

As American as Apple Pie: USA Volunteers Lead Baking Workshop for Negba Teens



Armed with flour, sugar, and bushels of Granny Smith apples, USA visitors Martha and Sophia injected a bit of American culture into Negba on a recent trip to Israel and ran a delicious pastry session with Negba's teens aged 13-16. They demonstrated each step of the baking process beginning with how to thinly slice the apples. And the workshop wasn't just about food; they taught the teens some English words and phrases like "pan" (תבנית), and "to bake" (לעוף). The teens easily mastered the language lessons, and had little trouble polishing off the apple pies. Consuming desserts is a universal skill for teens.

The two volunteers came to Negba after hearing about it from a relative who visited with Negba last year. "It was such a treat for us to visit Negba," said Sophia. "We were so delighted to lead the baking workshop, since it's something we love to do at home. We were so impressed with the diverse and enriching range of programming at Negba, and wanted to add to it."

Negba looks forward to their return and to another sweet aroma wafting through its premises.



New Negba Bat Mitzvah Program for Girls At-Risk



Negba has launched an intensive Bat Mitzvah Project over the course of four months to provide a deeper experience for 11-year old girls who will mark their Bat Mitzvah this year. The girls meet every other week for special theme-based activities centered on Biblical female figures such as Sarah, Rachel and Hanna. Most recently, they explored the topic of charity and social responsibility as embodied by Ruth, culminating in the preparation of baked goods which they distributed to patients and their families at the Soroka Hospital in Beersheva.

"I enjoyed meeting new girls also celebrating their Bat Mitzvah this year," said Orly, 11. "I liked baking the cookies and helping people." Yuval, also 11, was very excited about the project. "The crafts projects were fun, and I learned a lot about the women in the Torah."

At the conclusion of the project, a celebration will be held with the girls and their families. The project has created deeper relationships between the girls, as they anticipate reaching this important milestone together. Negba wishes them much Mazal Tov as they approach this new stage in Jewish life.

