

The Cougar Chronicle

While the articles in this issue were conceived by the dedicated staff before the world was called to action, The Cougar Chronicle darkens its banner in solidarity with the peaceful protests against injustice and stands with its empowered community in its necessary cry for change.

So Long But Not Goodbye to DDK

In the middle of this school year, Dr. Darin Katz announced that he will be taking a head of school position in a different institution and moving to Detroit. The news was shocking to the Barrack Community and, soon after, the new system that will come into effect next school year was announced. The Barrack community will suffer a great loss, but it is proud that our own ‘DDK’ is taking this great step forward in his academic career.

Two weeks into the new online learning system, the author interviewed Dr. Katz to capture and record the feelings of sadness and anticipation revolving around his approaching departure. Here are the highlights.

What will you miss about Barrack?

DDK: I am definitely going to miss ... forming the really strong relationships with students ... watching them grow up from young teenagers into young adults ... helping them move on to college and beyond. [I will miss] just watching a generation of students grow up at Barrack.

What are you looking forward to in your new home, school, and environment?

DDK: I am really looking forward to, first of all, getting to know a new Jewish community in Metro-Detroit. Getting to know the school community. [Also] the job of the head of school is very different than the job that I have right now, so that brings new challenges and opportunities that are exciting ... because I have never done them. And

Kayla Bleier, Lead Editor



Dr. Katz's official headshot

the school that I’m going to in Metro-Detroit has been around for 63 years; it has been around for almost as long as Barrack. I really look forward to taking the school to the next step so that it can continue to be a pillar of the Jewish community in the Detroit area.I am going to miss everybody, I am going to miss my colleagues a lot. I am going to miss the students a lot. But at the same time, when an opportunity presents itself, it’s important to take it.

Next year, Barrack is instituting a new system of leadership Is there anything you want to say

about that?

DDK: I am completely confident in who will be taking over various parts of my job. Mr. [Tom] McLaughlin, Humanities Chair, will be the Upper School Academic Dean. He is going to really oversee the academic program along with the department chairs. Coach [Justin] Cooper, Physical Education and Health Chair, will be the Upper School Dean of Students, [and] he will oversee student life issues, discipline, publications, and clubs. He will [also] still oversee athletics. And then, Mrs. [Rebecca] Trajtenberg, Director of College Guidance, is going to oversee academic advising for the whole upper school. She will help make sure students are at their right level, and with the right elective and courses that they have to choose. So really the three of them, Mr. McLaughlin, Coach Cooper and Traj, are taking over all of the parts of my job and I am completely confident that they ... will continue the excellence that we have in the upper school.

Do you think that Mrs. Trajtenberg's new position will have an effect on the college process for current and next year's seniors?

DDK: Not at all. The truth is, she has actually already been doing [academic advising] for eleventh and twelfth graders for years. Now she is just adding the ninth and tenth grades there is not a whole lot extra that comes with that. So I don’t think that there would be any effect on eleventh and twelfth graders. The benefit of it,

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2020: The Year the Earth Closed

Aron Shklar, World News Editor

As of the middle of May, 2020, famed tourist attractions stand empty. Normally filled streets are devoid of traffic and pedestrians. Religious congregations are empty. This might seem like a scene from a horror movie, and to some, it is. The world has responded to the coronavirus in several ways, but one is most prominent: asking residents to stay at home and avoid social gatherings. Due to this, theme parks, theaters, and landmarks stand devoid of visitors.

In many large and famous cities, their well-known sites remain empty. For example, the Kotel, or Western Wall, in

Jerusalem, is ordinarily packed with people praying on Passover or other major festivals. Instead, it is almost abandoned,

Almost every state has initiated “stay at home” policies, and closed all businesses that aren’t defined as “essential.”

with only the occasional pilgrimage-maker still arriving. In Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the Kabba stands alone, despite being the most important site in Islam. It should be surrounded by Muslims making their annual pilgrimage, but instead of crowds, there are sparsely spread out individuals.

Another example is Times Square in NYC. One of the most busy and popular places in America now has just a few cars and people moving through it. Other normally packed buildings, such as malls, are completely shut down. Cities appear like ghost towns, seemingly abandoned, as residents are advised to stay indoors.

Religious sites and tourist attractions aren’t the only things that have been closed. Many concerts, conferences, events, and other activities that would involve large gatherings of people have been canceled or postponed.

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Virus Stumps Trump

Niva Cohen, Opinion Editor

The reason that people invest in insurance is to have guaranteed protection in times of need. The government is a type of insurance: citizens pay taxes in return for their safety. When those in power neglect their responsibilities and are not prepared for disasters, they fail the people and fall short of their obligations. So is the case with the Trump Administration in its handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Not only should President Trump have acted differently in the face of the virus, but he should have prepared better before it reached American shores.

The Administration first shirked its duties two years ago by firing those who would have responded immediately to the pandemic. In April 2018, the then national security advisor John Bolton dismissed the White House National Security Council’s Directorate for Global Health Security and Biodefense. Since past President Obama created this department in the wake of Ebola, it was designed to forecast and fight sickness. Bolton then fired Homeland Security Advisor Tom Bossert, who, according to

Assembling a team to deal with pandemics after one has already hit is like recruiting firemen when a building goes ablaze: too little too late, and unfair to those inside.

the *Washington Post*, was planning “for a comprehensive biodefense strategy against pandemic and biological attacks.” Trump even planned to reduce funding for the CDC in the 2021 budget so that he could repurpose the money. This sent a message to all of Washington and America that public health was not a priority. Instead of focusing on the benefit of *investing* in preparation, Trump’s administration made cuts that were reckless and short-sighted.

Even if this shrinking of leadership is consistent with a conservative political perspective, preparing for disasters is one of the government functions with which everyone agrees. Trump argues that cutting certain departments was unproblematic since he could “get them back very


quickly” when necessary, but that defeats the purpose. During crises, countries cannot afford to work with a “trial and error method” because mistakes cost lives and a proper response requires resources and planning. Assembling a team to deal with pandemics after one has already hit is like recruiting firemen when a building goes ablaze: too little too late, and unfair to those inside.

Even once everyone knew of the coronavirus, and experts -- including *Trump’s* experts -- cautioned people against gathering, Trump continued to downplay its threats. He repeatedly compared it to the common flu and labeled it a hoax, insisting that officials were exaggerating the death rate. This rhetoric confused people, as they did not know whose advice to follow or how seriously to take mandated social distancing. When he should have been grave and solemn, the President was flippant. In the past, Trump has used underestimating crises as a political tool (Hurricane Maria, for example) and as a form of propaganda. This time his mischaracterization has broader consequences than infuriating the left; it has risked people’s health by giving them a justification to ignore expertise.

Yet another arena in which Trump and his administration have failed is testing for the virus. Testing is crucial to fighting disease; it quarantines the sick before they transmit the virus and it allows the government to notify those who have been in contact with infected individuals. South Korea tested 60,000 people in the first week of exposure to the coronavirus, but the U.S. did not reach that number for three weeks, at which point it made only a small dent because of the sheer size of the American population. It is not as though the American structure of government is incompatible with mass production of tests, as tests were abundant during the Zika crisis. Therefore, the current Administration clearly misstepped. But Trump refuses to admit any wrongdoing.

Among the President’s critics, doubts have arisen about whether the lack of testing is due to something other than negligent unpreparedness. *Politico’s* Dan Diamond says that Trump may not *want* a wide distribution of tests because “more testing might have led to more cases being discovered of coronavirus outbreak, and... the lower the numbers on coronavirus, the better for the President.” This theory is not unsupported. In March, 21 passengers and crew members aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship tested positive for the coronavirus, but Trump did not want them to leave the ship. His rationale is that he did not want his “numbers [to] double because of one ship that wasn’t [his] fault.” The President’s priorities seem to be more to look after his political image than to look after the American people.

By the time the Trump administration built a group of experts for the coronavirus, it was already playing catch-up. The pandemic may have been a surprise, but the role of the government is to predict these surprises, to take proactive measures, and to arm the people with the tools they need when disaster strikes. Leading is not only the flashy signing of bills, shaking of hands, or bumping of elbows; it is the background tedium that no one sees and for which no one offers congratulations. But this background tedium can save lives, and without it, government is nothing more than an exercise in optics.



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

So last year 37,000 Americans died from the common Flu. It averages between 27,000 and 70,000 per year. Nothing is shut down, life & the economy go on. At this moment there are 546 confirmed cases of CoronaVirus, with 22 deaths. Think about that!

♡ 150K

2:47 PM - Mar 9, 2020

ⓘ

💬 93.9K people are talking about this

➤

Trump compares the coronavirus to the common flu in a tweet, hinting that experts are overreacting .

Trump Tackles Corona

Niva Cohen, Opinion Editor

In the chaos that the coronavirus has created, it is natural to turn to the government for order and reassurance. However, leaders have great control over how their countries run, but they have little power when it comes to sickness and natural disasters. Yes, they can distribute tests and mandate policies like social distancing, they can try to flatten the curve, but they cannot stop disease from spreading or people from dying. Although it is easy to cast doubt on how governments handled a crisis in hindsight, the Trump Administration reacted appropriately to the pandemic.

In late January, when coronavirus concerns were just beginning to sprout, President Trump announced a travel ban on visitors from China. He was accused of using the epidemic to fulfill xenophobic inclinations. But the ban was a wise decision, rooted in the logic that pre-

venting the sick from entering would limit the virus’ spread. The President made a controversial decision to protect the American people, ignoring objections, because he believed -- rightly so -- that he should limit exposure. Despite this, he was later accused of standing idly by. Even though this action was never going to keep coronavirus from reaching the U.S., it bought the government time and slowed the initial spread, thereby flattening the original curve. Now, looking back, all experts agree that a travel ban was not a drastic or unreasonable move. Weeks later, the coronavirus was here and panic about public health and the economy started increasing. Despite claims that Trump did not recognize the severity of the situation, he took several measures that showed

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Trump's Actions Speak Louder than Words

Niva Cohen, Opinion Editor

that the opposite was true. First, the President assembled a team of experts, including Doctors Deborah Birx and Anthony Fauci, whom he knew had the knowledge to advise the public. Trump delegated to those with subject-matter expertise instead of getting in over his head. Second, with this newly-assembled group, Trump resolved to address the people daily with press-conferences to keep them informed, during which he declared a national emergency. Finally, the President encouraged the sick to try Chloroquine, an anti-malarial drug, which helped relieve some patients' symptoms. A few statements of denial are not reason enough to assume that Trump had not taken the pandemic seriously, because his actions speak louder.



President Trump and his coronavirus task force have held daily press conferences.

Some Trump critics point to his Tweets and his nonchalant demeanor as a sign that he underestimates the threat of coronavirus, but what they view as downplaying is simply Trump reassuring his citizens that everything is under control. In these circumstances, it is easy, almost instinctual, to get caught up in the panic and hysteria, both of which spread as quickly as the virus itself. By emphasizing that his "people" are doing a "great job," the President restores citizens' faith in leadership. Only with this trust will people follow orders of social distancing and hand-washing, because no one obeys instructions they do not understand from people whom they do not respect. Therefore, if the President in any way can minimize the danger of the coronavirus, it will ultimately help

flatten the curve by forming a connection between the public and the experts.

Searching for something palpable for which to blame the Trump Administration, many fasten onto limited testing capability. But the administration is *not* to blame for testing failures, at least not directly. The CDC insisted on using its own tests instead of those that other countries had developed, but its test kit was defective at first. Trying to correct the CDC's mistake, Trump responsibly promised citizens greater test distribution in the future, and he worked with a private company in hopes of fulfilling that goal. The President was not at fault for the short supply of tests, but he tried to fix it, nonetheless.

Trump, well aware of the strain this puts on the lower and middle classes, has discouraged insurance companies from charging copayments for testing and signed a bill offering relief to the working class. These policies are especially notable because they contradict Trump's political ideology of limiting the government's social safety net. If the President can embrace beliefs but defy them in times of need, he proves that he is committed not to an agenda but to the American people. In the past few months, Donald Trump may have exaggerated the control that he had over the coronavirus, but this is a meaningless sin when compared to all the *right* decisions he made. It is inconsistent to esteem Dr. Fauci and appreciate his advice while condemning

the President for his handling of the situation, because Fauci only has access to the public because Trump

By emphasizing that his "people" are doing a "great job," the President restores citizens' faith in leadership.

gave it to him. When assessing a leader's actions, one must consider his whole administration; regardless of the President's words, he has hired a group with the expertise to inform, to educate, to research, and to defeat this evil sickness. There is nothing more a president can do.

Productivity-- It's All About Perspective

Eliana Pasternak, Staff Writer

Between shorter school days and exponentially increased time at home, the opportunities to take up new hobbies or improve on existing skills are endless. Despite the fact that many have a difficult time differentiating their home-life from school when they never leave the house, they can still find ways to be productive.

The best part of striving for productivity during this pandemic is that you set your own bar.

With students attending classes from home, it's much easier to get a jumpstart on homework. Few students mourn the loss of a commute to and from Barrack. Now, as soon as the school day ends, they can start any task at hand. A later start to the day also

allows students to complete any unfinished assignments before class begins.

Additionally, staying home fosters a judgment-free environment. Starting a book, drawing, or chasing after any other productivity-driven pursuit is more manageable when there's no pressure from peers. The best part of striving for productivity during this pandemic is that you set your own bar. On the other hand, productivity is measured differently by nearly everyone: where one person might find cleaning his or her room a great success, others could be satisfied with nothing short of learning a new language. To display newfound pastimes, many people have taken to social media. While viewing gourmet pastries and finished novels on In-

stagram, some natural overachievers may feel pressured to "measure up" to the rest of the world. All of a sudden, baking chocolate chip cookies feels

pathetic in comparison. It's important to remember that even though other people's

work may seem impressive, if your efforts are good enough for you, they're spectacular. As long as people keep their personal goals in mind, they can be productive thanks to all of the spare time with which quarantine has gifted them.



Corona Closures Must Stay

Eliana Pasternak, Staff Writer

Contrary to the idea that reopening businesses and public areas is the best way to handle the coronavirus pandemic, continuing to maintain social distancing is key to flattening the curve. Texas and Florida, among other states, will be lifting quarantine measures in the coming weeks, despite many health officials' warnings against it. In those states, facilities such as retail stores, movie theaters, and malls are among the businesses that will reopen their doors shortly. Social distancing will be hard to enforce in these areas, that is if officials make any effort whatsoever, and decisions like these can lead to disastrous repercussions.

Opening recreational, non-essential stores to the public misleads society. Fears of contracting the virus could fade away while the dangers remain ever-present. Any efforts to flatten the curve could be stopped, if not reversed. Some government officials seem to think that a lack of cases means that an area is safe to reopen when it really just shows that social distancing has worked so far. Carelessness could undo this progress.

The northern Japanese island of Hokkaido serves as a cautionary tale as to why stores should stay closed. Hokkaido faced the coronavirus very early on but lifted lockdown measures mere weeks after putting them into place. Less than a month after relaxing mandated social distancing, civilians

faced a second wave of the virus that was much more violent than the first. Haikkaido's citizens claim that they felt comfortable leaving their homes and breaking quarantine because the number of cases had stabilized and the government claimed to have everything under control. Sound familiar? To attempt to prevent a disastrous second wave of coronavirus in the United States, officials in Hokkaido warn leaders not to fall for current encouraging numbers. Stability means that the lockdown is working, not that it should be removed. Despite the frustration

that accompanies the quarantine, leaving the house too soon will be extremely detrimental later on.



Cases in Hokkaido rose after lifting the initial lockdown.



Protesters who want the economy to reopen.

Reopen Now!

Shirin Kaye, Editor-in-Chief

The coronavirus is harmful in *so* many ways. Although social distancing orders are in effect across most of the country, one cannot disregard that there are also Americans advocating for the reopening of the country.

Closures due to the pandemic severely harmed the US economy. Since the start of the pandemic until the end of April, stock markets suffered drops of -35% at the lowest. People who own a substantial amount of stocks are seeing their life savings shooting down and up. International oil prices reached their lowest value in decades, and the price of one type of crude oil became negative for the first time ever in the US. Businesses large and small are struggling to survive for the sake of their profits and the sake of their workers. Some businesses have been hit so hard that their owners have lost hope of ever reopening. Moreover, when one business closes, it has a domino effect on others. Large and small suppliers close as well; trucking and delivery companies close; and the shops, food trucks, gyms, arcades, and bowling alleys, where all those workers used to spend their earnings, also close. Sadly, the people hurt the most are those who are the most vulnerable part of our population -- people whose jobs cannot be done remotely; people whose salaries were low to begin with and now are gone; people with little or no savings.

People want to maintain their physical health, but a part of physical survival is economic survival (one cannot live healthily and comfortably without money). In the first six weeks of spring, more than 30 million people in the US filed for unemployment benefits -- a record-high number. Many owners and workers in businesses that depend on customers coming in -- such as hair and nail salons -- are seeing their already-low life savings disappear, with no way to recover. Less money means less ability to pay rent and less to spend

on groceries; people cannot go on like this! Yes, the government is working hard to support its citizens by way of stimulus packages, but this financial aid does not reach everyone who needs it. For those that the extra check helps, it is merely a bandaid, not a permanent cure.

As people became fed up with quarantine, they took to gathering in protests to demand that government officials ease shutdowns. On the surface, these people emphasize the need to return to work. However, the protesters also bring to light an underlying concern for national values. The US Constitution guarantees Americans freedom, and some believe that lockdown orders deprive them of their liberty by forcing the majority of residents to stay home.

Although COVID-19 will not disappear entirely any time soon, public health experts have suggestions as to how to reduce the health risk as society returns to normal. To protect themselves and others, health professionals advise people to use personal protective equipment such as face masks when in public. People are advised to avoid crowds and public gatherings as much as possible by staying home and using private transportation instead of, say, buses. In retail and restaurant settings, it is recommended to limit the number of customers inside at one time and to space tables six feet apart. In the workplace, employers are encouraged to monitor their employees' health regularly and disinfect shared surfaces frequently. These measures will hopefully prevent a spike in COVID-19 cases while allowing the country to retain some degree of normalcy.

There are definitely cautious methods to reopen the economy, and strong support to do so. Sadly, the major challenges that people have endured as side-effects to the health crisis force people to answer a difficult question: am I willing to risk getting sick for the sake of financial survival?

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Put Me Back In the Classroom

Kayla Bleier, Lead Editor

It seems as if everyone is out of school and out of work. Even though school is still in session, the online classes just don't cut it. We, as a general working group of people, are less productive at home. Due to the nationwide quarantine, students ranging from prepubescent middle-schoolers to legally adult seniors are losing critical experiences.

Sitting in our bedrooms and at our desks, the tasks at hand seem so far away. Everyone now has so much more free time that it seems impossible not to lounge around. Despite the never-ending list of things we want to do, time ticks by, and the checkboxes remain empty. Being at home creates a feeling of comfort and relaxation, which makes sense. Home is where we really feel like ourselves.

Despite the difficulties, the lack of physical school is not a lack of classroom learning. Teachers can still show their students the new algebra formula or teach the history of the Golden Age of Spain. What we as a collective community are lacking is interpersonal learning. The very definition of 'social-distancing' is to be socially remote. No matter how many Facetimes, Zooms, or Google Meet calls one attends, they will never be the same experience as sitting in a room with the person to whom you're talking. At first, the distance seems to be an incon-

Sitting at a computer and staring at a projection of a classroom, the tall kid isn't tall anymore, quiet jokes will be heard not just by neighbors but by everyone, eye contact and unspoken and untyped conversations are lost, and much more.

venience. Weeks roll by, distance continues, and we begin to feel the absence of even subtle but personal interactions. As we sit, alone, with assignments piling up and the Internet unrestricted at our fingertips, what will stop us from choosing the distracting and instantly less boring option? Learning from home is not the same as gaining knowledge from Khan Academy or studying for the duration of the long weekend. The classroom experience is deeper and far more impactful.

Alongside issues with productivity come arguably more harmful consequences. Sitting at a computer and staring at a projection of a classroom, the tall kid isn't tall anymore, quiet jokes will be heard not just by neighbors but by everyone, eye contact and unspoken and untyped conversations are lost, and much more. These interactions allow students to develop relationships and form memories that they will keep long after school. If we, as students, wanted nothing but lectures, papers, and problem sets, we might as well have chosen home-school from the start. Barrack is valuable not just for how it educates but for how it fosters friendships.

JLI-interview

Maya Shavit, Editor-in-Chief

Every year, the Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy community welcomes a new group of eager seniors to JLI, Barrack's Jewish Leadership Initiative. The group of students is led by Rav Will Keller, Director of Jewish Life, and is focused on expanding Jewish life at Barrack. Rav Will is especially excited about the JLI of 2020-2021, who are equipped "with diverse Jewish backgrounds. This JLI class is well suited to support our school's rich tapestry of programming, prayer and connection." To get to know the ambitions of JBHA's JLI of 2020-2021, the Chronicle sat down with a few of the incoming members -- Daniela Barow, Ethan Simon, Eli Beaubien, and David Meles, all of the class of 2021 - - to hear about the importance of Barrack's Jewish programming and how this year's group of students will bring a fresh spirit to this longstanding leadership board at Barrack.

Why is JLI important at Barrack?

Barow: I think it's especially important for the middle school to have role models that are close to their age to help shape their Jewish identity. For the upper school, it's more convenient to have leaders who are part of the student body who can engage their peers.

Simon: JLI is important in nurturing the Jewish life that we have at Barrack. Our initiative is to be able to improve the Jewish spirit in Barrack and teach Jewish Life so that all students are able to understand the inner and outer workings of our rich history, and that no student is left out of understanding our culture.

Beaubien: Barrack is a pluralistic Jewish day school, meaning that everyone is entitled to practice and believe in their own flavor of Judaism openly. But not everyone has really figured out their own spiritualism yet, and it is my job as a student Jewish leader to relate with, educate, and encourage these kids along their own path of self growth and discovery.

Meles: It is an extremely important leadership role for a senior to hold. To be in JLI, you are setting an example and encouraging all the younger students to continue practicing Judaism in the way they feel most comfortable. Also JLI allows the student body to experience Jewish holidays and events in a fun and interactive way, because the JLI plans [activities for] the students to make sure they're learning but having as much fun as possible.

What does being a JLIer mean to you?

Barow: Being a JLIer means I have the opportunity to give back to a community that has helped me fall in love with Judaism.

Simon: Being a JLIer means that I now have the ability to teach people about different parts of Judaism. Additionally, being a JLIer can give the younger students a leader to look up to that they will see in all different parts of their time at Barrack; from Shabbatons to their daily minyan.

Beaubien: Judaism was never a large part of my life before Barrack, in fact, in elementary school I told my friends I was Christian to fit in. But when I entered into the Barrack community, I felt a sense of belonging -- that these are my people. In sixth grade, I knew that I wanted to be one of those few

twelfth graders jumping around on stage performing a Hanukkah skit in such a humorous and eye-opening way I'd never been exposed to before. And now I'm finally here, and I hope to evoke those same feelings in the Barrack community just as it was done for me.

Meles: To me, JLI means a ton. I love to show those who are younger, my age, and older, how I practice Judaism and this is the perfect opportunity. Also I can express my ideas and make things happen for future assemblies, Shabbatons, etc.

What do you most look forward to doing as a part of JLI?

Barow: I am looking forward to participating on Shabbatonim and connecting with grades I wouldn't otherwise talk to.

Simon: I look forward to building towards the ideal Jewish experience for my peers and helping to improve and achieve a greater connection to Judaism for the whole student body.

Beaubien: I can not wait for the Shabbatons because I am able to connect more with the students and my fellow JLIers.

Meles: I look forward to working with really good friends of mine and making sure the whole student body can experience Judaism in the way which each student

prefers. The Shabbatons will also be something I'll definitely look forward to, because we will have some memorable activities planned while bonding the grades together.

How do you plan to make the JLI of 2020-2021 special?

Barow: I will help make JLI 20-21 special by working together with other amazing JLIers to create fun and educational programs.

Simon: I plan on trying to have lots of contests/games/kahoots with prizes. Everyone loves competitions, whether it is a school-wide March Madness style Hanukkah dreidel tournament or a Quizzo about Sukkot. Games are a great way to learn about our traditions but also to have fun playing them. This JLI is a great group of juniors and we have the ability to make JLI assemblies/Shabbatons/activities an ideal experience for students, and something that they will look forward to.

Beaubien: Lots of comedy, music, and spirit. Also, I hope to engage in very deep and profound discussions about Judaism, morality, philosophy, etc., because students need to talk about these things and think critically. And as a fellow student, hopefully I can allow them to be more comfortable with them sharing their thoughts and emotions.

Meles: I want you guys to remember me as one of the best seniors to ever be part of JLI. To [make people] think that, I plan on creating some of the best grade-bonding activities on the Shabbatons, continue the pre-Shabbos dance parties on Fridays at break, make the holiday assemblies even more interactive, and so much more.

The Cougar Chronicle wants to congratulate the entire JLI of 2020-2021: Allee Hochhauser, Daniela Barow, David Meles, Dylan Mandel, Eli Beaubien, Ethan Simon, Ida Narli, Ilan Gordon, Jonah Katz, Lexi Schachter, Maria Lehman, Matthew Garber, Micah Israel, Mikey Andelman, Ronen Adler, Shira Amar.



MYJEWISHLARNING.COM

Corona Canceled Our Conference

Daniel Bernstein, Human Rights Club Officer

A couple of weeks after Politicon 2020, the Human Rights Club was planning to hold the biannual Human Rights Conference on March 25th. The conference was going to be an incredible event, with this year's theme being, "Where do you draw the line?" The Human Rights Club at Barrack aims to educate students about the many injustices that are happening worldwide and encourage the Barrack Kehilla to be educated and active. Speakers ranged from Shira Goodman, the director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Philadelphia, to Nan Feyler, the head of the PA Innocence Project. It was the culmination of months of planning and work.

However, in the weeks leading up to the conference, concerns about the coronavirus started to grow. As the eighth grade Israel trip and the seventh grade Williamsburg trip were

canceled, it was decided that the entire school would be attending the conference, instead of just the high school. In a hectic couple of days, the Human Rights Club managed to put together an entirely new conference for the middle school. It was going to be run by internal speakers talking about a variety of local and global human rights issues. Just as it seemed like everything was finally under control, the school closed and the conference had to be canceled.

After putting in so much hard work and anticipating what a great day it was going to be, the Human Rights Club was extremely disappointed. In an email to the club on what would have been the morning of the conference, Mr. Thomas McLaughlin, Humanities Department Chair and the club advisor, said, "In an alternate universe, we'd be a little more



REGION WEEK/GOOGLE IMAGES

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frenzied this morning." The conference was exciting to plan, and it is a shame that that morning could not have been as frenzied as hoped. The Human Rights Club hopes to get a chance to reschedule the conference next year.

Meet the New SA Officers!

Shirin Kaye, Editor-in-Chief

the school have great ideas about improving Barrack and I thought I could help actually make them happen. I have also loved being involved in SA since middle school and thought it would be really cool to be an officer.

Jory Hirshman: I felt it was a great step after having been VP for the 11th grade. I love to lead and help others, so this role gives me the opportunity to continue doing so.

Zach Ufberg: I love being a leader in this school. It also gives me the opportunity to use my organizational skills.

Anita Hoffman: Ever since sixth grade, I have always looked up to the SA officers of our community. My dad was part of SA when he went to Akiba, and I always found every student to be very inspiring. I have been my grade's secretary for the past three years, so I wanted to become SA Secretary to help and teach younger students, like past alumni have done for me.

C: What are you looking forward to and what challenges do you expect to encounter during your time in the executive office?

DB: Our biggest challenge is doing things while we are not actually in school. This is not how we expected our SA experience to begin, but we will make the best of it. I am excited to plan things to bring our community together and make Distance Learning more fun.

JH: Some of the current challenges will be implementing and creating activities for the school, despite our not being in school physically; we have to create online platforms and communicate with everyone virtually. However, some of the exciting things that I anticipate are the new, fun online programs and activities - - like the Pesach cookbook and fitness challenges - - that we are hoping will help

bring the school together.

ZU: Moving from grade officer to SA officer, it will be more difficult to raise money for the entire school. However, I am looking forward to creating multiple fun activities throughout the school year.

AH: I am excited to help students feel heard, but, during this time of quarantine, I know that some challenges will come up. I am nervous that it will be hard to keep a strong community! However, I am eager for all of the plans that the officers have to maintain community bonds.

C: What is one project you will work on in the coming year?

DB: I hope to set up more avenues for students and teachers to voice their comments. Whether it is through email surveys or town halls, I think it will be a good way for us to find out how we can best help everyone.

JH: I am excited to improve the homework policy and the ability to earn credit for work. We still have to make it better, but the hope is to have it up and running by next year.

ZU: I will continue to advocate for students by attempting to implement the Maman System (lowering work load).

AH: I hope to work on the homework policy.

C: What is one lesser-known fact about yourself?

DB: I can break an apple in half with my hands!

JH: I am ranked in Pennsylvania for track and field/hurdling.

ZU: I will be a 12-season athlete at Barrack and love making friends through sports.

AH: I have a younger brother named Jared at AIM Academy and a sister named Vivienne at Perelman Jewish Day School.



SA INSTAGRAM

Daniel Bernstein holding images of Jory Hirshman at top of screen, Zach Ufberg on bottom left, and Anita Hoffman on bottom right.

In March, the students, faculty, and staff of Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy elected four new officers to the Student Association (SA) for the 2020-2021 school year. Daniel Bernstein '21 is the new President of SA. He is responsible for leading regular SA meetings, in which SA representatives from each grade and any students who want to attend discuss topics such as new policies and school-wide activities. Jory Hirshman '21 was elected SA Vice President. His responsibilities include substituting for the president when he is absent and also working with the Derech Eretz Council. The new SA Treasurer is Zachary Ufberg '21. His job is to oversee sales and manage SA's money. Anita Hoffman '21, the new SA Secretary, is responsible for taking detailed notes at SA meetings, sending communications, and planning school activities with the rest of SA. The Chronicle asked our school's new leaders a few questions about their upcoming year in office. The school community wishes them luck in their leadership!

Chronicle: Why did you choose to run for your position?

Daniel Bernstein: I see that so many people in

Jewish Programming with a Virtual Spin

Raphael Englander, School News Editor

We are living in an unprecedented time. Because of the coronavirus, students all over the world are no longer going to school, and instead had to adapt to online learning. This was especially problematic for our school during the third trimester. How did Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy continue to maintain its Jewish community if we could not see each other? Luckily, Barrack quickly created much virtual Jewish programming so that we could stay connected during this turbulent time.

Morning Minyan was still happening. Not only was it still available for Barrack students every day before class, but there were a myriad of choices. Students could attend Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox *shacharit* (morning prayer) options, dive deep into the *parsha* (weekly Torah portion), and write a rap about the Torah. There was also a women's minyan and a class where discussions were held about moral dilemmas.

Not only was shacharit still going on, but there were also lots of other Jewish events that could bring our community closer together (virtually, of course). The online Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday evening prayer) and Havdalah (End of Sabbath prayer) services were two notable examples. Dylan Mandel '21 thought that the online

Kabbalat Shabbat services "[were] an amazing way for students to stay connected while staying safe... and showed that even during the toughest times we can truly stick together as a kehillah." Mathew Garber '21 said that "the online Havdalah always made me happy because I truly loved seeing families come together, dancing and singing."

Before spring break, there were a multitude of different learning sessions. JBHA students could learn to cook tasty food, discuss philosophical questions, and learn Talmud, all through a computer screen. There were also fun events like the Walk to Israel Challenge, where members of the Barrack community logged how many miles they walked or ran in an attempt to "make it" to Israel. Many hope to see these learning sessions and challenges continue in the future.

There were also many amazing programs devised by the JBHA community to continue to remember the Holocaust and support Israel. The Holocaust Education and Reflection (HEAR) club put together a wonderful livestream for Yom HaShoah that the entire school could watch. The assembly included remarks from many of HEAR club's members and readings of the juniors' journals from their trip to the camps in Poland. The ceremony featured Mr. Peter Stern, a survivor of Ravensbrook and Bergen-Belson, as he shared his incred-

ible story of survival and his advice to all of us.

The Barrack community also worked to remember the deaths of Israeli soldiers who died fighting for the Jewish homeland,

Even during the toughest times we can truly stick together as a kehillah.

and celebrated the 72nd birthday of the Land of Milk and Honey. Israel Club put together a touching Yom HaZikaron livestream that commemorated the sacrifices of IDF soldiers. The ceremony included emotional videos and interviews, beautiful poetry and singing, and the whole Barrack community stood in their homes for HaTikvah. A Yom HaAtzmaut ceremony occurred a day later, where multiple JBHA students lit candles for Israel.

The fact that all of this Jewish programming was still happening illustrates that the students at the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy are determined to uphold our Jewish values and carry on these meaningful programs, whether it is shacharit, services, learning sessions, or assemblies. Although we may not be physically together, Barrack is still a community; we will get through this pandemic, and maintain our Jewish identity.



JBHA FACEBOOK

How Seniors Completed Hours of Service During the Pandemic

Raphael Englander, School News Editor

The whole world was affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus. One instance of this devastating effect hit close to the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy community, being the seniors' plans for how to fulfill their required community service. Due to quarantine, many of Barrack's seniors had to change their plans for senior service, and JBHA acknowledged the difficulties of completing all of the service hours during a pandemic. "Instead of

A pandemic is the perfect time for the seniors to do their community service, as people everywhere struggle with social-distancing and a new way of life.

requiring 90 hours, they [had] people [do a] 'do-what-they-can' type of thing," said Helen Rudoler '20.

A few students were planning to travel to Israel with Ofanim, an organization that endeavors to bring high-quality education to all children in Israel. Others thought they would be volunteering at the Hebrew Charter School. However,

coronavirus made these projects impossible. Nevertheless, seniors still found ways to make meaningful impacts.

According to Rav Will, "Some of those students were able to plug into amazing new opportunities that supported needs that arose from corona, and other students found other new opportunities online." Many seniors chose to help the school, whether by offering writing advice to students, keeping Math Tutoring Center up and running, or giving JBHA's administrative office a hand. Other seniors pivoted to become involved with organizations outside of school, like Bundle

Breaks, an online tutoring program for children.

Although the seniors did a great job to adapt in this bizarre time, there was much downside to having to change their plans for their community service. Rivkah Wyner '20 said, "I spent a lot of time picking my original community service project because I wanted it to be something I really

cared about and enjoyed, so it was hard to adjust my expectations in light of this situation." Many of the seniors felt the same way, as it was much harder to fulfill the hours and they were less emotionally attached to their new projects. It was disappointing to not be able to do the projects they so carefully picked out and had been anticipating. That is also

without mentioning the letdowns of not being able to experience hallmarks of the end of senior year like senior prom, their last performance of a JBHA musical, their last season of spring sports, graduation, etc.

All that being said, the Barrack seniors worked hard to meet their hours. It is easy to look at this in a negative light, to think about what could have been. However, there is also a bright side. More than ever, people needed help, and so the seniors had many opportunities to better the community. A pandemic was the perfect time for the seniors to do their community service, as people everywhere were struggling with social-distancing and a new way of life. The entire Barrack kehillah is proud of the amazing jobs its seniors did.



GOOGLE IMAGES



GOOGLE IMAGES

Israel's New Unity Government Has Finally Arrived

Marc Rubin, Staff Writer

Current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won the Israeli election- - kind of, but not really.

First of all, what is a unity government? It is a coalition

Much like the Co-Editors-in-Chief of the Cougar Chronicle, the Co-Presidents of the HEAR Club, and the new split responsibilities for Co-Heads of the Upper School, Israel is heading into a brand new way of governing with Co-Prime Ministers.

made up of ideologically different political parties. The many parties that make up the Knesset



The Knesset on Election Day!

(the Israeli government) represent the diversity of opinions of Israelis who range from Ultra-Orthodox to Arab. In the United States, there are two main parties, but in Israel, there are 12 at the moment. The citizens of Is-

rael do not vote for a president; rather, using the British model, they vote for a party to elect members to the Knesset where there are 120 total seats. Imagine that Americans could only vote for representatives for the House of Representatives, and the party with the majority of the votes had the power to pick the president. That's what it's like in Israel: usually, the party with the majority of seats in the Knesset appoints the Prime Minister. Since it is virtually impossible for one party to get a majority of seats in the Knesset, parties have to make coalitions to reach a majority.

Israel was set to have its election in November 2019, but, due to a disagreement over Ultra-Orthodox Jews not being required to join the IDF and a ceasefire with Gaza, the election was moved up to April 9, 2019. As these events pushed to the forefront of the Knesset, Avigdor Lieberman of *Israel Beitenu* (a centrist party), left Likud's coalition which previously held a majority, requiring an earlier election date. In an unprecedented result, Likud, the conservative party that had won the Israeli elections consistently for the past decade or so, won 35 seats of the Knesset; Blue and White, a new slightly more center-leaning party headed by Benny Gantz, won an equal

number of seats. Neither party could form a coalition, so a second election was held on September 17, 2019.

On that date, while Israelis had a day off from school and work, as each election day is a national holiday, Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy juniors were in the city of Jerusalem while Israeli history was being made. During the September election,



Marc Rubin with pictures of the rivals

Blue and White won 33 seats and Likud won 32 seats. Once again, Likud was given the opportunity to try and form a coalition, but failed.

In another unprecedented turn of events, a third election was held on March 2, 2020. Likud won 36 seats and Blue and White won 33 seats. After this election, Benny Gantz was given the opportunity to form a coalition.

While Gantz attempted to form a coalition, COVID-19 began to wreak havoc. With the Israeli government in limbo and the world shut down, the rival parties finally agreed on a coalition.

In this emergency unity government, Netanyahu will remain prime minister for a year and a half. After that, Gantz will take over for the remainder of the term. While Netanyahu serves as Prime Minister, Gantz will hold a role as the Minister of Defense. Plenty of Israelis do not love their new government, and many believe that it will be ineffective. However, they are pleased to not have a fourth election. Supporters of Netanyahu and the Likud Party are not happy that he gave up half the government to the centrist Blue and White Party. On the other hand, some supporters of Gantz are not happy that he gave up veto power when it comes to actions such as the annexation of parts of Judea and Samaria -- commonly known as the West Bank -- which could happen this summer. To put Israel's current government into Barrack terms, much like the Co-Editors-in-Chief of the Cougar Chronicle, the Co-Presidents of the HEAR Club, and the new split responsibilities for Co-Heads of the Upper School, Israel is heading into a brand new way of governing with Co-Prime Ministers. The Israeli people and Jews around the world are on the edges of their seats to see how this new system of leadership will pan out.

COVID-19: A Potential Disaster in Gaza

Blake Fox, Israel Editor

The Gaza Strip is home to 1.6 million Palestinians and is roughly the size of Philadelphia, PA. Ninety percent of Gazans lack clean drinking water, and the territory has suffered from a severe electricity crisis for the past five years. For years, since Hamas, recognized as a terrorist organization by the United States, won Gaza's election in 2005, Israel has had a blockade on Gaza. The blockade is in place to try to prevent Gaza from

acquiring arms to use against Israel; and the drinking water and electricity issues are mainly due to Hamas diverting so much of the funding it receives toward supporting terrorism.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Gaza's population was already at high risk of developing diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease (CVD), and cancer, according to the Palestinian



Workers in Gaza spray disinfectant in a Gaza City Market

Central Bureau of Statistics. In March 2020, Michael Lynk, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in the Palestinian territories, stated that "Gaza's population is...a physically more vulnerable population." Now, Gaza is facing a rising number of COVID-19 cases.

COVID-19 has ripped through much of the world and has been labeled a pandemic by the World

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Should Israel End the Blockade on Gaza during Covid-19?

The entire Gaza Strip has less than 100 ventilators

Health Organization. In the United States, convention centers were turned into makeshift hospitals, some medical centers are rationing medical equipment, and, as of mid-May, close to 100,000 people died of the disease. Throughout the world, the situation remains dire, with hundreds of people dying each day.

If some of the world's wealthiest countries are struggling to contain COVID-19, then how is Gaza faring? According to a May 23rd article in the *Times of Israel*:

"A 77-year-old Palestinian woman succumbed to COVID-19 in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, becoming the Hamas-run territory's first coronavirus death. The woman, who suffered from other chronic health problems, entered Gaza from Egypt on Tuesday and was placed immediately in an isolation facility as is required of all arrivals, the Strip's health ministry said.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 in the Gaza Strip had remained below 20, with Gaza's borders with both Israel and Egypt closed [by the Hamas government] to prevent the spread of disease. But in recent days, around 1,500 Palestinians who were stuck in Egypt were allowed to return via the Rafah crossing, while smaller numbers were permitted to enter from Israel.



A Palestinian Health Worker at the Rafah Border Crossing

Preventive measures put in place to contain the virus have been relaxed in recent weeks, with cafes and restaurants in Gaza allowed to reopen. Khalil al-Hayya, a senior official with the Hamas terror group, which runs the enclave, told a press conference Thursday that authorities were considering imposing a curfew. The border with Egypt would be re-sealed until at least the end of June, he added."

A major outbreak of this disease in Gaza would be catastrophic.

Majdi Thuhair, the spokesperson for the Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of

Health, stated, "If the virus enters Gaza and spreads, it will get out of hand...."

There is an overwhelming consensus among the Israeli people that the Jewish State should assist Palestinians in fighting COVID-19. Polling by the Truman Institute for Peace of the Hebrew University found that 63% of Israelis support helping the Palestinian Authority in fighting COVID-19. Similarly, Gisha, a left-wing Israeli non-governmental organization (NGO), has called on Israel to open more border crossings from Gaza and to alleviate restrictions on medical supplies.

Israel has assisted Gaza in fighting COVID-19 by providing the Gaza Ministry of Health with 200 COVID-19 testing kits.

However, the Gaza Strip has struggled to implement rapid testing and ran out of working tests in mid-April. At that time, Gaza was provided with five additional testing kits by the World Health Organization (WHO). These kits could test approximately 500 people. One Israeli official stated on record that Israel would consider treating Gaza's first patient diagnosed with COVID-19 in Israel. Nothing to that effect has happened, yet. However, Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, a military unit in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), worked with the Palestinian Authority to provide Gaza with 1,000 medical gear kits and 100 liters of alcogel. However, in April it was reported that the entire Gaza Strip had less than 100 ventilators.

The world as a whole has also begun to take action to help Gaza during these unprecedented times. The World Health Organization is desperately trying to provide Gaza with antiseptics to intravenous fluids in an attempt to fight COVID-19. Qatar also pledged to provide Gaza with \$10 million to fight the pandemic. A group of eight US Senators, including Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Sherrod Brown, called on the United States to restore foreign aid to Gaza.

Gazan doctors have long sounded the alarm about the territory's shortage of medical supplies, and there are fears that social distancing in Gaza may be close to impossible because of the Strip's population density. Many Gazans have called on Israel to end the blockade, but to no avail. Israel has shown a willingness to keep Gazans safe, but remains clear that it will not risk Israel's own safety and security.

Shehecheyanu: Religious Revisions

Shirin Kaye, Editor-in-Chief

While authorities closed institutions worldwide due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, religious life also suffers from orders to practice social distancing. The lack of public gatherings threatens to weaken communities and hinder the observance of communal rituals.

Jewish authorities worldwide have been scrambling to keep their communities connected, keep traditions alive, and keep everyone healthy. Different rabbis and denominations have had varying approaches to this goal. Many Jewish communities turned to online sermons and services. Though most traditional Jews continued following the commandments at home, a few rabbis were of the opinion that following G-d's word would provide a special form of protection, and therefore the shutting down of religious institutions was unnecessary and wrong. For example, large crowds attended some Hasidic weddings and funerals in Brooklyn, New York, during the pandemic, waiving public health regulations for the sake of monumental life-cycle celebrations. On the other hand, the vast majority of observant Jews believe that the religious legal principle of *pikuach nefesh* -- that one is allowed to break a commandment to save a life -- should compel Jews to stay home. In addition, Jewish law instructs people to follow the laws of the land to avoid ruining the reputation of the Jewish community by breaking laws, like the public health guidelines that have been put in place.

In Israel, the government has taken extreme measures for the safety of its citizens. They require returning travelers to self-quarantine; mobilize the Israeli Defense Force to clean public areas and distribute medical supplies; they have been rushing medical professionals to make a vaccine; and they even put the country under tighter lockdown over the holiday of Passover. (Coincidentally, the last item replicated the conditions of the very first Passover, when the Israelites had to stay indoors while the 10th Plague ravaged Egypt.) Also, Israel's chief Ashkenazi rabbi advised Jews not to kiss *mezuzot* (inscribed scrolls hung on doorposts for Divine protection) to help stem the spread of the virus. These restrictions also posed a great theological challenge to a small part of Israel's Ultra-Orthodox population who did not believe in following the health guidelines. Not only did their insistence on continuing educational gatherings make them vulnerable to the virus, but the spread discredited their conviction that the study of Torah is the best medicine. However, it also must be noted that much of the Ultra-Orthodox population does not possess TVs, radios, smartphones, or computers, and, at first, was most likely not fully aware of the severity of the pandemic.

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Changes: For N

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So Long But Not Goodbye to DDK

quite frankly, is that the ninth and tenth graders will get to know her better than they do now.

What is your connection going to be, and how involved in Barrack will you be after you leave?

DDK: I am going to stay really involved because I am going to be a parent still. I am going to be getting all of the parent emails, I plan to visit Philadelphia often next year, and I want to stay very involved. Not in the day to day operations anymore, but certainly stay involved as a parent of a senior. ... I'll be back for the shows and definitely for graduation and I'll visit on the weekend. Maybe if I come in early enough on a Friday, I'll be able to stop by the school to say hello to everybody.

Most of the changes connected to your departure seem to be happening in the high school, but is anything going to change in the middle school?

DDK: Nothing will really change because I am leaving. Mrs. Chris Farrell oversees it, and she directs the middle school. If there are any changes in the middle school, it would be because Mrs. Farrell put them into effect, not because I am leaving.

Kayla Bleier, Lead Editor

What is one of your favorite memories or experiences that you have from Barrack?

DDK: Every year's graduation. I think that we do graduation better than anybody. ... It is always the highlight for me every year, to see the Seniors. I've

"I will miss just watching a generation of students grow up at Barrack"

seen them grow up. I've seen them mature, and that night is always very special as they are launched to the next part of their life.

What makes Barrack a special Kehilah, a special community?

DDK: The relationships that we form with each other, and those relationships between students and teachers, between students and their classmates. The relationships that people form with each other

really last a lifetime. I think that the strength of the community is ... about relationships. I think that that is what makes us such a strong community. ... It is definitely something that I will miss.

(This next question was asked prior to the announcement that school will not reopen.)

Is there any last thing you would like to say? A message to the whole student body?

DDK: Hopefully, school will reopen. There is a chance but no one knows for sure. There's a chance we might not. It would make me super super super sad if this school year did not restart, and then I left, without really being able to say goodbye to everybody. I really hope that school can reopen ... personally I want to be able to say goodbye to people in person...

The world around us is always changing, but now things feel as if they are changing more than ever for the Barrack Community. Dr. Katz has been and will continue to be a member of the Barrack family and he is leaving his students with a valuable lesson. It is important to take opportunities when they present themselves, grow from every experience, and challenge yourself within Barrack and beyond.

The World vs The Pandemic

Maya Shavit, Editor-in-Chief

The spring of 2020 is a historical time period for every country that has been tasked with facing COVID-19 externally and internally. With the spread of coronavirus within countries, entire cultures have shifted and world leaders are scrounging for solutions. The world has fought back against the pandemic with a variety of unique approaches.

The COVID-19 pandemic originated in Wuhan, China, in December of 2019. Since then, Wuhan has ceased to be the epicenter of the disease, and the population of China has been on the mend. However, China took measures that other countries considered extreme at the time that have since proven to help flatten the curve by reducing the number of COVID-19 cases. Wuhan, a city of more than eleven million citizens, was cut off from the world on January 23, 2020. Chinese government officials took action to confine all people to their homes. Huiyao Wang, a senior adviser to China's government, told *USA TODAY*, "'No one left behind' was the slogan in

Wuhan." Chinese government officials would go door to door doing personal medical checks, and no one was allowed to leave their home as the number of confirmed cases outside of Wuhan grew exponentially. While thousands within China's borders began dying from the illness, other countries like Thailand, South Korea, and Japan reported more than 570 confirmed cases, leading the World Health Organization to declare a global health emergency.

On January 31, 2020, The United States cut off all travel for all foreign nationals who had traveled to China within two weeks prior to that day, excluding the immediate family members of American citizens or permanent residents. At that point, almost 10,000 people worldwide had been affected, and the number of deaths outside of China had escalated, in places such as the Philippines. Foreign travel had been changed forever at this point as the Japanese cruise ship "Diamond Princess" screened quarantined passengers for COVID-

19. On the ship, a total of 621 individuals were infected. Borders were closed in Asia, North America, and South America as a new epicenter, Iran, emerged.

Iran contains the largest population in the Middle East, and the country became affected by the virus from an unknown source. The Iranian

government confirmed 38,000 cases in the country and decided to participate in the World Health Organization's global trial that tests how effective four popular coronavirus treatments are. This includes a drug combo used against HIV and the antimalarial drug chloroquine. Besides the WHO's trial medicines, Iranian scientists are running at least a dozen other clinical trials, including using medications designed to treat diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis, to attempt

to find treatments. Iran began injecting antibody-rich blood of people who fully recovered from COVID-19 into suffering



Time Magazine

Chinese-American pleaders gathered to protest increased xenophobia in San Francisco.

patients, which led other countries to start to follow suit in similar courses of treatment. As Iran began to explore new treatments, Milan, Italy, and Paris, France, drew attention in Europe.

Following Milan and Paris Fashion Week in Europe, the cases of COVID-19 skyrocketed. The yearly phenomenon took place in February and March with precautions like

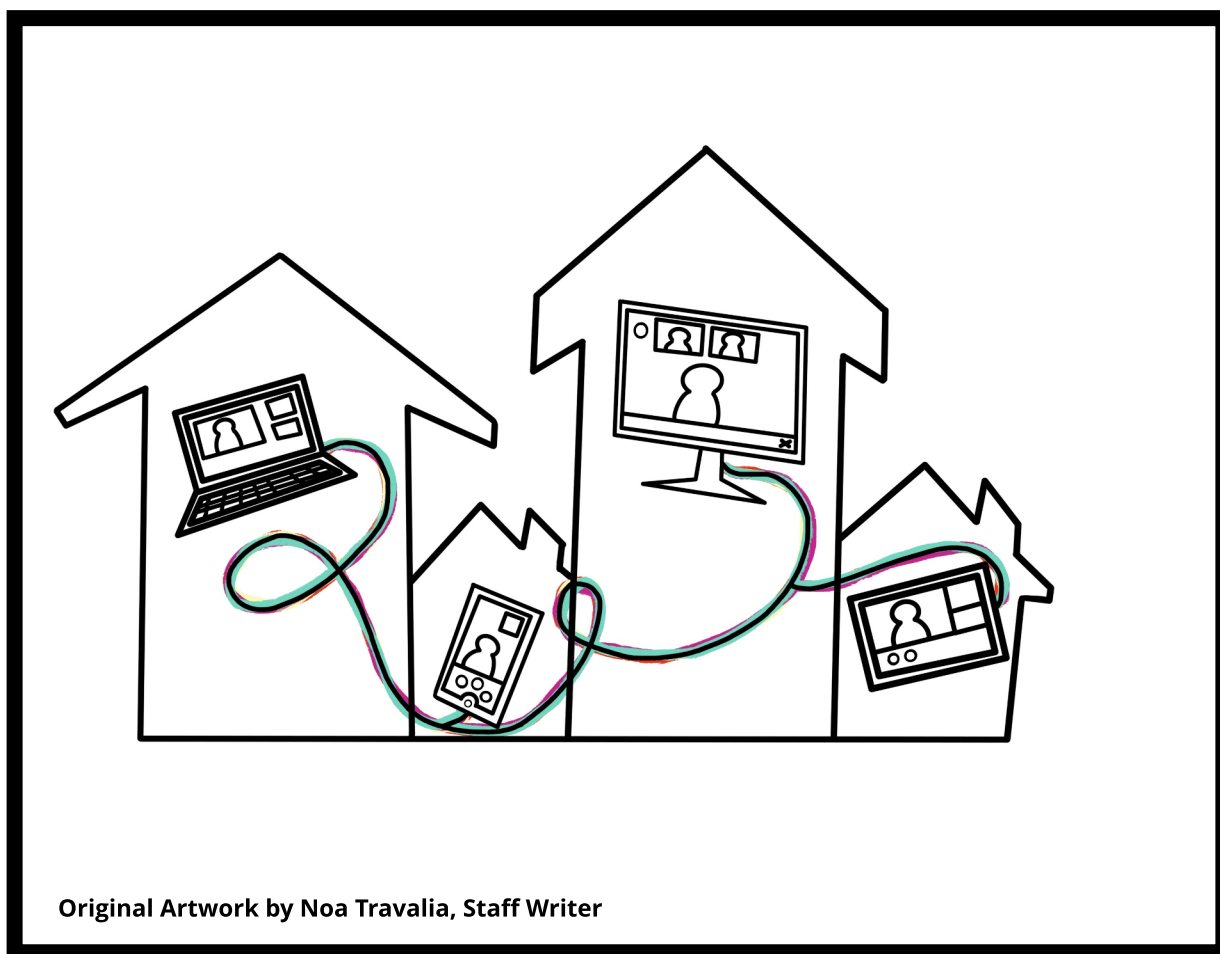
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What's New in School?

Kayla Bleier, Lead Editor

Home school has been a solution for a minority of students in the past, but recently the entire nation has gone home. It is a new experience, and many things are changing. At Barrack, classrooms turn into Google Meets;

wasting away, this arrangement does not always have a positive effect on the student-teacher relationship. With quarantine, the dynamic of personal communication between teacher and students in a physical room is lost.



lunchtime meetings become Facetime calls and Canvas ... well, Canvas stays as Canvas.

Academically, many things below the surface are changing, first and foremost being the classes. Despite how many hours every student spends sitting in a chair, staring at a screen, and sometimes feeling that their time is

Moving deeper into the school system, beyond the classroom, comes homework. Even though the content of the classes is the same, the way homework is assigned is not. Initially, the workload was the same, but when combined with the new environment of constant screen activity, the tasks seemed to double. It ap-

peared that each teacher felt they needed more post-school class time to make up for the strange online classes. However, within two weeks at Barrack online, the policy was changed. No homework was allowed on weekends; teachers also began to feel the drag of the computers and began focusing on promoting the great outdoors.

The culmination of the classes and homework comes every few weeks. Tests vary in form and name, but their purpose is the same. This aspect appears to be the most challenging to change.. For some students the temptation to cheat can only grow when the internet sits

Change does not mean bad things lie up ahead.

unguarded on the same platform as the test. Because of the sporadic nature of tests and quizzes, teachers have more time to develop their strategies and to decide whether to work by the honor code.

Every academic aspect of school is changing. It will be up to the teachers and faculty to decide what will change and what they will try to keep the same. Grades, participation, homework, and testing are now evaluated differently. However, change does not necessarily mean bad things lie up ahead. The technological enhancements created for online learning and communication may reveal that there are many unnecessary things in day-to-day learning that were once regarded as critical. Every person -- student and teacher -- must now do their absolute best to work together and make the changes to their school system as comfortable and functional as possible.

Higher Ed in Limbo

Niva Cohen, Opinion Editor

April and May are demanding months for high-school juniors and seniors planning to go to college, but this year, along with the typical overwhelming frenzy, students have to deal with the added stress of the coronavirus pandemic. Juniors, especially, are faced with uncertainty beyond not knowing where they will get in. The universities are in an equally tenuous position, as their admissions and educational routines have also been uprooted. Juniors, seniors, and schools themselves will have to shift how they think about the college process in order to overcome today's extenuating circumstances.

As colleges have closed and sent students home, they have shown the utmost grace and empathy for their students' situations -- at their own cost. To ensure that undergraduates would get home safely, schools have covered logistical fees, including international flights for those who did not have the money to buy last-minute tickets. Even though they still have to pay cooks who work at the dining halls, many universities have also refunded room and board fees. All of this pocket-emptying has put financial stress on colleges, especially those with smaller endowments; namely liberal arts colleges. Some of these schools are in danger of not reopening at all.

On the high school side of the equation, juniors are also struggling with how to tackle the daunting college application process in the face of

previously unforeseen obstacles.

When it is time to apply, students often want to see the schools they are considering.

Now, they must pick potential

colleges without having a chance to visit. For many, traveling to prospective universities is an eye-opening experience that provides clarity and direction. Seniors, too, cannot attend Accepted Students Days, leaving them to resolve indecision on a hunch. Furthermore, low-income high-schoolers, who already face hurdles, do not always have the devices and Internet required to attend online classes. This puts not only juniors, but freshmen and sophomores, at risk of falling behind, and it could be



In response to coronavirus, the College Board has canceled all upcoming SAT tests.

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Crisis Concerts for a Cause

Maya Shavit, Editor-in-Chief

In the face of the global challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, every industry has been impacted and individuals have been advised to self-quarantine. During isolation, people are removed from their jobs and normal lives in every field. The entertainers of the generation are unable to perform in many capacities, but everyone needs what they ordinarily produce, now more than ever. This trying time has forced music artists to come up with new ways to reach their audiences. From social media to late-night television to a concert of historic proportions, the creative minds of 2020 have come together to spread their music and keep spirits up.

The first tool which naturally became an outlet for musicians is social media. At any point in the day, there are hundreds of celebrities engaged. Trading Madison Square Garden and the like for their couch, well-rounded musicians like John Legend and Miley Cyrus have used their social media platforms to entertain fans and keep themselves busy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some artists have even released new music during this uncertain time, despite how traditional concerts are unable to persist. For example, Niall Horan, who released his latest album, *Heartbreak Weather*, on March 13, 2020, has used Instagram to promote his music. Horan interacts with his live audience on a regular basis during the pandemic and went on Instagram Live every day for weeks, following his album release. He told Capital FM radio network that “there were 30,000 people watching which is kinda cool,” as he spills song secrets and performs intimately at his piano. Other artists, like Quinn XCII, have taken their creative skills to sched-

uled programming. Monday to Friday, Quinn XCII hosts a live game show called “Quarantine Green,” where fans answer trivia questions in exchange for money that is matched by the artist and donated to COVID-19 research. Resources like Live Nation and Billboard have made it their mission to keep fans updated on when and where online to see their

Some actors who have not hosted in the past, like John Krasinski, have taken it upon themselves to spread a little good in the world.

favorites perform on their websites and Instagrams.

In addition to musicians, many actors and hosts have found new ways to keep everyone stuck at home in good spirits. Jimmy Fallon, host of *Late Night With Jimmy Fallon*, has continued filming his talk show from home and has added a new element: his adorable family. His show is now filmed from isolation by his wife and, in addition to special guest stars like Alec Baldwin and P!nk, his daughters are a key part of the show. Each time a guest star comes onto the show to play a game or perform remotely over Zoom, they also speak about a new charity. Some actors who have not hosted in the past, like John Krasinski, have taken it upon themselves to spread a little good in the world. Krasinski, known for hits like the sensational show, *The Office*, created his own broadcast network called, “Some Good News” (SGN), to only share the positive in the world. Krasinski shares heartwarming

viral videos, interviews his celebrity friends, and spreads joy through using his connections to help brighten the lives of some well-deserving people of all ages.

While finding new ways to perform and spread joy helps lift the spirits of millions globally, not much can replace the feeling of a live concert. Concerts scheduled through the fall of 2020 have been canceled due to the health risks. Instead, Global Citizen, an organization that brings people together and publicizes world issues, cooked up a new way to gather the most talented people in the world. In partnership with the World Health Organization and megastar Lady Gaga, Global Citizen conjured up one of the most star-studded events of all time to mentally console millions. “One World: Together at Home” was hosted by Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Kimmel and Jimmy Fallon and had the goal of raising funds and awareness for the COVID-19 pandemic. Amy Poehler, Céline Dion, Chris Martin, David Beckham, Ellen DeGeneres, Elton John, FINNEAS, J Balvin, Jennifer Lopez, Kacey Musgraves, Pharrell Williams, Sam Smith, Shawn Mendes, Stevie Wonder, Taylor Swift, Usher, and many more made appearances in this historic event. Major networks ABC, NBC, and CBS teamed up to air the event, in addition to Instagram, YouTube, and many global channels.

While many things are changing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for joy and urge to be uplifted by our idols is stronger than ever. But regardless of status level, people of all ages and situations have also transformed their lives in order to help lift other people’s spirits in these difficult times.

Disney World Shut Down

Becca Miller, A&E Editor

When people think of Disney World, they think of childhood, princesses, adventures, and fun. Unfortunately, Disney World and all it represents are one of the many casualties in the coronavirus pandemic. On March 15, Disney World closed after one last fireworks show.

While the closure is deeply saddening, it is clear that it was a wise decision to preserve the safety of guests and employees. According to the Disney World website,

“All Disney theme parks, Disney Resort hotels, and the Disney Springs area are currently closed and a reopening date has not been identified.” People can make reservations at any of

the above for dates after June 1st; any tickets that would have been valid March 15 through the duration of the closure will now be valid through December 15. Disney World is waiving cancellation fees so that guests can easily abort or postpone their plans and get refunds.

The terms of the closure change almost constantly. As of April 23, all parks, events, and reservations closed until May 16. In the

meantime, Disney World announced it will be donating all of its unused food to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. During the closure, no construction will happen in the park. All Disney World construction projects have been halted indefinitely, including the long-awaited Guardians of the Galaxy Coaster and the TRON Coaster.

Other parks in Orlando have also closed, including Universal Studios and SeaWorld Orlando. These closures represent but a tiny piece of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone’s lives. While Disney World may seem like a frivolous, insignificant thing to focus on in a time of fear and tragedy, it is and has been iconic. It represents many children’s dreams and imaginations. This is the fourth time that Disney World has closed in its long history. Someday, the nightmare that is the COVID-19 pandemic will be over and Disney World will reopen.



TALKDISNEY.COM

How Has TV Changed During Coronavirus?

Becca Miller, A&E Editor

With everyone stuck at home practicing social distancing, boredom is imminent. In the search for activities to fight off burgeoning ennui, many people decide to spend their ample time watching television.

In the era of streaming services and binge-watching, people can watch an entire series in a matter of weeks. There is a constant need for new shows to watch, with everyone begging their friends for recommendations, considering subscriptions to more streaming

In the search for activities to fight off burgeoning ennui, many people decide to spend their ample time watching television.

services, and spending hours upon hours absorbed in TV.

The same pandemic that is increasing the need for new shows

has also limited viewing material; the NBA and other sports leagues have been canceled, shows have stopped filming, and movies have

also ceased production on a plethora of series on March 13. The canceled shows include The Flash and Riverdale, which were

perstore. The NBA season was canceled, but on the NBA website people with a hankering to watch basketball can see old classic games.

Many movies that would have been in theaters right now have been released directly to streaming services. In March, Universal Pictures made an announcement that all of its movies that are showing in theaters are also available to stream, including Emma, The Hunt, and The Invisible Man. Other new movies released to streaming include Bad Boys for Life, Doolittle, Frozen 2, Onward, Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker, and Sonic the Hedgehog.

Hopefully, everyone and their loved ones will remain safe, both from coronavirus and from death by ennui, and will find good ways to spend their time, whether it's a new hobby, school work, or just watching all of the TV that Netflix has to offer.



been postponed. Other than an episode on April 11 that was produced virtually, the iconic comedy show, Saturday Night, Live was completely shut down. Netflix completely halted all new TV and movie production on March 13, including the popular series, Stranger Things. As of the 14th of March, all Disney+ Marvel shows have been canceled. Warner Bros

shut down after a crew member was exposed to someone who had coronavirus. On March 12, CBS TV Studios canceled many series, like NCIS and The Good Fight, but they allowed several shows to finish the production of their most recent episodes. NBCUniversal shows were also halted, including Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, New Amsterdam, and Su-

That's All, Folks

Eliana Pasternak, Staff Writer

When Broadway announced a month-long closure on March 12th, theater fans worldwide were devastated. At the

cult following, will not resume its run when Broadway eventually reopens. The show, which was supposed to perform through

June 6th, has been cut drastically short.

Beetlejuice's unexpected end hit especially hard for Presley Ryan, who had been understudying in the role of Lydia Deetz, the show's protagonist. Ryan, a sixteen-year-old New York native, was given the unique opportunity to take over as Lydia full-time on February 26th.

Unfortunately, she had only two weeks in the spotlight.

The beloved musical Waitress, with music by Sara Bareilles, also suffered a tragic loss, though less direct. Actor Nick Cordero, who played Earl during the show's original Broadway run, was diagnosed with COVID-19. On April 18th, it was reported that his right leg was amputated due to

complications with the virus. Cordero, whose other roles included Sonny in A Bronx Tale, was in intensive care through at least May 6th.

The coronavirus has hindered Broadway in many ways. The theater powerhouse drew in nearly 15 million patrons last year and grossed 1.8 billion dollars in revenue. Many New York City tourists come for the sole purpose of seeing a show. Other renowned theaters worldwide have also announced closure. England's own West End closed through at least May 31st. Broadway hasn't fallen out of relevance though. YouTube channels of both individual shows and Broadway as a whole

The theater powerhouse drew in nearly 15 million patrons last year and grossed 1.8 billion dollars in revenue.

have posted videos from past performances and actor interviews. In any event, it's important to have hope for the future and appreciate all the online opportunities that have popped up.



Broadway is usually bustling with tourists and locals alike, but Corona has halted the city that never sleeps.

time, nobody could have imagined that this shutdown would be extended. On April 8th, the Broadway League announced that they hope to reopen theaters by mid-June. The heavily anticipated Barrack Drama Trip was canceled after Broadway's initial closure, as it was scheduled for April 1st.

Beetlejuice, a musical that first opened less than a year ago and quickly gained a

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Earth Closed

Tours, such as the Map Of The Soul Tour, by BTS, and the upcoming Foo Fighters tour, have been postponed to later dates. Festivals such as Burning Man, the Webby Awards, and the E3 Gaming Conference, have been moved to an online format, while others, such as Eurovision and many film festivals have simply been cancelled.

All over the U.S., the situation has been similar. Almost every state has initiated “stay at home” policies, and closed all

Seth Wenig/AP

Places such as grocery stores have adjusted hours, with blocks of time for the elderly to shop before products are bought up by other shoppers. Other states, like Florida, have treated the outbreak and dangers with far



A woman in New York walks through a lightly trafficked Times Square in March.

Almost every state has initiated “stay at home” policies, and closed all businesses that aren’t defined as “essential.”

businesses that aren’t defined as “essential.” The governors have also made many requests that people stay at least six feet apart and wear masks while they are in public. Those measures are safety precautions for the public, to slow the spread of the virus and keep others safe.

less caution. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis refused to close the beaches, but the mayors of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, and Naples all ordered their beaches to be closed. However, hundreds of college students on spring break still flooded the beaches. Shortly afterwards, on April 18th, Governor DeSantis ordered all beaches to open again. This proved to be a bad

decision, because Florida did not contain the virus well.

When it comes to Barrack students’ perspectives, there are many opinions about social distancing and staying home. Danny Cohen ‘22 says, “Although there are a lot of negatives, it allows me to do things that I wouldn’t usually have the time for, like creating online sports quizzes for fun.” Some people have been taking up new activities, like knitting or writing, to spend the quarantine usefully. Many others are using tools such as social media to stay in touch with their friends at this time, which can prove to be difficult. Josh Graub ‘23 notes that “keeping a social life is hard but necessary. I try to stay in contact with my friends and that helps get me through the solitude that everyone is going through.”

It’s unclear how much longer everything will be shut down. While some states are reopening, others are cautiously moving slowly. Until life returns to a semblance of normalcy, attractions, businesses, and many aspects of ordinary life will remain closed. For now, it is extremely important to keep sane, safe, and healthy, by following the guidelines.

A Stock Market Roller Coaster

Shirin Kaye, Editor-in-Chief

The coronavirus has been burdening people’s bank accounts by impacting the stock market. The United States’ markets, which plummeted in March due to the fear of the impending outbreak, rose surprisingly in the beginning of April, and have been incredibly volatile during the pandemic. In fact, many financial analysts compare this pandemic’s market volatility to that of other crises in the last decade: there are significantly more jumps due to COVID-19 than there were for any other infectious disease outbreak, and almost as many jumps as for major past crashes. For example, according to one article, the US stock market volatility level over 10-day trading periods during the coronavirus outbreak (as of April 1st) was only surpassed twice in the last 120 years, and is only a little higher than it was during the Great Depression in 1933.

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and public health dangers. Investors are also unsure about what stocks to buy and sell; some believe that the worst has passed and the market can only improve, while others foresee a greater drop.



“There are significantly more jumps due to COVID-19 than there were for any other infectious disease outbreak, and almost as many jumps as for major past crashes.”

Despite the overall recession in the stock market, some industries are not just surviving, but thriving. Technology is popularly used as people struggle to remain connected and entertained during quarantine. Medical equipment is in great demand, and healthcare companies are working towards a COVID-19 vaccine. Although companies related to travel and tourism are experiencing a financially draining standstill in business, some brave investors figure that this is a good time to get risky bargains on stocks of companies that they predict will survive the downturn.

History and Economics teacher Dr. Minna Ziskind explains that “the value of a company’s stock is essentially based on how the market (i.e. people) feels about that company’s future success.” Therefore, the stock of an individual firm can perform differently than the market as a whole. She adds that the volatility in the stock market “reflects the overall uncertainty that people feel about the future.” For now, all professional investors, economic advisors, and stock market enthusiasts are muddled with regard to the stock market’s prospects.

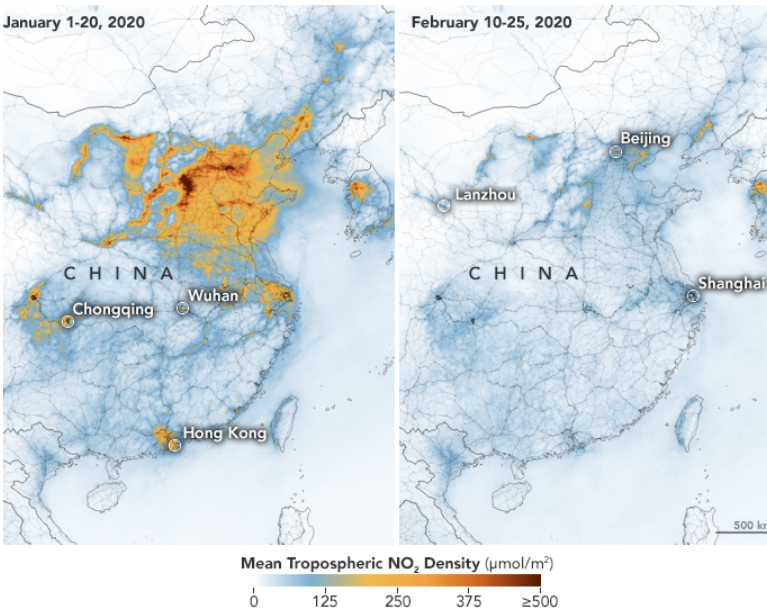
Corona -- The Air Thrives, the Economy Drives

Niva Cohen, Opinion Editor

There are many lenses through which to observe the coronavirus pandemic: it is a dangerous virus that has hospitalized millions, a disruption to the routine, a roadblock to social interaction, and a challenge for all the world's governments to confront. Along with all of these concerns, the environmentally-conscious wonder how this "new normal" has impacted climate change. In fact, emissions have plummeted in the past couple of months; but is that enough to ensure the survival of future generations on Earth?

It is especially interesting to investigate how the climate has changed in China since the outbreak because it was the first country to be exposed to the virus and it has some of the worst pollution levels globally. NASA reported on February 28 that its satellites saw a significant drop in atmospheric nitrogen dioxide in the area surrounding Wuhan, China. With the shutdown of factories, air-travel, and public transportation, the streets nationwide appeared empty and citizens could see a blue sky, despite the density of China's cities. It is no surprise that carbon dioxide emissions were also down 25%, thanks to reductions in travel and in coal and oil production. In only a few weeks, China slashed its harm to the planet, and all it took was a deadly, contagious, virus.

Drops in emissions in the rest of the world followed those in China as the coronavirus and its accompanying hysteria spread. In February, before the quarantine had even set in, air travel had already decreased by 4.3% globally. Flying is one of the most carbon-intensive habits, so fewer planes in the sky also means less CO₂ in the atmosphere. In general, less mobility has improved air quality everywhere.



NASA satellites recorded reduced nitrogen dioxide levels in China since the outbreak.

Unless everyone comes out of quarantine recognizing how scary and threatening external forces can be -- unless *everyone* decides to take preventative measures -- the climate will continue to worsen.

With this baseline understanding of how the coronavirus has impacted the world, one can begin to speculate on how it will impact the big picture of the climate crisis. Despite the lessened CO₂ and nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere, the coronavirus has not "fixed" climate change because, according to Richard Alley, a geosciences professor at Penn State, it has not affected "the overall upward trend" in emissions. Similar drops have happened in the past, during World War II and the Great Recession, for example, but when normalcy returned, so too did environmental destruction. To shift Earth's future toward a brighter path, a much more sustainable change is necessary.

Alley noted that no one should *hope* for the coronavirus to single-handedly mend the world. The only reason that the air quality has improved is because of pauses in industry, transportation, and society, which have endangered people's incomes. For the virus to

make a lasting dent in emissions, the economy would have to be in shambles, with rocketing unemployment rates and increased food shortages, the immediacy of which would replace more abstract worries about a climate crisis. Real progress on the environmental front will only come with long-term and strategic change that does not jeopardize anyone's livelihood.

If people use the tools that the pandemic has forced them to develop, then they have a chance at slowing the progression of climate change. By paving the way for more advanced electronic communication and conferences, the coronavirus could prevent excess business travel even after it has blown over. The use of applications like Zoom and Google Hangout will not stop just because this lockdown does. Quarantine has transformed lifestyles globally by slowing air travel, crowding online platforms, and reducing all forms of transportation.

Although these changes are not in and of themselves enough to "fix" the planet, they may show people how to live more sustainably. When everything returns to normal, some habits, such as reducing air-travel when possible, might remain, but only if people *let* them remain. Fulfilling a green agenda is a group effort, and everyone has to be on board for it to work. Eventually, the coronavirus will pass, just as world wars and recessions and all other catastrophes have. The question is how the global community will decide to move forward. Unless everyone comes out of quarantine recognizing how scary and threatening external forces can be -- unless *everyone* decides to take preventative measures -- the climate will continue to worsen, taking our quality of life along with it. People often rise from such crises revitalized and intent on avoiding future suffering. Hopefully, they will direct that determination toward creating a greener world.

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Corona Has Chutzpah

Shirin Kaye, Editor-in-Chief

Barrack Jewish Studies teacher Rabbi Michael Yondorf illuminated often less-noticed changes that rabbis are permitting due to the quarantine conditions. *Poskim* (Jewish legal authorities), such as Rabbi Hershel Schachter of Yeshiva University, answer *halachic* questions (questions pertaining to Jewish law) in light of current circumstances. In some of his letters, Rabbi Schachter details how to perform certain ritual processes with fewer people present, advises Jews to minimize social contact for public health reasons, permits people to drop stringent *minhagim* (customs) during the crisis, and urges everyone to act in ways necessary to stay healthy. (Information in this paragraph should not be a substitute for asking specific questions of a knowledgeable halachic authority.)

Barrack is also adapting in many ways. Academic distance learning is supplemented with Jewish virtual programming -- daily prayer, pre- and post-Shabbat services, cooking classes, and other special activities -- to keep the community together both socially and religiously.

Although Jews find ways to survive spiritually in any and all difficult situations, there is great hope that life will return to normal very soon.



Will the COVID-19 Relief Package Be Enough For Americans?

Blake Fox, Israel Editor

Beginning in March and April, the COVID-19 Pandemic led to an immense reduction in America's economic activity. Millions of Americans became unemployed in a matter of days, and thousands of non-essential businesses were forced to close to prevent the spread of the disease. Projections for the economy were also alarming with leading investment group Goldman Sachs projecting a decline in America's GDP by 24%. The Secretary of the Treasury, Steve Mnuchin, warned that if no government action was taken, then American unemployment could hit 20%. To prevent further economic decline, it became abundantly clear that Congress would have to put together a stimulus package to improve the economy.

One of the initial proposals by political figures, including 2020 Democratic Candidate Andrew Yang, Republican Senator Mitt Romney, and Democratic Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, was a universal basic income for all Americans. Similarly, Congressmen Ro Khanna and Tim Ryan proposed giving cash payments to families in the form of an Earned-Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Trump Administration also considered reducing the payroll tax. By mid-May, three different COVID-19 relief packages passed Congress and were signed into law.

Phase 1 of the COVID-19 relief package, known as the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Act, consisted of around \$8 billion -- far more than the \$2.5 billion that President Donald Trump requested -- being

appropriated towards fighting the disease. The bill, which was overwhelmingly bipartisan, specifically allocated \$3 billion towards investing in the development of vaccines and therapeutics and \$2.2 billion towards public health funding.

Phase 2 of the COVID-19 relief packages,

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) is the most extensive and expensive stimulus package in American history.

known as the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, was more expensive and controversial than the Phase 1 package, but it ultimately passed. The bill overwhelmingly passed in the House but faced opposition from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. However, President Trump tweeted his support for the bill, which gave it enough momentum to pass the Senate by a vote of 90-8. The act provided free COVID-19 testing, 14 days of paid sick leave for American workers affected by the pandemic, and increased funding for government programs such as unemployment. The bill controversially capped the amount of paid sick leave to \$511 per day. Washington State Senator Patty Murray introduced an amendment which would have added a provision to the bill allowing for paid sick leave for Americans who had suffered from any sickness, but the amendment failed.

Finally, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) is the most extensive and expensive stimulus package in American history. The CARES Act carries a price tag of \$2 trillion and is considered to be Phase 3 of the stimulus packages. Although the CARES Act was bipartisan and passed easily, a vote was still required in the House because Congressman Thomas Massie wanted a recorded vote. As a result of Massie's demand, members of Congress had to return to the Hill and vote for the CARES Act, which dedicates \$150 billion towards hospitals and an additional \$27 billion towards more research for finding a cure to COVID-19. The bill additionally allocated \$150 billion to states to help them fight COVID-19. The CARES Act also aims to help the American people directly by providing them with \$1,200 checks, but the checks are means-tested. Individuals who earn more than \$100,000 and families that earn more than \$150,000 would be ineligible for these checks. Further, the bill massively expands unemployment benefits by increasing workers' current benefits by \$600. It also expands the eligibility for unemployment benefits to 39 weeks and allows those who are either self-employed or in temporary positions to be eligible for benefits. Lastly, the collection of federal student loan payments has been temporarily halted until September 30.

Although Congress spent trillions in economic stimulus, many experts and members of Congress were already talking about greater benefits for Americans in a Phase 4 package.

How Has COVID-19 Changed the Election Landscape?

Blake Fox, Israel Editor

As of mid-May, much attention had already been drawn to the impact of COVID-19. More than 22 million people had become unemployed or registered for unemployment, non-essential businesses were forced to close, and more than 90,000 people had died in the U.S. At the same time, the 2020 Election cycle, which was just heating up, completely changed in just a matter of days. States were forced to postpone their primary elections, and the two major party candidates remaining were forced to change their strategic plans to win the White House.

Former Vice President Joe Biden spoke on the night of March 17th following his three convincing campaign wins in Florida, Illinois, and Arizona. However, his speech was not given in front of thousands of people, but rather from his home in Wilmington, Delaware. The speech was quite somber as he spoke about the threat of COVID-19. Since the outbreak, Biden's campaign strategy was transformed. Biden's opportunities to interact with voters became limited, and he was forced to resort to live streaming speeches from his home's basement. To try to gain supporters, Biden's campaign introduced a podcast and virtual happy hours. Those inside Biden's campaign have expressed concerns about Biden's ability to receive

GETTY IMAGES



Joe Biden speaks during a virtual town hall.

attention and coverage without being on the campaign trail.

Similarly, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who has since suspended his campaign, was also forced to adjust his campaign because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, Sanders had a tech savvy campaign highlighted by Twitch streams, Discord servers, and online town halls. However, the pandemic forced Sanders to make adjustments; he was unable to host live rallies and was forced to host virtual rallies, which often featured high-profile guests such as Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar. Sanders'

campaign also encouraged voters to organize text-banking campaigns and TikTok accounts to promote their efforts.

President Donald Trump has been forced to change his campaign strategy as well. Trump, who is known for his massive, energetic rallies that fill up basketball stadiums, has been forced to switch his campaign to a digital strategy. For example, the campaign recently live-streamed an event called "Women for Trump" and held Zoom calls to train volunteers for Trump's campaign. On average, Trump's daily updates on COVID-19 received viewership larger than ESPN's Monday Night Football, and he has seen a slight peak in his approval rating. A recent poll by ABC News found that 48% of Americans approve of the President while 46% disapprove of the President's job performance.

In total, more than 15 states postponed the dates of their Primaries, including Georgia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Other states such as Hawaii, Wyoming, and Alaska made voting entirely by mail. During the Spanish Flu of 1918, midterm elections were held, but voter turnout fell by 10%. We'll see if that precedent stands once the elections are finally held.

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The World Responds to COVID-19

Maya Shavit, Editor-in-Chief

face masks provided for guests at many shows, but gatherings of over 5,000 occurred, which only assisted the spread. As of mid-April, Italy and France have two of the highest numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19, with France confirming 109,252 cases and Italy con-

has a controversial policy regarding face masks. No one can purchase a face mask from a pharmacy, even on prescription, to ensure that all face masks go to doctors and nurses on the front lines. All people who can stay home are told to be self-isolating during the pandemic,

the third-highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the world. The number, however, has declined significantly since its spike in March. The confirmed cases have steadily declined in progression as the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy's top health institute, declared that they had reached a plateau in the number of cases thanks to their national lockdown.

Worldwide, the United States has the most significant number of COVID-19 cases, approaching 700,000 confirmed. The epicenter of the virus in the US is known to be New York, with more than 222,000 confirmed cases in the

state. New York, like most states, has a full lockdown that will hopefully lead to a plateau in cases soon. All but five states have comprehensive lockdown precautions in the United States. It is the duty of all citizens to stay home and protect themselves and others.

In this unprecedented time, everyone is responsible for the safety of themselves and their community. Around the globe, new safety measures have changed lifestyles completely, but no one is alone. Fighting the COVID-19 pandemic is a universal cause, and it is each individual's job to be strong in the face of uncertainty.

It is the duty of all citizens who can stay home to protect themselves and others.

firming 172,434.

The French medical research center, Institut Pasteur in Paris, has confirmed that it will start trials with a new vaccine for COVID-19 in July. France also

so those who cannot can have access to enough face masks.

Harsher than France, Italy is locked down with no interactions between individuals as they have claimed the spot for

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Higher Ed in Limbo

Niva Cohen, Opinion Editor

nearly impossible to catch up. Some high schoolers rely on junior year to improve their transcripts. Now, those in states that have swapped letter grades for a pass-fail system (because of the current situation) must find new ways to make up for a subpar performance in years passed.

Even if someone knows exactly where he or she wants to apply, and has the grades to get in, everyone has to deal with the lack of SAT/ACT testing. According to the Washington Post, "one million high school juniors are missing the chance this spring to get their first SAT score." The College Board is offering AP tests online for college credit, but even if they did the same with the SAT, it could disadvantage those without access to powerful technology, setting up yet another roadblock for low-income students.

The U.S. is not the only country in which high schoolers rely on SATs. All over the world, the coronavirus has caused cancellations, including in China, which provides U.S. schools with one-third of their international students. If schools decide to lift SAT/ACT score requirements, there is still the matter of TOEFL and IELTS tests, which check international students' English comprehension. Schools cannot as easily lift the demand for these tests, as it is essential that students in American universities be able to speak English proficiently.

The alternative, however, could be worse. Requiring tests for international students that many are unable to complete could mean a drop

in applications from outside the country. In any case, 36% of Chinese students who had planned to study abroad are now reconsidering because of the virus, a study by the Beijing Overseas Study Service Association reported in February. These students might instead look to online programs, which could change the culture of coming to college in the U.S. for years to come. Not only do international students offer cultural diversity on campuses, but universities rely on them to pay full tuition. Therefore, if they choose to stay home, it could further dent budgets.

As they have closed and sent students home, colleges have shown the utmost grace and empathy for their students' situations -- at their own cost.

Regarding the topic of SAT and ACT testing, the National Association of College Admissions Counseling advised schools to lighten their application requirements. Indeed, institutions nationwide (among them, all University of California schools) have begun to remove the need for juniors to have these scores. This could change the landscape of admissions, as students' aptitude for test-taking does not necessarily correlate to their overall qualifications; those weaker at standardized tests may have an easier time matriculating, perhaps displacing those who are stronger in this area.

Although it seems as though all of this confusion is purposeless, it could ultimately yield benefits. Jeremy Alder, the founder of College Consensus, said about loosening SAT requirements that "there's already been a trend toward test-optional because more and more schools are recognizing some of the problems with standardized testing and some of the bias in there." Maybe the coronavirus will give schools the motivation and the opportunity to institute more progressive policies. Students, too, will change how they think about college. Without an emphasis on letter grades and test scores, they must find new ways to stand out, which could lead to an increased stress on volunteer work. Because of the devastation that coronavirus has wrought, more volunteering could strengthen and rebuild affected communities. Despite the grimness and confusion of this reality, institutions and students alike could very well find silver linings.

The college application process runs on a strict schedule. Coronavirus is disrupting this routine, leaving universities clueless as to how to proceed. The silver lining is that social change often only comes when someone, or something, stirs the pot, making people give up what is known for what could be better. Alternatively, after a period of limbo, the process could return to normal in a few years. This is uncharted territory, and juniors should remember that the colleges are on their side to figure out how to overcome present difficulties.

Barrack’s Favorite Sports Moments

Danny Cohen, Sports Editor

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the whole world has been forced to shut down, including all competitive sports. We have been without sports for around three months now, missing out on a third of the Major League Baseball (MLB) season, the rest of the regular seasons for the National Basketball Association (NBA) and National Hockey League (NHL), a live National Football League (NFL) draft with fans in attendance, and March Madness. For Philly sports fans, in particular, this is a major disappointment, as the flaming-hot Flyers were in contention for the Stanley Cup for the first time in a decade, winning nine of their last 10 games before the hiatus, and sitting one point behind the Washington Capitals for first place in the Metropolitan division. Additionally, while the 76ers struggled for most of the season with injuries and inconsistency, the team was beginning to build chemistry and gain momentum for the playoffs. Many fans were also excited for the Phillies season to start, with new manager Joe Girardi, shortstop Didi Gregorius and pitcher Zack Wheeler. However, while everyone is eagerly anticipating the return of live sports action, the hiatus offers an opportunity to reminisce about all the incredible sports moments that have taken place in the past 15 years. To assess this, The Cougar Chronicle interviewed 25 Barrack students, asking them a simple question: “What is your favorite sports memory?”

#5 Tiger Woods and His Spectacular Journey

intoxicated. By January 2018, Woods hadn’t won a major in over a decade, and it didn’t look like he was ever going to compete at the highest level again. However, a few months later, Woods finished 6th in the US Open Championship and 2nd in the PGA Championship. Finally, the next year, Woods put on an astonishing performance at the 2019 Masters Tournament, finishing 13 shots under par, defeating Dustin Justin, Xander Schauffele, and Brooks Koepka.

Zach Ufberg ‘21 recalls watching with his grandpa who is also a huge golf fan, and says it was “special because it was an amazing comeback from his injuries, which is incredibly hard in such a mentally challenging game.” Noah Joffe ‘22 remembers watching with his father in the Dominican Republic, and says, “Seeing him win was almost unreal because everyone doubted that it was possible because he was too old, but obviously he proved them wrong.” Woods’ triumph was the culmination of years of hard work as he battled both injuries and personal struggles, “so his winning proved that not only was he still the great player he used to be, he also proved that anything is possible.”

#4 New York Magic

Since Barrack is located outside of Philadelphia, the majority of students are Philly sports fans, but a minority roots for the New York teams.

In 2015, the New York Mets finished the season 90-72, and hoped to bring home their 3rd World Series Title. Ben Beal ‘21 remembers being a 6th grader at the time. Beal had recently moved to Philadelphia, and decided to use his knowledge of sports to make new friends. He increasingly became more interested in Philadelphia sports. As the Mets began their playoff winning streak, however, Ben became more comfortable wearing his New York gear to school. While the Mets ended up losing in the World Series, Beal says, [their postseason run] “was something that I really needed to break the ice in a new environment, and I can’t bring myself to cheer for any other baseball team than my Mets.”

Roni Cohen ‘22 has been a Giants football fan his whole life, and he is lucky enough to have watched two Super Bowl wins for his favorite team. The first one came in 2008, when David Tyree made the famous “helmet catch” to keep the Giants’ season alive, and eventually win the Super Bowl. Roni was five at the time, and recalls that on

that play, “I thought for sure Manning was going to get sacked because he’s not a mobile QB.” But Manning escaped the pocket because, according to Cohen, “big-time players make big-time plays in big-time games.” When Manning finally threw the ball downfield, nobody thought Tyree was going to catch it, as there were multiple defenders

The Cougar Chronicle interviewed 25 Barrack students, asking them a simple question: “What is your favorite sports memory?”

around him and he only had one hand available to make a contested catch. Like everybody else at the time, Roni “thought for sure that David Tyree wouldn’t catch the ball, considering he only had 4 catches for 45 yards in the regular season.” He describes the few seconds the ball was in the air as “an hour.” When Cohen heard the announcers scream with excitement that Tyree caught the ball, he could hardly contain himself. “I jumped out of my seat and have never been happier in my life!”

To his delight, Roni’s favorite moment lasted only for four years, as the Giants won the Super Bowl again in 2012! Although there wasn’t a defining play like in the 2008 Super Bowl, Roni says, “I will never forget the emotion that came to me when we raised the Lombardi Trophy,” and it was the new “greatest moment of my life.”

Arielle Zabusky ‘22, a huge New York Rangers hockey fan, remembers going to see Game 6 of the playoff series between the Rangers and the Canadiens in 2017. As most hockey playoff games tend to be, it was intense and thrilling, but for Arielle, it was even more special because it was her first playoff game. She says, “I always love watching my team play live, and playoff games are even more fun.” The Rangers won that game by a score of 3-1, and Zabusky exclaimed, “The crowd was so excited, I remember people breaking out into a cheer when we were leaving the building.” Even though the Rangers eventually lost the next round, this was Arielle’s most memorable sports moment because of the exhilarating playoff environment.

#3 Wildcat Spirit

Coming in at number three is Villanova’s 2016 National Championship victory in men’s college basketball. Prior to this, the Wildcats had not won the National Championship since 1985, when they upset heavily-favored Georgetown in the championship game. In 2016, Jacob Erlbaum ‘22 traveled to Houston for the Final Four, and as fortune would have it, Villanova, his favorite team, was

Continued on Page 19



GETTY IMAGES

Closer Brad Lidge and catcher Carlos “Choose” Ruiz celebrating the World Series victory in 2008.

While it may come as a surprise, a fair number of Barrack students watch golf. Therefore, Tiger Woods’ recent Masters Tournament victory qualified for this survey with a top-five finish. Before 2019, Tiger Woods had won 14 major championships, his last win coming in 2008. After a number of injuries, including an Achilles tear, an elbow strain, and more recently, a fragmented disc in his back, forcing him to have multiple surgeries, mostly everybody counted Woods out. In 2017, Tiger hit an all-time low, as he was arrested in Florida for driving while

Continued from Page 18

Favorite Moments Countdown

there, too. After Nova's blowout win over Oklahoma in the semi-finals, they faced North Carolina, a very talented team that many believed would beat the Wildcats. After a back-and-forth affair, the Wildcats found themselves up three points, with under 30 seconds to go. After a wild sequence, Marcus Paige, UNC's point guard, hit a circus-shot to tie the game with 4.7 seconds. Jacob describes the play as "crushing," and said, "it made me feel like we lost even though it tied the game." However, on the final play of the game, Villanova point guard Ryan Arcidiacono dribbled up the court, and flipped it to Kris Jenkins, who nailed the long-range 3-pointer for the win at the buzzer. "The Jenkins shot felt like going from being crushed to completely rejuvenated in a split second," Erlbaum remarked. "I couldn't believe it!"

Another committed Wildcat fan, Yoni Webner '22, remembers watching the game in his living room, and when Jenkins hit the shot, Yoni was in disbelief. "I didn't feel like it was real. I thought it was a dream since I had never experienced a championship before." Webner went on to say, "I sat there on the couch in shock for over 10 minutes just trying to comprehend what just happened." It truly was a dream come true for Yoni and every Wildcat fan across the country.

#2 The World Series Dream

Although many Barrack students were younger than six at the time, the Philadelphia Phillies 2008 World Series win and Roy Halladay's perfect game both received several votes and combined to serve as runner-up in our poll. After many up and down seasons since the Phillies' first World Series win in 1980, 2008 finally seemed like the year the Phillies would win it all. Philadelphia finished 92-70, good for first place in the division and second in the National League. After going a combined 7-2 in their first two playoff series against the Brewers and Dodgers, the Phillies had a great deal of momentum moving onto the World Series and they ultimately

triumphed over the Rays in 5 games, including a suspended final contest which took place over a three-day period due to inclement weather. When Brad Lidge struck out Eric Hinske to win it all, Aaron Heller '22 remembers "jumping up and down, extremely happy." While Aaron was just four years old, he describes the win as "special," and 12 years later, he appreciates it even more, given the team's recent struggles. Ilan Gordon '21 recalls watching the game with his family, "going absolutely crazy," and as for many, it was a dream come true. Gordon says he gets "the chills" every time he watches the final pitch.

Two seasons later, the Philadelphia Phillies acquired star pitcher, Roy Halladay. That year, he led the league in wins, complete games, and shutouts, and won the coveted Cy Young award. While Halladay accomplished so many great things that year, Adam Maman '20 vividly remembers one -- the perfect game. Maman says, "I remember Roy Halladay's perfect

Longtime play-by-play announcer, Merrill Reese, then declared those words that Eagles fans had longed to hear for more than half a century, "The Philadelphia Eagles are Super Bowl Champions!"

game like it was yesterday." Like many other families, the Mamans were at the beach for Memorial Day. "We were all running around or swimming, until my Abba said that Roy Halladay had a perfect game through six innings." By the time the game got to the 8th inning, Adam and his family ran up into the hotel to watch the last few innings. After an 11 pitch 8th inning, the Phillies ace took the mound again in the 9th to try to complete the perfect game. After a warning track scare and a strikeout, Halladay only needed to retire one more batter. Ronny Paulino was the batter, as the count quickly went to 1-2, Paulino hit a hard ground-ball to Juan Castro at third base. Castro moved to his left, spun around, set his feet, and made the throw. He did it! A perfect game! Maman remarks, "I was honestly just



QB Nick Foles holding the Lombardi Trophy after winning the Super Bowl in 2018

shocked, if anything. I had just started playing baseball at the time, and so for one of my heroes to pull that off was just unbelievable. It felt larger than life."

#1 Philly's Super Bowl -- the Pride and Joy of Our Hometown

As expected, the Philadelphia Eagles' Super Bowl victory won our poll in a landslide. Before 2018, the Eagles had won three NFL Championships, but never a Super Bowl. As of Week 13, the Birds were first in the NFC with a 10-2 record. At the time, they were clear Super Bowl favorites, led by the MVP-level play of Carson Wentz. Suddenly, however, the Eagles' Super Bowl hopes were in serious jeopardy, after Wentz dove for a touchdown (on a play that was called back) and ended up tearing his ACL. Although the Eagles still finished the regular season with the best record in the NFC, everyone, including many experts, counted the Eagles out. Instead, led by Nick Foles, the Eagles surprised everyone, narrowly beating Atlanta, and blowing out the Vikings 38-7 to get to the Super Bowl.

Again, the Eagles were underdogs to the vaunted Patriots. The defining moment of the game came with 1:30 left in the first half and the Birds sitting at the 1-yard line, on fourth down. When everybody thought the Eagles were going to kick the field goal, they kept the offense on the field. Nick Foles motioned to the right, and the ball was snapped to Corey Clement, who flipped it to Trey Burton who threw it to... Nick Foles! Touchdown Eagles! Dylan Mandel '21 remembers "jumping and dancing" after the touchdown, while Jacob Kopelman '22 got to watch the "Philly Special" live,

calling it "an incredible experience." After trading points the whole second half, Zach Ertz caught a late touchdown from Nick Foles, opening up a 38-33 lead for Philadelphia. When the Patriots got the ball back, the Eagles sacked Brady and caused a fumble which was recovered by Brandon Graham! A few plays later, Jake Elliott made a field goal with 1:05 to go, putting the Eagles up 41-33. On the last play of the game, Tom Brady threw up a Hail Mary, and after a few seconds, which felt like years, the ball fell harmlessly to the ground. Longtime play-by-play announcer, Merrill Reese, then declared those words that Eagle fans had longed to hear for more than half a century, "The Philadelphia Eagles are Super Bowl Champions!"

"It was very fun to celebrate," Talia Hirshman '22 said. "It was their first Super Bowl, so to witness team history is really cool." Benji Axelrod '22 emphasizes, "[The Eagles are] my life-long favorite team; being able to appreciate the Super Bowl win at that time was something special that I will remember for the rest of my life." Noah Cohen '26 and Jacob Hare '22 both appreciated the fact that "even though they were underdogs, they figured out a way to win it all." And they both commented on the unifying impact of sports success in a community: "It was just special [to see] how quickly the city of Philadelphia came together over football."

The entire Barrack community eagerly awaits the time when sports return and provide us with new moments to cherish. In the meantime, it is important to celebrate our memories and know that even the coronavirus can't take those away from us.

The NFL Free Agency Frenzy

Benny Scheinmann, Features and Games Editor

Although this year's NFL Free Agency was nearly postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, on March 18th, Free Agency jumped into action. Since there were numerous moves this offseason, I will be analyzing the three best and worst transactions.

Starting with the best moves, on March 16, the Arizona Cardinals shocked the NFL world, by trading David Johnson, a one-time Pro-Bowl Running Back, to the Texans in exchange for superstar wide receiver, DeAndre Hopkins. The Texans and Cardinals also exchanged draft picks, with the Texans drafting defensive tackle Ross Blacklock with the pick they received. With Hopkins' incredible route running, superb speed, and athletic ability to catch the ball with tight coverage or on a bad throw, Hopkins will certainly boost the Cardinals' offensive power, possibly transitioning them into a playoff team. Many don't

Chubb ran for almost 1500 yards along with 8 touchdowns. With the addition of Conklin, Chubb has the chance to put up even better numbers next season, which will take a lot of the pressure off of quarterback Mayfield and the rest of the team's pass-game.

Hopefully, the Browns can live up to the expectations that many had for them last season by doing what everyone thought they could last season and making a playoff run.

With what was possibly the most notable move of the offseason, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed former Patriots quarterback, Tom Brady. Tampa's prior quarterback, Jameis Winston was not the right fit in Tampa as the Buccaneers never sniffed a

Yes, the Texans were in need of a running back, but to trade their best player was totally



unnecessary! Although the Houston Texans haven't had much success in the postseason in the last two years, they still made it to the playoffs, primarily because of Hopkins' tremendous play. By trading their star player, they are throwing all their playoff and Super Bowl hopes away.

Although Tom Brady is arguably the best player of all time, and the Buccaneers were in need of a QB, the signing could also be seen in a negative light. In reality, Brady is 42, and

draft picks. Although Slay was begging the Lions to trade him this offseason, Detroit could have gotten much more out of a stellar player like Slay. He was also a huge part of Detroit's defense, an area that the Lions are now likely to struggle with. There is little-to-no chance the Lions will get close to a playoff appearance next season or in the immediate future.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, this year's NFL draft was scheduled to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, the new home of the Raiders. Instead, it was held virtually by video conference. The first few picks went as expected with the Cincinnati Bengals selecting Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow from the 2019 FBS Champions LSU Tigers. Cincinnati hopes Burrow will be the guy to turn their franchise around. The Washington Redskins then picked Chase Young of the Ohio State Buckeyes. Young is a big, athletic defensive end, who Washington believes can lead their defense for the next several seasons. At pick 21, the hometown Philadelphia Eagles took a position of dire need, choosing speedy TCU wide receiver Jalen Reagor. Although the Eagles could have gone with Justin Jefferson, a WR from LSU, the Eagles selected Reagor hoping he becomes a favorite target of Carson Wentz and allows the Eagles to go to the next level and make another Super Bowl run in 2020.

Ultimately there were many moves in this year's crazy Free Agency, but one mistake could cause the teams everything.

Yes, the Texans were in need of a running back, but to trade their best player was totally unnecessary!

understand why the Texans agreed to this deal, as this is a robbery of a trade, and the Cardinals are more than happy with their heist.

A name many may not know is Jack Conklin. Conklin is one of the league's most talented offensive lineman who recently signed with the Cleveland Browns. After receiving a great deal of hype, the Browns were disappointed last season with quarterback Baker Mayfield, who did not live up to expectations, and talented wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. unexpectedly performed poorly as well. However, one player who was a bright spot for Cleveland was running back Nick Chubb.

playoff spot with him as their QB, much to Winston's poor decision making and inaccuracy. Although Brady is 42 years old, he has tremendous assets around him, and his veteran presence and incredible IQ should help secure a playoff spot for the Buccaneers and potentially snag a win in the NFL's postseason.

While the Cardinals acquiring DeAndre Hopkins was a great move for them, the Texans made a huge mistake trading him away. Hopkins, a back to back 1500 yard receiver and a second straight First-Team All-Pro wide receiver, was traded for David Johnson, a player who has not been valuable in two years, due to injuries and ineffectiveness.

is not the same player he was three years ago. Brady may only have a few years left in him. Meanwhile, wide receivers Chris Godwin and Mike Evans will be entering their prime soon, and could use a younger, more athletic QB, like Cam Newton. Due to his age, there is an injury concern for Brady. At his age with his performance history it could only take one injury to end his career. This signing may be a good move in some eyes but the Buccaneers could have gone many other routes.

Another disappointing move in the NFL Free Agency was the Detroit Lions trading away three-time Pro Bowl cornerback Darius Slay to the Philadelphia Eagles for two

Coronavirus Update in the Sports World

Danny Cohen, Sports Editor

On March 11, 2020, Utah Jazz Center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the Coronavirus, causing the NBA to suspend its season. Shortly after, the rest of the sports world shut down indefinitely. So far, it is unclear when each league will return, but we will only learn more as time goes by.

The MLB has yet to begin their season, and right now, the league is looking at options to play in Arizona, Florida, and Texas without any fans, but even that is unlikely. The best-case scenario for the baseball season is to begin in mid-June, and if that happens, it would be without fans, with players possibly staying in hotels. Realistically, MLB may not open until July or August of 2020.

Starting May 15, the NBA cut their players' checks by 25%, displaying the league's doubt of playing any more regular-season games. What will likely happen is that all of the teams that currently have a playoff spot will participate in the playoffs, but the starting date is very uncertain. Because there is no basketball, some of the players participated in an NBA 2K tournament, which was streamed on live TV. The broadcast entertained fans with the only type of live basketball they could watch: virtual hoops. Additionally, the

are unable to participate in team workouts and in-person interviews. This has affected many college athletes' decision to either stay another year in college or to declare for the NBA draft, without being able to

they make a major decision.

The NFL, however, is the only Big 4 Sports League that will continue on schedule as the online NFL Draft held on



SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Wide Receiver DeAndre Hopkins in an Arizona Cardinals uniform

improve their draft-stock. While the NBA is hoping to continue play late July, nothing is definite at the moment, but fans can only hope.

Basketball was not the only sport that was shut down due to the pandemic, as the NHL was suspended shortly after the NBA. Although the NHL would still like to have a few regular-season games, the plan and

April 23 through April 25 was successful. Regarding the NFL Free Agency, players may not meet with teams in person, but there have still been major moves within the league which include Tom Brady signing with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and DeAndre Hopkins being traded to the Arizona Cardinals.

Hopefully, by September the coronavirus will be history and the season can start on time. It has now been almost three months since sports have been canceled, and while there is some optimism that sports will return relatively soon, we do not know anything for sure. Only time will tell.

So far, it is unclear when each league will return, but we will only learn more as time goes by.

NBA organized a H.O.R.S.E. tournament, where active and retired NBA players participated, along with some WNBA players. In terms of the NBA draft, players

expectation are to have the Stanley Cup Playoffs in the summer, without any regular-season games. Like everything else, the NHL will have to wait and see until



GOOGLE IMAGES



Want to play a variety of sports quizzes? Visit
<https://www.sporcle.com/user/dannycohen117/quizzes/>

Barrack Athlete Spotlight: Stefanie Rose

Shirin Kaye, Editor-in-Chief

Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy's Athletics Department is made up of many middle schoolers, high schoolers, and coaches dedicated to fitness and teamwork. Stefanie Rose '20 is a senior who has been an avid member of this dedicated group all through high school. She agreed to speak with the Chronicle about her experiences on Barrack's soccer, swim, and lacrosse teams.

Chronicle: What do you like about your sports?

Stefanie Rose: One of the reasons I play sports is to stay in shape, but, more importantly, to make connections with people across grades. Being part of a team makes me feel like I am part of a whole, and that whole has the same goal: to play strongly and to win. I have found that sports have allowed me to create many more friendships; I love the feeling of walking down the hall when people from different grades say hi to me and when I am able to talk to them as well.

C: When and how were you introduced to the sports you play at Barrack?

SR: I was introduced to soccer as a freshman because, even though I had never played, I wanted to give it a try. With regard to

soccer, my mom played in high school for Akiba, so I thought it would be a nice connection for the two of us to share. I started swimming when I was in third grade for an outside team, and have been competing ever since. I also started playing lacrosse as a freshman, and ended up loving it and becoming the goalie.

C: What is special about being part of Barrack teams?

SR: Playing sports for Barrack is so special because you are able to see your teammates during school. Since our school is small, it is so nice that I am able to talk and hang out with my teammates outside of the sport, and I think that makes for an even better chemistry for playing on the field together.

C: Besides sports, what do you enjoy?

SR: I love going on roller coasters; I can spend an entire day at Six Flags and be perfectly content.

The school wishes Stef and her classmates luck in continuing their sports careers in college!



Stef and Mr. Justin Cooper, Director of Athletics, at the Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony for the Class of 2019.

“I am part of a whole that has the same goal: to play strongly and to win.”

The Importance of Keeping Busy in this Crazy Time

Eliana Weinstein, Staff Writer

When school let out in March, I was scared that there may be nothing to do at home. Without going to school, taking part in extracurriculars, or even hanging out with friends, I became more and more frightened that without my busy lifestyle, I would slowly become lazy. On the first day of social distancing, I found myself pondering what I should do to keep busy at home. Although I did receive work the first day, I felt that my day was quite boring.

The first few days of the stay home order followed a very simple routine. I would sit by my screen and do work for at least two hours, not because of the workload, but because I had not much else to do, like many other Barrack students. Then I started brainstorming ideas of what to do to keep myself busy. I started taking more walks, playing board games with my sisters and even picked up a few new hobbies.

With more time at home, I began to notice there was more opportunity to learn new things. I am not the only one who had this realization; Asher Decherney '25 says, “With more time on my hands, I have been able to put more exercise into my day.” I also

found I could take up learning and doing new things, like piano, and new sports in my backyard, such as lacrosse and frisbee. I now understand that I shouldn't have been scared of staying home but rather excited about this opportunity to take on new interests.

Many students have expressed to me that being online for school five hours a day or more is very difficult. At the core, I think the best thing to do at this time is to learn something new. Do a task that you ordinarily wouldn't do, like talking to relatives, or learn to bake a new recipe, all of which can help make quarantine a useful and more productive time. Simple new skills will force you to not only stay busy but also to get off the screens for some possible quality time with your family, or to indulge in some needed self-care. Andy Jacoby '24 said that “over spring break I took up biking, and after spring break I kept it up. Biking gave me something new to do and something to keep me sane.” As difficult as it

may be at times, we should all try our best to use quarantine to our advantage.



Left: Eliana Weinstein '24 cooking muffins “with” Asher Decherney '25

Right: Andy Jacoby '24 visiting Eliana on his bike so the two could talk from a distance, and Andy could enjoy the ride.

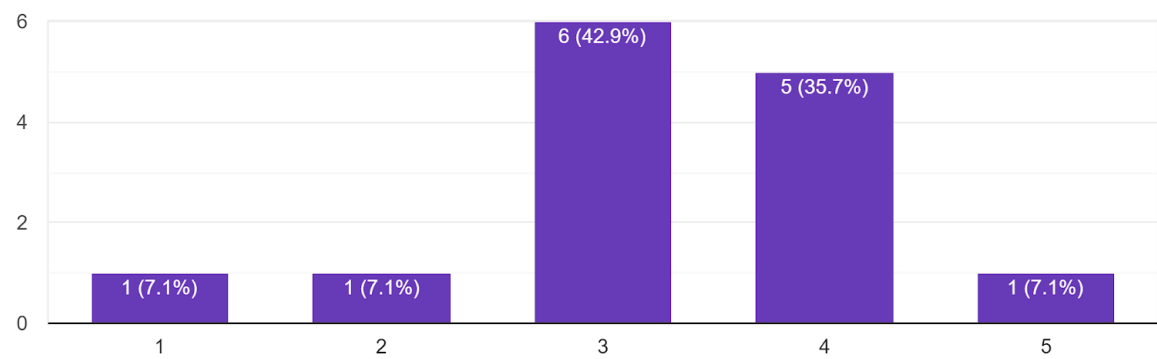
FEATURES

Teacher Survey on Distance Learning

Becca Miller, A&E Editor

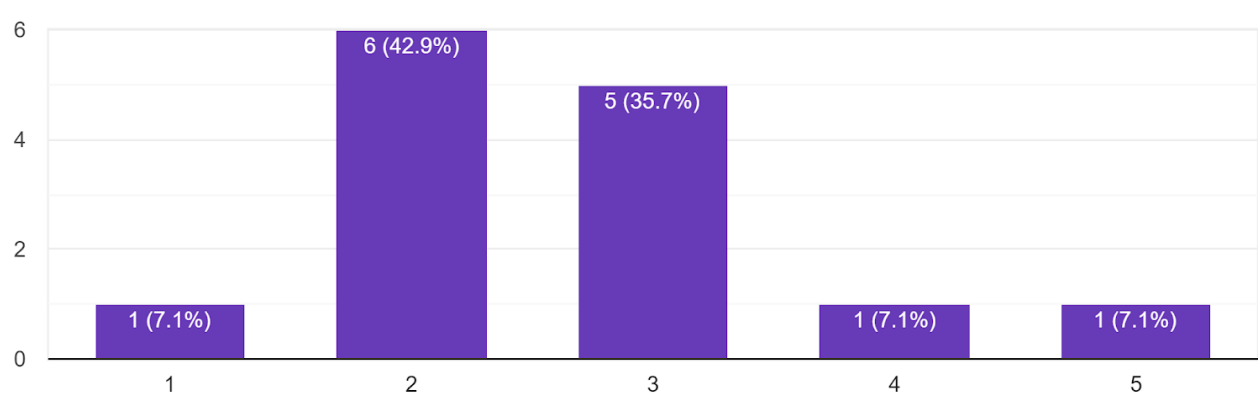
A survey was sent out to all Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy teachers questioning their thoughts on Barrack’s distance learning program. Here are the results:

On a scale of 1-5, how much have you had to change your teaching style?
14 responses



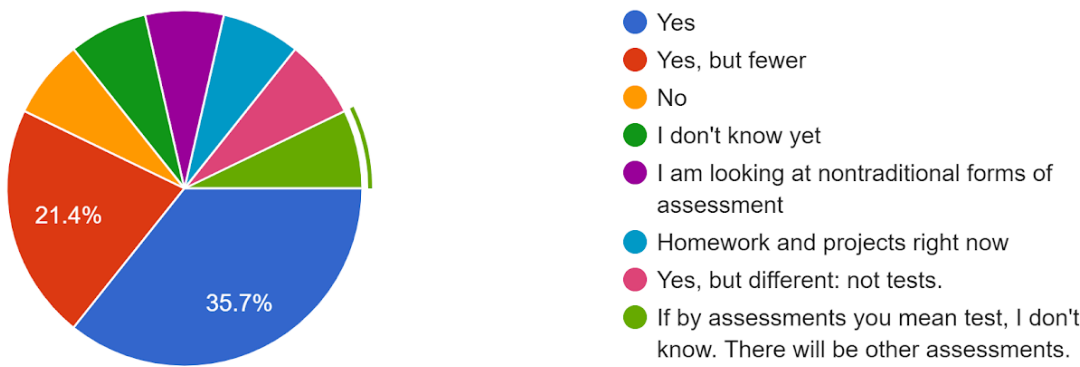
When asked about how their teaching style changed, many teachers commented that there was less discussion and participation, and they had to rely more on Google Slides.

On a scale of 1-5, how distracted do students seem on Google Meets?
14 responses



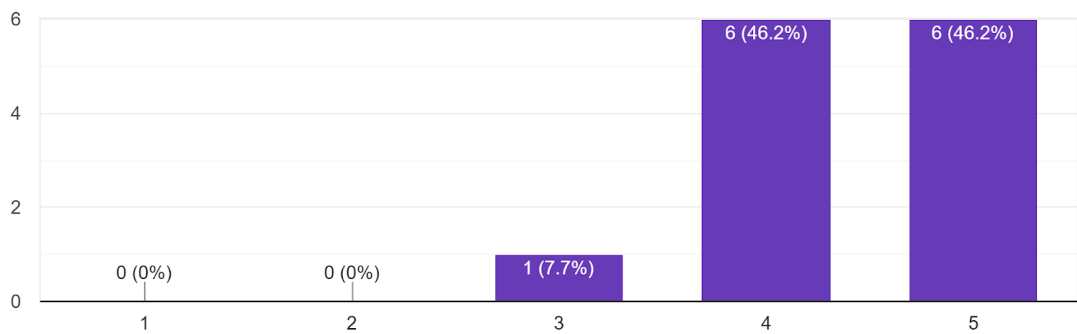
For the most part, teachers had trouble ascertaining whether their students were paying attention, but they are aware of the many distractions that students face during classes.

Do you plan to give assessments over distance learning?
14 responses



Teachers are figuring out how to assess their students’ learning in a variety of ways.

On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate Barrack's distance learning program?
13 responses



Barrack teachers believe that while it isn’t perfect, the distance learning program goes above and beyond to ensure that students continue to receive an education.

Exit Interviews From the Class of 2020

The class of 2020 has completed high school, or at least the classes part. Many of these graduating students have been at Barrack since their middle school days. What do they love at Barrack? What doesn't tickle their fancy? What will they miss?

Over the course of two weeks, members of the Class of 2020 were interviewed. Here is what they had to say:

The interviews began with positivities surrounding their Barrack experience and nostalgia.

What (dear seniors) is your favorite thing about Barrack?

"I've always loved how they incorporate Jewish life into Student Life. I think that it can be hard to get students excited sometimes... seeing Judaism coming to life after learning about it in the classroom," says Serena Levingston. "My other favorite thing is how close the grade can get. Most people have known each other from kindergarten or have known each other from 6th grade or from 9th grade. Having that connection for so long can build a lot of comfort and trust."

Helen Rudoler added that she is "going to miss having teachers who really care about the success of their students and use their own time to meet with you."

From Rivkah Wyner: "[My favorite thing has been] my extracurriculars, particularly the theater department and my friends in the theater department and doing all the shows."

Her advice to the next student director is that "it's a lot of work and you have to put your feet in every part of the process and prepare to be in charge of everything. Make sure to have fun. The more connected you guys are as a group [in the Drama Department] the higher the quality of the show."

At the other extreme, what is your least favorite thing about Barrack?

Gabe Miller says that "coming from Allentown, there is definitely a Main-Line bubble which can be really hard to pop into if you're not extroverted. They don't come to you, you have to go to them."

From a completely different perspective, Serena Levingston adds, "We're all Jewish, so you get a more homogeneous body and when you identify differently than the norm, I think it is hard to feel safe and comfortable. [Changing this] is easier said than done. It kind of goes along with pluralism. Having a place for everyone to share." (Note: This is an important subject that many students would not think of if they were not affected. It is imperative to consider what other people value and find uncomfortable.)

Similarly, on the struggles of a precariously bal-

Kayla Bleier, Centerspread Editor

anced pluralistic school, Ira Scheer noted that "educationally, I have been through a lot of change at Barrack... No matter what they did, the 'Judaism' never felt right. They're in a tough situation. Even a homogeneous body like Barrack is surprisingly different."

Rivkah Wyner adds to this by saying, "One of the biggest problems I've had at Barrack was the Jewish Studies Department. I don't think that the studies for Jewish Studies classes are regarded as [being as] helpful as Math and English [as they should be]."



The class of 2020 in their Senior Shirts.

Similar to this thread was the question, what is one thing you would change about Barrack?

Ira Scheer states that he would change "the focus and Judaism.... I think there really is an atmosphere of JS being a joke; we don't take [it] seriously. I think that affected the way Minyan runs and the way all the Jewish activities run. It would be important to bring more daily life and love into it.... It feels like the love [is] a problem. People just do it. There should be a way to get people into it. [Maybe] if you were just given information, just flat-out information, go through the Torah, go through the Gemara."

Scheer's comment further highlights the struggles of a pluralistic school. No one student is the same as another, and Barrack's struggle to balance Jewish and secular values proves that. "I think Barrack has a lot of overreaction and a lot of anxiety and there's a lot of pressure put on everyone that can give us negative feelings, and people feel overwhelmed," Helen Rudoler says. (To students like Helen, it seems an ideal school environment would be an elimination of stress without the elimination of work.)

Similarly, Sophia Shapiro comments, "I think one thing that I would change, that SA has worked on and continues to work on with the next [SA] Administration, is the stress level and quality of mental health at Barrack. I think that we have made progress in trying to raise the overall mental health wellness of the Barrack community, but we are a long way from perfect. ... We don't want students to be overwhelmed and be unable to do extra activities that they want."

She adds, "I think Daniel (the next SA Presi-

dent) and his Administration have been working really hard during this Corona time. We have been working together to try and streamline our Administration with what he wants to accomplish with his Administration." (This author is excited to go back to school and experience the class of 2021's Administration in person.)

Stefanie Rose says that "our grade was the last one not to be leveled. I would have preferred if my [Humanities] classes were leveled. I am very English and history-oriented and there were times where I would be one of the only ones participating in a conversation that I actually wanted to talk about... With leveling you are able to see kids at the

same level as you are and you can have... the same amount of engagement. [However], I'm kind of conflicted in part of the leveling system... It is all skill-based, but putting labels like "Honors" [can make it] a bad system because there will be kids whose parents will say, 'I

want my kid to be in this level,' and then they get a tutor... to keep up in the level that they're not supposed to be in, but they want it for the title. It's good but it's also really bad."

Moving away from the school environment, what teacher, department, or both has positively impacted you?

Helen Rudoler says, "The Math department and the English department. The Math department has been consistently great throughout high school. I've never had a Math teacher that I never liked. There's something very great about walking into the Math department office and asking any question and any teacher can answer, even if your teacher isn't there. And [the] English department, they always want to help you.... I feel like I've really become a much better writer." She adds about the STEAM Institute, "I really had a great experience in the STEAM Institute. I think the best thing [about] the STEAM Institute is that if you want something, you have to accomplish it yourself. You have great resources put in front of you but it's up to you how you use them. I think that's a great skill going forward in life... taking control of your own situation and advocating for yourself."

Serena Levingston also begins with the English department, saying, "English and History departments, so the Humanities department has given me good preparation for college and creates a really welcome atmosphere. ... It's always been a comfort walking to Mrs. Schuman's Lit classroom this year. It was a nice experience, unlike other classes where you walk in and know you are going to be stressed."

Ira Scheer says, "I think that the History department is pretty incredible. I've never been a fan

Continued on Page 25

Continued from Page 24

Exit Interviews

of doing work, I'm quite the procrastinator, but I've always really felt that I've had a relationship with my History teacher. I don't think it just made me a better History student, but a better student in general.”

Giving some love to the JS department, Stef Rose adds, “Rabbi Razin really impacted my lifestyle at Barrack. This is my first year having him... The thing that amazes me about Rabbi Razin is that you're able to connect with him the minute you sit in class... I was able to speak my mind without being censored... He made people think harder about what they believed and decide if they really believed... I've never had a teacher challenge what I believe.”

Ira Scheer, Stef Rose, and a student who wishes to remain anonymous were asked about their experience in JLI.

Anonymous said, “I did enjoy my time and there's a lot of good about it, but I need to recognize the issues as much as the good parts. I have to say I've heard people say that it's a lot of responsi-

"You’re going to have bad days but the good days always outweigh ... you really need to give everything your all."

bility and hard work and because of that not to do it.... If you're going to do it you have to really understand it's a ton of responsibility at times when you don't want to do it and you've got to be willing to put in the extra work... It's a very weird responsibility... You really have to want to be a JLIer.”

Ira Scheer says, “My favorite part was probably [the leadership]... I've always wanted to take on the leadership position... I like to help as much as possible and there have been times throughout this year [I was able] to successfully run an assembly where you work with younger kids and [watch] people ‘join Judaism’ and it's been really great and really fun.” However, nothing starts perfectly: “ In JLI, when we found out who we were going to have to work with, we were all pretty scared. There were a lot of different backgrounds and a lot of different people and it was really tough. At first, we really were pretty fractured too, but at the same time it really helped us come together... We really

were able to come together and become people who worked well together and I think we had a pretty successful year overall.”

Stef Rose says, “I think the behind-the-scenes stuff was definitely messier. That was one of the things I didn't enjoy. You got to see how people were as leaders and how they treat leadership for better or for worse. But overall I did enjoy being in JLI...You're working as a group but at times you're going to need to stand alone.” (That is something important to keep in mind when you hold any leadership position.)

During the interview, the students were asked about their emotions. How do you feel about leaving high school and Barrack?

Gabe Miller says, “I'm really excited to leave Barrack. Not because I hate Barrack, but I think people shouldn't want to stay in high school. You're supposed to move on and I'm kind of on that right now.”

Helen Rudoler adds, “I'm really looking forward to just having complete autonomy. I'm being responsible for my own situations and being able to take charge of things.”

Stef Rose says, “Definitely [leaving is] bitter-sweet for me. There's been days where I feel... I just need to get out. But I...step back and think that this is only one bad day out of so many good days. Just the fact that I've been with [my class] for four years... I'm really going to miss the fact that there are 60 people whom I can just feel comfortable around.... I'm going to miss being able to talk to everyone.”

Finally, what bit of wisdom can you give to the school? Something you have learned from your whole time at Barrack.

To the middle school, Helen Rudoler says, “Just get through it, it gets so much better after middle school.” And to the high school she says, “Just take a deep breath and don't flip out about the history reading or the history test. Just do the reading and study for the test. If you can calm down before doing it, it'll seem a lot more manageable.”

Sophia Shapiro says to “take advantage of every relationship and opportunity that is presented to you and run with it, because a huge part of Barrack is growing yourself outside of the classroom and enjoying the things that you're doing. Take advantage of all of the great clubs and try to figure out what you really enjoy doing.”

Rivkah Wyner adds, “Generally speaking, I would probably say, try not to get too anxious about too many classes at once... I think for me and

9th grade I was so anxious about school work and had too much going on in my head and I felt really absorbed by all the work.... Starting in 10th grade, I was able to take a step back and put more energy into the things that I cared about... acknowledging that not every homework assignment is the end of the world and you have to take your battles school-wise and recognize what you can do.”

Stef Rose added to her prior statement that “what really got me through high school is [this piece of advice]: “You're going to have bad days but the good days always outweigh... you really need to give everything your all. If something bad comes of it, so be it. You just brush it off because tomorrow is a new day... You go in every day with a clean slate.”

Serena Levingston says, “I think it just feels like you're going to be at Barrack for so long, it feels like it took to get to 12th grade forever... It really isn't that long and you should try to make the most of it. If there are people that you think are cool and you don't know how to talk to them, just talk to them and start up a conversation, because after school ends it's hard to get in touch with people and the relationships you make there can stay with you your whole life. If there's something that you want to do, just do it... gotta make a move. Sometimes I worry [how] people are going to think of me, but then you leave Barrack and really who cares.”

Gabe Miller adds, “I took both AP Gov and AP Lit, and now Trajtenberg is calling it, ‘The Gabe Miller,’ so I'd recommend doing The Gabe Miller. [Also] classes are great, but try to get involved in other stuff... clubs and extracurriculars. That was the most fun I had. Get heavily involved in two or three.”

Last but not least, from Ira Scheer to middle schoolers, “I probably want to say to middle schoolers, just chill out... There's a lot of stress and a lot of it is just people getting worked up over very little. There is a lot of work and a lot of pressure... At the Club Fair this year, there were two or three middle schoolers running around looking at clubs and one of them said, ‘Come over here. This one's good to sign up for college applications.’ If you're in middle school and already making decisions for college applications, [I’m] sure there is a benefit to that.... but I really think there's so much more ... [if you're able to] just chill out a little.”

That concludes the interview compilation. Thank you Class of 2020 for everything. Barrack wishes you all the best of luck!

Puzzle Answers

ACROSS

4- Chag Ha’ Aviv

5- Darkness

7- Hillel

8- One

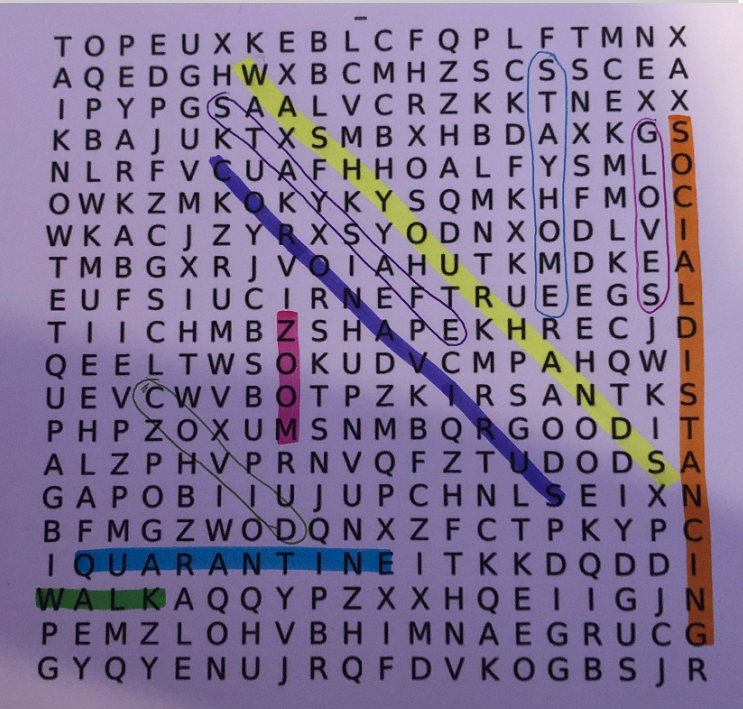
DOWN

1-Nirtzah

2- Bedikat Chametz

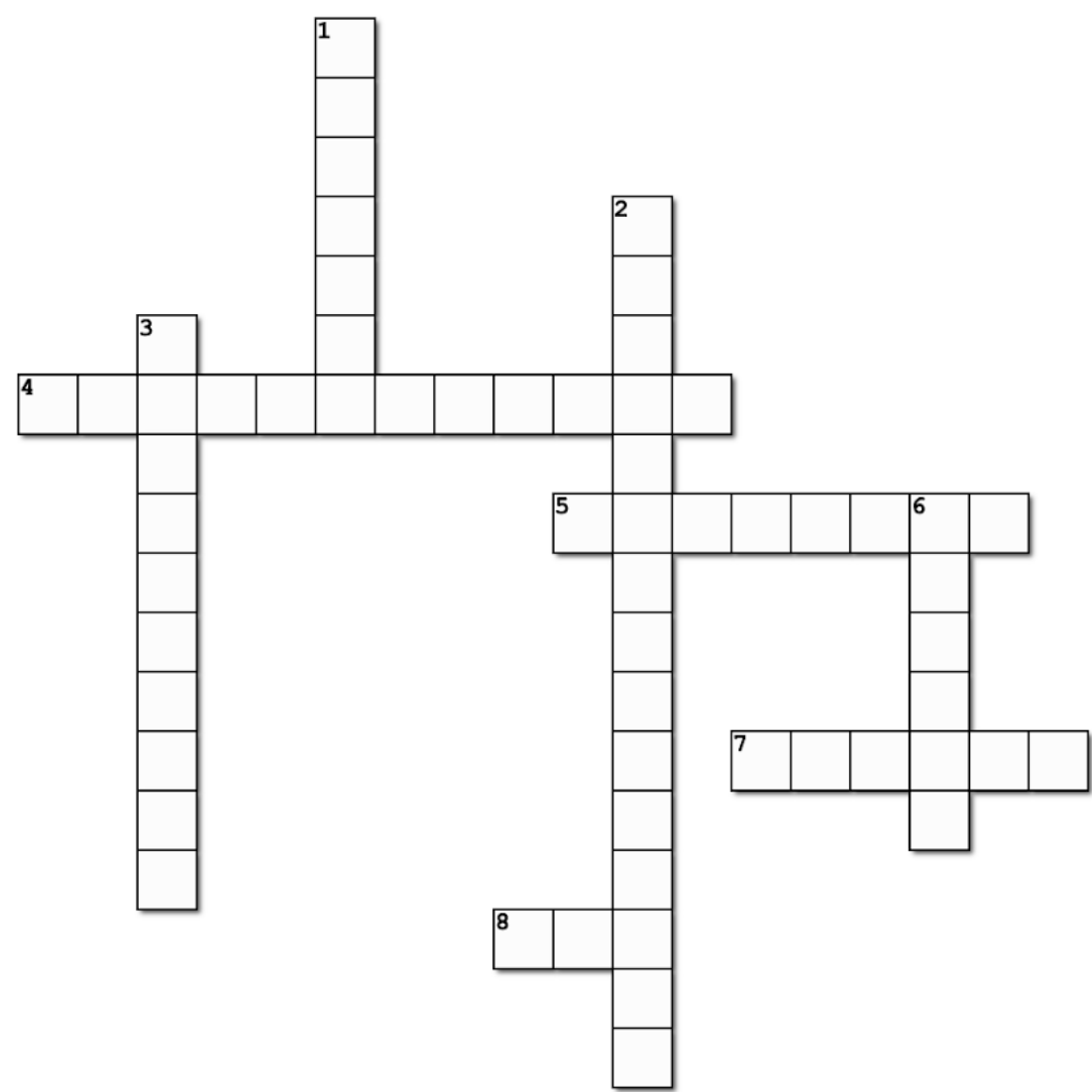
3- Lag B’ Omer

6- Simple



Benny Scheinmann, Features and Games Editor

Let My Puzzle Go! Passover Crossword



Across

- 4. Name of Passover
- 5. The ninth plague
- 7. The inventor of the Korech sandwich
- 8. Number of questions asked on Passover (trick question)

Down

- 1. The last step of the Passover Seder
- 2. The search for the chametz
- 3. The 33rd day of the Omer
- 6. The wise child, the evil child, the one who doesn't know how to ask

Coronavirus Word Search

TOPEUXKEBLCFQPLFTMNX
AQEDGHWXBCMHSCEA
IPYPGSAALVCRZKKTNEXX
KBAJUKTXSMBXHBDAXKGS
NLRFCUAFFHOALFYSMLO
OWKZMKOKYKYSQMKHFMOC
WKACJZYRXSYODNXODLVI
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IQUARANTINEITKKDQDDI
WALKAAQQYPZXHXQEIIIGJN
PEMZLOHVBHIMNAEGRUCG
GYQYENUJRQFDVKOGBSJ R

- Social distancing
- Wash your hands
- Coronavirus
- Quarantine
- Stay home
- Stay safe
- Gloves
- Covid-19
- Walk
- Zoom