



President Clinton tours Masada



President Bill Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea tour Masada yesterday with Prime Minister Binyamin and Sara Netanyahu. (AP)

At the large storehouse, Clinton was shown a photograph of a black ceramic amphora, a jar for shipping wine that contained the inscription King Herod of Judea.

He also toured the room where Masada's last residents during the Roman siege took up lots to decide the order of who would commit suicide.

As the dignitaries approached the cable car to begin their ascent, their hosts had presented a stainless steel menorah depicting four

silhouettes of Masada, made by Ein Hod artist Arie Ofir. Set at the foot of the silhouettes is a reproduction of one of the 11 ostracons, inscribed with the name Shimon, that was prepared for the suicide.

The Clintons also received a compact disk of Shuki Levy's musical "Masada: The Musical Saga," and they and the Netanyahus all got Israel Nature and Nature Parks Protection Authority sweatshirts.

At the quarry, photographers

clicked away as the Netanyahus and Clintons listened to Netzer describe its later function as a moat to prevent thefts of food and wine from the storehouse.

Near the end of the tour, Clinton observed preservationists patching holes in a wall and took up tools to lend a hand.

Assaf Shalom, head of the preservation and reconstruction team at Masada, said the honor of hosting Clinton aside, the presidential visit will help sell preserva-

tion to the Israeli public.

Masada's managers intend to seek businesses' sponsorship of the site and believe that if that occurs, Israelis will want to contribute directly, too.

"We must conserve, and relay the message to tourists who took the time to come and see the touch of humanity that passed. So, today we're taking a new approach to make public awareness of the issue of the conservation of heritage sites."

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YMCA. However, Verses noted that the members, whose average age

MIA families discuss plight

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Hillary Rodham Clinton said the issue of

Yehuda Katz and Tzvi Feldman has been missing since the battle of Sultan Yakoub in Lebanon in June 1982.

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