



Your Global Partnership at Work

JEWISH AGENCY HELPS OVERCOME MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN ISRAEL'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

q Hundreds of young olim at the Jewish Agency's Ye'elim Absorption Center in Beersheva and the Ibim Student Village at Shaar Hanegev joined with farmers in the Mivtachim and Pitchat Shalom areas helping to pick fruit, following the crisis in the agricultural sector.

q *New immigrants living at the Jewish Agency's Altschul Absorption Center in Beersheva helped pick Citrus fruit in the Eshkol district.*

q A group of new immigrants who live and study at the Jewish Agency's Ulpan Etzion in Jerusalem volunteered to help out at Moshav Tal Shachar near Beit Shemesh.

q *The Jewish Agency has organized a special program -- "Green Orange" -- to bring Jewish volunteers to Israel from the Former Soviet Union to help work in kibbutzim and moshavim all over Israel. Volunteers, aged 18-45, will do agricultural work for up to three months. The program will also include tours and trips around the country and information on aliyah and absorption possibilities.*

FROM NEW YORK WITH LOVE

q The Kibbutz Aliyah Desk in New York is coordinating an effort to recruit volunteers to work on kibbutz - in the service, industrial or agricultural branches. Special flights to Israel will be organized at reduced fares.

STRENGTHENING THE EIRON REGION

q *An army preparatory program for young immigrants from the Former Soviet Union and Ethiopia, which began not long ago, at the initiative of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department, will now be moved to the Eiron Region as part of the WZO's attempt to strengthen and develop the area. The ten-month program is designed to help the young newcomers adjust to military service familiarize them with the State of Israel and Israeli society, and help them obtain better positions in the Israel Defense Forces.*

q The UJC Southeast Region Consortium (Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee and Louisiana) has embarked on an effort to reinforce their partnership through the promotion of health and medical issues and education. Personal ties will also be strengthened through teacher and student exchanges, the exchange of medical teams, the organization of joint seminars in emergency medicine, and assistance to weak populations.



Solidarity Rally at the Western Wall (Kotel) in Jerusalem

JEWISH COMMUNITIES RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

Jewish communities throughout the world have rallied to Israel's support, with over 100 communities holding events to demonstrate their solidarity.

q In **New York**, over 50,000 turned out for a rally attended by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, New York Governor George Pataki, New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents Ronald Lauder and Executive Vice Chairman Malcolm Hoenlein, UJC Chairman Charles Bronfman, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Elie Weisel.

q 10,000 **Parisian** Jews demonstrated in support of Israel and against the wave of anti-Semitic attacks in France at the Israeli Embassy.

q **Toronto** held a community rally with over 4,000 participants.

q In **Cleveland**, a mass rally attracted 1500 participants.

q In **Washington DC** a mass demonstration was held opposite the White House.

q **Montreal** was the site of several demonstrations, including a rally at the Beth Aaron Beth Israel Synagogue attended by 3,000 people.

q Mass rallies were held in **Los Angeles** (4,000 people); **Chicago** (3,500); **Miami** (3,500), and **Seattle** (1,500).

q Nearly 1,000 people turned out at a rally in **London** in which Shimon Peres participated. The UJIA's Partnership 2000 steering committee spent a night in the Confrontation Line as a show of support

Rallies were also held in **Phoenix, Tuscon, MetroWest, NJ, New Haven, Philadelphia, Tidewater and Richmond, VA, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, West Palm Beach - Boca Raton** and other communities.



Solidarity

Dateline

13 MILLION UNCOMMON PEOPLE. 1 COMMON GROUND.

No. 1 Jerusalem

Kislev 5761 December 4-8, 2000

Solidarity Mission IV Arrives in Israel *The Jewish Agency Welcomes UJC Participants*

Recent Solidarity Missions

Bergen County NJ
Broward County FL
Dallas, TX
Greater East Bay CA
Houston TX
Los Angeles, CA
MetroWest NJ
Miami, FL
New York, NY
Philadelphia, PA
Rochester NY
San Francisco, CA

Belgium
Canada
France
Turkey

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The Jewish Agency welcomes Solidarity Mission IV to Israel. Participants come from all over the United States -- from Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tuscon, and Seattle in the West; MetroWest, NJ, Middletown and New Haven, CT, New York, Philadelphia, Tidewater and Richmond, VA, and New York in the East; and Indiana, Minneapolis, and Chicago in the Midwest.



Visiting Solidarity Mission members tour Gilo behind the concrete barriers erected to protect the neighborhood from Palestinian sniper fire coming from Selt Jala (in the background).

Jewish communities the world over have rallied to Israel's side over the past two months of mounting Palestinian violence. They are reaching out to their Israeli counterparts in countless ways -- through information campaigns and other events, conference calls, post cards, e-mail and quickly arranged visits to Israel.

Partnership 2000 communities are deeply involved in supporting and contacting their Israeli partnered regions.

The sense of collective responsibility -- *Kol-srael Arevim Zeh Lazeh* that has impelled the Jewish people throughout the generations has provided the people of Israel with a sense of solidarity

during this crisis. The mission's site visits to areas under attack include Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood and communities in the Hadera-Eiron area.

Informal meetings with Israeli residents living on or near the firing line offer opportunities to discuss how they and their children manage their daily lives and cope with constant anxiety. These conversations provide up-to-date and first-hand information.

With Israel under fire daily, the outpouring of support from Jewish communities around the world affirms that the concept of Global Jewish Partnership is a reality.



The View from Here

From the Israeli Press

Friday, December 1

Q Shots were fired from Beit Hanina at a bus near the French Hill neighborhood in north Jerusalem. No one was injured. Q Israel approved the reopening of the Dahaniyeh airport in the Gaza Strip, which was closed for the past two weeks following shooting in the area, as part of confidence-building measures toward the Palestinian Authority.

Tuesday, November 29

Q Prime Minister Ehud Barak agreed to an opposition move to hold new elections, after only a year and a half in office.

Monday, November 28

Q The Knesset voted in favor of the final reading of the Jerusalem Bill, which stipulates that a majority of 61 MKs (out of 120) is required to approve any change to the borders Jerusalem.

Q Two of the eight children who were wounded in the Kfar Darom bus bombing last week were officially released from the hospital today. Doctors at Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva reported that Tehilla Cohen, 8, who lost both her legs (below the knee) in the bombing, is recuperating; her two siblings, Grit, 11, and Yisrael, 7, each lost part of their right leg.

Sunday, November 27

Q Sgt. Major Halil Taher, an IDF tracker from Acre, was killed when a heavy roadside bomb, planted by Hezbollah, exploded in the Mt. Dov region, on the Lebanese border.

Friday, November 24

Q Ariel Jerafi, an IDF employee was murdered in a terrorist ambush attack as he was driving towards Tapuach.

Q Maj. Sharon Arameh was killed by a Palestinian sniper

in southern Gaza.

Q An Israeli motorist was injured by a boulder dropped onto his car near Modi'in.

Wednesday, November 22

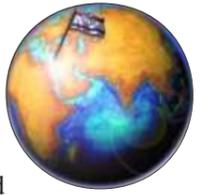
Q Lt. Eduard Mechnik was killed by a bomb placed by Palestinian policemen inside the joint District Coordinating office in Nevei Uekalim, set up to enable Israeli and Palestinian security personnel to work together

Q Corp. Samr Hussein, was killed by a bomb at the first Checkpoint in Gaza and another soldier was critically injured.

Q Two children suffered burns when a firebomb was thrown onto their bus between Givat Ze'ev and Ramot, north of Jerusalem.

Q A car bomb in Hadera killed Shoshanna Reis, 21 and Meir Bahrame, 35. 60 people were wounded in the blast.

Q Egypt recalled its ambassador to Israel.



Life On the Firing Line

...On Gilo's Rehov Ha'anafa

"It's terrible, especially for the children," says Kochava Levi, a staff member at the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Division, who lives in a 4-room apartment on the now world-famous Ha'anafa Street in Gilo with her husband, and three children, ages 19, 17, and 12.

The decision to build Gilo, together with three other neighborhoods beyond the old Green Line that had divided pre-1967 Jerusalem, was adopted by the Government soon after the Six Day War. Within the past two months Gilo - a predominantly middle-class section of Jerusalem within the capital's municipal borders -- has effectively become a frontier village.

The Levi family's life has completely changed. Lights are



Members of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors meet with members of Congregation Shevet Achim.

out at nightfall. No one leaves and no one comes. The entire family gathers in the dining area and adjacent living room where a single light is lit - to do homework, read, watch TV - whatever.

"At around 5 PM, as soon as it gets dark we shut the blinds," says Levi. Lights cannot be turned on in the bedrooms or bathroom,

which face Beit Jala and Bethlehem.

Levi's 12 year-old daughter in particular suffered signs of extreme anxiety, particularly when the shooting first started.

"She couldn't breathe, and would cry that she wants to go to Grandma," says Kochava. A bullet is lodged in the outside wall of her room.

Several weeks ago, the shooting began at 3:30 in the afternoon. Kochava's teenage son was alone in the apartment. With shots coming from all directions, he was terrified. She now rushes home after work so that the children won't be alone.

"It's lucky that it's winter and we can shut up the house," says Kochava. "It would be unbearable in warm weather."

...And In The Hadera-Eiron Region

Meet local residents and chat with them over lunch in this Partnership 2000 region near the Arab town of Um el Fahm. Hear what it's like to live in their area within the Green Line, but surrounded by Arab villages. Get the full picture for yourself from a nearby observation point.

MEI AMI - CLOSE TO MIAMI

Mei Ami sounds like Miami - and that's no coincidence. The Jewish community of Miami, Florida helped the Jewish National Fund purchase the property for Mei Ami, and later continued to support its establishment. In recognition of this, a Hebraicized name of Miami (Mei Ami) was given to the moshav - a communal agricultural village.

Today, 40 families, with almost 100 children, live in Mei Ami, which is affiliated with the Labor Zionist movement. The moshav's main sources of livelihood are field crops, a major nursery for house plants, and raising turkeys, with annual production reaching some 600 tons.

Located within the Green Line, Mei Ami is in the northern Samarian Hills near the Arab town of Um-el Fahm. It was originally established, in 1963, as a Nahal outpost to help maintain security in the region and deter infiltration from nearby Arab towns in Samaria, then under Jordanian occupation. In 1969, Mei Ami became a civilian community.



Kindergarten children at play in Mei Ami.

KATZIR-- A MUNICIPAL CENTER

Forty-seven percent of the 700 families who live in Katzir are new immigrants. The rest of the population comprises a cross-section of Israel's population: newcomers and oldtimers, religious and secular, young couples and older families.

Katzir was originally established in May 1982 as a communal farming village. Set up with the assistance of

the Jewish Agency's Settlement Division, Katzir served as a lookout point along the Green Line in the Wadi Ara region.

In light of the mass immigration from the former Soviet Union that began in 1989 and the need to provide homes for the new olim, plans were made to transform Katzir into a municipal center. Today residents enjoy a full complement of educational, social, and cultural services provided by the local council that also serves the nearby town of Harish. Some 45% of the residents of the Katzir-Harish region are new immigrants.

The Loss of a Friend

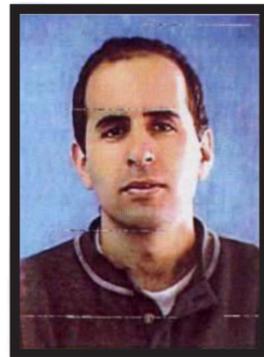
Amir Zohar, the Director of the Community Center in Jerusalem's East Talpiot neighborhood, was killed in the fighting in Nachal Elisha at the edge of Jericho, in late October after armed Palestinians, including uniformed policemen, opened fire at an IDF roadblock. Amir, 34, and father of three, was serving in the army reserves. The battle lasted for approximately five hours, with the IDF evacuating the wounded under fire.

According to Dr. Stephen Donshik, director of the Israel office of the UJA-Federation of New York, who worked with Amir in Partnership 2000, Amir was highly instrumental in developing some wonderful "Connecting Through Art" activities - a project of Belt New York-Jerusalem - in East Talpiot.

"During a recent meeting to discuss a closer relationship

between the community centers in Jerusalem and in New York, we had an intensive discussion on Jewish identity and what it meant to be Jewish in New York or in Israel," said Donshik. "I learned that Amir, who grew up on a secular kibbutz in the Negev, had never been inside a synagogue. He had a strong sense of his Jewish identity and commitment to world Jewry. He was looking forward to attending religious services in a synagogue during a forthcoming trip to New York to meet with directors of community centers. I was captured by his warmth, curiosity, and commitment to work with the Jewish community outside of Israel.

Amir is just one of many



lives on both sides that is being wasted during the current violence. It is stories like these that turn the abstract violence into something very real for all of us.

"We mourn Amir's death and we also bemoan the loss of potential associations we would have had with him and others like him, who could have connected with us and furthered our involvement in Israel," said Donshik.