



International Activities

Israeli Delegation at Saarbrücken Youth Camp – Germany – Tami Cohen

Third Joint ASPnet Teachers-Students Seminar, Beit Jala – Yael Harel

“Learning to Live Together” – Yael Harel / Michael Nader

Report on Lisbon/Toledo – Yael Harel

Berlin International Seminar for Students from Associated Schools – Shira Granot

Israeli Delegations to Saarbrücken Youth Camp – Germany

**Impressions from the
1999 Saarbrücken German-French-Israeli-Palestinian
Youth Camp – July 1999**

Tamy Cohen, Makif het High School, Rishon Lezion

Each delegation comprised five students and one adult. We gathered at the Youth Hostel in Saarbrücken, Germany where most of the activities took place. The goal was to prepare a play. The students participated in an intensive theatre workshop. They were taught by a professional actor. Every day, morning and afternoon they would practice. The adults were invited but it was hinted that it would be better if the youth worked without adults around. So we saw the children at mealtimes. They were inseparable. After one day, the Palestinians and the Israelis bonded so well that they did not go anywhere alone. In the



evenings we went out to the city which celebrated its 1000 anniversary.

In addition to the workshop, we visited Strasbourg and Metz in France. I was most impressed by the open border and the way cars moved freely from Germany to France and vice versa.

Our hosts were very gracious, and took care of our every need.

The European children were older than the Israelis but they understood that the Israelis and the Palestinians were not allowed to drink alcohol or go to discos. The wonderful thing was the consideration for each other. The whole group did only things that everyone could do, that was an important issue.



The play itself was about various couples standing on stage, a boy watching the sky expecting a stone to fall on him at any minute, and a girl trying to convince him that he could not spend his life waiting for the stone to hit him as it might not fall at all. In addition, there was a gangfight scene. The play, in my opinion, was wonderful and professionally done.

It was amazing to see the children form such friendships. They would not leave each other. The last day was heart rending - the children broke down and cried when they had to part.

The adult group had the same relationship. The Palestinian teacher, Nisam, the French teacher Pierre and I spent most of the time together. Like the children, we formed a very pleasant companionship, and I am still in touch with both. I know that several of the Israeli children are in touch with one French student and some of the Palestinians.

When asked about the workshop, the children were puzzled at first. They knew and understood the importance of international relations, of working together, but they did not think it could also be so much fun and so easy. We were prepared for the worst – arguments and accusations from the Palestinian side, but it turned out that there were no strong differences of opinion. They all thought that peace is the only acceptable solution, and that this workshop was an important part of the process. They were proud of the fact that things went so smoothly and so easily.

The fact that the topic of the youth camp was a common project, and a theatre project at that, made it such a success. Although the play was symbolic, the children did not sink into. They looked for the common ground and the full half of the glass. It was wonderful to see. I

recommend more of such projects.

It was in fact so successful that the Metz Unesco Club is trying to organize another such youth camp. They are also trying to make sure that the same members get together again and continue their work. I believe that these particular Israeli children did everything in their power to make this work, they were the “glue” of the group, the center. I am sure that if they are sent again to any youth camp, the results would be as successful.

Personally, I enjoyed myself tremendously. The Palestinian teacher was gracious and very friendly, as was the French teacher. The German Unesco people were wonderful and took care of our every need, as did our hostess from the Adolf Bander Center. We also formed friendships and had many discussions among ourselves on the peace process.

Delegation: Students: Shir Levy, Yuval Karnivsky, Yoav Hamut, Korin Bacher and Rotem Yoffe.

The Third German-Palestinian-Israeli Joint Teacher Student Seminar

Talita Kumi, Beit Jala August 13-20, 1999

Dr. Yael Harel

The third encounter was special. It was hosted by Palestinians and it was about burning environmental issues concerning the site we were on. It was also an encounter of old friends. Still it was strange to meet Mr. Jihad Qarsholli, the Palestinian Secretary General of UNESCO and Dr. Traugott Schofthaler, the German Secretary General, without David Harari being present.

This encounter was preceded by some excitement. We began to get organized only three weeks before with the arrival of Mr. Daniel

Bar-Elli, the new Secretary General of the Israel National Commission for UNESCO. Most people were on vacation or had made prior engagements. Still the core of veterans, 'les fideles', were there ready to follow and we came up with a delegation of ten students and nine teachers plus seven visitors.

Another cause of excitement was the difficulty the German delegation had with getting a chemical lab for water tests through the customs. But all's well that ends well when we obtained an identical lab here (Made in Germany!) and we could test the water and learned how to look at the strange chemical findings of minerals, hardness, ph, ammonia,

etc. We learned mainly about water which somehow became the central issue of the seminar being the problem shared by all countries in this region and the most disputed one. We went on a field trip and collected water samples. We also visited Bethlehem, the Church of Nativity and Herodion. It is amazing to see the amount of construction done in Bethlehem towards the millennium!

Apart from discussing environmental issues with a number of extremely knowledgeable professors, we also had a drama workshop and an education workshop. The final presentation revolved all around water which was discussed and represented through drama,



music, movement, plastic arts, creative writing and a lot of humor.

The last night was a folklore night and all participants joined in the dance. Later it became a disco night for the young people. The hospitality lived up to the myth.

Great food, lots of good will and organization. Thank you Mr. Jihad Qarasholli, Dr. Sami Adwan, UNESCO staff and Dr. Gohller and Talita Kumi staff! And of course, last but not least, thanks a million to Dr. Traugott Schofthaler, to Dr. Michael

Nader, ASP Coordinator, to Claudia Brincks, Traugott's assistant, and to the German delegation. When we finally left all the children would have wanted to stay longer. The teachers felt pretty much the same. We hope to meet again. Shalom.

“Learning to live Together”

Summer Course in Peace Education

Dr. Yael Harel and Dr. Michael Nader

Description of the Project:

This project was proposed initially by Ms Elizabeth Khawajkie, International Coordinator of ASPnet, to Dr. Aharon Seidenberg, Head of Bet-Berl College, and to Dr. Varda Sharoni, Head of the School of Education in Bet-Berl College during her visit to Israel in April 1999. Later it was developed by Dr. Yael Harel together with Dr. Varda Sharoni and finally adopted in the Plan of Action 1999-2003 of ASPnet in Toledo July 1999. Now we are proposing it as a joint Palestinian-German-Israeli project:

Venue: Bet-Berl College, Israel.

Date: July 2000.

Duration: 2 weeks.

Participation:

25 participants from ASPnet teacher training colleges (2 from 8 countries and the rest from UNESCO staff and ASPnet schools).

Staff:

PhD and Professors experts in Theology, Environment, Sociology,

Language Policy, Peace Education and Psychology from Germany, Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Accodation:

Full board in good quality single hotel rooms and restaurant, fully equipped classrooms, field trips, swimming pool and country club facilities. Access to modern library and computers.

Final Product:

Teaching units in Environmental, Peace, Human Rights, Comparative Theology and Language education produced by the participants during the course.

Proposed Schedule

General comment: the weekly program will be repeated twice apart from the destination of the field trips, the weekend trip which will take place only once and the farewell party that will be scheduled for the last Thursday night. The study day will include 8 academic hours of study with lunch, supper and coffee breaks.

Sundays:

Comparative Theology and Language Policy towards an understanding in multi-cultural environments.

Mondays:

Developing a multi-cultural environment infrastructure Rural-Urban-Global thinking

Tuesdays

Study trips: first to the Arab Sector in Israel, second to field observation of environmental complexity.

Wednesday

Human Rights Education (tolerance, inter-cultural, anti-violence education, research studies and project

Thursdays:

The Inner Conflict (human psychology, ethical standards and inner peace in a changing and dangerous world) Group Dynamics.

Weekend:

2 day trip to Jerusalem and Bethlehem to holy places.

Report on Lisbon/Toledo

Dr. Yael Harel



Last year, David Harari and the Israeli National Commission recommended me for the ONC title. After the Joint Teacher-Student Seminar on Human Rights in Nuremberg, I flew to Lisboa, Portugal for September 1998. There I was supposed to get the distinguished award together with another 13 ONC's from Mozambique, Nigeria, Jordan, Samoa, Thailand, Slovenia, Spain, Austria, Ecuador, Cuba, Mexico and Brazil.

In Lisboa we were received by the local UNESCO staff who were absolutely wonderful and extremely hospitable, and the ASPnet staff from Paris. Elizabeth was visionary and inspiring, while Sigrid and Min-Jeong, were efficient, sweet and enthusiastic. Together we passed a dreamlike week in a great ambiance even though we worked hard from

morning till night planning the new Strategy and Plan of Action for the Consolidation of ASPnet between 1999 and 2003. It was inspirational and synergetic and I am grateful to all who had a say in this award and especially the dedicated members of ASPnet Israel who made this possible for me. 'We are on the map!'

One of the outcomes of the Lisboa meeting was the 2nd European Region ASPnet Seminar for National Coordinators in Toledo. Let me remind you that the First European Region ASPnet Seminar took place in 1996 in Beit Berl and was organized by our small and compact but dynamic team. In Toledo people still remember our seminar with nostalgia.

In Toledo the 6 ONC's of Europe were treated with great respect and called 'the pillars' of the seminar. We gave presentations and

made suggestions for the year 2000, the International Year for 'A Culture of Peace'. I presented the Global Village idea which was adopted in article 8e of the Plan of Action. I also presented a Human Rights Site, the Ben-Zvi-Tira project as basis for a Peace Education Curriculum, the suggestion a Peace Education Summer Course for february 2001.

This summer course, 'Learning to Live Together', was first suggested by Elizabeth during her visit to Israel in April 1999. The heads of Beit-Berl College accepted it with enthusiasm and now it is going to become a flagship project for teacher training colleges in ASPnet. The summer course was adopted in the Plan of Action in article 3d. During the Third Joint Teacher-Student Seminar in Beit-Jala, we discussed this project

further and presented it to our partners, the Palestinian, Israeli and the German Secretary Generals, hoping to get their support.

For the finale of the Toledo Seminar we, the 6 ONC's presented a Manifesto which calls for the consolidation of ASPnet in every member state (over 160). It will be presented to every decision maker in UNESCO and in Ministries of Education around the world. Here is a quote from the Manifesto signed by the ONC's Dr. Michael Nader, Germany, Ms Lubov Draganova, Bulgaria, Ms Flora Fondevilla, Spain, Ms Alenka Askerc Mikelc, Slovenia, Mr Gerhard Goschnik, Austria and myself.

..."The ASPnet carries out the goals of UNESCO: the realisation of a 'Culture of Peace'. ASPnet schools, about 6000 institutions around the world, are innovative 'Laboratories of Peace Education'. They enhance the 4 pillars described by the Delors Commission: "Learning to Know,

Learning to Do, Learning to Live and Learning to Live Together". consequently they advance the use of computers in education, active-experiential-cooperative teaching methods, and humanistic values including concern for the environment on our planet and intercultural encounters.

ASPnet schools fight racism and violence, the two biggest plagues of society in our times. Another burning issue ASPnet addresses through education is the prevention of drug addiction. The network works out of idealistic motivation, under the umbrella of UNESCO and the National Coordinators and the teachers who strive to innovate with enthusiasm and dedication in order to achieve the high ideals mentioned above.

Therefore we call upon you, the leaders, to give every support to ASPnet. Support means recog-

nition, moral support and allocation of budgets. Support means legislation for the appointment of an ASPnet National Coordinator in a full-time job in every country, a coordinator that would get the full support of the National Commission for UNESCO. The National Coordinator and the Commission aspire to work in harmony and collaboration with the Ministries of Education and other Ministries of all countries.

We recommend the allocation of an adequate budget for the activities of ASPnet on national, regional and world level. Today we have a Plan of Action which reflects the achievements of 46 years of hard work and a number of on-going and future projects and we are convinced that we can make a difference for the future of humanity.

Share with us the means to achieve a culture of peace for the future of our children!...

28TH Berlin International Seminar for Students from Associated Schools

Berlin, Germany

28 November to 3 December 1999

Shira Granot, Hayovel High School, Herzeliya, Israel

When you hear about a seminar about future youth and peace, it might sound to you like a boring subject that your father would attend, right? Well, guess what. The week that I spent at this seminar in Berlin, Germany, was the best week in my life.

What was it actually about? It was a whole week with young people from all over Europe that got to know each other and it took place in a huge castle in Berlin. Doesn't that sound promising already?

It was as follows. Anas Jamawi, from an Arab village in Israel and I, Shira Granot from Herzeliya, were chosen to represent Israel at this seminar. It took a little time before we started to get to know all the kids and tutors and to learn about the countries they came from — Germany, Poland, Norway, Denmark, Russia, Slovakia, the Palestinian Authority and Israel. There were 26 kids in the group and it was astonishing to see how quickly all became friendly and open to each other. The tutors were really great, too and they led all the sessions in an interesting and attractive way.

We spent a day in which we split up into small groups and worked on topics that are very close to us kids. Each group was given a different topic and it was very interesting to see how much we kids all have in common, no matter where we live.

Another day was theater day, which was the best of them all — all the kids thought so. During that day, we learned to use our body as a communication tool and again we split up into small groups. Each group chose a subject, which represents a problematic issue to youth. We presented this subject by acting it out as it is today, from our



point of view, and how we think it should be solved in the future.

We spent one day touring Berlin, both the new part and the older part — and, of course, shopping!

During that week, 3 newspapers were produced, which Stefan, one of the tutors, wrote with three of the kids, describing the events of the days and gossip!

The best of it all — 4 kids were chosen to be interviewed on the Radio Berlin about the seminar and UNESCO and I was one of them. This was really exciting.

What was special about this seminar was that very important issues were discussed and yet, because of the excellent way it was

planned and organized, we all managed to have a great time.

At the end of the seminar, we had a huge party with a band that played dance music and we danced till dawn — well till midnight actually — but who's counting. The entire seminar was filmed on video and we will get the film soon.

One of the greatest things for me was getting to know so many wonderful kids from other countries and making new friends. You can imagine how we cried at the end when we said farewell, but we keep in touch by email and letters, and who knows, maybe in a few years there will be a reunion??

So, how does the seminar sound to you now?