



# HINDA INSTITUTE

Helping Individuals Ascend  
0% Recidivism, 100% Acceptance

Passover 5784

Spring 2024

## Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman, Director

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## ANNUAL HINDA EVENT Justice and Compassion

Please join us for our Annual HINDA EVENT  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024 AT 1:00 PM**  
Woman's Club of Evanston, 1702 Chicago Ave, Evanston  
Light refreshments, for men and women.

Hinda Institute is proud to thank our Sponsors:



### Justice and Compassion

Can justice and compassion really co-exist? Justice is exacting, and cerebral. Justice speaks to punishment, our public safety and keeping the "bad guys off the streets". Could we as a society exist without justice? It is said in the Torah that G-d first wanted to create and rule an ideal world only with strict judgment, where man is treated as he deserves in accordance with his deeds. G-d then saw that the world could not survive without the possibility of change and redemption. Man would not be virtuous enough to survive this type of scrutiny. G-d therefore first preceded the creation of the world with the attribute of compassion (Genesis Rashi 1:1).

Can we operate our justice systems without compassion and an understanding of humanity and suffering? How can we simultaneously account for the historical social divides and biases that feed the largest incarceration system in the world? How do we morally deal with the insurmountable challenges of trauma, redemption and reintegration that our correctional institutions have created? How are we dealing with our failures with the growing crises of mental health and addiction - the largest feeders of the prison system? How can we find ways to better deal with the pain of families and children? As Jews we have a responsibility to create a better world, a G-dly world, a messianic world. We are here in this world to fulfill a mission - tikun olam. We are the masters at effectuating social change and creating miracles in the desert. Like G-d we need to create a world that incorporates both justice and compassion.

Justice and compassion are not only possible - it is the solution. It is about accountability and cohesion at all levels of the criminal justice system. In effect, combining justice and compassion is more than a dialectic dialogue, more than emotionally reconciling two opposing polar opposites, and more than feeling sorry.

WISHING  
YOU A  
VERY  
HAPPY AND  
HEALTHY  
PASSOVER



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It is about finding practical, real solutions to complex problems. We need to focus on solutions that are based on evidence and data-driven results and not political rhetoric. In the end, when we behave with justice and compassion and help others, we help ourselves. We can change our own communities, and we can change society. We have done it before.

## MEET OUR HINDA EVENT HONOREES

**Ms. Aviva Miriam Patt, Executive Director, The Decalogue Society of Lawyers. A 50-year Veteran in the Struggle for Social Justice.**

Aviva's support for the Hinda Institute mandate and the cause of justice and compassion has deeply impacted the Hinda Institute, our profile and our outreach. As Executive Director of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, Aviva is now spearheading the 90th year anniversary of The Decalogue Society of Lawyers, a society that has been a compassionate supporter of the Hinda Institute's mandate and human rights advocacy.

**Mr. Nick Seidel with our Hinda Hero of the Year Award, given to a client who embodies successful second chances and a spirit of giving, despite facing insurmountable challenges.**

He has used his experiences as a means to learn, pivot and grow. Nick is a compassionate volunteer, a fighter for the downtrodden and gives back to others with his expertise. He has re-educated himself and is currently enrolled in DePaul University's Master of Legal Studies and has hopes one day to earn his JD at Loyola to become a practicing attorney. Nick has worked his way from a paralegal at various legal aid organizations to be a member the Enforcement Division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

**Mr. Rahmiel Hayyim Drizin (LLC) with our Volunteer of the Year Award, given to a volunteer who makes a difference through their deep passion and sincere commitment.**

Rachmiel served as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender for over 30 years. When he retired, he volunteers for Hinda, currently visiting detainees, provides legal advice, heads our Legal Advisory Committee and represents Hinda at various official functions.

**Mrs. Barbara Belsky (RN) with our Evan Maling Mother of the Year Award, given to a mother who displays unconditional love, devotion and tenacity in the face of great adversity.**

Our mothers are survivors and the epitome of unconditional love, while often dealing with the challenges of years dealing with mental health, addiction and the psychological and financial stress due to the incarceration of a loved one. No one has been a more tenacious advocate and survivor in this cycle than Barbara and her family.

**Mr. Barry D. Sheppard & Mr. Adam J. Sheppard with our Compassionate Donors of the Year Award who exemplify true devotion by paving the way for reform in our justice system.**

The Sheppards are untiring Criminal Defenders. They are long-time supporters of the Hinda Institute and our clients, both as volunteers within the Legal Advisory Committee and through their financial and emotional support to the organization.

## QUEEN ESTHER IN OUR TIME NEW YORK SUPREME COURT JUSTICE - THE HONORABLE RACHEL FREIER

New York Supreme Court Justice Rachel Freier is the first Hasidic female judge to serve on the New York Supreme Court- breaking previous barriers and misconceptions. Judge Freier says that while her journey to this moment was filled with opposition, her Jewish faith helped to keep her on the path going forward. In December 2017, Megyn Kelly welcomed Freier to the Today Show as the woman The New York Times has called "the Hasidic superwoman of night court". In 2017, Freier was chosen by The Jerusalem Post, an Israeli newspaper, as one of the "50 Most Influential Jews" in the world.

However, she is not only a woman with courage and ambition, she epitomizes the fight for justice and compassion. She is an advocate for change and has that rare ability to find real solutions to practical issues, while simultaneously remaining true to her values and identity.

"Whenever there was anyone who needed help, and she knew that she would be able to do it, she jumped in wholeheartedly without hesitation," said Leah Freier, Rachel Freier's daughter.

- Judge Freier established a non-profit charity organization to help poor Jewish families.
- She was one of the founders of B'Derech, a GED program for at-risk youth. The organization also helps troubled teens with therapy.
- In 2011, she founded Ezras Nashim, an all-female Orthodox Jewish volunteer EMT ambulance service established with the goal of preserving women's modesty in emergency medical situations, especially childbirth.
- She also was courageous in her fight for justice, advocating to help correct misconceptions for the Hasidic community.
- She is a political activist and interned with the then-U.S. Senator from New York Hillary Clinton and other elected officials.
- She served as a volunteer court lawyer in the New York City Family Court.

**We are thrilled to welcome Judge Freier as our keynote speaker for this year's Hinda Institute event.**

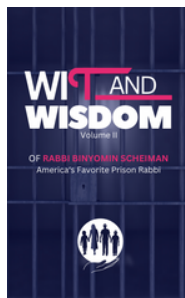


## PURIM AND ANTI-SEMITISM

Anti-semitism is the perpetual challenge of Jewish history until today. We have been tortured and killed, degraded and ostracized, but despite this, we Jews as a nation have survived and thrived.

Purim is the first time Jews faced anti-semitism in exile. Haman's and King Achashverosh's hatred of the Jews seemed to be irrational and disproportionate to the crime. One person - a Jew named Mordechai - did not bow down, and Haman decided to kill all the Jews in the entire world. Haman concluded that Mordechai's stubbornness and loyalty were due, in fact, to the Jew's essential covenant with G-d. Haman complained to the King that the Jews are ideologically separated from everyone, despite being weak and scattered. Ironically, Haman identified the secret to our strength. It is our ability to maintain our values and cohesion within different environments that is the secret to our survival. Through our faith and self-sacrifice during a time of exile and assimilation in Persia, we reversed a potential holocaust to a time of great joy and re-inspiration. King Achashverosh changed his mind and wrote to his ministers a reversal of the decree of extermination, describing the Jews as a "people of integrity, who love all nations, respect government and act amicably toward all ministers."

The heroism of Esther, Mordechai and the Jewish people in Persia is something we can emulate in our lives today. We need to stand with Jewish pride, not bow down to the Hamans of the world and remain unified and loyal to our mission without shame. Anti semitism may still wax and wane, but we will survive. Purim reminds us that fortunes can be overturned in an instant. A time of hatred, racism and fear can be overturned in to a time of peace, redemption and joy. At Hinda we understand and see through experience that redemption can happen in an instant.



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## HOLIDAY JOY FOR OUR FAMILIES WOULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU

Please see our website for photos of our Purim Party and Activities:

<https://hindahelps.com/previous-events>

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS:

**Organizing Making Purim Packages** - Sandy, Jen, Albert, Barb and Barb senior

**Delivery Purim Packages** - Beth, Ilya, Howard, Jacob, Phyllis, Harry, Albert, Alex, Susan, Marty, Janet, Avery, Rafi

**Preparing and Cooking for Purim Party** - Jasmin

**Purim in Prisons** - Megillah Readings and Parties at MCC Chicago, Cook County Jail, Stateville and Sheridan Correctional Centers, Marion Federal Prison, and our volunteers: Yacov Weingrow, Pesach Perelman, Schneur Ehven, Rabbi Sholom Raices, Rabbi Binyomin, Rabbi Chaim, and Rabbi Mendel

## WE WANT TO THANK OUR PASSOVER SUPPORTERS IN ADVANCE FOR THEIR CONTINUAL GENEROSITY OVER MANY YEARS FROM THOSE ISOLATED IN PRISONS AND OUR FAMILIES.

- The Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago for Kosher Lepsach food items
- The Aleph Institute for Seder plates
- The Ark for Salamis
- The Grinker family for Shmurah Matzah



We wish to extend our sincere condolences to the Ruebner family on the passing of Rabbi Professor Ralph Ruebner, a longtime supporter of the Hinda Institute and a true fighter for Justice and Compassion.





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The Hinda Institute  
9401 N Margail  
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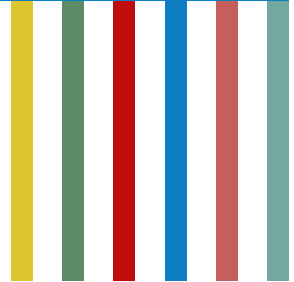
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