

**From:** JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa <[info@jimena.ccsend.com](mailto:info@jimena.ccsend.com)> **On Behalf Of** JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2020 3:55 PM  
**Subject:** JIMENA Together: Connecting Closely, Passover Resource Guide, Learning Opportunities

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Passover, 2020/5780

Dear Friends and Members:

As JIMENA continues sheltering in place here in California we are thinking very deeply about how to meaningfully engage with our members and the world at large during these troubling times. We are committed to continue offering unique online learning opportunities and we are excited to launch two new programs to connect with each-other in a more personal way.

**JIMENA Buddy System:** As so many of us are alone with limited opportunities for social interaction, this is a chance to be paired with another JIMENA member for weekly check-ins via Facetime, Zoom, or just the good old phone. We are specifically interested in pairing older members of our community with a buddy to talk to, problem-solve with, and check-in with. If you or a loved one are in need of phone-support during this time, or if you'd like to be a JIMENA buddy, [please fill out this simple form](#). We are seeking French, Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish, and English speaking individuals.

**JIMENA Together Sessions:** We will be hosting weekly meetings for our members to simply connect and share. Each individual will be given a couple minutes to talk about whatever is on their mind and then the opportunity to discuss the current realities we are all facing. We will be offering separate Zoom sessions for young adults and for the older members of our community. [Please fill out this form to join](#).

As Passover is just days away we are all making unique decisions on how to adapt this sacred holiday to the current realities we are facing. We've created a unique [Passover guide](#) that may offer some assistance. We send you and your loved one all our wishes for liberation, freedom, joy, and most importantly health. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time - we are here for you all.

Sincerely,

[Sarah Levin](#)

Executive Director

[Sapir Taib](#)

Program Director

P.S. In case you missed it, [here is a link](#) to the video of JIMENA's recent Social Media Training for Pro-Israel and Mizrahi Activism with Hen Mazzig, [a link](#) to the Yemenite cooking demonstration with Doreet Jehassi of [The Malawah Bar](#), and [a link](#) to our session on Multi-Lingual Passover Traditions with Dr. Sarah Benor and musicians Asher Levy and Chloe Pourmorady.

DONATE >

## Upcoming Online Events

### Book Talk with Journalist and Award-Winning Author, Matti Friedman

This SUNDAY join us for a book talk with award-winning journalist and author, Matti Friedman. In 2014, Matti won the Sami Rohr Prize for Non-Fiction for his investigative book, *The Aleppo Codex*. Matti will focus his upcoming talk on his recent book, [Spies of No Country: Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel](#), winner of the 2018 Natan Book Award.

"Spies of No Country is a return to Friedman's concern from *The Aleppo Codex*—the enormous impact of the dissolved world of Mizrahi Jewry on the State of Israel, and the still unfolding implications of Israel's identity as a Middle Eastern country. Friedman tells the story of four members of the Arab Section, the undercover intelligence unit started by the British, developed under the Palmach, and institutionalized during the consolidation of the nascent IDF. The four spies

BOOK TALK  
**SPIES OF NO COUNTRY**  
*Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel*  
WITH JOURNALIST AND AWARD WINNING AUTHOR  
MATTI FRIEDMAN

OPEN TO ALL!

**SPIES OF NO COUNTRY**  
Matti Friedman

**SPIES OF NO COUNTRY**  
SECRET LIVES AT THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL  
MATTI FRIEDMAN

APRIL 5TH, 2020 | SUNDAY  
11:30 AM PDT | 2PM EDT  
8:30 PM ISRAEL

ONLINE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM

RSVP: [bit.ly/bookclubjimena](https://bit.ly/bookclubjimena)



Friedman focuses on hailed from mellahs and medinas in Damascus and Aleppo, and vegetable markets in Jerusalem. They carried the resonant appellation mista'arvim, or "the ones who became like Arabs," because their mission was to merge with the populations of places like Amman and Beirut and pick up scraps of intelligence while undercover as shopkeepers and candy salesmen, taxi drivers and kiosk venders." - [Jewish Book Council](#)

RSVP Here:

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## The Interfacing of COVID-19 and Jewish Tradition

Throughout history, Sephardic Rabbis have met a multitude of community needs by serving as spiritual leaders, organizers, advocates, and trained scientists and doctors. Rabbi Elie Abadie, M.D. follows this lineage and will help guide the JIMENA community as we navigate the challenges posed by Covid-19. Together we will learn about the Rabbinical and Jewish precedent for confronting disease during uncertain times.

Rabbi Elie Abadie, M.D. was formerly the Rabbi and previously served as the Spiritual Leader of the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue in New York City, and the Founder and Rabbinic Advisor of the Moise Safra Community Center in Manhattan. He is the Founder and Head of School of the Sephardic Academy of Manhattan. He is the Founder and Rabbi of the Manhattan East Synagogue - Congregation Shaare Mizrah, located in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He is member of the Board of Governors of the Diaspora Museum - Beit Hatfutsot. He is also the Director of the Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies, at Yeshiva University and is a scholar and college teacher of Sephardic Judaism, history, philosophy, and comparative traditional law. He was a member of the Board and an Officer of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA). He is the Treasurer of the New York Board of Rabbis. Member of the Governing Council of the WZO. He is President of JJAC - Justice for Jews from Arab Countries. He has lectured on Jewish themes, philosophy, law, and medical ethics. As a member of the board of the American Sephardi Federation and the World Sephardic Educational Center, he lectures on Sephardic Judaism, history, and comparative traditional law.

In partnership with: Manhattan East Synagogue

## The Interfacing of COVID-19 and Jewish Tradition

WITH RABBI ELIE ABADIE, M.D.



APRIL 12TH, 2020 | SUNDAY

11:00 AM PT | 2PM ET

9:00 PM ISRAEL

ONLINE WEBINAR VIA ZOOM



RSVP Here:

[bit.ly/covid19talkjimena](https://bit.ly/covid19talkjimena)



**ISRAEL** Connect  
**Behind the Headlines: Israel, the  
Coronavirus and the Middle East**

Featuring Special Guest Speaker:

**Neil Lazarus**

Middle East and Israel Advocacy Expert

Date: Monday, April 6th, 2020 | 12pm PT

[Register Here](#)

In Partnership with:



**Behind the Headlines: Israel, the Coronavirus and the Middle East**

**Apr 6, 2020 12:00 PM PT**

Please join us for a special talk with Middle East and Israel Advocacy Expert, Neil Lazarus: "Behind the Headlines: Israel, the Coronavirus and the Middle East"

RSVP Here:

[bit.ly/onlinetalkwithneil](https://bit.ly/onlinetalkwithneil)

**Passover Recipe Collection**



Enjoy JIMENA's curated collection of Pesach recipes and resources, by [clicking here](#).

[Learn More](#)

### **Coping With the Current Covid-19 Situation**

**By Ariella Azaraf, School Social Worker and Michal Agus Fox, School Psychologist of Manhattan Day School in New York City.**

**Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals**

**March, 2020**

Get some FRESH AIR.

At least twice a day or as much as you can -even while in quarantine. Even just sitting next to an open window and breathing deeply with eyes closed can be a virtual break from sitting around inside.

Get some SUN.

Again, as much as you can- especially if you are in quarantine. Exposure to direct sunlight helps your body make Vitamin D.

Find a sunny spot in your house/apartment/yard and soak up some rays for 15-30 minutes (unless, of course, it's cloudy).

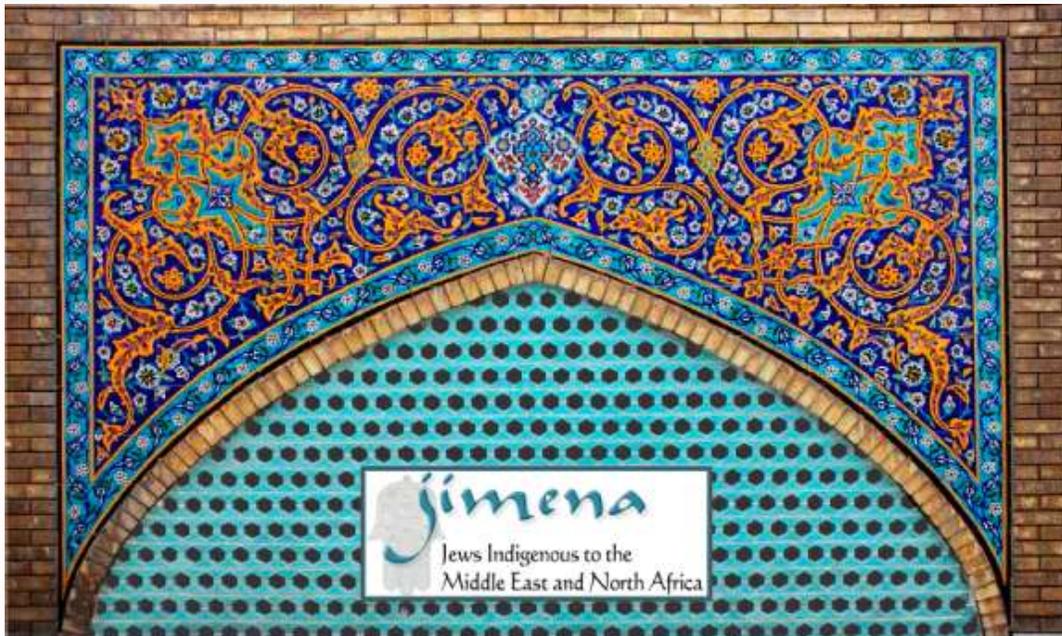
WRITE something.

Encourage your grandchildren to put thoughts down in words. Inventive spelling is wonderful for the younger children. For yourselves, you can start keeping a diary or journal. Transform your thoughts and feelings into a poem. Write a letter to someone you love - an actual letter, on paper, that you put in an envelope with a stamp - grandchildren especially love to receive those. [Read More...](#)

## Stay Connected!

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for more [JIMENA](#) culture, news, and updates!

Use the hashtag **#jimenavoice** to share photos, news, and ideas to our online communities



*Connect With Us!*



@jimena\_voice



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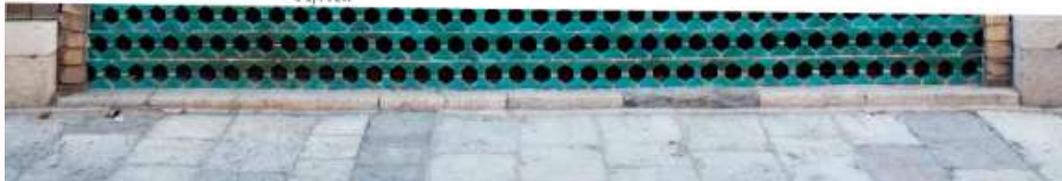
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JIMENA's mission is to achieve universal recognition of the heritage and history of the 850,000 indigenous Jewish refugees from the Middle East and North Africa and their descendants. Our programs aim to ensure that the accurate history of Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews is incorporated into mainstream Jewish and Middle Eastern narratives in order to create balance in attitudes, narratives, discourse, and negotiations about Middle Eastern refugees and the modern Jewish experience.

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