



Chaverim,

I want to bring you up to date on where we are as a community now in the eighth week of our new world. But first, I want to thank you.

You have been so patient and supportive of the clergy and staff as they worked to create a new type of community. When we asked for volunteers to help reach out to and support fellow TSTI members in the first days of the shutdown, we received an unprecedented outpouring of positive replies. Since then, we have been able to call our seniors weekly, and most of the rest of the congregation more than once, and we will continue to do so. You have helped us get needed food and supplies to our seniors. You have been flexible and understanding as we have been forced to make alternate arrangements for family celebrations. And you have gathered, in numbers that show our great strength, to support one another in times of loss. In myriad ways, TSTI's community has shown its strength and compassion during the most trying of times.

I also want to thank the staff and the clergy for their extraordinary efforts to develop and launch our online worship and programming, which have been met with great appreciation across our community. Here are some highlights:

- Our PRESCHOOL families have told us how much they value the connection we've helped their children sustain with peers and teachers, and our RELIGIOUS SCHOOL has stayed in (virtual) session with attendance as good as when we meet in person.
- Our WORSHIP is ongoing and comprehensive, with Shabbat services Friday night, Saturday havdallah, and a Sunday evening healing service with more and more participation each week.
- We have added to our ADULT EDUCATION AND PROGRAMING offerings, including more classes and even family game nights.

Our dedicated clergy and staff are continuing to innovate with new content and technological solutions weekly. Our goal is simple: to build and strengthen our community

now so that, once the crisis has passed, we will be able to support and serve the TSTI family for a long time to come.

Key to this is being responsible custodians of both our current members' resources and the legacy of those who came before us. To that end, the full Board of Trustees has been meeting (virtually, of course) twice a month to supervise and support the staff, clergy, and officers. We fully intend to hold the annual meeting as required by our bylaws, although we will postpone the meeting to June 24th. This will give the finance team time to come to the best possible understanding of the budget impact and to allocate our resources effectively and accurately.

At this time, the Temple is solvent. Thanks to past officers' foresight and skill, we are well placed to weather a short-term crisis. We have continued to pay our entire staff including our custodial staff, pre-school and religious school teachers, clergy, and support staff and we have received a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan that allows us to continue to keep our staff intact. The officers and Board of Trustees are committed to the ethical obligation of continuing to do so for as long as we can.

The transition back to a semblance of normalcy will take time, and will demand of us creativity, resilience, and the support of the entire TSTI community. There will be challenges of every sort – spiritual, emotional, logistical, and financial – and we will meet them together.

I have no doubt that TSTI will emerge strong, because these last few weeks I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the quality and commitment of this community. Thank you and it is truly an honor to serve a temple whose outstanding character has never been more apparent than now.

Sincerely,
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