

Israel trip showcases impactful women, importance of investing in Israel Bonds

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By RACHEL FREEMAN
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Development Corporation for Israel/Israel Bonds Women's Division member Diana Sager, far left, with members of Bonds' 2019 Women's Division Delegation to Israel, where the group met with Israeli Paralympian basketball player and world champion rower Moran Samuel, pictured center. Photo courtesy of Diana Sager

Seminole resident Diana Sager says an Israel Bonds sponsored trip to Israel opened her eyes on how women are making a powerful impact in the Jewish homeland.

Sager says the trip, which included more than 40 women from around the U.S. and held in late 2019, also reminded her why it's important to invest in Israel.

Sager and her fiance Steven Warren were honored by Development Corporation for Israel/Israel Bonds at the Prime Minister's Club event in 2017 for long-term commitment to Israel Bonds, both

individually and collectively. At the event, Sager noticed many women wearing pendants with Israel Bonds insignia on them, and asked how she could get one, too.

“I started talking to the women who wore them and found out it was based on individual women’s commitments,” said Sager in a Jewish Press phone interview. “I liked that and I do manage my own assets. I inquired further and found out how to get more involved in the mission – promoting and investing in Israel. That’s how I was drawn to the impact women can have. I’m a woman, I invest, and I want to invest in Israel, so this all made sense to me.”

Sager had been to Israel several times before, but never with such a large group of women. The group, under the auspices of the Israel Bonds Women’s Division, stopped in a number of cities in Israel including Haifa, Tzfat, Jerusalem, and Beit Shemesh.

Along the way, they met powerful women making a difference, people with both heartbreaking and inspiring stories.

In the Bedouin community of Zarzir, the group met a woman who left an abusive relationship to start a shelter for women experiencing abuse.

“Her tireless work on behalf of women in need changed their lives for the better in ways both large and small, and it was an example we were humbled by and honored to learn from,” wrote Sager in a reflective piece about her experience.

At the Olympic Experience Museum in Tel Aviv, the group met Moran Samuel, a Paralympics basketball player and world champion rower. Samuel shared her story with the women, explaining how she always wanted to play at the professional level, but had to overcome the challenge of her disability to achieve her dream of competing in the Paralympics.

“The lesson was, never give up and never let obstacles prevent you from achieving your potential. “[Samuel] was living proof that these were words to live by,” Sager wrote.

“When people think of Israel, they tend to think of immense challenges – the arid climate, security threats, and more. But what we saw there was different,” she continued. “Time and again, we came across remarkable women leaders facing insurmountable hardships and rising to the occasion to confront and overcome them.”

Calling these women and others they encountered, “essential to the survival and progress of Israel,” Sager said it inspired her and the other women from Israel Bonds to deepen their efforts to support Israel.

“Women have an impact. We as women investors and they as Jewish women [are] making a difference there,” Sager wrote.

“It’s important to invest in Israel because they need us,” said Sager. “It’s a mutually beneficial relationship. When Israel thrives, we thrive. Nobody needs to be reminded of all their contributions to society, tech, and health. Without Israel, we wouldn’t have so much. That partnership we get to have is a privilege. It’s hard to explain. We just need each other. We wouldn’t have the Israel we have today without these investments of bond holders and investors.”

The trip also created a deep connection between the group of women.

“Instantly, we felt a connection with one another, almost as though we were family, creating a friendship that has continued beyond the delegation,” wrote Sager.

They keep in touch through a WhatsApp group. Sager said it’s nice to have a way to stay connected, share their lives, and support one another in a time when they can’t meet up face-to-face.

Israel Bonds organizes trips to Israel every other year, and Sager said she would definitely go again.

“Participating in Israel Bonds has impacted my life for the better,” said Sager. “The exposure to experiences, people, and opportunities to see and understand more of Israel in a much more intimate way – it has strengthened my personal bond. What [Israel Bonds is] able to bring and present to participants is beyond what you’d see even with the best tour company available.”

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