

# NECHAMA'S NEWSFLASH



## THE MONTH OF AV 5784

### TJJ FAMILY

This summer has been one of intense emotions—filled with uncertainty, tears, sorrow, and pain. The Jewish people mourn for those who have given their lives to protect our land, those who have faced the unimaginable in battle, and those still held captive by the hands of monsters.

Yet, TJJ for Moms sought to bring comfort amid the heartbreak. We dried tears, shared moments of happiness, and joined in mourning alongside our brothers and sisters.

On July 10th, we embarked on our "Meaningful Mamas Mission." Twenty-seven moms walked, skipped, and danced through the streets of Jerusalem, soaking in the spirit and passion that the heart of the world offers.

Many people have asked, "What was it like to be in Israel during a war?" If we had to sum it up in one word, it would be "THE PEOPLE!"

Our hotels were filled with displaced families who soon became our family. We listened to their stories, heard their struggles, offered helping hands, shared meals, laughed, and embraced them with love.



*TJJ Moms making challah for shabbat, Volunteering in Sheba Hospital, and Segwaying in Caesarea*

At Hostage Square and the Nova Festival site, we bore witness to the horrors of October 7th. We listened firsthand to parents and relatives of those abducted and murdered. The day was marked by profound sadness and deep anguish, as we heard haunting stories that conveyed the overwhelming grief of affected families. The atmosphere was heavy with collective mourning, underscoring the tragic impact of these events. At the Nova site, we had the honor of participating in writing a Torah scroll in memory of one of the victims.

This journey, though filled with sorrow, also brought connection, healing, and hope. It reminded us of the strength of our people and the power of unity during the darkest times.



We met a father at Har Herzl who visits his son's grave daily—his son, a hero who fell in battle. We learned about his son's short but heroic life, and together, we cried, shared words of hope, and found strength in one another.

At Shaare Zedek Hospital, we volunteered to bring warmth and smiles to patients, doctors, nurses, EMT workers, and hospital staff. With coffee, cookies, and cotton candy, we offered moments of light amidst the darkness.

Our tears continued at Sheba Tel Hashomer Rehab, where we heard countless stories of heroism, miracles, and, of course, tragedy from young wounded IDF soldiers. Despite their pain and suffering, their love for Eretz Yisrael shone through, overshadowing their hardships.



*PHostage Square, Nova, Har Herzl; at a Soldier's grave*

Our water hike in the Golan, Segway tour in Caesarea, and party boat on the Kinneret were perfect ways to lift our spirits—laughter and song filled the air! There's nothing like an olive grove and winery to help ease the intensity. And if you can't make it to Tzfat, let Tzfat come to you. Avraham, a Tzfat artist, visited us in Tiberias, sharing Torah and his beautiful art. We each walked away with a piece of his creativity in our hands.

As summer comes to an end, we continue to pray daily for those left behind, those in need of Hashem's help, and those whose lives remain unsettled.

## Mom of the Month

*NCSY and the TJJ for Moms has truly changed my life. It all started during the summer of 2023 with my journey to Israel. It was a place I always wanted to visit, but never had an opportunity. A good friend of mine, Pam, was going and she insisted that I apply. A few months after my interview with Nechama and Osey, I found out that I had been selected for the trip. I was so excited that I decided if I was going, I was going all in—so I extended my trip to three weeks. I wanted to see everything! I travelled alone for part of the trip (people thought I was crazy), but I always felt safe. I explored Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Herzliya, Haifa, Caesarea, and Eilat to name just a few areas. Every day that I was in Israel I learned something new, especially from our wonderful leaders. Nechama, Stephanie and Yonina and Osey. I can't thank them enough. The love they have for Israel and their spirituality was such an inspiration. Even though we all came from different Jewish backgrounds, it didn't matter as I always felt included and not shy to ask questions. Nothing was off limits. Some of my favorite places in Israel were the Kotel, Tzfat, Masada and of course the Shuk. It was the most incredible experience that I will never forget. I truly think about this trip every day.*

*I knew once I came back from Israel, I wanted to continue my connection with TJJ for moms. I continue to go to many events and volunteer, including challah baking, seminars, and celebrating many holidays together. I was fortunate to be on the group's first mission trip to New Orleans with Nechama and six other women, some from my Israel trip and some from other Israel trips. We had so much fun while giving back to a community that needed help. We learned about their synagogues and Jewish traditions.*

*Unfortunately, another nighttime activity that has brought us together is our nightly Zoom meetings. Since the war broke out on October 7th, we come together on Zoom and say tehillim. We pray for the soldiers and anyone in need. We comfort each other, we laugh, and we cry. It is times like these that you really appreciate the importance of being part of a community.*

*NCSY and TJJ for Moms has inspired me to bring back all the knowledge that I have learned over the past year to my friends and family. I am so honored to be a TJJ Mom and to have had, and continue to have, amazing experiences with awesome women.*



**Gabrielle Shogan, TJJ Mom**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Pre- Rosh Hashanah Apple Crisp Bake:

**September 8:** Westchester/Connecticut Apple Crisp Bake, 4pm-6pm

**September 15 :** Long Island Apple Crisp Bake, 11am-1pm

**September 22:** Livingston Apple Crisp Bake, 11-1 pm

**September 23:** Manhattan Apple Crisp: At the home of Rachel and Linda Kugel, 6:30-8:30 pm

To sign up for any of the Apple Crisp Bakes, use the link below:

<https://new.ncsy.org/tjj-for-moms-apple-crisp-bake-2024/>

**Sukkah Experience:** Once again, NCSY is on a mission to ensure that every Jewish family has a Sukkah. If you would like your free Sukkah, fill out the [Apply here for your Free Sukkah](#)

### September: TJJ Dads Golf Outing:

Bethpage State Park Golf Course: Date and Time TBD

**October 7:** Tashlich and Tribute

**October 21:** Sukkah Party (location TBD)

**October 30- November 3:** Puerto Rico Relief

Mission. Sign up here:

<https://oureliefmissions.org/events/tjj-mom-puerto-rico-trip/>

**November 11:** JSU President Conference (Veteran's Day) More information coming soon.

**College Birthday Boxes:** We're excited to kick off our Birthday Box initiative—a heartfelt way to celebrate and uplift our college students on their special day. Look out for upcoming order information.

Check out our Website:

<https://tjjformoms.ncsy.org/>



If you or someone you know is interested in joining the TJJ Moms or TJJ Dads Summer 2025 trip, use this link to let us know:

<https://forms.office.com/r/TjKzW9T7Vp>

If you would like more information please contact Nechama at: [nechama@ncsy.org](mailto:nechama@ncsy.org)

