

Dear LT Family,

Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh B'Zeh....As Judaism teaches us: “We are all responsible for one another.” This is why we place the value of *pikuach nefesh* – the caring for each human life – as the highest human/holy value.

As we now witness the growth and spread of Covid-19 in our local and greater community each day, we write with a further update about how we, as a Larchmont Temple community, will move forward in order to both protect those most vulnerable and the greater good of our community as a whole, doing what we can to contain the spread of the virus.

Moving forward, adult LT gatherings will now happen virtually – by online video, audio conference call, etc. What does this mean for this weekend and beyond...

Shabbat evening services [Friday nights] will occur via livestream (via our website or the app). Stay home....and we hope you will gather with your family/loved ones to tune-in and join in uplifting song, prayer and sacred perspective.

Shabbat morning services will be limited to Bnei Mitzvah only; everyone else is invited to join in their joy and the service via livestream. We will discuss with the Bnei Mitzvah families how to appropriately limit their gatherings. The Shabbat Morning Musical Minyan is cancelled.

Chevra Torah....don't know how to Zoom? It's easy, and it's time to learn! We will be online by video conference (you need a computer with mic & speakers, iPad, iPhone or Android phone – or just a regular phone if you want to join by audio only) with one another to learn, debate, and share life-wisdom. Details will be in the weekly email. If you need assistance setting up, we have Teen Tech Tutors available to walk you through over the phone...be in touch with Rabbi Rudin if you'd like to be connected to a teen! This week is Ki Tisa, and we'll explore the question of God as Other!

Smaller groups, committees, meetings and other gatherings....should meet by phone or video conference.... remember that this is just a different way of connecting...Virtual community can bring support/care just the same! Again, we can provide assistance to leaders who aren't sure how to get it going. Contact Rabbi Rudin if you'd like to be connected to a Tech Teen at ERudin@larchmonttemple.org.

For the foreseeable future, at least the next few weeks (we will keep you updated), we will be using this same approach. And as always, we need to be particularly mindful of those that health authorities have indicated are potentially more vulnerable – our older members, and those with certain pre-existing conditions.

So, at such a time of social isolation, HOW can we all stay connected? **Be in touch with us** at 914-834-6120.

Do you need help? Do you WANT to help other members in need in our community?

Do you want to talk with a member of our Clergy Team? [...about dealing with the world, coping, finding hope...?]

We are HERE to help, and to help each LT household live out the truth—especially now: We are all *arevim*—connected to one another by the care we share! The clergy will continue to be available for life cycle events: funerals, shiva minyans, etc. The sanctuary, as always, remains open for individual worship (outside of Shabbat services).

And all of our Trustees and organization/committee leaders are available to you as well – if you have a question or concern, or just need someone to talk to, they can be reached through the Temple's Online Directory.

Additionally, we have learned that Covid-19 has directly affected one of our congregation families. They have not been in the building or at events for more than one month and are currently complying with health department guidelines and under quarantine. Our thoughts for health and healing go out to them. With the rapid spread we are aware that more exposures and positive tests are likely.

We will have a further update – including any changes for KESHER over the weekend and beyond - tomorrow (Friday). And as always, we will continue to monitor the actions and guidance of our local school system for both KESHER and our Nursery School and update you frequently.

It is still the month of Adar when we celebrate Purim and when our joy sustains us. While this is definitely challenging right now, we find the sweetness, the uplift—the joy, in the strength of our community and our dedication to one another.

Wishing you much health and much hand washing,

Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman
Stacey Chervin Sigda, President
Jane Sable-Friedman, Executive Director