning, engagement, joy and reflection. Please stay tuned as this develops.

Virtual Service and Programs

We continue to have meaningful opportunities for connection and learning online. This week we had our first Zoom Senior Schmooze. The Saturday evening "Healing and Havdalah" is a weekly time set aside for sharing and checking in. Services continue to be times of spiritual sustenance, and we have had special guests "zoom in" for programs. And if you have thoughts and ideas for additional programming, please let us know.

Supporting Each Other

The TBH Board continues to reach out to members to check in and offer assistance. If you have needs such as grocery shopping, prescription pick-up, or check-in phone calls, please contact Kayla at tbh@bethhatfiloh.org. And we also encourage you to reach out to each other! Send a text, an email, or even a handwritten note. The member directory is on the members only page of the website (www.bethhatfiloh.org).

TBH Building Closed

Even if you do have access, please do not enter the TBH building. The offices are closed, and while staff are working from home, we continue to be available to meet your needs. Because phone access is limited, you can contact Kayla at tbh@bethhatfiloh.org, Catherine at beitsefer@bethhatfiloh.org, and Rabbi Seth at rabbi@bethhatfiloh.org. If you need to reach Rabbi Seth in a timely manner—especially at a time of death or pastoral emergency—you can call or text (360) 280-7198.

Website

We have created a dedicated page on the TBH website for information on COVID-19. This page includes the latest update on TBH closures and events, links to general Department of Health information, PDF copies of our prayer book for use during virtual services, Zoom assistance, and Jewish learning resources for adults and kids to access. <https://www.bethhatfiloh.org/covid-19>

Chronicling our Shared Experience

We continue to feature member creativity and experiences during this time of separation! If you have a recipe, piece of art, poem, short story, photo, etc. that you would like to share, send it to tbh@bethhatfiloh.org. If we receive enough submissions, we hope to compile them after this crisis has passed.

In our Jewish calendar we are in the period of the Omer, when we literally count the days between Passover, the Festival of Freedom, and Shavuot, the Festival of Revelation. Each day is an opportunity to note the steps away from oppression and towards wisdom and enlightenment. This year, we are perhaps also counting the days of our quarantine. And while we are facing real fears and difficulties, may we continue to recognize our blessings, and like the Omer, may this be a period of growth and new insight.



Tikva Glantz, Board President



Rabbi Seth Goldstein

Temple Beth Hatfiloh

201 8th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 754-8519

www.bethhatfiloh.org



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