

Young Israel of New Rochelle

March 17, 2020

21 Adar 5780

This is the time of the year that I normally make our appeal for Maot Chittim funds.

I usually get up in shul and say how well we did the year before in our Pesach campaign. I share some stories or anecdotes about all the good our generosity was able to generate the Pesach before.

This year our world is in a state of disarray and distress. There are many in our community who are quite ill and hospitalized and others who are home, yet suffering from the Coronavirus. Our community has the dubious distinction of being designated as the “epicenter of the outbreak”. Be that as it may, we are confronted with the opportunity of doing much good. The metaphor of much darkness being dispelled with a little light is apt at this time.

With the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 there is much turmoil in the Jewish world. Those hit hardest are the poor and the elderly. There are literally hundreds of families in the United States, Israel and Eastern Europe who rely on our donations to put food on their table each and every Pesach. They are frightened that we are so preoccupied with our own concerns that they will not receive our assistance this year. They are also aware of the apparent “Bear Market” which only intensifies their suspicion that they will receive no Tzedakah this year.

Everything happens for a reason. I believe with every fiber of my being that this pandemic gives us the rare circumstance to do so much good, though we ourselves are in distress. Please let us help our poor and indigent Jewish families celebrate the Festival of Freedom with matzah, wine and food on their tables. Please let us be more generous this year than in previous years. The need is far greater than ever before. Let us keep in mind the words of the wisest man,

לא יועיל הון ביום עברה וצדקה תציל ממות)משלי יא:ד)

“Wealth will not help on the day of wrath, but charity will save from”

Wishing everyone well. I pray for our collective good health and welfare.

- Rabbi Reuven Fink

To contribute to the Maot Chittim appeal, please go online to <https://www.yinr.org/donations/> and choose Maot Chittim Appeal. You will have the option to pay by credit card or indicate that you will pay by check.