

31.5.2014



Doing Life Together

I just love Alla and 'her people' (as she refers to them). Alla is a psychologist at Machaseh who is Coordinator of the Holocaust Project. 'Her people' consist of 400 survivors of the Holocaust who live in the Jerusalem area. Alla does everything from advocating for them at the Knesset to visitation in home or hospital. Her commitment is very deep, and she carries 'her people' in her heart. Alla knows how to 'do life' together! This kind of living can only grow out of love.

About one year ago, some of the Holocaust survivors decided to create an action group. This step resulted from some difficult times that they went through along with an Alla-supported sense of empowerment. The action group meets on a regular basis to discuss the issues of fellow survivors as well as issues affecting Jewry, overall.

I was invited to join in at the end of their meeting last week. They were discussing the disconcerting problem of growing anti-Semitism in the world. So I shared with them about my National Days of Remembrance project last month and showed them my blog post about the events. They wondered how many people participated, and were touched by our support.

After the business meeting finished, we celebrated a birthday. It was great fun as everyone tried on sunglasses, ate the world's most amazing strudel and drank a glass of champagne.

As always, these good folks are surprised and appreciative of the small tokens of friendship that I bring with me from their unmet Oregon friends. This year, Ashland Bill faithfully sent his annual supply of flashlights, reading lights and glasses. Others from Medford to Grants Pass, also helped provide reading and sunglasses. Personalized birthday cards and caring letters w/ gifts were received with smiles. A big thank you to all who gave!

-Diana Nelson LCSW,ACSW



Exodus from Ukraine

Dear supporters,

As you know, the situation in eastern Ukraine is deteriorating from day to day. The citizens are drawn into a civil war, and there are about 30,000 Jewish people who are under a real life threat. The Jewish agency began the evacuation of the first families and it plans to bring much more of the Jewish population to Israel. We began receiving requests for cooperation from the Ukrainian Consulate and ministry of absorption. Two families are already on the waiting list. It is very difficult for us to suddenly take this new project, but we understand that it is part of our calling and vision, and now we are trying to find out what will be our response to this call. We would like to share some ideas that we have for now, according to the resources that we can utilize most effectively to receive the Jewish immigrants who are fleeing the chaos:

1. Organizational work - To coordinate and direct families in their interaction with the authorities.
2. Consultation for parents on daily basis (Finding schools, kindergartens, registration, etc.)
3. Psychological help (Consultation in response to the difficulty of the adaptation period in a new country), tests for emotional and psychological problems and conditions, individual work with children and parents (Family therapy).
4. Social assistance (food, clothes, furniture, etc)

Resources available at Machaseh:

- Social assistance (consultation of a social worker)
- Psychological assistance (consultation of psychologist and family therapist)
- Legal assistance (consultation of lawyer)
- Volunteers help in organisation of daily life of the new immigrants.

Also, dear friends, we ask you to pray for us, because we are going through a very difficult situation in Shalhevetiyah center. We are now required to pay our monthly rent and are under a contract only until the end of the year. We don't know if we will be able to stay in the center for the next year as well, but we trust God and we put everything in his hands.

We want to thank you for all of your support, your prayers, your friendship, and being part of Machaseh family. We wish you a blessed Pentecost.

“The joy of the LORD is your strength”

Nehemia 8:10

