

Alabama-Israel Leadership Gala 2017

*Honoring Leadership, Celebrating Friendship,
Cultivating State-to-State Relationship for the Mutual Benefit of Our People*

*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary and Jubilee of
the Reunification of Jerusalem*

*Personal Photo Opportunities with Israeli Dignitaries
String Music by A Mellow Tone*

OPENING

Welcome - Pastor George Sawyer, Calvary Assembly, Decatur

Blessing of Invocation – Pastor Rusty Nelson, Rock Family Worship Center, Huntsville

Desserts and Hors d'oeuvres (kosher)

U.S. National Anthem - The Star Spangled Banner

Israeli National Anthem - Hatikva (“The Hope”)

Purpose of the Evening - John Buhler, Co-Chair AITF

**Tribute to David, Founder of Jerusalem, The City of David,
The Eternal Undivided Capital of Israel**
Psalm 27 – A Psalm of David

Commemorative Presentation - Laura King, Co-Chair AITF

Remarks - The Honorable Lior Haiat, Consul General of Israel (AL, MS, FL, PR)

Alabama, Israel, ILI, and EPDR - Eeki Elner, Founder Israel Leadership Institute (ILI)

Keynote - Brigadier General Gal Hirsch, Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

Israel Leadership Award Presentation
2017 Laureate, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama

Remarks - The Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama

Tribute to Jerusalem
Yerushalayim Shel Zahav (“Jerusalem of Gold”)

Prayer for Israel - Pastor George Sawyer, Assembly of God Presbyter, North Alabama

CLOSING

Blessing of Benediction – Pastor Emilio Sanchez, Hispanic Leadership Network

Israeli Products – Available in Alabama

Products from Israel are available right here in Alabama through **Sabra Style**, a local business providing a gateway for importing Israeli products from Israeli vendors, and representing Israeli designers and artists. For additional details visit Sabra Style online at www.sabrastyle.com.

Thank You!

We would like to especially thank the following for their generous financial support for this special evening – Jacques & Lauren Blinbaum, Katherine Bazemore and Cocoon, Donald & Ronne Hess, Alan & Lisa Engel, Dr. Stan Davis, Steven Brickman, Lenora Pate, John & Anne Cox, Anne Shady, Temple B'nai Sholom, Etz Chayim, Calvary Assembly, The Dwelling Place, Valley Fellowship, The Rock Family Worship Center, The Olive Branch, and Eagles' Nest Ministries.

We would also like to thank the gala organizational committee, the many volunteers, and Pastor George and Phyllis Sawyer for their tremendous help and support!

*And we would like to thank **each of you** – by your seat or table reservation, you have helped to tangibly bless Israel, extend the EPDR initiative through the ILI, and to further strengthen the relationship and expand the partnership between Alabama and Israel.*

Charitable Benefit

This evening is a charitable benefit with all proceeds going to support the **Alabama-Israel Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (EPDR) Initiative** with the Israel Leadership Institute (ILI) in Sderot-Israel.

Israel Leadership Institute (ILI)
www.israeleader.org

The **Israel Leadership Institute (ILI)** is one of Israel's most advanced and creative leadership schools. The ILI's leadership and board of directors include some of Israel's most distinguished leaders across a variety of disciplines. The ILI is a non-profit organization based in Sderot, on the Israeli-Gaza border. Its choice of location, in one of the most dangerous places in Israel, has gained the ILI an outstanding reputation in Israel - and globally - as a symbol of the struggle for democracy, freedom, and the fight against terror, and has made Sderot an “epicenter” of leadership development in Israel.

Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF)
www.aitf-web.org

The **Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF)** seeks to provide a bridge and catalyst for broader cooperative efforts and help cultivate an even stronger and expanding state-to-state relationship between Alabama and Israel for the mutual benefit of their people.