

## Hear the Anderson's First-Hand Account

Rabbi Spike & Marita Anderson held a conversation over Zoom with Temple Emanu-El congregants about their recent Israel volunteer mission. If you missed it, and are interested, click [HERE](#) .

*When Rabbi Spike & Marita Anderson were in Israel, they were able to 'bear witness' at Kibbutz Be'eri. Warning: this video is very graphic, and very hard to watch. We were asked to share this video with you, and the world, by the man speaking (Or Yellin, life-long member of the Kibbutz).*

*We would like to share these words, by Marita Anderson, before you watch this video.*

## Bearing Witness: The Hardest to Share

Spike and I visited several kibbutz communities in the South of Israel to bear witness to the atrocities that were committed there by Hamas. We were very ambivalent about the visit, as we did not want to participate in "trauma tourism."

We prayed for clarity of heart and vowed to be as sensitive as possible. We were asked to tell their story. We took just a few photographs in places we were given permission by a survivor who shared his time with us.

Personally, I was deeply touched by the evidence of young families with children everywhere. This was a place where multiple generations of families lived close together. The terror of being butchered en masse in their own homes is what Hamas broadcasted to the world with glee.

We walked on broken glass through charred and bullet riddled rooms. Carefully pruned rose bushes were in full bloom in front of bombed out homes. The olive grove was witness to a close-range execution of whole families. The kindergarten was used as a terrorist hideout.

10% of the kibbutz members were murdered, many of them elderly grandparents and small children. Women and girls were undeniably subjected to sexual torture. 30 people were abducted (some mothers and children have been returned from captivity, but their fathers and husbands remain hostage). The rest of the kibbutz families were all displaced and are now refugees in their own country. And it's just one of many communities with similar trauma.

Kibbutz Be'eri is hoping to rebuild, but only if Hamas is no longer a threat. I can understand that as a parent, as a woman, as a human. "O healer of broken hearts, binder of their wounds" (Psalm 147:3) May the wisdom of our ancestors help us choose life and be a blessing. May we cultivate **לב אומץ**-strength of heart to withstand this depth of despair. May the captives survive and be restored to the world of the living. And, please God, help us live into a peaceful future.

View video [HERE](#)



**Thursday, January 18**  
**7:00PM-8:30PM**

Hear Scott Abramson will speak concerning the current events in Israel. Abramson is a historian of the Modern Middle East and the senior research officer at the Center for Israel Education (CIE). **Register** [HERE](#)



**Sunday January 28**  
**10:10am-11:00am**

For Teens and Their Parents

Students on campus are consistently challenged with questions about Israel and often they struggle to respond. This practical workshop will allow the audience to ask the most difficult questions they have faced and receive answers rooted in the facts, as well as receive the tools to respond effectively to the different audiences they may encounter. Topics that are covered usually include the claim of stolen land, Apartheid, occupation, settlements, roots of the conflict, and many others. **Register** [HERE](#)