

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Jerusalem Women Speak to Havurat Tikvah Gathering

Havurat Tikvah hosted three women of Jerusalem at the home of Debbie Langsam and Joal Fischer on March 21, 2004. The three women — an Israeli Jew, a Palestinian Christian and a Palestinian Muslim — spoke vividly of their experiences in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the Middle East during the Intifada and in one case, long before.

The HT event was one stop on a fast-paced two week (March 17-April 2) tour of the Southeast U.S., where the women spoke to Jewish, Christian and Muslim groups, university audiences and interfaith groups. The tour, sponsored by Partners for Peace, a Washington DC-based public relations and advocacy group, has brought Jerusalem women to the U.S. for the past seven years to share their stories and "promote a just and lasting peace for Israel and Palestine."

Reaction to the women's presentation was mixed. Although everyone sympathized with the women's personal stories, there were some who questioned the lack of representation and the one-sidedness of the panel. Others

pondered what three women can do, however well-intentioned and determined, to change the will of recalcitrant leaders. Still, as one of the women, Dr. Nuha Khoury, a Christian educator with dual American-Palestinian citizenship, stated, "I maintain hope not in my head, but in my heart."

Coincidentally, HT members, family and friends had an opportunity to hear more about daily life in Israel at the long-awaited party for the DeGroot family, which was held on March 27.

Donna's parents, Sue and Ray Crawford, attended the festive occasion, along with many others who came to welcome Donna and David DeGroot and their daughters, Hadas and Tali. The Crawfords shared their concerns about the safety of their children and grandchildren and expressed their gratitude that they had returned safely to the U.S. One of the stories David told was about a woman in a business office who was sorry to hear he was married because she had several single women working there who were looking for the right man. Donna told how a lucky water leak averted a near-tragic trip to a shopping center the day the center was bombed. She, too, had a yente (busybody) tale: a salesclerk tactlessly insisted that she buy a larger size of pantyhose when she (Donna) was shopping for her daughter. Leave it to David and Donna to find the human comedy

in cultural difference. Needless to say, we are glad they are back with their sense of humor intact.

Food Bank, 6-8 PM, 500-B Spratt Street.

Coming Events

May 6 — Second Harvest Food Bank, 6-8 PM, 500-B Spratt Street.

May 8 - Lag B'Omer Shabbat Services, 10 AM, Park Road Park, Shelter # 2.

May 16 or 23 - Project Linus Knitting Circle, 2:00 PM. Please call Ellen Myers (704-442-5675) for firm date and details.

June 3 — Second Harvest

Food Bank, 6-8 PM, 500-B Spratt Street.

June 12 - Shabbat Services, 10 AM, location TBD.

Havurat Tikvah, an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, offers monthly services, adult study, holiday celebrations, special minyans, and a cooperative Religious School. For more information, visit the Havurat Tikvah website (<http://free.prohosting.com/havtikva/>) or call Karen Rubin, member services, at 704-825-3421. ☆



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