



May 8, 2020

Iyar 14, 5780

29 Omer

Volume 2

Number 7



Jeff Haveson enjoys a laugh with Eric & Isabella Freedman

## Though CAS Members Practice Social Distancing Our Hearts Are As Close As Ever

The Coronavirus pandemic has reaped havoc on our lives, forcing us to adapt to a frightening new reality. It is changing how we live and interact with one another, how we greet each other, and how we gather.

## Memories of Mom

Mother's Day is this Sunday We invite everyone to take a moment this weekend to reflect on who she is (or was,) what she meant to you growing up, and her influence on the person you are today. We will print your thoughts, tributes, and memories in next week's newsletter. Photos are a plus; but not a requirement. To submit a tribute to your mother follow or copy and paste the following link, [submissions@casscroll.com](mailto:submissions@casscroll.com)

This Week's  
Torah Portion  
Emor

  
Candle lighting  
7:41PM

Shabbat Ends  
8:48 PM

Like many others across America (and throughout the world) we are learning to cope; albeit begrudgingly.

According to recent reports, more than 71,000 have died of complications stemming from Covid-19; however, as devastating as that might be, they are just numbers. We do not truly understand the desperation, horror, and pain behind the numbers until it affects someone we know.

It can shake us severely, when it is someone we know; but it can devastate us when it is someone we love. When Coronavirus affects us, even indirectly, it ceases to be a mere number; it becomes a person, a loved one, a friend, or a co-worker. It might be someone's brother, sister, parent, or child. It might be a spouse, a neighbor, or a lifelong friend. In any event, it is a human life in peril, teetering on the brink of obliteration. It is a human being in danger of being snuffed out, not a statistic.

Since many Congregation Ahavas Sholom members have not been able to speak with each other in person and fill members in on what is going on in their lives. Some of our congregants have been kind enough to share their experiences and insights during these challenging times in the newsletter.

#### ***April Modlinger ~***

Hello all. I have been using this time to finish several quilts and also make fabric masks. I have been holding ant conventions in my apt — only kidding - I didn't invite them, they came in on their own The property owner came the second time yesterday to get rid of them. No ant sighting today, except for one deceased so let's hope the ant convention is over

I was hoping nice weather was here to stay but no luck. Cloudy today and rain for the next two days. ugh. I like to take long walks in Nomahegan park with my dog when the weather is nice; but the park is closed, and the weather isn't nice. I have been practicing Hebrew reading and I have a virtual workout with my trainer twice a week

I try to use my time constructively but some days I engage in more binging than I want to admit to Best wishes to all. Stay safe be well and stay sane

#### ***Joan Cerlen Podnos~***

When first asked the question about how I was spending my time at home, I felt I had done nothing to write about. I haven't left my house in 6 or 7 weeks except for curbside food pickups and quick walks in my neighborhood. So what could I write about?

I've done a lot of cleaning in my house. My blouses are now organized by color! My pantry looks like a store (snack store). My television viewing is off the charts. I've discovered Fauda and am addicted. I've also spent a lot of time FaceTiming with my children and grandchildren. That's the best time of day. I miss hugging and kissing

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## **Congregation Ahavas Sholom**

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

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them more than anything. I also feel like I'm on a second honeymoon with Allan - so much togetherness!

Quarantine is a good relationship test!

Having a positive attitude is the way I normally treat life and this is no different. I have food, shelter and companionship. I'm lucky for all of those. I miss seeing my temple family on Shabbat and am grateful for Zoom. I wish everyone good health and hope to see you all soon.

### **Tim Lee ~**

While I am not a loner by any means, I am a fairly solitary person. Though I like being around and interacting with people, I am equally content being by myself, sometimes more so (a byproduct of being an only child.) That is probably why I was so drawn to books and writing at an early age; both are solitary endeavors.

Consequently, rarely leaving the house is no great burden on me. I have not suffered from the personal contact withdrawal some of my friends have experienced. I have my wife, my youngest son, and my daughter with me so I'm content.

We have not really gone shopping, our oldest sons go shopping for us and leave the food on the (enclosed) front porch, which, fittingly, reminds me of the leper scene in Ben-Hur (1958.) It must be tough to be by yourself and simultaneously separated from family, friends, and the larger community.

It is on all of us to reach out to these people, to let them know they are not forgotten, and to let them know we care. We should also pray for those who have been affected by this pandemic and the tens of thousands who have lost their lives to this dreaded disease

For myself, being housebound is more palatable when I have a project, and currently I do. Several weeks ago, I crashed my computer. The computer itself did not go down, I just screwed it up. I have spent a few weeks restoring my computer, reconfiguring my server, and reconnecting links to different files in my system (that last part I am still working on.) I am also setting up a media server that will enable the entire family to share the thousands of movies, animations, and documentaries we have acquired over the years. It's fulfilling to be able to share movies with your grandchildren even though you are not actually there.

### **Amy Schonhaut ~**

We are all well. I miss everyone and miss going to shul at Ahavas Sholom. The most exciting thing I am doing is taking Yiddish classes over Zoom 🌟

***Anyone who would like to join the message stream is invited to do so. It does not have to be long; just let us know what you are up to and how you and the family are holding up. To post just follow or copy and paste the following link, [submissions@casscroll.com](mailto:submissions@casscroll.com)***

# Join us this Shabbat via Zoom for Torah Service with Congregation Ahavas Sholom Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



**The Zoom link for Shabbat services for 5/9 at 10:30** is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/632968113> and there is no meeting password

**Havdalah is at 8:50 Saturday night, Here is the Zoom link for the Havdalah service at 8:30:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83864986896?pwd=YVdZS09LYVdsb1VwaDRVblo4T2RXZz09> and if you need the meeting password, it is 986583

## Dear friends,

This weekend marks an auspicious occasion. The Anthman is turning 50!

Given that we are social distancing, but still sociable, I am inviting you all to participate in a Zoom call on Saturday at 9pm EST after Havdallah.

Here's the information with the link: <https://NJCU.zoom.us/j/95821420108?pwd=bzINSdY4ZSt3eGJvTGnPZUhpYmFwQT09>

Join Zoom Meeting <https://NJCU.zoom.us/j/95821420108?pwd=bzINSdY4ZSt3eGJvTGnPZUhpYmFwQT09>

Meeting ID: 958 2142 0108

Password: 68425358

**Max Herman**

Topic: Anthmans 50th Bday Time: May 9, 2020

09:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**May 8, 2020**

# SIMON

# SAYS

## Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



**Rabbi Simon Rosenbach**

 was talking today with my classmate Ellie Shemtov (whom a number of you have met); we talk every Thursday for an hour ostensibly to discuss the Talmud, but our discussions range far and wide, and we discuss the

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Talmud only for the last quarter of the hour, if that. She mentioned the phrase, “panim el panim (face to face),” and we talked about the phrase for five minutes.

“Panim el panim” is an expression in the Torah. Jacob, after he struggles with an angel (or his inner demons) names the place where they struggled Peniel, for “I have seen a divine being face to face . . . .” (Gen. 32:31). The next instance is in the Book of Exodus, where the Torah says, “God would speak to Moses face to pace (panim el panim), as one man speaks to another.” (Ex. 33:11). The last occurrence is at the end of the Torah, where the Torah says, “Never again did there arise in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom God singled out face to face (panim el panim) . . . .” (Deut. 34:10). Furthermore, in the episode where Aaron and Miriam criticize Moses (Num. 12:1-16), God rebukes them, saying, “With [Moses] I speak mouth to mouth . . . .” (Num. 12:8). Saadia Gaon, the medieval commentator, explains that “mouth to mouth” is the equivalent of “face to face.”

I have two problems with “face to face.”

First, when God rebukes Miriam and Aaron, God says, "When a prophet of the Lord arises among you, I make Myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream." (Num. 12:6). Plainly, God speaks to Miriam and Aaron face to face. The other problem I have is thornier.

Moses asks God to let Moses see God's glory. God replies, "But you cannot see my face (panai, the first-person declension of panim), for man can not see Me and live." (Ex. 33:20). So what is it? God talks to Moses "panim el panim," or Moses can not see God's panim? Maybe it has to do with the meaning of "see." You can talk to a person face to face, but maybe you can not see his motivations, or his essence.

Well, "panim el panim" has a different meaning nowadays, when we are obligated to wear masks in public. You can not see whether a person is smiling or frowning. You can not see whether a person is sad or happy. Maybe the masks that we wear are muffling our speech, obscuring our meaning. Maybe the masks that we are legally obligated to wear become a symbol of partisanship: you wear a mask in a certain situation, you think one way, if you don't wear a mask in that certain situation, you think another way.

As God told Miriam and Aaron, "With [Moses] I speak mouth to mouth, plainly and not in riddles." We all could use less masking, and could use more speaking plainly and not in riddles. ✨



## 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!**

# 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](mailto: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; however, you can still join us via [Zoom](#)



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