

A Klagenfurt Composite

Three groups of teenagers, who, under normal circumstances, would never come eye-to-eye or face-to-face, converged on Klagenfurt with a mission to put identity and narratives on “center stage”. No easy objective; no easy way down.

I was there, basically, to work with the “performance” part of the event, but found myself more involved with the “processes” taking place than I had anticipated. There were multiple and parallel processes going on – in abundance.

However, what I’d like to share is the fact that I am extremely glad I was part of the group, because two weeks after returning, my daughter Alexandra, who participated in the workshop despite being two years younger, was invited to her new girlfriend’s house to sleep over. ”.

This need not seem of any particular interest, or worthy of mentioning. However Alexandra’s new girlfriend’s name is Alla and she is an Arab who lives in Qalansua. This is a rather unusual scenario – not TOTALLY unheard of – but rare these days. And it did not go as smoothly as it sounds. Alexandra’s father was against the overnight, which brought Alex to a tearful panic. (*I* had agreed without thinking twice, but then, I guess that’s why he’s getting married again to a different kind of woman, at this very moment, as a matter of fact). Due to the nature of my profession, Alexandra *has* met and interacted with quite a number of Arabs in Israel, young and old. But this is the first time she really developed a “buddy relationship with anyone.

In any case, when I suggested that perhaps I go pick up Alla and bring her to our house in Givatayim, Alex shrieked: “What, forever????!!!” Isn’t it supposed to be an *alternating* thing – once at her house, once at mine??!” I was sorry that she was crying her eyes out, but VERY proud of her logic and sense of “justice”. (In the end, her father relented, and Alex DID spend a night at Alla’s. Now it’s Alla’s turn to come hang out in Givatayim).

Without the Klagenfurt composite, this growth spurt would still be on the horizon.

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