

חג פסח שמח

Chag Pesach Sameach

سحرية
Shaharit **שחרית**
יוצרים מחנה משותף

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To our dedicated community of funders, partners, and friends,

We hope you are staying well in these trying times. We are especially thinking about those of you in the New York area and other US hotspots.

We are incredibly grateful for this ever-expanding community that we are all building together, of people that care about Israel and about Jewish life in the Diaspora, and are committed to reaching across the divides to create a better society for all.

We are so thankful to all that have sent notes, checked in, or attended our virtual webinars. We feel your support. We are especially grateful to our wonderful funding community, who has been flexible, supportive, and caring.

Now more than ever we must consider how we hold each other in our communities, and how our particular communities unite with others to face the challenges at hand. **This**

crisis lays bare what danger may come when we think only of ourselves, and forces us to consider how our actions affect everyone living in our societies.

At Shaharit, we know that the sense of shared responsibility that has emerged from this crisis is critical in addressing both the current situation, and our societies' more slowly burning crises. When social groups think only of themselves, we cannot produce the societal wide collaboration needed to address our biggest issues.

It has always been our mission to foster this sense of shared identity and responsibility in Israel and the Diaspora. In these times, we feel our work is more important than ever.

Thank you for your continuing support, and we wish you Chag Sameach.

Eilon

Mobilizing Local Organizing Networks to Fight Corona



(Above: Ethiopian-Israeli organizers in Shaharit's network coordinating distribution of supplies in Kiryat Yam)

Community organizing, and local communities in general, are more important now than ever. Amidst this crisis, services are disappearing, people are lonely, lacking information, and afraid – of the virus, of losing employment, and of resource scarcity.

While the national government is focused primarily on fighting the virus and large-scale economic intervention, communities, municipalities, and neighborhoods can fill the gaps to provide comfort, security, information, and support.

Our newly launched community organizing training program – with a network of 48 trainees from 12 communities across Israel, holding deep connections and credibility in their communities – is in a critical position to make a difference in this crisis.

Our trainees will utilize their communal networks to identify needs, map community resources, design and implement interventions, lobby municipal agencies, and generally help people in their communities feel connected and cared for.

We are also working together with our greater organizing network in Israel – including the 300 individuals from 36 municipalities that attended our local organizing conference – coordinating our efforts through a weekly mailing, and offering support to organizers and projects outside of our immediate circle.

We are utilizing our proven organizing methodology to virtually train our organizing trainees so they can be most effective in this work. We are working with them to map needs and develop plans of actions, with early ideas for interventions already emerging. Each community will choose one intervention that we will support with funding and logistical support.

Interventions already occurring in our organizing network include:

- Food distribution in Ramle and Ashdod
- Online trainings and lectures in Tirat Carmel
- Supporting students in Yavneh with needed technology for distance learning

- Supporting the elderly in Kiryat Yam and Ashdod
- Distributing special education learning materials in Ashdod
- Strengthening small businesses in Yavneh
- Educating children and youth in Rahat on Corona restrictions and providing indoor games to play
- Developing a “Corona Information Hotline” in Rahat so residents can learn about the virus and national restrictions
- Creating and sharing inspiring media in Ashdod to bolster morale and public spirit

This is a crisis of communities, and we have the people in place to make a difference.

120 Goes Virtual

The 120 Program for Multicultural National Political Leadership, like Shaharit as a whole, has been reinventing itself, which has been both extremely challenging, but also moving - figuring out how to be relevant at this moment of crisis. The sixth cohort has been meeting virtually once weekly, and the fourth cohort (which ended two years ago) independently arranged a virtual meeting – both are testaments to the strong bonds, camaraderie, and collective commitment that are quickly built within 120 cohorts – consisting of diverse young leaders from across Israeli society.

Cohort members are grouping together to plan responses to the Corona crisis, demonstrating how inter-sectoral collaboration can improve our response to communal challenges. For example, the Haredim in the sixth cohort are trying to understand how to talk about and promote Corona awareness in their communities, consulting with non-Haredi group members as well. The five city council members in the sixth cohort are discussing how they can utilize their roles to make an impact.

Other projects initiated by 120 network members include:

- Supporting local food suppliers and distributing food supplies in Haifa

- Opening a quarantined homeless shelter in Bat Yam
- Opening an Amharic call center for Ethiopian-Israelis to gain support in applying for unemployment benefits and other public services
- Challenging the municipal tax on local businesses in Maalot Tarshiha
- Communicating Ministry of Health directives to the ultra-Orthodox sector in Bnai Brak through a calling system



(Above: Board games to be distributed in the Haredi city of Bnai Brak, orchestrated by 120 members)

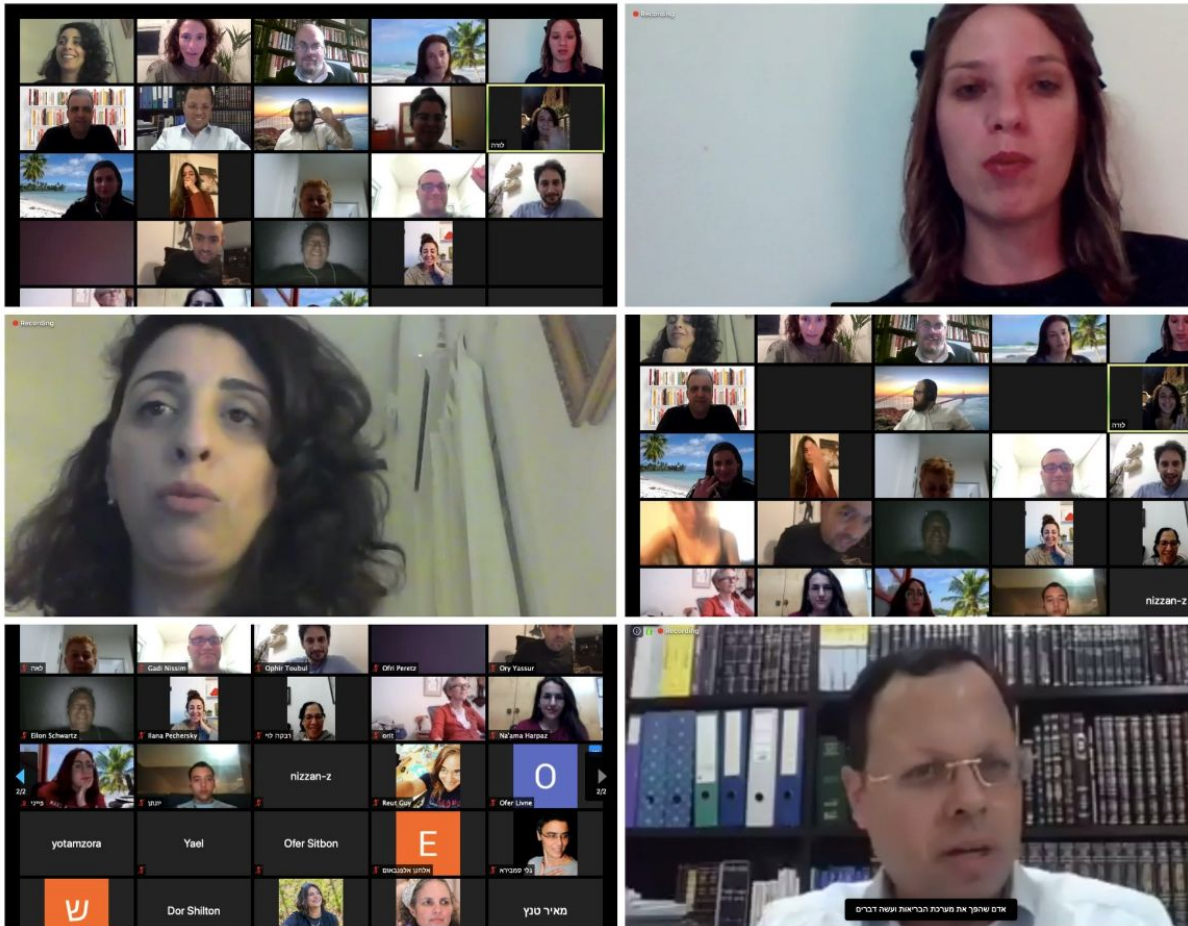
Shaharit's Virtual Webinars

We are working to do our part to contribute to the inspiring global trends of maintaining connection and offering new learning opportunities through virtual engagement.

At the same time, virtual engagement allows us to continue pursuing our goal of building shared identity and mutual responsibility amongst diverse groups in Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. Two key elements of our work are well-suited to the virtual world: (1) educating diverse groups about each other and (2) bringing Common Good

concepts and ideas to the public discourse.

In pursuit of these goals, we are holding bi-weekly virtual webinars, drawing from our extensive and diverse network and experience on the ground, and have been thrilled with the impressive attendance.



(Above: two Haredi members of Shaharit's network address the webinar audience: Moshe Morgenstern, Bnai Brak city councilperson and 120 graduate; Malki Rotner, Shaharit Intellectual Fellow)

Our first webinar featured Haredi members of Shaharit's network, and explored the challenges this community faces in the current crisis. Our second seminar, featuring members of our Economic Working Group, outlined the economic impact of the Corona crisis, and examined the pros and cons of a traditional liberal economic response. Our third was on the **health and political challenges that these dual**

crises present to Arab citizens of Israel. And just before Passover, on the religious and familial challenges that this particular seder presents.

Our English webinars are being modeled as conversations amongst diverse members of our network in Israel and communities in the United States. The seminars will focus on examining each of Israel's diverse communities and their place in the Israeli mosaic at this critical moment in time, sharing stories and challenges across the divides – within Israel, and between Israel and the Diaspora.

If you or your community are interested in hosting a seminar, please respond to this email.

We wish you a safe, healthy, meaningful, and socially distant Pesach. Chag Sameach, and be well.

