

# Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

## From The Federation Director

By Dan Lepow  
Executive Director



I'm no stranger to waiting at the Ben Gurion Airport tarmac for an El Al 747 to land. But wait, this time it was different! This time I was at an Israeli Air Force base somewhere in the Galil in northern Israel waiting, not for refugees from the former Soviet Union to live as free Jews, this time I was waiting for American Jewish leaders to arrive on a Solidarity mission. Their coming was a signal that they stood as one with the people of Israel and the Zionist ideal that Israel would continue to be the safe haven for refugees who continue to arrive daily.

As an American Jewish leader, I greeted that flight with a great sense of pride knowing that my own community was one of the more than 50 from the

United States and Canada. I hoped the two young women from Charlotte, Cindy Fox and Traci Taylor, after recognizing a familiar and friendly face, would be glad to see me. I was elated that these two young leaders felt strongly enough to take the time and make the effort to join this momentous mission. Charlotte has much to be proud of in these two vital and stalwart women.

They totaled 400 meshuganas with no time for jet lag as they had each traveled more than 24 hours to be in Israel for only 36 hours. But the statement we made as one body with one voice was clear and uncompromising. The American Jewish community stands by Israel in times of joy and in times of sadness and that threats against her will not deter us from visiting Israel or in any way lessen our support. Our mere presence was very meaningful and did not go unnoticed by the Israeli people.

We traveled to Afula, sight of the heinous terrorist bomb and

then went on to Jerusalem to hear the inspirational words of the chief Rabbi of Israel. I later met with a group of American teenagers who have been living on a kibbutz just outside of Afula. They have been there since last August and do not plan to return home until summer. They didn't seem to be worried about the threat(s) terrorism presented. Living in Israel, they understand life in that part of the world. They did acknowledge, however, that their parents expressed concern.

While in Israel I visited with family and friends, going to many different places. Did I experience any trouble moving about during my visit? None, absolutely zero! The only "trouble" I had was getting over my feelings of hurt when my friends at the Jewish Agency Office told me of the many cancellations they were getting from American Jews planning trips and missions to Israel. The message from the 400 participants on the Solidarity Mission, acting as schlichim (emissaries) by spreading the word, is that Israel is as safe as ever and needs our support.

This year in Jerusalem!!!



1994 Future Leaders Graduating Class, front row, l. to r.: Robert Weis; Audrey Krakovitz, JFGC staff associate; Traci Taylor; Cindy Foz; Allen Fein; Steve Copulsky; Marvin Sigal. Back row: Darren Mond, Amiel Goldberg, Scott Klepper, Howard Clein. Not pictured: Donna Foster, Bobbi & Murray Monosoff, Steve Garfinkel, Shari Jenner

Photo by Gary Goodman

## Mazel Tov to the 1994 Future Leaders Graduating Class

The 1994 Future Leaders Class graduated in April after an 18 month-long study program. Emily Zimmern, Co-Chair of the UJA Young Leadership, addressed the class. Zimmern encouraged everyone to utilize

the knowledge gained in the class by participating in Charlotte's Jewish life. Cindy Fox, a class member, urged other class members to attend a UJA Israel mission as she did last summer.

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