

# Israel, Part XIV, It's a Small (Jewish) World

By Amy Krakovitz

As evening approaches and Shabbat winds down, we head out of the hotel for nearby Liberty Bell Park and our Havdalah service. At the same time, we must say goodbye to the Label family who have been in Israel a few days longer than we have (they visited the north before meeting us in Jerusalem). Over these last five days, we have all become so close that their leaving is taking a great emotional toll on all of us.

Rabbi Judy leads our service and together we sing the brachot in the melodies written by Debbie Friedman. Passersby on the street can see us, and we realize we are being observed by three young people. Another look and we recognize one of them. It is Mike Harvey, who taught in Charlotte at Hebrew High the year before. He is in Jerusalem to start his first year at Hebrew Union College, studying to become a rabbi. He and his friends, also first year students at HUC, join us to complete our Havdalah service.

We've come all the way to Jerusalem to run into someone from Charlotte.

After our Havdalah, we return to the hotel where the Labels are loading up a taxi for their trip to the airport and back home. We say goodbye to David and Stacy, their children, Lindsay, Lauren, and Jake, and David's parents, Joyce and Stan.

Dinner is on Ben Yehuda St., a bustling section of town with shops and restaurants. I am looking forward to getting some souvenirs for my family and eating some falafel. We decide to eat first so that we don't have to carry and watch out for shopping bags while we are enjoying dinner. We stop at a falafel stand that also serves gyros and other wrapped sandwiches. I cau-

tiously try out my Hebrew which has been slightly improving throughout the week and order my dinner, drink, and condiments in the language of the land. Surprise! The servers understand me and I get exactly what I wanted.

After dinner, Joel Blady and I visit several different shops looking for things to bring home. I find T-shirts and bumper stickers for my family; a kippah for my sister; and posters for my classroom. Joel gets some postcards and other souvenirs and we are both happy.

Good night, good night, we need to be up early again for our trip to the north.

## Givat Haviva

I pack my one (gigantic) suitcase and bring it to the bus for our trip to the Galilee. We are loaded and ready to go. Before we arrive at our hotel, though, we have a few stops to make on the way.

First we stop at the Givat

Palestinians. Its official mission is "to build an inclusive, socially cohesive society in Israel by

natural ditch or depression that runs through the middle of the village. Rather than concerning themselves with the fact that they might be tearing a town asunder, the group drew the 1949 Armistice Line right down the ditch. Families were separated; Barta'a was torn apart. And Ralph Bunche won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

Some local children join us on the rooftop, a place they come to play. They all know Lydia and she knows them well. From the rooftop we can see a vast difference in the west and east sides of the village. Where we stand,

on the west side of the line, there are new homes, shops, recently repaved streets, and a beautiful town center. The east side is less commercial and there is more litter and trash in the streets.

Still, Lydia is hopeful. The security fence that the Israeli government has created does not run down the green line, further separating the town and the families that live there. The fence has been erected east of the town, keeping the people of Barta'a closer together. ☆

*Next: Sachneh Pools, Kinneret cemetery, and a drive through Tiberias*



Rabbi Judy Schindler leads Havdalah in Liberty Bell Park, Jerusalem.



Zack Gilbert, two local boys from Barta'a, Josh Rappaport, Jake Gilbert, Rachel Rappaport, DJ Wilson (in back), Sydney Frankenberg, and Kate Frankenberg on a rooftop in West Barta'a overlooking East Barta'a.

engaging divided communities in collective action towards the advancement of a sustainable, thriving Israeli democracy based on mutual responsibility, civic equality and a shared vision of the future." It's a mouthful but seems to have had a small but measurable effect on the nearby Arab villages.

Since we are so near the green line, Lydia offers to take us to Barta'a, a village that straddles the green line. West Barta'a is on the Israeli side; East Barta'a on the Palestinian side. How could this happen? The drawing of the green line was not done with populations in mind, Lydia posits. The green line was created by a group from the UN, meeting on the Isle of Rhodes. They used "convenience" as a tool for placing the line. For example, she points out from a rooftop in West Barta'a, there is a

Haviva Institute where we meet with Lydia Aisenberg, a native of Wales who came to Israel in 1965. She is on the staff of Givat Haviva as an educator and is also a journalist. Givat Haviva's Center for Peace promotes bi-lateral programs with neighboring

## JCC Tributes

### LJCC BUTTERFLY PROJECT

In honor of Judy, August, Phil Berman, Karen Maniloff, Greg O'Conner, and Matt Wagner from Zippy Koch

In honor of Robert Stark's birthday from Suly and Richard Chenkin

In honor of Irving Bienstock's birthday from Elly Miller

In memory of Greg Valenstein's grandmother from Robin and Michael Stier and family

### MINDY ELLEN LEVINE DAY CAMP FUND

In honor of Harriet Perlin's birthday from Rachel Goodman, Marion Kronovet, Carolyn Hennes, Judy Lauer, Janet Lefkowitz, Elise Menaker, Vera Mendel, Jill Newman, Brenda Patten, Ollie Polk, Linda Rothman, Anita Shapiro, Mattye Silverman, Carol Speizman, Judi Strause, Nancy Tarbis, Lori Wojnowich and Mary Wojnowich



### MUSLER MEMORIAL FUND FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

In honor of Brenda and Floyd Patten's anniversary from Paula Musler

### OASIS MEMORIAL FUND FOR SENIOR PROGRAMMING

In memory of Isaac Jacobowitz from Tammy and Ken Golder

In memory of Helen Drucker from Sally Nicholson

In memory of Angela Tufano from Amy and Andrew Lamparello and family

### LJCC TENNIS PROGRAM FUND

In memory of Jeff Bierer's father from Robin and Michael Stier and family

### LJCC GENERAL PROGRAM FUND

In honor of Sis Kaplan from Meg Meaher ☆

# SIGNS BY TOMORROW

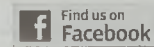
SIGNS & GRAPHICS NATIONWIDE

Sondra and Paul Hopmeier invite you to call us for all your sign and visual display needs. At Signs By Tomorrow we make getting a sign or visual display easy. If you can think it we can do it. Call or email us for all your sign and visual solution needs.

704-847-7281

matthews@signsbytomorrow.com

www.signsbytomorrow.com/matthews



Since 1996

Still the Best Help & Still the Best Value

## Home Care of Charlotte Referrals



When you need assistance the only place you want to be is home.

Our 24/7 companion referral service gives you choice, control, and favorable pricing.

At your direction companions provide the non-medical, domestic assistance needed for your daily living.

For more information please call or visit our website.

704-442-2600 or 704-442-1920

www.homecareclt.com

Home Care of Charlotte Referrals  
3623 Latrobe Drive, Suite 211  
Charlotte NC 28211

Charlotte's only Companion Referral Service