



# CHAILIGHTS

CONCERN FOR HELPING ANIMALS IN ISRAEL

Number 39

Since 1984

Winter 2011

## CAMPAIGN TO HALT HORSE RACING PLAN GAINS MOMENTUM



CHAI's campaign to halt the Ministry of Agriculture's plan to bring gambling on horse racing to Israel, waged through its sister charity in Israel, Hakol Chai, is gaining momentum. Following a blitz of online and print articles and radio interviews of Hakol Chai staff about the cruelty and corruption of the industry (see details here: [www.chai-online.org/racing\\_media.htm](http://www.chai-online.org/racing_media.htm)), thousands of Israelis signed our petition opposing its coming to Israel. The Minister of Agriculture, the plan's backer, agreed to meet with Hakol Chai representatives.

At the meeting, Hakol Chai presented the petition and signatures to Minister Orit Noked and notified her that a coalition of groups now stands with us on the issue. The coalition includes Chaim V'Sviva (Life and the Environment), the umbrella organization for all the green (pro-environment) groups in Israel, and Citizen's Leadership, another umbrella organization of citizen's groups that includes an organization helping sufferers of gambling addictions. The coalition adds the voice of many to Hakol Chai's demands and expands the anti-racing arguments to appeal to a broader segment of the public. Environmental groups are concerned about the negative effects on the environment of this industry, including the enormous quantity of water that it requires, especially at a time when a global water shortage is looming and Israel is experiencing the worst water shortage in its history.

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## CRUELTY IN JAFFA EXPOSED

When Hakol Chai staff member, Tal Sahar, walked past a private residence in Jaffa, the old part of Tel Aviv, she noticed goats, chickens, ducks, sheep and a donkey, all in bad condition, locked in small, crowded and filthy enclosures, and pigeons kept for slaughtering, all in violation of the law. The donkey was bound tightly to the front gate in an unnatural and painful position and was unable to move.

Immediately, she reported the situation to the Veterinary Services, which in turn, notified the Tel Aviv police department and the municipal veterinarian. When Veterinary Services and city officials arrived at the location, however, the police ordered them to take no action and leave, on the grounds that the area is crime-ridden and dangerous, including to police officers. Incredibly, all the officials walked away, leaving the animals to suffer.

Hakol Chai notified a Tel Aviv newspaper, which printed an exposé about the incident entitled "No Man's Land." When interviewed by the reporter, the police claimed that they had responded to the complaint and ordered the owner to clean up the property, which was a complete fiction.

*Continued on page 2*



***Donkey tied tightly, unable to move.***

Dear CHAI Member,

We are deeply grateful to you for your generous support of our work to improve the situation for animals in Israel. In the face of the heartbreaking reality that rescuing countless individual animals alone will not reduce the number of those abandoned, neglected, or subjected to cruelty, we set as our goal to reach out to the hearts of Israeli children, build empathy in them, and empower them to become a powerful force for change in the future. To that end, we devoted the past several years to researching and writing our extensive humane education curriculums for schools. In this way, we can use our limited resources to nurture an army of compassionate citizens for whom preventing and stopping animal suffering as they go through their daily lives is an integral part of who they are.

Our curriculum for secular schools is now being translated into Hebrew, in preparation for presenting at a major upcoming conference in Israel for educational professionals. We also created a separate series of lesson plans, accompanied by videos and PowerPoint slideshows, for Arab and Bedouin schools, to serve as a bridge that will enable Arabic-speaking students and teachers to make use of the secular curriculum. Animal suffering in Arab and Bedouin villages is among the worst in the country. Field testing of those materials will begin in January. We continue to work on the curriculum for religious schools and will do our best to see that all the materials will be ready to debut at our major conference.

In other news, CHAI and our Israeli sister charity, Hakol Chai, are in the media spotlight again, making news for planting seeds of compassion. Images we released of starved, abandoned horses, and those sent to slaughter because they are no longer fast enough to win races have educated the Israeli public that allowing the gambling on horse racing industry to gain a toehold can only result in negative consequences for society. Cruelty to animals, corruption, crime, drugs, and the break-up of families caused by gambling addiction come in its wake in every country where it exists.

We succeeded in joining the pro-animal, pro-environment, anti-gambling and religious elements of society into a united force of opposition to the Agriculture Ministry's plan to promote the racing industry by building race tracks and creating an infrastructure behind the scenes even before the Knesset has had a chance to discuss and vote on the issue.

Everything we do is made possible by your donations. We count on your support to enable us to plant seeds of compassion in the classroom, in the Knesset, and on the streets, to create a better tomorrow for Israel's animals.

Nina Natelson

Director

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## Cruelty In Jaffa Exposed

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Hakol Chai protested the lack of action to the police official in charge of animal cruelty complaints and to the Veterinary Services' official responsible for enforcing the Animal Protection Law. Both officials indicated they would contact the Tel Aviv police and report back to us. We are looking into what legal action we can take against the police for failure to perform its duties and for failing to act in a clear case of animal cruelty.

**You can help stop this abuse! Please write to:**

**Ron Huldai**  
**Mayor of Tel Aviv**  
**69 Even Gvirol Street**  
**Kikar Rabin**  
**Tel Aviv 64162**  
**Israel**

(Postage to Israel is \$1.82)

**Mayor Huldai's fax number: (011) (972) (3) 521-6597**

**Menachem Leibe, the Manager of the Tel Aviv municipality: [mancal@tel-aviv.gov.il](mailto:mancal@tel-aviv.gov.il)**

**E-mail of the city's spokesperson (which is also the general e-mail address): [dover@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il](mailto:dover@mail.tel-aviv.gov.il)**



## We Need YOUR Help to Translate Our Extensive Curriculum

**How can we encourage young people to care for and preserve nature and animals instead of destroying or enslaving them?** One important way is to demonstrate how much nature has to teach us, as we do in our extensive curriculum for schools, through examples from biomimicry, the new science of learning from nature.

**All native cultures have survived by having the humility to “ask the bears and wolves and ravens and redwoods for guidance,” says Janine Benyus, author of *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*. “All our inventions have already appeared in nature in a more elegant form and at a lot less cost to the planet.”**

Scientists are finally understanding that after 3.8 billion years of evolution, nature and animals know best. Biomimicry scientists look to nature’s engineers—living organisms—for solutions and copy them. Nature operates according to laws and strategies that create conditions in which life can prosper, while building soil or cleaning air and water, for example, actions that preserve the planet for future generations.

How do termites maintain a constant, comfortable temperature and humidity inside their nest without air conditioning or heating, despite outside temperatures of 35-104 degrees? Architects copied their ventilation systems when designing an office complex in Zimbabwe and found that the buildings stay cool without air conditioning and use only 10% of the energy of conventional buildings of the same size.

How do 80 million locusts fly within one square kilometer (0.4 square mile), but never collide, while humans have 3.6 million car collisions a year in the U.S. alone? Engineers are studying their sensing/responding neurons to create collision avoidance circuitry for cars.

How would nature attach one thing to another without zippers? A Swiss engineer noticed burrs on his pants and his dog’s fur after a day hiking in the Alps. He studied the burrs and created Velcro.

What if blind people had the ability of bats to echolocate objects around them? Designers copied bats’ ultrasonic vibrations to construct a cane for the blind. The cane emits waves that sense objects, and vibrating sensors on the handle tell the person their size and location.

How do butterfly wings and lotus plants stay clean without detergents and scrubbing? Scientists and engineers are copying their techniques to create outdoor paints that need only a rain shower to keep a building looking freshly painted.

**Please help us encourage youth to respect animals and the natural world and encourage them to participate in helping and protecting it. Contribute to the cost of translating our extensive curriculum of over 100 lesson plans categorized by grade and subject, fact sheets, resource lists and more. Our conference co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education will be coming up soon, and we must have the curriculum translated, printed and ready for distribution. Please send your tax-deductible donations to CHAI, POB 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302.**



Credit: Warren Gebert

# In Memory and In Tribute To

## In Memory of and in Tribute to Our Companion Animals

2 Faces  
Bailey  
Cookie Chayim Gerson  
Emma  
Phil Vavilin (Moshkina)  
Sandy  
Tal  
Tali  
Tyrone  
Zanesville, Ohio's slaughtered animals  
Tom

Anthony Gargano  
Barbara and Steve Heller  
Elana Gerson  
Gail Steinberg  
Vladimir and Lucy Vavilin-Kaplan  
Daniel Berns  
Dr. Susan Engel-Arieli  
Sid and Marcie and Elaine Waldstreicher  
Sandra and Buddy Brown  
Larry Miller  
(honored by) Jean Colison

## In Memory of Family and Friends

Richard Bondy  
Kurt and Johanna Fish  
Miriam Gelb  
Anna Giba  
Sylvia Gorman  
Irv Mark  
Olive Nash  
Joe Stone  
Adelaide Vaccaro and her sister, Anne Culcasi  
Shirley Weisberg

## Remembered by

Flo Shulman  
Judith Fish  
Brad, Theresa, and Amelia Stone  
Barbara Hvizdo  
Flo Shulman  
Patricia Coggeshall  
Nina Natelson, Jean Colison  
Shimon Stone  
Sondra Rutherford and Bernard Gittleman  
Flo Shulman

## In Honor of Family and Friends

Rudy Breteler  
Bela Fidel  
Carole Golub  
The Prophet Isaiah  
Ginger Reinharz

## Honored by

The Rothstein and Dowden Family: Pam, Steve, Zach, and Ansel  
Andrea Markowitz  
Jodi Golub  
Brien Comerford  
Elizabeth Shulman

## Honoring the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation of

Gabrielle Baker  
Sarah Berkowitz  
Naomi Grant  
Lainie Kaseff,  
Alexander Schwartz  
Cameron Brentlinger  
Emma Enig  
Stefanie Epstein  
Emily Sylvia Mason  
Arianna Robinson and Ben Robinson  
Rachel Schwartz

## Honored by

Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City  
Lauren Berg  
Jeremy Schooler  
Bob Epstein and Beth Hislen  
Lauren Berg  
The Feintuch Family  
Adrienne and Michael Alexander

## Campaign to Halt Horse Racing Plan Gains Momentum

(continued from page 1)

No regulations or laws of any country where this industry exists have been able to prevent or stop the cruelties. “Greed has trumped the health of horses” declared Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Chair of the U.S. Congressional committee that held hearings on the widespread drugging of horses, high number of breakdowns and deaths, and cruelties and corruption in the industry in the U.S. Israel’s Ministry of Agriculture plans to exempt race horses from the Animal Protection Law to make the cruelties legal so no one can stop them.

Following are among the questions Hakol Chai representatives posed to the Minister:

- Why enter an industry that is in decline elsewhere? A U.S. Jockey Club-commissioned study found that only 22% of Americans think favorably about racing, in part due to its reputation for cruelty, and if current trends continue, its fan base will drop 64% by 2020 and horse owners will lose 50% of their income. The cost of feeding, vetting and maintaining a Thoroughbred far exceeds the average annual earnings from racing the horse.
- If the Knesset votes to promote gambling on racing, will Israel enter the horse slaughter business, since as many horses leave racing as enter it annually? Or will it enter the cruel live-transport trade as other countries are ending it, shipping horses to European dinner plates? Either is a gruesome prospect.

Chief Sephardic Rabbi Moshe Amar issued a ruling (*psak*) banning Jews from working in the industry or attending races because the cruelties violate *tsa’ar ba’alei chayyim* (Jewish law against causing unnecessary suffering to animals), the slaughtering violates *bal taschit* (Jewish law against wanton destruction), and gambling is prohibited because it enriches one at the expense of another.

**Please donate generously to our campaign to stop this cruel industry from gaining a foothold in Israel. Send your generous tax-deductible donations to CHAI, POB 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302.**

## Some cruelties of the horseracing industry:

- Thousands bred so a few fastest can be picked out to race, many of the rest sent to slaughter
- Raced at 2, before their bones have matured, resulting in a high rate of catastrophic injuries and deaths in training and on the track
- Widespread drugging to enhance performance and so they can run even when injured
- Bleeding in the lungs from overexertion, heart attacks, chronic ulcers and more
- Whipped up to 30 times per race, causing bloody welts, even exhausted horses out of contention and young horses in their first race
- In the U.S., nursing mares are shipped to stallions to be impregnated again a week or two after giving birth, their foals nursed by less valuable mares leased by breeders. To have milk, the replacement mare must have a foal of her own, but that foal has no monetary value and is slaughtered for his or her skin, called pony skin. Only a very few foals are fortunate enough to be purchased by sanctuaries and placed in homes.
- By 6, horses are no longer fast enough and are sent to slaughter or sold from hand to hand in a downward spiral of abuse.

## Israel Bans Declawing Cats

Several years ago, Hakol Chai established an animal caucus in the Knesset to help promote pro-animal legislation. This year, caucus chairperson, Eitan Kabel, introduced a bill to ban declawing in Israel, which passed the Knesset. Declawing cats is now against the law in Israel and is punishable by a year in jail and a \$20,000 fine. Israel joins the UK, most of Europe, Australia and Brazil in banning this cruel practice.

Cats need claws for many reasons. Even an indoor cat can manage to slip outdoors and have to climb a tree to escape a dog or other predator. One way cats mark their territory is by scratching, a form of exercise that permits them to stretch their front legs, bodies, and toes to stay flexible. They also need claws to grasp toys while playing, or to give a warning to a dog who misbehaves.

Declawing is actually amputation. It may result in surgical or post-surgical complications, such as hemorrhage, infection, and even death while under anesthesia. Sometimes part of a claw grows back and the cat must be operated on a second time, or more of the paw has to be cut off. Some cats' paws continue to be sensitive after the surgery, and they stop using the litter box. Some become fearful, defensive, angry, withdrawn and unable to trust. Over the long term, declawing can interfere with a cat's ability to move. The joints of the declawed paws may become contracted and painful and can develop stiffness, arthritis, and structural changes. Declawed cats must never be allowed outside. If they do get out, they are in great danger because they can neither escape nor defend themselves. For more information, see: [http://www.chai-online.org/en/companion/caring\\_declawing.htm](http://www.chai-online.org/en/companion/caring_declawing.htm)



### *Thank You to Synagogue Youth for Your Tzedakah Contributions*

**Congregation Bet Shalom** of Minnetonka, MN, 1st and 3rd grade; **Congregation Beth Ahabah** of Richmond, VA; **Congregation Emanu-el B'ne Jeshurun** Religious School of Milwaukee, WI; **Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot** of Irvine, CA; **Har Zion Temple, The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School**, Penn Valley, PA; **Judea Reform Religious School**, Durham, NC; **Temple Beth Am of Randolph**, MA; **Temple Beth Israel** of Waltham, MA; **Temple Beth Jacob** of Concord, NH; **Temple Beth Shalom** of Santa Fe, NM, K through 7th grade; **Temple Beth Shalom** of Topeka, KS. pre-school through 10th grade; **Temple Dor Dorim** of Weston, FL; **Temple Emanuel** of Kensington, MD; **Temple Israel Religious School** of Great Neck, NY, the Hay Classes (Morah Diana Edalati) ; **Temple Rodef Shalom** of Falls Church, VA; **Woodlands Community Temple Religious School** of White Plains, NY; **Yeshivat Noam** of Paramus, NJ

Dear CHAI,

My name is Liam Isaacson from Temple Emanuel of Tempe. I am thirteen years old, and in eighth grade secular school. To raise money for charity programs, my class at temple had a tzedakah collective. That consists of us researching organizations, writing about them, and making it into a presentable board. Finally, we attempt to get the congregation to donate money.

I chose your organization because I respect what you are trying to achieve. Throughout my life I have heard stories about abused and starved animals. I have personally seen beaten animals, and think such things should not occur. You support animals in need and, in turn, should be supported too.

Sincerely,

Liam Isaacson

Temple Emanuel of Tempe, 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Tempe, Arizona

## Farewell to a Loyal Friend

British-born Olive Nash was CHAI's very first member and a dedicated supporter and contributor throughout her life. She volunteered in the office, staffed outreach tables at conferences, attended demonstrations, wrote letters to Israeli government officials and fostered countless animals.



While we were campaigning to gain the right for donated animal ambulances to enter Israel on the same customs and tax-free basis as ambulances for humans, she frequently drove the ambulance we sought to contribute around the highway that encircles Washington, D.C. to keep the tires and battery in good working condition until we won the struggle and could ship the ambulance to a shelter in Israel. When we were ready to ship our large mobile spay/neuter clinic to Israel, Olive drove it over an hour away to the port in Baltimore.

She will be remembered for her fine character, high spirits, flawless work ethic, and boundless compassion.

## *Have You Provided for Your Legacy into the Future?*

**A bequest to CHAI is a strong statement of your concern for animals. Please plan now so that your kindness will continue into the future.**

CHAI can be named as beneficiary of life insurance policies, bonds and other securities, houses, and trusts. Securities can be willed to CHAI with the provision that you will continue to receive interest from them throughout your lifetime. Real estate can be willed to CHAI with the provision that the owner can remain in the house throughout his or her lifetime.



Check with your lawyer, estate planner, or financial advisor for additional assistance and advice, or call us. Be sure that your attorney or bank has a copy of your will.

Because wills are legal documents, bequests should contain the phrase: "I give, bequeath and devise Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI), POB 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302 the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ and/or unencumbered properties described as \_\_\_\_\_ to be applicable for the general purpose of the organization."

To add to an existing will, simply write a codicil (an amendment), stating the recipient's full legal name and address. Both wills and codicils must be witnessed and dated. When you're ready for a new car, donate your old one for us to sell on eBay. **On behalf of the animals, we thank you!**

## You Can Make A Difference!

Join with us in supporting pioneering efforts in Israel to improve the quality of life for all living beings.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution is for:

- Mobile Spay/Neuter Program
- Alternatives to Animals in Labs
- Education
- Horse & Donkey Sancturary
- Veterinary Supplies
- Wherever the Need is Greatest

- I would like to volunteer.
- Please send me information to distribute to synagogues, vets' offices, libraries, and friends.
- Please send the newsletter to the following people:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the coupon with your check or money order to:  
**CHAI, P.O. Box 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302** OR fax coupon with credit card information to: **703-658-9650** OR donate online at: **www.chai-online.org**

- Benefactor - \$1,000 & over
- Patron - \$500
- Sponsor - \$100
- Supporter - \$50
- Family - \$25
- Single - \$18
- Check    Money Order
- Amex    Discover    MC    Visa



Credit Card Number:

Exp. Date:

Cardholder's Signature:

Amount:

**I want to make a monthly commitment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to keep CHAI's programs running**

Please charge my credit card:

- Amex    MC    Visa    Discover

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAI: CONCERN FOR HELPING ANIMALS IN ISRAEL**  
**A 501 (C) (3) charity – DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**  
 Please tell others about our important work.

*Wishing you a healthy, happy holiday season and all best wishes for the New Year. May it bring much progress for animals!*



**CHAI**  
 Concern for Helping Animals in Israel  
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 Alexandria, VA 22302

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