

It was a joy and a privilege to host two young women from Camp Shomria in the summer of 2014. The program was organized down to the last detail and we felt very much part of a community through the activities we shared with the campers, organizers, supporters and other hosts. We learned so much from these exceptional young women, who discussed the complex situation in their country with intelligence and subtlety. I was impressed that they were able to feel such pride in their country, at the same time as they could see ways to improve it.

They also taught us a lot about the power of friendship. They were true friends, who complimented each other's personalities beautifully and supported each other through what ended up being a very difficult time in their homeland. We could see that the whole group was emotionally close -- testifying to the quality of the programming at the camp. They -- and we -- were also exceptionally well supported by the program's organizers and facilitators.

We have ended up staying in touch with Heart to Heart and with the girls, who send us a photo of themselves every time they are together and have promised to do so for many years to come.

-Maria Meindl