What I believe

I believe both Jews and Palestinians deserve to be safe and to have self determination

I believe both peoples have a history in, and claim to, the same land as their homelands

I believe in a two state solution-- necessarily requiring the movement of Jewish settlers out of the currently occupied West Bank

I believe a two state solution cannot be accomplished until there is a new administration in Israel and replacement of Palestinian leadership in Gaza and the West Bank. Netanyahu and his far right zealots MUST go! Hamas and the corrupt leaders of the Palestinian Authority MUST go!

I believe someone can criticize and protest the Israeli government and it’s policies including the military occupation and expansion of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and the unrestrained bombing in Gaza and still support the existence of the State of Israel

I believe that one can identify as Jewish while standing in opposition to many of the actions taken by Israel, especially, but not exclusively, by the current administration.

I believe one can harshly criticize the actions, corruption and policies of the two governments representing Palestinians and still fight for Palestinian human rights, self determination and dignity

I believe that Hamas is a terrorist organization who perpetrated an unspeakable atrocity. And where one might say there is a context of “hurt people hurt people”, there is absolutely nothing that justifies their barbaric crimes

I believe the Palestinian people are not synonymous with Hamas.

I believe Hamas knowingly incited a war in which scores of Palestinians, their human shields, would pay the horrifying ultimate price.

I believe that attacks on Palestinians by Ultra orthodox Jewish settlers in the West Bank is an abomination of Jewish values and must be prosecuted by the letter of the law and the torah.

I believe that Palestinians and Jews hold very different narratives regarding the history of the holy land -both deserving of attention and respect

 I believe social media and dogmatic ideologues carry far too much influence and are responsible for spreading misinformation resulting in harmful actions taken by Jews and Non-Jews, Palestinians and non-Palestinians.

I believe and greatly fear the rise of anti-semitism domestically and globally-- driven by a misdirected need to blame and displacement of anger and hatred espoused by dangerous social media, by dogmatic ideologues and by longstanding white Christian Supremacy

I believe a humanitarian pause is imperative and that the US must push for expediting additional humanitarian assistance (especially fuel), the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to truly enable safe passage, the establishment of “no bomb zones” and must ensure that US military assistance is used only in a manner that respects existing US and international law.

I believe that, despite the complexities, we must NOT give up hope for PEACE--and am encouraged by the hard work of organizations such as Roots and Americans for Peace Now.

I believe we must not replicate the divisiveness in the Middle East and within our own country by failing to keep open dialogue with those whose opinions may differ from our own.

My heart bleeds for the hostages and the unimaginable loss of innocent Gazan and Israeli lives --and for their families living in constant fear and unbearable grief.