

A Long Term Perspective.

Last month, Americans for Peace Now suffered a tragic loss with the passing of Patricia Barr, our National Co-Chair. Patricia had a noble character, an unconquerable spirit, and a wonderful capacity for bringing her considerable intellectual prowess to bear on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as her work with the Reconstructionist movement, national health care programs, and education.

Patricia also brought another important quality to her efforts with Americans for Peace Now: a long-term perspective.

She knew that the complexities of the Arab-Israeli relationship would never be untangled overnight—that patience and understanding must be applied, and applied over and over again, if progress is to be achieved and Israel is to live in peace and security with her neighbors.

That perspective recognizes that Israel has reached peace accords with Egypt and Jordan that have stood the test of time and numerous crises in the region. It also recognizes that Israel is engaged in a diplomatic process with the Palestinians—currently embodied in the Road Map—that potentially can bring it peace not only on her immediate borders, but also with the entire Arab world.



Patricia Barr, z"l 8/26/50-6/19/03

Therefore, it is heartening to see that, despite the horrors and tragedies of the Intifada, the Israeli people increasingly see that their own long-term interests are best served by the Road Map and the peace process.

The 2003 annual survey recently released by the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University found that 59% of Israelis agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza in the context of a peace accord, 59% of Israelis agree to abandon all but the large settlement blocks, and 56% support the idea of separating from the Palestinians by withdrawing unilaterally, even if that means abandoning settlements. Another recent survey, this one in *Ma'ariv*, found that 57% of Israelis support the Road Map and that 66% of Israelis support evacuating unauthorized settlements.

These are positions that Americans for Peace Now and the Israeli Peace Now movement support, too.

With the knowledge that the Israeli people share our perspective on these crucial matters, we will continue to work every day to live up to the ideals of Patricia Barr and to fulfill her Zionist dream for Israel to live in peace as a Jewish, democratic state.

To take action in support of peace and to learn more about how you can help promote Shalom Achshav and Americans for Peace Now's efforts here in Chicago, across the US, with our elected officials in Washington, and in Israel, see our local web site at

www.chicagopeacenow.org

or contact

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