

Limmud makes lemonade, moves conference online

By **Joni Schockett**
Advocate correspondent

NEWTON – LimmudBoston is making lemonade out of lemons. For the past 10 years, the day-long festival of Jewish teaching and learning, which serves all in the greater Boston community, has hosted as many as 500 participants and many talented presenters in one location.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty about Covid-19, though, this year the board decided to change its in-person festival to an e-festival.

Slated for Nov. 15, 2020, the schedule will run from approximately 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sessions will be 50 minutes long and all one needs to attend is a computer or smartphone.

"Although we won't be able to come together in person," noted interim director and former board chairman Alan Teperow, "by holding this year's LimmudPest online, it will be possible for

speakers and attendees alike to participate from home. The obstacles of long-distance travel, traffic and parking are being transformed by technology into openness, inclusivity and comfort."

This year, LimmudBoston will feature presenters including

- Menachem Creditor, a scholar-in-residence at UJA-Federation of New York; founder

Resolution, who will discuss traveling the world – extensively in Israel and Syria – in an effort to foster peace and understanding.

Organizers hope that by going online, Limmud, which has become a significant part of the Jewish cultural and educational landscape in Boston, will be attended by many more people throughout the country and beyond, from the comfort of their own homes.

Naomi Gurt Lind, current board chairwoman, is excited about the importance of LimmudBoston and the change to an e-festival.

"I am so excited that we are continuing to innovate even in these difficult and sometimes painful times."

– Naomi Gurt Lind
LimmudBoston

of Rabbis against Gun Violence; and prolific author;

- Rachel Korazim, whose presentations open a window to Israeli history, culture and society through the stories, poems and songs of Israel's best writers; and

- former Bostonian and Maimonides School graduate Dr. Marc Gopin, a professor of religion, diplomacy and conflict resolution at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and

"It is not an exaggeration to say that being part of the LimmudBoston community has changed my life," she said. "I only began to take my Jewish identity seriously as an adult, and some of my most profound early encounters with Jewish learning, were in the context of LimmudBoston events.

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Board chairwoman Naomi Gurt Lind at LimmudBoston 2019

painful times," she added. "I can't wait to share the next festival, our e-festival, in November!"

Organizers hope participants are as enthusiastic about these changes as they are. While they would prefer to meet in person – to connect and reconnect – they feel that, for now, an e-festival ensures participants can remain safely at home. They also see it as

an exceptional opportunity to invite people from all over the world to come learn together in their Limmud day of teaching and learning.

Visit the LimmudBoston website, limmudboston.org, by July 13 to propose a session. Visit often for updates to the presenter list and registration information.