

## A First Visit To Israel

### Young Leadership Mission

By Alan Blumenthal

My wife, Lee, and I went on a January, 1985 Young Leadership Mission to Israel. It was our first visit.

I was amazed at how modern many things are in Israel: buildings, restaurants, styles of dress, etc. Yet, everything is so tied to Israeli history and Middle Eastern history, one can not help but come away with a greatly enhanced appreciation of both Jewish survival ability and Jewish ingenuity.

We saw all sections of Israel except the Sinai region. Some of the highlights were: an Ethiopian Absorption Center; the tour of Project Renewal at Acco; the Jewish Diaspora

Museum; visiting two Kibbutz settlements; climbing Masada and learning about its history; hearing the Dead Sea Works lecture; the Wailing Wall; touring the Old City, parts of Jerusalem, and YAD VASHEM. I especially enjoyed the four opportunities we had to meet and talk with Israelis. It gave Lee and me a first-hand understanding of how Israelis think and live.

Why should other Jews go to Israel? Because they are Jews and it is important for American Jews to see Israel first-hand, learn what is happening there, and get a much better understanding of why it is important for us to support Israel.

## Charlotteans' Impressions



Charlotte UJA Mission participants are shown on Mt. Scopus as they enter Jerusalem for the first time, March 1985.

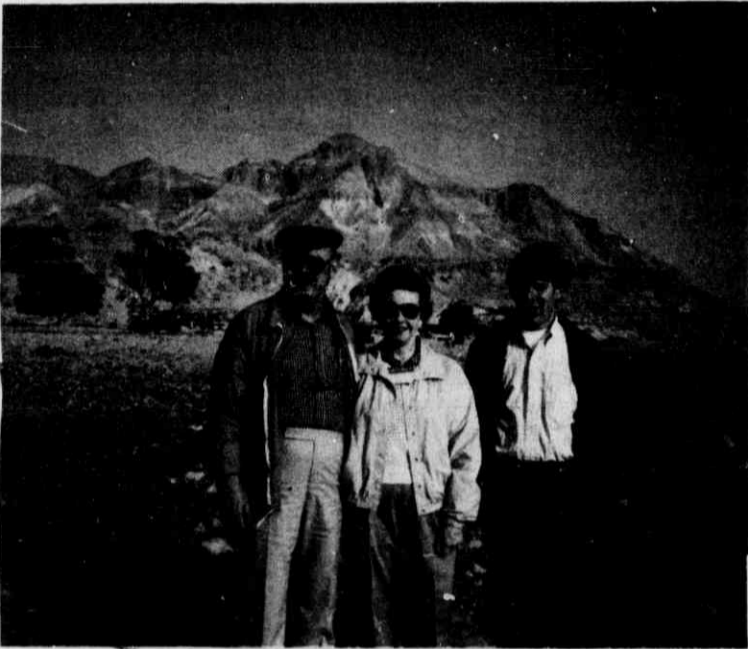
## Reflections Of My UJA Mission — February, 1984

By Philip Blumenthal

I believe the UJA missions are of great value to all Jews interested in their cultural and spiritual heritage. For those who have never been to Israel, a mission is a wonderful introduction to the land and its people. For those who have been before, a mission takes them places no other tour could and allows them to meet people with different perspectives concerning the issues facing the country.

The missions are designed to show the promise and problems of the country. Israel faces many challenges, including defense, economics and immigration. On our mission, we were given the opportunity to meet with a variety of Israelis who confront these problems every day and discuss possible solutions.

The promise of the Country is shown to participants in many ways. Medical advances, solar technology, agricultural techniques and sports programs are just some of the areas where you see pro-



L to R: Herman, Anita, Phillip Blumenthal at the Dead Sea.

gress made while overcoming enormous difficulties.

The true value of the mission lies in the feeling of oneness which you experience with the people. Nowhere was this more evident than in the meeting our group had with the community with which Charlotte has been joined through Project Renewal. To

have the opportunity to talk with fellow Jews from entirely different backgrounds in an effort to find solutions to a variety of problems illustrates the common bond we all share. A UJA mission in Israel is one of the best ways to experience the spiritual and cultural heritage common to all of us as Jews.

## Share your family with Israel

The United Jewish Appeal  
1985 National Family Missions

June 9-19, July 4-14, August 11-21 and December

A UJA Family Mission will introduce you and your children to the richness of Jewish heritage and to the uniqueness of life in the Jewish home.

- It's a people-to-people, family-to-family experience.
- It's an opportunity to visit Israel, the land and its people, and recent immigrants.
- It's an encounter with the residents of Project Renewal with the new pioneers settling the barren hillsides.
- It's a chance for your family to trace our people's history with our future.

## Discover Israel— and have a great time too!

Mission features include:

- Five-star hotels and kibbutzim.
- Touring with UJA-trained guides and special religious services.
- Transportation on modern, air-conditioned tour buses.
- Special youth programming led by trained counselors.
- Kashrut will be observed.

Applications with a \$200 deposit per person must be received 6-8 weeks prior to departure.

### Conditions

All costs include round-trip airfare New York/Tel Aviv and return, hotel arrangements (hotels, meals, taxes, transfers, guides, portage and program.)

The exact cost of the mission varies according to the number of children sharing a room as well as the time of the year.

**UJA National Summer Singles (age: 22-40) Hatikvah**  
July 21-31 Cost: \$1800.  
Application deadline: June 10

For further information, please contact your federation or the UJA Department of Overseas Programs, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10102 (212) 757-1500.



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