

## ONE WOMAN'S EXPERIENCES ABOUT LIVING IN ISRAEL DURING THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR (GAZA)

*Shoshana Wege*

### War's beginning – *Simchat Torah*, October 7, 2023:

I hear with the help of cochlear implants. There I was, sitting in the sukkah - wanting to enjoy it still - on *Simchat Torah*, October 7th, having not yet put on my sound processors, which means that I was not hearing during that time. Just davening to Hashem in the usually peaceful time of the morning hours. Enjoying the quiet.

Suddenly my husband ran in with a nervous look on his face, assuming that I had heard the booms and would worry not knowing what was happening. The men had been sent home from synagogue to get their weapons and phones. He explained to me that Israel was at war and told me only the minimum number of facts about what took place in the southern communities. At that point we didn't know many details, but soon we would begin to learn more, and our lives would change tremendously in the course of the coming days and weeks.

### *Motzei Shabbat/Simchat Torah*:

Just like in most other households, our family members started to receive news about what was happening from various sources. At first there was a constant minute-by-minute updating of the massacre and atrocities that took place in southern Israel. Even when the mind does not want to face certain truths, it is impossible not to think of what happened and simply sob for the people who personally experienced them. As well, there were family members who had escaped, remaining alive, and possibly wounded, who were left wondering what would become of their loved ones.

As the days went by, more information came to us about the horrendous acts against the elderly (who are in need of daily medical care), children – babies!, women, men, and youths – information about all that took place. In Israel we feel as one family. It happened to us too, even if physically it only happened to them. And the feeling of wanting to sob happens quite often during our day. We wonder what type of beings can do such things to other human beings.

I feel various emotions about all that is happening during this war. And, of course, I have questions which may not be answered right now. At the same time, at the place that I am on my religious journey I can see and feel *Hashem's* caring Hand giving me a measure of peace.

We have tremendous feelings of thanks and pride thinking about the first responders (especially the medics) who dropped everything

and raced to help without thinking about themselves or what they were actually going into. Also, very sadly the unspeakable things that the ZAKA (the Hebrew acronym for Disaster Victim Identification) volunteers saw and had to deal with for many days and weeks. A man in my community keeps a ZAKA truck parked nearby, and whenever I see the truck, it is almost a physical jolt.

Many tens of thousands of reserve soldiers have been called up for duty, and many even flew in from outside of Israel to help fight this war against Hamas.

First there were the Israeli air strikes on Gaza, understandably so the casualties of the ground forces – when they would eventually go into Gaza to fight – would be as minimal as possible. The waiting has been difficult at times.

We want them to go and finish Hamas and bring home the hostages. Soon we realized what a difficult job it is to do that. Hamas terrorists often purposely mix in with residential neighborhoods/schools/hospitals, setting up booby traps, trying to ambush the Israeli troops, at times pretending to surrender, when, really, they are planning a surprise attack. Obviously, the IDF have to take great care to protect their own lives and the lives of others in their units or battalion.

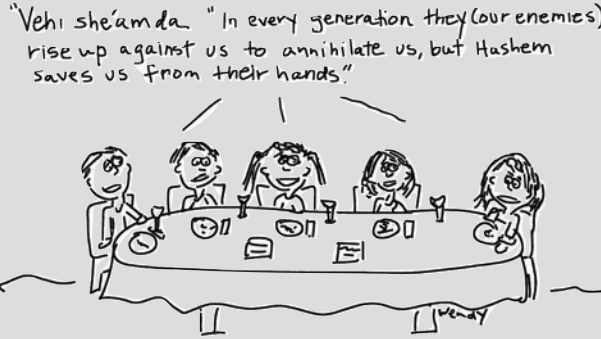
As the war drags on, and the Israeli casualties mount, we must be strong. Just like our fellow Jews always hoped and prayed for during many difficult times over the course of Jewish history, we too, must all have a palpable feeling that the footsteps of the *Mashiach* are approaching during this war.

On the night of Passover at the seder we say “*Vehi she’amda*,” “In every generation they (our enemies) rise up against us, but *Hashem* saves us from their hands.” And this--*Hashem's* blessings and the Torah--are what kept our fathers and what assures our survival. For not only one arose and tried to destroy us, rather in every generation they try to destroy us, and *Hashem* saves us from their hands.

We pray that this Passover we will again witness *Hashem's* miracles vis a vis our enemies and the release of all the hostages still held in Gaza.

*Am Yisrael Chai!*

*Shoshana Wege is an alumna of the LSS Beginners' minyan (1992) living in Israel for 30 years on a Moshav in Israel.*



## CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

### ENGAGEMENTS

Michelle David and Zacky Leicht  
Mazal Tov to parents, Renee and Allan Leicht  
Shira Hudes and Daniel Itzhaki  
Mazal Tov to parents,  
Dr. Golda Hudes and the late Dana Hudes, z”l  
Alicia Jetton and Benjamin Fages  
Tova Miller and Ezra Emerson  
Mazal Tov to mother, the late, Dr. Ilene Reeman, z”l

Yitzhar Shalom and Ezra Wildes  
Mazal Tov to parents,  
Jill and Rabbi Mark Wildes  
Lily Snyder and Shai Laniado  
Mazal Tov to parents,  
Bluma and Dr. Stephen Snyder



### MARRIAGES

Malka Sima Adler and Ephraim Kroopnick  
Mazal Tov to parents, Loren and Reuven Adler  
Mazal Tov to grandparents,  
Sarah Leah and Lou Vynereb  
Emma (Emet Shalom) Lardner and Robert Winn  
Mazal Tov to mother, Natalie Lardner  
Sarah Morris and Noah Milstein  
Mazal Tov to parents, Jennifer and Joseph Morris

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Mon Apr. 22, 2024 - 14th of Nisan**  
**EREV PESACH, TA'ANIT BECHORIM**  
 Morning Services with Siyum . . . 6:30 AM  
 Latest time to eat Chametz . . . 10:38 AM  
 Latest time to burn Chametz . . . 11:05 AM  
 Candle Lighting . . . 7:26 PM  
 Mincha/Maariv . . . 7:35 PM  
 Begin Seder . . . after 8:15 PM

**Tues Apr. 23, 2024 - 15th of Nisan**  
**PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha . . . 7:25 PM  
 Candle Lighting . . . 8:27 PM  
 Ma'ariv . . . 8:27 PM  
 Begin Seder after . . . 8:27 PM

**Wed Apr. 24, 2024 - 16th of Nisan**  
**2nd DAY PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha . . . 7:25 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 8:29 PM

**Thurs Apr. 25, 2024 - 17th of Nisan**  
**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:15 AM  
 Mincha/Ma'ariv . . . 7:35 PM

**Fri Apr. 26, 2024 - 18th of Nisan**  
**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:15 AM  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . 6:22 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . 7:30 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 7:35 PM

**Sat Apr. 27, 2024 - 19th of Nisan**  
**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha . . . 7:15 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 8:32 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . 7:40 PM

**Sun Apr. 28, 2024 - 20th of Nisan**  
**CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . 8:30 AM  
 Candle Lighting . . . 7:32 PM  
 Mincha/Ma'ariv . . . 7:40 PM

**Mon Apr. 29, 2024 - 21st of Nisan**  
**7th DAY PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha . . . 7:30 PM  
 Candle Lighting . . . 8:33 PM

**Tues Apr. 30, 2024 - 22nd of Nisan**  
**8th DAY PESACH - Yizkor**  
 Morning Services . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha . . . 7:30 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends . . . 8:35 PM

**Fri May 3, 2024 - 25th of Nisan**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . 6:28 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . 7:37 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 7:40 PM

**Sat May 4, 2024 - 26th of Nisan**  
**SHABBAT MEVORCHIM**  
**Achrei Mot**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Service . . . 9:30 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . 5:45 PM  
 Lazar Class . . . 6:40 PM  
 Mincha . . . 7:25 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 8:39 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . 7:50 PM

**Wed May 8, 2024 - 30th of Nisan**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Mincha/Maariv . . . 7:50 PM

**Thurs May 9, 2024 - 1st of Iyar**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Mincha/Maariv . . . 7:50 PM

**Fri May 10, 2024 - 2nd of Iyar**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . 6:33 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . 7:45 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 7:50 PM

**Sat May 11, 2024 - 3rd of Iyar**  
**Kedoshim**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Service . . . 9:30 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . 5:50 PM  
 Lazar Class . . . 6:45 PM  
 Mincha . . . 7:30 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 8:46 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . 7:55 PM

**Tues May 14, 2024 - 6th of Iyar**  
**YOM HA'ATZMA'UT**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Mincha/Ma'ariv . . . 7:55 PM

**Fri May 17, 2024 - 9th of Iyar**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . 6:39 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . 7:51 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 7:55 PM

**Sat May 18, 2024 - 10th of Iyar**  
**Emor**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Service . . . 9:30 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . 6:00 PM

Lazar Class . . . 6:55 PM  
 Mincha . . . 7:40 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 8:53 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . 8:00 PM

**Fri May 24, 2024 - 16th of Iyar**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . 6:44 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . 7:58 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 8:00 PM

**Sat May 25, 2024 - 17th of Iyar**  
**Behar**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Service . . . 9:30 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . 6:05 PM  
 Lazar Class . . . 7:00 PM  
 Mincha . . . 7:45 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 8:59 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . 8:10 PM

**Sun May 26, 2024 - 18th of Iyar**  
**LAG B'OMER**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 8:30 AM  
 Mincha/Ma'ariv . . . 8:05 PM

**Fri May 31, 2024 - 23rd of Iyar**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . 6:49 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . 8:03 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 8:05 PM

**Sat June 1, 2024 - 24th of Iyar**  
**SHABBAT MEVORCHIM**  
**Bechukotai**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Service . . . 9:30 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . 6:10 PM  
 Lazar Class . . . 7:05 PM  
 Mincha . . . 7:50 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 9:05 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . 8:15 PM

**Wed June 5, 2024 - 28th of Iyar**  
**YOM YERUSHALAYIM**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Mincha/Ma'ariv . . . 8:15 PM

**Fri June 7, 2024 - 1st of Sivan**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . 6:52 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . 8:08 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 8:10 PM

**Sat June 8, 2024 - 2nd of Sivan**  
**Bamidbar**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Service . . . 9:30 AM

Beginners Mishnayot . . . 6:15 PM  
 Lazar Class . . . 7:10 PM  
 Mincha . . . 7:55 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . 9:09 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . 8:15 PM

**Tue June 11, 2024 - 5th of Sivan**  
**EREV SHAUVOT**  
 Morning Services . . . 7:00 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting . . . 8:10 PM  
 Mincha/Ma'ariv . . . 8:15 PM

**Wed June 12, 2024 - 6th of Sivan**  
**1st DAY SHAUVOT**  
 Morning Services . . . 4:48, 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . 8:05 PM  
 Candle Lighting . . . 9:10 PM

**Thurs June 13, 2024 - 7th of Sivan**  
**2nd DAY SHAUVOT**  
**Yizkor**  
 Morning Services . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha . . . 8:05 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Havdalah . . . 9:11 PM

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Beginners Shabbat Luncheons**  
 Sat, 12:30 PM - \$35  
 May 4, June 1

**Beginners Shmooze on Zoom**  
**Free**  
 Mon, May 6, 8:15 PM

**All Night Shavuot Learn-a-thon**  
 Tues, June 11, 12:45 AM - 5:00 AM

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Faygie Wege and Daniel Movshovitz  
 Mazal Tov to parents, Shoshana and Avraham Wege

**BIRTHS**

Lilach and Shalom Goodman on the birth of a son,

Dovid Elisha  
 Mazal Tov to grandparents,  
 Sharone Devorah and Shmuel Goodman

Meira and Uri Himelstein on the birth of a son,

Dovid Moshe  
 Mazal Tov to grandparents,  
 Menachem (Morty) Goldberg and the late,  
 Shelley Cohen, z"l

Miriam and Jeremy Klaben on the birth of a daughter,  
 Nessa Maayan

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Robin and Neil Goldberg

Meira and Yaakov Ribner on the birth of a daughter, Meital

Mazal Tov to grandparents,  
 Sema and the late Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich, z"l

Avi and Albert Shalom on the birth of a daughter, Nessa

Mazal Tov to grandparents,  
 Jacqueline and Nathan Shalom  
 Mazal Tov to great-grandparents,  
 Freya and Richard Wigler

**BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

Yossi Berger

Mazal Tov to parents, Ayelet and Gavriel Berger

Mazal Tov to grandparents,  
 Aidel and Ephraim Buchwald

Phillip Samuel (Feitel Shmuel) Cohen

Mazal Tov to parents,  
 Susan (Aidel Shprintzah) Hecht and David Cohen

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sandra and Michael Hecht

Eliav Flaquer

Mazal Tov to father, Yedidya Flaquer

Yehuda Meir Glazer

Mazal Tov to parents, Lisa and Paul Glazer

Bayla Rachel Litzenblatt

Mazal Tov to parents,  
 Amy (Chana Liat) and Seth (Natan) Litzenblatt

**CONDOLENCES**

Sheryl Elias on the passing of her mother,

Norma Klein Katz, z"l

Linda and Gila Kish on the passing of

their husband and father, Martin Kish, z"l

Rabbi Mark Wildes on the passing of his father,

Leon Wildes, z"l

**SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA**

Dr. Marvin Belsky,

Shimon Michael haLevi ben Sorah Risa

Dr. Leonard Davidman, Aryeh Leib haLevi ben Machliah

Peter Halasz, Yehonatan haCohen ben Ora

Geraldine Katz, Gershona Yehudit bat Rochel

Miriam bat Chana Gittl

Moshe Zvi Michael ben Miriam

Natan ben Naomi Malka

Ruth Nelkin, Rochel bat Sarah

Dr. Nichole Pacheco, Naavah bat Emma

Louis Vynereb, Elazar HaCohen ben Malka

Yisrael Chaim ben Etta Leah

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Adam Elkaim on being honored as "Student of the

Year" at the Manhattan Jewish Experience Annual

Dinner

Lisa and Paul Glazer on being honored as the Guests

of Honor at the Manhattan High School For Girls

Annual Scholarship Dinner

Dr. Richard Seaman on being honored with the

"Hakoros Hatov Award" at the Hineni Annual Dinner

**TODAH RABBAH**

Thank you to Lynne Doynow for writing, directing and

acting in the Purim play, and thank you to all the

wonderful actors (Spielers), Richard Seaman, Lauren

Lindsay, Michael Becker, Bill Greenbaum, Adrienne

McMillan, Stephanie Plana and Christopher

Buchenholz