

The Jewish Dream

By Scott Gorelick and Sue Littauer

Scott Gorelick, Co-Chair of the Men's Division, and Sue Littauer, Campaign Director of the Jewish Federation, have just returned from a United Jewish Communities Mission to the Former Soviet Union and to Israel. The ten-day trip



Scott Gorelick, Misha, Masha, and Sue Littauer.

was filled with unforgettable moments and memories that they plan to share with you on an installment basis over the next few months. This is their first entry.

The Jewish Dream is not about freshly painted houses and white picket fences. It's about working hard to make sure there is a flourishing Jewish community in every corner of the world where there are Jews. We just returned from Kharkov ("har-kov"), the second largest city in the Ukraine, a city of 1.8 million people with 50,000 Jews. Our mission to Kharkov was a "Modern Jewish Miracle" when you consider that Kharkov had a thriving Jewish community of 130,000 Jews (10% of Kharkov's population) on the eve of the Holocaust. After the Holocaust, fewer than 1,000 Jews were left alive.

Outside of Kharkov, we visited a summer camp funded by JAFI, the Jewish Agency for Israel, which is funded by our federation dollars. As our bus pulled into the camp, over 150 children were lined up along the drive waving Israeli flags and singing *Shalom Aleichem*. After having just visited Drobitsky Yar, a memorial to the 16,000 Jews of Kharkov murdered by the Nazis and left in two huge ravines, we were struck by the joyous welcome we received from these beautiful children. As we walked the death march to Drobitsky Yar, microphones echoed the names of the executed Jews, including children with last names like ours, children the ages of our own children, children who did not have the opportunity to attend summer camps either in Kharkov or at our own Camp Mindy.

As we stepped off the bus at summer camp, our spirits soared as we each took the hand of our "child for the day," Masha with Scott, Misha with Sue. Our gifts to the kids of Polaroid photos and silver Magen David necklaces, keepsakes of a very special day, produced big smiles. We had no language in common, but through the music universal to Jews all over the world, we were able to communicate as we danced and sang together. These children were just like our own children, and we connected with Masha and Misha on a very personal level. If only there were sufficient funds available to allow each child more than one week of camp.

Later in Israel, we would experience other summer camps, one for Ethiopian children, and another for children in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo. The summer camp experience is really the same all over the world - just kids having fun, learning about their Jewish identity, developing friendships. As we left Misha and Masha, the hugs and thanks they gave us were so warm and so delicious. When we recall those hugs, we think about what the federation is able to do for Jewish children all over the world. This is part of the Jewish Dream, for which we will work fervently to insure that it reaches every Jewish child in every corner of the world. ☆

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2002 Women's Cabinet Formed

Alison Lerner to Serve 2nd Term as Women's Division President

As the summer comes to a close, the Women's Cabinet is already meeting to plan activities for the upcoming year. Joining Alison Lerner this year on the Women's Cabinet is Lynne Sheffer and Marni Abramowitz.



Alison Lerner, Lynne Sheffer, and Donna Lerner.

Women's Campaign Co-Chairs, Marcie Kelso and Donna Lerner, Jewish Women's Network Co-Chairs, and Wendy Petricoff and Risa Miller, Shalom Y'all Newcomer Committee Co-Chairs. "I think we have put together an excellent team to work on the 2002 Women's Division," said Ms. Lerner. "We have broadened our base of involvement within all committees to include a diverse group of women from different areas of the community."

The mission of the Women's Division is to create a community of Jewish women who are dedicated to education and to meeting the needs of Jews here and abroad. This year we hope to create programs that will interest a broad segment of women in the community and reach out to those who

have not been previously involved.

This fall, the Women's Division will continue to deliver Newcomers bags to new families in our Jewish community. A new Shalom Y'all brochure will be an added addition to our bags. And once again, look for the 4th annual spring lecture in March of 2002.

To get involved in any of these activities, for more information, or if you are interested in being a part of the Women's Division, please contact Marnie Moskowitz, Director of Program Development (email: mmoskowitz@shalom-charlotte.org or phone 704-944-6764). ☆

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