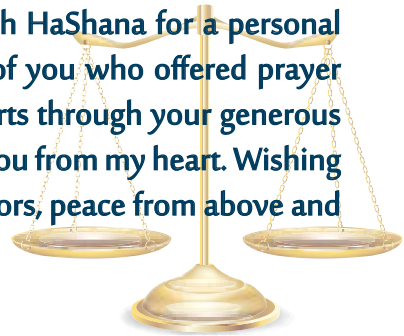




The Rosh Hashanah Newsletter 5777 \ 2017



Dear Friends, How grateful I am to our Father and King at this Rosh HaShana for a personal danger averted and life renewed. How grateful I am for each one of you who offered prayer and beautiful words of comfort. To all of you who support our efforts through your generous donations and those who donate many hours volunteering, I thank you from my heart. Wishing you and your loved ones a year of health, success in all your endeavors, peace from above and the grace of HaShem for every need. Shana Tova u'Metuka



Development of the Seniors Health and Life Enrichment Center is moving forward

It will take time, of course, to complete all of our goals for the elderly as outlined on our website but we are on our way.

On behalf of Jerusalem's seniors we thank each one of you who is supporting this important and life changing work. You are providing a permanent site for the needs of Jerusalem's seniors in a location which is accessible from all areas of the city.

A true hero joins the Ezrat Avot Family

We express our deep gratitude to Maurice (Morris) Lobe for his generous contribution to the work of Ezrat Avot in honor of Machal. This organization sponsored brave volunteers from many nations to battle for the Jewish people in 1947-1948 leading to the rebirth of the State of Israel. We owe a great debt of gratitude to these courageous men.

Morris Lobe made his contribution in support of the elderly of Jerusalem to honor those with whom he fought; Harold (Smokey) Simon from South Africa, Murray Greenfield from America and Mike Amir of Australia. These four comrades each chose to make Israel their home. Today lone soldiers follow in their footsteps, yet it was Machal that led the way.

Morris, Smokey, Murray and Mike are now in their 90's and represent the only remaining Machal survivors from the War of Independence who reside in Israel today. You can look them up on the internet to learn more of their fascinating life stories and also visit the Machal website to learn about the heroic contributions of their membership.

Thank you Morris for joining the Ezrat Avot family to better the lives of Jerusalem's elderly and a special thank you for reminding us first hand of the exciting events leading up to Israel's independence. Perhaps we can convince Morris to share some firsthand stories with us for future newsletters.



Remembering Rabbi Azri Sharabi

The yahrzeit (anniversary) of Naomi's husband, Rabbi Azri Sharabi Z'tl, on the date of his passing is commemorated this month 9th of Elul, September 12th.

Azri Sharabi was loved by everyone who knew him for his genuine kindness and boundless acts of chessed. He was devoted to Ezrat Avot from the beginning and upheld Naomi in every endeavor to brighten the future for those long neglected. Though Naomi was aware of her husband's many kindnesses she was nonetheless astonished when people approached her after the funeral expressing gratitude for his numerous major acts of benevolence of which she was totally unaware. 'I knew well his deeds, and honored my husband in his lifetime,' Naomi said, 'but he deserved even more honor than I knew to give.'

As a friend related: "Azri is a man who loved chessed, a Talmid Chacham and a man who used his wisdom to bring peace among people."

May He Rest in Peace



Our Moadon



Enjoying breakfast at Kibutz Deganyah

Touring the Zoo

At the Dona Gracia Hotel and Museum

Summer Trip

The ladies of our Moadon enjoyed a fun and refreshing trip this July. We began the trip with a stop at Kibbutz Deganyah where the ladies enjoyed breakfast. The Kibbutz features a Zoo with unique animals and the ladies had fun collecting beautiful peacock feathers that had dropped.

From there we continued to Tiberius where they enjoyed a guided tour at the Dona Gracia Hotel and Museum. It was fascinating! The ladies learned about Dona Gracia, her achievements and her amazing life story through a film shown within the lovely museum display.

After the tour we went to the local market to spend some time. The ladies returned with a few new items and big smiles.

After davening at the tomb of Rabbi Meir Baal HaNes we had had lunch and then perused more memorial items on the way out.

Everyone enjoyed a refreshing popsicle before we continued our travels. We finished the trip by visiting the tomb of Rabbi Akiva's wife, Rachel, as the ladies requested.

Our wonderful driver, Oded, was very helpful throughout the trip. He played music for the ladies and they sang and laughed all the way. In short, this trip was so much fun for all of them!



A brief excerpt from the testimony of one of our Seniors
 "L" is a very sweet lady of 79 years. Her life has been difficult. Twice widowed, she lost her second husband just a month before she gave birth. In the ensuing years she adapted to being satisfied with very little and as time passed her health began to fail. She has endured several blood transfusions and medications requiring injections.

Her children try to be helpful but are dealing with their own life struggles rearing disabled children whom they nonetheless consider a blessing.

"It took a lot of time and mustering my courage to contact you" she explained. "I have never before been in a situation of such dire need. My meals consist of bread, cheese and a vegetable without cooked food or a proper warm meal." She was so happy and relieved when we explained that we can provide delivery of cooked nutritious meals for each day of the week. "I have no words to thank you for this special help you are providing," she said adding 'you should be blessed for all the good care you are providing."

She thanked the person on the phone but, in truth, she was thanking the numerous volunteers and faithful supporters of Ezrat Avot without whom we could not fulfill the needs of all who reach out to us for help. This dear lady is grateful to many – to those who have chosen to be a part of the Ezrat Avot family. How grateful we can all be for the privilege of being there for each other.

This year Israel Celebrates a New National Holiday



Israel, a country made up almost entirely of immigrants and their descendants, has formally declared a new national holiday celebrating its Jewish immigrants and acknowledging their various

contributions to the state.

The new holiday 'Aliyah Day' will be celebrated each year on the Hebrew date of the 7th of Cheshvan. This year the first celebration of the new holiday will occur on the 8th of November. It will be celebrated with a special cabinet session in the Knesset, events at the President's residence, celebrations in the schools, IDF and Police Force.

The Knesset Bill states: "By marking this day, we are saying thank you to the immigrants and proudly acknowledging their decision to tie their fates with Israel."

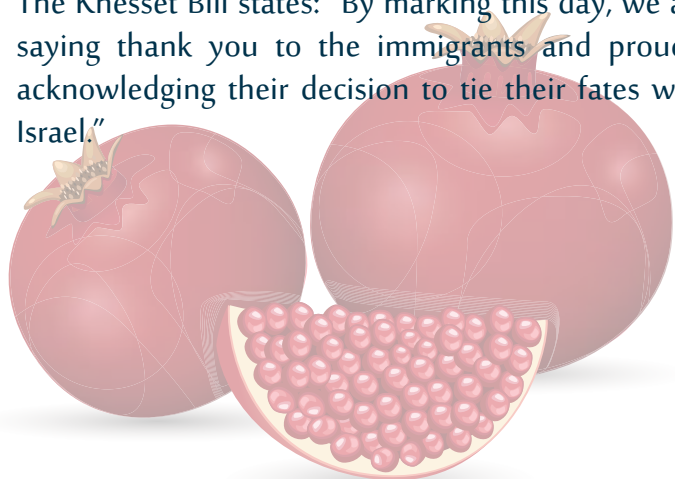


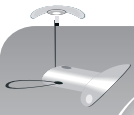
Celebrating Bar Mitzvah with Ezrat Avot

All the way from Petach Tikvah, Snir Rand came to do chessed in honor of reaching Bar Mitzva age, Mazal Tov and Kol Hakavod!

His sister Yuval and his little brother came along and together they all helped to cut the vegetables our cook uses to prepare the nutritious meals for our elderly.

Thank you so much for your wonderful help. Ezrat Avot wishes you a big Mazal Tov and a lot of Nachat to his mother Maayan.





Spotlight on our Volunteers: This time: Tomer Devorah Seminary Students

Tomer Devorah is an Institute of Advanced Studies for Women. They include in their schedule a chessed program. Some of their students signed on to volunteer with Ezrat Avot. We enjoy hosting these wonderful and cheerful groups each year. They arrive with enthusiasm every Tuesday, even when it snows. They cut vegetables for our cook to use in preparing nutritious meals for the home-bound elderly. Our student volunteers enjoyed the company of our oldest volunteer, 'Grandma', Mrs. Sydelle Spero. While working they heard her fascinating stories, shared recipes and had a lot of fun!



Here are some quotes regarding their experience at Ezrat Avot:

Sara Schwerd: "I loved volunteering at Ezrat Avot. Very warm atmosphere and its amazing knowing I'm partaking in a program to help the elderly. This program has been helping the elderly for generations and it's great to be a part in helping with it".

Shoshana Bubtyn: "I am so happy I decided to do chessed at Ezrat Avot. Working here has been so rewarding. I made so many new friends and we shared so many stories. I am so proud to be part of this beautiful family".

Elisheva Sternglass: "Volunteering at Ezrat Avot was a really amazing opportunity! I got to help out the elderly community which was really rewarding. Thank you Ezrat Avot for everything you do and giving us the pleasure of working here".

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Supporters

First and foremost we are grateful to HaShem for sending Ezrat Avot such genuine friends throughout the years.

Chef Shalom Kadosh, of the Fattal Group of Hotels continues to be a major source of encouragement providing Shabbat meals for the needy.

Dr. Scott and Mindy Lippe who head the Friends of Ezrat Avot office in America continue tirelessly to strengthen our efforts. Support from Mrs. Chaya Devorah Leibowitz has been consistent from the beginning.

Our vendors have been faithful throughout - never failing; Latet, Beit Hama'afe and Angel Bakeries, Pe'erli Fruits and Vegetables and Bridges for Peace.

Our dependable local volunteers over the years have been; George and Ellen Gluck, Sam and Matilde Guttentag, Bob and Sue Schwell, Rivka Avraham and Sydelle Spero who is 'Safta' for us all.

This year's weekly volunteers came to us from the following schools:

Kivunim, Midreshet Eshel, MMY, Netiv Aryeh Yeshiva, Sha'alvim and Tomer Devorah. They shower us with enthusiasm, cheerfulness, and efficiency. We look forward to their arrival each week and appreciate their dedication.



We invite you to join the Ezrat Avot family to better the lives of Jerusalem's elderly & poor. Send us your email address to receive our holiday news, paper-free and environmentally friendly. For credit card donations, call (972) 25825107

or make a donation through our website www.ezratavot.org Tax deductible donations by check can be mailed to

American Friends of Ezrat Avot, POB 181, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

May you always enjoy being on the giving side!