

HOD Community

April 2024 – Passover Edition

Hebrew Order of David
Grand Lodge



A Passover Message

Rabbi Dovid Goldstein – Houston Lodge Tikvah



One of the most beautiful aspects of Pesach is its timing. Following the harsh challenge of winter, with its freezing numbness and its gloomy days, Spring jolts us out of this morass and rejuvenates us with its promise of light and warmth. We feel ready to embrace the world again.

This is the essential reason why the Exodus took place in the spring, and why it must always be celebrated at this time of the year. After centuries of enduring the darkness of slavery – darkness carried out by people playing to their dark side – G-d wanted the people to reject this behavior in favor of light, both in its literal and metaphorical sense.

Dreaming of a beautiful Seder, with its fine food and atmosphere, we are urged to first clear out all signs of darkness. Do we appreciate the light and warmth of our tradition, or is it all darkness for us? And how do we view others? Do we notice ‘something of the night’ about another individual or have we not searched sufficiently for the light which surely shines there?

As we walk around the house, penetrating the night with our little candle, we are opening our eyes to who we are, and all that we stand for. We discover that it’s easy and beautiful to live with light. It’s a small Mitzvah, but a profoundly powerful one. Pesach can now begin!

Dear brethren, we have the merit of belonging to a very special international fraternity of light. Let us see ourselves as that candle that brings light to the darkness of our worldwide Jewish family. May all the good deeds of HOD transform the darkness into light in the lives of all that we touch. We wish Y’all a happy, healthy and Kosher Pesach free of all worry and trouble. (More on this on Page 8)



Hebrew Order of David Grand Lodge

President: WB Anton Teper

Deputy: WB David Joss

IPP: WB Avron Krasner

Secretary: WB Laurence Gishen

Treasurer: WB Les Kraitzick

Legal: WB Jonathan Rubin

Governing Lodges North America

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President: WB Stan Klaff

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IPP: WB Avron Krasner

United Kingdom

President: WB Stephen Hubert

Deputy: WB Howard Panas

IPP: WB Laurence Gishen

Israel

WB Michael Bloch

WB David Gelfand

A Message from HOD Lodge Moledet in Israel

Shalom Worthy Brethren and Brethren,

I bring you all greetings from very worried citizens of this wonderful Country. The last six months have been extremely distressing months and very difficult to come to terms with knowing that even after the loss of six million fellow Jews in the Second World War there is still so much hatred towards Jews in the Land of



Israel and the Diaspora. The slaughter that took place on October 7, 2023, was shocking and horrifying.

In our own small way, we have contributed to victims of this terrible massacre, and we hope and pray that all remaining Hostages will be released soon. Even though we are small in numbers we continue to have Lodge Meetings and once a month we have a breakfast for Brethren who wish to attend with their wives or partners.

I send you all fraternal Greetings

W/B David Gelfand

Secretary and Vice-President Lodge Moledet



**Installation dates
worldwide
2024**

Toronto: Sunday 27th
October 2024

Boca Raton: Monday 28th
October 2024

Atlanta: Sunday 3rd
November

San Diego: Monday 4th
November

Houston: Tuesday 5th
November

Dallas: Wednesday 6th
November



Fraternal Greetings

Grand Lodge

Dear Worthy Brethren and Brethren,
I would like to extend my fraternal and heartfelt wishes to all Brethren and their families for a meaningful Seder and Passover period.



Throughout the past year, despite facing numerous challenges, we have witnessed remarkable contributions from the Brethren of HOD International worldwide. From engaging in community activities, fostering friendships through Chaverschaft events, hosting impactful educational and awareness initiatives and of course our ability to work tirelessly in organizing and raising much needed charitable funds. Our achievements have been truly remarkable and something we can all be extremely proud of. Let us maintain our steadfast commitment to driving the HOD forward and enlightening and helping all those who need our assistance.

As we come together to celebrate our shared heritage and freedom, our hearts are heavy with concern for our fellow Jews in Israel amidst the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

During this tense and uncertain time, let us remember the strength and resilience of our people throughout history, who faced adversity with courage and determination. As we retell the story of our ancestors' liberation from oppression, let us also reflect on the struggles of our fellow Jews in Israel, praying for their safety and peace during these challenging times.

May the spirit of Passover inspire us to work towards a future of harmony and understanding, where all people can live in peace and security. Let us stand in solidarity with our fellow Jews in Israel, offering our support and prayers as they navigate through these difficult times.

Wishing you all a Chag Sameach!

Fraternally

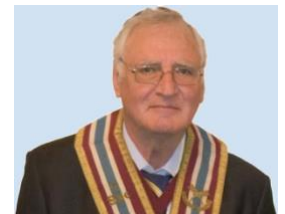
Worthy Bro Anton Teper

Grand President of the Hebrew Order of David International

United Kingdom Governing Lodge

Worthy Brethren & Brethren, Fraternal Greetings,

This has been an extremely difficult and trying period for all of us in the Jewish Community, here in the UK and of course world-wide. Not, of course, as difficult as it has been for our Brethren and extended families trying to live a normal life in Eretz Yisrael but with different challenges.



We are experiencing levels of antisemitism not seen in the UK since probably the 1930's, but the remarkable thing is that the Jewish community, with the exception of the few fanatics, has come together and showed our resilience to the world.

The Hebrew Order of David in the UK has attended the demonstrations against Hamas and in support of the hostages. We have also raised funds and helped to send our relief packages for the IDF.

Our support for the State of Israel is 'Ironclad'.

In the meantime, the UK Lodges have undertaken a number of projects, such as our annual (and highly popular) Whisky & Biltong evening, the Race Evening, participation in the AJEX Memorial Parade and the Gravestone Project which will provide headstones for deceased Jewish children whose graves are unmarked.

So, in conclusion, I would like to wish Brethren and Worthy Brethren here in the UK and worldwide a Happy & Kosher Pesach and may peace in Israel soon be a reality.

Am Yisrael Chai

WB Stephen Hubert
President UK Governing Lodge

North American Governing Lodge

Brethren All!

As we approach the final days before Pesach 5784, we should all reflect on the incredible history of our People. While even as I type this message, we are literally under siege, our united approach is what has kept us thru the millennia and it will continue to do so. The very essence of Pesach is testament to our ability to not only survive, but thrive! I wish one and all a Pesach kasher v'sameach.



Our Order continues to progress within North America. Our Lodges in Boca, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Toronto and San Diego manage to serve our communities admirably. The dedication of our Brethren is immense. Our International effort to respond to the October 7 tragedy - within hours of this heinous attack - was superb and resulted in our Order raising an aggregate of slightly under \$250,000. Very humbling. We all so wish this was not needed and pray for peace. Each and every Lodge is active and providing meaningful Chavershaft and Service opportunities. Our continued dedication, servant attitude and commitment never ceases to amaze me.

May Eretz be amicably defended and may her enemies' swords become plow shears!

Our NAGL planning committee is already hard at work preparing for our HODI Biennial Conference to be held in Atlanta in May 2025. We look forward to hosting a substantial group at that time as we honor our then incoming and Atlanta based Grand President, WB David Joss, simultaneously, honoring our outgoing Grand President, WB Anton Teper. Please think and plan accordingly to try and attend.

Chag Sameach!

WB Lawrence Barris.

President North American Governing Lodge.

South African Governing Lodge



Dear Worthy Bros and Bros,

As Pesach approaches, we, the brethren of the Lodges in South Africa extend our warmest wishes to all brethren and their families within the Hebrew Order of David International around the globe. This holiday, which commemorates the liberation of the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt, holds a profound place within our faith. It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and celebration of freedom, especially resonant during these challenging times.

Despite the difficulties we face in South Africa and indeed the situation in Israel, Pesach inspires us with the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of hope. As we gather around the Seder table, let us not only recount the story of our ancestors' journey to freedom but also reaffirm our commitment to the principles of justice, compassion, and solidarity that are the foundation of our Noble Order.

May this Pesach offer a time of renewal and inspiration for us all. May it bring joy, peace, and blessings to your families and to our Lodges worldwide.

Wishing you and your families 'Chag Pesach Sameach!'

With warm regards,

Worthy Brother Stan Klaff

President of the Governing Lodge of South Africa



In Atlanta, Lodge Bezalel hosted a joint meeting with Lodge Magen David.



More than 50 brethren and guests turned out to hear Anat Sultan-Dadon, Consul General for the Consulate of Israel in Atlanta, and Royi Ende, Consul and CAO for the Consulate, as Table Lodge speakers at the April 16, 2024 Open Lodge Meeting.



HOD Lodge Shimshon Presents Yellow Candles to Georgia Elected Officials

Volunteers from HOD Lodge Shimshon, with an assist from the Jewish-Christian Discovery Center and the Steven M and Betsy S. Kramer Family Foundation, distributed Yom HaShoah Yellow Candles to every Georgia state representative and senator on Monday, March 18th.



The volunteers also distributed the gifts to Governor Brian Kemp in a private ceremony. Some were allowed on the state senate floor to present the bag containing the Yellow Candle to Lt. Governor Burt Jones and all state-wide officials. HOD was honored to have help from David Joss, the HOD Deputy Grand President.

The bags contained a Yellow Candle, a flyer with meditation, prayer, and instructions for lighting the Yellow Candle on Yom HaShoah, sundown on May 5th this year, another flyer describing the Hebrew

Order of David's benevolent activities, and complimentary tickets to The Berman Museum for each official.

This was the first time Yellow Candles were distributed to a complete state legislature anywhere in the United States. The Georgia legislature passed an antisemitism bill in January. The organizations knew they would get a welcome reception from the legislators.



In April, HOD will continue this effort by delivering many additional bags to Jewish houses of worship and Hillels of Georgia. This latter effort expands on its original mission from previous years, started years ago by Worthy Brother Steve Kaufman.

This event would not have been possible without the generous funding from a Gather Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, tickets from the Berman Museum, and stop-gap funding from the Kramer Family Foundation.

... This would be a great project for all HOD ... worldwide.



HOD Biennial Conference 2025



Your Hebrew Order of David

International Biennial Conference 2025 Committee is already hard at work planning for this important event on the calendar.

The Biennial Conference is planned for the weekend beginning Thursday May 15, 2025, until Sunday evening May 18, 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Delegates are expected to attend from Canada, Israel, South Africa, The United Kingdom, and the USA. A recent and ongoing survey already shows that 53 of our brethren have committed to attend; 14 of these being from lodges in other parts of the USA and the world.



It is intended to use the Westin Perimeter Hotel for the out-of-town delegates, with special arrangements for those walking to Shabbat services. Events are planned to take place at the hotel and at synagogues Bnai Torah and Beth Tefillah.

The committee is paying particular attention to making sure that the wives of brethren attending the conference are looked after and offered enjoyable activities while their husbands are in conference

HOD Shimon Peres shines at highly Successful United Hatzalah fundraising Event

The Hebrew Order of David lodge Shimon Peres in Dallas sponsored event to honor Amy Korenvaes for her tireless and dedicated contribution to United Hatzalah on Tuesday evening February 13th, 2024, at Cantoni was a “home run”. Many of the 120 attendees wanted to learn about HOD. The Dallas Jewish community got to see HOD in action.

Simcha Catering provided a delicious presentation of food options from four countries - Sushi from Japan, Asian, Israeli, and All-American. Even the signature drinks were themed in United Hatzalah’s colors - orange.

Gary Bonner, a Past President of HOD Shimon Peres, did a fine job as the Master of ceremonies. Boris Gremont showed a video describing the work HOD does around the world; some of it absolutely mind-boggling, from collecting hair from hair salons to make into wigs for cancer-ridden patients who have lost their hair, Aishel House, Bikkur Cholim meal deliveries to patients and their families, laying gravestones for unmarked Jewish graves, raising \$220,000 for United Hatzalah 10 days after October 7th, and raising \$360,000 for Birthright last year, to name a few.



Equally spectacular was the video and presentation by Gavriel Friedson, Director of International Emergency Management and Global Ambassador of United Hatzalah. He shared experiences and the work done on October 7th in Israel.



HOD Tikvah

Enjoyable cheese and wine sale and tasting for Passover, held at the JCC West Houston.



HOD Bezalel
 WB David Weinberger (left) is one of many Lodge Bezalel bros who bought a signed copy of author Rafi Kohan's latest book on Trash Talk when the author spoke at our Table Lodge, March 19.



Amy Korenvaes was presented with a beautiful menorah inscribed by HOD in her honor as the "Woman of Valor Award". The award was preceded by a lively auction, while a silent auction and raffle was ongoing.

The ambiance, created by the beautiful surroundings of the Cantoni Furniture megastore

was amazing. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

The fund-raising element was highly successful. The goal was to raise sufficient funds to buy one Ambucycle, an ambulance on a motorcycle that delivers critical medical help on demand to anyone who needs it, be they Jewish or Arab Israeli, Bedouin or Palestinian. They are on track for raising funds for two Ambucycles.

The committee members who put this event together in record short time were the HOD Community Service Chair, Lowell Michelson, Trustee, Boris Gremont, Fundraising Chair, Mark Gardner, and Vice-President, Ted Solomon.

This was the best fundraising event in Dallas HOD's history. It was an elegant evening, which received rave reviews from participants. "We can all be proud of the effort," said Lowell Michelson.

Message from United Hatzalah

Dear Hebrew Order of David from Jerusalem,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks for Hebrew Order of David's support to United Hatzalah of Israel. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to improving emergency medical services in Israel. The Hebrew Order of David's unwavering dedication to the well-being of the Israeli people is truly commendable. Your contribution to United Hatzalah has enabled us to continue our life-saving work and provide immediate medical assistance to countless individuals in need. Through your support, United Hatzalah medics (from all walks of life) Jews, Christians, Muslims, Nurses, Doctors, EMT's, Paramedics and Emergency Psychotrauma volunteers navigate the challenging situations they face daily, ensuring that lives are saved, and injuries are minimized.

The impact of your support extends far beyond the medical assistance provided. By strengthening United Hatzalah's emergency response capabilities, you are offering comfort, hope, and reassurance to the entire Israeli community. Your commitment to improving emergency medical services in Israel is a testament to the Hebrew Order of David's unwavering dedication to humanitarian causes. Your generosity inspires others to join in and make a difference. By supporting United Hatzalah, you are actively contributing to building a safer and healthier society for all. Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Hebrew Order of David for your generous support of the United Hatzalah of Israel Emergency Response Campaign. May your continued efforts bear fruit, and may your compassion and philanthropy serve as an example for others to follow. Together, we can create a better and more resilient world.

Thank you again for your partnership in saving lives,

Gavy Friedson
 Director of International Emergency Management
 Global Ambassador
 United Hatzalah Israel



Autobiography of Worthy Brother Micha'el S Bloch

Micha'el was born in Parys in South Africa in 1940. The family moved to Kroonstad, a mere 100 meters from the Vals River, where he and his sister Sharroll swam, fished and rowed in his tin canoe. It was an idyllic youth. At school he played rugby and tennis. Micha'el started playing golf with uncle Oscar, which is his favourite sport.



Remarks of an anti-Semitic nature started when he was 7 years' old. There was very little anti-Semitism until he reached the higher classes at around 10 years' of age. At ten

Micha'el joined Habonim and started learning about Israel and Kibbutzim. At twelve he was asked to lead the movement. He went to Habonim camp in Onrust on the coast in the Cape. The following year "Infantile Paralysis" (Polio) broke out. All youth

camps were cancelled. That year Micha'el read Menachem Begin's book "The Revolt." Now he was itching to fight for Israel; hugely impressed with the Irgun Zva'i Leumi and Lechi underground movements in Palestine. He joined Betar, the Zionist Revisionist youth movement. Micha'el regrets to this day not joining the Nachal brigade that took in overseas volunteers. He does, however, have satisfaction that all his three children went to the army and his son fought in the second Lebanon war.

Micha'el went to Wits University to study BA LLB to become a lawyer. At Wits, he joined the rowing club. He joined a firm where they made him a glorified Debt Collector. After an ugly anti-Semitic incident, he handed in his resignation. He joined the Edblo Mattress Company in the sales department.

Circa 1963; there was a vicious outbreak of anti-Semitism in Johannesburg. An Austrian Nazi, who arrived in Johannesburg and started a Nazi movement. Jewish Judge Simon Kuper was murdered. The Nazis were suspected, but the murderer was never found. The monument to the 6 Million murdered by the Nazis at the Jewish cemetery was blown up. Nothing was done to stem the upsurge. Micha'el and a friend, Ronnie Roth, decided to do something about the situation. Around ten of them confronted the Nazis on many occasions. Eventually the whole movement petered out and the leader left South Africa.

Fast forward to May 1964. A friend in Micha'el's group, Les Z, announced that he wanted to go overseas, especially to check out Israel and his cousin's Kibbutz. They went together. They toured virtually every part of Israel; wherever buses went. Les decided to go to his cousin's kibbutz to try it out. Micha'el tried to find work, as he had no interest in settling on a Kibbutz. The Soviet-style of economics had made Israel into a third-world basket case, called it a "metun"; financial depression. Israelis and new immigrants were leaving in droves. The friends went on to Greece, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and France. In Paris, Micha'el saw an extremely long line of unemployed men. He decided to go into his father's business when he got back or risk standing in a line like this. He remained in the business, taking over when his father passed away in 1976.



Houston Lodges Galil & Tikvah join forces for the Kosher Chili Cookoff



The Dr. JL Landau Lodge HOD No:22 was consecrated with over 70 members. All the adult males in his family joined. Within one month after his return he had the honour of having his father initiating him. Micha'el became president for the first time in 1971. The late WB Max Abrams and Micha'el would swap positions as President and VP every two years. The Lodge started having installations together with Welkom Lodge Shalom. Their President Glen (Elon) Eliastam, is a member of Lodge Moledet. Micha'el was President at least six times.



Micha'el made Aliya in 1989 where he immediately joined Lodge Moledet in Ra'anana. He became VP. After 5 years he left and joined Lodge Sharon in Netanya as Secretary for two years until the Lodge's demise. He eventually re-joined Lodge Moledet in Ra'anana, soon becoming VP for several years and in 2017 took over as President and Treasurer in which capacity he remains ensconced with 32 members.

A Passover Message (Continued from Page 1)

It is the night before Pesach. One can almost feel it. All the preparations – cleaning, organizing, cooking, etc. – have finally come to a successful conclusion. The magic of Pesach is about to begin. But there is still one more important Mitzvah to perform. We conduct a search for Chametz.

This search is conducted with the help of a candle. Its flame dancing in the shadows as we make our way from room to room, trying to find that last morsel of Chametz. The Mishna is very clear that the search must be conducted in the dark of night to candlelight. The question is, why? We have just exhaustively cleaned the house. It will not get any more sparkling than this. Why insist on searching for Chametz, and with the help of a candle?

I believe that there is a deeper message at play here. But first we need to take a closer look at the interplay between those two opposites - light and night. Let's begin with night. While its darkness is intended as a time of recovery - to recharge and restore our energy, it is frequently used as cover to inflict hurt and harm. Night's unnerving reputation is thus well warranted

Night is also viewed as more than just a time when the sun disappears. It is also a metaphor for the sinister, dark side of people and things. What about Light? Its fundamental purpose and function is to reveal. Darkness conceals, while light uncovers. Light has an obvious advantage and superiority over darkness. It only takes a tiny amount of light to banish a larger measure of darkness. What's more, the darkness disappears by itself! There is no struggle, no effort! This indicates the innate power of light.

Moreover, the darkness actually helps the light to sparkle. If one holds a lit candle during the day, one barely knows it. At night, however, its light sparkles like never before. In one instant, the darkness that has opposed the light is now assisting it to be better noticed!

Darkness – despite its frightening reputation - is practically unreal. Just touch it with light and it disappears!!