



# Jewish Federation OF GREATER HOUSTON

June 3 PM - JРАН Email

Dear JРАН Community:

When we started JРАН last December, the Federation envisioned a connected network that would act as a source of information and resources when our Houston Jewish community was facing a threat. We sought to build a community playbook for disaster response, ensure there is a system that considers the unique needs of the Jewish community, and advocate for funds and projects that make our community safer and more resilient.

As we shifted JРАН's focus to the current COVID19 health crisis, we wanted to provide resources and timely information so our community leaders could make the best decisions for our Jewish institutions. We hope the pandemic response plan, daily emails, Conversation Starters, and [the re-entry toolkit](#) have been of value to you. JРАН will continue to be a resource for our community and we will be expanding the email updates to include more on disaster preparedness and security.

Beginning this week, JРАН emails will be going to a twice a week update on COVID19, the 2020 Hurricane Season, and security.

## **COVID19 Updates**

Mayor Sylvester Turner has issued an order [opening all City of Houston Parks](#) for the summer. Houston Parks will continue with the Curbside Meal Program for Youth and Summer Enrichment Programs will begin in June. Swimming pools, splash pads, and all Houston operated community centers will remain closed.

After a nearly two month stay, [evictions will resume](#) for Harris County beginning in June.

The [Houston Zoo will be reopening](#) with extra precautions for visitors. Be sure to check their website before you go!

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo is asking that [people continue to recognize that we are still in a pandemic](#) when considering whether or not to participate in large outdoor gatherings.

## Hurricane Season 2020

We are three days into the 2020 Hurricane Season and we already are on our third named storm, [Tropical Storm Cristobal](#). There's no crystal ball for Cristobal (I can't help it!), but current ensemble forecasts have [Cristobal lading east of the Houston region](#) somewhere between here and Mississippi.

The [National Hurricane Center](#) is predicting a higher than normal season this year based on temperatures of the ocean and atmospheric conditions. It is expected that we can see 13-19 named storms, 6-10 hurricanes, and 3-6 major hurricanes. What we do not know is where those storms will land and what kind of damage they will bring. Ready Harris hosted a [webinar on the 2020 Hurricane Season](#) that goes over this year's season.

Now is a really good time to begin prepping your building, documents, and homes for a possible hurricane or flood. The Houston/Galveston area National Weather Service has a [great guide](#) to get you started. You do not want to wait until we are under a Hurricane Watch before stocking up, as stores will be crowded (COVID19 is still here) and supplies limited. There are [special precautions you should consider during COVID19](#). Here is what Ready Harris wants you to do:

- [Get a kit](#)
  - Include COVID19 supplies like disinfectants, masks, gloves and hand sanitizer
    - The [CDC has a guide](#) on how to prepare for Hurricane Season during the pandemic
  - Have a lot of extra batteries in case of power outages
  - Have all the necessary chargers for your devices so you can stay connected to family and resources
- Make a Plan
  - Know whether you are in [an evacuation zone](#) and when to evacuate
  - Be aware of your risks
  - Only evacuate when ordered to do so, not just as a matter of convenience
  - Do an insurance checkup – make sure your flood insurance is up to date
- Stay informed
  - Only follow trusted resources, don't rely on social media (unless it's the account of a trusted resource)
  - Follow [Ready Harris](#)
  - Look at the [National Weather Service](#)



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## Security

The Federation is working with the Southwest Regional Chapter of the ADL and the [Secure Community Network](#) on ensuring our community's security needs are being met. **We will be hosting a webinar on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.** on what security in Houston will look like moving forward. Please save the date and an invitation will be sent around soon.

## JRAN in the News! #HumbleBrag

JRAN is used to sharing news, not becoming the news! We are so lucky our work has been featured in the [Jewish Harold Voice](#) and the [Jewish Telegraph Agency](#).

## In Other News...

It has been hard to think of something uplifting for today's "In Other News" section. Usually this space is reserved for a joke or a fun song to help us get through COVID19. However, considering the recent murder of George Floyd, today's section is a resource for you to watch, read, and share.

[Just Mercy](#) is a film about civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson that delves into the systemic racism in American society, based on the bestselling [book of the same name](#). The makers behind the film are [offering it free for the month of June](#). This story underscores what so many of us know as Jews, that we must understand our past in order to fight for our future.

Take care and I hope you find time to have an honest reflection on our city's current events,

Jackie

**Jackie Fisherman** | Director of Government Affairs

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