



# Pine Brook Jewish Center

*Chevrá Agudas Achim Anshy Pine Brook*

*Pine Brook Jewish Center Est. 1896*  
*Lake Hiawatha Jewish Center Est. 1945*  
*Affiliated 1995*  
*Congregation Beth Shalom Est. 1935*  
*Affiliated 2019*

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June 15, 2021

Dear PBJC Community,

I am writing on behalf of the PBJC Covid Task Force to update you on changes we are making to our synagogue operations in conjunction with updated CDC and Department of Health guidance. We are proud of how PBJC has been able to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of all of you, we were able to implement technology that enabled us to conduct meaningful Shabbat, B'nai Mitzvah, and holiday services, offer interesting and diverse programming, operate both our Nursery School and Religious School, and keep our daily operations moving forward. Thanks to the dedication of our clergy, staff, and leadership, we were able to ensure that all of these areas operated smoothly and to the collective benefit of our membership and our community.

Mark David Finkel  
*Rabbi*

Menachem Toren  
*Cantor*

Dr. Asher Krief  
*Rabbi Emeritus*

Michelle Zuckerman  
*Executive Director*

Mary Sheydwasser  
*Religious School Director*

Lisa Lerman  
Jill Buckler  
*Nursery School Co-Directors*

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*1st Vice President*

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*Men's Club President*

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Ilene Thailer  
*Sisterhood Co-Presidents*

Please note the following regarding synagogue operations, effective immediately:

- Registration will not be required for Friday evening and Saturday morning services beginning this weekend, June 18 and 19. Those who would like to attend can just show up for services.
- Masks will continue to be required at PBJC for the time being. We are hoping that our members who may have been hesitant to return to in-person services and programs will begin to do so this summer. We are keeping the mask requirement in place right now to help with this transition. Our next step will be to allow those who are fully vaccinated to determine their personal comfort level and choose whether to wear a mask or not. However, we will continue to require that anyone who is not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask at all times while in the building. We are in the process of determining protocols for the best way to understand who is vaccinated and who is not. Look for additional communication regarding this soon.
- We plan to resume Kiddush luncheons following some of our Saturday morning services this summer. We will try this for the first time on Saturday, June 26. You must register in advance to attend and will be able to pre-order an individually boxed lunch. The Kiddush will take place in Scheinman hall with tables set-up in our traditional format. For now, masks must still be worn except when seated at the luncheon tables. Please look for a separate email about this later this week, which will include registration and ordering information. We anticipate adjusting our procedures and policies regarding this throughout the summer.
- The Clergy and Ritual leadership have been meeting to discuss High Holy Days at PBJC this year. High Holy Days will be a combination of in-person and live-streamed services. Please look for a questionnaire coming soon. We will ask all of you to provide feedback to us so we can determine the best way to proceed in a safe way that meets the needs and wishes of our community.
- The PBJC Day Camp and Nursery School must operate under the guidelines as put forth by the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services, which is the agency that provides certification to our school. They will operate fully in-person while adhering to the required guidelines and protocols.
- The PBJC Religious School will operate fully in-person for the upcoming school year while adhering to the same guidelines and protocols that are in place for the public schools at the time. Options will be provided for students who continue to require remote instruction for health reasons.

The Covid task force will continue to meet and provide updated information throughout the summer and beyond. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, to a member of the task force, or to a member of the executive committee at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Thank you for your understanding as we navigate forward in a safe yet steady manner. As one of my executive director colleagues recently said, "I thought it was hard figuring out how to shut everything down, but the truth is that it's even harder figuring out how to open everything back up!"

Warm regards,

Michelle Zuckerman, Executive Director and Covid Task Force Chair