

Mike Hollander
Tour Educator and Informal Jewish Educator
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Mike Hollander grew up in Canada, where he attended Jewish elementary school and completed a BA from York University (Toronto) in History. From age 9 through 24, he was very involved in a Zionist Youth Movement, as a participant as well as leader. Upon completion of his degree, he attended Tel Aviv University and enrolled in a Masters program for Middle Eastern Studies for overseas students. While in Israel, he helped form a group of people who made Aliyah together in 1988 to Kibbutz Ravid.

In 1990, he moved to Jerusalem, where he worked in fundraising, while taking the Israeli Government Ministry of Tourism Course. He qualified as a Licensed Tour Guide in 1994. For over 20 years, he has worked full time, lecturing, teaching courses to teenagers on long-term programs in Israel, as well as taking people of all ages around Israel.

In the summer of 2001, he was sent by the Jewish Agency for Israel to be an educational emissary (Shaliach) to the Federation of Zionist Youth (FZY), the largest Zionist youth movement in Great Britain and the Israel Experience, UK (IE). Over 3 years, he worked as an educational consultant, helping plan the year's activities for over 1,000 Jewish youth between the ages of 14 and 24. These included weekly activities, seminars, residential summer camps, and Israel short- and long-term programs. He also initiated short-term educational and volunteering programs in Israel for university-aged members.

Mike was also a consultant to the IE, helping British youth movements and organizations construct their 'educational storyline' and their short-term summer Israel programs, as well as design new programs. In this capacity, he also helped design a training program for the youth movement leaders to prepare them for taking 1,100 16-year-olds to Israel in the summer.

Upon returning to Israel in 2004, Mike returned to work full-time as a tour educator, and in 2008, completed his Masters Degree in Jewish-Christian Relations from the Cambridge Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations. As a Jewish educator outside of Israel, Mike has led many groups on Jewish travel journeys throughout Eastern and Central Europe. He has also lectured and taught as a scholar in residence at many Jewish communities throughout North America.

With a wide range of experience working with all ages, from individual family groups, through teenagers and university students, adult groups, political and business groups, as well as interfaith lay and clergy groups, Mike has almost 25-years' experience working as an informal Jewish educator.

Mike is married to Michele, and they have three children, Tal (27), Adi (24), and Matan (21)