



Advocacy Update

Sent December 8, 2010

The Carmel Fire in Israel

ARZA framed its alert on the fire in the Carmel Mountains in terms of a familiar Chanukah song: “Who can retell the things that befell us, who can count them, in every age a hero or sage came to our aid.”

The ARZA alert continued, “The Carmel Fire befell our people and thousands have their individual stories. We are grieved for those who lost their lives. We are sorrowful for the loss of homes, forests, animals, and the scarring of our sacred land.”

Heroes came to help, Israeli firefighters and other responders, but also “Greeks, Turks, Americans, French, Palestinians, Russians, Cypriots, Canadians, and more came to our aid. Israel always participates to assist others in times of need. Now others assisted her.”

The fires have been contained, but reports of the impact are devastating: forty-two people lost their lives, seventeen thousand people were evacuated, and more than twelve thousand acres of forest and four million trees were burned.

Carmel Fire – Israel Emergency Fund

The ARZA Israel Emergency Fund is working with the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) Humanitarian Fund to serve the needs of those affected by the fire. Go to ARZA’s “Carmel Fire – Israel Emergency Fund” webpage to learn more about the fire and its impact and to make a contribution.

Israeli Sisterhood To Plant Trees

A couple of days ago we heard from Anat Perelman, the president of Or Hadash Sisterhood in Haifa, thanking WRJ for our prayers and telling us of the deep sadness of their Kabbalat Shabbat. Her sisterhood has decided to plant trees in the Carmel Mountains.

Your sisterhood can also help to restore the forests by planting trees in the Carmel Mountains. The Jewish National Fund (JNF) has launched “Operation Carmel Renewal: From Black to Green” to help in the forests’ recovery and in replacing firefighting equipment and supplies that were depleted during the fire. To make a donation, go to the [Operation Carmel Renewal](#) website.