



October 6, 2011
8 Tishrei 5772

Dear Friend:

The High Holidays are a time for Jews to join together in celebration and reflection. Between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we have the opportunity to make amends with ourselves and with the others in our lives. As a community we recognize our imperfections and strive to do better in the coming year.

In Israel, Migdal Ohr Youth Clubs, Ohr Yisraeli, provides young people with the chance to be a part of a vibrant Jewish community made up of their peers. Just last night, hundreds of Israeli youth gathered to celebrate and to say Selichot, the traditional penitential prayers recited between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. **Scroll down to read about the Ohr Yisraeli New Year event and to see pictures from that unforgettable evening.**

To you, our friend and our supporter, we would like to say Shana Tova! We wish you a sweet new year, an easy fast and many happy days ahead.

~ The American Friends of Migdal Ohr Team

Israel Update:

Thousands of youth from all over Israel came together in Jerusalem last night for an uplifting evening. The program included a concert, inspiring addresses from community leaders and then culminated with selichot at the Kotel.

The evening, organized by the "Ohr Yisraeli" organization, began with over 7000 youth streaming into Jerusalem on hundreds of buses heading toward the Sultan's Pool Amphitheater. Top Israeli performers including: Evyatar Banai, Kobi Afflalo and Yaniv Ben-Mashiach participated in a one-of-a-kind concert and wowed attendees with their music.



(Hundreds of Israeli youth gathered at the Kotel)

Following the concert, Rabbi Greenbaum addressed the crowd, the majority of whom were secular youth, explaining to them the essence of repentance and providing some practical advice - "do just one small good deed, think just one positive thought, even just take one step to being a better person and you will start to feel different...just try."

Rabbi Grossman followed, taking the microphone and singing with great enthusiasm and joy a well known Chassidic song "Hakadosh Baruch Hu, Anachnu Ohavim Otcha". The thousands of youth that joined in were deeply inspired and moved, leaving a tremendous feeling in the air.

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, former Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel then blessed the youth and provide words of encouragement before all participants made the short walk over to the Kotel (Western Wall) together for selichot which continued on into the night.



(Selichot with Ohr Yisraeli)

"Ohr Yisraeli," runs over 160 youth clubs throughout the country, focuses on providing a warm and loving environment to thousands of youth combined with social activities, lectures and summer programs. "Ohr Yisraeli" is headed by Rabbi Yitzchak Dovid Grossman the founder of Migdal Ohr and Rabbi Avraham Greenbaum the president of the Wolfson Foundation.