

Sagi Bashan Reignites Pride in Israel

By Hagar Shahah, Israeli Shlichah

In February 19, Sagi Bashan was in Charlotte. Sagi Bashan, Israeli news correspondent for channel 2 (Israel's most popular Broadcast network) is responsible for reporting news from the southern part of Israel. In the last eight years as a journalist, Sagi brought the stories of the people that live under threat of terror attacks in the western part of the Negev (Gaza strip).

For three days, Sagi presented lectures that were very well received and people asked lots of interesting and challenging questions. The more that he talked, the more I learned about the situation that people endure in the southern part of Israel. I learned about people's daily routines - taking their kids to school while Hamas shoots Qassams. It is very frightening, but people do live like that. Even during the days of war, Israelis may have different opinions, but they all love their country. Furthermore I learned that Israel has a lot of friends and support from people near and far, in spite of language and cultural differences.

So, this is a good opportunity to remind you all that we need to be proud of Israel and the Israelis:

Israel will 61 years old this month; see what we achieved in 61 years:

1. When Golda Meir was elected as Prime Minister of Israel in 1969, she became the world's second elected female



The crowd listens attentively to Sagi Bashan's presentation.

leader in modern times.

2. "Egged" is the second largest bus company in the world.

3. Technology for cell phones was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.

4. Israel has more museums per capita than any other country.

5. Israel won the Miss Universe competition twice.

6. Eight Israelis have won Nobel Prizes so far.

7. One of the IDF's most important missions is comradeship and education.

8. Israel has a religious court, but serves Christians, Jews and

Muslims equally.

9. Israel has a Muslim Knesset member (the Israeli parliament).

10. Agriculture in Israel is one of the best in the world.

11. Voicemail technology was developed in Israel.

12. Four young Israelis developed the technology for the AOL Instant Messenger (ICQ) in 1996.

13. 24% of Israel's workforce holds university degrees ranking third in the industrialized world, just after the United States and Holland. 12% hold advanced degrees. Also, Israel has the highest ratio of lawyers per capita.

14. Of the top 500 richest people list, Israel has four.

15. Medicine: Israeli scientists developed the first fully computerized, no-radiation, diagnostic instrumentation for breast cancer.

16. "El-Al" is considered the safest airline, and Ben-Gurion the safest airport. ☆

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To: Temple Israel Religious School, Levine JCC After School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School.

Thank you for helping me to bring the Israeli spirit of Purim to Shalom Park. Your Mishloach Manot (giving a food basket to friends on Purim) brought happiness and joy to all employees at Shalom Park.

Thanks to you all,
Hagar Shahah
Community Shlichah - Community Emissary

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