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ROSH HASHANA 5782/2021



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Janet & Irwin Tobin

After 10 months of not being able to travel to Israel, we finally landed on Yom Ha'atzmaut (April 14th). We were greeted by our children and grandchildren. It was a very thrilling welcome as we had just become dual citizens.

Along with our return we were finally able to visit the staff and children at Neve Hanna. Antje Naujoks, PR Director, quickly made arrangements for our visit and meeting with the staff. It was so exciting and we received such a warm welcome from everyone. We had not been able to visit for 18 months due to Covid.

We toured Neve Hanna and saw all that the staff and volunteers did to liven the surroundings. Everything looked beautiful. New murals were painted on the exterior of the buildings and all the outdoor equipment was freshly painted. The totally renovated bakery is sleek and modern. We made sure to buy bread, cookies, crackers and big pretzels for our whole family to enjoy.

Next, we viewed the beautiful new library. Thanks to all of you that contributed to this wonderful project. We are hopeful that you will continue to help us enlarge and maintain it. In July, a professional librarian was hired to begin working to set up the library. Itzik Bohadana, our Director, would like to have the library dedication in late August, before the opening of school and before we leave Israel.

This year, for security concerns, the

B'nai Mitzvah location had to be changed from Robinson's Arch, the egalitarian section of the Wall, to the Leonardo Hotel in East Jerusalem. Due to the passing of Rabba Liron Levy Rosensaft's father, the B'nai Mitzvah was postponed until June 17th, two and a half weeks later than planned. With Rabba Liron's direction the children were able to learn their new Torah passages.

The service was held in the hotel synagogue. Each child was led up to the Bima, for their aliyahs, by parents or two members of their family. The children were unbelievably fantastic reciting their new Torah passages. They were so remarkable and so proud of themselves and so happy. They looked up to Rabba Liron with much love and such a feeling of accomplishment. The service was filled with tears and admiration and loud applause from all who attended. The celebration continued in the hotel social hall with a complete program and luncheon.



Thanks to Allan Gottesman and the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and International Kiddish Club for donating the Tefillin.

Thanks to the Sisterhood of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor for donating the Tallesim. It was so nice that not only the staff, but also their parents were appreciative of all that the American Friends do for the children.

Let's do all that we can to ensure that the NH children can continue to be proud of their accomplishments and continue on their way to a successful future.

Next June the B'nai Mitzvah will be accompanied by the Sephardic Torah dedication. We hope many of our American Friends will be able to come to Israel and join us.

At this time, we want to extend our best wishes to you and your family for the New

Year and the upcoming High Holidays. As we greet the New Year 5782, we hope and pray that we will see the end of this terrible COVID-19 pandemic. *We wish you good health, happiness and prosperity in the year ahead. Stay safe and stay well.*

L'Shanah Tova Tiktatev!

Janet and Irwin Tobin

VISIT TO THE DIALOGUE IN THE DARK MUSEUM

Rabba Liron Levy Rosensaft

"Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord"
(Leviticus 19;14)

Every year one of the B'nai Mitzvot highlights is our visit to the Dialogue in the Dark museum. In this extraordinary exhibit, we can't see anything, but we discover a whole world and maybe, especially, ourselves.

During the tour, blind guides lead the children through dark designed spaces: nature, a noisy pedestrian crossing, a port, a market, and a pub. Blind and vision-impaired individuals take an active part in opening the visitor's eyes in the darkness, demonstrating that their world is not poorer, but simply different.



We are hoping the exhibit will lead the children to have a unique experience and

to introduce them to the rich sensory world hidden within each and every person, and to create an unbiased encounter between blind and sighted people.

We truly and honestly believe that the exhibit can cause a true change in the way our teenagers perceive others, and those who are different.

TORAH WORKSHOPS

Rabbi Hanna Klebansky

Since Shavuot I have been thinking about the experience I had at Neve Hanna when I did workshops for over 50 children. In Israel, for more than 15 years, I have been teaching preparation courses for bar/bat mitzvah children in a variety of classes, workshops and lectures. I am familiar with what questions children can most often answer and what questions they find difficult. A simple example — not everyone in grades 6-7 preparing for a bar/bat mitzvah knows how to answer the question: "What is the first mitzvah in the Torah." Usually, only students in very religious schools know this answer.

In Neve Hanna there was no problem with this question. It was a most welcomed surprise to hear the answer. I give the credit to Rabba Liron's marvelous teaching of the children.



During my workshops, I try not to lecture. I hold conversations creating interaction with the children. I ask questions and listen to what they have to say. I was happily surprised to discover that the Jewish knowledge at NH was super-

ior to other schools where I teach both Judaism and general courses.

I feel I am privileged to be a Shaliach Mitzva and write a Torah scroll for the children at Neve Hanna. A Scroll that will bring additional learning and excitement to the children.

TORAH PROJECT

NEVE HANNA children embrace our Jewish heritage through a commitment to study, ma'asim tovim and mitzvot.

The children are very excited to be learning with the Scribe Rabbi Hannah Klebansky and Rabba Liron Levy Rosensaft. Our children will proudly be able to study, read from and carry their own Sephardic Sefer Torah.

In addition to our friends who have participated and contributed to the **TORAH PROJECT**, the children at NEVE HANNA will each contribute a letter to be inscribed in the last book of the Torah. What a source

of pride. They – and we – are justifiably proud of their accomplishments.

In honor of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah children, we encourage you to add your name to the Torah Dedication! Choose words, or sentences, or whole chapters to be inscribed in the Torah scroll. This is an especially meaningful way to commemorate a special occasion, such as a birth or a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or to memorialize a loved one.

Go to www.afnevehanna.org/torah-project to learn more about the **TORAH PROJECT** and how you too can be a part of it!



RABBINIC CIRCLE

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

Rabbis are among Neve Hanna's most passionate supporters. Some of these rabbis became familiar with Neve Hanna by volunteering during their rabbinical school in Israel. Others have learned about Neve Hanna and have included a visit in the itinerary for congregation trips to Israel. These rabbis have continued to support Neve Hanna throughout the years.

In recognition of this fact, and in the hope of encouraging more of our rabbis to learn about Neve Hanna, American Friends of Neve Hanna is beginning a new project entitled the Neve Hanna **Rabbinic Circle**. The goal of the Rabbinic Circle is to bring together rabbis to learn more about Neve Hanna and be updated on new developments. The members of the Rabbinic Circle will be asked to share information about Neve Hanna with congregants through sermons and articles, to support it as part of their congregation's tzedakah effort and to help spread the word about this wonderful kehillah to other rabbis who might not yet be familiar with Neve Hanna.

We will launch the Rabbinic Circle with a "virtual tour" and staff "meet and greet" to be held over zoom after the fall holidays.

It is my pleasure to organize this effort. I had the privilege of serving as the volunteer student rabbi at Neve Hanna during my rabbinical school year in Israel more than 40 years ago. Neve Hanna has grown so much since then with so many exciting programs and endeavors. But, even then, in a much earlier day, it was evident as to how unique a community it is. Today,

through the work of staff and volunteers, Neve Hanna is a thriving, exciting place educating and supporting the children in so many critical ways.

For more information or to join the rabbinic circle, rabbis can contact the American Friends office or write to me personally at rdobrusin@bethisrael-aa.org I am proud to serve on the board of American Friends of Neve Hanna and it is our hope that the rabbinic circle will encourage more support from our rabbinic leaders.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Lisa Pollack

The Buy a Book, Build a Library:

At NEVE HANNA, the road to knowledge begins with a turn of a page! The children love their books.

The library will have many benefits: Foster a love of study and reading, provide a new kind of vocational training, instill interpersonal skills and inspire the pursuit of higher education. The library will serve as an educational project and a self-support project.

A professional Librarian will supervise and educate the children, offering on the job training for our teens. The Library construction is completed and approximately 500 books have been purchased. Help fulfill our goal of 1000 books.

It all begins with one book and YOU. Go to: www.afnevehanna.org/library to learn more about the Library campaign.



Facebook Fundraising:

Thanks and gratitude to our board members and friends who have graciously lent their birthday to help raise funds for Neve Hanna. If you are interested in holding or co-chairing a Facebook birthday fundraiser, please contact Lisa Pollack for assistance: info@afnevehanna.org

Grants and Foundations:

The Grant and Foundations Committee are looking for additional foundations to solicit for grants. If you have a personal contact or relationship with any foundation, please make an introduction on our behalf or provide us with contact information. Your

assistance will help us move forward as we strive to reach higher goals and opportunities that we cannot accomplish alone ourselves. For more information: www.afnevehanna.org/foundations-and-grants

Legacy and Estate Planning:

Make a brighter tomorrow for the children at Neve Hanna!

Make a lasting impact on the NH children by naming them as a beneficiary in your:

- ♦ Will or Living Trust
- ♦ Retirement Plan as a beneficiary
- ♦ Life Insurance policy

To discuss these options, please contact: info@afnevehanna.org or 347-836-8118 www.afnevehanna.org/legacy-and-estate-planning

AFNH blogs for the Times of Israel:

Telling the story of Neve Hanna and raising social awareness for the children's home through the Times of Israel.

Visit www.afnevehanna.org/blogs

BUY A BOOK, BUILD A LIBRARY... Change a life.

Margie Miller

"Imagination is Everything" — Albert Einstein
"Imagination has the power to change your reality."
— Nitin Namdeo

There are endless ways to stock the book shelves at the newly built **Neve Hanna library**....Just Imagine.

Rabbis IMAGINE, if every Rabbi would **purchase one book** for only \$18, from their Discretionary Fund, for the new children's library. Each book comes with a book plate in gratitude for the donation made.



Minyan attendees IMAGINE, if every congregation would donate one week's worth of Tzedakah money and purchase one book in the congregation's name for the children of Neve Hanna.

Hebrew School Children IMAGINE, if the children from the congregation's Hebrew

school would include Neve Hanna on their list of possible charities that they give their Tzedakah money to the **Library campaign**.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah IMAGINE, if the bar and bat mitzvah children from a congregation would purchase one book from their gifts, in their honor, for the children of Neve Hanna.



Teens IMAGINE, if every USY chapter donated \$18 to **purchase one book** in the chapter's name for the children of Neve Hanna.

Book Clubs IMAGINE, if every synagogue book club would donate one book for the children in Israel.

You IMAGINE, if everyone reading this article, purchased one book and perhaps sent this article to one friend, asking if they could just purchase one book.

Just imagine... Our thousand book goal would be met in no time!! Please **act now**. We can all do our part to make this a reality. All of the children at Neve Hanna would be so grateful for your generosity.

YOUNG LEADERSHIP

Cameron Fields

Young Leadership connects US teens and young adults to NH. Our goal is to get them involved, engaged and educated.

As Rosh Hashanah rolls in this year, it feels as if this year has flown by. However, despite the year passing by so quickly, American Friends of Neve Hanna Young Leadership made major strides, from attending board meetings, launching our social media accounts and starting our own fundraising campaign for the Buy a Book Build a Library campaign. It has been a goal for Young Leadership to have a social media presence, and I am happy to say that we have achieved this goal. We currently have our own following on Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok. This is where we have been posting about what has been happening with our family at Neve Hanna in Kiryat Gat, Israel, and what has been happening in our community in the US. These social media pages have been a great way to engage and educate

people about both Neve Hanna as a whole, and specifically about **AFNH Young Leadership**. This upcoming year, I will utilize these pages, in order to continue to share my love for Neve Hanna. Additionally, our social media pages (Instagram specifically) have been crucial in aiding us in our fundraising campaign for the Buy a Book Build a Library.

Through the AFNH Young Leadership Instagram page we have launched a **Bingo Board Fundraiser**. This fundraiser is both a helpful and fun tool to engage people of all ages to donate to the Buy a Book Build



a Library campaign. It truly puts the fun in FUNdraising!

This is how it works. I created a Bingo board, which is posted on the American Friends of Neve Hanna Young Leadership Instagram page. Utilizing the donate feature on the AFNH Instagram, people can donate, filling the board to get Bingo! I am so excited to see how this campaign will play out, and I strongly encourage you and your friends and family to check it out and donate.

I am eager to connect with more people for the year ahead, and share with them my love and passion for the amazing things AFNH does. Thankfully I will be spending the year in Israel as a part of the Nativ College Leadership Program. Assuming all is safe, I am very excited to visit Neve Hanna Children's Home and share my experience with you all. I wish you and your families a safe, happy, and healthy new year!

For more information: www.afnevehanna.org/young-leadership

Email

If you have not been receiving email blasts, we do not have your address. Kindly forward it to us —

Info@afnevehanna.org

THE PATH TO PEACE PROGRAM

Thirty years ago, Dudu Weger, President of NEVE HANNA met with the Director of the School of Peace in Rahat.

They immediately decided to set up joint groups, one from Rahat and one from NEVE HANNA, gathering together every two weeks, interchanging between both communities. In September 2004, **Path to Peace**, the Jewish-Muslim Day Care Center was established and opened at NH for Jewish and Arab youth from both Kiryat Gat and Rahat. **Path to Peace** is the first co-existence project for children of marginal backgrounds. Both Hebrew and Arabic are spoken. The children are cared for by Jewish and Muslim educators.

Youth meetings take place at the joint Jewish-Muslim-Christian theater group and **Path to Peace**, an interfaith daycare center for Jewish and Muslim-Bedouin children at NH.

The Daycare Center for Jewish and Bedouin children offers educational activities and also aims to assist families in economic, social and emotional distress. This venture, based on cooperation with our Bedouin partners from the city of Rahat, aims to empower these underprivileged children with equal opportunity and promoting understanding.

We aim to teach tolerance through education. These children are often treated with prejudice and suspicion and generally

experience difficulties integrating socially. The cooperation of the families is an essential factor in the success. Parents enroll their children in the daycare program as an active step toward a foreseeable change. They take part in a program designed especially for them, including joint parent-child-activities.

Therapeutic treatment and scholastic assistance are offered to children with behavioral and social problems whose families struggle also with a variety of different hardships.

The Jewish and Bedouin participants form bonds based on mutual respect, friendship and acknowledgment of the other. It is thus that the two groups are brought closer to fight bias, establishing a liberal world-view based on values of international understanding, tolerance and pluralism among children as well as adults.

NEVE HANNA was honored with the prestigious **Golden Dove of Peace** award for 2015-2016 in recognition of its outstanding work in educating children in accordance with the principles of fellow man as well as its special achievements



within the field of International Understanding between Jews, Muslims and Christians. The Golden Dove of Peace has become a world recognized award symbolizing peace, to be passed around the world from person to person, from institute to institute. Past recipients of the Golden Dove of Peace include: Amnesty International, Green Peace, Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev, Pope Benedict XVI., US-President Barack Obama, the Dalai Lama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. To learn more about Path to Peace go to: www.afnevehanna.org/path-to-peace

AFNH VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION

Support Neve Hanna Children's Home



We need your help –
Please contact us with items or
services that YOU can donate!

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AMERICANS FRIENDS of NEVE HANNA

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Social Media & Development
Lisa Pollack
Young Leadership Chair
Cameron Fields

PROGRAMS FUNDED BY AMERICAN FRIENDS

Horseback Riding Therapy
Petting Zoo — Animal Therapy
Gardening Therapy/Sandy's Greenhouse
Teenager Empowerment Program
Path to Bread – Yeladudes in-house bakery
STREETLIGHT
Torah Project

Steady/Regular Funding:

Rabba Liron Levy Rosensaft
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program
Masorti Noam Youth Movement Activities
Holiday celebrations: Rosh Hashana, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach
Summer camp allocations
Library

In addition:

Remedial teaching and tutoring teenagers for high school exams
Talis and Tefillin for B'nai Mitzvah children
Scholarships for former children of Neve Hanna pursuing academic studies
Emergency funding (times of war, recreational trips out of danger zone,
Covid-19 pandemic)
Renovating housing at Neve Hanna and Rosh Pina