

Dear Friends,

Our thoughts are with you as you care for yourselves and your families during this difficult and uncertain period. It feels like we're in the wilderness, wondering how long we must wait to reach the promised land of being face to face in our beloved building again.

During this unprecedented period, however, Agudas Israel has still managed to be active and present in your life. Our dedicated Rabbi has ensured that we are here for you to provide spiritual, educational, and social opportunities to benefit all of us.

While sheltering at home, many people have attended our *Zoom* Lunch 'n Learn and Torah Study and you have been watching the pre-recorded Friday night Shabbat services. We have also celebrated the end of Shabbat with a *Zoom* Havdalah service. We are encouraged by how many of you have been attending these meaningful gatherings and hope your needs for spiritual and community connections are being fulfilled.

We realize that some of you are facing financial difficulties and uncertainties. The financial effects of this virus are widespread, and Agudas Israel is not immune from it. We are experiencing much of the same. We have had to cancel many fundraising activities and donations have ground to a halt. Sources of revenue that support our congregation, operating costs, and building repairs have also been effected.

We have created a new opportunity that we are calling *"Chai Hopes"* to help our budget shortfall. We are asking our members to make a monthly pledge "Chai" (\$18 or multiples thereof). This small monthly amount *repeated over the course of a year* can make a big impact on our ability to continue to fulfill our mission.

If you are able, please make a donation to Agudas Israel to help sustain us during this difficult time. See tear-off coupon below or click on the *PayPal button* above to donate on-line.

Support our warm house of Jewish tradition, our open and inclusive spiritual community, as we strive to strengthen ourselves, each other, and the community as a whole — not just during this challenging period but for the brighter days ahead.

If you are in need of support, feel free to contact Rabbi Jackson. Stay well and safe.

With gratitude, Bonnie Cooper Agudas Israel President

Please	return this form with your donation	to Agudas Israel Congres	<u>gation "Chai Hopes'</u>
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