

Federation Sponsors "Shalom Y'all" Newcomers Pool Party at the Home of Liz and Brad Winer



Hosts Liz and Brad Winer with Ariel Hanson, who had been in Charlotte only one week at the time.



Janet and Seth Jaffe, Tess and Jonathan Berger.



David and Bonnie Bornstein, Lori Zaslow, and Jane Endelson.



Adam Petricoff



Shirley Phillipson, Beverly Hoffman, and Scott Phillipson.

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UJC "Israel Now" Solidarity Shabbatons

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North American financial support will be directed toward supporting victims of terror and traumatized children and seniors, ensuring the continuation of bene-

fits to new immigrants, supporting needs in geographically vulnerable communities, and ensuring the establishment and continuation of other social spending programs.

Building on the momentum of grassroots efforts already underway in communities across North America, "Israel Now" initiative programs begin in force during "Solidarity September," when a continental media campaign will bring top Israeli leaders, Middle East experts and scholars, journalists and opinion makers to broadcast studios, editorial board rooms and town hall meetings coast-to-coast to educate people about the current conflict and to support Jewish federations and local leaders as they generate a clear message of unity in their communities. Also during "Solidarity September," Journey to Solidarity I, the first major people-to-people mission to Israel under the solidarity banner, will take place. The trip will be the flagship mission of an ongoing series, including regularly scheduled missions, carrying the potent message of unity to Israelis and the world.

A major public education effort will occur during the High Holy Days, when UJC and Jewish federations will distribute in synagogues across the continent at least one million leaflets promoting solidarity activities and programs, facts about the situation in Israel, and a solidarity petition. Rabbis will be encouraged to embrace the solidarity message in holiday sermons. "Solidarity September" continues on the 21st of the month, the beginning of a special Solidarity Shabbat and an inter-denominational effort to promote unity with Israel in synagogues and churches coast-to-coast. On Sunday, September 23, the month of solidarity events will climax in New York City with a major Solidarity Rally, sponsored by UJC and North American Jewish federations. The rally will attract supporters of Israel from across the continent, and prominent Israeli officials will be pre-

sent.

"The rally will unite the energies of the entire North American Jewish community and send a strong, visible message of our solidarity with Israel around the world," said Joel Tauber, chairman of the UJC Executive Committee.

In October, UJC and Jewish federations will launch extensive grassroots advocacy efforts on college campuses, synagogues, day schools, youth groups and Jewish community centers. The momentum of the initiative continues into November, at the UJC General Assembly (GA), November 9-14 in Washington, DC. There, more than 5,000 Jewish leaders from North America and around the world will join Prime Minister Sharon to affirm their support of Israel, and take part in specially designed solidarity educational and advocacy programming.

Immediately following the GA, Journey to Solidarity II - Capital to Capital, the second major solidarity mission of the fall, will depart with GA participants directly from Washington, bound for Jerusalem - in a dramatic show of support.

Speaking at the opening session of the JAFI 2001 Assembly, attended on Saturday night by the UJC and North American federation delegation, and during a private meeting with them afterwards, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon endorsed and underscored the importance of the Israel NOW program:

"Now is the time for Jewish people to unite together with Israel and for Israel," Sharon said. "Now is the time for global Jewish solidarity. Now is the time for a major campaign in which every Jew will actively share and partner with Israel. It is the time to show the world - our friends and our enemies, ourselves and our children - that we are one. I am sure that if we are united, we can all realize all our hopes and dreams for the land of Israel." ☆

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