



YJ IN-Sites

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Fall 2010

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
- Camps
- Merkaz
- WUJS
- Birthright
- Scholarships
- and more...

YJ Illuminates Young People's Lives

From camps in the US...to summer programs in Israel...to post-high school and college...

Young Judaea illuminates the lives of thousands of young people across the United States. From camps in the US or summer programs in Israel, to post high school and college programs in Israel, Jewish continuity happens because of your generous support. Thanks to all who helped to ensure the continuation of Young Judaea programs, social action projects, camps, conventions, and scholarships this year and in years past..

Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, is taken literally at Young Judaea. Our camps teach Judaism by weaving

Jewish moments and meanings into every day. Environmentalism is incorporated into the daily life of campers as they are taught to recycle, reduce, reuse and conserve.

Did you know...

Some Young Judaeans participate in the MADIMOW program (Making A Difference In My Own Way) and go into the community to clean up and beautify local parks.

On Alternative Winter Break, participants have spent their winter vacation week in New Orleans working on environmental

sustainability and bringing compact fluorescent light bulbs to families around the city.

On our summer volunteer program in Israel, *Amirim*, participants can volunteer at Eyal's Farm, an ecological learning center or the Hulon Agricultural school, a place for youth to learn about loving and caring for nature.

Year Course participants can choose environment-themed volunteer projects for three months in the Negev.

Scholarships Makes Dreams Come True...a note from Tara

Thank you so much for the scholarship money to go to Israel this summer. When Jewish teenagers visit Israel and have a great time, they'll want their children to have the same experience; Israel will have a solid support system and Jewish teens will enrich their Jewish identities. People donating money for scholarships make an amazing Israel experience possible. Although each individual got something entirely different out of the summer, the experience is one no one will forget. The 37 *chanichim* and 4 *madrichim* bonded and I don't think I've felt closer to people in all of my life. I am 100% sure that we all made lifelong friendships this summer.

Learning about King Herod and Masada and then climbing it and watching the sunrise as the Romans did 1000's of years ago makes it all the more meaningful. Israel is a very spiritual place. I feel the most spiritual in the desert, walking and hiking the same land my ancestors did.

One of my assignments was being on the Shabbat Vad, creating services for Shabbat. I helped organize *Parsha* Players, as a way to interpret the week's Torah portion. I plan to attend Young Judaea's Year Course and hope to share my amazing experience with others so they too will be excited to visit Israel and walk in our ancestors' path, as I did. Thanks so much again for helping this dream become a reality for me!

To donate to YJ Scholarships, contact mladin@hadassah.org

Ushering for Hadassah to Help Osteoporosis

Proudly wearing navy blue shirts representing Young Judaea, eight current Year Course participants served as ushers at a fundraiser this September at Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus. They were privileged to be among the first to see the award-winning film, "Intimate

Grammar" by David Grossman. Audience members were delighted by the charm and friendliness of these youthful ushers as they escorted them to seats in the Schacht Auditorium. Hadassah proudly recognizes Year Course students, Hannah, Feather, Adina, Riana, Keshet, Sam, Alex, and

Sam. Thanks for being an excellent representation of our Year Course Program in Israel and for being part of an event that raised money for Osteoporosis research at the Hadassah Medical Organization!

A busy summer for Merkaz Hamagshimim-Hadassah

Merkaz means "center"... and Merkaz-Hamagshimim-Hadassah in the center of Jerusalem, is central to the lives of thousands of English-speaking immigrant Israelis, offering social services, theater, art, Hebrew classes, renter's guidelines, professional networking, knitting classes, and a place to "hang out". It also provides a home-away-from-home and a surrogate family for men and women in the Israel Defense Forces.

For the third year in a row, Merkaz was involved in the **Shutaf Project** – an inclusive, informal educational camp program for Jerusalem kids and teens with special needs. Every child is welcomed, regardless of disability, educational, religious, cultural or socio-economic differences. With recycling as this year's theme, 61 campers, aged 6 to 21 enjoyed a variety of activities from sports, to music, to art and drama.

Merkaz's Summer Theatre Workshops in our Beit Ar-el Campus and our Center Stage Theatre facility brought together youngsters aged 10-14 from Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh and Kfar Adumim for 20 days of hard work, learning and fun. These future actors experienced theatre first hand as they learned from professional directors and trained in improvisation, movement and voice, along with the design and

preparation of scenery, props and costumes. This cast produced two performances of "The Fixer" – based on the tale by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov.

English Theatre in Israel continues. After 10 months of rehearsing, a magnificent young cast of Anglo and Israeli teens performed Jason Robert Brown's hit musical "13" to sold out audiences for six nights of performances in September.

Merkaz's Activism Centre joined forces with Hadassah Israel supporting the global movement to end breast cancer through the Israel Race for the Cure in October. Money collected from registered participants was donated towards breast cancer programs in



Israel and to Komen outreach programs around the world. The Race was an opportunity for thousands of women, men and their families, running or walking, to spread important messages about breast cancer in Israel and around the globe.

To learn more about Merkaz events, visit www.themerkaz.org.il



SUMMER ZIONISM & YJ KIDS

Over a thousand teens and young adults, mostly from the US and England, made excellent use of their summertime to get a sweet taste of Israel this summer with Young Judaea programs. No bored teenagers here. Many volunteered at Hadassah Hospital where they created a carnival with games, sports, arts and crafts for the children in the Bloomberg Mother and Child Center. Said Eitan Bender of San Juan, Puerto Rico, "Nothing feels better than brightening the day of these kids." Bender is among the Judaeans activists looking forward to Year Course when he graduates from high school next year.

WUJS Highlights

A new *machzor* (session) of the WUJS Israel Hadassah program began shortly after Rosh Hashanah with participants from North America, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, India, Russia, Ukraine, Khazakstan and Germany split between the cities of Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv. This *machzor's* eight artists include writers, painters, photographers, a calligrapher and thirty-nine interns who



will be working in such tasks as a designer in an architecture office, chemical research at Hebrew University, and at the Israel Trauma Center, evaluating a virtual reality program developed for veteran American soldiers in Iraq to see how this type of therapy might be applied in Israel.

Participants completed the first section of 130 hours of Hebrew *Ulpan* and began weekly field trips visiting such places as Neot Kedumim, Ir David and some even volunteered to pick tangerines through the Leket project. Due to the success of adding Israelis to the program in Jerusalem last *machzor*, we added an Israeli apartment to our Tel-Aviv program!



A final highlight: Seth Getto from New Hampshire completed the WUJS program in August. Seth was so inspired by his outdoor experience on the program, through his internship with the SPNI and the *tiyulim* that he decided to hike the Israel trail from Metulla to Eilat. Seth hiked alone for 47 days. *Kol Hakavod to Seth for this incredible effort!*

For more info on WUJS, a 5-month program of Jewish learning and internships in Israel for college grads, visit www.wujisrael.org



Thinking of spending 10 incredible days in Israel this summer?

YJ Taglit-Birthright Israel provides the gift of first-time educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26. Young Judaea-run trips provide the most enriching and in-depth Israel experiences.

Registration will open on February 15th at 10:00 am ET
Pre-Registration for past applicants will open on February 14th at Noon ET.

For information, go to www.toisraelnow.org.

Young Judaea MODELS lead the way

MODEL means Mentorship for Optimal Development of Education and Leadership. Activism and leadership among Jewish teens is needed today more than ever. Young Judaea's MODEL Fellowship program trains and develops leading college-aged Jewish leaders to develop creative programming that will inspire teens to become the next generation of Jewish social activists.

To meet our MODELS and read more about the MODEL Fellowship, go to www.youngjudaea.org/model.

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2010-2011 YEAR COURSE opens in grand style!

Imagine 320 teens sprawling on the grass of Beit Ar-El in Jerusalem, waiting to begin the best year of their lives at the opening ceremony of Year Course. Teens from the US, England, Canada, UK, Sweden, Holland, Belgium and France will rotate among Jerusalem, Arad and Bat Yam, living in apartments, studying and volunteering. Students may choose from specialty tracks like medicine, cooking, business and sports, or specialize in the lost Jewish communities of Portugal, Uganda, South Africa and India. For the first time, one group will volunteer in a village in Rwanda, helping to build a village for orphans.

For more info on Year Course, go to <http://www.youngjudaea.org> and click on Israel programs.



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

www.youngjudaea.org

YJ Camps Make a Difference

Summer camp affects the value system of a child while building powerful memories that last a lifetime. Young Judaea sponsors the following summer camps for youngsters from age 8 to 14:

Young Judaea Sprout Lake –
Verbank, NY

Camp Judaea – Hendersonville, NC

Young Judaea Midwest –
Waupaca, WI

Young Judaea Texas –
Wimberly, TX

Camp Tel Yehudah – Barryville,
NY, YJ's senior leadership camp
for teens from all across the US

For information on any of our camps,
please visit our website at
www.youngjudaea.org and click on
camps under Programs in America.

A new year, a new summer season for Camp Tel Yehudah

Q's & A's about Camp TY

Q: What and where is Camp Tel Yehudah?

A: Camp Tel Yehudah, in Barryville NY, is the **national senior leadership camp of Young Judaea**, for students *currently* in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades. Campers come from all over the United States, the United Kingdom, and Israel.

Q: How do I register?

A: Registration takes place completely online and can be accessed at the TY website (www.campty.com) by clicking the registration link on the homepage. A \$500 deposit can secure a camper's spot for summer 2011. Credit cards are accepted during online registration. Checks may be mailed to: Camp Tel Yehudah, 50 W. 58th Street, New York, NY 10019.

Q: What are the camp dates for Summer 2011?

A: Camp Tel Yehudah has 2 three-and-a-half week sessions:

- **1st Session: Mon. June 27, 2011 – Thurs. July 21, 2011**
- **2nd Session: Mon. July 25, 2011 – Thurs. August 18, 2011**
- **Intersession: Thurs. July 21, 2011 – Mon. July 25, 2011**

Q: What are the tuition costs for Summer 2011?

A: 1st Session: \$3,960 2nd Session: \$3,660 Full Summer: \$6,620*
Discount: \$100 for additional sibling attending TY
*New Discount: \$1000 to campers attending TY for the full summer!

Q: How do I apply for financial aid through Young Judaea's scholarship process?

A: YJ offers limited, need-based camp scholarships. Applications will be available early in 2011 and must be completed by the deadline given. For information, call 212-303-4579 or email telyehudah@youngjudaea.org.

Q: I have never attended a YJ camp before. Is this a problem?

A: While many of our campers have grown up at YJ camps, everyone who comes to Tel Yehudah is meeting other campers there for the first time. The experience of meeting new people from all over the country is one of the best parts of camp.

Q: How can I learn more about Camp Tel Yehudah?

A: Visit our website www.campty.com and click on the "All About Camp TY" section.

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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