IAC ISRAELI AMERICAN COUNCIL

CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF IMPACT

GUIDE FOR COMMEMORATIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS

WE WILL **NEVER FORGIVE**

WE WILL **NEVER FORGET**



IAC GUIDE FOR COMMEMORATIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Since October 7th, the Jewish people and the State of Israel have been experiencing one of the most difficult periods in our history, echoing times of the Holocaust, pogroms, and the murder of innocent Jews merely because of their identity. The Israeli American Council (IAC) stands with Israel always, and especially during these challenging times. Since the Hamas attack and throughout the war, we have been tirelessly advocating for our brothers and sisters in Israel, relentlessly fighting for justice against the cruel acts of the Hamas terrorist organization, which defy all ethics and the very foundation of humanity.

These recent days have not been easy. We refused to believe that members of the Bibas family and Oded Lipschitz would not return. We continued to imagine Yarden and Shiri meeting and embracing, and the children running to their father Yarden. We refused to believe that Oded Lipschitz, a peace fighter, would never again hold his wife Yokheved. but reality is unbearably harsh, and some have returned in coffins.

The Israeli American Council (IAC) dedicates this booklet to the story of the Bibas family Oded Lifshit (Z"L) and all other hostages who have lost their lives in captivity, ensuring that their story will never be forgotten. They will remain in our hearts forever!



This booklet offers memorial ceremony guidelines, remembrance marches, and community initiatives to honor their memory and share the story with the world.

The IAC community will continue to stand with the State of Israel in these difficult times and remain steadfast in the fight for truth, justice, and the safe return of all hostages still held by Hamas.

AM YISRAEL CHAI!

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THE STORY OF ODED LIFSHITZ



Oded Lifshitz, aged 85, was among the founders of Kibbutz Nir Oz, a journalist at "Al Hamishmar" newspaper, and a peace and human rights activist. Born in Haifa in 1940, he was a member of the "Hashomer Hatzair" youth movement and graduated from the Hebrew Reali School in the city. He later served as a fighter in the 50th Battalion of the Nahal Paratroopers, participating in the Six-Day War, the War of Attrition, the Yom Kippur War, and the First Lebanon War.

In 1957, he joined the founding group of Kibbutz Nir Oz near Gaza and has lived there ever since. Over the years, he held key positions in the kibbutz, including secretary, treasurer, and chairman of the education committee. Additionally, he worked as a journalist for "Al Hamishmar", covering ideological, social, and political issues. He was a prominent social activist, defending the rights of Bedouins displaced from Sinai in 1972. He was also involved in the organization "Road to Recovery," where he transported Palestinians from the border to receive medical treatment in Israeli hospitals.



On October 7, 2023, during a surprise attack on Israel, Oded was kidnapped from his home in Kibbutz Nir Oz along with his wife, Yokheved. Yokheved was released after 17 days in captivity, but Oded remained captive.

In February 2025, after 503 days of uncertainty, his body was identified at the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute, and it was determined that he was murdered in captivity by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organization.

Oded left behind four children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. His family expressed deep sorrow over the loss and emphasized the need to continue efforts to return all remaining captives.



MORE ABOUT ODED LIFSHITZ (Z"L):

- **Article** – "Retired journalist and activist" by The Jewish Chronicle - *Link*
- **Article** by Times of Israel- *Link*
- **Video** about the life of Oded Lifshitz and the story of his abduction - *Link to video*
- **Wikipedia** - *Oded Lifshitz*

THE STORY OF THE BIBAS FAMILY



The tragic story of the Bibas family is one of the most heartbreaking symbols of the **October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel**. On that day, Hamas terrorists launched an **unprecedented assault** on Israeli towns and kibbutzim near the Gaza border, including **Kibbutz Nir Oz,** where they abducted **Shiri Bibas (32), her two young sons, Ariel (4) and Kfir (9 months), and her husband, Yarden Bibas (34).** The family was forcibly taken into Gaza, with **Yarden separated from his wife and children.**

In the months following the abduction, Hamas released **videos and images of Shiri and her children in captivity**, igniting international outrage and calls for their release.



The **kidnapping of Ariel and Kfir**, the **youngest hostage taken on October 7**, became a chilling symbol of Hamas's cruelty. **Demonstrations around the world demanded their release**, featuring human and artistic displays, birthday tributes for the children, and the widespread adoption of the **color orange**, inspired by the boys' **striking red hair** and **Batman, Ariel's favorite character.** These efforts aimed to **increase international pressure** for their freedom.

However, **Hamas refused to release them** during hostage negotiations and later claimed that **Shiri and her two children had been killed in an Israeli airstrike**—a claim **denied by Israel** due to a lack of credible evidence.
At the **end of January 2025**, Yarden Bibas was **released from Hamas captivity**. He returned to a devastating reality, **unsure of the fate of his wife and children.**

In **February 2025**, after **months of uncertainty**, Hamas returned the **bodies of Ariel and Kfir** as part of a **grim and cynical exchange**, further exposing the depths of its cruelty. Their **coffins became a symbol of Hamas's ruthless actions**, demonstrating its use of innocent **babies and children as tools of psychological terror.**

Hamas claimed to have returned Shiri Bibas body, but after examination by Israel's forensic identification labs, it was revealed that the body was not hers. Later, Shiri Bibas's body was returned to Israel and will also be laid to rest. **This act further reinforces the extreme cruelty, psychological terror, and inhumanity of the murderous terrorist organization Hamas.**
The Bibas family **became a symbol of the horrors of terrorism and Hamas's brutality.** Their tragic fate serves as a **reminder of the urgent need to fight Hamas's cruelty and demand justice.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING OF THE BIBAS FAMILY *here.*

MEMORIAL CEREMONIES AND COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

The days surrounding the return of the bodies, ignited a strong need for community ceremonies to honor their souls and preserve their memory, sending a clear message to the world: we will never forget, we will never forgive!

The focus of the ceremonies will be on the children of the Bibas family—the youngest captives brutally murdered, their story resonating worldwide as a symbol of the evil of Hamas. In the ceremony, we will honor the memory of Oded Lifshitz and all hostages who were murdered in captivity, and we will pray for the safe return of those still held captive in Gaza.

- **Invitation to the Community -** We invite the community to participate in the ceremony and gathering, and to take part in the memorials and various activities. (*Link to invitation format*)
- **Attendance and Dress Code:**
  - **Wear orange** – shirts, scarves, hats, or any other orange item as a symbol of remembrance for the Bibas family.
  - In case of cold weather, participants are encouraged to wear **orange coats, hats, or scarves** to maintain warmth while preserving the symbolic message.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL CEREMONY:

Feel free to adjust the structure of the ceremony, adding video segments, songs, and more. In this booklet, you will find a variety of materials to help you with this.

IAC playlist for the gathering time: *Link to Spotify*

- **Read the story of the Bibas family** and/or play a video telling the story of the family
- **Moment of Silence**
- **Recite prayers** – "Kaddish" and "El Malei Rachamim"
- **Light memorial candles** –*Link Memorial Stickers for Yahrzeit Candles*
- **Read a poem** or sing a song together
- **Invite community leaders** to speak
- **Recite prayer** – The prayer for the return of the hostages who are still held captive by Hamas in Gaza.
- **End with the clip** of the song written especially for the Bibas family- *Link*
- **Sing the national anthems** of the United States and Israel

VIDEOS TO SCREEN DURING THE CEREMONY:

- A news report from Gaza clearly showing that Shiri and her children were abducted alive – *Link*
- A detailed account of the abduction and the Bibas family's testimony several months after the kidnapping – *Link*
- Video about the life of Oded Lifshitz and the story of his abduction – *Link*
- Hamas's cruel ceremony during the process of transferring the bodies to the Red Cross – *Link*
- For more videos about the Bibas family, visit Facebook page: – *Link*
- Statement of IDF Spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari: Ariel and Kfir Bibas were murdered in cold blood – *Link*

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY

IN MEMORY OF THE CHILDREN

MEMORIAL CANDLE LIGHTING STATION

Set up a table with memorial candles featuring remembrance stickers for the Bibas children. Invite the community to light a candle in their memory.

ORANGE BALLOON RELEASE

At the end of the ceremony, the community can be invited to step outside into an open space and release orange balloons in memory of the Bibas family. Participants can be encouraged to write messages and prayers on the balloons before releasing them together at the same time.

SILENT MARCH

A silent march can be organized to raise awareness. Choosing a visible location in the city can help capture the attention of passersby and create public awareness.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MARCH:

- Distribute orange flowers to passersby, each with a note telling the story of the Bibas family.
- Walk with baby strollers adorned with orange balloons, symbolizing the memory of the Bibas children.
- Wear orange shirts as a sign of solidarity and remembrance.
- Participants can wear **Batman capes and/ Or a Batman shirt** (Ariel's favorite character) as a tribute to his memory.

ARTISTIC AND COMMUNITY MEMORIAL INSTALLATIONS

Since the events of October 7th, numerous artistic exhibits and installations have been created to bear witness to the horrors, serve as a testimony to the victims and hostages, and ensure that their memory is not forgotten. These installations have been a powerful tool in raising awareness and echoing the tragedy to the world. In addition to the community ceremony, consider setting up an artistic, community, visual, or musical installation to tell the story of the Bibas family and commemorate their memory.

PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS:

- **Poster Exhibition:** Print and display posters and graphic artworks that have been created over the past year and a half since the Bibas family was abducted. Showcase the exhibit in a public space where both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences can learn about their story and its tragic ending. *(link to posters and graphic designs)*
- **Stroller Exhibit:** Place a collection of baby strollers in a central location, each containing dolls and tied with an orange balloon, symbolizing the children who were taken.
- **Casket Memorial Display:** In a prominent public space, place coffins draped with Israeli flags. Invite the community and passersby to place flowers, dolls, and other symbolic items near the memorial.
  - Orange flowers can be handed out, encouraging people to lay them by the coffins.
  - The community can be asked in advance to bring dolls to place at the site.
  - Flower Wreaths (like those used in funerals) – Can be placed at the front of the Coffin.
- **Orange Memory Wall:** Set up a large orange wall and invite the community to write prayers, thoughts, and emotions as a tribute to the Bibas family.
- **Buildings Lit in Orange:** Contact city officials or owners of significant buildings in the area and request that they illuminate landmarks or buildings in orange in memory of the Story of Bibas family.
- **Memorial Graffiti:** Collaborate with local artists or invite the community to create a graffiti mural in memory of the story of Bibas family. (Prior permission must be obtained for public wall artwork.
- **Community Memorial Garden:** Identify a communal space where a memorial garden can be created. Invite the community to plant trees and flowers in honor of the story of the Bibas family, and install a sign sharing their story and commemorating their memory.
- **Video Station & Mobile Screens**: Displaying images and testimonies of the abduction and Hamas's cruel ceremony of returning the bodies.

- **Comfort Postcards for the Bibas Family and the State of Israel**: Set up a table with orange-colored postcards and invite the community to write prayers, words of comfort, and messages of strength and support for the Bibas family and the State of Israel during these difficult times. Provide markers, colored pencils, stickers, and other materials to allow children and adults to express themselves in the most authentic way.

You can place a mailbox-style collection box where community members can drop their postcards. The collected postcards can then be sent as a unified message of solidarity and support from your community to the Bibas family.






BIBAS FAMILY VIGIL TALKING POINTS:

To help the community share the story of the Bibas family with passersby at the community exhibits, we have created key talking points as a tool to assist them in telling the story, explaining the horrors, and highlighting the injustice!

- **The Bibas family are one of the most heartbreaking symbols of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel**. On that day, Hamas terrorists launched an **unprecedented assault** on Israeli towns and kibbutzim near the Gaza border, including **Kibbutz Nir Oz**, where they abducted **Shiri Bibas (32), her two young sons, Ariel (4) and Kfir (9 months), and her husband, Yarden Bibas (34)**. The family was forcibly taken into Gaza, with **Yarden being abducted and held separately from his wife and children**.
- **Kfir and Ariel Bibas** were kidnapped with their mother Shiri, torn away from their lives and the safety of their home. These innocent children, deprived of their right to grow up, were taken in the most violent way imaginable. Their entire childhoods were stolen, leaving their loved ones in torment without any knowledge of their wellbeing for more than 500 days.
- **Kfir** was the youngest hostage taken. At just nine months old, he was denied the chance to ever celebrate a birthday as a free child. The forensic assessment of Kfir and Ariel's bodies uncovered the gruesome truth of their death – they were not killed by IDF attacks as claimed by Hamas, but murdered by the terrorists holding them in captivity. The evidence points that the children were murdered not with weapons, but with the bare hands of their captors.

- Shiri a young mother forced to endure unimaginable trauma of being held in captivity with her children and witness their brutal deaths.Initially, the body transferred alongside her children's remains was determined not to be hers. Following persistent efforts by the Israeli government Shiri's body was eventually handed over to Israel. After thorough examination and identification, it was confirmed that she, too, was brutally murdered while in Hamas captivity.
- **Yarden Bibas,** father of Kfir and Ariel and Shiri's husband, was too taken hostage and held by Hamas for 484 days. In November 2023, Hamas in yet another act ofcruelty and psychological warfare released a harrowing video of Yarden, while still in captivity, reacting to the news of his wife and children's unverified death. Now, Yarden must face the unimaginable grief of burying his family mere weeks after his own release from Hamas captivity.
- The faces of **the Bibas family** were used as propaganda tools by Hamas, further stripping them of their dignity and humanity. Once symbols of innocence, their images were twisted and exploited. The brutality of their captors, who used them as pawns in a larger, violent agenda, is unfathomable.
- The chilling reality that posters calling for their release were torn down and defaced in cities and campuses across the Western World reflects the success of the Hamas propaganda and dehumanization. The effort to silence the suffering and erase these two young children and their mother from the public eye is a deep and painful wound carried by Jews worldwide.
- Prior to the surrender of the bodies to the Red Cross, Hamas paraded the coffins of the victims in a final act of cruelty. The coffin wrongfully claiming to carry Shiri's remains, was specifically marked with the words, "Arrested on October 7" a backwards reference to the atrocious attack by terrorists on innocent civilians that started this nightmare.
- According to the agreement between Israel and Hamas, and based on Hamas's statement, Shiri Bibas was to be among the deceased hostages released to Israel. However, after further examination in Israeli forensic labs, it was discovered that the body of Shiri Bibas was not returned, as Hamas had claimed, but the body of an unidentified woman. Later, Shiri Bibas's body was returned to Israel. This behavior by Hamas is not only a violation of the agreement but also yet another horrifying testament to their boundless cruelty and evil.

This family's story is a reminder of how violence and hatred can damage not just the individuals who are killed, but entire communities and futures. Kfir, Ariel and Shiri could have contributed so much to the world, but instead, they were robbed of that opportunity. The impact of this loss extends far beyond their family — it is a tragedy that echoes in the hearts of Jews globally.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS:

In partnership with: THE FOCUS PROJECT

HAMAS EXPLOITS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND MANIPULATES PUBLIC OPINION

Hamas deliberately uses Israeli hostages as tools of psychological warfare, choreographing publicized exchanges to project strength and instill fear. These staged events manipulate public opinion and aim to demoralize and traumatize Israelis. By exploiting innocent lives, Hamas showcases its priorities: propaganda and terror over humanity. Terrorists influence worldwide media narratives and distort the reality of its actions. Their media strategy of filming their acts of terror glorifies its brutality. The world must see the truth behind the Hamas manipulation and exploitation of Israeli and Palestinian lives.

THE HOSTAGES AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE DISPLAYE EXTRAORDINARY RESILIENCE

The hostages endured unimaginable physical and emotional abuse with strength and perseverance. Their long-overdue return is a testament to their survival against all odds. Their families were steadfast in their resilience, engaging in tireless advocacy and maintaining hope amid unbearable uncertainty. This spirit embodies the heart of Israeli society – a commitment to protect every human life. Although reunions bring relief, they also demonstrate the immense suffering inflicted by Hamas. These stories remind the world of the human cost of terror and the unbreakable spirit of those who endure it.

SUPPORTING HAMAS PERPETUATES TERRORISM, NOT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Protesters in America and other democratic countries that stand with Hamas are aligned with terror and unimaginable evil. The Iran-backed terror group prioritizes violence and hatred over the welfare of Palestinians and the pursuit of peace between Palestinians and Israelis. Defending Hamas entrenches Palestinian suffering, devastates communities and derails any hope for a peaceful Middle East. Every dollar, word or action in favor of Hamas, whether from an American university student or a European or Australian demonstrator, strengthens a regime that thrives on oppression and destruction. True support for Palestinians requires rejecting Hamas.

WE FIGHT INHUMANITY BY BEING HUMANE

Those who value human rights, moral decency and treating others with dignity and respect must boldly speak up both online and offline when confronting baseless hate, bigotry and cruel or inhumane treatment. Hamas propaganda videos and images of hostages being paraded on international media like animals at auction should turn stomachs and offend anyone with basic values. We must not look away. We all share a collective responsibility to use our voices and defend those being targeted by cruelty, otherwise hate is emboldened.

TRADITIONAL PRAYERS:

KADDISH | קדיש

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא
בְּעָלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כִרְעוּתֵהּ וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵהּ
בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
בַּעֲגָלָא וּבִזְמַן קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא:
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאַר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא
וְיִתְהַדַּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא.
בְּרִיךְ הוּא.

לְעֵלָּא מִן כָּל בִּרְכָתָא : לְעֵלָּא לְעֵלָּא מִכָּל
וְשִׁירָתָא תֻּשְׁבְּחָתָא וְנֶחֱמָתָא דַּאֲמִירָן בְּעָלְמָא.
וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן:

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל
כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן
עוֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם
עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which He has created according to His will.
May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.
May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He ,beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.
He who creates peace in His celestial heights, may He create peace for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

אל מלא רחמים | EL MALEH RAHAMIM

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְּרוֹמִים, הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה עַל כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה, בְּמַעֲלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים, טְהוֹרִים וְגִבּוֹרִים, כְּזֹהַר הָרָקִיעַ מַזְהִירִים. לְנִשְׁמוֹת חַיָּלֵי צְבָא הַגָּנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל וְלוֹחֲמֵי הַמַּחְתָּרוֹת שֶׁנָּפְלוּ בְּמִלְחֲמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְכל הַלּוֹחֲמִים והאזרחים בְּמַעַרְכוֹת הָעָם שֶׁחֵרְפוּ נַפְשָׁם לָמוּת עַל קְדֻשַּׁת הַשֵּׁם, וּבְעֶזְרַת אֱלֹהֵי מַעַרְכוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵבִיאוּ לִתְקוּמַת הָאֻמָּה וְהַמְּדִינָה וְלִגְאֻלַּת הָאָרֶץ וְעִיר הָאֱלֹהִים וכל אלה שנרצחו בארץ ומחוצה לה בידי המרצחים מארגוני הטרור

לָכֵן בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים יַסְתִּירֵם בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפָיו לְעוֹלָמִים, וְיִצְרוֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמָתָם. ה׳ הוּא נַחֲלָתָם, בְּגַן עֵדֶן (תְּהֵא) מְנוּחָתָם, וְיָנוּחוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָם, וְיַעַמְדוּ לְגוֹרָלָם לְקֵץ הַיָּמִין, וְנאמַר אָמֵן

Merciful God who dwells above, provide a sure rest on the wings of the Divine Presence, amongst the holy and pure and heroic who shine as brightly as the sky, to the souls of the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces and the underground fighters who fell in Israel's wars, and all the fighters and citizens in the nation's battles who gave their lives to die for the sanctity of Hashem who, with the help of the God of Israel's battles, brought about the establishment of the nation and the State and the reclamation of the land and the City of God, and all those who were murdered in the Land and outside it by the murderers of the terrorist groups.

Hence, the Merciful One will shade them forever in his wings, and will bind them in the bundle of life. The LORD is their inheritance, the Garden of Eden their resting place, and they will rest in peace on upon their beds, and they will receive their reward at the end of days. So let us say, Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE RETURN OF THE CAPTIVES
תְּפִלָּה לַהֲשָׁבַת הַחֲטוּפִים

By Rabbi Lau David

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלִּפְנֵי אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַּשָּׁמַיִם
אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיא אֶת עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל
מִתַּחַת סִבְלוֹת מִצְרַיִם
הוּא יְבָרֵךְ וְיִנְצֹר אֶת אַחֵינוּ וְאַחְיוֹתֵינוּ הַחֲטוּפִים
הָאֲסוּרִים בְּכַבְלֵי בַּרְזֶל
יְחַזֵּק נַפְשָׁם וֶאֱמוּנָתָם
יִשְׁמְרֵם מִכָּל נֶגַע וּמַחֲלָה
יַחְמֹל עַל בָּנָיו וּבְנוֹתָיו הַמְּצַפִּים לִישׁוּעָתוֹ
יְבַטֵּל מֵעֲלֵיהֶם כָּל גְּזֵרוֹת אַכְזָרִיּוֹת

בְּחַסְדּוֹ הַגָּדוֹל יָחִישׁ פְּדוּתָם וְיֵצְאוּ מִהֵרָה
מֵאֲפֵלָה לְאוֹרָה
וּמִבּוֹר הַשִּׁבְי לְחֵרוּת עוֹלָם
וְיָשׁוּבוּ לְשָׁלוֹם אֶל מִשְׁפְּחוֹתֵיהֶם וְאֶל בָּתֵּיהֶם

אָנָּא, נְטַע אַחֲוָה שָׁלוֹם וְרֵעוּת בְּלֵב כֻּלָּם
הָסֵר קִנְאָה וְשִׂנְאַת חִנָּם וּפְרֹס עָלֵינוּ
סֻכַּת שְׁלוֹמֶךָ
וְנִזְכֶּה בְּקָרוֹב לוֹמַר לְפָנֶיךָ שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה.

May it be the will of our FATHER IN HEAVEN Who brought His people Israel out from the suffering of Egypt that He bless and save our abducted brothers and sisters, bound with iron chains. May He strengthen their souls and faith, Protect them from all harm and disease, Have mercy on His sons and daughters awaiting His salvation, Nullify all cruel decrees from upon them.

In His great kindness, may He hasten their redemption and may they quickly emerge from darkness to light, and from the pit of captivity to the freedom of the world, and return in peace to their families and to their homes

Please, plant brotherhood, peace and friendship in the hearts of all, Remove envy and baseless hatred and spread over us the Sukkah of Your peace, And may we merit to soon sing before You a 'New Song.'

POETRY/TEXT FOR READING

אלוהים מרחם על ילדי הגן

God Has Pity On Kindergarten Children

Yehuda Amichai

אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֵם עַל יַלְדֵי הַגַּן,
פָּחוֹת מִזֶּה עַל יַלְדֵי בֵּית-הַסֵּפֶר.
וְעַל הַגְּדוֹלִים לֹא יְרַחֵם עוֹד,
יַשְׁאִירֵם לְבַדָּם,
וְלִפְעָמִים יִצְטָרְכוּ לִזְחֹל עַל אַרְבַּע
בַּחוֹל הַלוֹהֵט,
כְּדֵי לְהַגִּיעַ לְתַחֲנַת הָאִסּוּף
וְהֵם שׁוֹתְתֵי דָּם

אוּלַי עַל הָאוֹהֲבִים-בֶּאֱמֶת
יְתֵּן רַחֲמִים וְיָחוּס וְיָצֵל
כְּאִילָן עַל הַיָּשֵׁן בַּסָּפְסָל
שֶׁבַּשְּׁדֵרָה הַצִּבּוּרִית

אוּלַי לָהֶם גַּם אֲנַחְנוּ נוֹצִיא
אֶת מַטְבְּעוֹת הַחֶסֶד הָאַחְרוֹנוֹת
שֶׁהוֹרִישָׁה לָנוּ אִמָּא,
כְּדֵי שֶׁאוֹשְׁרָם יָגֵן עָלֵינוּ
עַכְשָׁו וּבַיָּמִים הָאֲחֵרִים

God has pity on kindergarten children,
He pities school children — less.
But adults he pities not at all.

He abandons them,
And sometimes they have to crawl on all fours
In the scorching sand
To reach the dressing station,
Streaming with blood.

But perhaps
He will have pity on those who love truly
And take care of them
And shade them
Like a tree over the sleeper on the public bench.

Perhaps even we will spend on them
Our last pennies of kindness
Inherited from mother,

So that their own happiness will protect us
Now and on other days.

לקבל את מתינו

Receive Our Dead

Hanna Yerushalmi

How do we prepare
to receive our dead?
With stones from Jerusalem
in our pockets, anchoring us,
with red anemones in our hands,
and a knife wedged in our hearts.

With murmurs of ancient laments
on our parched lips as
we drag our feet with halted steps
to receive those dear souls,
because not a single one of us
wants to face this news.

How do we prepare
to receive our dead?
With numb spirits,
fragmented for months,
with our right hands,
lost and withered,
with our left hands
wiping at our infinity of tears.

כיצד אנו מתכוננים
לקבל את מתינו?
עם אבנים מירושלים
בכיסינו, מעגנות אותנו,
עם כלניות אדומות בידינו,
וסכין נעוצה בלבנו.

בלחישות של קינות עתיקות
על שפתינו היבשות
כשאנו גוררים רגלינו בצעדים מהוססים
לקבל את הנשמות היקרות,
משום שאף אחד מאיתנו
לא רוצה להתמודד עם החדשות הללו.

כיצד אנו מתכוננים
לקבל את מתינו?
ברוחות רפאים קהות,
שבורות חודשים ארוכים,
עם יד ימיננו,
אובדת וקמלה,
ועם יד שמאלנו
המוחה אינסוף דמעותינו.

רקמה אנושית חיה

One Human Tissue

Moti Hammer

כשאמות, משהו ממני, משהו ממני
ימות בך, ימות בך.

כשתמות, משהו ממך בי, משהו ממך בי
ימות איתך, ימות איתך.

כי כולנו, כן כולנו
כולנו רקמה אנושית אחת חיה
ואם אחד מאיתנו
הולך מעמנו
משהו מת בנו -
ומשהו, נשאר איתו

אם נדע, איך להרגיע, איך להרגיע
את האיבה, אם רק נדע.

אם נדע, אם נדע להשקיט את זעמנו
(אם נדע להשקיט)
על אף עלבוננו, לומר סליחה.
אם נדע להתחיל מהתחלה.

כי כולנו, כן כולנו
כולנו רקמה אנושית אחת חיה
ואם אחד מאיתנו
הולך מעמנו
משהו מת בנו -
ומשהו, נשאר איתו

When I'll die, something from me
Will die within you.

When you'll die, something from you within me
Will die along with you

Because all of us, yes, all of us
All of us are just a living human tissue
And if one of us,
Fades away
Something from us dies along
And something else, stays within him

If we only knew, how to calm
The hatred, if only we knew how

If we only knew how to silence our rage
To say we are sorry, though we already got offended
If we only knew how to begin fresh from the start

Because all of us, yes, all of us
All of us are just a living human tissue
And if one of us,
Fades away
Something from us dies along
And something else, stays within him

אין לי ארץ אחרת

I Have No Other Land



Ehud Manor

אין לי ארץ אחרת
גם אם אדמתי בוערת
רק מילה בעברית חודרת
אל עורקיי, אל נשמתי
בגוף כואב, בלב רעב
כאן הוא ביתי

לא אשתוק, כי ארצי
שינתה את פניה
לא אוותר לה, להזכיר לה,
ואשיר כאן באוזניה
עד שתפקח את עיניה

אין לי ארץ אחרת
עד שתחדש ימיה
עד שתפקח את עיניה

I have no country other,
Though she's burning, torn asunder.
Just a word in my native tongue
Pierces my veins, right to my soul...
Half torn apart, with'a hungry heart
Here is my home.

Can't keep silent in light of
How my country's changed her guise.
Won't quit trying to remind her
In her ears, I'll sing my cries,
Until she opens her eyes.

I have no country other
'Til her olden days reprise,
Until she opens her eyes.

לו יהי

Let it Be - Lu Yehi

Neomi Shemer

There is yet a white sail on the horizon,
Set against the dark and heavy clouds,
All that we ask for, let it be,
And if in the windows by evening,
The festive candles should flicker,
All that we ask for, let it be

Let it be, let it be, Please - let it be,
All that we ask for, let it be,

And if the messenger should come to the door,
Place good news on his lips,
All that we ask for, let it be,
If your soul asks to pass on,
From blooms and harvests,
All that we ask for, let it be

Let it be, let it be...

The anguished voices I hear,
The sound of the shofar and the sound of drums,
All that we ask for, let it be,
And if within all of them should be heard,
A single prayer from my lips,
All that we ask for, let it be

Let it be, let it be...

In a small, leafy neighbourhood,
A modest house with a red roof,
All that we ask for, let it be,
It's the end of summer, the end of the journey,
Let them return home,
All that we ask for, let it be

Let it be, let it be...

And if suddenly from the dark should shine,
The light of a star on our faces,
All that we ask for, let it be,
Give peace and also strength,
To all those we love,
All that we ask for, let it be

Let it be, let it be...

עוד יש מפרש לבן באופק
מול ענן שחור כבד
כל שנבקש לו יהי.
ואם בחלונות הערב
אור נרות החג רועד
כל שנבקש לו יהי.

לו יהי, לו יהי, אנא - לו יהי
כל שנבקש לו יהי.

אם המבשר עומד בדלת
תן מילה טובה בפיו
כל שנבקש לו יהי
אם נפשך למות שואלת
מפריחה ומאסיף
כל שנבקש לו יהי

לו יהי, לו יהי...

מה קול ענות אני שומע
קול שופר וקול תופים
כל שנבקש לו יהי
לו תישמע בתוך כל אלה
גם תפילה אחת מפי
כל שנבקש לו יהי

לו יהי לו יהי.....

בתוך שכונה קטנה מוצלת
בית קט עם גג אדום
כל שנבקש לו יהי.
זה סוף הקיץ סוף הדרך
תן להם לשוב הלום
כל שנבקש לו יהי.

לו יהי, לו יהי...

ואם פתאום יזרח מאופל
על ראשנו אור כוכב
כל שנבקש לו יהי.
אז תן שלווה ותן גם כוח
לכל אלה שנאהב
כל שנבקש לו יהי.

לו יהי, לו יהי...

התקווה

The Hope- HaTikvah

כָּל עוֹד בַּלֵּבָב פְּנִימָה
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
לְפַאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קָדִימָה
עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה

עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ
הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם
לִהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

Kol ode balevav p'nimah –
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah
Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah.

Ode lo avdah tikvatenu
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim:
L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu -
Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim

As long as in the heart within,
The Jewish soul yearns,
And toward the eastern edges, onward,
An eye gazes toward Zion.

Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope that is two-thousand years old,
To be a free nation in our land,
The Land of Zion, Jerusalem.