

in the news

Happy Passover



Dear Friends,

These are not ordinary days.

At Neve Michael Children's Village, the reality of war is not something our children watch from a distance—it is something they live through, moment by moment. Sirens pierce the air, sometimes without warning. At other times, there are only minutes to react. Children drop everything and run instinctively, urgently, toward safety.

For many of our children, this is not their first experience of fear.

Children arrive at Neve Michael already carrying deep emotional wounds, trauma, neglect, and instability. Many struggle with PTSD. In times of war, those wounds reopen. The sound of a siren is not just a warning—it is a trigger. The rush to shelter is not only physical, but deeply emotional. Their bodies remember fear even before their minds can process it.

We see it in their eyes, in their restlessness, in their difficulty sleeping, and in the anxiety that lingers long after the siren fades. And yet, through it all, we are doing everything we can to hold them—emotionally and physically—even as the challenges continue to grow.

With schools closed, children now remain in the Village 24 hours a day. The structure and routine that once grounded them has been disrupted. Some try to attend Zoom classes, but even these are often interrupted by sirens, forcing them to stop, run, and begin again, if they can.

To maintain stability, our staff are working extended hours, providing constant supervision, emotional support, and meaningful engagement. We are expanding therapeutic care to help children cope with heightened anxiety and trauma responses, while increasing tutorial support to ensure they do not fall behind academically. These are urgent, unplanned needs arising from a reality none of us could have fully anticipated.

Yet, even in these most difficult moments, something remarkable shines through—the resilience of our children. They continue to try. To learn. To smile, sometimes even through fear.

Your support makes this possible.

You are not only helping us provide shelter—you are helping us provide safety, stability, and hope at a time when all three feel fragile.

Thank you for standing with Neve Michael.

Thank you for protecting our children when they need it most.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Passover and calmer, more peaceful days ahead.

With gratitude and love,

Hava

PASSOVER GRANOLA

Eat it for breakfast, as a snack, or on yogurt. It will satisfy your sweet tooth or that crunch you're looking for!

- 3 cups matzo farfel (I've used whole wheat)
- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 1 cup coconut
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup raisins AND/OR cranberries, dried cherries



RECIPE DOUBLES BEAUTIFULLY! AND YOU'LL WANT TO DOUBLE BECAUSE ONCE YOU START EATING IT YOU WON'T STOP!

Preheat oven to 300 degrees

On a non-stick baking sheet, spread out farfel, almonds and coconut. Bake for 15-20 minutes, stirring frequently for even toasting. Remove from oven and transfer to large bowl that has been sprayed with cooking spray.

In a saucepan, over medium heat, combine margarine, honey, brown sugar and salt. Simmer until sugar is dissolved. Spray spoon non-stick cooking spray. Pour over farfel-nut mixture and mix well.

On a baking sheet, spread out the coated farfel/nut mixture and bake for 15 minutes. Remove from oven, transfer to bowl and add raisins. Mix well. Transfer back to baking sheet, spread out and let cool. Enjoy!

FRIENDS OF NEVE MICHAEL in the news

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Learning Tradition Together: A Seder Lesson at Neve Michael

This week, Neve Michael's dining room became a place of learning, curiosity, and connection. David Friedman, Director of Neve Michael, gathered with the children for a special talk about the Passover Seder plate.

With warmth and enthusiasm, he brought the meaning of each symbol to life in a way that was both engaging and meaningful. The children listened, asked questions, and connected to traditions passed down through generations.

In a time filled with uncertainty, moments like these are deeply grounding. They strengthen identity, create continuity, and remind the children that they are part of something much larger than themselves.

At Neve Michael, learning is not only about knowledge—it is about belonging, heritage, and the values that carry us forward.



A Breath of Joy: A Day of Laughter

In the midst of challenging days, Neve Michael's children were given something simple yet deeply meaningful—a chance to just be children.

Our outdoor space came alive with color, laughter, and energy as the children enjoyed a special day filled with inflatables, cotton candy, and delicious food. For a few hours, worries faded into the background, replaced by excitement, play, and carefree joy.

These moments are more than just fun—they are essential. They offer a pause from uncertainty, a release of stress, and a return to the lightness of childhood.

At Neve Michael, we know that even a brief moment of joy can have a lasting impact. Because in times like these, creating joy is not a luxury — it is a necessity.



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Learning Under Fire: Neve Michael's Reality



Since March 1, educational institutions across Israel—from kindergartens to high schools—have been closed due to the war. Now imagine what that means at Neve Michael.

Hundreds of children, already facing complex life circumstances, are suddenly without routine, structure, or the stability that school provides. While some attempt to continue learning through Zoom, even that is fragile. Classes are often interrupted by missile alerts, sending children running to protected spaces — breaking concentration and heightening anxiety.

Keeping hundreds of children engaged, supported, and emotionally steady under these conditions is an enormous challenge. Our teams are working around the clock to create structure, provide educational support, and most importantly, ensure that every child feels safe, seen, and cared for.

In times like these, Neve Michael is more than a home — it is a lifeline.

Keeping Spirits Strong — Body and Soul

Even in times of war, life and learning do not stop at Neve Michael.

With routines disrupted, every staff member steps in to support the children in new and meaningful ways. Even our sports teacher has taken on a special role — engaging the children not only introducing them to Jewish traditions and values.

In moments between sirens and uncertainty, these lessons become more than education—they become a source of grounding, identity, and connection. Through stories, customs, and shared experiences, the children are reminded of who they are and the strength within them.

At Neve Michael, every adult becomes a teacher, and every moment becomes an opportunity to nurture resilience, belonging, and hope.



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When celebrations are postponed and wedding halls stand empty, love still finds a way.

Neve Michael was honored to host a small, intimate wedding for a soldier serving in the army and a beloved staff member whose family lives in Pardes Hana. In the midst of uncertainty, this tender celebration became a powerful reminder that love and new beginnings endure.

The moment held even deeper meaning—the bride's grandfather had been a counselor at Neve Michael more than 40 years ago. In that sense, the wedding was not only joyful, but a moving full-circle moment, connecting generations through memory and belonging. What might have been a large event became something deeply personal. Staff came together to create a warm, beautiful setting filled with closeness, emotion, and community.

For the children, it was especially meaningful. In the midst of hardship, they witnessed love, commitment, and hope—a reminder that even during war, life continues and moments of happiness are not only possible, but essential.

At Neve Michael, we are more than a children's home—we are a community that stands together, in hardship and in celebration.



Love in the Midst of War:

A Wedding at Neve Michael

Finding Joy in Motion



During these difficult days, creating moments of movement and joy has never been more important.

Outdoors, laughter replaces tension as children take part in energizing activities—rope games that spark teamwork, bicycle rides that bring freedom, and even tightrope walking that builds confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

These moments are more than play—they are essential. They help children release stress, regain a sense of control, and reconnect with the joy of simply being children.

At Neve Michael, we continue to create safe spaces where children can breathe, move, and find light—even in the most challenging times.

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Standing Together: Supporting Families on the Home Front

In these challenging days, when so many reserve soldiers are called to serve, the burden of uncertainty is carried not only on the front lines, but also at home.

At Neve Michael, we opened our doors to host a meaningful gathering for the wives and children of reserve soldiers — a moment to pause, breathe, and feel supported together.

For the children, it was a chance to play and laugh in a safe, welcoming environment. For the mothers, it was an opportunity to connect, share, and draw strength from one another. In a time defined by distance and worry, this gathering created a sense of closeness, care, and community.

At Neve Michael, we believe that supporting our soldiers means supporting their families as well. Even a small moment of togetherness can make a meaningful difference—and remind us all that no one stands alone.



How You Can Help

In these extraordinary times, the needs at Neve Michael continue to grow each day.

Your support allows us to provide not only a safe place to live, but the emotional care, stability, and sense of normalcy that our children so urgently need — especially now.

If you feel moved to help, a donation of any amount will make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.

Thank you for being part of their strength, their safety, and their hope.