

March 27, 2020

Dear Shearith Israel Family,

We know that you have been getting an abundance of emails from us; perhaps you are feeling information overload. But sadly, under the current circumstances, electronic or virtual communication is most of what we've got these days (we have been trying to call congregants; we will not stop until our congregants in need have been called, and called, and called again). And we do want to keep you informed, and perhaps more importantly, we do want to feel our togetherness, even while practicing social distance.

So we will limit this update to a few key points:

1) Synagogue building: It is, alas, no longer a surprise to anyone. Still, we remain deeply saddened to report that our building remains closed until further notice. We do have essential workers coming in to do essential work and expect our loyal staff to facilitate the pick-up of our "Pesah-in-a Box" on Tuesday, April 7.

2) Pesah: While we continue to organize an impressive array of virtual programming geared to every cohort of our community, our focus has very much turned to Pesah preparations and how we will celebrate meaningfully and uniquely in accordance with many of our special customs. We encourage you to check and re-check our [Pesah 5780 webpage](#). This page offers information on a wealth of resources that will help you prepare for Passover in your home, help you fulfill the *mitzvot* of [selling your hametz and maot hittim](#), enable you to [order "Pesah-in-a Box" meals](#) for pickup at the synagogue (including options for those of you who are not permitted to leave your home or cannot afford these meals) in addition to other food shopping options, an opportunity for your girls to participate in this year's [virtual Shir HaShirim reading](#), and much more.

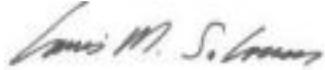
3) Virtual programming: Although we were not looking to become a center for remote learning, apparently we are pretty good at it. We've been hosting lectures and classes for all ages and are gratified at how many of you are taking advantage. This past Tuesday, 325 callers dialed in for Rabbi Soloviechik's Pre-Pesah shiur. We are also grateful to those of you who have been [sponsoring our various classes](#), all in support of our COVID-19 relief fund that will enable us to help those who are or will be impacted by this crisis. Again, we encourage you to follow our emails but also refer to this maintained webpage where we [list all of our virtual programs](#) with login or dial-in instructions.

4) Hesed: It has been heartening to see how many of you responded to our call for volunteers to contact our members. We are working hard to keep us all organized in order to sustain this effort. We are also trying hard to determine who has unique or pressing needs, and to try to provide assistance or connect each such congregant to the right resources. In addition to the

efforts that we are publicizing (see [here](#)), it is moving to learn of the many behind the scenes acts of kindness and *hesed* taking place. This is not easy, and we can't do it all, but we will continue to try and be there for each other.

Until next week, but hopefully not too many more, we wish you health, faith, and togetherness, as only with those blessings will we get through these trying times.

Shabbat Shalom.



Meir Soloveichik, Rabbi Louis Solomon, Parnas

Barbara Reiss, Executive

Director