

New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.

3905 Arthur Avenue North, Seaford, N.Y. 11783

CRACOW

FRIENDSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY



NEW YORK CITY

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*Pre-Chanukkah Celebration
December 22, 2024 at Noon*

*The New Cracow Friendship Society
invites ALL for lunch and music*

*Join us at Ben's Kosher Restaurant
211-37 26 Avenue
Bayside, NY 11360
Free parking*

Details inside



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.newcracow.org

CONTACT US AT: info@newcracow.org

תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל

LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

President, Editor Bernice Slutzman

www.newcracow.org

Email: Newsletter@newcracow.org

EDITORIAL/PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our elections are over and now we wait to see which promises will be kept and which threats will be carried out. We must now turn our attention to our "home front." Anti-Semitism, always present, is once again proudly showing its colors at home. In Columbus, Ohio on November 16, 2024 marchers, bravely covering their faces, came down the street carrying swastika adorned flags. They were few in number as they shouted racial slurs and expressions of white power. Unlike what would happen in Germany, no arrests were made. If no punishment is made why should they stop? Where next?

In keeping with the Society's tradition of marking and celebrating our festivals we once again are offering a Chanukah celebration. We have tried over the years since Covid to create fun and on some occasions, meaningful in-person gatherings where we can meet and greet each other and share our experiences.

We do realize that the closeness and camaraderie that existed between the original members of the organization and the Second Generation is not the same. For many of the original members, their relationships began before the war, back in Poland. After immigrating to the United States, many settled down in the New York area, near each other. We, their children, do not have that luxury. We don't live in the same neighborhoods and many of us do not share the same experiences. However, we all do share growing up in households with European backgrounds. We do share a commonality. Given the opportunity to meet in person, we can share our stories of growing up, even though in different localities. The event on December 22nd will afford us the opportunity to do so while also enjoying good food and musical entertainment.

November 9th marked the 400th day of captivity for the hostages in Gaza. Of the 101 souls still there, how many are still among the living? We must not forget them, ever. We must continue to remind those in power now, and those who will be in power after January not to forget them. We should also include them in our prayers.

*Acheinu kol beit Yisrael,
Han'tunim b'tzarah, b'tzarah uvashiv'yah,
Ha'omdim bein bayam uvein baya bashah.
Hamakom y'rachemj, y'rachem aleichem
v'yotziem mitzaara lir'vacha,
Umeafelah l'orah, unishibud lig'ulah
Hashita ba'agala uviz'man kariv.
Amen*

Bernice Slutzman

LISTING OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Cemetery	Bernice Slutzman brei513@aol.com Leon Hilfststein Leoneh74d@gmail.com
Commemoration	Bernice Slutzman brei513@aol.com
Membership	Ida Lewis Membership@newcracow.org
Newsletter	Bernice Slutzman Newsletter@newcracow.org brei513@aol.com
Social Action	Anna Gallegos socialaction@newcracow.org
Social Committee	
Sunshine	Ida Lewis Idale747@gmail.com Eva Pfau Pfaueva@gmail.com
Telephone Tree	Leon Hilfststein leoneh74d@gmail.com
Website	Simone Scheumann info@newcracow.org
Welfare	Renata Farahnik Teacherspet130@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings dear Members,

The year 2024 will soon be coming to a close but not before we celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights! Throughout the ages, the Jewish People have experienced miracles upon many miracles. Whether viewed as folklore or history, to name just a few... we have the Burning Bush, the Plagues in Egypt, the splitting of the Sea of Reeds, manna from heaven, Miriam's well that quenched the Israelites thirst for 40 years in the desert, Maccabees over Antiochus in the victory of the few who vanquished the many, the symbol of spiritual hope and survival in a cruse of oil that lasted for 8 days, fast forward to the victory of WW II and the end of the Shoah, the birth of the State of Israel, the War of Independence and the Six Day War... and so many more. At this concerning time of war in the land of Israel, our brothers and sisters are experiencing miracles daily as missiles, rockets and drones often miss their targets or are exploded in thin air. While every single life is precious, we must be grateful for the few fatalities in light of so many attacks. Truly miraculous! One of the greatest miracles I understood as a child was that my parents and their dear friends actually survived the atrocities of the inconceivable Shoah and emerged as productive, loving, caring humans... an oppressed people who were overcoming the challenges and living free. Am Yisrael Chai!

Until 2020, when the global pandemic halted and changed the lives of countless people, our Society had always organized a yearly Chanukah party where our survivors celebrated with delight, continuing in and of a

spirit they regained as their lives were being rebuilt. As years passed, more 2nd generation members attended.

We can counteract worry and distress with simcha. This December 22nd, we will again celebrate miracles the People of Israel have been blessed to experience. This fretful time in which we now live calls for our unity and solidarity. May we once again join together in friendship and spirit, strengthening the hope that this war (or any war) we are fighting will soon be won... and peace will hopefully prevail. Ben Gurion said it best... "In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles." Please join us with your family and bring your friends too, and strengthen our bonds. All are welcome. Ben's in Bayside, Queens... on December 22nd.

To our members who have recently lost loved ones, we offer our deepest condolences. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Just a reminder... Members who signed up for auto-pay will have 2025 membership fees charged automatically in January. All others will please submit your yearly dues by PayPal or by postal mail to me... NCFS c/o Ida Lewis, 147-17 78th Road, Flushing NY 11367. (718)380-3574. A mailing will be forthcoming in December.

Wishing all our members a happy and healthy 2025.

Sincerely,
Ida Lewis, Membership Committee Chairperson
Maria Helfman, Co-chair
Membership@newcracow.org

PRE-CHANUKAH PARTY

Once again the Society is providing an occasion for us to get together and celebrate the upcoming Festival of Lights aka Chanukah, Hannukah, Hanukkah, however you want to spell it. [חנוכה]

On December 22nd we will meet at Ben's Kosher Restaurant in Bayside, 211-37 26th Avenue at 12 Noon. Bring your family and friends. There is plenty of parking.

To keep the cost down, the Society is subsidizing the event. The charge is only \$25 per person. If one uses PayPal or Mastercard the charge is \$26 per person. We do ask for a firm RSVP by **December 10th** by phone at : 516 338-4273 or email to info@newcracow.org.

Your payment, if by check can be sent to:

New Cracow Friendship Society
3905 Arthur Avenue N
Seaford, NY 11783

The menu is: Soup or salad
Choice of deli meat sandwich
Assorted knishes, French fries, cole slaw and
pickle
Dessert
Coffee, tea or soda

Truly a bargain at the price!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!

URGENT: SUPPLIES FOR THE IDF

Supplies are still being sent to assist the IDF. Specific supplies can be ordered on Amazon and shipped directly to the location where duffel bags are packed for shipment to Israel.

Among the items most requested by IDF commanders both in Gaza and in the North are:

- WETSOLS Multitools \$23.99 each
- Risen Israeli Bandage Vacuum Sterile Compression Bandages \$12.99 EACH
- JUSAID Tourniquet, \$19.99/3 pack, or other similar brand
- NOOLA 3-liter Hydration Backpack \$35.99 each
- DURACLEANSE Shower Alternative Body Wipes 100 (2-pack of 50) \$30.99
- RHINO-RESCUE Hemostatic Gauze 4" x 35" \$19.99 each
- WADEO 7200w Windproof Camping Stove \$37.99

You can open the link

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/12ZQ2DVTVIQPK>

Just be sure that you have any items ordered shipped to:

Duffel Bags for Israel
c/o Terry Ackerman
SYJCC
74 Hauppauge Road
Commack, NY 11725

There are many other items on the Amazon registry as well, so I encourage you to refer to the list. I realize that many of these items are costly, but they will make it for our soldiers and for some of the items, they will save precious lives.

Bernice Slutzman

CEMETERY INFORMATION

Periodically I make a run to Beth Moses Cemetery. On my visits there I check on all three of our sections. I regret to inform members whose family is there that their graves are not being maintained. I have noticed that some don't even have any plantings on the site.

Please understand that it is not the responsibility of the Society to care for these graves.

Arrangements can be made with the cemetery for perpetual care or maintenance on a per year basis.

The cemetery does offer cleaning services, power washing for monuments. The prices listed are as of 2024. They may be raised in 2025.

Footstone \$115 credit card \$120
Single Stone (Headstone) \$ 188 credit card \$ 196
Granite Bench \$ 188 credit card \$ 196
Ledger \$ 188 credit card \$ 196
Double Stone \$ 334 credit card \$ 347

I shall investigate as to whether we can get a better price from outside contractors.

Bernice Slutzman
Cemetery Chairperson

OUR FAMOUS SOCIETY MEMBER

The following appeared in October/November 2024 issue of The Magazine put out by AARP. (as told to Beth Levine)

MUSIC IS HOPE



Holocaust survivor Saul Dreier formed a band to comfort others.

Music has the ability to crack open hearts, to change minds, to heal, to comfort. When I was 89, I read about the concert pianist Alice Herz-Sommer, who had died at 110. Like me, she was a Nazi concentration camp survivor. And also like me, she had used music as a way through that terrible time. After the war, she

continued to play to try to heal hearts. I felt that I needed to honor her in some way. It came to me that I should organize a Holocaust survivor band to continue her work. I told my wife, and she said I was crazy. I told my rabbi, and he said I was crazy too. But I was very stubborn.

During World War II, I was sent to several concentration and work camps in Poland. My whole family was killed, and I alone lived. There was a famous cantor in one of the camps with me, and he would sing Jewish songs. And in those moment of music, I found escape. One day, I realized that he needed a beat, so I managed to get two metal spoons, and I drummed for him: *pum, pum, pum*. Almost every night, we would all gather and sing, even though we were starving and exhausted. That is how I learned the drums. When we were liberated, I was sent to a displaced person's camp in Italy, where there were actual instruments. I played the drums for the people in the camp and the town. Such joy!

After I went to America, between work and raising a family, I didn't have time for music. But reading about Alice Herz-Sommer brought me back to the way music can reach hearts. I bought some drums for my band

idea. At first, my wife said, "Either the drums go or you go," but when you've been married so long you fight for five minutes and make up 10 minutes later. Through people at my temple in Florida, I found other survivors and their children.

Our first concert, in 2014, was at the temple. We played Jewish, Polish, Hebrew and dancing music. We got a standing ovation! I felt like the sky had opened. And my wife? She said, "I live with you 51 years, and today you are my celebrity!"

In 10 years, we've played all over America (including the White House), Israel, Canada, Brazil and Poland. I will play for as long as I can, because music is hope. I am not interested in politics or taking sides. My purpose in life is to get people to see that we are all one, we all sing the same song.

A LOT HAS CHANGED, BUT NOT EVERYTHING...

I was looking back at what I wrote in the last article, submitted in early September. And as usual, it's hard to believe the events that have transpired in these past few months. I doubt anyone would have believed the kinds of things that have happened and I'm not referring to my Mets making it to the National League Championship Series, which is hard to believe as well!

Indeed, the Middle East is a different place in late November than it was just two months ago. Hopefully, it is a better place. I'm not sure we can say that about the general world we live in following the anti-Semitic events in Amsterdam and other places, but here in the Middle East, where Israel's war still rages on multiple fronts, the tables have been turned. In fact, if we were able to secure the release of our hostages it would be the "total victory" our Prime Minister has talked about. But alas, as of this writing, that is not the case. So, while many things have changed – for the better – the hostage front is not one of them. And frankly, there is no real horizon for their release at this time. All but defeated Hamas can still dig in with the one advantage they have, they don't care about how much they lose and they still hold our hostages, and demand that without a total end to the war and an immediate Israeli retreat, we will never get them back. As of this writing, those are not conditions that this government is willing to accept.

But as depressing and demoralizing and downright devastating as that reality is, the larger reality is that a year ago, Israel was fighting a war for its very existence, surrounded by seemingly powerful enemies sworn on its destruction, carrying out the will of Iran, pulling the strings from afar as it watched without paying a price and marching towards nuclear weapons while everyone was busy fighting each other. The Shiite Axis, carefully constructed by Iran over several decades, consists of Hezbollah – its main proxy, and terrorists in Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. Hamas and Islamic Jihad were recent additions, and heavy benefactors of Iranian arms and money. The plan was to surround and strangle Israel and it almost worked. Had Yiheah Sinwar waited for Hezbollah and Iran to coordinate his Oct. 7 attack rather

than jumping the gun, who knows where we would have been. Small miracles. Or maybe a big one. Depending on your point of view and considering the circumstances. But it doesn't change the bottom line. Had Hezbollah invaded Northern Israel simultaneously to the Hamas attack, we all would have been in a different place. A much worse place.

But it didn't happen. Sinwar surprised Nasrallah. As we have learned over these past months, Hezbollah built an empire along Israel's border that dwarfed the threat that Hamas posed in Gaza and we all know what that did on Oct. 7. The IDF has been systematically taking that infrastructure apart but the amount of weapons and bunkers are so overwhelming, that we didn't believe what we found there. Not a single house in Southern Lebanon (that's not an exaggeration by the way) was not used as a Hezbollah arms depot. Their staging areas were primed and ready, standing by only for the order that never came.

Who knows why Nasrallah didn't order that attack on Oct. 7. He was surprised by Hamas. We know that. But by Oct. 10, Hezbollah began a systematic attack on Israel that hasn't ended until this very day. What has changed are the rules of the game, brutally enforced by an IDF unleashed for the first time in years to do what it should have done long ago.

I want to make this statement before analyzing the dramatic change in the strategic situation, a change that began in July with the targeted killings of Hezbollah Chief of Staff Shukar in Beirut and the assassination (credited to Israel by foreign sources but never acknowledged) of Ismael Haniyah in the heart of Teheran, and culminated with the spectacular killings of Nasrallah himself deep in the bunkers of Beirut and Sinwar in Gaza. Along the way, an unreal Mossad operation (which Netanyahu has now taken credit for) with thousands of beepers blowing up in the faces of countless Hezbollah terrorists, the vast majority of Hezbollah missiles and other weapons destroyed, the entire chain of command of Hezbollah and Hamas wiped out and a dramatic and extremely potent attack on Iran itself, all took place. Simply incredible.

So here's the statement. Credit for all these dramatic military successes goes to the government. First to Netanyahu for making the gutsy decisions to carry them all out. That shouldn't be taken for granted. They were risky as hell. And to the IDF for carrying them out to perfection. The IDF has shown it is the best military in the world.

None of it, I repeat, none of it, takes any of these players off the hook for the disaster of Oct. 7. And while the Chief of Staff, the head of the Shabak, and the head of the Mossad have all taken personal responsibility for the worst screw up in Israeli history, the one player not to have taken any responsibility remains Netanyahu. And that remains unacceptable.

And yet, that doesn't take away from the strategic change due to the cumulative impact of all of the above. A few months ago, we lived in a concept that said that any war with Iran would involve major attacks from

Hezbollah, to the tune of thousands of missiles a day. At the start of the war they had an arsenal of over 150,000 missiles. That concept said that Hezbollah was being saved by Iran as its main threat in case we wanted to go after them if they broke for the bomb. We lived in a fearful world of Shiite extremists from Yemen to Iraq to Syria and of course in Lebanon (note Hamas is Sunni, but that didn't stop them from joining the Shiite axis) and for years we did everything (I mean everything) to avoid that major war which we all feared, with reason.

In just three months, without taking away from the carnage our enemies can still cause us and the horrific price we are paying every day when the TV announcer somberly says: Approved for Publication – the words leading to the inevitable list of soldiers killed that day (last night 6 soldiers were killed in Lebanon), the threat is no longer what it once was. Hezbollah is desperately trying to show it can still fight and it will shoot sometimes up to 200 rockets a day, but mostly it's more like 50. Still a lot, not several thousands though. Long range rockets will fly towards Tel Aviv once a day, usually a barrage of 2 or 3. Not hundreds. Meanwhile, not only has Hezbollah been decapitated, it has lost almost all of its command. The IDF is systematically destroying all of its weapons warehouses and it has all but conquered the front line villages on the border, literally destroying everything there. Hezbollah may want to continue to fight a war of attrition, but they are no longer driving the narrative, they are no longer in control and every day they continue they lose whatever remaining assets they have. They are also no longer feared in Lebanon leading to the possibility of other groups in that country (Christians, Druze, Sunni) standing up and saying: enough, we will no longer let you destroy our country. Time will tell. But mostly, they are no longer the asset built for D-Day for the Iranians.

Which brings us to the devil itself: Iran. These guys are also not the fearful mighty empire we all feared. In April, they shot 100 ballistic missiles and 300 armed drones. Almost none made it through. Back then, Israel, pressured by the US government, only marginally responded by taking out a single anti-aircraft battery protecting a nuclear site to more or less send the message - we can if we want.

But the Iranian pride got the best of them. After everything that Hezbollah suffered and the assassination of Haniya in Tehran, they climbed up such a high tree promising revenge that that had no choice. In early October, they outdid themselves and shot 180 ballistic missiles at Israel. A new modern day record for attacking a country with ballistic missiles. And I admit, it was scary. We were 8 people stuffed into our tiny safe room in the basement and were there for 40 minutes while the booms went on and on. Ultimately, though, the damage, though more than the first time, was only marginally worse. There were no casualties and all military facilities continued to operate. It was another failure. Then all eyes were on Israel for its anticipated response. Again, American pressure forced Israel to back off going after their nuclear sites (we all hope we don't live to regret that decision) or economic sites like their oil wells and instead

our air force carried out a spectacular and powerful attack on multiple Iranian military installations causing significant harm. If reports are correct, we set back their missile and drone production abilities several years in addition to wiping out all of their air defenses. Beyond the actual damage, for the first time in Iran itself in a direct attack from Israel, breaking that taboo and mental barrier, the message was: if we want, we can come back and do this again at will. You have no air defenses and you aren't going to get any to replace what we took out (since what we took out were the Russian S-300 – supposedly advanced air defense that: a) the Russians need for their own war and won't be sending any more to Iran now and: b) we proved they don't work anyway– so the next time we visit you, the damage will be exponentially worse, in places you can't imagine...

Again, the Iranians promised to retaliate. But this time, (so far at least) it hasn't happened. Could it be because they have learned that discretion is the better part of valor in this case? Could it be because Trump won the election and they are profoundly afraid of what he might do? Both are possible, both are likely. Either way, they don't carry the same fear factor as in the past. The opposite. Iran is watching their Shiite axis (and their investments of the past three decades) go up in smoke and are flirting with actions that may very well lead to their demise. The people of Iran are watching. They see the waste of money on these proxies and what it has come to while they are suffering at home. Will it lead to revolt? Who knows. But the Ayatollahs are paying attention.... And believe me when I say there are people here in Israel just praying that they do attack us again, to give us the excuse to go back and take care of business. This time, even the outgoing Biden Admin is saying they can't hold us back and the specter of an unpredictable Trump Administration sending out threats of its own is instilling the fear of God in them. For now, the Iranian stated policy is to hold off their response until they can't try to negotiate with Trump. OK..

I won't get into it but between Israel and the US (finally, sure took them long enough) the Huttis are finally getting paid back in spades. They may shoot a drone every week or so to show they are still around, but they don't really play into the equation. Neither do the Iraqis.

So with all this good news, why isn't there an end in sight to this war? Well, it's one thing to do what we did, it's quite another to bring it to an end. And it's likely that won't happen until the US gets more involved and that likely won't happen until Trump takes power. Israel and the US may see eye to eye about a ceasefire in Lebanon. The Lebanese people may be desperate for one. But Hezbollah will likely want to continue the war of attrition rather than accept the terms that will give Israel the upper hand. They will likely have to lose more and more of their assets, with no real way to rebuild, before they will call it a day.

Same with Hamas. As mentioned above, they don't care, never have, how many people in Gaza are killed, or even if they themselves are killed. They are Jihadists. The leverage will need to come from

somewhere else. Maybe Hezbollah, maybe Iran. I'm not sure. They aren't much of a threat for now, but they still hold the hostages. The southern front won't quiet down any time soon. Strangely, now we hear the US secretary of State Blinken question why there is no pressure from the world on Hamas. Really? Where have you been the last year? The pressure has always been on Israel, particularly on the humanitarian side, which is one of the reasons this war has lasted this long. If people really cared about the Palestinians in Gaza, the pressure should always have been on Hamas from day one. They started this war. They spent all their money on weapons and tunnels rather than on improving the lives of the population. They can end the war tomorrow if they lay down their weapons and accept the Israeli offer to leave the country unmolested. But they prefer to take everyone down with them.

And so I conclude with what I started. The optimistic statement that everything has changed. Because it has. The strategic situation in the Middle East is dramatically better from Israel's point of view than it was at the beginning of this war. And when this war finally ends, (after all, eventually it has to), Israeli deterrence will have been restored ten fold to what it was in the years leading up to Oct. 7.

And yet, somethings haven't changed. Indeed our hostages are still in Gaza. Our soldiers are paying the ultimate price every day. And anti-Semitism, that one eternal constant, is as strong as ever. I was in Amsterdam the night of November 7. Thankfully, I missed the pogrom, but I was in the exact spot just three hours before it took place. Since last week, there have been anti-Semitic riots daily in that city and tonight, there is a game between France and Israel, in Paris, which threatens to unleash similar scenes. The only difference between these events and the riots on the American college campuses is that the latter haven't turned openly violent yet. But they may. Like I said, some things never change.

Barry Spielman
November 14, 2024
Oranit, Israel

DONATIONS TO THE YIZKOR APPEAL

We thank you all for your generosity.

Marlene & Peter Banyasz \$36
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IMO Leon Bloch 36
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 IMO parents, Sol & Helen Rosenstock 100
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 IMO Leon Bloch & Pesia Boyman 100
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 IMO Karolina & Jerry Sass 100
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 IMO Harriet & Elias Solz 50
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SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

HAPPY EVENTS

Anniversaries

November

Mr. & Mrs. George Blau

Annette Insdorf & Mark Toporek 25

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Cagan 46

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Horowitz 39

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Fishman

Mr. & Mrs. Al Lewis 48

December

Jean Kasmer & Charles Jacobs 42

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Moldawer 55

Mazal tov! Mazal tov! Blessings for many more happy and healthy years together.

REFUAH SHELAYMAH : A complete healing soon

To any of our members presently in the need of healing, blessings are extended for a complete recovery. For those members who are recovering, "May you go from strength to strength!"

CONDOLENCES:

Our Society sends its most heartfelt condolences to the families of members who have most recently passed. (We are notified of a member's passing only if one owned a plot at Beth Moses Cemetery. If not, please inform us as we have no way of knowing).

DONATIONS

Marlene Banyasz- \$37.23

Maria Helfman- \$36

Charles Mandelbaum - \$36

Oscar Messer- \$18 in memory of Regina Lewis

Ruth Offen- \$5 monthly donation

Sally Wimmer- \$54

We wish to thank our members and friends for their generous contributions. Our Society survives on your dues and donations. Please donate to NCFS to memorialize the yahrzeits of relatives and friends, to celebrate a birth, bar/bat mitzvah, engagement, wedding, anniversary, to honor a friend, well wishes for recovery, or simply to fulfill the mitzvah of giving tzedaka.

Donations by check should be made to "New Cracow Friendship Society" and mailed to the address below... or online through PayPal payment on our website www.newcracow.org (donation tab). Please be sure to mention what your donation is for and please consider that PayPal charges a fee which reduces your amount to us. (Donations received after submission of committee report will be posted in the next issue).

We love to share good news with our members. Please send us your news.

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Member and Friend

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To his family our sincerest condolences



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