

First Letter to Potential Donors

Please forgive me for not having been in touch sooner. We have landed in Massachusetts and for the most part all is well. The kids and Ken seem happy with our new surroundings. I find my new position to be very challenging -- but I like it and I am learning my way around the area.

In November, I will go off to Israel to participate (for the 4th time) in a 300 mile bike ride from Jerusalem to Eilat in the Arava Institute Hazon Israel Ride. I am looking forward to the challenge and am thrilled to have the opportunity to raise funds for Hazon and the Arava Institute. This tiny Institute is devoted to protecting the environment in the Middle East. The students at the Institute are men and women from Israel and North America, Jordan, Gaza, and the West Bank. Together these people are making real strides towards protecting the environment and creating pockets of peaceful co-existence. It is a tiny drop in the ocean of the Middle East conflict, but it gives me hope. Howie Rodenstein, the Israel Ride chairperson said: "The best politicians can do is negotiate an absence of war, but it is in the individual relationships like those built here that peace can be created."

The ride also raises funds for Hazon, a new organization to the American Jewish scene. Hazon recognizes that the 21st century calls for a new way of engaging American Jews. I believe its attempt to offer alternative opportunities for involvement is critical. I might add it is exciting to support a serious effort to make American Jews more mindful of the environment.

Here is how you can help. As a participant in the ride, I am obligated to raise \$3600 but because I believe so deeply in the work of the Institute I hope to raise \$15,000. I am writing to ask for your support with a donation toward my ride. Any amount from \$36 to \$360 or more would be wonderful to receive.

With your generosity and my pedaling, we can support Israel at this important time. You can donate by credit card by visiting my rider page at www.israelride.org or send me a check made out to "Arava Institute Hazon Israel Ride." My home address is:

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