

TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH

— A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE —



Dear TBH Friends:

We hope you are doing well during these difficult times. By now we have begun to adjust to our new “stay home, stay healthy” realities, modified our work schedule, figured out new ways to do routine tasks. Some of us are now working to educate our children, others welcoming kids home from college, all of us separated from connecting with extended family and friends.

We wanted to update you about how this continues to impact life at Temple Beth Hatfiloh. **In keeping with the Governor’s recent extension of his stay home order, the cancellation of TBH activities and events will be extended to May 4.** And with the extension of the cancellation of in-person K-12 schooling through the rest of the school year, Beit Sefer will not meet in person for the rest of the school year.

Virtual Service and Programs

Just because we are not meeting in person does not mean we are not meeting. We are now in our third week of virtual programs and events. While we miss being together in person, connecting virtually over Zoom and Facebook Live has been a beautiful way to connect and share. Lighting candles together and being invited into each other’s homes during services is particularly sweet. Our study groups have been engaging, and our meetings have been productive. Our Beit Sefer has come together as a whole and as individual classes. Zoom links for events are found in the weekly email, and Kayla is available for Zoom coaching.

Supporting Each Other

The TBH Board has been reaching out to our 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. We already have over 30 volunteers ready to help out. And while you may not have needs now, that may change. Your TBH community will be here when you need us. . . And if you wish to volunteer, please let Kayla know that as well.

TBH Building Closed

Although TBH offices are closed, and all staff are working from home, they 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. Please do not visit or enter the TBH building.

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 prayerbook 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

This week we are debuting a section in our weekly email dedicated to sharing 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.

Our Sanctuary Guests

We know there has been concern about how our sanctuary guests are faring during the pandemic. The Immigrant and Refugee Task Force has been meeting weekly and working through how to maintain the health and safety of our guests as well as the health and safety of our volunteers. Please know that our guests continue to do well. TBH and our faith partners are dedicated to this effort during this challenging time. .

We are moving into Passover, our springtime festival of freedom. Yet, we are celebrating freedom at a time in which we are feeling confined. We are being challenged to celebrate the holiday in new ways. Let us find new meaning in these old rituals, as we, like our spiritual ancestors, seek a place of liberation after a period of enslavement. Let us continue to support each other on our journeys, as we face this current crisis together.

We wish you and your loved ones a Chag Sameach Pesach, a happy and meaningful Passover.

B'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tikva'.

Tikva Glantz, Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth Goldstein'.

Rabbi Seth Goldstein