

Mother and Daughter Photo Essay

Interview

1. What has been the greatest challenge?

The biggest challenge for the daughter was leaving all of the friends that she had made during the first fourteen years of her life in Israel. In school in Canada she found it easiest to make friends with other immigrant students because they all share a common experience.

For the mother, the biggest challenges in the seven years that she's lived in Canada have been learning English, finding jobs, making friends, finding the right foods and adjusting to the weather. She said, "Something that I didn't really figure out, with my daughter for example, when we were in Israel, our relationship was different than it is here. Like her social life, I don't really know her friends here. It seems like she doesn't really have too many friends. She doesn't bring friends home. In Israel our house was always filled with her friends. I don't even see her going to her friends' houses here. Sometimes if we will be out and I speak English and I make a mistake, I can see that it embarrasses her. As a mom it is a challenge to understand her. Things like that are challenging. I can remember when she was in middle school and her saw her with classroom. I was so excited! I came to hug her and she was embarrassed. That hurt – why do I have to feel that kind of rejection? I want her to feel proud and close to me."

2. What has been the biggest opportunity?

The biggest opportunity for the daughter was living in a safe place. She no longer had to worry about going through security every time she went to the mall.

The mother feels that since she immigrated she has become more engaged with her Jewish heritage and religion. She now attends synagogue for Yom Kippur which is something she had not done regularly in Israel. She thinks that in coming to Canada and getting Canadian citizenship she created a new identity for herself but she also wants to keep in touch with a part of her old identity.

3. What is the most important message that you want to give to Canadians who see the photo essay?

The mother said, "As an immigrant, I want to tell people to keep dreaming and doing what you love. I think that my daughter and I have become closer because we have to rely on each other more. If we kept living in Israel, the bond between us would have been different, on the other hand, this experience created a great bond. If you believe in

what you do and you know that everything you do is for a good reason, it will create good around you. Go with your heart and respect others, even if they are not like you.”