Dear Sprout Camps Families,

We hope this email finds you and your families safe and healthy. For those of you suffering illness and loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We are here if you need support for your children, food, or just a gentle ear to speak with. Please email me directly for any help.

It was my hope that by the end of Passover I would be able to email you with a plan for all of the Sprout Camps for this summer. Unfortunately as we know, restrictions, testing, and guidelines have been developing and changing by the week.  Our intention remains the same, we would move heaven and earth to bring your children to their happy place, CAMP, but only if it is safe.  I cannot give you an answer today. We are currently exploring all options for this summer including delayed opening and shorter sessions.

What I want you to know is that every single day we are monitoring the situation. We are in constant touch with government officials, the American Camp Association, the CDC and the board of health. We are in it, fighting for your children’s summer. We hope to have more answers by early May.

Our staff is still working preparing programs and activities and we are not ready to give up hope.  We will continue to suspend all payments until we know more information.

We know these are difficult times, but we remain committed to being here for you. Until we can meet in person, please continue to visit [Sprout@Home](https://www.cyjsproutlake.org/sprout-at-home/) on our web site.

On a personal note, this past week when we had virtual *Havdallah & Rikkud* on Zoom.  I couldn’t help but smile watching the children dance as they tried to teach their parents. I loved seeing grandparents watching from their homes and alumni from far and wide joining. It reminded me, that even while we are physically separated the spirit and community of Sprout is very present.

Most importantly, please let us know if we can help you in any way. Through good times and bad, our community will remain resilient because in the end, it is all about our children- and we are still counting the days until we see them again.

Helene Drobenare Horwitz, MSW, MA
Executive Director, Young Judaea Sprout Camps