



# Yad B'Yad Trip 1 2021





# Letter from Head Staff

Dearest Yad B'Yad Trip 1 2021,

We cannot believe that Simchaton is already here! It seems like just yesterday we gathered in West Orange for our first day together before heading to the airport for what was about to be the journey of a lifetime. In just a few short weeks, with the help of fantastic participants, an outstanding staff, an incredible jam-packed itinerary and being vaxxed and relaxed we went from a group of 108 individuals to one big happy Trip 1 family.



Each day of our journey was filled with exciting adventures, meaningful experiences, and eye-opening perspectives. We are so glad that all of you were able to share your own insights, feelings, and creative writings about each and every day of our trip. All of these thoughts have been put together, forming a complete journal for you to look back on the summer, reminisce, and recreate our special time together.

We hope this journal will serve as a reminder of all of the wonderful things you learned and gained from Yad B'Yad and that your

involvement with Yachad and your friendships with each other will always continue to grow.

All our best,  
Rachel, Joe and Emily







# Letter from the Editor

YBY Trip 1 mishpacha!!

It's crazy how fast the summer came and went!

It seems like not long ago that we all crammed into a shul in West Orange and went straight from there to the airport where we breezed our way through (#VaxxedAndRelaxed!) and made our way to Israel!!

Once we got our COVID testing results back, we wasted almost no time exploring so much of Israel b'yachad! Within the next few weeks we'd all go on to have so much fun with over 100 of our favorite people, which included lengthy yet entertaining bus rides, eating countless amounts of ices, weekly circle times, numerous kumzitzes, and so much more!

When you are having so much fun in such a short amount of time, it could be difficult to take a step back and fully appreciate the great time you are having. Hopefully browsing through these journal entries will help you further appreciate the amazing times we all spent together this summer!

Regardless of whether you volunteered to write, were pressured to write, or didn't write at all, reading through the journal is an amazing way to hold on to so many of your favorite memories!

Thanks everyone for helping make this an amazing summer! Hope to keep in touch! (Maybe some "random" run ins too!)

Aharon Press

**PS: Huge huge shoutout to Mackenzie Taller for capturing all of our incredible memories during our journey this summer!**

Super quick message -

I have had the incredible honor of compiling this, so I hope everyone enjoys!! Personally, looking through all of these pictures and revisiting so many of the amazing memories we made this past summer has been really impactful for me, and I hope it's the same for you!

Enjoy and can't wait to continue creating such great memories!

Adena Cohen



# July 7-8 : YBY Begins & Flight to Israel!

Today was our first day of Yad B'Yad! We met up with the entire group in West Orange, NJ. We played some amazing ice breakers, had a fun game show, and spent a lot of time getting to know each other. After that, we were ready to head to the airport and to Israel! We spent a bunch of time at the airport, each trying to keep track of a million documents. We got to daven maariv in the airport terminal after going through tons of security. We finally boarded the plane and had a great flight @Jacob Penstein #pillowfluff #slime.

Finally, we arrived in Israel! Once we landed it was time to get Covid tested. When we finally finished, we met up with our Israeli staff and boarded the busses to head to get dinner and antibody testing. We all conquered our fear of needles! After a long couple of days and a multi-hour bus ride we finally made it to Maayan Harod, our first stop in Israel, and collapsed into bed.

By: Atara Jacobs, Asher Rosenbaum, and Jacob Penstein





# July 9 : First Day in Israel up North!

The day started with a much needed late wake up. We davened together for our first Shacharit in Israel. It was so nice. We had a really delicious Israeli breakfast with salads, cereal, bourekas, and pudding. Jonathan Wenger led us in a beautiful learning program where we explored the concept of time and its importance. We split up into our learning groups to further discuss. After the learning program we played Panoply led by Natan Mendelson. It was a great team building game! We got amazing pizza for lunch and ate outside while enjoying the weather. Then we had free time to prepare for our first Shabbos in the Holy Land! Before Shabbos began, we all took pictures together. We had a really nice Kabbalat Shabbat followed by a great speed dating game and then dinner. Friday night dinner was so yummy. Before the night was over, we had a kumzitz led by Ezra Cooper and then a chabura led by Joshua Trauring. Joshua taught us the importance of chessed. We hung out until curfew and got a great night's sleep.

By: Abigail Lampert and Eli Schupak





# July 10 : Shabbos in Maayan Harod & Glow-in-the-Dark Dodgeball



Shavuah Tov Yad B'Yad Family!!

What an amazing first Shabbos here in Israel. We started off with an awesome Shabbos Rosh Chodesh davening and it was also the longest parsha of year. WOW huge shoutout to our amazing Torah Readers!! Then had kiddush and free time to meet and make new friends before we headed to lunch. After lunch we had the second Circle Time of the summer and learned new songs and games. It was quite the sight! We then had a nice Mincha which led into an optional chaburah, led by the one and only Jonathan Wenger! We then enjoyed a long menucha with time to bond and connect with all our amazing new Chaverim. We then met up and played some games followed by an amazing learning program led by the smiley Yael Cinamon where we discussed amongst our planet themed learning groups how a smile can change a life. We then enjoyed a lavish Seudat Shlishit which concluded with a beautiful outdoor kumzitz featuring some nice words of Torah by Joshua Trauring. Then we davened Maariv and concluded Shabbos with an uplifting Havdalah led by Avinoam Sharvit. Then we all dressed in black for an amazing hype game of glow in the dark dodgeball led by Tess Shubowitz. We wrapped up the night with a pizza dinner before curfew. Let's just say Yad B'Yad is off to an amazing start :)

By: Julia Kirschenbaum and Noah Spear



# July 11 : Team Building, Tie Dye, & Yerushalayim

Sunday morning started with an early wake up, followed by waving goodbye to Maayan Harod. Although we enjoyed an amazing Shabbat there, we were excited to finally start programming! We had a long bus ride to team building where we completed various challenges and games with our teammates. The activities showed us the importance of working together with a team to reach the end goal. Without each and every person, a team is not complete, and the challenges weren't either. Each individual brought their own set of skills to the table that helped the groups reach their end goal. Afterwards, we tie dyed t-shirts for Yom Yachad that we are so excited to wear later in the summer. We also made a stop at the makolet to pick up a few treats for our long bus ride to Jerusalem. After arriving in Jerusalem, we watched the sunset over the Old City and felt so much hakarat hatov to be in Israel. We then arrived at Bayit Vegan Guest House and played a fun trivia game for our night activity. We can't wait to see what other fun experiences summer will bring us!

By: Andrew Bersson, Atara Ginsburg, and Samantha Sigman





# July 12 : Team Building, Tie Dye, & Yerushalayim



We had very late wake up at 7:30am (bright and late!). By trying to fulfill the deal we made with our amazing and spunky leader Rachel, we almost succeeded in making it to davening on time. After a wonderful praying sesh, we went to breakfast and fueled up for the day. After that we loaded up the buses and made our way down to Kever Rachel where we said lots of Tehilim and sang beautiful songs. (Tag us random Israelis videographers @yby on insta) Then we went to the Lone Tree and heard about our inspiring forefathers' travels. Next, we split up into two groups and went separate ways. Bus 1 went to the Gush Etzion Heritage Center, and watched a movie about Gush Etzion (and had a rendezvous with Jolt), while Bus 2 went to Pat Bamelach to make delicious sour dough pretzels (cinnamon sugar ftw)! Before the buses switched, we ate salads for lunch and listened to a great shiur by Rav Reuven Taragin from Yeshivat HaKotel about Tisha B'Av. Then we went on our separate ways and switched activities #UN. After we finished, the buses reconvened, and we went shopping at Rami Levi for all the essentials like snacks, water, and balloons. Then we went back to the guest house and Jonathan Wenger made a siyum so we can have our chicken nuggets that we like in the morning, night, and afternoon when we're feeling alright. We finished off the night by debating (really loudly) about how allergies aren't real and how we prefer horizontal over vertical, and we also all found out Natan and Rachel are siblings (ooooohh ahhh the spunky siblings #UN). After that we had reallllly late curfew at 11pm, and now it is 11:20pm and we are finishing our journal with our spunky counselor Natan. Goodnight to all, and to all a Goodnight!

By: Gabi Lefkowitz and Sam Adler



# July 13 : Kotel & The Old City

After staying up way past our very late curfew, we were woken at the early hour of 7:30. We had our scrumptious Bayit Vegan breakfast of delicacies such as cheese bourekas. Shortly after we headed for the buses and made our way to the Kotel! We made it to the Kotel and split up into groups. One group went to the Kotel virtual reality tour of the First Beit Hamikdash. Another group made their way to the Kotel where we said Tehillim and shteiged to Gemara. The boys were able to look through a glass floor and see the tunnels under the Kotel. We were also able to write letters to stick in between the stones of the Kotel. The third group did a tour of the Davidson Center. We then rotated so each group got a turn in each place. After a meaningful Kotel experience, we walked to the Rova for a delicious lunch where we were given Yami Shuk vouchers to buy lunch like falafel, pizza, and shawarma - shoutout to Elza for completing Masechet Yoma and making her Siyum today! While most of us regret eating the pizza (sorry Pappas), Coffix made it up by giving us coffee and "Oh, a milkshake". Then we had some free time to walk around the Rova. The buses picked us up and took us to a beautiful lookout where we were able to see the whole Old City and surrounding communities. We davened Mincha and started Mackenzie's learning program where we got to know each other a little better. We headed back to the hotel and had another siyum by Jacob Penstein, and enjoyed our hotel dinner. After dinner, we watched a movie about Michael Levin! We were definitely all moved and really inspired to go visit Har Hertzal. We're looking forward to another special day tomorrow!

By: Jordana Stern, Addi Zolty, and Jonathan Paul





# July 14 : Graffiti Tour, Peres Center, & Jaffa Market in Tel Aviv



Hi Yad B'Yad family! Today started with an early wakeup at 6:45 am. Right after davening and breakfast we hopped on the bus for a longer bus ride which helped us take good shlufs (naps). We had a really busy schedule starting with a graffiti tour where we got to make our own designs on old records with cool stencils and spray paint colors. Then, we went on a walking tour and saw graffiti art around the city of Tel Aviv and tried to understand the meaning behind them. After that, we all gathered together in the park for an unbelievable Israeli style lunch of falafel. Our next stop in Tel Aviv was the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation. We learned about many cool Israeli startups that we use all around the world today. In the building there was a really cool virtual reality exhibit that explained Israel's plan for the future. As soon as we walked out of the building, we saw the beautiful view of the Tel Aviv beach and there we got a special surprise of ices that helped us cool down from Israel's heat. Our last stop in Tel Aviv was the Jaffa Flea Market. After our DAIRY dinner we got all dressed up for human Apples to Apples lead by our very own Eliana Schochet. During the night activity we got broken up into teams and had to pick a representative from our team that best matches the card. Today was a really good day and we can't wait for tomorrow's trip to Yad Vashem and Har Hertzl.

By: Simona Goldberg, Jordyn Baker, and Tehilla Elias





# July 15 : Har Herzl, Yad Vashem, & Visitor's Night



We started off our day with a visit to Har Herzl. At Har Herzl we listened to inspiring stories of soldiers who died fighting for the land of Israel. We gained a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made for our country and homeland. After that we had a siyum and delicious schnitzel lunch. Then we went to Yad Vashem where we were given a tour of the museum. Learning more about the Holocaust through a different perspective was a moving experience and we all walked away with hope and strength for our nation. We ended off the night with Visitors Night. This was a chance for everyone to see family or friends in Israel and everyone without visitors got the opportunity to go to the mall. This was a great way to end off such a meaningful day.

By: Gaby Schikman, Daniella Taub, and Ariella Gershkovich



# July 16 : Ammunition Hill & Shabbos/Tisha B'Av Prep



Hi! It's Yaffa Elyakin, Rose Secemski, and Aliza Ruttenberg. We started off today with a late wake up which was awesome! Then we left our hotel on our way to Ammunition Hill. It was super cool to walk through the tunnels & learn about the area. After we had a delicious lunch of bagels and muffins at a park nearby. When we were all done, we walked to a supermarket to buy drinks & snacks to get ready for Tisha B'Av. Then, we all got ready for an amazing, inspirational and meaningful second Shabbat in Israel! Lastly, we had an amazing dinner at our hotel, Bayit Vegan, and had lots of fun singing with Mach Hach!





# July 17-18 : Shabbos & Tisha B'Av

Hi!! Shabbos was so much fun! We all woke up and went to Shacharit. After we had an amazing Kiddush filled with delicious foods like babka and cake! We played a fun activity with our learning groups called the Value Game where we prioritized our values to truly see what is important in life. Then we ate lunch and cheered with the other programs who were staying at our hotel. After lunch was menucha, rest, where we got to hang out with our friends and relax. Once rest was over, we all came together to play games and daven Mincha. Then we had slow shirah until Shabbos was over. Once Shabbos was over, we heard Megillat Eicha and ended off the night by singing slow and meaningful songs with explanations about them in between from our counselors. We sung for hours and it really was an inspirational way to start off our Tisha B'Av. We are so happy to be here and to have had an amazing Shabbos!

By: Tzipora Klar and Aliza Poloner



After a meaningful Kumzitz filled with songs that reflected our longing for the Beit Hamikdash, we woke up the following morning to come together for Shacharit. Following an inspirational davening, the counselors shared different Kinot expressing the true sadness of the day, which we then had conversations about. After, there was an optional movie called The Pianist, about a Holocaust Survivor's story and how he managed to survive such horrible conditions to become a famous pianist. The next 2 hours were a time to relax and ease everyone's fast. We then played games, including one in which campers complimented each other. Following that, we davened Mincha and had Rabbi Jesse Horn from Yeshivat HaKotel speak. He talked about the reasoning of exile for the Jewish people. We then went to a park, had another kumzitz and davened Maariv. Once the fast ended, almost immediately, everyone drank water or ate whatever they had on them. Then we went to a restaurant where we were served a lot of food which was very delicious. To end off the day, we got back to the hotel and had a good night's sleep.

By: Yehuda Ginsburg, Lani Kahn, Zahava Moskowitz





# July 19 : Latrun, Water Tag, & Yom NCSY

Hi friends and family!

Wow what a great start to an amazing upcoming week. We started off with a trip to Latrun where we learned about different types of tanks and even got to explore some even further. We then had a make your own bagel lunch which was followed by water tag - a battle between the buses where eventually Bus 1 took the win. Throughout water tag we sprayed and dumped water on each other which made the really hot day even better. We all came out soaked and with the biggest smiles. We then went back to the hotel to get ready for the amazing night ahead of us. Yad B'Yad Trip 1 got the privilege to wear orange shirts which definitely made us stand out. We finally got to YOM NCSY and had a great dinner and then danced the night away. The concert was by Shlomo and Eitan Katz - we had the best time. After the incredible event, we headed back to pack up and for our last night in Jerusalem. Let's just say it was one of the best days yet here on Yad B'Yad and we can't wait for what's to come.

By: Julia Kirschenbaum and Shevy Epstein





# July 20 : Dialogue in the Dark & Invitation to Silence



Today was our last day in Bayit Vegan :((

We loaded up the buses, which took a very long time, and we left for the Dialogue in the Dark and Invitation to Silence museums. We drove west and were near the Chof at a shopping center which included the museums. We stopped for a chill and lunch of schnitzel chicken and pita, yum!! Then the groups split up and we went to our museums. Half of us went to Invitation to Silence; it was very educational but also fun. It was cool to see how deaf people communicate. Even though they don't really talk with their voices, they have other ways of saying what they need to say like using sign language, body and facial expressions, etc. We walked around to different exhibits with headphones led by a deaf person and it was completely silent. The other half of us went to Dialogue in the Dark, where we were invited to experience life without sight. A visually impaired or blind tour guide led each group through a series of rooms and experiences all in complete darkness, and we had to rely on our senses of sound and touch in order to make our way through the tour. After the museums, we all met back up at the shopping center and everyone bought bucket hats. We loaded the buses and were on our way up to the Chermon! As we drove up north, we were able to see through our windows the drastic change of Israel's land, as the densely tree populated area became more sparse and the flat terrain rose up into the mountainous region of Chermon. We are staying at the Chermon Field School for the night. Today was amazing and inspirational and we are so excited for what else Yad B'Yad has in store for us!

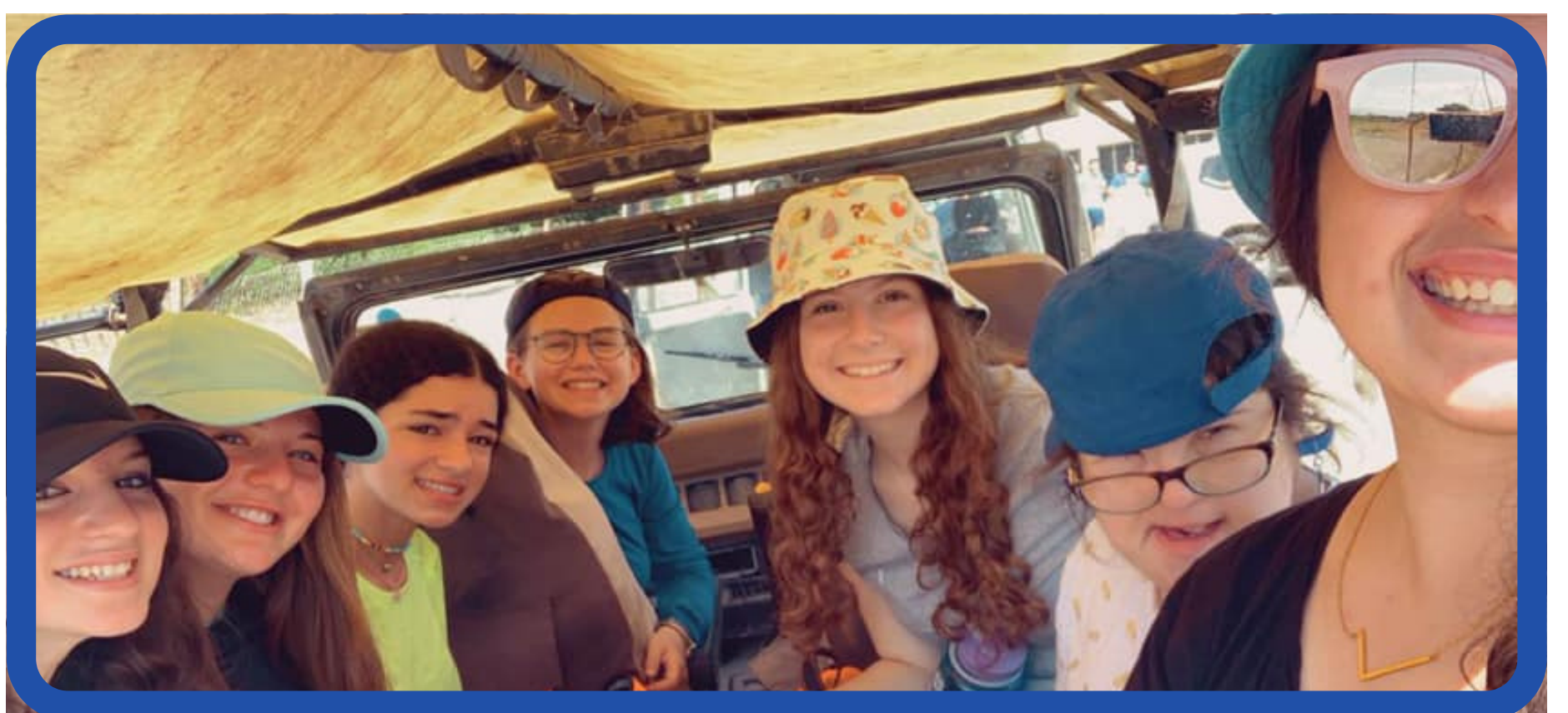
By: Liat Rozmaryn and Elza Koslowe



# July 21 : Jeeping & Kfar Kedem

In my opinion, Wednesday was one of the best days we have had. We went jeeping in the morning, and in the afternoon, we went to Kfar Kedem, an interactive experience where we do daily activities like our ancestors did 2000 years ago. We went jeeping on a desert mountain, and the view and weather was incredible. Also, we stopped in the middle of our ride for watermelon! It was the most fun I have had yet on our trip. Then we went to Kfar Kedem, where we started off with donkey riding! We got to name our donkeys, and mine was named Patricia. Then, we got to learn about how they sifted and grinded flour, and we made our own pita bread. Lastly, we had dinner and we headed back on the bus. Even though by the end of the day I was exhausted, it was so fun and an eye-opening experience.

By: Ayelet Cantor





# July 22 : Yom Hachanich

Yad B'Yad was extremely excited to begin Thursday after Color War was announced the night before! Everyone was split into two teams: Eish/Fire (orange) and Mayim/Water (blue). The day started off with productive and energetic team meetings discussing the plan for the day. The teams were asked to delegate projects to different campers that would be presented at the end of the day. These included a banner representing the team's theme, a funny video relating to Yad B'Yad, a dance, an alma mater, a cheer and a d'var Torah. The day continued with competitive activities that everyone participated in. The first activity was Minute to Win it, followed by knockout, lunch, and a relay race. Later on, we held a bucket brigade that eventually turned into a spontaneous water fight. After drying ourselves off, we headed off to our last two activities, trivia and musical chairs, before the final presentations. After having 45 minutes to prepare for the finale, the teams showed up excited and ready to present. The projects were both hilarious and entertaining, leaving everyone with a fun day. The scores were then counted up by the day's "head staff", Noah Spear, Ariella Gershkovich, and myself, who announced Team Mayim's win! After a long day, the counselors finally came back from their day off and put together a fun game of "Panic." The day was chaotic, energetic, exciting, and one to be remembered!

By: Lani Kahn





# July 23 : Katzrin Reenactment Village & Natural Spring



Hi parents! On Friday we went to the old Katzrin reenactment village. While there we made oil lamps from clay, rolled out and baked pita bread, and played music on drums. We then went to a nearby convenience store that took slightly longer than expected. As a result, we had to switch our last activity to a really cold natural spring, where we had a ton of fun splashing each other. We then headed back to the hotel to prepare for Shabbos. We then had an awesome dinner to kick off a great Shabbos!

By: Eytan Sheinfeld and Ilan Eisenberger





# July 24 : Shabbos & Capture the Counselor

Wow. What a way to end a fantastic week. Our day started off with a late wakeup at 8:45. We then had an amazing davening, with Chaim Nachman laining the whole parsha. Jacob Penstein then had an amazing learning activity about the rules of tosefet Shabbos. That led to lunch and a beautiful circle time. With many different games, it was easily one of the most fun circle times this summer. After a long rest, we played another game led by Group 1. What way better to cap off Shabbos with a Kumzitz, and a musical Havadala sang by Avinoam Sharvit and Ethan Donn playing it on the violin. After Shabbos we had a great night activity of Capture the Counselors and we also got pizza. Can't wait to see what is in store for this week.

By: Ari Mazin





# July 25 : Raft Building, De Karina Chocolate, & Pagoda Dinner

What an amazing day we had on Sunday to start off our week! We started off the day by building a raft as a team and continuing to go on the raft to race in the Kinneret with a beautiful view. Following raft building and racing, we ate a delicious lunch with salad, pizza, pasta, and more! We then drove to the De Karina chocolate factory watching chocolate videos and making chocolate and then finally eating the delicious chocolate we all made! After the factory of chocolate, we drove to escape the bunker on the border of Syria. There we heard many stories of what happened during the Six Day War while being in the bunker. Following this, soldiers



came, and we gave them food and hung out with them. After the bunker we had a beautiful and delicious dinner with the Orlofsky family at Pagoda with a beautiful view of the water. Afterwards we drove to our place for the next couple of days, unpacked and settled in, just ready for the next amazing day

By: Jenny Kagan and Jack Radinsky





# July 26 : Rafting, Water Hike, & Party Boat in Teveria



Monday began with a boom! We started off the day rafting on the Jordan river. After an amazing ride with fun rapids, we received delicious fresh-cooked pizza for lunch! We then got back on the buses and drove to a water hike where we cooled off in freezing water. We quickly changed and hopped back on the bus to drive to the beautiful city of Teveria to get on a party boat. On the party boat we davened Mincha, sang, and danced our hearts out! We got off the boat and went out to a delicious dinner at El Rancho restaurant. At that point we were all tired and went straight to bed when we got back. It was a great day!

By: Hannah Levi and Hillel Schein





# July 27 : Tornado Boating & YBY Music Video!!



Hey Parents!!! We are going to tell you about Tuesday, July 27! The morning started as usual. We woke up, got dressed, davened, and ate breakfast. Then we went to the beach to go tornado boating which was soooo much fun!!! We went on speed boats with our friends which was a blast and the highlight of our week!! We were able to wave to a boat full of Israeli soldiers and thank them for all they do. When we got off the boat, we were able to swim in the waves with friends before going on the bus to lunch. Lunch was fresh pizza made on the spot and was sooo delicious!! After lunch we went back to the hotel to change into our Yachad shirts that we tie dyed earlier in the summer so we can make THE FIRST EVER YBY MUSIC VIDEO!!!!!! We met up with Trip 2 to learn and record our very own theme song!!! After the video was done, we danced, sang, and bonded with Trip 2 which was so special and hyped us up for Yom Yachad where the video will be revealed!!! After that we ate yummy burgers and fries while we chilled with our friends! Lastly after a long, fun day we went back to the hotel to shower and go to sleep excited for the next fun day ahead!!!

By: Bella Frogel, Kayla Wang, and Maayan Koenig





# July 28 : Ethiopian Absorption Center, Tzfat, & Human Guess Who



Hi! It's Eliana Saibel.

Today started out with a bus ride to the holy city of Tzfat. Our first stop was at an Ethiopian absorption center where we had the opportunity to meet and hang out with a group of kids. We danced, colored, and painted benches with them. After making our new friends, we went to learn how Torah scrolls are written. We even got to try writing with ink on parchment paper! Our next activity was a tour of Tzfat. We walked around the city and heard some great stories about the holy buildings. After we got back to the hotel and had dinner, we all dressed up as something different so we could play human Guess Who for our night activity. Can't wait for another amazing day tomorrow!



# July 29 : Carnival, Shvil HaSalat, & Deal or No Deal: Curfew Edition

Hey guys! Arianne and Rachel here to report back from an awesome day!! Mama Rachel Mendelson allowed us to sleep in till the late hour of 7:00 AM! We then hopped on the buses to make our way down south to head to our first activity. We put together a carnival for the kids. We started off with a dance party and then went to the activities! The kids loved the booths and it ended off with a flour fight! Next, we made our way towards Shvil HaSalat, which is a Salad Trail. Our guide Omer brought us to release some pigeons and then we were off to pick some vegetables. We picked yummy carrots and tomatoes fresh from the vine. Some participants and counselors were brave enough to try the hottest pepper in the world! We then took a long drive to Har Hanegev Field School. The night was finished off by a very fun night activity, Deal or No Deal: Curfew Edition where we won 1:30 curfew! Thanks Joshua! Hope to speak to you again soon!

<3 Rachel and Arianne



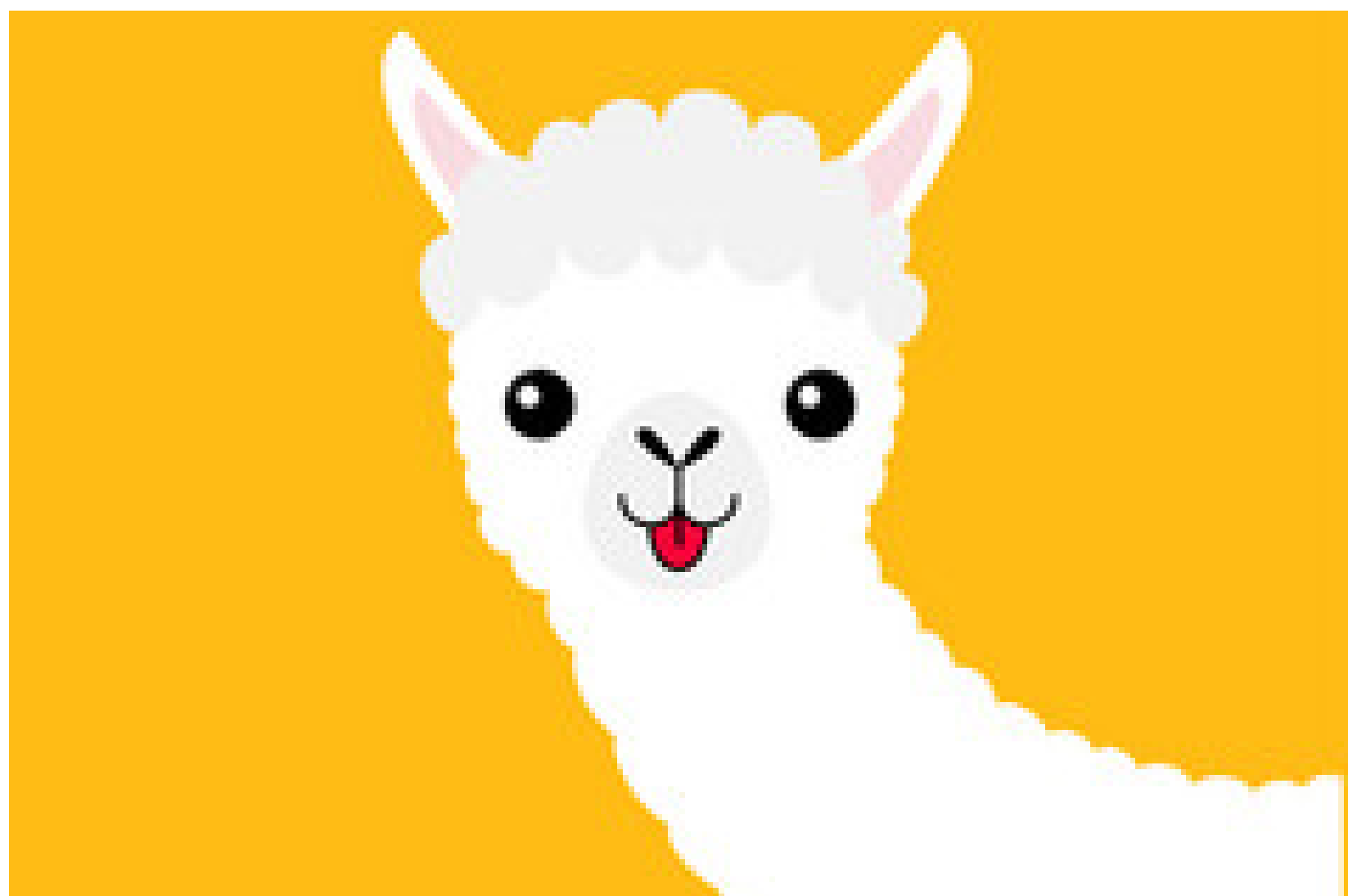


# July 30 : Alpaca Farm & Rappelling



On Friday we had an action-packed day! First, we went to an alpaca farm where we got to feed, pet, and hang out with llamas and alpacas. After that we went rappelling down the side of a cliff. It was so amazing to go down the cliff that way! We then prepared for Shabbos and had pre-Shabbos pictures and got excited for Shabbos number 4! We had an amazing circle tie filled with ruach from everybody!

By: Aliza Gans and Shalom Sufrin





# July 31 : Shabbos & Chassidic Bar/Bat Mitzvah



We had an amazing fourth Shabbos in Mitzpe Ramon! We had a late wakeup at 8:45, followed by a really nice Shacharis and a learning program by Adena Cohen about conflict resolution. We then had a really fun lunch and circle time, followed by menucha and a lot of Chaburahs from our very talented counselors. We then had a fun game of musical memory, and then had another learning program by Devorah Levie about building community. We ended off the Shabbos with a bang with Shaleshudis, Maariv, and Havdalah by Ethan Donn and Jonathan Wenger! We then went back to our rooms and put on all of our frum garb for a chassidish bar/bat mitzvah party run by Tzippy Schein!! It was such a fun time.

By: Ethan Donn and Jonathan Wenger





# August 1 : Lotan Eco Tour, Ice Cream, Eilat, & Ice Mall

What's up what's up

We started off the day with a long drive from Mitzpeh Ramon all the way down South to Eilat. On the way we stopped at the Lotan Eco Tour for a team building exercise that helped us to appreciate our use of raw materials. We built an arch using only a bucket and bricks. Part of what made this kibbutz so special was that all of their buildings were made from mud bricks. This emphasized the importance of using everything around you to their fullest. We then hopped on to the bus and headed to the "greatest rest stop in all of Israel!" There were free cups of shoko for everyone. There were also other stores including gift shops, ice cream, and other food. From there we headed to our hotel in Eilat. We had a beautiful view of the Red Sea and Jordan from our rooms. That night we went to the ice mall for an amazing trip. We had dinner vouchers for a variety of different foods in addition to free time to walk around. In the mall, there was ice-skating, an arcade, and other fun rides. A favorite fan was putting your feet in water with the fish that eat your dead skin. We then came back to the hotel and had an awesome night activity run by Aharon Press. It was a game of Kahoot about each other and weird facts that we sent to him. We had an awesome time!

By: Ari Saffra and Betzalel Kanarek





# August 2 : Red Sea, Water Sports, Party Boat, & Boardwalk



Today we woke up and left the hotel bright and early and made our way down to the Red Sea. Everyone broke up into groups and got ready for water sports. We all had the chance to go swimming, tubing, and banana boating. It was so much fun! After a great pizza lunch, we made our way to the pier to get on a party boat. We got to enjoy a beautiful view and we even got to jump off the boat in the middle of the sea! Next, we went back to the hotel and we had some time to get ready to go to the boardwalk. On the boardwalk we got Burgers Bar for dinner and then we had free time to walk around, go on rides, and buy souvenirs. We even got Rachel to extend our time there because we were having so much fun! Then we went back to the hotel to go to sleep and get ready for another exciting day!

By: Eliana Saibel and Rose Secemski



# August 3 : Bedouin Tents

Today wins the award for the most bus rides in a single day. We all had such fun bus ride chills and sang our way to the Bedouin tents. When we arrived, we were shocked at how people can live without cellular data. We got our stuff off the bus and got ready for an unforgettable all nighter. We were treated to delicious tea and dinner when we came. Coincidentally we met Mach Hach and Rachel was so happy. The tents were very comfy cozy and all of us were so happy that we were able to choose our roommates. Another wonderful and jam-packed day full of bus rides on YBY 2021!!

By: Josh Zahavi and Brianna Swedarsky





# August 4 : Camel Riding, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea, & Mystery Envelope

Hi parents!!

We woke up after a fun night at the Bedouin (some of us didn't even have to wake up - we didn't even go to sleep!!) ready for the fun day. We started off eating a Bedouin style breakfast and then headed off to camel riding. We then made our way to Ein Gedi where we had an amazing time cooling down in a waterfall after a short hike. It was so fun to be able to hang out in the water with all of our Yad B'Yad friends! Next, we visited the Dead Sea where we got to float and have fun on the beach. Gabi (one of our beloved Israeli staff) got us all Dead Sea mud so we could put it on ourselves - we left with such soft skin!! We then made



our way back to Yerushalayim. This was a much-appreciated long bus ride to make up for lost sleep from the past night at the Bedouin tents. We arrived at our last hotel, Ana Rabin where we had an amazing night activity! We got to play Mystery Envelope (mystery envelope, mystery envelope) and we saw our friends crack eggs on themselves, chug soda with mentos, and chocolate all over their faces! Overall, it was an AMAZING day!!!!

Xoxo,  
Atara Ginsburg and Maayan Koenig

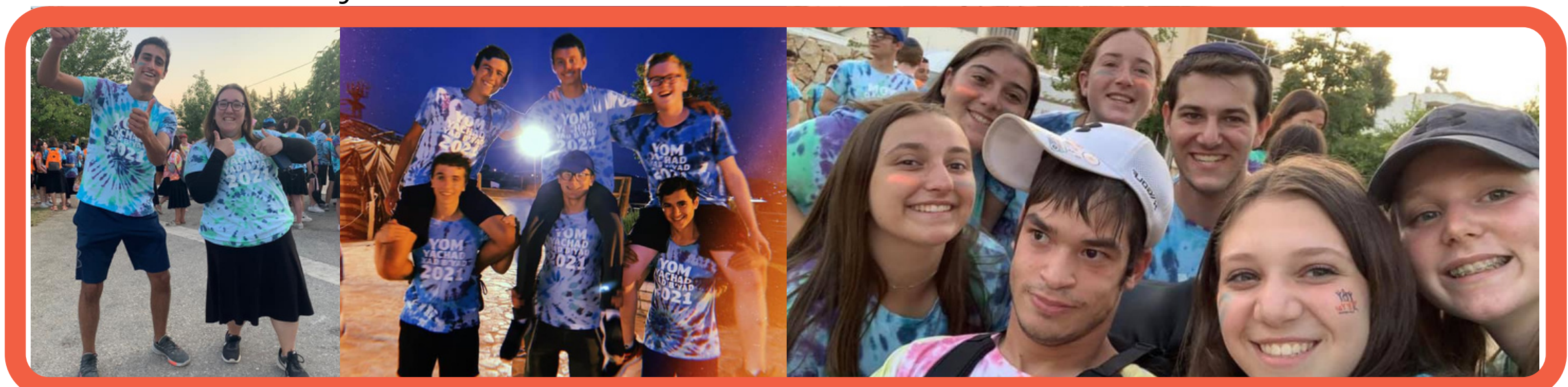


# August 5 : Pizza Making on Emek & Yom Yachad



After a long day of bus rides and much needed sleep, we finally arrived at our new hotel, Rabin Guest House! We had a late wake up at 7:15 AM, ready for a fantastic day bright and early. The day started off with everyone splitting up into 2 groups. The first group had a learning program led by our very own Eliana! We learned about finding our flow and getting into your creative zone. Group 2 went to the pizza store to make pizza to be delivered to the chayalim. We decorated it with sauce, cheese, olives, and corn, and drew on the boxes to make it festive. (More of the drawings probably ended up on our arms though!!) For lunch, we had a chance to choose our own lunch with doing Yumi Shuk, and we were given a long time to walk around and buy souvenirs for ourselves and families! After a few hours, we got back on the buses (#sergeiisthebetterbus) and headed back to the hotel to get ready for Yom Yachad! We were supposed to leave at 5:00, so in YBY time we left at around 5:45. The drive was about an hour, but it was worth every minute! The night was filled with dancing, pizza, ice cream, coughing fits, water fights, speeches, and video presentations of our amazing experiences! We got to watch the debut of our Yad B'Yad original music video, and not to brag - but we sounded fantastic! After more dancing, we headed back to Jerusalem. We arrived back at the hotel at around 12:30 AM, and had curfew right away!

By: Abie Russ-Fishbane and Mia Teitelbaum





# August 6 : Temple Mount Sifting, Emek Refaim, & Final Pre-Shabbos Pictures

Our last Friday on YBY was filled with learning, bonding, and new experiences. We started off the day at Temple Mount Sifting where we learned about the illegal excavation that took place and the different types of artifacts that were found as a result. We had the opportunity to look at different artifacts and learn about their history. Then we got to split into groups and dig through our own buckets. YBY staff and participants found things ranging from pieces of pottery to pieces of bone. Afterwards, we went to Emek Refaim where we had a wonderful learning program with Eliana Schochet and then we ate a lunch of (wait... I'll give you a second to guess... You've got it... bagels)! Then we had some time to walk around Emek Refaim. After our fun afternoon, we went back to Ana Rabin to get ready for Shabbos. Friday night began with a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat which led into a Friday night filled with Ruach. Trip 1 bonded over our second to last circle time and then hung out until curfew. Overall, Friday was an amazing day and definitely one filled with lots of memories.

By: Kayla Kupietzky





# August 7 : Shabbos & Lip Sync Battle/Talent Show



Wow. What an amazing final Shabbos. This week's Shabbos was hosted by Ezra Cooper, Deborah Levine, and Tess Shubowitz. This week's amazing theme was graduation. Following a nice davening, we had a tasty kiddish and a meaningful learning program about free will by Avinoam Sharvit. We then head to our final shabbos lunch at which we sang some beautiful zmirot. Next we went to our last circle time of the summer. After circle time and Mincha, we had menucha with a wide array of meaningful, optional chaburas. After menucha, we regrouped and played an awesome game run by Group Four followed by Joshua Trauring's learning program. We then had one of the most meaningful discussions of the summer where we all shared our end of summer highlights and reflections. We then an amazing Seudat Shlishit followed by some uplifting singing. Then came a beautiful Maariv and Havdalah. We then all prepared acts for an awesome Lip Sync Battle/Talent Show night activity which included some delicious pizza. What an awesome way to end off the summer!

By: Noah Spear, Danny Paul, and Eliana Saibel





# August 8 : Collaging, Shuk, Banquet, & Kumzitz at the Hotel

We started our day with making art through cutting paper where the colors represented different aspects of Yad B'Yad. Everyone made unique art pieces based off their own experience on Yad B'Yad. Then we headed to lunch where we ate bagels and bonded with our friends for almost the last time. We then headed to the Shuk for some free time and we had so much fun. We then headed to the Shalva Center for banquet. Each attendance group performed or created something all together. We also heard from our amazing head staff and counselors. To end off our amazing summer, we spent the last night at the kotel where we had a meaningful Maariv and kumzitz. There were a lot of tears - we didn't want to leave our Yad B'Yad family! We pulled an all nighter to spend our last hours with our family. We couldn't have had a better last week on Yad B'Yad!

By: Julia Kirschenbaum, Paya Gellman, Aliza Poloner, and Jack Radinsky

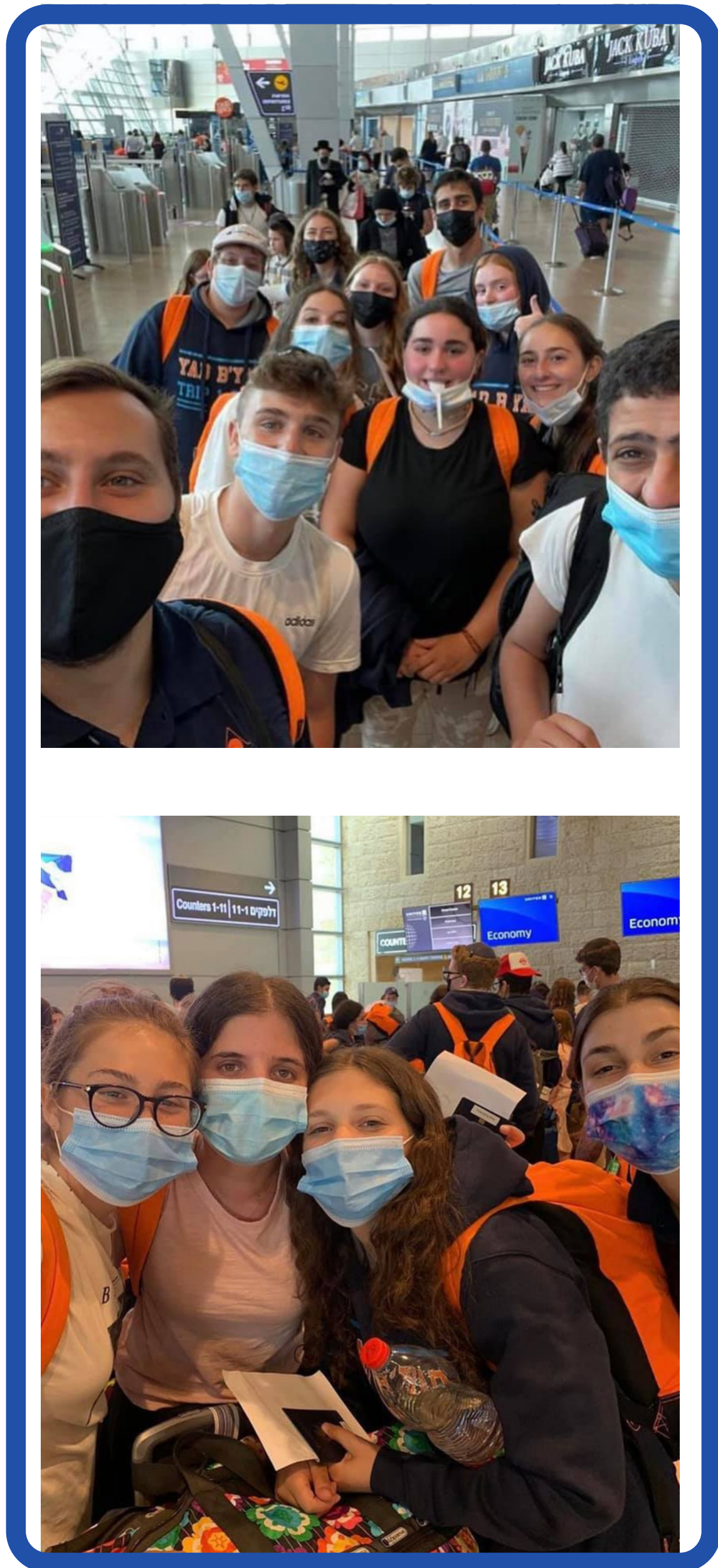




# August 9 : Airport & Goodbyes :(

This morning we all had to wake up at the bright and early hour of 5:00 AM! Most of us just didn't sleep at all and skipped our way to davening while the others couldn't get out of bed. We headed to the airport while wearing our new Yad B'Yad "Vaxxed & Relaxed" hoodies. We all took a nice shloofie on the way to the airport. Unpacked the bags from the bus, got on the hour-long line and finally made it all the way to the gate. In a matter of minutes, we all ended up boarding the plane and we didn't leave any groups behind! The second we hopped onto the plane we all started switching seats to sit with all of our new/old friends for the last time. After a 12-hour flight we grabbed all of our stuff and got to go see our families. We all said our last goodbyes and we all realized that we are all such ugly criers. We are all so thankful for the amazing summer that we just had in Israel and we all miss each other so much. YAD B'YAD TRIP ONE 2021!

By: Brianna Swedarsky and Ari Saffra





# Yad B'Yad Sings B'Yachad

## Kayla Kupietzky.

Hi everyone! As we all know, one of the main values of Yad B'Yad is inclusion. Similarly, this principle comes up many times throughout the Torah. In Parashat Ki Tisa, we learn that Bnei Yisrael is instructed by Hashem to take a census. However, instead of counting each person, everyone who participates in the census is required to donate no more and no less than one half shekel. By requiring that each person regardless of wealth donate the same amount of money, the Torah is demonstrating that each person is equally valued. By choosing the value of a half shekel rather than a full shekel, the Torah seems to be suggesting that each person can only reach its full potential when he is included communally with others. As shown throughout our trip thus far, we all can not reach our full potential unless we work together as a group; everyone here has so much potential, but we won't all be able to fulfill it fully unless we work together and help one another.

Another moment in the Torah that demonstrates inclusion is during the creation of man. The Torah states that man was made from the dust and the breath of God. This results in each of us having a Neshama which is a spark of the Divine. Beyond this connection with Hashem, is another fundamental feature of Man. We are all made in Selem Elokim, or God's image. The use of the plural and the repetition is to emphasize that we are all, without distinction, a reflection of Hashem in the essence of our being. As humans, we are all different from each other: we all have different interests, we are all from different places, we all look different; however, the fact that we are all created in Hashem's image both unifies us and is evidence that God loves diversity. No feature or characteristic makes us less or more important; we are each of fundamental importance, and most importantly, we are all a reflection of God. We are morally the equivalent of each other—different yet equal; the same yet distinct. The ways in which we look and think are fully irrelevant because at the end of the day, the world would be really boring if we were all the same.

Lastly, when Hashem joins all of Bnei Yisrael together, he says "You shall have one standard for stranger and citizen alike" (Vayikra 24:22). Hashem wants all of Bnei Yisrael to know that everyone in society is an equal member and that no one is better than someone else.

We are so lucky to be having the summer of our lives in Israel. We are able to grow as a group and as individuals while building relationships with each other and walking in the footsteps of our ancestors.

Just as the Torah values inclusion, so does Yad B'Yad. The reason for two amazing Yad B'Yad trips is the diversity and uniqueness of every person on the trip. As a camper on trip 1, I am able to see how amazing each person is everyday and learn from them.

Each of you must remember that you are perfect just the way you are because you were created Selem Elokim and that what makes you different is what makes you special.

We are about halfway through with the summer of a lifetime and a summer of growth and connection, so just remember that in order to make the most of it, you MUST work B'Yachad in order to reach your full potential.



# Yom Yachad Speeches

## Judah Trauring

I started with Yachad in eighth grade. Yachad made me more open by showing me how to step into other people's shoes. Yad B' Yad helped me even more because before I was stuck to a small group of people but now, I have a ton of friends. Traveling across Israel came with a lot of independence and responsibility but being on Yad B' Yad with all of my friends helped me step up to that challenge. Chessed opportunities it like the absorption center showed me how we can all make a difference in other people's lives. Even on Shabbos and during more relaxed times I was able to meet new people and strengthen my friendships with them. Finally, team building exercises like raft building helped us grow into one big Yad B' Yad family.

I would like to thank all of my friends and staff for supporting me while allowing me to find my own way and giving me the space to grow. I would especially like to thank the head staff and the Israeli staff for working night and day to make this the best summer I ever had. I want to give a shout out to my brothers Gabriel and Joshua #TrauringTakeover!

## Simona Goldberg

Hi everyone!!! My name is Simona Goldberg and I am on Yad B'Yad Trip 1 this summer! I first wanna start off by saying thank you to everyone who made this night possible! I'm so happy we are able to be one full trip b yachad tonight!

Choosing to come on Yad B'Yad this summer was the best decision of my life! At first I was feeling very conflicted about what program to go on but after speaking to so many people who went on Yad B'Yad I knew that Yad B'Yad would be the best choice for me. I couldn't be more happy with my decision!! Spending these last 4 weeks in Israel together has been one of the highlights of my life!

The lessons and values that I have learned on Yad B'Yad will change my life forever. Even the smallest ideas of saving a seat for bracha and 30 sec catch-up have helped me become a more sensitive person. I hope these are ideas and practices that I can bring with me and spread everywhere I go in the future. I know that the friendships that ive made here will last a lifetime. Each person on this program adds so much value and it wouldn't be the same if a single soul wouldn't have chosen to come on Yad B'Yad.

We have had so many incredible adventures together. We bonded over overweight suitcases, journeyed to lots of "interesting" museums, ate more meat in the nine days than we do on a regular basis, we even almost had a syuim at a dairy meal #shtark, sang anavim with lots of Rauch, learned new terms like bougie, and took tons of nice pictures. We all love hearing our synchronized coughing fits, snapping our way through every activity, and sitting in our wet clothes. As much as we love to complain, we really strive to live by #PDP, public displays of positivity. Impressively, throughout it all we were able to stay #vaxedandrelaxed. I will miss having our daily pizza eating competitions and having some sort of bread at every meal of the day. The memories that we have made this summer will stick with us for the rest of our lives.

I want to say a special thank you to all of the staff who put so much time and effort into making this trip the best one yet. I first wanna thank Jen. We literally would not have been able to be in Israel this summer without all of your help with paper work and support along the way. Rachel - You are the best program director imaginable. You have given us the summer of a lifetime that will never be forgotten. Emily - We love how even though you try to be strict and tell us to go to bed we can see you holding back from laughing. In all seriousness we appreciate how much you care for all of us. Joe - Thanks for leading the best bunch of grapes we have ever seen. We appreciate you more than you appreciate the Olivia Rodrigo drama. ALL OF THE COUNSELORS - Thanks so much for all of the guidance, learning programs, night activities, and being the best role models we can ask for! **תודה רבה לכל המדרכים ישראלים בשביל המשחכים שלמדתם אותנו. אנחנו אוהבים אתכם**. Thank you to Kayid and Sergai for being the best bus drivers we could ask for! Shmid - Thanks you so much for taking care of the logistics and making sure we don't end up in the hospital!!

We appreciate everything that this staff has done for us on the trip so far and we are looking forward to the last few days together and continuing to make incredible memories!!!



# Staff Gramin!!

We land and got our great COVID test  
Getting all the negatives we all did feel blessed  
Getting to the hotel really late  
The next Friday for lunch pizza we ate

Tisha B'Av what a crazy day  
The kumzitz was incredible to everyone's hearts it made its way  
Ending off at Greg's what a great place to eat  
The food was really great even though Mach hach we did meet

Yom hachanich a day to not forget  
To make it happen took tears blood and sweat  
Shoutout to all our camper staff  
The boys dance made every person in the room laugh

The salad trail We got a little lost and used Waze  
Rachel was in her zone in the passion fruit maze  
So much fruit and veggies to try  
The people who ate the hot pepper sure did cry

Traveled to eilat for the best week of the summer  
Tubing boating Bedouin definitely not a bummer  
We got wet almost every single day  
Salt water in everyone's eyes did spray

The bank this year was really great  
Even though the small bills came very late  
Some of you we had to skip  
But don't forget to leave your tip

Sergei and Kayid what great drives of the bus  
When we were wet they sometimes made a fuss  
They took us to every place  
Who do we think would win in a race

Schmidt comes and immediately takes over the ship  
Always in her hair a ponytail or clip  
The summer would not have been the same minus you  
Even though we're sometimes scared bo hoo

Packing the bus some like to help and take a bag  
Others choose to sit and lag  
Natan is so great begging for you to assist  
When the rooms come out why are you so (pause for effect) upset

To all of our friends how much fun we had  
Seeing all we did should make us glad  
All the memories we have will forever last  
This was the best summer we could have asked

Before we end thanks to the head staff  
There to support us a make us laugh  
We would not have been able to do this without you  
We had a great summer wahoo!



# Song of the Summer... עֲנוּיִם !!

בְּשֶׁעָה שְׁמֶלֶךְ הַמְּשִׁיחַ בָּא עוֹמֵד עַל גַּג בֵּית הַמְּקֻדָּשׁ,  
מִשְׁמִיעַ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל וְאוֹמֵר, עֲנוּיִם עֲנוּיִם, הִגִּיעַ זְמַן  
גְּאוּלְתְּכֶם! וְאִם אֵין אֶתֶם מֵאֲמִינִים, רְאוּ בְּאוֹרֵי  
שְׁזוֹרְחִים.

YAD

B'YAD





# Random Run Ins :)







# Yad B'Yad Trip 1 2021