

From: **Bet Alef** info@betalef.org
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March 5th, 2020

Canceling This Weekend Celebrations

Dear friends,

source: leaders

As I mentioned in my earlier e-mail this week, **your Board of Directors, your staff, and myself**, have been following almost hourly the unfolding of the CoronaVirus outbreak in our region.

source: county, CDC

As I also mentioned then, we are and continue to be committed to strictly following the guidelines, advice and warnings of our **local government, Health Department, as well as that of the CDC**. These guidelines have been updated these past 24hrs and have been made more restrictive following the **heartbreaking** additional deaths of several of our **fellow** Washingtonians and a jump in the number of CoronaVirus diagnoses.

tone: compassion

value: saving lives

The Mitzvah that cancels all other Mitzvot in Jewish tradition is that of **Pikuach Nefesh -- literally, "saving lives."** As such, in consulting with Tracy Wellens, Bet Alef's Board President, and with the support of our entire Board of Directors, we are letting you know that **we are canceling this Shabbat's celebrations both tomorrow evening, Friday, and Saturday morning**. We will reassess the situation at our monthly Board Meeting scheduled for Monday March 16th.

logistics: cancel

tone: assurance

Rest assured that canceling this Shabbat's activities doesn't mean that our Purim Celebrations are altogether canceled. **Far from it!** They are **merely postponed**. As of right now we are simply **rescheduling our Purim**

logistics: reschedule

Shabbat for March 20th. And if we have to cancel that one, we will push our Purim Celebration to the next Shabbat. Some people have "Christmas in July," and we're **not afraid** to have "Purim in June"?

At the same time we are also **moving forward** with our Passover Community Seder scheduled for Thursday, April 9th. You can find more information and register right [here](#).

Know that your **health and safety** will always be a priority to us. Take this opportunity to celebrate Shabbat in the warmth of your own home. May this be an **invitation to disconnect from the outside world** by turning off all electronics for 24 hours, and by spending a little time in meditation and/or in the company of a good book. We all need to **carve time to re-soul and be physically and emotionally restored**.

Sending all of you **love and blessings**.
Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Olivier

tone: lighthearted

tone: continuity

value: health/safety

tone/logistics:
home positive

tone/logistics
rest distance

value: restoration

tone: care

value: peace

