



March 13, 2020

Adar 17, 5780

Volume 2

Number 2



Israel has imposed severe restrictions on travelers entering Israel.

Amid new Israeli virus cases, synagogue restrictions, nationwide school closures

(March 12, 2020 / JNS)

Coronavirus cases in Israel topped 100 on Thursday, with an emergency room doctor at the

In this week's Scroll

New cases of coronavirus leads Israel to evoke synagogue restrictions, close schools & restrict travel.

Message from the editor

Simon Says -- Ki Tisa

What a Difference a Year Makes

The bookshelf – From the Shahs to Los Angeles: The Story of the Iranian Jew's journey to America.

Shabbat Services, Kiddush, & CAS News

This Week's Torah Portion
Ki Tisa



Candle lighting
6:43 PM

Shabbat Ends
7:43 PM

top-rated Sheba Medical Center contracting the illness, and the chief rabbinate issuing new directives for conducting prayers.

On Wednesday evening, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli health officials rolled out a series of new restrictions, including a prohibition on events with more than 100 people.

On Thursday, Netanyahu announced the nationwide closure of schools and universities.

“We are closing the schools and the universities,” Netanyahu announced in a television address. “We are in the midst of a global event unlike anything else in the history of the state’s existence,” he said.

Earlier, nearly 1,000 schoolchildren and teachers from the Nazareth Baptist School were sent into quarantine after a person infected with the illness was discovered to have visited the facility, and a haredi school for girls sent 60 students to quarantine after they were found to have been in contact with a person later diagnosed with the coronavirus (COVID-19) during a trip to Jerusalem’s Old City.

In addition, a school in Kochav Ya’ir was closed on Sunday after it was determined that an infected person’s wife had spent time there; it will be closed until it can be disinfected. In Modi’in, 94 students and 80 staff members were sent to quarantine after a teacher was diagnosed with the illness on Wednesday. He was listed in good condition.

Israel’s Teacher’s Union has urged authorities to shut down schools and institute distance learning with the use of computers.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the closing of schools & Universities, nationwide.

“Schools and kindergartens are incubators of infectious diseases,” chairwoman Yaffa Ben-David wrote in a letter to the prime minister, “posing a serious and immediate danger to students, teachers and their family members, especially those with poor immune systems or pre-existing conditions.” “We will not be able to stop the spread of the virus across the country

Congregation Ahavas Sholom

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

once it infects entire schools," she said.

Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau issued new directives on Thursday requiring synagogues to limit prayer quorums to no more than 100 people. It recommended houses of prayer achieve this by splitting worshippers into smaller groups. He also reiterated that those in quarantine—with or without symptoms of coronavirus—were banned from entering synagogues and should pray at home.

Lau encouraged young couples to move forward with weddings but to cut their guest lists. He urged people not to engage in the mitzvah of visiting the sick and warned not to make unnecessary trips to nursing homes, so as not to put elderly residents



Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau, ordered synagogues to limit prayer quorums to 100 & banned those infected with Covid19

at risk.

He said congregations should say Psalms 13 and 20, and the prayer for the sick after every prayer service. Isolating prisoners, reducing service on railways. As of Thursday, two patients were listed in serious condition and three in moderate condition, according to the Health Ministry.

The doctor at Sheba had returned from a trip to France on March 2 and worked a shift at the hospital before going into quarantine.

Additional patients include a pair of women in their 60s from central Israel who returned to Israel from New York via Moscow on March 9, as well as a 10-year-old boy and 11-year-old girl, also from central Israel. A 60-year-old worker at Ben-Gurion International Airport took a turn for the worse on Wednesday, after health authorities refused to administer him a coronavirus test, despite a trip days before to Ichilov hospital with flu-like symptoms. The man's family reportedly begged the hospital to test him for the illness, but was refused because he had not been abroad.

He was finally tested when he returned to the hospital with pneumonia.

All Israelis returning from overseas are now required to enter into two-week self-quarantine, while non-Israelis will only be allowed into Israel if they can demonstrate an ability to self-quarantine for two weeks.

On Thursday, Israel Prisons Service announced that it was isolating 119 convicts and 25 staff members at the Russian Compound Detention Center in Jerusalem after an officer reported coming in contact with an infected person.

On Wednesday, Israel Prisons Service said it was preparing Saharonim Prison in the south for any prisoners who contract the coronavirus.

Israel Railways announced that it would run reduced service starting on Thursday, due to staff limitations caused by the high number currently in quarantine. ✨

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

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



COUGH



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

SHORTNESS OF BREATH



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.



CS 315252-A 03/03/2020

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

Message from the Editor

his past week marked the one-year anniversary of the CAS Scroll. Though Congregation Ahavas Sholom has been producing a newsletter for several years, this is the first year of producing the newsletter in its present format. People ask a slew of questions regarding the concept and meaning of being a Jew. What are they, they ask? Are Jews a people, a race, a nation, or a religion? For myself, I believe we're all the above; but primarily, I see us as a family; albeit a large very diverse and widely dispersed family; yet, family none the less. As such we tend to face the usual problems that beset all family units. There will be tensions and disagreements, we may also be dismissive of another's feelings, beliefs, or political leanings on occasion. But, when under attack or during the holidays we band together. We also celebrate and take pride in the successes of other family members.

This past year was a particularly trying year for Jews. While we saw a decrease in the number of overt public demonstrations of anti-Semitism, it was tempered by a rise in the number of physical attacks on Jews. No orchestrated plan to attack Jews was perpetrated (or uncovered); but, instances of random attacks on Jews rose. Israeli voters went to the polls to elect a new Prime Minister, then went back again, and again. Then, of course, there was the usual ideological/political back and forth between Israeli Jews and the diaspora.

While the primary purpose of the CAS Scroll is to inform our congregants of our plans and programs, we also want to inform our readers about what's going

on in the Jewish world at large.

Unfortunately, violence was a recurring theme this past year. Houses of worship (of every stripe) proved the target of choice for personal cause killers. the 2018 attack on the Tree of Life synagogue shook the Jewish world. A few months later two Jewish teens were among 23 killed in a bombing attack on a church in the Philippines. A month later, on the final day of Pesach, a gunman entered the Chabad of Poway and began firing. He killed a woman and injured several others including, an eight-year old girl and the rabbi. In October, a white supremacist shot and killed two innocent African American Senior citizens at a Kroger supermarket; however, it was his intention to attack a Baptist church during services and kill as many congregants as possible. in December, there was the attack on the KC Kosher supermarket in Jersey City, NJ. Six people were killed in the attack, four more were wounded. Finally, just a few weeks later, a knife-wielding man entered a Hanukkah celebration in Monsey, N.Y. He stabbed five people and escaped (only to be captured in New York City.)

Whether we can lay blame for the uptick in attacks on Donald Trump is debatable; but there can be little argument that his positions and statements have empowered those who've chosen to embrace hate.

We followed the ordeal of Naama Issachar, the American born Israeli woman, and former IDF soldier, who was arrested in Russia and sentenced to seven years for an infraction that could usually be rectified

by paying a small fine.

We witnessed the vicious attacks on Alexander Vindman when he testified in the House of Representative's inquiry of Donald Trump's dealings with the Ukraine. Critics quickly resorted to using age old anti-Semitic tropes against Vindman, impugning his integrity and challenging his patriotism.

Still, there was lots of good news as well. We shared the holidays with those unable to attend in person. We introduced them to other Jews who were doing great things. We recounted another great season at the Jewish Museum of New Jersey (JMNJ.) We reveled in Congregation Ahavas Sholom's Adult B'NEI Mitzvah festivities, Purim party, and its annual school seder. We've welcomed new members to the community and sadly bid farewell to others.

This year we want to really engage with our readers. We want to hear more from you in the coming months. Tell us your stories and share your ideas. Send us suggestions on topics we could cover, people we could feature, or events we should attend.

If there is something we don't currently cover that you would like to see let us know. To make communication easier we have added a series of email addresses you can use.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who pitched in, offered advice, or generously lent their expertise to the project during this inaugural year. Many thanks (toda rabah) to Phil Yourish, Joanne Leone, and especially Carol Jenkins, who is a great friend and regular attendee at JMNJ events.

I would also like to thank April Modlinger who submitted a fabulous article "Escaping Hitler's Clutches" in which she chronicled her in-law's odyssey from Nazism to freedom. I would also like to thank Rabbi Simon Rosenbach for his wonderful contributions to the CAS Scroll, I truly believe his Simon Says column is the main reason for the newsletter's success. Lastly, I would like to thank Congregation Ahavas Sholom's president, Eric Freedman, whose vision has made all this possible. ✨

Bezalel Tal Lee - Editor CAS Scroll

Happy Birthday

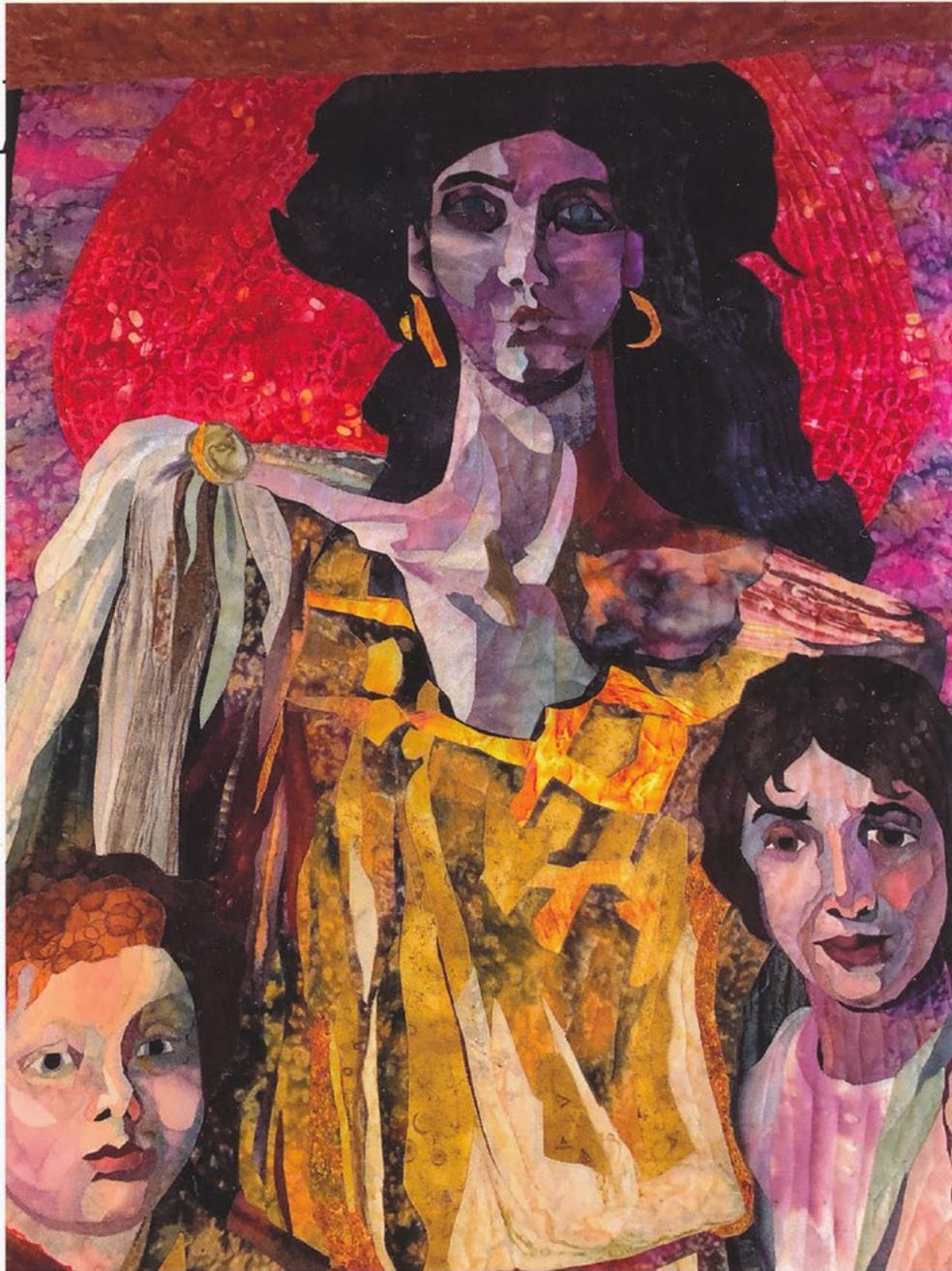


David Hawkins



April Modlinger

Reinventing Eve



"Medea" by Marilyn Belford

Reinventing Eve

Celebrating Woman's History Month

Opening Reception March 29 2020

Jewish Museum of New Jersey.135 Broadway, Newark, NJ

March 13, 2020

SIMON

SAYS

Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

The news these past few days and weeks is full of the coronavirus. China, which has a population north of a billion, has 81,000 cases. Italy, which has a

population around 60 million, has 12,500 cases. Iran has 9000 cases. In the United States, we have 1240 cases, and I saw on the news that we can expect from 70 million to 150 million cases in the United States.

It is hard to believe that something smaller than a point on a pencil, which you can't see with the naked eye or even a microscope, can cause so much trouble. You would think that something that can cause so much havoc would be bigger, at least "bigger than a breadbox." But no. And that leads me to this week's Torah portion.

This week's Torah portion is Ki Tisa, and it includes the episode of the golden calf. For you who have been living on Mars the last few decades, Moses ascends Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, and he warns the Israelites that he will be gone for 40 days. The Israelites lose track of time, and when Moses doesn't appear on the 40th day as the Israelites kept time, the Israelites persuade Aaron to make a representation of the God that brought the Israelites out of Egypt. Aaron, to placate the people

(that is the spin the early sages put on it), collects the gold earrings and nose-rings and fashions a golden calf. He then proclaims, "This is your God who brought out of Egypt."

The Israelites could not believe in a God that they did not see. They saw the results of God's actions, the Ten Plagues and the mountain smoking at Sinai, but they could not believe in a God that they did not see. They wanted a representation.

God and the coronavirus are on opposite ends of the same spectrum. We believe in the coronavirus because science has invented the electron-scanning microscope, and we can actually see individual virus.

The opposite is true for God. No matter what scientific advancements are discovered or invented, science will never reveal God. If you want to see God, you need to

have faith.

In the olden days, the Torah describes a plague that ended when Moses put a representation of snake on a staff. I don't think that God directly will end the coronavirus pandemic, but God will inspire the physicians and chemists and biologists to develop a vaccine. The faith necessary to see God is the faith that believes that God will inspire the physicians and chemists and biologists even though they may be atheists.

The Israelites did not have enough faith to see the biggest thing in the universe, despite the results of Gods' actions. Our ancestors saw people fall ill and die, but they couldn't see the causes, because they were not advanced enough scientifically. Our ancestors saw the Nile turn to blood, and they saw the mountain smoking, but they couldn't see God, because they didn't have enough faith. ✨



March 13, 2020

Help us Remodel Our Kitchen

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

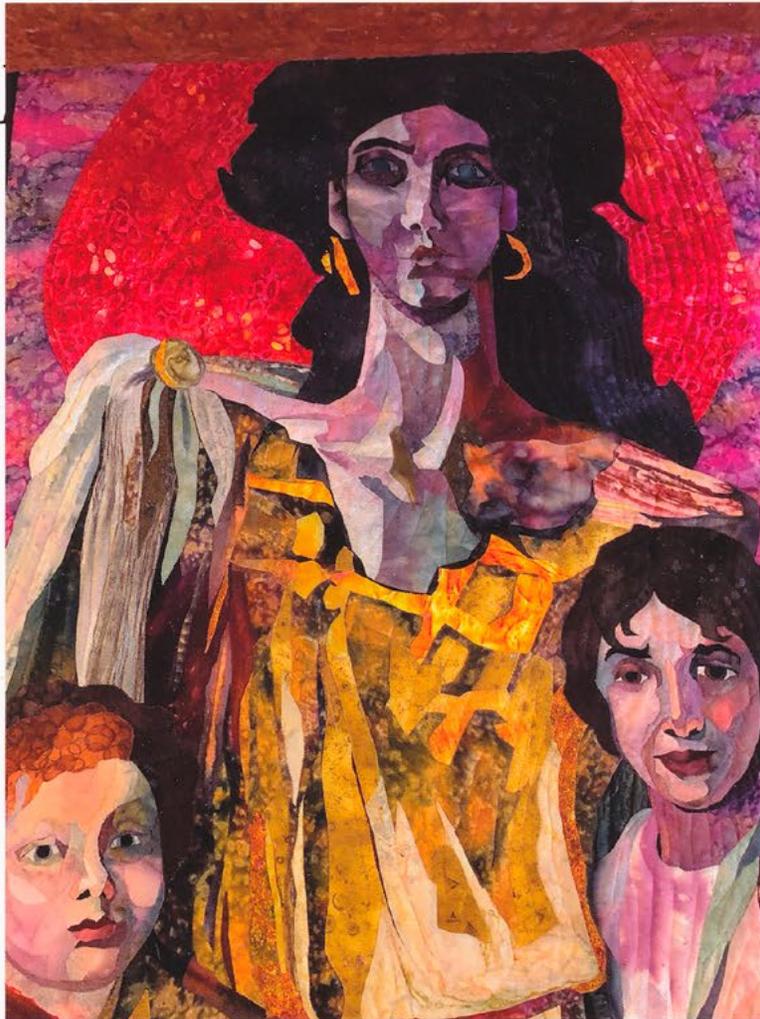
April Modlinger, a long time pillar of Ahavas Sholom, got us started with a generous pledge of \$10,000. Others have also pledged;

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!

Reinventing Eve



"Medea" by Marilyn Belford

Exhibit Events

Sunday, April 19th 2pm

Marilyn Belford-Trunk: show and artist talk.

Sunday, May 3rd

Panel: "Jewish Identity and its influence in the creation of art"

Sunday, April 26th 2pm

Screening and discussion of the award-winning documentary about artist Eve Hesse.

Sunday, May 17th

Collage making workshop with Harriet Finck: Participants will study and discuss a bible text and make interpretive collages.

Materials will be provided. (Group is limited to 10 participants, ages 18 on up.)

Jewish Museum of New Jersey 135 Broadway, Newark NJ

What a Difference a Year Makes

This Shabbat marks the first anniversary of our adult Bar/Bar-Mitzvah at Ahavas Sholom. We all enjoyed a wonderful time. It was intense and exhilarating in equal measure. We studied the themes and structure of the service, developed a deeper understanding of what it all meant, brushed up on (or learned) our Hebrew, and in the process, developed a deep sense of purpose and comradery that continues to be shared by all involved. I'm confident I speak for us all when I say we won't ever be able to fully express our gratitude to Rabbi Rosenbach for everything he did for us. We have another adult Bar/Bar-Mitzvah schedule at the synagogue soon.



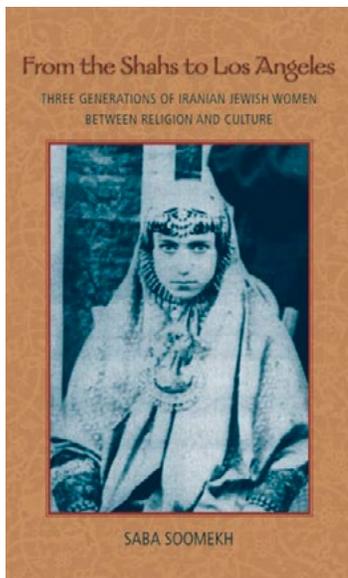


March 13, 2020

From the Shahs to Los Angeles

Three Generations of Iranian Jewish Women between Religion and Culture

By Saba Soomekh, Hardcover, 230 pages



Dr. Saba Soomekh Ph.D.

A fascinating look at the lives, culture, religious and ritual observance of three generations of Iranian Jewish women in the United States.

Los Angeles is home to approximately 40,000 Iranian Jews, it's the Largest concentration of Iranian Jews in the world. Many of these Jews fled Iran after the Iranian revolution and settled there. Saba Soomekh offers a fascinating portrait of three generations of women in an ethnically distinctive and little-known American Jewish community, Jews of Iranian origin living in Los Angeles.

Most of Iran's Jewish community immigrated to the United States and settled in Los Angeles in the wake of the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the government-sponsored discrimination that followed. Based on interviews with women raised during the constitutional monarchy of the earlier part of the twentieth century, those raised during the modernizing Pahlavi regime of mid-century, and those who have grown up in Los Angeles, the book presents an ethnographic portrait of what life was and is like for Iranian Jewish women.

Featuring the voices of all generations, the book concentrates on religiosity and ritual observance, the relationship between men and women, and women's self-concept as Iranian Jewish women. Mother-daughter relationships, double standards for sons and daughters, marriage customs, the appeal of American forms of Jewish practices, social customs and pressures, and the alternate attraction to and critique of materialism and attention to outward appearance are discussed by the author and through the voices of her informants. ✨

For more information on this or other books by Saba Soomekh visit the Jewish Book Council, www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/the-aristocrat-the-life-and-legacy-of-hillel-menashe-sutton

Kiddush Sponsorship Shabbat Services

This week's Kiddush is be co-sponsored by Amy Schonhau and Linda Bloom. Amy is commemorating the 12th. Yahrzeit of her father, Charles Schonhaut. Linda is her commemorating her mother's Yahrzeit. 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.

Join us at Ahavas Sholom this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors; friends - old & new - our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom. Shabbat services start at 9:00am. Our congregation is open and welcoming; feel free to pay us a visit, anytime.



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