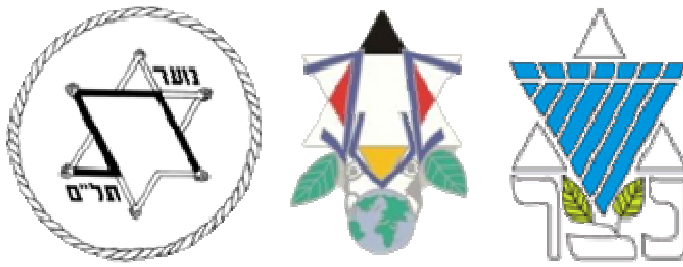


Netzer Germany and Noar Telem from Israel together on a two weeks seminar.



Who are we?

We are a group of young leaders, ages 16-19, from Germany and Israel. We are members of the Reform Jewish youth movement “Netzer” in Germany and “Noar Telem” in Israel. In March and April 2010, 30 of us met for a seminar of two weeks in Israel and Germany.

Why did we meet?

We met in order to create new ties between us, to explore our Jewish Identity and to build a community.

We wanted to develop a better understanding of how the media influences our lives and how we can be more critical about it. It was important for us to get to know each other and break any prejudice we had about the “other” and also understand about Jewish life in Germany and Israel.

What have we done?

As a group we had workshops about stereotypes and prejudice and openly discussed our perception of “the other”. By spending a lot of time together and talking with each other we learned that although we speak a different language and come from a different culture we have much more in common than we first thought.

Visiting the “Kol Israel” radio station in Jerusalem and the ARD television studios in Berlin, we got to know the way news is made and edited. We discussed concepts like subjectivity and authentic reporting and even recorded our very own radio show.

Wanting to have a meaningful Jewish experience, we made sure to find “the Jewish” in what we did: We prayed together each morning and evening- sometimes in a creative Maamad and learned different melodies of songs, blessings and prayers. We used traditional and modern Jewish texts in our workshops and we celebrated the Pessach (Passover) Seder in the homes of the Israelis. We celebrated Shabbat with the Liberal Jewish community “Sukkat Shalom” in Berlin, visited the Jewish museum, and the Centrum Judaicum in Oranienburger street.

Through the personal “mifgash” (meeting) and traveling to both countries we learned a lot about German and Israeli history, mentality and culture, and about the traditions

of both youth groups. We discovered the differences and similarities between us and created new personal friendships. We laughed together and cried together, challenged each other and also argued. We taught each other words in our language and had such a great experience and so much fun.

We are all very happy we got the chance to be part of this program and hope that the ties created between us and the movements will develop and continue in the further.

We came to this encounter with many questions- such as- What is the Jewish community like in Israel and Germany; How can Jews build a Jewish life in Germany with all the difficult History between the two nations; How can we as Zionists love Israel yet still criticize some of the governments policies?

Through these questions and many more we came together to form a stronger personal and Jewish Identity.



