

Dear Beth Jacob Families,

Before I get into the tachlis (practical aspects) of this message, I want to reiterate something that I have said many times throughout the pandemic, because it is worth repeating: these are incredibly challenging times to be a parent. The responsibility that comes with making decisions that will impact our children's well-being – balancing physical safety, their social needs, their intellectual development and their emotional health – it's a lot to constantly navigate in general, and even more so when the landscape keeps shifting under our feet. Even if we know we need each other more than ever, it is harder than ever to find the bandwidth to stay connected. Without laying eyes on each other, it's harder to know who needs an extra reach-out or a moment to vent. It is my hope that in reiterating my availability, if you're someone who needs a listening ear, you'll feel comfortable giving me a call or text at 612-695-4058 or send a quick note letting me know you'd like to chat at rabbitar@beth-jacob.org.

Below you'll find the outline of a plan for temporarily **moving our educational programming for children on Shabbat to Zoom, beginning this week**. We plan to do this at least for the month of January, but possibly beyond that depending on caseloads. While there are many ways in which this is not ideal and I have heard from some families who felt strongly that they wanted to continue in person learning, it's likely we are going to end up with not enough teachers and not enough students in the building due to exposures in the coming weeks. My own children have experienced closed daycare centers already this week and going into next week as well. Some schools are going virtual temporarily due to staffing shortages. I am hopeful that by setting this structure up now, we will avoid disruptions in our children's learning due to teachers and students having to stay home.

Rabbi Rubin has given us permission to use Zoom on Shabbat only on a temporary basis, because he considers this to once again be a *sha'at hadachak* / a time of extraordinary circumstances. We will begin holding classes for all ages (PK-8) on zoom starting this week, as well as Minyan Katan and Youth Tefilah. The timing for these classes will be slightly different than in person, so please look over the schedule below carefully. The schedule and zoom links are also on the calendar on our website, so you can also access them there.

We will also be moving our January B'nai Mitzvah seminar to zoom and a separate message will be sent to 6th and 7th grade families as a reminder. In order to not have our students on zoom for hours on end, we'll hold the next seminar on Sunday, January 16th at 10 am. See the forthcoming email and/or the calendar on the website for zoom links.

I know that having children's learning on zoom also means some parents will have to stay home and attend the main service via the livestream. While that may also not be ideal, we do really feel this is going to be temporary. Families may still choose to attend shul in person and children are still welcome, as always, in the sanctuary.

I hope we can help each other get through this difficult time – and I hope this temporary move to zoom is our last.

Sending chizuk / strength to all of you.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm

Iyunim and Kehilat Shabbat Zoom Schedule January 2022

9 am	9:30 am	10-10:45	10:30	10:45-11:30
		Shorashim Class (1-4) beth-jacob.org/Shorashim		
Garinim Class (PK/K-1) beth-jacob.org/MK	Minyan Katan (0-K) beth-jacob.org/MK	5-6 Class beth-jacob.org/YT		Youth Tefilah (1-6) beth-jacob.org/YT
			7-8 Class beth-jacob.org/78	