

Dear Families,

You may remember from our opening day of Religious School that our school theme this year is inspired by a quote found in our Reform Siddur, Mishkan T'fillah; "Pray as if everything depended on God, Act as if everything depended on you." Who knew that we would months later need to be applying this concept to social distancing in our effort to slow the Covid-19 pandemic? Like our ancestors before us we will continue to be creative, imaginative, and hopeful to find light in dark places, support each other through difficult times, and to make this a more healthy and just world for our families and for all people. As a parent I share with you the challenges and opportunities presented to us, and as a son I strive to keep my Mom and her generation safe and make informed decisions. Truly, we must act as if everything depends on us, and also continue to find modes of connection and remain spiritually and emotionally strong.

CBI is here for you and your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for assistance you may need. Our clergy are here for you and our staff can be a conduit for helping you get the things you need in this difficult hour.

In the spirit of bringing light to dark places, this Sunday our computer screens and cell phones will be aglow as we launch our virtual classrooms and once again bring our learning community together. Yes, there will be glitches. There will be some frustration. There will be user errors and technical difficulties. There will be joy and community! There will be inspired Jewish learning. Please be patient. I am so appreciative of Chelsea Ferguson and Mckenna Means on our education team and of all of our teachers for prioritizing our CBI families and coming online to continue our school year.

As in every aspect of our world right now, the ground is shifting on us. Dates and deadlines that feel a sure thing now sometimes need to change. We recognize that everyone is juggling schedules. We will continue to update you on any schedule changes or technical link changes that should arise during this spring portion of our school year.

For technical assistance in real time on Sundays and Thursdays please contact Mckenna Means at 503-222-1069 or mckenna@bethisrael-pdx.org.

Our Zoom classroom sessions will be recorded. So if for example your child is not able to participate on a Sunday or Thursday or if technical issues arise you will have the opportunity to revisit a session.

Below is our most updated schedule of class dates, meeting times, and zoom links, and helpful information from Mckenna for joining classes beginning this Sunday.

Wishing everyone health and strength and look forward to being together again,

L'shalom,
Ben