

Partnership 2000 Report

Teens in Charlotte Interact with Teens in Israel Via Federation's P2K

Soldier Packages, Emails and a Trip to Charleston among the Activities

Israel's Hadera-Eiron region is Federation's Partnership 2000 partner with the Southeast US. Among the many relationships we are cultivating with the area are associations with schools in the area. Charlotte is partnered with Tichon Hadera, G'vanim School, Katzir School, and the Democratic School.



Sue Littauer and her class discuss the packages they sent to Israeli soldiers.

Through the partnership's Friends and Kin program, two of Guy Pearlman's Hebrew High School classes were able to log on to a website where they interacted with kids of their own age from the Hadera region.

"It was important to get the real story of what's happening there," said Jason Boral. "Not just the media story."

Daniel Widis added, "We wanted to find out how the conflict in Israel affected their lives as teenagers."

But beyond the current political situation, Erica Eisenoff wanted to "talk about their everyday life."



Sarah Sobol, Rebecca Raphael, Amanda Rittenberg, and Erika Eisenoff participating in the ice-breaker activities in Charleston.

These students, and eight others, had the opportunity to meet with their teen counterparts from Hadera when a delegation traveled to Charleston.

"I'm excited," chirped Rebecca Raphael. "I'd like to hear their opinions on current issues."

"This is an important event," concluded eighth grader Jason Gonzalez. "We need make connections with them about life and to keep communications open in international areas."

Packages and Letters to Soldiers

Sue Littauer's post-confirmation class from Hebrew High School collected items to send to soldiers in Israel. They brought cards, magazines, and other things, and even selected their own favorite music and burned their own CDs for the soldiers. They wrote letters so the soldiers would know how much support they have here in the states.

Melissa Gonzalez says, "They need to know that we're proud of them for doing what they feel is right."

A particularly poignant letter came from Alyssa Gorelick:

"... I suffered an intense wake-up call when the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center occurred on September 11.

I have a complete new respect for how sacred everyday life is. I now treasure each and every moment that I have on earth, and I realize the terror you, as an Israeli, suffer and live under each day. The way you live, to serve your country and your religion, is truly honorable..."

The packages have arrived in Hadera and local teacher Michal Heiman will be bringing them to some soldiers. She plans to videotape the presentation so that Ms. Littauer's students can see for themselves what a wonderful thing they have done for the Israeli soldiers.

Sacrificing a Party

Last December Ivan Strunin joined Rabbi Ezring and Alan Feldman on the Federation's Solidarity Mission to Israel. While visiting our partnership region, he stopped in on the Ethiopian "maksam." The maksam is an after-school program to help integrate Ethiopian students and assist them in catching up on schoolwork they might have fallen behind on.

Strunin was so impressed with the maksam that he told his family about it when he returned. His son, Jake, who was Bar Mitzvahed in May, decided to give up having a big party, and used the money from his party to send to the maksam.

Upcoming Partnership Events

JFGC has proposed a pilot police exchange program to begin late fall/early winter where a delegation of security officers from Hadera-Eiron would travel to our community and vice versa, to share their expertise on securing Jewish institutions.

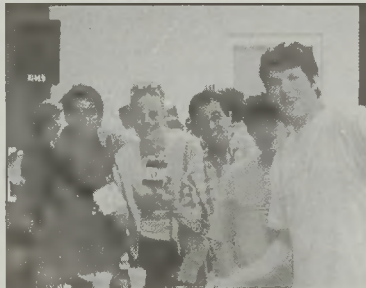
During the Federation's next mission in late October/early November, the delegates will spend one or two days in the Hadera region.

Later in November, a delegation from Hadera will plan to meet at the GA in Philadelphia. This will be an opportunity to come together to learn more about the complexities of our region and the daily life of those who live there. They hope to have JAFI officials on hand to provide some insight. Appropriate business items will be addressed as well.

The Partnership is about to launch an interactive dialogue among women in the southeast and women in our region in Israel. They intend to identify issues of common interest and concern and potential joint projects.

They are also planning launching a forum for young leaders in the southeast and young leaders in our region in Israel. They would like to identify issues of common interest and concern and potential joint projects. The hope is that a group of Israeli young leaders will come to the states in March of 2003 for the SE Region Young Leadership Conference in Atlanta and then visit their friends in the southeast.

Plans are developing for a Teachers' Delegation from the U.S. to Israel to create project curriculum and cooperative planning for next school year.



Jason Gonzalez, Sarah Sobol, Dror Karavani (Charleston Director), Dan Widis, and Jason Boral making "peace tiles" to be shared between the communities.

A monthly newsletter will be designed that will be distributed to all of the communities in Israel and in the Southeast to enable them to educate their boards and communities as to all of the activ-



Mixed group from Israel, Charleston, Savannah, Columbia and Charlotte in the Battery getting ready to be guided through historic Charleston.

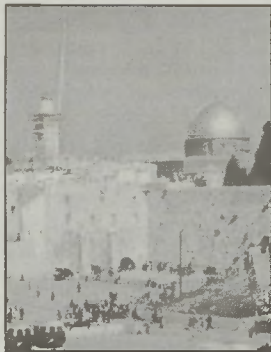
ities of the partnership.

There will be a series of P2K briefings via conference call to continue our educational process of learning as much as we can about life in our region and its unique aspects.

Initial discussions are underway to bring a delegation of mayors from our region in Israel to the Southeast to learn more about the partnership and our communities. This will also provide an educational opportunity for our communities. ☆

Israel... The Experience of a Lifetime

JFGC Sponsors Israel Mission this Fall



Visiting Jerusalem is on the itinerary of the Federation's mission to Israel in late October.

You have the opportunity to participate in a life-changing experience.

Feel the drama, spirituality and history of Israel.

Join us October 27 through November 4, 2002.

Trip price of \$1,965 includes round-trip airfare from Charlotte, first class hotels, professional tour guides, two lunches, six dinners, air-conditioned private buses, taxes and gratuities. Program includes one night in Tel Aviv, one night in the Galilee, and five nights in Jerusalem.

This incredible price includes a \$500 subsidy from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Mission co-chair Donald Jacobs says, "Now is the time to visit Israel. More than ever Israel needs us to show our support. But more than that, we need to renew our connection to Israel and our

extended Jewish families there."

"This will be a beautiful and meaningful trip," adds Susan Jacobs, co-chair of the mission. "I can't express enough the importance of visiting Israel both for Israel and for ourselves."

Federation promises that you will experience the enduring beauty of Jerusalem as it captures your heart; you will embrace Shabbat with friends at the Western Wall; you will ride a jeep through the rocky Golan Heights; you will meet new immigrants living the great dream of aliyah; you will enjoy a festive party with residents of Hadera, our partnership region; you will visit Masada and swim in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea; you will walk the ancient alleys and visit the galleries of magical Jaffa; you will attend briefings with political, social and economic officials; you will enjoy a day of special interest options.

For deposit, cancellation, payment and other information, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757. This is one of the most important, meaningful, and effective things you can do to help Israel now. ☆

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