

Dear friends,

The Rabbis and staff of TAO have been busy gathering information from epidemiologists, public health experts, our Functional Board, our Planning Board, community synagogue leaders and local officials on the coronavirus and the challenges that we are currently faced with. Obviously, it would be our wish to continue our programs and services for as long as possible without risking your health, as well as our own, and at the same time, take all measures to protect you from risk of disease.

That said, the consensus of the medical community seems to be that “social distancing” will mitigate the spread of the virus and “flatten the curve.” That is, such measures will likely slow the spread of the virus so that our hospitals and healthcare facilities do not get overwhelmed and can take care of people over time. Our decisions are not made just to keep ourselves healthy—though that’s crucial too—but to ensure that seniors and others at the greatest risk do not become ill. As professionals and organizations dedicated to the wellbeing of the broader society, that’s the least we can do.

**Therefore until further notice, we are cancelling all services at the Duncan Center and River of Grass as well as wisdom classes and the Rabbi’s Tish effective immediately.** Because we value YOU and the role YOU play in the TAO community and want you to be connected, we are exploring several means to broadcast services and programs to you via the internet, Facebook and your telephone.

**We plan to begin broadcasting services live next week on Friday, March 20th. You will receive an email in the middle of next week explaining step by step how to join the broadcast.** We are exploring several means to broadcast and will inform you of your options once a decision has been made. We appreciate your patience during this trying time. In the meantime, please download the apps Zoom, Facebook and/or Instagram to your phone and/or computer. By participating in this way, we will maintain the spirit of our close-knit TAO community.

We plan to continue servicing our community either on the telephone or online and will keep you posted of all updates and changes as they occur. Please check your texts and emails to stay on top of the latest news from TAO and Rabbi Marc and obviously, health officials in your own areas. You and your health matter to us and as a community. We will get through this challenging time and remain supportive to one another as we always have.

For those of you who are feeling insecure or simply need to hear a comforting voice, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thanks for your continued support of the TAO Community.

Warmly,

Rabbi Marc Labowitz