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March 16, 2020

Dear Temple Israel family,

*Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh b'Zeh* – As Judaism teaches us: “We are all responsible for one another.” Your health and well-being are our number one priority.

Given recent developments with respect to the COVID-19 virus, after much thought and deliberation, and in the best interest of our families, clergy/staff, and members of the wider community, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees has made the following decisions:

1. Our campus is closed to all members and visitors for the foreseeable future. All in-person events, classes, and programs are canceled for the next few weeks (including Passover-related events at the synagogue). We will keep you advised regarding calendar changes. Please check our website often and call the Office at (561) 833-8421 if you have questions.
2. Worship on Friday nights/*Erev Shabbat* will be livestreamed ONLY. We will be introducing “Zoom” technology for worship and will continue to livestream our worship via [www.Facebook.com/templeisraelwpb/](http://www.Facebook.com/templeisraelwpb/). (More information about the use of “Zoom” technology below.)
3. *Torah* Study will continue via “Zoom” each Saturday morning until further notice.
4. Religious School/Hebrew School: Our Religious School Director, Jackie Klein, will be contacting our families regarding the use of “Zoom” for online Religious School and Hebrew classes while our campus is closed.
5. Remember, most business can now be handled via phone or e-mail. Please call us if we can be of help making this happen.

We are following the current recommendations from the CDC and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

So, at a time of increasing social isolation, how can we all stay connected?

Our Board, Clergy, and Staff want to be in contact with you during this difficult time. We will be reaching out to you via phone and e-mail, and want you to be in touch with us. Also, if you are coughing, have a fever, and/or are feeling sick, please reach out to your health care providers ... and then let us know if there is some way our spiritual community can support you.

Pray ☆ Connect ☆ Thrive

1901 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33407

Phone: 561-833-8421 – Fax: 561-833-0571

<http://www.temple-israel.com>

To participate in those activities available via Zoom, we will be sending out e-mails with the appropriate call-in and web-link information. (Please note: If you do not have computer access, you can still participate by calling the Office to receive a call-in phone number and for more information about being part of this “virtual community.”)

Rabbi Olshein, our synagogue President, and our Administrator/Executive Director are here to answer any questions you may have. Our e-mail addresses are: [Rabbi@Temple-Israel.com](mailto:Rabbi@Temple-Israel.com), [Marty@thelistcompanies.com](mailto:Marty@thelistcompanies.com), and [Karen@Temple-Israel.com](mailto:Karen@Temple-Israel.com). In addition to reaching Rabbi Olshein and Karen through our Office at (561) 833-8421, you can reach Marty at (561) 655-7150. We want to continue to stand as your trusted home for meaning, connection, and purpose.

At the end of reading each book of Torah, we customarily recite the phrase “*Chazak Chazak V'nitchazeik*” – meaning, “Be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen one another.” We *will* get through this difficult time together and, despite the challenges, we will strengthen each other in the process.

*B'Shalom* (with peace),

*Marty*

Marty List

*Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein*

Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein

*Karen*

Karen Szteinberg

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