



Chaverim,

I feel moved to send this communication to call out the complex and painful feelings many of us are experiencing related to the escalation of violence in Israel. There is so much about this that is deeply troubling - the loss of life, wondering where this path will lead, the despair over the continued lack of peaceful resolution to any of it.

For many of us here in the U.S., we are watching this unfold from a screen; a screen that seems ever more filled with people 'taking sides', which too often descends into dehumanizing language and antisemitic rhetoric. No matter how you define your personal relationship to the state of Israel, it hurts to see the humanity of those who are suffering reduced in this way.

This is a lot to stomach as we grapple with our own grief over the situation, especially in a context of a general rise in antisemitism.

As some of you may have seen, the Pew Research Center published another landmark study on Jewish life in America called [Jewish Americans in 2020](#). One of the report's key findings was that since the last Pew report in 2013, antisemitism has become more severe, more frequent, and it seems to be taking root in ever increasing numbers of ideologies: white nationalism, extremists from other religious groups, casual societal antisemitism, and groups opposed to the state of Israel, to name a few. It is becoming so pervasive that, whether we are on the political right, left, or just about anywhere in between, many of us can relate to observing or experiencing antisemitism, even from people with whom we generally agree, and it is dizzying.

I know that we all have our own unique experiences that inform a wide range of personal perspectives on Israel and what she is experiencing right now, and that's okay. It's just been a heavy week, and I for one take comfort in knowing that we are justified in feeling however we need to feel about this, and that we are one Jewish family who are doing our best to be there for one another, even if we don't always see eye to eye. Also, I wanted to let you know that TBE is joining together 20 local non-profit organizations to co-sponsor an event presented by the JCA Community Relations Council and Integrity First America called [White Supremacy in 2021: Putting Violent Extremists on Trial](#) on Tuesday May 25 at 7pm. The panel will include Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, Amy Spitalnick, and TBE's own Rep. Sam Zager. I hope you can join us.

May you find some sense of shalom in this Shabbat, as we pray for a cessation to this violence.

Kate Shalvoy  
Executive Director

[Unsubscribe\\_gleckman@mindspring.com](mailto:unsubscribe_gleckman@mindspring.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by director@tbemaine.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!