

Dear friends,

As we prepare ourselves both physically and spiritually for the upcoming Pessach Chag, I find myself thinking about all the single members of Chiburim, who so strongly wish to finally celebrate the holiday of freedom with their soul mate. My heart goes out to them, and I am grateful to our dedicated staff and volunteers for doing their utmost to be there for every one of them. I am happy to share with you that since our last update there have been two new engagements in Chiburim, with one of the couples getting married last week!

Mazal Tov to Shiran and Yael on their engagement!
Mazal Tov to Sivan and Yehuda on their Marriage!
For both Sivan and Yehuda this is a second marriage and their personal story gives us all much hope.



The Service for Members with Emotional Sensitivities

Following a short period of fact finding and preparing the training and facilitation model for Chiburim members with emotional sensitivities, we are set to go. The first training session for volunteers who want to focus on members with emotional sensitivities took place at the end of March and most of them have already been assigned new members. Ella Zohar our program director has been hard at work in marketing our new program to new members and volunteers as well as to potential partners and sponsors. This service provides a unique answer within this community and many mental health organizations and senior level professionals are enthusiastic about it. With the help of Ella, a new forum comprised of a dozen organizations and mental health leaders was founded last month, to promote meaningful relationships for people with emotional sensitivities.



Updates.....Updates.....Updates.....

Our last three training sessions took place in two lovely locations, both given to us gratis by Amdocs Israel and Ankori Education Network. We are now proud to say that we have 75 volunteers from throughout Israel and 500 members!



A spotlight on Orya Drori – Chiburim volunteer

Orya Drori, 43, from Netanya is among our most dedicated volunteers. She recently completed a 3 month facilitation process with Irit, a 30 year old divorcee with one child. Here is a glimpse into their interaction:



Orya: "My first meetings with Irit were not easy. Irit was determined to go out only with a guy who was extremely good looking. She refused each and every dating opportunity that I suggested. At a certain point I decided to stop suggesting dating opportunities and to work with her on the reasons she was so keen on a good looking guy. Perhaps I would manage to shift her way of thinking just a bit, so that she would be more open to suggestions. This turned out to involve many motivational conversations, encouragement and ego boosting. Finally, Irit reached a new level of self-awareness, and was able to go out with a man who was not her idealized gorgeous guy. With each date, she succeeded in seeing more of his inner beauty and slowly they fell in love!"

Irit: "The three months with Orya have been the most significant months in my life! I learned to look differently at many things in life. I learned to deal with what life has given me and embrace it with love. I learned to be more open minded and as a result went out with someone who otherwise I would not have agreed to meet, just because of his outward appearance. I learned to look at the inside rather than just the outside, to appreciate the relationship and to truly connect to another person. "

For further information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact our Executive Director Yael Shapira, yael@chiburim.co.il .



As always, I thank you for your ongoing support and am eager to hear your feedback and input.

Yours,

Judi Stern, Founder