

Riding the #14 Bus

By Jessica Fishman

Jessica is the daughter of past St. Paul Hadassah President, Susan Fishman. Susan has recently returned from an Hadassah Nurse's Mission to Israel

Today was just like any other day when I woke up this morning . . . I woke up late. With the pride of being an Israeli soldier, I rushed to put on my IDF uniform. Because I woke up at 7:15 versus 6:30, I knew that I would have to run out the door as quickly as I could. It was Sunday, the first day of the Israeli work-week and the buses were going to be crowded and the traffic jams were going to be bad. As I rushed to work at the IDF spokesperson unit, I was already tired with the thought of all the work I had in front of me with the Hague hearing on the Security Fence soon taking place.

I got onto the bus in Jerusalem from Emek Refaim and waited impatiently on the bus for my arrival at the central bus station in Jerusalem, where I jetted off the bus, to sprint to the bus that would then take me to my base in central Tel Aviv. No less than two minutes after I got on the bus, I fell asleep.

I was then woken up, less than an hour later, to my phone ringing while I was entering Tel Aviv. It was one of my fellow soldiers from the spokesperson unit, asking me where I was. I thought I was in trouble because I was a few minutes late; however, it turned out that she was calling to make sure I was safe. There was a SUICIDE BOMBING, another one in Jerusalem on the bus that I had just taken less than an hour ago, at the bus stop right after I had gotten onto the bus. I did not have time to contemplate the what-ifs. I quickly called all my friends to make sure everyone was OK (since we all take that bus more than once a day), and then I had to get to work promoting the Israeli cause and defending Israel and our RIGHT and duty to self-defense.

My day became dedicated to explaining the necessity for the Security Fence to the rest of the world. I don't know if I can prove it any better than the terrorists proved it themselves today. What else needs to be said after 8 innocent people are killed and over 66 innocent people injured. I don't think that it can be made clearer, that they, the terrorists and the Palestinian Authority are not going to stop trying to kill us through terrorist acts.

This has been proven over the past three years. I don't understand, as a Jew, as an Israeli, as an American and as a human being, why there is any debate about creating a Security Fence to stop from being killed. Wouldn't you put a fence around your home if someone was trying to constantly kill you? My guess is that you would probably do more than simply put up a fence up. We need a shield to protect ourselves from terrorists trying to kill us and there should be no debate.

Jessica in her IDF uniform with proud mom, Susie Fishman.



The Security Fence is truly a shield that has proven to decrease terrorist attacks.

Sometimes I get so sick of trying to show people things that are so self-evident. However, I think it is important to focus on the importance of Israel to the Jewish people. Israel acts as a protector for all Jewish people, and the Israel Defense Force and the Israeli Government acts to protect every Jew in the world. I'm not asking you to do anything, just to be aware of the reality in Israel, be knowledgeable and educate others.

At the end of the day, we all go about our lives in the regular way. We have unfortunately, as unbelievable as it sounds, gotten used to our reality. It doesn't seem right or fair that after a bus gets blown up in the center of a city, that we can go back to our somewhat normal lives. How have we become accustomed to living in a state of terror? After I was done with work and returned to Jerusalem, I got back on the same bus that I got on in the morning, bus number 14, so that I could go home.

Are you interested in the Theater Minyan?

If you love the theater, why not join a new minyan and attend a Sunday afternoon performances about every other month. After the performances, we'll have some discussions, refreshments, and possibly meet with actors and other theater personnel.

This minyan will benefit Youth Services, so there will be a \$5 charge on top of the ticket charge. Please call Kyle Renell, 651-699-2500, if you are interested. There will be a short planning meeting after enough people have expressed interest. Hope to see you there!