

Fourth Article David and Yehudit Dvir Har Shmuel Pioneers

by Yocheved Miriam Zemel

David Dvir was seven years old in 1982, when his father, Rabbi Chaim Dvir started planning the Ashkenazi Synagogue in Har Shmuel in consultation with Rabbi Yitzchak Mirsky, who served as Rosh Yeshiva of Beit Midrash L'Torah.

David and Yehudit Dvir were married six months in 2008 when they chose to move to Har Shmuel and fulfill the mission of establishing a warm, Torah true Ashkenazi community, and actualizing the vision of the 125 year old American congregation from New Jersey, Kehilat B'nei Yisrael which re-established itself in Israel.

The building of the synagogue was completed in Har Shmuel on Purim of that year, the thirteenth day of Adar, (2008, ט"ו שבט). But while the facility was complete, there were many day-to-day challenges in creating a Synagogue that would fulfill the vision of its founders.

The primary problem was in finding ten men to make a Minyan on a regular basis. David Dvir undertook that job, as well as many other synagogue functions to keep the dream alive.

His wife Yehudit recalls, “ For quite a while we felt the obligation to stay in Har Shmuel for Shabbat, to help run the shul.” As newlyweds whose parent lived in Israel, Yehudit and David decided to forgo invitations to spend Shabbat with relatives outside of Har Shmuel, and to stay here every Shabbat.

“At first, David did it all.” Yehudit notes, “ But, as time went on more and more people arrived and helped with the kiddushim, the minyan, and the running of the synagogue.”

“Life was an adventure, “ says Yehudit. A case in point: One evening the Dvirs heard a loudspeaker blasting, “Come out of your homes, there is a kidnapping,” As it turned out, the army occupied a home that was newly constructed, but empty, and decided to do a drill for the soldiers. They forgot to notify the

neighbors, however.

Another challenge was that of braving the cold weather, and high snow, without heat or electricity. That's what happened two years ago. To compound the problem, the Dvirs had four little children, a four year old son, twin year and a half year old boys, and a two month old daughter. On top of that, with mounds of snow (70-80 cm.) blocking their way, on a Shabbat, one of their twin sons had dislocated his shoulder. David discovered the problem when he came home from shul. He traipsed through the snow, with his son in tow, to Rabbi Moshe Klein, who was known for being able to relocate shoulders. Rabbi Klein relocated the shoulder, but David was still concerned, since his son wasn't moving his arm. He decided to take his son to Terem after Shabbat. Not so easy with a car that is stuck in the snow, and a house that is built on a mound, since the steps weren't yet built. The neighbors came to the rescue. Many braved the pile of snow in front of the Dvir home, climbed up, and assisted David in getting his son down to the street. Someone offered to take David to Terem, but was blocked by cars that were stuck at the entrance to the community. After an hour of riding around Har Shmuel trying to get out, they returned. Finally, around midnight, David found a friend from Zaka to drive him and his son to Terem. After they checked on his son and assured David that he was healing fine, father and son returned home to the cold house. Yehudit cooked by lighting candles, and for water, they melted snow. Somehow, they survived, and were not intimidated by the experience.

Despite the difficulties, the Dvirs love the community. Why? I asked. Many reasons. They cite the warmth of the community. Yehudit gives an example, “ I had a baby on Rosh Hashana this year. Neighbors whom I hardly know brought me food, and offered to help. The people here are special.”

The Dvirs also like the diversity of the community. While it is a Shomer Shabbat community, children go to different schools, and there are differences of outlook among many of the members. The Dvirs see this a positive development. As they say, “ The residents treat each other with respect. They regard each other with honor (kavod).”

Despite the lack of buses and schools in Har Shmuel,

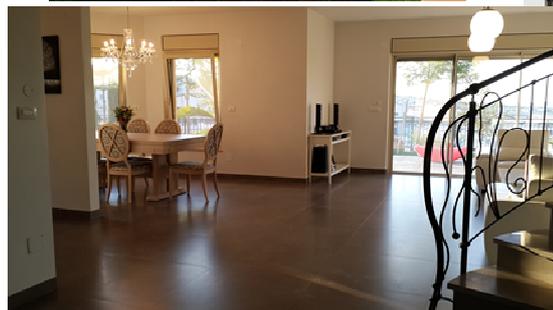
The “HAR” in English

which forces the Dvirs to drive their children to school and friends, they are happy in Har Shmuel. As more people move in, David can muster greater and greater resources. He now gets volunteers to assist with many Shul matters. Now David and Yehudit can leave Har Shmuel on an occasional Shabbat, and know that the Shul is in good hands. We who have recently moved to Har Shmuel appreciate the sacrifice that the founders of our community on whose

shoulders we stand. The Dvirs are great role models for all of us.

Yocheved Miriam Zemel, the Owner-Broker of Zemel Realty Jerusalem, wears two hats, as a real estate professional and as a writer living in Israel. She writes frequently on major issues confronting the Jewish World. E-mail or call her at [052-750-4624](tel:052-750-4624) US number [561-922-0300](tel:561-922-0300) or by e-mail at yocheved@zemel.org

The Wall



A Villa in Har Shmuel

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The villa is facing an amazing view

The house was built in a very high quality and accuracy level.

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