

Around the Community

Great Summer at Camp Moshava

By Josh Zwelling

The energy in Camp Moshava Wild Rose this past summer was contagious. Our Noseh (theme) for the summer was “Maagal Hashana,” the yearly cycle of the Jewish Calendar. Throughout the summer our “downstairs” program (completing grades 2-8) celebrated each and every Jewish holiday through fun and educational experiences. Whether it was an “Escape the Room” activity connected to celebrating Yetziat Mitzrayim (the exodus from Egypt), or experiencing Aliyat Haregel (the pilgrimage to Israel) with a real Horse and Buggy ride, as the campers made their own pilgrimage to the “Hill,” where they enjoyed many activities including pita making and a dunk tank (mikvah). Through experiential education, each holiday came alive for the campers.

The Camp also focused significantly on Yerushalayim, as we celebrated 50 years since the reunification of Jerusalem. Maccabia (color war) which was broken out with a BMX bike show divided campers into the teams of Yom Yerushalayim vs. Yom Haatzmaut. The chanichim (campers) walked away having relived the establishment of the state of Israel through transforming the chadar ochel (cafeteria) into Independence Hall. They also experienced the excitement of the recapturing of Yerushalayim by capturing “The Hill” from one of our high school programs after spending a long day of planning and training on their Yom Tzahal (army day).

A special Jerusalem Marathon took place on Friday, July 28th throughout the camp. The marathon was conducted in memory of the Salomon family from the community of Neve Tzuf, who were killed in a terrorist attack earlier in the summer. At the conclusion of the race each camper lit a memorial candle in memory of the Salomon family. No matter how many miles each camper ran they found a special meaning in each step and felt a stronger connection with those in Israel and with Am Yisrael as a whole.

In addition to sports, meleched yad (arts and crafts), pool, lake/blob and zipline, some of the favorite peulot (activities) of the summer included chavaya yisraelit, firepit, food guru, urban graffiti, stand-up comedy, bungee jumping and a gym full of inflatables that were brought into camp.

Weekly trips were also enjoyed by all Eidot (divisions). A trip to Lambeau field and participating in “The NFL Experience” was a highlight for the older campers. The Ruach-filled weeks always led into spiritual shabbatot with chanichim (campers) learning, singing, and dancing and culminating with an electric and uplifting Havdallah.

Our Machal program (completing 9th grade), which takes place on their own separate campus known as “The Hill,” continued the pioneering spirit with adventurous trips, including canoeing, horseback riding, an 18-mile bike ride, white water rafting, hiking, and a three day trip to Mackinac



Island-- all within an educational framework. The Machal program enjoyed their own special daily activities while joining the entire camp for special programming.

Sayeret Torah V’Avodah (finishing 10th grade) lived the true ideals of a Torah and Avodah community. In addition to the traditional tafkidim (jobs) that the Avodah program is responsible for, the campers enjoyed great shiurim (classes), daily activities, and fun and exciting trips including the Wisconsin rodeo. This year the Camp welcomed 15 campers from Israel to join on the Avodah program.

The MIT program (madrich in training, completing 11th grade), trained incoming staff, teaching them effective skills and tools to be leaders in a Jewish community. Through daily activities, experience in kvutzot, and weekly outings, the MITs learned to support each other, encourage each other and challenge themselves. They completed and overcame various challenges they never thought they would be able to do, including a lifeguard training program.

This summer at Camp Moshava Wild Rose was a wonderful and enjoyable experience for all that attended, and even though the summer just ended plans are already being made for the summer of 2018. For information or questions about Camp Moshava Wild Rose please contact Josh Zwelling at the camp office 847-674-9733 ext.9

