

Bat Mitzvah Girl To Aid Israeli Seniors

By HARRIET KESSLER

For the Voice

You don't have to know the language, according to petite Jaclyn Sackstein. Although they couldn't converse, the 12-year-old, daughter of Dr. Adam and Sharon Sackstein, and the seniors at Jerusalem's Yad LaKashish bonded so closely that Jaclyn will incorporate Yad LaKashish into her main mitzvah project in conjunction with her April 24, 2010 bat mitzvah.

"They were so glad to see me," said Jaclyn. "I could tell. And they were proud to show me their work." She met the Yad LaKashish seniors during a June 24-July 5, 2008 tour of Israel sponsored by Cong. Beth El, and describes her visit to the Jerusalem senior center as a "highlight of a once in a lifetime

trip."

Founded in 1962 to give Jerusalem's elderly a sense of purpose, the non-profit facility now provides work opportunities, support services and inter-generational programs to over 300 elderly and disabled, most of them new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and South America. Five days a week, these artisans come from around Jerusalem to Yad LaKashish where, in 10 well-equipped workshops, they work



Jaclyn Sackstein, Voorhees, prepares to enter Yad LaKashish (left) a non-profit senior facility in Jerusalem's Musara neighborhood. One of the more than 300 senior artisans at LaKashish (right) displays her needlework to an appreciative Jaclyn Sackstein.

on bookbinding, ceramics, needlework, hand-made paper, silk-painting and metalwork. All receive on-the-job-training, supervision and a monthly stipend. They also benefit from an assortment of social services including

transportation, hot meals, and health care.

"Their work is really beautiful, especially the Judaica" said Jaclyn, who is already wearing the kippah and tallis she bought in the Yad LaKashish gift shop. Forty percent of the facility's operating costs come from gift shop proceeds, according to the facility's literature. The remaining 60 percent comes from donations and contributions made by private individuals, foundations and the UJC.

South Jerseyites unable to visit Yad LaKashish in the near future will be able to purchase its artisan's handiwork and support the facility on Wednesday,

December 9, when Jaclyn and her family brings its gift shop to their Voorhees home.

Upon learning that Yad LaKashish would be part of the Dec. 6-10 United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism international biennial convention in Cherry Hill, the Sacksteins booked a noon-10 p.m. home show. "All the proceeds, plus all the money raised from raffles will help support Yad LaKashish," said Jaclyn, who will also donate a goodly portion of her bat mitzvah gift money to the non-profit.

For additional information about the Dec. 9 home show, email Sharon Sackstein at njsharona@aol.com and keep on reading the Voice.

"Helping older people is important to me," said Jaclyn. "I've been very close to my grandparents and to my great uncle. It's good to learn from them, and I love to learn their stories." ▲

Doubletree Guest Suites

Birthdays
Weddings
Mitzvahs
Sweet 16
Meetings



Group
Discounts
Stay & Play
Packages
Indoor Pool



GG's!
Restaurant

Lunch Monday—Friday
11:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Dinner Monday—Saturday
5:00 to 10:00 PM

Live Piano Dinner Music
Tuesday—Saturday

(856) 222-0335

Reservations
(856) 778-8999

www.mtlaurelsuites.doubletree.com

www.ggsrestaurant.com

515 Fellowship Road, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054

*for a once in a lifetime event,
make a once in a lifetime gift.*

NIMBLE NEEDLE



*Make it look handmade,
not homemade.*

We offer individual help and
professional finishing services.

visit <http://thenimbleneedle.blogspot.com>

115 N. Church St., Moorestown • 856 234 4848