

# Gesher in 2015

From left to right: Lori, Noa, Doron, Max  
celebrating the 50th year reunion at Camp  
Gesher



## Two Gesher Alum send their daughter Noa back to Camp Gesher

A short interview with  
#GesherAlum, Lori Wasserman

### Who are you? When did you go to Gesher & what have you been up to since?

Lori Wasserman - I first went to Gesher for Bogrim in 1982 after spending several summers at another camp where I didn't like the atmosphere. I did SHK, MB (summer in Israel), Workshop (Israel gap-year), I was a *madricha* (counsellor), an SHK, MB and Workshop *madricha* then back to university. I now teach.

### What are your favourite memories of Gesher?

So many! *Shira* (sing-a-long) everywhere and all the time, crazy special days, and Shabbat - the singing, the dancing. Walking with my *kvutza* (group) to Bon

Echo National Park and experiencing for the first time in my life what it meant to be in a *kvutza*... a sense of belonging, and for the most part, being accepted for me, more judgement-free than other places at that time.

### What is the greatest lesson you learned at camp?

Yikes! Camp and HDNA combined, I'd say there are probably many. My first one in Bogrim was that life is much more than material possessions and what we look like. *Real*, honest friendship is an important part of a happy life.

### Describe any significant relationships with fellow campers. How did your

### friendships with other Gesherites impact you?

Well, I ummm, live with one and we have 2 kids. We never officially married but it all started in Habonim. As for other friendships, my Gesher/HDNA friends had a profound impact on my life and hugely affected my own desire to pursue further studies in university and made me really motivated about my future. I wasn't really 'connected' with my high school friends or with high school.

### When and why did you decide to send your daughter, Noa, to Gesher?

Both of us wanted her to go as we loved Gesher so much. The deal was sealed after she came with us to Gesher's 50 reunion in August 2013.

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“...[an] amazing way for children to make deep friendships, have fun, get outdoors and learn a set of values...”

(continued)

**What was her summer like? How did it remind you of your Gesher experience and in what ways does it feel different or new?**

She loved it. We thought it would be really different as things change. We had been up for the reunion so we knew of the physical changes but weren't sure about the *chinuch* (educational) changes. What feels new is the physical space, fresh ideas, current realities, more focus on social justice and

that there are women running things! On the other hand, many stories reflected a Gesher we knew - enough to bond over but still enough new for Noa to make her own memories. It was a lot of fun comparing our experiences of things like Rev Day and Enjoyment Night and the many other crazy Gesher traditions with Noa - crazy but without getting up on that stage and performing or leading a 'revolution,' I'm not sure I'd have the confidence to do many things I've accomplished since.

**What do you feel Gesher has to offer?**

A really amazing way for children to make deep friendships, have fun, get outdoors and learn a set of values and some history. I learned to make decisions with a group from a young age and that is a tremendous skill to have growing up and as an adult.

**Are you sending Noa back?!**

We have no choice - she is insisting!!!

## A few moments of Noa's first summer at Camp Gesher



Gesher L'Atid



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