



Zareinu News



Zareinu is a day school and treatment centre that provides special education and therapies to children from birth to 18 years with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges. We provide cutting edge therapies and special education through individually designed student programs in a setting rich in Jewish tradition and teaching. We welcome and encourage the participation of family and community in our school.

We believe that every child has enormous potential and deserves our united forces to realize that potential. We strive to create opportunities for our graduates to function in the larger community and look to increase acceptance of all children with special needs in our society.

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BUILDING ZAREINU'S FUTURE

The dream of having a home of our own nears reality

Zareinu recently launched the \$20-million Campaign for the Children to build a campus in York Region. This article is part of our ongoing series to share the latest developments with you.

Zareinu has a worldwide reputation as an extraordinary school and treatment centre combining Jewish and General Studies education for children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges. Yet, for 20 years, the school has had to function in rented space, with less than ideal equipment and facilities. The lack of a dedicated building has been one of Zareinu's biggest challenges.

Thanks to the generosity of the Serruya family who have donated the land, the dream of building the school is about to become a reality. Situated at 8780 Bathurst Street, the building will house classrooms, a Beit Midrash, a Hebrew Enrichment Centre, departmental breakout/therapy rooms, dedicated infant and preschool areas, an indoor playground, a life skills apartment, a high school wing, and administration offices.

"Imagine our excitement as educators when we were asked to draw up the wish list of what we wanted to provide our children," says Dr. Mitch Parker, the school's principal and clinical director. "We will now offer after-school programs, summer programs, and do more to prepare our students for a fully productive and satisfying life."

In designing the building, Kirkor Architects looked at what is most successful around the world and spoke to user groups, parents and professionals. Says Kirkor principal Clifford Korman: "We have input the best known practices and believe this new building will not only be a warm and welcoming home for the

children and families, but will set a new standard in schools for children with special needs."

As Clifford explains, the internal design concept is symbolically based on the anatomy of the human body. The main focal point is a sun-filled atrium, with plants and light representing the lungs that breathe air. The elevator core represents the heart and transports the students who are the heart of the school. The Hebrew Enrichment Centre is like the liver that filters and purifies



Rendering of building – Kirkor Architects and Planners

the blood. A continuous wheelchair ramp represents the arteries, surrounding the entire atrium and providing a main travel path for students.

The external design is both futuristic and completely grounded. The modern façade evokes the hope and optimism Zareinu has for its students while being carefully designed to fit into the neighbourhood. The Bathurst Street entrance leads to main public spaces such as the gymnasium and swimming pool. The rear entrance has a drop-off area, parking, and a welcoming view of the atrium.

"Through the generous donation of land, the Serruya family has helped remove one of the final hurdles standing between us and a permanent home," says Danny Gordon, Zareinu's chairman. "Now we need to reach out to every single individual to help us build this building for our true heroes, our students."

For more information on the Campaign for the Children, please contact Marlene at 416.661.1800 ext 224, or donate online at www.zareinu.org.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SWINGS INTO ACTION ON MAY 30TH

Start polishing those golf clubs. The Zareinu Golf Tournament is celebrating its 15th year and you're invited to get into the swing of it! On Monday, May 30th, 2011, take your place alongside hundreds of golfers from across the city as they participate in this exclusive golfing experience on the Scottish-style links of the Glencairn Golf Club in Halton Hills.

This prestigious charitable tournament is actually two events in one day. The Executive Golf Tournament takes place in the morning as a "play your own ball" event with a tee-off time of 7 a.m. The tournament is limited to 108 golfers. The PM Tournament is a "best ball" format with a tee-off time of 12:30 p.m. and welcoming 216 golfers.

Whether you choose to golf in the morning or the afternoon, you will experience a spectacular day of golf, food, auctions, and the chance to win great prizes.

Once again, Emery Investments has generously committed to being the title sponsor of this prestigious event.

Combined, the Executive Tournament and the PM Tournament help raise much-needed funds to support Zareinu.

"Thirteen years ago, friends of mine asked me to come out, play golf, have fun and raise money for a good cause," recalls Dr. Ian Raskin. "This tournament stands out from all others thanks to the people, the fun, the food, the great giveaways and the awesome sports memorabilia. This is one of the most worthy charities I've ever been involved in."

Last year, our golfers and sponsors raised more than \$400,000 for children with special needs. With your support, we hope to surpass that incredible number this year. Don't miss out on

the opportunity to be a sponsor with a wide range of benefits including exposure at the tournament as well as to Zareinu's database and Facebook audience.

To become a tournament sponsor, register as a golfer, donate a silent auction prize or to volunteer, call Penny at 416.661.1800, ext 223 or visit www.zareinu.org.



From left to right: Jeff Bloom, Ian Raskin and Larry Merovitz



JORDAN BERNAMOFF z'l

The Zareinu family mourns the passing of Jordan Bernamoff z'l, a cherished member of our golf committee. We extend our condolences to the entire Bernamoff family. Jordan will truly be missed.

BUDDING MOZARTS TICKLE THE IVORIES



Since October, five boys attending Zareinu's first graduated integration program at Eitz Chaim have been learning how to play the piano. Teacher Fuerh Tang (centre) volunteers her time to teach the dedicated students. Here, Hershel Gitlin (left) and Leeav Benschushan demonstrate their musical talents.

14TH ANNUAL ZAREINU MOVEATHON KICKS OFF IN JUNE

TWO PARTICIPANTS EXPLAIN WHY THEY ARE INVOLVED

Walk, run, cycle or just come out to play!

Whatever you choose, the 14th Annual Zareinu Moveathon Festival is sure to delight the entire family. The fun kicks off at Downsview Park on Sunday, June 12th, 2011 with a variety of walks and runs plus the fabulous community festival. Two weeks later, on Sunday, June 26th, our super cyclists wind their way along the Niagara escarpment for the Zareinu Ride for Kids with Special Needs.



David Sherman (right) poses with Moveathon chairman Hershy Weinberg.

Recently, the Zareinu Moveathon team caught up with two of our major fundraisers for their take on why they get involved. David Sherman is a Toronto tax lawyer and top Moveathon fundraiser who will reach an incredible five-year goal of \$100,000 at this year's event. Isaac Salama has two children at Zareinu and is an avid Moveathon volunteer and festival-goer.

Q: What inspired you to get involved with the Zareinu Moveathon?

David: I've been blessed with a successful career, a wonderful family and good health, and I believe in helping others. The 50K bike ride is a way of keeping myself fit, getting others involved in donating and making a difference. In 2007, I started riding for Zareinu and I'm grateful to know that the funds I've raised can be measured as paying for a child's tuition and care. It's wonderful to read about how Zareinu has changed the lives of so many children with serious challenges.

Isaac: I had heard about the school, but it wasn't until I had children at Zareinu that I truly saw how dedicated the therapists and all the professionals at Zareinu are.



From left to right. Matthew, Alexandra, Isaac, Brady and Rosana Salama

Zareinu gives children an opportunity to succeed, to be an integral part of society. People will read or see the website. But when you see the progress your child has made, you come to understand the value of this organization. I've been working with kids in camps for years and I've always appreciated how important kids are.

Zareinu: What are your favourite moments from past Moveathons?

David: The Moveathon is a great way for me to connect with people including past clients as I do all my fundraising by email. I send a personal email to each colleague, client or friend, not only about the fundraising but also touching base about my life and theirs. I end up donating a lot to other people's rides, walks and runs for various charities as they solicit me in return. I like to push the donation to their ride higher to get them to donate more to Zareinu.

Isaac: Whether it's raising funds and awareness or promoting and participating in the Moveathon Festival, I make myself available whenever and however I can.

Zareinu: Why should someone support the Moveathon?

David: Doing the ride also helps me feel good about myself and helps me stay healthy, as I have to train to cycle 50 km each June. But more importantly, if I had a child who needed Zareinu's help, I'd want to know that Zareinu was there.

Isaac: Getting involved has to come from the heart. To potential parents, participants, volunteers, and corporate sponsors: Take the time to go and see what this wonderful place is all about. Volunteer, donate, let a child touch your heart in more ways than any dollar figure could. Making a difference in a child's life is worth more than anything.

To register for a Moveathon event, sponsor a participant, or find out more about the festival, visit www.moveathon.com or contact Sonya at 416.661.1800 ext. 228.



THERAPY GETS THE CANINE TOUCH

Once a week, a seven-year-old Labradoodle named Laila shows up for work at Zareinu to the delight of students and staff. Dubbed a "Mitzvah Dog" by community members who know her, Laila is one of about 200 child-certified therapy dogs in Canada who provide animal-assisted therapy. Laila and her owner/trainer, Debra Sigler, are volunteers with Therapeutic Paws of Canada.

According to Debra, very few of these dogs provide the level of interaction and therapy of which Laila is capable. In the toddler class, the children pet Laila and play catch. She remembers their names and always throws the ball to the correct child when prompted. This motivates them to develop their language, through words like, "Dog, ball, come, Laila." Debra says some children are scared of Laila in the beginning but quickly warm up to a dog who knows them by name and lets them touch her soft fur or grab her tail.

With the non-verbal and physically challenged children, Laila leads the interaction by dropping the ball into their lap. Recently, Laila was asked to spend time with a girl who usually didn't react. Laila gave the girl a ball, and suddenly there were smiles and laughter. Another girl overcame her fear and was able to hold Laila's leash and walk her while being pushed in her wheelchair.

Motivation is Laila's specialty. Says Debra: "One girl was very reluctant with her physiotherapy, so playing ball with Laila was offered

as a reward. This was so successful that the girl asked to do her hard task again just to be with Laila.

Another boy practised his word identification and communication skills by showing Laila the action he wanted her to perform: sit, jump, run. He was rewarded for his efforts when Laila did exactly as he asked."

Laila – who can nod "yes" when questioned – has also worked with Zareinu's teens and young adults around issues of responsibility, self-care, social skills and self-esteem. As Debra explains, dog grooming helps teach the importance of personal hygiene, and taking turns assists with social skills. Last year's graduating class even did research on Laila and learned about dog training, walking and grooming. They were fascinated at how Laila was trained to "read" and do math. This built on their preparation for the adult workforce.

"Our experiences with the children are extraordinary," says Debra. "On almost every visit, there is an event bordering on the miraculous. Laila acts as literacy coach, language therapist, physiotherapist, life-skills and social skills coach. She's truly a Canine Special Needs Expert."



Learnathon RECAP

In early March, hundreds of people from across the Greater Toronto Area gathered at synagogues and meeting rooms to learn in unity at the first ever Zareinu Learnathon. The event, held over several days and many locations, drew in children, high school students and adults for inspiring evenings of lectures and discussions delivered by an esteemed panel of teachers, Rabbis and Rebbetzins. The Learnathon raised a whopping \$25,000 for the school and received accolades from participants.

"It was an awesome feeling to be learning in unison with hundreds of other Jews to benefit one of the most essential organization in our community." – participant Scott Kaye



Learning at Ateres Mordechai



Participants at Aish HaTorah's Learnathon



3 easy ways to change lives

- Own a Zareinu Tzedekah Box for your home and/or office
- Order Tribute Cards from Zareinu - honour someone special or send a sympathy card for a passing or Yartzheit
- Become a Zareinu Miracle Maker Monthly Donor

Contact Maureen at 416.661.1800 ext 221 or maureen@zareinu.org

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RANDY E. SPIEGEL



It is with mixed emotions that I pen my final *ZareiNews* column. As the first Executive Director of Zareinu, I had the unique privilege of evolving a primarily volunteer-managed organization into an administration that is professionally responsible for so much: school infrastructure, governance and fiscal policies, advocacy with municipal, provincial and federal levels of government, fundraising, volunteer develop-

ment, and raising awareness across all spectrums of our community. I am proud of all of our work together and have many treasured memories.

One of the high points has been working with the amazingly dedicated cadre of board members, committees, volunteers, and champions-at-large. In the last eight years we have accomplished so much. The seven Fashion Shows, the growth of the Golf Tournament, five years of Bowlereinu for adults and now a high school event have become annual affairs. Our signature Moveathon Festival attracts thousands from across the city and extends well beyond the Jewish community.

I have been honoured to work with outstanding therapists and special education teachers, who are the real miracle workers. I am particularly proud of how everyone pulled together as we faced the tragic loss of my friend and our beloved principal, Carol Goldman a'h. The talents of our fundraising and administrative staff have enabled our major

special events to exceed financial goals and we maintain a reputation of excellence that keeps the contributors attending year after year. I feel so blessed to have developed cherished relationships with our parents.

Another highlight is our public profile. Our work is now better known and understood, with successes highlighted on *Rogers Daytime Toronto*, *CTV News*, *ABC News Nightline* and *ET Canada* as well as in *Lifestyles Magazine*, *The National Post*, *The Toronto Star* and many local community newspapers. We have been proactive in developing young leaders in Jewish day schools, public schools, synagogue youth groups and with the leadership at UJA Federation. Zareinu's work has been noted in both the provincial legislature and the Senate of Canada, making our work that much easier. I hope that the groundwork laid will enable increased funding from both government and community.

Zareinu is embarking on a thrilling journey. The structures are now in place to support change, to enable Zareinu to grow, and to make the *Campaign for the Children* a great success. Before long, the doors of the beautiful new centre will open and many more children and families will receive the education, therapies, support and encouragement they deserve. As I embark on my own new professional opportunities, I hope to continue to work for Zareinu and help make miracles happen.

The Zareinu family has a deep appreciation for the proverbial blood, sweat and tears that Randy has selflessly devoted to our beloved school. His gentleness, integrity and menshlichkeit will be missed. We wish Randy every success in his future endeavours.

— Danny Gordon, Chairman

CAMP AND KIDS MAKE A PERFECT MATCH

When you're a kid, there's nothing better than heading to summer camp. The majority of Zareinu students attend some form of camp over the summer. Many attend community day camps while others go to overnight camps both in Ontario and as far away as the Catskills.

"These camping experiences are vital for both our students as well as for the 'typical' students with whom they spend their days," says Madi Cogan, Zareinu's Director of Social Work. "While the Zareinu students get to enjoy the fresh summer air while exercising their muscles, they are also learning from others and building friendships with peers. In turn, the 'typical' students are learning that their similarities to the children of Zareinu are

much greater and far more significant than the differences that may have first caught their attention."



The Zareinu Social Work team works collaboratively with families to explore camp options for our students, whether in an integrated or specialized setting. Staff also assist in finding a one-to-one worker who will accompany the child when attending an integrated camp setting, and they work diligently to help parents find financial assistance when required. The independent life skills, social skills and communication skills that are learned at Zareinu are transferable into their camp setting,

helping our students have the most rewarding summer experience possible.

children with autism but is also used for children with developmental disabilities," says Mitch Parker, Zareinu's principal and clinical director. "It will provide the framework for our Jewish and General Studies teachers to provide instruction for our students."

Following the two-day spring training, Keshet will be available to provide supervision on an ongoing basis throughout the 2011/2012 school year. Training has been endorsed by Zareinu's faculty, Professional Advisory Committee, and Board. It is being generously supported by a community benefactor.

"The combination of visuals, motivation, physical environment and each student's strengths and interests are hallmarks of this program," says Lindsey Athias, Zareinu's senior behavior therapist. "Both students and staff will benefit from adding a structure and framework to our already blossoming program."

This spring, several Zareinu teachers will travel to Chicago's Keshet Day School to learn about TEACCH, a program that has helped countless autistic children throughout North America. TEACCH - Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication related handicapped Children - is an evidence-based service, training, and research program for individuals of all ages and skill levels with autism spectrum disorders. "TEACCH has an excellent track record as a structured teaching program with a curriculum that was developed specifically for



TEACHERS TAKE TO CHICAGO FOR SPRING TRAINING

Making Miracles Happen



Change a child's life forever... Give to Zareinu To make a donation to Zareinu Educational Centre, please contact Marlene at 416.661.1800 ext 224 or donate online at www.zareinu.org

BEAUTIFUL CENTREPIECES HELP MAKE MIRACLES HAPPEN

At 13, Zachary Shore already believes in giving back. The Grade 8 student recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah and proudly chose Zareinu Miracle Baskets as centrepieces. Says Zachary: "Zareinu is a school that allows challenged individuals to learn and someday live alongside others in the community. Now that I have had my Bar Mitzvah, I understand the importance of giving back to the community and I did this with my baskets." Zachary assembled the baskets as part of his community service and then hand-delivered them to the school after his party. Here he hands one to Zareinu student Yehudit Jakubovic. You, too, can make your celebration memorable and help change the life of a child with disabilities. Tax receipts available. To order, contact Rebecca at 416-488-1173.



Save the Date: 8th Annual Zareinu Fashion Show
on Wednesday, November 16th, 2011 at *On the Park*

4630 Dufferin Street, Suite 301
Toronto, ON M3H 5S4

