

# Hundreds of North American Jews Demonstrate Solidarity with Israel on United Jewish Communities Capital-to-Capital Mission

The delegation - nearly 500 strong - departed November 13, flying from Washington, DC, at the close of the United Jewish Communities General Assembly meeting there, to Jerusalem, on the first national "Capital-to-Capital" Mission.

Approximately 25 North American Jewish communities were represented on the Capital-to-Capital Mission, including: Atlanta, Boston, Bridgeport, Broward County, Chicago, Dayton, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Monmouth County, New York, Ocean County, Orange County (CA), Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Sacramento, San Antonio, San Diego, San Jose, Seattle, St. Louis, St. Paul, and Washington, DC.

"All the participants and communities involved felt this was the time to come to Israel - in spite of and because of the events of September 11, and in spite of and because of what is happening as a result of the Palestinian intifada," said Mission Chairman Larry Hochberg, a Board member of the Jewish United Fund/The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. "This was the time to come and show solidarity with the people of Israel, and North Americans understood that and reacted."

By the end of this year, after a similar solidarity mission next month, close to 5,000 people will

have traveled to Israel on UJC national and community missions since Israel entered its current conflict last year.

Michael Gelman, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and Capital-to-Capital Mission Co-Chairman, said it is critical for North American Jews to demonstrate their solidarity at a time when Israelis are feeling isolated and tourism and businesses are suffering.

"Both America and Israel are at war with terrorism," he said. "By traveling to Israel on a solidarity mission, participants are signaling their support of what America is doing and what Israel is doing."

Participants on the Capital-to-Capital mission met with Israeli government, military and business leaders, ordinary Israeli citizens whose everyday lives have been affected by the continuing conflict, and North Americans now living in Israel.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who has been outspoken on the importance of North American solidarity missions to the psyche and economy of Israel, met with the delegation, as did Housing and Construction Minister Natan Sharansky, among others.

Mission participants visited the Israeli Defense Force's Hatzor Air Force Base, where military officers discussed Israeli and global responses to terrorism. Participants also visited residents

of Seam Line communities around Jerusalem, such as Gilo, where residents are facing much hardship by living on the frontlines of the conflict.

Delegations from specific North American communities also visited their Partnership 2000 communities in Israel. For example, the Washington, DC delegation, visiting Beit Shemesh, joined Mayor Danny Vaknin for the dedication of Pentagon Park - built in memory of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

"It was very moving and everyone was very touched," said Gelman. "It strengthened the partnership between our community and Beit Shemesh."

"Solidarity missions mean a great deal to the people of Israel, who feel isolated and alone," said Robert Schroyer, chairman of the UJA Federation Campaign. "Traveling to Israel gives North American Jews an unparalleled opportunity to reach out to them, to touch them, to feel their anxiety, yet also express North American unity with them and bring the message that they are not alone."

In a strong sign of support and unity, nearly 900 North Americans traveled to Israel on a national UJC solidarity mission in January. And last month, 39 community members from the Greensboro Jewish federated community expressed their solidarity by trav-

eling to Israel and meeting with residents and leaders, as did nearly 200 people from the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.

For information about taking part in a UJC national or community solidarity mission, contact the UJC Missions Department at 212-284-6519, visit [www.ujc.org](http://www.ujc.org), or see story below for list of upcoming missions.

United Jewish Communities (UJC) represents 189 Jewish Federations and 400 independent communities across North America. Together, they continue to demonstrate unparalleled phil-

anthropic success. Last year, 700,000 people contributed more than \$826 million to the UJA Federation Annual Campaign and another \$1.2 billion to endowment funds, capital campaigns, foundations and other special projects. In all, UJC is a \$2 billion annual enterprise that provides life-saving and life-enhancing humanitarian assistance to those in need, and translates Jewish values into social action on behalf of millions of Jews in hundreds of communities in North America, in towns and villages throughout Israel, in the former Soviet Union, and 60 countries around the world. ☆

## United Jewish Communities Israel-Now Missions

Departs February 17 and returns February 22, 2002

Departs April 14 and returns April 21, 2002 (7 days)

Departs May 19 and returns May 24, 2002

All Information Below Subject to Change

**Program Highlights** - for all missions:

- \* Group arrival on day one, transfer to hotel and opening dinner

- \* Missions include programming and most meals.

- \* Top level briefings and analysis of the current situation in the Middle East

- \* Meet with Israelis

- \* Interactive JAFI/JDC site visits

- \* Full day program with lunch including site visits

- \* Plan your P2K visit or other programming depending on mission

- \* Closing Day - half day programming, afternoon at leisure, farewell dinner and transfer to airport

**For April Mission:**

- \* Observe Yom Ha'Zikaron and celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut

**Important Cost Information for Israel-Now Solidarity Missions Only**

**February 17-22:** Exclusive rate of \$1,115 based on double occupancy (single supplement \$139). Cost includes, UJC subsidy of \$250, roundtrip coach air on EL AL Israel Airlines (New York/Tel Aviv/New York), three nights deluxe accommodations in Jerusalem, three lunches, two dinner events, programming and tips. Land only cost is \$595. Flights departing from El Al gateways other than New York may require additional overnight costs in Israel. Additional roundtrip air costs for these flights on El Al only, based upon flight availability

are as follows: Chicago add \$99, Miami add \$156, and LA add \$288.

**April 14-21, 2002:** Exclusive rate of \$1,650 based on double occupancy (single supplement \$373). Cost includes UJC subsidy of \$250, roundtrip coach air on EL AL Israel Airlines, New York/Tel Aviv/New York, three nights deluxe accommodations in Tel Aviv and two nights deluxe accommodations in Jerusalem, breakfast, three lunches, two dinner events, programming as above and tips. Land only cost is \$1,040. Flights departing from El Al gateways other than New York may require additional overnight costs in Israel. Additional roundtrip air costs for these flights on El Al only, based upon flight availability are as follows: Chicago add \$99, Miami add \$156, and LA add \$288.

**May 19-24, 2002:** Exclusive rate of \$1,230 based on double occupancy (single supplement \$194). Cost includes, UJC subsidy of \$250, roundtrip coach air on EL AL Israel Airlines (New York/Tel Aviv/New York), three nights deluxe accommodations in Jerusalem, three lunches, two dinner events, programming and tips. Land only cost is \$660. Flights departing from El Al gateways other than New York may require additional overnight costs in Israel. Additional roundtrip air costs for these flights on El Al only, based upon flight availability are as follows: Chicago add \$99, Miami add \$156, and LA add \$288.

Airfares are subject to change. **Important Flight Information** Due to the special pricing of

these missions, please be aware of the following:

- \* Participants must depart with the mission.

- \* International flight extensions may be available after the mission in accordance with El Al's regulations.

- \* Domestic flights are at an additional cost to the participant.

- \* Business and first class upgrades are available for additional costs.

- \* Tickets will either be given out at the airport or sent via Federal Express to the federations.

- \* El Al reserves the right to change flights and times.

**Change, Cancellation and Handling Fees**

Once the airline ticket has been issued, there is a \$100 fee for changes or cancellations. For those upgrading to business class using "Frequent Flyer" points, there is a handling fee of \$50 per ticket in addition to any other charges.

**Campaign**

We will be asking participants for a voluntary suggested minimum gift of \$500 to the annual UJA/Federation campaign.

**Deadline**

Applications are due 30 days prior to departure. Space is limited and will not be held unless the UJC missions department receives an application.

For additional information, please contact Mamie Moskowitz, 704-944-6764 or email: [mmoskowitz@shalomcharlotte.org](mailto:mmoskowitz@shalomcharlotte.org).

Your local Federation is subsidizing the mission by an additional \$500. Please call to inquire. ☆

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