

Presentation by Carmel Students at AGM 9 February 2020

Following the conclusion of the business part of the meeting, Carmel School students Lexi Starkowitz and Jacob Parry addressed the gathering, sharing their experience of Shorashim — their Year 10 trip to Israel in June/July 2019. They spoke in turn about the highlights of the tour and what they had gained personally, showing some illustrative images as well as many of their own photos and some of the group.

Jacob introduced the topic by mentioning that the Parashat for the previous day had been Beshalach (Exodus 13:17–17:16). A question to be considered was “What was the purpose of the splitting of the Red Sea?” The key was that to receive Torah, the splitting of the sea had to occur first, before divine revelation was received. He would return to this point at the conclusion of the talk.

Lexi spoke of learning about the connections between people, and how she could then appreciate what her parents had taught her. The most profound experience for her was the visit to Yad Vashem, particularly the shoes, and the fact that there was a human story associated with each of the shoes. She spoke emotively of how her shoes had feet in them, that they took her all over Israel, and that she could come home.

Jacob concluded their presentation by explaining that they now understood why Shorashim is like the Red Sea.

Questions were then invited. The answer to “What would you tell the next group?” was: “Appreciate each day and all God’s wonderful gifts.” They would advise other students to “Go with a blank canvas, and take good shoes.”

At the close of discussion, Colin Rockman expressed thanks to Lexi and Jacob, and presented each with a certificate representing the planting of new trees in the Jewish National Fund forest in Israel.

Mary Marshall
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