


From: [Clifford Miller](#)
To: [Covid Archive](#)
Subject: Fwd: RA News: Coronavirus Information & Resources, 2020 Resolutions, CJLS Membership Application
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:35:34 AM

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From: **Rabbinical Assembly** <info@rabbinicalassembly.org>
Date: Thu, Feb 27, 2020 at 5:10 PM
Subject: RA News: Coronavirus Information & Resources, 2020 Resolutions, CJLS Membership Application
To: <abuelo39@gmail.com>

The Rabbinical Assembly כנסת הרבנים

RA NewsFebruary 2020 - Adar 5780

[Resolutions](#) | [CJLS Membership](#) | [CJLS Survey](#) | [JTS Webinar](#) | [Human Trafficking](#) | [Stewart Vogel Installation](#)

Protect Your Community from Coronavirus



With cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) appearing across the globe, many communities are feeling uneasy or even fearful. Below, you will find information and resources to support you and your community during this uncertain time. This list of resources will be updated regularly. Please contact our communications specialist, Diana Denza, at ddenza@rabbinicalassembly.org if you'd like to submit a resource to the list.

General Resources:

- The [CDC offers in-depth information](#) on how coronavirus spreads, its symptoms, prevention and treatment, testing, and situation summaries.
- If you run a business or have a congregation, please view [CDC's interim guide](#), which may help prevent exposures to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, in non-healthcare settings. The guidance also provides planning considerations if there are more widespread, community outbreaks of COVID-19.
- This [resource from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) will help you prepare for a pandemic both before it happens and during a crisis.
- Here is a [list](#) of U.S. state health departments and links to local health departments in each state.

Perspectives on Infection Control in the *Taharah* Room:

- We must be conscious of infection control issues when we do *taharah*. [Here are 20+ articles](#) covering a 30-year timespan. They show the range of analysis, recommendations and the evolution of thinking on this topic.

Solidarity with Chinese Americans:

- 75 national and local organizational signatories - including the Rabbinical Assembly - signed a [letter in solidarity with Chinese Americans](#), which has been extremely well received in this country and in China. [Here is a](#)

[response](#) from the United Chinese Americans, the largest grassroots Chinese civic organization.

- Jewish Public Affairs has created a [rabbi sign on letter](#), allowing rabbis from around the world to add their signatures by March 5, 2020. Rabbis can then share the issued letter among their congregations, post it on social media, and share it with Chinese churches and organizations in their areas.

[Shareable public link](#)

Happy 100th Birthday to Erwin Schild!

Our colleague, Erwin Schild, will be celebrating this milestone in March. Erwin survived imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp at age 18, and went on to lead a congregation and author four books. Read more about his life [here](#).

Don't Miss the February Issue of USCJ's Journeys Magazine!

[Journeys Magazine](#) is for the "Jew in the Pew" and has stories about people and their spiritual journeys related to deepening their connection with Conservative Judaism.

Please share the [February issue](#) with your communities.

Save the Date: International Seminar for Halakhic Study, Spring 2020

In the Spring 2020 International Seminar for Halakhic Study, we will celebrate the work of Elliot Dorff. He has contributed magnificently to our movement and the Jewish world through his CJLS teshuvot and administrative leadership. We will study "[Providing References for Schools and Jobs](#)."

We recommend scheduling the International Seminar during the week of April 26, 2020. Teaching materials will be available soon. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact [Elliot Dorff](#) or [Pamela Barmash](#).

2020 Virtual Resolutions Process

As we have done for several years now, the 2020 resolutions process will take place entirely online. Yesterday began our one-week comment period. The [resolutions are posted on our website](#), and members are encouraged to comment on them. On **March 2 at 5:00 PM ET**, the comment period will end. We remind you that comments are to be directed towards the substance of the resolution and in the spirit of collegiality.

Proposed amendments should be posted as comments and clearly demarcated as a proposed amendment. Amendments must be in keeping with the substance of the resolution. Any amendments that run counter to the substance of the resolution will be ruled out of order.

[Learn more...](#)

Apply Now to Become a Member of the CJLS

Interested in getting involved on the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS)? There are a couple of slots for appointments to the CJLS that will be becoming available, and we are asking colleagues who are interested to apply.

The CJLS sets halakhic policy for our Rabbinical Assembly rabbis and for the Conservative/Masorti movement as a whole. Its membership consists of 25 rabbis who are voting members, as well as five non-voting lay representatives of the United Synagogue and one non-voting cantor representing the Cantors' Assembly.

Appointments are for five years (except for those appointed to fill the terms of those who have resigned or died); they may then be renewed or opened for new RA members to apply. Members of the CJLS, as with all standing committees, must be ordained for at least five years to be eligible for appointment. Applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the CJLS chairs, RA lead professionals, and the RA president.

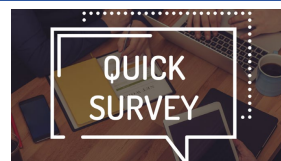
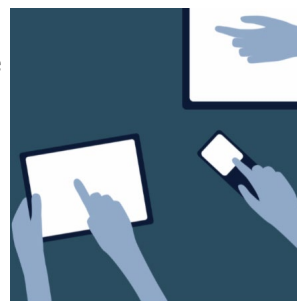
If you are interested in applying for this year's round of appointments, please [fill out this form](#) by **March 13, 2020**.

[Learn more...](#)

Survey on Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) of the Rabbinical Assembly

As part of the implementation phase for our Rabbinical Assembly Strategic Plan, we are collecting data on who makes use of the publications of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. We appreciate your feedback. Your results will be treated anonymously, unless you indicate at the bottom of this survey that you would like to be contacted.

[Take the Survey Now](#)



Annual Appeal 2019-2020: Building Bridges

As our team works hard to implement our strategic plan, we need your support to continue to meet the goals of OUR RA. Invest in our work and the bright future of OUR RA by [making a donation today](#).

Care Line

A hotline for colleagues and their families under stress and/or in need of immediate counseling, 24/6.

**Yaacov Rone,
646-319-4524**



Register Now: Halakhic Legal Fictions Through the Lens of Mekhirat Hametz (JTS Webinar)

Three Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, 2020
12:00-1:00 PM ET

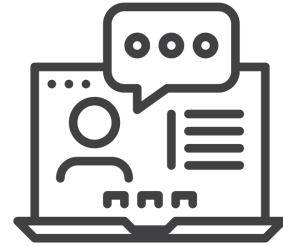
With Dr. Josh Kulp, Rosh Yeshiva, The Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem

How did we arrive at today's widespread practice of "selling" all our hametz via a communal representative before Pesah, only to "buy it back" afterwards as a matter of course? We will explore the historical antecedents for selling hametz, the origins of the practice in rabbinic sources, and how it developed through the generations. We will also examine theories as to how this sale actually works.

Finally, we will consider what limits could or should be placed on the sale of hametz. Throughout, we will reflect on questions including the necessity of relying on gentiles to aid in Jewish observance and the desirability of utilizing halakhic loopholes.

This class is geared toward rabbis and others with advanced text skills. Texts will be studied in the original rabbinic Hebrew. *Offered in partnership with the Conservative Yeshiva and the Rabbinical Assembly.*

Cost: \$60; recordings will be available for those unable to attend live.



[Register Now](#)

Watch Now: Human Trafficking Webinar Recording

Please [watch the recording](#) of this insightful and informative human trafficking webinar, during which we explain the issue and walk you through a number of NEW resources available for free to RA members, including two double-sided handouts: [ENDING SLAVERY!: Understanding Human Trafficking - and What You Can Do About It](#) and [ENDING SLAVERY!: Jewish Sources and Resources On Human Trafficking](#) as well as [No More Slaves! A Sourcebook and Programming Guide](#) written by our colleague Debra Orenstein.



On the webinar, you will also be introduced to three experts in the field who will inform you about their work and make themselves available, free, to RA members as consultants on designing a program or curriculum or as guest speakers (with reimbursement of travel costs). All three experts happen to have strong Jewish backgrounds. You will also learn about a host of tools for sermons, adult education, Hebrew School and Day School curriculum, holiday materials, and more. Please join us as we ramp up our efforts to catalyze the Conservative/Masorti Movement to take bold action for Pesah 2020/5780.

Register Now: Installation of Stewart Vogel and RA Officers

Registration is now open to attend the installation of Stewart Vogel and the officers of our RA and the Executive Council on **Monday evening, March 23, 2020 at Temple Aliyah** in Woodland Hills, California.

The installation will take place at 7:15 PM. If you are also interested in registering for a panel discussion at 4:00 PM and/or dinner at 6:00 PM (\$54 per attendee), please use the code RABBIS. The topic of the discussion is "Moral Leadership for Rabbis in the 21st Century" and it will be led by our esteemed colleague, Elliot Dorff.



Please note that you should receive an email confirmation automatically sent to you when you register. If you have any questions, please contact [Alicia Cohen Kraus](#), the membership engagement director at Temple Aliyah.

[Register Now](#)

Special thanks to Mount Sinai for sponsoring the dessert reception.



The Rabbinical Assembly, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

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