



May 25, 2020
2 Sivan 5780

Dear Congregants,

It is hard to believe that more than 2 and a half months have passed since the initial stay-at-home order was put in place and we had our last live service at the synagogue. During this time, we have made great efforts to reach out to each and every member and provide alternative means of worship, celebrating holidays and gathering together for social and cultural events. Your physical health and spiritual well-being remain our prime concerns.

As time has passed and government orders and restrictions are changing, we thought this was a good time to provide you with some important updates regarding our plans moving forward. Please read on as we try to anticipate and answer many of your questions.

- **Temple Beth El Services Online** – Yesterday you received an important message from Rabbi Kupchik explaining the modified rulings of the Rabbinical Assembly regarding online services on Shabbat and holidays during the COVID-19 emergency. **Accordingly, starting with the first day of Shavuot, this Friday, May 29, all of our holiday and Shabbat morning services will be conducted online via Zoom with everyone able to participate from home!** We will be sending more detailed schedule information later in the week, but please plan on joining with us this Friday and Saturday morning (Yizkor service on Saturday) as we celebrate the Festival of Shavuot.
- **Siddurim and Chumashim** – If you need a Siddur or Chumash to follow along with services at home, you may pick one up in the Rotunda according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, May 27 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Thursday, May 28 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

You may also download a copy of the siddur from our website

www.templebethelofcedarhurst.org

- **New Zoom Platform** – We are making changes to our Zoom platform starting with the first day of Shavuot. At that time, there will be one unified Zoom link for almost all of our Temple services and activities. What does this mean for you? Through Wednesday evening, continue clicking on the same button on our News and Notes, etc. to access daily minyan services and other programs. After Wednesday evening, that link will no longer be active. Starting with Thursday evening (Shavuot), click what appears to be the same “Click Here” button on our notices. But it will be tied to a new link, so be sure to use the button ONLY from our newest notices and flyers.
- **Resumption of Services at the Synagogue** – As governmental and health guidelines change and evolve, there are some who are quite anxious to get out, while others are choosing to stay in. We are mindful of the age and vulnerability of much of our congregation. We have read carefully advisories issued by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, as well as those issued by the Reform Movement and the OU of Orthodox Judaism. All urge extreme caution and recommend that live services NOT be reconvened just yet – even when permissible by local authorities. We all subscribe to the precept *U'Vacharta BaChayim – Choose Life*” and place the health and safety of our members over the strong temptation to get together in person. **Accordingly, we have no plans to resume live services at the synagogue for the foreseeable future.** We will continue to watch and monitor the changing conditions and we long for the time when we may all be together again.
- **What About the High Holidays?** Though the High Holidays are still nearly 4 months away, many of you are already asking that question. So are we! Obviously, there is much that can still happen and change between now and then and to some extent, we will just have to wait and see. But we have already met to start considering the different options. This much we can tell you now: we have already committed to live-streaming our High Holiday services under all circumstances. This means that even if live services are held at the synagogue, we will broadcast them online so that those who do not feel comfortable in a large group or choose not to attend for whatever reason will still be able to watch and participate in our High Holiday services from the comfort and safety of their home.

As has been said so many times, we are truly in uncharted territory. But we are in it together. No one knows when this will end, when things will improve, or when a vaccine will be available. No one knows just what our world will look like when this is over. What will be

changed forever and what will revert to the world as we knew it? For all of us, the hardest part is the uncertainty. Just give us an answer, a date, something we can hang our hat on.

So here's one thing of which you can be certain. Our superb Temple Beth El family is together and here for one another for the duration. Your Temple leadership continues to explore different and creative ways of reaching each and every one of you. (*By the way, be on the lookout for a Shavuot surprise on Thursday afternoon!*) Please let us know if you need help or assistance in any way. Please feel free to give us a call anytime, even if you are just lonely and need someone to talk to. We'll get through this together!

Cordially,

Bob

Bob Fischman
President

Eddie

Edward Edelstein
Executive Director

Rabbi Kupchik

Rabbi Claudio Kupchik

EMAIL US: **Rabbi Kupchik – Rabbi@TempleBethElofCedarhurst.org**
Eddie Edelstein – Director@TempleBethElofCedarhurst.org
Bob and Rhonnie Fischman – President@TempleBethElofCedarhurst.org