

## Rabbi Gibson's letter from Jerusalem, July 16, 2008

Dear Friends,

It has been a very focused week of study at the Shalom Hartman Institute this week. But just getting out and walking holds wonderful surprises...

Like rounding the corner to my hotel to find Jeff Cohan, the Community Relations Director at the United Jewish Federation.

Like walking the Haas Promenade (Tayelet, in Hebrew) with Larry and Barbara Shuman, only to find long lost relations of theirs walking the same path.

Like finding my friend of 30 years, Eric Gurvis, a Rabbi in Boston, at the huge event for all of the Reform Youth in Israel under the banner of NFTY - the North American Federation of Temple Youth. There were more than 650 kids gathered at my Rabbinic School, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, along with 250 other adults and youth workers.

Like finding at that gathering two of our Temple Sinai students, Sam Kazman and Dylan Landay, and reveling in the "ruach" or spirit together. Sam and Dylan went from that gathering down to Masada for a midnight concert, laser light show and a dawn trek up to the top of the fortress!

Like tracking down our wonderful 1st year Cantorial Student, Leslie Niren, on the same campus and catching up with her. We subsequently shared Shabbat dinner together with many of the rest of the 1st year Rabbinic and Cantorial students.

Like finding Eileen Yacknin-Dawson, our member and Religious School teacher, and sitting with her in a local restaurant to share thoughts about Israel.

Like playing phone tag with Joe Weinkle and trying to get together with him and Jonathan and Vita and the kids, given our very busy schedules.

Like waiting for Tracy Tuchin, another Sinai member and Religious School teacher, to call, but she is a bit busy traveling the entire rest of the country!

It is indescribable finding so much of our Temple Sinai life around here in Jerusalem and Israel at large. Now here's the commercial - *Look for the brochure for the next Temple Sinai Congregational Trip to Israel, from June 23-July 4, 2009? [Oops! I have to make certain of the dates, so wait for the flyer!]*

Next Tuesday, I'll send my last letter from Jerusalem. I hope you are all well. You are all in my thoughts.

L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Jamie Gibson