

JFGM, New Hampshire's Federation, Sister "City":



Screenshot of Hof HaCarmel Web page, telling of meeting with their American- New Hampshire- Sister City representatives.

English Translation of Hebrew Web Page Above:

New Hampshire-Hof HaCarmel Sister City Project

Journey to beautiful corners, warm people and a virgin view.

Monday evening, a moment before the lighting of the menorah, we met with our guests at the lovely Nir Etzion Hotel. Three strangers who came here to seek a connection and a partnership for a dream. A dream which contains values, co-operation, lots of Jewish spices, tradition and roots.

Over a cup of coffee in the hotel lobby, ideas surfaced which were embellished during the course of the week. There the ideas became possibilities: adopting soldiers, delegations of youth to Poland, summer camps in Israel and in NH, connections between artists, schools and more. We later hosted our visitors at a candle lighting ceremony at the Merav Center, our community center.

Our new friends, Adam, Pamela and Jeremy, active in the Jewish Federation of Greater Manchester in New Hampshire, told us that it has been two years that they have been looking for a partnership community in Israel. They turned to Boston, their neighbors to the south, who have a long standing connection with Haifa. Boston/Haifa recommended that they connect with us.

The connection was established between Oren Kanter, the representative from Kibbutz Hahotrim and Yossi Gluzman, once the director of the Haifa municipality and who currently functions as the representative of the Boston/Haifa connection. The connection with Adam Solender, director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Manchester was made three months ago, and the rest is history.

The state of New Hampshire, a state which borders with Canada in to the North, became famous for its beautiful maple tree foliage, which sheds in great quantities of orange and yellow. In the state, there are approximately 1.1 million inhabitants, of them about 16,000 Jews.

When we asked why precisely the Carmel Coast, Jeremy answered with excitement : "We have a common denominator in many domains.

Rural lands, stunning views, beautiful coastline, many areas of tourism, and people occupied with agriculture and art!" We didn't need to be convinced. We also have an area abounding with historical sites of international repute, the most beautiful beaches in Israel, and special people - many of whom we met during the week.

We began the tour of at the "Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp", with the guidance of Tzvika Harary, who was instrumental in restoring this camp as a visitor center. There with sparkling eyes, he related the history of the Jewish people. The site and experience was intensely penetrating and made an enormous impression on our guests. Next, we continued to tour the galleries of Ein Hod. The artists of the village made a great impression on them, particularly on Pamela, who herself weaves baskets. Our conversation flowed. We ended the ride with an authentic Arab feast in Ein Hud.

In the coming days they enjoyed a visit to Caesarea seeing both the modern interactive displays and the ancient city. We visited the Hannah Senesh museum at "Kibbutz Sdot Yam", the "Fields of Israel" at Keren Maharal, the winery at Makura ranch, banana plantations and "Plasson" and "Suron" industries.

Our guests spent a complete day visiting schools in the region, and met with a group of students with a high level of English proficiency. Equipped with new ideas to establish connections between youth, they returned exhausted to the hotel. Their notebooks began to fill up.

The human bonds that were formed between us, the warmth of heart, the openness and the personal understanding that evolved, will all ensure a long term connection.

At the closing meeting that took place in the office of the mayor of the region, ideas resurfaced, and our guests talked of the warm and embracing hospitality. A moment before we separated, Adam surprised those sitting around with his contribution to the educational system: A miracle of Channukah?

EIN HOD FEATURED ARTIST

Lea Ben-Arye, Designer of Wearable Art

Fabric designer Lea Ben-Arye's natural artistic talents are apparent in the fashion pieces she creates. With no formal fashion design background, Ben-Arye designs, produces, and sells her one-of-a-kind fashion accessories from her studio in the artist village of Ein Hod. The timeless fashion pieces—scarves, jackets, coats, wraps— are created with a screening method she developed.

printmaking go back three generations, but Ben-Arye prints in a different medium than did her ancestors.



Dan & Lea Ben-Arye in their Art & Wear Gallery at Ein-Hod Village Center, Israel, featuring Dan's paintings and sculptures, and Lea's Judaica, craft, wearable-art and prints.

Since her marriage to artist Dan Ben-Arye, she has lived in Ein Hod. The success of her timeless fashion accessories has allowed Ben-Arye to realize her dream of making a living from her art—the dream of all artists. Ten years ago, she opened a gallery in the village where visitors from all over the world come to buy her fashion accessories.

First Ben-Arye blocks the screen with paper cuts. Although the precut pieces of paper have a random look, in fact, Ben-Arye carefully selects the composition. The screen is then placed on top of the fabric to hold the paper in place. Paint is applied. Ben-Arye then mixes the paints to achieve unusual colors and tones. She adds pigments and metal dust to achieve a unique look each time. The paints are acrylic-based and the garments washable.

Following my studies, I worked on several graphic projects, the most exciting was the design and supervision of large outdoor graphic murals totaling in all 3.5 sq. kms. When I moved to Ein-Hod, I studied pottery, jewelry and silkscreen printing combined with hand painting. The mixed media of garment painting, I have developed and refined to meet my own particular needs. The result is a limited edition of fabrics and garments which express a total personal concept."

A native-born Israeli, Ben-Arye's family has lived in the city of Safed for four generations. Her roots in the art of

Highlights

- * Born 1957, Safed, Israel.
- * Presently living and working in the artist village of Ein-Hod.
- * Member of the Israeli Design Craft Association.
- * Selected by the Israeli Fashion Center of

Israel Export Institute, among the best 14 designers to be promoted abroad.

Studies

Canadian Hadassah Wizo, College of Design. Technion Institute of Haifa, Graphic Design. Silkscreen printing, pottery, in Ein-Hod.

Web links:

- Wearable art - <http://ein-hod.israel.net/benarye/lea/leaw.htm>
- Judaic - <http://ein-hod.israel.net/benarye/lea/leaj.htm>
- Glass Beads Jewelry - <http://ein-hod.israel.net/benarye/lea/bead.htm>



HOF HAcARMEL (CARMEL COAST) REGION OF ISRAEL

Hof-HaCarmel was founded July 2, 1951. Geographically, it can be defined by its regional neighbors: Haifa to the north, Carmel mountains to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the west and Zichron Ya'akov and Caesarea to the south. The size of the region is approximately 64 square miles, which includes a large part of the Carmel Park. There are approximately 25 settlements in the area, which include 12 moshavim, 8 kibbutzim and 3 boarding schools. The city of Caesarea, the town of Atlit, an artist village named Ein Hod and an Arab village called Ein Hud complete the picture. The population of the region is approximately 20,000 people.

In the past, agriculture was the main source of income for the region. During the last 20 years, industry and tourism have flourished and today's economy is based on all three branches. Some of the major agricultural products include bananas, citrus groves, cotton, dairy farming, poultry, fish farming, grapes and flowers.

Most of the industrial factories are located on kibbutzim. One of the leading facilities in the world for the manufacture of injection-molded plastics is "Plasson" on Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael.

Tourism is vibrant owing to the beautiful natural surroundings, a rich selection of accommodations and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Sister City Relationship: What is it all about?

By Pamela Englander

As we in New Hampshire embark upon a Sister City Relationship with the beautiful region of Hof HaCarmel (The Carmel Coast) it is important to clarify some of the history and current status of such relationships.

In 1956 President Eisenhower established the Sister City Program as a national movement for global community partnerships and volunteer action. One of the major goals of such relationships is to stimulate environments through which communities creatively learn to work and solve problems together, to develop reciprocal cultural, municipal, business, technical and professional exchanges and projects. These goals remain integral to the Sister City concept in the Jewish world, which adopted the concept many years ago by "twinning cities in the United States with those in Israel. Some of the most well known are: New York with Jerusalem, Los Angeles with Tel-Aviv and Boston with Haifa.

The Boston-Haifa partnership began in 1989 as CJP's leadership and partners in Haifa collaborated in the area of economic development, especially job creation, in order to assist Haifa in absorbing large numbers of Jews from the former Soviet Union. The Boston-Haifa connection, as it is referred to today, has evolved into an initiative that strives to provide opportunities for individuals to work together in many areas of mutual interest to both communities. This is a noticeable transition from the traditional Project Renewal-type twinning model in which one side gave and the other received. Here decision-making is a joint process. Their partnership is a model of collaboration.

The Sister City relationship is a joint partnership between diaspora communities and their Israeli partners. A primary function of this relationship could be viewed as making matches between organizations and people in both communities who share mutual interests, thereby stimulating joint collaborations. There are currently approximately 100 regions linked with about 100 diaspora communities. The time has come for us to be a part of this.

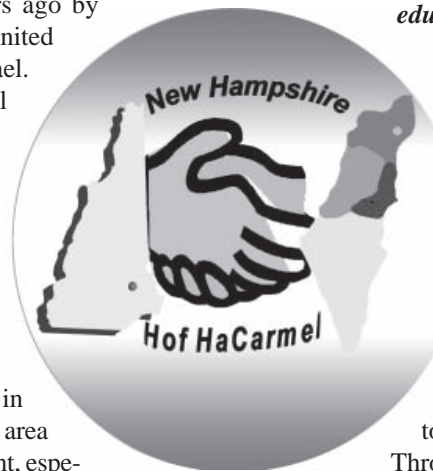
Being a community that is in some respects a "suburb" of Boston, advantages were seen in seeking a similar "suburb" type region near Haifa. When the Hof HaCarmel region was suggested by the Boston-Haifa partnership, the advantages of size, location and composition of the region appeared unsurpassable.

The groundwork has now been laid. New Hampshire and Hof HaCarmel have

both established Steering Committees which will govern the future direction of the initiative. The Steering Committees will establish priorities, approve projects and budget while subcommittees will oversee individual projects. It is hoped many more people will become involved as projects are initiated and connections established. Projects vary from Federation to Federation, based on priorities, needs and resources on both the Israeli and American ends. The success of a project is judged differently from one partnership to another.

In general, Sister City projects fall into one of four broad categories, although boundaries are likely to become blurred across program areas:

People to people (living bridges), **education, social and welfare and regional development.** Most



partnerships (excluding those involving the largest Federations) are moving in the direction of funding fewer, larger projects, mostly in the People to People category.

Through missions to Israel, a vision that is already under discussion, as well as missions to New Hampshire, it is envisaged that more individuals on both sides of the ocean will come to feel part of the growing connection.

At present, our first project is underway; namely, connecting with Hof HaCarmel soldiers who are currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces. NH Synagogue Religious School Principals around the state have embraced the concept of reaching out to soldiers of the Hof

HaCarmel region (more than 10 of them) who are currently serving their term of duty. Our children (and many adults) are writing letters to the soldiers and joining with the regional council of Hof HaCarmel in presenting these soldiers with the letters and gifts at their Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence day) ceremonies. involvement has been



Hof HaCarmel Seal

embraced by our new friends in Hof HaCarmel as an extremely meaningful and desirable enhancement of this program.

Currently there is work or communication going on in various areas of connection or potential for collaboration with the Hof HaCarmel region. There is a place for everyone who is interested in being involved in this wonderful endeavor. Please contact the JFGM Sister City Steering Committee if this is something you would like to find out more about.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN IN THE FUN?

To join the Steering Committee of the Hof HaCarmel-New Hampshire Sister City Venture please call Kathy at 627-7679 or email: office@jewishnh.org. No matter what your level of interest, we want you!