

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



שלום

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Volume XXX No. 4

December 2020

Kislev — Tevet 5781



President's Message

(Editor's note: The following was written for the November Bulletin, which was not published, so we are reprinting it here)

Dear Friends and Fellow Congregants ,
It goes without saying that we are living through the most extraordinary times in a generation (or more). The ways and methods we use to get by are as varied as our individual circumstances. As we begin the New Year of 5781 we of course ask Hashem not only for health, but the strength to sustain and keep moving forward until life achieves something more resembling of normalcy. In the past – my messages have always included urging all of us to keep in mind how many blessings the Master of The Universe bestows on us every day (whether we're aware of them or not). However, this year more than any other I think about what I wish I knew when younger and if it were possible to tell that version of myself not to ever take anything or anyone for granted. And, when considering the sum total of our deeds and accomplishments of the past

year to drop the concept of what we think we deserve, in favor of what we have actually earned. The distinction is subtle but potent. Going forward, while we pray to be sustained during these difficult times, please know that the WHC is here to stand as your source of spiritual sustenance. I would also like to add, although there has been a break for a few weeks during the High Holidays, Rabbi Axelman has been conducting the Judaism 101 Classes on Zoom (accessible by phone as well) on Monday nights at 7:00 PM. We will be resuming these shortly and I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to ask whatever questions you may have on our faith (really—anything!) of a first rate Torah Scholar. I wish you all Health, Strength and Prosperity in the New Year
L'Shana Tova
Bruce Berenson

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, December 29th -- 7:30 PM

(Meeting will be streamed on Zoom—Details to follow)





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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Chanuka begins this year with sunset on Thursday, December 10th and ends with nightfall on Friday, December 18th. Chanuka is the only Jewish holiday that continues from one Jewish month to the next, beginning on the 25th day of Kislev and continuing into the month of Tevet. According to the Talmud, Chanukah commemorates the miracle that occurred when, after being victorious in war against the Greeks, the Jews found only enough ritually pure oil in the Temple to light the Menorah for one day, but miraculously the Menorah burned for eight days, until more oil was found or processed. (There are many other ways to understand Chanuka's history, the reasons for its celebration, etc. from traditional and less-traditional perspectives—those discussions are better suited for a class than a column; as always I welcome one and all to our Judaism 101 Class (on zoom)--Mondays at 7:00 p.m.) On the weeknights of Chanuka, it is best to light the candles 20 minutes or so after sunset and they should remain lit for at least 30 minutes. However, on Shabbat it is forbidden to light the candles after sunset. The proper procedure, therefore, is to light the Chanukah candles before lighting Shabbat candles at the proper time, which on December 11th is 4:10 p.m. The candles should remain lit for approximately 90 minutes. For those who perform this mitzvah with olive oil and a wick (as does the writer of this article) this does not present a problem. For those who use the standard Chanukah candles, which burn for about 45 minutes, it is preferable to buy longer candles, which are readily available in stores. Some claim that freezing the candles will significantly lengthen their burn time as well. On Saturday night, the

candles should NOT be lit until dark, approximately 40 minutes after sundown. Originally the Menorah was placed outside one's home by the door on the opposite side of the Mezuzah so one could see it easily from the street and pass between the two mitzvot of Mezuzah and Menorah when entering the home. Many in Israel follow this practice even now. The more prevalent custom is to light the Menorah in a window that faces the street. Each night we add one candle, the first night, 1, the second night, 2, etc. The *shamash* (the extra candle) is lit because it is forbidden to derive benefit from the candles of Chanuka; we can only derive benefit from the light provided by the *shamash*. (Bear in mind that until relatively recently in history, candles were the main source of light!)

On the first night we recite three blessings (B'rachot) that are found in the Siddur/prayer book, including "Shehechiyanu", the blessing we recite the first time we observe any Mitzvah. On subsequent nights we recite only two blessings. It is customary for everyone in the house to light their own Menorah. After lighting the Menorah, "Haneirot Hallalu" and "Maoz Tzur" are sung.

Various possible origins are cited for the custom of playing dreidel on Chanukah, including that the Jews, when prohibited from studying Torah, would pretend to be gambling with a dreidel when caught by the Greeks. The letters on the dreidel: *Nun*, *Gimmel*, *Heh*, and *Shin* stand for "Nes Gadol Haya Sham" or a great miracle happened there, referring to Israel.

Another widespread custom is to eat latkes, as they are fried in oil, to

(Continued on page 5)

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood Message

Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy Chanukah. Please do a mitzvah and call our senior members to ask if they need anything or just to chat for a while. Hearing a friendly voice will lift their spirits.

Making Contributions

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

Simcha Fund.....	\$10
Chai Fund	\$18
Prayer Book Fund.....	\$10
Inscribed Prayer Books	\$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin, so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".

Prayer Book Fund - October 2020

Inscribed Prayer Book in memory of Selma Cohen

-- Sisterhood WHC

In memory of Selma Cohen

-Patricia Smolker



SHALACH MANOT



Due to Covid-19, Sisterhood will not be preparing Shalach Monot bags for Purim. We will be sending out cards instead. The charge is \$5.00 per name.

Please call Patricia Smolker at 718-746-7068 to place your orders.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SISTERHOOD WHC

for the total number of names and mail to Patricia Smolker at 157-18 23rd Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357.

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Please place your orders as soon as possible.



Lilian Gradofsky
Patricia Smolker
Co-chairs

December Happy Birthdays



Barbara Friedman Tricia Smith
Dorothy Schneider

***Editor's note:** If your birthday should be listed on this page and is not, please call the office at (718) 767-1500 and give us your date of birth. Thank you.

Condolences

To the Berenson and Slutsky families
on the loss of Edward Israel Goldberg, brother of
Seena Slutsky and uncle of Bruce Berenson

To the family of Selma Cohen on their loss

**המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים**

May their memory be a blessing

**Best Wishes for a
speedy and complete recovery**

Esther Cohen
Lilian Gradofsky





Recent positive news generated by Israel, of which we can all be proud.
(Articles below are excerpts of originals only)



Israeli Company Develops New Oral/Nasal Spray That Prevents Coronavirus And It's FDA-Safe

December 2, 2020

Matzav.com

The fear of catching the virus at the supermarket, on the bus, or in our religious, official, or business meetings is something that has become embedded in our collective consciousness, whether we realize it or not. But there's good news. There is an easy-to-use oral/nasal spray that is 99.9% effective against Coronavirus. An alternative that is potentially safer, effective and far less painful than the COVID-19 vaccine shots. An Israeli

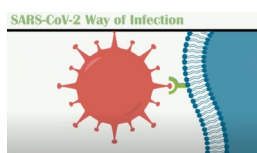
biopharma company, known as BioSimplx, has tested a new preventative oral/nasal spray called AQUARA, at an FDA registered laboratory and it was found to stop coronavirus dead in its tracks. In less than 90 seconds it was able to deactivate the virus while remaining active on mucousal membranes for as long as 90 minutes.



Technion Team Wins Gold for Anti-COVID-19 Gel Technology

By Hana Levi Julian - 16 Kislev 5781 – December 1, 2020

JewishPress.com



A Technion student team has won a gold medal for the seventh time at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition in synthetic biology. This year's team won the medal for work developing an active gel to capture COVID-19. The SARS-CoV-2 viral particles are prevented from infecting the host cells. Unlike existing sanitization products, the gel provides active skin protection for hours and does not

damage the skin microbiome. COVID-19 is transmitted via two main routes – inhalation of airborne droplets containing millions of viral particles emitted by infected people through coughing, sneezing, speaking and breathing, or by touching the face following contact with contaminated surfaces. The goal of the Technion team, most of whom are students in the Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Engineering, was to develop a product that would lower contact infection.

6 Israeli Creations Feature On Time Magazine's Best Inventions Of 2020 List

November 29, 2020

www.i24news.tv

Six Israeli-made innovations have made Time Magazine's annual list of 100 Best Inventions of 2020 that are "making the world better, smarter and even a bit more fun."

Each contender was then evaluated on key factors, including "originality, creativity, effectiveness, ambition and impact."

Here are the six Israeli tech firms that made the cut:



Beehome by Israeli startup Beewise was listed in the "Artificial Intelligence" (AI) category. Beehome is the first automated beehive that allows beekeepers to remotely treat their hives and care for their bees.

Mifold Hifold, appearing in the "Parenting" category of Time's list of inventions, is "the world's most adjustable highback booster seat," according to the Israeli company behind the creation, Carfoldio.

Trialjectory, also featured in Time's AI category, is "a service that uses AI to read through thousands of clinical trials and extract information about the sorts of patients the

researchers are looking for," according to Time.

Augmedics Xvision, featured in the "Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality" category, is "a headset that uses augmented reality to turn a patient's CT scan into a 3-D visualization that helps guide a spinal surgeon through operations."

City Transformer, the folding electric two-seater urban vehicle, appeared in the Time's "Special Mentions" category. "The Israel-based startup's two-seater electric vehicle is tiny, but can reach speeds of up to 55 miles per hour," Time cited.

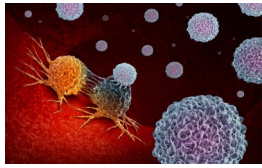
Incredio Sugar is a "newly engineered form of the sweetener that allows bakers and food companies to reduce sugar content by 30-50 percent while retaining the same level of sweetness." Incredio Sugar also appeared in the "Special Mentions" category on Time's list of best inventions.



With new 'elegant chemo,' Israeli scientists edit genome to destroy cancer DNA

By Nathan Jeffay 19 November 2020

www.timesofisrael.com



Israeli scientists say they have destroyed cancerous cells in mice with a method so pinpointed it's as if "tiny scissors" were being used to target only affected cells, while leaving everything around them

intact. "There are no side effects, and we believe that a cancer cell treated in this way will never become active again." He added: "This technology can extend the life expectancy of

cancer patients and we hope, one day, cure the disease." Peer called it "a more elegant chemotherapy" and said he dreams that it will replace that treatment, which can take a drastic toll on cancer patients because it is administered to the whole body. The research uses genome editing technology that is currently used only for rare diseases and only on cells that are removed from the body. It has been adapted to edit — or "delete" — cancer cells.

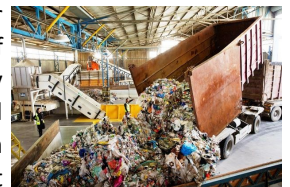
Israeli Company Converts Trash into Hangers Used in Fashion Outlets Around the World

November 15, 2020

jewishpress.com

UBQ Materials, an Israeli company based in the Negev, has developed a process to convert unsorted household waste into a plastic substitute that can be made into everyday goods, and in this case, clothing hangers. The UBQ Materials factory in Kibbutz Tse'elim employs a unique technology that turns all types of waste, including food scraps and plants, various plastics, cartons and dirty diapers, into raw material useful for the automotive industry, trash cans, shopping carts,

pipes, 3D printing, and variety of other products. Thanks to the treatment of waste types that are not currently recycled, every ton of raw material processed in the plant saves carbon emissions and helps companies that are committed to environmental protection to achieve their goals.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 2)

commemorate the miracle that happened with oil. In Israel today, they eat "sufganiyot", jelly donuts, instead.

There appear to be several reasons or sources for the custom of giving Chanukah-gelt, though none for our "custom" of gift-giving, though I never quarrel with that custom.

Again, this article does not claim to fully cover this subject. Almost every sentence presented herein is subject to interpretation and dispute. I have merely presented the most

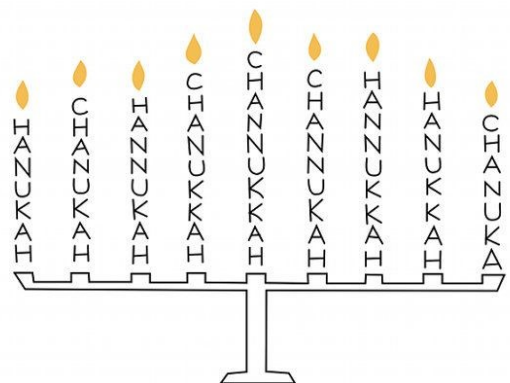
common traditional view of Chanuka in the simplest possible way.

Wishing you all a Chanukah Samayach—a happy and healthy Chanukah!

(For lyrics (Hebrew, English and Transliterated) and audio of the Brachot and Ma'oz Tzur, go to our website at www.whitestonehebrewcenter.org/chanuka.



Ron Kohn making a Siyum upon completing a Tractate of the Talmud along with the worldwide Daf Yomi program
November 30, 2020



The definite spelling of the name of this holiday!



Thank you for Donations -- October & November 2020

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for WHC and everyone else

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and the special birthday
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Liliya Berezovsky



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If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, in addition to the printed version, please send your email address to haxelman@gmail.com and let us know. The email version appears in color and will reach you several days before the hard copy. Thank you!

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SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Sundays @12:45 PM -- Talmud Class

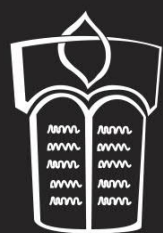
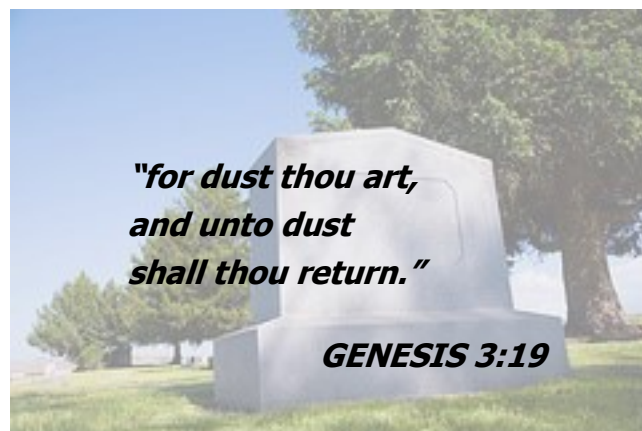
**Mondays @7:00 PM -- Judaism 101
Explore Your Questions**



Please check our website for updated days and times of classes.
Currently classes are being streamed on zoom and not being held in person.

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