

'tent' brings young Jewish spirit to Wales

London, 4th September, 2007

This weekend, 31 young adults traveled from as far afield as Edinburgh, Manchester, London and Bristol to gather together in the beautiful Welsh countryside to enjoy the third fully-booked 'tent' getaway, featuring tai chi, Jewish meditation, a spiritual midnight hike, a barn dance and even paintballing.

The 'tent' spirit clearly spread out into the surrounding hills and valleys as a group of Muslim children on the farm gravitated towards a Torah reading and were warmly welcomed into the service, and a crowd of local Welsh children joined in the Tai Chi session.

The programme was organised by Student Rabbi Anna Gerrard and Liberal Judaism Young Adult worker Avivit Katzil.

Participant Tom Mendes da Costa, who is an orthopedic surgeon at a hospital in Bristol, said, "I love the atmosphere at 'tent' events – they are always so interesting, relaxing and inclusive. It was ironic yet wonderful that the farm we stayed on was full of Jews and Muslims – together in the Welsh countryside we were all able to be ourselves and at peace, side by side".

Rabbi Aaron Goldstein, Liberal Judaism Community Development Director, said, "It's fantastic that people from all around the UK connected at the 'tent' Summer Getaway. It's always very moving to see young adults making links, building friendships and even relationships, helping to propel us all towards a new generation of Jewish togetherness".

- Ends -



Notes:

Liberal Judaism - one of the three major strands of Judaism in the UK with over 30 congregations and 10,000 members across the country - seeks to make Jewish life relevant to the modern world.

The main difference between Liberal Judaism and traditional (Orthodox) Judaism is in their respective attitudes to the bible. While preserving the core beliefs and practices that underpin the religion, Liberal Judaism believes that ancient laws must be interpreted to ensure that ethical values and practices take account of what we know and the world as it is today. Ethical behaviour and social action take priority over ritual.

Liberal Judaism believes in the equality of each individual, regardless of race, gender or sexuality. We apply this belief in practice, with support for mixed-faith and same-sex relationships. Liberal Jewish men and women have equality of opportunity in all aspects of religious life, including practice and education.

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