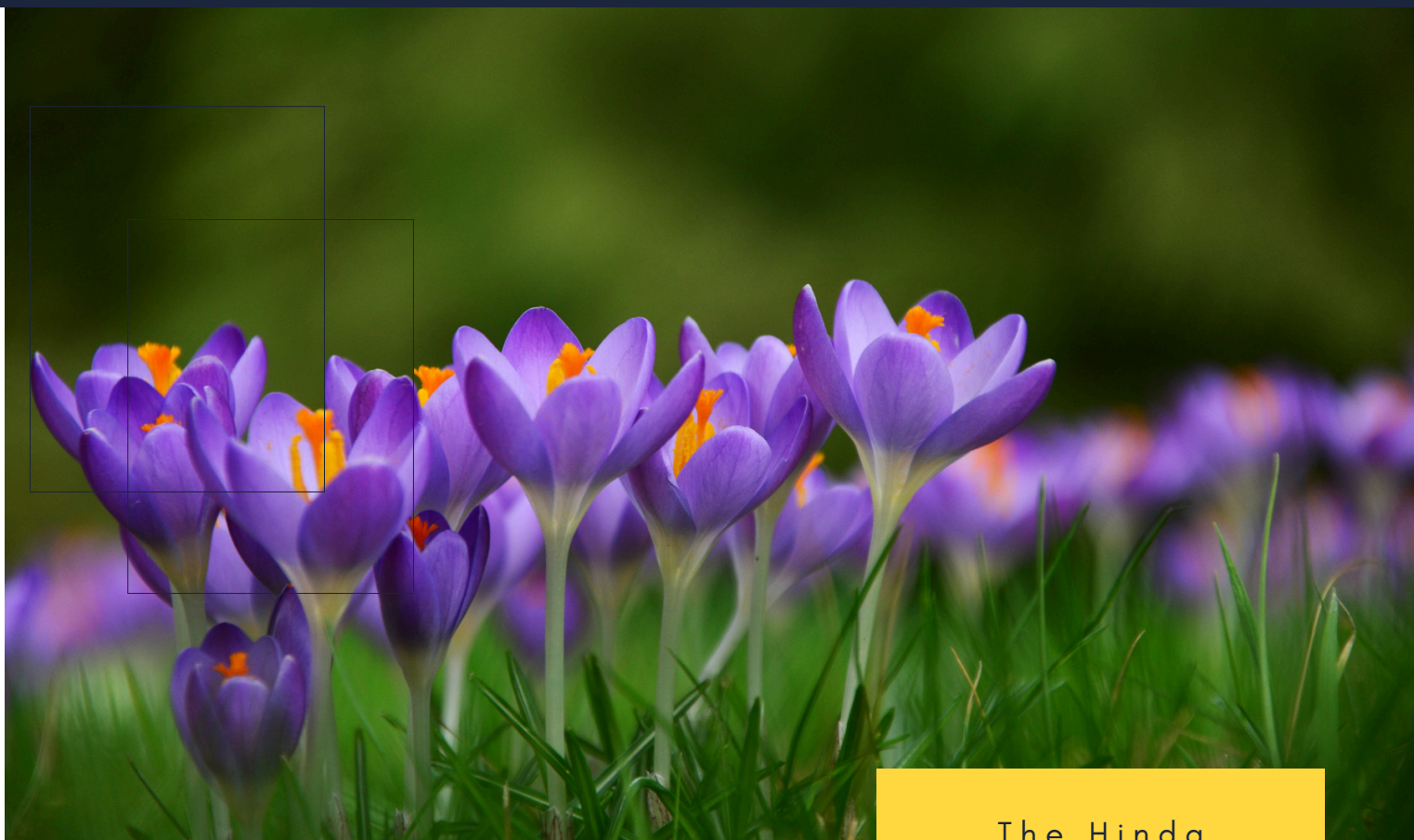




The Hinda Herald

May 2024 Issue 5786



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

Read ahead to find more about:

The Dvar Torah

The Hinda
Institute Bulletin

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Dvar Torah

What do you hear? What do you think? What do you say?

Common questions we often ask one another. We use them as a greeting: throw-away lines, perhaps not meant to be taken seriously, perhaps not expecting – or even wanting – an answer. Sincerity, or lack thereof, aside. Let's stop for a moment to consider: have I ever asked myself these questions? Have I ever truly examined what I listen to, what I think about or what I say?

What's in a word?

One of the Hebrew words for "word" is תִּיבָה (taivah), which literally means "a container" or "a box." This perfectly and precisely describes what a word is. A word is composed of letters which, when combined just so, contain a concept. This allows us to hold that concept, whether in our own thoughts or to deliver to another with speech. A useful, versatile container. Yet these containers have a power all their own. Not only can they be used to convey ideas, they also have the ability to transport us, the thinker or speaker, with them.

This is why it's so important to examine how and what I think or say. Those words can bring me to a place of darkness or can bring me to a place of light. If I speak them, they can bring the listener to either place, as well. To speak badly about another harms not only that other, but the speaker and hearer, too. Good words can elevate, inform, inspire, comfort, motivate and otherwise benefit the thinker, speaker and hearer. Yes, it's critical to examine what I hear, think and say.

As Jews, we are enjoined by our Creator to be holy (Leviticus 19:2). Not only that, we have a mission in this world – to make it a holy place as well. So, how do I become holy? True, I have a holy soul, but I also have wants and desires that are decidedly unholy. How can I bring more holiness within me, to the delight of my soul, and counter those other wants and desires? How can I extend that holiness to the world around me?

The Torah, G-d's will and wisdom, is holy, and that holiness is contained in its words and letters. When I study the Torah, I think and speak those words of holiness. That G-dly energy comes within me, becomes one with me, and offers a connection with G-d that surpasses all others. When I do G-d's commandments – refraining from what He prohibited and engaging in what He commanded – I extend that holiness beyond my mind, heart and lips to the whole of my body and to the very matter of the world around me. These words and deeds will also transport me to a holy place of light. Try it, you'll see.

So, study the Torah, do the Mitzvos and bring more of G-d's light into the world. This light will be openly revealed with the revelation of Moshiach, when all the world will see the effect of all the generations who studied the Torah and did the Mitzvos. May it be so, immediately, right NOW!



Greetings!

Just a reminder to get your seat for our [upcoming event, JUSTICE AND COMPASSION](#), on Sunday June 2, 2024. Come to an afternoon of inspiration and meet heroes who have not only changed their lives but have impacted the criminal justice system and our communities for good. Most importantly, be a part of supporting the critical work of the Hinda Institute. (Note: If you can't make it in person, you can also acknowledge our honorees or the Hinda Institute in our journal.) Get tickets [here!](#)

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.

Hinda Institute Presents
JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

Keynote Speaker
NEW YORK SUPREME COURT JUDGE RACHEL FREIER
The first Chassidic woman appointed to the New York Supreme Court

HONORING
Hindy Scheiman a"h, marking her 11th yartzeit

Hinda Institute is proud to thank our sponsors:
Crain-Maling Foundation
Sheppard Law Firm PC
Prologix Processing Inc.

ALSO HONORING...
Nick Seidel with our Hinda Hero Award
Rahmiel Hayyim Drizin with our Volunteer of the Year Award
Barbara Belsky with our Evan Maling Mother of the Year Award
Barry D. Sheppard and Adam J. Sheppard with our Compassionate Donors of the Year Award

For Men and Women

Sunday JUNE 2nd 2024
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm CST

Light refreshments will be served at the **Woman's Club of Evanston, 1702 Chicago Ave, Evanston**
Free parking a block away at 525 Church St.
Please visit [Hindahelps.com/event](https://hindahelps.com/event) for tickets, journal and more information

QR code

If you would like to attend, but need assistance, please contact Rabbi Scheiman.

UPCOMING

Courses



The goal of education is understanding.

-Frank Bell



"Leadership and Survival" with Dr. Paul Cantz and Paul Rothschild:
May 29, June 15, 19, 26- Maintaining confidence and self-esteem under prejudice and ostracism. Anger Management - Assertive vs. Aggressive vs. Passive Becoming a leader and advocating in your community Relationships; Reconnecting and belonging.



Dr. Paul Cantz

"PICS Part 2" with Dr. Stephanie Kutzen and Jay: **July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7-** Developing Coping Strategies for Post Incarceration Syndrome. This is the second part of PICS. It focuses on developing coping strategies and support mechanisms.



Paul Rothschild

"Financial Literacy" with Joel Keyser: **October 30, November 6, 13, 20-** Financial Literacy, Banking, Entrepreneurship



Dr. Stephanie Kutzen



Joel Keyser

www.hindahelps.com/courses

Video:

"What's the point of us Jews?" by Rabbi Manis Friedman on YouTube

All courses are copyrighted by the The Hinda Institute

HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT

- Under a new rule proposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)), people would no longer be automatically or categorically denied access or terminated from HUD-assisted housing—including public housing, Housing Choice Vouchers, and HUD multi-family housing—for having a criminal record. Instead, HUD is proposing that public housing agencies (PHAs) and owners of HUD-assisted multifamily housing be required, when making an admissions decision, to use an individualized assessment that only considers criminal records that are relevant to endangering the health and safety of staff and residents. HUD is accepting comments from all interested parties, including members of the public, to share their views of and recommendations for this proposal by June 10, 2024.
- [CSH](#), in collaboration with researchers at the Urban Institute and 36 partner organizations, announces filing an [amicus brief](#) with the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) to stop proponents from backing punitive approaches that exacerbate rather than alleviate the challenges faced by people experiencing poverty and homelessness. The brief supports the Ninth Circuit's decision to uphold the U.S. Constitution by prohibiting communities from fining or arresting people for merely sleeping outside when they have no access to shelter.
- [The Marshall Project's Newsletter, Closing Arguments,](#) explains how 70 million to 100 million people are affected by hurdles to employment and reintegration via harsh employment restrictions; what some lawmakers are doing to improve living and social conditions; and paths forward for job seekers.

REENTRY- EMPLOYERS FIND SUCCESS HIRING THE PREVIOUSLY DETAINED

- The thinktank J Street published a [remarkable article](#) on the economic benefits of clean slate legislation.
- [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) wrote a superb piece on a Reentry Simulator for those who are interested in and involved with the criminal justice system to show how many ways it defies larger public policy goals, including the participation of an Appellate Federal Judge.
- [RAND Corporation's](#) Resetting the Record: The Facts on Hiring People With Criminal Histories and its plethora of research briefs, including facts on hiring people with criminal histories, modest financial incentives for businesses can increase employment of people with criminal histories, a more accurate way to predict recidivism risk in background checks, and how to incentivize employers to hire ex-offenders.
- [Disabled veterans](#), or those veterans who are facing debilitating illness or injury post-combat, may face great challenges when they return home – challenges beyond the scope of their injuries. These could include barriers to adequate treatment, discrimination in the civilian world, lack of access to resources, and more. This guide explains why veterans may have trouble accessing the care and resources they need and where to find the resources to bridge this gap.
- [Knowable Magazine](#) covers why probation and parole don't work as advertised. The current system of supervised release in lieu of imprisonment may do more harm than good, some experts say. How can society do a better job of rehabilitating law-breakers while keeping them from re-offending?
- [The New York Times](#) Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg writes in What Martin Luther King Jr. Knew About Crime and Mental Illness, and details Martin Luther King's compassion and conviction in his reaction to a knife attack by a woman with mental illness. Bragg also writes on how incarceration is neither constructive nor appropriate for treating mental illness.
- [Fox News:](#) Federal supervision policies are supposed to help people successfully return to their communities from prison. Unfortunately, in many cases, they erect barriers to successful reintegration. The bipartisan Safer Supervision Act would break down those barriers, reduce recidivism and improve public safety. A returned citizen writes about her experience firsthand in dealing with the impositions and collateral consequences after release.

In the News

PRISON CONDITIONS/OVERSIGHT

- Reporter Glenn Thrush of the New York Times writes about [the often tragic results for those in prison with mental health issues](#), including a specific example from the state prison in Danville, Illinois.
- [The Correctional Association of New York, John Howard Association, and Pennsylvania Prison Society](#) applaud the first steps of the Arizona Oversight Commission and echo the call for more resources to realize and sustain critical oversight.
- [WGLT](#) provides a short, yet comprehensive report, detailing how mental health services in Illinois prisons are among the worst in the country, creating “abysmal and harmful” conditions for staff and inmates, with Pontiac Correctional Center fostering a “disgusting and neglected environment,” according to a consultant’s report on mental health care in Illinois facilities.
- [Lauren Brooke-Eisen of the Brennan Center](#) wrote this superb piece: Using Smart Reforms to End Mass Incarceration. We need to prioritize reducing crime in ways that are fair, just, practical, and don’t imprison people needlessly, and reduce our overreliance on imprisonment.

EDUCATION

- [Illinois Public Media](#) is set to report for the first time how many prisoners are taking college courses – and how many are waiting for access.
- [Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research \(APPR\)](#) believes the year will be seen as a tipping point for the field of pretrial justice. It was the year a growing number of real-world examples demonstrated that the “sky will not fall” when a pretrial system ends its reliance on financial conditions of release, aka money bonds. To the contrary, we witnessed not only a growing recognition that money-based pretrial systems produce unjust, inequitable, and ineffective outcomes, but that there is another, better way.

LEGISLATION

'A stunning turnabout': Voters and lawmakers across US move to reverse criminal justice reform provides a view of the pendulum of criminal justice reform that is swinging back to the harsh approach with myriad hurdles and roadblocks to reintegration and quality of life.

Vera Institute of Justice explains how most states set repayment periods for criminal fines, fees and restitution far longer than they do for consumer and civil debt – in some cases for decades. The consequences are severe.



Jewish Incarcerated Family Services

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/>



TWITTER SILLY BY RABBI

BINYOMIN

Nowhere is it written that you
need to understand
Why the other person thinks
differently than you



JOKE OF THE WEEK **(CREDIT: CHABAD OF NAPLES FLORIDA)**

The Watchers

As the bus pulled away, Bubbie Schwartzbaum realized that she had left her purse under the seat. Frantic, she called the bus company and was relieved to hear later that the driver found her bag.

When she returned to pick it up, several off-duty bus drivers surrounded her. One man handed Bubbie her purse, two typewritten pages and a box containing the contents of her purse. "We're required to inventory lost wallets and purses," he explained. "I think you'll find everything there."

As Bubbie started to put her belongings back into the purse, the man continued, "I hope you don't mind if we watch. Even though we all tried, none of us could fit everything into your purse. And we'd like to see just how you do it."



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



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