



מחלקה לפעילות ציונית בחסות
Department of Zionist Activities in Diaspora

8 Nights Heroes

INCREASING THE LIGHT EACH DAY

Elevating Hanukkah lighting by remembering
the fallen and their values







How to use this booklet?

Each day has a dedicated individual to read and learn about. Some of the individuals have a sticker with a quote that they either wrote or they family chose to describe them. These stickers were created by the families and placed in public spaces all around Israel to keep them and their ideas and values alive for everyone to learn from and follow.

When you light candles by yourself or with your family, open the booklet. Read about the hero of that day and do the suggested activity in their honor. As you will see, the activity ranges from listening to a song to making a favorite recipe of the fallen.

We hope that this booklet inspires you and connects you to Israel, Israelis and our incredible strong Am Yisrael.

We encourage you to share your experiences, photos and videos to us at: nettam@wzo.org.il and we hope that this inspired you to become a superhero in your own way:

Hanukkah Sameach - חנוכה שמח

Diaspora Department of WZO



To our friends,

This past year has been difficult for Jews worldwide. We have had friends and family killed, injured, displaced, and the ripple effect is that our lives have been changed forever.

However, this past year has shown us that we are a nation of heroes. Each and every one of us has the potential to be a superhero, make a difference and make the world a better place with our actions and our legacy.

We have had so many heroes who we have lost this past year, so many people to be inspired from, so many people to learn from about their values and their legacy.

These heroes are connected to a long chain of heroes, that we especially think about during Hanukkah. The Maccabees were individuals who fought for the Jewish people and traditions against the Greek- few against the many, weak against the strong – and they won! And we are winning!

From the Maccabees we have a lineage of heroes connecting us to the pioneers of Zionism, individuals who came to Israel, built it from nothing, and fought for it with all their soul and might. Our heroes of today are now part of this incredible lineage, connecting us from Hanukkah until today. This year, we have the opportunity to connect to the Maccabees of our day and age. These are our heroes who fought for our Jewish country in the Land of Israel, exactly like the Maccabees of Hanukkah.

In this booklet we ask you to think of eight individuals, who lost their lives this past year defending and protecting the State of Israel and the Jewish people at large. We invite you to learn their stories and connect it to your holiday and also write to their families:

Hanukkah Sameach,

Nerya Meir,

Head of the Diaspora department, World Zionist Organization



Hanukkah blessings

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חֲנֻכָּה

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נְסִים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנוּ הַזֶּה

When lighting for the first time this year:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיִּיבוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנוּ הַזֶּה

Transliteration

Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm ah-sheh
ki-deh-shah-noo beh-mitz-voh-tahv veh-zzee-vah-noo leh-hahd-lik nayr kha-noo-kah

Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm sheh-ah-sah
nee-sim lah-ah-voh-tay-noo bah-yah-mim hah-haym biz-mahn hah-zeh

When lighting for the first time this year:

Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm
sheh-heh-kkeh-yah-noo veh-kee-mah-noo ve-hig-ee-yah-noo liz-mahn hah-zeh

English Translation

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us
with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe,
who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

When lighting for the first time this year:

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life,
sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.



Day 1

Ben Zussman

Sergeant First Class (Res.)

"I have set watchmen over Jerusalem and one day I will be one of them"

Ben was born and lived in Jerusalem. He was a fan of ping-pong, soccer, and completely committed to serving the State of Israel. He served in the Engineering corps during the war and was killed in Gaza on December 3rd, 2023. He became a symbol and an example for many people worldwide because of the letter he wrote to his family a few days before his death. In this letter, he tells his family to make his mourning a celebration, a gathering of family and friends that he would love to be a part of. He also wrote: "I am happy and thankful for the privilege that I had of protecting our beautiful country and the people of Israel." He fell at age 22, survived by his parents and two younger siblings.

Value: Sense of duty

"Whoever is faithful to Hashem, join me!"

The quote above, in Hebrew מי ליה' אלו is often associated with the Maccabee Mattitya. His sense of duty to protect the values and land of the Jewish people is a strong theme of Hanukkah. This value is presented also through Ben Zussman and of course through our Zionist pioneers who took initiative to fight for our independence after 2000 years we were not able to do so.

During the foundation of the State, various Hanukkah tunes were written that since then have become popular. These tunes emphasize the sense of duty, the initiative, the bravery, that connects us from the Maccabees until today.





Mi Yimalel

Who can tell the mighty
deeds of Israel,
Who can count them?
For in every generation, a
hero will rise
To redeem the people.

Hear!
In those days, as in this time,
The Maccabee is the savior
and redeemer,
And in our days, all of Israel
Will unite, rise, and be
redeemed

Mi Yimalel gevurot Yisrael
Otan mi yimneh?
Hen b'chol dory akum
hagibor
Goel ha'am

Shema!
Bayamim hahem bazman
hazeh
Maccabi moshia u'fodeh
Uv'yamenu kol am Yisrael
Yitached, yakum v'yigael

מי ימלל

מי ימלל גבורות ישראל,
אותן מי ימנה?
הן בכל דור יקום הגבור
גואל העם.

שמע!
בימים ההם בזמן הזה
מכבי מושיע ופודה
ובימינו כל עם ישראל
יתאחד, יקום ויגאל.

Banu Choshesh Legaresh

We have come to banish
the darkness,
In our hands, light and fire.
Each one of us is a small light,
And together,
we are a strong light.

Away with the darkness, go
away blackness!
Flee before the light!

Banu choshech legaresh
B'yadeinu or vaesh
Kol echad hu or katan
V'chulanu or eitan

Sura choshech,
hala shchor!
Sura mipnei ha'or!

באנו חֹשֶׁה לְגָרֵשׁ

באנו חֹשֶׁה לְגָרֵשׁ,
בְּיָדֵינוּ אֹר וְאֵשׁ.
כָּל אֶחָד הוּא אֹר קָטָן,
וְכָלֵנוּ אֹר אֵיתָן.

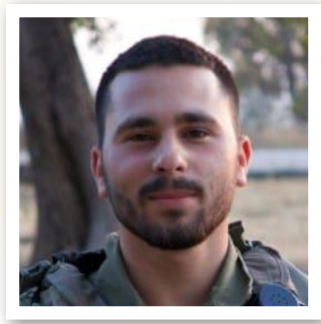
סוּרָה חֹשֶׁה,
הֲלֹאָה שְׁחֹר!
סוּרָה מִפְּנֵי הָאֹר!



באנו חוֹשֶׁה לְגָרֵשׁ
Banu Choshesh Legaresh



מי ימלל
Mi Yimalel



Day 2

Rои Dawy Sergeant First Class

"This is the land of Israel
for which I do what I do"

Rои was born and raised in Jerusalem. He loved the sports team Hapoel Jerusalem, music and dreamt of becoming a journalist, as well as hoping for the moment to propose to his girlfriend. He had a deep love for Israel. He served in the Givati brigade and wrote in a letter to his family a few days before he was killed: "if I knew I would be killed, I would have done it again," because of the deep pride of dying for the sake of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. He is survived by his parents, a sister and a brother.

Value: Love of the land – Ahavat Ha'aretz

For most of our history, our nation were an agricultural people. Our love of the land came from us working the land with our own hands, connecting to it. Our Zionist pioneers did the same. They connected to the land not only through agriculture but also building homes, permanent, making this not only our land but our State.

This shows that often the love of our land can be expressed through food. During Hanukkah we have food with oil that represents the miracle we experienced, and the dough from the wheat and flour connects us to the land.

In this relation, we are sharing Rои's favorite recipe that his sister would make for him every time he came home from the army: Tiramisu. So while you are eating foods with oil, we suggest to dedicate an evening to make this with your family and think of Rои, of his favorite food, and his love for the Land.





Tiramisu recipe:

Ingredients

2 packets or 500 grams of tea biscuits
Espresso or 5-6 teaspoons instant coffee
with hot water

For serving:

Cocoa powder

For the cream:

500 ml of whipping cream
250 grams of mascarpone cheese - 40%
80 grams instant vanilla pudding
1/3 cup of sugar

Directions

Start preparing the cream - whip cream and sugar for 1-2 minutes, add the mascarpone cheese and the instant pudding until the cream is set.

Dip the biscuits in coffee and place in a pan.

Pour a layer of cream over the layer of biscuits.

Repeat this twice

Place in the refrigerator to set for at least two hours (preferably overnight).

Before serving, sprinkle cocoa powder on top





Day 3

Rose Lubin Staff Sergeant

"I will do something great for the world,
I won't wait for the world to do something
great for me."

Rose was born in Atlanta Georgia, where she was raised as an active part of the Jewish community. She was the oldest to her four siblings, three brothers and one sister. She was a Champion wrestler, a Varsity cheerleader, vegan, poet, artist, singer, dancer, volunteer, lover of horses and thrifter with bubbly energy that filled the room. She would dye her hair different colors representing who she was and how she felt. From a young age she knew she would move to Israel. At 18, Rose fulfilled her dream of joining the Israeli Defense Forces, She made Aliyah on her and drafted into Magav. On October 7, 2023, she helped defend Kibbutz Sa'ad where she lived, from Hamas terrorists preventing them from infiltrating. On November 6, 2023, Rose lost her life when guarding near the Damascus Gate, at 21 years old. We chose the 3rd night of Hanukkah to share about Rose as this is her Hebrew birthday.

To learn more about Rose, please read the following articles:

<https://aish.com/rose-lubin-american-israeli-hero/>

<https://wynet.co.il/heroes-2023/rose-lubin>

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/my-friend-sgt-rose-lubin-ztl/>

Value: Responsibility

It is an admirable value to take collective responsibility, to actually stand up and know that you need to be a part of something bigger, contribute, and make the world a better place. Rose is not only an example of an incredible Zionist who moved on her own to Israel, but also with incredible sense of responsibility to see the duty she had to become an IDF soldier herself.





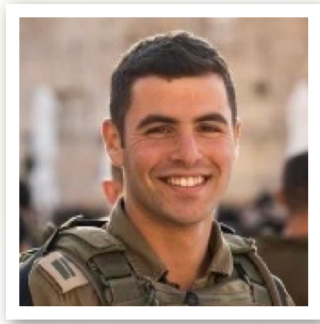
Discussion point

We invite you to have a conversation around your Hanukkah candles or your table.

- **What responsibility do you have to the world?**
- **To your community and to the Jewish people?**
- **What is the great thing you are going to do for the world?**

During Hanukkah it is a common custom to give gelt, a small amount of money to children. We suggest that in addition to Hanukkah gelt, that the first step of responsibility during this holiday can be giving Tzedakah to a place that you find important, that is making a difference in this world.





Day 4

Roi Nahary Captain

"With Strength and Humility"

Raised in Moshav Ora right outside Jerusalem, Roi was one of twin boys, who both served in the Paratroopers brigade. He loved basketball and cared more about the other players and how they were feeling and performing than how he was playing himself. He cared for others deeply and also had a deep love for Jerusalem and Israel. On the 7th of October he rushed to protect Kfar Aza on the border, taking with him a few of his soldiers along the way. He died from his injuries two days later and his family followed his wishes of organ donation and with his death, he saved five lives.

Value: Humility

When we are humble, taking action, while being thoughtful every step of the way, we can often see further success. We also give space for miracles, for recognition of the greatness around us, of the people, and the time and space that has helped us reach our goals. While we need strength, to have the power to take the next step, humility grounds us, allowing us to see the full picture and succeed.

In a way, this is how we can see the miracles around us, the Nissim. We recognize with humility the greatness and the assistance we have received from people around us, and from Hashem. We see this in the events of Hanukkah and also during this past year through these incredible heroes.





Read Al Hanissim with new eyes of humility following Roi and his values

And for the miracles and for the wonders and for the mighty deeds and for the salvations and for the victories that you wrought for our ancestors in their days and in this day

In the days of Mattathias son of Yohanan the high priest, the Hasmonean, and his sons, when the evil kingdom of Greece stood against your people Israel in order to make them forget your Torah and violate your laws

You, in your enormous mercy, stood up for them in their time of great need, upheld their cause, judged their case, and avenged their oppressors.

You delivered the mighty into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few, the impure into the hands of the pure, the wicked into the hands of the righteous, and the degenerates into the hands of those who cling to your Torah

And you made for yourself a great and holy name in your world, and performed a great salvation and miracle for your people Israel, as you do today

v'al hanisim v'al hapurkan
v'al hag'vurot v'al hatshu'ot
v'al hamilkhamot she'asita
l'avoteinu bayamim hahem
bazman hazeh

bimei matityahu ben
yokhanan kohen gadol
khashmonai u'vanav
k'she'amda malkhut yavan
harsha'a al amkha yisrael
l'hashkikham toratekha
u'lha'aviram makhukei
r'tzonekha

v'ata v'rakhamekha
harabim amad'ta lahem
b'eit tzaratam ravta et
rivam danta et dinam
nakamta et nikmatam

masarta giborim b'yad
khalashim v'rabim b'yad
m'atim u'tmei'im b'yad
t'horim u'r'sha'im b'yad
tzadikim v'zeidim b'yad
oskei toratekha

u'lekha asita shem gadol
v'kadosh b'olamekha
u'lamkha yisrael asita
t'shua gedola u'furkan
k'hayom hazeh

v'akhar kein ba'u vanekha
lidvir beitekha ufinu et
heichalkha v'tiharu et
mikdashhekha v'hidlik neirot
b'khatzrot kadshekha
v'kav'u shmonat yemei
hanukkah eilu l'hodot
u'lehalal l'shimkha hagadol

עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַפְּרָקוֹ
וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת וְעַל
הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת
וְעַל הַמַּלְחָמוֹת שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
בְּזַמְנוֹ הַזֶּה

בַּיָּמִים מִתְתַּיְהוּ בֶן יוֹחָנָן
כִּהְיוּ גְדוֹל שְׂמוֹנָאֵי וּבְנָיו
כִּשְׁעַמְדָּה מַלְכוּת יוון
הַרְשָׁעָה עַל עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
לְהַשְׁכִּיחַם תּוֹרָתְךָ
וּלְהַעֲבִירָם מִחֻקֵּי רְצוֹנְךָ

וְאַתָּה בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הַרְבִּים
עָמַדְתָּ לָהֶם בְּעֵת צָרָתָם
רַבֵּת אֶת רִיבָם דִּנְתָּ אֶת
דִּינָם נִקְמַתְךָ אֶת נִקְמָתָם

מִסִּרְתָּ גְבוּרִים בְּיַד
חַלְשִׁים וְרַבִּים בְּיַד
מַעֲטִים וְטַמְאִים בְּיַד
טְהוּרִים וְרַשְׁעִים בְּיַד
צַדִּיקִים וְזֵדִים בְּיַד עוֹסְקֵי
תּוֹרָתְךָ

וְלָךָ עָשִׂיתָ שֵׁם גְּדוֹל
וְקָדוֹשׁ בְּעוֹלָמְךָ וּלְעַמְּךָ
יִשְׂרָאֵל עָשִׂיתָ תְּשׁוּעָה
גְּדוֹלָה וּפְרָקוֹ כִּהְיוּם
הַזֶּה

וְאַחַר כֵּן באוּ בְנֵיךָ לְדַבֵּר
בֵּיתְךָ וּפְנּוּ אֶת הַיְכָלְךָ
וּסְתְרוּ אֶת מִקְדָּשְׁךָ
וְהִדְלִיקוּ נְרוֹת בְּחֻצְרוֹת
קְדָשְׁךָ וּקְבְּעוּ שְׂמוֹנַת
יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה אֵלּוּ לְהוֹדוֹת
וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל



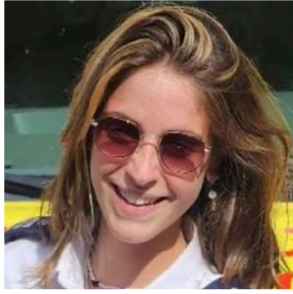


על הניסים
Al Hanissim

You are welcome to see this version of Al Hanissim, which includes friends singing from all over the world. With our humility we can recognize the beauty when we work together and the strength that emerges.

One more activity! Spin the dreidel! In the spirit of miracles we invite you also to play dreidels tonight, to be humble when you are playing but of course to have strength to try and get that gimme! In Roi's memory





Day 5

Amit Mann MDA Paramedic

"Your life's song paused in the middle, and it will continue to play in our hearts forever"

Amit was a resident of the Kibbutz Be'eri. She was inspired to become a paramedic following the passing of her father when she was 12. Seeing the medical treatment and assistance inspired her to be able to one day provide the same. For two years she worked as a paramedic on the Kibbutz before October 7th. On October 7th itself, she insisted remaining on the kibbutz and immediately ran to the infirmary to assist those who were injured. For seven hours straight she took care of the injured, saving many of their lives. These individuals all shared that Amit constantly encouraged them, lifted their spirits that they soon would be saved. Amit unfortunately did not have the same fate as the patients she saved, but her bravery will be remembered forever. She fell at age 22.

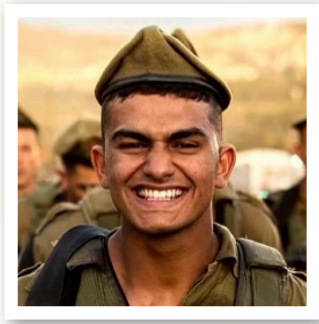
Value: Bravery - גבורה

Bravery can be expressed through a wide variety of ways. Through this booklet you are meeting eight heroes who were soldiers, except for Amit, who worked as a part of Magen David Adom, the national emergency organization that saves people's lives on a daily basis. These people are heroes as well. Many of them volunteer, learn and train to save people's lives and bring light into the world.

On Hanukkah we are not supposed to use our candles, we are only supposed to look at them. This is why we have the shamash. We are supposed to use this candle to light up and spread the light. We invite you to take inspiration from the shamash. Be the light to spread it further and make the world shine brighter than it did before.

Bring light into the world: Discuss ways with your family how you can volunteer, be a shamash and bring kindness and good into the world. Make your Hanukkah special and powerful by volunteering and dedicating this candle to taking action and doing something good for your community and for the Jewish people.





Day 6

Guy Simhi Staff Sergeant

"A Nation of Lions"

Guy was born and raised in Kibbutz Re'im. The youngest of three siblings, he loved to surf, snowboard, play volleyball, play guitar, bike ride, and constantly surround himself with people to put a smile on their faces. He served in the Paratroopers unit and on the 7th of October was at the Nova party, during a short vacation home from the army. He was with a group of 14 friends and once the attacks began, he led his friends to safety in Kibbutz Re'im. His friends shared that when terrorists broke in with weapons in their hands, Guy jumped on the first one and fought him with his bare hands. He saved his friends and unfortunately was killed during the attack. He was 20 years old.

Value: The Common Good

This past year we have seen Am Yisrael come together like never before. We all know someone who either is in Israel and has been impacted personally by the war during this past year, besides it has of course impacted us and our communities worldwide. We have seen immense unity and a strong sense of collective responsibility. The three words that we constantly say are "Am Yisrael Chai". Guy represents someone who took the first step, who led the way for the common good. We all have been inspired by people like Guy to take that first step and bring life to the words "Am Yisrael Chai," the people of Israel live.



We invite you to listen to the song "Am Yisrael Chai", by Eyal Golan, one of the most popular songs from this past year during the war.

עם ישראל חי
אייל גולן





Here are the lyrics to follow along:

The sun will shine soon
We will know better days
than these the heart fights
with the worries everyone
will return home we'll wait
for them downstairs We
wish to know the good
news

Because the people of
eternity never fear even
when it's hard to see
we're all together; no one
here is lonely May the
wars burn down

Am Yisrael Chai if we'll not
forget always to be united
Am Yisrael Chai When
going up, when going
down, even during the
hardest hours

G-d, the blessed one,
he watches over us so,
who can triumph over us
because we have no other
state Please make peace
amongst us watch over
our children because the
faith is not lost

Oh, my land, our heritage
our spirits will not fall
now around us, an iron
of swords and the dove
will spread her wings the
hope of two thousand
years we'll go out in the
streets to sing again

B'karov tizrach hashemesh
Neda yamim yafim me'ele
Halev nilcham bed'agot
Kulam yachzoru habaita
Nechake lahem lemata
Halevai neda b'surot tovot

Ki am hanetzach le'olam lo
mefached Afili kshekashe
lirot Kulam b'yachad
afechad po lo boded
Shisrefu hamlachamot

Am Yisrael Chai
Im lo nishkach tamid lihiyot
me'uchadim

Am Yisrael Chai
Be'aliyot beyeridot gam
b'sha'ot haki kashot

HaKadosh Baruch Hu
shomer aleinu Az mi yakhol
aleinu

Ki ein lanu od medinah
Ta'ase shalom banenu
Shmor al yeladenu
Ki lo avdah ha'emunah

Ho artzi nechalatenu
Lo tipol ke'et ruchenu
Misaviv barzel shel cherevot
Veyonah tipros knafayim
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim
(2000) Od netze lashir
barchovot

Ki am hanetzach le'olam lo
mefached Afili kshekashe
lirot Kulam b'yachad af
echad po lo boded
Netze lashir barchovot

בְּקָרוֹב תִּזְרַח הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ
נִדְעוּ יָמִים יָפִים מֵאֵלֶּה
הַלֵּב נִלְחָם בַּדְּאֵגוֹת
כָּלֵם יַחֲזְרוּ הַבַּיִתָּה נִחְכָּה
לָהֶם לְמַטָּה הַלְּוֹאֵי נִדְעוּ
בְּשׁוּרוֹת טוֹבוֹת

כִּי עִם הַנִּצָּח לְעוֹלָם לֹא
מִפְּחַד אֶפְלוּ שֶׁקֶשָׁה
לְרָאוֹת כָּלֵם בְּיַחַד אִף אֶחָד
פֹּה לֹא בּוֹדֵד
שִׁשְׁרֵפוֹ הַמְּלַחְמוֹת

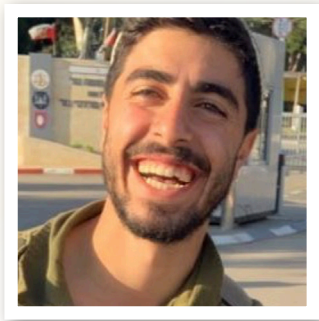
עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל חַי
אִם לֹא נִשְׁכַּח תָּמִיד לְהִיוֹת
מֵאֶחָדִים

עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל חַי
בְּעֲלִיּוֹת בְּיֵרִידוֹת גַּם בְּשָׁעוֹת
הַכִּי קִשׁוֹת

הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא שׁוֹמֵר
עָלֵינוּ אֲז מִי יִכּוֹל עָלֵינוּ
כִּי אֵין לָנוּ עוֹד מְדִינָה
תַּעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּבֵינֵנוּ שִׁמֹּר עַל
לְדִינֵנוּ כִּי לֹא אֶבְדָּה הָאֱמוּנָה

הוּ אֶרְצִי נִחְלַתְנוּ
לֹא תִפֹּל כְּעֵת רוּחֵנוּ
מִסְבִּיב בְּרָזָל שֶׁל חֲרָבוֹת
וַיּוֹנֶה תִפְרֵשׁ כָּנָפָיִם
הַתְּקוּהָ בֵּת שְׁנוֹת 2000
עוֹד נִצָּא לְשִׁיר בְּרַחוּבוֹת

כִּי עִם הַנִּצָּח לְעוֹלָם לֹא
מִפְּחַד אֶפְלוּ שֶׁקֶשָׁה לְרָאוֹת
כָּלֵם בְּיַחַד אִף אֶחָד פֹּה לֹא
בּוֹדֵד נִצָּא לְשִׁיר בְּרַחוּבוֹת



Day 7

Yakir Levi Staff Sergeant

"Don't forget to smile!"

Yakir was raised in the religious community of Moreshet located in the Galilee. One of 10 siblings, he was constantly happy, a huge soccer fan, very humble, with a lot of faith in Hashem. He is the second out of 10 children and was inspired by his older brother to serve in combat. Yakir ended up in Golani and became a commander. He always saw the positive and encourage others to do so too. On the 7th of October, Yakir was at a military post near Nahal Oz when he and his friends were attacked by terrorists. Yakir fought bravely, bringing injured soldiers to the dining hall as he left time and time again to fight, protect and save until he fell. He was 21.5 years old.

Value: Happiness

During such a difficult time and year, it has been hard for many of us to be happy. And yet, many of the people who themselves lost their lives have requested in their last letters that their friends and family remaining behind will be happy, that we should remember to smile and be positive. We are honoring their wishes by not losing our spirit, by not losing the hope of victory in their names and honor. On Hanukkah, we celebrate our victory. Our nation experienced difficult times before and we lost people at battle, but the end result is that we won our sovereignty, we defeated the dark and evil to bring light and happiness into the world and for our people. This is expressed in the song we sing every night as a part of Hanukkah candle lighting Maoz Tzur.

We invite you to sing the full song together and think about Yakir, who was so connected to his Judaism, faith, and Hashem.

You are welcome
to listen to
the following
performance of
Maoz Tzur:





O mighty stronghold of my salvation, to praise You is a delight. Restore my House of Prayer and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering. When You will have prepared the slaughter for the blaspheming foe, Then I shall complete with a song of hymn the dedication of the Altar.

My soul had been sated with troubles, my strength has been consumed with grief. They had embittered my life with hardship, with the calf-like kingdom's bondage. But with His great power He brought forth the treasured ones, Pharaoh's army and all his offspring Went down like a stone into the deep.

To the holy abode of His Word He brought me. But there, too, I had no rest And an oppressor came and exiled me. For I had served aliens, And had drunk numbing wine. Scarcely had I departed. At Babylon's end Zerubabel came. At the end of seventy years I was saved.

To sever the towering cypress sought the Aggagite, son of Hammedatha, But it became [a snare and] a stumbling block to him and

Mah-ohz tzoor yeh-shoo-ah-tee leh-kha nah-eh le-shah-bay-ah-kh
 Tee-kohn bayt teh-fee-lah-tee veh-sham toh-dah neh-zah-bay-ah-kh
 Leh-ayt tah-kheen maht-bay-akh mee-tzahr hah-meh-nah-bay-ah-kh
 Ahz, ehg-mohr beh-shir miz-mohr kha-noo-kaht hah-miz-bay-ah-kh

Rah-oht sah-vah nahf-shee beh-yah-gohn koh-khee kah-lah
 Kha-yai may-reh-roo veh-koh-shee, beh-shee-booood mahl-khoos ehg-lah
 Oo-veh-yah-doh hah-geh-doh-lah hoh-tzee eht hah-seh-goo-lah
 Khayl pah-roh veh-khol zah-roh yahr-doo keh-eh-vehn bim-tzoo-lah

Deh-veer kohd-sho heh-vee-ah-nee veh-gahm sham loh sha-kah-teh-tee
 Oo-va noh-gays ve-hig-lah-nee kee zah-rim ah-vah-deh-tee
 Veh-yayn rah-ahl mah-sakh-tee kim-aht sheh-ah-var-tee Kaytz bah-vehl zeh-roo-bah-vehl leh-kaytz shee-vim noh-sha-tee

Keh-roht koh-maht beh-roh-sh bee-kaysh ah-gah-gee ben hah-meh-dah-tah
 Veh-nee-heh-yah-tah loh leh-fahkh oo-leh-moh-kaysh

מְעוֹז צוֹר יִשְׁוֹעָתִי,
 לָךְ נִאֲמָה לְשִׁבְחֵךְ,
 תִּכְוֹן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי,
 וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח.
 לַעֲת תִּכְוִן מִטְבַּח
 מִצֶּר הַמִּנְבַּח.
 אֲז אֲגַמֵּר
 בְּשִׁיר מְזֻמֹּר
 חֲכֵכֵת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

רְעוֹת שְׂבָעָה נִפְשֵׁי,
 בְּיָגוֹן כּוֹחֵי כֹלָה,
 חַיִּי מִרְרוּ בְּקִשֵׁי,
 בְּשִׁעְבוֹד מַלְכוּת עֲגָלָה.
 וּבְיָדוֹ הַגְּדוֹלָה,
 הוֹצִיא אֶת הַסִּגְלָה,
 חֵיל פְּרָעָה
 וְכָל זָרְעוֹ
 יָרְדוּ כְּאֶבֶן בַּמַּצּוֹלָה.

דְּבִיר קִדְשׁוֹ הִבִּיאֵנִי,
 וְגַם שֵׁם לֹא שִׁקְסָתִי,
 וְבָא בּוֹגֵשׁ וְהִגְלֵנִי,
 כִּי זָרִים עֲבַדְתִּי,
 וַיִּזוּ רַעַל מִסְכְּתִי,
 כְּמַעַט שִׁעְבַּרְתִּי,
 קָצַבְבֵּל
 זָרְבָבֵל,
 לְקָצַ שְׂבָעִים נוֹשַׁעְתִּי.

כְּרוֹת קוֹמָה בְּרוֹשׁ בְּקִשׁ,
 אֲגָגִי בּוֹ הַמְדַתָּא,
 וְנִהְיִתָּה לוֹ לְמוֹקֵשׁ,
 וּגְאָתוֹ נִשְׂבָּתָה.
 רֹאשׁ יְמִינִי נִשְׂאָתָה,
 וְאוֹיֵב שְׁמוֹ מְחִיתָ -
 רַב בְּנִי
 וְקַנְיִנִּי

his arrogance was stilled.
The head of the Benjaminite
You lifted and the enemy,
his name You obliterated.
His numerous progeny -
his possessions - on the
gallows You hanged.

Greeks gathered against me
then in Hasmonean days.
They breached the walls of
my towers and they defiled
all the oils; And from the
one remnant of the flasks a
miracle was wrought for the
roses. Men of insight - eight
days established for song
and jubilation

Bare Your holy arm and
hasten the End for salvation
- Avenge the vengeance of
Your servants' blood from
the wicked nation. For the
triumph is too long delayed
for us, and there is no end
to days of evil, Repel the
Red One in the nethermost
shadow and establish for us
the seven shepherds.

veh-gah-ah-vah-toh nish-
bah-tah
Roh-sh yeh-mee-nee nee-
say-ta veh-oh-yayv sheh-
moh mah-khee-tah
Rohv bah-nahv veh-kin-yah-
nahv ahl hah-aytz tah-lee-tah

Yeh-vah-nim nik-beh-tzoo
ah-lai ah-zai bee-may khash-
mah-nim
Oo-fahr-tzoo khoh-moht
mig-dah-lai veh-tim-oo kohl
hah-sheh-mah-nim
Oo-mee-noh-tahr kahn-
kah-nim nah-ah-seh nays
lah-sho-shah-nim
Beh-nay vee-nah yeh-may
sheh-moh-nah kah-veh-oo
shir oo-reh-nah-nim

Kha-sohf zeh-roh-ah kohd-
sheh-kha veh-kah-rayv kaytz
hah-yeh-shoo-ah
Neh-kohm nik-maht ah-
vah-deh-kha may-oo-mah
hah-reh-shah-ah
Kee ahr-kha hah-sha-ah
veh-ayn kaytz lee-may hah-
rah-ah
Deh-khay- ahd-mohn beh-
tzayl tzahl-mohn hah-kaym
lah-noo roh-eem shiv-ah

עַל הַעֵץ תָּלִיתָ.

יְוָנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עָלַי,
אֲזַי בִּימֵי חֲשֵׁמְנַיִם,
וּפְרָצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְדְּלִי,
וְטָמְאוּ כָּל הַשְּׂמֵנִים,
וּמִנּוֹתַר קִנְקֻנִים,
בַּעֲשֵׂה נִס לְשׁוֹשְׁנַיִם,
בְּנֵי בֵּינָה
יְמֵי שְׂמוֹנָה
קִבְּעוּ שִׁיר וִרְנָנִים.

חֲשׂוּף זְרוּעַ קְדָשְׁךָ,
וּקְרַב קַץ הַגְּאֻלָּה.
נִקּוּם נִקְמַת דָּם עֲבָדֶיךָ,
מֵאוֹמֶה הַרְשָׁעָה.
כִּי אַרְכָּה לָנוּ הַיְשׁוּעָה,
וְאִין קַץ לִימֵי הַרְעָה,
דְּחָה אֲדָמוֹן
בְּצֶל צְלָמוֹן
הִקָּם לָנוּ רוּעִים שְׂבָעָה.





Day 8

Liron Snir Captain

"Am Yisrael needs us!"

Liron was born in the town of Ofra. He was known as a very humble and modest person who made efforts to do acts of kindness, chesed. One of a twin and one out of three children, he was always looking out for everyone else around him. He refused to participate in activities in his yeshiva that left people out. As a commander, he would not go to sleep until he made sure that everything was ok with all his soldiers. He had a deep love for the Jewish people and Israel, he loved to hike and travel, and he felt a calling and sense of responsibility to serve, which he continued doing as the war began and his platoon entered Gaza. On the 21st of November, he was with his team in a Namer (a military armored vehicle) when he was hit. The last thing he asked his team was, "Did anyone else get hurt? I'm injured too." He was 25 years old.

Value: Victory of the Spirit

Liron represents an individual who took care of everyone around him, while also understanding what his own role is in order to reach victory. Also Hanukkah is a holiday filled with individuals who took charge and understood their role in order to achieve victory for Israel and the Jewish people.



Now that you have read about all the eight heroes we chose to highlight, we invite you to reflect about your own role for Am Yisrael. How will you help the Jewish people reach our victory, achieve our goals? Be a light to the world?



We also invite you to write a letter to one or all of the families who you have read about. These families are working day and night to share about their loved one who was killed, memorializing them and providing inspiration that we should all learn from.



