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Erev Rosh HaShanah 5772

My Very Dear Friends - Shalom ,

Ma Tovu - As I write these lines to you, *Ma Tovu*, the well-known song from the opening of the morning prayers, is being sung by the young of our Nation - "*How fair are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, Israel!*" (Numbers 24:5) These words definitely reflect the extraordinary spirit on this Eve of Rosh HaShanah, in which a new chapter is being written in the history of this country. **The many thousands of Israelis** who chose to spend the summer heat in tents throughout the country express a grassroots call to reshuffle the national agenda, making sure no one is left behind. Or as Amos Oz put it, what they are really saying first and foremost is: "We are all brethren."



Mother, Child & Tent: Photo by Wandamo (16) of Yemin Orde



*Yemin Orde Young Leadership at the rally:
"We are all brethren!"*

For our kids, no strangers to the feeling of being left behind, being with the protesters was a startling eye opener on many levels. Suddenly, they realized how connected they are to the spirit of the young generation outside the Village, those who carry the burden of Israel's economy and defense on their shoulders. You, our children's friends, really ought to see the events unfolding here through their eyes, and I will try my best to share their insights with you.



Wandamo (left) "It is not about Capitalism vs. Socialism. In Israel, we must combine the best of both. Get the most for your work, and yet not leave immigrants and hard working families behind."

Miriam (right) "In Poland, where I come from, young people who don't see a decent future for themselves, just leave the country. These Israelis love their country. Obviously, they don't want to leave, but to make sure they can live a decent life here."



Nathan and Aviv (left) "In our country, Brazil, why do so many end up in slum Favelas, and don't stand up for justice? If you just sit idle, passive, nothing good will happen to you. You won't improve reality that way. But these people are really united - no right or left, just caring for each other."

Isma'el (right; survivor from Darfur) "I couldn't believe my eyes. People leaving their homes - out of their own choice - to cry out. I can't understand why people with education and jobs cannot make a living."



Bat-El Shmueli of the Yemin Orde team, who accompanied our kids to one of the tent camps, said: "Of all the latest upheavals in our region, I definitely prefer this one - which in the face of violence and brutality (especially in neighboring Syria) is all about togetherness, reaching out to one another with compassion - this is the Israel I dreamed about as a little girl in Ethiopia."

Discussing all these impressions and many more around the table was really an elating experience for me. It was so evident that the spirit that drives the young in Tel Aviv and the entire country is definitely in the DNA of our children - the DNA of the Prophets of Israel, who relentlessly cautioned that Jewish sovereignty without justice and fairness for all - weak or strong, citizen of the land or foreigner - could not endure.



Nation Builders' round tables: 500 educators from throughout Israel attended our annual *Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives* symposium in June, very different from one another, yet united in their commitment to transform at-risk youth education in Israel.

Summer at the Village



"Strangers No More..." is the Oscar-winning Israeli documentary about foreign laborer's children. For 15 summers now our children have been hosting these very children for exciting fresh air programs in the spirit of the Torah commandment: "Thou should be sensitive and loving to the foreigners in your land." (pic. 1)

African-American youth gain exposure to Israel through the eyes of Yemin Orde children (Cummings Program, pic. 2). Senior citizens (pic. 3) and handicapped children (pic. 4) all enjoy a break away from their daily struggle - our kids' giving them love and care just as they receive...



A child, a suitcase and a bag – arriving at the Village, and wondering what lies in store for me?
The answer is the story of...

David, who came to us from Astrakhan in the south of Russia 12 years ago. Today, with a degree in Computer

Science, serving as a reserves combat officer, David is getting married to Miri. The wedding will take place in a beautiful wedding venue – the Village dining hall. Mazal Tov!



Mazal Tov and Shana Tovah to all of us as the New Year unfolds. Happiness and abundance to all of us in the Yemin Orde family. This blessing is multiplied by all the new life and happiness that you give to so many new young Israelis every year.

Much gratitude from us all,

as ever - Chaim Peir