



**FLORIDA-ISRAEL INSTITUTE**

777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Phone: 561.297.4093 Fax: 561.297.4094 rothz@fau.edu [www.floridaisrael.org](http://www.floridaisrael.org)

**NEWSLETTER FROM THE INSTITUTE’S CO-DIRECTORS**

January 2008

**Dr. Marianne Sanua Spring 2008 Semester Jewish Studies course “Modern Israel”**



A new and exciting graduate-level course **WOH 5935 Modern Israel** runs this semester at the FAU Boca

campus (Wednesday nights 7:10-10:00 PM at Arts and Humanities 105) taught by Dr. Marianne Sanua, a member of the Florida-Israel Institute Academic Advisory Committee. **Dr. Marianne Sanua**, who specializes in American Jewish history, is an Associate Professor in the Department of History and the Jewish Studies Program at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. She received her PhD from Columbia University. Her books include *Going Greek: Jewish College Fraternities in the US* (2003) and her centennial history, *Let Us Prove Strong: The American Jewish Committee, 1945-2006* (University Press of New England, April 2007) which covers the last six decades of one of the oldest and most important American Jewish organizations. The new course also features (with the assistance of the Florida-Israel Institute) several Israeli films such as “A Green Chariot”, “Alex in Love”, “Campfire”, “Hill 24 Doesn’t Answer”, “Made in Israel”, “Over the Ocean”, “Time of Favor”, “The Summer of Aviya” and “Yossi and Jagger”.

**The Florida-Israel Institute 2008-2009 Legislative Budget Request**



Senator Nan Rich



Representative Adam Hasner

FII legislative budget request for 2008-2009 recently filed through the offices of Senator Nan Rich and House Representative Adam Hasner features the following proposed collaborative projects :

**Water Monitoring Project:** (Collaboration between Dr. Abraham Katzir’s Applied Physics Lab at Tel-Aviv University and the FAU Florida Environmental Center) Study shall focus on monitoring of specific phosphorus compounds in Everglades and Lake Okeechobee water samples, using Dr. Katzir’s breakthrough infrared laser spectroscopy measurement technology.

**Hospital Emergency Preparedness Project:** Promotion of Israeli-developed protocols for hospitals readiness for Mass Casualty Incidents, currently deployed at Jackson Memorial Hospital, and under

consideration in 81 other Florida hospitals. The main focus of the project is Hospitals Drills and Personnel Training.

**Elementary Math Education Initiative:** (Collaboration between Dr. Ron Aharoni of the Technion Mathematics Department, Dr. Yoram Sagher of the FAU Mathematics Department, the BCC Math Teacher Education program and the FAU College of Education). The goal is to promote the "Singapore Method" in Florida utilizing experience gained in Israel. Focus is on sponsoring workshops for training Math Education faculty and math teachers.

Additional projects involve collaboration in medical and biomedical, biotechnology and solar energy research.

Funds are also sought for the development of Florida's first **Israel Studies Certificate program** which includes enhancement of Hebrew Language instruction at FAU, commissioning new courses development on modern-day Israel aspects, and facilitation of Study Abroad in Israel programs. Community outreach by means of lectures and Israeli films continues to play a central role in this FII endeavor.

## Featuring a Florida-Israel Institute Spring 2008 Scholarship Recipient

This month we feature FII scholarship recipient **Meytal Dvash (Florida Gulf Coast University)** who tells us in her own words about her life in Israel and studies in Florida:



My name is **Meytal Dvash** and I will graduate in April with a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling at Florida Gulf Coast University. I was born in a moshav called "Zur-Natan" in Israel in 1975. The moshav is like a kibbutz with only 35 families and is located on a beautiful mountain. Today, many of the children who grew up there decided to stay and they raise their children there. After completing two years in the army, I worked and studied full time and graduated with a B.A. in Social Science and Psychology at the Open University. At the end of my studies I got married and my husband and I decided to visit and travel in Florida. Since I had a friend who studied here and it seemed like a great challenge for me to study in English, my husband agreed that we would stay so I would complete my Master's.

In 2002, I began to study for my Master's Degree in Criminal Justice at International College and graduated with a Summa Cum Laude honor in 2004. Then, I worked as an Adult Resource Coordinator at the Ruth Cooper Center, which is the mental health care provider in my county. This was the best time of my life in the working field. At this time I really got to understand what I want to do in my future, which is to help people improve their lives in our community. Therefore, I immediately registered with the Mental Health Counseling program. My plan is that when I graduate, I will move back to Israel to help my people improve their lives and cope with the trauma and stress that exists in our everyday lives.

During my time here, I gave birth to two amazing boys, Edan (4.5) and Shakked (2). I am thankful to my husband that he is taking good care of them while I am doing my 1000 internship hours and studying full time. Also, I am thankful to Florida-Israel Institute that has helped me so much to achieve my goal and have this wonderful opportunity to develop a career that can help other people. Also, I am thankful for the opportunity to do community service, which taught me a lot about the Jewish community around me and also gave me the satisfaction of helping people around.

I think that being here for the last six years made me understand the importance of Israel in my life and I am very happy and excited to plan my move back to Israel in the summer. I always felt connected to Israel where all my family and friends live. Even though I tried to stay connected to our Jewish traditions by going to the synagogue and celebrating the holidays with friends, I could always feel the difference between here and Israel. With every holiday that comes, I miss the unique feeling of the holiday that exists in Israel, which here does not seem important. I would like for my children to grow up as Israelis and appreciate the warmth of having all the family around them.