

A Story to Tell

THE AIPAC
HAGGADAH
SUPPLEMENT

WHEN MOSES SAW THE BURNING BUSH, the Torah teaches that it was a turning point in his life and in the life of the Jewish people. At this point, the text no longer focuses on servitude and suffering, but instead describes a vision for a better future in the land of Israel.

“...a land that flows with milk and honey.”

— Deuteronomy 6:3

"בכל דור ודור חייב אדם לראות
את עצמו כאילו הוא יצא ממצרים..."
- הגדה של פסח

“In every generation, each individual is obligated to see himself as if he personally came out of Egypt...”

— The Passover Haggadah

These words paint an inspiring picture of the Land of Israel, and remind us of the Haggadah’s instruction to each of us to feel as if we, ourselves, are coming out of slavery and going forth into the Promised Land for the very first time.

The Haggadah supplement is designed to invite discussion around your seder table about the unique wonders of Israel. Inside this supplement, you will find stories of individuals who have been inspired by Israel to make the world a better place. We suggest you utilize this supplement after the recitation of the plagues and before the drinking of the second cup of wine.



This Was My Dream

On February 3, 1956, at the Kibbutz of Sde Boker in the Negev Desert, the famed journalist Edward R. Murrow sat down with Israel’s first Prime Minister David Ben Gurion for an interview. The following are excerpts from that conversation.

Edward R. Murrow: “Mr. Prime Minister, what is your clearest impression of the first time you came to Palestine from Plonsk in Poland?”

David Ben-Gurion: The impression was that I came home. I had first time the feeling that I am in my own home. This was my dream...

...Zionism, real Zionism means creating the home and the life by ourselves, by our own creative physical and intellectual effort, not to buy something, not to get which is ready—which is already made, but to make it for ourselves.

...This is the place where our young generation has the opportunity to start everything from the beginning.

We will create here a civilization based on two things—on the ideals of the Jewish prophets and on modern science. Our civilization will be a combination of the ethical teachings of our prophets and of the new discoveries with science and technology.”

David Ben Gurion arrived in Palestine as a child in 1906. He was the Jewish state’s founding father and became Israel’s first prime minister. On May 14, 1948, he famously declared the independence of the new nation, stating that Israel would “uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of religion or race.”

To watch a special music video about Israel’s founding father and his vision for the Jewish state, visit: www.aipac.org/DBG

Now it’s your turn. Tell your story.

Share your pride in Israel and the nation’s contributions to our world with family and friends around your seder table.

The Haggadah supplement is produced by AIPAC’s Synagogue Initiative. To learn more about AIPAC and how you can deepen your involvement to ensure America and Israel’s continued strong friendship, contact synagogue@aipac.org



A Story to Tell is published by AIPAC, America’s Pro-Israel Lobby.

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Finding A Future

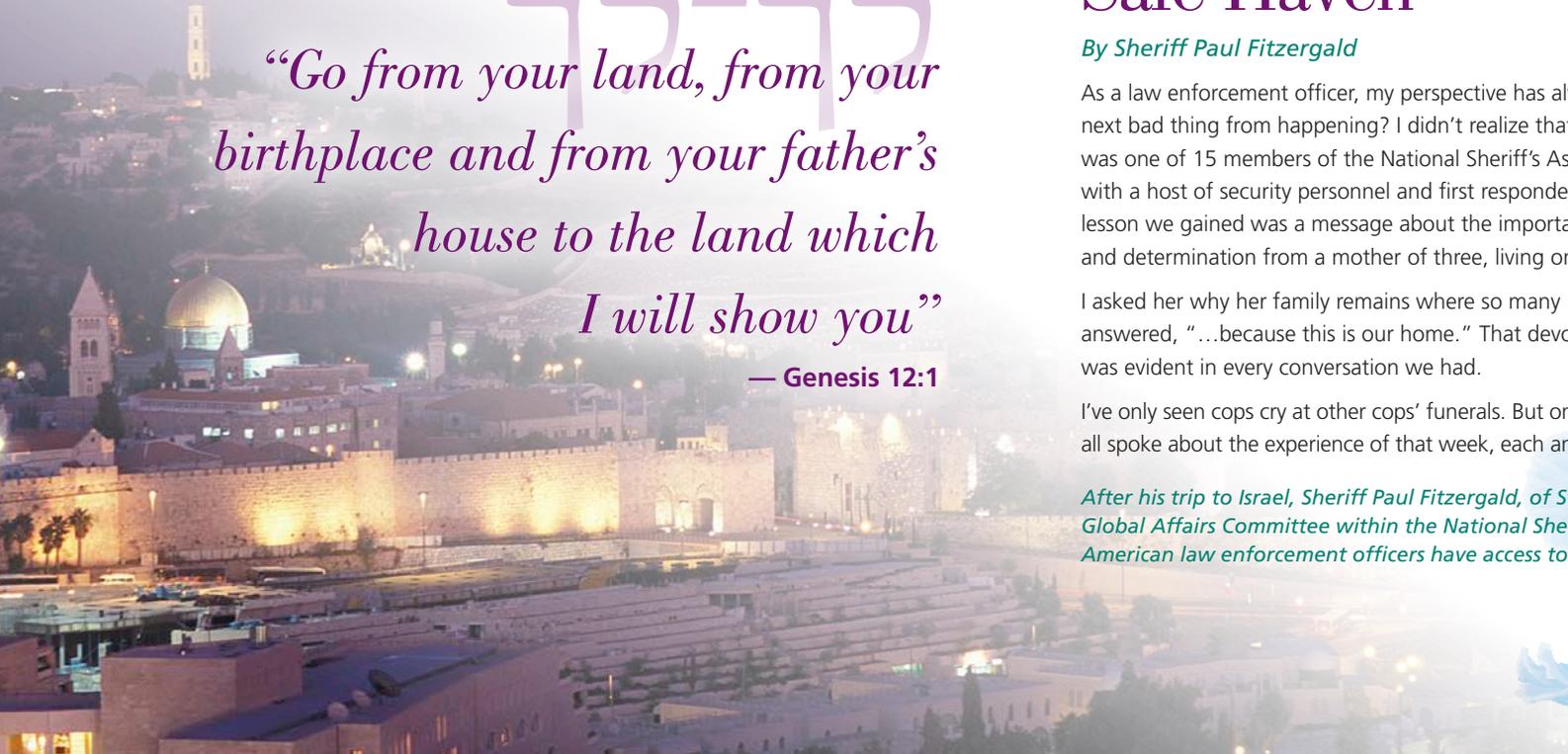
By Adelita Grijalva

In the mountains of northern Israel, I fell in love—500 times.

Someone in our group commented on the amazing panoramic scene from the 77-acre youth village, Yemen Orde, sprawling atop Mt. Carmel. It was beautiful, but more impressive were the children from North Africa, India, Yemen, Eastern Europe and South America—all provided a safe and welcoming place to escape the traumas they had suffered in their young lives. Here, in Israel, they found a family, a future, a home.

They were provided an education that encouraged self-sufficiency in a nurturing environment. I sat with a young lady from Africa who talked about the gift that she had been given of a new country, new language, new culture and new hope. She didn't focus on the isolation, abandonment or extreme poverty that comprised her early years. She talked about her future. She smiled widely and told me, "I want to be a teacher."

Adelita Grijalva works with at-risk youth in Arizona, where she serves as a member of the Tucson School Board, implementing the lessons she learned from her trip to Israel.



לך-לך
“Go from your land, from your
birthplace and from your father’s
house to the land which
I will show you”

— Genesis 12:1

Freedom of Religion

By Mayor Steve Benjamin

There was so much to take in—so much to see. And yet I kept looking at the ground beneath my feet, awed that I was actually inside the church so central to my faith. I thought to myself how many others had walked on this now slippery stone floor, made smooth by centuries of footsteps? And how many more would travel to Israel in the years ahead? Would they walk this same path in a time of peace? Or at a time of war? Would the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and other Christian sites remain accessible; or would they continue to exist at all?

It is Israel's respect for everyone's right to worship, which ensures access to the holiest sites of three of the world's great religions. I thank the people of Israel for being the protectors of these sites and a true example of an open democracy, committed to freedom of religion for all peoples.

Mayor Steve Benjamin, of Columbia, South Carolina, traveled to Israel for the first time this year. When he returned, he helped pass legislation, allowing Columbia to invest in Israel through the purchase of Israel bonds.

Safe Haven

By Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald

As a law enforcement officer, my perspective has always been: How do we prevent the next bad thing from happening? I didn't realize that I would find my answers in Israel. I was one of 15 members of the National Sheriff's Association, touring Israel and meeting with a host of security personnel and first responders. But perhaps the most profound lesson we gained was a message about the importance of community, about resiliency and determination from a mother of three, living on the border with Gaza.

I asked her why her family remains where so many Hamas rockets continued to fall. She answered, "...because this is our home." That devotion to "home" and to one another was evident in every conversation we had.

I've only seen cops cry at other cops' funerals. But on the last night of our trip to Israel, as we all spoke about the experience of that week, each and every one of us had tears in our eyes.

After his trip to Israel, Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald, of Story County, Iowa, helped create The Global Affairs Committee within the National Sheriff's Association to help ensure that American law enforcement officers have access to the security lessons Israel teaches.

