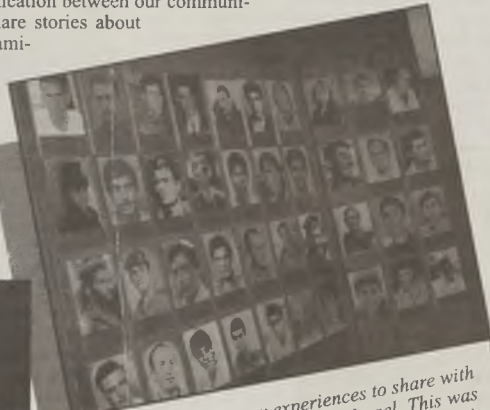


Federation's P2K Mission 2006 to Hadera

On November 11, 15 representatives of seven organizations on Shalom Park traveled to Israel as part of the Jewish Federation's newly created Charlotte-Hadera Partnership 2000 project. Their mission was to create bonds of friendship and understanding, to find innovative methods to link our communities through the initiation of projects and to develop new and ongoing methods of communication between our communities. Each mission participant arrived home safely to share stories about their new friends in Hadera, convinced that his/her host family was the best. Suggestions and ideas generated during the mission are currently being incorporated into the plans for 2007. For information on how you can get involved in Partnership 2000, please contact Sue Littauer at 704-944-6758; sue.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org. ♣



"I consider myself very fortunate to have been part of this Israel mission. We had the wonderful opportunity to create people-to-people relationships with families and our professional counterparts in Hadera. We saw first hand how our partnership money is being used to enhance the lives of people in this city. We met them, spent time with them ... and can now consider them friends. The Charlotte-Hadera Partnership is no longer an abstract concept to us - now it is our job to build on this foundation." -- Roni Fishkin



"There are so many experiences to share with people when you return from Israel. This was my first journey to our homeland. The families we met in Hadera were incredible. They opened their hearts and homes to all of us in the group. Almost everyday we toured we were reminded of the those who have fought and died on behalf of all Jews in the world. This museum in Hadera is dedicated to the women and men who lived in Hadera and died in combat." -- Marcia Lampert



"I found staying with my host family, the Reiners, truly gave me a flavor of what life is like in Hadera. Sarah, my hostess, and I spent many hours talking at her kitchen table (as I would do with my girlfriends here in Charlotte) discussing her life in Israel and my life in the U.S. So many of the same issues and concerns about our families and the joy they bring us. Of course, her concerns go so much deeper than any of us in America can ever understand as each day is lived with the worry of yet another attack. We watched the news together as Gaza was shooting rockets into Sderot and shared our frustration about this small country just wanting to exist and Sarah wanting her children to live happy and safe lives. Sarah and I stay in touch through e-mails and I know that I have found in her a lifelong friend." -- Holly Gainsboro



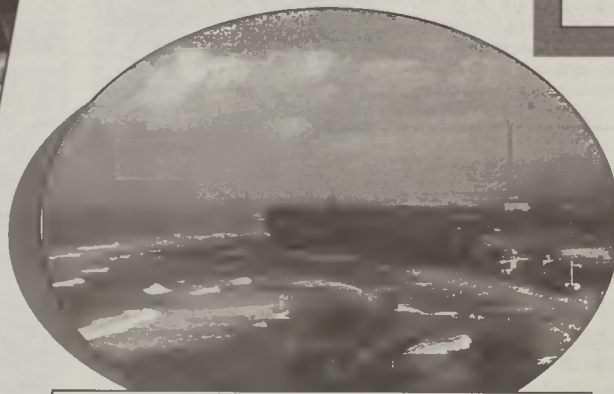
"I was very impressed with the programs in place for the Ethiopian and Russian 2nd graders. The students seemed to be eager to learn and participate." -- Channie Weiss



"I was touched by the way Israelis honor their soldiers who have died in war. In the US, we use Memorial day to shop for sales or as a day off from work. ... In Israel, their Memorial Day is marked with prayers and commemorative services. School children must write a history of one of the soldiers as a class project." -- Penny Wagner-Shuster



"This photo was taken at a battered women's shelter on the outskirts of Hadera. These are the shoes of the mothers and their children who live at this shelter. From the outside, the house looks like any other single family dwelling in the neighborhood. However, you can see by the number of shoes, that this four bedroom house is crowded. There are five to six women and children crammed into each bedroom. The shelter is immaculately clean. The women work cooperatively to keep the house and cook. The garage in the back has been converted to a daycare facility for preschoolers." -- Karen Knobbe



"This is the Mediterranean Sea from the cliffs at Givat Olga. This was my first trip to Israel and I was very surprised to see how beautiful the landscape was. This area is located in one of the poorer sections around Hadera." -- Mark DiDonato

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