



BETH JACOB
CONGREGATION OF IRVINE

B"H

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RABBI

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Dear Friends,

It is truly an honor for me to welcome you once again as members of the Beth Jacob Family. It is our heartfelt hope and tfilah/prayer that you (and your family) will find much inspiration, camaraderie, knowledge, friendship and gratification in our Beth Jacob home.

I am writing this while sitting in Jerusalem after having completed our first Beth Jacob Poland Israel trip. It was truly an incredible experience and we are planning to do it again to enable more of you to participate. I know many of you were following Natalie's posts as she was updating the community on our trip.

We went literally from death to life. All of the destruction that we encountered in Poland was counterbalanced by the life and vitality that we experienced in Israel. I found myself constantly humming the Hebrew tune: Ode yichyeh ha'atzamot ha'elah. The vision of the Prophet Ezekiel that these bones will yet again come back to life.

The resounding chorus of the many different stanzas that we experienced and sang in our trip was: Am Yisrael Chai! The Nation of Israel is ALIVE!

The same way that our brothers and sisters were sought out, no matter where they were, for destruction, we need to open our doors, minds and hearts for every Jew no matter who and where they are. Am Yisrael Chai!

Every human being needs to be viewed as a special, beloved creation of G-d. Just as we have a special connection and affinity to that which we 'create,' we recognize the love that Hashem has for every individual and our interactions and dealings must mirror those sentiments.

I am so proud of the warm shalom aleichem welcome greeting that awaits those who walk through our doors which is certainly a reflection of that understanding and attitude.

At Beth Jacob, Am Yisrael Chai— we are ALIVE! We offer an expansive and wide range of programming and opportunities: the only three-times-daily minyan in Orange County; parent-child explanatory slower-paced prayer, full Shabbat Ashkenas and Sephardic services—replete with joyous T'filah, relevant drashot, classes and Kiddush Luncheons; youth programming as we excitedly welcome our new Youth Director; an array of daily and weekly classes ranging from Daf Yomi and Beginners Talmud to Growth Through Torah parsha classes, Lunch & Learn, and classes in writing and speaking Hebrew; a beautiful, luxurious Woman's Mikvah; and, of course, full pastoral services and one-on-one study opportunities.

Seize an opportunity to connect—whichever one(s) speak to you! If there's something else that you'd like to have implemented, let me know and let's do it! Am Yisrael Chai!

Our Beth Jacob family also offers many opportunities with an amazing spirit of volunteerism ranging from chesed, hospitality, meals-on-wheels, visiting the sick, helping with the Kiddush and Seudah Shlishit set-up and take-down, our all-volunteer Mikvah, checking the eruv, community mishloach manot and countless others.

There is so much to get—so much to give... We welcome you!

On a personal level, I look forward to getting to know you even better. Please be in touch—let's set up a time to get together.

Warmest wishes to you and yours—I look forward to seeing you,

Rabbi Yisroel Ciner

