

abiding beside unexampled compassion, narrow-mindedness beside limitless vision. Like all great democracies, Israel is both reality and dream, blueprint and work-in-progress.

Significantly, the Israeli message most often uttered was, "Please continue to partner with us in this great unfolding. We need your criticism and concern, your passionate devotion, your insight." Indeed, Israel is simply too precious a gift to be left solely to the Israelis. We all have a stake in its future. It can only become the state we envision when we remain involved.

For my grandparents in 1927, heading unwittingly into the crucible of the Holocaust, there was as yet no Jewish state, no opportunity to shape their own destiny and that of future Jewish generations. Like so many of their German-Jewish compatriots, they were secure in their faith and confident in their nationality, never dreaming that both would shortly be put to the severest test—and that the unyielding desert wastes that bespoke ancient history and enmity would one day flower with renewed promise. □

## Rebel With a Cause

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Shemesh. A Reform congregation of only thirty families, Kehillat Tzur-Hadassah, proposed the idea, took our training course, received seed money from IRAC, and implemented the program. To start, congregants solicited donations from every town resident and collected over a ton of clothing. Everybody—paid staff, kindergarten parents, the rabbi—was involved in washing and repairing the clothes. Drivers then went out and ferried the single moms to the store, located inside the synagogue. The "customers" filled large plastic bags with the clothes they needed for themselves and their families—as well as garments they would later resell for about 380 shekels (\$75). When we asked these women, among the poorest in Israel, what they planned to do with their "profits," one of them said, "Oh, we want to do like you. We want to give to the poor." And that's exactly what they did—give half the money to needy people like themselves. I asked one single mom what she thought of this unlikely



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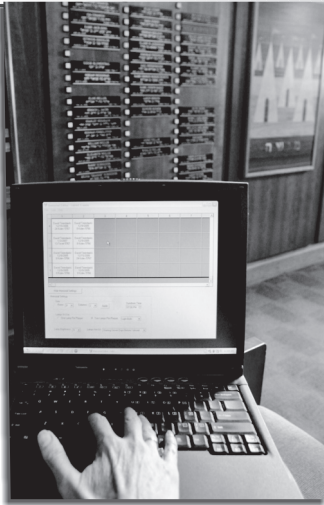


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