

From the Society's Desk – November 2014

“Back to routine...”

After a difficult summer, and after the holidays - which I hope gave you the opportunity to take a break and enjoy some vacation time, it's back to the routine. Although the Society's committee members continued to work hard throughout this period, there is something about “after the holidays” that constitutes a starting point of sorts.

The academic year has only recently begun, so this is an appropriate opportunity to wish all the new and continuing occupational therapy students a successful and productive school year. May this year provide you with the tools - both theoretical and practical, which will enable you to become the best occupational therapists you can. Likewise, may the faculty members of our various academic institutions enjoy a year of interesting and meaningful accomplishments!

This is also an excellent opportunity to mention the International Occupational Therapy Day which was held on 27.10.14. The World Occupational Therapy Day was initiated by the WFOT organization to promote and celebrate the profession's development. This year the day was marked by “united in diversity”; highlighting our unique



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profession's special, wide-ranging, and creative responsiveness to the many different populations it serves. The various institutions across the country celebrated the day in many different ways, thus providing significant exposure of our profession both to multidisciplinary staff members as well as clients. Likewise, we were happy to publish the various ideas on the Society's website and on Facebook.

The annual seminar “*Presenting the Group: Group Interventions in Occupational Therapy in the Present Age*” and the Society's general meeting will be held at Ramat Ef'al on 22.12.14. This unique seminar will focus on expanding occupational therapists' theoretical and practical knowledge on everything related to group interventions. This is an opportunity to enjoy an enriching social and professional meeting between all those who work in

the area of group interventions and all those who want to learn and develop proficiency in this area. A broad array of staff members, led by **Vered Yaari**, worked very hard to organize this fascinating seminar. Participants in the organizing committee included **Efrat Ben-Naeh, Michal de la Vega, Yoav Lurie, Dr. Sharon Kirshner, Dr. Nava Keren** and **Adi Stern**. Of course, other committee members were involved in this enterprise as well. We were pleased by the diverse and fascinating range of abstracts submitted for presentations for this seminar, and we tried to provide as many presenters as possible with an opportunity to speak. It is inspiring to see all the progress being made in fieldwork and in research on the topic of group intervention. I invite all of you, from various areas of specialization, to attend and participate in this seminar. A full and detailed schedule was included in the IJOT Information Booklet sent out to all of you and is available on the Society's website and on Facebook.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to organize seminars for the occupational therapist community and planning activities in other directions as well. Concurrently, the preparations for the next conference (to be held in 2015), which will be held under the auspices of the Hebrew University School of Occupational Therapy in Jerusalem, are gaining momentum. The national ISOT conference is (tentatively) scheduled to be held on May 20-21,

2015 in Jerusalem, which we are certain will be a unique experience that will combine theoretical and practical information along with an enjoyable social gathering, all within the charming backdrop of the city of Jerusalem. I am sure that the combined efforts of **Prof. Shula Parush**, this year's Academic Chairperson, together with that of the faculty members of the OT school in Jerusalem in organizing this event will result in a fascinating, enjoyable and productive conference.

In conclusion, congratulations to **Mrs. Meital Korman** - the journal's Production Manager, on the birth of her daughter, and to **Ms. Shira Jaikin** on her marriage.

Yours,

Adi Stern

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