



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS Janet & Irwin Tobin

Dear Friends,

We were in Israel from February through June this year. It gave us the opportunity to have many meetings with Neve Hanna Director, Itzik Bohadana, PR & Promotion Director, Antje Naujoks, Rabba Levy and other staff members.

It has been another exciting and eventful year at Neve Hanna. We were thrilled to be able to celebrate with the children at the Purim Carnival and at the Dedication of our new Sephardic Torah as well as joining Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut programs. A yearly special on May 26 – celebrated the B'nai Mitzvah of 6 girls and 4 boys as they were called to the Torah for their Aliyah Ha Torah and each read their portion from their new Torah.

Our library space has been completed and over 1000 books are on the shelves. Many additional diverse books are being purchased by our Librarian, Judith Preger-Reshef.

This newsletter details the highlights of each event and looks into future happenings. I want to thank you all who helped celebrate my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am deeply grateful for the wonderful Zoom program that Lisa, Marilyn and my daughter Robin put together and for the generous support to NH in my honor. I am extremely fortunate to be a part of AFNH for over 28 years and will continue to do so.

Your support helps benefit the growth of the Neve Hanna children and is *very much* appreciated. Many, many thanks.

We hope that you and your families will have a safe, peaceful, healthy and joyful New Year.

*Janet and Irwin Tobin*

## TORAH DEDICATION AT NEVE HANNA

April 4<sup>th</sup> was the dedication for the new NH Sephardic Torah, donated by the American Friends. The atmosphere was permeated with overwhelming excitement from everyone on the campus: children, staff, volunteers and guests that included many from Janet & Irwin (co-presidents of AFNH) Tobin's family. The children lined up eagerly waiting for their turn to hand over a Shekel, their donation for choosing a letter to be scribed in the Torah. Quill in hand, Rabbi Hanna Klebansky, sat on the stage that was erected on the basketball field for this momentous event. Each flat waited patiently to be called up. Every child placed their hand over the Scribe's hand as she wrote their letter.

Finally, Janet & Irwin Tobin, were called up to write the last two words in the Torah, honoring their grandchildren and great grandchildren.



As the Scribe penned the final words, the *Shehecheyanu* was recited – so, so moving. Cheers of *mazel tov* and thank you were loudly shouted as the Torah was placed in its case. The Tobins' grand-

son, Avi, lifted it and began the procession with everyone singing "*Seman tov and mazel tov*" plus many other songs. There was dancing all along the decorated field to the synagogue culminating in placing the Torah into the Eron Kodesh (arch). Every single person danced and sang. Rabba Liron led a short and sweet service

including three of the B'nai Mitzvah children who read a portion in their Torah. In conclusion, a massive, elaborate and delicious buffet and BBQ was enjoyed.



The children are so proud of their Torah. The children and all who attended will remember this event all their lives.

## BAR and BAT MITZVAH Rabba Liron Levy

*Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for unto thee will I give it. (Genesis 13,17)*

One of my goals as a conservative rabbi is to educate the children of Neve Hanna with Zionism and a true love for Eretz Israel. I believe that our children should have a deep connection and appreciation for our wonderful country.

At the Bar and Bat Mitzvah program, I enroll



each child as a young Israeli ambassador. Besides learning history and the religious nature of the land, part of their program is experiencing Eretz Israel with all their

senses, traveling the country from north to south, from east to west. Our journey begins close to home getting familiar with the Kiryat Gat area. We enjoy the forest and challenge our fears by taking horseback rides into the woods. In another trip we are traveling to exciting Tel-Aviv. We walk on the beach, enjoy sight-seeing interesting monuments

and conclude the day with the "Dialog in the Dark" tour. During the tour, blind guides lead us through dark but designed spaces: nature, a noisy pedestrian crossing, a port, and a market. Blind and vision-impaired individuals take an active part in opening visitors' eyes in the darkness, demonstrating that their world is not lesser, but simply different.



Our journey to the North is in the middle of the winter when it's cold and snowy. We hike Carmel Mountain, near Haifa, with it's most beautiful landscape – a combination of green forest, blue sea and animals. We acknowledge the Israeli Druze community and its brave connection with the Jews in Israel. We spend the night at the NH house in Rosh Pina, waking up very early in order to begin our day at Hermon Mountain, the only snowy mountain in Israel. You should see the children's faces when they touch the snow for the first time in their lives!

The highlight of the year is in the summer when we travel to Eilat the southern point in Israel and the number one vacation resort. We visit the underwater museum, go on a boat trip, dive with dolphins, ride bicycles in the desert and enjoy good food, snacks and much ice cream.

We finish our Israeli journey at the end of the year in our capital, Jerusalem. The children experience the Old and the New City, celebrate at the Egalitarian Kotel and absorb the magical atmosphere of the Holy City.

It is always sad to finish the B'nai Mitzvah year and say goodbye. My main comfort is knowing I gave the children their first steps in Israel as God commanded Avraham in genesis. We give them the power to rise to their life journey in Eretz Israel.

## SUPPORTING NEVE HANNA IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!!!

Margie Miller

There are parts of our lives that are complicated. They don't all need to be. For instance, there are many opportunities for Tzedakah that are worthy of our attention. Yet one easily stands out — giving to NH.

Here are *three easy ways* for congregations and or individuals that could help change the lives of the Neve Hanna children.

1- In the spirit of **Rosh Hashana**, consider how new beginnings can be manifested. In many ways each child at Neve Hanna is given the opportunity of a new beginning. They are honored from the moment they arrive.

Honor that new life with a Chai donation. Appreciating all you have this holiday season. Look to the children of Neve Hanna.

2- Add Neve Hanna to your **Giving Tuesday** list of Charities. Donate \$5, donate \$10, donate \$100 or more, Just donate! Giving Tuesday, November 29, is a perfect time and opportunity to remember this special place.

3-**Buy a Book: Books change lives!** The books in the newly built library cost \$18. Every congregation could buy one book. Every book club could buy one book.

The Tzedakah box from morning or evening-minyans could buy one book. One mitzvah cake at one Sisterhood meeting could buy one book. Just pick one! Just buy one book! ( Or more if you'd like).

*This Masorti children's home and school, services the needs of at-risk youth. They are the children of Russian, Ethiopian, Middle Eastern immigrants and native-born Israelis. Neve Hanna strives to enrich its children with a wide variety of individualized therapeutic programs and extracurricular activities while providing a nurturing and supportive family environment. Through the residential life counselors, teachers, friendships, therapies and religious training, the children grow into independent, self-sufficient, emotionally healthy and productive members of Israeli society.*

Every donation you make will make a difference in the lives and future of each child.

## HEALTHY MINDS NEED HEALTHY BODIES

Our director, Itzik Bohadana noticed that some of our children tend to be overweight. To assure that no child is singled out, the entire campus, including the staff was put on the new **Health and Physical Fitness** program. To avoid our children developing serious health issues, like diabetes, Neve Hanna hired a dietician to discuss food, nutrition and eating habits. A physical trainer was hired to develop and implement a fitness program, a work-out schedule and special weight training.

We provide an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a happy and healthy lifestyle.

For information about sponsorship for any programs that American Friends sponsor, contact Lisa Pollack at: [info@afnevehanna.org](mailto:info@afnevehanna.org) or 347-836-8118.

## THE NEVE HANNA LIBRARY

Lisa Pollack

Noted columnist and author, Anna Quindlen, said **"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves."** Books are someone's dreams, and you live many lives while reading them. Great novels are a conversion experience because we come away from them changed. The road to knowledge begins with the turn of a page.

Throughout the pandemic, the children faced multiple obstacles, restrictions,



stress, isolation and other issues. With the schools and public libraries closed, Neve Hanna faced challenges on how to school the children. American Friends took action by helping to fund and build a library, a space of refuge and escape, where the children could discover new worlds through books, and the joy of reading,



**ON-LINE AUTION**  
*see back page*

### Email

If you have not been receiving email blasts, we do not have your address. Kindly forward it to us — [Info@afnevehanna.org](mailto:Info@afnevehanna.org)



studying, and learning.

In the span of two years, with the love and support of our board of directors, family, friends and donors, we raised the essential funds to build a library and fill it with over 1,000 new books. The campaign has been an important endeavor in improving the well-being and future of the children.

This year, we hired Librarian, Judith Preger-Reshef, who has been cataloging the



books, and preparing to work with the children. Judith's main focus is to inspire the children to love reading. She will supervise and educate the children and offer programs such as 'author of the month' and 'storytelling.' One guest author will be Baruch Inbar, a former child of Neve Hanna, who went on to become a successful artist, designer, animator and visual storyteller of children's books. Baruch gifted copies of his books to the Library. What a source of pride for Neve Hanna, and a positive influence for young children and teenagers.

But, our work is not complete. We need to raise more funds to purchase additional books, tablets, and computers and professionally train teens to assist and become librarians.

When you join our campaign, you'll help us do so much more. It all begins with one book and YOU.

## LIBRARY PROGRESS

Judith Preger-Reshef, Librarian

We are happy to report that 1,075 brand new beautiful books fill the shelves at the Neve Hanna Library. Out of that number, 642 are children's books, 191 are English books, and 242 are for our teens and adults. Presently, we are looking to add an additional 120 to 200 books. They will consist of new publications, mainly in Hebrew and some in English. We also want to include approximately 50 books in Arabic for our Bedouin-Muslim children



who participate in the Path to Peace program.

In August 2022, after summer camp ended, the children were introduced to the library. All 120 children of Neve Hanna were present and met with me, as I explained how they can borrow books. I also gave them a taste of what is to come, along with the books and exciting programs waiting for them in the new school year beginning September 1st.

Special events include presentations by book writers, to help raise the children's awareness and curiosity for the library and its books and to enhance their excitement of exploring the love of reading.

As a thanks to our donors, Neve Hanna plans an event in late fall with Janet and Irwin Tobin, co-presidents of the American Friends, the official sponsor of the library.



## NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT NEEDED!

After 18 years of being well used, the playground equipment for our younger children is no longer safe and had to be shut down. Neve Hanna Children's Home is in need of new safer equipment:

- Flexible ground padding for the playground
- Slides
- Monkey Bars
- Swings
- Jungle Gym/Climbing Gym

Hopefully, you will consider an extra donation towards this campaign.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Teenage Empowerment

Neve Hanna is home to teenagers who grew up in dysfunctional homes with poor examples of earning a living or business initiatives. Neve Hanna Children's Home offer supportive teenage empowerment programs that, provide the teens with

the necessary tools, education and communication and skills to enable them to live a healthy adult life and opportunities for a bright future.

*American Friends of Neve Hanna sponsors many programs that empower our teens to grow beyond the circumstances from which they emerged. NH aims to instill in its teens, a sense of self-worth and empower them to go on to build successful careers.*

**Yeladudes Bakery** is an integral part of daily life of the children's home. Founded as an educational project with self-supportive aspects, it offers the teens the chance to work, part-time after school at the bakery. They are exposed to the professional aspects of running a business.



**Streetlight** teaches the teens that they can help make a difference to others. The teens plan, fundraise, purchase and pack parcels of food supplies for families in need within the Kiryat Gat Community.

Streetlight's motto: "The best thing in the world is to do good deeds for others."

**Ziv Neurim** program works with 30 teenagers in need of intensive developmental support. Professionally guided group activities on the beach and in the sea are offered that focus on topics such as perseverance, mastering challenges and personal will-



power. The youngsters discover new worlds while swimming, rowing, surfing and sailing.

**The Library Project** serves as self-support and educational project. This rewarding opportunity will give the teens the education, experience and job skills to pursue a career in Library Science. Under the tutelage of our librarian, Judith Preger-Reshef, the children will learn to care for and catalog books and all it takes to become librarians themselves. She will help guide the teens in the direction

that could change his or her life and help lay the groundwork for a successful future.

**Young Business Leadership Program**, a new program that will begin in the fall. **The Young Leadership Organization (YLO)** was established as a pilot project in 2013. Today, it has grown significantly with 24 active groups working. NH will include a group of teenagers in this program. Currently, our Director, Itzik Bohadana, along with our psychologists, will evaluate which teenagers will most profit by participating in this program.

The program will create the base for our teenagers to get acquainted with the ethics of earning a living toward pursuing their dreams in the world of business. Two of our former high school seniors received an internship at Hewlett-Packard, learned 3D printing and went on to work in a special printing unit in the IDF and then moved into an apprenticeship with Hewlett-Packard to become industrial printing engineers.

For information about sponsorship for this new teen empowerment program or any of the other programs that American Friends sponsor, contact Lisa Pollack at [info@afnevehanna.org](mailto:info@afnevehanna.org) or 347-836-8118.



*Shanah Tova to all*

## ON-LINE AUCTION SPORTS MEMORABILIA



Ongoing until Wednesday, October 26

**REGISTER at:**

[auctria.com/auction/NeveHanna](http://auctria.com/auction/NeveHanna)

or by texting the word 'Hello' to:

917-979-9626.

Every item has an opening bid.

You will have two times to bid on these items. After two weeks, we will let you know the highest bid, so you will have a chance to up your bid.

Some items for auction:

- N.Y. Ranger, Adam Fox signed hockey jersey, puck and stick
- Former NFL quarterback legend, Eli Manning signed photo
- NBA player, Donte DiVincenzo signed Milwaukee Bucks basketball
- NBA player, Jaren Jackson Jr., signed Memphis Grizzlies basketball
- Boxing legends, Ken Norton and Muhammad Ali framed photo
- Mariano Rivera signed baseball
- Israel National Baseball team members signed baseball
- Baseball legend, Hank Greenberg, *The Hebrew Hammer*, signed photo
- Hall of Fame baseball legend, Sandy Koufax signed postcard

## LEGACY and ESTATE PLANNING

Neve Hanna legacy is built every day by caring for our young people. Your legacy is easier to create than you may think. You can have a lasting impact on the lives of these youngsters through long range financial planning. in one of these ways:



1. **Through Your Will:** Include American Friends of Neve Hanna in your Will or Living Trust.
2. **Through Your Retirement Plan:** Name American Friends of Neve Hanna as a beneficiary.
3. **Through Your Life Insurance:** Designate American Friends of Neve Hanna as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

To discuss any of these options and to learn how to join, please contact our office at [info@afnevehanna.org](mailto:info@afnevehanna.org) or 347-836-8118.

### Follow us on:

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## PROGRAMS FUNDED BY AMERICAN FRIENDS

Horseback Riding Therapy  
Petting Zoo — Animal Therapy  
Gardening Therapy/Sandy's Greenhouse  
Health and Physical Fitness  
Teenager Empowerment Program  
STREETLIGHT

### 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  
Tallis and Tefillin for B'nai Mitzvah children  
Scholarships for former children of Neve Hanna pursuing academic studies

## AMERICANS FRIENDS of NEVE HANNA

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### Founding President

Rabbi Benjamin Z. Kreitman z"l

### Co-Presidents

Janet & Irwin Tobin

### Executive Vice President

Rabbi Jill Kreitman Goldstein

### Co-Founder & Vice President

Sylvia Lubliner z"l

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Lisa Pollack