



**HINDA**  
**INSTITUTE**  
Everybody Deserves a Second Chance

Passover 5786

Spring 2026

**Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman, Director**

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**THIS NEWSLETTER IS IN HONOR OF DR. MICHAEL MALING OBM.**

Dr. Michael Maling was an extremely generous benefactor and supporter of the Hinda Institute. For over 15 years, he provided wise counsel and advice. He will be dearly missed. Our sincere condolences go to his entire family. May the memories of your esteemed father and husband be a true blessing.



**PASSOVER - A FRESH START - THE COURAGE TO BEGIN AGAIN**

When we imagine the Jewish people leaving Egypt, we often picture a united nation marching triumphantly to freedom. But the Torah describes something far more human. The Jews leaving Egypt were a traumatized people. For generations they had lived under brutal oppression—children murdered, bodies beaten, spirits crushed by slavery. The Torah tells us they could not even hear Moses' words because of kotzer ruach—shortness of breath and the crushing weight of slave labor.

In fact, only a portion of the Jewish people ultimately left Egypt. Beginning again required faith in redemption and trust in Moses. It meant defying the most powerful empire in the world and even their own internalized beliefs. It meant stepping into a desert with no map, no food supply, and no clear future.

Those who left were the ones who found the courage to take the first step toward a new beginning. That step changed history. In the wilderness they would become a people, and at Mount Sinai they would receive the Ten Commandments, introducing a moral vision that ultimately transformed the world.

The Chassidic masters teach that the Exodus is not only ancient history. Mitzrayim, the Hebrew word for Egypt, also means "limitations." Each of us has our own Egypt—sometimes trauma, sometimes fear, sometimes that voice that says nothing can change. Yet, the message of Passover is that renewal is always possible. A person can step beyond their limitations and begin again—with courage, hope, and the belief that transformation can start with just a single step.

**WISHING**

**YOU A**

**VERY**

**HAPPY**

**AND**

**HEALTHY**

**PASSOVER**

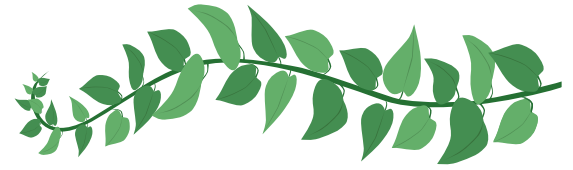


## MARK THE DATE: ANNUAL EVENT - FRESH START

### In honor of Rabbi Scheiman's 70th Birthday

When: 17 May 2026 Doors open at 12:15 PM – Event begins at 1:00 PM

Where: Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, 9220 Crawford Ave., Skokie



#### Honoring:

#### HINDA HONOREE OF THE YEAR - Joellyn Stoliar

- Executive Director of Maot Chitim, whose decades of nonprofit leadership and 40 years of dedicated partnership have ensured that Hinda Institute clients receive Passover provisions with dignity and care.

#### HINDA HERO OF THE YEAR - Arron Snowden

- After 15 years in IDOC, he rebuilt his life to launch a Noachide reentry center in Southern Illinois—promoting ethical living, second chances, and purpose through art.

#### EVAN MALING MOTHER OF THE YEAR - Liz Margolies, LCSW

- New York psychotherapist, writer, and researcher who volunteers with the Hinda Family Support Group and inspires families through her journey as the mother of an incarcerated son and founder of “He’s Still My Son.”

#### VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR - Honoring our Hinda Delivery volunteers

- Vitaly Bakar, Wendy Ball, Barbara Belsky, Rafael Bratman, Warren Brenner, Susan Esses, David Fon, Rabbi Mendy Goldstein, David Grosky, Mark & Janet Halperin, Ilya Khait, Harry & Phyllis Melnick, Rose Novil, Beth Palzet, Alex Podgorney, Bill & Maureen Russman, Marty Senica, Rustom Sadyagov, Reuven Stork, Howard Spiro, Jacob Spiro, Avery Warso, Ruchie Yudkowsky

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT** by Ari Lesser, widely acclaimed rapper, singer and songwriter & John Vincent, Official Cubs Anthem singer. For more information, tickets or to write in the journal: [www.HindaHelps/FreshStartEvent](http://www.HindaHelps/FreshStartEvent)

### UPCOMING COURSES

Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Check out [Hindahelps.com/courses](http://Hindahelps.com/courses) for more details.

- March - Legal Panel: Understanding The Registry, Compassionate Release, Navigating Social Security and Disability**
- April/May - Diffusing Trauma**
- May/June - Navigating the System in Real Life**
- July - The Action Plan for Your Life: Finding Your Potential**

### In the News



★ *Hinda Institute is in the final stages of being able to provide services to the **Elgin Mental Health facility**.*

★ ***New Addiction Support Group - The Sunday Reset** - A weekly space for recovery and connection*

★ *We have begun our second unit in the “**Shared Horizons Peer Support Specialist Training Program**” Thank you to the Tikvah Healing for providing a beautiful location. Thank you to our participants from Austen and elsewhere who drove in to join us. Thank you to our devoted facilitators who led a fascinating session.*

THE HINDA INSTITUTE presents  
**FRESH START**  
17 May 2026 | Kehilat Chovevei Tzion  
Sunday afternoon | 9220 Crawford Ave, Skokie  
Doors open at 12:15 PM – Event begins at 1:00 PM  
Light refreshments will be served  
[WWW.HINDAHELPS.COM/FRESHSTARTEVENT](http://WWW.HINDAHELPS.COM/FRESHSTARTEVENT)

**SAVE THE DATE**

Guest Speaker Arron Snowden  
HINDA HERO OF THE YEAR

Joellyn Stoliar  
HINDA HONOREE OF THE YEAR

Liz Margolies, LCSW  
EVAN MALING MOTHER OF THE YEAR

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY:  
Ari Lesser, rapper, singer and songwriter  
& John Vincent, Official Cubs Anthem singer.

HONORING OUR VOLUNTEER DELIVERY TEAM

CELEBRATING RABBI SCHEIMAN'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

### IN MEMORANDUM - HOWARD

Howard was murdered a few weeks ago in a correctional facility. The investigation is ongoing, but his death speaks to the need for safety of our Jewish clients and the daily volatility in prison environments. Howard maintained faith, and he never hid his Jewish identity, even within the hostile environment of prison. For 24 years, he put on tefillin every month, celebrated the Pesach seder, Chanukah and visited with the chaplains. G-d rewarded Howard with a miraculous Jewish burial.

Fortunately, we got early notification of his death from the Aleph Institute, and the Hinda Institute was able to negotiate for a Jewish burial. With tireless advocacy, Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman negotiated with the prison's legal and fiscal administration. Yochi Scheiman raised the transportation fees to transport the body to Chicago. Once again, Hinda Institute is grateful to David Jacobson and Chicago Jewish Funerals for facilitating Howard's burial according to Jewish Law. We hope Howard finally gets to live the Jewish life he deserves in a place where everyone's humanity is recognized.

## MY EXPERIENCE OF JAIL, COURT AND MY PEOPLE

One month ago, I lay on my back in a courthouse bullpen, holding the weekly HINDA newsletter between my cuffed wrists. We were allowed only court documents on court days, but I found that if I slipped my HINDA newsletter between other documents, I could bring along some Jewish enrichment that served as a layer of protection from the intrinsic bitterness of the bullpen cell. The COs never paid much attention to my papers because I was always respectful, and I often made them laugh. I was a model detainee who caused no trouble. Sometimes they raised eyebrows at the Jewish nature of the newsletter before letting me keep it. I think they let it go because all the COs knew that I was in jail for fighting as a Jew.

I think that many of the COs guessed that I was innocent. They first heard my story on local news stations and in the papers; *“Jewish woman paints, “Thank You Israel” on a pro Palestine mural in Pilsen. She’s caught by an angry stranger who pursues her and blocks her path. They fought and fell to the ground and a skirmish ensued.”* The police arrived and let me leave the scene without consequence. However, the activist community became outraged! The Council for American Islamic Relations shamed the police and me! As a result, six weeks later I was arrested. I was held without bond on the argument that I was a danger to society.

I was an excellent candidate for pre-trial release, but the case was political and so the judges kept me detained. For six months, I was periodically led to those courtroom sessions which sucked the soul out of me to wait to see the judge and to be returned to the tier.

A Hinda chaplain visited me regularly throughout and provided me with reading material and hope. I eventually worked up the courage to take HINDA newsletters with me as a tool to protect myself from my thoughts. In the bullpen, after an hour or two of despondent behavior, I would open my envelope labeled “Court Documents”, take out the newsletter and read. Slowly, curiosity, resilience and enlightenment would replace pain. In the bullpen I read about; AI and souls, what meaning Moses saw in his suffering, what “nation” means to us Jews, stories of heroism and horror on October 7th and at Bondi Beach, and the mitzvah of freeing a Jew from captivity. I read multiple essays weighing the cause and effect of having confidence in Hashem during hard times, and the good fortune that may follow. I sometimes wrestled with my confidence in Hashem, so passages about the latter topic were valuable to me.

I choose to believe that Hashem needed me to be where I was for a reason, and that I was made to suffer for a reason. I think that I was there to gain a stronger appreciation for Torah, which I have so far carried with me outside. The first Erev Shabbat I was in the temple, staring at the ark, reaching with my heart for the scrolls inside. The privilege and love of being able to look at a dressed Torah, in its immaculate housing in our place of worship is something that was forged inside. Spiritual growth has many facets and modes. To Hashem and for that, I am grateful.

Upon release much of my life; my apartment, my career as a PHD candidate, my job and finances had disappeared. I still feel the pain of injustice. Many people and agencies in our community however came forward to help reminding me of our unity and love for each other as a people. The Hinda Institute has been working to find me housing, food and other resources and referrals. I hope to finish this traumatic seemingly unjust episode in my life soon, and one day immigrate to Israel. Then I will really be able to say Thank you Israel.

Thank you to volunteer Rifka Samson for writing our weekly insightful newsletters distributed in prisons. Your writing has had impacts beyond your expectations.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS - YOUR COMPASSION AND TIME HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

- To our Purim volunteers who helped read the Megillah and organized parties in Prison: Schneur Zalman Ehven, Rabbi Shalom Raices, Mr. Pesach Pearlman and Rabbi Eli Langsam.
- Thank you to our Purim packers and Delivery team who bring so much Joy on the Purim holidays: Sandy, Jenny, Cheryl, Barb, Warren, Maureen and Bill, Howard and Jacob, Ilya, Albert, Susan, David, Ruchie, Lisa and mom
- To our amazing Hinda Purim party helpers: Dovid and Ari
- For our sponsors who are helping with Passover in correctional institutions Transport: Mr. Miller, Passover Seder: Maot Chitim, Aleph Institute: Seder plate and the Grinkers for a lot of Matzah for everyone

*“My son Jacob Spiro is honored to volunteer with the Hinda Institute. He looks forward to delivering Rosh Hashanah and Purim packages, always with a warm smile. The heartfelt welcome he receives in return brings him joy and a deep sense of belonging, reminding him that he is part of a caring community that looks out for one another.”*



# HINDA INSTITUTE

The Hinda Institute  
9401 N Margail  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

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 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:

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- \$360     \$54
- \$180    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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*Make checks payable to Hinda Institute- 9401 N. Margail, Des Plaines, IL, 60016*