

## Habonim Dror Report 2014

### *Tali Joseph – Two week Mazkirut seminar 2014*

The experience contributed to my personal development specifically through its focus on leadership skills and becoming a proud advocate of Israel and member of the Jewish people. It enhanced my Jewish identity through intensive siyurim (guided tours) around Israel that exposed me to the complexities of Israeli society and of the realities of a Jewish state. Meeting with leaders from Habonim Dror Olami really helped me to take the next step in my journey through the movement and feel confident in this leadership position. Furthermore, having the opportunity to speak to representatives of Masa helped me to develop my skills specifically in my role as Shnat Co-ordinator, making me better equipped to prepare and send participants on our Shnat Hachshara program to Israel.

The experience met my expectations, which were primarily about creating partnerships with movement workers in Israel, and furthermore it exceeded my expectations as it also gave me a newfound motivation to continue working in Habonim Dror for the remainder of 2014. I would rate this program as very high quality as the organisation was superb and we managed to meet with a large number of groups and see many places all around Israel in two short weeks. I think this program is a hugely important one to continue offering to Mazkirut members in Habonim Dror and Bnei Akiva for two reasons – firstly, it furthers their connections with global members of their respective movements and key organisations in the Jewish world, and secondly it offers a much-needed incentive to motivate people to stay involved in the movement beyond their initial two years.

Since returning from Israel, I have continued my active involvement in Habonim Dror in the role of Mazkira (National Secretary). I have been running weekly peulot in the Wellington Ken, and from May 9th-11th I facilitated Machane Bonim, a new initiative by the Mazkirut to run a weekend-long leadership course in Wellington for the year 12-13s in the movement. I also coordinated our shnat seminars to prepare our 2015 participants - the most recent of which was held from July 14th-16th. I am in continuous communication with Habonim Dror Olami in Israel to remain informed about the Shnat process for our current participant. Most recently, I led on our Senior Winter Camp from July 6th-13th, where I was Rosh Tsevet for the Chotrim age group, and our Junior Winter Camp from July 18th-20th, where I led the Shtillim age group. Outside of Habonim, I have been an active member of both AUJS and Hagshama Wellington and helped plan and promote a hiking trip for Hagshama in June.

I will remain in my role as Mazkira in Habonim Dror for the remainder of the year, as well as continue leading at weekly peulot in Wellington Ken. I am facilitating another Machane Bonim in September as well as another Shnat seminar in October, and will be leading on Summer Camp in January 2015 as my last Habonim Dror related activity to fulfil my commitment to the Trust. I will be responsible for preparing our 2015 shnat participants for their program next year, so I will be in contact with Habonim Dror Olami until the shnatties depart for Israel at the end of January 2015. I also ran a session at Limmud in August along with the rest of the Mazkirut, discussing the role of youth movements and informal education in the development of Jewish youth in our community.

***Perry Wilton - Hachshara 2013***

Before going on Shnat Hachshara almost a year and a half ago, I absolutely took my Judaism for granted. Judaism was something that happened to me, rather than something that I could question, explore, work towards developing, and use to create a difference for others. Meeting people with brand new perspectives and upbringings in a dynamic and stimulating environment was more fun than I even could have imagined, and played a huge role in developing my maturity. An example of this was living with others, an experience which helped me see things from new angles, experience a brand new life style, and make friends at a much deeper level than I ever have before. I now feel stronger emotionally, and socially, and feel ready to take on whatever comes my way.

I had reasonably high expectations for this program, and in almost all cases the program fulfilled or exceeded these. I did not learn as much Hebrew on the program as I would have liked to. Perhaps this was due to a lack of drive on my behalf, but it would have been great to have more facilitated Hebrew lessons! Apart from that though, I absolutely had the time of my life, and saw more of Israel than I ever could have hoped. Making life long connections and unforgettable memories are just the surface of this exceptionally exciting and memorable program which I would rate as having the highest quality.

Since the 31 December 2013 I have been involved in a variety of community events which I might not have been involved in if I had not participated in this program. I currently hold a position in the Mazkirut of Habonim Dror Aotearoa New Zealand as Rosh Chinuch, a position which has allowed me to use my new found knowledge of Israel and Judaism to bring Habo a new educational direction. I have also run the public relations aspect of the movements, starting the Facebook page, creating promotional videos and creating a new face to our movement. I have also played a large role in facilitating weekly activities for Habonim Dror participants ever Sunday.

I hope to continue my involvement with Habonim for at least another two years, holding higher positions than the ones which I hold at the moment, as well as hoping to further bridge the gap between Habo and Bnei Akiva, hopefully resulting in even more community events in the future.

***Avigal Kazula - Hachshara 2013***

Prior to this program I didn't have much connection to the Jewish community or my personal Judaism. This program showed me that I could proudly take many aspects of Judaism, to help make positive changes in the NZ Jewish community and help empower the Jewish youth of NZ to feel the same. I gained many personal skills as well, such as learning how to live and work with large groups of people and experiencing independence in a different country.

The program was very good and exceeded my expectations as I had very few prior to the beginning of the program. My program was run by amazing leaders and organisers that ensured we experienced Israel in the most fulfilling way. The intensity and the educational aspects of the program were so well planned and presented to us very dynamically. I would have loved to see more of Israel and experience living 'like an Israeli' longer to enable us to have more of an impact on the communities we were living and working in and to volunteer in more areas.

This year so far I have contributed to the Jewish Community through Habonim Dror NZ, I am currently Rosh Auckland Ken running and attending peulot every Sunday for chanichim. Along with this role I have organised the community Purim carnival alongside Sarah Bookman from Bnei Akiva, helped at the community Yoms, ran a program for adults of the Beth Shalom community at Tikken

Leyl Shavout, ran the Beth Shalom Hebrew school gardening elective and been a Madricha on both of Habonim Dror's Winter Camps as well as Summer Camp 2014.

I will continue as Rosh of Auckland Ken for the rest of the year and continue running peulot every Sunday for the chanichim at Ken meetings for the next two years as well as attending seminars, camps and various community events. I ran a session at Limmud with other Roshei Kenim and will be Deputy Rosh of Habonim Drors Summer Camp in 2015. I hope to help Beth Shalom with Yom Kippur as well.