




 SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY



 OurWay


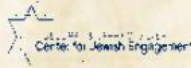
Join your PJ Library® friends and the
ENTIRE JEWISH COMMUNITY to


Light Up
 THE 8TH NIGHT OF
CHANUKAH


DECEMBER 19, 2017 AT 5:30 PM
AT BOCA CENTER · 5050 TOWN CENTER CIRCLE
 (ON MILITARY TRAIL 1 MILE NORTH OF PALMETTO PARK ROAD)

There will be latkes, gelt, surprises and more!
 5:30 pm - Crafts & Storytime
 6:00 pm - Candle Lighting and Musical Entertainment

For more information, email pjlibrary@bocafed.org.







My Reflections on the Federation Mission to Israel



Rabbi Reuven Feinberg

DEAN, TORAH ACADEMY OF BOCA RATON

Last week, my wife and I had the privilege to represent Torah Academy on the South Palm Beach County Federation Mission to Israel. Though it was not our first time on the trip, I am perpetually amazed by its enlightening and uplifting impact on me - spiritually, professionally and personally. Through heartfelt discussions, an emotion-filled itinerary, and an unspoken yet tangible bond with friends old and new, the experience is singular. The mission fostered growth and understanding on new levels that I believe will ultimately make me a better Jew, a better person and a better Yeshiva Dean.


Participating also gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation to our Federation for all their support and friendship. This past year, the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County granted Torah Academy close to \$250,000 to aid our families needing tuition assistance - forever giving their leadership and donors a share in the Jewish Education and perpetuation of values that a TABR experience facilitates.

There is just no place on earth like our birthright, Eretz Yisrael, for laying bare the heart and soul of any Jew - the stones are saturated with our history, the air heavy with perseverance and fortitude. With the best backdrop in the world, our group of people from different Jewish backgrounds coalesced for another unforgettable trip. Our tour began in Tel Aviv as the Mayor welcomed us to the land of our forefathers. We visited Independence Hall, site of the signing of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and symbol of Israel's statehood. We were also warmly welcomed to Zichron Yaakov, Boca Raton's sister city in Israel, spent time on an IDF

army base, visited the security fence in the Golan, toured the Knesset, strolled the fragrant streets of Yerushalayim, and of course poured out our hearts and danced at our holy Kosel- the Western Wall. We were treated to speakers on a wide range of political and security topics and visited several institutions that our local Federation supports.

The true beauty of the trip was revealed by the achdus, the unity, that was created amongst our group. Our brothers and sisters of the greater Boca Raton Jewish Community - from various backgrounds, affiliations and levels of observance, were united by a single commonality: that we are all Jews. Our shared pride in our immutable Jewish identity, and passion for maintaining that identity at the strongest level possible, gives rise to a common purpose all the more important because of the times in which we live.

Somehow, sitting in a circle elicits powerful reflections, which we all shared at the end of the mission. It was incredibly touching to hear each participant share their thoughts on our joined experiences, the future of the Boca Raton Jewish community, and the Jewish people. Our sages teach that the Jewish People are merciful, humble, charitable, and doers of kindness. These special qualities were very much on display all around our circle; we all have much to learn from these true heroes.

We are all truly blessed to live in a community that feels a sense of kinship and responsibility for all Jews. We must continue to celebrate our unity, constantly remind ourselves that we are all one nation, and redouble our efforts to maintain our bonds of friendship and faith. 

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Shomer Shabbat

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