

## Ramah family camp 2016

### Report

Challenges for madrichim and Machane: good atmosphere in the camp, attention to every participant, safety, articulate the basic ideas peulot, participation of all groups in all camp events, organization of summer vacation, dynamism, energy and positive atmosphere, instilling values of Judaism to all participants of machane (Tefillah, Shabbat, Tanakh), knowledge of the importance of the State of Israel and Jerusalem in the life of every human being (the study tanahik sources).

#### *Pre-camp. July, 5-6*

Six madrichim which are the active members of communities and four of them are NOAM Ukraine madrichim (Kiev, Chernowitz and Odessa communities) they grow up in communities, were prepared before, they visited prayers and Kabbalat Shabbat, and have good skills in Judaism.

#### *The first day of the pre-camp.*

It was in Kiev and consist preparation to quests and evening events. Lena Stamov held a seminar for madrichim.



Members

of European Beit Din – Rosh Beit Din Rav Khaim Viner and Rav Shlomo Zakharov with Rav Reuven Stamov were examined people who want to convert.

In the end of the day it was a festive ceremony with 5 members which joined to the Am Israel. *(These photos are private and people ask not to publish them on social networks, only for inner use)*

After the ceremony it was shehita exam, 2 members of Kiev community which learning shehita during 2 years and Shlomo examine them

#### Meeting with Betsy Gidwitz

She visited the Kiev community center. Lena and Reuven told her how the conservative movement spreads in Ukraine, they had dinner in Lena`s and Reuven`s department. After the so hard day at 10:30 all members of seminar moved to Cherkassy.

#### *The second day of the pre-camp.*

It started with prayers and moved two streams. Lena Stamov and madrichim prepared lectures and lessons for the seminar. Rav Shlomo Zakharov and two shoihets did shehita for the seminar. 20% of all meat in the camp were prepared by these two shoihets.



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*social networks, only for inner use)*

In the evening it was chuppah ceremony. Rav Reuven Stamov put on chuppah for two members of the Kiev Masorti community that they conversed two years ago. Rav Shlomo Zakharov sang Sheva brahot. It was on the beautiful river bank and beautiful nature. Everyone was really happy. The atmosphere very solemn and each member of the seminar had duty in chuppah and it was little but very friendly family. On late night tzevet continue to prepare camp program.

The main topic of the camp was “Im yishkaheh Yerushalaim...” Topic had purposed to combine historical and spiritual facts of the Promised Land.

One hundred participants with tzevet from Cherkassy, Chernowitz, Zaporozhe, Odessa, Kharkov, Kiev, Berdicher and Belaya Tzerkov visited Family Camp. There were 32 families with children of different ages. A lot of the families the first time in the camp – 13 families, 8 was refugees families. Some participants of the camp were not acquainted with each other, and some attend camps and activities for several years and with joy were waiting for the family camp. Every participant had a feeling that he is part of one big family. On Boker Tov was a short and funny introduction of the day theme with Jewish dancing, which set a good mood. Of cause, traditionally Mode Ani was sung.

Shacharit. Each children`s group had a prayer on their level. Teenagers group 13-14 years old had Shaharit and Shabbt prayer with adults. Children in oldest kvutza had an opportunity to wear Tallit and Tfilin. It`s a really unique opportunity that they can do at the family camp.

All players were conducted by Rav Reuven Stamov. Participants were fond of this process; especially they love prayer with Torah reading and Kabbalat Shabbat on the bank of the river.

Also every morning participants had the opportunity to learn several phrases in Hebrew (it called in program Rega Hebrew). For parents and their children it was perfect chance to learn new words and for someone even to get acquainted with the Hebrew for the first time. Everyone was really grateful for such a great opportunity.

*The First day. Tel Avivi and Opening*

Day goals: achieve a good atmosphere in the groups, comfort, security and a sense of pleasantness. It was a day with a program introduction, behavior rules in a group, meeting and mixed families. After a lecture about Tel Aviv, they presented each group in an informal way.

### *The Second day. Tsafon (North of Israel)*

Goals: To unite and rally within the group, familiarity.

Game "Traveling to the north". Quest with traveling to the different part of the North of Israel (Tzfat, Mount Hermon, Haifa, Tiberias, Caesarea). Each town (station) includes questions about history and Tanahical sources about places and funny games.

Peula goal. Equating Tzfat with Shabbat. In good atmosphere to tell and feel the mystical significance of Shabbat, talk about Shabbat and its laws in the Mahane.

Peula. Group leaders Presented connection between Tzfat and Kabbalat Shabbat and mystical meaning of Shabbat.

Master class. Every family had an opportunity to make gifts in Tzfat blue style.

Before Shabbat every family prepared Shabbat concert. Song, drama or dance. After amazing candle lighting and good atmosphere we had Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv prayer together on the river bank with a beautiful view that help us to fill the atmosphere of Shabbat mystery. After the Shabbat meal everyone enjoyed the songs on Oneg Shabbat.

### *The Third Day. Shabbat*

Goals: maximally feel family values, to experience the uniqueness of Shabbat. The importance of observing the Shabbat laws. Shabbat is the island of quietness.

Parsha haShavuah studying in the groups (Korah and Hukkat). Shabbat songs.

Task for families: to kiss 20 times each family member, make 50 compliments, do 10 thanks. In the evening, make feedback about feelings.

Limud for children and adults. Everyone had an opportunity to choose suitable lecture or lesson. It was three tracks with lectures for adults about Israeli literature, religion and politics in Israel, Jewish family, Torah and ecology, secrets of Shlomo Ha Meleh and lecture about conversion.

Separately it should be noted Lena Stamov lecture about Israeli literature. It asked was really interesting for all participants and many of them questions after the lecture, wanted to know more and really interested in this topic.

Children can listen to Jewish fairy tales, visit the drama club and can take part in the debates. Free time was organized with different opportunities: fairy tales, pilates and volleyball.

The day continues with Mincha. It was a time when people after conversion were honored to have aliah to Torah reading.

At the end of the day on evening events were intellectual games on the topic of Parashat ha Shavua. In the dark children and adults were happy and little bit sad to do Havdalah ceremony. For some of them it was the first unforgettable experience.

#### *The Fourth Day. Darom*

Day goals: to feel Tanahik origins of the Land of Israel.

A feature of the day: competition within groups, smoothing conflicts.

The event "Israel the land of the four seas". It was quest organized to understand the modern history and the connection to Tanach of the State of Israel.

Dead Sea represents the Berishit story of Lot, Mediterranean Sea – book of Jonah, Kineret – book Yeshua ben Nun, Red Sea - Shirat haYam.

Also on each station it was a task to consolidate each family and it was a story about modern Israel to understand that Israel has only one source of fresh water, to enhance the understanding of great feats of people who built modern Israel. In the final task, it was water games and everyone was happy to take part in it.

Peula Beer Sheva had the goals to talk about Avraam and wells. It had some accent such as commitment, helping others, hospitality, faithful to God and persistence.

The day ended with a funny disco with Israeli dances in Eilat with competitions.

#### *The Fifth Day. Gvura*

Day goals: evoke pride of the country (The State of Israel) and the desire to do something for the country.

The event was showing the active life position of the Jew's and readiness to protect themselves from others.

This day was entirely devoted to the patriotism, the emotions of recognizing homeland, national feeling or national pride, including traditional, cultural, political or historical aspects.

At the event all participants of the camp had the opportunity to feel Israeli soldiers, to feel themselves Jews that have the opportunity to defend their homeland. Participants had to disguise themselves, use a mine detector, check their accuracy, shoot a machine gun, prepare a meal of regular soldiers. The task: to introduction to different kinds of troops in the Israeli army. The army was just a first part of the day, but the main goal was to talk about patriotism in Israel.

Peul "Patriot". Tell about patriotism, about modern Israel, discipline and respectfulness. Lecture about patriotism and history of halutzim, Jewish culture, and patriotic songs.

The day ended with evening concert was all had an opportunity to prepare a presentation on the topic of various kibbutzim. Thanks to the kibbutzim Israel rose and because of this it was really important to know their history and their features.

#### *The Sixth Day. Jerusalem and Closing*

The quest “Elevator of the time” was dedicated to Jerusalem. Everyone can discover the history of the city through the centuries.

Peula “Jerusalem”. To understand the meaning “If I forget you, Jerusalem”

Master classes (Two large master class emphasized the theme of the day). It was the opportunity to create contour Jerusalem from colored sand.

Lecture “Israeli music”. Lena Stamov skillfully stressed the theme of the day with its musical lecture by finishing it the song “Yerushalaim shel zahav”. The lecture presented all periods of Israeli music industry development, some of the tracks, such as the performing a song on Yom Hazikaron have touched absolutely everyone and it was a wonderful reminder of the topic of the previous day Gevurah.

In the evening it was the final camp event, named by the famous phrase of the prophet Or Hadash al Zion Tair. It looked very beautiful and touching. It was an amazing sight. The atmosphere was very warm and romantic. Every team were happy to prepare for performance, received prizes and certificates in various categories, but it was a bit sad that is the end of the camp. And finally, all ended with an incredibly beautiful fire show also named “Or Hadash al Zion Tair”. Every one had received the magnets with Jerusalem view and finish with a song “Im eshkaheh Yerushalayim tishkah yamini”. This is very bright and clearly supports the basic theme of the camp “Im eshkaheh Yerushalayim...”, a symbol of the Zionist hope...

#### *Day of departure*

After Mode Ani, Boker Tov and Shaharit participants started preparing to leave. No one just did want to leave. People from different cities exchanged phones; we told our profiles on social networks and phone. And some cried... Very hard was separation and departure. We were one big family.

#### *Feedback*

After analyzing the camp it can be argued that the main goals were reached. The program was well balanced and prepared in the highest level. Parents were very grateful for the opportunity to be together with their children, especially teenagers. It was very important for the team to hear words of gratitude from all participants of the family camp. All tzevet was truly ready for the camp, they grow up in communities. After all, everyone felt the special atmosphere of Jewish life, enjoyed songs, stories and history — all together with new Jewish family friends. For the participants of the camp tzevet created such conditions that it was no matter what Jewish background they have each family found a place at Family Camp. Many parents talked about that this camp was a great time when they were really enjoying spending time together with the family and feeling a sense of Jewish community. It was united family experience. Parents and their children could get the full flavor of Jewish life together with Shabbat and prayers. At first we were afraid that teenagers may not join the camp, only in our family camp we invite enough adult teens. The rest of the organization does not do this. But everything was perfect. On the one hand it was religion camp, where we can study religion, history, Jewish tradition in an informal way. Thank you so much. For many people it was only one chance to have a vacation with all family because of bad financial situation.

Lena from Donetsk said: “We were in many Jewish camps, but only this one was unique, we will never forget this and no longer want to go to other camps”.

Alex from Odessa noted: “Well-organized camp with a great mix of family time and time for parents to learn new interesting things and free time where all can fill joy with kids”.

Mihail from Berdichev said: “Family Camp was a pure joy of a Jewish experience for our family”.

After all of these parents discovered their own children in a new way, learn more about them. The camp gave them a wonderful remembrance of joint prayers, Shabbat, and many particles of Jewish life.

For the future we would like to make two younger groups, it means 4 kvutzot. Because we had children in the age of 1 year till 4 and in Kiev community they have a special program. It would be perfect to do the same in the camp. To summarize, it can be said that for participants was perfectly done by camp longer and to have a financial opportunity to camp for more participants. Madrichim and many parents asked to conduct Shabbaton in the middle of the year. Such camps really consolidate community. A new people come and stay for all programs in kehila.

Just on the first Shabbath after family camp new people came to the Kiev community. Despite the fact that families from Chernowitz was not able to come, we have new people from Kiev, and they immediately began to actively attend community.

With all sincerity, many thanks for grantors who made this camp possible because the camp gathered a large Jewish family. Many thanks for Masorti Olami, Mirdreshet Yerushalaim for this opportunity to create such camp. Also many thanks for that people who worked in Jewish communities and schools, find money, write programs, lead and encourage Jewish leaders. It is a big honor for us to understand that we took part in organizing this unforgettable time.

The more photos you can find on our page on Facebook –

<https://www.facebook.com/masoretinkiev>