



# Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

May 15 PM - Jran Email

Dear Jran Community:

Some of you may be wondering if there was a Jran email yesterday. When I began these emails, I made a pledge to only send you information that was relevant and timely—and Thursday was a slow news day. So, to address the elephant in the room, his name is [Nelson](#) and he was born at the Houston Zoo yesterday—mazel tov Shanti! We are all caught up...

Today, we will go over updates from the State, City, and County; free legal clinics for COVID19 questions; and awards season at the Federation.

## **Updates from the State, City, and County**

The City of Houston has issued a [flash flood watch](#) for our area tomorrow from 4 a.m. – 7 p.m. As we approach Hurricane Season, please be sure you are [signed up for Alert Houston](#) to receive breaking weather advisories.

The City is reminding people to please fill out the [2020 U.S. Census](#). Federal allocations are often based on Census counts, including emergency assistance funds.

Houston Independent School District is [still trying to figure out](#) the best way to approach next year's calendar. Options include a year-round approach with breaks in the late fall in case there is a second wave of infections.

Harris Public Health is reminding everyone to continue practicing proper hand washing, social distancing, and staying home as the next round of opening occurs on Monday.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled that [eviction proceedings can proceed beginning May 26<sup>th</sup>](#). This comes after a nearly two month stay in debt collection and eviction proceedings. Individuals with Federally backed mortgages or renters protected under the Federal CARES Act will continue to be safe guarded through August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The State of Texas is [partnering with local fire departments](#) to provide free COVID19 testing to area nursing homes. This is part of the State's efforts to protect the people most vulnerable to the virus.

### **Free Legal Advice – Legal Line**

The Houston Bar Association is offering [free phone-based legal clinics](#) until the end of May. People can sign up online for this confidential and anonymous service to help answer any legal questions, including matters related to COVID19.

### **Drumroll Please...Jewish Federation's Awards Season**

Today, the Federation made some pretty exciting announcements! Ariel Rozen, Principal of Jewish Life and Admissions Advisor at Beth Yeshurun Day School, has been named the recipient of The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's 2020 Harold Reingold Yavneh Award for Jewish Educators.

The Irving L. Samuels Outstanding Teacher Awards for Judaic Studies will be awarded to Fran C. Brochstein of Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism and Eileen Elfezouaty of the Emery Weiner School.

The Hans Mayer Jewish Communal Professional Award will go to Dena Marks of the Anti-Defamation League; the Barbara & Harold Falik Young Leadership Award goes to Aliza Herman Plotkin, former NCJW President; and the Ben Susholtz Young Leadership Award will be given to Luis Gomar.

All will be honored during a virtual ceremony in June. Mazel tov, y'all!

### **In Other News...**

Masks are the new black! The newest fashion statement world-wide is the face mask. Vogue has officially declared the mask the "[break out trend of the summer](#)" and fast fashion brands



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[Gap](#) and [Old Navy](#) quickly sold out of their masks online. Boutique brands are offering them up for kids and adults across the nation. So, #maskuphou...and now we can make it look good!

Take care today and enjoy the sound of the rain,

Jackie

**Jackie Fisherman** | Director of Government Affairs

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