Dearest Members and Friends,

I would wager that until March of this year, most of us had never heard of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a federal agency charged with protecting public health and safety via the control and prevention of disease, injury, and disability, both in the US and internationally. But fast forward just a couple of months, and we are now all acutely aware of the “CDC”, as it is known, and we anxiously follow its every pronouncement and directive.

One of those directives has been for all of us to wear masks if we are out in public. The said mask should cover mouth and nose, and be worn at all times. And although a mask does not substitute for social distancing, if one keeps six feet away and covers one’s mouth and nose, it will protect people around you in case you are infected, and, correspondingly, if they are infected and wearing a mask you will be protected from them.

The reaction to this new ordinance has been extraordinary. As you will no doubt have seen if you’ve been out on the streets for a walk or to do your grocery shopping, everyone out there is wearing a mask. To the extent that seeing someone without a mask is actually jarring, when just three months ago the exact opposite would have been true, and seeing someone with a mask on might have set alarm bells ringing. But what has struck me more than this mask-wearing ubiquity has been the fact that the masks now come in all kinds of different colors and designs. At the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak masks were all plain white and pale blue, but very soon we began to see customized masks -- and now it is rare to see any of the plain ones.

This phenomenon has not escaped mainstream media attention. A couple of weeks ago the Washington Post ran an article headlined: “Masks are here to stay. And they’re quickly becoming a way to express ourselves.” Companies are all busy ordering branded masks for when their employees return to work, and an entire cottage industry of enterprising mask makers has sprung up out of nowhere, exponentially popularized by the various social media platforms.

My daughter Dalia, who studied fashion design at FIDM, has been inundated by growing customer demand for personalized masks. Indeed, I consider myself lucky that she found the time to make me my very own personalized mask – a comfortable denim one emblazoned with the word ‘rabbi’ in capitals. Which means that even behind a face mask, my calling is still out there for all to see.

What are we to make of this proliferation of bespoke face protection? In my view this new fashion item reflects an astounding anomaly of human nature, powerfully underpinned by the curious name given by our ancient sages to the fourth book of the Torah: Sefer Hapekudim – the Book of Numbers.

Humans beings crave individuals, particularly in western countries, and especially the United States, that which means that the Jews were counted “according to their names.” This second census differed from the earlier one in that its purpose was to emphasize the individuality of each person, even though they belonged to the larger group. When you identify a person by their name you are automatically focusing on their expression, and the fact that customized face masks are the new fashion accessory of choice is a testament to a healthy society of individuals all looking to express their unique identity.

We anxiously follow its every pronouncement and directive.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION
DURING THIS TIME OF MANDATED SOCIAL DISTANCING, WE ARE STILL KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION.
CONNECT WITH OUR WHATSAPP GROUPS

YINBH COMMUNITY
DAILY DAF YOMI SHIUR
PARSHA SHIURIM
YINBH VIDEOS

HAYE HAVE A GRADUATE
MEMBERS- If you have a child or grandchild who is graduating this year, please send their information to mkramer@yinbh.org. Please send a photo, where they are graduating from, and the degree they are receiving. We will be listing all the graduates in the June 13th Tefilla Notebook.

Weekday Mincha/Maariv 7:40pm Via zoom

Dayshe,
Our next Ladies Night In will be held on May 25th at 8pm via Zoom, tune in and share your favorite Shavuot recipes.

Yom Yerushalayim Sameach!
Chodesh Sivan Tov!
Shabbat Shalom,
Cecile & Ruthie
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Happy Anniversary
Chazzan Nati & Carmit Baram
Daniel & Nathalie Paluch
Stephen & Jessica Samuel
Simon & Rita Elhiani

Yahrtzeits

Mel Gross
Moshe z”l
Father of
Jeff Gross
Yahrtzeit—29 Iyyar

Mary Friedman
Mother of
Karen Fisher
Yahrtzeit—4 Sivan

Shmuel Goldberger
Shmuel ben Yosf z”l
Brother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit—6 Sivan

Jozef Goldberger
Jozef ben Yosef z”l
Brother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit—6 Sivan

Baruch Goldberger
Baruch ben Yosef z”l
Brother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit—6 Sivan

Adina Goldberger
Adina bat Asher z”h
Mother of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit—6 Sivan

Yosef Goldberger
Yosef ben Yishayahu z”l
Father of
Ernie Goldberger
Yahrtzeit—6 Sivan

Email office@yinbh.org for the zoom link

Grab a drink of choice and join for a chat, ask any questions on your mind, or simply connect with Rabbi Dunner and the community.

YINBH Sisterhood presents...

Ladies Evening In
Monday, May 25th 8pm

Bring your favorite Shavuot Recipe
Via zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3102767650
zoom code 310 276 7650

SPONSOR A CLASS
Honor the memory of a loved one, or celebrate a simcha by sponsoring one of our zoom classes. We will mention the sponsorship beforehand and in any class materials.
If interested, email mkramer@yinbh.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday May 24</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Treasures from the Rabbi’s Library</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday May 24</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Pini Dunner</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday May 24</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Tzurva MeRaban with Chazzan Nati Baram</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday May 25</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Shavuot shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday May 25</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Ladies Evening In</td>
<td>Sisterhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday May 26</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Tanach Shiur with Chazzan Nati Baram</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 27</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Rabbi Dunner talks to Eli Beer</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 27</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Shavuot Shiur with Rabbi Dunner</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 27</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea with Rabbi Pini Dunner</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday May 28</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Yizkor Service</td>
<td>Tefilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday May 28</td>
<td>6:35pm</td>
<td>Mincha/Kabbalat Yom Tov</td>
<td>Tefilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday May 30</td>
<td>8:50pm</td>
<td>Havdalah</td>
<td>Tefilla</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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