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Valentini Kalargyrou, Associate Professor of Hospitality Management, PAUL travels to Israel

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UNH Global

Valentini Kalargyrou

Associate Professor of Hospitality Management - Israel

The main goal of my visit to Israel was to collect data from Nalaga'at (<http://nalagaat.org.il/en/>) (in Hebrew, “please touch”) Center in Tel Aviv and its three outlets: a dine in the dark restaurant, Blackout restaurant, a groundbreaking stage, Nalaga'at Theater and the Kapish Event Center that organizes events. All employees of the center are deaf, blind or deaf and blind. Specifically, I interviewed 12 employees with different disabilities about their employment experience and also dined at the Blackout restaurant and watched the unique performance “Not by bread alone,” where all actors were deaf, something truly unique the world over.



Tel Aviv-Yafo

For the purposes of the same research project (Social Entrepreneurship and disability inclusion in Hospitality and Tourism), I visited the program “Special in Uniform” of the Israeli army and interviewed the director regarding their initiative that entails the recruitment of young people with intellectual disabilities and their promotion as soldiers (see picture at left). Finally, I interviewed the people that have created a unique Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sicuyshaveh) (<http://www.facebook.com/sicuyshaveh>) that is an exceptional online marketplace for the employment of people with disabilities. The outcome of my visit was very satisfactory since I completed three case studies instead of the one that was originally planned. In addition to spending

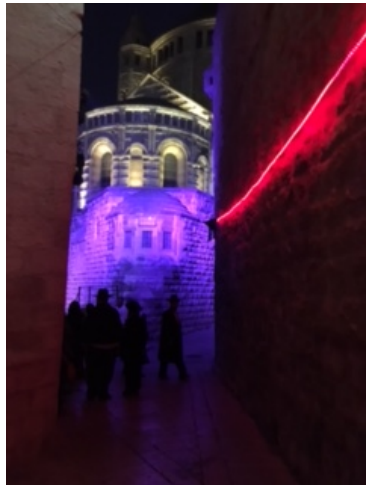


"Special in Uniform" (Kalargyrou I.)

time in Tel Aviv, I also traveled in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Petra, a historical archeological city in Jordan and camped at a Bedouin camp in the dessert. I was very fortunate because during my stay in Jerusalem I visited the Festival of Lights in the Old Jaffa. The use of light created a dramatic and artistic dimension of the Old City's nights.

These were unique experiences since I was able to observe the local cultures and try and understand the differences between Arabs, Hebrews and Christians. This trip will serve me well in teaching International Food and Culture course and my new course Happy and Healthy at Work, I gained a lot of insights about Middle Eastern cultures and disability inclusion practices in the workplace.

I want to thank CIEGE for this wonderful opportunity and I hope it continues this valuable initiative in the future.






Festival of Lights



Church of Mary Magdalene




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