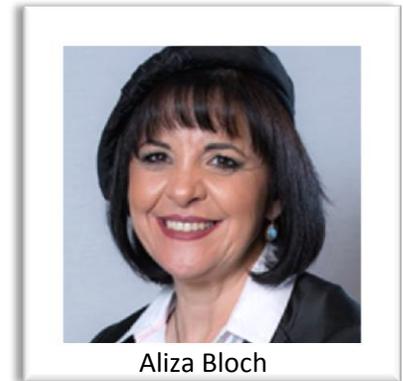




A win for Progressive Voices in Israeli Elections

On Tuesday, October 30th, exactly one week before The US Elections, Israel had their Municipal Elections!

One of the most dramatic events of the Election was the Mayoral Election in my home town: Bet Shemesh.



Aliza Bloch

Bet Shemesh was known for being Ultra-Orthodox, especially with a prominent inclination towards violence over the last decade. Bet Shemesh has a rich history of negative media coverage when it comes to Pluralism and Tolerance.

For the least two seats, Moshe Abutbul, an Ultra-Orthodox Mayor was elected (in the most recent election, there was a suspicion of rigging votes).

Aliza Bloch, a respected former High-School Principal in Bet Shemesh, an Orthodox, Zionist, progressive ran for election, under the flag of Equality for all Bet Shemesh Residents, Tolerance and Good Education. When the Citizen votes arrived it seemed like the Orthodox running for office might win with a few hundred voices tipping the scale. Bet Shemesh anxiously waited for the Soldier's Votes which normally get counted a day after.

The Soldier Votes tipped the scales, earning Aliza Bloch the title of Mayor. Many Israelis congratulated on the struggle for democracy, Tolerance and Religious Pluralism in one of the best known cities in Israel to struggle with these Jewish Values.

Cultural Inclusion

Sigd, the Ethiopian-Jewish Community's Holiday, was celebrated in Israel on this Tuesday.

The holiday symbolized their wish to make Aliyah to Jerusalem for the Jewish Community in Ethiopia, a day to celebrate the Torah and Life.

Nowadays, Sigd is celebrated by traveling to Mt. Moria in Jerusalem; everyone wears white and dances in the traditional Ethiopian style, to the sounds of the Community's unique songs and dances.

Sigd is considered a national Holiday for all and IDF Soldiers get a Vacation Day Choice on that day.





Pittsburgh and Israel

The Israeli response to the Pittsburgh Massacre was swift: PM Netanyahu came out with a message supporting Etz Hayim Synagogue. The Education Minister, Naftali Bennet (Head of Habayit Hayehudi Right-Wing Party) flew to Pittsburgh to support the families.

One news article made waves, saying that Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau did not mention that the attack happened at a Synagogue. It's fake news.



A great article with direct quotes from the Rabbi: https://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/jta/what-israeli-chief-rabbi-david-lau-really-said-about-the/article_6b19a8de-6187-5339-acce-e6a7e6d396db.html .

My own family and friends, unaware of distances, called to make sure everyone at Adat Shalom was safe. Israelis, of all people, can show solidarity when others face Anti-Semitic Terror attacks. The People of Israel stand beside American Jewry through controversy and disagreements. Terror has no place in Judaism, and that is unanimous.

Teens Protest 17 years of Rocket Attacks on Civilians near the Gaza Strip

Last weekend, Israeli civilians near Gaza experienced more than 40 Rocket falls over 48 hours. Teens living near the Gaza Strip marched from their cities to Jerusalem in protest (Picture Below) of government policy saying “We have experienced rocket strikes most of our lives, for more than 17 years.”



Tom Adam, Former IDF Grief Councilor Officer and one of my closest friends, who grew up near the Gaza Strip and had her own home demolished by a rocket strike said: “You grow up in fear, you are always alert. The screech of a chair moving makes you jump and run to the shelter, every unexpected sound makes your heart beat fast, you grow up with this despair, this constant fear. I am 24. For most of my life, 17 years, I have been afraid for my life and the life of my loved ones.”



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