High school has served as an obstacle for my grade in Schechter Hillel, with most not accustomed to the hectic weeks along with heavy workloads. However, the infamous “Freshman year” came with a reward, The Israel Trip, which most were looking forward to as the year went on. Now, coming back from the trip, I can say undoubtedly that it has greatly met, if not exceeded expectations. The trip brought us closer to our teachers, peers, and religious homeland. We embarked on this journey on May 22, where we took a direct flight to Tel Aviv. We stayed at a total of three places: Moshav Hispin, Mashabei Sade Kibbutz, and Jerusalem. To start the trip off, we traveled north to Hispin, which lies in the Golan Heights close to Israel’s border with Lebanon and Syria. Here we had our first Shabbat as a group and made yet more extensive bonds with our friends. After Hispin, we went to Moshav Sade for three days and lived the Kibbutz communal lifestyle. Despite lying in the Negev, the vast Israeli Desert, Mashabei Sade flourishes with a large garden where most food is supplied. Lastly, we spent the remainder of the trip in Jerusalem, with one night away in the desert with the Bedouin. The night with the Bedouin showed us how the nomadic peoples of Israel live, and their day-to-day interactions. Jerusalem was the perfect ending to the trip, where we bettered our relationship with God by getting to know the holiest city, along with the holiest sites in the entire world. Throughout the trip, we had many activities ranging from education to adventurous. We visited many sites such as the tomb of Rachel, the Kotel, and many cities including the holy city of Tsfat, and Miami’s sister city Yeruham. Adventures we undertook include exhilarating boat rides, donkey rides, camel rides, many hikes, visiting Masada, Dead Sea, army training, laser tag, rappelling, sandboarding, and rafting. Despite conquering many fears, these activities allowed us to see Israel through a different perspective. These activities brought us all together by providing these unforgettable experiences. After all, it is not often one gets to visit the Lebanon border on a speedboat or raft down the Jordan river. These experiences allowed us to learn about Israel outside the classroom, rather with hands-on activities. Once home, we look back upon the trip and can see the experiences we went through as just a piece to a puzzle. The trip, although not seeming in the moment, was engineered to bring us together as a class through these life-changing experiences and moments, as well as create a sense of belonging to our homeland. The memories and relationships we made on this trip, without doubt, will be carried within me for a lifetime.

Golden Beach Resident And Hillel Freshman

Eduardo Halfen Shares His Incredible Journey To Israel

Eduardo Halfen

Do you or a GB neighbor you know have a remarkable trip or adventure you would like to share? We would love to hear from you. Email us at christine.perrin-stocco@n2pub.com.