

NECHAMA'S NEWSFLASH

THE MONTH OF NISAN 5784

TJJ FAMILY

Nisan, the Jewish month synonymous with freedom, birth, regrowth, begins now. Nisan began yesterday, this means we have to get ready for Passover, which falls just two weeks into the month, on the 14th of Nisan. The Jewish calendar, reminds us that it is spring. Nothing compares to the fresh feeling of spring, with the warm sun in the sky, the slight breeze in the air, the grass and flowers beginning to bloom. It just feels so bright and full of hope! A new season is about to begin and the Jewish people are about to relive their moment of freedom! This is the month we are all praying, just like we were freed from Pharaoh, we are all praying that our hostages who have been held captive for over 180 days (a complete school year) will be freed. We are all praying for the healthy return of all our hostages and we hope to hear good news immediately!

The room was full of love for this special couple who have given so much to NCSY. The night was truly perfect! It was a night of elegance and one we will all remember. Our Israeli pride was bursting throughout the room as we danced to the music played by the Israeli singer and IDF soldier, Noam Buskila. It felt so good to be all together celebrating the Sokols and we look forward to many more simchas together.



Quickly after the gala, it was time to get ready for Purim. NCSY delivered Mishloach Manot full of Hamantaschen and other goodies all over Long Island, New York state, and all over the country. No location was left unturned. We picked up Hamantaschen at a “Grab and Go,” sent to our college children and even sent to friends all over the country.

Looking back on the past two months of Adar, Adar I and Adar II, NCSY was on full blast with the joys of Adar and celebrating big time! On March 11th, NCSY celebrated our own Stephanie and David Sokol at our “Evening of Strength” Gala.



Mom of the Month

Every month we will be celebrating one TJJ Mom who shares her experience of being a part of the NCSY/TJJ community.

This Month we celebrate **Aimee Marcus**.

"In the summer of 2022, I went to Israel by myself through the NCSY program. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but it was a country that I had always wanted to experience. It was very late in May when I decided to look into the trip. I interviewed with Nechama and Yonina and was offered a spot with the broader group. I didn't participate a lot of the pre-trip activities so I knew very few people before I left. Despite this, I got on the plane from New York and flew solo to Ben Gurion airport.

Once I arrived in Israel, I couldn't believe my eyes. I thought it was one of the most amazing places I've ever seen. Every day we got up early, had a beautiful breakfast, and got on a bus that took us on our daily adventure. When people ask what my favorite activity in Israel was, I always seem to give the same answer - everything!!

Each day there was something special that stood out, but one of my favorite days was when our group went to Tzfat. We had the most wonderful day in the city and I particularly enjoyed going to the candle store to buy Shabbat candles for my family and other gifts for my friends. That year for Rosh Hashanah I used a set of candles that I bought in Israel which was quite meaningful for me. Since visiting Israel, whenever I travel to a new city in a different country, I make every effort to visit the Jewish quarter and purchase a new pair of Shabbat candles to use on future holidays.

Most recently, my family and I traveled to Spain. There we got to experience the Jewish quarters in Barcelona, Toledo and Segovia. I was with my mom and my daughter in Toledo where we toured a very old Jewish synagogue. This experience with three generations was very special to me. The picture below shows the candles that I brought back from my trip. I've learned so much during the past two years and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many different people. I feel blessed and honored to have been a part of such a wonderful trip with an amazing group of women." ~ Aimee



Aimee Marcus, TJJ MOM

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Matzah Baking:** Experience the tradition and deliciousness of homemade matzah. Join us for a hands-on baking experience that will surely add an extra layer of meaning to your Passover preparations. **April 14th at the Mid Island Y JCC** <https://new.ncsy.org/matzah-bake-april-2024/>
- **Seder Anywhere:** This Passover, create meaningful memories by hosting or attending a Seder anywhere in the region. Reach out to us for resources and support to make your Seder a special and inclusive experience for all. Nechama 718-669-3367
- **May 8th: Challah Bake:** Mark your calendars for our upcoming Challah Bake—a wonderful opportunity to come together, connect, and embrace the art of baking Challah Young Israel of Woodmere Signup: <https://new.ncsy.org/tjj-for-moms-mothers-day-challah-bake/>
- **June 2nd: Israeli Day Parade:** Show your support and solidarity with Israel by participating in the Israeli Day Parade. Let's come together to celebrate and honor Israel. Sign up here: [Israelidayparadesignup](https://israelidayparadesignup.com)
- **College Birthday Boxes:** After Passover, we're excited to kick off our Birthday Box initiative—a heartfelt way to celebrate and uplift our college students on their special day. Look out for upcoming order information.
- **Where will you be in Fall '24?** Do have a high school senior? Have them fill out a short survey and they will receive a FREE Nike DRI-FIT Cap! <https://ncsy.org/drifitcap/>
- **May 17: Save the Date for our Friday Night of Inspiration Home Edition!**

If you would like mor information please contact Nechama at: nechama@ncsy.org

We are very excited to launch our TJJ for Moms website!

Check it out:

<https://tjjformoms.ncsy.org/>



We are still accepting applications for our TJJ for Moms and TJJ For Dads trip to Israel

