



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE RABBIS OF



BETH JACOB CONGREGATION

MOUNT ZION TEMPLE

TEMPLE OF AARON

Dear Friends,

May 4, 2009 \* 10 Iyar, 5769

As our country grapples with today's economic challenges, we write to remind you that we - your rabbis and synagogues - are here for you. Jews are used to reaching out to their rabbis when they have lost a loved one; we want you to know that we can offer support in the face of other losses as well. With tough financial times come all kinds of losses: of employment, career, insurance, community, a place to go each day...and less tangible losses like security, self-esteem, and confidence. The tough financial times have touched everybody in one way or another, and it is important that we reach out to each other.

Please keep in mind that your synagogue can be a sanctuary from the stresses of these times, and your rabbi can be a source of comfort and hope. Come by to chat or have a cup of coffee. Check your synagogue bulletins for classes, programs, and other opportunities to gather with friends and community, and even do some networking. And most of all, remember that we are here to support you in all aspects of life, not only the religious ones.

The Saint Paul JCC is offering reduced fee or no-cost temporary memberships to help members of our community to stay connected and healthy. Their process will be entirely confidential. Please contact your rabbi for details if you are interested.

There are resources and support to be found at Jewish Family Services at <http://www.jfssp.org> (click on "Services") and Jewish Vocational Services at [www.jfcsmp.org](http://www.jfcsmp.org) (click on the "Vocational Services" or "Financial Assistance" tabs). You can find some textual and spiritual resources at <http://www.jcprograms.org/>.

During this period of the Omer – counting the days between Pesach and Shavuot - we remember that our ancestors had to wander in the wilderness before they could really enjoy the blessings of liberation and receive Torah. Wandering the wilderness wasn't easy, to be sure, but we also remember that there was always manna to sustain us. The support and comfort of community may be the manna that will get us through the economic wilderness we now traverse. It can sustain our souls, if not our bodies.

B'shalom,

*Rabbi Morris Allen & Rabbi Lynn Liberman*, Beth Jacob Congregation

*Rabbi Adam Spilker & Rabbi Esther Adler*, Mount Zion Temple

*Rabbi Alan Shavit- Lonstein*, Temple of Aaron