

Hadera-Eiron Partnership Together

Three Teachers from Hadera Visit Charlotte to Teach, to Learn, to Connect

By Amy Krakovitz

How do you measure the impact of a personal relationship? How do you quantify the benefits of one-on-one with your peers and colleagues? For those of us who participated in this year's teacher exchange through the Federation Partnership with Hadera-Eiron in Israel, it's nearly impossible.

Three teachers from the Hadera region visited Charlotte for nine days in December. Orly Cohen, Ruti Raz, and Neta Hermoni came to Charlotte to both teach and learn (words that, in Hebrew, have the same root) but it was the rest of us who gained

the most.

Among the schools they visited were: Charlotte Jewish Day School, Temple Israel Religious School, Charlotte Country Day School, Hebrew High, Asheville Academy for Girls, Temple Beth El Religious School, and Charlotte Jewish Preschool. There they either observed and/or taught lessons on Israel and Jewish/Israeli identity, and in every case answered many questions about their lives in Israel.

In addition to teaching our students, they were able to be tourists in our area. They visited Biltmore, had a tour of uptown Charlotte, guided by our own

Moira Quinn Klein, saw the movie *Jerusalem* at the Discovery Place IMAX Theatre, and visited the Museum of the New South, as well as the Luski Glass Collection at the Luski-Gorelick Center for Philanthropy.

Their hosts for the week, Susan Soto and family, Monica Rabinovich and family, and my husband Jeff and me, made sure that they ate well at several area restaurants. They were able to enjoy home-cooked meals due to the kind hospitality of Debra and David Van Glish for Shabbat, and Roz and Ivan Cooper for a Sunday night gathering.

Many thanks are due also to

Susan Jacobs and Rabbi Tracy Klirs, the directors of our synagogue religious schools; David Lynn, director of International Studies at Charlotte Country Day School; Dr. Loren Fauchier, director of Global Studies at Providence Day School; Mariashi Groner, director of CJDS; Donna deGroot, a teacher at CJDS; Brian Tomes, executive director of Asheville Academy for Girls; and Andrew Bernstein, chair of the Partnership Steering Committee.

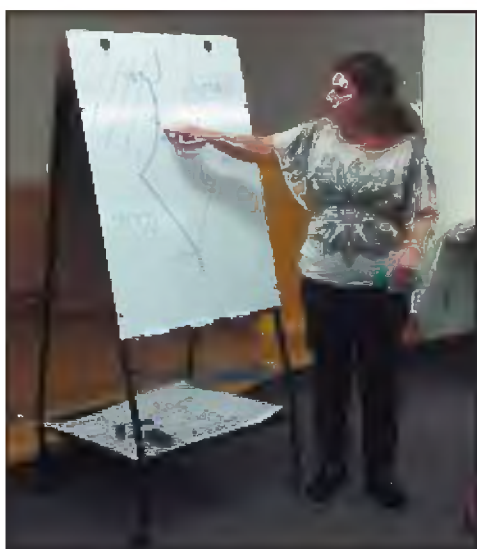
But of course it was the contact between Orly, Ruti, and Neta and the students that was most beneficial. Whether it was

a serious discussion of life in Israel or a fun time making origami dreidels, everyone who met our visiting teachers were impressed and awed at their ability to present a lesson, their love of their land, and their compassion for all the people around them.

Through the Partnership, teachers visit our city and we also send teachers to visit Hadera. In addition, there is a summer trip for teens. For more information, contact Tal Stein at the Federation office at 704-944-6760 or tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org. ✪



Above: many of the participants gather at Roz and Ivan Cooper's for dinner; pictures at left, top to bottom: Orly Cohen, Neta Hermoni, and Ruti Raz light the Hanukiya at Temple Israel Religious School's assembly; Neta Hermoni teaches the map of Israel to Temple Beth El Religious School's fifth grade; Susan Soto, Neta Hermoni, and Orly Cohen at the Biltmore Winery.

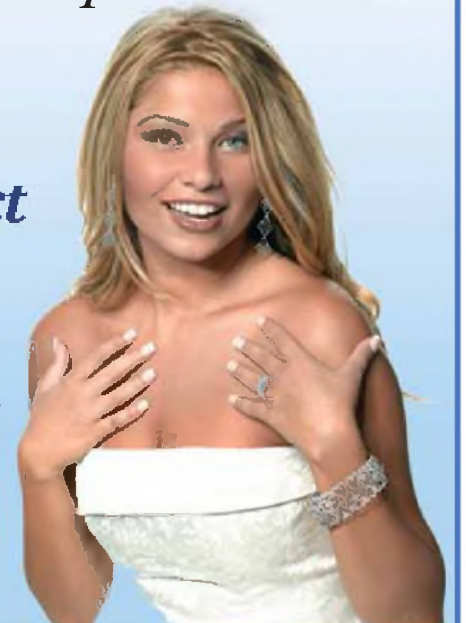


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