



Dear Congregants,

Saturday, October 7th, was the deadliest day for World Jewry since the end of the Holocaust. That fact alone sends shivers down our spines as we try to grasp the magnitude of what has just occurred and the ensuing implications both for the State of Israel and for all of us as Am Yisrael, the People of Israel.

Every member of the House of Israel - all 20 million of us - has been impacted in some way by the current reality. In difficult times like these, it is important that we are present for and supportive of each other, and that includes building unity. It also includes showing tolerance for the respective ways we are each mourning, reflecting, and processing what's happening. There is no one right way to mourn and reflect. There is no one right way to respond and to act. We must make space for all responses. Let's show each other kindness and offer generous hugs.

Already this past weekend, CBI responded with tremendous sensitivity, care, and concern. On the spot, we adapted our Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah services to reflect our grief and concern, while also honoring our tradition and peoplehood with pride. I believe we struck a fair balance and I'm proud of us for doing so with such kavanah and spirit.

Israel is at war. We may live in the Diaspora, but we are not bystanders. We have work to do, and we can make an impact. Over the coming days, here's what you can expect from me and from CBI:

- Video updates: I will release video updates on social media and through CBI's emails. See below for my most recent videos from yesterday and today. Follow me on Facebook and Instagram @IsenbergAri.
- Resources: We will publish a list of ways we can support Israel and have an impact, including an email that will land in your inbox tomorrow from our Chair of Israel Affairs.
- Prayer: Throughout the duration of the war, we will include a prayer for the IDF at every morning minyan.
- HaTikvah: Throughout the duration of the war, we will end every Shabbat morning service singing Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem.



The situation in Israel is incredibly dynamic. Our response will evolve as the situation unfolds.

b'achdut, in unity,

Rabbi Ari Isenberg