

Ramah Family Camp 2017

"The heart of the Jewish people. The Torah will come out from Zion"(Ki mi Zion tetze Torah)

The Ramah family Camp 2017 traditionally took place in Cherkassy from June, 29 till July, 4, the beautiful place with forest, river bank, sands, various natures helped to create a social atmosphere for family rest out of the metropolises.

It was so important for parents and children have time together to see how they connect with friends and each other, to pray together, to hear the same information, to have family memories from the summer.

It was 103 people (45 kids and 58 adults with tzevet). There were families from Chernowitz, Cherkassy, Kiev, Odessa, Belaya Tzekov (unfortunately Kharkov couldn't arrive).

There were 3 refugee families. This year we have four kvutzot for children and group of 40ty adults.

I kvutza (2-4 years) II kvutza (5-8 years) III kvutza (8-12 years) IV kvutza (13-15 years)

The oldest children as adults helped to madrichim and little kids to organized time and games. They were very proud of it.

It was an exciting experience that we have representatives of all generations from 4 month babies till 80 years grandfather who were in one team as one huge Jewish family and feel "Am ehad".

The purpose of the camp: studding Jewish tradition in an informal way and pleasant atmosphere and its practical application in families.

Targets and goals:

- The family rallying
- Attracting of new families to the communities
- To give knowledge of Jewish tradition,
 - The Heart of Judaism - Torah
 - The Torah originates from Zion
 - The Importance of Religious Zionism
 - To give knowledge about the importance of the State of Israel and Jerusalem for everyone day life
- Give family time in a pleasant atmosphere
- Jewish education is inseparable from the Torah and Zionism
- Good atmosphere in the group
- Attention to every child and child safety
- Participation of the whole group in camp events
- Organization of summer holidays in dynamic, energy, positive way
- The inculcation of the Judaism values to all camp participants (Tefila, Shabbat, Tanakh)

June, 27-29 - Pre-camp

We have only two day pre-camp, but have some Skype meetings and discussion program before.

For most of the team it was the first time. Tzevet was from Kiev, Odessa, Berdichev and Belaya Tzerkov.

The first day was dedicated to the introduction of the topic and acquaintance.

This year every morning started with Mode Ani and 15 minutes and the new was the Hebrew coffee break. Where they can talk only Hebrew and it was very good practice and they like it and ask more Hebrew next summer camp.

The second day was dedicated to meaning of the Torah for the Jewish people and preparation for Shabbat, both of them – Torah and Shabbat are the central parts of Judaism

Peula “Torah as a mirror”. Objectives: in a good atmosphere to tell and feel the mystical meaning of Shabbat, to tell about the Shabbat and its laws in Mahane.

Event “Shabbat” (The seven days of creation in form of macabiah games). Children and parents have a good opportunity to jam, sing, run together and enjoy the informal studying. After the event we did a picture and made a rain and suddenly it was a rainbow. It was like a miracle of the uniting of family camp and God’s creation. It is really an amazing thing.

Before Shabbat we had traditionally that the every family created presents. They made midrashim, songs, and sketches and decorations. Every team has an own duty at the Shabbat table. There were many new people and it was first family Shabbat. They were surprised by reading Eshet Hail and Children’s blessing.

On the Shabbat table they sit together and share wishes to each other. It was unforgettable Oneg Shabbat when kids, parent and grandparents shared their impressions.

The third day – Shabbat. It was day of prayers, rest and informal education. Peula “Shabbat”. We tried to do the accent on family experience and family values, feel the uniqueness of the Shabbat. To feel the importance of respecting the Shabbat laws. It was an amazing day on the picturesque river bank with prayer and Torah reading, studying Parashat Hashavua “Hukkat” and “Balak”. Shabbat songs

Everyone liked the form of Zeher le-Tsiat Mizraim event when every group did his own theatrical Midrash, discussed the texts and show their talents to each other. (Working with texts)

Lecture by psychologist Miroslav Grinberg for parents about the Children's rights and Torah and Jewish tradition. It was very practical and parents were very thankful for such connection to know the modern children’s right and old Tanach and Talmudical tradition.

It was a very good experience for some parents and teenagers to do aliah to the Torah for the first time and they waited for the Morning Prayer to the Yom Sheni Torah reading to have their opportunity.

They have really fun on the evening event “Intuition” (the purposes are to unite families and guess what talent tzevet has). Unfortunately on that day in Cherkassy was a hurricane and many building in region were destroyed and fortunately Elohim provided us and we just stay without electricity one night and everybody in the camp felt something special. So Havdalah and Morning Prayer were very sincere and all felt Shechina and were very grateful for protection. Instead of a disco, everyone sang songs with a guitar till the morning.

The fourth day. Halutzim. It was dedicated to Zionism. It started with Julia Smelyanskaya lecture (Twice for parents and IV kvutza) about Ukrainian roots of Zionism and Israeli politicians originally from Ukraine –

Golda Meir, Meir Dizengoff and David Gordon. Madrichim with kids also talked about Zionism and the State of Israel.

Peula "The Prophets and Poetry". All trying to understand the meaning of Jerusalem in the prophetic books and that Jerusalem is a Jewish city.

This evening was the beginning of the celebration the "50 years of the reunited Jerusalem"

Event "Halutzim"- Sports event (kibbutz, security, agriculture, etc.). The idea of the Zionist movement. It Evening event – "50 years of the reunited Jerusalem". Everyone in his big group (family) prepared songs, poetry about Jerusalem. Every group wrote beautiful poetry about Jerusalem which started with Jerusalem hymn. Groups founded historical videos from the Six day war, from history of Jerusalem, this year ceremonies on the Western Wall. It was very solemn event finished by Jerusalem view video and Yerushalaim Shel Zahav songs

Everyone was in touch and proud of the Jewish capital and its unique history.

The fifth day. Yerushalaim We started with Morning tfila with Torah reading Jerusalem breakfast (halavi breakfast after the Shaharit) in pine forest that give us the atmosphere of Jerusalem hills. Then everyone took place in Jerusalem Show on Ben Yeguda streets. All had opportunity to "buy" or do thing that remained Jerusalem. It was beautiful candles sticks; they meet Jerusalem prophets, write impressions on the "Western Wall".

Everyone received magnets with the topic of the camp Ki mi Tzion Tetze Torah.

It was unforgettable closing, disco with violin concert final concert. Everyone received their prize. For tzvet the main prize was reaction of the participants, they were so grateful, tears of happiness and we still talking and singing till the morning about deep impression of this big and meaningful family summer event.

Great job was done by Rav Reuven Stamov to prepare lectures, prayers, and some consulting people in Ramah family Camp. Team of NOAM madrichim guards and mashgichim was so excellent (two our mashgichim that graduated from program with Shlomo Zacharow).

We thank everyone who spend their time in big Schechter and Masorti Olami team who made this Family camp possible.

Huge supports that can inspire everyone to continue this important holy work to return Post-soviet Jews to their Jewish roots are feedback from the participants that came top our e-mail:

My name is Stanislav. This year I participated in the family camp project as a mashgiach. Larger part of my time I spent in the kitchen, supervising work of kitchen staff, making dinnerware kosher, checking food and performing other duties related to it. I really enjoyed it and I got an interesting deep experience. This was a bright culmination moment after a year of trainings dedicated to these activities.

My name is Marina. In the camp I was with my husband Stanislav and son Misha, who is 3 years old. I really liked organization of studies and leisure at the camp, as well as a set of camp activities. In the camp we had opportunity to study weekly chapters of Torah together with the Rabbi, ask him questions we were

interested in, listen to lectures on the history of Israel, talk with the family psychologist about the subtleties of Jewish child upbringing, participate in thematic master classes and quests, get acquainted and more closely communicate with like-minded people, spend time with child in a friendly and developing environment.

In this camp, our son became more mature; he found friends, participated in creative performances, learned to eat on his own and received vivid impressions of the activities with amazing madrichim.

Thank you so much! Everything went very professionally and at the same time in a family way.

Dear Lena and Roma!

Thank you for those amazing five days!

It was our first time in the family camp. It is really a great idea and very useful for me as a mother to observe my 13-years old son Yan communicating with his new friends, taking part in a team events. You know, it is this age when they spend more time with their friends without parents, and while having a family vacation they behave not in the same way as with friends. So the first thing I'm excited about it's a unique possibility to understand my son better. My son has been before in a Jewish camp, but only here I saw him involving in Jewish life and Jewish traditions. It's definitely because of warm and friendly atmosphere you guys have created. Immediately on our way home he started to talk he wanted to go to the community for the next Shabbat. And to the following camp for kids. About the educational program. The main classes for me were the learning of accepting different people and being kind and attentive to them. No, there were no lectures on human values or something :) But the way you treat different people is better lesson of Jewish human values than any educational program. I admire the warm atmosphere of Kyiv Masorti Community, which was at your camp, too, of course. Believe me, it's not just general words! I really was analyzing how you could organize the work of madrichs and stuff with different people of all ages, views, characters, etc. It's a challenge to learn! :))) The educational program itself was also very interesting, especially lectures of Julia Smelyanskaya. Please, continue with it!! The video Community's stuff shooted was great! You should start Masorti Production XXI Century Noam Olami, promoting your Youtube channel. I'm pretty serious :) Netflix will buy it soon :) Your sense of humor always rules, you know!

Regarding things to improve, mostly it is some technical details like possibility to order some food in a cantina, to make the choice more flexible. Also would be interesting to get some advanced educational lectures, classes and quests. I understand that it is difficult to realize as there people of different level of knowledge and involving in Jewish life, nevertheless it would be useful I think. And more Hebrew! :)

Good luck and many thanks for what you are doing!

Regards, Iryna Sakhno

Hi, Reuven!

I am happy to be a part of the community and twice as happy to be part of the summer camp this year.

Now Benjamin is too small to take part in the activities (and let us to take part in all of the activities too), but all of what we experienced was great and fun.

From the really start of the camp, no one left me alone with the stroller, I was always offered help to move it on the stairs or the ground near the river. The quest and the entertainment on the next day for "shekels" was unforgettable - Ira bought even two cups which we had to draw on.

Special thanks to Miroslav, which I became friends with - his knowledge sharing and lecture was detailed and helpful.

Yulia is a great speaker; I wish I had that kind of teachers in my school. Also her guitar skills are impressive and, in some ways, fun. :)

The evening activities and preparations were hilarious, and I was really glad to participate in the performance.

I want to say a big thank to you, Lena and all the staff members which created such a great festival of light and Simcha!

With love and respect,

David and Ira.

Balyan family from Odessa

It's perfect when the whole family can be in Family camp. United family.

Fridman family. We are from Belaya Tzerkov but originally from Donetsk and their children did not even remember about the phone and tablet. Thank for the knowledge about prayers and history. Can you invite as next year.

We very grateful to you, our friends!!!

We fill that we are one big team and

Masorti communities in Ukraine fill huge connected with Jerusalem team and we want to invite everyone to Masorti Kiev Community and Ramah family camp!