

Thank you notes - Mishlachot Areyvut Trips

From Foundation for Jewish Camp leadership:

Dear Barry, Steven, and David [Bryfman],

On behalf of the 40+ camp directors we were able to bring to Israel, their communities, and ourselves we wanted to thank you for your support in making these trips to Israel possible. It was invaluable to give them time in Israel to reconnect with their people, to see the current situation, and to start exploring our new narratives. It is possible that all of this could have happened for each of them as individuals, but the trip was so much more. Their experience was that much richer in that Julie curated it for their field and we allowed them time with people with similar jobs to reflect. We have no doubt that they will be better prepared for this summer than if they had not gone on this trip. Thank you all for your vision during this time of darkness and the role you played in making this possible.

We thought you might enjoy the [booklet](#) we put together for this trip. I am also including a picture of each group and a very special picture of Sam Aboudara from New Jersey Y Camps meeting Mr. Alkebetz in Kfar Aza where his daughter was killed. She had been a Shlichah at his camp. There are no words.

Thank you and Shabbat Shalom-
Julie, Margalit, Bobby, David, and Avi

RABBI AVI KATZ ORLOW
VICE PRESIDENT, INNOVATION AND EDUCATION
FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP



From Carine Warsawski, Trybal Gatherings:

Dear Barry, Aaron, and Steven -

I hope you're all doing well. Barry - excellent article in eJP yesterday. Your voice is encouraging during this "red zone" and needs to be heard by so many.

I'm writing to say thank you. A few weeks ago I participated in The iCenter's Mifgash that Matters trip. From walking through the ghastly destruction in Kfar Aza to meeting with family members of hostages, to hearing from a Bedouin bus driver who risked his life to save young adults at the Nova festival, and meeting with the Israeli young adults who joined us at Trybal's camps this summer, I left the experience deeply moved and eager to do more.

This past summer, Trybal partnered with Shorashim to pilot bringing Israel peers to two of our camp weekends, which ended on October 2. The impact of the mifgash was evident not just on our American campers, but also on the Israelis who joined. Over 65% of American participants' attitudes toward Israel shifted positively after camp, and the Israeli campers who joined feel a sense of connection while the rest of the world turns their backs on them.

During The iCenter trip, themes of resilience, complexity, and isolation were woven throughout, and reaffirmed the importance of having safe, meaningful, and joyous experiences for Jewish young adults – especially now – and to do our part in fortifying the fragile bridge between Israelis, diaspora Jews, and the world. As an Israel educator at heart, I feel an immense obligation to help fortify this bridge, especially since 72% of our participants are Birthright alumni, yet went on their trips on average 8-10 years ago. With the gap widening since their last touchpoint with Israel and anti-semitism on the rise, now is the time to act.

On a personal level, this trip was transformative. Despite having led dozens of teen, Birthright, iTrek, you-name-it Israel trips, this was the first time in over 20 years where I got to be a participant. Where I got to just show up and absorb. And for that, my gratitude has no bounds. Thank you.

The impact of this trip and my ideas on what to do next can't be summed up in an email; I'd be glad to share with you how this trip is changing our work. I'm even sending our new Chief Growth Officer, Miriam Chilton, to participate in the second cohort next week.

I'm activated all over again, and it's all because of you. Thank you for supporting such an important initiative.

Shabbat Shalom,
Carine

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Carine Warsawski
Trybal Gatherings