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## Soldiers' Family Strength

Robert Abrams - Special To The Jewish Week

CLASSIFIEDS

The aim of the small group of us was to give strength to the families of the two kidnapped Israelis soldiers we visited but instead we took strength from them. The families of Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were remarkable in their composure and positive belief that they will be reunited with these two IDF infantrymen.

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Karnit Goldwasser, Udi's wife of less than a year, said she had been preparing a special dinner for him since it was his last day of service when she heard on the news that there was skirmishing with Hezbollah on the Lebanon border. Her first thought was that Udi was OK but within a half-hour, as more information filtered out, she began to worry. Soon six army officers came to her front door saying that Udi is missing.

JEWISH VACATIONS

The young attractive recent bride showed us photos of her ruggedly handsome husband. She offered no tears and even occasional smiles as she bravely recounted her story. Udi's stoic mother, Micki, said, "We are fighting and we are strong. Udi, know that your mother is strong."

FRESH INK FOR TEENS

After our meeting, we went to see some of the damage caused by rockets in Nahariya, and discovered a building hit by a Katyusha, less than an hour earlier. I talked to a young man in his 20s who said he took his wife and small child to the hospital and that they were OK. I picked up a piece of ceramic tile from his patio that was on the ground in front of his attractive five-story building and it brought it home as a reminder of the physical and psychological damage Israelis are suffering.

WRITE ON FOR ISRAEL

Driving into Haifa was eerie. This beautiful city on the Mediterranean was deserted. Very few cars operated, windows of apartments were shuttered, restaurants and caf's were closed. The third-largest city in Israel was virtually shut down. Sixty rockets have hit Haifa with 10 people killed and more than 100,000 people living in bomb shelters.

SPECIAL SECTIONS

DIRECTORIES

Make no mistake; this is another dangerous defensive war that Israel is fighting that poses grave risks to its civilians and to its army. Israel will need the continual support of the U.S. administration and rank-and-file leaders throughout our nation. n

- MANHATTAN
- BROOKLYN/STATEN ISLAND
- QUEENS
- LONG ISLAND
- WESTCHESTER/BRONX

Robert Abrams, the former New York attorney general and vice president of the America-Israel Friendship League, took part this week in the Emergency Solidarity Leadership Mission organized by the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.



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- [As IDF Losses Mount, War Strategy Questioned](#)  
*Bint Jbail battle kills as many as 14 Israeli soldiers.*
- [Entering A War Zone](#)  
*Embattled Haifa residents appreciate support from the rest of the country, and visitors.*
- [Ground troops take over as air war falters; no endgame in sight.](#)
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*Three tales of coping in a battle zone.*

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