



Workers of the world, unite!



Global NOV

A Newsletter by The General Federation of Working and Learning Youth

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Dear Friends!

This is the first newsletter we are sending our friends and partners around the world. In this issue we would like to share we our successful and fruitful summer.

Our goal is to share our experiences and many things we deal with, and hope it will help improve our relations.

Noah's Ark Summer Camp – for the peace!

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The camps last three to four days, and the children participating in them build their own place, learn to manage in the nature, and learning a unique historic and educational myth.



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Paving the Way for a Better Society



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Creating One Movement for Arabs and Jews

"Tnua Achat - Charake Wachde" (Hebrew and Arabic for "One Movement") is an Arab-Jewish camp for 150 participants.

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Remembering 65 years to the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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"Seminar Movilim" (Heb: leaders' seminar) is another Counselors' Seminar, where 9th grader members are trained to be counselors in 3 different kinds of missions.

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Noah's Ark Summer Camp – for the peace!

During July NOV is arranging its traditional summer camps.



The camps last three to four days, and the children participating in them build their own place, learn to manage in the nature, and learning a unique historic and educational myth. Every camp is based on a special story, and has an educational content connected to it.

The camp of the fourth graders is based on the Noah's Ark biblical story. In the camp each group of children is a flock of animals. They have to be good, and prepare themselves for creating and building the new better world that would come after the deluge. In the biblical story, after the end of the deluge god is singing a covenant with the human race that there will be no more bloodshed for solving conflicts and gives a sign – the rainbow.

In the camp we presented the historical story and in the last presentation a rainbow appeared in front of all the members.

Beside the story, during the camp the children built their own "home", decorated it, and participated in versatile sportive and educational activities. The highlight of all those was a new activity – a correspondence of letters between Arab and Jewish children.

As known, in NOV there are both Jews and Arab members. So, we asked from some Arab children and counselors to write letters for Jewish children. They were asked to write something about themselves and also to write about peace. The result was some very moving letters.

We thought that a Jewish child can receive a letter from an Arab child whom he does not know, but is a part of NOV like him. Read the letter, align with it, and want to know and meet him.

And as the base of fear and hatred is ignorance and unknowing, the base of peace is the knowing and aligning.

This activity succeeded above all expectations! The children wrote beautiful and exciting letters. Here are some of them:

"I always wanted to meet an Arab child and want to know you."

"I really want the peace to come because I don't have problem with any kind of people and I think wars are stupid!"

"I read your letters and I understood that the peace is very important, and that we have to solve our disagreements!"

"I joined the NOV because I know that here you learn something real – how to build a new world!"

"We are excited to know you! This is the first time that we got to know a girl like you. We want to come and visit you!"

We really do think that in this way we can bring the peace, and that peace can really start with children and their innocence.



Tsur Vilman, Camp Manager

Paving the Way for a Better Society

For many years NOV holds the annual "Young Counselors' Seminar", a large seminar with hundreds of young members who are trained to become counselors themselves. Since 1999 the Arabic Branches of NOV holds a seminar of their own, which prepares Arab young members to become counselors in youth centers and clubhouses all over the country.



In the last couple of years our movement has created and encouraged activities throughout the country called "Mutual Existence". These activities bring together the Jewish and Arabic counselors and members, through various educational encounters. As these activities grow larger in amount of members and Arabic settlements, we made a decision to create a new counselors' seminar which brings together youth from these two different parts of the society.

"Pavers' Camp" is a counselors' seminar, similar to the other counselors' seminars, but is unique due to the wide and varied populations that its participants come from. At a time when revelations of racism in our society are becoming stronger and the tension between Arabs and Jews in Israel and abroad is constantly increasing, it is not an easy task to believe and imagine that it's possible to bring together more than a hundred adolescents from three different religions (Jews, Muslims and Christians), social-economical backgrounds, and even different languages – and find a common denominator – mutual responsibility for the society.

This year half of the camp's participants were Arabs, who are tutored daily in their hometowns by Jewish counselors from NOV's "Center for

Mutual Existence". Apart from guiding the youth in these towns, these counselors also take responsibility in creating different projects while cooperating with Arab teachers and educators from the local settlement – a mutual musical band, Hebrew lessons, cultural and traditional meetings during the holidays, and more.

The activities of the "Center for Mutual Existence" in NOV have increased in the last couple of years due to the awareness that the meetings between Arabs and Jews in our society have a tremendous influence on our society, for the worst or for the better. We have a great belief and see a great importance for influencing these encounters through our movement's activities and through our involvement in the Israeli Society.

Activities that educate to the value of mutual existence in our society, as well as "Paver's Camp", require the involvement and cooperation of Arabic adults from the members' hometowns that are willing to support and be a part of these educational activities. During the camp we had four Arab educators who were an integral part of the camp's educational staff, whilst taking full responsibility for the different camp activities together with the counselors from NOV. Without them it would have been very difficult for us to hold the seminar, as well as other Mutual Existence activities in the different towns.



The activities in the camp educate to values of equality and mutual existence, criticize the dangers of apathy, discrimination racism and stigmas. The activities help the counselors and pupils imagine and think what future they want to

create in their hometowns, and how they can take responsibility in making it a better one.

This year was the first time I counseled in the "Paver's Camp". I came to the camp with my educatees from Rahat, a Bedouin settlement in the Negev (the southern desert area of Israel). For most of them it was their first times sleeping outside their homes and without their parents. It was a difficult task and a hard decision for the girls' parents to send their daughters for a long period of time outside home. It is very traditional in the Bedouin culture to separate strictly the boys and the girls while watching out for their modesty and honor. Adjusting the camp to these educatees required a lot of complex work and thinking. Our movement emphasizes everywhere: "Our home is open for every boy and girl". So, how can we take responsibility for this saying and be a movement that is truly open to whoever wants to take part?



I had many fears and worries before the seminar. I didn't know what to expect and what this seminar will create within me and between the educatees. Will the racism that dwells in their souls rise up above? Will they even want to meet and talk to other NOV members who are different from them? Will they be cynical and despair, or hopeful and willing to share? Very quickly my fears were proven wrong, and once again the youth proved what adults can't even imagine. In just a couple of days a wonderful atmosphere was created: a great will to meet and get to know the ones that are different from you, fears that were replaced with curiosity, rejection and cynicism that were replaced with talks about faith and hope. There was an odd feeling that the world froze for a couple of moments, and that in front

of us lays an image of a good society in which we all want to live in. There was a mutual feeling and will for both the counselors and the younger members that these moments will never end.

During a summary conversation with the group from the Bedouin settlement in the Negev, Segev Shalom, one of the educatees said: "I am finishing the Seminar with the understanding that you can't accept the violence and the racism. You can't fear the ones that are different from you, the places and people you don't even know". If I was asked what I take with me at the end of this camp, I'd say that I have more strength to believe the great things that can be created from the simple encounter between adolescents, between human beings, and maybe someday among the whole Israeli Society. I have big demands from myself to continue building my movement as a true home for everybody, where no one is a guest, and everybody are equal partners.

At the end of the camp the educatees return into new educational projects and goals in their hometowns – tutoring groups, summer camps and other varied activities – with a huge motivation to grant their own educatees a similar experience to the one they had – utopian islands in an ocean of reality.

Here is a translation of a song that was written in Hebrew and Arabic during a poetry workshop in the camp:

Us - A Better Place

People that look at me don't know me at all
Thinks they're smarter, and patronize me
Why is there racism that hurts men,
Destroys every place, puts the world at war?

We don't need to hurt and hate, there's no reason
Let's get together and I'll get to know you
Each one of us comes from a different religion
My culture is different from your tradition

Let's shout out loud: "enough with discrimination!"
Let's shout out loud: "enough with humiliation!"
Enough of the illusion that it's ok!
Enough of the apathy that stops our way!

Ayelet Pinkas, Co-Existence guide

Pride, Tolarence and Equality – Are Us!

The Jerusalem Pride Marching has always aroused a considerable number of differences in Israel, especially during the last few years. In 2005 a man stormed the marchers, stabbing three of them. A year later the "march" took place in a closed stadium, because the police feared another attack on the marchers. This decision aroused a lot of complaints from LGBTs, demanding that the march will be seen and heard outside in the open.



The most shocking event for the LGBT community took place on Saturday August 1st, 2009 in Tel-Aviv. An armed man clad in a black mask burst into a LGBT youth support club meeting. The intruder open fired, killing the group's counselor Nir Katz and a participant Liz Terobishi, who was only 16 at the time. Eleven others were injured, leaving two additional teenagers permanently disabled. The perpetrator was never found.

This is why it was decided the march will take place on the end of July (instead of the end of

June), to commemorate the murder. This year the march ended in front of the Israeli Parliament – The Knesset – where the participants demanded equal rights for LGBTs. The rally that followed the march carried a sharp message to Knesset members – stop making promises, and working for the LGBT community. It's impossible that the murderer wasn't caught yet. It's impossible that there is still discrimination in the education system. It's impossible that Homophobic behavior happen daily, and is tolerated.

About 115 NOV members took part in the marching and rally, and many more took part in the memorial service that took place two days later in Tel-Aviv, and in local marches in Tel-Aviv, Haifa, Rishon Le Zion and Be'er Sheva.

Personally, I see great importance in our struggle for the value of Human Equality in every front. Today both in Israel and around the world you can't define yourself as an activist for change if you don't hold an anti-homophobic agenda. For NOV as a movement that aims for Justice and Equality, it meant a great deal to take part in the Jerusalem Marching, and other pride events. Of course, LGBT NOV members are not the only ones taking part in these events, but also a lot of Straight members, show up with their blue shirt and red lacing, knowing that there are a lot of fronts we have to stand up to. We must be the spearhead of the struggle for Pride, Tolarence and Equality.

Maor Heumann

Creating One Movement for Arabs and Jews

"Tnua Achat - Charake Wachde" (Hebrew and Arabic for "One Movement") is an Arab-Jewish camp for 150 participants. The camp lasts for 4 days in which young leadership from all over Israel discusses important issues. The camp started at 2001 and deals with issues as Peace, Identity, democracy, coexistence and education

One of the Arab participants wrote (in English, cause he wanted to read it to his new Jewish friends, and didn't know Hebrew) on this year's camp:



"It was such a successful seminar between us, the two close nations, Jewish and Arabs... Four great days of our lives were spent on discussing the most important problem in the Middle East. Every person in each group felt like an adult during these days because the dialog ran between us had discussed problems that are usually taken care of by adults, socialists and politicians. In short, I have gained a lot in a short time, and hopefully, our movement will prepare more seminars that are similar for this one".



Meir Galis

Beit Ha'Telem Ha'Aroch – A New Interactive Museum founded by NOV Members

"House of the long furrow" (heb:"Beit Ha'Telem Ha'Aroch") is an educational center built in light of the ideal of the Kibbutz, the fist pioneers and the realization of these ideas.

A Kibbutz is a collective community unique to Israel. The Kibbutzim (plural form) were founded as utopian socialist communities. The first Kibbutz to be established was Dgania Alef and in order to celebrate its 100th birthday, the adult members of Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed (NOV) movement with the assistance of members of the kibbutz and the Jordan Valley's Regional Council founded the "House of the long furrow". The house is an educational center built in light of the ideals of the Kibbutz and the first pioneers and the realization of these ideas.



The House follows the story of the Kibbutz since it was conceived in Europe by Jewish Youth Movements, through the dilemma of immigrating

to Israel and the attempt of realizing the vision of a socialist society in the land of Israel. The "House of the Long Furrow" tries to clarify the main values upon which the Kibbutz was founded upon and its relation to the Israeli society.

The educational center incorporates a visual and playful experience that allows the visitors to "touch" the issues brought up through journey in The "House of the long furrow".



After a visit to the House, Sarah who came with a group of young adults from North and South America said: "Your interactive methodology and engaging style is unlike most museums in Israel, and required the participants to think for themselves about how the Kibbutz idea can still be put into practice today, in their home communities and perhaps in the future in Israel, if they choose to".

Omri Grossvirt

Commemorating 65 years to the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On the 6th of August 1945, was the first time in Human history when an atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later another bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki.

For the last 6 years NOV have been commemorating this atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This year about 70 adult members took part in the memorial service.



During the service, members read out texts describing the dropping of the bomb, survivors' lives after it, and sang protest songs about the fear of the boom.

As socialist we believe one of our goals is to turn this world to a world with no fear. No fear of

living in poverty, no fear of living under persecutions, no fear of atomic bombs, and no fear that the world we are living in will end.



In an article published in 2008 by senior American foreign and defense ministers they wrote: "In some respects, the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons is like the top of a very tall mountain. From the vantage point of our troubled world today, we can't even see the top of the mountain, and it is tempting and easy to say we can't get there from here. But the risks from continuing to go down the mountain or standing pat are too real to ignore. We must chart a course to higher ground where the mountaintop becomes more visible".

We call every one of you to act as a person against what we believe is one of the greatest dangers to humanity. Call out for a world with no nuclear threat – A world with no fear.

Erez Grimberg

[Link to the full article by George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn](#)

Leaders' Seminar Addresses New Social Groups

Leaders' Seminar (heb: Seminar Movilim) is another Counselors' Seminar, where 9th grader members are trained to be counselors in 3 different kinds of missions:



- Counseling younger members at youth clubs after school;
- Counseling in after-school child care, where they help the younger members with their homework and assignments from school
- Leading hobby groups, according to each counselor's abilities and own hobbies and will, such as dancing, soccer, drama and etc.

Members that decide to come to this seminar are those who wouldn't come to the other counselor's seminar. This is due to different reasons. Some are new immigrants from Ethiopia or former Soviet Union countries; others come from low socio-economic neighborhoods. These social groups would not normally join the movement,

and this seminar's purpose is to address new audiences and bring them into the movement as equal members.

Members join this seminar after a year of educational process, sometimes two year, during which they are counseled by adult members of the movement. This year about 200 members took part in the seminar.



On the graduation ceremony, at the end of the seminar, two participants gave a speech in front of the parents, and their friends saying: "we decided to talk about the change we have been through during the seminar, each of us as an individual and all of us as a group". They explained that they came to the seminar with a lot of fears and worries about becoming counselors, but they are leaving it ready and willing to change the things that bother them, "each of us in his or her own neighborhood".

Noga Katz