

## Sabbatical Greetings from Jerusalem #2

Well, Pesach is almost here. Tonight we will search for the chametz and tomorrow we will burn the chametz at one of the nearby locations all around the city. We were told that it's a good time to keep our windows closed (if you get the drift – no pun intended).



While taking a major walk to the Old City yesterday we saw many restaurants kashering for Passover. It's just too easy in Jerusalem to observe the festival. And during Chol HaMoed – the intermediate days – there are unlimited options for entertainment and fun all around. Most of the food court in the Jerusalem Mall – Malcha is kosher for Passover including the pizza restaurants.



Check out these desserts in Machane Yehudah – the Shuk – that are kosher for Passover.



Everything has a Passover theme attached. When I saw the advertisement for the Paddington 2 movie on the side of a bus I couldn't stop laughing. Passover is everywhere – even for the secular.



With all of the joy of Passover comes the obligation to truly celebrate freedom. This includes our responsibilities to still fight for freedom throughout the world. We in the USA know that there are too many ways in which freedom is limited if not denied to many. Here in Israel, a wonderful, but imperfect country as well, there are battles over issues of protection & freedom.

I attended a powerful and meaningful day of learning at the Conservative Yeshivah where we explored the struggles of African Refugees and Asylum Seekers who fled for their lives and found refuge in Israel. Their desire is to return home once the conditions in their homelands improve. Sadly, there are many in the government who are trying to expel them. We heard testimony from Berchana Hagus – an asylum seeker whose survival is truly a miracle.



The impact of the day instilled in me gratitude for my own freedoms. I will not

only celebrate our ancient exodus on Passover but also appreciate the blessings of freedom that are mine and remind myself to not bury my head in the sand and dedicate my efforts to bring freedom to others like Berchana.

I also fulfilled my obligation to bring peoples prayer notes to the Kotel.  
[file:///localhost/Users/rebpmk/Library/Containers/com.apple.mail/Data/Library/Mail%20Downloads/CE5F156F-607E-4E9E-A4FE-0EF90307CA9D/IMG\\_5936.MOV](file:///localhost/Users/rebpmk/Library/Containers/com.apple.mail/Data/Library/Mail%20Downloads/CE5F156F-607E-4E9E-A4FE-0EF90307CA9D/IMG_5936.MOV)

May all of our prayers, personal, communal and universal reach the heights of heaven and may this Pesach lead us to an even great redemption for all.

Shabbat Shalom & Chag Kasher V'Sameach,

Rabbi Paul & Gerri Kurland

