



The Hinda Herald

September 2023 Issue 5783



The bulletin written by our Hinda Family for our Hinda Family. We welcome any articles.

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The Rebbe explained that the reason we pray (you can view the talk here: [What's the point of animal sacrifices in the Bible?](#)) is not ideally in order to get what we need or want from G-d. Rather, we come to G-d with our praise and our needs in order to be close with Him. In other words, it's about our relationship. The same is true about this yearly season: the month of Elul and the holy days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. It's all about relationships. Just as in personal human relationships, if my focus and purpose is what I can get out of it, what the other person can give or do for me, then that can't be considered healthy. So, too, if my approach to Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, etc., is primarily to secure for myself a good, sweet year, then I've missed the main point: to realign and renew my relationship with G-d.

The month of Elul is a חודש הכנה, a month of preparation. In a practical sense, it's a time to review the various laws and customs relevant to the holy days and to review the meanings of the various prayers unique to this special time. In a spiritual sense, we prepare our minds and hearts to fully engage in the experience. It's also called חודש החשבון, a month of accounting. If I want to improve my relationship I need to see where I have come up short and what I need to do to improve. To that end, this month is a time to reflect on my behaviors, in thought, speech and action, as well as on my attitudes and character over the past year with an eye to correct and improve. A third name is חודש הרחמים, a month of compassion and mercy. Hashem makes Himself accessible during this month like no other time. Like a king who meets his people out in the field, informally receiving them where they're at, and with a smile. There are no barriers or protocols. All anyone needs to do to see the king is to go and greet him. The Rebbe once asked a bar mitzvah boy, "How does one greet the King (Hashem) when he's in the field?" The Rebbe answered his own question, "מיט א ברכה בכוונה און א פסוק תהילים", "With a blessing said with intent and a verse of the Psalms." As in any relationship, it's the seemingly small but regular things that really matter.

Any relationship begins with a commitment. On Rosh Hashanah is when we commit and devote ourselves to Hashem, and since this isn't a peer relationship but one with G-d, that commitment and devotion is expressed by accepting G-d's authority. He is our King, with all that that implies. From that starting point, we show this through our actions during the Days of Teshuvah (returning, realigning), culminating on Yom Kippur when the slate is wiped clean. With this fresh start we enter into the exuberant joy of Sukkot, when Hashem reveals His incredible, infinite love for each one of us. The Sukkah is Hashem's hug. A hug embraces the whole person, the arms taking in the back as well as the front. In the Sukkah, we are entirely encompassed and embraced by this mitzvah. Hashem accepts and loves each one of us entirely and completely, and He shows it with the Sukkah. From there we come to the boundless joy of Simchas Torah. The Torah is the point of our connection, the framework of our relationship. It is the bridge that Hashem gave to us limited, finite beings; a means to connect with His infinite, unlimited self. Such a dynamic can only come from Him, as it is only He who can traverse that gap. This is the great gift of the Torah, inherent in every Jew, and the great joy that is Simchat Torah.

May you be inscribed and sealed for a good, sweet year!



UPCOMING

Courses

Rabbi Manis Friedman



“Forgiveness is not the end of a problem, it’s the beginning of a whole new relationship with G-d.”

"Teshuva: Forgiveness from Society, G-d, and Myself?" with Rabbi Manis Friedman:

September 21 & 28- In this transformative course, we will explore the theme of forgiveness and its significance in the journey of post-incarceration redemption. We will delve into introspective questions such as, "can my victims forgive me?" and "can I forgive myself?" We also examine the role of family and society in the process of forgiveness and reintegration. We will discuss the concept of return and restoration, examining how to rediscover our identity, values, and aspirations. Enroll today and embark on a transformative journey of self-renewal, personal growth, and restoration.

"Victim, Survivor, Offender" with Dr. Edna Eres: October 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8- Many offenders were once victims. Victim experiences often lead to negative physical, mental, and behavioral outcomes. Explore the victim-to-survivor-to-offender cycle and learn how to break it.

"Legislative Advocacy and Building Relationships with Legislators" with Restore Justice: November 29, December 6- Learn about the legislative process in Illinois and how a bill really becomes a law. Develop skills to navigate Springfield, and build support for issues that matter to you. While our focus is on criminal legal reform, we try to make our training useful for any issue. Dive deeper into the Illinois legislative process and learn to build relationships with your legislators. You will also prepare to meet with your state legislators.

THE REBBE'S VIEW OF INCARCERATION

The Torah considers denying a human being the ability to impact the world through incarceration as inhumane. Instead, we are responsible to help rehabilitate criminals to contribute productively to a moral and just society. We must ensure that prison acts not just as a punishment, but as an opportunity for positive growth.

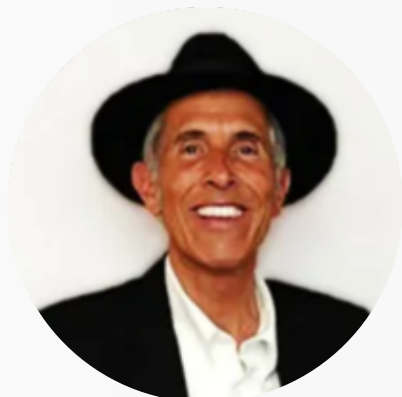
CRIME & CONSEQUENCE: THE JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Facilitator: Rahmiel Hayyim Drizin, Esq.

This 5-part course, an insightful look at our criminal justice system and how it compares with the Torah's perspective on crime and punishment, recently concluded on August second.

This 5-part course, an insightful look at our criminal justice system and how it compares with the Torah's perspective on crime and punishment, recently concluded on August second. Mr. Drizin shared his vast experience in the courts with course participants as he explored the philosophical underpinnings of the American system of justice, the purpose of punishment and prison, the approaches to evidentiary standards, restitution, reintegration and prevention. Using examples of real cases that have come before the courts, he demonstrated the shortcomings inherent in the current system as practiced. He then presented the teachings of the Torah, with their emphasis on rehabilitation, restitution, reacceptance and Teshuvah, with high standards of evidence and an eye towards acquittal whenever possible. The course was interactive; participants were encouraged to share their views and experiences in a give-and-take that was intellectually stimulating. Mr. Drizin gave us a glimpse of what true justice can look like, beneficial and healing for all concerned. A very hearty "thank you" to Mr. Drizin for a really excellent presentation.

To conclude this review, I share with you some points the Lubavitcher Rebbe mentioned in a talk he delivered in 1981 (view this talk with English subtitles here: [WATCH: The Rebbe responds to Ronald Reagan's message](#)). In discussing the causes of crime, the Rebbe negated poverty as a cause, quoting the Talmudic statement of how Torah comes forth from the children of the poor. So, too, says the Rebbe, for the other nations of the world: the children of the poor can grow to accomplish great things, motivated by their poverty. Rather, the Rebbe holds crime to be a symptom of improper education. Improper as to its most important purpose and element. We all begin life with wild tendencies and must be trained to become a *mentsch*, living a beneficial life focussed on spreading goodness and kindness, cognizant of our Creator who sees and hears all, fulfilling the purpose of our creation. In this month of Ellul, in preparation to receive the blessings of a good and sweet year, this is a lesson all of us would do well to take to heart.



Rahmiel Hayyim Drizin was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1982. He then came to the Midwest to attend Northwestern University School of Law, graduating with honors in 1985. Following school, Rahmiel clerked for Chief Judge Walter Cummings of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and for Justice Joseph Gordon of the Illinois Appellate Court, First Division. In the early 1990s he joined the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, where he spent nearly thirty years representing those convicted of crimes both on appeal and on post-conviction review. Rahmiel retired from the Office in 2022 and was excited to begin assisting the HINDA Institute as Chair of the Lawyer Advisory Council, teaching classes, and doing chaplaincy work at Cook County Jail.

Spa Day & Garden Party For the Women of the Hinda Institute



"Abby Scheiman, the Rabbi's wife and program director for Hinda Institute (also known as our fearless leader) hosted a spa day/garden party for any & all women involved with the Hinda Institute. It was a little chilly for the spa, but we all loved seeing Abby's incredible flower garden and goldfish pond.

The turnout was great. The food, delicious, this writer's favorite; the vegetable tray.

But truly, the best part was the opportunity to relax and unwind with other justice-involved women. Being with others who have had similar experiences as oneself is invaluable for moving the healing process forward.

We were all so grateful to Abby for affording us the opportunity.

Thanks again, Abby, for the fun, relaxing afternoon!"

~ Beth



Hinda Institute meets with US Congressman Brad Schneider



Hinda Podcasts

PODCASTS

Hinda Hero - David

David, a former lawyer, who provided free and expert aid to his fellow inmates while incarcerated, has rebuilt his life with tremendous success since his return. He also gives back by continuing his charity work and consulting with others within correctional institutions. Hear about his challenges and successes.

THE HINDA INSTITUTE
HERO PODCAST

SPECIAL GUEST: DAVID

Articles of Interest in the News

PRISON / CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- [The 'paradox' of receiving health care in prison | Penn Today \(upenn.edu\)](#)
- [Care over Confinement: Kids Need Second Chances and Services to Succeed](#)
- [The prison press](#) aims to provide reliable information as well as be a source of communication between prison administrations, the incarcerated population and the outside world. Often, the point of this communication has been to improve conditions for people in prison.
- [A second prison': People face hidden dead ends when they pursue a range of careers post-incarceration](#)
- [Understanding mass incarceration in the US is the first step to reducing a swollen prison population \(theconversation.com\)](#)
- [First Step Act was only half the job; now a 'Second Step' is needed | The Hill](#)

REENTRY

- **Employers find success in hiring the previously detained:** [Forbes: Want To Help Solve Your Worker Crunch? Hire The Formerly Incarcerated.](#)
- **Reentry Resources:** [Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy Job Board](#) has quite an extensive listing of positions around the country with a lot of remote/flexible and Chicago-based positions. Some are mid- to high-skilled but certainly plenty of entry-level and administrative support opportunities. I'm keeping an eye on it for one of my clients interested in grant work.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF THE INCARCERATED

- <https://www.chegg.com/scholarships/eskew-law-scholarship-f-children-convicted-felons-14926>

JOBS IN REENTRY

[Re-Entry Employment Service Program](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/@ALifeAfterLayoff>

Please also check [Hinda's Reentry Resources](#).



ADDICTION RECOVERY

- www.ourjewishrecovery.com



Our Jewish Recovery
Happiness. Holiness. Healing. Together.
One Day At A Time.

Resources



Listen to renowned attorney Elizabeth Kelley's podcast [here](#). A nationally-recognized lawyer who has expertise in mental health law: <https://www.elizabethkelleylaw.com/>

EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE INCARCERATED

- The [Northwestern Prison Education Program](#) (NPEP) is committed to providing one of the nation's best educations to incarcerated students in prisons, jails, and youth centers across the state of Illinois.
- <https://prisonprofessors.com/>

ILLINOIS

- [Gov. Pritzker signs bill overhauling mandatory supervised release](#)
- [Got a loved one in an Illinois prison? WBEZ's Prisoncast! wants to hear from you.](#)
- [FAMM's Shaneva McReynolds to testify before Illinois House Judiciary Committee](#) for its hearing on the Earned Reentry Bill, which provides a pathway to be granted release by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board for those serving lengthy or life sentences.
- Click [here](#) for the latest news from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

LINKS AND GROUPS OF INTEREST

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/>
<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org>

Individuals with Mental Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System (PDF)
This article by Ms. Kelley examines the role mental health issues play during each phase of the criminal justice system and discusses how to advocate what best serves clients with mental disabilities.



[Justice Reform 101: What to Read, Watch, and Listen To](#)

In the News

MacArthur Foundation

[We Can Reduce Jail Populations and Keep Communities Safe Working to address over-incarceration](#) and racial and ethnic disparities by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

To inform its deliberations, the Task Force commissioned and reviewed research on a wide range of topics. You can find the research on the [Task Force's website](#) along with other materials reviewed during the group's deliberations.

Here is the final report from the Council on Criminal Justice's [Task Force on Long Sentences](#).

The report, [How Long is Long Enough?](#), presents 14 recommendations to enhance judicial discretion in sentencing, promote individual and system accountability, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, better serve victims of crime, and increase public safety. It is the product of a year-long analysis from the Task Force's 16 members. The group examined the effects of long sentences on the criminal justice system and the populations it serves, including victims as well as people in prison, their families, and correctional staff.



Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

[Congressional Briefing Highlights the Impact of the Second Chance Act](#)

And [here](#) is their report for Expanding Access to Public Employment for People with Criminal Records – a sector which is increasingly available to those in reentry.

[Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment \(brochure\)](#)



JOKE OF THE WEEK

Twitter Silly:
If you don't ask
The answer will always be no

Joke:
Time Management
An old rabbi passed on the secrets of the perfect sermon to his son: "If everyone is looking at the clock, it's fine. But once they put the clock close to their ears to hear if it's still ticking, it's time to wrap up."

[Hope This Puts a Smile on Your Face! #joke #haha #lol #humor #standup #jewish #Rabbi - YouTube](#)