



THE volunteer CONNECTION

What's Inside:

VFI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
PAGE 1

DONATIONS RECEIVED BY VFI
PAGE 1

THE SITUATION ROOM
PAGE 2

GIVING BACK WITH MY HANDS
WHAT I TOOK WITH MY HEART
PAGE 3

VFI PROGRAM SCHEDULE
PAGE 3

NEWSBYTE CORNER
PAGE 4

VFI HAPPENINGS AROUND
THE COUNTRY
PAGE 5

SPENDING A VACATION WITH
THE ISRAELI ARMY?
BACK COVER

“Why Are Those Old People Wearing Army Clothes?”

An eight-year-old Israeli boy asked his father this question upon seeing 23 American volunteers at a ceremony honoring outstanding soldiers. What would motivate men and women, ages 41 to 78, to leave the comfort and familiarity of their homes to travel—at their own expense—to a rustic IDF base in the North of Israel?

The answer is simple: **to stand with Israel.** And stand they did. In response to the poor conditions at their base, the volunteers stood up and cleaned up. They scrubbed the mess hall and bathrooms, swept barracks, cleaned warehouses, and pulled weeds. Then, day after day, they stood in the blistering sun at border outposts to build concertina wire fences, fill sandbags, clear brush, and paint barracks, all in support of the IDF soldiers stationed there.

They stood in reverent silence as sirens sounded throughout Israel to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) and Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron). They stood in awe and pride as they watched laser shows and fireworks and sang Hatikva to mark Israel's 60th Independence Day (Yom HaAtzmaut).

Most importantly, these 23 individuals stood together as a group. Each person worked to his/her capability. Some carried 80-pound sandbags up a hill; others filled them; still others tied them. Some pounded fence stakes into

(continued on page 2)



Why join Sar-El now?

Two years after the Second Lebanon War, we still need volunteer manpower. Although the IDF is now prepared, there are still needs. New equipment is being distributed to various units, old equipment must be refurbished, medical supplies must be prepared, food packages must be prepared, and fortifications need permanent upkeep. Even when volunteers are assigned to kitchen work or gardening or painting, it is of great help to the bases and often it frees a soldier to do other duties. This is regarded as tangible aid. Our volunteer work is also morally important by showing solidarity with Israel at a time when we definitely need it.

Please sign up for the fall and winter months and bring your friends.

Shalom,
Davidi (General Aharon Davidi
Retired, Sar-El Founder)

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.



VFI National President's Message

Vade's View "Our Work Is Never Completed..."

I believe all of you who read the Connection know that we are always urging you to go again as a volunteer with VFI to Israel. This issue is no exception.

When you read this, I ask you to recall the sadness of this past July in Israel when the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah in the war of 2006 were returned. Israel, as we all know, gave up a living terrorist and others both alive and dead for the return of its soldiers. Ehud Barak, in a funeral eulogy, acknowledged what we all know — that Israel will do whatever it takes to bring home its soldiers. Hamas knows this also as they continue to hold Gilad Shalit.

A cab driver once said to me in Jerusalem in response to my question of did he believe there would ever be peace. His words were "No, it is not meant to be." But we all continue to pray that a day will come when that cab driver is wrong.

So, yes, our work is never done and we continue to need volunteers to do the jobs that have to be done, which supports the security and well being of Israel. Check the web site for the remaining program dates for 2008 and the calendar for 2009, which is also in this issue. Pick a date to go and call us with your questions at 866.514.1948. We stand ready to assist you. You can also reach me at vadebolton@comcast.net.

Shalom,
Vade

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

—Albert Einstein

Donations Received by VFI

(April 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008)

Jewish National Fund Trees planted for the following:

Contributor

Jamie Lynn Trent
Mr. & Mrs Alan Cornblatt
Miriam Barish & Family
David Gagua
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Hegt
Mr. & Mrs Alan Cornblatt
Rosalind Singer
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Cornblatt
Mr. & Mrs Alan Cornblatt
Ms. Joan Davis
Fran Roberts

In Memory of

Glen Fulton
Joseph Sendzik
Debbie Lapidus
Dina Snitovskaya
Ann Eisenberg
Dr. Lucille K. Campi
Fredda Ann Smith
Henry E. Kordes III
Joseph B. Gilsenan
Nathan Gordon
Saul K. Dobkeen, MD

Contributor

Doris & Herb Krakower
Ken Snyder
Larry Brownston

In Honor of

Rhoda & Stanley Bloomberg's 60th Anniversary
Mrs. Verna Snyder
Marilyn Snyder

Contributor

Mom & Dad Eisdorfer
Renee Bassell
Mom & Dad Eisdorfer
Renee Bassell & Alex Stanley
Renee Bassell & Alex Stanley
Edward A. Kent
Edward E. Alany

In Celebration of

Talia Eisdorfer
Phoebe Weiner
Aliza Eisdorfer
Sarah Sturn, UAZ graduation
Michelle Mighdoll Wharton graduation
Israel's 60th Anniversary
Arrival of Asher Davis Alani

Specific donations made to Volunteers for Israel®

Contributor

National Council of Jewish Women

In Honor of

Carolyn Dinofsky

In Memory of

Keri Gee Barnett
Alvin Darvin
The Mereminsky Family

Gerda Rich
Richard Darvin
Bernard Rimani

VFI Officers and Board Members for 2008-09

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, mbsacks31@hotmail.com
Ed Kohl, National Coordinator, MI,
248.788.0551, michigan@vfi-usa.org
Beverly Cohen, Recording Secretary, PA,
610.584.0468, bevcohen@comcast.net

Board Members:

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

**"Worry looks around;
Sorry looks back;
Faith looks up."**

Why Are Those Old People Wearing Army Clothes?

(continued from front page)

the stony earth; others unfurled the wire and put it in place; still others tied the pieces together. Somehow all managed to get stuck on the fences' sharp edges and donate a few drops of blood to the cause. They bandaged each other's wounds, laughed together, "kvetched" together, shared jokes and snacks and stories from home together.

These are the ingredients of a memorable, life-changing VFI program: completing meaningful work, experiencing Israeli life, and making new friends. These young-at-heart "old people" were proud to wear army clothes and to stand together with Israel.

Beverly Cohen

The Situation Room – Flying to Israel

Setting aside election politics and the endless chess game in the Middle East, we will focus instead on the pocketbook issue of your round-trip airfare to Israel. This is getting more expensive and directly impacts every volunteer. Two factors should be considered that bear on your trip's actual cost. First, your trip expenses, including air fare, are donations to a qualified organization and, thus is a tax-deductible activity that saves you perhaps 20-30 percent of the cost.

Second, new internet web sites provide airfare analysis that was previously only available to travel professionals. Now you can more easily "game" your trip and tinker with the variables, such as departure airports, carrier airlines, flying days, and times. Unlike your other purchases, airline prices change several times a day.

Solid research using these tools can lessen your travel pain. There are plenty of travel web sites. We suggest you explore these:

www.itasoftware.com

Search using QPX, login as guest, use the "Choose Flights (graphical)" option with helpful graphical views, use the "Airports" and "Flight Times" option to identify the best deals.

www.kayak.com

Deep, broad search with hundreds of results, use the "Chart View" to see the rise and fall of prices over the last 90 days and the cheapest departure dates.

www.insidetrip.com

Evaluate all aspects of what makes a trip enjoyable for you,

builds a "Trip Quality" based on all sorts of variables like speed, comfort, ease, travel duration, number of stops, leg room, lost baggage rank, etc., that you select.

www.yapta.com

You can track your flights, get price alerts, and qualify for possible refunds.

www.farecompare.com

Finds and compares alternatives considering multiple carriers, shows price changes for upcoming months and specific travel days. A great travel blog.

www.farecast.com

Good searches, predicts the best time to buy your ticket, review the Time Grid.

www.lastminute.com

Finds alternatives, sort by Total Travel Time.

Two new issues to consider this year are: fees for checked baggage, and Open Skies. Open Skies is a recent change in regulations that promises more free market competition by eliminating restrictions on international routes.

Of course, arriving at Ben Gurion International Airport, you have arrived at the top airport in the Middle East according to an annual survey carried out by Skytrax. Construction of a new control tower was just approved. Over 10.1 million passengers passed through the airport in 2007, on nearly 75,000 flights. Happy flying.

Steve Plotkin



Editor's Corner – Seeking New Volunteers

Word of mouth is the way 50 percent of our new volunteers learn of VFI.

Pass along this newsletter to your friends.

It is up to you to see that they get it.

Also, we are seeking your personal story, which will be read by countless others down through the ages. Lastly,

congratulations to VFI's newly elected Officers and Board members for 2009.

Steve Plotkin, Editor

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

Giving Back With My Hands What I took Into My Heart

I first visited the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv as a tourist with my synagogue group in May, 2007. I was very taken by the Palmach story and couldn't help but wonder what I would have done in their circumstances. So, when I got home I contacted as many organizations as I could think of with the mission of finding a volunteer program in Israel.

That is how I found Volunteers for Israel and Sar-El. The more I read, the better it got.

Five months later I found myself at an IDF base, Batzap, with 16 terrific volunteers, Jews and non-Jews, from Finland, Hungary, Germany, Israel, and the United States, and lots of really extraordinary Israeli soldiers.

I was hooked. Morning flag raising was very emotional for me. We joked about being soldiers, but these young people are so brave and so strong. From them we learned about patriotism and about being survivors. I felt honored to be working with them.

Seven months later I returned for my second tour of duty, this time for an extended 6 weeks. Added to the mix were volunteers from Canada, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Belgium, and France. I was also very fortunate to be guided by Adi, Dina, Orit, Shaked, and Shelley. These five Madrichot are the best in the "business." We laughed, we cried, we learned, we prayed, and we played.

I went to Israel to volunteer in hopes of giving back through my hands what I took into my heart as a tourist.



Doris Schyman, dschyman@yahoo.com

Volunteer Program Schedule for 2008-09

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 (Ulpan option) are designated.

2008 SCHEDULE — 26th Anniversary Year

Aug. 31/Sept. 1-Sept. 11, 2-week program, *Ulpan*
Sept. 14/15-Sept. 25, 2-week program, *Ulpan*
Oct. 5/6-Oct. 23, 2- or 3-week program, holiday base closed, *Ulpan*
Oct. 26-30, 1-week program
Oct. 26/27-Nov. 13, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Nov. 16/17-Dec. 4, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Dec. 7/8-Dec. 25, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Dec. 28/29-Jan. 15, 2009, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*

2009 SCHEDULE — 27th Anniversary Year

Jan. 18/19-Feb. 5, 2- or 3-week Program, *Ulpan*
Feb. 8/9-Feb. 26, 2- or 3-week Program, *Ulpan*
Feb. 8-Feb. 12, Special 1-week program
Mar. 1/2-Mar. 19, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Mar. 22/23-Apr. 8, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Apr. 19/20-May 7, 2- or 3-week program, holiday base closed, *Ulpan*
May 10/11-May 28, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
May 10-May 14, Special 1-week program

May 31/June 1-June 18, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
June 21/22-July 9, 3-week program, International Youth Group
June 21/22-July 9, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
July 12-July 30, 3-week program, International Youth Group
July 12/13-July 30, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Aug. 2/3-Aug. 20, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Aug. 23/24-Sept. 10, 2-week program, *Ulpan*
Sept. 13/14-Oct. 1, 2- or 3-week program, holiday base closings, *Ulpan*
Oct. 11-Oct. 15, Special 1-week program
Oct. 11/12-Oct. 29, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Nov. 1/2-Nov. 19, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Nov. 22/23-Dec. 10, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*
Dec. 13/14-Dec. 31, 2- or 3-week program, *Ulpan*

Ulpan Practical Hebrew Class

Classes are taught 2 nights a week by experienced professionals, the one-time fee of \$50 covers up to 3 weeks of classes.

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

NEWSBYTE CORNER

The Hoopoe Selected as the National Bird of Israel

After six months of electioneering, the Hoopoe, with 35 percent of the popular vote, beat out the Goldfinch. It was elected as Israel's National Bird in an emotional ceremony led by President Shimon Peres. Mentioned in the bible, the bird is not kosher.

During the campaign, 150,000 people – school children, IDF soldiers, and the general public, took part and voted for their favorite bird. The subject had a great impact on the general public and received amazing media coverage.



Improving VFI's E-Mail Lists

We need to continually update volunteer e-mail addresses from volunteer lists received at the end of your program. Please send us a copy of your volunteer list showing e-mail addresses. Please mail them to Steve Plotkin, TVC Editor, 1340 Brighton Way, Newtown Square, PA 19073. Thanks for helping us keep current.

Facebook.com and VFI

Facebook is an important social networking site with millions of members. We aim to engage current volunteers and to reach others who may want to join our volunteer program. You can help by pointing your friends to us and encouraging them to browse our group.

Help VFI by joining the "Volunteers for Israel®/Sar-El Program Alumni & Friends Group" on Facebook by clicking on: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6461698750

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

Can We Talk??

Cell phones are a natural and useful way of communicating for most of us. They *save time and sometimes they save lives!*

Accordingly, VFI encourages all volunteers to carry a suitable cell phone when traveling to Israel. Their cost is small; their value is incalculable, and they come with instructions that are easy to follow. Cell coverage is excellent and all Israelis have at least one.

First, the cell phone enables volunteers to stay in touch with family and friends at home, thereby decreasing anxiety on both ends. Second, in Israel, the phone is both a social convenience and a security measure, especially on weekend and holiday sojourns when volunteers must leave their bases. You can easily call hotels, restaurants, taxis, tourist sites, and Israeli contacts for more relaxed and efficient travel. Third, you will have easy access to other volunteers, your madricha, or Pam Lazarus, the Sar-El Coordinator, for simple questions or an emergency.

While some volunteers own their own international phone and an Israeli SIM card, others need to rent one. So VFI has arranged special rates with three recommended cell phone providers whose contact information is presented below.

AMIGO PHONES:	1.888.264.4687	www.amigo-us.com/vfi
Cell Talk:	1.866.801.9623	www.celltalk.co.il
IsraelPhones:	1.866.897.9393	www.israelphones.com

We hope all your talk is happy, and your cell phone helps make your Israel experience more pleasant, relaxing, and safe. Don't leave home without it!

Sale Price on VFI Travel Journal

The VFI Travel Journal is a 40-page spiral bound travel diary for travelers to Israel. It makes a great gift and is now sale priced at only \$10.00 per copy. See the order form on page 6.

Seeking a Few Good Volunteers

Volunteers needed with expertise in grant writing, fund raising, and marketing, to assist VFI at the national level. Contact vadebolton@comcast.net.

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—Steve Plotkin, Editor, steveplotkin@erols.com

—Barbara Abbott, Copy Editor

—Regina Stinger, Graphic Designer

VFI HAPPENINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Atlanta Region — On May 17, Mark Werner, author of *Army Fatigues*, the first book about the Sar-El experience, spoke to an audience of 40. Mark described his motivation for joining the VFI program and signed copies of his book. The superb desserts were arranged by Melanie Doctor and Miryam Relis.

On May 18, the Atlanta Jewish Federation sponsored a community wide Israel@60 Festival at the Marcus JCC attracting about 7,000 attendees. Our VFI South Region exhibit required two tables. One table held a television with the 2008 VFI Media DVD explaining why people go on VFI programs. Our second table presented a slideshow compiled by Stephen Prestwood that showed the various types of work done at IDF bases, emphasizing the “four star” accommodations and “gourmet” meals. Our exhibit was staffed by Tim Anderson, Melanie Doctor, Seymour Levine, Richard Miller, Alan Mintz, Stephen Prestwood, Miryam Relis, Barbara Ribner, and Mike Smith. They were busy handing out VFI brochures and bookmarks and answering questions from the hundreds of people passing by. Many people expressed their interest and intention to pursue the VFI program.

For further information and schedule update, please contact Alan Mintz at agmintz@mindspring.com.

Chicago Midwest Region — Can you interview, distribute posters, or follow up with returning volunteers? Do you want to speak about Volunteers for Israel to encourage MORE help for Israel? Call 1.888.246.3037 and let us know. Keep your experience alive and help us. If you have other ideas to promote VFI, please call or e-mail chicago@vfi-usa.org. We are only as good as the help we get!

Great Lakes Region — VFI was represented at several Israel @ 60 events including the Ann Arbor Michigan Israel fair on May 4th. Thanks to volunteers Carol Hoffer, Sharon Newman and Ed Kohl for sharing the duties. Also the Cleveland Israel @ 60 event included an Israeli rock band, and some IDF soldiers who previously encountered VFI volunteers, and the Toledo federation event where Jim Cihak and his wife had a table. For further information and schedule update, please contact Ed Kohl at 248.420.3729 or michigan@vfi-usa.org.

Las Vegas News — For further information and schedule update, please contact Fran and Jerry Goldberg at 702.914.6863.

Long Island Region — For further information and schedule update, please contact Eric Steinberg, Regional Ambassador at esteinb173@aol.com or 631.588.7438.

Los Angeles Region — Michael Friedman has been engaged part time to promote VFI to a large number of LA Jewish organizations. For further information and schedule update, please contact Carol and Isaac Hananel at 866.345.3352.

Metro New York — For NYC's Salute to Israel Parade, volunteers expressed an interest in marching with VFI's own float at the 2009 parade, independent of the Jewish Agency for Israel. To do so, we have to assume the covered costs and the parade registration cost of \$650. Renting and decorating a float starts at \$2,500. The deadline to register is December, 2008. If interested in taking a leadership role or participating in this initiative, please e-mail Richard Bernstein at rbernstein@vfi-usa.org.

For further information and schedule update, please contact Jaclyn Mishal at the VFI NYC office at 212.643.4848 or e-mail jaclynm@jafi.org.

Mid-Atlantic Region — We continue sending a steady number of volunteers to Sar-El. However, we wish to increase that number for the Fall and for all of 2009. It has been some time since we had a regional meeting and we plan to schedule one. This is an opportunity for some of our recent volunteers to attend and bring prospects as well as young people who have attended the highly successful International Youth Program. If you are interested in helping plan this activity, please contact Vade Bolton (703.860.0504) if you live in Virginia at vadebolton@comcast.net or if you live in Maryland, contact Marian Sacks (301.603.9099) at mbsacks31@hotmail.com.

Philadelphia — On April 27, the Philly group – 36 strong – went on the Volunteer program. At our closing meeting on May 21, most of the returning volunteers attended and brought pictures, stories, books, and their enthusiasm with them. Their excitement absolutely electrified the air!! The group consisted of past volunteers,

many of them multiple times, as well as first-timers. For all of them, this trip was one of the most exciting lifetime experiences they had ever had. You could feel it in the air at the meeting; you could sense it in their smiles; you could hear it in their joyous recounting of their time on the program. And now they are ready to go back again! In July, Jeanne Schachter addressed the Jewish War Veterans in Delaware.

Our first meeting on September 17 has Steve Feldman from ZOA speaking on topics of current interest. Meetings are held at the Klein Branch JCC, Red Lion Rd. and Jamison Ave. in Philadelphia starting at 7:00 p.m. Call Jeanne Schachter at 610.617.4048 for more schedule details or email jlsandjss@msn.com.

San Francisco Region — On Sunday, Sept. 21, “To Life! Street Festival” is held in Palo Alto. To Life! is a one-day celebration of Jewish culture and heritage sponsored by the Albert L. Schultz JCC. Attracting over 10,000 people, it showcases the diversity of Jewish art, music, dance, and food. Please join us there in the Tents of Community on California Street. If you can help us staff our booth at any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., please call Kay Warren at 510.339.0183 or e-mail vfi-5000@hotmail.com.

We had a wonderful time in May and June at the “Salute to Israel” in Sacramento and “Israel in the Gardens” in San Francisco. The community in Sacramento was super-friendly and supportive. In San Francisco, we offered to forward letters to soldiers in active IDF units. Almost 60 people wrote warm and genuine messages, and then thanked us for the opportunity. Our thanks go to those who took the time to write and to the volunteers who helped staff our tables to explain the value of volunteering through VFI.

For more information and to help out at these events, call Kay Warren at 510.339.0183 or e-mail vfi-5000@hotmail.com.

Ambassadors and Regional Directors — Many have joined the VFI ambassador's team and are having success working with their regional directors interviewing applicants, making presentations, and promoting VFI in their neighborhoods.

When you need help with an event, promotional materials, presentation ideas, etc., please contact Ed Kohl, Ambassador Coordinator, at eskohl@comcast.net or 248.788.0551.

VFI MEMBERSHIP, DONATIONS, AND ORDER FORM

Join Volunteers for Israel As a Full Member

VFI 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 jacket to the Chai-level benefits.
- For \$500 and above, the Ben-Gurion level provides you with a duffle bag.

Join our growing VFI community and become a VFI Member now!

Plant a Tree in Israel

Memorialize your life-cycle events with a tree in Israel. Use the coupon below with your check for \$18.00 per tree, your name, and to whom the donation certificates should be sent, and we will take care of the rest.

VFI is your direct link to the Jewish National Fund's (JNF) trees for Israel.

Mail to:

Marian Sacks, VFI Treasurer
13801 Bonsal Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20906
with your donation check payable to "Volunteers for Israel."



VFI MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

DESCRIPTION	DONATION	TOTAL	
VFI MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION			
Ben-Gurion (\$500 and above)	\$ ___		
Dayan (\$250)	\$250		
Sharon (\$100)	\$100		
Meir (\$50)	\$ 50		
Chai (\$18)	\$ 18		
VFI DONATION			
Contribution to VFI			
Contribution for specific VFI project			
DESCRIPTION	DONATION	QUANTITY	TOTAL
PLANT TREES IN ISRAEL			
JNF Trees — Include your name and to whom certificates be sent. (Includes tax and shipping)	\$18		

THE VFI STORE

VFI Travel Journal (an easy-to-carry 40-page spiral bound travel diary for travelers to Israel. It is filled with helpful information and maps.) NEW SALE PRICE	\$15 \$10		
VFI Army green baseball cap with VFI logo	\$20		
VFI Green fleece vest, sleeveless, with two zipper pockets and black collar	\$50		
VFI Small carry-on bag (duffle) with shoulder straps	\$60		
TOTAL DONATION ENCLOSED (All prices include tax and shipping)			\$

E-MAIL	TELEPHONE		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME		
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Please check your desired membership level, order items, and quantities.

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

Spending a Vacation With the Israeli Army?

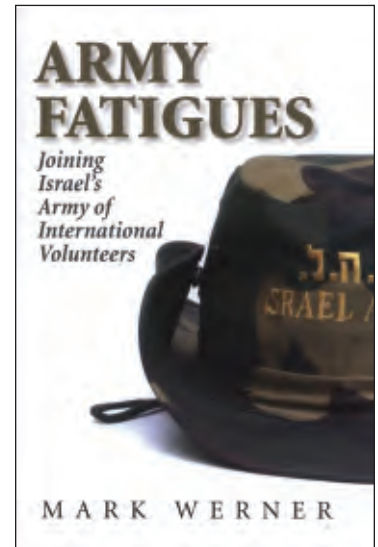
After 26 years, someone has finally written a story about the unique Volunteers for Israel/Sar-El experience with the IDF. The author, Mark Werner, is a corporate attorney and seven-time volunteer. His well-crafted 276-page book, *Army Fatigues: Joining Israel's Army of International Volunteers*, can be obtained through book retailers and *Amazon.com*.

Be cautioned, his book will recall fond memories and tug at your heart. This personal journey chronicles Mark's volunteer service with Israel's armed forces, his relatives' lives on the ground, and the challenged self-defense of a democratic society during 2002-05, a stressful time in Israel.

Mark's story is of a middle-aged American white collar professional taking leave from his comfort zone to make a meaningful contribution to Israel and forge his own connections to it. He accurately portrays all aspects of the volunteer experience, while illuminating the sub-text, the back-story, companionship, and emotions of the adventure.

He evokes the abundance of experiences many volunteers feel and should inspire and attract folks motivated to explore the volunteer program. This book makes a great gift for those who need a small push to volunteer.

Mark recently spoke at VFI Atlanta and is available for book talks to larger audiences.



“Everyone who cares about Israel’s survival as a democratic Jewish state with an army capable of defending its citizens... will benefit from reading this well-written diary of Werner’s fascinating experience.”

– Alan Dershowitz, Professor, Harvard Law School

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CONNECTION
SUMMER 2008**