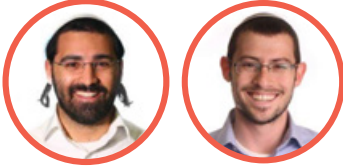




TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



## Message from NCSY's Israel Leadership

Dear Friends of NCSY Israel,

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz ׀׀׀ writes that when you stop for a moment and reflect on the phrase *shana hadasha* (new year), you notice that the expression itself is a contradiction. A *shana* (year) denotes something that repeats itself again and again, whereas *hadasha* (new) denotes change, emergence from a cycle of repetition. Each year we experience the same structure of the four seasons, routine patterns of life, and for most a typical set mold of expectations. How do we prevent ourselves from falling into this trap and instead feel new and freshness within our routine lives?

The central theme of Rosh Hashana is the *Shofar*. The *Shofar* is not a pleasant sound per say. It is a sound that alerts, prepares, and focuses one for something more. The Rambam writes (Hilchot Teshuva 3:4) the sound of the *Shofar* is to awaken us from our slumber, remind us of the truth of existence and to move us away from the vanity and emptiness of the world that brings no benefit in improving our lives. But what

is the *Shofar* asking of us? It is asking us to be committed to *Teshuva*, to return to a committed religious life. How does religion renew oneself? Religion has thousands of details, commandments, and responsibilities. Doesn't the endless repetition and routine of life only grow greater? Aren't we doubling down on a dry existence?

Rav Steinsaltz answers that religious obligation does not constitute further routine, but rather an escape from it. He writes: "There is certainly a routine of prayers, commandments, and good deeds, but this system does not go hand in hand with the other: ordinary routine of life. On the contrary, it clashes with that routine constantly. It interrupts the ordinary course of eating, drinking, and working, and that interruption of the uniform sequence stimulates change." A religious life provides for us a system of beauty, of blessing and connection to life's individual moments.

Furthermore, our Jewish lives provide something more- they provide a sense of purpose in the greater world. They ask us to give more of ourselves. To ask ourselves if our decisions are moral, are our actions creating a better world, and are we living to our full potential? In a world filled with filters of perfect illusion and self-righteousness where one can fool man, one can never fool God. Every single day matters and every day gives us an opportunity to do more within the system of the "routine."



## Message from NCSY's Board Chair

Dear Friends,

As 5783 comes to an end, and 5784 awaits us, I recall a beautiful idea I once heard about two words we say in our daily *tefillah*. In *Shemonah Esrei*, we refer to Hashem as *נצמ"ח י'שועה*, the One who causes salvation to sprout. These two simple words teach us the profound life lesson that “success sprouts.” Unless you’re very lucky, personal and national salvation is more often bestowed upon those who toil and work, who invest and sweat, and who internalize that the source of all salvation is Hashem. We plant seeds in the ground with the hope – but not the guarantee – that they will sprout.

NCSY Israel is sprouting. The years-long investment of time and effort by our advisors, lay leaders, and, especially our management team, have resulted in the single best year we have ever recorded. When my eldest daughter, Yael, joined NCSY Israel six years ago as a NCSYer, we were running Regional Shabbatons with 30 teens. This past May, 183 teens attended our Spring Regional in Ein Gedi, with another 10+ on a waiting list.

What is the source of NCSY Israel’s success? In a word, culture.

Another life lesson I learned as a high school coach: if you want to succeed, the culture you cultivate is key. Winning is most

Before we begin a new year in NCSY Israel we ask ourselves: “What did we do last year and what more can we do this year?” We are always striving to be honest with ourselves and to see where we can advance our mission and not fall into the habit of doing the same thing over and over again. This past year we created new programs like **NCSY Chai Girls** which provided teenage girls a summer of growth in the North of Israel, we engaged in the broader community and shared with them the spirit of NCSY Israel through **Community Engagement Shabbatonim** and our **Solomon Brothers Concert**. Even throughout our “routine” or regular programs such as a Latte and Limmud or Regional Shabbatonim we always ensure new content, new speakers and new experiences. We have a yearly schedule but there is newness and freshness which reflects the life of a Jew.

It is with great pleasure that we look back on this past year. It is hard to believe that we have completed yet another incredible year in NCSY Israel. The experiences, memories, and most importantly—the impact created could not have happened without your tremendous support. Thank you for being partners throughout the 5783 program year and we look forward to continuing our invaluable work together in 5784.

Thank You,

**Rabbi Michael Kahn**

*Executive Director, NCSY Israel*  
and

**Rabbi Yosef Ginsberg**

*Regional Director, NCSY Israel*

prevalent among teams who exude a winning, can-do attitude. But here's the thing: a winning culture cannot be limited to the manager or coach. It begins with them, but it must ultimately permeate the players. It took six long years to win our first championship. It took time and patience to create that special culture.

I was fortunate to have attended this year's NCSY Israel Spring Regional Shabbaton where I witnessed something truly inspirational: as effective as our advisors have been in inspiring our youth, I witnessed teens inspiring and lifting their fellow teens. The culture of inclusion, of non-judgmentalism, of meeting our teens wherever they are at, is pervasive. It is that culture that enables our teens to be inspired by their peers and the experiences we create for them. As they sang loudly during the Havdalah concert: "It's *geshmak* to be a Yid." And they meant it.

This level of success is only possible due to the support of our donors, staff and lay leaders. We are building something very special here; we are tearing down the barriers to Aliyah that many families face by creating a culture of inspiration and growth for our teens. And we are building an army of teens who are proud to be carrying the bastion of Torah and Tzitzion.







Thank you for everything you do for our future. Let's keep this going, and growing.

I wish you and your families a Shana Tova – a year full of peace, health, success, and personal and national accomplishment.

Best regards,

**Yigal Marcus**

Board Chair, NCSY Israel ■

  <p>PROPERTY MANAGEMENT • INVESTMENTS • SERVICES</p>	
	<p><b>New project - Pinui Binui!</b> Heart of Rechavia Penthouse apartment with private rooftop &amp; pool in new boutique building. Built to the highest standards. 285 SQM, 2 balconies totalling 61 SQM, 153 SQM roof. 2 private parking spots, 2 machsans. Ready in 26 months. Construction has already begun. Contact us for more info.</p>
<p><b>New project - Pinui Binui!</b> Heart of Rechavia Full floor in new boutique building. Built to the highest of standards. 190 SQM, 2 balconies totalling 24 SQM. Private parking, machsan. Ready in 26 months. Construction has already begun. Contact us for more info.</p>	
	<p><b>New project - Pinui Binui!</b> Heart of Rechavia Small apartment in new boutique building. Built to the highest of standards. 67 SQM, 12 SQM balcony. Private parking, machsan. Ready in 26 months. Construction has already begun. Contact us for more info.</p>
<p>This beautifully secluded 5-story corner house is situated on a quiet street in the heart of the German Colony, Jerusalem. Both peaceful and green. This house is full of natural light and high ceilings, with a beautiful private rooftop. The house is situated a couple of minutes away from the bustling Emek Refaim street, which is filled with restaurants, cafes, shops &amp; more. 353 SQM, huge private garden: 197 SQM, Balconies: 59 SQM, 7 bedrooms, 5 full bathrooms, elevator, private parking, 2 entrances, option to build another 140 sqm. Contact us for more info.</p>	
<p><b>Off-market property!</b> Saidoff Tower. Heart of Jerusalem centre. Renovated &amp; is in good condition. Perfect vacation home or short-term rental apt. 3 bedrooms &amp; mamad, 2.5 bathroom, natural light. Stunning view to the Knesset, machsan, private parking, 24/7 security guard/dorman, swimming pool &amp; gym in building. 125 SQM+, balcony(not sukkah). Contact us for more info.</p>	<p><b>Off-market property!</b> Heart of Rechavia/Shaarai Chesed. Garden apartment, private entrance. Renovated &amp; is in good condition. 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, air from 3 directions, natural light. 83 SQM &amp; garden - 84 SQM. Property is in advanced stages of receiving a permit to add a mamad of 13 SQM. Contact us for more info.</p>
<p>For more details on these properties or about how we can help you to find your home in Israel, please contact Yoel Kaufman +972-542074969 - yoel@kaufmanrty.com</p>	