**Congregation Beth Israel’s Adjustment to a Remote Community**

**Prior to “safe at home” order**

*In the week leading up to Governor Brown’s “safe at home” order, the CBI Office prepared to support and connect our community from the safe distance of our individual homes.*

* Upgraded our streaming service to Boxcast. Now we have an embedded video in our website and can simultaneously stream to Facebook Live.
* Circulated CBI-wide email on our practices going forward.
* Set up all office staff with remote access.
* Set up Novel Coronavirus information center on CBI Website including:
	+ Clergy statement
	+ Best Practices
	+ List of virtual content
	+ List of cancelled, postponed, and restructured programs (later removed as it became clear this would be all of them)
	+ List of virtual happenings
* Distributed clergy video message via Facebook and CBI website.
* Last day of full staff at the CBI Main Office was Friday, March 13.
* All staff were up and running remote access by Tuesday, March 17.
* All CBI communications made virtual (including billing, tribute acknowledgements, thank you notes, Yahrzeit and Yizkor reminders, etc.).

**Life Cycle Events**

*While many Life Cycle Events such as B’nei Mitzvah, weddings, and baby namings have been postponed, we remain committed to supporting our congregants and community in every phase of their lives.*

* Several virtual B’nei Mitzvahs
* For those who moved their Bnei Mitzvah dates, they have been invited to participate in Shabbat services.
* Virtual funerals and Shiva Minyans

**Weekly Virtual Programming**

*In the midst of a pandemic, CBI remains* a spiritual home, a place of community and friendship, a place to be inspired through prayer, a place for lifelong learning, and a place where every person makes a difference. An essential part of this has been maintaining (and expanding upon) or weekly programming and services.

* Talmud Study
	+ Led weekly by Rabbi Cahana
* Taste of Tradition Classes
	+ Weekly Jewish education classes led by Rabbi Donnell
* Torah Study
	+ Led by clergy and lay leader volunteers.
* Friday Evening Services
	+ Via Livestream and (as of Friday, March 27, Facebook live)
	+ Kaddish list made available for congregants online.
	+ Average number of 255 families attend virtual Shabbat Services through the website.
	+ Additional early candle lighting has been offered for young families
* Saturday Morning Services
	+ Via Zoom.
	+ Kaddish list made available for congregants online.
* TOT Shabbat (every first and third Saturday)
	+ Since going online, the pre-recorded Tot Shabbats have had an average of 50 views.
* Havdalah Services
	+ We did not previously hold these on a weekly basis.
	+ Additional early Havdalah Services have been offered for young families
* Mishpacha Minyan
	+ Weekly family program.
	+ Usually a key component of Religious School, we held this for community and continuity purposes without associated classes, then continued once our online religious school was up and running.
	+ 85 families joined for Zoom Minyan on Religious School opening day and the previous livestreamed one had 124 views.
* Religious School
	+ Began Sunday, April 3
		- We had 22 Zoom classrooms.
		- About 286 students joined us in classrooms and 85 families joined for Mishpacha Minyan.
* Weekly Clergy Office Hours

**Virtual Programs and Connections**

*With programs covering music, cooking, study, and just hanging out “together,” we’ve presented multiple opportunities weekly (beyond our Shabbat services) to build community from afar.*

* Lay Leader Meetings have moved online
	+ Board of Trustees Meetings
	+ Executive Committee Meetings
	+ Social Action Committee Meetings
	+ Adult Education Committee Meetings
	+ Sisterhood Board Meetings
* CBI Book Club
* Adult Hebrew Class
	+ Our ongoing class met for those enrolled.
* Spiritual Check In (3/26)
	+ A chance for community members to connect with Rabbi Joseph.
* Cantor Slam (3/31)
	+ A behind the scenes look at—and chance to have input on—how Cantor chooses music for the coming year.
* Social Hour with Rabbi Joseph (4/2)
	+ Because socially distancing doesn’t mean we have to be socially distant!
* Meditation and Yoga with Cantor
* Sisterhood Social Hours
* Virtual Mitzvah Day (4/26)
	+ Mitzvah Day was extended to be an ongoing initiative with a culminating day in April.
* Workshop for Parents of Teens with Anxiety (5/5)
* Three Clergy Presents continued online (5/14)

**Holiday Programs**

* Baking and Cooking Courses
	+ Cantor lead a series of classes in how to bake and cook for upcoming holidays.
	+ Challah Baking (3/27)
	+ Passover Cooking (4/6)
	+ Shavuot Baking (5/28)
* How to Host a Virtual Seder (4/1)
	+ Rabbi Joseph helped congregants brainstorm how to connect and celebrate in the midst of a pandemic.
* Women’s Seder Experience (4/5)
	+ A virtual take on CBI’s annual tradition..
* Date Night with BB Camp- Chocolate Seder (4/7)
	+ An interactive walk through of the Seder plate and story of Passover.
* Passover Morning Service (4/9)
	+ A chance to celebrate Passover together.
* Community Seder (4/9)
	+ The CBI community came together for Passover in a virtual community Seder, led by the Cahanas.
* Yom HaShoa Service (4/20)
* Lag B’Omer Celebration (5/11)
* Virtual Confirmation Ritual (5/28)
* You Don’t Look Jewish (5/30)
	+ Shavuot Stories from non-Jews, Jews by-choice, and converts.

**Video Content and Experiences**

*In addition to virtual connections and meetings, we have been providing regular educational and humorous video content to the CBI community.*

* Weekly “Masterpiece Torah” presentation on each week’s Parashat from Rabbi Cahana, Cantor Cahana, Rabbi Joseph, and Education Director Ben Sandler.
* Explanation on how to use Zoom.
* Explanation on how to find the CBI webcast.
* Rabbi Cahana on the Priestly Benediction (“Spock hands”).
* Rabbi Cahana presenting “A Blessing for Washing Your Hands in a Pandemic.
* Zoom recording of Havdalah service with Rabbi and Cantor Cahana shared for the community on Facebook.
* Zoom recording of Torah Study shared for community on Facebook.
* Zoom recording of Rabbi Joseph’s discussion of How to Host a Virtual Seder share on FB and CBI Website.
* Zoom recording of Cantor Cahana’s Challah Making Class to be shared on Facebook after Passover ends.
* Passover content
	+ Rabbi Joseph (as “Little Rachel”) reviewing the four questions.
	+ Rabbi Cahana (and his robot helper) on B’dikat Chametz.
	+ Holiday greeting from the clergy and senior staff.
* Counting the Omer with Cantor Cahana
	+ 49 separate blessings and meditations, posted daily.

**CBI Communications**

*We are working to make our communications as clear (and engaging) as possible without contributing to inbox fatigue and while minimizing the barriers to entry for people in our community who may be less comfortable with technology.*

* Initial email from clergy on social distancing.
* Community wide email on our office closure.
* Weekly Beneath Our Dome-moved to Tuesdays.
* Weekly Virtual Connections (simple series of links for upcoming programs) on Friday afternoons.
* Weekly Parent Nus emails (segmented by grades).
	+ Online Religious School announcements and follow-up.
* Passover resources email.
* Email in support of our Taste of Temple vendors.
	+ We also included/promoted vendors with Passover specific products (Katchka, Century Catering, Beetroot, and Roons) on our Passover resources page on our website, via email, and on Facebook.
* At least two Facebook announcements (with links) for every virtual event.
* Phone calls to all congregants to check-in and offer senior staff as emotional/ spiritual support
	+ We have contacted 370 congregants and have 542 people assigned to receive calls. That’s out of 875 families.
	+ Calls are made from lay leaders, staff, and volunteers.
* We are archiving all our Zoom content and that have put out a call for #CBI@home pictures with an eye toward inclusion in our archive at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

**Community Support**

*Throughout this crisis, CBI is doing what we can to support our long-term partners and community organizations.*

* We sent a community wide email encouraging congregants to support the local vendors who supported us at Taste of Temple.
	+ We also included/ promoted vendors with Passover specific products (Katchka, Century Catering, Beetroot, and Roons) on our Passover communications and webpage.
* Our Mitzvah Days Initiative is working to provide food, masks, and schooling supplies to the residents of NW Towers, and anticipated promoting a “Mitzvah of the Week” spotlight for the duration.
* Office staff who answer calls on the CBI line report that the most frequently asked question from congregants is how they can help, specifically with offers to deliver food, supplies, and support to vulnerable members of our community who should not be leaving home.