

## **Join Me On The Federation's Solidarity Trip to Israel**

Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, every thought that passes thru me is somehow a reflection of the events occurring in Israel. Moments of joy are tempered by the loss of life and the plight of the hostages who are enduring unknown abuses. Moments of solitude create opportunities for thoughts of pain and suffering being endured by Palestinians and Israelis alike. How can humanity be so cruel? How can human life, souls fashioned in the Divine image, be treated with such callous disregard? Until the captives are home and all are accounted for, how can Israel bend to the request for a ceasefire? How can Hamas officials hold the plight of their neighbors with such little compassion? How can the Israel armed forces continue their military operations as it has been designed, knowing the depth of non-combatants'/civilian's loss of life?

\*Sigh\* There are no answers.

Many of us advocate, donate, and are concerned about what is going on there. For us here, it is personal. The Eshkol region is our sister-region in Israel. These are our partners—we visited them in the past, they came in April to see us, we celebrated Yom HaAtz'miut together in 2023, their students schmooze with our religious school students. Now as many are dead, including Gadi Haggai and Judith Weinstein Haggai who were so active in this community partnership. The residents of the region are displaced. We pray and we yearn: when will Israel know peace?

And then there are the disturbing images from Gaza. The loss of life and the suffering abounds. This must stop! A permanent resolution must occur. I will state again and again that a 2 State solution is the only option—but recognition and resolve to make it work are paramount.

But for us—desiring is not enough. We must have facts and information. Our Israeli relatives need to know that they are not alone. Our community partners must know that we stand with them.

I urge you to consider joining me on the Federation Solidarity mission February 11-18. This is not a sight seeing trip, but one to earn and extend comfort with those for whom live under these conditions. Please—I urge you—be a part of this. Here is the link to sign

up:

[https://secure.ayelet.com/AlbanyNENY2024.aspx?fbclid=IwAR17cakvyoMMJm5vgjSB  
Uk72BCSBWTUtAceocTvZjpemWCF\\_9AFJBQUQfuI](https://secure.ayelet.com/AlbanyNENY2024.aspx?fbclid=IwAR17cakvyoMMJm5vgjSBUk72BCSBWTUtAceocTvZjpemWCF_9AFJBQUQfuI)

Shabbat Shalom