

To: Those who gave me Charitable (Tzedakah) funds for my trip to Israel and others interested in pursuing some of the people and projects I discovered during my stay.

From: Danny Siegel, your Shaliach-Messenger

I would like to report on my activities on your behalf in 3 parts: (1) a summary of where, when, and how much I contributed, (2) follow-up notes and addresses for your future reference, and (3) general comments I have to make, having just recently rearrived in the States.

1. At my disposal was a total of \$955, or 5730 Israeli Pounds (6IL=\$1), which was distributed in the following manner (all stated in pounds):

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| Flowers distributed to Yad LaKashish for Shabbas | 1/9 | 60 |
| Flowers for sildiers at Hadassah Hospital | 1/10 | 40 |
| To Chayah Pe'er for a sweater for "Batya" | 1/12 | 150 |
| To Mrs. Michaelis--Maren | 1/12 | 250 |
| 8 trees in the Peace Forest | 1/13 | 144 |
| To Chayah Pe'er for additional clothes for "Batya" | 1/14 | 50 |
| Flowers for soldier at Hadassah | 1/14 | 5 |
| Rabbi Molk for needy children | 1/16 | 500 |
| Yitzchak Almagor for Russian Immigrants | 1/16 | 450 |
| Flowers for Shaare Tzedek & Bikur Cholim Hospitals | 1/17 | 62 |
| To Hadassah Levi for Meon HaYeled children | 1/19 | 600 |
| To Mickey Shur for refreshments at a bris | 1/23 | 50 |
| Flowers for Hadassah Hospital paitents | 1/24 | 69 |
| Rachel Zafrani for poor families | 1/26 | 450 |
| To Aharon Langermann for private fund at the Welfare Department | 1/26 | 350 |
| Dr. Pesach Schindler--private charitable fund | 1/26 | 200 |
| Rabbi Simcha Kling for the Central Library for the Blind | 1/26 | 250 |
| Aviva Goldberg for the Hesillah girls | 1/27 | 250 |
| Lisa Schwartz for Mossad Ahavah (as instructed) | 1/27 | 90 |
| Harabbanit Bracha Kapach for poor families | 1/28 | 600 |
| Sara Pearl for soldiers | 1/29 | 150 |
| Adina Geller for Nitzvot in Tzefat | 1/30 | 150 |
| Yeshivat HaKotel (as instructed) | 1/30 | 60 |
| Flowers for distribution by HaRabbanit Kapach | 1/31 | 44 |
| A beggar in Jerusalem (as instructed) | 1/31 | 6 |
| HaRabbanit Kapach for shoes for children | 1/31 | 150 |
| Amy Eilberg for a widow (a loan) | 2/2 | 175 |
| Boris Fiman for gasoline to drive HaRabbanit Kapach around | 2/3 | 100 |
| Ya'akov Maimon for essentials in poverty areas | 2/4 | 150 |
| Harcy Goldman--books for tutoring | 2/4 | 25 |
| Bennet Spungin for an orphanage | 2/4 | 100 |

2. Notes and addresses (assume the addresses are Jerusalem, unless otherwise indicated):

A. Yad LaKashish (Life Line for the Old) 12 Shivtei Yisrael, 287-829, Mrs. Miriam Mendelow, Director. An extraordinary collection of projects, mainly workshops for old people. Mrs. Mendelow is a Righteous Woman (there will be about a half-dozen of the Righteous on this list) occupying and helping the old to retain their dignity as human beings and to continue productive living. Buy gifts for your friends at their giftshop instead of at the local merchants.

B. Flowers at hospitals: at Hadassah there is a military office (called Ram 2) as you go in the main gate. They are very helpful in pointing you to soldiers who are lonely and would like visitors. Channah Jacobsen (20 Bar Kochba, 221-902) works in Pediatrics and can help you around the hospital. For the other two hospitals, the people in the P.R. offices were kind and helpful on our pre-Shabbas rounds.

C. Chayah Pe'er, 19 Sokolov, 32903, knows specific people who are in need of assistance, none of whom would seek help through other channels. Her husband, Aryeh, also does this sort of work, but with different people. I would start with Chayah (she also makes dynamite chocolate cake). As with all these other people, use my name as reference. "Batya" is a young girl in a mental institution (she has been in more than one for a number of years). She is really alone except for the Peers.

D. Mrs. Eva Michaelis, Shlomo Holcho 6, 32148, a genteel, sensitive Righteous One who has worked with retarded people of all ages for years. Her present project is Magen, a place she wants to set up for older retarded people whose parents are either too old or too sick to care for them. There is a real need for substantial sums of money here. She, as in the case with most of the others, suffers grief from the inefficiency of governmental agencies and has to carry on much of the battle herself. My contribution was made to a small, private "Birthday Fund" which is at her immediate disposal for whatever emergencies or needs may arise. I felt the money would stretch better this way (rather than trying to give it to the building fund). Mrs. Michaelis directed me to Irene Gaster, 44 Ramban, 31135, a 77-year-old incredible human being, wonder-worker, who is involved with Magen, and is, indeed, the founder or most of the institutions in Israel having to do with the retarded. Her house is always open and when you go to Israel, you must stop by and have her tell you the stories of people she has helped (and include questions abouts her work and that of Mrs. Michaelis saving children from the Nazis), and her recollections of Henrietta Szold. Just let her talk about anything.

E. Trees planted for various individuals in honor or in memory of people with whom I am acquainted. Over 115,000,000 trees have been planted by JNF since 1948, and it is still a critical priority. Besides, if my Zeyde at age 80 can bend down in the dirt and plant trees, we all can.

F. Rabbi Mordechai Gimpel HaKohen Molk, Alfasi 25, Rehavia, in charge of HaVaad HaArtzi Lema'an Hatzalat HaIhoar BeYisrael (roughly: the National Committee for Saving Children in Israel). My contact was his cousin, Mickey Shur, who may be reached at Yeshivat HaTefutzot on Mt. Zion 63667, who will be happy to take you to him. He is a scholarly, religious man of distinguished rabbinic lineage who embodies the best of what orthodox Jewish living can bring about. He seeks out children, particularly those from large families who could do better in Yeshivahs or who need clothes, shoes, food, care, weddings, whatever.

G. Yitzchak Almagor, Ma'avar HaHitla 3, Ramat Eshkol, 288-752, Chairman of Agudat Akadama'im Olay Brit HaMoatzot Birushayim (Jerusalem Organization of Newly Arrived Professionals from the Soviet Union) (Contact: Boris Finan, see entry below.) Mr. Almagor is himself an immigrant from Russia some 15 years ago. He visits new immigrants, helps them adjust to Israel, and generally provides them with the intangibles that don't come within the official purview of immigration work. At least twice a week he is out at Absorption Centers visiting the immigrants. He and his wife are sweet, devoted people, energetic and loaded with power to get things done (=PROTEKTZIA.)

H. Hadassah Levi, 21 Herzl, Ramat Gan (72 22 40) (Contact: Marcella Zion, 7 Palmach, Jerusalem, 66557), Supervisor of Heon HaYeled. No doubt the most full-of-human-love individual I have ever met. Her place, a house, is a day center for young retarded (up to age 10?), just doing great, great things. I believe my contribution was transformed into a set of swings for the children. You have to meet her. You must!

I. Rachel Safrani, Palmach 49, 69066 (Contact: Mrs. Shmuel Ben-Naeh, 71 Herzog St.), provides on a small scale for various families, similar to the work of Mrs. Pe'er.

J. Aharon Langermann, Assistant Director of the Department of Welfare, 8 King David St., 234-491. I expressed my negative views about the department work to him; he was sympathetic. I then asked for some way of directing personal funds to needy people that Welfare doesn't get to. He came through nicely, explaining his private activities for helping. He also agreed to find places for people coming over who want to do the most good according to their talents and desires, with the least bureaucratic garbage...which is a big order for Israel. I trust him,

- despite his official position. He was recommended by Eli Cohen (see below.)
- K. Dr. Pesach Schindler, 2 Agron, 226-336 or 227-463, Director of the United Synagogue of America in Israel, involved privately with similar human situations. He is a good resource-man for finding situations to be involved in, with no overtones or hang-ups having to do with the organization. All private and personal. He is a Grayser Mensch.
- L. Rabbi Simcha Kling, 66 Azza, 35764 (till June, then returns to his position as rabbi of the conservative synagogue of Louisville, Ky.) He informed me of a project he is involved in for the past number of years: a center for providing and preparing materials for the blind all over Israel (not a school). On his word (he is a most reliable, sweet Motek of a man), I decided it would be nice to make us a part of this, also.
- M. Aviva Goldberg, 29 Mem Gimel, Apt. 12, 527-324, social worker at Mesillah (415-690, 413-571), a diagnostic way-station for girls who have been in scrapes with the legal authorities. The director is Elie Cohen, 6 Chopin, 38289 (contact: Marcella Zion, 66557), who is one of the Unbelievable People, though my private conversations with him were limited. Marcella will tell you all about him.
- N. Lisa Schwartz was my Shelichah to deliver 90 IL to Mossad Ahavah near Haifa, since I was unable to go.
- O. HaRabbanit Bracha Kapach, 12 Lod St., 231-296. Unbelievable. The Rabbanit is an immigrant (years back) from Yemen, and for the last number of years has discovered and helped more families and individuals all around Jerusalem (and into the Hills) than anyone I met. For those of you who asked a out CLOTHES: she is the one. She knows the most and most needy, and does everything from clothes to Shabbas candles and food for people. Clothes instructions: to be mailed to her, in packages no larger than 22 pounds each (otherwise there are payments involved). They should be clean and in decent condition, and children's clothes are especially needed (sweaters, too). She is one of those people you should make a point of meeting when in Israel (her specialty is dynamite hot sauce for good Sefardi food). She will introduce you around to members of the Sefardi communities at your request.
- P. Sara Pearl, Herzliah Hotel, Tzefat, 067-30007 (contacts: my mother, Joel Kamsler, Yitzchak Jacobsen, etc.)--spoken of as a mother to all the soliders of the entire Galilee. I did not get to see her, but her work is praised with overwhelming enthusiasm by all those who know her or of her.
- Q. Adina Geller will attempt to use the funds for something to do with the children of the Ma'alot Massacre.
- R. Yeshivat HaKotel, according to the wishes of one of the contributors.
- S. A Beggar in Jerusalem, according to a contributor's wishes (I picked one who was standing at the gates of the forest.)
- T. Amy Eilberg 536-701 (till June) had heard of a widow who had not received some sort of compensation payments on time. She was in dire need of assistance, and so I handed some funds over to Amy, who believes the woman will pay the money back, so I instructed Amy to then recirculate the funds in some Tzedakah-fashion as she saw fit.
- U. Boris Fiman, Hartman Yeshiva, The American College, Shedayrot HaMeiri, Kiryat Moshe. Boris was an all-around assistant in many of these projects, shlepping me and others around in his car. We felt it would help the Rabbanit Kapach if she had a driver and a tankful-plus of gas available for her work.
- V. Ya'akov Maimon, 39211, 34451 (Contact: Marcy Goldman, Shikunay HaElef, Givat Ram, Hebrew U. 4/3/4)--another one of Those People. Ya'akov Maimon is 72+, the inventor of Hebrew shorthand, Recorder of the Knesset, and Tzaddik of the First Order. His project (among others) is to take volunteers (usually, though not always, students) to tutor children in English in the poorer areas of town (like Katamon Tet), and to have these volunteers become part of the family. He goes to Hebrew U. and other places with lorries and takes the people to the homes then picks them up a few hours later. I walked up and down more steps with this man in 2 hours than I normally

would do in a month: each place he entered he was treated with deference, and he reacted with humility (often characteristic of the people I am listing). He will make use of the funds as he sees fit. Nancy tutors for him, and I gave her some funds to purchase books she and her friends might want to get for their students.
V. Bennet Spangin, 10 Palmach, 1030. Through a friend I heard of an orphanage for girls which I did not get to visit, but on his word I entrusted him with 100 IL for the purpose of doing something personal for the girls. By this time it was abundantly clear to me that my contacts would recommend to me places and people who were of the highest order of Menschlichkeit, so while I do not even know the name of the orphanage, I am sure the money will go to good use.

Two additional notes:

A. Rabbi Robert Hammer, the Primiya, Neve Schechter, 31121, has lists and ideas of similar projects if you want to get involved.

B. Micha, Reading St. #23, Ramat Aviv, 415-146, Director: Ethel Cohen (better to talk to Tsvia Na'ayan, one of the teachers) is a fine, modern, well-equipped school for the deaf, recommended to me Seymour Goldberg. I did not contribute because the place looked well-enough funded from people in the States, but it is a thrilling place, and should be included in your itinerary.

3. General Remarks

This entire Mitzvah-month was a privilege for me, and I wish all those who contributed a Yashir Koach--continued strength to carry out similar work on their own. The month was also very difficult, in that most of the people pointed out in Part 2 were very high-powered, devoted people who, when you sit in their presence and watch their work, cause an emotional drain in the observer. Somehow in the presence of suffering or "unfortunateness" they are capable of rising to sublime heights, day in and day out. For someone not used to such intensive contact, it is particularly difficult to adjust, though ultimately rewarding. My thanks to you for entrusting me with the responsibility-turned-pleasure of discovering these people for myself and for you when you go to meet them.

I found that there are 2 distinct psychologies in distributing funds: Big-giving and Small-giving, neither being easier than the other--just different ways of thinking. While I may have mis-evaluated on some of the contributions, each person and place was carefully considered on the merits of the absolute directness to people and the reliability and devotedness of the person doing the work. While I would not advocate withholding funds from Bonds and UJA, I am firmly convinced that we should all set aside from our normal Tzedakah funds for these types of work, which guarantee Menschlichkeit-humanity with a minimum-to-zero of red-tape&noe that we associate with institutions and government. I am also convinced that to some extent, everyone's future trips to Israel should include visits to these people. These are, indeed, the people who make the Land holy.

I am exhausted and evangelical: Exhausted after being your representative to works which I believe move Heaven&Earth, and evangelical about spreading the stories of these people.

If you want more information or want to comment to me, do write.

Perhaps this is what the essence of Chevra-Friendship is: sharing a month such as this and making something of ourselves through the grandeur and splendor of other people.

Na'Alah V'Natzliach--may we continue to do more of the same in the future.