

Wishing You a Happy Purim!

# The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Spoof Edition

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## RABBIS EXTEND TALMUD AMERICANI TO INCLUDE NEW TRACTATES RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS

*Tractates Maskin, Zoomin, and Vaxin Add New Laws for Halachic Observance in a World of Covid-19*

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

FAIR LAWN, NJ, February 26 –In 2013, the National Board of Rabbis, sensing that the nation was growing bored of rabbis, created a new set of scriptures to complement the ancient *Talmud Bavli* and *Talmud Yerushalmi*. The new series, called *Talmud Americani* (as reported in the 2013 Purim Kronikle) recorded the laws of observing Thanksgiving Day and the Fourth of July.

When the coronavirus pandemic closed most synagogues last year, the rabbis found they had extra time to formulate new strictures and prohibitions to deal with this new plague, and collaborated to produce three new Talmud Americani tractates – *Maskin*, *Zoomin*, and *Vaksin*.

Tractate *Maskin* discusses issues related to the production, selection, and wearing of face coverings.

Tractate *Zoomin* focuses on protocols for participation in mixed gender on-line meetings and modesty in dress when attending such meetings.

Tractate *Vaksin* is devoted to debates about the appropriate blessings to recite before and after receiving vaccines, and whether getting first and second doses from different manufacturers constitutes a violation of the biblical law prohibiting forbidden mixtures such as *shatnez* and *kilayim*. Excerpts appear below and on page 2.

### THE TALMUD AMERICANI Tractate Maskin

**MISHNA:** It is incumbent upon every male in Israel who wears a cloth face covering with four corners to place tzitzit (fringes) on each corner, as is commanded in the Torah for all four-cornered garments. Each set of tzitzit must have one blue fringe. Paper disposable masks are exempt from this mitzvah.



**GEMARA:** The *Alles Veiser* asks: How can one kiss the tzitzit if one's mouth has to remain covered? The *Sheyne Punim* answers: Because of the danger of spreading the virus when unmasking to kiss the tzitzit, one may instead give the tzitzit an elbow bump or a high five.

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### THE TALMUD AMERICANI Tractate Zoomin

**MISHNA:** Participants in Zoom conference calls and webinars should always take precautions when selecting clothing to be worn at such sessions. It is forbidden for women to wear any clothing that is revealing because it will cause men to lose their trend of thought. Men should wear paper bags over their heads so they will not be tempted to gaze at women who are on the call with them.



**GEMARA:** The *Alles Veiser* asks: Why must the bag be made of paper? His adversary, the *Ziveis Alles*, answers that the paper bag has long been a tradition in hiding that which should be hidden

from sight. A proof is brought from the *beraita* (outside source) of Peanuts where Charlie Brown covers his head with a paper bag to find refuge from the embarrassment of being seen by the little red-haired girl.

The *Gantze Knocker* asks if men and women can appear on the same screen during a Zoom conference call. The *Shomer Negiah* responds that the squares on the screen must be separated and that all participants must wear full face masks lest the facial exposure lead to inappropriate behavior..



### It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:



THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS  
FOR THE 2020  
SILVER GRAGGER MOVIE AWARDS

Complete coverage on page 2

**It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:  
THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS  
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*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Golden Globes and the Oscars are delayed this year. Now, the Kronikle leads the awards season with its own Silver Gragger awards for the outstanding film and TV achievements of 2020.*



**THE SOCIAL DILEMMA:** An Orthodox businesswoman must decide whether or not she should shake hands with male co-workers, lest it lead to mixed dancing.

**THE HIGHWAYMEN:** After getting caught in bumper-to-bumper traffic on Friday at sundown, several Jews put their cars in park, and spend Shabbat literally on the road.

**ALWAYS BE MY MAYBE:** On his annual trip to Israel, an Ashkenazi Jew grapples with the decision of whether or not to eat Kitniyot on Passover.

**EXTRACTION:** An exhausted and defeated mom spends 45 minutes attempting to remove all traces of vegetables from her picky son's bowl of chicken soup.

**NOMADLAND:** After escaping slavery in Egypt, show host Moses manufactures nail-biting challenges and feats of strength for the newly freed Israelites; unholy alliances are made, but only a small group of winners can enter the Promised Land.

**ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI:** The night after Passover, a group of rabbis secretly get together at the Eden Roc hotel to rewrite the entire Talmud.

**PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:** Rukhl has all the middos any yeshiva bochur could want in a wife, until she decides to pursue her dream of becoming a secular wedding singer.

**SOUND OF METAL:** This documentary follows New York's premier simcha band, as they experiment with heavy metal in underground bars and clubs.

**JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH:** An unlikely pair open a coffee shop in the old city of Jerusalem. Hilarity and Jerusalem Syndrome ensue.

**THE INVISIBLE MAN:** The tragic tale of a man who's always on time for minyan, but can never be counted among the ten.

**FIRST COW:** This reality show challenges its BBQ pitmasters to recreate the original sacrifices from the First Temple period, using only locally sourced livestock and organic ingredients.

**THE MANDELORIAN:** A baker in Florida rises to fame and fortune after her chocolate chip mandel recipe goes viral.

**VALLEY OF TEARS:** At their school's model seder, a class of kindergarteners try maror for the very first time.

**THE UNDOING:** The day after his son's bris, a regretful father grabs a tube of super glue and gets to work.

**COBRA CHAI:** The animated tale of a frum female snake who, with Hashem's help, must raise 18 baby snakes in her small Crown Heights apartment.

**PALM SPRINGS:** During a Pesach trip to a kosher hotel, a family suspects they are repeating the same day, but then realize it's just that Pesach feels like a time loop.

**THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT:** On Purim morning, Queen Esther time travels to the present day, and tries to fit in amongst the other grade schoolers dressed up as her at megillah reading.

**MA ROSEN'S BLACK BOTTOM:** A Brooklyn balebusta leaves the brisket in her roasting pan too long and searches for a way to repair the burnt cookware.

**THE TALMUD AMERICANI  
Tractate Vaxin**

**MISHNA:** When a vaccination requires two doses given weeks apart, it is forbidden to have one dose of Pfizer and another dose of Moderna. If two spouses or partners get vaccinations from different sources, they must stay apart for one month after receiving the second dose.

**GEMARA:** The *Sonei Chinam* asks in the name of the *Oiver Buttet*: What difference does it make if the two doses are from different sources? The *Kaneina Hurra* answers: Because the Moderna dose could cause the recipient to become Moderna Orthodox. The *Hoiche Kedusha* says in the name of the *Shomer Negiah*: Because if the spouses or partners get too close, the vaccines could mix and, *chas v'chalila*, this could lead to mixed dancing.

**MISHNA:** When receiving a vaccination for COVID-19, it is mandatory to recite a blessing before and after the shot, similar to reciting blessings before and after being called to the Torah and before and after eating.

**GEMARA:** The *Parah Adumah* says that the proper blessing is *Baruch sheptorani*, the blessing that parents say upon their child reaching the age of mitzvot. The *Maale Geira* disagrees, saying that the most appropriate blessing for the occasion is "May God bless you and keep COVID-19 far away from us."



**MEET THE SAGES OF THE  
TALMUD AMERICANI**



We have learned much from the pages of the *Talmud Baghdadi*, and we have met some of the old sages such as the *Etzba B'Af* and the *Regel BaPeh*. But the *Talmud Americani* has given us a new generation of sages who are very much alive and active today. Here

are some brief characteristics of the sages quoted in the excerpts from Tractates *Maskin*, *Zoomin*, and *Vaxin*.

The *Alles Vaizer* is a walking Wikipedia who thinks he knows even more than its voluminous contents.

The *Ziveis Alles* is a regular opponent of the *Alles Veiser*, and takes great pleasure in refuting every one of his arguments.

The *Gantze Knocker* takes the lead in every argument and is loath to accept challenges from those he considers lesser sages.

The *Shomer Negiah* stands alone among his peers in his refusal to touch anyone or anything that might lead him to temptation.

The *Sonei Chinom* is a sage you can count on to back you on any negative argument. Logic and reason are not necessary.

The *Oiver Buttet*, an aging sage, is known for lapses in memory and sometimes makes confusing statements which make even his admirers cringe.

The *Hoiche Kedusha* is a very efficient sage who is always looking for ways to abbreviate discussion sessions.

The *Sheyne Punim* is blessed with a handsome countenance that often charms antagonists into accepting his arguments.

The *Kaneina Hurra* has been known to frequently spit three times, say "poo poo poo," and throw salt over his shoulder as a precaution against the Evil Eye.

The *Parah Adumah* is a sage easily recognizable because of his ruddy complexion and production of methane gas.

The *Maaleh Geira* sometimes makes other sages uncomfortable because of his habit of always chewing something.