



THE volunteer CONNECTION

Genetic Similarity Among Jews Worldwide

Through the millenniums, after exiles, separation, and assimilation, I thought the genetic connection between diaspora Jews would be tenuous at best. But I am completely wrong.

New studies reveal that shared genetic elements of members of any Jewish community are related to one another as closely as are fourth or fifth cousins in a large population. This relationship is fully ten times higher than the relationship between two people randomly chosen off the streets of New York.

So we are all essentially cousins.

The new studies used genome-wide scanning devices, expanding on previous Y-chromosome (male genetic element) studies, and compared Jewish communities around the world.

Some eye-opening findings are:

- Jewish communities from Europe, the Middle East, and the Caucasus all share a substantial genetic ancestry that traces back 3,000 years ago.
- There is surprising genetic closeness between Ashkenazim (since 800 A.D. in Northern and Eastern Europe until the Holocaust) and Sephardim (in Spain and Portugal until exiled in 1492 and relocated to the Ottoman Empire). Both groups have about 30 percent European ancestry with the remainder mostly from the Middle East.
- A new method of timing demographic events from genetic elements showed that Iraqi and Iranian Jews separated about 2,500 years ago directly echoing the destruction of the First Temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. and the subsequent Babylonian exile.

So cousins, the message is that we have a proven common origin, and we are really one family.

Steve Plotkin

The Situation Room — ONLY ISRAEL

Only Israel is a viral music video which recently appeared on youtube.com. It is performed by Yedida Freilich and the lyrics are by Gabby & Yuval Freilich. You can see it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aGHUZ-8DWw.

Here are the words:

Eight thousand rockets are no excuse,
Suicide bombers, it's all just a ruse.
Unless you're Israeli, self-defense is a right,
A Jewish army response is disproportionate might.

The activists sailed to deliver their aid,
Jihad cash is what they were paid.
Turkish delight in the media's glare,
Slashing knives don't seem fair.

Dafur is ignored,
Russian troops in Chechnya.
Only Israel has no right to defend itself,
Because the world cares nothing about Jewish blood.

In the whole middle east just one strip of land,
Since we gave them Katif, no one's given a damn.
Surrounded by cousins flowing with oil,
Demanding from us to surrender our soil.

There is one soldier held in Hamastan Gaza,
Starved and tormented in the 'Juden' free plaza.
The humanist convoy could have delivered a word,
The Red Cross of silence was preferred.

Iran is going nuclear,
Turkey occupies Northern Cyprus.
Only Israel has no right to defend itself,
Because the world cares nothing about Jewish blood.

Armaments pour into Lebanon in the north,
Armaments pour into Gaza in the south.
Only Israel has no right to defend itself,
Because the world cares nothing about Jewish blood.



VFI National President's Message

Vade's View... Summer, 2010

Somewhere in the writings it says something about there will be "wars and rumors of wars" in the Land of Israel.

My comment is, "so what's new?" I asked a cab driver in Jerusalem if he ever thought there would be peace in the Middle East? "It's not meant to be," he said. So, here we are again.

I heard an interview with President Bashar al-Assad of Syria recently on BBC and in response to the question, will there be another war, his response was, "There will be another war as long as there is not peace."

What do we have to do? We have to make sure Israel is prepared for whatever is coming and meanwhile hope and have faith that nothing is coming. Living in the United States, until now, war is far removed from us, but Israelis live everyday with that potential lurking in their minds.

VFI is not in the business of giving soldier "wanna-bees" the thrill of being close to the action in a Middle-East war by volunteering. However, our mission is to send volunteers to help Israel be prepared and strong just in case. So, I ask you to "be prepared" to be a volunteer in case you are called to respond.

Attached is a donation envelope for you and others to give us any amount to keep VFI in a solvent position. We aren't begging, but as with most Jewish organizations, we are working hard to meet expenses. If you can afford to send us a few bucks, it will be greatly appreciated. In case you are unaware, all of us who lead this organization receive absolutely no compensation for our work. We are not complaining or asking that this be changed, merely requesting your assistance.

Vade Bolton
National President
Volunteers for Israel

THE VFI PROGRAM

*Freedom, discovery, encounters,
Escape, mystery, exploration, service.
Have it all in one place – Israel.*

*Volunteers for Israel – specialists
in life-changing events.
And it's tax deductible.*

VFI Officers and Board Members for 2010

Officers

Vade Bolton, National President, VA,
703.860.0504, vadebolton@comcast.net
"I support the mission of VFI to connect Americans to Israel. The end result is what I and others value, and VFI is simply the means to get there."

Dina Fisher, Vice President, CT
860.521.3246, dfisher@rc.com
"VFI puts me on an IDF base, pitching in, not standing on the sidelines. Enriching. Purposeful. Invaluable."

Terri Seiler, Treasurer, MN,
218.729.1014, terri.seiler@gmail.com
"Showing Israeli soldiers and citizens that people support Israel. A soldier said with tears in his eyes, 'I didn't know people understood us.'"

Ed Kohl, National Coordinator, MI
248.788.0551, michigan@vfi-usa.org
"The joy and satisfaction of the volunteers when they return."

Jay Bernstein, Recording Secretary, NJ
201.447.2166, caribu@optonline.net
"VFI is my way of giving back a little and helping the fine soldiers of the IDF who bear the brunt of defending not only Israel, but OM Yisrael, worldwide. It connects American supporters and volunteers to Israel. It is at the very heart of my commitment to Klal Yisrael, Jewish People, and the People of Israel."

Board Members

- **Renee Bassell**, CA
"The chance to directly help Israel with my own energy."
- **Mila Bensonoff**, MA
- **Jonathan Brandow**, PA
"Creating a bridge with sweat as the mortar."
- **Larry Feldman**, MD
- **Anna Krasko**, MA
"VFI makes Israel real 24/7 wherever you are in Diaspora."

- **Gail Mirrow**, OH
"VFI gives me a genuine opportunity to connect with the brave hearts of Israel."
- **Steve Plotkin**, DE
"VFI links my heart to the Jewish homeland by tangible action and offers an adventure, while making a real difference."

- **Marian Sacks**, MD
"It allows me to help Israel and have a fantastic experience."
- **Ken Schneider**, RI
"VFI gives me incredible satisfaction of helping Israel and in particular the soldiers. Our connection breaks down the feeling of many Israelis that they are on this isolated island from

the rest of the Jewish population of the world. VFI bridges that gap."

- **Barry Stein**, PA
- **Carol Stein**, PA
"Through VFI I can fulfill my mission to have people discover Israel for themselves."
- **Sharon Stein**, NY
"I value the unique opportunity to meet and know members of the

IDF and to tell them how we value their service in keeping Israel safe for us in the Diaspora."

- **Leonard Sydney**, NY
- **Kay Warren**, CA
"Interacting with the soldiers and being able to thank them for their service."
- **Mark Werner**, NC
"VFI strengthens my connection to Israel."

Volunteers GIVE to Israel, but they GET Much in Return

THANKS FROM VOLUNTEER PERRIE

Thank you so much for this wonderful reminder of a marvelous trip. I served with Sar-El at Matzrap on Tel Hashomer this spring with a fantastic group of people, wonderful madrichot — Lihi and Hadas, I'll never forget you, interesting "bosses" — Mashiach has actually come! And an unforgettable experience.

I am already looking forward to serving again. I'm still here in Israel visiting friends and family and telling everyone of this meaningful experience, having met people was probably one of the best parts of this trip. Keep up the great work.

— Perrie Nordlicht

A VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE

Dear Mr. Bolton,

In short, my Sar-El experience was one of the greatest experiences I've had in my lifetime. It was my first time out of the United States. Israel was great. The volunteers were great. The soldiers were great. The civilians were great. Tel-Aviv was great. Jerusalem is awesome! I'm working on a cheap flight back to Israel and Sar-El in February of 2011. Thank you for all you do for this program and for promoting Israel!

Your fellow lover of Israel,
Jay Shutt

TESTIMONIAL FROM IDF SOLDIER NEIL

My name is Neil Radov, and I have twice participated in the Sar-El program, in 2006 and in 2008. It was a truly life-changing experience for me and ultimately influenced my decision to make Aliyah. I am now in the army as a regular soldier in the Artillery Corps, so I do not have that much time available, but I would love to do whatever I can to contribute to the program. Please let me know anything I can do, and will do whatever I can to help.

— Neil Radov

A PARENT'S TESTIMONIAL

Hi Vade,

I just wanted to let you know that my son, Adam Stravitz, LOVES the Sar-El (VFI-International Youth) program. He has met some interesting other kids from all over, he really enjoys meeting and working with all of the Israeli soldiers, and he doesn't mind the hard work or conditions (he's on a base in the Negev!). He just returned for his second week and is really glad to be in this program. I'm sure Adam would be very happy to recommend VFI to anyone who asks!!

Thank you,
Michelle Stravitz

Young People on the VFI Program

Over 80 young people are volunteers on the program this summer. The majority of youth are in the International Youth Program. However, we also have a sizable group coming over from Birthright, going as a school group or simply going as individuals in the regular July 25 session. Our goal has been to get as many young people as we can to Israel this summer to further connect them to the Land. We have done well.

In the larger picture, we now have over 400 youngsters for 2010 who either have already gone or are scheduled to go.

Third Annual School Trip Includes 1-Week VFI Program

For the 3rd year, a School in Irvine, CA, has included a 1-week VFI segment in their annual accompanied student trip.

The school had an Israeli maintenance man who, 3 years ago, attended the Israel Fair in Los Angeles where he contacted VFI's Carol Hananel. As a direct outcome, this year's group of 15 students, 16- and 17-year olds, and 2 chaperones are participating in the VFI program at the end of their 1 month journey.

They first travel to Poland and participate in The March of the Living program, which explores the remnants of the Holocaust. Then on to Israel for some sight-seeing. The final week is spent as volunteers on an IDF base under the Sar-El program.

The school trip departed the United States on June 1 under the coordination of Amy DeLoach, a parent of one of the students.

Renee Bassell

Donations Received by VFI

(March 13 — June 30, 2010)

By
Michael Coplan
Robert Lowenstein
Fred & Karen Pasternack
Susi Saxl & Robert Kramer
Terry Staub
Temple Shalom Brotherhood

In Honor of
Mr. & Mrs. David Coplan
Irwin Edelstein & Fiona Welles
Johnatan Meyers
Jodi & Jeff Upin
Kevin & Bonnie Melamed
Melanie Strudler

By
Shira Sand & David Fass
Norma Frank
Jan Geliebter
Mark & Anna Ruth Hasten
Barton & Batame Hertzbach
Ed & Shelly Kohl
Rita Newman
Joyce Schneiderman & family
Terri & Steve Seiler
Bruche Sherman

In Memory of
Jeanne Schachter
Philip J. Frank
Edyth Geliebter
Edyth Geliebter
Jeanne Schachter
Jeanne Schachter
Libby Sussan
Stanley Schneiderman
Steffi Samuels
Murray Sherman

Jewish National Fund Trees planted for the following:

By
Renee Bassell, Alexandra & Bruce Stanley
Renee Bassell, Alexandra & Bruce Stanley
Kimberly Catalla
Cliff & Caryn Mandel
Marie Wagner

In Honor of
Rachel Sturm graduation
Jason Mighdall graduation
Officer Zoran Petrovic
Norman Katz
Clayton & Keiala Cowan

By
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Alan & Barbara Cornblatt
Jackie Eisen
Jackie Eisen
Sheila Richman
Frances Rosenberg
Marian & Shelly Sacks
Ann Stehney

In Memory of
Isadore Vallorani
Leonora Parag Addison
Carl J. LaManna
David J. Serpentilli II
Edwin Fink
Charles Bacharach
Edward Friedman
Jeanne Schachter
Shirley K. Alexander
Lillian Kensky
Florence Wolcott

For Honoring and Memorial Donations, you can make a secure, tax-deductible contribution two ways. Honor someone with a donation to VFI by sending a check with below notification information to: Volunteers For Israel, Terri Seiler, Treasurer, 5124 Dickerman Rd., Saginaw, MN 55779.

If you prefer to donate on-line using Google Checkout, send an email to treasurer@vfi-usa.org with the below notification information.

Include the name of the honoree, whether in their honor or memory, and the name and address where you would like notification sent.

Volunteer Program Schedule for 2010 & 2011

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

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”

2011 SCHEDULE — 29th Anniversary Year

Jan. 16/17–Feb. 3, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Feb. 6/7–Feb. 24, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Feb. 27–Mar. 3, special 1-week program
Feb. 27/28–Mar. 17, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Mar. 20/21–Apr. 7, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Apr. 10–Apr. 14, special 1-week program
May 1-5, special 1-week program
May 15/16–June 2, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
[May 9 is Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day); May 10 is Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day). Spend this special week in Israel before or after a program and join in an IDF ceremony.]

June 12/13–June 30, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
June 12–June 30, International Youth Program, special 3-week program for volunteers ages 17-25 from around the world.
July 3/4–July 21, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
July 3–July 2, International Youth Program, special 3-week program for volunteers ages 17-25 from around the world.
July 24/25–Aug. 11, Two or Three Week Program, “Ulpan”
Aug. 14/15–Sept. 1-, 2-, or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Sept. 4–Sept. 22, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Oct. 2–Oct. 12, special short program
Oct. 23/24–Nov. 10, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Oct. 23–Oct. 27, special 1-week program
Nov. 13/14–Dec. 1, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Dec. 4/5–Dec. 22, 2- or 3-week program, “Ulpan”
Dec. 25/26–Jan. 12, 2012, 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

Follow VFI on the Internet

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 with nine movies and growing – www.youtube.com/volunteersforisrael

VFI's New Web Site

Since May, 2010, VFI's re-engineered web site at www.vfi-usa.org has been up and running. Approximately 100 visitors view the site every day. The average visitor stays for over 4 minutes and visits 4.5 pages. About 43 percent of visitors are referred by search engines and 30 percent by various referring sites. The most popular pages are the Programs followed by the FAQs and the Schedule.

Our Youtube channel has shown its videos over 2,500 times. It currently contains nine unique videos and growing.

The Schachter Memorial Fund

Jack Schachter reports that the Jeanne S. Schachter Memorial Fund, established by the Philadelphia Region, has already made it possible for 17 first-timers, all students under age 21, to do the VFI program this summer!!

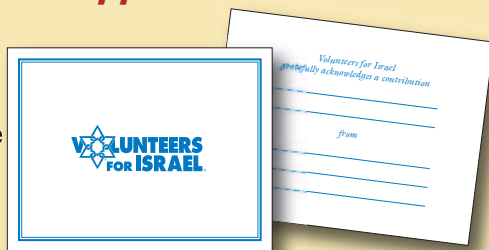
Jeanne Schachter Memorial Fund
c/o Phila. Region VFI
P.O. Box 693, Skippack, PA 19474

Purchase Tribute Cards for All Occasions and Support VFI

Our attractive Tribute Cards are now available to everyone. They 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.

The cards cost less than most greeting cards while 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.

El Al Airlines Special Offer for VFI

El-Al, Israel's national airline, in appreciation of VFI and Sar-El volunteers, has a special offer. Call 1-800-223-6700 and mention code SAR101. Booking must be made through an EL-AL ticket office.



Sale Price on VFI Travel Journal

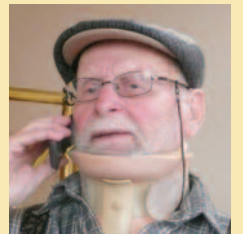
The VFI Travel Journal is a 40-page spiral bound information book for travelers to Israel. It makes a great gift and is now sale priced at only \$10.00 per copy.

Gen. Davidi Awarded Moskowitz Prize for Zionism

Brigadier General (res.) Aharon Davidi is a recipient of the annual Moskowitz Prize for Zionism. The prize was first awarded in 2008. It recognizes the people who put Zionism into action in today's Israeli society – at times risking their own personal security, placing the collective interest before personal needs, and doing what it takes to ensure a strong, secure Jewish homeland.

Gen. Davidi is most well-known for having founded Sar-El in 1982, an organization for IDF volunteers from abroad. He took part in increasingly higher-ranking capacities, in the War of Independence, the Sinai Campaign, the Six Day War, and the Yom Kippur War.

Sar-El has grown and today has 5,000 volunteers from some 30 countries, serving several weeks each year. Some 6,000 Sar-El volunteers have made Aliyah over the years.



“Surely something must be terribly wrong with a man who seems to be far more concerned with a Jew building a house in the Israel capital than with Muslims building a nuclear bomb in Iran.”

COLUMNIST BURT PRELUTSKY

VFI HAPPENINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Atlanta/South Region — A group from our Southern Region is scheduled for the Oct. 24 program. We will be taking a local reporter with us. Contact Leon Rechtman at 770.328.4573 or atlanta@vfi-usa.org, or Alan Mintz at agmintz@mindspring.com.

Boston Region — Contact Howard Passman at 617-571-7373 or hupassmanvfi@ix.netcom.com.

Chicago Midwest Region — We have experienced a steady flow of Volunteers to Israel! If you have ideas to promote VFI, contact Charlotte at 888.246.3037 or chicago@vfi-usa.org.

Dallas Region — Contact Valerie Carlone at valcarlone@gmail.com.

Great Lakes Region (IN, MI, OH, WI) — Contact Ed Kohl at 248.420.3729 or michigan@vfi-usa.org.

Las Vegas Region — Contact Fran & Jerry Gardberg at 702.914.6863.

Long Island Region — See our new web site at www.vfi-li.org. Contact Eric Steinberg, LI Regional Coordinator, at 631.816.3530 or LongIsland@vfi-usa.org, or ESteinb173@aol.com.

Los Angeles Region — We are seeking past volunteers in the LA area to promote VFI and request they take a local role. Should you hear of an event being planned, please let us know so we can alert others to participate for VFI. 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 or rbassell@sbcglobal.net.

Metro New York — VFI marched in the Salute to Israel Parade on May 23 and had a great day. We are seeking photos of volunteers in action that can be displayed on the NYC office walls. Please contact rbernstein@vfi-usa.org. Contact 212.643.4848 or e-mail new-york@vfi-usa.org.

Mid-Atlantic Region — VFI's booth at the Northern Virginia Jewish Street Festival in Fairfax, VA, was a great success. We are seeking local organizers willing to organize meetings in their communities. Contact Marian Sacks at mbsacks31@hotmail.com or Vade Bolton at vadebolton@comcast.net.

Pacific Northwest Region — The Pacific Northwest Region (OR, WA, ID, MT, AK, HI) is handled by the San Francisco Region. Contact Kay Warren at 510.339.0183 or vfi5000@hotmail.com.

Philadelphia Region — At our May meeting, Melissa Klapper Ph.D., professor of history at Rowan University, presented on the history of Jewish education in America. Our booths at both the Philadelphia Federation's Israel Day Celebration and the Bucks County Jewish Festival were a success.

Our next meeting is October 13 when



Israeli Deputy Consul General Raslan Abu Rukun will bring us up-to-date on events. Meetings are held at the Klein Branch JCC, Red Lion Rd. and Jamison Ave., Phila., starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. Contact Bev Cohen or Carol Stein at 888.473.6527.

San Francisco Region — 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 — Under Suzy Douma's leadership and in conjunction with VFI, they focus on Christian interests in addition to organizing volunteer programs. Contact Suzy Douma at 909.558.8179 or SDouma@llu.edu.

"Perhaps nowhere else on the globe does there exist a greater discrepancy between perception and reality than Israel!"

WILLY STERN, THE WEEKLY STANDARD

Editor's Corner — Israel Needs VFI Success



During 2009, 1,351 Americans participated in the program. They all traveled to Israel, performed their volunteer service, and clearly made a difference. Most volunteers are recruited via word-of-mouth.

This newsletter is a recruiting tool for you to use. After you read it, pass it around. You are doing someone a favor, the same way someone else did to gain your interest in VFI.

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

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO EDYTH (EDY) GELIEBTER

Edy Geliebter and I first met many years ago as Sar-El volunteers and bonded as army friends as well as at home. Edy's sparkling enthusiasm and love for life and Israel began in early childhood. As a 6-year-old, she was on the streets of Brooklyn, JNF box in hand, collecting money to help buy land in pre-Israel, Palestine. Later, as a young lady, and prior to the modern State of Israel, Edy was active in the Jewish National Fund, Young Judea, and Junior Hadassah.

Edy belonged to many Zionist organizations over the years, including the American League for a Free Palestine, Mizrahi Women's Organization, and Young Israel. But Edy found her true calling in the Israeli army with Volunteers for Israel.

Between 1983 and 2009, Edy participated in the VFI program 27 times; three times in one year alone. It was not enough for her to go by herself, so she took three granddaughters with her.

Nothing was too much or too little for her. She worked at everything in the army — in the kitchen, packed food boxes for soldiers, packed medicines for medics to use in the field, packed emergency supplies for disasters around the world, cleaned brake shoes and carburetors for army trucks, checked helmet radios, cleaned and oiled guns and also handed out ammunition. She even cleaned the rocket launchers on the sides of tanks. She was happy to do anything that helped the Israeli army.



Edy at work.

She worked harder and smarter than people half her age and never complained. Once, at the beginning of a tour of duty, one of the Israeli officers said he needed three volunteers for his work detail. Then he saw Edy and said, "Just give me Edyth." Edy genuinely loved the volunteer work and understood the importance of her personal contribution.

Edy lived for Israel service and it is only fitting that she passed away wearing her VFI shirt and was buried in Israel. To know her was to love her and respect her. Edy was an inspiration to us all and I will miss her terribly.

Marlene Shapiro, bubbie_of_3@yahoo.com

Volunteering for Remy

My friends and I did Sar-El for a month last year, and we really enjoyed our experience. We enjoyed helping Israel in a different way than we have ever helped before.

Volunteering on the base not only strengthened our connection with Israel, but also created bonds with the soldiers on the base that will last a lifetime.

We would love to volunteer again on a base for a month during our college summer break! Volunteering in Israel and working on an army base is very meaningful to all of us, and we would not want to spend our summer doing anything else!

Remy Raevsky



Do you know 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 adventure of a lifetime, plus

Immense personal satisfaction.

A New Weekend Option for VFI Volunteers...

We often hear this question...“Does VFI offer any structured tours and programs, particularly, for those volunteers who do not have family or friends who live in Israel?”

Here is an exciting new weekend option we are “piloting” during the October 3-4 session! On the weekend of October 7-8-9, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, VFI through the Israeli group Oranim Educational Initiatives (destinationisrael.com) will be offering a weekend option for VFI volunteers.

Volunteers can participate in the **Tel Aviv & Jerusalem Capital Cities Tour**. The group stays overnight in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Highlights of the weekend visits are: Independence Hall, (where Ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel), Rabin Square, Nahalat Binyamin (a festival of arts, crafts, pottery, and street performances), optional

Shabbat services, tour of Jaffa (one of the world’s most ancient port cities), tomb of King David, the Jewish Quarter, view of the Southern Wall excavations and the stairs leading to the Temple Mount, a spiritual visit to the Western Wall, and more.

Volunteers will be picked up Thursday afternoon at the base; will be provided lodging in a 3-star hotel for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; most meals, all tour and program activities, guide services, and entry fees, transportation costs where needed and brought back to their base(s) on Sunday morning. The cost of each weekend tour is \$400, including taxes for twin/double room with a \$160 supplement for private rooms.

For more information, contact Vade Bolton or Jaclyn Mishal at VFI’s National Service at 1-866-514-1948 and leave a message. Vade or Jaclyn will call you back the same day.

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—Barbara Abbott, Copy Editor

—Regina Stinger, Graphic Designer

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