

Issue 5, Rosh Hashana 5775

MY EMUNAH

WHAT'S NEW AT EMUNAH CANADA





EMUNAH WOMEN OF CANADA

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As the *Chagim* approach we reflect on this past year. It is apparent in many of our contributors' articles for this edition that the situation in Israel is on all of our minds. While we worry and pray for peace, there is an underlying sense of pride and strength, which is a theme that has carried us throughout history.

These same words describe Emunah. We worry and pray for those who are in our care, we have pride in our staff, volunteers and those who graduate from Emunah projects with

confidence in their future. Emunah literally means faith. Visiting our amazing centers and meeting everyone makes you leave a believer. Miracles happen everyday at our projects. You just need **EMUNAH**.

We visited Israel together in May. Our trip began with a stop at Neve Sarah Herzog High School in Bnei B'rak, on the day the National Math *Bogrut* (Matriculation) was taking place. Girls were huddled in every corner doing last minute revisions. Yossi Glick, the principal, could not contain his excitement. He explained that when many of the girls came to Neve Sarah Herzog there was no guarantee that these same girls would be in school long enough to write *bogruyot* exams. So for the staff getting to this day was in itself an achievement. After many years at the school, Yossi has decided to move on to other challenges. We wish him much *hatzlacha* and are sure our paths will cross again at Neve Sara Herzog. We look forward to working with the new director.

No visit to Israel could be complete without a day at Neve Michael. Just seeing the kids and their beautiful smiles puts everything in perspective and you realize miracles happen. Hava Levine (PR) and David Freedman (Director) showed us the new renovations which Canada was able to participate in thanks to proceeds raised from a dinner honouring Phil and Faygie Schwartz. The newly renovated Safra building is a beautiful site. The sheer scope of the project is amazing. This facility will house roughly 35 children and staff. Yasher Koach to David, Hava and Tzivia, (the school mother) who have made this dream a reality. We look forward to working with you all on projects in the future.

During this visit we met with Liora Minka, Chairperson of Emunah Israel who had just accepted the Humanitarian Award on behalf of Emunah. (see p5.) The excitement over receiving this award, could be felt by all at Emunah Israel.

In addition we had extremely productive meetings with David Hadari, CFO of Emunah Israel, Dina Hahn, Chairperson World Emunah, Ronnie Rudnitsky, Emunah Canada's representative in Israel, Leah Ahronof, Liaison Emunah Israel, and Frumet Spiegel Lasry, Emunah Canada's World Emunah Representative. Even though we all use modern means of communication nothing beats good old fashioned face to face meetings.

On our final day in Israel, we went to Ashkelon to visit the Anne Lazar Multi Purpose Day Care. The first thing we saw was the beautiful much needed renovations to the outside of the facility in memory of Sylvia Lockshin. Shoshi Amar, the facility director, does a job that no one else can. She deals with the toughest cases, keeping her clients out of childrens homes by working with the families and her amazing staff. She is tough and loving, with a quick smile and sparkling eyes. She is that something special that you don't meet everyday. A one on the million and we are all lucky to have her.

So after our trip all we have to say is, we have faith in all the wonderful, caring and capable staff of Emunah and at all our projects. We encourage all our members to visit our projects and see for yourself the difference EMUNAH makes.

Thank you to all our members, supporters and volunteers for your continued support. Shana Tova,

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D'VAR TORAH – ROSH HASHANAH

DEVORAH ABENHAIM

Rabbi Abba, (the scribe of the Zohar), once sat at the gateway of the Town of Lud.

He saw a traveler sit down on a pile of rocks at the edge of a mountain overlooking a cliff. The man was exhausted from his journey and immediately fell asleep. Rabbi Abba watched this innocuous scene for a bit until, to his dismay, he glimpsed a deadly snake slither out of the rocks. It was making its way towards the sleeping man.

Rabbi Abba, who was immobilized and transfixed by this unfolding drama, suddenly witnessed a new turn of events. A giant lizard jumped out between the rocks and killed the serpent.

He continued watching and saw that the man stood up and was perplexed to see a beheaded snake lying in front of him. He quickly gathered his possessions and rose to continue his journey. At that instant the pile of rocks he was sitting on collapsed and fell into the ravine below.

The man was about to wander off when Rabbi Abba ran after him and recounted everything he had witnessed. Rabbi Abba asked the man, “My friend, to what do you attribute all these miracles that just transpired!?”

The traveler at first did not want to be bothered, but felt the sincerity of Rabbi Abba’s question and confided in him.

“Throughout my life I have never let a person harm me, and never have I gone to sleep without forgiving someone for hurting me in any way. If anyone who would hurt me, I have endeavored with all my heart, to resolve whatever animosity was between us. And lastly, I would turn the hateful situation into an opportunity to perform acts of kindness towards the person involved in the misunderstanding.”

When Rabbi Abba heard this he burst into tears. This person’s actions were greater than Joseph. Joseph had



to deal with his brothers; and of course he forgave his brothers. But this man forgave anyone and everyone who had harmed him. It was no surprise that God performed miracles on a daily basis for this blessed man.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are synonymous with words like repentance, forgiveness and *tshuvah*. We are asking and beseeching God to pardon our transgressions and grant us another year in His Book of Life. But are we willing to pardon others, forgetting the pain they caused? God’s 13 qualities include “*noseh avon vafesha vechata venakeh*” – a God who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin. But is forgiveness only for God?

Our tradition commands, “You shall not hate your kinsman in your heart, you shall surely reprove your neighbor and not bear sin because of him.” Sometimes, however, it feels impossible to forgive.

Rabbi Mark H. Levin, of Baltimore comments that this is the conversation we should be having with ourselves when we find it hard to forgive someone: “Did they intend to hurt me? Do they have a history of being offensive? If not, then why am I reacting with pain now? I need to accept responsibility for my own feelings and forgive them. I may even try to change my reaction patterns to the harmful words of others.”

When we take responsibility for our own feelings, we can hopefully realize that it's best for us to get over our injury, and move on. Living with hatred, we risk becoming haters. And unfortunately, hatred, anger, and vengeful thoughts consume the hater, not the hated.

We will likely offend someone everyday of our life and we will likely be offended everyday of our life. Nobel Prize winner S.Y. Agnon wrote, "It is the custom in Aden and Yemen for every man to approach his fellow after the Evening Prayer [of Yom Kippur], and for them to embrace and to kiss and bless one another. Each man says to his fellow: "May you receive tidings of forgiveness and pardon and atonement; may you be inscribed in the Book of Life and Remembrance..." Imagine that. What a lovely custom. Studies have shown that when you smile at someone, or embrace them, both people feel positive energy. They feel good. Happier than the moment before.

For the last century it has been customary among some ultra-Orthodox to forgive everyone nightly, reciting the following prayer before the *Shema* in bed, "Master of

the universe, I hereby forgive anyone who angered or antagonized me or who sinned against me – whether against my body, my property, my honor or against anything of mine; whether he did so accidentally, willfully, carelessly or purposely; whether through speech, deed thought or action; ... May no man be punished because of me..." (Artscroll Siddur p. 239).

Let us try to emulate the simple traveler that Rabbi Abba encountered. This Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, let us learn to forgive, accept people's apologies, and focus on all the blessings that Hashem has already bestowed upon us.

May you all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a happy and healthy New Year.

Devorah has her BA in Sociology and Jewish Studies from McGill University where she also completed the Jewish Teacher's Training Program. She has written the parsha section of her synagogue's weekly bulletin for the past 15 years. She currently lives in Cote St. Luc with her husband and 4 daughters.



HAMILTON

We thank you for your support of our worthy projects in Israel and look forward to seeing you at future events.

Wishing you good health & happiness throughout the year.

Sylvia Green & Sheryl Katz

EDMONTON

Our best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. May we have peace all around the world and in ISRAEL.

Leah Goldford

WINNIPEG

Winnipeg Emunah Women send wishes to all our members and friends, both in Canada and Israel, for a healthy, successful, and peaceful New Year.

Miriam Diamond

EMUNAH RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY

ELAINE GENESOVE AS TOLD BY BASHY BURACK

Bashy Burack had the privilege of being one of the Emunah representatives when Emunah received an honorary doctorate from Bar Ilan University. The ceremony took place outside on the grounds of Bar Ilan University. It was a beautiful setting on a beautiful day.

It was an honour for Emunah to be among the recipients which included two 2013 Nobel prize laureates, actor and producer Chaim Topol, best known for his role as Tevye in the movie Fiddler on the Roof, Rabbi Professor Moshe David Tendler who is best known for his books on Jewish medical ethics and others who made significant contributions Israeli society.

Liora Minka, Chair of Emunah Israel, accepted the award on behalf of Emunah. After all the awards were presented, Chaim Topol thanked Bar Ilan University on behalf of all the recipients. As well, he provided the entertainment, enthralling the audience by singing songs from Fiddler on the Roof. After the ceremony there was a lavish reception outdoors.

The program book for the event listed the reasons each recipient deserved an honorary doctorate. It mentioned the tens of thousands of children who are educated in Emunah daycare centres, boarding schools and ulpanot. It also included the training programs Emunah has for qualifying family counselors and the Emunah counselling centres that benefit thousands of people.

The program lauded Emunah's involvement in community life with the following excerpt:

"Emunah is also active in public life, and has set new standards in the advancement of women's status and gender equality, countering violence against women, helping Agunot, and incorporating women in key positions in industry and the public sphere. Emunah representatives take part in important committees including the Knesset Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Women. Emunah members sit on municipal councils, working to promote social issues."

We can all take pride in Emunah's accomplishments in receiving this most deserved award.



Liora Minka, Chairperson Emunah Israel, Ronnie Rudnitzky, Canadian Representative in Israel and Aryella Weisz, National President, Emunah Women of Canada. In Liora's office with the honorary doctorate and the Israel Prize. May, 2014.

MONTREAL

As we wrap up one year, we are already beginning to plan for next year. We are thrilled to announce that our fall event this year will take place on October 29, 2014. It will take place at the home of Benny and Nadine Lieberman. Rena Schondorf will be awarded with the Jean Quint award. We hope to see everyone there.

If you were not at last year's hugely successful and beautiful fall event here is what you missed.

We began our year with our annual fall event. It was held at the home of Rebecca Glazer. We awarded the Jean Quint Award to Elaine Monaker and the Young Leadership Award to Valerie Gross. Both ladies exemplify what we stand for at Emunah and their awards were very well deserved. Nitza Spitz, a graduate of Neve Sarah Herzog spoke about her experiences at the school. It was a very successful event. Thank you again to our dedicated co-chairs of the evening Jeff and Loni Kupferberg. We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's upcoming fall event.

As our year continued we held two young women events. These events were intended to introduce new women to Emunah and teach them about what they could do to help. Thank you to Marla Veres and Edie Friedman for hosting these meetings in their homes.

We had our first ever book swap. People could come and exchanged old books for new books to them. People were thrilled to leave with books they had not read before. Sprinkles Yogurt was there to give the ladies something sweet to eat.

We held a fun and very successful trivia night. Everyone who participated had a great time. There were ten teams in different homes. Congratulations to Rabbi and Abby Scheier's team who won first prize. Thank you to all the people who agreed to host teams in their home.

We held our always tasty and successful Shavuot bake sale at the home of Marci Whitman. We sold delicious cakes and beautiful flowers. Our co-chairs were Leah Dahan and Jennifer Rabinovitch. Their dedication and hard work helped to make the bake sale a huge success and we thank them for their work. We look forward to seeing everyone on May 21, 2015 for the next sale.

Jews all over the world spent their summer praying for the safety of the citizens of Israel. We were united in the hopes that a lasting and significant peace would be achieved. At Emunah we tried to do our part by conducting an Emergency Campaign for Israel. One hundred percent of all donations to the Emergency Campaign went directly to Israel. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. As one year ends and another begins we continue to pray for peace in Israel and the safety of its citizens. Emunah Montreal wishes everyone a happy and healthy new year. As you celebrate with your families please remember the children of Emunah who do not have families to celebrate with.

SEPTEMBER 2013 - AUGUST 2014 ~ A YEAR IN REVIEW





OTTAWA

Emunah Ottawa has had a productive year. For our Annual Membership drive, we enjoyed the honest and informal talk of the Honourable Mark Adler MP for York Centre. As a first time MP, he shared his experiences of running a campaign and his surprise at being elected. His father, a Holocaust survivor, and his mother imparted a message of doing good in this world. This, in part, inspired him to go into politics. Mr. Adler also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Harper and the Conservative party for their sincere friendship with Israel and respect for Judaism that he too experienced first hand such as when he chose to put a mezuzah on this office door in Parliament. The venue was that of the Party Room of our most active Emunah member, Mrs. Rivka Kraus.

For our Family-in-Israel event, we were most fortunate to have a very inspiring and informative lecture by a graduate of Emunah's Neve Michael Children's Village, David Ben Shlomo. David spoke eloquently about his transformative experience at Neve Michael and credits his present emotional well-being, successful career, and strong family relationships, all back to the healing he received through the loving care and insight of the foster-mother, teachers and other professionals at Neve Michael. Everyone in attendance agreed his words expressed– as no other– why Emunah's mission is without doubt, the reflection of everything Judaism holds dear.

Jewish Family Services of Ottawa donated the use of their large meeting room for our Family-in-Israel program, and the catering for this event as well as for our membership drive, were sponsored by our steadfast supporter Barbara Crooke.

As usual our Maos Chittim and Honey Campaign mailings were well received and our members gave generously in support of Emunah's programs.

TORONTO



We finished last year with three remarkable programs. The Family in Israel dinner honouring the memory of Judith Rubinstein, z'l, was a resounding success. Emunah Shabbat, chaired by Rochel Silver and Esty Yeres, attracted over 700 women city wide and the inaugural program of the Young Leadership Group, led by Bracha Aronson, Ahuva Edell and Naomi Gardin, drew over 120 people.

It is hard to believe Rosh Hashana is here again. As the new year approaches I think of the four Torah and haftorah readings of Rosh Hashana, Isaac's birth and the sending away of Hagar, Channa and the birth of Shmuel, the binding of Isaac and the promise of Israel's return from exile. Each tells of parents and children and the love and connection between them. Sarah gives birth to the child she has longed for and Hagar's concern for her son who is dehydrated and lost in the desert. Channa prays for a child, and praises God after he is born. The akeida is about the deep ties between a parent and his beloved child, the child that is his future. And finally, Rachel, crying inconsolably for her children in exile, waiting for their return.

Each story is one of unexpected results. What seems impossible becomes possible. A common feature of these stories is that God listens and responds to the cries and actions of human beings. On Rosh Hashana we pray to Avinu Malkeinu, our father our king, and ask that He relate to us as a father, with a parent's love and change our fortune for the best. We believe that our actions and prayers can make a difference. As supporters of Emunah we know our actions and prayers change lives.

This past summer was a difficult one for all of us. At Emunah Toronto we ended a successful year and looked forward to a quiet summer. And then three boys, 'our boys,' were kidnapped. Two and a half weeks later our worst fears came to fruition. And then the war. We spent our days glued to our computers grieving each time a young man was wounded or lost his life.

In Israel the trauma was so much greater. Emunah daycare and childrens villages saw the toll war takes on children who should be playing but instead are hiding in bomb shelters. Children's fears does not subside when the rockets stop, the trauma re-

mains with them.

Emunah Canada initiated an emergency fund to help the most vulnerable and to expand trauma care in our centres. The Young Leadership Group, turned their summer BBQ into an opportunity to raise funds to care for children at Neve Michael who could not return to their homes in the south.

As I write this there is calm and we pray for a lasting peace. At Emunah Toronto our work and resolve continues. We have numerous programs planned for the coming year, each shares a common goal, an interesting program that will raise awareness and funds for our facilities in Israel.

On September 3, we hosted a beer and wine-making evening organized by Shaili Perez for over 50 university students. At the evening we invited students to apply for the two internships Emunah Toronto is offering at Neve Michael Childrens Village during the summer of 2015. September 22 marked our annual bake and gift sale, chaired by Alina Mayer at the beautiful home of Esty and Joseph Edell.

Watch your emails for information on our upcoming programs which include informative lectures and films organized by Elaine Genesove and Bashy Burack. The opening Lunch and Learn event will feature a Maaleh Film and discussion. It will take place on October 27 at noon, in the office. Please call the office to register of for more information.

In February, we will having a Murder Mystery night in homes across the GTA and we are looking forward to Family In Israel and Emunah Shabbat in the spring.

Thanks to you, our volunteers and generous supporters, Emunah continues to help build the next generation of committed and successful Israeli citizens. May our prayers be heard on Rosh Hashana and may this be a year of peace for you, your families and for all Am Yisrael.

Rebecca Rotenberg Nadler

TORONTO

SEPTEMBER 2013 - AUGUST 2014 ~ A YEAR IN REVIEW





EMUNAH & OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE-

FRUMET SPIEGEL LASRY, COORDINATOR, WORLD EMUNAH

As we look forward to the upcoming Jewish New Year of 5775, one cannot help but to reflect on the year gone by.

While Emunah works diligently throughout the year, every year, and through every challenging circumstance imaginable, the entire Emunah family was really put to the test during this past summer, having to cope with Israel's latest war, 'Operation Protective Edge'. Once again the whole organization came through with flying colors. Aside from the stellar efforts of the directors and staff of all Emunah offices, homes and day care centers, **World Emunah received unprecedented support from our world-wide affiliates who set up drives toward 'Emergency Relief Funds' for Israel. The outstanding response from Emunah Canada was gracious beyond our expectations!** The proceeds of these provisions covered many costs incurred by our projects who were working overtime to keep the children in their care happy, busy, and as free of stress and trauma, as much as humanly possible.

Many of the funds raised, went to cover basic costs, such as salaries and special transportation for Emunah staff members. Such was the case, as parents of many of the children stopped paying tuition in the event their specific day care center was closed during the war. Emunah continues paying the salaries of all staff, regardless of

whether they were able to go to work or not. Some staff members worked double shifts and overtime, while others required the safety of traveling to and from work in a taxi, as the situation was dangerous, tenuous and frightening.

The day care centers, which did remain open had to enlist the help of workers from other centers that were closed, as Emunah found it was necessary to double up staff in order to look after the many local children that were sent our way. Needless to say, this incurred a huge unexpected cost to the entire organization, for which proceeds from 'Emergency Relief Funds' were pivotal in covering.



To show gratitude for their interminable dedication, Emunah distributed bouquets of 'Shabbat' flowers to many staff members in the south. In order to avoid 'burn out' of our staff, it has been recommended

that staff be provided with enrichment programs as well as a slight increase in salary.

The Emunah Children's Villages, including as the **Canadian supported Neve Michael in Pardes Hanna**, as well as Neve Landy in the south, each had their own set obstacles to overcome during the long summer war. Many of the children who come to our homes are from all over the country. Normally they would go home for a week or a weekend during summer holidays, but this was impossible for safety reasons. Finally, at Neve Michael, each building or home is equipped with bomb shelters for the children. The bomb shelters were decorated in a happy and welcoming theme. The shelters are stocked with water, books, activities, computers and games.



Since travel during the constant barrage of rockets proved too risky, the directors of the homes had to find ways to keep the children entertained and occupied. Funds were needed to cover these expenditures, which included inflatable jumpers and waterslides, karaoke machines, as well as the hiring of magicians, jugglers and various other entertainers. The children were provided with additional fun activities, such as balloon artwork and cooking workshops, animal care and gardening work, and cinema evenings.



to cope with multitude of traumatized citizens from the south. Currently, the town of S'derot does not have even one child psychiatrist! We will try to avail the families of S'derot at least occasional access to a pediatric psychiatrist.

Although it has been a rough summer, and we have our work cut out for us in the new year, we are confident that with the backing of our affiliates, including Emunah Canada, we will overcome the challenges we currently face.

Thank you Emunah Canada, for your unyielding support and for keeping the smiling faces of our children close to your minds and hearts.

Despite all the difficulties, Emunah makes the extra effort to ensure all the children continue their educational programs and therapies. We maintain, to the best of our abilities, a calm and regular schedule, with the aim of instilling a sense of security both in the children and in the professional staff. The children wake up at the same time, have davening, meals, sports, group therapies, and lights out with a story before bed and more. This regular schedule is crucially important for our children who suffer from extreme behavioral problems as well as emotional issues.

The upcoming year will present Emunah with the unique challenge of helping the children in our care overcome the residual effects of a war that still continues today. Taking into account that the majority of children in our care already have emotional and behavioral difficulties, Emunah must be tremendously diligent in providing the children with the extra help they will now need, to cope with added trauma and stress they encountered by living through a war.

In order to facilitate the guidance required to help the children deal with their newfound anxieties, Emunah will have to implement additional therapy sessions, both individual and group, where the children will feel comfortable and at ease to express their thoughts, feelings, hopes and fears.

Additionally, the Emunah Family Crisis Centers in S'derot and Netivot will need more staff and extra hours



TO BE A FREE PEOPLE IN OUR LAND

ELI RUBINSTEIN

The first siren, warning of an incoming rocket from Gaza, sounded on the way to Tel-Aviv from Ben-Gurion Airport. Renée and I were accompanying our son Erez to Israel for his marriage the following week to Goldie, a native of Vienna.

We had agreed wholeheartedly with Goldie's parents and with the young couple that the wedding would take place in Israel. There was, of course, no way of knowing at the time that Operation Pillar of Defense would be raging on the scheduled date. Throughout the week, we had to seek shelter several times, but our main concern was that the continuing rocket fire might frighten family and friends from abroad into cancelling travel plans. In the end, almost everyone came, and with the many Israeli guests, the hall was full.

There was a palpable sense of defiance among those present, a keen awareness that while the enemy was striving to destroy Jewish life, we were celebrating Jewish life through the formation of a bayit ne'eman be-yisrael. After the chupa, we learned that Israel and Hamas had just signed a cease fire agreement. Spirits soared as we rejoiced late into the night, savouring the singularity of the moment.

A year and a half later, Operation Protective Edge was in full swing. Our daughter Tamar, a doctor at Beilinson Hospital, told us over the phone in a voice choked with emotion how devastating it was to deal with the daily arrival of critically wounded soldiers from Gaza. Tamar and her husband Jono had left Toronto to fulfill their Zionist dream with a year-old son. 17 years and four sabra children later, their first-born is approaching the age of conscription. The family enjoys a deeply gratifying and unfailingly interesting life in Israel, but sometimes things get rather complicated in the historic homeland of the Jewish people.

Two days after the call from Tamar, with Israel still in

the thick of war, our son Ilan called from New York. Joyfully, he informed us that he had succeeded in purchasing a home in Raanana, across the street from his sister. He, his wife Dana, and their four young children were flying to Israel the following month, in time for the start of the school year.

The next day, I met in Toronto with Roberto, a business associate of Italian background. He told me admiringly about a certain Israeli start-up company that had produced a brilliantly original solution to a recurring problem in his operation.

"Those guys sure are something else!" he enthused.

I was happy to concur that Israel is a remarkable little country boasting a broad range of extraordinary achievements despite all the daunting challenges.

"Yes, it's a shame about the neighbours always trying to kill them. How can anyone live in a country like that?"

I told Roberto it was hard to explain the Zionist impulse to outsiders. I mentioned that my own son was moving his family to Israel, in the belief that on balance, it was a fantastic place for them to live. At this, he blurted out:

"What? He must be out of his mind! You really should talk him out of it."

Roberto immediately regretted his candour, and apologized for giving offense. I assured him that no offense was taken: I understood his perfectly normal reaction to the launching of thousands of deadly rockets at an entire civilian population, which yet refused to be demoralized and continued to aspire to the highest standards of ethics and achievement.

Whatever else I may have been thinking, I kept it to myself, quietly proud to belong to such a people.



WHAT I LEARNED THIS SUMMER VACATION...

GIL TROY

This was a surreal summer, a season of family celebrations and vacations punctuated by rocket sirens when we were in Israel – and email flashes bringing bad news while we tried enjoying ourselves abroad. Having been in Jerusalem for the 2006 Lebanon War and the two previous Gaza confrontations, I have long understood that it is easier to endure these crises while remaining there. This summer illustrated that too – in Israel, there are normalizing inputs – weather, traffic, diversions for the kids, along with generous tzedakah projects and individual acts of kindness Israel's media covers extensively. When watching a war from abroad, every horrific headline emphasizes the tensions.

This summer also offered sobering life lessons for Jews today. The scourge of Anti-Semitism continues. The obsessive focus on Israel's actions – while tolerating intentional, targeted mass slaughter in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere – was only implicitly anti-Semitic; meanwhile, many protestors dropped their usual masks and were explicitly anti-Semitic.

The viciousness – in Montreal and Toronto, New York and Boston not just Paris and London – was unnerving but clarifying. There is now a clearer challenge for those who say, “oh, not, I'm not anti-Semitic, I'm just anti-Israel”: invite these people to repudiate their allies, to distance themselves from the protestors blurring that line. It's a win win -. Either we recruit more allies to oppose anti-Semitism, or, as usually happens, we expose these posturers as hypocrites and haters, hijacking human rights rhetoric to perpetuate human wrongs against the Jewish people.

Israelis also learned two important lessons. Israel again confronted the extent of our enemies' hatred. Too much Palestinian nationalism is perverted by a desire to destroy the Jewish state rather than build a Palestinian one. The hopes of some kind of constructive outcome to the 2005 Gaza Withdrawal were buried in the death tunnels Hamas burrowed underneath the territory they could have turned into a Palestinian Riviera but instead made into a Palestinian North Korea.

Talk of proportionality when Israel was not guilty of targeting civilians or mass killings like ISIS and the Syrians

perpetuated this summer, is a red herring. Democracy is not a suicide pact. Just as democratic leaders in war-time have a moral responsibility to send soldiers to fight aggressively to protect themselves as well as the home front, democratic leaders in peacetime must avoid decisions that imperil the populace. War by definition entails resorting to violent extremes.

The cliché that democracies are slow to anger but once mobilized become formidable, reflects the power harnessed when free-thinking citizens finally are willing to risk their routines because of the intensity of an enemy's threat. When deploying some of its citizens in the resulting armed conflict, a democracy cannot allow its soldiers to fight with blinders, handcuffs, and leg irons. Trying to limit ferocity in war is like trying to limit sweat in a basketball game – there's no spigot to regulate such a natural, inevitable flow.

When the cause is just, those guilty of triggering the war bear full blame for the war's savagery. Germany's suffering more than ten times the number of war dead than Americans did in World War II does not change the war's moral calculus. One can only imagine Wolf Blitzer at D-Day, counting German casualties without acknowledging German guilt.

The terror tunnels may have buried chances for a two-state compromise. The democratic leader must follow the physician's Hippocratic Oath – “first do no harm.” Since the Oslo peace process began in 1993, every major Israeli withdrawal has resulted in more threats, not fewer. Oslo resulted in Arafat's war of terror, the 2000 withdrawal from Southern Lebanon triggered the second Lebanese War and the Hezbollah build up, while the 2005 Gaza disengagement produced Hamasistan with its Kassam rockets and terror tunnels.

Some benefits followed too – the Oslo peace process freed Israel from controlling hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, the Southern Lebanon Withdrawal ended constant patrolling and ambushes, and the Gaza Disengagement made for a clearer border which Ariel Sharon felt was safer for soldiers to protect, without vulnerable Israeli citizens driving in and out of isolated enclaves.

(con't on p. 15)

(con't from p.14)

Israel could have handled these three big decisions better – rejecting Bill Clinton’s delusion that Yasir Arafat could be like Nelson Mandela, not fleeing Southern Lebanon so hastily, abandoning valuable weaponry while betraying loyal Christian allies, and managing the Gaza Withdrawal to reward moderates rather than encourage Hamas extremists. Still, now, the peace processors have to make the case that peace by withdrawal is possible. Albert Einstein’s definition of insanity is repeating the same action while hoping for different results.

A more inspiring lesson for Israelis is emphasizes the special social glue uniting this remarkable society. Thomas Friedman of the New York Times reported feeling disgusted by the “apocalyptic” jihadism fueling the “sheer dedication” Hamas demonstrated in building all its tunnels. Still, he erred by then concluding, that these tunnels demonstrate that “The religious nationalist-forces have the real energy in this region today.”

Even as more chapters remain to be written, let’s appreciate what happened this summer. A middle class democracy, with an often fractious political culture, united to defeat what most of the citizenry considered an existential threat -- rockets raining down from the air and jihadi terrorists swarming from under-

ground. Thousands of young people – usually caricatured as spoiled, selfish, and self-involved – worked hard and cooperatively to defeat that threat. We witnessed mass outpourings of grief as busy people interrupted their workdays to attend funerals and make condolence visits. And millions of ordinary people demonstrated extraordinary heroism and discipline as sirens sounded without panicking or lashing out – broadly denouncing the one, horrific revenge murder that did occur.

This extraordinary unity helped destroy five years of Hamas efforts to build their death tunnels in less than four weeks. With that kind of social solidarity, mass altruism, and national grit, Israel again showed that the jihadis may get the sympathetic headlines, but mass middle class democracies like Israel, the US and Canada will ultimately triumph.

And therein was yet another positive lesson. Once again, America and Canada supported Israel enthusiastically. Even if President Barack Obama occasionally wavered, the vast majority of Americans remained solidly, consistently behind the Jewish State. In Ottawa, Stephen Harper’s government continued to show great courage and leadership in supporting Israel, a political position that gets broad-based party support in Canada as it gets bipartisan support south of the border.



Photos Courtesy of Eyal Gaziel

Historically, we liberal democrats have always worried about being defeated by autocrats, be they German, Soviet or Islamist. Ultimately, I'll bet on our track record, values, and lifestyle.

Finally, this summer, as most Israelis stuck to their routines between scrambling to shelters during Red Alerts, the closer they lived to the Gaza border, the more life was disrupted. Some Israelis emphasized the resulting disruption, fear, and casualties to compete with the Palestinian woe-is-me, we-are-the victims war porn.

Most Israelis preferred demonstrating indomitable insouciance, echoing Londoners resisting the Nazi Blitz.

In early July, amid the great tensions preceding the war, we celebrated my daughter's bat mitzvah. After work-

ing so hard to learn her Torah portion, she made one request: that her father and two brothers start a family flash-mob to Ray Charles's classic cover of "Shake a Tail Feather," during a post-Bat Mitzvah beach party for her friends (getting her mother and sister to dance was easy). So there we were, Twisting and Phoney-Moroneying on the beach, flash-mobbing away, with the menace of rockets already clouding the magical Mediterranean night.

The image of this dance -- and many other normalizing moments amid the abnormal whirl of sirens, shriek of rockets, booms of Iron Dome missiles, and pitter-patter of people scampering to shelters -- illustrates Israelis' scorn for Hamas threats. Cliché but true: living well is the best revenge and democrats living in freedom do that best.

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THE WAY WE WERE

ROCHELLE ROSENBLUM

Having been a member of Emunah Women for over fifty years, I have lately been in a very reflective and nostalgic mood, looking back on these past years with a great sense of satisfaction and pride.

At the outset I should like to give a brief history of our organization. A brief history that many of our younger members do not know.

Emunah Women was formerly known as Mizrahi Women, an organization that came into being in 1942 at a convention held in Toronto. Its purpose was, as it continues to be to this day, to help the needy and disadvantaged Jewish population in Israel- be it day care centers, nurseries, vocational schools, senior citizen drop in centres, or villages to house children at risk. In 1977 Canadian Mizrahi Women joined Emunah, the newly formed world religious Zionist organization, with members in eleven countries world wide. With this new partnership our name was changed to Emunah Women of Canada.

When I joined in 1962, it was still known as Mizrahi, but on a personal note I would like to go back even further, because I and my late sister Sharon a.h. were second generation "Mizrahi Women".

When our late mother Anna Zigelman arrived in Toronto in 1945 with our late father a.h. and two young daughters, she knew no one in Toronto. To make friends, she immediately joined the Hatikvah Chapter of Mizrahi Women. Her fellow members became like family, and together, for over so many years, they worked to support our projects in Israel.

Having been brought up, since childhood, with the ideals of Mizrahi, "The Land of Israel, for the People of Israel, according to the Torah of Israel", it was only natural that when my sister and I got married, we would follow in our mother's footsteps and join the Orah Chapter of Mizrahi.

In those years there were many different very active chapters, divided usually by age groups.

The name of the chapters over the years were Bat Zion, Elka Bornstein, Etzion, Haifa, Hatikvah, Ilana, Leah Kidron, Menorah, Minnie Etlin, Naamat, Orah and Sharsheret. Some of these chapters were named after a family member, to honour their memories.

Although times and life were very different fifty years ago and even twenty and thirty years ago, much has remained the same. Then and now we were and are committed Jewish women working purposefully and with great dedication to help our needy and disadvantaged brethren in Israel.

Fundraising was very different years ago. Each chapter had their own functions to raise money, but there were several yearly events in which all the chapters participated and worked together. One mammoth undertaking was our yearly Bazaar held in November each year.

A large venue was rented and throughout the year donations of our clothes, footwear, house wares, etc, were collected to sell at our Bazaar. In those years there were no flea markets, no dollar stores, no online shopping to get bargains, so our bazaars were hugely successful and our "customers" returned year after year b.h.

Much needed funds were raised to send to Israel.



1946 - Hatikva Chapter of Mizrahi Women

A VISIT TO REMEMBER

LISA HAMAOU

Other successful fundraising events included teas, art auctions and shows, and fashion shows in which our members and their children modelled. As long as we raised money to send to Israel, no project was too small or too big.

For many years we had our annual “Mother-In-Israel” dinner, held at the end of the year, attended by only women. For the last twenty years, as we all know, our “Mother-In-Israel” dinners have evolved into our wonderful “Family in Israel” dinners, attended by both men and women. These dinners are b.h. greatly successful both socially and financially, and our honourees are always very well deserving and greatly admired.

On a personal level it gives me a great pleasure to know that my involvement with Emunah has continued to the next generation. My daughter, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter, and my sister’s daughter and daughter-in-law are all Emunah members.

One of my greatest satisfactions today is in seeing how the younger women in our community are so involved in and dedicated to Emunah ideals. They are committed and hard working and have taken over the leadership roles to endure that what was started over eighty years ago will continue.

Mi Dor L’Dor- from generation to generation, and there is nothing more gratifying than that.

When my daughter, Sara was a baby, out of necessity, I would take her to all the Emunah meeting I had to attend. She was our youngest member. As she grew older she eventually stopped asking where I was going when I would disappear at night or who those women were seated around our dining room table. She knew it was always for an Emunah meeting. What she did not know was what Emunah did. I would tell her we help children whose mommy and daddy did not know how to be parents. That answer was fine until she asked me why and I did not have an answer for her. All this is to say that Emunah has always held an important role in her life, so when we decided to go to Israel this past summer I knew a visit to Neve Michael must be part of our itinerary.

When we decided to go to Israel the three boys had not been kidnapped yet and there were no rockets being fired into Israel. A few days before we were scheduled to leave the boys were found and the rockets had begun. Changing our plans was not an option, we were still going.



I am so happy we made that decision. Sara got to see first hand the incredible strength of the Israeli people. When a siren went off during Shabbat when we were in Efrat, she ran into a shelter along with all the other people playing in the park. A few minutes later everyone was out in the park, playing again, like nothing had happened.

When we got to Neve Michael, Hava Levine greeted us at the gate. She began to explain to Sara what goes on at Neve Michael. She explained things better than I ever could. She told Sara that when most children go to bed their parents tuck them into bed with a hug and a kiss. No matter what happened during the day they go to sleep knowing they are loved. The kids who live at Neve Michael do not know they are loved. They do not have parents who are capable of loving them the way every child deserves to be. Hava told her that if she leaves Neve Michael having learnt anything it should be to be grateful for everything she has, especially the love of her family.

(con't on p. 19)

(con't from p.18)

As we walked around the village we saw the newly renovated Beit Safra building. With the help of the generosity of Emunah Canada, Neve Michael is able to accept more children who so badly need help. The building is set to begin receiving children in September. Hopefully more children will have a happy start to their new year as they begin a fresh start to life under the care of the loving staff at Neve Michael.

We were introduced to one of the staff members who works at the Crisis Center for Children. He told us his hope is to take his children of the Crisis Center to Jerusalem for the day. A lot of the kids in the Crisis Center have lived their whole life in Israel, but have never been to Jerusalem. Part of being a kid is going on fun excursions. For only \$1800, 15 children from the Crisis Center could go on a great day trip they would always remember. The kids of the Crisis Center had their childhood stolen from them. The incredible staff try to give it back to them.

For me the most memorable part of our visit was walking into one of the bomb shelters in one of the residences. Unfortunately, the day we were there it was open because the kids had to go in it. Hava called it her "happy bomb shelter". It is decorated like a beach. The walls are



painted blue with different beach scenes. There are TV screens and video games. Cabinets are full of games and books. The shelter is equipped with a large supply of water bottles. There are bathrooms and showers in case the children need to be there for an extended period of time. Having to run into a shelter could be traumatizing for any child, but for the children of Neve Michael retaining some form of normalcy in the face of a stressful situation is vital. They need somewhere happy to go,

where they can block out what is happening on the outside. I was so impressed with this bomb shelter. It showed me the high level of care the children really receive. It is not enough to provide a safe place to go while the sirens go off, but they went a step above to provide a "happy bomb shelter".

When we were back in the car after our visit, my daughter said to me that she finally understood why

I volunteer for Emunah. She said she knows how loved she is and she realizes that I think every child deserves that. She even asked me if we could plan a fundraiser for kids her age.

I would really encourage anyone travelling to Israel to take a few hours to visit Neve Michael. I promise you will not be disappointed.



KOL HAKAVOD TO
ALINA MAYER & HER COMMITTEE
FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK
ON EMUNAH TORONTO'S TEA & BAKE SALE.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
ESTY AND JOSEPH EDELL
FOR GRACIOUSLY OPENING UP THEIR
HOME & HOSTING THIS EVENT.

NEVE MICHAEL CHILDREN UNDER FIRE

HAVA LEVINE

Emunah's Neve Michael Children's Village, which is home to over 280 Israeli children at risk, provides a safe haven for boys and girls who were exposed to horrifying experiences at a tender age. Our children are brought to our Emergency Crisis Centers often in the dead of night and under traumatic circumstances. These involve various indicators of family dysfunction stemming from mental illness and drug or alcohol addictions, which in many cases result in parental indifference, lack of proper child care and physical/sexual/emotional child abuse. To help our children on the road to recovery and well-being, we provide them with a warm and caring home environment, education, professional counselling and therapy.

During Operation Protective Shield, as missiles from Gaza reached Northern Israel our children suffered new encounters with fear of a different kind which boys and girls their age should not be exposed to.

Liat, 10, recalls the first missile that landed in nearby Hadera on the first night of the war:

"It was close to bedtime and we were already in our pajamas when we heard the sirens. There was a lot of confusion as we went down to the bomb shelter. The counselors made sure we got there safely and said everything was going to be all right. But when it was over I was so scared I couldn't sleep half the night."

Dimitri 9, remembers that same experience in a different way:

"We were running down the stairs and all I could think was that it was happening again, I was running away from my drunken screaming father one more time."

Rachel, 8, recalls:

"When we got into the shelter I saw that I forgot to bring my doll with me, and I got so scared. I thought about the time mommy drank too much and left me in the fire when our house was burning. I got out of the fire by myself, but my doll can't go anywhere without me. My counselor said she'd be okay and when I got back to the room I saw that she was right."

As of now the war is still not over. We don't know if this war will have bad long-term effects on our children. It is up to Emunah's Neve Michael's caring staff to look after them, to take care of their many needs every single day. And we thank you, our dear friends and supporters, for always being there for us.



NEWS FROM NEVE MICHAEL



Emunah's Neve Michael Children's Village provides a safe haven for over 280 Israeli children at risk who were brought to our Emergency Center by the Welfare Authorities once they determined that their natural parents could no longer care for them.

Our children suffered from neglect and abuse at the hands of their dysfunctional parents who were afflicted with mental illness and drug or alcohol addictions. At Emunah's Neve Michael we provide our children with all their basic needs, a warm and caring home environment, education, professional counselling and therapy to restore their confidence and well-being.

Latest Updates

Up until now, boys who resided in our Children's Village have been sent to other children's homes when they turned fourteen. Thanks to the support of our kind donors, our fourteen-year-olds will now be staying on with us for the duration of their high school years. In this manner, siblings are no longer separated and young friendships thrive as our teenage youth continue to benefit from all the critical professional services at Emunah's Neve Michael until they graduate.



NEVE MICHAEL

Emunah's Neve Michael takes special pride in its graduates who are entering young adulthood with the confidence of youth and a sense of purpose in life. Here are two examples of Emunah's Neve Michael graduates who are achieving excellence:

Achallo, who came to Emunah's Neve Michael as a young boy from Ethiopia, is newly married, studying in college and working as a bodyguard for Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Hofit, who grew up in Neve Michael is now going for Masters Degrees in Criminology and Political Science. In the time being, she is a house mother in a family unit at Emunah's Neve Michael.

On behalf of our caring staff, promising graduates and all our deserving children and teenage youth, we thank you, our dear friends and strong supporters.

We have to be so proud of Neve Michael. This wonderful Emunah home hosted families from the South. It was so moving to see how our children helped all of the guests enjoy a few days free from missiles and panic.

Last week Neve Michael hosted over 50 children from Simcha Layeled, an organization that helps chronically sick children. Their summer camp program was cancelled and NM decided to host them.. The children said it was the best Shabbat ever... the best food, the best rooms... but not less important ... the loving atmosphere and the big welcome that they received.

CHAGIM IN ISRAEL OR INDIAN SUMMER?

RONNIE RUDNITSKY DIRECTOR, ISRAEL RESIDENTS COMMITTEE

I was shocked by the calculation that I have been in Israel now more than 34 years, and even more shocked to realize that this number represents more than half my life! Not to speak of the fact that it is much longer by far than the number of years I ever spent in any one country, from the day I was born.

But, even after all these years, I am still confronted from time to time by three basic questions. One is “what do you miss the most about Canada?”. Well, that one requires no thought on my part: Sundays, and Indian summer. I can still see in my mind’s eye driving up to the Laurentians on a warm, lazy Sunday afternoon and finding myself surrounded by a riot of colour, getting out of the car on some quiet road near a lake and hearing the crunch of fallen leaves under my feet.

That question is usually followed by another one, “what do you miss the least?”. Well, that too is easy: Canadian winters (or, as my late mother liked to say, “Canada has two seasons: two months of winter and ten months of cold.” I guess she missed out on Indian summer). The other “galut” feature I certainly don’t miss is two-day Chagim (sometimes stretching to three days when followed or preceded by a Shabbat).

And then usually follows the third question: “what do you like the most about Israel?”. Well, that takes a bit of thought because the list is long and it’s a bit hard to hit

on the one or two major features. But the list would have to be topped by the special pleasure of celebrating the Chagim (all of them) in Israel. First, of course, the joy of not having to explain to your boss (and even, perhaps

especially, if the boss happens to be Jewish), that yes, Succot and Shavuot are also Jewish holidays, just like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The first time I was hit by the realization that Israel “marches to the beat of a different drummer” came not even on a chag, but when I experienced my first rain in Israel.

We had arrived in Israel in late June (in fact, we left Montreal on St. Jean Baptiste Day – by chance and not by design, but still we thought it lent a nice, significant touch!), and spent the first nine months on a Merkaz Klita (Immigrant Absorption Centre) in Ra’anana.



photo courtesy Times of Israel

Many months later, I got off the bus coming home from work in Tel Aviv, just as the first drops of rain started to hit the windows. I was walking home near a school, and was surprised to see all the children outside, singing and dancing. Wondering what they were celebrating, I hurried towards them, only to hear them shouting and laughing, “rain, rain,

it’s raining”, and all the adults around them with big smiles on their faces. What a nice surprise! In Canada, rain was usually welcome (especially if it came after a long hot spell), but certainly nothing to celebrate, or sing and dance about.

SIMANIM

The Gemara in Masechet Keritut establishes that “Simana Milta,” meaning, the things we do as a promising “Siman” (“sign” or “omen”) on Rosh Hashanah are significant and have an impact upon the coming year. Therefore, one should not treat lightly the custom to partake of certain foods on the night of Rosh Hashanah as a good Siman, such as gourd, apples, pomegranates, and so on. If a person does not enjoy one of these foods, it suffices for him to simply point to the food and recite the “Yehi Ratson” prayer. It should also be noted that one may come up with his own ideas for foods as Simanim. For example, it is told that somebody would eat on Rosh Hashanah a combination of lettuce, raisins and celery, and declare, “Let us have a raise-in-salary.”

BEETS

Selek, beet resembles the Hebrew word sileik, remove.

Beet-and-Apple Salad

יהי רצון מלפניך,
ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותנו,
שיסתלקו אויבנו.

*“May it be your will,
that our adversaries be
removed.”*



Ingredients

4 large (2 1/2 pounds) beets
5 sprigs thyme
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
Salt
Freshly ground pepper
1/4 cup apple-cider vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
3 tablespoons prepared horseradish
1/3 cup salted pistachios, chopped
1 green apple, thinly sliced

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

In a baking dish, lightly drizzle the beets and thyme with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Cover with foil and roast until the beets are tender, about 1 hour and 45 minutes. Let cool, then peel the beets and cut them into 3/4-inch dice.

In a large bowl, whisk the vinegar with the mustard. Whisk in the remaining 1/2 cup of oil until emulsified. Add the horseradish and season with salt and pepper; toss with the beets and pistachios. Transfer the beets to a platter, top with the apple and serve.



CARROTS

Gezer, carrot resembles the Hebrew word gezerah, decree.

יהי רצון מלפניך,
ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותנו,
שתגזיר עלינו גזרות טובות.

*“May it be your will,
that you decree on us only
good decrees”*



Moroccan Carrot Salad

Ingredients

6 to 8 medium carrots, peeled & sliced (1/4" rounds)
2 cups water
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
3 teaspoons ground cumin
1 tablespoon honey
3 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1/3 cup olive oil
1 cup mint leaves, washed and chopped

Directions

Cook carrots in two cups water covered until just tender (approximately 6 minutes). In a medium sized bowl, mix cayenne, cumin, honey and lemon juice. Whisk in olive oil. Drain excess water (if any) and toss warm carrots with vinaigrette. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with mint. Serve warm or at room temperature.



LEEKs

Khreishah, leek resembles the Hebrew word, khareit, decimate.

יהי רצון מלפניך,
ה' אלקינו ואלקי אבותינו,
שיכרתו שונאינו.

*"May it be your will,
.... that our enemies be
decimated."*



Leek Latkes

Ingredients

oil, for frying
4 large leeks, washed thoroughly &
sliced into 1/4 inch slices
4 eggs, beaten
1 cup whole wheat or regular flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper



Directions

In a large soup pot, bring a few inches of water to a boil. Add leeks. Cover. Turn heat down to low. Cook for 5-7 minutes, or until the leeks are bright green and just tender.

Drain the leeks in a colander, and let them cool a bit.

Place leeks in a mixing bowl. Add beaten eggs. Add flour or matzah meal. Season with salt, pepper and basil. Mix well.

On medium-high heat, heat a few tablespoons of oil in a frying pan. When the oil is hot, drop batter by table-spoonfuls into pan. Flatten the pancakes a bit so they are not too thick to cook well in the middle.

Fry approximately 3 minutes on each side, until browned on both sides and firm in the middle. Remove from frying pan onto paper towels to drain excess oil and cool. Repeat, starting with hot oil and then dropping spoonfuls of batter, until all the batter is used.

Yield: 14-16 latkes

(con't from p.22)

But I'm really getting ahead of myself, because long before that first rain I experienced my first Shabbat in Israel, and then my first Chagim in Israel. I won't even try to describe the absolutely special "air of Shabbat" which descends on the country, starting already from early Friday morning and intensifying throughout the day. Songs and poems and books have been written on the subject.

The joy of experiencing that special atmosphere became much more intense once we moved to our apartment in Petach Tikva, and I was no longer working on Fridays and then coming home to the rush of preparing for Shabbat, with usually a houseful

of extra young people that one or more of my three daughters always made sure to invite, crammed into a two room apartment. (I have no idea how I did it, but the only explanation I can give is that I was younger then!)



And then came the Chagim, and there was no mistaking the anticipation and the excitement. There is absolutely no way anyone living here can be unaware that a holiday is approaching (unless perhaps he lives in a cave somewhere). The papers with the ads enticing you to their 'holiday specials', the radio and TV with songs and programs and recipes and suggestions of what to do, the dozens of festivals in almost every spot throughout the country, the National Parks and Nature Reserves pushing their special attractions, the crowds in the shops buying and buying and buying (the first time I thought everyone must know about some imminent disaster I was not aware of!).

There is simply nothing that compares to celebrating a Chag in Israel. But yes, I still miss Indian summer. So if any of you find yourselves driving through the Laurentians this fall, you are welcome to send me a picture. I guess I will have to supply the sound of crunching leaves, and the special smell of the trees, from my memory.

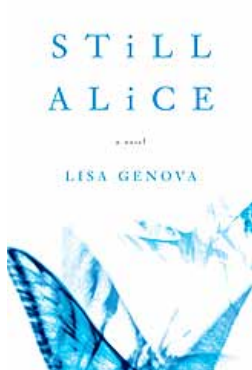
SUGGESTED READINGS FOR THE “PEOPLE OF THE BOOK”

Still Alice

by Lisa Genova

Alice Howland—Harvard professor, gifted researcher, and lecturer, wife, and mother of three grown children—sets out for a run and soon realizes she has no idea how to find her way home. She has taken the route for years, but nothing looks familiar. She is utterly lost. Medical consults reveal early-onset Alzheimer’s.

Alice slowly but inevitably loses memory and connection with reality, as told from her perspective. She gradually loses the ability to follow a conversational thread, the story line of a book, or to recall information she heard just moments before. Genova’s debut shows the disease progression through the reactions of others, as Alice does, so readers feel what she feels: a slowly building terror.



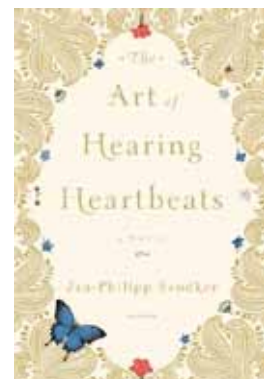
The Art of Hearing Heartbeats

by Jan-Philipp Sendker

A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* spans the decades between the 1950s and the present.

When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be... until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father’s past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived.

There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader’s belief in the power of love to move mountains.



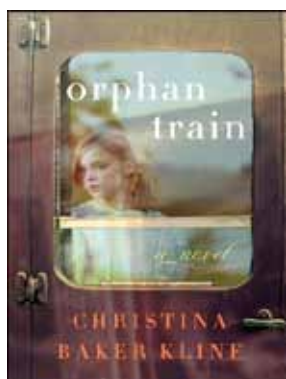
*Thank you to Nadine Sheinberg for
the book suggestions.*

Orphan Train

by Christina Baker Kline

Orphan Train is a gripping story of friendship and second chances from Christina Baker Kline, author of *Bird in Hand* and *The Way Life Should Be*.

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to “aging out” out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...



As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren’t as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.

Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both.

Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

B'NEI MITZVAH TWINNING AT NEVE MICHAEL

One of the most meaningful events of the year at the Children's Village is the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration. Throughout the year the Bnei Mitzvah children go on special trips, have special seminars and receive special meaningful gifts including tefillin for the boys and candlesticks for the girls. The year culminates with a festive party celebrating their coming of ages with friends, family and of course the entire village.

We are excited to announce that Neve Michael has expanded this festive event under a new initiative that twins our Bnei Mitzvah youth with Bar/Bat Mitzvah boys and girls from Canada.

Here's how it works:

At Emunah's Neve Michael, our children residential family units which of 12 children who live with a family in the Children's Village. Within these family units our children are showered with all the warmth and loving care of a normal household, that is to say, all the advantages of family life that were so sorely lacking in their natural homes.

Under the Bnei Mitzvah program, Canadian Bar/Bat Mitzvah youth are "twinned" to family units in Neve Michael which foster at least one Bar/Bat Mitzvah boy or girl. Canadian Bar/Bat Mitzvah youth can start communicating with their counterparts in Neve Michael. This begins fostering a tremendous bond that impacts both sides. Lasting friendships can be built and so much can be gained by all the boys in girls who participate in this enriching and memorable Bnei Mitzvah experience.

We encourage participants to donate a portion of their own Bar/Bat Mitzvah money to the Neve Michael children. The young benefactors are taught the act of giving with kindness to the less fortunate setting them on the path of philanthropy.

Donations of \$360 and above include an inscription on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah wall in The Rehazy Pavilion at Neve Michael Children's Village. A beautiful com-



Bar/Bat Mitzvah wall at The Rehazy Pavilion

memorative Torah Scroll plaque will be sent to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah participant in honour of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah donation.

In addition, families visiting Israel for their sons' and daughters' Bar-/Bat-Mitzvah celebrations are invited to participate in our children's festivities at Neve Michael. If you can't attend the celebration which takes place in June, we can make a special tailored celebration for your family. This can involve special activities including: basketball games, soccer matches or swimming races, arts and crafts, song and dance or a stage show extravaganza honoring the Bar/Bat Mitzvah youth.

We look forward to celebrating with you.



**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebratory Play
June 2013**

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Please contact your Emunah Office for more information:

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