



October 10, 2023

Dear Shirat HaYam Family,

After a surprise attack by Hamas militants on the Sabbath and one of the most joyful days in the Jewish calendar, Israel is now engaged in defense of her people, land and borders. Every organization that cares for Israel has made a statement of support and we are grateful for these messages. We wanted to reach out to you to express our concern for Israel and her people, and for all who love them.

Shirat HaYam is a vibrant community. While the views of our members may be diverse, we believe our Congregation is united in its support for Israel and the safety and security of her people. Days ago, many within Israel marched in the streets in protest. When Israel was threatened by outside forces, the protestors returned home and those eligible readily commenced to defend the nation they love. In like manner, our hearts turn to Jerusalem and we echo the ancient call for peace:

Sim Shalom, tova u'veracha, cheyn vahesed varachamin, alaynu v'al kol Yisrael.
May the Holy One grant peace, goodness and blessing, grace, lovingkindness,
and compassion to us and all Israel.

Our Gevurot prayer refers to God as one who frees the captive - - we pray that those held hostage are protected and returned to their homes and families.

Adonai oz l'amo yeetayn, Adonai yevarech et amo vashalom. May God give
strength to God's people. May God bless God's people with peace.

To all these prayers, we say AMEN.

L'shalom,

Chuck Shoneman
President

Rabbi Gary Bretton- Granatoor