



Olam Shalem – An Update on the Shalem Foundation's Activities

Issue No. 7, March 2018

Friends and Partners,



It is my honor to present you with our bi-annual newsletter, allowing you a glance into our world: the Shalem Foundation – which we so love and in which we are so proud to work and create, together with our most wonderful partners, people with intellectual developmental disabilities.

This newsletter will provide you with the opportunity to read about a sampling of the cutting-edge initiatives we support and advance. The guiding principle in all of our activities is advancement and building joint lives for people with and without disabilities within a tapestry of natural inclusion and existence, in which every individual has her/his place and everyone finds pleasure. We were very moved by the dozens of proposals we received from entrepreneurs in answer to our tender calling for joint activity.

I would like to share with you a “moment” – one of many – which made me feel so honored to work with our staff at the Shalem Foundation: During an opening event in which I participated, an integrated basketball group played together. One of the players, a short young man with physical and developmental disabilities, scored a basket! I saw the sparkle in his eye and the tears in the eyes of his mother who said to me, “This weekly basketball game gives him energy for the entire week. He feels that if he can score a basket here, he can score a basket anywhere in life . . .” And that is, indeed, the outlook we wish to cultivate and advance for people with intellectual developmental disabilities: aim for any goal you choose, for our world is your world as well.

Wishing you a happy Passover and an enjoyable Easter, holidays in which we will confirm the value of freedom – the freedom to do what our hearts and soul desire – freedom to be whoever we choose to be.

Yours, Riva

Happy Passover from the Shalem Foundation!

May all people with differing abilities
have an abundance of opportunities for growth,
development and quality of life.



Save the Date for the Second Annual Shalem Knowledge and Skills Conference which will take place on 21 June 2018 | Thursday | 8 Tammuz

The second conference for presentation of contemporary, Shalem Foundation-supported research papers in the area of intellectual developmental disabilities.

Information regarding the conference’s venue as well as a link for registration will be published on the Shalem Foundation website at a later date.

Israeli Theatre for All! Beit Lessin Theatre received a special award for cultural activity at the Shalem Foundation’s Outstanding Awards Ceremony for 2017

Beit Lessin Theatre, one of Israel’s prominent theatres, received a special award for its recent sensitive and unique theatrical creations presenting the lifestyle of people with intellectual developmental disabilities, placing them center stage in a most worthy public dialogue. Read more about the journey the audience travels throughout the shows, “They Call Him King,” “The Disabled,” and “The Strange Story of the Dog at Night”, as well as an interview with Zippi Pines, director of the Beit Lessin Theatre, and actors Avi Grayinik, and Yaniv Levy. [Read more here.](#)



Opening of Eliya Rehabilitation Day Center in Beer Sheva for Blind or Visually Impaired Children

Elya, a leading Israeli organization for the advancement of blind or visually impaired children celebrated the opening of its new, state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Day Center in Beer Sheva this past November. Find out more about Elya’s wide range of services and programs offered to blind or visually impaired children throughout the country and their families.

[Read more here.](#)

The House on Negba Street, Beer Sheva: Setting Out on a New Road

Modernization of living quarters converged with community integration and inclusion at the house on Negba Street in Beer Sheva. [Read about how the community of Beer Sheva partners with the Ami Organization,](#) administrator of homes for people with intellectual developmental disabilities, to overcome the challenge of finding appropriate housing and relocating older residents by receiving residents as welcomed neighbors.



Making the Subject of Aging Accessible to People with Cognitive Disabilities – Opening Event at the Weinberg Center, Elwyn, Jerusalem



The aging process and its accompanying lifestyle changes are important and often complicated issues for everyone. Additional concerns facing people with intellectual developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers require extra attention. Making the subject of aging accessible to people with cognitive disabilities was addressed by Niri David, lecturing on the topic of “The Aging Experience among People with Cognitive Disabilities” during a special evening at Elwyn’s Weinberg Center, including active participation by retirees, participants of the “Understanding Aging” group. More can [be read here about the evening](#).

The Shalem Foundation funded development of the [short video films](#) and the [guide](#) to viewing the films, and supported the event at Elwyn, Jerusalem as well.

A Tradition is Born in the Regional Council Sedot Negev

Approximately 400 people participated in the Regional Council Sedot Negev Cultural Center’s annual event augmenting awareness of the special needs community, held this past January. Social Service Division social workers emceed the evening, graced by foremost social service-related speakers, notable regional personalities, and representatives of Mothers of Children with Special Needs. [A detailed list of participants can be seen here, as well as information about the Aluma Theatre’s performance of the remarkable show](#), “If We’re Already Here, Why Don’t We Enjoy It?”.



“Get to Know the Other” in the City of Beer Sheva

Making sports accessible to all was the theme behind the new Beer Sheva Municipality-Shalem Foundation initiative implemented by the Kivunim Company. Weekly breakdance and basketball practice had students of all ages exercising acceptance, integration and inclusion, as children from mainstream and special education schools participated in the unique initiative. [Read how Sports Coordinator Yahav Hadad implemented this exceptional idea, including AKIM participation in the city’s traditional streetball tournament and Yachdav’s Occupational Training for People with Intellectual Disabilities participation in the annual Retirees’ March, helping children and adults connect and develop relationships in new and exciting ways.](#)



***Shimon the King* – The Story of a Young Radio Announcer from Beit She’an. Movie by Ariel Miroz**

The movie, “Shimon the King,” the story of 26-year-old Shimon Dahan, a young man with Downs’ Syndrome on his way to making his dream come true, touches on the human desire in each of us to stand out, to succeed, and to leave our mark on the world. [Read about the movie](#), fluctuating between the ideal of personal fulfillment and its central expression in our culture and the ability of our society to accept the atypical, as it portrays Shimon’s spiritual, social and psychological journey to be the best, most open and most complete person he can.

The Shalem Foundation is a partner in the funding of the movie.



First Edition of the Meytal House Self-Advocacy Group Newspaper – Day Center for Adults Requiring Full-time Care

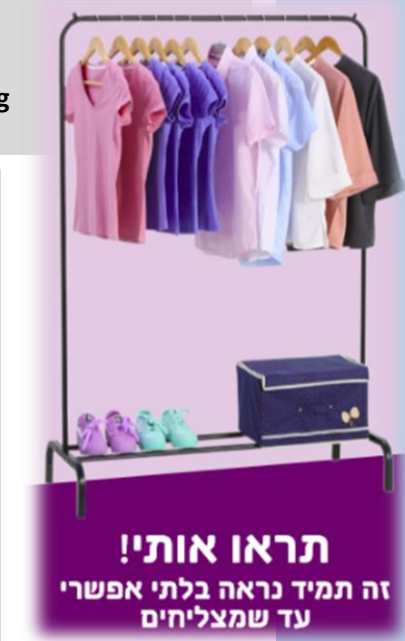
As part of a groundbreaking workshop on the topics of self-advocacy and self-representation for people with intellectual developmental disabilities, Meytal House Day Center service recipients published the first edition of the Meytal House Self-Advocacy Group Newspaper. Workshop participants edited the paper themselves, choosing topics, colors and a name for the paper. [For more information about the unique initiative, read here](#).

The center’s self-advocacy process was a joint effort of The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, the Municipality of Rishon L’Zion, Maya Goldman and the Shalem Foundation, which also assisted in funding the program.

Project "See Me!" Closing Event – Occupational Training Center Shiluvim, A.D.N.M.

Occupational Training Center Shiluvim’s successful conclusion of the “See Me!” program, emphasizing awareness about dress, grooming and hygiene, was celebrated with a festive happening for participants, staff, family and volunteers. Rutý Traves professionally led and guided the program, the goal of which was to raise awareness and spearhead change in the realm of outward appearance among training center workers. [Workshop Director Shiran Yisrael’s thank-you letter outlining and praising the workshop can be read here](#).

Access more information about the program and [view the film here](#).



From Theory to Practice – An Educational Conference about Disability in Israel

From Theory to Practice: An Educational Conference about Disability in Israel focused on the tension between accepted academic work traditions and the activist spirit in the field of knowledge. The conference, initiated by Beit Noam scholarship recipients, was held at Ono Academic College and attracted approximately 180 participants from academia, activists, people with a wide range of cognitive abilities and care and social service professionals. Special challenges faced by conference organizers, the numerous means employed to enable maximum accessibility and noteworthy [topics presented at the conference can be read about here](#)

The Shalem Foundation was a partner to and funding participant for the conference.



Social Media Site Net.Chaver Was Awarded the Commission of Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities’ Equal Rights Prize on 3 December 2017

Social media site Net.Chaver, was awarded the Commission for Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities’ Equal Rights Prize in the presence of Minister of Justice Ayalet Shaked and MK Ilan Gilon. Initiated and administered by Beit Noam, intended for use by young adults with intellectual developmental disabilities, the site enhances users’ quality of life by providing appropriate and accessible on-line activities. [Learn more about Net.Chaver here.](#)

The Shalem Foundation views professional knowledge development and research as an impetus to professionalism and excellence that will generate improvement in the quality of life for people with intellectual developmental disabilities and their immediate environment.

“Lilach” – Making Women’s Health Issues Content Accessible to Women with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities

Students in the Faculty of Instructional Technologies at the Holon Institute of Technology proactively addressed the challenge of making women’s health issues content accessible to women with intellectual developmental disabilities by creating and launching the website “Lilach.” [Read more](#) about this very important initiative. Access the Lilach [site](#) and the Lilach [Video clip](#)



A Glimpse into the World of Intellectual Disability

Learning Orientation and Primary Encounter with the World of Intellectual Disability

Orientation for and primary encounters with the world of intellectual developmental disability for direct care givers and counselors has reached a new level of accessibility with the up-to-date educational software developed by students of the Faculty of Technological Education at the Holon Institute of Technology. For more information about the software and its creators, [read here.](#)

The Feeding and Eating Experience – A Training Manual for Working with People with Disabilities

Feeding is not just about eating. *The Feeding and Eating Experience: A Training Manual for Working with People with Disabilities* examines the feeding process from a different angle in an attempt to lessen tension and improve the feeding and eating process for caregivers and recipients alike. [Read more](#)

The guide was written by staff members of the Health Services, the Disabilities Administration, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services, and is based on [Professional Knowledge Development Processes](#), created in conjunction with and funded by the Shalem Foundation.

[Download the guide here.](#)



A Guide to Planning and Founding Rehabilitation Daycare Centers

The *Guide to Planning and Founding Rehabilitation Daycare Centers* is an equal opportunity manual, explaining how to get quality service anywhere in the country and setting forth uniform standards for establishing such facilities. The guide imparts information necessary to understand criteria for foundation assistance as well as the demands and the physical needs necessary to establish suitable services, making connections between policy and procedure of various organizations and the needs of service recipients and providers. [Read here for further information.](#)

The Guide was developed by the Ministry Social Affairs and Social Services in conjunction with and funded by the National Insurance Institute Foundations – The Foundation for the Development of Services to the Disabled and the Shalem Foundation.



Professor Liora Findler, Sundus Fatma Zbedat, MSW, Natali Racabi, BSW, Vera Skvirski, MSW, Bar Ilan University, 2017

Personal resources such as self-esteem and interpersonal resources such as emotional and instrumental support, perception of the grandparenting role, and the emotions shame and guilt, stress and well-being were examined in this study of mothers and grandmothers of children with intellectual disabilities in the Arab society. Findings suggest that there are more similarities than differences between mothers and grandmothers of children with disabilities and those of typically developed children. Moreover, a strong affinity between generations has been found in the Arab society which attributes great importance to the role of grandmothers and regards them as a unique potential resource in the family. [To read more](#)

This work was supported by a grant from Shalem Fund for Development of Israeli Local Council Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

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People with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Travel to Poland - The *Hashahar* Delegation

Sarit Tilovich Levi, Supervision by Prof Zehavit Gross, Bar Ilan University, 2017

This study explores the traditional Israeli journey to Poland as experienced by adults with intellectual developmental disabilities. One of the questions examined was: How do adults with intellectual developmental disabilities interpret the journey to concentration and death camps?

It was found that individuals with IDD experience the journey to Poland as a significant learning experience and are able to identify with the Jewish people and forge a sense a belonging. In this regard, they are no different than other adolescents. Recommendations have been made to enable people with IDD to travel to Poland to enhance their sense of belonging to the people of Israel, the State of Israel, and their ancestry. [To read more](#)

This work was supported by a grant from Shalem Fund for Development of Israeli Local Council Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Professor Nitza Davidovitch of Ariel University in the Shomron Was Appointed as the New Chair of The Shalem Foundation’s Research Committee

Professor Nitza Davidovitch of Ariel University in the Shomron was appointed as the new Chair of the the Shalem Foundation’s Research Committee.

[Excerpts from an interview with Professor Davidovitch can be read here.](#)



Congratulations to Dr. Adi Levy Vered, coordinator, Shalem Foundation’s Division for Assessment and Research, on being named outstanding lecturer in Pedagogic Innovation at Beit Berl College.

The Shalem Foundation congratulates Dr. Vered Levy on receiving the award and wishes her continued fruitful work under the auspices of Beit Berl Academic College and the Shalem Foundation Division for Assessment and Research [For more information](#)

Just Like Everyone Else: Interviews with Our Most Precious Partners

Meet adorable Tal from Herzelia. She loves music, basketball, painting, eating pizza and going to MacDonald's (even though she knows it's not so healthy). She has a boyfriend, also named Tal , who she loves very much.

To meet Tal and hear about her life and experiences [click here](#).



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