



Rosh HaShana 2022/5783

Dear Friends,

We had the honor to frequently welcome to NEVE HANNA **Janet and Irwin Tobin**, co-presidents of the American Friends. They stayed in Israel for many months and could participate in countless activities as well as special events and even managed to come around with family members.



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce to **you, our friends in the USA and Canada**, Maya Amir. **Maya is the Coordinator for Educational and Cultural Affairs**. She joined the NEVE HANNA team about 12 years ago and has elevated the programs to yet an even higher creative, innovative and invaluable level. Every child has the opportunity to explore new and exciting activities, playfully learning, growing, blossoming and excelling.

Maya joined NEVE HANNA during her National Service and stayed on for a while, before she took a break to travel abroad to figure out, where she wanted to head professionally. In the end, it became clear to her that there is no place like NEVE HANNA! She returned and the bottom line is she is the perfect person for our educational and cultural affairs.



NEVE HANNA just finished its summer camp – three weeks filled with learning, playing and fun, fun, fun. In coordination with the NEVE HANNA Leadership and the Children's Council, Maya created a schedule for each week, planning every day from morning to evening. She coordinated swimming pool visits, dispersing our children at the same time to different facilities in Kiryat Gat. Her exceptional organizational skills were needed to implement a daytrip for the entire children's home to an event park. Her creative mind let her introduce themes for playful, yet educational activities executed by the Children's Council of NEVE HANNA, and structure activities carried out by the Israeli volunteers, serving a social year before they are drafted. Looking at the schedule, an amazing variety of themes, indoor as well as outdoor activities catch the eye – from movie nights to baking workshops, from learning about Israel's nature to water games on our premises, from

staging a play for our children, to challenging survival games for all. For our children, as the pictures show, this is a lot of fun and a welcomed change to school routine.



Another change of atmosphere starts right after summer camp. Some children visit family or relatives, while others stay with us, but not at NEVE HANNA. They travel up to Rosh Pina to stay in our summer house. Another amazing story of the spirit of the NEVE HANNA family is exactly the background of our vacation home in Rosh Pina. It is named after Arnan, who was connected to the Ahawah, a Jewish orphanage in Berlin, Germany, which was eventually reestablished in pre-stated Israel. Since both institutions were closely tied to our founder, Hanni Ullmann, Arnan became acquainted with NEVE HANNA. He was concerned with what we offer children, who cannot visit their parental homes. Our answer, that we offer "very special activities", did not satisfy him, since he personally had experienced that no special activities compensate for the feeling of being "left behind". In agreement with his own children, he left us a substantial sum in his will, in order to buy a vacation house in a different region of Israel (Rosh Pina), giving children, not able to visit their parents, an equally exciting outing. Needless to say, Arnan was right, since soon after we brought trips up North it became a very popular alternative to anything else. The change in atmosphere, nature and climate is enjoyed by children and staff as well as friends of NEVE HANNA not only during the summer months, but throughout the entire year.



Several years ago, the house was renovated to accommodate 25 children on the ground level and suites for our team members on the upper floor. The renovation included a huge kitchen, porch and garden as well as a shelter.

When these lines reach you, we will already be back to school routine. We wish you, our friends in the United States and Canada, tirelessly contributing and actively helping us to implement our programs and thus being part of the NEVE HANNA family, a happy, healthy and peaceful new year. And we would like to express our hope, to see you next year in Eretz Israel!

Sincerely yours,

Dudu Weger
President

Itzik Bohadana
Director

Chaim Appel
Chairman of the Board