

FROM THE RABBI  
*Esther Hugenholtz*

Purim is long gone and we are only a week away from Passover, but one of Purim's enduring truths stands: this is a time of '*hafuch*', 'inversion', of a topsy-turvy reality. The world as we knew it has been suspended and a new reality is emerging in real time. We don't know what that new reality will look like long-term but we do know that everything seems inverted right now. What we once considered ancient metaphor is now lived experience. We encounter the juxtaposition of public health being shaped by both cutting-edge 21<sup>st</sup> century science and Bronze Age quarantine techniques as illustrated by the Book of Leviticus. All of a sudden, the Plagues of Egypt seem a little too, well, *real*.

Of course, our first priority as a community is to stay healthy and safe and to reach out in solidarity to those within and beyond our membership who need support. This pandemic will affect each of us

our ongoing Tikkun Olam Fund in order to support those beyond the metaphorical walls of our community. We encourage you to donate to whichever fund speaks to you. Pesach is a time where metaphor becomes experience and where memory becomes solidarity. If you can give, please give: not just money, but time, kindness and attention. If you would enjoy making phone calls to check in on our membership, please let us know – we would like to build a team of volunteers to do that holy work.

These are strange and unprecedented times. In our topsy-turvy world, it is completely legitimate to give yourself permission to feel whatever you need to feel: fear, anxiety, a sense of loss... but perhaps also a heightened sense of awareness, gratitude and purpose. This pandemic is a marathon, not a sprint, and in true fashion for all existential crises, universal in its impact and implications. Thankfully,