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RESIDENTS OF Nofei Yerushalayim with IDF soldiers. (Sigal Feldman)

■ WHEN RESIDENTS of a sheltered living environment want to manage their own lives, they are often a lot happier than residents of even the most luxurious of senior citizen facilities who have little or no say in the running of the establishment. That's what makes Nofei Yerushalayim in the capital's Bayit Vegan neighborhood relatively unique. A nonprofit housing facility for seniors, it is run by the residents, who are involved in formulating policy, making decisions about activities and whether to accept applications by would-be residents. They also have a general meeting once a year where the annual report of the previous year is approved and the management committee for the following year is elected.

The current outgoing committee, which included **Nurit Rubinoff** and **Max Kupstein**, decided that it is important to bridge the generation gap, and that this should be done with young men and women who are currently doing their mandatory army service. Accordingly,

**GRAPEVINE**  
• By **GREER FAY CASHMAN**

they got in touch with the IDF, and out of that contact was born a project that goes by the name of Joining Hands. The idea is to have meetings several times a year in which the seniors tell the soldiers stories about their lives, and the soldiers tell the seniors about themselves.

The army sent six members of the IDF entertainment troupe, who came with a repertoire of popular songs about Israel that were all familiar to the audience. This nostalgic gesture did not go unnoticed, and there was hardly a dry eye in the house. Aside from anything else, one of the benefits of living in Nofei Yerushalayim is that residents, assisted by house staff, can remodel their apartments to suit their individual needs and tastes.