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# STATE OF THE MOVEMENT

## JUNE 2019



### SHOMRIMOT CHAZAK.

The life of a movement is filled with many hills and valleys, but sometimes things seem to not be moving. It is important, however, to remember that we are constantly progressing and evolving. So we have decided to bring back this tradition of a State of the Movement, a reminder of who we are and where we are at, what discussions we are having, our struggles and our achievements. The past few years have been rough, we've had decreased participation at our kenim and camps, financial woes, blurrier lines than ever between camp and movement, and a small active hadracha. All that said, we know we are at the onset of a meaningful change.

A spark of passion and process of re-envisioning has begun in the North American movement, and change is in motion. The North American movement welcomed new Shlichot this year; Reut in Toronto and Adi in New York. They have been working hard and are here with renewed passion and energy. At the same time, this past year has been a year of questions and discussions for the Bogrimot in North America. After the first ever Hagshama Seminar (June 2018), Bogrimot of Canada and the USA have stepped up in taking ownership over their own collective educational processes; planning, running and attending seminars for the Bogrimot community such as an allyship seminar, and an economics seminar. In June, a group of Bogrimot departed on an educational journey in Israel/Palestine, engaging with leading activists, learning about social issues, and getting inspired by founding members from the Life Movement there. The first year of this Bogrimot community has been filled with questions as North American bogrimot have tried to explore the purpose and potential of such a continued movement; we left Mifgash with newfound understanding and commitment to the project. Such a shift in our movement structure can only strengthen the movement, and allow ourselves to fulfill our yearning for Hagshama and Tikkun Olam here in North America. The Life Movement in North America is off to a great start, not only with these seminars, but with support from the Jewish community incubator, Hakhel, in the form of a seed grant. This grant will allow us to network with and learn from other grassroots Jewish communities, not to mention seed money for some exciting projects! This year was also the first North American Kenes Hanhagot in almost 10 years, renewing cooperation between the Canadian and American leadership alongside Hashomer Hatzair Olami, and potential for change.



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Hashomer Hatzair Canada re-envisioned the Mazkirimot structure with 3 dedicated Bogrimot, Shauna Pekar, Oren Jungreis and Brit Asher, filling different movement needs in an effort to allow greater attention to the many facets of the running and greater development of Hashomer Canada. While this structure worked, it has changed to accommodate the work that is being done to introduce Hashomer Hatzair to the Jewish community in Ottawa! A group of Canadian Hadracha living in Ottawa will be working to create a Ken there! In the Toronto ken, several Bogrimot lived in a communa throughout the year, which became a hub for the hadracha and strengthened the bogrimot community. They hosted seminars, and created a much needed space for hadracha after kenim and in general. Unfortunately, the communa has disbanded, but the impact it had on the hadracha was significant. That being said, there is still a great deal of work to be done in continuing to work on creating intentional spaces for hadracha to learn and grow together as active Shomrimot, not just friends.

The Ken in Toronto itself is the strongest it has been in years, starting with 20 chanichimot each ken, to now around 50 chanichimot every ken (every other week). They have formed strong ties with other Jewish communities in the area, and seem to only get bigger. Mosh Choref exceeded expectations and for the first time in Hashomer Hatzair Canada history, a waiting list had to be opened as capacity was reached for machane, with a total of 80 shomrimot in attendance (both chanichimot and hadracha). Unfortunately, Mosh Kayitz did not bring the same outcome. The two session structure summer camp of 3 weeks followed by 2 weeks was shortened and Mosh Kayitz only ran for the first session of 3 weeks this summer due to a lack of registration. It was a summer that brought many challenges, but at the end of the day, it was a summer filled with many great memories for our Chanichimot. Hashomer Hatzair Canada has taken many steps this year in strengthening themselves for a more sustainable, meaningful future. Just as Rome was not built in a day, the Canadian movement recognizes that with the same continued level of effort, the movement will flourish.

Meanwhile, the USA kenim have been having some trouble with Ken recruitment and with hadracha engagement. We have recognized a need for more hadracha training and thriving culture. In the next year, a few members of the Bogrimot community will be moving into a communa together, with hopes for similar results to that of Toronto. We have been forming strong ties with Habonim Dror, organizing joint events and seminars together.



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In fact, both Habonim and us are currently working with NIF to create a standardized camp curriculum on Israel education, which will be distributed to other Jewish camps across the US. We have also been organizing inter-movement Rabin Memorial events with a network of Jewish youth movements in the area. Two leading hadracha members were accepted into the first cohort of Senior Fellows in Cornerstone, and enacted a new leadership mentorship program this summer, with an aim to distribute leadership training and opportunities. Mosh Kayitz 2019 tops it off as one of the most successful summers in the past decade in terms of registration, fun, and innovation. We even had some Canadians stay for second session, hopefully starting a beautiful new tradition.

While we are not on the top of the hill, we are not at the bottom of the valley either. That was perhaps a few years ago, and now we are slowly climbing up, and are right above the treeline. This gives for a beautiful view of all the possibilities, as well as an understanding for the path left to climb. We look forward to these new opportunities, partnerships, and happenings, as only good can come from them. Let us commit ourselves to this cause, its community and future to ensure the climb up is swift and supported.

**CHAZAK VE'EMATZ,**

**MAZKIRUT NA**

