

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



April 2, 2020

Dear Shames JCC Community,

I hope that you are well and I am thinking of you and your families during this very difficult time. Over the last several weeks, my team and I have worked tirelessly to share information with you and respond to hundreds of individual emails and phone calls. Maintaining open lines of communication, now more than ever, is essential. In this spirit, I want to shed more light on the status of the Shames JCC.

To put it simply, the loss of revenue due to the forced closure of our campus is dramatically impacting the financial health of our agency. Our ability to successfully reopen is directly tied to the funds that have been prepaid for school, camp, after-school, and enrichment programs, and the ongoing contribution of membership dues by our 2,700+ member families. We are so grateful to those of you who responded to our last email by maintaining your membership as a tax deductible donation, often despite personal financial hardship. The future of the JCC depends on contributions like yours. We ask that members and program participants who are able to give, continue to support us during this critical time.

In addition to asking for your support, we are doing everything we can to secure a strong future. Most notably, we have made the heartbreaking decision to dramatically reduce staff. Effective yesterday, April 1, the majority of staff of the Shames JCC are temporarily furloughed from employment. Only a small number of staff members remain available to support the JCC. These staff members include those assisting in the ongoing education of our children, caring for vulnerable populations, maintaining open lines of communication and responding to your questions, supporting the Board of Governors, and working with local, state, and federal officials to apply for assistance and gather new information about COVID-19. We are also actively pursuing the following measures:

- Applying for SBA loans under the CARES Act
- Partnering with local and state representatives
- Exploring options with our bank
- Requesting assistance from the UJA
- Seeking individual and corporate donations and/or loans

It is our greatest hope to open the doors of the Shames JCC, restore our staff to their full positions, and resume serving the community. We are humbled by, and grateful to, our staff, volunteers, and the community members who are deeply committed to seeing this come to fruition. If you are able, and haven't already done so, please consider joining with us in this meaningful pursuit.

Support the Shames JCC

I hope you and your families stay safe and healthy, and for those of you suffering from the Coronavirus, I wish you a full and speedy recovery.

In gratitude,

Leslie Meyers
Executive Director

