

THE JEWISH TRAVELER IN HELSINKI | DIGESTING THE HAGGADA

# Hadassah

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*magazine*

## Jews in Jamaica

Can a Small, Integrated Community Survive?

## The Seder

Life at the Head of the Table

## A Different Drum

Reimagined Jewish Music Invigorates the Synagogue

הדסה



## Out of the Ashes, A Dream House

When Robin Wilson didn't receive a holiday card from her Los Angeles friends, Steven and Cindy Ambers, in 2011, she called them.

"You didn't hear?" Steven Ambers asked her, his voice choking up. "Our house burned down." On the sixth night of Hanukka, their child's preschool menorah caught fire. The family escaped with their three children (then 5, 2 and 3 months old) and the clothes on their back. And their wedding *ketuba*.

"I realized she had just lost her entire nursery," said Wilson, who had just discovered she was pregnant with her first child. "I had to help."

Wilson, a New York-based architect who has designed spaces for President Clinton and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., helped them rebuild their house as an eco-friendly home. Enlisting corporate donors to the tune of about \$300,000, the new Beverlywood eco-bungalow (<http://ecobungalow-la.com>) features nontoxic, energy-efficient and sustainable material.

Furnished by donations from their Temple Isaiah community, the family moved into their new place after nearly two years of subletting. "It's incredible that we have a friend that would help us do something like this," Cindy Ambers said. "And the way everyone rallied around us was a testament to how good people really are." —Amy Klein