

## 2017 Jerusalem Marathon & RabbisCanRun

On Friday morning, March 17th, Gan Sachar was filled with a sea of wall-to-wall youngsters and adults gearing up for the marathon of their choice. With booths housing different organizations from the USA, England and Israel surrounding the entire perimeter of the park, there was so much energy and excitement generated by the more than 30,000 participants in Jerusalem's 2017 Marathon. Kudos go to Sharon Feifer, Ariela Haim and Tali Simckes who devoted many hours over many weeks to make certain that all registrations were correctly filed and that each runner would receive their packet of material and tee shirt. For the first time this year, we had 10 families participate in a Family Marathon which allowed for baby carriages and very young children to participate with their Moms and Dads in their own special run. We were also joined by one of the mentors responsible for a School Mentoring Program for French students who ran with the teens in his group. Finally, we were honored once again this year, with the participation of 150 Givati soldiers and additional members of the Sayeret Givati Brigade, a group of elite IDF soldiers who provided warm up exercises for our runners.

We were also very excited to welcome Meir Kaniel, Kav L'Noar's North American Representative who, in



Early morning arrivals of Team Kav L'Noar



From left to right: Meir Kaniel, Rabbi Yehoshua Fromowitz, Rabbi Rafi Lipner, & Rabbi Dani Rockoff

addition to his own marathon run in Houston, Texas last January, created a new initiative called RabbisCanRun through which he invited rabbis from across the USA and Canada to train with him for participation in the 2017 Marathon. Three Rabbis – Rabbi Dani Rockoff from Kansas City, Rabbi Rafi Lipner from Toronto, Canada and Rabbi Yehoshua Fromowitz from Las Vegas,

## Jerusalem Municipality Seeks Help with French Olim Families

Over the last 12 years, Kav L'Noar has built a reputation as a professional social service agency that fully appreciates how the unique challenges faced by *olim* can exacerbate other problems within the home and school and provide appropriate support to address these challenges.

The Welfare Department together with the Immigrant Absorption Department of the Jerusalem Municipality contacted Kav L'Noar this past winter to share the challenges faced by many new French *olim* families who have settled in Jerusalem and who are struggling either because of lack of resources or a reluctance to accept help. They asked us for help and pledged their financial partnership.

We immediately did a search for a French-speaking social worker and hired Naomie Benchimol Nakache



Aharon Botbol, Mentor with some of his French group members

who made aliyah from Paris at age 18 and subsequently completed her Bachelors and MSW degrees in Israel. Naomie has created a pilot project by creating 4 School Group

goals. We thank Barry and Janice Schindler, Mr. Scott J. Rothenberg, Esq., and Mitchell and Shelly Eichen for their recognition and support of this unique and creative marathon project.



From left to right: Meir Kaniel, Rabbi Yehoshua Fromowitz, Rabbi Rafi Lipner, & Rabbi Dani Rockoff

The comments we received from the rabbis following their return home bode extremely well for next year and Meir is already strategizing for a significantly expanded participation.

## A Message from Dani Yemini, CEO

Shalom Chaverim:



The month of Nissan marks the coming of Spring. Now that we have reached the end of Winter with its bare trees, we feel a lightening of the spirit at the approach of Spring. The renewal of life and the blossoming of the trees affect our mood and give us feelings of optimism and elation.

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and sees his own trees blossoming is not permitted to make this blessing. The essential condition for making the blessing is to be out in the open when seeing the trees. Going out into the open is symbolic and reflects the mood of the person involved. A person should not remain within four walls and think about himself but should go out of his house and garden and connect with his environment.

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Yasher Koach to Rina Berkus, Joy Epstein and Dov Litwin.

We at Kav L'Noar, with a feeling of שירם are committed to reaching out to help all those who are in need of our services. Thank you for your continuing support and best wishes to you and your family for a Chag Pessach Kasher V'sameach!

He who goes out in the month of Nissan and sees the trees that are bursting to blossom should make the Bracha of the Trees – ברכת האלונים. The halacha teaches us that a man who stays in his own home and garden

was reflected in our recent mailing of Kav L'Noar's 2016 Year in Review which has garnered positive feedback both in Israel and abroad.

I hope that in reading this Newsletter,

you will share in the joy and excitement felt by our Staff each day as they empower our families and their children with the tools to face the future without continued need for professional involvement.

Best wishes for a meaningful and enjoyable Pessach together with your loved ones.

Sincerely yours,

Ron

was reflected in our recent mailing of Kav L'Noar's 2016 Year in Review which has garnered positive feedback both in Israel and abroad.

Our School Group Mentoring Program is well underway with 25 groups functioning throughout greater Jerusalem and offering middle and high school students a curriculum-based weekly meeting designed to empower them in overcoming their social and emotional challenges. Four of these groups cater exclusively to newly-arrived students from France which resulted in the Municipality of Jerusalem approaching Kav L'Noar to build an infrastructure of services to

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