

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR
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"Itzhak," We complained into the phone. "We're worried about the Special Issue."

It was one of our Friday morning calls from us in California to Itzhak, our colleague and point-man in Israel. For Itzhak, it was the end of a long work week, and night was about to fall.

"We really need someone to write about the Arab sector in Israel," we continued. "Can you help?"

Itzhak was never short of ideas. "I believe I know someone who would be very good to write about that. I'll get in touch with him."

We imagined that, while most of Israel prepared to rest on the Sabbath, Itzhak was busy hatching ideas about ways to help us recruit authors. Often we heard him say, "You know, as we talk about that, I am thinking of someone else." Another time he told us, "Of course, there is the father of my colleague, who would be a great one to write about the history of social work in Israel."

In one of many phone calls, we commented, "Itzhak. It is awfully nice of you to do all of this for us when we can't give you anything in return!"

"Don't people always help each other this way? I think they do, in Israel," Itzhak replied.

We thought, "No, certainly not everyone would work so hard for complete strangers....not in any part of the world."

No part of this Special Issue would have been possible without Itzhak. He used his extensive network of colleagues and associates in Israel to locate potential authors. And he followed up—often more than once—with those who evidenced an interest in writing for this Special Issue. He prodded authors and guided us all along the way.

One more thing sticks in our minds as we think about those Friday morning chats with Itzhak. He would sometimes begin our conversations by saying, "It has been quiet today."

In most places that might mean the children behaved well that day. Or perhaps that the pace of life had slowed in preparation for the weekend. But the Middle East is not most places, and we knew too well what Itzhak meant—that the sirens had not gone off that day; that no one had raced to the shelters; that no missiles had fallen that day.

We hope this Special Issue will make a small contribution to that time when all peoples of the Middle East, regardless of nationality, religion or ethnicity, will say at the end of the day, "It has been quiet today..." and they will be thinking of quiet children instead of missiles.

Whatever happens, we will miss our Friday morning chats with Itzhak.

- Dr. James J. Kelly
- Dr. Ray Berger

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