

Dear Friends,

As dusk fell last night, we began to get word of "Operation Am KeLavi," Israel's pre-emptive strike on Iran's near-weaponized nuclear program, ballistic missile arsenal, and other strategic targets. While initial reports indicate stunning successes, the days ahead will remain tense with the anticipation of Iranian reprisals.

Our hearts and prayers are with our families, friends and loved ones in Israel who endured yet another evening in or near their protected spaces, and who try to maintain a sense of normalcy while remaining vigilant and prepared.

These are epochal days in Jewish history, and we pray that God protect and shield Israel from those who have made no secret of their desire for its destruction. As we enter this Shabbat, we share the apprehension of Jews throughout the world who are concerned for their safety and wellbeing. We pray that God shield and protect us from the vile and often violent hatred that has erupted around us.

Shabbat offers us the shelter of sacred time, and shul offers us the shelter of sacred space. We pray that God watch over us and give us strength.

הִנֵּה לֹא־יָנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל

See, the guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps! (Psalms 121:4)

שבת שלום

Shabbat Shalom

May this Shabbat bring comfort, strength, and renewed hope.

Prayer for Israel

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, stronghold and redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, the beginning of our redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land. Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the land with peace and its inhabitants with lasting joy. And let us say: Amen.

Prayer for the Hostages

הַיּוֹם 616 יוֹם נֶשְׁהָם 20 חֳדָשִׁים וֶ6 יָמִים בַּחֹשֶׁךְ.

Today is the 616th day of the captivity of the hostages,

which is 20 months and 6 days in darkness.

יְהִי רָצוֹן שְׁמֵי־עֶלְיוֹן וְיִנָּצְלוּ מִכַּף מַכְּשֵׁי רָעָתָם.

May God guard our loved ones

and protect them from all who seek to harm them.

וְיִתְחַזְרוּ בְּמַהֲרָה לְאוֹר בֵּיתָם בְּשָׁלוֹם וּבְבְרִיאוֹת

.אמן - And may they return to the light of their homes in peace and health.

Rabbi Eliot Malomet