



Dear TBS Family,

We hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and well. These last few months have been challenging for all of us. Many have struggled with heartbreak, loneliness, loss, and fear. And yet they have also been filled with beautiful examples of heroism, generosity, and innovation within our TBS community. We have discovered new ways to pray together, to comfort one another, to learn together, and to celebrate together. Here are just a few examples:

- Hundreds have zoomed in to celebrate Shabbat and holiday services and to participate in classes and programs.
- Teachers from all of our schools continue to check-in with our families and provide meaningful learning opportunities for students of all ages.
- Our Board of Directors, *Hesed* Committee and Membership Committee volunteers are reaching out to every member of our congregation to see how we can help those in need.
- Our clergy have helped guide us through this time with care, support and guidance in navigating moments of joy and moments of sorrow.

Though we are physically distant, we are spiritually close. This is what makes TBS a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy and special community.



We know from our Jewish tradition that protecting people's health must come first. This, along with the guidance we have received from the CDC, the State of New Jersey, and our own medical professionals, has led us to make the difficult but necessary decision not to gather in our sanctuary or hallways for the High Holy Days this year. Instead, we will celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur through a combination of virtual, in home, and socially distanced outdoor prayer and ritual experiences.

We made this decision in concert with eight other synagogues in our community, as you can read below. Though we will not be gathering in our sanctuary as we have in the past, we have already begun planning meaningful services and experiences for you and your family that will make this High Holy Day season unique and memorable. Here are a few exciting projects we are preparing:

- We will deliver a High Holy Day package to each family that will include *ma'hazorim* and other ritual resources and projects to help you transform your home into a sacred space of prayer and reflection.
- We will offer an opportunity for every member of our TBS Family to have a personal moment to offer prayers and wishes in front of the ark in our sanctuary in the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah.
- We will gather in a socially distanced way to hear the *shofar* and to perform *tashlikh*, the ceremony where we ritually throw away our sins by casting bread into a stream.
- We will create virtual service experiences, broadcast from our sanctuary and the *Beit Midrash*, for members of all ages.
- We will honor and remember those we have lost.
- We will reflect as a community on the significant moments of 5780.

We will continue to share our plans with you as they take shape. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we work on the many details and logistics involved in this process.



Something that you can do right now to help is to make a statement about your commitment to TBS and the Jewish future by renewing your membership to TBS. If you haven't submitted your membership renewal yet you should have received a reminder email last Wednesday, July 1. If you did not get the email or would like the membership packet mailed to you, please contact the TBS office at membership@tbsonline.org or 856-751-6663. Each family's financial contribution is essential for TBS to continue to offer top quality educational programs and social experiences. We are especially grateful to those who are able to be Plus Givers, as your generosity year after year helps TBS grow and thrive. We also recognize that some in our community are experiencing financial hardship and we stand by our commitment *that finances should never be a barrier to membership at TBS.* If finances are an issue, then please reach out to our Executive Director, Ron Safier at rons@tbsonline.org or 856-751-6663, for a confidential conversation.

One year ago no one would have imagined we would be in this position, and hopefully one year from now we will be once again preparing to be back together in our sanctuary for the High Holy Days. May this year be an opportunity for all of us to be courageous and creative as we approach the High Holy Days, as well as all of our other Jewish experiences and milestones. May it also remind us how important it is to be with our family and friends, to be inspired by our clergy and teachers, and to feel the comfort of being a part of the TBS *mishpaha* (family).

We need each other now more than ever, and we will get through this together.

L'Shalom,

Steve Borenstein, President

Rabbi Micah Peltz

Ron Safier, Executive Director