

TEMPLE SINAI GOES TO ISRAEL

By Michelle Migdal



On June 6th the adventure began. Thirty Six travelers between the ages of 15 and 86 began two weeks of togetherness in the “Promised Land”. The group from Temple Sinai, led by Cantor Jennifer, began their much awaited visit to Israel.

The first stop was an immediate connection with the land as the group planted a tree in an undeveloped area in Modi’in on the road to Jerusalem. Their first lunch stop gave the group a view of Israel soldiers relaxing during lunch. To the surprise of the Delray residents, many of the soldiers wore flip-flops or open sandals while they carried machine-guns. This led to the general consensus that the usual dress code in Israel was casual but armed.

The visit to Jerusalem began with a welcome Kiddush on Mt. Scopus overlooking the city. The time spent in Jerusalem was strenuous and difficult for many, but was worth the time and effort. The visit to the Western Wall was emotional for all. The group climbed Masada by cable-car and floated in the Dead Sea where some received various spa treatments. The group experienced an unforgettable Friday night Shabbat service at the Haas Promenade.

Temple Sinai’s travelers then spent two nights in Hagoshrim, a kibbutz in the Upper Gaillee. The area had many stops which included a diamond factory, a sandal factory and a winery. The group bumped their way through the woods of the Golan Heights on a jeep ride and visited the mystical birthplace of kaballah, the city of Safed. Another cable car ride took the travelers to the top of Manara cliff where they overlooked

the Lebanese border. The evenings in the kibbutz were filled with Israel dancing and entertainment.

On the road to Tel Aviv, the group visited the famous ports of Acco and Haifa. The Azrieli Observatory provided a panoramic view of the amazing development in Tel Aviv. The Ayalon bullet factory created to prepare for the War of Independence, fascinated all members of the tour. The group also enjoyed the visit to the Palmach Museum commemorating the soldiers lost in that war. Cantor Jennifer led the group in another moving Shabbat service on the roof of the hotel over looking the sunset on the Mediterranean.

After two weeks of climbing stairs, walking on uneven streets, and hours on the bus, the group ended the trip with a drive through the Negev Dessert and Beersheva to Eilat. The more adventurous travelers visited Petra in Jordan while the rest enjoyed the shopping, swimming and relaxation of Eilat. The trip ended with a three hour lunch cruise on the Red Sea. The younger members of the group jumped off the boat into the Red Sea and warmed up in the Jacuzzi. The tired and happy travelers returned to Delray Beach on June 20th, 2006.

The 36 travelers from Temple Sinai made many new friends on this memorable journey. The group enjoyed one amazing experience after another during the time spent in Israel. This amazing journey allowed the members of Temple Sinai to fully experience their heritage while they got to know their fellow congregants.