

Summer 2018 Message from President Howie Hirsch

Our temple's Israel trip was everything that I hoped it would be. It was educational. It was enlightening. It was fun. It was a bonding experience the likes of which I have not experienced before. Going on a trip with 14 people, some of whom were close friends and some who were known, but not as close was so wonderful. The people on the trip that I did not know as well as the others, I learned so much about them and left the trip hoping to spend more time together. The close friends that I had, we became even closer (I hope).



When I travel, the one thing that I look for in the people I travel with is the ability to handle the things that go wrong without going crazy. I knew we were in for a good trip by the time we left the Tel Aviv airport. Someone had picked up Helene's luggage and left the airport with it. Helene was trooper and never lost her perspective and her good mood. Her luggage was returned within an hour and our tour started. The second major thing to go wrong was Roy's wallet was stolen at the Dead Sea. Roy handled this as well as humanly possible. I don't know if I would have been able to be calm as he was, but he showed me how to handle adversity coolly and calmly. I was very impressed.

Our tour guide Uri was phenomenal. From the start with his getting on the bus and speaking to us in a thick Israeli accent and then asking us if we would prefer normal English, to his hysterical recounting of Jewish history from Adam thru the founding of the State of Israel in Caesarea, he made the trip exceptional.

When people ask me what was my favorite part of the trip, it is almost impossible to pick out one. We did so much, saw so much and learned so much, it was mind boggling. The group is trying to go through our pictures and plan on sharing the trip with the temple sometime this fall. I hope that you will be able to join us for this evening when we share our experience as a group. Also, ask any of us about the trip and you are sure to get a different experience, as we all experienced this trip through our own eyes.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the High Holidays in early September.

Shalom and Love,

Howie

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