

Hello Friends,

We are all in new territory as we figure out how to live within our new parameters. Please know it is our sincere hope to be physically back in our sanctuary together for the High Holy Day season, if not before. Until then, the Temple B'nai Or clergy, staff and lay leaders are working diligently to bring all of our temple happenings online and available to everyone. While we are isolated in our homes, we are thrilled to turn on our computers and see our friends in their homes with their families. From the morning preschool time to the evening class time, the weekend worship and dozens of large and small meetings in between I do indeed feel connected to TBO.

To stay connected and in the know: Like our FB page, bookmark our website page and watch your email inbox. We are scheduling new Zooms this week for support, meditation, chat time. If you have particular suggestions or a particular skill you can offer to demo online please let us know. If you need our clergy please reach out to them directly or leave a voicemail in the office. Everyone at Temple wants to do whatever we can to help people through the challenging months ahead. Let us know what you need or what you can offer.

Unfortunately, one of the things we will not be able to do at this time is have a Spring Gala, Honoring our Educators. This celebration and recognition will happen in some way at some time in the future. Although there was no doubt that David and Jennie deserved our praise and gratitude, there should be even more appreciation as they have seamlessly moved their entire operations online, and are keeping our children engaged and instructed. Please know you can still respond with journal ads and donations. They will be part of the celebration when we can make it happen.

The other part is of course the financial. At this time, I'd like to be fully transparent with you, our congregation.. At the beginning of our fiscal year although we had approved a balanced budget however, it did not include a carry over deficit. We had a little snowball. Then we had a number of factors that added to our deficits and the snowball grew. The temple tightened their metaphorical belts and tried to make adjustments as possible.

The Board of Trustees was offered a \$10,000 matching challenge by an anonymous donor. We met the challenge. AND we convened a Strategic Planning Task force and a Donor Relations Committee. Just last month we were beginning to put our ideas into practice and we started to raise the money needed to bring us back to ZERO for July 1. Progress was wonderful and families were stepping forward to make financial commitments to the fundraiser and to the temple. It seemed we could be seeing the snowball melting. And then, the earth moved beneath our feet, and we are all now in unchartered territory. No one knows how long this will go or the ultimate financial impact. The snowball is rolling downhill and none can see the bottom of the hill. Collecting current account receivables, soliciting for donations, preparing membership for next year, pre-registering in the schools for next year all of these are jeopardized by the pandemic and its fallout.

All I can ask as your President is:

IF YOU CAN HELP US, PLEASE DO. IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE ASK.

If you can pay any outstanding balance, make any size contribution, or offer us any loan until we can find our footing, the whole congregation will be grateful. This is the time we need our temple family most and the Board of Trustees wants to be able to keep all of our staff and programming that so many of us are now relying upon.

Reach out and contact Joel Katz, our Executive Director, myself or our clergy. Remember we are your Temple Family and your Jewish Home.

May we all do our part to stay healthy and contain this Corona Virus.

L'shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Schlosser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Stacey" on top and "Schlosser" below it, both starting with a capital letter.

Stacey Schlosser