



HINDA INSTITUTE

ב"ה

Spring 2021 / 5778

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RABBIS, GANGSTERS, MOTHERS & HEROES

The Annual Hinda event, celebrating the power of successful second chances, will be held just before Mother's Day on Sunday May 2, at 1:30 to 2:30 P.M. CST. It will take place via Zoom as well as at the Chicago Historical Museum (in adherence to COVID restrictions). More information is available on our website at Hindahelps.com/journal.

Our featured speaker will be **NISSIM BLACK**. Please come and hear Nissan Black's amazing story of redemption from African American gangster in Seattle to an Orthodox Jew in Israel. His rap music is internationally famous for its inspiring messages of hope and faith.

OUR HONOREES

- This year's event will be saluting **Dr. Michael Maling**, a visionary long-time supporter of the Hinda Institute, who will be presented with our **Man of the Year Award**.
- **Mr. Avery Warso**, our **Hinda Hero of the Year**, who was focused throughout his entire incarceration to sincerely implement his plan to become a better person and carry out his goals for the future. Due to his mother's tireless efforts, Governor Pritzker awarded Avery a miraculous commutation of his sentence.
- **Ms. Diane Weber** has won our **Hinda Mother of the Year Award**. She exemplifies our courageous mothers who persevere with unconditional love, unwavering hope and dedication while facing tremendous challenges.
- **Ms. Vickie Block** is the recipient of our **Hinda Volunteer of the Year Award**. Her passion for the Hinda Cares program combined with her strategic leadership has lifted this project to new heights.
- The 8th yarzeit of **Hinda Scheiman a"h**, for whom this amazing organization receives its name.



WISHING
YOU A VERY
HAPPY
AND
HEALTHY
PASSOVER!



I grew up in the Chicago area where I attended Midwestern schools receiving both my undergraduate and doctorate degrees. I was always ambitious, from my early beginnings as a souvenir salesman at Wrigley Field. Following graduation from Law School, I married and soon thereafter, had two beautiful girls.

Mid-life, I decided to change career paths and became involved as an Executive at an early stage Bio diagnostic test development company. My principal responsibility during the nearly ensuing decade was to raise sufficient capital to support the company's mission to secure FDA approval of rapid diagnostic tests. During these years, I regrettably made many irrational business decisions which ultimately led to a civil lawsuit being filed against me and the company. Soon thereafter, the civil case morphed into a criminal investigation, ultimately culminating in a criminal indictment to which I pleaded guilty to and was sentenced to a 14 year federal prison sentence. Though there was no theft of funds alleged, I did misrepresent company prospects at times during the years and that

misconduct was the basis for my conviction.

I spent a bit under 11 years in federal prison. The humiliation and pain that I caused my family was and is incalculable. Throughout all of this, my children steadfastly stood by me and did so with unyielding strength and conviction. It is largely their strength that fueled my continued hope for a better tomorrow.

A person is never truly joyful in prison, but I tried to be as positive as I could. In some ways, I was fortunate. For most of my stay, I had relatively decent living conditions - relative to many others. I shared rooms with 2 to 6 men instead of 14 men. I had very normal, nice roommates the entire time. Only 5% of crimes in our institution were white collar crimes. There were only a few Jews which did result in some prejudice within the institution.

During my nearly 11 years in several federal correctional institutions, my very favorite time of year was Purim and celebrating with both a visiting Rabbi or Rabbis together with my fellow Jewish inmate friends. Following the Rabbis' amazing readings of the Megillah, we routinely would put on

our party hats and be handed several types of "noise makers" and feel the joy of Purim as we danced together for what seemed like forever. Then and most memorably, we together shared in Hamentashen cookies, a treat like no other while living in captivity! These are memories that will remain with me until my final days on this earth when I will, I pray, have one last opportunity to recite the Shema. I feel grateful for the Chabad rabbis who took the time to visit us.

I am well aware of my inability to change my past, though I now have chosen to embrace my past with a renewed and committed positivity. The great shame I feel that has been a continuing noose around my neck is slowly giving way to a willingness to self-forgive, which will only then, allow me to continue onward in a truly healthy fashion. Hashem has provided me with a second chance, and I am committed to becoming the best version of myself as is His desire for all of us.



THE HINDA INSTITUTE LENDING LIBRARY IS EXPANDING!

In an effort to better meet the many needs of individuals who now face the challenges of re-entering society and their families, the Hinda Institute is opening a lending library to those who have been released. The library includes books on a variety of Jewish subjects such as Jewish mysticism, Jewish history, the Jewish holidays, prayer and Jewish philosophy as well as biographies, non-fiction books

and novels. There is also a selection of books for teenagers. People can take 2 books for 3 weeks.

To receive a list of books, please email hindahelps770@gmail.com. Many thanks to Mrs. Miri Shabat, Mr. Andrew Schwartz, Mr. Alex Amichislavskiy, Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook and Mrs. Leah Cohen for their generous book donations.



ODE TO VOLUNTEERS

The HINDA CARES Program



With each newsletter we will highlight some of our programs together with the volunteers and the enthusiastic individuals who make them happen.

The HINDA CARES group consists of families of currently and formerly incarcerated individuals. These families meet weekly to support each other and to advocate in the community.

Currently, we are contracting an amazing acting and video group, Senior Post, who will create a mini documentary, focusing on the plight of the silent victims of incarceration -- the families. We have also developed a toolkit to help synagogues, agencies and others deal with the issue of incarceration in their community and hope to start presenting. This wouldn't have been possible without a passionate group of volunteers.

PURIM AND PASSOVER CELEBRATIONS

Holidays are meant to be celebrated. To ensure that our clients on the outside are able to celebrate the holidays with abundance and joy, we provide special holiday packages. These packages remind our families and supporters that they are remembered and loved. The amount of people we reach during the COVID crisis and during the holiday has expanded as have the needs in the community. This year Arlene, Cheri, Lara and Abby helped to cook a lavish Purim meal as well as goodies. Deliveries were done by Marla, Bruce, Reuven, David, Susan, Marty and Abby (Get well Barb!! – thanks for your dedication over the years). Thank you to all for your selfless generosity and specifically to Prof. Ralph Ruebner for his special donation that helped make this happen.

In spite of all the COVID-19 challenges, the Hinda Institute chaplains successfully received permission to enter the Cook County Jail, Juvenile Jail, Joliet Treatment Centre, and Marion Federal Prison to read the Megillah to inmates and bring them that special Purim cheer.

We also want to thank our supporters for providing Passover essentials for Jews within correctional institutions who are celebrating the holidays without their family.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- **The Moat Chitim Committee of Greater Chicago** for Kosher Lepesach food items.
- **The Aleph Institute** for Seder plates.
- **The Ark** for Salamis
- **The Grinker Family** for Shmurah Matzah
- **Larry and Anita Miller** for the cargo van rental and gas.
- Shtark Kosher Cheese donated cheese with the help of **Mr. Levi Lando**

We Would Like to Thank Our Hinda CARES Volunteers:

👍 **Vickie Block**, our volunteer co-coordinator, for her constant help and inspiration throughout the project and for helping to find the video team.

👍 **Annalee Letchinger**, for spearheading the development of a toolkit and the writing team: Dr. Kutzen PHD, SW, Heidi Meister LCSW, and our graduate students Stephanie Birnbaum and Esther Scheibler.

👍 Social work expert **Heidi MSW** for working to develop a crisis team.

👍 All our documentary actors and actresses: **Susan, Beth, Masha** and well other movie cameos.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND DEVOTION.

“It is not our job to finish the task, but nor can we desist from it.”

-Ethics of our Fathers

Make a difference!

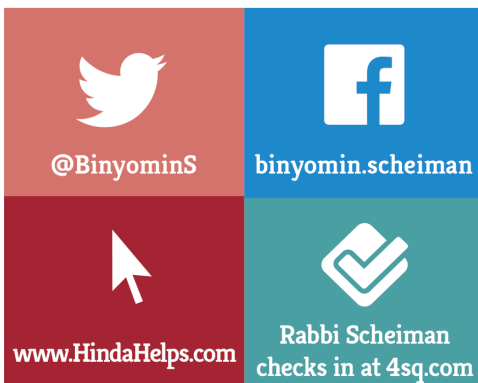


Due to budget cuts by the state of Illinois, Rabbi Scheiman's chaplaincy is no longer reimbursed as it was in the past. Help us continue by making a tax-deductible donation securely on our website.



THE HINDA INSTITUTE

The HINDA Institute
9401 N Margail
Des Plaines, IL 60016



We now have the ability to charge your credit card on a one-time or monthly basis!



Please accept my tax-deductible contribution to help Rabbi Scheiman continue his service to the isolated Jews in prison!



Name: _____

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Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$500 \$50
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 \$100 Other: \$ _____

I'd like to make a special gift towards the HINDA Institute!

Charge my credit card: one time monthly. (Visit HindaHelps.com to pay using PayPal) **PayPal™**

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