

TORONTO

# Kosher chicken may be missing from Passover food boxes this year

**Joanne Hill**  
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of needy Jews in the GTA who rely on the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada (NCJWC) for a kosher chicken at Passover may be disappointed this year.

The non-profit organization expects to pack and deliver at least 2,500 Passover food boxes this year and has launched a fundraising drive.

In the past, Charles Weinberg of Chai Kosher Poultry had donated kosher for Passover chickens at no cost to the NCJWC-TS (Toronto section), but that ended when Weinberg sold his business last May.

So the NCJWC-TS turned to

Moishe Friedman, owner of Marvid Poultry in Montreal, who offered them a discount.

Friedman told the *Jewish Tribune* by phone from Montreal that he decided not to donate any chickens after three of his Toronto-area clients told him they hadn't heard of the NCJWC. When asked whether he had done any research himself such as looking at the organization's website or calling UJA Federation, Friedman said no. He told the *Tribune* he would be willing to reconsider his decision if someone from the NCJWC-TS were to call and give him more information about the organization and its needs.

"We'll see what we can do because we're running quite



Glenda Ephron Cooper (right), chair of the National Council of Jewish Women's Passover food drive, strategizes with Karen Fenwick, the drive's immediate past chair. (Photo: Joanne Hill).

short of chickens," said Friedman.

When reminded that he had told the *Tribune* last May that his operation could handle the demand for kosher chicken in the Toronto market, Friedman said there isn't a shortage.

"We have to struggle to find supply of chicken due to the Toronto community, which is fighting hard to keep the quota

even though they don't have a slaughterhouse," said Friedman. "So for me to supply the Toronto market, which I'm doing, I really have to work five times harder, to get chicken to slaughter to provide to the Toronto market.

"Basically the Toronto market wants the best of all worlds. They want to have the ability of slaughtering [chickens]

themselves and Marvid not getting the quota; they want Marvid, of course, to donate in the meantime, and they want Marvid to fulfill the market at the same time till they organize themselves to open. So they want the best of all worlds."

Karen Fenwick, past chair of the NCJWC-TS Passover food drive, told the *Tribune* her or-

ganization would get in touch with Friedman right away.

The NCJWC-TS has been running its Passover food drive for 32 years.

Volunteers will pack the Passover boxes from March 23 to April 2 and deliver them on April 6. For more information or to donate, call (416) 633-5100 or visit [www.ncjwc-ts.org](http://www.ncjwc-ts.org).

## BBG elects CHAT student as new president

TORONTO – Tanenbaum CHAT student Amanda Freedman, 17, was elected international president of the BBYO B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG) division for young women at BBYO's recent convention in Dallas.

Freedman will lead a 10-member teen board and will also provide leadership and support to teen leaders in local communities over the next year.

"It still hasn't sunken in yet that I have this amazing opportunity to inspire Jewish teens and serve the Jewish people," said Freedman in a statement. "I'm excited to meet so many incredible people who work hard to make their communities stronger and our Jewish future brighter. What I look forward to most is waking up each morning with each day being a new adventure."

Freedman is BBYO's 70th International N'siah (president of BBG) and the fifth Canadian to hold the position. Sam Perlon of Nashville was elected Grand *Aleph Godol* (president of BBYO's Aleph Zadik Aleph boys' division). Almost 2,000 teens participated in the three-day convention, which opened with a video message from Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu who congratulated the organization on its 90th anniversary.

"BBYO encourages young Jews of all backgrounds to be proud of their heritage," said Netanyahu. "You're helping to create a human bridge to connect the young generation of American Jews with the young generation of Israeli Jews...and I want to encourage you, for the next 90 years, to continue doing exactly that."

## Technion ranked among top universities

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org) – *Times Higher Education* – a weekly business magazine based in London and sponsored by Thomson Reuters – included Technion - Israel Institute of Technology as one of the world's 100 most prestigious universities on its 2014 World Reputation Rankings list, which was published last Wednesday. The list is compiled from a survey of 10,536 senior, published academics from 133 countries who were asked to list what they considered the best institutions in their field of expertise. "While reputation is based on subjective opinion, in this case it is the informed, expert opinion of those in the know: experienced scholars from around the world," said Phil Baty, editor-at-large of *Times Higher Education* magazine.

## Arab League head urges 'firm stand' against recognizing Israel as Jewish state

(JNS.org) – Nabil Elaraby, the head of the Arab League, has called on Arab countries to take a "firm stand" against recognizing Israel as a Jewish state.

Elaraby made his remarks

Sunday as part of an Arab Foreign Ministers conference in Cairo, the *Associated Press* reported.

On Friday, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas made similar

comments, saying there is "no way" he would recognize Israel as a Jewish state.

US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki, meanwhile, told the PA-based *Al-Quds* newspaper on

Saturday, "The American position is clear, Israel is a Jewish state. However, we do not see a need that both sides recognize this position as part of the final [US-brokered peace] agreement."

## Israelis detained on board cruise ship docked in Tunis

TUNIS – Israeli tourists were denied the right to disembark from the Norwegian Jade, a vessel operated by the Norwegian Cruise Line, when it



Norwegian Jade in Venice. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

stopped in the Port of Tunis, Tunisia recently, Jewish human rights organization B'nai Brith Canada said on Sunday.

As passengers prepared to get off the ship to visit the North African republic, the Israelis were quietly told that they were not welcomed by the Tunisian government, the group said in a statement.

The cruise line did not advise the passengers in advance that Israeli tourists would be confined to the ship for the stop. Other Jewish passengers were unaware that their coreligionists were being detained, since no public announcements were made. They were outraged when it became known, B'nai Brith Canada said.

B'nai Brith CEO Frank Dimant said the Norwegian Cruise Line has "a responsibility to its passengers" to "advise them of this discriminatory policy in advance.

"Better still the cruise line should avoid ports that have such policies."

– *The Algemeiner*

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