

Circles



בית איזי שפירא
לשינוי באיכות חיהם של אנשים עם מוגבלויות

Beit Issie Shapiro
Changing the lives of people with disabilities

במפוס ווילי וסיליה טראמפ
On the Willie & Cella Trump Campus

Autumn 2011, Issue 14, Beit Issie Shapiro's Newsletter

Beit Issie Shapiro's 5th International Conference on Disabilities

*Learning from the Past,
Shaping the Future*



Happy New Year

Dear Friends,

July, the summer of 2011 - The young, hard-working population of Israel jolted out of their sense of frustration, and apathy and families across the Israeli spectrum, overwhelmed by the soaring prices of commodities from cottage cheese to housing, took to the streets. Hundreds of thousands of peaceful protestors called for a fair and better future.

They said, "Enough! Things must change."

Thirty years ago, Naomi Stuchiner and the extended Shapiro family looked at the grim reality facing children with disabilities and their families in Israel. They believed that situation could be different.

They said, "Enough! Things must change."

Beit Issie Shapiro was created and the tireless, never-ending quest began to create a better world for people with special needs.

To mark the achievements and enormous changes over the past 30 years, Beit Issie Shapiro hosted its 5th International Conference in Tel Aviv. This was also in July, the summer of 2011.

A thousand people attended the conference, titled "Learning from the Past and Shaping the Future". They came from 17 different countries, and they comprised top academics, professionals, people with disabilities and their families. State-of-the-art knowledge was shared, information was gathered, collegial connections were made and hearts were moved. This newsletter covers the incredible impact of the conference.

The most important measure of the success of this conference is the long-term global collaborations that were established, which will lead to better research, better practice, and a more hopeful future for people with disabilities.

We have received numerous requests from abroad - including the United States, Ecuador, Uzbekistan, Georgia and South Africa - to share our knowledge of innovative services for people with disabilities. I am truly proud that Beit Issie Shapiro, in Israel, has become an "export model" of knowledge.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our friends, for your tremendous support and partnership, and to ask you to continue to partner us in the urgent issues and challenges that lie ahead.

Happy New Year to you all,

 **Jean Judes**
Executive Director



Beit Issie's 5th International Conference brought together people from so many countries who have created networks and shared information and hopefully will move forward and work together in the future. It was a pleasure and an honor to have been there and I look forward to working with Beit Issie in the future.

Professor Michael Stein
Harvard Law School



“Your support to Beit Issie Shapiro can make a difference in the lives of people with special needs and their families like ours.”

Dear Friends,

Most parents share a common goal - to see their children grow up happy and fulfilled. We, the parents of children with special needs are no different.

Maia, my daughter, has severe learning disabilities, which has led to many challenges. She has struggled bravely with these issues throughout her entire life. Maia graduated high school feeling lonely and frustrated. She had no friends.

After trying to find her place both in the Army and then in National Service, she had no direction or future. And, as her mother, I was at a total loss what to do.

Then we learned about Beit Issie Shapiro and her life changed completely!

Maia graduated from Beit Issie Shapiro's unique Special University, then became a member of their academic research team and there she has finally found her place.

I watched in amazement and total joy as she gained self-confidence, realizing she was an essential part of an academic research team. At long last she had found a niche that she excelled in, and found friends for the first time in her life - other wonderful youngsters who had similar challenges as hers.

Maia has told me that: **“Beit Issie Shapiro has taught me not to deny or ignore my difficulties and disabilities. I learned to accept myself as I am. I removed my mask, thanks to the support I received.”**

Maia now has a purpose to her life. She is part of a Beit Issie Shapiro program where she is studying how to be a caregiver. I cannot believe it, but she is really learning a profession and will be able to make a living for herself!

I ask you to give generously to Beit Issie Shapiro because your support can make a difference in the lives of people with special needs and their families like ours.

Thank you and wishing you all the best for a happy and healthy New Year,



Sue Zehavi, proud mother of Maia



“A TRULY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP”

Excerpts from an article by Jodie Cohen that first appeared in the Jewish News (UK)

Israel's leading organization for people with special needs hosted an international conference on disabilities. Seventeen countries were represented. The event, run by Beit Issie Shapiro to mark its 30th anniversary, attracted numerous distinguished professors.

FROM RESEARCH ABOUT US TO RESEARCH WITH US

Professor Kelley Johnson, professor of disability policy and practice at the University of Bristol, led a presentation on her groundbreaking work entitled 'From Research About Us To Research With Us' alongside colleagues from Ireland's Clare Inclusive Research Group.

Ger Minogue, a researcher in the group who has Downs Syndrome himself, talked about the importance of involving people with intellectual disabilities in research about

intellectual disabilities. **Ger is the first person with an intellectual disability to give a keynote presentation at a conference in Israel.** He said: "It's important to hear our voices. We know what is good for us. We want our independence to have relationships, work and families."

Dr Dana Roth, director of Beit Issie Shapiro's Research and Evaluation Unit, announced: "We are taking this further and are in the process of developing an international network on inclusive research. This is unique – a global milestone."

A TREATMENT WITH A 'MAGIC TWIST' HELPS CHILDREN WITH DISORDERS

Dr Dido Green, a researcher from Tel Aviv University, presented Israel's innovative collaboration with colleagues at the Evelina Children's Hospital in London and members of the Magic Circle. Together they have developed a therapy with



Practicing therapeutic magic

a 'magical twist' to treat children with neurological disorders.



Dr Dido Green, Or (a student of magic) and her assistant

"The idea was to develop a fun way to encourage children with developmental disorders to practice motor skills every day," Dr Green said. "The result was 'magic therapy'. Not only did the children practice the magic tricks on their own without parents 'nagging' them, all but one child reported that they enjoyed doing the exercises every day." Summer magic camps have been set up in the UK and Israel over the past year. Research is now being extended to undertake a



Professor Kelley Johnson and Ger Minogue



At the opening ceremony of the conference

larger scale study, which will also examine the psychological and social benefits of the therapy.

Or, a young student attending Beit Issie Shapiro's magic camp in Israel said: "I'm really enjoying Magic Camp. It is helping strengthen my right hand and for the first time, I am able to do things I haven't managed to do before. I do not give up and through the magic, I keep trying different movements and skills until I get them perfect and it turns out well. It feels wonderful!"

Jean Judes, executive director of Beit Issie Shapiro, added: "We have developed world leading therapies in our 30 years of existence. These include our Special University, which offers adults with severe learning and adjustment disabilities the opportunity to gain a diploma from a variety of educational institutions, including Bar Ilan University.

"We developed Snoezelen multi-sensory therapy and train people all over the world, which helps those with a variety of disabilities, as well as people with Alzheimer's, cancer and trauma victims."

"We operate the largest hydrotherapy training centre in the world and have helped to establish 120 hydrotherapy pools across Israel. And 82 early intervention centres have been developed across Israel using our unique model. We established Israel's first accessible and inclusive playground, Park Chaverim in Ra'anana, and are advising 30 local authorities to establish similar playgrounds across the country. We also provide training to 3,000 students and therapists each year from our centres in Ra'anana and Kalansua, an Arab-Israeli town in the Southern Triangle, where all services are provided in Arabic."

"Over the past 30 years Beit Issie Shapiro has grown from serving 16 children with disabilities to impacting 30,000 people every year. Our vision is one in which children and adults with special needs and their families all over the world are able to benefit from our unique knowledge, developments and service models."



"I've long been impressed by what Beit Issie Shapiro does. By bringing people together from all over the world to this conference, they are helping to share vital new knowledge that will make such a difference to people with disabilities and their families. Since I've become a father, I can understand more clearly how much it means to parents who want the very best for their children."

Matthew Gould
British Ambassador
to Israel

From Darkness the Dawn

At our International Conference,
Founding President Naomi Stuchiner launched her new book



From Darkness the Dawn ... the inspiring story of how a local education and treatment center became Israel's leading catalyst for change - pioneering services, empowering parents, involving the community in its mission, advocating necessary changes in legislation, driving research and training professionals.

From Darkness the Dawn highlights the role of Israel as social torchbearer, with Beit Issie Shapiro showing just how the blend of Judaic values, inspiring ideals, passion and professional excellence can be harnessed to build a better world.

"Beit Issie Shapiro is an example of what Israel has to teach us - this is a model for the world" Dan Senor, co-author of **Start-Up Nation**



Books in Hebrew can be purchased through the Beit Issie Shapiro library:
+972 9 7701218, tovae@beitissie.org.il An English version is expected to be published this winter.

What they said ...

... let me extend my personal congratulations to you and your staff on an outstanding job organizing and executing your recent 5th International Conference on Developmental Disabilities ... it was truly one of the best conferences I have ever attended and participated in.

Professor Ernest R. Katz
Children's Hospital, Los Angeles

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to come here once again to be part of an effort by Beit Issie Shapiro to really help elevate the consciousness about the work that is being done in the field of disabilities and to help build a community across the world to make this issue and concern a priority.

Anita Altman
UJA-Federation New York, USA

I was privileged to take part in lectures that were intellectually stimulating for me (as a psychologist ...) and provoked pain and hope in me (as a mother of a child with disabilities). I was glad to see that we are not alone in facing the hardships of treatment and functioning in society which includes people with special needs, and that we are part of an international network of dedicated and invested professionals.

Sarit Mizrahi
Tel Aviv

The accessible, universally-designed conference - complete with simultaneous translation and Real Time Captioning - is THE MODEL for ALL conferences - especially for accessibility-related conferences. The conference could not have been better. The only room for improvement: I wish the conference had lasted a lifetime.

Dr. Ellen (Ilana) Perlow
Texas Woman's University

We have just experienced Beit Issie Shapiro in its center which has been a fantastic day. Very inspiring in terms of what can be done and this came after spending two days at a fantastic conference with international speakers of the highest quality. I'm really inspired to go back to Joburg and try to implement some of the things I've learned.

Michael Sieff
CEO Chevra Kadisha, South Africa

Beit Issie Shapiro is really a leader in the field, their collaborative approach, their vision so broad. They're a real model - a light to other agencies, a light to other nations. I look forward to continued collaboration.

Jocelyn Kadish
Speech Pathologist, Toronto

Overseas News

Canada:

The Bialik Hebrew Day School student council chose to raise money and awareness for Beit Issie Shapiro this year. The students sold chocolates, sodas and tickets to sports games. All proceeds went to Beit Issie Shapiro.



Students from the Bialik School presenting a check to Beit Issie Shapiro



Jordana Colomby – Student Council Vice President, Lauren Wintraub, Student Council President, Oriane Falkenstein, Student Council Staff Advisor, Jocelyn Emdon from Canadian Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro and Beverley Young Vice Principal – Senior Division

The Young Professionals have held several fundraisers in support of Beit Issie Shapiro, including a soccer-thon and a Zumba class. Both were well attended, lots of fun and were successful in raising funds for the special children of Beit Issie Shapiro.



The winning team receiving their prizes, copies of Start-Up Nation



Young professionals energized after their Zumba class led by Kerri Podolsky (front row, right)

New York:

American Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro had their annual Family Day at Citi Field in May.



Event attendees playing wheelchair baseball



Michal and Asaf Seinfeld posing with Mr. Met, the Mets mascot

Generation Next held their annual Casino Night. This year's theme was "A Night on Boardwalk Empire".



L-R: Jesse Reing, Generation Next Co-Chairperson, Sammi Collidge, Generation Next Co-Chairperson, Todd Stone, Alexandra Peterson, Fundraising Chairperson



Partygoers enjoying the casino

UK:

HOD Bingo: Alex Beare (standing, left) and others enjoying the Hebrew Order of David's Bingo Night. Proceeds from this annual event benefit Beit Issie Shapiro and other charities.



Los Angeles:

The Stephen S. Wise Temple in Los Angeles celebrated the launch of a book about Beit Issie Shapiro, *A Circle of Smiles*.



Asher Cohen shows his support



Leila Kashfian, Michael Kashfian and Alexander Ramin with author Sylvia Rouss and her book

Save the Dates October – November 2011

Oct. 25	iBelieve, a Holocaust Oratorio for Today, organized by the Young Professionals Group in Toronto
Oct. 27	Major Donors Dinner, Miami, Florida
Early Nov.	Morning with Movers, Toronto, Canada
Nov. 6	Gala Dinner, Los Angeles, California
Nov. 7	Israel Innovation Event, New York, NY
Nov. 13-20	Trek for Life, Eilat, Israel (with UK Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro)



Contact Us

Israel

Beit Issie Shapiro
Issie Shapiro St. P.O. Box 29
Ra'anana 43100, Israel
Tel: +972 9 770 1222
Fax: +972 9 771 0465
E-mail: info@beitissie.org.il
www.beitissie.org.il
Ministry of Interior Non-Profit:
#58-007-185-0

United Kingdom Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro

81 Oxford Street
London, W1D 2EU
Tel: +44 207 903 5017
Fax: +44 207 903 5333
E-mail: ukfobis@googlemail.com
Charity: #328303

American Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro New York/National Office

404 Park Avenue South, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel: 1 (212) 586-2464
Fax: 1 (212) 246-4914
E-mail: info@afobis.org,
www.afobis.org
Registration: #13-3434-781

South East

c/o Michael-Ann Russell JCC
18900 NE 25th Avenue
N. Miami Beach, FL 33180
Tel: 1 (305) 933-0774
E-mail: florida@afobis.org

West Coast

E-mail: laoffice@afobis.org

Canadian Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro

5 Gladiola Court
Toronto, ON M3H 5X5
Tel: +1 (289) 597-0500
Fax: +1 (289) 597-1401
E-mail: cfobis@rogers.com
Registration: #89056-1848-RR0001

South African Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro

c/o Ralene Tradonsky
P.O. Box 1636, Houghton
Johannesburg 2041
Tel: +27 11-728-3586
Fax: +27 11-575-0480
E-mail: Raelene.tradonsky@gmail.com

Swedish Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro

c/o Fredslogen
Fleminggatan 40E
S-112 33 Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 6507848
E-mail: tnetter@hotmail.com

Remember Beit Issie Shapiro in your will

John Bussel, AFOBIS Endowment chair, encourages you to establish charitable planning vehicles in which you also receive lifetime income.

We would like to thank the photographers – Patricia Ben Ezra, Kobi Kantor, Tomer Neuberg and Alberto Birmacher.