



Voices of Nesiyah 2008 Participants and Parents

I discovered my ability to be independent and at the same time be part of a group.

Sarah Rosenkrantz, Holliston, MA

I gained a better knowledge of Israel. I grew more attached to Judaism, and became a more honest person with myself and others. I want to bring home the feeling I get now when I pray.

Eitan Kleinman, Yardley, PA

My connection with the land and State grew stronger. I want to continue asking questions, even if they're difficult – about Judaism and about ourselves as a nation – without being afraid...

Maayan Sachs, Alfei Menashe, Israel

The Nesiyah summer experience was incredible in every way. Alexis loved every minute of every day of her time in Israel.

Susan Snyder, mother of Alexis, Wynnewood, PA

I loved the diversity. It helped me to figure out where I stand. I never knew Orthodox girls could be so cool, or Reform girls so religiously connected.

Shaina Watrous, Princeton Junction, NJ

My approach to Judaism and Israel became much more positive. I want to take home the culture of speaking and discussion that I experienced.

Yotam Deri, Ashdod, Israel

The community service and the Bedouin experience displayed the diversity and fault lines within Israeli society, which is much healthier than looking only at the surface and ignoring problems. I hope my younger children will be able to participate in years to come. I could not have hoped for a more rewarding summer.

Bill Wertheim, father of Ariel, Huntington, NY

I started to keep a journal and to write poetry, which surprised me about myself. I want to keep doing this when I get home.

Michael Shneior, Maaleh Adumim, Israel

I was concerned that Liora's Orthodoxy might be compromised, or that she would be uncomfortable as a religious Jew. In reality, Liora saw that she could grow as a Jew even without the security of a homogeneous religious community.

Hannah Hostyk, mother of Liora, Hollywood, FL

I became less judgmental, more willing to take risks, and more connected to Judaism. I learned that everyone has their own struggles, and that it is important to be accepting of all types of people. I learned that giving back to the community is crucial to personal fulfillment.

Allison Shusterman, Lafayette Hill, PA

Max has matured beyond words and his social skills and confidence have grown immeasurably. He is able to handle stressful situations and is much more flexible. His love for Israel is wonderful.

Fern Weingast, mother of Max, Port Washington, NY

When we left the community service project, I could see in the eyes of the children how much of an impact we had made, even though we only knew them for four days.

Jonah David, Newton, MA

The diversity of staff role models was fantastic.

Hannah Barg, St. Louis, MO

The focus on exploration of values, Jewish life and Israel was remarkable. Rebecca seems more grounded in herself, and I am confident that she is a better person as a result of the program.

Arza Goldstein, mother of Rebecca, Newton, MA