

**SPECIAL  
EDITION**



**Sha'ar HaNegev  
Regional Council**



# *Bits From Sha'ar HaNegev*

DECEMBER 2024

**OUR PARTNERS SPEAK:**

**INSPIRATION, VISION,  
AND CONNECTION TO  
SHA'AR HANEDEV**



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**Ingram Losner**  
Co Founder,  
Co CEO Proven  
Recruiting

The 2023 CommUnity Trip laid the foundation for lasting emotional and financial commitments to Sha'ar HaNegev.

**Ofir Libstein z"l**

described the region as **"95% heaven"**, a vision shattered on October 7, 2023. Since then, I've visited three times to show solidarity and deepen my commitment to **rebuilding the region physically, emotionally, and economically.**

For me, rebuilding Sha'ar HaNegev is **as vital** as my commitment to my own community in San Diego. This includes emergency relief, reconstruction, and **long-term partnerships** to ensure the region's survival and prosperity.

My promise: **we will dance together again,** and the desert will bloom with red anemones **as far as the eye can see.**

I first connected with Sha'ar HaNegev in 2008 as the coach of the San Diego soccer team at the Maccabi Games, which included two guest players from Sha'ar HaNegev. **One of those players remains in contact with me and my family to this day.** Little did I realize that this pleasant, seemingly passing interaction would flourish into a relationship that now consumes a significant part of my non-professional work. Alongside my colleagues at The Jewish Federation of San Diego, I am passionately committed to ensuring a **much wider and more meaningful partnership** between our city and the region where that soccer player now lives with his own family. What began as a fleeting connection has become **familial and existential.**



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**Dr. Christoph Schnaudigel**  
Administrator of the  
Karlsruhe district



**Knut Bühler**  
First State Official

It is always a privilege to be part of the unique connection between our regions. This partnership reminds us of the importance of mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and **solidarity**, especially during challenging times. As we look to the future, we hope to deepen our collaboration, foster opportunities for **learning and friendship**.

Thinking of Sha'ar HaNegev fills us with admiration for your **resilience and dedication** to building a vibrant, **supportive community**. Even from afar, we feel **connected** to your daily lives and challenges. Your **strength and optimism** continually inspire us.

In these turbulent times, **we stand with you** in friendship and solidarity. That is why we held a memorial in October—to let you know that **you are not alone**. Let us continue to nurture the ties between our regions, building bridges of **trust and understanding**.

We wish you a peaceful and hopeful holiday season. Together, **we can look forward to a brighter future**. Warm regards from all of us in the County of Karlsruhe.



ON BEHALF OF  
DR. CHRISTOPH SCHNAUDIGEL,  
KNUT BÜHLER AND THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
COUNTY OF KARLSRUHE





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## Nili Pitchon

Head of Latin America Dpt- KKL

2024 Brought unprecedented challenges to the region. The October 7th attacks inflicted immense devastation, including the death of **Mayor Ofir Libstein, a stronghold of KKL**. Families endured horrific atrocities, leaving emotional and physical scars. These events **deeply resonated** with the Jewish Latin American community.

In the wake of this tragedy, **the partnership rose to the occasion**. Nili Pitchon, head of KKL's Latin American Department, visited the area and met with Sha'ar HaNegev representatives to search for initiatives to **heal and rebuild the community**. KKL Latin America has raised substantial funds for the Regional Authority. **It continues to work on helping the community.**



The partnership between the KKL Latin American Department and Sha'ar HaNegev exemplifies **the power of global solidarity**. The unwavering support of Latin American communities reflects the true spirit of Zionism—uniting Jews worldwide **to strengthen Israel**, build the Negev, and **ensure a thriving future for the Jewish homeland**.