

CONGREGATION

Shaarey
Tikvah



Small Shul. Large Community.

**Highlights of the important information found
in the e-mail below:**

- The Shaarey Tikvah Building will remain closed except for essential tasks starting immediately.
- All community events will be postponed and services canceled until 4/6. (Or possibly later, depending on recommendations of Federation and the County Board of Health)
- CST staff will be working from home and checking messages at the office regularly.
- See e-mail below for information about Virtual Kabbalat Shabbat, Havdalah, Children's Programming, Midweek Mishnah class etc.
- We are still collecting donations for the Men's Club Passover Fund, which will now be more important than ever. Deadline to donate is Friday, March 27th.
- Pay attention to a forthcoming e-mail from Dr. Josh Gordon about our new *Tzedek v'Hesed* database initiative and how it will be used to care for our community at this challenging time.
- Rabbi Roland will not be making pastoral visits in person. He will be available via phone/video chat. In the event, God forbid, of a loss in our community, we will follow protocols instituted by the Greater Cleveland Board of Rabbis and Berkowitz Kumin regarding graveside funerals and virtual shiva. Rabbi Roland can be reached via his cell phone at (973) 229-2615.

To our Shaarey Tikvah Family:

We find ourselves in confusing and unprecedented times. It is our true and sincere hope that our Congregation Shaarey Tikvah family will remain a source of lovingkindness, hope, and comfort as we forge ahead. The Leadership, Clergy, and Staff of Shaarey Tikvah are dedicated to serving our members as best as we can during these trying times.

For the health and safety of our community, the Shaarey Tikvah building will close immediately. Staff will only enter to gather supplies and to perform essential tasks. Our staff will work from home and be available to you by regularly checking e-mail and voicemail.

Unfortunately, this means that all meetings must be postponed or held via video conference. Likewise, all scheduled events between now and Monday, April 6th will be rescheduled. We recognize that this deadline may need to be extended and will do so based upon the recommendations of Federation and the County Board of Health. **There will not be regular weekday or Shabbat services held during this period.**

That said there are a growing number of ways to connect with community members virtually. Please join us for the following virtual events:

- Rabbi Roland will lead a virtual Kabbalat Shabbat each Friday at 6pm. Join using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/955142707>, or call in to 1-646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 955 142 707.
- We will come together for Havdalah weekly using the link: <https://zoom.us/j/121196610>, or by calling 1-646-558-8656 and entering Meeting ID:121 196 610. For the next two weeks (3/21 and 3/28) this will begin at 8:30pm)
- Rabbi Roland's Midweek Mishnah Class will continue on Wednesdays at 10am. Join by visiting: <https://zoom.us/j/695805248>, or call 1-646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 695 805 248.
- Children are invited to join Rabbi Roland for Virtual T.O.D.A (The Open Dor Academy, our Shabbat morning children's program) on Mondays and Thursdays at 10am for 30 minutes of Tefillah, Torah, fun and games! Please e-mail/text Rabbi Roland for the password to join this meeting.

You should feel free to share the information above with family and friends, near and far, who may be interested in these programs. We hope this is just one way our community can serve the greater Jewish community in the weeks to come.

Looking out for the most vulnerable in our community is a necessity at this time. With that in mind, we will continue collecting for the **Men's Club Passover Fund until Friday, March 27th**. Supporting this endeavor is more important now than ever. You may contribute by mailing a check to the synagogue, e-mailing Martha to add a donation to your account, or donating online at <http://www.shaareytikvah.org/donate>. Also, in this regard, please pay attention for a forthcoming e-mail from our President, Dr. Joshua Gordon, about our new *Tzedek v'Hesed* database initiative and how it will be used to care for our community at this challenging time.

Rabbi Roland will not be making pastoral visits in person at this time. He will be available to anyone in need of visitation via phone/video chat. In the event, God forbid, of a loss in our community, Rabbi Roland will follow the protocols put into place by our Greater Cleveland Board of Rabbis in partnership with Berkowitz Kumin. This means that all funerals

will take place at the graveside with a minimum number of attendees. Streaming options will be made available for the service. All shiva visits will be arranged over the phone or video chat. If you have a pastoral need, or have questions about these protocols, Rabbi Roland can be reached via e-mail at rabbi@shaareytikvah.org, or by calling his cell phone at (973) 229-2615.

We will continue to communicate with you regularly about policy changes and upcoming events. If you do not already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please do so @shaareytikvah. Social media is a fun and interactive way to stay engaged with the community while we cannot be together in the same physical space.

With blessings for health, calm, and contentment,

Rabbi Scott B. Roland Martha Sivertson Dr. Joshua Gordon
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