

THREE GENERATIONS: RETURN TO THE PROMISED LAND

The Three Generations Project was a multi-faceted project created for certain diaspora communities that involved visual images and story telling. As the Liaison for the English Speaking Countries, my role was to uncover archived photographs that captured moments in time, which documented three generations of Jews and their homeland; some hinting at sacrifices made, all for a better future.

A modern way of life had been established in the diaspora by younger generations who had left Israel and built a life on the shoulders of their ancestors, however, possibly at the expense of losing touch with their traditions and culture. The Three Generations Project was a visual project aimed at rekindling the desire and love for one's heritage, while reconnecting younger generations with the legacy that their ancestors had created.

Black and white images were chosen because of the nostalgic feeling they evoke: immigrants waiting to leave their country for a better life, extended families arriving in Israel in the dead of night, three generations attending Hebrew school (Ulpan), together to learn to read and write in Hebrew, and a family at peace and integrated after a successful and supported absorption process.

Leah Collmer

Three Generations
Return to the Promised Land
Diaspora Community Project
(Black and White Selection)

Picture 1A - (Right top) Three generations of new immigrants learning Hebrew in Ulpan (Hebrew language school officiated by the state, as part of new immigrant absorption rights).

Front row: Grandmother center, mother on right, granddaughter on left.



Picture 1B - (Right bottom) Three generations of new immigrants arriving in Israel at night.

Multiple family unit: Grandmother, grandchild, set of brothers, husband and wife, mother-in-law.

Picture 1C - (Previous page, top) Families waiting for departure at airport to make Aliya to Israel.

Grandmother, daughter and granddaughter.

Picture 1D - (Previous page, bottom) Three entire generations born in Israel. Grandparents, daughter and granddaughter.



