



JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA

ימקא הבינלאומית ירושלים
جمعية الشبان المسيحية الدولية - القدس

TOWER VIEWS INTERNATIONAL

JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA BULLETIN

SUMMER 2007

HONORING LEADERS WHO LEAVE A LEGACY

There is no myth about the life hereafter. I feel it every time I walk through JIY's vibrant lobby. Oh, if the stones could only speak! They would recall with enthusiasm what they have witnessed over the years beginning with the vision of Dr. Archibald Harte and the generosity of James Jarvie and John D. Rockefeller. The leadership of the past generation, through unwavering conviction and enduring values, resonates with clarity into this generation.

At a ceremony during the National Association of YMCA Professionals Convention this summer, two of JIY's former Director Generals, Harte and Rizek Abusharr, were inducted into the YMCA Hall of Fame. Former JIY Director General Len Wilson was also present to take part in the ceremony.

Each one of us, regardless of where we serve the YMCA mission, knows that we stand on the shoulders of giants such as Harte and Abusharr. Their legacy bears the indelible imprint of perseverance in the face of adversity. True grit comes from the generosity of the heart combined with the cunning tenacity of a good mind. We have much to learn and appreciate from leaders who leave a legacy. That is why we take this moment to pause and acknowledge their achievements and commitment to the YMCA movement.

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

NORRIS D. LINEWEAVER

Director General
Jerusalem International YMCA



Amos Oz (left) and Sari Nusseibeh held a public discussion at JIY.

JIY Hosts Amos Oz and Sari Nusseibeh

Israeli author Amos Oz and Palestinian author Sari Nusseibeh held a public discussion in JIY's auditorium to celebrate the release of Nusseibeh's autobiography, *Once Upon a Country*. Nusseibeh, who is also the president of Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem, indicated the book was partly inspired by Oz's love of writing and storytelling. The two met in the 1970's at political rallies and debates, and shared the common bond of growing up in a divided Jerusalem. Although their childhoods were spent within a few hundred meters of one another, their writings reflect the isolation and lack of interaction between Jews and Palestinians. A packed auditorium listened attentively as the two friends recounted their experiences and offered predictions for the future of peace in the region. The discussion was facilitated by Steven Erlanger of the *New York Times* and sponsored in cooperation with Seeds of Peace.



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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THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN!

In July, JIY hosted a traveling circus provided by the Galilee Foundation for Value Education. The circus was comprised of two youth troupes, the mixed Jewish-Arab Galilee Circus and St. Louis Arches, a multicultural youth circus that came for a special tour of performances. Performing together in the gymnasium, the troupes entertained children and adults with acrobatics, juggling, trapeze demonstrations and even baton twirling incorporating fire! The Galilee Foundation developed this program as a unique way to foster Arab-Jewish understanding and cooperation based on the principles that the circus transcends language barriers, is a non-competitive community activity based on mutual trust, is a tradition of a multicultural community or family, and finally, exists solely to make people smile.

JIY AWARDED EUROPEAN UNION GRANT TO PRESENT MULTICULTURAL ART FESTIVAL

With support from the European Commission to the State of Israel, JIY will present a festival in December which will showcase presentations that explore relations between Arabs and Jews and which portray diverse cultural images. The festival aims to bring both cultural expression and coexistence experiences to citizens of East and West Jerusalem. Some presentations will be specifically aimed at younger audiences and will be followed by discussions with cast members.

JIY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION ON THE SHARED HERITAGE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

In early June, JIY hosted the PUSH (Promoting dialogue and cultural Understanding of our Shared Heritage) project's Regional Workshop. For two intense days the PUSH project's expert teams from Al-Quds University, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design and the Jordan Society for Sustainable Development were joined by renowned experts from around the world to identify the most significant regional sites of shared cultural and natural heritage. With hundreds of historical sites common to the three monotheistic religions, it was no easy task. For more information on the PUSH project visit www.pushproject.org.

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, visit www.jerusalemymca.org.

THOUSANDS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL AT JIY

Celebrating its tenth anniversary, the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival opened on August 31, with a reception to honor the musicians who traveled from all over the world to perform at this annual event. More than 14,000 people filled JIY's Mary Nathaniel Golden Hall of Friendship during the two weeks of critically acclaimed performances.

JIY's arts and culture programming complements its coexistence initiatives such as the Peace Preschool and Moderate Voices for Progress. Hosting events such as the Jerusalem International Music Festival is a way to celebrate diversity and promote cross-cultural understanding in the community.



MVP

In an effort to provide Moderate Voices for Progress (MVP) graduates with a framework for maintaining relationships with fellow participants, the next group will be recruited from the same professional sphere. We are currently recruiting young adults at the beginning of a career in filmmaking.

Participants will have an opportunity to create professional contacts that will serve them throughout their career. In addition, filmmakers can reach and influence a wide audience and through this experience, MVP participants can advance peaceful partnership, dialogue and understanding through this powerful medium.

The program will include three elements: an intensive program of long-term dialogue, a three-week seminar hosted by the YMCA of Greater Hartford, and an ongoing film workshop, provided in collaboration with the Geshar Multicultural Film Fund of Jerusalem, which will assist the young filmmakers in developing and writing scripts.

JYI PARTNERS WITH PEACE PLAYERS INTERNATIONAL

The JYI basketball program has become involved with Peace Players International, an organization focused on promoting positive relationships by bringing together teams of Israeli and Palestinian boys and girls to practice and play together. Following a successful meeting with the coaches, cultural events will be added to the sports program which will culminate in a competitive Peace League for the next season. In August, R.C. Buford, general manager of the San Antonio Spurs NBA basketball team, was a special guest at JYI to celebrate the successful completion of the first season of this joint venture with the YMCA.

Special thanks to Judah Sommer, a member of the YMCA of the USA Board of Directors, who introduced Norris Lineweaver to the leadership of Peace Players International. In July, at the 2007 ESPN ESPY awards honoring the best moments in sports, Peace Players International was awarded the Arthur Ashe Courage Award in recognition of their valuable work in Ireland. JYI is serving as the hub for the new initiative in Israel and the Palestinian territories.



JYI TEENS VISIT U.S.

YMCA host families, talented staff and peer partners of our interfaith teens had a terrific time meeting new friends. Sixteen Ann Arbor and Detroit area teens were invited to participate in this exchange with Jewish, Muslim and Christian youth from JYI.

The group spent one week at Detroit's YMCA Camp Ohiyesa with their American peer group, and the second week with host families. Many thanks to Cathi Duchon, CEO of the Ann Arbor YMCA, and Reid Thebault and Jim Fuqua of the Detroit YMCA, for this new and creative initiative.

Additional teen delegations from JYI participated in events designed to promote multicultural understanding including:

- Swiss Experience – a Jewish-Arab Girls Group hosted by “Coexistences”, a non-profit organization in Lausanne, Switzerland
- Teens for World Understanding – two JYI teens participated in this unique program sponsored by the YMCA of Greater Hartford
- YMCA World Camp – two JYI teens participated in this experience of a lifetime sponsored by the YMCA of Honolulu



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Rizek Abusharr (left) and Norris Lineweaver stand before a portrait of the late Dr. Archibald Harte hanging in the lobby of the Jerusalem International YMCA. Abusharr and Harte, both former Director Generals of JIY, were recently inducted into the YMCA Hall of Fame.



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