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## Anti- Semitic Incidents Hit an All-Time High in 2019

**T**he Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recently released their 2019 Anti-Semitism Audit; and the news is not good. According to the report, incidences of anti-Semitism rose 12 % over the previous year, and

### In this week's Scroll

*Anti- Semitic Incidents Hit an All-time High in 2019*

*CAS Happenings - celebrating the lives of our members*

*Memories of My Mother*

*Join us for Shabbat Service via Zoom at Congregation Ahavas Sholom*

*Simon Says*

*The Bookshelf -Memories of a Jewish Mother*

*Shabbat Services, Kiddush,& CAS News*

This Week's  
Torah Portion  
Behar-Bechukotai



*Candle lighting*  
7:48PM

*Shabbat Ends*  
9:03 PM

assaults jumped a disheartening 56% over 2018. While most of our readers are well aware of last year's deadly attacks at the Chabad of Poway (one dead and three wounded,) Jersey City's JC Kosher supermarket (four dead, including a police detective and one wounded,) and the Hanukah stabbing attack at a Rabbi's Monsey, NY home (four wounded, one seriously.)

Anti-Semitic assaults jumped 56%, fueled by a rash of senseless attacks on Ultra-Orthodox Jews throughout New York City. However, anti-Semitism was an issue throughout the country. The report cited anti-Semitic occurrences in every one of America's 48 contiguous states, as well as in the District of Columbia. With 61 occurrences in NYC alone New York State had the largest number of anti-Semitic occurrences (430) New Jersey was second (345) California was third (330) Pennsylvania fourth (109) and Florida was fifth (91.)

However, the most troublesome aspect of the report was that most of the instances reported were not perpetrated by extremists, but average everyday people. The severity of the attacks might have decreased; but the underlying belief system that harbors intolerance and rationalizes anti-Semitic behavior is seemingly spreading to a larger portion of the general population.

According to ADL CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, the report represents the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents the ADL has recorded since it began collecting such data in 1979. For the sake of clarity, the term anti-Semitic incident does not mean a physical attack necessarily; Though it can be an act of violence, it can also include such acts as bullying, verbal attacks, usage of anti-Semitic tropes, ostracizing or otherwise victimizing Jews, simply because they are Jews.

While acts of deadly violence went down, reports of vandalism and harassment continue to rise. Anti-Semitism is alive and well in cyberspace. Facebook Twitter and YouTube have all provided a home and a platform for those who love to hate. There are a countless number of blogs out there and that is just on the surface web, who knows what craziness is being explored or hatch on the deep web or the dark web. These platforms create a world where the only voice and opinion is theirs. While the ADL tracks direct anti-Semitic attacks on individuals, it does not track the non-specific anti-Jewish chatter that is so prevalent on the Internet currently.

It is not so much that anti-Semitism is diminishing, but that the purveyors of Anti-Semitism are rebranding the message and re-imagining its delivery system. Anti-Jew sentiments have not abated. Jews continue to be the butt of slew of conspiracy theories: The Holocaust is a hoax, Jews knew about the 9/11 terror attack and did not report to work that day, Jews control the media, and Jews control the banks. The most recent being Jews (or more specifically, the Jew flu being responsible for the coronavirus pandemic now sweeping through our world. Ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities who have been hit particularly hard; now also must contend with

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## **Congregation Ahavas Sholom**

**President – Eric Freedman**

**Rabbi Simon Rosenbach**

**Cantor – Fred Grabiner**

**Gabbai - Hooshmand Delshad**

**Webmaster – Jeff Haveson**

**Scroll Editor – Bezael Tim Lee**

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accusations that they are spreading the virus deliberately. The latest, and perhaps most ludicrous theory being floated on the deep web is that Jews created the pandemic to knock China down and solidify their hold on the world's markets and money supply.

While extremists (of all stripes) continue to be the face of anti-Semitism, an increasing number of anti-Semitic incidents are being committed by people who do not fit that mold. Of the 2,107 reported anti-Semitic occurrences in 2019, only 13 % were committed by known extremists or loners inspired by extremist ideology. While speaking to the press last week, Oren Segal, the vice president of the ADL's Center on Extremism, said: "The vast majority of anti-Semitic incidents that we've documented in our report are not committed by extremists." Segal went on

to say, "The perpetrators that we know of are often your average Janes, your average Joes. He noted you could not look at anti-Semitism demographically, those who commit anti-Semitic acts live in affluent areas and poor areas, they run the educational spectrum from highly educated to illiterate, they can be of any race, of any age, of any religion. During a recent ADL webinar, the panel discuss a conspiracy to deface several synagogues. The 'mastermind' behind the plan turned out to be a 13-year-old kid with a computer.

That is the most troubling aspect of the report: that anti-Semitic leanings are being learned and embraced by school children; that children in grade school are being taught to hate, or at best, to be dismissive of another human being, because, and only because they are different. ✡



Congrats to William "Billy" Oppenheim, Esquire on passing the California Bar exam. We look forward to following your future exploits and accomplishments which are sure to follow!

## CAS Update

*Information on the comings, goings, happenings, and general wellbeing of our members*



Leslie Mishell

Things are fine with Mark and I. Mark has been working six days a week at the post

office. Katty, my daughter in-law, goes into quarantine on Sunday for two weeks and leaves the end of the month for her nine-month deployment to Iraq. My son Bruce leaves in June for his six-month deployment to Jordan.



# Memories of My Mother

*This past Sunday was Mother's Day. This week The Scroll celebrates our mothers – who she is, if you're lucky, or who she was, if she lives on in your heart and memories.*



Irma (Levine) Schonhaut (1929-2016) was a force of nature! She was a devoted wife to her beloved husband for 65 years, a wonderful mother to her three children, a loving and involved grandmother to her six grandchildren, and a generous and faithful friend to many. Everything she did, whether for family, friends, or for the NYC school children she served professionally, she did 100%. She was a determined advocate when she had a goal to pursue, not giving up until she got results.

She was intelligent, ambitious, sentimental, stubborn, and considerate. Once, when she was in her late 70's, she accompanied her friend to California to attempt to locate the friend's troubled daughter, who had gone missing.

She accepted her death bravely, leaving beautifully written and inspirational essays to read at her funeral. When she died, she left an empty space in our lives, but oh so many wonderful memories!

**Amy Schonhaut**

My mom had a few quirks that were mildly funny. In general, Leah Jainchill Levitt was not an uproariously funny person, but she had a certain droll sense of humor. When she was in the mood, she could reminisce about school and work, and offer up some funny anecdotes.

A low-key humorous shtick she would pull was when I had some bubblegum around. She knew how to blow a pretty big bubble and deflate it neatly, and she would do so with a dead-pan look on her face. A few times we had bubble-blowing contests, she and I, and then when our jaws were aching, we would just do that annoying crack in the cheek with the gum a few times.

My mother attended Erasmus Hall High School in Flatbush, Brooklyn, which for much of its history had a wonderful reputation. (Hasn't really had one in a few decades, however.) Mom told me about how she took Spanish class (on top of French!) and she had a teacher who would ask students to mark each other's quizzes. She made a friend in class, and when they had to student-mark the quizzes, they also swapped pens. She and this other girl also used to sit toward the back of the class and eat red pistachios secretly. - **Ellen Levitt**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Marian Sylvia Levinton on April 20, 2020. Loving Mom to Samia, Shellee and Gilbert, Michael and Patricia, Synde and Wayne, and Mitchell. Gege to 13 grandchildren and spouses, and Granny to 7 great grandchildren who are all heartbroken. Marian raised her 5 children alone after her husband Morris succumbed to bone cancer in 1978. Marian lived in the same house in Brooklyn, NY for 67 years since the day she got married. Every Hanukkah her children put up an enormous menorah in front of their house that their father handmade. Marian would have turned 88 on June 24. When Marian walked into a room her smile made people want to come over and get to know her. Friends of family knew her as "Grandma". Everyone went out of their way to help her walk up stairs or bring her plates of food at a party. She always managed to make it to every family gathering even though she may not have been feeling so well. Her family, especially the little ones, brought her so much joy and took away any pains she may have had. She loved and worried about her family and they knew how much they were loved. It is unfortunate that her life was cut short by the Coronavirus. Marian may be gone, but she will never be forgotten. Sadly, her sister in law, Helen Rappel Bordman passed away 4 days later on April 24, 2020.



*May 15, 2020*





**Aileen Bordman**

Saturday at 9:56 AM · 🧑🏻‍🧑🏻



R.I.P 🙏 Helen Rappel Bordman (1931 - 2020)

Our mother passed away from a heart issue at her home yesterday evening. I ran to her house because I could not get through and found her. I and then EMT could not save her. My dearest brother Marc is now with me. There will be a graveside funeral Monday morning. I think her heart was broken, too many losses of dear friends, her sister in law, and not being able to spend her 40th with Fondation Claude Monet in Giverny.

My mother loved life and loved people. She is with her husband, our dear father, family and friends now. She lived a blessed passionate life for almost 89 years. We could not have asked for a better mother.

I have never tasted tears like this. 💔 I would hope she has already had dinner with my father and Claude Monet.

Donations - would be to plant a tree for our mother in Israel.



# Join us For Shabbat Service via Zoom with Congregation Ahavas Sholom Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



**The Zoom link for Shabbat services for 5/16 at 10:30** is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/632968113>

Services Saturday morning will start at 10:30, We will recite the Sh'ma, and then we will proceed to the Torah service, and then we will have a discussion about the list of curses. The Torah portion is long, but I err on the side of Torah. Then we hear the Haftarah, and then sing aleinu and recite the mourners' kaddish. We will have the Misheberach and recite the prayers for the American soldiers.

**Morning Miynon @ Temple Beth Ahm - Weedays at 7:30** am, Zoom link (TBD)

**Havdalah is at 8:50 Saturday night, 5/16 Here is the Zoom link for the Havdalah service at 9:00:**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83869204021?pwd=Z2tVUmhNOXINVdZicDNOL0wyWFo4dz09>  
and if you need the meeting password, her it it's:  
217989

# Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

316917-A May 13, 2020 11:00 AM

May 15, 2020



# SIMON

# SAYS

## Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



***Rabbi Simon Rosenbach***

**M**onitors of pollution in the atmosphere have discovered the air is cleaner around the globe. Pollution has dropped to levels that we have not seen for 70 years. Nitrogen dioxide levels in China, western Europe, and the

United States have decreased as much as 60 per cent. from last year at this time (in the United States, they have dropped 30 per cent.). Particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers (that is, one-millionth of a meter [approximately 39 inches]) that are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and cause damage has dropped 35 per cent. in northern China. Compared to the same time in 2019, China has emitted 25 per cent. less carbon in March-April 2020.

People are not driving anyplace (we, like many of you, got a rebated from our auto insurance company), and people are not flying anyplace. Carbon dioxide emissions are dropping eight per cent. worldwide, because nobody is traveling, and while the stores are shuttered, nobody is lighting or heating them. The air is cleaner.

Now, nobody wants the price for cleaner air to be four and half million sick people and 300,000 dead people in a little over four or five months. Nobody wants the price for cleaner air to be 30 million people out of work in this Country alone, because of the lockdown put in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. And probably, as we resume our normal

***May 15, 2020***

lives, the pollution will rise to the levels seen before the coronavirus pandemic took place.

The change in pollution brought about the coronavirus pandemic got me thinking of this week's Torah portion. The portion, doubled as it is in a non-leap year, describes the Shmitah and the Yovail. The Shmitah is the seventh year in a cycle when the Israelites were commanded to let the fallow, presumably to replenish the nutrients that have been exhausted. The Yovail (Jubilee) is the 50th in the cycle, where all debts are discharged. The Torah portion also contains one of two recitations of the Tochechah, the list of curses that would befall the Israelites if they didn't follow the mitzvot.

This first recitation of the Tochechah directly ties the list of calamities that will befall the Israelites to disregarding the Shmitah year. The land will be

devastated and lay desolate, and in that way the land will recover if the Israelites ignored the Shmitah year.

Now I don't want to tie the coronavirus to our penchant for polluting. On the other hand, the pandemic gives us to chance to see what we can do to clean the air and the water and the oceans. I read in the New York Times the other day that for the first time in the United States, electricity from renewable production will eclipse the electricity from coal.

God told the Israelites the land belongs to God; the Israelites were only sojourners on it. This planet belongs to God, and this is the only planet that we have. If we pollute this planet, I don't know what calamities we bring upon us, but if history is any lesson, devastation will follow the disregarding of the Shmitah year. ✨



## 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!**

# Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your symptoms can include the following:

## Fever



If you have COVID-19, you may have mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.

Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

## Cough



Seek medical attention immediately if you or someone you love has **emergency warning signs**, including:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or not able to be woken
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

## Shortness of breath



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# The Book Shelf

*This week we celebrate Jewish Moms With two books pertaining to the quirks and qualities unique to the Jewish Mother*

## **Secrets of a Jewish Mother Real Advice Real Stories Real Love**

by Jill Zarin

Hard Cover, Non Fiction, 300 pages, ISBN13: 9780525951797



The Jewish Mother knows what she wants. And what you should want too. In *Secrets of a Jewish Mother*, you'll learn how to make her methods your very own, and as result you'll give and get of love and happiness in great amounts.

In what could be thought of as the Jewish Mother's Guide to Life, Jill Zarin, the breakout star of Bravo's hit series, *The Real Housewives of New York*, teams up with her sister, Lisa Wexler, award-winning host of daily radio program *The Lisa Wexler Show*, and her mother, the estimable Gloria Kamen who made a splash on Jill's series last year. *Secrets of a Jewish Mother* shows readers that being clear about what you want is the best policy, and standing up for yourself and your family is always the right way to go. Using real life examples, stories from Jill, Lisa and Gloria, this mother/daughter trio reveals their secrets to life, love, and happiness.

## **Jewish Mothers: Strength Wisdom Compassion**

Lloyd Wolf and Paula Wolfson

Hard Cover, Non Fiction, Photo Book, ISBN13: 9780811827898



In this celebration of Jewish women and motherhood, stunning black and white duotones are paired with intimate profiles that evoke the lives of fifty Jewish mothers. Each extraordinary woman featured in this collection shares her powerful insights into the meaning of family, Judaism, love, and community with recollections and observations of Jewish life in America. From rabbis and scholars to activists and artists, these frank and powerful women discuss their views on how to raise a Jewish child in today's world and how they have come to understand their own mothers. A beautiful and inspiring commemoration of Jewish motherhood, *Jewish Mothers* is the perfect gift for any mother, grandmother, or mother-to-be. I

n this celebration of Jewish women and motherhood, 80 gorgeous duotone portraits are paired with intimate profiles that evoke the lives of 50 Jewish mothers.

# 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*