

The Chicago Chapter of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom and the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation of Evanston invite you to a forum:

SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT (Psalms 3:14)  
A Jewish Community Dialogue on the Gaza Crisis

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2009 at 7:00pm

Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation  
303 Dodge Avenue, Evanston  
map

As our TVs and web portals overflow with the sobering sights of another outbreak of war in the Middle East, many of us are left with conflicting emotions. While we understand the right of Israel to defend her citizens, we can't help but be concerned with the loss of life and limbs of innocent civilians. Many of us want to support Israel - but does that mean "Israel, right or wrong"? What actions are available to try to move away from the fighting and towards some type of ceasefire, if not peace agreement?

Please come hear a panel of local Chicagoans who have been immersed in these issues, personally and professionally, for many years. Bring your questions and concerns, as we try to wrestle with these difficult moral and practical issues as a community.

**SPEAKERS:**

Rabbi Andrea London, Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, A Jewish religious perspective on the crisis and report on a Chicago-area Jewish-Muslim peace statement

Israeli peace activist Avner Inbar, How Israelis were "won over" to the Gazan War

Aliza Becker, Deputy Director of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Peace and Justice, Making Change: The U.S. pro-Israel, pro-peace movement

Conversations from Home: Stories from a Chicago-area Palestinian from Gaza

Rabbi Brant Rosen, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation and board member of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, Facilitator and

closing statement

The panel will be followed by moderated discussion among participants and attendees

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Dear Haverim,

The tragedy in Israel and Gaza continues to unfold – and as we welcome the peace of Shabbat in our own homes, I know you join me in prayers for Shalom in this part of the world so deeply wounded with war and loss. In the ongoing effort to find constructive ways of responding to this crisis, I would like recommend to you the following:

“Seek Peace and Pursue It” – a Jewish community dialogue on the Gaza crisis sponsored by Brit Tzedek v’Shalom and JRC this Sunday, January 11 at 7:00 pm.

Physicians for Human Rights – Israel is funding civilian relief efforts in both Israel and in Gaza. To make a donation, visit:

<http://www.phr.org.il/phr/article.asp?articleid=24&catid=51&pcat=51&lang=ENG>  
<<http://www.phr.org.il/phr/article.asp?articleid=24&catid=51&pcat=51&lang=ENG>>

And finally, two recent news articles (both coincidentally from Philadelphia papers) that afforded me a measure of comfort and hope. I hope they do the same for you:

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20090108\\_Finding\\_the\\_middle\\_ground.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20090108_Finding_the_middle_ground.html)

[http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/20090106\\_Ronnie\\_Polanczky\\_\\_A\\_real\\_Philly\\_story\\_\\_Muslims\\_\\_\\_Jews\\_\\_yin\\_\\_\\_yang\\_.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/20090106_Ronnie_Polanczky__A_real_Philly_story__Muslims___Jews__yin___yang_.html)

Shabbat Shalom and may we continue to pray and work for peace,

Rabbi Brant Rosen