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Binge Worthy Shows for the Jew at Home

 outbreak of the Coronavirus has necessitated a halt to the social activities and interaction that drives our society, normally. To avoid infection and mitigate

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, services and events are temporarily suspended at Congregation Ahavas Sholom.

This Week's Torah Portion

Vayikra



Candle lighting
6:58 PM

Shabbat Ends
7:58 PM

the spread of this deadly disease, people have been advised, and in some countries compelled, to keep their distance from one another and to avoid events that would result in people meeting in large numbers. March madness was cancelled. Major League Baseball (MLB) has suspended Spring training and opening day has been postponed until April 9th, at the earliest. The National Basketball Association (NBA) has suspended the 2020 season indefinitely. The National Hockey Association (NHL) soon followed suit. AMC, the largest movie theater chain in the country announced they are closing their doors until further notice. Broadway has gone dark. Even the Tokyo Summer Olympics have been postponed until 2021

On the home front, many restaurants are deserted aside from those with drive through windows. Numerous houses of worship, including our very own Congregation Ahavas Sholom, have suspended services, temporarily.

 *have scheduled two Zoom meetings on March 28. One is at 10:30 in the morning; we will daven P'sukei d'zimrah and Shacharit, and maybe have a discussion about the Torah portion. The link is us04web.zoom.us/j/5841004860, and if the website requires you to give the meeting ID, it is 584-100-4860. The other is at 8:00 p.m., and we will do Havdalah. The link is us04web.zoom.us/j/834249363, and if the website requires you to give the meeting ID, it is (you guessed it) 834-249-363. I hope you downloaded an e-siddur if you don't have a print copy, and if enough people have siddurim, we will daven Ma'ariv before Havdalah.*

*Call me or e-mail me if you have any questions. Take care and be safe.
simon*

March 27, 2020

Many non-essential retail establishments such as beauty parlors, barbershops, and nail salons are closed or are open on a modified schedule; all to curb a pandemic that continues to spread. Consequently, many of us are spending far more time in the house than usual. Luckily, between network television, cable companies and an ever-growing collection of streaming services, there is a slew of binge worthy programming available for the Jew on lockdown.

This is a particularly fruitful time for Jewish -themed shows on the television. Though hard to fathom, there actually is an ample variety in Jewish-themed shows on today's small screens. Whether you prefer, comedy, drama, romance or camp there is a show out there for you. Be they documentaries, movies, standard shows, or in miniseries form, there are a plethora of shows available to keep us entertained, informed, and engaged. ✨

Congregation Ahavas Sholom

**President – Eric Freedman
Rabbi Simon Rosenbach
Cantor – Fred Grabiner
Gabbai - Hooshmand Delshad
Webmaster – Jeff Haveson
Scroll Editor – Bezalel Tim Lee**

Join us this Shabbat for a Torah Study Session with Congregation Ahavas Sholom Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



This saturday, March 28, 2020

10:30 am

us04web.zoom.us/j/5841004860

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



COUGH



***Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.**

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH



COVID-19 03/2020

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms

The Hunters –Amazon Prime- TV series (2020) 1h, crime drama, adventure, mystery



The premise of the show is simple; it's the 1970's, Nazis have slipped into the country and have ingrained themselves into the very fabric of American society. They were here, in America, and they definitely weren't here on a mission of good will. They were plotting something big; but what. Unbeknownst to them, the mysterious Meyer Offerman (Al Pacino) is actively hunting them for past misdeeds.

Jonah Heidelbaum (Logan Lerman), is a young Jewish man who, though intelligent, lacks direction. He lives with his grandmother, Ruth (Jeannie Berlin) selling a little grass on the side. One night, as he slept, his beloved grandmother is murdered. As Logan Sits Shiva for his grandmother, he meets Heidelbaum.

In time, Logan learns his grandmother held a secret he knew nothing about. Though he knew Ruth had been a Holocaust survivor; he was unaware she

had been imprisoned in Auschwitz concentration camp with Heidelbaum; and had no idea she was a Nazi hunter. In fact, it was Ruth who initially alerted Heidelbaum of the Nazi infiltration. The Hunters are a diverse collection of Nazi hunting vigilantes that includes Holocaust survivors, a former soldier, a failed actor, a former spy, a thief, a weapons expert, and a tough as nails, butt-kicking single mom. Fueled by a thirst to avenge his grandmother's death, Heidelbaum immediately wants to join the motley crew. However, the Nazis become aware that their members are being targeted and send out a hunter of their own.

Though the series, based on true events, covers a serious topic, it employs a combination of drama, action, suspense, and camp that makes it unique. Though admittedly somewhat controversial, it also offers hours of quirky fun. ✨

March 27, 2020

The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel -Amazon Prime-TV series (2017) 1h, comedy



Whereas Hunters is a new Amazon series, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel has become an Amazon Prime staple. Rachel Brosnahan Stars as Miriam 'Midge' Maisel, a 1950's era Jewish American Princess who has planned her life and worked her plan. Fittingly, she has it all; at least until her husband leaves her for another woman.



Suddenly alone, with two daughters in tow, in need of money, and possessing few marketable skills, Midge is forced to reevaluate her life and expectations.

However, Midge's wit, storytelling skills and comedic timing enables her to clandestinely embark on a career as a standup comedian, which ironically was her ex-husband's lifelong dream. The series follows Midge's journey into the male dominated world of stand-up comedy.

Midge is forced to pursue her career secretly, because if it became known it would be totally unseemly to most who knew her, particularly her family and ex-in-laws. The cast of The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel is superb, with Brosnahan, Alex Borstein, and Tony Shalhoub (of Monk fame) all winning Emmy Awards for their respective roles in 2019. ☆

SIMON

SAYS

Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

This Torah portion, as Leviticus generally, involves the minute detail of the sacrifices. Ritual ensures that you don't miss a step. Imagine pilots taking off without

going through a check-list. Imagine cooking by memory,

without following a recipe. I bake rye bread, and I omitted the salt, and I had to throw two loaves (three hours' work) in the garbage. I make waffles, and one time I omitted the salt and one other time I omitted the baking powder. When I omitted the salt the waffles were tasteless, and when I omitted the baking powder the waffles were one-eighth of an inch high.

In these times, attention to detail is very important. Stay away from each other. If you go to the store, wear a mask and gloves. Wash your hands for 20 seconds. If at all possible, leave non-perishable groceries in your garage or a similar place for two days, and wipe off the packages with sanitizing wipes, if you have them. Gayle and I last went to the supermarket on March 16, and we didn't buy any produce that didn't have a skin that you don't eat: cantaloupe, pineapple, bananas.

There is another meaning of "ritual," meaning religious observance. We have held the Temple Beth

Ahm Yisrael morning minyan every day this week, and I am glad that some people from the Ahavas Sholom community have participated. Jewish ritual can be comforting, so you are welcome to start the day with prayers.

I am going to buy the expanded version of Zoom, which allows us unlimited time. At 10:30 this Saturday, we will daven the preliminary service and Shacharit, and maybe we will have a discussion about

the Torah portion. Everybody (up to 100 people) is invited to join me to have Havdalah at 8:08 p.m. on Saturday night. If you don't have a siddur, follow the instruction that I included in a past e-mail to download an e-siddur. If you didn't get that e-mail or don't understand it, call me, 908-591-4037. I will put out a separate e-mail with the times and the Zoom links.

Keep well and keep safe.



Help us Remodel Our Kitchen

We need \$ 60,000, to remodel our kitchen properly.

April Modlinger, a long time pillar of Ahavas Sholom, got us started

with a generous pledge of \$10,000. Others have also pledged;

but we need more!

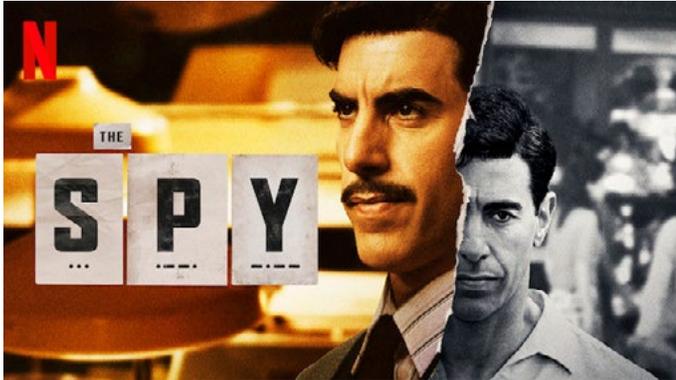
With your help the congregation will soon have a kitchen

that will serve us all for years to come.

**Please, Make your
Pledge Today!**

The Spy -Netflix – TV miniseries (2019)

1h, drama



In the early 1960's, with long simmering tensions between Israel and its surrounding neighbors, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria close to a boil, Mossad (Israeli intelligence) enlists Eli Cohen to spy on Syria. Egyptian-born Cohen is a Mizrahi Jew who works as an office clerk. When he first immigrates to Israel, he attempts to join the intelligence agency; but is turned away. However, as relations with Egypt and Syria continue to deteriorate, Mossad turns to him. They recruit Cohen for a very special mission, to infiltrate the Syrian hierarchy and report his findings to his superiors.



Through six months of hard work and rigorous training, Cohen transforms himself into Syrian businessman, Kamel Amin Thaabet. Under the guise of Thaabet, he spends years throwing lavish parties, hobnobbing with the wealthy and cultivating relationships with the Syrian elite.

To establish a plausible backstory and gain introduction into the Syrian fold Thaabet (Cohen) first travels to Argentina. There he frequents Arab establishments, attends important events and throws fabulous parties. Establishing relationships with members of the Syrian Ba'ath Party, which was illegal at the time, Thaabet makes invaluable contacts and gets access to political and military secrets when the Ba'ath Party takes control of the Syrian government. All the while, he's forwarding his findings to Israeli intelligence.

Though eventually captured by Syrian counter-intelligence the information Cohen transmits is instrumental to Israel's victory in the 1967's Six-day War. ✨

Our Boys -HBO- miniseries (2019) 1h, drama



Our Boys chronicles the aftermath of the 2014 kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens by Hamas militants.

A mere two days later, in apparent retaliation, the charred body of a missing Palestinian teen is found in the forest just outside the city.

Outrage over the murder of the innocent teens, permeates through the streets. People are livid and emotions high. All this makes Hussein Abu Khdeir (Johnny Arbid) extremely uneasy. He calls his son Mohammed and instructs him to come home ASAP; but Mohammed never returns.

The Police investigation into the killing moves along painfully slowly as many in Israeli government and society refuse to even consider such an atrocity could have been perpetrated by one of their own, insisting it must have been an Arab on Arab crime. But Hussein Abu Khdeir wants answers and justice for his slain son.

The case falls to Simon, an agent with the Jewish Division of the Shabak (the Israeli equivalent of America's FBI.) The story follows the investigation into Mohammed Abu Khdeir's murder, its shocking conclusion, and how it led to the 2014 Gaza War.

Some critics have suggested the miniseries glosses over the initial killing of the three Israeli teens; but, that's not the case; the story doesn't ignore those murders, it simply unfolds in the aftermath of those murders.

Our Boys, filmed entirely in Israel, is based on actual events. While any story exploring the Israeli/ Palestinian conflict is fodder for passionate debate, this is a powerful story of the anguish and loss experienced by both sides and worthy of consideration. ✨

Defiance- Netflix- feature movie (2008) 2h-17m, drama, action, historical drama



Defiance is a rarely told tale of survival and resilience during the Holocaust. As the Nazi war machine pushes deeper into Russian territory, Jews find themselves hunted like rabbits; however, this time they fight back.

Avoiding Nazis and collaborating police officials, smalltime criminal, Zus Bielski (Liev Schreiber) returns home with his brother Asael (Jamie Bell) to find their parents have been murdered. They find their little brother, Aron (George MacKay) safely hidden in the home's subfloor. Adept at avoiding the police, the



brothers make for the forest of Belorussia. Along the way they meet their brother, Tuvia Bielski (Daniel Craig.) The brothers resolve to stay in the dense forest. One day a small group of fleeing Jews stumble upon the Bielski's camp. Reluctantly, they take them in. With supplies running low, Tuvia calls on a gentile friend, Kosciak (Jacek Koman) for help. While they're toasting his father's memory, the police captain arrives at Kosciak's farm. Tuvia hides in the barn only to find another group of fleeing Jews already there. When the police leave, Kosciak insists Tuvia take them with him; he does, reluctantly and the group gets larger. Throughout the war the Bielski brothers establish a small community in the forest until the Nazis start closing in. ☆

Rambam: The Story of Maimonides – Amazon Prime- (2005) 1h-8m, religion, documentary, animation, kids

Not to leave out the kids, or those who are kids at heart, Rambam is an animated documentary that explores the life, teachings of Maimonides. Maimonides aka Rambam was born in the 12th century in Cordova Spain, he was a doctor, teacher, and philosopher with a unique ability to rationalize and clarify biblical scriptures. He was the first to unify and reconcile the rational with the reality of God. Other documentaries in the series include: Rashi and Of Heaven and Earth. ☆

Remembrance – Amazon Prime- feature movie (2011) 1h-45m, drama, romance, war



Remembrance is a tender wartime love story full of nuance, tenderness, and heart. Imprisoned in the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp, where death and hopelessness are a normal part of daily life, a Polish man, Tomasz Limanowski (Mateusz Damiecki) and a Jewish woman, Hannah Silberstein (Alice Dwyer) fall in love. Though forbidden, they meet secretly whenever possible. When Tomasz learns

Hannah's life is in danger, his love for her fuels a boldness he never knew he possessed. As a reliable, and non-Jewish prisoner, Tomasz has relative freedom of movement about the camp. He hatches a plan that enables them both to escape. Running for their lives with the Nazis in hot pursuit. However, in the frantic madness of the final days of WWII, they become separated with each thinking the other dead. Decades later they discover just how wrong they were. ✨

Disobedience -Amazon Prime- feature movie (2017) 1h-54m, drama, romance



Disobedience is another story of forbidden love, though for an entirely different reason. Produced by and starring Rachel Weisz, Disobedience follows a love triangle between a man, his wife, his own cousin. Ronit Krushka (Rachel Weisz) has been estranged from her father and the Orthodox Jewish community she was born into for decades. When her father, Rabbi Rav Krushka (Anton Lesser) drops dead in the middle of his sermon on free will, Ronit returns to London for the funeral and to settle his estate.

When she arrives, she is greeted by her cousin, Dovid Kuperman, (Alessandro Nivola) courteously, if not warmly. His wife, Esti Kuperman (Rachel McAdams;) however is remote and aloof toward Ronit, which was odd considering they were childhood friends.

Still viewed as a pariah by the community, Ronit, who

has no intention of staying in the community informs people she is only there to honor her father. When she goes to see her father's friend to discuss how to dispose of his estate, she learns she has been left nothing but a few worthless trinkets. His obituary even laments his never having had any children.

Having been cast adrift, Ronit can hardly wait to leave. None the less, Dovid, taken in by Ronit's father as a protégé, invites his cousin to stay with him while she's in town. It soon becomes apparent the incident that led to Ronit's exile was her adolescent romance relationship with Esti. ✨

Shtisel -Netflix- TV series (2013) **1h, drama**

Show in its third season, Shtisel tells the story of a Haredi family in Jerusalem. It explores the issues and day to day problems faced by members of the Shtisel family and follows their interactions with other members of this insular religious community.

Some might contend it rips away the veil exposing their secrets, others might note that it shows them as human beings, not caricatures, or stereotypes; but, real human beings. Notwithstanding the religious overtones, the series deals with the usual hot topics, love ambition, envy friendship, and acceptance. At its core, it's about people, all about people. That is why Shtisel is so popular.

Menashe – Netflix- (2017) **1h-22m, drama, religion**

Awidowed father, Menashe (Josh Alpert) bucks tradition and fights to regain custody of his son after his wife dies. Menashe is a member of Brooklyn's Hasidic community, with a son, Rieven. Its been a year since his wife's passing and the rabbi is pressuring him to remarry and the community follows suit. it's the only way the rabbi will allow him to regain custody of his son. As much as Menashe loves his Rieven, he doesn't want to remarry. His first marriage was unhappy, and he sees no need to go through it again.; nonetheless, he wants his son back. Locked in a job with long hours and low pay, Menashe is hard pressed to convince the rabbi he can do it alone; yet he pushes to improve his lot and convince the rabbi he should be reunited with his son. ✨

Arranged -Amazon Prime- (2007) **1h-32m, drama,comedy**

Two teachers of disparate backgrounds and religions find common ground in their life's experience. Two first-year teachers meet at a Brooklyn school; one an Orthodox Jew, the other, a Muslim. When they first meet, Rochel Meshenberg (Zoe Lister-Jones) and Nasira Khaldi (Francis Benhamou) can only see their differences; their similarities are hidden from them. As the school year goes on and they begin to share parts of themselves, they discover they have much in common, including both living insular and conservative lifestyles and both being pushed into arranged marriages. It is particularly interesting to see both women subjected to such parallel family pressure, where they're coming from a different religion, worshiping a different God; yet, have families trying to accomplish very similar goals. The two develop a friendship and a bond. Both stories are told respectfully, showing the challenges each woman faces, with their families, within their faith and dealing with the secular world at large. Beautifully shot and superbly acted, Arranged is a quiet gem that deserves to be seen. ✨

Fiddler on the Roof – Netflix- (1971) 3h-1m, drama, musical, romance, family



No list would be complete without the granddaddy of them all. Fiddler continues to be one of the most beloved Jewish movies ever made. It follows poor milkman, Tevye (Topol) in an Oscar nominated performance, as he struggles to take care of his family, endure czarist prosecution of Jews, and reside over the erosion of long-standing Jewish traditions in his household.

Tevye and his wife, Golde (Norma Crane) have five

daughters. He goes to the matchmaker to find suitable husbands for his daughters.

The matchmaker matches his oldest daughter, Tzeitel (Rosalind Harris,) with a widowed butcher, Lazar Wolf (Paul Mann.)

Though Tevye consents to the marriage Tzeitel is deeply in love with the local tailor, Motel Kamzoil (Leonard Frey.) they pour their hearts out to Tevye until he relents, to the chagrin of Lazar Wolf. His second daughter, Hodel (Michele Marsh) consents to marry radical student, Perchik (Paul Michael Glaser) without discussing it with her father. After a round of intense debate, Tevye, accepts, reluctantly. When, Perchik is arrested and sent to Siberia, Hodel decides she must leave her family and join her husband. However, when his third daughter, Chava (Neva Small) marries outside the faith, he cannot bring himself to accept it. He disowns her on the spot.



Kiddush Sponsorship Shabbat Services

Sponsoring Kiddush is \$150.00, which barely covers the cost of the lunch. Our goal is to have every Kiddush sponsored. To sponsor a Kiddush, email Rabbi Rosenbach or contact Allah Eicheldinger at alla7815@yahoo.com. You can also help by shopping; which doesn't cost money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you. Whatever you can do will be appreciated, greatly.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, services and events are temporarily suspended at Congregation Ahavas Sholom.



*Join us at Congregation
Ahavas Sholom this
Shabbat and help us
make (virtual)minyons*