

# Remembering our Founder, Naomi Sharabi



As the holidays drew near, Naomi, would always work tirelessly to provide our seniors, and needy families, with all the supplies they would need to enjoy the holiday. She insisted that no one should be left behind, the holidays must be enjoyed by all. It has been two years following her passing and we continue her legacy with equal, if not greater, Zts'l.

On 13th Elul we honored Naomi's memory and her enormous vision for the Health and Enrichment Center for the elderly and poor of Jerusalem. We gathered for Arvit and Torah lesson in the Feiga Synagogue donated to the Center by Dr. Albert Dreisinger. We then served refreshments on the roof of the Center where we will complete the roof garden Naomi so dearly envisioned as a place of serenity and enrichment for the senior community. Sraya Sharabi, director of the Center, then detailed the plans formulated to fulfill this dream. May this plan come to fruition soon in honor of Naomi's second yahrtzeit.

## Center updates

## Diversity among our seniors at the Center:

The seniors who attend the Center are diverse, representing a wide range of cultures, including Holocaust Survivors. They come wishing to gain social interaction, learn new skills, enjoy cultural events and interesting activities. We are gratified to see how our current attendance is expanding. We've found they enjoy their days at the Center so



much that they not only recommend the Center to others, but bring their family members and friends. Some of our ladies travel to the Center from outside Jerusalem.

We admire, the new immigrants among our members.



Most of them have arrived with no family or friends to welcome them. Despite their age, they left everything behind for the love of Israel, in order to settle in their homeland.

We are pleased that at the Center we can offer them a soft landing

experience helping them to cope with the difficulties of adjusting to our culture and language.

Summer Trip - Cooperated with 'Beit Gil Hazahav', the ladies went to the Israel Museum. They enjoyed a guided tour and learned many new and fascinating things. The happy social interaction on trips spill over to enhance their daily interactions as well.

## The Pensioners Kolel

We are happy to see the Pensioner's Kolel growing. They make the most of their time, never missing an opportunity to study with the group and their Rabbi who greatly enriches their study. They look forward to hearing new points of view as they study together. All seniors should take notice:

It's never too late to enjoy learning and broadening one's perspective.

All activities at the Center are free of charge so that all seniors can avail themselves of what the Center has to offer. Following the activities, a warm meal is served for both the men and women's groups.



#### The home bound

In addition to activities for independent seniors, we must also focus on the neglected home bound and those with health and economic issues. Many elderly are forgotten at a time they are most in need of support. They often suffer from loneliness and disrespect. Loyal and caring friends and donors, and also volunteers, of the extended Ezrat Avot family, have over four decades made it possible for us to offer an answer to the problems of the home bound within our reach.



Meals on Wheels - The Meals on Wheels program of Ezrat Avot is

in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and the need continues to grow. Nutritious meals are delivered to home bound seniors and Holocaust survivors - always free of charge. The seniors are glad to greet our driver or a member of our staff for some social contact. There are excellent facilities in Israel offering elder care, but they are expensive and beyond the reach of the poor. For this reason we want to do all we can to maintain this



program for the poor that they may continue to enjoy their own familiar environment and feel secure.

<u>Dry Goods for Shabbat and Holidays</u> - Throughout the past 41 years this has been an important and gratifying program that allows independent elderly and poor families to enjoy the holidays beyond what they can afford. Naomi, was insistent that not a single person be left without the necessary food supplies to enjoy their holiday midst all Israel. Social records are provided to indicate persons truly in need and packets of

dry goods are distributed for Shabbat.

The High Holidays require more bountiful gift. We must begin preparations well in advance of the holiday and are always grateful to our enthusiastic volunteers who prepare the distribution packets with joy and love. The faithfulness of caring donors each year enable us to uplift and enrich the lives of the elderly and poor of Jerusalem. Access to the Center has increased the number in need and we pray that all who support this need will themselves be greatly blessed.





# News and 'Smachot'

## Mazal Tov to Izzy on his Bar Mitzvah!

What a special way to celebrate! His family have long been good friends of Ezrat Avot. The Gober family decided to celebrate Izzy's Bar Mitzvah by bringing family members to the Center to pack dry goods packets for Jerusalem's seniors in need. May this auspicious beginning of his spiritual journey mature into a lifetime of blessing.



## Mazal Tov to Tamar Shaag and Miriam Kopershtok - 90 Years!

We wish the sisters health, strength and blessing in the 9<sup>th</sup> decade of their lives. The Shaag family provided a truly unique birthday gift honoring Tamar and Miriam by fundraising support for 90 special holiday parcels for the elderly. This is truly a family that understands the value of chessed. May Tamar and Miriam see nachat from this special family and may all who participated be blessed.

We are so grateful to our special donors and volunteers who are the backbone of all we are able to accomplish. With their help we are able to hold down expenses and maximize each donation towards the vital programs they support. Our volunteers bring along family and friend because they truly enjoy the environment of the Center and have fun donating their time for the benefit of others.