



JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA

ימקא הבינלאומית ירושלים
جمعية الشبان المسيحية الدولية - القدس

TOWER VIEWS INTERNATIONAL

JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA BULLETIN

WINTER 2007

THE PEACE BROKER

Dear Friends:

In December, JIY made the cover story of *Jerusalem Time Out*. A widely distributed tourist magazine, it is a promotional channel for Jerusalem's finest restaurants, accommodations and cultural events to reach visitors to the Holy Land. The story headline referred to our YMCA hospitality as the fabled "peace broker."

Although this is not the first time JIY has been acknowledged for its role in promoting peace (most notably, a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 1993), the distinction underscores our sense of responsibility and commitment to the community. In this area of historic unrest, JIY offers Jewish, Muslim and Christian people a safe place where they can interact freely and forget about life's uncertainties for a little while. It is not enough, however, to exist as a sanctuary.

Like YMCAs all around the world, JIY continuously strives to be a catalyst for positive change in the community. Some of our most important efforts focus on children and youth programs designed to end the cycle of prejudice. By promoting tolerance and teaching leadership skills, we are helping to raise a generation of kids who will work for peace. In our commitment to find solutions for the issues that matter most, we truly are building strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace

NORRIS D. LINEWEAVER

Director General
Jerusalem International YMCA



Peace Preschool kids learn about the Muslim celebration of Id el Adha.

JIY HOSTS SEASON OF PEACE

Since 1878, Jerusalem International YMCA has served as a safe haven for religious, cultural and intellectual freedom for the people of Jerusalem. Our commitment to inclusion and service to the community is reflected in Season of Peace, our two-week celebration of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths.

Member and community response to Season of Peace festivities exceeded expectations. We planned for 650 children and more than 700 showed up for our Holiday Party for Children. We expected approximately 200 people to attend the special performances held at JIY's auditorium and we averaged more than 400 per event. More Season of Peace highlights are detailed on the next page.



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.

WWW.JERUSALEM YMCA.ORG



PHOTO: Copyright CTS/MAB

Together in Song performance.

SEASON OF PEACE HIGHLIGHTS

CARILLON BELLS RING OUT: Special thanks to Michael and Maria Moody of Brigham Young University's Center for Near Eastern Studies for their brilliant concerts on our famed carillon bells. They performed classical and seasonal melodies which could be heard for miles around Jerusalem.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL CONCERT: More than 400 people filled the JIY auditorium for this annual event. The program featured the music of the Jerusalem Oratorio Chamber Choir and a special holiday message delivered by Rev. Jane Barron of the St. Andrew's Scots Memorial Church.

PEACE PRESCHOOL: The Jewish, Muslim and Christian children enrolled in our Peace Preschool celebrated the faith traditions of Hanukah, Id el Adha and Christmas at a three-faith holiday party. Following a festive performance in the auditorium, parents and children participated in workshops on holiday traditions, music and food.

TOGETHER IN SONG: Season of Peace concluded with a joint performance by Alei Gefen, a Jewish chorus from Tel Aviv, and the Choir of the Custody of the Holy Land, a Palestinian Christian choir whose origin dates back to 1851. On stage together for the first time, the two choirs performed songs of prayer for a diverse audience of 450 Israelis and Palestinians.

The concert began with an articulate plea for peace read by Hania Soudah-Sabbara (the Palestinian conductor) and finished with Eli Gefen (the Jewish conductor) leading the audience in a spontaneous sing-a-long of "We Shall Overcome." It was a very emotional conclusion to a two-week celebration focused on promoting peace and unity in Jerusalem.

SPEAKING ART



A two-day conference at JIY brought together Israeli and Palestinian performing arts professionals working for coexistence. In its third year, it was co-sponsored by JIY, the Jerusalem Foundation and the Jerusalem Inter-Cultural Center.

JIY HOSTS VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

U.S. YMCA DELEGATION PLAN TRIP TO JIY

Cathi Duchon, CEO, YMCA of Ann Arbor (Michigan) is leading a group of YMCA professionals and volunteers to JIY in February 2007. The delegation includes Reid Thebault, CEO, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit (Michigan), Mary and Mike Roberts, YMCA of the Suncoast (Florida) and Andy Calhoun, CEO, YMCA of Greater Charlotte (North Carolina). While visiting, the group will learn about the work of the JIY as well as visit tourist and holy sites in Jerusalem.

AMBASSADOR SCHEDULES VISIT TO JIY

Richard H. Jones, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, has scheduled a visit to JIY for March 27, 2007, which will include a meeting with YMCA staff and a tour of our Peace Preschool.

SWISS CONNECTION

Families from Lausanne, Switzerland, who hosted our Palestinian and Israeli youth leaders last August, recently visited JIY for a week of sightseeing and home hospitality. This group continues to support JIY's youth development initiatives focused on coexistence programs.

ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

JIY's Annual Support Campaign is off to a good start with an increase in the number of donors over last year. 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 & YOUTH



HARMONY IN HOOPS

The JIY basketball program epitomizes the spirit of coexistence at JIY. Evidence of the spirit of cooperation, trust and fair play can be seen on JIY's courts five days a week when the mixed teams of Jews, Muslims and Christians practice and compete together. More than 90 players, ages 6 to 18, represent JIY in local and national league competitions of the Israel Basketball Association and the Peace League.



MVP LEADERSHIP GROUP

A group of specially selected Moderate Voices for Progress (MVP) graduates attended a two-week intensive leadership training seminar hosted by YMCA of Greater Hartford (Connecticut). The MVP program helps young adults (ages 22 to 32) develop the necessary skills to lead conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence efforts. Since their return to Jerusalem, the group is working on a Community Action Project to promote reconciliation in Jerusalem and beyond. Additional YMCA communities have shown an interest in hosting MVP groups later this year.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GET FIT

To help meet the needs of the growing older-adult population in Jerusalem, JIY's Sports Department and Great Shape Fitness Studio have partnered to offer a newly expanded program for exercising and socializing. The program is supervised by experienced staff and provides a safe venue for older adults to participate in physical activities that include water aerobics, fitness express (a 30-minute individual circuit workout) and group fitness classes. The social component to the program includes lectures and excursions such as the recent trip to the Dead Sea spa.

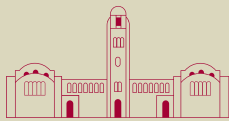


JIY HOSTS GROUNDBREAKING CHILDBIRTH CONFERENCE

JIY's Great Shape Fitness Studio has always been a trendsetter in the field of maternal health and wellness. For the first time in Israel, a national conference on the subject of promoting mother-friendly childbirth was presented to more than 250 childbirth professionals including doctors, midwives, childbirth educators, birth coaches and breastfeeding counselors.

The conference, held at JIY and organized by Rachele Oseran, co-director, Great Shape Fitness Studio, and a Lamaze childbirth educator, addressed the current attitude in Israel which views childbirth as a potential medical emergency, needing to be managed with interventions. This is a worldwide trend and birth activists in western countries are working to change this attitude.

Sponsored in cooperation with the Israel Childbirth Education Center, the conference attracted Jews and Arabs (religious and secular) from Nazareth to Beersheba who came to listen to international presenters address the subject "Humanizing Birth—How to Promote Mother-friendly Childbirth in Our Own Communities." JIY's lobby was filled with presenters, participants and exhibitors from leading organizations in the field.



WWW.JERUSALEM YMCA.ORG

TOWER VIEWS INTERNATIONAL

JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL YMCA BULLETIN

WINTER 2007



PHOTO: Noya Shiloni-Haviv

Jiy CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction floodlights enable crews to work around the clock. Condominium elevations are now emerging to the right side. The center area directly behind the Jiy Tower is the infrastructure for the 78,000 square foot underground Family Aquatic and Recreation Center. Real estate news outlets in Israel have referred to the project as one of the jewels emerging in the city center.



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

