



Uri Carmel

Words From Our CEO

This month, we celebrated Purim, with both joy and difficulty, with and through our communities and social entrepreneurs in creative and happy ways. This is a reminder that what was still will be, even the good: in order for Queen Esther in the days of Ahasuerus to cause the decree of Haman to be revoked, personal and communal forces had to be found, and the Jewish people had to unite. This mutual care was the first and critical step in the process of mending and saving the nation - from then up until today. We are not in days of light and joy, but the guarantee that was so present in the beginning continues to be one of the pillars of hope these days.

We've already accomplished a lot, but much still lies ahead. At the end of April, we will fly to meet our dear partners in the US. We are looking forward to meeting and would be happy to see you during our travels to Arkansas, New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, and San Francisco!

And to end on a personal note, I'd like to share that I was elected to the Be'er Sheva City Council just a few short weeks ago. As a city council member, I hope to infuse all aspects of the city with significant community action.

In continued doing and continued faith,
Uri

The Power of Community

Purim in the Shadow of War

Davka in Ashkelon, one of the hardest hit cities in Israel's south, we are seeing signs of steadfast community resilience. The Ruach Yam community, which was scattered across Israel during the earlier days of the war, used the traditional Purim mishloach manot to reestablish the connectedness between community members and to remind them of the mutual care they have for one another.

The members of HaReshet Be'er Sheva also used the Purim holiday as a chance to meet as a community, exchanging costumes and reinventing older ones for a new use. The meeting was held in the community-centered Writers' Park in Be'er Sheva and let participants return home with a new costume. And that's a combination of two of our favorite words: sustainability and community!



See All Our Communities' Purim Celebrations

To the Full Album

Torah Dedication

In the Be'erot Community

At a time when the people of Israel are discovering the greatness of Israel's pioneering women, the Be'erot Community in Be'er Sheva (a proud member of Eretz-Ir's Network of Communities), serves as a religious home for both men and women from an orthodox background who want to take an active part in leading both their prayers and their community, irregardless of gender.

Be'erot is a partnership minyan community with over 100 members - ranging from families to singles to students to immigrants to tsabarim and everyone in between - that acts as a magnet for people who come from around the city, the country, and the world to be a part of this unique community that is taking an active part in building the capital of the Negev. The community's meeting place balances tradition with halachic innovation, and last week, they dedicated there a new Torah scroll that was written especially for their community.

A huge thank you to Jewish National Fund - USA who donated the Sefer Torah to the Be'erot Community as a part of our membership in MAKOM Communities.



Check Out This Video from the Dedication

Watch Here

Eretz-Ir on the Road

Bringing Community Resilience to the US

We all know that Eretz-Ir works to build strong communities in Israel's periphery regions. October 7th, 2023 shook all of Israel, especially these periphery areas that were and continue to be directly in the line of fire. We are now working to leverage our extensive knowledge and experience in community building, development, and resilience to support the reconstruction efforts in the wake of this unprecedented attack and the ensuing war. And we're traveling to the States to share all about it!

From late April to early May, we'll be traveling to Arkansas, New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Washington D.C., and San Francisco to visit partners and to talk about the innovative community resilience approaches that we are developing to help with rebuilding efforts. From the Fund for Shared Good for providing an accurate, effective, and timely community response in the recovery effort through grants to support impactful local initiatives. To the Community Organizer Program that aims to build a mechanism for community organizing in the periphery of Israel to provide citizens with a community support system for both routine and emergency times. To the Community Knowledge Incubator, a center based on Eretz-Ir's expertise for all engaged professionals, including civil society and local governments that need immediate help. To Urban Resilience and Response Teams that are based in residential buildings to help these vertical communities thrive in routine and emergency times.

Interested in hearing more?
Know someone who just has to learn more about Eretz-Ir?



Talk to us. We'd love to meet!

Be in Touch

Eretz-Ir is a professional, organizational, and economic platform that enables and encourages the influence of residents on the space around them. We help active residents who want to create positive change in their environments to organize by helping them develop professional tools and meet like-minded partners, while increasing their sense of ability to create cities that are simply good to live in, specifically in Israel's periphery regions.

Help us continue to serve these champions of civil society and social action.

Donate Now!



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