



THE volunteer CONNECTION

What's Inside:

VFI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DONATIONS RECEIVED BY VFI



A YOUTHFUL
SUMMER EXPERIENCE



THE SITUATION ROOM



VFI REGIONAL
ALUMNI MEETINGS



EDITOR'S CORNER



PROGRAM SCHEDULES

Are You Driven to Volunteer?

Why do you do things beyond your paycheck? You have plenty of leisure options and activities, many fulfilling and many for free. So why should you volunteer? What specifically fuels your passion and allows you to bank happiness?



It's probably your *drivers*, those distinct personal needs that motivate you and fulfill your soul, mind, and body. It is the reason some want to be leaders, some to be creative, and some to remain in the background. It is our *drivers* that make each of us unique by impacting our choices and roles we play in life.

How do you pursue and select new activities that continue to emotionally and physically fulfill you?

Beyond your standard activities, how far can your dreams soar? Let us take a look at some *drivers* that may motivate you. Recognizing your top *drivers* will help you discover your dreams.

Have achievements
Solve problems
Be valued
Be part of the action
Make a difference
To belong
Be creative
More exposure to people
Pursue a passion
Develop friendships

Be recognized
Tell better stories
Stimulate your intellect
Have shared goals
Be a leader
Gain prestige
Be connected
Go global
Have an identity
Be competitive

“*Success is not final;
failure is not fatal;
it is the courage to
continue that counts.*”

— SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Volunteers for Israel Mission Statement

The mission of Volunteers for Israel is to connect Americans to Israel through volunteer service. We achieve this goal by partnering with military and civilian organizations that enable volunteers to work side-by-side with Israelis. We promote solidarity and good will among Israelis, American Jews, and other friends of Israel.

This is where VFI comes in. For me, the VFI experience in Israel resonates with a number of my *drivers* and fuels my passion. It is personally rewarding.

Our life's journey is short and delaying personal passions will be costly and result in missed rewards. Knowing what makes you tick is a key element toward personal satisfaction and makes your life's decisions simpler.

This works wonders for me. Does this work for you?

Steve Plotkin



VFI National President's Message

Vade's View

Shalom Chaverim! The Board of VFI recently elected me National President. I want to greet you and let you know that I look forward to working with you as we strive to achieve our goal of connecting people to Israel.

Josef Herz elected to step down from being President after serving 3 years in the position. I often say, no one succeeds Josef, one can only come after him. He led VFI through a rebirth into a viable organization with his dedication, skills and knowledge. Today VFI has the efficient support systems necessary for quality service and leadership committed to keeping this organization vital for one purpose; service to Israel. We are indebted to Josef and his contribution.

So, we have a new day and Israel continues to need you and your friends. Our immediate goals are:

- That every volunteer has a successful and fulfilling experience from the time you apply until your return.
- In recognition of the time and money you invest in volunteering, we will be working with the Sar-El leadership in Israel to insure that your expectations are met and exceeded, so you believe your investment was personally worthwhile.
- To offer volunteers new venues for service to Israel, including supplying volunteers to areas with serious and immediate needs such as Sderot.
- To provide recruiting services to returning volunteers such as DVDs, brochures, posters, and consultation to

support you in telling your story to motivate others to "Connect to Israel" through VFI.

Ehud Barak said, when describing Israel's situation in the Middle East, "We don't live in a friendly neighborhood." Today that seems ever more true as we hear and read threats and comments that are worrisome and far removed from a "peaceful solution."

VFI stands ready to go. There are two steps you can take right now: volunteer again as soon as you can, and recruit someone else to volunteer with you.

This year is Sar-El's 25th Anniversary! We owe a large measure of gratitude to General Aharon Davidi for initiating this endeavor during the first war in Lebanon. Thousands have volunteered since that beginning.

On August 9, 2007, there will be an anniversary celebration in Jerusalem. Maybe some of you are going. Marian Sacks, VFI Treasurer, and I will be there to represent VFI-USA. If you are coming, let me know. We plan to present General Davidi a plaque commemorating the planting of *Davidi's Garden* in Israel. Thanks to all of you for contributing to the planting of over 500 trees in the *Garden*.

I invite you to write or call with questions, issues, suggestions or requests for assistance. You can reach me at VadeBolton@comcast.net or you can call 1-866-514-1948 and leave a message. You bet I will call you back.

Vade Bolton, National President

Donations Received by VFI

(April 1 – June 30)

In Memory of Sarah Gottlieb: Martin Rabinowitz

In Honor of Shiri: Ann and Barry Steinberg

Jewish National Fund Specific Donations:

VFI Board of Directors in Honor of the following:

General Aharon Davidi

S & L Goldowitz

J & J Schachter

J Herz

In Memory of Dr. Daniel Foxman: Miriam Foxman

In Memory of Andrea Sokoloff: Rita Rubinstein

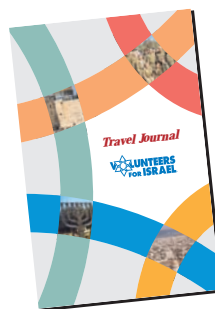
In Honor of M & S Sacks: Josef Herz

In Honor of Marriage of J Bolton: Marian & Sheldon Sacks

Donations to General Davidi's Garden: Those who made it possible to plant over 590 trees.

VFI'S TRAVEL JOURNAL IS NOW AVAILABLE

Once you are back home, will you really remember all those VFI experiences you said you'd never forget? You will if you bring along VFI's handy new *Travel Journal*.



This easy-to-carry 40-page spiral-bound book has plenty of space for you to record your volunteer experiences. You will also find pages filled with useful Hebrew vocabulary, travel tips, maps, charts, and pockets for keeping your *VFI Handbook* at your fingertips, as well as for saving important mementos from your trip.

The *Travel Journal* is available through the VFI regional offices for only \$15.00 per copy. You can also buy it using the coupon on the bottom of page 5. Anyone traveling to Israel will appreciate this book. Get one for yourself and one as a gift for a friend or family member.

a youthful summer experience

So what did you do on your summer vacation? Most students respond to this common query by reporting on their summer job or a vacation at the shore or mountains. But Erin Spiegel from California and Elie Klein from New Jersey have a more compelling story to tell. Both participated in VFI's International Youth Program (IYP), a specially designed 3-week summer program for young adults from 17-25. These volunteers, who must be fluent in English, come from around the world to assist on IDF bases that have special programming geared to their age group.

What motivated Erin and Elie to spend part of their summer as volunteers in Israel? Erin felt that it was time to give something back to Israel, and this program seemed like the perfect opportunity for her. Elie said, "I feel connected to the State of Israel and her people, and I wanted to volunteer and contribute."

When asked about the highlight of the program, Ellie responded, "I will always remember the bonds that I created with the soldiers and other volunteers. Yes, the labor is hard, but you truly

appreciate the mitzvah you are doing at the end of the day." "Your love for Israel becomes stronger," he concluded.

Erin added, "Living on an army base and working and interacting with the soldiers made me feel a part of something bigger. I would recommend this program to anyone who would like to experience Israel in a non-traditional way, meet fascinating people, and help protect the State of Israel." Both Erin and Elie advised that the worst part is that at some point the program has to end.

With so many of our young people absorbing negative reports about Israel from the media and on their college campuses, wouldn't you want more of them to have a positive, growth-enhancing experience like Erin and Elie's?

The 2008 schedule for the IYP is June 29 to July 17 and July 20 to August 7. Encourage the young people in your life who qualify for this program to start planning now to make their next summer vacation a true adventure — one that will be memorable, meaningful, and mitzvah-filled.



Elie and IDF Friends

Need more incentives to motivate them to participate? Try these:

- Have them check VFI's website (www.vfi-usa.org under "Special Programs" to learn about earning college credit for their participation.
- Consider offering a 2008 birthday, graduation, or Chanukah gift to help subsidize their airfare and expenses.

Beverly Cohen

THE SITUATION ROOM

Israeli military intelligence chief Major General Amos Yadlin recently told the Cabinet that the Jewish state now faces five adversaries and cited Iran, Syria, Hizbullah in the north, Hamas in the south, and Al Qaida. "Each of these adversaries is capable of sparking a war," Yadlin was quoted as saying.

There are also some strange bedfellows. The Palestinian Authority is in eclipse, and their credibility on life support from Europe and the United States. Hamastan, after the Hamas civil war takeover of the isolated Gaza Strip, is on the rise with ascendant energies and a considerable list of gains.

Published military intelligence assessments are that Hizbullah and Hamas possess longer range missiles capable of hitting strategic sites within Israel. Also, new anti-aircraft missile systems threaten Israeli combat missions in the north.

All of which, for Israel, leads to the following conclusions:

- A far more dedicated and capable enemy is lurking all around Israel with renewed designs on the Jewish state.

- The pro-Iranian camp is engaged in a long war strategy employing radical Islamists and jihadists, with Israel at the battlefield followed by western democracies and their allies just behind.

Then there is the Israeli political scene with the presidential sex scandal, corruption scandals, the Kassams, the kidnapped IDF soldier, low approval of the Prime Minister, and spreading poverty. This has not been Israel's finest hour.

Life in Israel has proved an emotional roller-coaster of extremes. When up, life rides high with a clear view; but when down, we seem to scrape the dirt.

Be proud. Israel is approaching 60 years old, somewhat battered, on occasion confused, less naive, and certainly wiser, aware of who she is, and more magically beautiful every day!

Steve Plotkin

Officers and Board Members for 2007/08

Officers:

Vade Bolton, National President, VA, 703.860.0504, vadebolton@comcast.net
Larry Feldman, Vice President, MD, 410.486.6876, lf730@aol.com
Marian Sacks, Treasurer, MD, 301.603.9099, mbsacks@vfi-usa.org
Ed Kohl, National Coordinator, MI, 248.788.0551, michigan@vfi-usa.org
Carol Weir, Recording Secretary, NY, 212.741.3632, lawapple@aol.com

Board Members:

Renee G. Bassell, CA	Ed Koplin, CO	Carol Stein, PA
Mila Bensonoff, MA	Steve Plotkin, PA	Kay Warren, CA
Beverly Cohen, PA	Jeanne S. Schachter, PA	
Josef Herz, WA	Barry Stein, PA	

Volunteer for Sderot or Table to Table

Volunteer for a day or two before or after your VFI/Sar-El session to work in Sderot to assist that community as it copes with frequent attacks. Or, volunteer with Table to Table which provides food for the homeless and those hungry in Tel Aviv. Check the VFI website, www.vfi-usa.org regarding these opportunities.

VFI REGIONAL ALUMNI MEETINGS

Atlanta — Leon Rechtman, Amy Brownstein, and Alan Mintz are increasing local awareness of the VFI program. A 25th Anniversary Open House in April attracted 50 guests and featured an Israeli Consulate guest speaker. Other initiatives include participating in the Israeli Festival in August and presenting the VFI story at local synagogues. For further information and schedule update, please contact Leon Rechtman at leon2579@mindspring.com or Alan Mintz at agmintz@mindspring.com.

Illinois — The Chicago/Midwest Region welcomes new and returning volunteers. See a video of the program on the second Tuesday of every month, at 8610 Niles Center Rd., Skokie, IL, at 8 p.m. Plenty of parking. For more information, call Charlotte Kaplan at 888.246.3037.

Los Angeles — For the Los Angeles chapter alumni reunion meeting schedule, call Louis Goldowitz at 323.661.7898.

Great Lakes Region — Volunteers from the Great Lakes Region interested in becoming a VFI Ambassador, please contact Ed Kohl at 248.788.0551 or eskohl@comcast.net. Ed also is a resource for free press releases for ADL, Hillel, Jewish newspapers, and synagogue newsletters. They all generate interest in our program.

Mid-Atlantic Region — VFI volunteers staffed a booth at the Israel Festival in Reston, VA, attended by 7,000 people. They distributed 400 brochures and

bookmarks, and recruited 80 potential volunteers. For further info and schedule update, please contact Vade Bolton at 703.860.0504 or vadebolton@comcast.net.

Metro New York — One hundred thousand supporters marched for Israel in New York City's Salute to Israel Parade on May 6. VFI members were well represented among those who streamed up Fifth Avenue in the colorful and spirited annual event. When it ended, some 20,000 of them packed into Central Park for an activist-gear Israel Day Concert. For additional New York activities, call 866.514.1948.



Philadelphia — Andre Key of Temple University presented "In Every Tongue," an exploration of Jewish and ethnic diversity for our May meeting. VFI helped celebrate Israel Independence Day on May 6 in Fairmount Park. Our fall meeting will be held on October 24. Call 888.473.6527 for more schedule details.

The Philadelphia Region is assembling a group for the April 27-May 15, 2008

program. Volunteers will experience both Yom Ha'Zikaron (Memorial Day) and Israel's 60th Independence Day while in Israel. Anyone interested in this unique volunteer experience should get in touch with Beverly Cohen at bevcohen@comcast.net or 610.584.0468.

San Francisco Region — Sunday, July 29 marked the Region's second PICNIC REUNION in GOLDEN GATE PARK. VFI alumni, friends, and prospective volunteers returned to San Francisco for fun, food, and entertainment (and, yes, some had flowers in their hair).

In May and June, Regional Board members and many returned volunteers staffed information tables at a Russian/American Fair in Palo Alto and the huge Israel in the Gardens Fair in San Francisco. We met old friends and made lots of new ones while getting the word out about VFI.

In mid- June, we held our first Las Vegas Reunion. Fran and Jerry Gardberg, new VFI Ambassadors, and volunteer alumni Moe Menasche, Patsy Kart, Ann Ehrenzweig, and Kay and Welch Warren met, shared a pot luck meal, and spoke to prospective volunteers about the current VFI programs. Thanks to VFI friend Greg Abbott, Kay and Welch were also invited to speak to two non-VFI groups in the area. Look for lots more activity in the Las Vegas area in the future.

Contact Kay Warren at 866-380-6464 or vfi5000@hotmail.com for future events.



Editor's Corner

25 Years and Counting

On August 29, 2007, Sar-El will celebrate its silver anniversary of service to Israel with an all-day bash in Jerusalem for volunteers and guests. Just reflecting on the number and motivations of the surge of volunteers over the years leaves me in awe.

Some interesting trends of international volunteers over the past 3 years (2004-06) are:

- 48 percent of volunteers are women.
- The largest volunteer age segment is under 25 years old.
- 13.6 percent of volunteers are non-Jewish.

- France and the United States provided 60 percent of the volunteers, the rest come from all over the world.
- The total number of international volunteers remained almost constant each year.

VFI's national newsletter is dedicated to your life-changing experience as a volunteer in Israel. **SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE FREE UPON REQUEST** to info@vfi-usa.org or toll-free 866.514.1948. To receive e-mails updating you on VFI activities, send an e-mail to info@vfi-usa.org.

Steve Plotkin, Editor

steveplotkin@erols.com, 1340 Brighton Way, Newtown Square, PA 19073, 610.358.5366, Fax 610.361.8896.

RUSSIAN SPEAKING GROUP FROM THE UNITED STATES

A VFI program for Russian-speaking people from the United States is scheduled to begin October 28, 2007, for 1, 2, or 3 weeks service.

For additional details, contact the following people...

Chicago: Mike Karlinsky, 847-624-4516, mkarlins_2000@yahoo.com

New York: Inna Bakker, 212-663-7624, innabakke@gmail.com

San Francisco: Eugene Zauber, 650-678-4742, eugenezauber@sbcglobal.net

Join VFI As a Full Member

Join our growing VFI chaverim community and become a VFI member now!

VFI membership is growing, with over 200 volunteers recognizing the benefits. Membership at the Chai level of \$18 includes a free, 1-year subscription to *Moment Magazine*, personalized VFI business cards, a membership card, this newsletter, and other benefits. The Meir level membership at \$50 also includes VFI luggage tags. At the Sharon level of \$100 you also receive a tee shirt. The Dayan level is at \$250 and

adds a duffle bag to the Chai-level benefits. For \$500 and above, the Ben-Gurion level provides you with a jacket. We'd like your ideas about better connecting with your fellow volunteers, such as an online Member's Forum, special Member's Events, etc. Send your suggestions to info@vfi-usa.org.

Also, you might want to order your new *VFI Travel Journal*, an easy-to-carry 40-page informational book for travelers.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Please check your desired level and return registration form, with your check payable to:
"Volunteers For Israel," to Marian Sacks, Treasurer, 13801 Bonsal Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906

Ben-Gurion (\$500 and above) **Dayan** (\$250) **Sharon** (\$100) **Meir** (\$50) **Chai** (\$18)

VFI Travel Journal (\$15.00 x $\frac{\text{QUANTITY}}{\text{TOTAL}}$ = \$ $\frac{\text{TOTAL}}{\text{TOTAL}}$) / **JNF Trees** (\$18.00 x $\frac{\text{QUANTITY}}{\text{TOTAL}}$ = \$ $\frac{\text{TOTAL}}{\text{TOTAL}}$)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____

VFI Respects Your Privacy and will not share your information with other organizations.

Volunteer Program Schedules for 2007 and 2008

Programs start only on the specific Sunday and/or Monday shown below. Volunteers can join for 2, 3, or more weeks.

2007 — 25th Silver Anniversary Year

Aug 9: 25th Anniversary Celebration Party
 Aug 19/20-Sept 6: Ulpan option
 Sept 16/17-26
 Oct 7/8-25: Ulpan option
 Oct 28-Nov 1: 1-week group
 Oct 28/29-Nov 15
 Oct 28/29-Nov 15: U.S. Russian speakers
 Nov 18/19-Dec 6: Ulpan option
 Dec 9/10-Dec 27: Ulpan option
 Dec 23/24-Jan 11, 2008:

Mar 23/24-April 10
 April 13-17: 1-week group
 Apr 27/28-May 15
 May 18-22: 1-week group
 May 18/19-June 5
 June 10-June 26: Begins Tuesday
 June 29/30-July 17
 June 29-July 17: International Youth Program
 July 20/21-August 7
 July 20-Aug. 7: International Youth Program
 Aug 10/11-Aug. 28
 Aug 31/Sept 1- Sept 11: 2-week program
 Sept 14/15-Sept 25: 2-week program
 Oct 5/6-Oct 23: Many days off-base during holidays
 Oct 26-30: 1-week group
 Oct 26/27-Nov 13
 Nov16/17-Dec 4
 Dec 7/8-Dec 25
 Dec 28/29-Jan 15, 2009

2008 SCHEDULE

Dec 30/31-Jan 17
 Jan 20/21-Feb. 7
 Feb 10-14: 1-week group
 Feb 10/11-Feb. 28
 Mar 2/3-Mar. 20

The Ulpan Option

Ulpan is a voluntary beginner's practical Hebrew class (Aleph level) for English speakers offered in conjunction with volunteer service. You will be in a language immersion environment at classes, which are held on the base in the evenings. The class meets 2 nights per week and requires a minimum participation of 10 members and a maximum of 15, so bring a friend.

Taught by experienced professionals, the one-time fee of \$50 covers up to 3 weeks of classes. If you are interested in this opportunity, sign up at the time of your volunteer registration.

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

The Volunteer Connection is the national quarterly newsletter of Volunteers for Israel (VFI). Copyright 2007, all rights reserved. VFI is a nonpolitical, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation with headquarters at 330 West 42nd Street, Suite 1618, New York, NY 10036. Telephone: 866.514.1948. E-mail: info@vfi-usa.org. Web site: www.vfi-usa.org.

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— GOLDA MEIER

*We will have peace
 with the Arabs when
 they love their children
 more than they hate us.*

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