

Pre-Teens Visit Israel

Rachel Klein, 12, and Deborah Klein, 14, returned from Israel on July 17. They were there on a ten-day UJA Mission with their grandmother, Elizabeth Klein. These are their accounts of their first trip to Israel.



Deborah Klein (L.) and Rachel Klein at Golda Meir's grave.

By Deborah Klein

The 14 days that I spent in Israel were two of the most emotional and exciting of my life. It was unbelievable to actually see for the first time the places I have only heard and read about.

I wanted to be able to see and learn as much about Israel and my history as I could. And with the United Jewish Appeal Mission I was on, we were doing just that 18 hours a day.

Sleep? Who needs it on a mission? Instead you could be getting up at 3:15 a.m. to climb one of our people's most heroic sites, Masada. Singing "Oseh Shalom," we struggled up the 2000-year-old snake path to the ancient synagogue where 14 members of the group Bar Mitzvahed.

Jerusalem, the Holy City, made the biggest impression on me. It really did seem that way, from Friday afternoon when we stepped off the bus to walk the few steps into the city limits.

That night was extremely special—seeing the Western Wall for the first time. Seeing so many people dressed up for Kabulat Shabbat prayer by this holy spot was almost overwhelming.

I was not alone in feeling that I could really sense God's presence there. It brought most of our group to tears. I was no exception.

A lot of our mission dealt with Israel's present and even its future state. Because we were with UJA, a part of our trip was spent at Project Renewal — different neighborhoods sponsored by Federation and Israeli money together.

As much as I knew it, I was not prepared for the amount of barbed wire fences, bomb shelters and soldiers that we saw. What I know, of course, is how small Israel is. No matter where we were touring, we were not far away from Arab borderline.

By Rachel T. Klein

On Friday, July 27, I was exhausted, but happy. Why? Because I had just gotten back from a wonderful trip to Israel. My grandmother, older sister and I went on a United Jewish Appeal Family Mission.

We arrived in Tel Aviv a few days early. That gave us time to sit on the beach and do some shopping. When the mission started, we were really busy. We saw so much: The Western Wall, Masada, the Dead Sea.

But what I really think was special were the families together. There were kids from the ages of two to 18. Some families were fathers and daughters. Others were like us: Grandparents and grandchildren.

I made a lot of good friends on the mission. That made the 5:30 a.m. wakeup calls a little easier. We all had something in common to complain about.

Breakfast was usually a buffet. It consisted of eggs, fruit (apricots or peaches), vegetables (cucumber, green pepper and tomatoes), bread and yogurt.

When we went to Masada, we had to get up at 3:30 a.m. — before the sun was up. That was really a test of your endurance.

We walked up the snake path. Well, most of us did. The others went up in the cable car.

About 14 kids had Bar or Bat Mitzvahs on Masada. After Masada, we went to the Dead Sea. That was really fun.

So, I think that one of the best ways to spend a family vacation is to go on a UJA Family Mission.

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This 'n That

Congratulations to David Adelman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adelman, on becoming an Eagle Scout, David, a recent graduate of South Mecklenburg High School, is a freshman at N.C. State U. majoring in industrial engineering.

Randi Kent, daughter of Gert Kent, was named to the Dean's list at Duke for the '83-'84 year.

Listed on the spring Dean's list at Appalachian State University are Laurie Behar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Behar, and Shelly Schwartz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Schwartz.

David Schacher, son of Jerrie Schacher, has been named to the Presidential Honor Society at DeVry Institute of Technology in Atlanta. The Society recognizes those students with a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4 after two terms of study.

Sherry Yudell, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Yudell, has been tapped for membership in Gamma Alpha Chapter of Rho Chi Scholastic Honor Society at Mercer U. Atlanta Southern School of Pharmacy.

Better late than never department.....Scott Edlein, son of Mr. and Mrs. Saul Edlein, received honors in band at South Mecklenburg High. Upon graduation at South Mecklenburg, Sheri Rosen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morrie Rosen, received the Sabres Out to Serve award. Zack Coleman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lou Coleman, received the NC Math League Award at Myers Park High School. Upon graduation from West Charlotte High, Ellen Rothman, daughter of Sandi Carlish and Mark Rothman, received the DECA Proficiency Award.

Jennifer Amor took second-place honors in the recent international quilt competition in Hamilton, Ontario. The Ontario Bicentennial Quilt Symposium Show included 450 quilts representing 96 guilds from Canada, the U.S., Ireland and Switzerland. All the quilts shown had previously won awards at other shows.

Joanne Katz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Katz, graduated in August from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, with a B.A. in Political Science.

Jodi Mond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Mond, won the Volunteer Award in the NC State Pageant of "Modern Miss." She also was in the top five in the speech category. She came in as third runner-up in the over-all competition. Jodi received two beautiful trophies and savings bonds for her efforts.

NBC-TV To Air Miniseries On Raoul Wallenberg

NBC-TV will air a miniseries next year on Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from being exterminated by the Nazis. He was arrested by the Soviet Union after the Red Army entered Budapest in 1945 and was imprisoned in the USSR. The script of the film, based on interviews with people who knew Wallenberg, is being written by Gerald Green, who authored the TV miniseries "Holocaust." Richard Chamberlain will portray Wallenberg.



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A Book For Young Readers

The Carp In The Bathtub. by Barbara Cohen. Illustrated by Joan Halpern. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co., NYC. 1972. 45 pages.

Reviewed by Dalya Massachi

Simple, clear, humorous drawings, and an excellent plot with an important theme are the makings of a creative, well-loved Jewish story. "The Carp In The Bathtub" is just that.

Set in a small apartment of New York City, among many Jewish neighbors, this book shows the reader how the author felt and thought when she was growing up. She tells us one particular incident that has affected her life ever since. It is about her mother's gefilte fish.

To make sure she would get a good one, her mother would buy her carp a while before Passover and keep it in her bathtub. The children would make friends with the fish, and when it came time to make it for dinner, they would be heartbroken.

The tale, so expertly expressed in this book, is courageous, truthful and captures both the children's feelings and reality. Ms. Cohen also provides a chance for young readers to relate to their own Jewish identity.

"The Carp In The Bathtub" is ideal for younger readers, but is a relaxing opportunity for older people to catch up on a little Jewish fun as well.

Dalya Massachi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Massachi, is a 10th grader at East Mecklenburg High School.

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