

# Charlotteans' Impressions of Israel - Part II

## Ten Days of A Lifetime

By Ron Katz

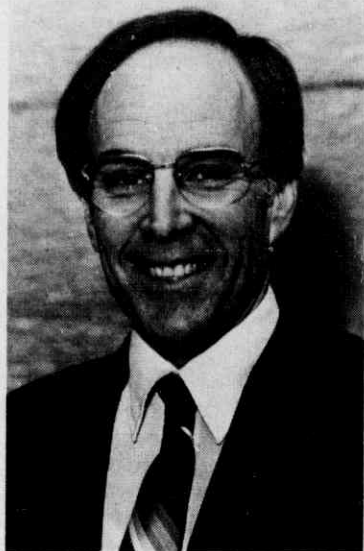
No way could a second visit to Israel exceed my first, that's what I originally thought. But my perspective was wrong, the second was greater for me. My wife Ellie, Joanne, my daughter, and my mother were all in Israel with me; the thrill of seeing their excitement and enthusiasm made my trip, a UJA mission, a real joy.

After having been to Israel in September 1982, after the Lebanon Peace for Galilee era, and seeing and hearing all the emotional episodes that were taking place, I had no idea of the more earthy side of the Israeli lifestyle.

Our mission, with some 50 other Southern region participants, who soon became like an extended family, was orchestrated to perfection. The weather in early March is just gorgeous, high 50s to low 60s, clear and dry—picture perfect. The hotels were superlative: food, accommodations and the personal attention toward us was enough to make us want to stay on.

UJA outdid itself in the itinerary scheduling. Prime Minister Peres addressed our group at a banquet dinner. Minister of Negev development, Menachem Perlmutter, and Shlomo Drori, Dead Sea Works director, were just two of the many fascinating and informative people with whom we met. We had a visit with our Project Renewal city, Nazaret Illit, where we met and spoke with the community to get a clearer understanding of their current situation. Their efforts certainly reflect the support and concern of their local donor-stateside partners.

The Operation Moses absorption center in Ashkelon was a moving experience in human drama none of us will soon forget. These oppressed



Ron Katz

Ethiopians, wonderful people searching for a place to live in peace, have finally arrived in their homeland where they can continue to practice their Judaism.

Rishon Letzion Senior Citizen Center of JDC, a truly marvelous concept, left a deep emotional impact on us. These wonderful people who endured much suffering before coming to the land of Israel, spend their senior years there.

Matti, our guide, and Ami, our bus driver, were our directors par excellence. When we go back to Israel we only hope to get a team as good as they.

Masada, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Beit S'harim, Caesarea Golan, Judea-Samaria, Mt. Zion Hill, Shrine of the Book, and home hospitality at Kibbutz Lehavot Hasbasha made indelible impressions on us. The experiences there touches us so, that we will remember them forever.

I can't recommend and encourage enough that anyone considering a visit to Israel make plans to sign up for the March 1986 Mission to Israel. You will be thrilled, enlightened, and thoroughly enjoy spending "ten days of a lifetime" in Israel on a Charlotte UJA adventure.

## Seeing Hadassah Hospital Is Really Something Special

By Bobbie Pollard

The dream I had dreamt for many years came true in January of 1978 when I landed in Israel. My dreams had been so vivid and the longing to see this land so great, the expectations had been so high, that I was even prepared to be disappointed. My only disappointment was landing at Lod - late at night after a much-delayed start, driving through dark rainy streets, looking a little like England, to a Hilton Hotel. I could have been anywhere in the world; my worst fears seemed to be realized. But next morning, I drew my curtains to view Tel Aviv in the dawn light. A panorama of different sized squares of pale yellow, orange and gold, the dramatic city to the left, to the right a pretty little harbor - a breathtaking scene - this was Israel - the lump in my throat, here it was, and that feeling never diminished.

As for Hadassah hospital, I had had no grandiose dreams. A hospital is a hospital! Special because it had done such magnificent work, true; special because it was built with the money coming from Hadassah women, but in my mind, just a hospital. To me the special had always been the people who 'manned' it. They you must know about, you must have read the stories of their dedication and the miracles wrought in desperate times with little supplies - but let me tell you about the hospital itself - your hospital.

I was lucky enough to be a part of a small group being given the red carpet treatment. We started by being in-



Bobbie Pollard at women's side of Wailing Wall.



Bobbie (L) and Wilma Saly at The Good Fence Metulla.

roduced to our representative, mine and yours, Hadassah. We were shown around Scopus and Ein Kerem. Here are a few facts: You have an x-ray there, 90 seconds later the doctor is examining it. You have an operation; you're lying on the table top on which you will be operated; the patient ahead is wheeled away and your table is wheeled under the lights -

almost a human conveyor belt system.

While you have your operation, or you are in the hospital sick, what of your family; do they sit around and wait in a room with chairs around the wall and a table in the middle with magazines? No, it's just like home; comfortable lounge, kitchen facilities, a place to

(Cont'd on next page)

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