



CORONAVIRUS

CHIZUK//THRU//CRISIS WEEKLY BULLETIN

MESSAGE FROM RABBI WEISS

It's been another full week in lockdown, with the numbers of sick and dying on the rise. And in the midst of all this, we are preparing to celebrate our redemption and the birth of our nation. Some might argue, "How ironic," but isn't this the way it happened for us back then? From slavery and oppression to redemption and birth? בחפזון, in a hurried manner, עין, כהרף עין, in the blink of an eye? From being constricted, confined and shuttered in a foreign land, without the freedom to pursue their goals and seek higher meaning?

Someone asked me this week, "Will Corona bring Moshiach?" And I know we all wonder why it is happening. For me, anyone who tells me he or she knows why, I go far away from them. And by the same token, we must likewise reject the notion that there is no 'why' altogether. But I will say that Corona will not bring Moshiach. Our reaction to it needs to bring us closer to the רבש"ע, and we need to walk away from this extraordinary event in our lives changed forever.

I always say this over: if we go through a crisis of any type, be it medical, financial, familial or otherwise, and come out on the other side healthy and on stable footing, we are happy and joyous, full of gratitude that we survived. But if you think about it, what does the before and after picture look like? It's exactly the same, healthy before and healthy after. Financially sound before, and financially sound after. So what's the celebration? There is no gain, only the lack of pain that was briefly present in the interim. However, if the event planted seeds of change and growth, new perspectives and priorities, that's a gain we can look back on and see a material change. And though it's hard in the eye of the storm, without the benefit of hindsight, we must plant these seeds and prepare to take meaning from such an ordeal once we're through. Each in the privacy of our homes, in isolation with our families, let's put in the action and plan for the day after.

Have a good Shabbos,
יוסף צבי ווייס

KIMCHA D'PISCHA

As in past years, the Shul is raising funds for Kimcha D'Pischa - our Pesach fund which will be distributed by the Rav to needy families relying on this income to make Yom Tov. This year the needs are overwhelming and Ahavas Yisroel, our community's charity organization, is reaching out to so many of those in difficult positions and doing all they can to keep our brothers and sisters afloat. Rabbi Weiss encourages all to help Ahavas Yisroel meet the needs of the Baltimore community as a whole and give generously during this critical time.

SHABBOS ZMANIM

MARCH 27-28	
פרשת ויקרא	
Earliest Shabbos.....	6:11 PM
Candlelighting.....	7:07 PM
Shkiah.....	7:25 PM
Zman Krias Shema.....	10:04 AM
Zman Tefillah.....	11:05 AM
Havdallah.....	8:12 PM

On Erev Pesach, Wednesday, April 8 the Shul will have two Siyumim available to call into. If you are able to make a Siyum, please email Rabbi Weiss.

SHABBOS AT HOME

As we prepare for the unfamiliar experience of a Shabbos at home, let's go over some important things to keep in mind:

- If possible, efforts should be made to accept Shabbos 20 minutes early.
- One is encouraged to say Shir Hashirim and Hodu (Tehillim, Perek 107)
- It is suggested to recite Kabbolas Shabbos with the entire family.
- Pay special attention to Kedushas Shabbos, especially during the Seudos.
- Shabbos morning davening should preferably be at the same time Shul would have davened.
- Daven together and read the Parsha leining between Shacharis and Mussaf.
- Spend extra time and attention to our children who are going through this just as we are.
- Do not visit friends or neighbors or arrange play dates for your children. All social restrictions are to be adhered to over Shabbos just as during the week.
- Do not conduct or participate in a house or backyard minyan or kiddush.

We all know these are difficult times and emotionally challenging. We must remain vigilant in our separation to stop the spread and protect lives. The phrase to remember is "Stay Away, Stay Alive."