

Welcome to ***Judaism & Current Events***

What's Next after the Pandemic: How it will change the way we live?



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CEEW wishes you to note:

- By consensus, the board recognizes that a group of members decided to hold their own forum on Judaism and Current Events.
- Views expressed during conversations may not necessarily be those of CEEW.

Opening Prayer

A prayer for peace in times of trouble

Lord, give us peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world. Grant us the courage to live faithfully to our highest values even in the midst of hard times. Let our faith in each other be the beginning of wisdom and compassion rather than allowing fear to drive our actions.

Help us to live strongly in the midst of a world that needs to know peace. We pray for our brothers and sisters of the world, for we are of one family.

Show us mercy and heal those who are suffering in times of trouble and plague. Most of all, inspire us to restore the world and make all things new.

Amen.

Discussion Guidelines

1. **This is a discussion, not a debate.** The purpose is not to win an argument, but to hear many points of view and explore many ideas.
2. Everyone is encouraged to participate but feel free to just listen.
3. No one or two individuals should dominate a discussion. If you have voiced your thoughts, let others speak.
4. **Raise your hand to signify your wish to speak.** The moderator will call on you. Keep interjections to a minimum. If you think you will forget your idea, write it down.
5. **Please fact-check your sources.** We don't want to give oxygen to unverifiable information.
6. **Listen to and respect other points of view.**
7. Do your best to understand the pros and cons of every opinion and be as open-minded as you can be.
8. Seek first to understand, not to be understood. Ask questions for clarification.
9. **Be thoughtful. Be kind.**

The World is Changing!



“International lockdown and the effective suspension of civic and commercial activity across entire countries has thrust up a mirror on how our economic, social and political systems operate...”

“Previous plagues such as the Black Death or 1918 influenza pandemic had huge ramifications for the world afterwards. The aftermath of this coronavirus pandemic will also see myriad changes, from personal adjustments to global shifts. But which of these changes will have a lasting impact and which might we never see again?” [BBC.com](https://www.bbc.com/future/2020/06/200629_coronavirus_future) Future 29 June 2020

The following ideas ranging from the interpersonal to the international are for discussion and to ponder. They are largely inspired by this article:

***Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently.
Here's How.***

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/03/19/coronavirus-effect-economy-life-society-analysis-covid-135579>

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS



- Our sense of vulnerability has been heightened: The personal has become 'dangerous.'
 - We recoil from shaking hands and eschew hugs and kisses.
 - We distrust those who don't cover their faces.
 - We avoid crowds and any close contact.
 - What we touch, what we breathe could kill us. Yikes!
- How will doing this for a whole year change the way we interact on a personal level in the years yet to come?
- More online communication = more distance but, paradoxically, more connection. Go figure!
- How have your personal relationships changed?
- We ask ourselves can we really trust?
- We are constantly assessing risks and it's exhausting. Can we ever relax?

FAMILY LIFE



- Everyone is home more.
- New habits, anyone?
- More 'family time'... for better or worse.
- Multigenerational households may come back in style.
- Stress baking is an actual thing. Our inner chef has taken over.
- Reorganizing the house: Have you repurposed rooms for work, school, hobbies, isolation?
- We are developing more livable outdoor spaces. What will we do in the winter? Will outdoor heaters become a thing?
- Is our home our castle, our fortress, or our prison.
- New socialization rules and practices are being invented. Guess who's coming to dinner? (Nobody.) Cocktails on the patio, anyone?

RECREATION



- How do we exercise now? What are the low risk activities? Tennis is tops. Walking works. Zooming Zumba?
- Exercise groups were great for socialization. How do we stay motivated when we have to exercise alone?
- Team sports have ended for the foreseeable future. (When will The Pack be back?) Will we ever feel comfortable in a stadium or an arena again?
- With so much time spent indoors there is an increased value on the great outdoors, in wide open green spaces.
- See this link by Leave No Trace: ***The Covid-19 Pandemic is Changing the Way People Recreate Outdoors*** <https://Int.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GeneralPublic-CoronaSurvey-FINAL.pdf>

Community

- Re-considering our sense of community:
 - How your behavior affects me.
 - How my behavior affects you.
 - We are connected and interdependent.
- The market society and hyper-individualism are not working well in this pandemic. Will they seem quite as valuable after the pandemic?
- We have become acutely aware of the social systems that support our community. There is increased interest in and discussion of:
 - Universal healthcare.
 - Increased minimum wage, universal basic income.
 - Systemic racism and the value of diversity.
 - Available and affordable childcare.
 - The value of 'essential workers.'
 - The stifling burden of student debt.
 - The value of education that stresses critical thinking.
 - Respect for science.



Technology

- Living La Vida Técnica:

- Work
- School
- Doctor visits
- Club meetings
- Exercise class
- Family gatherings
- Shopping
- Therapies
- Judicial and governmental proceedings
- Arts, music and theater

- Is this meeting/class/doctor /visit really necessary? Email/text me.
- How will AI be shaping our future? Algorithms more and more rule our on-line lives.
- As our lives move on line 'connectivity' gets complicated. Who can keep up?
 - Internet access inequality is now quite noticeable.
 - Should the internet actually be a utility like water and sewer?
 - 'Knowledge is power' means 'access is power.'



Click on the pic. It's a gif.

WORK AND SCHOOL



- Work isn't working like it used to.
 - Public transport, hot desking, in-person meetings, conferences, conventions and business trips are no longer safe. So then what?
 - Working from home has its own challenges. Women carry the heaviest load.
 - Child care availability/affordability is a real barrier to inclusive and diverse work forces.
 - Some industries will take years to recover (think retail and hospitality).
 - What will happen to all the unused office real estate?
 - Will people have to retrain for jobs that are less face to face?
 - How will we compensate 'essential' workers in the future?
- School no longer rocks.
 - When and what will it take to open schools safely for students and teachers?
 - School is the 'safe place' for some children, how do we meet *their* needs?
 - Do computer based learning programs disadvantage some learners?
 - Will children *really* be traumatized if schools don't open in the fall?

WE ARE THE WORLD?



- Are we entering a post-American world?
- Is there a change in the 'world-order'?
- Will global cooperation go up or down?
- Nationalism is on the rise in many places. Will it grow or shrink?
- There is a case for nationalizing supply chains.
- Immigration has all but stopped. Will it resume? How will lack of immigration change how we view each other?
- How will the decrease in international travel change our relationship to the world and how other countries see us?
- What will be the effect on the developing world?

FUTURE POSITIVITY



'From the extinction of the daily commute to transforming our relationship with food, Covid-19 is changing our world already – and in some ways, it looks set to get better.' <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200629-which-lockdown-changes-are-here-to-stay>

Increased community spirit
Reduced carbon emissions
Appreciation of essential workers
Access to culture on line
Increased connection to family and friends
A chance to restructure and reprioritize our lives

What positive changes do
you see or hope for?

REFERENCES AND GOOD READS



- Which lockdown changes are here to stay? <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200629-which-lockdown-changes-are-here-to-stay>
- How the coronavirus pandemic will impact the future of work. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/29/how-the-coronavirus-pandemic-will-impact-the-future-of-work.html>
- How will the world be different after COVID-19. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2020/06/how-will-the-world-be-different-after-COVID-19.htm>
- The pandemic will accelerate history rather than reshape it. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-04-07/pandemic-will-accelerate-history-rather-reshape-it>
- The Covid-19 Pandemic is Changing the Way People Recreate Outdoors <https://Int.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GeneralPublic-CoronaSurvey-FINAL.pdf>
- The post-COVID-19 world could be less global and less urban. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/coronavirus-covid19-urbanization-globalization-change/>
- How will COVID-19 change the world by 2025? - Futurity. <https://www.futurity.org/covid-19-pandemic-in-five-years-2357022/>
- 10 good things to come out of the coronavirus pandemic. <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/coronavirus/2020/05/04/Ten-good-things-to-come-out-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic>
- 10 ways life will be better post pandemic. <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2020/apr/18/10-ways-life-will-be-better-post-pandemic/>