



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
NEVE HANNA

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DEBBIE ZALUDA

Dear Rabbinic Colleague:

I hope this letter finds you and your families well during these difficult times.

I am writing to invite you to help spread the word about a unique kehillah of our movement. Forty years ago, during my rabbinical school year in Israel, I volunteered as rabbi and teacher at Neve Hanna Home for Children and Youth in Kiryat Gat. I hope that you are familiar with Neve Hanna but, in the event that you are not, let me share with you some of the Neve Hanna story.

Neve Hanna was founded as a home for children from difficult or dangerous family situations. It provides a safe, secure atmosphere for the children which enables them to attend school during the day and return to a loving home where they live in small groups in family settings. In addition, through many programs, including the professionally run Yeladudes Bakery, a library and the Petting Zoo, the children become more independent and develop skills which will be of help to them when they leave Neve Hanna.

I referred to Neve Hanna as a kehillah of the Masorti movement. Since its founding, Neve Hanna has had a strong connection with the movement with Masorti rabbis providing the children with spiritual and educational experiences. This work is particularly important since the children come from secular homes and now have developed a deeper appreciation for Jewish tradition and observance through the work of rabbis and teachers who have helped Neve Hanna achieve this part of its mission. Currently, our colleague Rabbi Liron Levy serves as the rabbi at Neve Hanna and she continually brings education, inspiration and a spiritual foundation for the children and the staff with a warm and engaging presence.

I have attached a piece that I wrote a few months ago. It expresses the respect that I have for this marvelous place. Since that experience many years ago, I have continued my association with Neve Hanna by serving as a member of the board of directors of American Friends of Neve Hanna which has representation from many organizations of the Conservative movement including FJMC and WLCJ.

Our board is now in the process of developing a new initiative called the Neve Hanna Rabbinic Circle and we would like to invite all of our colleagues to participate in this effort.

As part of the **Rabbinic Circle**, we would ask you to help us in this way:

- Become more familiar with the work of Neve Hanna
- Inform your congregation about this wonderful treasure of our movement and encourage their support of this unique kehillah
- Write a piece about Neve Hanna in your synagogue bulletin or spread the word about Neve Hanna in other ways
- Make support of Neve Hanna a part of your synagogue's or religious school/USY chapter's tzedakah efforts

We would be honored to add your name to our **Rabbinic Circle**. If you are interested, please email me at rdobrusin@bethisrael-aa.org or to the Board President, Janet Tobin at jpastpres@aol.com You can also contact the office of American Friends of Neve Hanna through the website at afnevehanna.org or email info@afnevehanna.org

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Rob Dobrusin
Rabbi Emeritus Beth Israel Congregation
Ann Arbor, MI