



BOARD OF RABBIS of Greater Philadelphia

This message offers continued ways to give and receive support from rabbinic colleagues, as well as a message from Jewish Federation regarding current and anticipated financial needs and Jewish Federation's crisis response.

- To provide a space for processing and mutual strengthening of being with colleagues, we will continue to offer weekly calls on Mondays from 12:00-1:00 for as long as they are necessary. <https://zoom.us/j/2289812739> Meeting ID: 228 981 2739. Dial by your location: +1 646 876 9923 US
- [Please click here](#) to join our listserv to be able to email colleagues directly.
- If you are called on to do a lifecycle event or provide support to a congregant, and you are unavailable because of quarantine or illness, please know that your rabbinic colleagues will support you and your communities. Please reach out to bor@borphilly.org if you need help finding coverage in these difficult circumstances.
- Please [sign up to write a d'var Torah](#) for the Board of Rabbis column in the Jewish Exponent. As so many people in our communities and around Philadelphia are grappling with isolation and fear, words of Torah from a local source fill a crucial need.
- You're invited to join a conference call for religious leaders with the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, TODAY, Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 4pm. Please do not post on social media. The conference call line: 408-418-9388. Attendee access code: 244 157 62#
- [Here](#) is the recording of last Friday's Jewish community leadership call. There will be another Jewish community leadership call this coming **Friday, March 27, 2020, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** [Click here to register](#), and be sure to save to your calendar.

A message from Susanna Lachs Adler, Board Chair, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia:

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you, your leadership, staff and families coping as well as can be expected under the emergency conditions presented by the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic. The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is committed to providing essential resources during this crisis. We are coordinating with organizations, schools, synagogues and agencies in the region to assess and assist the most vulnerable individuals in our community whose needs are not being fully addressed by federal, state or local public emergency funds or loans.

This week we launched the [COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund](#) for the collective benefit of all our synagogue and agency partners, grantees, and stakeholders. One hundred percent of the funds raised through this effort will go directly to pay for needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jewish Federation professionals are working with you, our clergy, and your staff, to obtain data on immediate hard costs, with the knowledge that these will change and increase over time. We have created a nimble process, led by our Crisis Management Committee, and will be making allocation decisions both quickly and efficiently. Together, with your help, we will serve our most vital role as the collective voice of the community.

We realize there is no normal at this time and, consistent with CDC and Department of Public Health guidelines, we are recruiting and safely enlisting volunteers to perform critical tasks on behalf of those who are unable to leave their homes. We are convening volunteers who will assist us and each of you with these efforts. As the central address for Jewish life in Greater Philadelphia, your Jewish Federation is able to diligently coordinate this effort.

While we are all aware of the volatility that COVID-19 is creating in the financial markets, the dire needs of the community and those most at risk remain paramount. We are asking for your assistance in this work. Please share [this link](#) with your professional staff and congregants so they have the opportunity to donate to the [COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund](#).

With your partnership, we will be able to ensure the safety and strength of our collective Jewish community and the greatest number of those most directly affected by the risks presented. We hope you will join us in this absolutely critical work.

If you have a question about making a gift to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, please contact Donor Services at 215.832.0521 or 215.832.0865 or email donations@jewishphilly.org. If you have questions about volunteering or need to be connected to services, please contact 215.832.0852 or covid19@jewishphilly.org. These numbers are landlines at our offices which are being forwarded to our dedicated staff who are working remotely.

Stay safe and healthy,

Susanna Lachs Adler
Board Chair