



April 24, 2020

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Number 5

We Remember

Holocaust Remembrance Day Message



✡ In the Jewish tradition, we are commanded to remember (zachor) and not to forget (lo tishkach). This week we commemorate Yom HaShoah, the Day of Holocaust Remembrance. On this solemn occasion, 75 years after the end of World War II: We remember the six million Jewish martyrs, including 1.5 million children, who were exterminated in the Holocaust. We remember not only their tragic deaths but also their vibrant lives—as shopkeepers and craftsmen, scientists

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Tazria-Metzora


Candle lighting
7:26PM

Shabbat Ends
8:30 PM

and authors, teachers and students, parents and children, husbands and wives.

We remember the richly hued and ancient Jewish civilizations that were destroyed—from Salonika, Greece, to Vilnius, Lithuania.

We remember the slippery slope that began with the rantings of an obscure Austrian-born antisemite named Adolf Hitler and led, in the course of less than 15 years, to his absolute control over Germany. We remember the fertile soil of European antisemitism—cultivated over centuries by cultural, political, and religious voices—that created an all-too-receptive climate for the Nazi objective of eliminating the Jewish people.

We remember the courage of Denmark, as well as Albania, Bulgaria, and Finland, for their extraordinary efforts to protect their own Jewish communities. We remember the example of thousands of Righteous Persons who risked their own lives that others might live.

We remember the millions of non-Jews—Poles and Russians, Roma and the disabled, political opponents and homosexuals—murdered under the relentless Nazi onslaught.

We remember the valiant soldiers of the Allied nations who, at such great human cost, vanquished the Third Reich.

We remember the survivors of the death camps, who endured such unimaginable suffering and who have inspired us all with their indomitable courage, spirit, and will to live.

We remember the absence of an Israel in those wartime years, an Israel which, had it existed, would have provided a haven when so shamefully few countries were willing to accept Jewish refugees.

We shall never forget those who saved even a single life. As it is written in the Talmud: “He who saves one life has saved the world.”

We shall never forget the importance of speaking out against intolerance, whenever and wherever it occurs, all the more so as antisemitism in Europe is again on the rise, and deadly attacks against Christians, Jewish, and Muslim houses of worship, both in the United States and abroad, that have seared our souls. We shall never forget the inextricable link among democracy, the rule of law, and protection of human rights.

We shall never forget the age-old prophetic vision of a world of justice, harmony, and peace.

And we shall never forget that each of us, in ways large and small, can help bring us closer to the realization of that prophetic vision. ✡

SOURCE American Jewish Committee

Congregation Ahavas Sholom

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



Here's the link for Shabbat services: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/632968113>, It's the same link for next Saturday's services, 5/2.

Here is the Zoom link for Havdalah 4/25.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87274058882?pwd=UnhSTzZ-iNjg4UVRUM0x5OGlxQXo3UT09>

the password, if you need it, is 490311,

The meeting starts at 8:30

Here is the Zoom link for the counting omer from 4/26 through 4/30, at 9:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83091117956?pwd=a3krb-kx6Y2loQ29RVEs1UHFCWW9wUT09>

the password, if you need it, is 470675

Passing of Marianne Sylvia Levinton

✠ I am saddened to report that our congregant and sometimes Mashgaiah, Mitchell Levinton's mother, Marianne Sylvia Levinton, Zeisel Miriam bat Haim, died this past Monday, April 20. We say to Mitch Hamakom y-nachem l'cha b'toch sh'ar avelei tziyon virushalayim, May God comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

🕊 On a lighter note, we are happy to announce Dubra Shenker's husband, Vic, is back home and on the road to recovery.


SIMON

SAYS

Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

 ur ancestors, despite their lack of knowledge of germ theory and the difference between bacteria and virus (not to mention that they didn't have any knowledge of one-cell animals let alone sub-microscopic things like

viruses), knew how to protect their community. Some of the things that the global society is promoting today were familiar to our ancestors thousands of years ago. Maybe they are only common sense.

If you exhibited signs of a contagious, skin disease (maybe leprosy or maybe not), you were isolated. In extreme cases, you had to live outside the camp.

I don't know much about the skin diseases depicted in Parashat Tazria. Correction: I don't know anything about the skin diseases depicted in Parashat Tazria, but they must have been fearsome, because all of the community was afraid of them. Isolation, and in extreme cases, living outside the camp, must have been terrible for the afflicted person and for the relatives or friends of the afflicted person. Humans need human contact. Imagine not being able to see your spouse. Imagine not being able to see your baby. Imagine not being able to see your elderly parent who needs you to care for him or her. Imagine not being able to say a final good-bye to a loved one or attending a funeral. Imagine not being to grieve in the company of your relatives and friends.

You don't need to imagine, because we are going through this right now. The news is filled with stories about adult children going to nursing homes and standing outside of the windows of their parents' rooms and holding up signs of greetings, or birthday greetings. The news is filled with stories about spouses, or siblings, or parents, or even children, being taken to a hospital where the other relatives are not allowed to visit. Probably, we all know somebody who is in that predicament; I know that I do. The news is filled with stories about people who are not allowed to say a final good-bye to a loved one or attend a funeral; attendance of funerals in New Jersey are limited to three people: the officiant, a funeral director, and one relative or friend. And no shivah.

That is why we need each other more than any other time in our lives. Don't be embarrassed to reach out to somebody if you need food or medicine.



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Don't be worried that you will inconvenience other people. If you want human contact, tell me, and I or other congregants will talk to you or read to you.

Before I close, I want to give a shout-out for the first responders. Not today's nurses and doctors and EMTs, although they deserve our respect and admiration. No, I want to discuss the first responders 3000 years ago, the priests. Without any knowledge of germ theory, without any knowledge of antibiotics or the necessity of sterile environments, without any face masks or eye protection, without any Clorox wipes (not to mention soap), the priests inspected the sick people without any regard for the priests' own health, to make sure the community was safe.

The least we can do, in honor of the priests that endangered their own lives to protect the larger community, is to wear masks when we interact with other people and maintain social distancing. ✨

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!**

Ahavas Sholom: Working Hand in Hand with the community

✡ must apologize for not publishing over the past few weeks; but things come up. As I am sure you are aware, Congregation Ahavas Sholom and The Jewish Museum of New Jersey (JMNJ) have suspended activities while we deal with the Coronavirus pandemic. In this week's mini issue, we will look back on the wonderful programs CAS and JMNJ have given in the past, while also looking forward to the many wonderful events we will host in the future. Ahavas Sholom is not only our home away from home, for many of us, Ahavas Sholom is our home, in some respects.

These events are not in any particular order; they are just a visual reminder of how vital Congregation Ahavas Sholom is to us, and to the community at large.









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: 4/16/2020

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

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



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