

# In Our Community

## Mitzvah Messengers Needed!

Areyvut ([www.Areyvut.org](http://www.Areyvut.org)) distributes a calendar entitled "A Kindness a Day" and it is remarkable. Each and every day there is a quote from our Tradition and a suggestion of A Simple Act of Kindness that if we make our own we become a part of it.

The quote for May 12th, Israeli Independence Day ("So said Moses, 'Since Israel is in trouble, I will share their burden.'" Talmud Ta'anit 11a.), serves as a reminder of the work that White Plains and the surrounding community have taken on to help Israel through the Mitzvah Messenger Project as well as through other projects.

Yet, now, even with seeming peace around the corner, our work continues and needs to continue as a result of the consequences of the Second Intifadah: priorities have shifted to protect citizens; the economy and the social safety net have suffered and frayed; poverty has increased where, as but one example, parents gave up food to feed their children and/or provide housing. We also cannot forget the Survivors of Terror, who witnessed things that are horrendous, whose bodies and souls both need repair. Nor can we forget the people left behind who have lost loved ones: parents, husbands, wives, and children.

The simple truth is that the Mitzvah Messenger Project needs couriers to carry things to Jerusalem. Our mitzvah closet is full of items that are needed in Israel. We ask that you share in the "burden" by becoming a Mitzvah Messenger and ask a friend, a neighbor, a colleague to also become a Messenger.

We have been proud of the fact that the Mitzvah Messenger Project allows you to make a personal connection with the people of Israel. By agreeing to carry extra items (easily packed in your luggage), you may be providing a gown for a joyful bride, new clothes for a baby, beanie babies (for hospitalized children or for a child whose parents cannot even afford this plush toy), school supplies, pencils, crayons, markers for school age children, holiday clothes for boys and girls, women's winter coats, maternity slacks, candy and toiletries for soldiers, heavy stockings for grandmothers to keep them warm in the winter time. The items we have are either new or gently worn to maintain the dignity of the recipient.

We ask that you please contact either of us: Ella Badin at [mitzvahmessage@optonline.net](mailto:mitzvahmessage@optonline.net) or George Greene at [Chesed4Israel@aol.com](mailto:Chesed4Israel@aol.com), to make arrangements to become a Mitzvah Messenger if you plan to go to Israel this summer or anytime soon.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Ella Badin and George Greene**  
*Co-Coordinators of  
The Mitzvah Messenger Project  
Keeping the Gate Open*

## Ice Cream Cones and Mitzvahs

In the January Mitzvah Messenger Newsletter ([www.whiteplainsforisrael.org](http://www.whiteplainsforisrael.org), click on Mitzvah Messenger), the Mitzvah Ice Cream Cone Project was introduced. Summer is almost here and so is ice cream season! When you have your first ice cream cone of the summer or even your second or third, think of how wonderful it would be to share the taste of ice cream with children in Israel. We can arrange for you to throw an ice cream party for children to whom ice cream is a luxury. All it would cost is \$1.80 per cone! Order as many cones as you want and just think, you wouldn't gain a pound but it will be very rewarding! If your child is born in the summer, think of having an ice cream twinning party! Here are just a few examples of where parties are held -- children who are being healed through therapeutic horseback riding ([www.intra.org.il](http://www.intra.org.il)) or children at risk who receive animal assisted therapy at HAMA (Humans and Animals in Mutual Assistance). We are more than happy to find a place in Israel to make children smile with an ice cream party. Just contact George, [Chesed4Israel@aol.org](mailto:Chesed4Israel@aol.org) or Ella, [mitzvahmessage@optonline.net](mailto:mitzvahmessage@optonline.net) and we will help you give children a party they won't forget.