One of my friends made a comment – how can we live in this crazy reality? What does this say about Israelis' mental health dealing with cognitive dissonance like this all the time?

And on social media there are lots of clips about the different folks you met in shelters who you never might have gotten to know before, including your neighbors. I even saw a clip today about how many kids had such a good time playing in shelters with others – as well as staring at their screens for hours on end – that they are unhappy to return to regular schooling.

In Tel Aviv. The apartment building was destroyed. The office building across a large square….and most apartments and stores nearby, had all the windows blown out.

That's why there is such a need in this country now for social workers and crisis counselors – and why I am glad our Jewish Federation has been investing in helping Israelis deal with trauma and recover from October 7 and the ongoing fighting.

At our Board meeting earlier this week, we approved new grants to the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israel Trauma Coalition, to be able to direct resources to where they can do the most good after this recent fight with Iran and the missile strikes in Israel (look at the pictures I took the other night in Tel Aviv). We also awarded two more grants to our longstanding partners at Shutaf Inclusion programs, which will be offering a camp again this summer in Jerusalem for special needs kids, and Crossroads, which helps English-speaking youth who deal with psychological and other issues…which can be particularly acute right now.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to support our Israel Emergency Campaign and add to the funds we can award to these and other important programs.

Also, while I was in Tel Aviv the other night, it's clear the airspace here has opened up – as plane after plane bringing Israelis stranded abroad was flying in.

While I have had friends who left Israel via Jordan, I was able to get a flight back…on July 10. ELAL and other Israeli air carriers have stepped up, but there is still a lot of demand they need to meet and work through – and for the consumer, it isn't cheap.

There are so many questions about what the implications and long-term benefits of this war will be. Clearly the geopolitical situation in the region has changed (not that want to jinx anything, but we also haven't had any Houthi rocket attacks lately). Iran and its axis of evil have been mostly, though not entirely, defanged. How long will that last? And what impact might that have on the ongoing fight with Hamas and efforts to bring the hostages home? Who knows…but I am certainly praying for Israel's string of luck and phenomenal execution to continue.

And what will be in the United States??? While President Trump has certainly delivered so far in terms of containing Iran, how will that play out in the future? And what just happened in NYC? We have our work cut out for us in terms of countering hate and antisemitism throughout Ocean County and beyond.

Your support of our work makes all we do possible. Thank you.

Best wishes for a Shabbat Shalom and a good new month.

Keith

Keith Krivitzky, Managing Director