

Longtime NA'AMAT members reflect on establishment of State of Israel

By Sharon Sutker McGowan

When David Ben-Gurion, then the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, Marjorie Moidel was at home in Pittsburgh; Joyce Schildkraut was a 22-year-old in Brooklyn taking care of three babies; and Edith Adlam and Paulette Kallow were in Chicago. Like thousands of others who had been waiting for that moment, the announcement filled them with hope and promise.

“I was cheering; it was an exciting time. I remember discussing it with my husband and a few other people. It was one of those things that should have happened, and it finally did,” said Schildkraut, who now lives in Florida and is the longtime president of the Todah Club in Boca Raton.

Schildkraut, 91, wasn’t an active Zionist in 1948. She belonged to a schul, taught Sunday school and always celebrated the Jewish holidays. When she walked into her first Pioneer Women meeting in 1953, someone handed her a booklet and asked her to give a report on Moetzet Hapoalot, the Working Women’s Council in Israel, at the next meeting. “I read the booklet, made

a report and I’ve been talking ever since,” she joked. She has visited Israel 14 times, attending every NA’AMAT convention.

Adlam, who celebrated her 100th birthday

in September, said when she heard the announcement on the radio, “I was very excited, extremely excited. I had family in Israel, very close cousins.” A Holocaust survivor, she came to the United States in 1946 from France, where she had been a student. “I couldn’t go back to Poland when the war broke out. I was with my sister and we went into hiding.”

Adlam’s parents raised their children as Zionists in Lodz, Poland. “I went to a Zionist school in Lodz,” she said, and her mother was a member of WIZO (the Women’s International Zi-

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Key dates in Israel’s history

May 14, 1948	David Ben-Gurion announces establishment of the State of Israel
May 15, 1948	Forces from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq invade Israel
May 11, 1949	Israel takes seat as 59th member of United Nations
Oct. 29, 1956	Arab-Israeli War begins
June 5, 1967	Six Day War begins
March 17, 1969	Golda Meir elected prime minister
Sept. 5-6, 1972	Eleven Israeli athletes murdered at Munich Olympics
Oct. 6, 1973	Yom Kippur War begins
March 26, 1979	Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed
Sept. 13, 1993	Oslo Peace Accord signed by Israel and PLO
Oct. 14, 1994	Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat awarded Nobel Peace Prize
Nov. 4, 1995	Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated
May 29, 1996	Benjamin Netanyahu first elected prime minister
April 2009	The City of Tel Aviv celebrates 100th anniversary



Human trafficking is aftermath of natural disasters

By Marcia J. Weiss, J.D.

Vice President, Advocacy

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women. After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world, and it is the fastest growing. Although hard to imagine in 21st century America, the trafficking of human beings for sexual and labor exploitation is a big business, with victims in the U.S. alone numbering up to 17,500 per year, according to the U.S. Justice Department. Human trafficking has mostly been identified in and around Asia, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe, but states near ports of entry are far from immune.

After a natural disaster (hurricane, flood, earthquake, etc.), the site becomes ripe for human trafficking. Just as food has to be delivered, houses rebuilt, roads cleared and electricity restored, homeless individuals wanting to make quick money after devastating losses easily become victims of trafficking and prostitution.

Although the trafficking industry moves millions of dollars each year, few victims see the money. Thousands of aid workers (mostly male) pour into disaster-stricken areas to rebuild. A market develops. Advertisements even appear in newspapers, enticing victims devastated by disaster, who have lost everything. Few, if any, options remain.

At the same time, traffickers use force in the form of rape, beatings and confinement to control victims. Fraud involves false promises of non-existent employment. Coercion involves threats of serious harm to victims or actual physical restraint.

The National Human Trafficking Re-

source Center's hotline (1-888-373-7888) helps to identify local resources and coordinates local social service organizations to help and protect victims as they begin to restore their lives.



Shop at the NA'AMAT marketplace

By Susan Brownstein and Jan Gurvitch

Co-Vice Presidents, Fundraising

Have you ever said, "This is the last time I'm going to the mall and fight for a parking space"? Sometimes, mall shopping is just too time-consuming or maybe it's just not your thing.

Well, the Marketplace on the NA'AMAT website (naamat.org/marketplace) is made for you. When you shop with us, in the comfort of your home, you will find an array of vendors who not only offer thousands of products, but they donate a portion of their sales to NA'AMAT. Did you know that more than 1,000 products are sold every SECOND on Smile.Amazon.com? And iGive.com has more than 1,800 vendors, including major retailers such as Macy's and Bloomingdale's. When you make purchases on these sites, you can direct dollars to NA'AMAT.

Travel plans can be easy when you go to iGive.com first. From there, find flights and hotels on Orbitz, Expedia and hotel websites. You can even find coupons for your favorite local restaurants.

Our vendors are carefully vetted and the Marketplace continues to grow. Judaica Art is the most recent addition to the NA'AMAT Marketplace and is definitely worth checking out. And Kosher Kurls is owned and operated by a longstanding NA'AMAT member.

Please visit the Marketplace, sign up and designate NA'AMAT USA as the recipient of your donations. The percentage given to NA'AMAT is tax deductible.

Our vendors track how often we visit, so let's help them help us.

Happy Shopping!



Become a Platinum Life Member

By Gail Simpson

Vice President, Membership

LIFE MEMBERS: Recommit to NA'AMAT by becoming a Platinum Life Member for \$70 in honor of Israel's 70th birthday. We have always been there when NA'AMAT ISRAEL needs us. Now let's celebrate our commitment to NA'AMAT and to Israel with this donation. You will receive a commemorative "Platinum" card with your name on it and the year you became a member of NA'AMAT USA. It will be a lovely keepsake for you. Use the flier included in this newsletter or go to naamat.org to join this special group now.

If you're not currently a life member, take this opportunity to become a Platinum Life Member for \$320.

NEW CLUBS: We are beginning to work on a new club in West Los Angeles. If you know people in the area who might be interested in joining please send us their names. Our club in Phoenix is becoming very active. The members are now meeting in the Jewish Community Center. If you are a snowbird in Arizona and want to join their meetings, please let us know. If you would like to start a club, don't hesitate to call us at 818-431-2202. We will help you any way we can! We are here for YOU!

EXCITING NEWS: Welcome to Maya Stark, our new Membership Director. She has experience in the field and is very familiar with NA'AMAT since she grew up in Israel. As she says, "Who doesn't know NA'AMAT?" We wish we could say that in the U.S. Call Maya at 818-431-2202 or email her at maya.stark@naamat.org with any questions or concerns.

eNA'AMAT. One of Maya's responsibilities will be to keep our eNA'AMAT Facebook page up to date with interesting articles. This group is designed for women who are busy raising children, building careers or just busy with life. Look for our big relaunch of this program coming soon.

Message from the President



By Chellie Goldwater Wilensky
President

This is a very exciting year for those of us who love Israel. On Thursday, April 19, the State of Israel will celebrate her 70th anniversary. We can be proud of all that Israel has accomplished in these past 70 years. Israel has gone from a poor, struggling country with a population of only 806,000 on Independence Day, 1948, to a strong, vibrant, successful country with a population of 8,680,000. It is still the only real democracy in the Middle East and the only country in the region with a completely free press. As you know, Israel is the Silicon Valley of the Middle East and Zahal, Israel's Army, is one of the strongest in the world. Through the hard work of NA'AMAT, women play an important and growing role in Israeli society.

As we can be proud of Israel and all her accomplishments, so can we be proud of NA'AMAT and all her accomplishments for the women and children of Israel. NA'AMAT is always in the forefront, fighting for equal rights and women's and family issues as they arise. For example, as registration for the school year began in February, NA'AMAT requested that early childhood education be under the authority of the Ministry of Education, rather than the Labor and Social Services Ministry. Galia Wolloch, president of NA'AMAT, said daycare centers are educational institutions and therefore should be supervised by the Ministry of Education.

After the Six Day War, NA'AMAT enlarged its legal aid services to ensure that all the young war widows received the benefits to which they were entitled. More recently, NA'AMAT has worked tirelessly with first responders to teach them how to recognize signs of domestic violence, and with the army to teach soldiers how to recognize sexual harassment and to no longer tolerate it in any form.

We in NA'AMAT USA can be proud of ourselves. Our support for NA'AMAT Israel has been critical in enabling it to do its important work. Recently a NA'AMAT member from California, Eleanore Raymer, of blessed memory, left NA'AMAT USA a \$5.7 million bequest to be used for prevention of violence in the family in Israel. This bequest will be used to fund domestic violence prevention courses in many of our community centers, women's centers and technological high schools, and much, much more.

We have prepared a special "Israel at 70" program for your clubs and councils. We hope you will use it to help you celebrate Israel's very special 70th anniversary.

I also want to wish you a happy and meaningful Pesach. *Chag Kasher V'Sameach.*

Members reflect

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onist Organization). Adlam visited Israel for the first time for Yom Ha'atzmaut in 1963, and became involved in NA'AMAT in 1970.

Kallow, 97, remembers that there was a celebration in downtown Chicago when the State of Israel was proclaimed. "That particular day I was not able to be with everyone else at the site; I was taking care of two little children. It disturbed me terribly that I wasn't able to be there," she said. Kallow and her sister Lillian Stein, now 102, were active members of Rishonah, the first English-speaking club in Pioneer Women, which was founded in 1939.

Moidel, 89, recalls that Ben-Gurion came to Pittsburgh when she was

working in a hospital there. "He was in a car, waving at everyone. We all stood on the sidewalk waiting for him to come by." Moidel, who now lives in Broward County, Florida, joined Pioneer Women in about 1951. Her best friend's mother participated in the first Pioneer Women seminar to Israel and wanted to organize a young club. "My friend asked me to come to a meeting with her, and I went. That was the beginning of my career with Pioneer Women." Moidel was very active in Pittsburgh, served on the national board, and now runs the NA'AMAT Florida Facebook page. She first visited Israel in 1966 as an Israel seminarist, and has returned 10 times since then.

Rita Sherman, a former Chicagoan who now lives in Boca Raton, remembers being very excited when the State of Israel was announced. Rita and her sister, the

late Miriam Sherman, were raised as Zionists and both served on the NA'AMAT national board. In 1948, Miriam was 19 years old and attending the Habonim Institute (a forerunner to the Habonim workshop) in New York City.

"The one who had magnificent memories was Miriam," Rita said. Miriam often recalled how the Habonim group celebrated together with so many others, dancing a hora around Times Square. "They were ecstatic. Everybody said it was such a high," Rita said.

Although some of the details have faded away with time, those who were around when the State of Israel was proclaimed remember that day with joy. Less than 24 hours later, the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq invaded the country, and the saga of modern Israel began.

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Club activities



PALM BEACH—
Joyce Schildkraut
(above) was honored
at the Palm Beach
Council Scholarship
celebration, Feb. 8
at the Delray Beach
Golf Club. A record
crowd attended the
festive event to hear
Rabbi Raphael Adler
praise NA'AMAT and
highlight its accom-
plishments.



PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Coun-
cil President Lisa Steindel (right) honors
Marcia Weiss at the Spiritual Adoption
Gala 2017.



CLEVELAND — Cleveland Chapter members (from left) Judith Shamir, Ruchi Koval and Hannah Szabo.



LOS ANGELES — Darlene Rose, president of the Roslyn Leff - Avodah chapter, decorates tzedakah boxes for a "Penny A Day" fundraising project. Women with fixed incomes who live in Leisure World Seal Beach, contribute a penny each day.