



HINDA INSTITUTE



Chanukah 5782 / 2021

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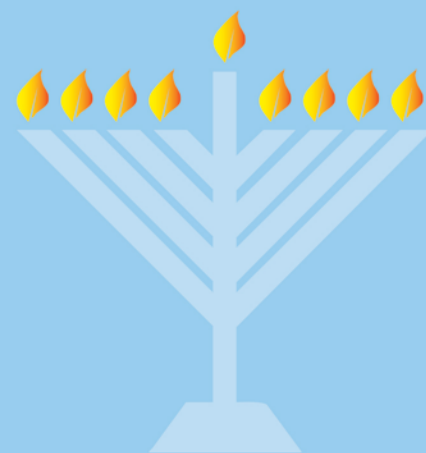
KOSHER SUMMIT



In an effort to enhance and improve the kosher diet for Jewish inmates in Illinois, Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman, Director of the Hinda Institute held a meeting with Rabbi Mendy Katz, the head of prison advocacy, Rabbi Bentzi Geisinsky from the Aleph Institute and staff from the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), including the Chief Chaplain, directors, chief dietary staff and legal staff. After receiving grievances from the incarcerated in Illinois, it was decided to standardize the kosher

diet statewide. Rabbi Scheiman explained; “the integrity of kosher standards is a critical issue”. The meeting’s results are: 1) questionnaires will be sent out to survey institutional policies 2) Hinda Institute chaplains will make onsite visits to institutional kitchens. The findings will generate recommendations to develop a written state-wide policy for Illinois. Rabbi Scheiman said: “The goal is simple, the IDOC kosher program should be the envy of state prison programs nationwide”.

HOPING YOU HAD A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHANUKAH!



Remember, your year-end donation will go a long way to keep these programs running!



Chanukah Bringing Light into Darkness



The miracle of Chanukah took place in a time of darkness.

The Greeks conquered the Land of Israel and tried to impose their culture upon the Jews. The Maccabees successfully fought back. This Jewish victory was a true transformation of darkness into light.

The Chanukah lights teach us that when confronted with darkness, we must not resign ourselves to it, nor may we remain content with lighting up our own homes. Instead, we must reach out and spread light as far as possible, until the public domain is also illuminated. Every night we continually increase the light by adding a new Chanukah candle. Every day we must increase our endeavors to spread light throughout the world.

This Chanukah:

1) We expanded our Chanukah deliveries, helping more clients and families financially with the

assistance of **Maot Chitim**. We **THANK** them for their **KINDNESS AND SUPPORT**.

2) Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, traumatized children received special Chanukah gifts.

3) Thanks to our volunteers, we expanded our delivery and baking activities.

4) We hosted an inclusive Chanukah party (adhering to COVID rules) which included the isolated, the lonely, the generous, and the compassionate – all enjoying GREAT donuts and latkes.

5) In IDOC correctional institutions, we visited and provided supplies for all 8 days of Chanukah. In Cook County Jail, as we cannot leave supplies, one night we had a Chanukah event and lit the Menorah.

Be inspired this Chanukah - Help us expand and spread light

ODE TO STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS Our Freedom Campaign

The Maccabees were a band of Jewish freedom fighters who freed Judea from the Syrian-Greek occupiers during the Second Temple period. At the Hinda Institute we also have our own warriors fighting in our 2021 Freedom Campaign. Those who know the Hinda Institute know that we do not ask for fees for our services. We survive through our annual fundraiser which is critical in continuing to save and change lives.

We want to **thank** our **phoning committee volunteers** and staff for making a difference: Joel, Vickie, David G, Arlene, Barbara, Aaron, Manuela, Beth, Nick, Michael, Joel, Paul, Brian, Jacky, Dovid K, Baila and Abby. The phoning committee succeeded in increasing our results tremendously.



Hinda Heroes

A Note from Inside a Cell and from Inside a Heart

My Dear Rabbis, Shalom!!!

With all my heart, I would like to thank you for everything you and the staff of Hinda Institute do, for the hard work you do and wonderful work in helping us Jews stay on the right path in life and continually grow in our Jewish faith! You help me tremendously to learn and explore my Jewish heritage, and I thank you very, very much for every moment of your time; it is so precious to me. I thank Hashem for bringing me to you!!!

Thank you so very much for coming to Logan Correctional Center and spending time with me and the other Jewish participants. It is Hashem's blessing to meet and speak with you!!! I want to wish you a happy and sweet year, and may this year bring you, Hinda Institute, us Jews, and Jews all over the world simcha, smiles, Hashem's blessings and in all upcoming years!

I love this expression – “By transforming who we are today, we rewrite our own past and author a whole new world.” It is so true! I feel this positive charge of a change that Hashem is doing in me!

With my letter, I am including \$20.00 for charity.

Have a blessed and sweet year and all the upcoming years and may Hashem continue to bless you every moment and give you joy!!!

-Natasha from
Logan Correctional Center

Home Run for Ber! New Safe House!

In June 2021, the Hinda Institute opened a nicely furnished safe house to eliminate the difficulty of those who are reentering society, who are on registry and who need to find housing. Landlords are reluctant to rent to anyone with a record or a poor financial history. Sometimes this means that our clients can't leave the institution even when they finish their restitution.. It often means that they become homeless. It is hard to find employment when you have no address. This safe house has already assisted 3 people. Our clients love having a place where they can close the door and feel safe. We watch over them. It is so successful that we are looking to fund another safe house.

Our latest guest Ber, a really sweet guy, has known the Rabbi for over 30 years. He heroically has been battling an addiction to heroin. Upon his release he was ok, then felt overconfident and "the demons" overtook him. Ber hit an all-time low. He tried to take his own life. Fortunately, he failed. A Hinda Institute caseworker stayed with him, talked him through the overdose throughout the night and walked him by phone to S. Joseph Hospital, then to Loretta Hospital where he painfully detoxed. A Jewish soul was saved.

Ber asked Rabbi Scheiman to visit him. Rabbi Scheiman said; "He was in a lot of pain. Sometimes

people need to hit an all-time low before they can rebuild their lives." Our caseworkers found him immediate employment. Now Ber attends our addiction support group. He joins us for the holidays, we call him and we are hiring a trauma expert to further assist him. He attends Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Most importantly, he is rebuilding his life in our safe house.

Ber attests; "I've been home since May and have had my share of turmoil. The Hinda Institute has been there for me every step of the way. I am currently living in what's called the "safe house", which has brought me peace of mind and tranquility which I never had upon my release. I am forever grateful to the Hinda Institute. They have helped me with and continue to help me on a daily basis. The safe house gives me a place where I can not only collect my thoughts and find peace, but a place where I feel safe and not in anybody's way. I feel like I have a support system that will help me through this transition that has been so difficult for me in the past."

Ber is fighting, but he now has a wining chance. Our caseworkers and our safe house have played a crucial role. Ber has ambitions to study social work. Where there is life, there is always hope. When there is a safe place to live, there is an oasis. When there is a Jewish soul, we can't give up. (This story is reprinted with permission.)

IN THE NEWS

Check out Hindahelps.com

✔ We would like to honor Prof. James Chapman, obm. James was a true advocate for change. He was a passionate Hinda Institute guest speaker, a lawyer, professor and ran a safe community in Carbondale. He will be remembered with love, respect and gratitude. His was a life that made a difference for many.

✔ Stay tuned for our new employment workshop in January. Access valuable tools for success post incarceration! The attendance for our classes is growing steadily. We want to particularly thank the guest experts for the informative sessions and our training team -- M & M.

✔ Thank you Michael and Joel for organizing our monthly White Collar group, "Bagels without Lox." The presentations by renowned speakers have helped our clients deal with challenges like banking, prejudice and finding work.

✔ Tune in to the Podcast "To Stir with Love".prejudice and finding work.



THE HINDA INSTITUTE

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|  www.HindaHelps.com |  Rabbi Scheiman checks in at 4sq.com |



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: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$500 \$50
- \$250 \$36
- \$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™**

Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Security Code: _____

Make checks payable to HINDA Institute – 9401 N. Margail, Des Plaines, IL, 60016