

Dear Temple Israel Family,

Wow! None of us could have imagined our present circumstances. And yet, I continue to be amazed that even as our world is in flux, we have met these challenges with our trademark courage, strength, and commitment. Our caring team is reaching out to the most vulnerable to make sure they are looked after. Our technology team is ensuring that we connect virtually with our favourite Temple experiences. Our staff is nurturing our everyday needs in these unique times. And our leadership has risen to the occasion to guide us in extraordinary ways. These efforts represent community life at its best.

I've been hearing a few questions repeatedly, so I'd like to take this opportunity to answer them for us all:

- When will we get to go back to Temple?

I wish that I had a good answer for this. The reality is, we cannot return until it is safe. We're following the guidance our health authorities and look forward to getting the green light at the appropriate time.

- How will we celebrate Passover?

No doubt, our Passover celebrations will be unique this year. Our seders are typically held in our homes, but this year they will be more cozy, missing some of the excitement that we crave. It is important that we maintain our social distancing, even as this means being away from our loved ones who don't reside in our residence. In coming days, I will be providing resources to help build us up as seder leaders. I'll be facilitating a session on Monday March 30th on Seder leading 101. Included in this e-mail is information on catering if you would like to order food. If you are in need of Passover supplies and need help with delivery, please let Heather know (execdir@templeisraelottawa.com).

- How are my life cycles impacted?

This is a difficult question to answer generally. Please speak with me if you have questions or concerns. There are things that we can do virtually. But often we can also wait until life calms down and we can commemorate as we're accustomed. Our Chevrah Kadisha is operating and we are still conducting traditional funerals on a smaller scale.

Please know that I am available to speak by phone, Zoom, Facetime etc. The best way to reach me is with e-mail: rabbimikelberg@templeisraelottawa.com . We're trying our best to communicate effectively in these extraordinary times. It's a good idea to regularly check our Temple website as well as our Facebook page.

May we each find strength from the light we carry within, the courage of one another and from God.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg

Temple Israel Virtual Calendar March 26-April 5

Thursday March 26th

- Minyan at 9:00am via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9294454122>
Phone access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID: 929 445 4122
We will use an online siddur available with this link:
<https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-weekdays-shabbat-festivals/>
- Rabbi Mikelberg to lead a class on Hineni – Here I Am! Looking to Abraham as a Model Mensch on Zoom at 1:30pm: <https://zoom.us/j/9294454122>
Phone access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID: 929 445 4122

Friday March 27th

- Rabbi Daniel and his stuffed animal friends will be back for another Tot Shabbat experience filled with songs, stories and fun. Check our Facebook site on Friday morning.
- Tune in to Facebook Live at 6:15pm for Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg and Larry Tarof. You can also watch the taped version at your leisure. We will be using an online siddur available with this link: <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-weekdays-shabbat-festivals/>

Saturday March 28th

- Torah Study on Parashat Vayikrah at 9am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9294454122>
Phone access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID: 929 445 4122
- Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg and Sue Potechin will be leading Shabbat morning services on Facebook Live at 10:15am. Feel free to sleep in and watch the taped version if you prefer. We will be using an online siddur available with this link:
<https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-weekdays-shabbat-festivals/>

Sunday March 29th

- Open house with Rabbi Steve Garten Margot Montgomery at 2pm on Zoom. You bring the coffee, we'll provide the company: <https://zoom.us/j/420581486> Phone access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID 420-581-486

Monday March 30th

- Passover is almost here. For many of us, we will be leading seders for the first time. Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg will be doing a Seder 101 session to build us up to be confident and ready. We'll review traditional elements as well as explore some creative innovations. Join us at 6:30pm on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9294454122>
Phone access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID: 929 445 4122

Wednesday April 1st

- Rabbi Steve Garten will do his famous Talmud study class on Zoom at 12:45pm, try it for the first time: <https://zoom.us/j/858959172>
Phone Access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID: 858 959 172
- Calling all exhausted young parents! We're having virtual wine and cheese hosted by Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg and Zach Paul. Bring your favourite stories from the last few weeks and your tips to survive the craziness. Join us on Zoom at 8pm:
<https://zoom.us/j/9294454122>
Phone access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID: 929 445 4122

Thursday April 2nd

- Rabbi Dara Lithwick will lift our spirits with an examination of Jewish Texts on Illness and Healing. Join on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/450643912>
Phone Access 647 558 0588 Meeting ID: 450 643 912

Friday April 3rd

- Rabbi Daniel is back for segment #3 for our Tot friends. Check Facebook on Friday morning. We'll start to prepare for Passover.
- Tune in to Facebook Live at 6:15pm for Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Steve Garten and Larry Tarof. You can also watch the taped version at your leisure. We will be using an online siddur available with this link: <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-for-shabbat/>

Saturday April 4th

- Torah Study on Parashat Tzav at 9am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9294454122>
Phone access 647-558-0588, Meeting ID: 929 445 4122
- Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg and Cantorial Student Daniel Geigerman will be leading Shabbat morning services on Facebook Live at 10:15am. Feel free to sleep in and watch the taped version if you prefer. We will be using an online siddur available with this link: <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-for-shabbat/>

Sunday April 5th

- Women and Gender in Biblical Literature with scholar Simon Zeldin on Zoom at 10am. This lecture session will explore the topic of gender in the Hebrew Bible, offering an overview of women's roles within a variety of biblical genres (narrative, law, and prophecy). Participants will be introduced to literary and feminist approaches to studying biblical literature, and gain insight into how scholars analyze biblical writings.
<https://zoom.us/j/711566982> Phone access 647 558 0588 Meeting ID: 711 566 982