



DURING THE WAR:

We wanted to meet with survivors in Zichron Yaakov. Now rockets also came close to Zichron and we were first really unsure if we should gather the survivors there and if it would put all of us in danger. Yossi, who himself has fought several wars for Israel's survival decided not to let the enemy stop „our normal lives“ —as much as possible— and he made the decision that we should meet. Sitting in a Cafe —survivors and friends—we really had a blessed time together. Yossi tried to joke and cheer us up! Suddenly the waitress came singing „Happy birthday to you!“ Did she mean me, Inge? Yes, she did! Yossi told her that it was my birthday... just for fun! It is a small incident, but again I saw, how strong the survivors are and that I could also learn from this short experience. And by the way: It's Ok to have a birthday twice a year—as long as I do not get twice as old! However, it is God himself who gave them this strength in spite of fear and deep pain! I know many of you have prayed for the survivors: Let me thank you! It helped!

GROUP FROM HADERA:

Right after the war the Ner Yaakov house was full with life again. I guess one could feel the „aftermath“ of the war in the atmosphere with our guests, but I noticed many little comments like: „We are so happy we made it to Israel,“ „our homeland,“ „we love our country and pray for it,“ and so forth: What a blessing! Here are a few words they wrote to us: „We came with great joy to Jerusalem, into our capital of our homeland! We were invited to Ner Yaakov and we understood, that we had come into a very warm home. They gave us wonderful days and their warmth has touched us. We are so thankful, because it helped us to forget a little bit what had happened to us in our childhood!“ Polina (Polina has lost her son in a war!)



GROUP FROM ARIEL:

For a long time we had planned to invite survivors from Ariel—Samaria. Finally now, before Rosh Ha Shana a group came to us. It was surprising how open they were and how they shared what was on their hearts. After all, we only knew their leader, Anna Palko. We had a blessing for the New Year, Anna lit the candles and we enjoyed the food the volunteer had wonderfully prepared. Michael came to bless us with his Yiddish songs and in the evening we went together with survivors from Jerusalem to the Lightshow at David's Tower. They loved it! We hope for many more meetings with them!

Group from Ariel at Mamilla Mall and survivors from Jerusalem



All together at the Lightshow



Anna at Ner Yaakov