



SHOSHANA JUDELMAN

TORAH TIDBITS CONTRIBUTOR



Yom Ha'atzmaut and Thanksgiving

I loved Thanksgiving when I was growing up. Each year we would get together with family and friends and share a beautiful meal. Invariably someone would suggest that we go around the table and share what we were grateful for that year. And, even though I thought it was corny at the time, I can still remember how articulating our gratitude changed the energy of the meal.

A feast of gratitude is not an American invention, obviously. The Torah lists the Korban Todah, the thanksgiving offering, amongst the various korbanot in Parashat Tzav. A person would bring a Korban Todah for being saved from a life-threatening situation such as traveling through the desert or overseas, being imprisoned, or facing a grave illness. The korban was a large animal accompanied by 40 loaves of bread and matzah and it would be shared with family, friends and community. It was a huge public event. A celebration of Hashem's kindness with songs of praise and words of Torah.

Today, there is a beautiful custom of making a thanksgiving meal, a Seudat Hodaya, after being saved from one of those same dangers as an echo of the Korban Todah.

In Tishrei of this year, our world went into a tailspin when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was revealed, by G-d's Grace, through a routine mammogram at an early

stage and my treatment included surgery, radiation and medicine.

Right after receiving the diagnosis, someone blessed me by saying that they looked forward to celebrating at a Seudas Hodaya with us when I would be fully recovered.

At the time, it seemed so far off. Something I would reach for with my heart and mind as we waited to hear about lab results and treatments. An idea I would hold onto as I went in for tests, surgery and, eventually, radiation.

A few weeks ago, thank G-d, we made the Seudah. And it was exactly what I hoped it would be. An evening of gratitude and celebration. An evening where we could express our thanks to our family, our community and Hashem for having held us and carried us through this year. Speaking the words of gratitude helped engrave them onto our hearts.

As Yom Ha'atzmaut approaches, I feel like our Seudat Hodaya has presented us with a new model for this awesome day. Ever since we made Aliyah in 2013, we have been looking for ways to make our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration more personal and meaningful. Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael is awe-inspiring. An important piece of Geulah, even if we are not yet fully there. The BBQ's, hikes, and picnics we tried over the years were all very nice, but I see now what was missing. I thought it was an Olim problem- that we didn't have

childhood friends or old snif or army buddies to get together with. It wasn't that. It was not understanding that the core of the day must be filled with gratitude to Hashem.

This year, I bless us with a day that more closely resembles a Seudat Hodaya. A day that recognizes the incredible reality of where we are and what is available to us. A day where we feel the wheels of history turning towards the Ultimate Redemption. And a day, like the Thanksgivings of my youth, in which we voice our gratitude to Hashem for the privilege of being part of Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael. ■

Shoshana Judelman is passionate about learning and growing through Chassidus. She gives shiurim to women in many communities around Israel, including Efrat, Elazar, Raanana and Jerusalem as well as at Midreshet Rachel V'Chaya. Shoshana also guides groups at Yad Vashem and leads journeys to Poland and other countries around Europe for JRoots.



OPTION TO USE AMERICAN IMPORTED PAINT!

Flawless finishes that add elegance to any space. Wall & Ceiling repairs Smoothing, Straightening, and perfecting every surface. Spackling & Prep Work- Because the foundation matters.



DAVID KUSHNER



058-661-0728

We can rescue any wall or ceiling.

We represent International & Local Buyers, Investors & Olim across Israel

- **Select New Projects, Developments & Communities**
- **Private & Holiday Homes**
- **Investments opportunities**
- **Aliyah Relocation**

	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">ASHKELON</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Ashkelon new projects and existing options. Luxury sea facing first line options & Ir Hayayin New Area entry level options & pricing.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">CARMEI GAT</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Carmei Gat new projects & existing options. 2,3,4 bed. Garden & Penthouses & Villas in new Anglo areas with limited pre-sale pricing & payment options</p>
	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">JERUSALEM</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">New projects high rise & boutique small building options. In all areas limited pre-sale options in prime locations. 2,3,4 bed options, Garden & Penthouses</p>
	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">NETANYA</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Netanya luxury sea facing projects and options in Ir Yamim & Shirat Hayam. Walk to beach, pool & gym in complex, beautiful spacious homes. 5 Rooms with attached additional rooms</p>
	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">MODIIN & HASHMONIIM</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: white;">Beautiful villas, houses & apartments. Opportunity to be part of new Yishuv and close to the city with your own home in Dati Leumi community. Various options and sizes to suite all families</p>

ISRAEL
— PROPERTIES —
BY STAMELMAN & PARTNERS



Tel/WhatsApp: +972 50 446 9515
www.israel-properties.com