



## **Summary Report- Training Seminar in Israel for Senior Leadership of CDI Mexico** **October 28-November 7, 2004**

The CDI Training Seminar in Israel had three main objectives:

1. Institute a Jewish education overlay through enriching the senior leadership of CDI Mexico.
2. Provide tools for senior leadership to enrich the Jewish education aspect of their work.
3. Create a professional and personal bond with the world of JCCs in Israel and other educational resources.

The program was designed and implemented with a wide array of partners and with the direct input of the Mexican partners. Since most of the participants were not first timers the program concentrated on seminars and meetings and less on touring and introductions.

### **Choice of participants:**

Proving its commitment to the process, CDI Mexico chose a high profile group of 17 members representing the senior leadership lay and staff of the institution. The structure of CDI is such that there are two boards of directors: a general one and an executive one, which is more programmatic. The members of the executive are people who literally run the various departments spending close to 20 hours per week and closely supervising every aspect of the department. In addition to several members of the executive committees, five senior staff members were chosen to come including the general director Dr. Benny Weiss. Heading this impressive delegation was Sammy Lifshitz the newly elected president of the executive board. Selecting a group of dedicated, talented and knowledgeable people who can go back and personally effect the various departments was an important key for the success of the program. This was supplemented by the fact that the members knew each other well and the personal relationships among the members of the group were very warm and friendly.

### **Program in Israel**

The program focused on a few areas and gave real insiders' view of Israel and its people with a strong emphasis on follow up and future joint projects.

1. *Personal enrichment and reconnecting with Israel.*
  - Jewish text study and discussion on the biding of Isaac with Rabbi Yehushua Engleman of Kolot
  - Walking tour of Yemin Moshe with the guide/scholar Marcelo Kisslevsky
  - A lecture and discussion on current trends in Israeli politics and Israeli society with Fr. Alberto Spekterovsky of Tel Aviv University.
  - A night tour of the Kotel tunnels
  - A session on Jewish lyricism (piyut) at Ginot Hair community center
  - A lecture and discussion on the fence and the current political situation with Dr. Marc Luria

- A tour of the municipal divide with hands on stops to the fence.
- A special tour of Yad Vashem and peak into the new museum that is not open yet to the public
- A visit to Weitzman institute
- Participating in an archeological dig at Beit Guvrin

## 2. *Meetings with old and new partners*

- Meeting with the council mayor and senior staff of the Eshkol Region in order to begin forming a Partnership 2000 relationship.
- In formal reception hosted by the World Confederation of JCCs inviting partners from all relevant organization to get to know the group.
- A day with the Department for Jewish Zionist education of the Jewish Agency for Israel meeting with senior staff:
  - Eliyahu Shaul, the director of the Latin American desk
  - Dr. Naomi Nachenson, director of the center for leadership development
  - Dr. Drori Ganiel
  - Senior staff of the technology department and smart room

That day, the leaders of the group also interviewed candidates for community Shlichut.

- Special reception and meeting with the board of directors of Maccabi World Union
  - Sessions with Rabbi Carlos Tapiero, the educational director of MWU and with Fito Stolarz of the 17<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah
    - A day in Ramat Gan their twin city including:
      - Meetings with the mayor Mr. Zvi Bar and deputy mayor Mr. Shraga Brosh
      - Small group discussions on developing the partnership
      - Visit to Ramat Hashikma community center to learn about Jewish Renewal
      - A night program of bonding and fun at the Yekev club with Ramat Gan peers.

## 3. *Professional development*

The Haim Zippori Training Centers of the Israel Association of Community Centers was chosen to implement a series of programs on professional issues. The program was designed and supervised by Arturo Bach the executive director of the institution. Upon completing all the sessions the participants received a diploma.

- Values and strategic planning with Arturo Bach
- Vision, goals and objectives, implementing the concept with Maya Boltzman
- Participating Democracy, an example of a new tool for community involvement
- Our door training at the Jerusalem forest with Maya Boltzman
- The director and the organization with Dani Edrei
- Decision making process with Dani Edrei
- Wrap up discussion and diploma ceremony with Arturo Bach

## 4. *Getting to know the world of community centers in Israel*

- A visit to Lev Hair community center and local council in Jerusalem with Ariberto Vinter
- A special lunch at Karmeit Hair restaurant and center for Tzdaka in Jerusalem

- A visit to Ginot Hair community center and local council in Jerusalem with Shaikha El Ami, the executive director.
- Joint dinner and meetings with lay leaders of Ginot Hair.
- A visit to Ramat Chen community center in Ramat Gan and meeting all the executive directors of Ramat Gan community centers
- A visit to Ramat Hashikma community center in Ramat Gan with Alex Noam to discuss Jewish Renewal in the community center.

It is hard to believe that all of the above was experienced in such a short time but thanks to the cooperation of all participants and partners the attendance at all sessions was full and there was always active participation.

### **Outcomes of the seminar**

The participants felt that they have to go back home process the experience, share it with their peers and think of ways of strengthening the partnerships in Israel. I will just mention a few thoughts that were already raised during the seminar and will be the basis of follow up.

Partnering communities- The members felt that they need to develop the two partnerships (Eshkol and Ramat Gan) so that they become a second home to CDI members and that long term relationships and friendships will be developed.

### **Eshkol Region**

- Hosting visitors from CDI and students in Shnat Hachshara (training year)
- A delegation from the Eshkol region visiting Mexico in February to get to know the community

### **Ramat Gan**

- Developing center to center relationships
- Sending a dance troupe from Ramat Gan to the famous Aviv Festival in Mexico

### **Jewish Agency**

- Recruiting a community shaliach
- Working closer with the department and the central Shaliach in Mexico
- Thinking of ways to utilize the technological bridge

### **Haim Zippori Training Center**

- Continuing the long-term process of vision and strategic planning.

### **MWU**

- Working on recruitment for the 17<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah
- New projects with Maccabi Tzair

### **WCJCC**

- Beginning to think about another project in the area of Jewish education for CDI Mexico
- Recruiting participants for the 7<sup>th</sup> World Conference which will take place in Haifa, September 19-22, 2005.

Some other ideas of connecting with Yad Vashem, Weitzman Institute and certain speakers were also raised.

I would like to personally thank all the people that made this program possible. The funders of the program: UJA Federation of New York and more specifically the Alfred J. Lippman Foundation, The Jewish Education Department of the Jewish Agency and our own WCJCC board. The partners who helped implement the program: David Atmor, Eliyahu Shaul, Dr. Drori Ganiel, Ryan Drtiz, Alisa Nagrotzky, Arturo Bach, Maya Botlzman, Lili Shirazi, Carlos Tapiero , Shaul Shani and Uri Verba. The WCJCC board members and special guests who came to meet the group. Marcelo Kisslevsky who led the group in an excellent manner. It was a real pleasure working with the group and getting to know in person the people behind the titles. Looking forward to joint collaboration and cooperation in the future..

Respectfully submitted by Smadar Bar-Akiva, Executive Director, WCJCC