

# JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

## 2016 P2G Hadera Charlotte Community Teen Leadership Exchange: Building Bridges, Changing Lives, Making Memories of a Lifetime

One of the major components of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Israel programming is the Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership Together sister-city program. The P2G program has multiple facets each fostering people to people relationships building. The Federation is proud to play a major role in this endeavor.

The P2G Hadera Charlotte Teen Leadership Exchange is a four week program developed and created in Charlotte and Israel with both Americans and Israelis together exploring cultures, enhancing, and strengthening Jewish identity and changing lives.

This summer Charlotte teens Ellen Garfinkle, Limor Goldsmith, and Chad Purcell jour-



Riding camels in the Negev.

neyed to Israel with our Community Shlichah, Inbal Ozeri, to meet with four teens from our sister city Hadera region as well as teens from other Southeast American cities in our partnership including Richmond, VA, Jacksonville, FL, and Chattanooga, TN. Together they toured the Israeli countryside, visited holy sites, engaged in Tikkun Olam projects, learned about Israeli politics, culture, and society, and enjoyed up close and

personal home hospitality while closely getting to know our extended family in Hadera.

In mid-July, Ellen, Limor, and Chad welcomed four Hadera teens into their own homes including three girls: Tal Farjoun, Rom Yanko, and Hagar Zitronblat, and one boy, Yonatan Besser, introducing them to American life in the Queen City. Together they explored and participated in a wide variety of activities on and off Shalom Park including: working with young campers at Camp Mindy, visiting with Teen Camp, leading games and songs with young students from Freedom School, playing chair volleyball with seniors from Oasis, leading a Shabbat service at Sunrise Retirement Home, celebrating Shabbat at Temple Israel and Temple Beth El, sweating at the JCC, cooking an Israeli meal, and of course touring Uptown, getting a special VIP behind the scenes look at our Charlotte Firefighters, enjoying the rides at Carowinds, hiking Chimney Rock State Park, as well as team building activities at White Water Center. The teens also enjoyed a two-day excursion

outside of Charlotte, relishing the sights and sounds of Charleston, our fellow P2G Consortium city, and enjoying the warmth and hospitality of our Jewish friends there as well. It was definitely a whirlwind four weeks, but friendships and memories were made that will last a lifetime

Below are three personal accounts from our participants, Ellen, Chad, and Limor who would like to share in their own words their remarkable experience this past summer:

religiously. The Western Wall was such a cool experience and was truly unforgettable. In Israel, I also enjoyed visiting the various underground tunnels. It was so amazing to see the ancient pathways that were built thousands of years ago. We hiked a few mountains including Mount Carmel, Mount Herzl, and Mount Masada. I loved seeing the gardens on Mount Herzl and Mount Carmel. Our sunrise hike up Mount Masada was also so amazing.

What made this trip even more memorable was being able to stay with two Israeli families. I loved learning about their daily life, culture, and of course the food. Also, I made so many friends from Israel and from cities across the Southeast US.

**Limor Goldsmith:** I would like to start by saying how amazing this trip was. This

was one of the best summers of my life! This trip was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to tour a country so rich in culture and history with teens our age that are native to the country.

While in Israel, we got the chance to see and experience so much in what felt like such a short amount of time. We went to Masada, the Dead Sea, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and so much more. The Dead Sea was my favorite. It was so unlike anything we have here in the United States. We also went to several eye-opening museums that taught me a lot more

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The group visits the Kotel.

**Chad Purcell:** While we were in Israel, we went to so many interesting places. My favorite place that we went to was the Dead Sea.

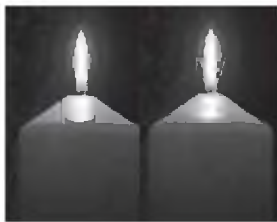
It was so cool to be able to naturally float and cover your body with soft mud. We also went to many informational museums such as the Palmach Museum, the Immigration Detention Camp, the Hall of Independence, and Yad VaShem. I learned so much at all of these places about the history of Israel and Jews around the world. The old city of Jerusalem was when I felt most connected



On the ocean in Charleston.

### SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

- Friday, September 2, 7:30 PM
- Friday, September 9, 7:20 PM
- Friday, September 16, 7:10 PM
- Friday, September 23, 7:00 PM
- Friday, September 30, 6:50 PM



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