



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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A MOTHER'S STORY: "Our house is now filled with love and happiness."

by Stephanie Myers

It was the emergency phone call from my obstetrician's office that would change our lives forever. The secretary suggested I come in immediately to discuss my abnormal results. I fell to my knees and began to shake. I sat on a curb in disbelief, and cried uncontrollably. How could this be? Why would this happen to us?

Based on my blood work, ultrasounds and stats, we apparently had a two-thirds chance of the baby being born with Down syndrome. We hopefully clung to that one-third possibility that it wouldn't.

Monika was born a healthy 7lbs 9oz. As she smiled up to meet her new parents, I was torn apart with sadness and disappointment. This just wasn't the child I hoped for or even wanted. My head was spinning.

I just didn't know where to begin. Despite being positive on the outside, I was desperate and lonely on the inside. I longed to find another family in my situation. I needed to know I wasn't alone. In my mind, we were the only ones on this entire planet with a Down syndrome child.

Then fate had it – I met my angel: a young beautiful mother pushing a stroller with an eight-month-old girl with Down syndrome. When I reached out, she said: "It is an absolute must that you start MEDEK physiotherapy immediately." A little while later she told me about Zareinu.

At four months old, Monika began attending Zareinu two mornings a week. She received MEDEK physiotherapy, speech therapy, music

therapy and occupational therapy from very experienced, knowledgeable and caring therapists. Parents also had the advantage of meeting regularly for support and discussion sessions. I now had that sense of belonging I needed.

The dedication and love from Zareinu's teachers was truly amazing. They believed in Monika. They saw the beauty in her. They saw her

potential. They found her strengths and built on them. They took her weaknesses and nurtured them. They showed me how to love her, teach her, and encourage her.

Monika is now in her third year at Zareinu and has a long way to go. However, I am extremely delighted for that early start we have been given.

Monika's pediatrician has been amazed at her progress throughout her development, comparing her to that of a typical child. In fact, at her last appointment the doctor said, "She is not delayed for her age." I owe that to Zareinu.

Life is a journey. We have learned to embrace our challenges, and celebrate our successes no matter how minor they may seem. Our house is now filled with love and happiness and we are filled with joy as we watch our children grow and develop. We are forever grateful to Zareinu and those that keep this dream alive for all our children and families in need.

Excerpted from a speech Stephanie delivered at the 15th Annual Golf Tournament held in May.

Photo credit: Richard Lautens



Stephanie and John Myers with Monika (right) and William.



→ SEE INSIDE Celebration with our 2011 Grads

FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND CLINICAL DIRECTOR

DR. MITCH PARKER



As the new school year begins at Zareinu, our staff is very much involved in working with new and returning students. They individually help each boy and girl develop new behavioural, cognitive, social and motor skills to exceed expectations that may have been set for them in the past. At the same time, our staff works collectively to improve our programs and offerings to make sure that Zareinu is giving students the best research-supported services available.

Approximately 20 of our school-age students are now involved in TEACCH, a curricular approach emphasizing independence, communication and meaningful choice. We are all very excited to be able to pilot this program at Zareinu and are confident that it will promote new learning and achievement.

Eight of our school-age students are currently in their second year of placement at the Patricia campus of Eitz Chaim. In this setting we try to combine the individualized learning and therapeutic support for which Zareinu is famous, along with multiple opportunities for integration and mainstreaming throughout the day. The camaraderie developed between our Eitz Chaim cohort and the "typical" students has been very gratifying to observe.

Our Yeshiva Vocational High School class is growing even without significant promotion. Parents and their sons are excited that

there is now an alternative to traditional secondary Yeshiva education in Toronto where boys can learn vocational skills and behaviours and be ready to enter the work world at the end of their training. We are thrilled that JVS continues to be our partner in this worthwhile endeavour.

Our Yeshiva students are also getting acclimated to their new home, Bnai Torah Congregation. We are looking forward to forming close relationships with our new hosts as well as becoming involved in some cooperative programming with Eitz Chaim.

In addition to our in-school activities, our students have many opportunities to interact with children from other schools throughout the year. Sometimes they visit us and sometimes we are invited to their locations. The experiences are varied – from sukkah visits and musical events to carnivals and craft activities – and always exciting.

Autumn also marks the return of student volunteers. Education, speech, early childhood, occupational therapy and physiotherapy students from many local colleges and universities arrive in September and October to expand their practical knowledge and skills. Of particular note is the group of nearly 25 students from York University who arrive yearly to spend five or six hours a week in our classrooms learning about special education. We are told that Zareinu is a very popular site for the York University students.

It's a great beginning to the academic year and to the Jewish New Year. May we continue to move forward from strength to strength. On behalf of the entire Zareinu family, I wish you a very happy, healthy and sweet 5772.

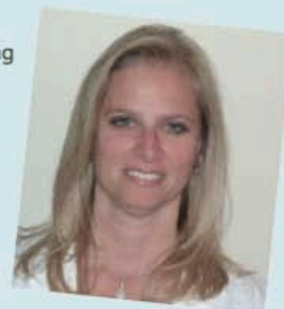
MARLA INGLES: OUR NEW FUNDRAISING DYNAMO

When it comes to Zareinu, Marla Ingles doesn't believe in "business as usual." Rather, the organization's new vice-president of fundraising intends to push the limits so that the goal of building a new school becomes a reality.

"I believe in ensuring sustainability while continuously planning for tomorrow," says Marla, who took up her new post in May. "There are exciting initiatives planned for 2011 and beyond, all of which cannot be realized without the incredible commitment of Zareinu's amazing volunteers, individuals, and corporate supporters, all of whom are dedicated to helping each child at Zareinu reach his or her full potential. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board, our volunteers, as well as with the school's principal, teachers, therapists, and fundraising staff, to help make miracles happen."

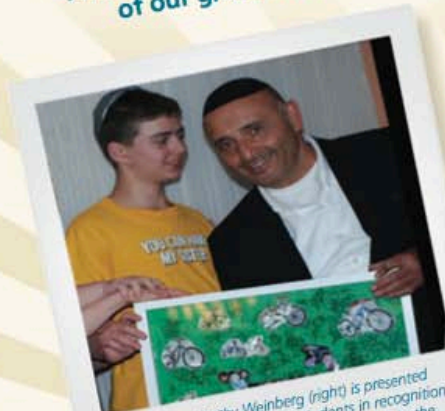
Marla is a fundraising dynamo, having spent the past 10 years doing just that at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in a variety of roles, and since 2006 as regional manager of Toronto/York Region. She worked as a lawyer before switching gears and pursuing a career in fundraising. Marla will report directly to the Board and lead Zareinu's Major Gifts, Endowment and Capital campaigns. She will work closely with Marlene Brickman, who has been promoted to director of business affairs.

When she's not at her Dufferin Street desk or meeting with supporters, Marla enjoys hanging out with her husband and two teenage girls. She's an avid traveller and keeps fit through tennis, yoga and pilates. Drop by the office and introduce yourself to Marla, or email her at marla@zareinu.org with your ideas and suggestions or just to welcome her on board!



WE SALUTE THE CLASS OF 2011

A few snapshots of some of our graduates.



Guest speaker Hershy Weinberg (right) is presented with a special plaque made by students in recognition of his many years of hard work and devotion to the Moveathon. Congratulating him is student Avi.



Guitti (left) hugs former Zareinu teacher, Tammy Urbach Zaldin. Guitti spoke her first word in Tammy's class 19 years ago. Guitti will be spending next year at a seminary in Israel.



Hershel (left) is cheered on by his siblings after participating in a musical performance with his Eitz Chaim class.

MAZEL TOV TO OUR GRADS!



Monika dons her Class of 2011 graduation hat as her proud mother Stephanie and brother William look on.



Avi and his classmates delighted the audience with a musical performance. Avi also showcased his talents at the community-wide Zimryah song festival.



Debbie Fleischer (left) and Norma Atencio are honoured with Staff Member of the Year awards for service above and beyond the call of duty.

On a very special afternoon in June, Zareinu Educational Centre overflowed with elated parents, teachers, therapists, community leaders and government representatives, all of whom came to cheer on the school's newest group of graduates. Eight students – from preschool to high school – were feted as they moved on to new classrooms and new adventures. Judging by their infectious smiles, they couldn't have been prouder. Guitti Perman, who came to Zareinu as a toddler and will spend this coming year at a girls' seminary in Israel, brought the audience to tears as she spoke of

her Zareinu memories. Guitti has a form of cerebral palsy that makes walking and talking difficult so she delivered her remarks via a specially programmed computer. During the ceremony, longtime teacher assistants Norma Atencio and Debbie Fleischer received awards because "they work steadily, professionally and conscientiously without need for reward," said school principal Dr. Mitch Parker. Also at graduation, Moveathon chair Hershy Weinberg was presented with a student-designed plaque for his tireless fundraising efforts. Mazel Tov to all of our graduates!

GOLF TOURNAMENT A BIG HIT

Jim Nelford (in photo), veteran PGA Tour player and broadcaster, helped Zareinu student Zalmy master his swing at the 15th Annual Zareinu Golf Tournament held recently at the Glencairn Golf Club in Halton Hills. Says Nelford, who was recently named by SCORE Golf as one of the Top 25 Canadian golfers of all time: "I thought it was great that the children were brought to the golfing event. They are special little guys and it was fun to see them whack a few golf balls. Zareinu is an important part of the community. Keep up the good work!"

Jim's interaction with Zalmy and several of his peers was a proud moment for all those who attended the tournament and helped showcase the important strides that Zareinu students make every day. A very special thank you to returning title sponsor Emery Investments as well as the numerous sponsors, participants and volunteers who helped make this year's event a resounding success. Through their generosity, more than \$400,000 was raised to provide equipment, resources and therapies for the students of Zareinu.



DONATION NEWS



At Zareinu, we constantly seek out opportunities for our children to express themselves, interact with each other and develop new skills. Thanks to a generous donation from the Bridle Bash Foundation, the school recently purchased a set of tall tubano drums that are delighting students.

Says Wanda Gascho-White, head of Zareinu's Music Therapy Department: "Drumming is a powerful activity for children of all ages and disabilities because it helps to develop social skills, gives opportunities for non-verbal and verbal communication, and is a creative emotional outlet. With these drums we can offer highly motivating and enriching activities that are lots of fun yet also work on important developmental goals."

Moveathon RECAP

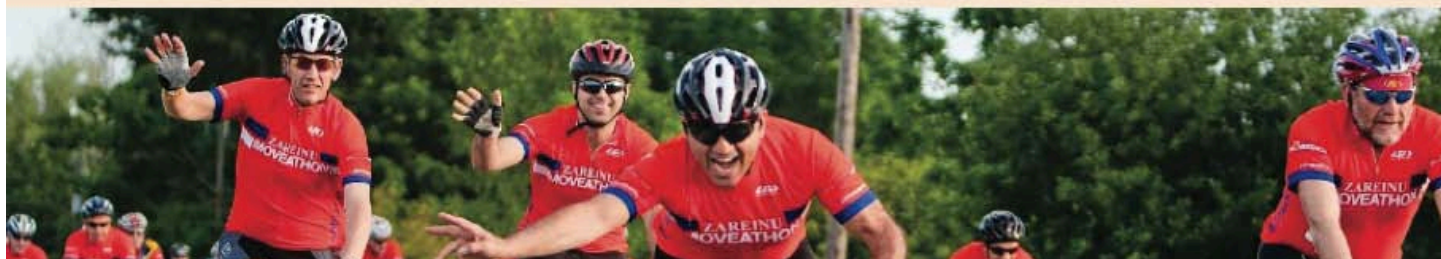
Hundreds walked, ran and cycled and thousands just came to party, making the Annual Zareinu Moveathon the 14th success in a row.

The action began on Sunday, June 12th at Downsview Park, where more than 7,000 people enjoyed a day filled with entertainment, amusement rides and delicious kosher food. The Moveathon Festival's signature sporting events included the 5K and 10K Miracle Runs and 20K Eli Monson Simpson Family Ride. One of the highlights was the unique Sensitization Pavilion, designed to help kids better understand children who live with physical and developmental challenges in the community. On display were dozens of toys and games made specifically for children with special needs by students across the city as part of the Teaching Tolerance through Toys Program.

Two weeks later, more than 200 avid cyclists – the most in the Moveathon's history – took to the scenic Niagara Escarpment for the Zareinu Moveathon Ride for Kids with Special Needs.

After completing 50K, 100K or 162.5K events, they enjoyed post-ride massages and a celebratory finish-line BBQ.

The milestone 15th Annual Moveathon Festival will take place on Sunday, June 10th, 2012 and the ride on Sunday, June 24th, 2012 so be sure to save those dates!



LILY'S SUCCESS STORY

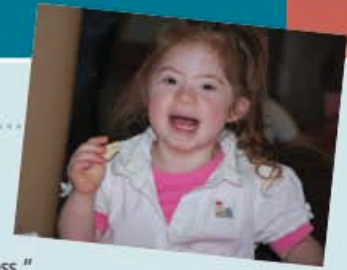
When Suzanne was five months pregnant, her unborn child was diagnosed with Down syndrome. Rather than worry what the future held in store, Suzanne and her husband looked for help. They found Zareinu, their home away from home.

Lily began the infant program at the age of four months and has been a student ever since. Today, this happy and charming four-year-old is thriving with the help of the various therapies. The caring and attentive staff and therapists have worked closely with Lily, teaching her to walk, talk and even ride a bicycle. Recently, she was toilet trained and learned to write her name – exciting achievements for any four-year-old but especially for Lily and her delighted Mom.

Suzanne attributes Lily's success and development to the early intervention she received.

"Lily began to walk at one-and-a-half," marvels Suzanne.

"We were told this milestone wouldn't be reached until she was three. We are thrilled and amazed by this success."



For Suzanne and her family, Zareinu is more than a school with a nurturing environment. It is also a place where Lily learns about her Jewish identity, and where Jewish holidays and customs are celebrated and observed. It's a place that is unique in its ability to combine Judaism with helping children with special needs.

"Zareinu has given Lily so much," says Suzanne. "She has received the therapy she needs and a wonderful Jewish experience. If Zareinu wasn't here, I have no idea where Lily would be today. I don't believe there is another place like Zareinu."

STUDENT VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



"Volunteering for Zareinu has taught me a lot about how important my role is in the Jewish community and how, even at a young age, I can make a difference."

There is nothing more selfless than giving of one's time. Diandra Budd, 18, learned this at an early age and became an active community volunteer despite a hectic schedule at CHAT Wallenberg Campus.

We caught up with Diandra just before she left for Queen's University, where she will study science. Here, she explains why she volunteers and how Zareinu has played a major role in her commitment to chesed and Tikkun Olam:

How did you get into volunteering? Throughout my years at USDS, my mother was the lunchtime program coordinator and volunteer coordinator. I saw her give so much of her time and it really made an impact on me. Today I do volunteer work three times a week including Hebrew school tutoring, involvement with special needs children, and phone canvassing. Shortly into high school, I found my community service niche. Completing the mandatory CHAT requirement for 18 hours of community service a year was no longer my goal. I made it a personal goal to complete 100 hours of volunteering a year. After receiving my first community service award, it was no longer enough doing 100 hours a year so I began doing more. It was practically contagious.

Why do you volunteer? I volunteer to make a difference in the world. As a kid, or teenager, it can seem impossible to be able to do something to change lives. By volunteering, I have proven otherwise. Every Sunday morning I play with my five-year-old friend who has autism. We have the greatest

time, and it is so rewarding to see her grow and learn. This has been one of my driving forces. Through my work with Zareinu and other areas of the Jewish community, I see how my efforts can make the biggest difference.

Why did you choose Zareinu? I have been inspired by Zareinu and how it changes children's lives. In grade nine, I got involved with the Zareinu Moveathon where I canvassed for participants and supporters. I helped to drop off tzedakah boxes and worked on the Fashion Shows. Throughout, people were so grateful to learn about Zareinu. The response in donations made me feel that canvassing for Zareinu was my niche. When I took part in my first Zareinu Moveathon family walk, I was taken aback by the way everyone came together to support this important organization. I knew this was something I wanted to be a part of.

How do you manage it all with such a busy schedule? Volunteering has become second nature to me, and I have scheduled my school work around my volunteering. I commit to my volunteering and have made it my goal to always find a way to follow through 110% despite a test the following day or my favourite television show at night. I feel great about helping others. I have made great friends and learned new things. I challenge all teenagers – and adults, too – to find a few minutes in their week to make a difference. I guarantee they will get so much out of the experience that they will naturally find a way to make it a habit.

You, too, can make a difference in a child's life. From the Fashion Show and the Moveathon to phone calls, pickups and tzedakah box drop-offs, there are many ways you can volunteer for Zareinu. Take up Diandra's Volunteer Challenge by calling Maureen at 416.661.1800 ext. 221.

KIDS HELPING KIDS THROUGH TZEDAKAH

In Judaism, the act of giving tzedakah is an important part of daily spiritual life. It is always meaningful to give and help others but especially heartwarming to see children giving, too, and helping other children in the process.

This past academic year, many Jewish schools in the Greater Toronto Area chose to support Zareinu by filling Zareinu tzedakah boxes or coming up with creative fundraising ideas. By year's end, the schools had collectively raised more than \$3,500! The money will be used to fund school field trips that enrich and enhance the learning experience of the students. Typical Zareinu trips include visits to bakeries, grocery stores and shopping malls to learn daily living and coping skills, trips to bowling alleys, the theatre and the zoo for fun, and apple farms and holiday-related venues to complement the classroom curriculum.

Holy Blossom Religious School chose to celebrate Zareinu's 20th anniversary. To launch the program, Zareinu staff members visited Holy Blossom to share with students the kinds of challenges facing children with special needs. Each week during the academic year,

A special thank you to all schools that participated in the Zareinu Tzedakah Program during the 2010/2011 school year. Among them: Beit Rayim Hebrew School, Beth Shalom Hebrew School, Bialik Hebrew Day School, Darchei Noam Hebrew School, Holy Blossom Religious School, and Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School.

Would you like your child's or grandchild's class or school to be involved in the Zareinu Tzedakah Program? Please contact Maureen at 416.661.1800 ext. 221 to arrange delivery of our tzedakah boxes.



students and parents dug into their pockets for loose change, and the senior school students happily handed over their weekly snack money sales. In June, Debbie Spiegel (see photo, left), the school's Director of Education, presented a \$1,500 cheque to Zareinu's Marlene Brickman on behalf of the enthusiastic students.

Making Miracles Happen



Change a child's life forever... Give to Zareinu To make a donation to Zareinu Educational Centre, please contact Marla at 416.661.1800 ext. 222 or donate online at www.zareinu.org

TICKETS GOING FAST FOR 8TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW



Attention fashionistas! The Zareinu Fashion Show is coming up soon and you're invited to attend!

The Zareinu Fashion Show is a professional and edgy show that raises close to \$300,000. It also exposes the Toronto community to the miracles happening at Zareinu every day. Every year, spectacular Canadian designers are showcased. In fact, this event has been touted by the media as the best


fashion show in Toronto outside of Toronto Fashion Week! But it's

Zareinu's children who are the stars of the show, with audiences cheering wildly when the beaming children proudly sashay down the runway – in wheelchairs, or skipping, hopping and dancing.

This year, at our new venue On the Park, fashion icon Jeanne Beker will emcee once again and Senator Linda Frum Sokolowski will return as Tribute Committee Chair. Please buy your tickets early as previous shows have sold out. You can also participate as a volunteer – you'll not only have some fun and meet great people but you'll also be doing a big mitzvah.

The Zareinu Fashion Show will take place on Wednesday, November 16th at On the Park. For tickets or to volunteer, contact Shawna at 416.661.1800 ext. 222.

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