



JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA

ימקא הבינלאומית ירושלים
جمعية الشبان المسيحية الدولية - القدس

TOWER VIEWS INTERNATIONAL

JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA BULLETIN

SPRING 2007

SPRING BLOSSOMS AND RENEWAL

The almond tree blossoms are the first to signal renewal and the advent of spring in the Holy Land. It is becoming my favorite time of the year as each of the four seasons come and go. When nature reveals to us the necessity and benefit of change, an opportunity arises to reflect on where we are and the possibilities of where we can go.

Parker Palmer, author and mentor for many aspiring YMCA leaders in search of meaning through voice and vocation, said, "Our real freedom comes from being aware that we do not have to save the world, merely make a difference in the place where we live." I could not be more proud of the diverse JIY team who not only makes a difference in the community on a daily basis, but also continues to embrace the possibility of change when popular sentiment would dictate otherwise.

This edition of *Tower Views* is dedicated to the devoted staff, volunteers and supporters of JIY with the hope that spring brings a sense of renewal and a chance for reflection. And who knows? Collectively, maybe we will change the world.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace be with you always...

NORRIS D. LINEWEAVER
Director General
Jerusalem International YMCA



(From left) Dr. Yuli Tamir, Israel's Education Minister; Alona Apt, Channel Hop!; Gary Knell, president/CEO of Sesame Workshop; JIY Peace Preschool students; and Adena Levine, director, JIY Peace Preschool, celebrate the return of *Sesame Street* to the region.

MUPPETS ON KING DAVID STREET

In late April, the Jerusalem International YMCA welcomed several very special guests who had an important announcement to make. After an almost 10-year television absence in Israel and the Palestinian territories, *Sesame Street* is back on the air promoting peace, tolerance and cross-cultural understanding to the region's children.

JIY's Peace Preschool, with integrated classes of Jewish, Muslim and Christian children, was asked to take part in the announcement in recognition of its successful approach to promoting cultural diversity and tolerance through education. The children not only learn about the different faiths and cultures of their classmates, but they also speak in both Hebrew and Arabic.

At the press conference, it also was announced that the Peace Preschool and other schools in the region will receive Muppet-themed Education Enrichment Kits designed to reinforce the positive message of peaceful coexistence.



THE MISSION OF THE JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA:
*To put principles of faith into practice through programs that encourage personal growth,
promote tolerance and build health of spirit, mind and body for all.*

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Accepting the banner and well-wishes from the New Jersey children are Adena Levine, director, JIY Peace Preschool, Norris Lineweaver and Peace Preschool students.

BANNER FOR PEACE

Inspired by JIY's multi-faith Season of Peace celebration this past December, Quiteria Cloutman, a director of the Hampton Elementary School YMCA afterschool program in New Jersey (United States), engaged her students in a project to build awareness of the worldwide YMCA mission and promote global education and understanding.

Quiteria used a globe to explain to the students that the YMCA not only does important work in their community, but also in communities around the world. She highlighted JIY's integrated Peace Preschool where Jewish, Muslim and Christian children are free to learn and play together in a safe, peaceful environment. With help from Quiteria, the children sent a banner to JIY expressing their personal wishes of peace, love and harmony for the children in the region.

JIY would like to thank the students, Quiteria and Libby McDonald, board chair, Hunterdon County YMCA, for their kind words and friendship.

IN BRIEF



Neil Nicoll, CEO, YMCA of the USA, visited with Norris Lineweaver and staff on a recent trip to JIY.

SEATTLE YMCA VOLUNTEERS VISIT JIY

In March, a group of YMCA volunteers from Seattle (Washington) accompanied Neil Nicoll, CEO, YMCA of the USA, and Sam Evans, JIY consultant, YMCA of the USA, on a trip to JIY. Over five days, they met with staff to learn about JIY's work in the community and also had an opportunity to tour Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. "On many different levels—spiritual, historical and personal—we learned so much and it was a remarkable trip," one participant remarked. While in Jerusalem, Neil met with JIY staff and volunteers to discuss the alignment of Y-USA's recently adopted strategic plan.

JIY WELCOMES MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS

In early April, Congressmen Frank Wolf (R-VA), Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL), Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and Joseph R. Pitts (R-PA) visited JIY and participated in a working dinner with Norris Lineweaver. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of wide-ranging issues, including the work of JIY in the local community. The meeting was at the request of Congressman Wolf, ranking member of the State, Foreign Operations appropriations subcommittee, who has announced a new Middle East Initiative to combine economics and faith in the region. It will be coordinated by the Center for Study of the Presidency and supported by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

We hope you will join our campaign and support the work of JIY, including our programs designed to develop peace leadership skills among young people. For more information on how you can help, please contact Christopher Wieland at christopher.wieland@ymca.net.





Children learn to express themselves through our new Creative Arts program.

TOGETHER IN HARMONY

In conjunction with the Jerusalem Music Center, JIY recently established two choirs aimed at junior high and high school youth. The goals of this new program are to teach the children a love for international music, to bring together Jews and Arabs through a cultural experience and to provide them with the experience of performing on stage.



DESERT CHALLENGE

Twenty-nine Jewish and Arab youth, accompanied by their facilitators, recently went on a two-day survival experience amidst the magnificent scenery of the Negev desert in southern Israel. The teens hiked all day in the desert and learned survival skills such as how to make a fire, use a compass and find water in the harsh desert environment. Even though it was physically challenging, the atmosphere was electric with teens from very different backgrounds working together to accomplish common goals. Each night, they sang and danced under the stars to the sound of the darbuka drums.

NEW PROGRAM FOCUSED ON WOMEN

In an effort to address our members' fitness needs and challenging daily schedules, a new Sunday morning program was developed focused on women looking to improve their fitness levels. The program offers women the opportunity to work out with a female trainer who will help them identify their goals and tailor a program to reach their target.

FITNESS WITH A BEAT!

JIY's Great Shape Fitness Studio has developed two dance classes which are attracting new members of all ages and fitness levels.

SALSA

A fusion of Cuban and Latin American rhythms provides the background for this energizing workout of Latin dance.

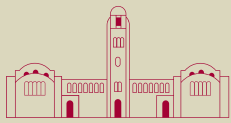


BELLY DANCING

Participants experience the fun and challenge of moving to the rhythmic, motivating music while celebrating a traditional dance with deep roots in the region. Contrary to its name, however, this dance works every muscle group in the body!

MUSIC FOR THE SPIRIT, MIND AND BODY

Twice a week, children in the Peace Preschool participate in special music classes which contribute to a healthy spirit, mind and body. Through dance and games, the children are introduced to many musical elements and their understanding and love of music is developed. They listen to ethnic music from around the world and percussion instruments are used to develop creativity and musical imagination. The program aims to develop listening skills, a love for dance and an introduction to the many diverse cultures at home and abroad.



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SPRINGTIME IN THE HOLY LAND

Originally the retirement home of Dr. Archibald Harte, a former Director General of JIY, Peniel-by-Galilee was bequeathed to the YMCA after his death in 1946. Today it serves as a place for fellowship and spiritual renewal where children, adults and families of all faiths engage in recreational activities as well as educational programs to promote peace and understanding in the region.



JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA
26 KING DAVID STREET, P.O. BOX 294
JERUSALEM 91002, ISRAEL

