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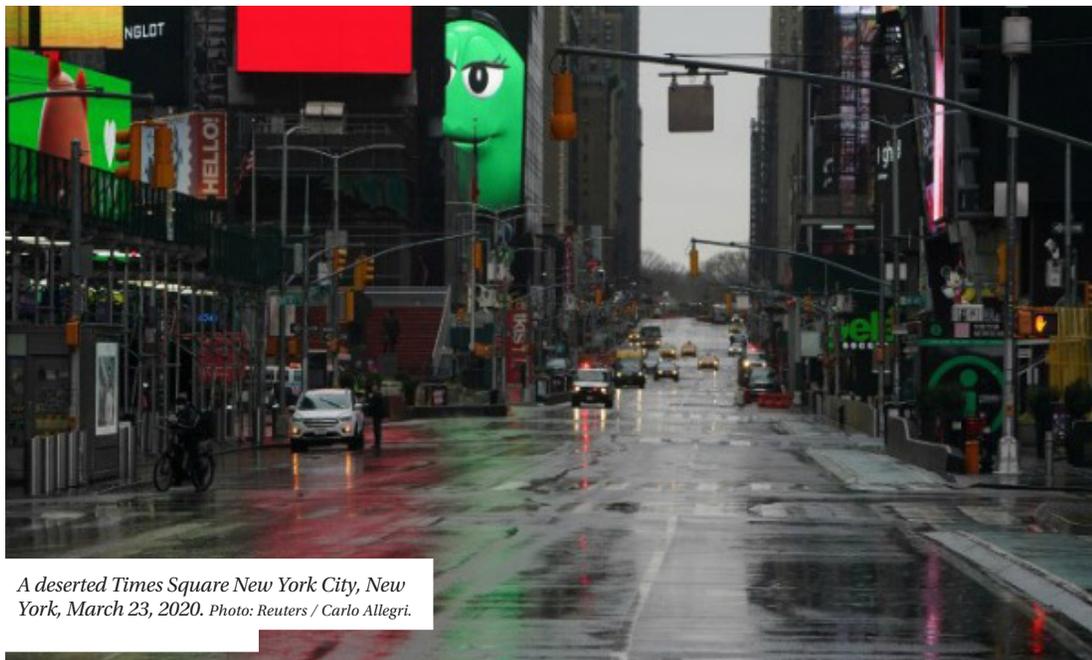
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US Has Potential of Becoming Coronavirus Epicenter, Says WHO



A deserted Times Square New York City, New York, March 23, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Carlo Allegri.

BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday it was seeing a "very large acceleration" in coronavirus infections in the United States which had the potential of becoming the new epicenter.

Over the past 24 hours, 85 percent of new cases were from

Europe and the United States, WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told reporters. Of those, 40 percent were from the United States.

Asked whether the United States could become the new epicenter, Harris said: "We are now seeing a very large acceleration in cases in the US. So it does have that potential.

"...They (the United States)

have a very large outbreak and an outbreak that is increasing in intensity," Harris added.

Overall, the global outbreak was accelerating very rapidly and she expected large increases in case numbers and deaths from the 334,981 cases and 14,510 deaths reported.

Coronavirus Takes Heavy Toll on Prominent Jewish Leaders in US, Israel, Europe

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The coronavirus pandemic is taking a heavy toll on prominent Jewish leaders, with several dying of the disease and others seriously ill.

The head of Israel's United Hatzalah emergency service, Eli Beer, was placed on a ventilator and sedated on Friday. The group said in a statement that he's expected to make a



A medical worker wearing a protective mask and suit treats patients suffering from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in an intensive care unit at the Oglio Po hospital in Cremona, Italy, March 19, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Flavio Lo Scalzo.

slow but full recovery, though he will continue to be sedated for up to two weeks.

In a video message issued just before his intubation, Beer said, "I need you to keep davening, keep doing mitzvahs, it's very important."

He urged those watching to "make sure that people's lives are saved and all their needs will be met through your support."

The South Florida NBC affiliate Channel 6 reported

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Silver Lining in COVID-19

page A8



ShabbatCalendar

Parshat VAYIKRA
פרשת ויקרא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 6:58pm | Shabbat Ends: 7:58pm



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Opinion.

Israel's Critics Distort the Country's Coronavirus Response



SEAN DURNS
WASHINGTON

At a time of a global pandemic, Israel is taking drastic measures to prevent COVID-19 from potentially killing thousands of its citizens. But while the world is changing — and changing fast — Israel's critics aren't. At a time of crisis, the usual suspects are seeing an opportunity to single out the Jewish state for opprobrium.

Take, for example, the Global Opinion page in *The Washington Post*, and a March 19 op-ed by Gershon Gorenberg, entitled "With a pandemic as cover, Netanyahu is carrying out a coup in Israel." And the inflammatory and sensationalized headline is only the beginning.

Gorenberg charges that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "carrying out a palace coup. Under the cover of a pandemic, he is transforming himself from lame-duck prime minister to unelected strongman. He and his henchmen have shut down parliament, enacted extreme 'security' measures without legislative oversight and shelved the courts just as Netanyahu was about to go on trial for corruption."

Taking a conspiratorial tone, he claims that "the coronavirus arrived at just the right moment to provide pretexts for seizing authoritarian powers." Elsewhere, he adds that the "exponentially rising number of confirmed coronavirus infections" gives "Netanyahu new opportunities."

Gorenberg protests: "I don't use the word 'coup' lightly." But unfortunately — given the rapidly developing crisis and the need for calm and reasoned thinking — he does.

It is perfectly reasonable — indeed it is imperative — for all citizens to continue to question their government's actions and to continue to voice their criticisms and concerns. A global pandemic mustn't stop that. And it's perfectly reasonable to ask if the actions of the Israeli government, or any other government, are for the best. That is part of a well-functioning and healthy society.

But Gorenberg omits essential context.

The chief problem with Gorenberg's argument, aside from his reckless and hyperbolic language, is that he fails to place Israel's actions in either global or local perspective. To be sure, Israel's political circumstances are unique: the Jewish state has held three democratic elections in the last year, each with inconclusive results. It has been unable to form a government. And Netanyahu is facing corruption charges — charges that the Israeli premier and his supporters argue are flimsy at best, and politically motivated at

worst, but which others, including some of his political opponents, believe to be legitimate.

Suffice it to say, these are not ideal circumstances for a tiny nation with a significant elderly population to be handling a global pandemic. Indeed, it could be reasonably argued that these circumstances, including political gridlock, make decisive action more imperative.

Israel itself is in a very unique predicament when it comes to confronting the virus. In a March 10, 2020 interview with Dr. Tomer Hertz, an immune system researcher and head of microbiology, immunology and genetics at Ben-Gurion University, *The Times of Israel* highlighted the dangers. Reporter Nathan Jeffay noted that "If not controlled, coronavirus could paralyze Israel's health system in a way that didn't happen as a result of swine flu or any other health crisis."

As Hertz told the *Times*: "Even with 10% of the people with corona needing medical treatment," an occurrence that he said was quite possible, "there might not be enough beds. ... Hospital wards in Israel right now are at about 80% capacity and there are not a lot of free beds." Also of note: "One in four households in the country included an elderly person age 65 or more," according to a 2015 study. Given the virus' high transmission rate, and its proclivity to lead to more problematic and lethal outcomes for senior citizens, this statistic also provides cause for increased concern.



Health Ministry inspectors speak with a woman in self-quarantine as a precaution against coronavirus spread in Hadera, Israel, March 16, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Ronen Zvulun.

There is reason then for a small country the size of New Jersey to take decisive action.

From the beginning, Israel has reacted more forcefully than many other countries, quickly initiating border controls and quarantines. As Gilead Ini, a senior research analyst for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA), has documented, these moves enabled some, such as *New York Times* Jerusalem bureau chief David Halbinger, to showcase their anti-Israel biases. But although Israel was among the first to take drastic steps, it is far from alone.

Gorenberg cites Netanyahu's use of broad executive powers and orders, as well as the temporary closing of the courts and Knesset, to buttress his argument. But this singles out Israel, treating the Jewish state as if it were the exception. It is not.

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Calling for a Unity Government in Israel



ISI LEIBLER
JERUSALEM

We are experiencing a global nightmare that could result in many deaths. No one could have anticipated the extent of the coronavirus impact. The tragic images emerging from Italy are now also occurring across the globe. We are still trying to comprehend and learn how to navigate through this nightmare.

In this context, the efforts of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Health Ministry officials deserve the highest praise. While it is unfortunately unlikely that Israel will be able to prevent the spread of the virus, the Netanyahu government has nevertheless been leading the Western world in imposing strict measures to slow the pace.

As of now, many Israelis, possibly including some who voted against him, are relieved that Netanyahu is currently in control. They might be concerned at the thought of opposition leaders like Benny Gantz, Moshe Ya'alon, or Yair Lapid governing the nation and making life-and-death decisions.

One would assume that in face of such an unprecedented global health crisis, it would be obvious that a national unity government would be formed. But not so in this country. If ever there was a time for a national unity government, it is now. There is a consensus across the entire population that it is imperative, so why can't our politicians get their act together? Are they so detached from the

urgency of the situation that they do not see what everyone else sees?

It is beyond belief when one reads columnists in Haaretz pontificating that Bibi is a far greater threat than the coronavirus. Netanyahu appeared on the main TV channels on Saturday night and set out the terms of his offer for a national unity government. He offered the Blue and White Party equal government representation with the right-wing bloc, with the key ministries of defense and foreign affairs, and undertook that he would resign as prime minister after 18 months.

But within minutes, Lapid tweeted that Bibi is a liar and can't be trusted, and Ya'alon proclaimed on TV that it really doesn't matter what Netanyahu says or offers — he cannot be trusted and he must resign.

I have always respected Ya'alon as a man of integrity who placed the nation above all.

But his bitter hatred has blinded him. Does he really believe Gantz is capable of leading Israel in this crisis? And even if we set aside all reservations about him, is now the time to replace a leader who has demonstrated that he was ahead of the rest of the world in tackling this crisis?

Gantz has been offered the opportunity to become prime minister in 18 months, when hopefully the coronavirus will be behind us. For the sake of the country, we urge opposition leaders to set aside their hatred and focus solely on the welfare of this nation. There is no alternative but to form a national unity government at this time of emergency. Those who oppose this are literally putting our lives at risk. History will not forgive them.

Isi Leibler is an Israeli columnist. His website can be viewed at www.wordfromjerusalem.com. He may be contacted at ileibler@leibler.com.



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin opens the first session of Israel's new parliament, in an unprecedentedly toned-down ceremony carried out amid the global coronavirus scare. Photo: Deutsche Presse-Agentur GmbH, Reuters Marketplace - DPA Multimedia Wire via Reuters.

World News.

Coronavirus 'Fabrications' Pushed by Iranian Regime 'Put World at Risk,' Says US Secretary of State Pompeo

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Conspiracy theories pushed by the leader of the Iranian regime about alleged American responsibility for the coronavirus pandemic provoked a flurry of corrective tweets from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — the highest authority in the Islamic Republic who is known as the “supreme leader” — had earlier scorned US offers of assistance in fighting the virus by claiming, “you’re accused of having created #coronavirus.”

Continued Khamenei on Twitter: “I don’t know how true it is. But when there’s such an allegation, can a wise man trust you? You could be giving medicines that spread the virus or cause it to remain. Experience shows you can’t be trusted & you do such things.”

Pompeo promptly replied that Khamenei’s “fabrications that the U.S. is responsible for the #WuhanVirus put Iranians, Americans, and the rest of the world at risk. Facts matter.”

Among the facts rolled out by Pompeo was that “Iran’s chief terror airline, Mahan Air, continued to fly at least 55 times between Tehran and China in February,” thereby spreading the virus.



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivers a televised speech, in Tehran, Iran, March 20, 2020. Photo: Official Khamenei website / Handout via Reuters.

The secretary of state also pointed out that the Iranian regime “ignored repeated warnings from its own health officials, and denied its first death from the #WuhanVirus for at least nine days.”

In another tweet, Pompeo contrasted Iran’s current pleas for aid with its profligate spending on behalf of its terrorist allies in the region.

“As Iran asks for more money, remember: since 2012, the regime sent \$16B+ to its terrorist proxies in the Middle East. Officials stole 1B+ Euros intended for medical supplies, and continue to hoard desperately needed masks, gloves, and equipment for sale on the black market,” Pompeo wrote.

One Million Israelis Could Be Unemployed by End of Passover Due to Coronavirus Shutdown

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The number of unemployed in Israel has reached 600,000, the Israeli Employment Service announced Tuesday, with thousands losing their jobs as businesses close due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Israeli news site Walla reported that the unemployment rate now stood at 18.6% and the Employment Service estimated that there would be one million unemployed by the end of the Passover holiday in mid-April.

The number of those registering as unemployed is skyrocketing, with 127,464 signing up on last Thursday, 67,115 on Friday and 54,305 on Sunday.

Rami Garor — CEO of the Employment Service — said, “There was another slowdown in new registrants yesterday. However, we estimate that by Passover we will reach about one million new job-seekers due to the corona crisis.”

“This is partly due to announcements from leading companies in Israel about the closure of branches and centers,” he added.



People walk past closed stores inside a shopping center in Tel Aviv, Israel, March 15, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Nir Elias.

He said the Employment Service was working with the National Insurance Institute to get unemployment benefits to citizens as quickly as possible.

Regarding the overall economic situation, Amir Yaron — governor of the Bank of Israel — warned on Tuesday that the damage would be difficult to fix once the crisis was over.

“The longer the scenario takes, the exit will be deeper and more difficult,” he said.

Michel Strawczynski — director of the Research Department at the Bank of Israel — said that additional restrictions could

Israel Chemicals Donates Money, Swabs to Bolster Battle Against Covid-19 in Israel



A medical worker wearing a protective mask and suit treats patients suffering from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in an intensive care unit at the Oglio Po hospital in Cremona, Italy, March 19, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Flavio Lo Scalzo.

BY ADI PICK/CTech

Tel Aviv-headquartered Israel Chemicals (ICL), with the help of the regional managers of its factories in China, is importing 20,000 swabs for the diagnosis of coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in Israel, the company announced Sunday. ICL also donated NIS 900,000 (approximately \$247,000) to Israeli hospitals Soroka University Medical Center in Israel’s south and Chaim Sheba Medical Center in the Tel Aviv area.

Continued from Page A1
Heavy Toll

that Rabbi Sholom Lipskar of the Shul of Bal Harbour, one of Florida’s largest synagogues and founder of the Aleph Institute, which serves prisoners, US military personnel, and other isolated communities, tested presumptive positive for the virus, according to a statement issued Sunday.

His symptoms are considered mild and he is expected to make a full recovery.

In a video message on Instagram Friday, Rabbi Lipskar thanked people for their messages of support, as well as the hospital staff.

“Almighty God will definitely have a positive response to our prayers and good wishes,” he said, and asked supporters to recite Psalms.

According to Israeli daily *Yedioth Ahronot*, leading Satmar Rabbi Aharon Teitelbaum, head of the Kiryas Joel community in New York, was diagnosed with coronavirus on Friday. He is believed to have been infected by an assistant.

He is currently in good condition with mild symptoms of the disease.

Over the weekend, André Touboul, one of France’s leading Chabad figures, died after

The swabs, for which the company reported costs of NIS 200,000 (approximately \$50,000), were pre-approved by Israel’s Ministry of Health.

Dual-listed on the NYSE and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, ICL is an industrial company focusing on agriculture, food, and engineered materials. The company is controlled by its largest shareholder, Tel Aviv-listed Israel Corporation. ICL employs more than 11,000 people, and its 2019 revenue totaled approximately \$5.3 billion.

being stricken with the virus, the UK’s *Jewish Chronicle* reported.

Due to Health Ministry directives, Touboul was buried without proper Jewish funerary rituals.

His family released a statement to the French-Chasidic publication *Hassidout*, asking mourners to stay in isolation and “preserve the health of everyone.”

“We understand that his former students, his friends ... would like to honor him, but it is now essential to comply with the directives,” they added.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo commented, “It is with great sadness that I learn of the death of André Touboul. I think of his kindness and his professionalism. All my support and my affection to his family, to his friends and to the school community.”

On Feb. 15, the former leader of the Jewish community of Milan, Michele Sciana, died of coronavirus.

The Italian-Jewish website *Moked* wrote that Sciana was born in Cairo, and studied in London and Milan, where he eventually settled. He was heavily involved in collecting testimonies from Jews forced out of the Arab world following World War II and remained close to the Egyptian Jewish community.

increase the economic damage to NIS 100 billion (\$27.75 billion) and GDP could fall by 2.5%, while putting enormous pressure on government expenditures.

“The government deficit will rise, and is expected to reach about 7% of GDP,” he said.

Hedva Ber — supervisor of banks at the Bank of Israel — said banks must “help

businesses and get through the crisis as easily as possible,” but extending credit to failing businesses could be difficult.

“You can’t do it automatically,” she said. “You have to check the risks, you have to check that those you give credit can repay it after the crisis.”

World News.



Israelis arrive at Ben-Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv from South America, where they were temporarily stranded as a result of the coronavirus epidemic, on March 20, 2020. Photo: Tomer Neuberg/Flash90.

Israel Works to Fly Thousands of Israelis Home During Shutdowns

BY ISRAEL KASNETT/
JNS.org

The 3,000 Israelis who had traveled to India to take a temporary break from the whirlwind of life found themselves dealing very much with the reality of it as the coronavirus spread around the world and countries

began to close their borders and ground all flights. India was no exception. Earlier this week, some 550 Israelis left for Israel before the country was set to close its airspace in the coming days.

Lior Haiat, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman, told JNS, "We are helping Israelis from all over the world get back to

Israel, especially from Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia. We are talking about 8,000 Israelis who are abroad and whom we are trying to bring back."

He warned that "most of the places are either closed or closing. A lot of flights are being cancelled or are full. The ticket prices are very high."

Haiat said the ministry is trying to find the Israeli travelers "the best and fastest way to return home."

Israeli travelers are famous for visiting far-flung places worldwide, skipping tourist magnets such as London and Paris, and choosing instead to see the farther reaches of the planet.

In times of crisis, Israelis end up far from home and faced with extreme difficulties in returning; this is one of those moments when being a citizen of the only Jewish country in the world really makes a difference.

Recently, the dramatic evacuation of Israelis in Peru drew headlines. The 1,100 Israelis were literally airlifted out after four specially organized El Al flights flew over to retrieve them. An additional 23 Israelis were left behind, forced to wait for the next opportunity to fly home due to lack of room on the planes.

While the El Al planes that evacuated Israelis from Peru were privately funded, Haiat said that no other planes were being paid for. "The Peru situation was unique," he said. "We are not planning any more free flights. The flights we are working on with El Al, Arkia and Israir will be paid for by the passengers."

"I am proud to be Israeli"

One traveler rescued from Peru described her deep appreciation for Israel.

"There is nothing like this in any country

in the world," she wrote. "There is no entry of aircraft from any other country—only the State of Israel, only El Al. We [passed] through six checkpoints of soldiers with weapons and masks only because of our Foreign Ministry document—our country is simply as powerful as it is impossible to describe. There is no country that extracts its civilians like us. ... I am proud to be Israeli. Europeans who saw what the State of Israel did for us were simply in shock."

El Al is reportedly preparing flights to four more destinations, including Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica and another one to India, to bring more Israeli travelers home. El Al may also send an aircraft to Thailand to bring back some 150 nationals that have been stuck in the country since the health crisis began.

Israel's Ambassador to India told JNS in a written message that "the embassy team here in New Delhi is working around the clock to ensure that Israelis in India trying to get home are able to do so safely. We have aided in the return of about 1,000 Israelis to date, and we are working tirelessly to ensure the return of about 1,000 more, relying on strong relationships with the Indian government, which we have nurtured over the years. We are constantly in touch with Israelis across India, and urge all travelers and family members to stay up to date through our Facebook page and website."

"We call on every Israeli to take the first flight possible to Israel," said Haiat. "You do not want to be stuck abroad. Please do your best and come back. Do not wait until the last minute. This is the last minute."

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February 26, 2020

Rabbi Chaim Prusman
Executive Director
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Brooklyn, NY

Dear Rabbi Prusman:

I am aware that for fifty years, your organization, Beth Shifra, has provided year-round, daily free meals to those who are most needy in the New York Jewish community. My office staff is personally familiar with the outstanding work that you do, and I would like to urge everyone to help Beth Shifra in any manner possible, including publicizing the work they do in your Shul or organization.

During the Pesach holiday, Beth Shifra will be sponsoring Kosher for Passover sederim, food packages, lectures and programs to hundreds of people who would otherwise be unable to celebrate the holiday.

In 2020, these free Kosher for Passover Sederim and daily meals will take place from Wednesday, April 8th through Thursday, April 16th at the White Shul located at 2102 Avenue T (East 21st Street) in Brooklyn. Pesach food packages will be distributed on Wednesday, April 8th at the synagogue between the hours of 12:00-2:00PM.

Please take the time to help a hungry family celebrate Pesach. Join in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need.

In the merit of helping the hungry and poor, may you only receive the choicest blessings from Heaven.

Sincerely,

Simcha Eichenstein
Member of Assembly

Bogus Purim Service Broken Up

Reprinted from the Jewish Press • Friday, March 20, 1987

A group of missionaries in Brighton Beach who rented Public School 225 on the premise they were holding a social, attempted to hold a bogus "Purim Megilla" reading. The missionaries widely advertised their program in Russian as well as English throughout the Manhattan Beach and Brighton Beach area in an effort to entice young people to their service.

However, when the real purpose of the "service" was discovered, groups from Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Monsey descended on the area to help the

staff of the Beth Shifra Institutions break up the rally. Since many of the protesters missed the Megilla reading, the staff of Beth Shifra held to Megilla readings, so those who were instrumental in breaking up the rally could observe the Mitzva properly.

The Beth Shifra rally, held at the Jewish Center of Ocean Parkway, was termed a huge success by the children and parents who attended. There was a live band and a puppet show to entertain the children.

- These are some of the FREE programs Beth Shifra Ran for the Poor and Russian Families.**
- Separate Orthodox Boy Scout & Girl Scout Club • Matchmaking
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 - Business School • Brisim Performed • Speakers Bureau • Free Hebrew School
 - Free Summer Camps • Nursery schools • Jewish Services • Boxing • Chess Tournament
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"We are personally familiar with their important work."
RABBI GERSHON TANNENBAUM ZT"L
Director, The Rabbinical Alliance of America

SCHEDULE		
Date	Time	Activities
Wed. 4/8	12-2 pm	Pick up packages
Wed. 4/8	8:00 pm	Doors Open
4/8 Sedar I	8:30 pm	Ancient Secrets of Judaism
Thurs. 4/9	12:00 pm	Meal/Seuda
	8:30 pm	Q & A: Judaism
4/9 Sedar II	8:30 pm	Doors Open
Fri. 4/10	12:00 pm	Exodus: Legend or History
	12:00 pm	Meal/Seuda
	7:30 pm	Lecture - 7 Wonders of Our Jewish Nation
	7:30 pm	Meal/Seuda
Shabbat 4/11	12:00 pm	Defending The Faith
	12:00 pm	Meal
	7:30 pm	Oral vs. Written Torah
	7:30 pm	Meal
	12:00 pm	The Deeper Beauty of Shabbos
Sun. 4/12	12:00 pm	Meal
	12:00 pm	What is kosher food?
	7:30 pm	Meal/Seuda
	7:30 pm	The Power of Prayer
Mon. 4/13	12:00 pm	Meal/Seuda
	12:00 pm	Spectacular Children's Program: Arts and Crafts
	7:30 pm	Meal/Seuda
	7:30 pm	lecture
		Popular Aish HaTorah Speaker: Matzah = Affliction = Redemption Shomer Shabos Singles Program With Live Music, Matchmakers & Smorgasboard.

- Catered Meals
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SCHEDULE cont.

Date	Time	Activities
Tues. 4/14	12:00 pm	Meal
	7:30 pm	"Friend or Foe: Torah & Science"
	7:30 pm	Meal/Seuda
	7:30 pm	Why Bad Happens to Good People?
Wed. 4/15	12:00 pm	Meal/Seuda
	7:30 pm	Moral Relativism & Torah
	7:30 pm	Meal/Seuda
	12:00 pm	Post Holocaust - 2 Million
Thurs. 4/16	12:00 pm	Jews Vanished - Why? Solution?
	7:30 pm	Meal/Seuda
	7:30 pm	Open Forum

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Please join us for daily Mincha and Maariv.

Have a happy and healthy Pesach.... Chag Kosher Vesameach.....

"We urge you to do whatever you can do to help Beth Shifra, תבא עליהם ברכה"
RABBI AVIGDOR MILLER ZT"L

U.S. News.

Neo-Nazis Urge Supporters to Target Jews for Coronavirus Spread

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Neo-Nazi and Islamist extremists have found another common cause: encouraging their supporters to deliberately spread the coronavirus to Jews, police officers and other “enemies.”

An FBI alert issued last Thursday warned that “members of extremist groups are encouraging one another to spread the virus, if contracted, through bodily fluids and personal interactions.” According to *ABC News*, which obtained a copy of the alert on Monday, the extremist groups include neo-Nazis and white supremacists.

According to a recent report from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a research and advocacy group, far-right groups are increasingly embracing “accelerationism” — a fringe philosophy that promotes mass violence to fuel society’s collapse.

“From pushing the idea that Jews created the coronavirus virus to sell vaccines to encouraging infected followers to try to spread the illness to the Jewish community and law enforcement, as the coronavirus has spread, we have observed how white-supremacists, neo-Nazis and others have used this to drive their own conspiracy theories, spread disinformation and incite violence on their online platforms,” Michael Masters — the head of the Secure Communities Network (SCN), an umbrella group that coordinates security for Jewish groups and synagogues around the country — told *ABC News* on Monday.

A separate analysis published by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) demonstrated that the pandemic has provided a ready platform for antisemitic conspiracy theories. Scaremongering tropes monitored by ADL researchers have included the claim that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) “is controlled by the Chabad Lubavitch movement,” and that the Hungarian-Jewish financier George

Orthodox Groups Make Gain in Record-Setting Votes for World Zionist Congress

BY FAYGIE HOLT/
JNS.org

The World Zionist Congress, which allocates funding for the Jewish Agency for Israel, will convene this October in Jerusalem. A total of 152 seats will be allocated for the American delegates.

Participants voted for one of 15 different slates, representing a cross-section of Jewish life and communal groups. Voting began in January and ended on March 11. At stake, said participants, was having a say in how the World Zionist Congress will allocate its funding for Jewish communal endeavors.

“The numbers speak for themselves,” said Herbert Block, executive director of the American Zionist Movement. “This election garnered more than twice as many votes as the election in 2015 and the highest since the election opened up to the entire American Jewish community 30 years ago. We are thrilled that so many people participated and look forward to seeing those voices represented at the 38th World Zionist Congress.”

Rabbi Josh Weinberg, vice president for Israel and Reform Zionism for the Union for Reform Judaism, while pleased with the results, was somewhat disappointed by how things turned out.

“I think we did really well—we got 10,000 more votes than last time; a 15 percent increase. We’re still the largest Zionist organization in the United States, and I’m happy about that,” he said, acknowledging that he was “surprised” and “a bit saddened” by the gains of the Orthodox slates because he felt that at least one group focused their campaign on being anti-Reform Judaism.

Continued on Page A10

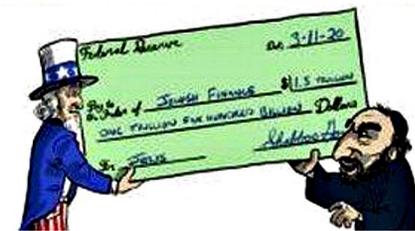
Soros — a favorite target of far-right groups and governments — is behind the spread of coronavirus.

Islamist organizations have adopted a similarly aggressive perspective on the crisis, meanwhile.

The Washington, DC-based think tank Middle East Media and Research Institute (MEMRI) revealed that a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in the US had called on his comrades to infect Egyptian diplomats with the coronavirus.

The current Egyptian regime headed by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi overthrew the country’s Muslim Brotherhood government in 2013.

“Whoever has flu-like symptoms — cold, fever, sneezing — should pay a visit to his ‘friends’ who work for Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi’s government,” said Baghat Saber — a supporter of the Islamist



A propaganda image shared online by neo-Nazis alleging that Jews are profiting financially from the coronavirus pandemic. Photo: ADL.org

organization who lives in New York.

“If you have contracted coronavirus, you should exact revenge! Avenge yourself, avenge the honor of your women, avenge the people who are in prison, and avenge the oppressed people. Go there. Why die alone? When you die, why die alone?” Saber exhorted.

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Opinion.

Inspiring American Youth When Coronavirus Demands Altruism



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

I grew up in Miami but never participated in the spring break ritual, because I was studying in a yeshiva. So no doubt there is a tinge of jealousy in seeing thousands of young men and women partying on the beaches of Texas and Florida while I'm cooped up in the freezing cold of New Jersey and New York.

My overwhelming feeling, however, is confusion at seeing this spectacle juxtaposed with the stories of the COVID-19 virus stacking up bodies around the world.

These young people are aware of the global crisis. They know that people are dying, that tens of thousands are infected, and that our country is on the verge of paralysis as we are asked to stay in our homes to prevent the spread of the disease. Yet, we see them frolicking in the sea, potential carriers of the disease who are putting other people at risk and endangering themselves.

But even if those who say we're overreacting are right, shouldn't those taking part in the partying scene feel that it's unseemly at a time when so many are suffering?

But a lot of people just don't seem to give a damn. I saw one spring breaker interviewed on TV. When he was asked whether he was worried about the virus, he said something along the lines of, "Whether I get the virus or not, I'm going to keep partying."

OK. I'm not entirely surprised. Young people are often narcissistic and believe they are invincible. They've also been lulled into complacency by reports that the most vulner-

able people are elderly, and that if young people do get the disease, it's not much worse than the flu. Well, now we're getting more information and it turns out that new CDC data indicates nearly 40% of patients sick enough to be hospitalized were age 20 to 54. A lot of you folks on the beach fall into that range.

Adults in charge of our health bear responsibility as well. While most large cities are shutting everything down outside of grocery stores, pharmacies, and hospitals, officials in Texas and Florida apparently were less concerned with the spread of the virus than the potential damage to their economy if they shut down the beaches. This is irresponsible and sends the message to young people that what they are doing is just fine, damn the consequences.

We're fortunate that the youth of today have not been forced to learn the meaning of sacrifice. When I was in yeshiva in New York a rabbi told us that during the Holocaust, American Jewry knew Jews were being annihilated and they'd tell kids in yeshiva to do something to show they cared, to sacrifice something, even if it was as trivial as giving up eating candy to demonstrate empathy for the suffering of Jews elsewhere. Obviously, this was not going to save anyone in Europe. But the point was to teach children that when the world is on fire and people are suffering, you should minimize your pleasure activities.

This isn't the Holocaust or World War II. God willing, we will take the necessary measures and our medical researchers will discover a vaccine to flatten the curve and minimize the sickness, death, and economic pain caused by the virus.

Right now, virtually the entire world is suffering. People are really scared. Imagine

though how it must look to people in, say, Italy, where the pandemic is taking thousands of lives, to see pictures of young Americans partying on the beach. They must be appalled by the insensitivity and indifference to the people around them, as well as their own health. They probably are wondering how many of the beachgoers may go to visit their grandparents and bring the virus with them.

I understand that confining hundreds of thousand of teenagers to their rooms is impractical. Believe me, my family and I are going a bit stir crazy. But they also have a future to consider.

Of course, not every teenager is partying at the beach. This is a generation that has demonstrated the potential to teach their elders lessons about what it takes to save the world. They are fighting for social justice and the need to address things like unnecessarily harming the environment. Now is the time to harness that positive energy for the benefit of America.

They are less susceptible to the disease and, if they're careful and follow the health guidelines, they can be helping people who are suffering and desperately need help. I saw a clip on the news of two people who played their instruments on the porch of an elderly woman living alone. There are other ways to help people confined to their homes feel less isolated. This is the time for young people to prove they can be the next great generation.

We're dealing with an emergency now, but we should already start planning for the future so our youth can develop greater sensitivity, a sense of pride, and a realization that they have an obligation to their country. Israelis learn these attributes serving in the military — men for nearly three years and



Police and medical officials are seen at the entrance to the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv, which is being converted into a coronavirus clinic. Photo: screenshot.

women for two.

Our teens don't have to make many sacrifices for this country. Is it too much to ask every high school graduate to commit a year to helping their fellow Americans?

One of the great things about young people today is that many are enthusiastic about public service. We see this when students volunteer to help communities after national disasters. It should not be that onerous to ask every student to participate in a project that will truly make America greater.

If college is only three years, they will be finished with school at the same time as if they'd gone straight to a four-year school. An added benefit is that students and their parents would save a fortune in tuition and loans.

We need a year of national service to make our youth more sensitive, generous, and happy. President Trump can encourage a new moral regeneration by leading the call for a year of national service and offering incentives for participation.

The current crisis will not be our last. We will be far better prepared for the next one if we have an army of people dedicated to serving the needs of their fellow Americans.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," whom *The Washington Post* calls "the most famous Rabbi in America," is the author of *Judaism for Everyone and Renewal: The Seven Central Values of the Jewish Faith*. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

A Jew's Home Is His or Her Temple



PINI DUNNER
LOS ANGELES

Last week, I was meant to have been in Fort Lee, New Jersey for a rabbinical seminar, but it was obviously canceled, although part of the conference was shared via a Zoom conference. We are all having to become experts at Zoom conferencing as we remain housebound over the coming period.

One of the rabbis who was to attend the seminar was a friend of mine, Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, who for the past 12 years has been the rabbi at the Charlotte Torah Center in North Carolina. Charlotte is hardly known for its rich and varied Jewish history — although one of its earliest Jewish residents, Samuel Wittkowsky, has an interesting and much overlooked place in the history of Jews in the United States.

In early 1865, as the American Civil War was winding down, Wittkowsky was living in Statesville North Carolina. At some point, the pro-Confederate state governor Zebulon B. Vance was forced to move to Statesville with

his family to escape the approaching Union forces. But within a short period of time, the unionists had arrived there too, and Vance was unceremoniously arrested.

The Union troops that were sent to take him to Washington, DC had only packhorses to transport him, so Wittkowsky, who had befriended Vance during this period, volunteered to drive the governor in his personal carriage to Salisbury, from where he took a train to the capital. Vance never forgot this kindness, and the friendship continued until Vance died almost 30 years later, with Wittkowsky delivering the lead eulogy at his funeral.

In and of itself, this is a remarkable anecdote. But this one act of kindness resulted in much more than a warm friendship between such an unlikely pair. Vance, who was soon released from jail without being charged, went on to become governor again, and later on, the US senator for his state.

Both a mesmerizing orator and a prolific writer, Vance was widely known and respected in his day. In 1870, he began a national speaking tour using the text of a monograph he had written titled "The Scattered Nation" as the basis of his oration. Without any question whatsoever, and though Vance's historical actions on race are debated today, "The Scattered Nation" is one of the

most philosemitic tracts written by a gentile in modern history.

In the words of the late interfaith philanthropist Herman Blumenthal, this remarkable speech — which Vance gave many hundreds of times across the country — was "a masterpiece," charting the contributions of the Jewish people to the world, and ending with an impassioned plea for an end to antisemitism, and for Jews to be treated well.

It was one of the first times in American history that a high-profile Christian both publicly and impactfully advocated on behalf of Jews to fellow Christians, and it was likely, in part, inspired by one small act of kindness done for him by a long-forgotten Jew from North Carolina.

In any event, despite the superlative love for Jews by Zebulon Vance, Jewish life in North Carolina never amounted to much, neither then nor since, and of the just over 3,000 Jews who live in Charlotte, only a few dozen or so are members of Rabbi Oppenheim's Orthodox outpost, which makes the piece he sent out to fellow rabbis earlier this week all the more extraordinary.

Here it is, in full:

My first Rosh Hashanah sermon in Charlotte was based on the following quote, written in Frankfurt, Germany in the 19th century by Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch. Rav Hirsch bemoaned the fact that in his time, as in our time, the synagogue had become the main focus for most Jews. But is that really so bad? I urge you to consider what he wrote more than 180 years ago — that our Jewish identity should permeate all aspects of our life in the values and guide-

lines it gives us for home, business, and relationships — and judge for yourselves.

Perhaps the most radical idea in a time of confusion and the loss of all values would be the provisional closing of all Synagogues! Let such an idea not frighten the reader. The closing of all Synagogues would not affect or alter the precepts of the Divine Law one iota... The closing of all Synagogues through Jewish hands would constitute the loudest protest against the denial of Divine Law in life and home; it would give the most drastic emphasis to the truth that Divine Judaism embraces and dominates the totality of Jewish life and does not find its fulfillment in the halls of prayer and worship. God's Temple and His Law must rule and shape our daily lives — this would affect the lasting cure for all our ailments." (Collected Writings of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, Vol. 1, pp. 390-391).

Rav Hirsch's words are so powerful, but they are especially powerful when shared by someone like Rabbi Oppenheim in his inaugural address for whom every single person in his shul matters — perhaps the difference between having a minyan or not, and certainly between presiding over a successful community and a struggling group of stragglers.

But even in those first moments as the rabbi in Charlotte, he pressed home the point that shul must never become the only focus of one's Jewish life. Indeed, if we are to succeed as Jews, it must be our homes that become our spiritual sanctuaries, brimming with Judaism and Jewish life. And now Rav Hirsch's fateful

Continued on Page A7

Opinion.

The Truth About Coronavirus and Gaza



DANIEL POMERANTZ-
PHILADELPHIA

In a stunning display of anti-Israel demonization, Reuters promotes the myth that restrictions on Gaza are somehow comparable to global quarantines defending against the COVID-19 coronavirus.

In the article, Reuters shares a number of tweets from Gaza residents such as this one:

We in Gaza have been living this for 14 years.

Reuters did not commit an ethical breach by sharing tweets from Gaza residents: Gaza is a part of our world and is deemed newsworthy.

However, as a body of professional journalists, Reuters has a duty to also share context and balance. For example, Reuters —

Makes no mention of the 11,560 rockets fired from Gaza into Israel that necessitated a blockade in the first place.

Shares no balancing tweets from the Israelis who have lived (and died) under that rocket fire.

Makes no mention of the massive arms shipments from Iran that the Gaza blockade has prevented, nor how many innocent Israeli

lives were saved as a result.

Fails to mention that Hamas (the group that rules Gaza) is officially designated as a terror organization by Australia, Canada, Egypt, the EU, Israel, the UK, and the United States.

Fails to mention that the Hamas founding charter commits the terror group to the total destruction of all of Israel.

Does not even mention the significant cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian health officials.

For a quick peek into some of Israel's containment measures and general updates, below is a recording of a "livestream" we broadcast last week. Though the situation is continuing to change, this gives at least a bit of an insight into the evolving nature of daily life in Israel.

There are many international stories relevant to COVID-19: Italy's desperate measures, South Korea's massive testing, the UK and its backtracking from a unique "herd immunity" approach — even Israel with its aggressive containment strategy and furious work toward a vaccine.

However, this Reuters article is not relevant to COVID-19 nor is it newsworthy in that context. Instead, this article reads like a transparent excuse to say something negative about Israel at any cost: even at the cost of basic journalistic ethics.

Continued from Page A6
Temple

words have come to pass, in a way no one would have ever anticipated.

Dearest friends — now more than ever before, as we are all forced to abandon our synagogues and schools, and are confined to our homes with our families — or alone — until this crisis is behind us, as it surely will be, we must find the strength to turn our homes into temples of faith.

Sing zemirot at the Shabbat table, even if you never sing them normally. Read the parsha and share what you have read with

your spouse, your children, or just enjoy it yourself. Say the blessings in Hebrew out loud, and pray the prayers using the tunes we use in shul.

And when we eventually reconvene at our shul, let us bring the fervor and spirituality of our homes back to the shul with us. Let the shul be the cream on the cake, while our homes become the staple of our Jewish identity going forward. Our survival as Jews could depend on it.

Rabbi Pini Dunner is the senior spiritual leader of the Beverly Hills Synagogue.

Coronavirus and Muslim Clerics



EDY COHEN
JERUSALEM

On hearing initial reports of the deadly spread of coronavirus in China, many in the Arab world rejoiced. Arab social media threads called the virus Allah's will to punish the Chinese for their cruel treatment of the Uighur Muslims of western China.

When the virus broke through China's borders and landed in Iran, the Arab world was even happier. Images of Iran's suffering as a result of coronavirus, and discussion of its rapid spread throughout the country, went viral on social media.

Again, many Arabs claimed this was Allah's wrath, this time over Iran's heinous treatment of Sunni Muslims in Iraq, Yemen,

and Syria.

When the coronavirus first began infiltrating the wider Middle East after its initial outbreak in Iran, many in the Arab world thought it might be an Iranian conspiracy. Arab populations succumbed to widespread panic and fear. Governments throughout the region, scrambling to contain the virus, closed mosques and shut down most of society. Even Islam's holy cities of Mecca and Medina closed their sacred sites — the first time public prayer has ceased in those cities since the time of Muhammad.

It's hard to discern the current extent of coronavirus infection in these countries due to a lack of governmental transparency. Egypt and Jordan remain in complete denial about the threat of the virus, falsely telling their people and the world that they have yet to identify a single case.

The International Union for Muslim

New York Times Backs Cellphones to Fight Virus Everywhere Except Israel



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

A *New York Times* news article from Israel is faulting Prime Minister Netanyahu for combating the coronavirus with measures similar to those the *Times* itself, in a different article published the same day, says experts recommend.

Here's the side-by-side comparison. The *Times* article about Israel reports, "Mr. Netanyahu has resorted to emergency regulations to usher in increasingly draconian measures to combat the spread of the virus. Those included authorizing the Shin Bet internal security agency to use cellphone data to track citizens, without any parliamentary oversight." The language — "resorted," "draconian," "without any parliamentary oversight" — makes it clear enough that the *Times* disapproves. Draco, a 7th century BCE Athenian lawgiver, favored the death penalty for anyone who stole a cabbage or an apple, according to Plutarch.

And here's the front-page *New York Times* news article from the same day's newspaper, under the introductory language, "There is a chance to stop the coronavirus ... doing so takes intelligent, rapidly adaptive work by health officials. ... What follows are the recommendations offered by the experts interviewed by the *Times*."

The *Times* says, "Everyone who is infected in South Korea goes into isolation in government shelters, and phones and credit card data are used to trace their prior movements and find their contacts. Where they walked before they fell ill is broadcast to the cellphones

of everyone who was nearby. Anyone even potentially exposed is quarantined at home; a GPS app tells the police if that person goes outside. The fine for doing so is \$8,000. British researchers are trying to develop a similar tracking app, albeit one more palatable to citizens in Western democracies."

The same *Times* article reports, "China's strategy is quite intrusive: To use the subway in some cities, citizens must download an app that rates how great a health risk they are. South Korean apps tell users exactly where infected people have traveled."

So when it's South Korea, Britain, and China using cellphones to fight Covid-19, the *Times* basically cheers them on, describing them as expert-recommended. Yet when the Israeli prime minister, Netanyahu, does a version of the same thing, the *Times* casts shade. It's a classic *Times* double standard.

The only thing missing is for the disease to spread to Palestinian-controlled Gaza or areas of the West Bank, or for that matter, in Israel itself, and the *Times* then to blame Netanyahu for failing to use cellphone data to prevent the spread. It's a safe bet that whatever Netanyahu does with the coronavirus and cellphones, the *Times* will find a way to criticize him.

Defenders of the *Times* may point out that, in this instance, the newspaper is just reporting on complaints made by Israel's democratic opposition and civil society, rather than generating the complaints. Fair enough, but somehow such complaints about Netanyahu get a lot more traction with the *Times* than do opposition complaints in South Korea, Britain, or China.

Ira Stoll was managing editor of The Forward and North American editor of The Jerusalem Post.

Scholars (IUM) released a religious edict forbidding Muslims from praying at mosques and calling on them to protect themselves from infection. The IUM urged Muslims to pray at home and stay away from holy sites.

On social media, it appears that many are placing their hope on Israel and the Jews to find a cure or develop a vaccine for the virus. A survey was distributed among Arabs asking whether they would purchase a vaccine developed in Israel. Placing their health first, the majority answered in the affirmative.

Iran's Ayatollah Nasir Makarim Shirazi released a surprising statement on this matter. He said there is no prohibition in Islamic law against purchasing medicine or a vaccine from Israel, provided there is no other country from which to acquire it. In other words, the prohibition against doing business with the Zionist entity has exceptions.

In an unusual sermon, Jordanian MP, former minister, and lecturer at the University of Amman Muhammad Abdulhamid Qudah called the coronavirus a "soldier of Allah," and said it had been sent to punish both the West and Muslims. He claimed Allah is angry with the world, especially Muslims, because they have failed to obey him.

Bashir bin Hassan, a controversial Salafist cleric in Tunisia, posted on his Facebook account, which has 500,000 followers, that the Chinese are being punished by Allah because of the siege they have set against the Uighur Muslims. According to the radical cleric, Allah

has many soldiers, including both angels and viruses. He said that just as Allah drowned Pharaoh's soldiers in the sea, he is similarly granting victory to the Uighurs.

Kuwaiti cleric Othman Khamis stated in a sermon on his YouTube channel that this is not the first time Allah has visited his wrath upon the world: he also sent a mosquito to kill Nimrod and unleashed the 10 plagues to punish the Egyptians. The coronavirus is thus another warning to humanity from Allah. The only solution is to return to him and follow his ways; only then will the virus disappear.

There is no doubt that coronavirus is a matter of serious concern not just to the West, but to the Arab world as well. Unfortunately, Muslim clerics are exploiting the precarious situation and inciting their constituencies throughout the region. They have millions of followers on their social media channels and can spread their messages to huge numbers of people very quickly. The clerics' sermons have the ultimate purpose of instilling fear in their listeners to convince them to adopt a religious way of life.

Dr. Edy Cohen is a researcher at the BESA Center and author of the book The Holocaust in the Eyes of Mahmoud Abbas (Hebrew).

A version of this article was originally published by Israel Today and The BESA Center.

Impressions.

Finding the Silver Lining in COVID-19

BY TARA MIZRACHI

It is often the challenging times that we remember the best — and learn from the most. They are also our proudest moments, if we rose to the occasion, and our most shameful moments, if we failed the test before us.

For our kids, who now have lots of time with mom and dad, they may remember this time as the most memorable of their lives, the most fun. The time they were able to be with their family.

As parents, we may learn that the most valuable gift we can give our kids is not a new iPad or a cell phone, but rather an hour of undivided attention, an hour of fun adventure taking a walk or having a picnic, an hour of listening to what is truly important — what is on their mind and in their heart at this moment.

Children also rise to the occasion. During the Holocaust, it was the children who crawled through the sewers and the small cracks in the walls to escape the ghettos, and bring food back to their families. During the pogroms, it was the 13-year-old kids who made their way to America and worked in sweat shops to earn money to bring their families to America. During war time, it has been the 18-year olds who saved the world from tyranny. King David was a boy when he defeated Goliath.

Looking back, we may find that our kids are more resilient than we would have ever thought.

As we “teach our children diligently,” as the Torah commands, and they rise to the occasion as they often do, we may ask ourselves: Are we giving them the message that they need — or are we entrusting that to a school system to feed them, educate them, and teach them their values?



A medical worker wearing a protective mask and suit treats patients suffering from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in an intensive care unit at the Oglio Po hospital in Cremona, Italy, March 19, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Flavio Lo Scalzo.

Are we teaching our children by example that in their over-scheduled lives, they are being robbed of their time to enjoy the present moment? We have to ask ourselves: Why is depression and loneliness so prevalent in this time when there is so much to do? Perhaps with our manufactured recreations temporarily suspended, we will find that going for a walk or having a conversation is not overrated after all.

During this time of COVID-19, we are losing jobs, investments, and lives. For those of us who do not work in health care, public safety, or trucking, we are gaining time — time to be with our loved ones. And we may learn that time is the most precious thing of all.

Tara Mizrachi is a former US Army wife and the author of *Software for the Soul: Psalms for Everyone — discovering the inner meanings*. She hosts www.psalmonline.org.

New Jersey Middle School Students Keep Holocaust Memories Alive With Documentaries on Survivors

BY GARY SHAPIRO

“Kids can change the world,” said Tova Fish-Rosenberg, founder of Names, Not Numbers — a national non-profit that is an intergenerational Holocaust oral history film documentary project.

She was speaking of students from Kellman

this year at Kellman Brown Academy had never spoken before publicly about their ordeal.

Rosenberg said she hoped the project would have an effect on countering antisemitism. “It’s a teaching tool that shows that if you are not tolerant, this is where it can lead,” she noted.

Rosenberg pointed out, “These students will



Students from Kellman Brown Academy and KIPP Lanning Square Middle School pose with Holocaust survivor Jack Beer (seated in front). Photo: Kellman Brown Academy.

Brown Academy, a Jewish day school in Voorhees, New Jersey, and KIPP Lanning Square Middle School, based in Camden, New Jersey, who divided into small groups and interviewed Holocaust survivors on film.

The students took turns at every step in creating an oral history documentary. The project provides hands-on experience in researching a Holocaust survivor’s history, preparing questions, filming an interview and editing it using broadcast-quality equipment.

“These students are witnesses to the witnesses,” said Rosenberg, who is both director of the Hebrew Language Department and director of special programs at Yeshiva University High Schools.

As part of the program, a journalist comes into the school to give tips on how to conduct an interview for an oral history.

“Yes or no questions don’t work,” said Rosenberg. One regular question for the Holocaust survivor is, “What is your message to our generation?”

The students form personal connections with the elderly interviewees, who have witnessed harrowing history firsthand. The oral histories can have a long-lasting impact on its makers.

Rosenberg recalls a student once saying, “I have every word of my survivor embedded in my mind.”

She said the project is all the more important as the number of living survivors continues to dwindle.

Two of the six Holocaust survivors interviewed

never be antisemitic, because they see the end result of that.”

The oral histories will be added to the collections of the National Library of Israel, Yad Vashem and Yeshiva University’s Gottesman Library.

Ellen Barmach, the middle school social studies teacher at Kellman Brown Academy, said one student invited the Holocaust survivor, whom he had interviewed, to his bar mitzvah.

Another student dedicated a candle in honor of his interviewee at the school’s Hanukkah menorah-lighting ceremony. “It was a memorable moment,” she said.

Kellman Brown Academy Principal Rachel Zivic said that alumni have said the project was the most life-changing, inspirational experience they had at school.

Zivic sees the students imbued with a sense of responsibility of carrying on the legacy of the survivors.

“It’s something that they’ll always remember,” said Sarah Watson, who teaches at KIPP in Camden. “It really was priceless.”

Zivic said, “Names, Not Numbers exemplifies Jewish values we’re trying to instill in our students: tikkun olam (healing the world), responsibility, empathy, respect, and transmitting our tradition. It speaks to every core value we have as a Jewish people and certainly as a Jewish day school.”

Continued on Page A9

Legal Notice.

Opinion.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: THE FIX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/07/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC 315 3RD Avenue,2ND floor Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/28; 3/6/13/20/27; 4/3

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MKE BY DEE,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 01/07/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall mail copy of process to:Diana Perez 226 97th St.Apt. C3 Brooklyn, NY 11209. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 3/6/13/20/27; 4/3/10

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificate-holders of the CWABS 2005-06, Plaintiff AGAINST Woodrow Lynch, Albi B. Etoh, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 8/16/2018 and entered on 9/12/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on April 09, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 883 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 1704, LOT: 67. Approximate amount of judgment is \$497,543.45 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 509810/2015. Jageshwar Sharma, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 3/6/13/20/27;

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: TRILLIAN VFX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 12/23/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Victoria Osborn 836 Bergen St., Apt. 402, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 3/13/20/27; 4/3/10/17

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC).Name: JK SYCAMORE LLC.Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 12/17/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The limited liability company 316 10th Street. Apt. #1 Brooklyn, NY 11215 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 3/13/20/27; 4/3/10/17

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, HIC ACQUISITIONS I, INC., Plaintiff, vs. NELSON RODRIGUEZ, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale with Bill of Cost duly filed on August 22, 2016, and an Order for Extension of Time to Conduct Foreclosure filed January 22, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on April 16, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 42 Eldert Lane, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 4112 and Lot 67. Approximate amount of judgment is \$691,093.16 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 876/2014. Scott Harris Klein, Esq., Referee Greenspoon Marder LLP, 590 Madison Avenue, Suite 1800, New York, NY 10022, Attorneys for Plaintiff AJ; 3/13/20/27; 4/3/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: PEACHES PRIME LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 02/04/2020. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to : peaches prime LLC 590 Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/21/28; 3/6/13/20/27

SUPREME COURT – COUNTY OF KINGS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION S/B/M CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, Plaintiff against CAROLINE THUNDER, Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 28, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY, on the 16th day of April, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 711 Schenck Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. 11207. (Block: 4308, Lot: 32). Approximate amount of lien \$ 938,870.75 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 14657-13. Bruno Codispoti, Esq., Referee. FEIN SUCH & CRANE, LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, NY. 14614 (585) 232-7400 AJ; 3/13/20/27; 4/3/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P, Plaintiff, vs. MERLEY ALLEYNE A/K/A MERLEY C. ALLEYNE, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on June 1, 2017 and an Order Pursuant to CPLR 2004 Extending the Time to Set Sale and to Ratify Sale Nunc Pro Tunc filed June 14, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on April 23, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 9101 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected,

LEGAL NOTICE

situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 8275 and Lot 9. Approximate amount of judgment is \$365,355.18 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 510655/2015. Jageshwar Sharma, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff Cash will not be accepted. AJ; 3/20/27; 4/3/10

PROBATE CITATION – File No. 2019-1296 - SURROGATE'S COURT - QUEENS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Public Administrator of Queens County, Adele Ledas the heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Mirga Viciulis, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence A petition having been duly filed by Laima Sileikis-Hood who is/are domiciled at 40 Fifth Ave, Apt. 13B, New York, NY 10011 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica RM 62, New York, on June 25th, 2020, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Mirga Viciulis lately domiciled at 86-11 Whitney Ave, 6D, Elmhurst, New York 11373, United States admitting to probate a Will dated January 18, 2018, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Mirga Viciulis deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: Letters Testamentary issue to Laima Sileikis-Hood Dated, Attested and Sealed, March 19, 2020 - HON. Peter J. Kelly, Surrogate – James Lim Becker, Chief Clerk Attorney for Petitioner: Michael D. Lissner, Esq. Firm: Lissner & Lissner LLP Address of Attorney: 162 W. 56th Street, Suite 506, New York, NY 10019 Telephone Number (212) 307-1499 [NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.] AJ; 3/27; 4/3/10/17



Continued from Page A2 Israel's Critics

South Korea, a fellow democracy, and one that has won some plaudits for its handling of the coronavirus, closed both its legislature and its courts as early as February 25. Unlike Israel, South Korea wasn't always a democracy. Indeed, the country has been a democracy for less than four decades, having had periods of both coups and military rule, and the reign of strongman Syngman Rhee among others. Yet, one doesn't see pundits taking to news pages and

calling South Korea a "coronavirus dictatorship."

Canada, Scotland, South Africa, and local governments within Australia and the US, are just some examples of democratic entities that have temporarily suspended, in some form, activities of parliament and/or postponed upcoming elections. Several governments, including Israel, have had legislators test positive for the coronavirus. Gorenberg omits this context.

Gorenberg also cites as evidence the Israeli government's use of advanced technology, used to counter terrorists, to monitor outbreaks of COVID-19. Gorenberg is not alone in expressing these concerns. But as the *Times'* editor in chief, David Horowitz, noted, "Furious rights groups and political activists, profoundly worried about the possible abuse of the monitoring capabilities, not to mention data falling into dangerous hands, immediately petitioned the Supreme Court, which on Thursday ruled that the potentially life-saving surveillance would have to stop if appropriate parliamentary oversight is not introduced by this coming Tuesday."

Gorenberg omits this last and crucial detail about the Court's ruling; instead he ominously writes that "Netanyahu enacted it under emergency regulations." Well, yes. That can — and perhaps must — happen in a fast-moving pandemic unfolding in a country with political gridlock. But it seems clear that Israel's parliamentary oversight and courts are working to, as much as possible, ensure public safety while being mindful of civil liberties. This is not evidence, as Gorenberg would have it, of a "coup."

That hyperbole serves no one. It is, however, an example of how welded to a narrative many reporters and pundits are. Gorenberg, for example, has spent years casting many Israeli politicians as authoritarian. A front-page March 21 *Washington Post* report on the impact of the coronavirus on the Middle East offers other examples.

The *Post* correctly notes that the Middle East is particularly vulnerable to bad outcomes from the coronavirus, citing Libya, Syria, Yemen, and the Gaza Strip, among other countries. But, when it comes to Gaza, the newspaper fails to explore why. The *Post* omits that the enclave is ruled by Hamas, a US-designated terror group which has a long and documented history of investing in rockets, missiles, and terror instead of healthcare, education, and infrastructure for its people. If, as the *Post* writes, Gazans are "packed within a quarter-square-mile of density and despair ready made for a coronavirus explosion" and are "ill-equipped to respond," the role of Hamas, which has misused aid money and used concrete meant for buildings to construct terror tunnels, should be detailed.

Regrettably, the newspaper also omitted the steps that Israel has taken to help Palestinians and others. To date, Israel has delivered hundreds of medical kits and

supplies, including coronavirus tests, as well as protective gear, to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which rules the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). Indeed, the PA and Israel have established a "joint operations room to combat the virus," as *The Jerusalem Post* reported on March 18 — days before *The Washington Post's* report.

During the time of a global pandemic, Israel, like other countries, is taking drastic action. The world is changing — fast. Regrettably those who seek to single out the Jewish state aren't.

Sean Durns is a Senior Research Analyst for CAMERA, the 65,000-member, Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis.

Continued from Page A8 Documentaries

"We hope it will propel them to continue the work of tikkun olam (healing the world) for the rest of their lives," she added.

"I'm humbled by the maturity in which they approach this," Zivic said, "It teaches them at a formative age that they can really contribute to the world and make a meaningful difference."

Brett Mellul, who graduated from Kellman Brown Academy two years ago and is now a sophomore at Cherry Hill High School East, said the program was one of the most meaningful experiences he has had.

He said it made one come to see the power of both love and hatred. "It also opened my eyes and made me appreciate everything I have," he stated.

One thing that many survivors emphasize is the importance of tolerance. and standing up right away in the face of intolerance.

The Names, Not Numbers project was born 16 years ago when Rosenberg, who was then a day school principal in Pennsylvania, received a letter from the state saying that she was eligible to apply for an intergenerational grant.

She said the project seeks to reverse what the Nazis did.

"They were taking away people's identity and made them an object with a number. The films restore the identity of each survivor," said Rosenberg.

Since its inception approximately 6,000 students and 2,500 survivors have participated in the project. This year, there have been films from dozens of schools in US, Canada, and Israel.

Linda Sarlui who is the granddaughter of two Holocaust survivors and a parent of two students at Kellman Brown Academy, said that getting non-Jewish students involved in the project was really worthwhile.

She added that this was particularly so, since what happened to the Jews must never again happen to anybody.

Tradition.

The Prophetic View of Sacrifice



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

Sacrifices, the subject of this week's parsha, were central to the religious life of biblical Israel. We see this not only by the sheer space devoted to them in the Torah, but also by the fact that they occupy its central book, Vayikra.

We have not had the sacrificial service since the destruction of the second Temple almost 2000 years



ago. What is deeply relevant today, however, is the critique of sacrifices we find among the Prophets of the first Temple. That critique was sharp and deep and formed many of their most powerful addresses. One of the earliest was delivered by the Prophet Samuel: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to the Lord's command? Surely, obedience is better than sacrifice, compliance than the fat of rams" (1 Sam. 15:22).

Amos said in the name of God: "If you offer Me burnt offerings—or your meal offerings—I will not accept them; I will pay no heed to your gifts of fatlings ... But let justice well up like water, righteousness like a never-ending stream" (Amos 5:21-24). Likewise Hosea: "For I desire goodness, not sacrifice; obedience to God, rather than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6).

We find a similar critique in several Psalms. "Were I hungry, I would not tell you, for Mine is the world and all it holds. Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?" (Ps. 50:8-15). "Lord, open my lips, and let my mouth declare Your praise. You do not want me to bring sacrifices; You do not desire burnt offerings. True sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God, You will not despise a contrite and crushed heart" (Ps. 51:17-19).

Jeremiah seems to suggest that the sacrificial order was not God's initial intention: "For when I freed your fathers from the land of Egypt, I did not speak with them or command them concerning burnt

offerings or sacrifice. But this is what I commanded them: Do My bidding, that I may be your God and you may be My people; walk only in the way that I enjoin upon you, that it may go well with you" (Jer. 7:22-23).

Strongest of all is the passage at the beginning of the book of Isaiah that we read on Shabbat Chazon (before Tisha b'Av): "What need have I of all your sacrifices?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come

to appear before Me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of My courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to Me" (Is. 1:11-13).

This entire line of thought, sounded by many voices and sustained across centuries, is extraordinary. The people were being criticised not for disobeying God's law but for obeying it. Sacrifices were commanded. Their offering was a sacred act performed in a holy place. What then aroused the Prophets' anger and rebuke?

It was not that they were opposed to sacrifice as such. Jeremiah foresaw the day when "People shall come from the towns of Judah and from the environs of Jerusalem ... bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, meal offerings and frankincense, and bringing offerings of thanksgiving to the House of the Lord" (Jer. 17:26).

Likewise Isaiah: "I will bring them to My sacred mount and let them rejoice in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices shall be welcome on My altar, for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (Is. 56:7).

They were not criticising the institution of sacrifices. They were criticising something as real now as it was in their time. What distressed them to the core of their being was the idea that you could serve God and at the same time act disdainfully, cruelly, unjustly, insensitively or callously toward other people. "So long as I am in God's good graces, that is all that matters." That is the thought that made the

Prophets incandescent with indignation. If you think that, they seem to say, then you haven't understood either God or Torah.

The first thing the Torah tells us about humanity is that we are each in the image and likeness of God Himself. Therefore if you wrong a human being, you are abusing the only creation in the universe on which God has set His image. A sin against any person is a sin against God.

In the first mission statement of the Jewish people, God said about Avraham, "For I have chosen him that he may instruct his children and his posterity to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is just and right" (Gen. 18:19). The way of the Lord is to act justly and righteously toward your fellow human beings. In context, this meant that God was inviting Avraham to pray on behalf of the people of Sodom, even though he knew that they were wicked and sinners.

It is specifically in the book of sacrifices, Vayikra, that we find the twin commands to love your neighbour as yourself, and love the stranger (Lev. 19:18, 33-34). The sacrifices that express our love and awe of God should lead to love of the neighbour and the stranger. There should be a seamless transition from commands between us and God to commands between us and our fellow humans.

Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah all witnessed societies in which people were punctilious in bringing their offerings to the Temple, but in which there was bribery, corruption, perversion of justice, abuse of power and the exploitation of the powerless by the powerful. The Prophets saw in this a profound and dangerous contradiction.

The very act of bringing a sacrifice was fraught with ambiguity. Jews were not the only people in ancient times to have temples, priests and sacrifices. Almost everyone did. It was precisely here that the religion of ancient Israel came closest, outwardly, to the practices of their pagan neighbours. But the sacrificial systems of other cultures were based on totally different beliefs. In many religions sacrifices were seen as a way of placating or appeasing the gods. The Aztecs believed that sacrificial offerings fed the gods who sustained the universe. Walter Burkert speculated that the ancient Greeks experienced guilt when they killed animals for food, so they offered sacrifices as a way of appeasing their consciences.

All these ideas are alien to Judaism. God cannot be bribed or appeased. Nor can we bring Him anything that is not His. God sustains the universe: the universe does not sustain Him. And wrongs righted by sacrifice do not excuse other wrongs. So intention and mindset were essential in the sacrificial system. The thought that "If I bring a sacrifice to God, He will overlook my other faults" – in effect, the idea that I can bribe the Judge of all the earth – turns a sacred act into a pagan one, and produces precisely the opposite result than the one intended by the Torah. It turns religious worship from a way to the right and the good,

into a way of easing the conscience of those who practice the wrong and the bad.

To serve God is to serve humanity. That was the point made memorably by Micah: "He has told you, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: To do justice, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:6-8). Jeremiah said of King Josiah: "He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know Me? says the Lord" (Jer. 22:16). Knowing God, said Jeremiah, means caring for those in need.

Maimonides said essentially the same at the end of *The Guide for the Perplexed* (III, 54). He quotes Jeremiah: "Only in this should one glory: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," says the Lord" (Jer. 9:23). To know God is to know what it is to act with kindness, justice and righteousness.

The danger of the sacrificial system, said the Prophets, is that it can lead people to think that there are two domains, the Temple and the world, serving God and caring for one's fellow humans, and they are disconnected. Judaism rejects the concept of two disconnected domains. Halachically they are distinct, but psychologically, ethically and spiritually they are part of a single indivisible system.

I believe that to love God is to love our fellow humans. To honour God is to honour our fellow humans. We may not ask God to listen to us if we are unwilling to listen to others. We may not ask God to forgive us if we are unwilling to forgive others. To know God is to seek to imitate Him, which means, said Jeremiah and Maimonides, to exercise kindness, justice and righteousness on earth.

Shabbat Shalom

Continued from Page A5
World Zionist Congress

"While we are trying to promote pluralism and equality, they were busy saying they were running squarely against us," said Weinberg. "I think [the results] will be impactful, and we have our work cut out for us. I think that means American Jews really also love and are connected to Israel, and want to see our values reflected in Israel."

The Orthodox Israel Coalition-Mizrachi slate, representing the Modern Orthodox and Religious Zionist movements, won nearly 21,700 votes. The new Eretz HaKodesh slate, backed by the Young Israel movement, accounted for about 20,000 votes. Both groups pushed their communities extensively to vote in the hopes of ensuring that Israel follow Orthodox standards for issues like prayer at the Western Wall and conversation, and continue to fund religious institutions.

"Our motivation was to protect the holiness of the Land of Israel, and cultivate traditional Jewish practices and beliefs," Rabbi Pesach Lerner, president of the Coalition

for Jewish Values and the leader of the Eretz HaKodesh slate, said in a release.

Rabbi Moshe Parnes, dean of the Hollywood Community Kollel in Hollywood, Fla., added that "it's so rewarding to see how many Jews, especially younger voters, are invested in preserving the Jewish character of the State of Israel. This vote will help solidify the future of the Jewish people and unify the Jewish nation around its eternal, unchanging principles."

Said Rabbi Doron Perez, chief executive of the Mizrahi worldwide movement, said, "These results show the dedication and commitment of religious Zionists to safeguard nearly \$1 billion going to programs and services that help our community and world Jewry."

Rounding out the top four slates was Marcaz USA, which represents the interests of Conservative Jewry, with more than 14,600 votes.

About who shows up at the polls ...

Though the slate they ran on came in seventh, the National Council of Jewish Women were satisfied with the results. In a tweet, they wrote, "... it's official, NCJW is going to Congress! The World Zionist Congress that is. Thank you to everyone who voted in this historic election."

The women's group was part of the Hatkivah Progressive Israel slate, which also included left-wing groups Americans for Peace Now, J Street and the New Israel Fund. While some had expected the slate, which ran on a platform that included opposition to the "current policy of permanent occupation and annexation," to do better, Hatkivah pointed out online that it received 250 percent more votes in this current elections than last time: 7,932 votes vs. 3,148.

Surging ahead of the progressive left slate was the ZOA Coalition, led by the Zionist Organization of America, which received more than 10,000 votes.

"The Zionist Organization of America is thrilled to announce that a clear majority of the American delegates elected to the World Zionist Congress are devoted right-of-center, clear thinking, proud Zionists," the group said in a statement. "Our fabulous partners in Israel are also excited by these positive election results. ... [T]he ZOA Coalition received almost four times the number of votes in received in the previous election."

At the end of the day, the results end a clear message, said Sarna.

"I think that with all that's going on—meaning the national elections in the United States and the coronavirus—it was just harder for the non-Orthodox movements to make this a priority for their members, and they didn't show up at the polls. As result of that, the other side has more power," he explained. "The great lesson is if you don't show up, you may not get the kind of results that you would like. I think that will be the lesson for those unhappy with these results."

Social.



Emmy Rossum in "Shameless." Photo: Screenshot.

Amid Coronavirus Crisis, Jewish Actress Emmy Rossum Shares Plans to Focus on Shabbat

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Jewish actress Emmy Rossum told her Twitter followers on Friday about her plans to take Shabbat seriously this weekend, seemingly in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

The former star of Showtime's "Shameless" tweeted to her 873,000 followers, "I don't usually pray but I'm gonna Shabbat it UPPPPP on this Friday night."

Rossum, 33, who has said that she is "Jewish and proud," previously mentioned that her mother of Jewish-Russian descent taught her the "Jewish code of ethics and morals." The actress is married to Egyptian-American director Sam Esmail.

Rossum's Twitter post comes after fellow actress Julia Roberts shared on Instagram a poem about quarantining and social distancing that starts off by discussing Shabbat.

400,000 People Worldwide Tune in for Livestreamed Concert by Idan Raichel

BY JNS.org

More than 400,000 people from around the world tuned in to watch renowned Israeli musician Idan Raichel's livestreamed concert from his Tel Aviv living room on Sunday evening.

As part of the special event hosted by the Jewish Agency for Israel on its Facebook page, Raichel performed some of his most popular and uplifting songs, including his hit breakthrough song "Bo'ee" ("Come With Me"), while sending a message of hope and togetherness as the world grapples with the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is a time of solidarity around the world and of shared responsibility among Jewish communities,

wherever they may be. At a time when there are no social gatherings, we sought to bring a message of hope from Israel into the hearts and homes of people across the globe," said Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog.

Hundreds of Jewish Agency *shlichim* ("emissaries") who are volunteering in communities throughout the Jewish world joined in, as well as individuals and families from dozens of countries.

Raichel is considered to be one of the most prominent and successful musicians in Israel, who has brought his soul-stirring music to some of the world's biggest stages.

As the leader of The Idan Raichel Project, he acts as a musical ambassador representing a hopeful world in which artistic collaborations break down barriers

Israeli Opera Singer Serenades Quarantined Father Outside His Tel Aviv Apartment

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

An Israeli opera singer put a smile on her quarantined father's face by serenading him as she stood outside his apartment in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Irit Stark sang an improvised performance of "Habanera" from Georges Bizet's opera "Carmen" while her father watched from his second-story balcony.

"I was driving by with my son on the bicycle, and then I said to him, 'Let's say hello to grandma and grandpa who are in quarantine.' And then I said, 'Why don't we just sing a serenade to them just like grandpa sang to grandma when they were young,'" Stark



Irit Stark serenading her quarantined father in Tel Aviv. Photo: Screenshot.

recalled, according to an Associated Press report. "And then, of course he needed some persuasion, because he always shouts when I sing but eventually he allowed it, and then I just sang, that was it."

Stark's father, Michael, has been in quarantine since returning from a trip to Europe.

"It's absolutely refreshing. You know, being at home alone for 14 days is extremely difficult, and knowing that next morning your daughter will come and sing for you makes my day," Michael said.

Israel's Health Ministry confirmed on Monday that the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus infections in the country had reached 1,238, with 24 people being in serious condition.

between people of different backgrounds and beliefs. Over the years, Raichel has collaborated with musicians such as India.Arie, Dave Matthews and Alicia Keys. Earlier this year, he co-wrote the song "Feker Libi" by Eden Alene, which will represent Israel in the Eurovision Song Contest 2020.

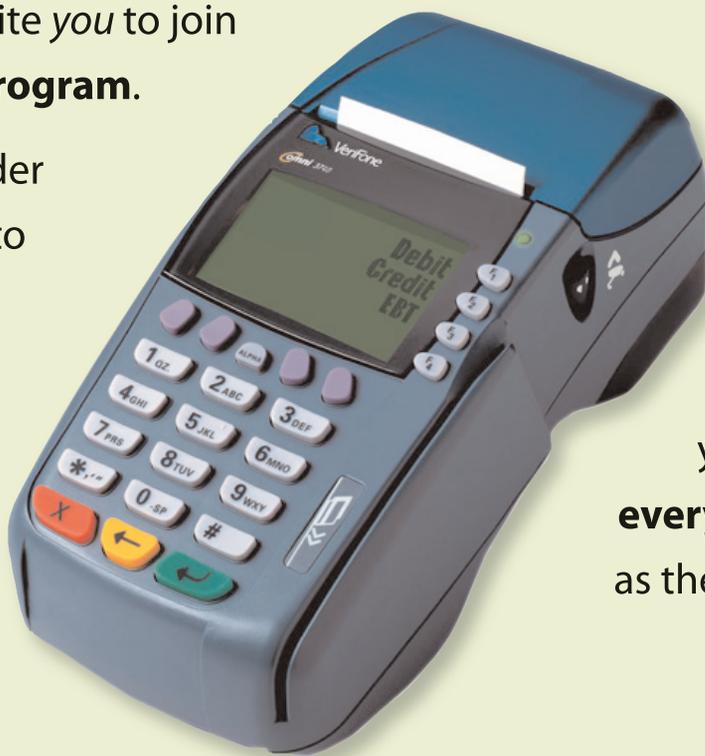
"I want to thank all our great friends from the Jewish Agency's communities all over the world," said Raichel during the performance. "The Tel Aviv streets are very, very quiet and very, very silent, but we're going to make some noise all over the world. ... To feel today that we are all as one."

Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

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