

A New Year, A New Chance for Peace

Nearly five years ago, Israel and the occupied territories erupted in a massive spasm of violence that claimed the lives over 1,000 Israelis and 3,000 Palestinians, while injuring thousands of other people on both sides along the way.

Today, Israel has completed the historic evacuation of settlements from Gaza and the northern West Bank, and the Palestinian Authority has worked to bring calm to the territories.

As a result, when Jews around the world celebrate Rosh Hashanah in a few weeks, we will be able to welcome the New Year with a sense of gratitude, renewal, and optimism that we haven't enjoyed for some time.

Gratitude-because the evacuation process passed without the outbreak of civil war in Israel that some had predicted, and the majority of Israelis has awakened to the tremendous burdens that the settlements impose on the nation.

Renewal-because the thousands of settlers who were evacuated may help revitalize the Negev and the Galilee, regions inside Israel that have largely been neglected while the country's scarce resources were diverted to the occupied territories.

And Optimism-because Israelis and Palestinians have created a new chance for themselves to resume the quest for peace.

Americans for Peace Now looks forward to working with our friends in the U.S. and Israel to try to take advantage of the opportunities before us and to help assure that 5766 is a sweet year for everyone.

Save the Date: September 22, 2005

APN Peace Awards Dinner honoring Ruth Messinger, Mark Rosenblum and Gail Pressberg. For further info call Hiam Simon at 212-62-PEACE.

Americans for Peace Now

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