

ANSHE EMETH NOVEMBER 2023 E-NEWS

SHABBAT IN-PERSON AND ALSO ZOOM SERVICES: Friday, November 10, 7:30 pm
with *oneg* to follow. (Zoom link below, service will be recorded.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2nd night of Hanukkah, soup and latke supper at 6, services at 7:30 p.m. Bring your *hanukkah*'s!

NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS, *May their memories be for a blessing:*

Robyn Friedman, Dorothy Kastner, Edna Kastner Feingold, Arthur Litchfield, Alexander Pollack, Millie Simon

MESSAGE FROM RABBINIC INTERN GRETCHEN JOHNSON:

Dear Congregation Anshe Emeth,

Remembering our joyous celebration of Sukkot and Simchat Torah during my last visit, it is hard to believe the tragic and shocking events that began the next day. The whole Jewish community grieves for the many innocent Israelis and tourists killed by Hamas terrorists. I was particularly saddened to hear that fifteen civilians were killed in their own homes in Netiv Ha'asara, a moshav very near the northern border of the Gaza strip. Netiv Ha'asara was founded in 1982 by 70 families who moved from their previous moshav in the Sinai Peninsula following the Camp David Accords. Although Netiv Ha'asara is in uncontested Israeli territory, it became a prime target for rocket attacks after the withdrawal from Gaza in 2005. When I visited N

ativ Ha'asara with my classmates earlier this year, residents told us they were so close to Gaza that when they heard an alarm they had only a few seconds to get to a bomb shelter before impact. They had to build their schools inside bomb shelters, and during years of heavy bombardment children could not go outside to play.

Despite all that the residents of Netiv Ha'asara had already endured, during my visit they expressed sympathy for the people of Gaza. We heard from a woman who volunteered to drive Gazans to the hospital when they received permits to enter Israel for medical care and helped Gazans with work permits find jobs in Israel. Longtime Netiv Ha'asara resident Tsameret Zamir created the Path to Peace project, a mosaic on both sides of the wall separating Israel from Gaza. Visitors to Netiv Ha'asara could add to the mosaic by writing a wish on the back of a mosaic piece and gluing it to the wall.

I am very concerned with the safety of my friends in Israel and with the 230 hostages captured by Hamas militants. Israel has immediate security concerns that must be addressed. But eventually, soon I hope, the current wave of violence will be over. Then it will be time to try again for peace in Israel. Hamas' terrorism makes continuing to hope for peace very hard. Hamas does not want peace. The motive behind their atrocities was to force Israel to fight back. There is no better way to defeat Hamas than to refuse to give in to hate or vengeance. Let the memory

of the inhabitants of Netiv Ha'asara who lost their lives be a blessing. Let their astounding courage and persistence in hoping for peace inspire us.

While we wait for the possibility of peace in Israel to return, we can work for peace closer to home. The news from Israel has also sparked a distressing rise in antisemitism and islamophobia in America. Though it is natural to feel fear and anger in these circumstances, now is the time to deescalate conflict and increase friendship and understanding.

I look forward to seeing you all. And from the bottom of my heart I wish you all Shalom.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Sharon Lemmon, Neal Schmidt

JOIN IN PERSON OR ZOOM.... ZOOM LINK HERE:

To Join Zoom

Service:<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7643723318?pwd=STJIR1drNXFoL29XRGw0L1AzMThxQTO9>

Or go to your Zoom App and put in this information:

Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 Passcode: 0092

Or simply dial by your location: 646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted, put in for the Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 and push #Passcode: 0092 and push #