



THE VOICE

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In This Issue

- AJLI Director: A Rewarding Experience
- AJLI Lunch Forums in New York
- Scholarship Recipients
- Florida Chapter Events

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A New Beginning

Each year around this time, the Jewish People have a new beginning. I would like to share with you the exhilarating process the Scholarship committee experiences each year in selecting recipients. Among those the committee chose this year is the brilliant Adamwho wants to pursue a career as a politician or staff member at some level in Washington, DC. Then there is Lena.....who aspires to study international law, diplomacy and dispute resolution. Elana..... while continuing her academic studies in Israel, expects



to work with refugees to acclimate to Israeli society and also to work with children suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Geoffrey..... from Texas plans to run for public office and serve as an advocate for Israel and the Jewish People. All the others chosen have equally lofty ambitions and our modest investment in them will return magnificent results of which you and I can be proud. Together, through our University Scholarship Program, we are making an important contribution.

This year, as in the past, we received approximately 100 applications. Deciding which ones will receive one of our grants is both challenging as well as heartbreaking. Our foundation funds limit how many grants we can give. Over the past few years, we have distributed over 220 grants. But we have chosen wisely. Among our past recipients are a number of rabbis, senior members of the various think tanks in Washington, DC, the editor of AIPAC's newsletter, members of the State Department and other US government agencies as well as academics at some of the most prestigious universities.

Dr. Martin L. Kalmanson
National President

May this New Year be filled with . . . good health, success and happiness . . . sweet moments . . . for you and your family
SHANA TOVA

2009 Scholarship Recipients



Adam: Graduate of Vassar College, with honors. He received a Masters Degree with a focus on politics and modern Jewish thought at the University of Chicago. He speaks German, Spanish and French. He will start his PhD program at Hebrew University.



Lina: Has a BA in Middle Eastern Studies. She will be attending Tel Aviv University's Masters program. She speaks Arabic and Hebrew and plans to attend Law School in the US after attaining her MA degree in Israel, all with the intention of using her skills to be active in the Jewish community.



Elana: Is a graduate of a Modern Orthodox Jewish high school in California. She will be attending Ben-Gurion University and majoring on the Peace and Regional Security track, in which she will study Hebrew and Arabic. She will participate in helping refugees from Sudan and will be working with children suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder while she is in Be'er Sheva.



Geoffrey: Our Honors graduate from the University of Texas is going to Hebrew University to attend the M.A. Program in Society and Politics in Israel. He was active in Hillel and AIPAC and involved in social justice programs. While at UT, he involved himself in numerous volunteer activities including working with people with disabilities, blood drive and the local Hillel.



Jolene: At California State University, she was President of Hillel where she grew the attendees at events from 10 to over 100. She was founder and president of the Jewish Studies Club on campus. Earlier, she was a volunteer Youth Director for United Synagogue Youth and she continues her volunteering while acquiring her BA in Jewish Studies.



Yonit: She obtained her degree from Harvard, majoring in Biochemical Sciences with a minor in Philosophy. She will pursue her Masters at Hebrew University with the intent to continue on to medicine or a PhD in Biology. Her Philosophy background and her deep religious feelings lead her to feel a moral obligation towards social action where she sees as Jewish values.



Maura: After receiving a BA, with honors, with majors in both Psychology and Jewish, Islamic and Near eastern Studies from Washington University in St. Louis, Maura is off to Ben-Gurion University to pursue her Masters. Maura has completed three years at Rabbinical school and has served as Student Rabbi in Rapid City, SD; Beckley, WV; Fort Walton Beach, FL and in the Crimea, Ukraine.



Aviva: After graduation from Rutgers with Dean's list honors, Aviva is off the Hebrew University to get her M.A. in Community Leadership and Philanthropy. She plans to work in the non-profit sector when she returns to the US. Her past activities and her future studies will prepare her for her stated aspiration to work in the specific areas of young girls' adolescent development, including their emotional, social and intellectual concerns.



Debra: She has completed her sophomore year at Brandeis University where she is a double major in Sociology and Jewish Education. She is on her way to a Hebrew University to continue her education with the stated goal of a doctorate and work in the Jewish community. She intends to continue her volunteer work in Israel as she has done so often here in the US.



Melody: As a sophomore, Melody has chosen to go to the International Center (IDC) in Herzliya to pursue her plans to receive an MBA in Business Management, Finance and Accounting. Her two years at Brooklyn College were illuminated by her impressive GPA of 3.825 and her volunteering in Israeli interest activities.

YES, I want to change lives and insure the future!

General Contribution

University Scholarship Fund

I pledge: Check Enclosed Credit Card Payment (see below)

\$25,000* \$15,000** \$5,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$100 \$50 Other Amount\$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

MasterCard/VISA _____ Exp. Date _____

Authorized Signature _____

Make checks payable to American Jewish League for Israel

Mail this form along with your check to: *American Jewish League for Israel,
PO Box 33532, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420-3532*



AJLI Director: A Very Rewarding Experience

By Jeff Scheckner

Six years ago, I began a very rewarding journey as Director of the American Jewish League for Israel. I have been fortunate to represent AJLI at meetings and events held by the World Confederation of United Zionists, the Salute to Israel Parade Committee, World Jewish Congress, the Mayor's Jewish Outreach group, JCRC, Israel fairs, Jewish cultural exhibitions and other prestigious events. At these functions, AJLI has become increasingly known as the organization that supports young adults in their quest to further connect with Israel through college study.

It is also very rewarding to interact with students and observe the joy and appreciation each expresses upon receiving our scholarship. However, this exuberance is tempered with feelings of sadness for many talented and highly qualified students who applied for our scholarship but were turned down because of our limited funds. Emotions expressed by both groups have motivated me to redouble my efforts to raise additional monies through foundation grants. But a greater challenge is motivating AJLI members to rejoin and encourage others not currently members to also join, thereby adding funds to our scholarship holdings. I believe we are playing a significant part in ensuring a thriving Jewish community in the future.

Kudos

Rita Kreisberg for her leadership role as President of the Florida Chapter.

Bill Resnick for his marvelous work as the Florida Treasurer.

Karl Zukerman for his professionalism as chair of the University Scholarship Grant Committee

Vivien and Lou Ivry for chairing the most successful annual luncheon.

Norma and David Maitin for a great job chairing our event at PocMont Hotel.

Morris Horowitz, Program Chair for creative programs.

Carmela Kalmanson for raising funds through theatre parties.

AJLI Lunch Forums: Opportunities to Learn & Advocate

Several times each Spring and Fall, the American Jewish League for Israel holds Lunch Forums in New York City at our host facility, the Jewish National Fund. Joining with longtime friends for lunch, our goal is to help enlighten members about the latest news affecting Israel. Guest presenters provide a behind the scenes perspective otherwise not available in the general media. Through these sessions, attendees become better advocates for Israel.

Recent speakers at our Forums have included **Benjamin Krasna**, Deputy Consul General of Israel; **Danielle Roffman** of the Committee for Accuracy on Middle East reporting (CAMERA); **Arielle Reshef** of the Israel on Campus Coalition; **Gary Kenzer**, Executive Director of Honest Reporting; **Ellen Lyons**, National Vice President of Hadassah; **Eric Steinberg** of Volunteers for Israel; **Ariel Cutler** of One Family Fund; **Elana Lichtenstein**, Leadership Management Director of American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and **Dani Klein**, Campus Coordinator for Stand with Us, an Israel advocacy group. AJLI has also held regional brunch meetings in Cherry Hill and Watchung, New Jersey.

Our speakers from AIPAC, Honest Reporting and CAMERA educated our members how to read between the lines and spot biases and inaccurate information in media reports on Israel. The presentation from One Family Fund was very emotional as Mr. Cutler discussed how his organization brings together Israeli families, particularly children who suffered through terrorist attacks, assisting with therapy, legal services and family support. Dani Klein helped us realize that Israel remains the only free country in the Middle East and serves as a beacon of democracy, center of technology and light unto nations.



HOLD THE DATES

Lunch Forums in New York

Sunday,
September 13th

Tuesday,
October 13th

Florida Luncheon Meetings

Monday,
November 3rd

Tuesday,
January 5th

Dramaworks Plays in West Palm Beach

Sunday,
November 8th

Sunday,
January 10th

Sunday,
March 15th

Fall Lunch Forums Planned: Visit to the Center for Jewish History and Presentation from the World Jewish Congress

On **Sunday, September 13**, AJLI will be hosting a Lunch Forum at the Center for Jewish History (located at 15 West 16th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues), home to five preeminent Jewish institutions dedicated to Jewish history, culture and art. It unites under one roof collections and exhibits that bring together centuries of Jewish life:

- The American Jewish Historical Society includes collections of documents, books, art and memorabilia from the 16th century to the present.
- The American Sephardi Federation is dedicated to promoting the rich cultural and religious tradition and influence of the international Sephardic community.
- The Leo Baeck Institute is a repository depicting the vibrant history and life of German speaking Jews displayed in photographs, and community and family histories.
- The Yeshiva University Museum displays Jewish life from the past and present, and provides a creative interpretation of Jewish history and culture.
- The YIVO Institute is dedicated to the study of East European Jewry, Yiddish language and culture. Many photographs depicting pogroms, the Holocaust and Jewish immigration to the United States are part of their collections.

We will gather in the lobby of the Center for Jewish History at 12:00 NOON to enjoy kosher deli sandwiches and salads, and then proceed on a guided tour of the facilities. The cost of \$20 includes lunch and the tour. AJLI members will enjoy a discounted rate of \$18. Reservations must be made by September 11 by calling AJLI Director, Jeff Scheckner at 212-371-1583 or via e-mail at ajlijms@aol.com.

On **Tuesday, October 13**, our Lunch Forum will feature a presentation by Betty Ehrenberg, Executive Vice Chair of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) . Founded in 1936, the WJC (www.worldjewishcongress.org) is involved with serving Jewish communities in over 100 countries on issues as Iran, Holocaust legacy, inter-religious affairs, Israel, Jews in Arab lands and terrorism. Reservations must be made by October 11. The cost is \$10 for members and \$13 for non-members. To reserve, please call or e-mail Mr. Scheckner at 212-371-1583 or ajlijms@aol.com.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



AJLI Summer Sojourn

Normal Segal Maitin and **Dr. David Maitin** chaired an outstanding five-day AJLI convention at Pocmont Resort in the Pocono Mountains on June 28 – July 2, 2009. The members experienced glorious weather, a lovely facility, delicious food and exciting activities, both mental and physical.

Morning exercise classes followed by afternoon seminars featured the following: **Jeff Scheckner**, AJLI Executive Director, who presented Jewish genealogy; and **Dr. Sandra Alfonsi**, Hadassah National Vice President, shared the national project she initiated, reviewing and correcting misinformation in history books used in public schools regarding the Holocaust, Israel and American history. The members also enjoyed Jewish Gematria as presented by **Jerry Silverman** and **Gilah Lewis Seitz**, humorist and teacher. She shared her insight on finding humor in Jewish life specifically.

There was enjoyable evening entertainment, swimming in beautiful pools and a warm feeling of camaraderie. Please plan to join us next year!

Welcome to the Sunshine State

The Florida Chapter welcomes you to join us for our monthly meetings, theatre parties and luncheons when you come to Florida, whether for a week, a few months or the entire year.

Luncheon Meetings

Mark your calendar. Our first luncheon meeting will take place on **Monday, November 3**, at noon at **Sarini's Place, Kosher Dining, 7352 Lake Worth Road, Lake Worth**. We will hear from a representative of the Israel Tennis Center. The Center has been instrumental in training and developing skills in young Israelis and new immigrants. They experience the joy of excelling and competing in a sport.

The next meeting is scheduled for **January 5, 2010** when **Rabbi Nathan Goldstein** will address the issue, **What is Kashruth?**

For further details, please contact Rita Kreisberg, President of the Florida Chapter at rikreis@aol.com.

Theatre Parties

The ongoing classical theatre series at the award winning **Palm Beach Dramaworks** in West Palm Beach will begin on **Sunday, November 8th at 2 p.m.** The first play, **A Doll's House**, by **Henrik Ibsen**, is a landmark play that catapulted him to international recognition.

The second play, **Copenhagen**, winner of three Tony awards, by **Michael Frayan** can be seen on **Sunday, January 10th**. The third play, **American Buffalo**, by **David Mamet** is set for **Sunday, March 15th**.

Costs for individual tickets are \$40.00. For more details, please contact Carmela Kalmanson at ckalmanson@aol.com.

