



# YJ IN-Sites

Volume 1, Issue 3  
Spring 2011

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### Second Century - Same Spirit!

Now well into its 101st year, Young Judaea's Israel and American programs and projects continue to amaze and inspire Jewish teens and young adults!

Here's what's happening in this Issue of IN-Sites, Young Judaea's e-Newsletter:

- Year Course
- Family Mission
- Camps
- WUJS
- Birthright
- and more...

## Young Judaea Family Mission to Israel

### Families Connecting to Israel in Israel

Twelve families came to Israel recently to connect with their kids participating in Year Course\*, Young Judaea's Gap year program for kids between high school and college. The trip opened on a cool night near the famous Windmill Plaza. With the guide, Eli playing *Jerusalem of Gold* on his accordion, everyone recited the *shehechyanu*, overlooking the city while sharing a delicious challah.

The families stopped at the bustling Machane Yehuda shuk for a quick bite to eat in order to visit the Wall before Shabbat began. When it was taking too long to get the attention of the person taking orders in English, one of the Year Coursers quickly began ordering *falafels* and *shwarma* in perfect Hebrew for everyone, much to the amazement and delight of his parents! They had never been to Israel before, but were so impressed that they literally planned their next trip to Israel as they ate Shabbat dinner together.

Families felt the effects of the Year Course Program as their children led the group in prayers and song. Some mothers decided to become more connected to their Hadassah chapters back home. Another proudly stated that every woman in her family was a Life Member of Hadassah. One family who came on this trip with a younger daughter let everyone know that she has already decided to come to Israel on Year Course.

These are just a few of the stories that came out of this family mission to Israel. Participants learned about the capture of Gilad Shalit and walked to the site of his protest. Most had not known about him before. As they visited the historical sites and heard the sounds of Israel together, families experienced an awakening of Zionism through their children, who are now firmly connected to Israel, Zionism and their heritage. It's a simple process. Send a kid to Israel on Young Judaea's Year



Course, and families will be changed forever. Enjoy the pictures of this amazing family experience!

**PHOTOS:**  
(above right) Year Course parents visiting Abell Synagogue on 2010 tour

(below left) 2010 YJ Family Mission at Caesarea



### Follow the up-to-the-minute activities and adventures of our Year Course participants

Thanks to the new Year Course blog and Facebook page, you can now be among the most well-informed group of Year Course friends and family since the program began over fifty years ago! Our staff is posting near-daily updates, photos, and videos of everything our chanichim are up to: hikes, volunteering, enjoying life in their apartments, and more. Relive the memories and see the amazing developments of the largest long-term Israel program around!

YC blog: [www.yearcourse.org/blog](http://www.yearcourse.org/blog)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/yjyearcourse](http://www.facebook.com/yjyearcourse)

\* Young Judaea's Year Course Program is sponsored by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.



## YOUNG JUDAEA YEAR COURSE FAMILY TOUR

December 21 - 27, 2011 with optional Eilat/Petra Extension December 27 -- 29, 2011

- Reunite with your children and meet other Young Judaea families
- Enjoy Shabbat in Jerusalem, including a walking tour of the Old City
- Meaningful visits to Mt. Herzl and the Holocaust Memorial at Yad Vashem
- Explore the ancient site of Masada, the beautiful waterfalls of Ein Gedi, and relax at a Dead Sea Spa
- Visit the Hadassah Neurim Youth Aliyah Village
- Enjoy the modern city of Tel Aviv including visits to Rabin Square and Independence Hall

**\$1,845.00 LAND ONLY** per person based on double occupancy

**\$1,350.00 AIR FROM NYC**  
**\$750.00 Single Supplement**

Price does not include: Airline taxes and fuel surcharges (\$596.00 - subject to change), tips (\$100.00 per person, pre-collected), travel insurance (highly recommended), items of a personal nature. Child in triple discount \$350.00. Year Course child discount \$250.00.

### EILAT EXTENSION INCLUDES:

Roundtrip airfare between Tel Aviv and Eilat  
2 nights plus late check-out at the Hilton Queen of Sheba in Eilat  
Breakfast daily • Day tour to Petra  
Transfers upon arrival and departure in Eilat

**\$1,295.00 per person**  
**\$455.00 Single Supplement**

Price does not include: Border taxes at Jordanian border (\$55.00 - paid in cash at border), tips (\$40.00 per person, pre-collected), travel insurance (highly recommended), items of a personal nature. Child in triple discount \$250.00. Year Course child discount \$150.00.

For more information please call the Hadassah Missions Department at 1.212.303.8031 or 1.800.237.1517, or email [missions@hadassah.org](mailto:missions@hadassah.org).

**Looking for Young Judaea materials? Camera-ready ads?  
Check the Hadassah INTRANET for YJ resources.**

## ISRAEL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Do you know someone who is thinking about going to Israel this summer? For information and applications to YJ's Discover Israel Program, go to [www.yjsummer.org](http://www.yjsummer.org).

### **Amirim registration is open! Independent living in Israel!**

**Amirim**, Young Judaea's in-depth Israel living and community service program for young adults, ages 18-27, is **NOW OPEN**.

#### **By joining Amirim, you'll experience:**

Your choice of location: Bat Yam (vibrant suburb of Tel Aviv), Jerusalem (the heart of Israel) or Arad (the spiritual desert experience)

Volunteer/Internship options in your area of interest - making a real difference!

Unique cultural events, weekly group trips, Hebrew learning, and more

Networking opportunities and resume building

**Registration is on a first come, first serve basis, so don't wait! Learn more today at [www.amirimisrael.com](http://www.amirimisrael.com).**

### **Young Judaea is Looking for Israel Summer Program Alumni**

If you participated in one of our Israel summer programs between the years of 1951-1960, please contact [ddiner@youngjudaea.org](mailto:ddiner@youngjudaea.org).

### **Maccabiah Opening Ceremony in Israel in July**

If you are an alumnus of our summer program in Israel and will be in Israel July 27, 2011, we invite you to our main summer event – Young Judaea's Maccabiah opening ceremony celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> year of successful summer programs! Email [Anats@yji.org.il](mailto:Anats@yji.org.il) with your contact information and the year you participated in our summer program and we will get back to you with all the info.

### WUJS Highlights

Annie Albagli is an alum from the WUJS Arts Track, September 2008. Over the past year, Annie has been working with an organization called Artists 4 Israel ([www.artists4israel.org](http://www.artists4israel.org)), who seek to prove that the world's liberal arts community supports Israel and to turn international graffiti artists into ambassadors for Israel.

One of Annie's recent projects was to recreate a Sderot shelter in the United States to show viewers what life is like in that region of the world and help raise money for children suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In addition, Artists 4 Israel has sent groups of artists to Israel to beautify the streets of Sderot and Ariel by painting shelters there and to show these communities love and support.

Annie comments, "I also had the privilege of painting shelters in Yihini, a small moshav near the Gaza



border. Working with children to paint shelters, not only did we beautify the streets but these projects gave the children a lasting sense of pride and achievement."

Annie, together with Artists 4 Israel, is currently organizing a trip to Israel this May where they will be working with citizens who were relocated to caravans after living in Gush Gatif. The trip will pose the families this question "In what way can we help make your home more like Gan Eden?" With the answer in mind, artists will work with the families for a week or so to improve one aspect of their home.

Annie's personal work can be found at [www.anniealbagli.com](http://www.anniealbagli.com).

### Todah Rabbah, YJ

The following *thank you* is just one of many we receive from participants in the YJ Taglit-Birthright Israel opportunity.

My name is Jade Barnes and I just recently landed in America having returned from the most amazing trip of my life. The Birthright opportunity is something that I have always looked into during my undergraduate courses at Temple. The application process was so nerve racking for me because I did not know if I was going to qualify, but I was overjoyed when I got the email saying that I was accepted! This trip has changed a lot about how I feel with my connection to Israel, so much that I am looking into programs for the summer after I graduate so that I can return to the country. I want to be able to do some sort of volunteer service for the country since I was given the best present to see so much of Israel.

I was also able to experience another huge present in Israel and that was the gift of having a bat mitzvah! This opportunity was amazing and something that I have wanted for a very long time. Not only has the trip allowed me to connect with Israel, I have also connected on another level with Judaism and I feel one with the religion as well as the traditions and customs that come along with it.

I wish I could write down everything of how this trip has changed me for the better. I just hope that I can express that I cannot wait to one day return in Israel and this trip has been the most amazing experience of my life.

Best,  
Jade Barnes  
Birthright Group 272

### My Life in Rwanda...

Today is my last day in the village and I can honestly say that this experience has been the most heartwarming, eye-opening happening of my life. I came here to volunteer my time and to make a difference in the village, and I know that I did make a significant impact, but the lessons, inspiration and knowledge that I gained from being here far surpass what I've given. The day I came to the village, everyone here welcomed me with open arms. Every kid walking by would stop to shake my hand and ask me questions, genuinely wanting to know about me and where I'm from. Although the culture shock was momentous, after just a week I felt completely at home. Instantly, I felt comfortable walking through the village listening to the song of the exotic birds, looking out into the breathtaking view of green rolling hills, and being approached by all the warm and friendly students and invited into their home.

The students, who have all undergone such traumatic hardships in the past, have the most graceful view on life and I never see any of them without a wide smile on their face. They are so appreciative for everything given to them. Before every meal, all of them put down their heads to pray, and I've constantly heard them talk about how lucky they are for being given three full meals a day. They are so thankful for the education and opportunities they have here and yet they have to work so hard in everything they do. I've never met such dedicated, motivated people in my life, and they have inspired me to attempt to work just as hard as I go off to my first year of college next year.

I've made deep connections with so many of the kids here and as my time is inching away, many of them have approached me to say, "I will never forget you," or "you'll be in my heart forever." I love the kids here and although I have exchanged Facebook and email information with many, I will miss them terribly. I am so grateful that Anne Heyman created such a unique and special place like this; I've never been encircled with so many amazing, kind people in my life and I know that whatever these kids end up doing in the future, they will thrive in great measures.

Jenna Basman, Golden Valley, MN

## REFLECTIONS ON YEAR COURSE...

Before our chanichim even board their flight to Israel, we at Young Judaea talk about the personal and Jewish growth and development that happens on Year Course, where individual experiences and memories solidify into a process of Jewish exploration and maturation. Here's a testimonial from one of our chanichim.

Yesterday I began looking ahead. I realized that it's time to crack down and start researching summer internships. This is my response for one of the questions I was given:

**Please share your Jewish story, or describe your interest in Jewish life and culture.**

I feel small – smaller than my five-year-old self has ever felt before. I am swimming a sea of strangers in the middle of the Kotel in the Old City of Jerusalem, holding on for dear life to my mother's hand. A woman in front of me is touching the stone wall, mumbling foreign words to herself and crying. I ask my mother: Why is that lady so sad? She responds with a simple, she's crying from happiness, honey – sometimes that happens when you pray.

After five visits to this wonderful, mysterious place, I find myself on my balcony in Jerusalem, reflecting on my first encounter of this Holy City. Sunlight pokes out between the palm trees, shedding its warmth on my cheeks as I type. My senses take note of my environment; the sweet aroma of baking challah, the cool mountain breeze, and the clashing sounds of loud Hebrew dialogue are the same as they were thirteen years ago. I laugh quietly, amused at how some things never change.

Indeed, I am in the same Israel I have always known. Stores close on Friday afternoons, strangers say "Shabbat Shalom" to each other on the street, and shawarma is still the most delicious food in the world. Yet, one variable has inevitably changed: me.

I have grown since my first visit - physically, mentally, emotionally. And throughout this period of growth, Judaism has been a predominant force; its morals and values have become instilled within me, creating a solid foundation upon which I will continue to grow. I see myself as

someone who has a strong faith in G-d, a desire to help others, and the motivation to carry out the concept of tikkun olam, repairing the world. These values led me to become a Bat Mitzvah, to attend Jewish private school, to voluntarily read Torah, to tutor *trope* to eager thirteen year-olds, and finally, to take a year after high school to study and volunteer in Israel, my favorite place in the world.

All of these activities I simply delved into, never questioning why or what I was gaining from them. They just felt right. Only now can I see how I have developed a sense of Jewish identity. "Jewish identity" wasn't always such a clear image in my head. Often referred to on my gap year program, the phrase used to loom over me like a hovering, ambiguous "goal." I signed up for Year Course thinking I'd arrive back home in New York with a tangible new Jewish Identity I could show off to my family and friends.

I've learned it doesn't quite work this way. The culmination of my wide-ranging experiences in Israel will become a part of my Jewish identity, not just a road to a destination.

As I find the avenues in Judaism that best suit me, I see this identity evolving and solidifying. I see it when I cook a Shabbat meal for my roommates and me to enjoy; I see it when I walk into my volunteering placement and see Arab and Israeli children playing together; I see it when I listen to voices intertwined in harmony at Shira Chadasha, the temple I attend on Friday nights in Jerusalem.

I think I can proudly say that from a young girl lost at the Western Wall, a mature Jewish woman has emerged.

*Leora Lana Kaufman, Rye, NY*

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**YOUNG JUDAEA -  
 100 YEARS YOUNG...**

[www.youngjudaea.org](http://www.youngjudaea.org)

**Camp Tel Yehudah  
 Summer 2011**

**FIRST SESSION**

Monday, June 27 - Thursday, July 21

**SECOND SESSION**

Monday, July 25 - Thursday, August 18\*\*

\*\*Two-week programs  
 (Alternative Summer Break and Machaneh  
 Etgar) end Sunday, August 7, 2011

Join the more than 525 campers  
 that are already on board for 2011!

[CLICK HERE  
 TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Questions? Call us at  
 800-970-CAMP (2267)

To learn more about our programs,  
 visit us at [www.campity.com](http://www.campity.com).



**CAMP INCENTIVES**

**\$150 CAMP  
 COUPON**

CASH IN BY PARTICIPATING IN TEL YEHUDAH'S



**REFER-A-CAMPER PROGRAM**

Share information about Tel Yehudah to friends, family, or others who might be or have a teen who has not attended Young Judaea camp before. Once they're hooked and register for Summer 2011 at TY, you automatically earn \$150\*\* if they write YOUR NAME to tell us how they learned about TY.

\*\*You earn \$150 off camp tuition for EACH camper you refer! Refer multiple campers to keep earning even more!

**FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP**

**GET up to  
 \$10000**

[onehappycamper.org](http://onehappycamper.org)

CAMP TEL YEHUDAH IS PROUD TO BE ABLE TO OFFER **\$1,000 INCENTIVE GRANTS** TOWARD SUMMER 2011 TUITION TO TEENS WHO HAVE NEVER BEFORE ATTENDED A 2+ WEEK JEWISH SLEEPAWAY CAMP!!!

This camper incentive is limited and will be distributed to eligible families upon receipt of the completed grant application. This grant is NOT based on need. Tel Yehudah is extremely thankful to the Foundation for Jewish Camping, Young Judaea and Hadassah for their efforts in creating this amazing opportunity for new campers.

Please tell your friends and family about this amazing opportunity!

For more information about  
**One Happy Camper for first-time campers,**  
 visit [www.onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org).

**YOUNG JUDAEA, the Zionist Youth Movement of Hadassah ensures a lifetime of connection to Jewish life, community and leadership through camps, volunteer opportunities in the United States, and varied programs in Israel.**

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# ASB

## ALTERNATIVE SUMMER BREAK



A unique two-week program for Jewish teens to engage in **intensive enriching**, and **transformative** community service and experiential learning. Campers will learn about community issues, participate in hands-on service projects in the local community and New York City, and leave with a deeper commitment to making the Jewish values of **social responsibility** (*achrayut chevratit*), **social action** (*tikun olam*), and **social justice** (*tzedek*) a part of their every day lives.



**WHO:**  
Teens entering 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades

**WHEN:**  
July 25 – August 7, 2011

**WHERE:**  
Camp Tel Yehudah  
Barryville, NY

**CONTACT US:**  
[www.campty.com](http://www.campty.com)  
800-970-CAMP  
[telyehudah@youngjudaea.org](mailto:telyehudah@youngjudaea.org)

**\$875\***

\* The cost is \$875 for first-time campers who have not previously attended Jewish overnight camp for more than two weeks. The regular cost is \$1875.

# MACHANEH ETGAR מחנה אתגר

## Challenge yourself! אתגר את עצמך

A unique two-week program for Jewish teens **entirely in Hebrew**: Hiking. Rafting. Sleep Outs. Tzofiyut. Ropes Course. Omanut. Teva. Swimming. Rikud. Shira. Drama. Basketball. Soccer. Tennis. Israel activities and much more....

### Camp Tel Yehudah

### מחנה תל יהודה

July 25 – August 7, 2011  
25 ביולי עד ה-7 באוגוסט  
Barryville, New York  
בריוויל, ניו יורק

**\$875\***

שבועיים של תוכנית ייחודית **בעברית** לבני נוער יהודים: טיולים. לינה בשטח. צופיות. שדאות. קיר טיפוס. אומגה. אומנות. טבע. בריכה. ריקוד. שירה. כדורסל. כדורגל. טניס. פעילויות ישראל. ועוד הרבה הרבה יותר....



[www.campty.com](http://www.campty.com)  
800-970-CAMP  
[telyehudah@youngjudaea.org](mailto:telyehudah@youngjudaea.org)

\*The cost is \$875 for first time campers who have not previously attended Jewish overnight camp for more than two weeks. The regular cost is \$1875