

Latest Update: TBH & COVID-19 (June 4, 2020)

Temple Beth Hatfiloh <tbh@bethhatfiloh.org>

Thu 6/4/2020 5:00 PM

To: TBH Community Engagement Coordinator <tbh@bethhatfiloh.org>;

TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH
— A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE —



Dear TBH Friends:

As of June 1, Governor Inslee has ended the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order and is now focused on the four-phase “Safe Start Washington” plan. As you probably know, Thurston County is now formally in Phase 2. The Governor has issued specific guidelines for faith communities under this phase. Indoor religious services can be held at 25% capacity or with up to 50 people, whichever is less. Members would be expected to follow physical distancing and wear face masks, among other requirements.

While we look forward to gathering together in person once again, we want to do so in a way that continues to maintain the health and safety of our staff, members, and guests. The Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh*—saving a life—informs our decision-making as much as the Governor’s directive.

As of now, TBH will remain closed and all our events and programs will continue to be held virtually. At the same time, the Board is forming a COVID-19 Task Force to help us interpret how the “Safe Start Washington” plan applies to the life of our congregation. This task force will help craft guidelines and policies that will inform how and when we re-open. We will keep you informed as their work progresses!

Virtual Service and Programs—Zoom Upgrade Required

We continue to have meaningful opportunities for connection and learning online. In two weeks we will have our first virtual Shabbat Salon--“Salon@Home”—complete with a catered meal available for pickup. As of May 31st we are all required to download an upgrade to Zoom. If you haven’t done it yet and need help, please contact Kayla at tbh@bethhatfiloh.org.

Supporting Each Other

The TBH Board continues to reach 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. 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.

TBH Building Closed

Our building remains closed and staff continues to work from home. 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.

COVID-19 Page on TBH 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

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.

Throughout this pandemic, we have refrained from using the term “social distancing.” We are physically distant, but we remain socially connected. We are here for each other during these uncertain and anxiety-provoking times. Like the ancient Israelites, we are supporting each other through our long wandering in the desert. May we continue to do so!



Tikva Glantz, Board President



Rabbi Seth Goldstein

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