



This issue of The Volunteer Connection is dedicated to the memory of Jeanne Schachter.

THE volunteer CONNECTION

Saluting Pamela, the Sar-El Coordinator

Mention Pamela to any volunteer in any language and like Oprah, Madonna, Cher, and Houdini, there is no need for additional names. For over 7 1/2 years, since 2002, Pamela has been Sar-El's smiling face at the airport and competent coordinator of activities. Originally from Chicago, she was previously VFI's local rep in her home town. She has been working in coordination with General Davidi for years.



Pamela with General Davidi

Pam says that 2009 was a great volunteer year, partially due to the perpetual regional conflicts which always bring on the volunteers. She says that 2009 was the first time in many years where the USA, with 1351 volunteers, had more volunteers than France.

Pam says she loves volunteers. You can see it in her eyes and nobody I know would dispute her claim. She says plentiful numbers of volunteers come between June to October. However, she needs more

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The Situation Room – MOSSAD

The recent elimination in Dubai of Hamas arms broker Mahmoud al-Mabhouh has world fingers pointing toward Mossad, Israel's feared and revered intelligence service.



Mossad Crest

Mossad (Hebrew for "institute") is actually the *Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations*, headquartered in Tel Aviv and found at www.mossad.gov.il.

It is Israel's external intelligence service and claims duties similar to the CIA or the UK's MI6.

In maintaining its secret war against Israel's enemies, Mossad's reputation for lethal operations is not undeserved. It is distinguished by a world-class aura and halo that mortifies Israel's enemies.

Born of necessity, Mossad was formed by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in 1949 and has relentlessly hunted down Israel's enemies ever since. Meticulous planning and efficiency are the hallmarks of a Mossad operation. Names like Eichmann, Nazi war criminals, 1972 Munich Olympics and Black September, 1976 Entebbe Airport, clandestine movement of refugees, and more, each render a brush stroke to the Mossad mystique.

Mossad's motto from Proverbs is "Where there is no guidance, a nation falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

Mossad's Director reports directly to the Prime Minister. With a staff of perhaps

1,200, the eight departments include the mysterious Special Operations Division (Metsada or Kidon (bayonet)), responsible for assassination, paramilitary operations, sabotage, and psychological warfare. In addition, they are said to have tens of thousands of sayanim — helpers, all over the world. In fact you can signup as one at <https://mossad.gov.il/Eng/Contact.aspx>.

Mossad's tenth, and current Director since 2002, is 65-year old Meir Dagan, a retired 30-year battle-hardened IDF commander and son of Holocaust survivors. He was born on a train between Russia and Poland and speaks several languages.



*Meir Dagan,
Director*

In his office is a picture that shows an old Jew standing on the edge of a trench. An SS officer is aiming his rifle at the old man's head. "This old Jew was my grandfather," Dagan tells visitors.

Mossad mania reigns and popular support in Israel has never been higher, as most Israelis approach the allegations that Mossad is behind the Dubai death with a wink and a smile. Time and again its vengeful arm has reached out across the Arab world and into Europe, smiting enemies and eliminating terrorists and threats. For that they deserve our thanks.

Steve Plotkin



VFI National President's Message

Vade's View — March 2010

Shalom, Volunteers!

I often hear parents and grandparents lamenting that their children or grandchildren have little or no interest in Israel. They wring their hands and quietly ask themselves or maybe even ask others, "Where did we go wrong?" Of course, there are all kinds of reasons, maybe no one did anything wrong.

Here is the good news and a way for you to do something positive about this situation. VFI and Sar-El offer two 3-week sessions this summer of the International Youth Program. One runs from June 13 to July 1 and the second runs from July 4 to July 22. The ages for these programs are 17 to 24. A young person can participate in one session or both.

When they return, we consistently receive glowing reports from these young people. "I can't wait to go back!" is a constant theme.

All participants have to pay their airfare. Here is where you can help.

If I can be so presumptuous, how about helping your young people pay their airfare? Others have done this. That meaningful support maybe all that is needed to get him/her to Israel this summer, and a life altering event. From a dad who knows, I can guarantee you will receive much "nachas" from knowing you have contributed to directly connecting your young person to Israel.

VFI and Sar-El lost a great leader in past days. Jeanne Schachter was a former President of VFI, regional leader, wonderful Zionist, and respected and beloved teacher. Her loss is felt by many in the Jewish community in Philadelphia and elsewhere. She was loved by all.

This issue is dedicated to Jeanne's memory and her contribution to our lives.

Vade Bolton
National President
Volunteers for Israel

"I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."

—Martha Washington, 1732-1802

VFI Officers and Board Members for 2010

Officers

Vade Bolton, National President, VA,
703.860.0504, vadebolton@comcast.net

Terri Seiler, Treasurer, MN,
218.729.1014, terri.seiler@gmail.com

Jay Bernstein, Recording Secretary, NJ
201.447.2166, caribu@optonline.net

Dina Fisher, Vice President, CT
860.521.3246, dfisher@rc.com

Ed Kohl, National Coordinator, MI
248.788.0551, michigan@vfi-usa.org

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Editor's Corner — VFI Success



VFI is a recruiting organization. During 2009, 1,351 Americans took part in the program by traveling to Israel and volunteering their service. Fully half of all new VFI volunteers are recruited via word of mouth and by using your copy of this

newsletter. **After you read it, pass it around. This newsletter is a recruiting tool for your use.**

We are seeking your personal VFI story to share and inspire countless others down through the ages. It does not need to be polished; that's our job.

Steve Plotkin, Editor
steveplotkin@erols.com,

1340 Brighton Way, Newtown Square, PA 19073,
610.358.5366

VFI: The Sabra Perspective!

Even though I am a sabra, a native Israeli, volunteering with the IDF was a special experience. In 1954, my parents came from Morocco. I was the first-born in Israel, grew up in Beersheva with 11 brothers and sisters, all of whom still live in Israel, studied at Haifa University, and came to the States at 27 years old. I met my husband here and now live in Philadelphia.

I have been to Israel many times to visit family and more recently to visit my daughter who lives in Herzilya. However, my December 2008 trip was to give back something to my home country via VFI. For 2 weeks I volunteered my service at the Tzelim base in the Negev. It was an amazingly rewarding experience.

Our group, comprised of Australians, Spanish, and Americans, worked at preparing tanks and getting duffel bags ready for Israeli fighters in the most elite units. The duffels were filled with everything needed for their service.

I was very excited to wear the army work uniform and be a volunteer to the IDF from morning to evening, sleeping at the base, and eating with the soldiers. One of my proudest moments was raising the flag and singing the Hatikvah with the entire unit. Another highlight was touring the "imitation Gaza" site, a small-scale training facility that is made to be an exact duplicate of Gaza.

My interaction with soldiers was different as they were surprised to see that a sabra, who left her real estate agent job and paid to volunteer, also appreciates their sacrifice and

hard work. Also, they couldn't push me around!

The connection between me and the officers was also more direct and friendly because we spoke the same language. Some soldiers do not seem to realize the greater mission behind their jobs and don't believe they are worthwhile and necessary. But our volunteer spirit had the soldiers thinking differently.

We found that many of the duffel bags were in disarray and missing correct items. Since my family has many soldiers in the field, I felt emotionally responsible for making sure these duffel bags were in perfect condition in case of war. Just days after we departed Operation Cast Lead began in Lebanon and the bags we packed just a few days earlier were now going out to soldiers in the field.

I remained in Israel, and got reports from family members like my sister Rachael who called me and exclaimed, "The soldiers are saying, this is so perfect!" This affirmed that our contribution was needed and helpful, and that the volunteers are an important part of the army.

When I returned home, my first priority was to share the story of my experience with Americans and Israeli-Americans alike. I presented to a Hadassah and Israel Bonds group. I will volunteer again, and be the advocate to send other sabras.

Devorah Selber, realdevora@aol.com, 610.212.2725

Saluting Pamela, the Sar-El Coordinator *(continued from front page)*

volunteers in the other months, particularly during the winter season. For example, during the winter of 2010, in addition to bases served, there were many additional bases not serviced due to lack of volunteers.

She advises that despite the Israeli macho character, the individual soldiers tend to be young and shy. Consequently, it's great when the volunteers approach the soldiers and sit at their tables to eat. They note the difference in work ethic between volunteers from North America and those from France, Russia and elsewhere. The North American volunteers come to work and seem to set a deeper positive impression on the soldiers.

Pam also has her pet peeves, such as the volunteer who complains two months later, about something that was fixable during the program. She says she tries to quickly respond to comments such as base improvements, etc.

Pam says the average group size is 15 to 20 volunteers with some small bases topping off at 12. Some bases such as Batzap

with its equipment refurbishing work are always open for business. Matzap and its medical supplies requires up to 30 volunteers to accomplish its mission, which recently included sending medical kits to Haiti.

Pam is a grandmom which in Israel means providing an extraordinary level of help toward bringing up the next generation. So Pam is now a busy lady with two grandkids, Arielle and Ethan, the twinkles in her eye. Overall, Pam is fulfilled with living a blessed life with her family and grandkids, her extended family of worldwide volunteers, and her expanded family of IDF soldiers.

Pam welcomes suggestions and comments. You can email her at pamela@sar-el.org.

Steve Plotkin, one of Pam's kids.

Donations Received by VFI

(November 12, 2009 – March 12, 2010)

By
Marvin Axelrod
Jay & Bebe Bernstein Family
Alvin & Barbara Darvin
Renee Feinswog
Alan Levitt
Brenda Mezrahi
Michael Pecullan
Charles Shapiro & Joan Sudman
Bonney Solomon
Harold Stern
Jack Stromfeld
Henry Wisner

By
Marsha & Mert Brody
Kaycee Canter
Alvin & Barbara Darvin
Stanley Eisen
Stuart Fierman
Miriam Foxman
Shelia Kane

In Honor of
Lenny Frisch
Sol Bernstein
Rene Dworak
Eugene & Dorita Gotlieb
Walter Chinoy
Fred Tawil
Melissa Pecullan
Gilad Shalit
Aram family
Sherr family
His 93rd birthday
Richard Bernstein

In Memory of
Arnold Arkovitz
Murphy Canter
Phyllis Rubinstein
His mother
Max Mittleman
Dr. Daniel Foxman
Rachel & Samuel Berger

By
Francine Koppel
Maria Medina
Alan & Roni Mintz
Kenneth Schneider
Edythe Siegel
Edythe Siegel
R. Barry & Jay Solomon
Matthew Wiener Family

Jewish National Fund Trees planted for the following:

By
Sharon, Connie, Thea & Ed Abel
Ed, Laurie & David Bell
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Rosa & Arkady Frakt
Rosa & Arkady Frakt
Shelly & Marian Sacks

In Memory of
Morton Koppel
Arnold Arkovitz
Bob Gross
Paul Kaufman
Melvin Baker
Dr. Morton Olin
Faith Ellis
Matthew Wiener

In Memory of
Sara Lee Goldstein
Usher Plosker
Emily Amato
George G. Whitmore
Salvatore "Sam" Straniero
Erich Schmidt
Haya Krasnopolskaya
Hanina Vaks
Emil Nassau

Do you know what the VFI work program includes?

FREE accommodations, plus
FREE kosher meals every day, plus
FREE military work uniforms, plus
FREE lectures, possibly guided trips, plus

FREE the adventure of a lifetime, plus
FREE memories of making a difference, plus
Earned immense
personal satisfaction.

Volunteer Program Schedule for 2010

Programs start only on the Sunday and/or Monday shown below. Volunteers can join for 1, 2, 3, or more weeks. Classes in Hebrew for beginners (the Ulpan option) are designated.

2010 SCHEDULE — 28th Anniversary Year

April 11/12–April 29, 2- or 3-week Program, holiday base closings, "Ulpan"
May 2–May 6, Special 1-week Program
May 2/3–May 13, 2-week Program, "Ulpan"
May 23/24–June 10, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
June 13/14–July 1, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
June 13/14–July 1, 3-week Program, International Youth Group—ages 17-25
July 4/5–July 22, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
July 4/5–July 22, 3-week Program, International Youth Group—ages 17-25
July 25/26–Aug. 12, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
Aug. 15/16–Sept 2, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
Sept. 12/13–Sept. 21, Short Program
Oct. 3/4–Oct. 21, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"

Oct. 24/25–Nov. 11, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
Oct. 24–Oct. 28, Special 1 week Program
Nov. 14/15–Dec. 2, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
Dec. 5/6–Dec. 23, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"
Dec. 26/27–Jan. 13, 2011, 2- or 3-week Program, "Ulpan"

Ulpan Practical Hebrew Class

Classes are taught two nights a week by experienced professionals. The one-time fee of \$50 covers up to 3 weeks of classes. Sign up at the time of your volunteer registration.

Please visit our web site at www.vfi-usa.org for frequent special programs.

NEWSBYTE CORNER

International Youth Program (IYP)

IYP is a special and unique three week program for young adults age 17 to 25. There are two sessions this summer – the first one starts on June 13 until July 1. The second program starts on July 4 until July 22. Participants can do either or both programs.

Want to talk to a former IYP participant? Contact us at 866.514.1948.

The Temple Mount Antiquities Salvage Operation

If you've ever dreamed of digging for real archaeological treasure, you might want to volunteer on Friday mornings at the Temple Mount Sifting Project located right near old city Jerusalem.

You can search for artifacts rescued from the destruction committed by the Waqf on the Temple Mount. People frequently find ancient pendants, jewelry, coins, and pieces of mosaic floors from the Temple Mount. This is a true treasure hunt for kids of all ages. For information call 972.2.6268700 or *6033 or on the web at <http://templemount.wordpress.com>.



Follow VFI on the Web

Visit the VFI homepage – www.vfi-usa.org

Become a Fan of our page on Facebook – tinyurl.com/y8zwb66

Follow VFI on Twitter – www.twitter.com/vfi_usa

See our Youtube Channel –

www.youtube.com/volunteersforisrael

HELP WANTED FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

(VFI is seeking volunteers to lead and help with regional and national projects.)

HELP – The New York Office is seeking occasional volunteer assistance in dealing with Apple software compatibility glitches. Please contact jbernstein@vfi-usa.org.

HELP – A volunteer to help support VFI in helping with grant writing (national).

HELP – Semi-pro photographers to capture volunteers at work for picture spreads.

Contact Vade Bolton at vadebolton@comcast.net

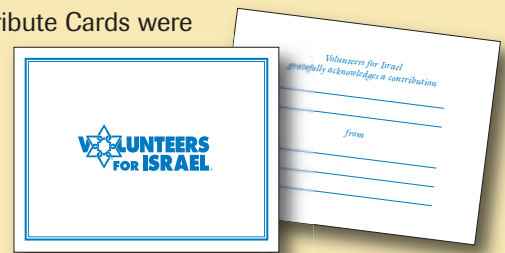
Sale Price on VFI Travel Journal

The VFI Travel Journal is a 40-page spiral bound information book for travelers to Israel. It makes a great gift and is now sale priced at only \$10.00 per copy.

Purchase Tribute Cards for All Occasions and Support VFI

Our attractive new Tribute Cards were

originally created by alumni of the Philadelphia region, where they are very popular. And now they are available to everyone.



The cards are a thoughtful way to pay tribute in memory of a loved one, send congratulations, and for many other occasions. They can also be sent as note cards, and they are a terrific fundraiser at Jewish events and fairs.

Not only do the cards cost less than most greeting cards, but they also support your organization – a win/win for everyone. Please tell your friends so they can order some, too.

VFI cards are 4½” by 5½”. You can order them in sets of 5 (the minimum order) for \$12.50 each set, including postage.

To order, mail a check for \$12.50 per set, payable to Volunteers for Israel, to VFI New York, 330 West 42nd St., Suite 1618, New York, NY 10036, Attention: Jessica Bernstein.

Flying to Israel – Airfare Web Sites

The New York Times recently reviewed airfare comparison websites and found the best fares on Fly.com more often than the other sites! Fly.com will direct you to the best place to buy your ticket, so you can still book directly.

The best deals can usually be found on Tuesday afternoon. This is because airlines file their discount fares on Monday and their competitors usually follow up on Tuesday morning with matching fares.

Shop the VFI Amazon Store and Support VFI

When you shop the VFI Amazon Store, you can get some neat stuff while supporting VFI. The store carries an enticing assortment of travel, Israeli, and other Jewish products. Check it out at www.vfi-usa.org/vfiamazonstore.html

Upgraded & Redesigned VFI Website

Watch for a notice that the VFI website has been upgraded. Our dedicated team has been working diligently toward the goal of simplifying and streamlining our website. Stay tuned....

VFI HAPPENINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Atlanta/South Region — Covering the states of AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, TN. The South Region is working on publicizing a Fall VFI group for the Oct. 24 program. We are also planning to set up our tables at the Marcus Jewish Community Center annual Jewish Festival on Israeli Independence Day. For information, contact Leon Rechtman at 770.328.4573 or atlanta@vfi-usa.org, or Alan Mintz at agmintz@mindspring.com.

Boston Region — For more information, contact Stan Shindler at franintl@rcn.com.

Chicago Midwest Region — The Region has experienced a steady flow of Volunteers to Israel! We appreciate you. If you are in the Midwest, YOU can help out here! If you have other ideas to promote VFI, please call Charlotte at 888.246.3037, and let us know what you will do! E-mail: chicago@vfi-usa.org. We are only as good as the help we get!

Dallas Region — For more information, contact Valerie Carlone at valcarlone@gmail.com.

Great Lakes Region (IN, MI, OH, WI) — We are very busy recruiting and processing volunteers. We are seeking volunteers to sponsor and work a table in conjunction with Detroit's annual Walk for Israel on May 2. For further information and schedule update, please contact Ed Kohl at 248.420.3729 or michigan@vfi-usa.org.

Las Vegas Region — For further information and schedule update, please contact Fran & Jerry Gardberg at 702.914.6863.

Long Island Region — Our new web site at www.vfi-li.org alerts potential Long Island volunteers of our local ability to help them on their way. We make an in-person connection with one of our Ambassadors and also with other people that have gone on our program from Long Island. We have also sent out our first E-Blast to over 400 regional professionals and lay leaders. We are using the technology tools to plant a seed in potential volunteers about VFI and plan on using this three or four times a year or more, if Israel needs us. We would be glad to help any region if interested in setting these items up. Eric Steinberg, LI Regional Coordinator, LongIsland@vfi-usa.org, or ESteinb173@aol.com, or 631.816.3530.

Los Angeles Region — We'll soon be entering the season of Israel Fairs, sponsored by a JCC or synagogue near you. If you would like to represent VFI and give information about our programs (which you have participated in at least one time), please let us know and we will supply you with the items you will need to set up a table at an event.

We'll coach you and cheer you on! If you hear of an event being planned, please let us know even if you are not able to be our representative that day. We'll see if we can get others in your area to help out. This is a great and very rewarding way to get the word out about VFI! Contact Renee G. Bassell, LA & SoCal Coordinator at cell: 510.508.0861.

Metro New York — We are seeking occasional volunteer assistance in dealing with Apple software compatibility glitches. Please contact jbernstein@vfi-usa.org. For further information and schedule update, please contact VFI at 212.643.4848 or e-mail new-york@vfi-usa.org. Sharon Stein & Richard Bernstein

Mid-Atlantic Region — VFI will have a booth at the Northern Virginia Jewish Street Festival in Fairfax, VA, on May 2 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Festival will have activities, music, speakers and lots of Israeli food. The VFI booth will be "manned" by Mike Pecullan and Vade Bolton. Other volunteers in the area are welcome to join us and tell the VFI story to, hopefully, lots of potential volunteers. A regional meeting allows recent volunteers to bring and mingle with prospects including young people who have attended the highly successful International Youth Program. For more information, contact Marian Sacks at mbsacks31@hotmail.com or Vade Bolton at vadebolton@comcast.net. We are seeking local organizers willing to organize meetings in their communities.

Pacific Northwest Region — The Pacific Northwest Region (OR, WA, ID, MT, AK, HI) is being handled by the San Francisco Region. Kay Warren can be contacted at e-mail vfi5000@hotmail.com, 510.339.0183, for more information.

Philadelphia Region — At our March meeting, Rabbi/Navy Captain Jon Cutler related his recent experiences as the only Jewish chaplain in a section of Iraq during wartime. He provided a unique perspective

on the war from a different dimension.

We are sad to announce Jeanne Schachter's passing after extraordinary service to VFI over several decades.

We will have a booth at the Philadelphia Federation's Israel Day Celebration on May 23, 1 to 5 p.m. at Penn's Landing with 5,000 expected to attend. Our May 12 meeting speaker is Melissa Klapper Ph.D., a professor of history at Rowan University in NJ, who is an expert on the effects of immigration on children. She is the author of *Jewish Girls Coming of Age in America*. Meetings are held at the Klein Branch JCC, Red Lion Rd. and Jamison Ave., Phila., starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. Call Bev Cohen or Carol Stein at 888.473.6527 for more schedule details.

San Francisco Region — Our January Reunion was a huge success! Almost 100 returned volunteers, members of Congregation Emanu-El and the general public gathered to hear Donna Rosenthal, author of "The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land." She is also an Honorary VFI Board Member. Donna is a wonderful speaker and reading her book is almost like being in Israel. You can purchase it and help VFI by going to vfi-usa.org and clicking on "VFI Amazon Store" and then on "Shop Amazon—help VFI."

For those volunteers in our huge region who could not attend the reunion because they live too far from San Francisco, we are starting a "Mini-Reunion Campaign." If you can host or find a venue for a small reunion in your area, we will provide you with ideas, posters, and brochures, and will e-mail an invitation to your event to all of the returned volunteers in your area. Contact Kay Warren at 510.339.0183 or e-mail vfi5000@hotmail.com.

Ruth Rennie Christian Group — Suzy Douma has assumed leadership for this initiative since Ruth's recent passing. Processing their volunteers through VFI, they focus on Christian interests in addition to organizing volunteer programs following Ruth's legacy of successfully recruiting large Christian groups to Sar-El over the years. At a recent meeting, 18 volunteers have already signed up for an upcoming tour of duty. For additional information, call Suzy Douma at 909.558.8179 or SDouma@llu.edu.

Returning Home From My Trip to Israel

Janet and I had a wonderful trip spending time with our kids, family, and friends in the Land. I attended a meeting of the Sar-El Board and met with Pam, Tiran, and Israel Geva.

After returning home, I bumped into a young student intern who approached me with her head somewhat lowered. Looking over the tops of her eyebrows she asks, "How it is over there?". Her words were dripping with judgment and her response was out before I could answer, "It must be bad." She is a student at the well known George Mason Conflict Management Institute. She started with some very large assumptions in her questions, which I don't need to tell you as you already know.

My response was, "It's fine. Employment is high, technology is being developed, shopping malls are filled with stores like

those at Tyson's Corner and those who live there are doing well!!!" My answer drew no response. I walked away.

This brief exchange reminds me of our mission, why our work is so important, and the role VFI plays in telling the real truth about life in Israel. I will continue to put my energy into recruiting and sending volunteers to Israel which surely tells a better and more accurate story about the people of Israel. Do I expect to change all those like the student who knows nothing about Israel and only knows what she reads and hears? Well, no, but I know that I am doing what I can — to tell another story — the real one.

Vade Bolton

THIS ISSUE OF THE VOLUNTEER CONNECTION IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF JEANNE SCHACHTER

Jeanne Schachter, a Woman of Valor

Jeanne (Selis) Schachter, our friend and colleague, succumbed to cancer and passed away on March 13, 2010.

Jeanne passionately believed in VFI and devoted untold hours throughout her 25 years of association. She personally made eleven trips to Israel as a volunteer and worked at varied job assignments. She was on the National Board of VFI, serving two terms as National President and Interim Executive Director. Locally, she was the coordinator for the Philadelphia Region. She interviewed countless recruits and was a co-founder of VFI's Philadelphia Alumni Group.

Jeanne taught math and Hebrew at Akiba Hebrew Academy for 44 years, pursuing her goal of educating Jewish students. She touched many lives and among her former students are numerous and thankful rabbis, professors, teachers, and professionals from across the spectrum.

She was also a mover and shaker as a union organizer. She had strength and presence and confidence and stood up for her beliefs.

Jeanne led a full and blessed life. She passed the way she lived, positive, with no complaints.

Jeanne was the wife of Jacob, mother of Jonathan (Andrea), David (Debra) and Avram (Estaire) Schachter and sister of Gilda Alsher. Jeanne is also survived by six grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Volunteers for Israel, 1650 Limerick Lane, Dresher, PA, 19025 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

We will miss her.



Jeanne during the first Intifada in 1992 with her gas mask bag slung over her shoulder.

Dear Vade,

Please convey to Yaakov Schachter my deepest condolences. My wife Hasidah, also knew her.

Jeanne, as I recall her, established the Phila. Branch of VFI. Her relentless efforts made Phila. The greatest contributor, by number of volunteers sent to Israel.

Her dedication was exemplary. This won her the Presidency of VFI and perhaps only Florence Z"L contributed more to the fledgling organization. But this was with direct help from the Phila. Branch. Hasidah and I are deeply saddened.

—DAVIDI

Human Rights Watch's Middle East Division

In recent years, Human Rights Watch has written far more condemnations of Israel for violations of international law than of any other country in the Middle East, a region dotted with authoritarian regimes with appalling human rights records.

Israel has a population of 7.4 million people. It is home to at least 80 human rights organizations, an assertive free press, a democratically elected government, a judiciary that doesn't hesitate to rule against the government, a politically active academia, and numerous diverse political parties. In addition, judging by the amount of news coverage, Israel probably has

the most journalists per capita in the world, many focused on covering the evergreen Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On the other hand, the Arab and Iranian regimes preside over 350 million people and, for the most part, maintain brutal, closed and autocratic societies which consistently limit internal dissent. The plight of their citizens would be benefitted from the advocacy and campaigns of such a large and well-financed international organization. However, this factor is largely ignored as Human Rights Watch's Middle East division blindly prepares report after report on Israel.

***"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.
The important thing is to not stop questioning."***

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

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—Steve Plotkin, Editor, steveplotkin@erols.com

—Barbara Abbott, Copy Editor

—Regina Stinger, Graphic Designer

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