

# Charlotte Jewish Federation

## Volunteer of the Month Experiencing a UJA Mission

### For April: Lorrie Colish

Lorrie is a bundle of energy who left the state of Florida to make a new life here in Charlotte. In the months since she came here, she has made phone calls for Shalom Y'all and done calligraphy addressing for major Federation events. She has been receptionist for Jewish Family Services one-day-a-week and filled in as Federation secretary. Lorrie has done all this while being an active participant in JCC classes and in Shalom Y'all programs.

Federation is proud to name Lorrie Colish as April's "Volunteer of the Month."



Lorrie Colish

### For May: Jody Pinion

To Jody Pinion goes the credit for creating Shabbat Shalom Y'all. This is the special service which delivers a basket with candles, candlesticks, wine, challah and the Shalom Y'all brochure to newcomers. For those moving to town, the baskets are hand-delivered on their first Friday. For those who are newcomers by virtue of being "Jews By Choice", the baskets are given as part of the conversion ceremony.

Jody has delivered more than 30 of these welcoming baskets and always been greeted with enthusiasm and gratitude. When making the visit she also takes the time to have the newcomers fill out an information form listing their interests in affiliations. This data is shared with all the institutions and organizations to assist the newcomer in



Jody Pinion

becoming involved.

Jody also acts as a reporter at the Shalom Y'all parties, and writes these interviews for *The CJN*.

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By Sandra Reggelbrugge

As the 747 began its descent to Ben Gurion Airport, and the first strains of an Israeli folk song filtered through the aircraft, with a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye, I knew that I had made the right decision weeks before to join the UJA Geshet Mission to Israel. The lump and tear stayed with me throughout the ensuing nine days, and this was truly an experience I shall always remember.

I feel so honored to have been included in this marvelous experience, and shall attempt to share some of my thoughts and feelings about the trip with all of you.

The spirit of the people was the common denominator in places visited and experiences gleaned. Our guide, Alex, certainly had spirit. His face could have been chiseled from granite: Mount Rushmore came to mind as he boarded our bus and introduced himself. He is a Sabra, has served and fought with the Israeli Defense Forces, and is now a government guide with a background in archaeology. He has a marvelous sense of humor. He could laugh at himself and others, and Raffie, our driver with a mop of silver curls, was the perfect foil for him. His knowledge of history and the anecdotes and side-lights of the places we visited certainly made everything come alive. He projected an inner strength which makes one understand how the Israelis were able to turn the sand and stone of the desert into a lush green "breadbasket for Europe" (Alex's quote), and will continue to do so. Spirit!

Our first activity was driving to Modiim for the tree planting ceremony. The children's choir had stood in the rain for over an hour awaiting our arrival, and as their sweet, clear voices rose in song, you would have thought that they had just arrived. Spirit! Sheep were grazing on the rocky hill as a backdrop to the young singers.

The Moshave, Neteva Sharah, in the Negev was relocated from the Sinai. The young hostess-guide who lives there, explained that the relocation took place just at the time the vineyards were ready for the first harvest, and all had to be left behind. The new location is now producing vegetables and flowers. Spirit!

A quick stop was made at



Kotel in the rain. Clear skies are common over Jerusalem, but even when it does rain the Kotel (Western Wall) has an allure.

UJA Press Photo/Donna Lee Goldberg

the Kibbutz Yad Mordechai to view the reconstructed battlefield from the War of Liberation. School groups were also viewing the site, accompanied by their guides with ever-ready guns slung over their shoulders. Spirit!

Beit Hatefutsoth, Museum of the Diaspora, located on the University of Tel Aviv campus, provides a factual history of the Jews. Spirit throughout the ages! Interesting to see all of the Jews who have contributed so much to mankind, fun to punch the computer for print-outs of the history of names of Jewish friends. These made great souvenirs to take back to friends.

communicated in the International language — love. Spirit! Dinner in the dining room with all of the families of the Kibbutz was indeed togetherness, including the renegade dog of one of the families. Products of the Kibbutz in addition to farm products are marble tiles, vinyl tiles and cabinet doors which are exported to the U.S. and Europe.

We toured the Roman ruins in Caesarea where Alex was in his glory telling us about the glory of Rome. Those Roman legions were well-traveled and well-cultured. The amphitheatre was in a beautiful location overlooking the Mediterranean, and you could imagine the soft sea breezes



Building a new life through learning.

Photo/Zion Ozeri

The Kibbutz we visited was Sdot Yam located north of Tel Aviv near Caesarea. It centered around a lovely park, overlooking the deep blue Mediterranean and dotted with modern sculpture. Our group of six was hosted by Chana, the daughter of a Rabbi from Berlin, and has been on Sdot Yam ever since. We met her children and grandchildren; beautiful girls who

playing over the audience as they watched a performance of music or literature.

Lunch at the Youth Aliyah with refugees from Ethiopia, and ping-pong, refreshments and dance class with children (Cont'd next page)

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