

The Diplomatic Club

September 2016 | since 1998



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Dear friends,

Like every year in the diplomatic community, summer is the time of changes. So we are happy to welcome all new diplomatic staff to Israel. And to wish our regular members a fruitful year starting straight after the summer break.

This issue was composed close to the important Jewish holidays: Rosh ha Shana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. So, I am taking this opportunity to wish all of you good health and prosperity.

More than three thousand years ago the descendants of twelve tribes united under the leadership of Saul, David and Solomon, the first Kings of Israel. This people with their own unique religion were now also a nation with a Temple in Jerusalem.

We can study from this that being together is possible.

Let hope, that good willing can succeed.

Last August The Diplomatic Club celebrated its 18 year birthday.

As I look back, it is like a 18 year old infant, not a big, but not a baby. We have been over the same stages: difficulties of birth and painful exchanges of teeth, broken voice, problems of existents as personality.

Now we can say that we have studied a lot, and have done a lot and we definitely are adult enough to say: The Diplomatic Club in Israel proud about its activity.

Exactly here, in Israel, at the crossing of all religions, was born the idea to apply to people,

that the main task of diplomats is providing links between countries and peoples. Open mind and "togethering" - this is the philosophy of the Diplomatic Club since 1998.

As always, the Diplomatic Club is happy to help all of you with adjusting with life in Israel. Whether by sending you the Medical Directory, by opening channels to insurance deals or by offering you discounts in many shops, theatre and concert halls, air tickets and duty free boutiques, not to say anything about the phone deal the Diplomatic Club has secured for its members to shield them from the steep rise in the costs of international phone calls these last two years, the Diplomatic Club is here to help you.

We also will be glad to suggest the diplomatic community full Check Up in one of the leading hospitals for only 1800 NIS.

As the summer is now over, it is time to go back to work. And the Diplomatic Club will work harder than ever to bring its members new and improved services.

The Diplomatic Club and myself wish you a successful academic year.

Julia Verdel
General Manager
And the Editorial Team



The Diplomatic Club

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Ambassador Martin Weiss – Perspective on Austrian-Israeli Relations

by Eveline Erfolg

Since his posting in February this year, H.E. the Ambassador Martin Weiss has been actively guiding a variety of initiatives promoting the bilateral relationship between Austria and Israel, including the signing of a number of important agreements and the initiation of several exchange programs. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, he kindly agreed to share his opinions on their progress.

DC: Is this your first time in Israel?

MW: As a diplomat, yes, but I visited when I was posted as Ambassador in Cyprus in the 2000s, a friend of mine was Ambassador in Israel and I had the opportunity to visit. That is when I got the idea that it would be great to be posted here. For Austria, Israel is a particularly relevant and important country; we have our own mutual history.

It is the first time that I'm posted just with my wife, as my children are grown up and studying in universities now. It's a different feeling. Without the children we have more time for other things, on the other hand, without them we experience the country in

a different way. It's good that Israel is so close to Europe so they can come often to visit.

I like it here very much, the people are friendly, and I feel very welcome. The weather is great, and the location is great. I have already been to the Galilee, Eilat, Akko and Jerusalem; I try to venture out as much as possible.

DC: You mentioned our common history, which included the Austrian government support of Israeli interests in the 1967 war, as well as when the Jews left the Soviet Union and stayed in Austria for a period. What else?

MW: Yes, this is true. A lot of Soviet Jews went through Austria because at the time they had to leave the Soviet Union by train and Austria made it possible for them to transit. I think it was appreciated by all sides involved. Other than that, this year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations.

Basically, Austria regained its full independence after World War II in 1955, and a year later we established full diplomatic relations with Israel. So, we have a long tradition of diplomatic relations and very strong ties. Recently, we had several

high-ranking diplomats and politicians coming to Israel, and we have concluded a number of agreements, including one that, I think, is very important. It allows young Israelis to come to Austria to work without a lot of bureaucratic burdens, and the same goes for Austrians. It is called the 'holiday and work visa agreement.'

I think it will open a lot of doors, and provide easier access. Let's say you want to come and work in Austria for half a year, it can be done very easily, so we hope that many people will try it out. It establishes professional contacts and friendships, and many good things can come of this. I think it is very important.

DC: Couldn't this be opening the gate for a whole wave of immigrants from Israel coming to Austria to work?

MW: The agreement is that one can do it for a certain amount of time, 6 months. But I think that this can be a very important first step, because labor markets are very restricted in all countries, even within the European Union. And once you go abroad, things become complicated. We will be promoting this agreement later

this year, and I think it's great. I'll explain why.

Let's take me for example; I studied law in the United States. Once you have studied and lived somewhere for a while, naturally you know the country better and you become more interested. I follow events in the United States from wherever I live. And not only diplomatically, but also on a different level. I remember when I was studying in Virginia, there was an election

“For Austria, Israel is a particularly relevant and important country; we have our own mutual history.”

which is very important to me. I think that this agreement will bring a lot of benefits in the coming years.

term agreement, so I think it shows that our relationship is on a very strong foundation.

DC: What are the general prospects for mutual cooperation of Israel and Austria?

MW: Our trade relationship is constantly developing; it amounts to approximately half-a-billion Euros per year. Every year we have an increase in our trade figures. Last year it increased by 20% and the first



campaign between Bush senior and Dukakis, and I followed it very closely.

So you follow the politics of that country, you develop friendships, and it allows you to understand the country better. And this will be true in the relationship between Austria and Israel,

Recently, we also organized a student exchange program that brought young Austrians to Israel: they experienced the country, culture, business, they met the Prime Minister; it was a great week for them. Later this year we will do the same for a group of young Israelis in Austria. However, it is a long-

numbers for this year already show an increase of 5%.

We trade in foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, machinery, which are the big drivers in the numbers, and those categories go both ways. There is also a lot of expertise in different fields. Just the other day I was invited by the Mekorot water company

that is now building a new water pipeline from the coast to Jerusalem, and the tunnels are being built by an Austrian company, because we have a lot of experience in tunnel building due to our geography.

In addition, there is the mutual investment in start-up companies, as well as a lot of Austrian young entrepreneurs who want to come to Israel. We have an incubator that brought Austrian start-ups to Israel for a month to see how start-ups are treated here. And it was very successful, they were very happy, because they learned a lot, as Israelis have a lot of experience in this field.

Israelis are also experienced in the field of venture capital. Austrians, in a way, are very conservative in this regard, they are more traditional; it's a cultural thing to go on the safe side, and venture capital is something that is more risky. Israelis have a greater affinity for risk, and also there are many people in Israel who are very well educated and have a lot of exposure to American markets and thinking, so there's a lot Austrians can learn in that regard. It's a great driver in our relationship.

The same is true for tourism. Austria is a very popular tourist destination for Israelis; it has a lot to offer. We have winter vacations, with skiing, and Vienna is very nice in the summer as well. Austria really offers a lot of attractions. I looked up the figures the other day and the tourist numbers go up every year.

Austria is also very safe, there is a high quality lifestyle, there is culture, we have excellent food, and there is a well-developed

kosher infrastructure, which is, for example, much stronger than in Berlin. There are many kosher restaurants, kosher supermarkets etc.

DC: So there's a big Jewish community in Vienna?

“The name of the game in this day and age is integration. This is a challenge for all European countries.”

MW: The Jewish community is growing. Now it's about 15,000 people, who are located mostly in Vienna, but there are small Jewish communities in Graz and Salzburg.

DC: Is there an Austrian community in Israel?

MW: Of course, there are about 7500 and the number is growing. They come from all walks of life; there is a group of Holocaust survivors who are organized in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv; there are also Austrians who have made Aliyah, and many more.

DC: Is there a cultural exchange between our countries?

MW: Yes, it goes both ways, from the classic arts to television. We actually had our first Austrian Film Week at the Cinematheque this April. We wanted to do something for the anniversary year, and in addition to the screening of the films, Austrian directors came to Israel for workshops, and that was very successful. We also have a film agreement between Austria

and Israel, which is important, because it allows for an Austrian-Israeli co-production to be seen, under our guidelines, as an Austrian production that can receive the same funding as if it was just an Austrian production.

I recently attended the filming of a big Austrian-Israeli co-production with a six million Euro budget, which is not much by Hollywood standards, but is a large sum by European standards. It is a funny movie about an Austrian UN soldier Baumschlager, which is also the title of the film that should be released later this year.

It is an area where we can develop our cooperation and where Israel has a lot to offer, as it has a very strong tradition of filmmaking. Austria had also been very successful in this field; we won an Oscar in 2008; we've been nominated again. So, I think it is a very good field for cooperation.

DC: Indeed Austria is a country with a great cultural history and tradition, but also with a tradition of strong politics. Are there policies that Austria has enacted to combat xenophobia, racism, and terrorism?

MW: I think that the name of the game in this day and age is integration. This is a challenge for all European countries. I think we have done some good things, like language training, value classes, and assistance for immigrants. These are very important for us, because it means that we can help them. Last year we saw the greatest number of immigrants ever. For Austria to be successful, they have to be successful, and we have to give them the tools.

It is a big challenge, but also a big opportunity. We have to mobilize the resources, and we have to get it right. If you don't have the language skills you can't be successful in a country; if you don't have the education, you can never succeed. We have a tough economic environment, without the right education people will remain poor and dependant throughout their lives, with no chance for them or their children, so we, as a country, have an interest in making them into a success story, and that's what we are working hard to achieve.

We joined the European Union in 1995. Since then Austria has become a more diverse and more open society. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, with joining the EU and having our borders open, we have been thriving. Austria is a country with many borders and many neighbors,

and we need this exchange, this coming and going in every direction, it has been a tremendous development for us, as well as a wonderful input.

“The old theory was that 'you are rich when your neighbor is poor.' The opposite is true, 'you are rich when your neighbor is rich.'”

DC: What can you tell me about the Israeli - Arab - Austrian triangle in terms of diplomacy?

MW: As I said, we have very strong relations with Israel, for which I am very happy. I'm talking about politics, science, trade, academia, research, arts

and culture. We have strong relations in many fields, which is great. We also have strong relations with the Arab world; it is a tradition and something important, which we cherish. So it is a triangle where we have strong relations with Israel and strong relations with the Arab world, and I think this is good for everybody involved.

The old theory was that 'you are rich when your neighbor is poor.' The opposite is true, 'you are rich when your neighbor is rich.' We all want Switzerland as our neighbor: a stable, prosperous, and peaceful neighbor, because then we can profit, and it goes back and forth. It gives peace of mind, stability, it allows one to see opportunities and everybody wins.

For me, what I can do – and that's my job as Ambassador here – is to bring as many people from Austria to Israel as I can, because I think that it's important to have exposure to a country, its people, its culture, its geography. They say 80% of diplomacy is geography, and in a way it's true. Like I said, it's nice to wish for Switzerland as your neighbor, but you can't choose and pick your neighbors. You have who you have. That's why it is important for young people, and politicians, and business people to come here to appreciate the situation.



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from India, Chile, Myanmar, Estonia, and Lesotho

President Rivlin this July at his residence received the diplomatic credentials of new ambassadors to Israel from the India, Chile, Myanmar, Estonia, and Lesotho. Each ceremony began with the raising of the flag and the playing of the national anthem of the visiting country, included an honor guard, and - after the presentation of the credentials - the signing of the guest book, before the playing of Israel's national anthem 'Hatikva'.

First to present his credentials was Ambassador of India, H.E Mr. Pavan Kapoor. President Rivlin welcomed the Ambassador, his wife, and delegation and said, "The relationship between our two peoples and our two states is being spoken about all over, and the cooperation between



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from India

us is not only about innovation where we are trying our best to tackle problems in agriculture and water, energy, but also cyber and the need for security.

I know that we can expand this cooperation and your appointment is an opportunity to look at ways we can do so. I convey my best regards to the President and Prime Minister, and I hope that the Prime Minister will be able to visit Israel and that I will be able to visit India in the coming months."

Ambassador Kapoor thanked the President and said, "We are working to take our relationship further. We have received Israel's help in a number of areas including defense, agriculture and water where we suffer a lot - in our country we either have droughts or floods, and we have a lot we can learn from Israel." The Ambassador added, "We are looking forward to your visit and are working on dates for what I believe will be a landmark visit."



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from India



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from Chile

President Rivlin thanked him and concluded, "The Indian and Israeli peoples have a lot in common, we know how to respect tradition and to be ready to learn and bring innovation to our lives for the benefit of our peoples and the whole world."

Next the newly appointed Ambassador of Chile, H.E Mrs. Monica Jimenez De La Jara presented her credentials. The President welcomed her and showed her a picture of him as Speaker of the Knesset together with former President of the Chilean Senate and daughter of former Chilean president Isabel Allende taken at an international conference in Santiago. The President congratulated the Ambassador on her appointment and said, "I know that coming here from having served as Ambassador to the Vatican, you will feel at home in Jerusalem which is the center of the Holy Land. I welcome you also as a former education minister and we know that everything one can bring to our people begins with education. We are doing all

we can in Israel; while 90 years ago we had only one university, now we have more than 6 universities and many colleges that are giving the opportunity to every citizen of Israel to study. We believe that the future of all people is together with education." The President spoke of the relationship between the two governments and added,

"From time to time we have some differences of opinion but we know that the relationship between our two peoples and governments is strong. We can accept criticism - we do not accept boycott - but we can accept criticism."

The Ambassador of Chile thanked the President for his warm welcome and said, "I am honored to have come from the Holy See to the Holy Land. I greatly appreciate being in a country with so much university activity. We have visited the Weizmann Institute, and the Hebrew University and we have plans to visit many more. We would like to have an academic delegation from Chile to reinforce the academic and research relations."

She added, "I have worked all my life for peace. I know the situation in the Middle East is very difficult but Chile is ready with an open hand to do all it can to advance peace."



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from Chile



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from Estonia

Next, Ambassador of Myanmar, H.E Mr. Maung Maung Lynn arrived to present his credentials. The President welcomed him, his wife and delegation and said, "Mr. Ambassador, I remember as a student in High School when the Prime Minister of your country, U Nu, came to visit Israel, and then as a soldier

in the IDF I remember Israel's first Prime Minister Ben Gurion visited your country and brought back a great appreciation for your people and your culture. We are very proud of our connection and our relationship with your people. The Foreign Ministry started the idea of MASHAV in your country, the idea of



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from Estonia

connecting with other peoples through learning together and sharing our knowledge about water for example. We also know that many Jews found shelter in your country until the outbreak of war. I want to congratulate you on the recent democratic elections in your country, which make Myanmar stronger."

Ambassador Lynn thanked the President and noted, "It is a great pleasure to be here. I am here with my family and my daughter who will study here, and we have visited much of the country."

Next, Ambassador of Estonia, H.E Mr. Sulev Kannike presented his credentials. The President congratulated him on his appointment and said, "We appreciate the wonderful relationship between our states and governments, and we appreciate your support for Israel in the international arena on so many issues, as well as the participation of Estonia in peace keeping efforts in the region. We appreciate also the understanding of Estonia on Holocaust education in your schools and among your people. In the field of cyber we are working together, in order to keep safe people in the region, and across Europe and the world." The President added, "Please send my special wishes to your Foreign Minister who served as Ambassador of Estonia in Israel."

Ambassador Kannike thanked the President and said, "I am happy to convey the greetings of my President who visited Israel in 2012. Bilateral relations between Israel and Estonia are

almost without problems. We understand each other very well, and this is important for us. In July next year Estonia is taking over the Presidency of the European Union and I hope this will help us improve not only our bilateral relations but also our multilateral relations. I also express my appreciation for Israel's work in cyber security and startups – an area in which Estonia is also working hard."

Ambassador of Lesotho, H.E Mrs. Lineo Irene Molisa-Mabusela then presented her credentials as non-resident Ambassador to Israel. President Rivlin congratulated the Ambassador on her appointment and stressed, "The relationship between our two nations is very important to us and despite any crises, we have maintained uninterrupted relations." The President spoke of the important cooperation between the peoples in the fields of agriculture and water innovation, he said, "We would like to see more of your students come to study through MASHAV especially here in Israel." The President added, "Israel would be pleased to return to its observer status at the African Union."

Ambassador thanked the President and said "Allow me to pass the warmest wishes of His Majesty and the people of Lesotho. We are appreciative of the wonderful relations between our two countries, and we would like to work to open new channels of communication including in the fields of healthcare, agriculture, water and many others."



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from Myanmar



President Rivlin receives new ambassadors from Lesotho

Photo Credit: Mark Neiman / GPO



The Republic of Moldova at the 25th Anniversary of the Independence.



AMBASSADOR GABRIELA MORARU

The country is fully committed to structural reforms, European integration, attracting foreign investments, and ensuring a predictable and transparent decision-making process.

Today's Moldova has found its voice. The 2016 Priority Reform Action Roadmap, a set of key measures agreed between the Government and the EU institutions in March, had been fully implemented by the end of July, confirming once again how serious our commitment to European membership is.

The Moldovan government believes that European integration goes hand in hand with increasing the standard of living of Moldovans. In the last

couple of months, authorities cuts the prices for drugs, gas, and electricity, while increasing minimum wage and pensions. As the education and healthcare is considered national priorities, the Government allocates more money for doctors, nurses, and professors.

Concrete measures speak louder than anything else: a moratorium on controls of both big businesses and SMEs has entered into force, limiting temptations of abuse; the number of control institutions has been reduced to a fifth and a similar reduction applied to permits and authorizations; the reform of the fiscal administration and the custom office, which has already increased the state revenues by 18%, will continue; the new legislation regarding a privileged fiscal regime for the IT business parks attracts the attention of a international companies; the reform of the Fiscal Code, of the labour legislation and the education system is in the making. At a structural level, the Economic Council of the Prime Minister

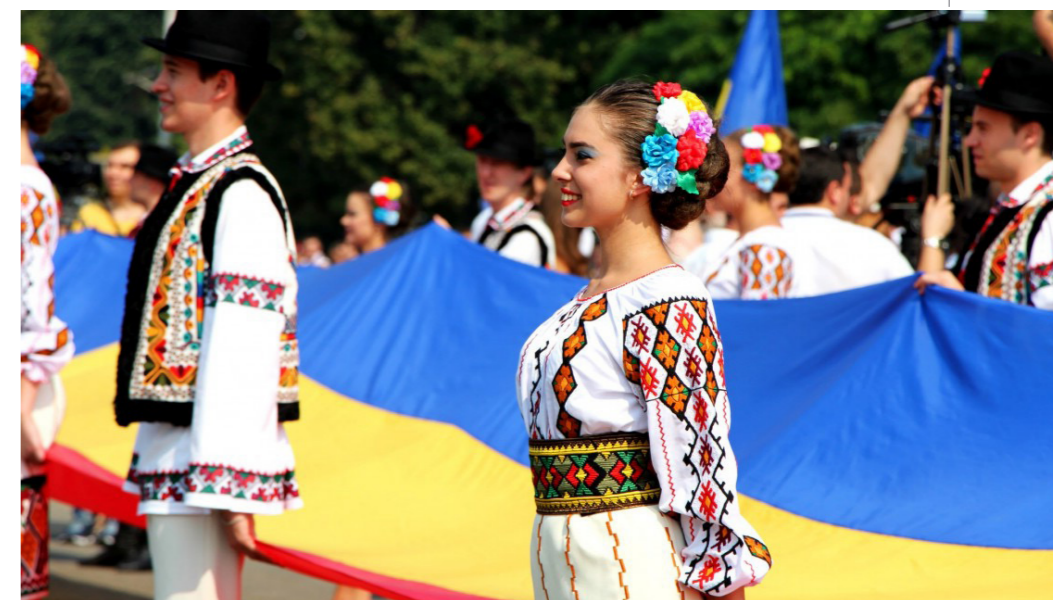
promotes substantial dialogue with the business environment, being a key mechanism meant to increase consultation with stakeholders.

The Government stands all the conditions for a stable and reform-oriented Moldova in the coming years. Moldova is ready and open for foreign investments. Given recent developments, Moldova should be on your investment radar!

On 27 August 2016, when the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of Moldova's Independence is marked, the most important events will be held on this occasion: a military parade and other festive actions on the Great National Assembly Square, laying flowers at the Grieving Mother monument and the one of Ruler Stefan cel Mare. Also, on 31 August, when the Language Day is marked, an International Book Saloon will be organized, and also festivities dedicated to the National Day of Traditional Costume will be held.

Anniversary post stamps will be

issued, a commemorative coin will be made, a documentary will be shot and the Encyclopedia of Moldova will be launched on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Moldova's Independence. About the importance of the 25th Anniversary of the proclamation of Moldova's Independence, about the current state of bilateral relations between the Republic of Moldova and the State of Israel, we will discuss, in the next edition, with H.E. Mrs. Gabriela Moraru,



Independt day of Ukraine



Israeli friends of Ukraine enthusiastically marked the Independence Day of Ukraine on August 22 in Tel Aviv's Park ha-Yarkon. More than two hundred Israelis, together with the Ambassador of Ukraine Gennady Nadolenko, gathered in a celebration, sponsored by the "Israel Supports Ukraine" group.

Egypt National Day celebrations

Israel's neighbor and first Arab partner for peace commemorated its National Day on July 2016. The Egyptian ambassador to Israel hosted a reception at his home on Thursday evening to mark the event and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin were invited to celebrate alongside the Egyptians.



Prime Minister Netanyahu and Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, Hazem Khairat

Israel business chamber upbeat on Philippine economy



17 August 2016 – On 16 August 2016, Philippine Ambassador to the State of Israel Neal Imperial met with the Board of Directors of the Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce, headed by its President, Mr. Dror Atari.

In his presentation, Ambassador Imperial discussed the investment and business opportunities awaiting Israeli businessmen, highlighting the phenomenal economic performance of the Philippine economy.

"For Israeli investors, the Philippines can serve as a gateway or a production base to the larger market of Southeast Asia," emphasized Ambassador Imperial.

The Ambassador also highlighted the Philippine Information Technology-Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry as a major component of Philippine growth, which generated more than US\$ 22 billion in value last year and employed almost 1.1 million people.

25 anniversary of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations

During the last twenty-five years Poland and Israel have co-operated to preserve the memory of nearly a millennium of cohabitation of Jews and Poles. We share a moral duty to spread the truth of the Holocaust and oppose attempts at denying or distorting it.

Poland was also one of the first countries that recognized the Israeli Declaration of Independence in May 1948 and established full diplomatic relations with the newly created State of Israel. Unfortunately, following the lead of other countries of the Soviet-controlled Eastern Bloc, it cut off the relations in 1967. Poland however was the first Warsaw Pact country to initiate contacts with Israel again in the mid-1980s. Full diplomatic relations were resumed in 1990. From this moment Poland co-operated with the Israeli Authorities to facilitate Jewish emigration from the former Soviet Union to Israel and was also active in revoking UN Resolution equating Zionism with Racism. Since the resumption of diplomatic relations, Poland has supported the participation of Israel in the MEPP and its relations with the EU and NATO.

The restoration of diplomatic relations has led to expanding political, military, economic and cultural cooperation between both countries as well as intensive people-to-people contacts. The political dialogue between both countries has been raised to the level of intergovernmental consultations under the leadership of prime ministers. After this fruitful quarter of century Poland and Israel express satisfaction over their friendly and fruitful relations. Both countries are committed to further strengthening their bilateral co-operation and to solidifying the unique ties between the two societies, based on the almost thousand-year-long relationship between Poland and the Jewish people and resulting from present-day common interest.



At first in Israel The Diplomatic Club In collaboration with IDF and organized a visit of group of diplomats to Tel Nof Air Force Base as one of the several events

"A Missing Link to Regional Stability"

Group of diplomats was welcoming by Maj.Gen.Amir Eshel and Tel Nof Air Force Base Commander ,Brigadier General Ori Seiffert . We visited the Search and Rescue Unit 669 ,F-15 Squadron and UAV Squadron. It was unforgettable "touching" to Israeli Air Force in persons.

Back ground: RAF Aqir, today Tel Nof Airbase, was established by the British in spring 1941 as part of their efforts to prevent the German army from conquering mandatory Palestine. During the War of Independence, IAF Headquarters decided to rename the base Ekron. Towards the end of the war it was decided to change the name again, to a Hebrew name.

The name chosen was Tel Nof, in memory of group of Polish Jews who planned for the construction of a town called Tel Nof, on the site of today's IAF base. The Tel Nof Air Base is located off Route 4, several miles southeast of Tel Aviv [in the Negev near Rehovot]. Three of the IDF's key air bases - Ramat David, Tel Nof and Nevatim - are all located close to the pre-1967 cease-fire lines, known as the "Green Line."



The 725th Anniversary of the Swiss Confederation at the Residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland

This year's celebration of Switzerland's National Day took place on Tuesday, August 2. Barbara Klossner, a prominent Swiss yodel singer and performer of traditional Swiss music, flew in from Switzerland only a few hours before the start of the event. She performed solo and together with the famous Israel Funk Band, "Shmemel", which continued the concert with their tunes until the late hours of the evening. Over 350 guests enjoyed an evening with Swiss and Israeli music, original Raclette, Swiss wine and interesting discussions. value last year and employed almost 1.1 million people.



ISRAELI SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH 3000 CLASSROOMS STILL MISSING FROM ARAB SCHOOLS

As K-12 students across Israel return to school, the Arab community is still short 3000 classrooms. An analysis of

the 2016 State Budget by the Mossawa Center shows that the steps that the Ministry of Education has taken are not adequate to address this shortfall. Recent statistics show 61 percent of Arab students ages three, four and five do not have access to the classrooms that they are promised by law.

In honor of the new school year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Education Minister Naftali Bennett delivered a speech to elementary school students in the Arab locality of Tamra, calling for Arab students to become "integrated and loyal citizens of Israel" and to strive for their ideal careers.

But while Arab students may share the Prime Minister's goals, a segregated education system and discriminatory budget allocations place them at a significant disadvantage when compared with Jewish students. In 2014, Israel had one of the largest achievement gaps among OECD countries. At present, only 23 percent of Arab citizens have a high school diploma, compared with 47 percent of Jewish citizens.

While a government resolution (No. 1560) passed on June 16th established "education among minorities" as a priority, it failed to allocate funding to support this agenda.

At a roundtable in Tamra on August 11th, Mossawa Center Director Jafar Farah pointed out that existing plans to build dozens of schools and early childcare centers cannot be implemented because the Israel Land Administration opposes the allocation of land for these schools. These schools would be located in Tayibe, Majd Al-Krum, Rahat, Jisr Al-Zarqa and Haifa.

Discrimination against the Arab citizens within the education system is also detrimental to Israel's GDP. Though they comprise 20 percent of the population in Israel, Arab citizens contribute only 8 percent to the country's GDP.

While the Arab education system is drastically underfunded, there is a surplus of qualified Arab teachers in Israel. A Ministry of Education initiative in 2014-15 increased the number of Arab teachers employed in Jewish schools from 420 to 588. Despite this, 40 percent of Arab teachers are still unemployed. If the classrooms missing from Arab schools were constructed, it would provide many of these qualified teachers with jobs.

Looking ahead, politicians and local leaders of the Arab community have declared their opposition to the 2017-18 Ministry of Education budget, on the grounds that it continues to ignore the needs of the Arab community.



SCIENTISTS FROM ISRAEL, IRAN AND PAKISTAN DEVELOP NEW PARTICLE ACCELERATOR IN THE MIDDLE EAS

ISRAELI SCIENTISTS ARE PARTICIPATING IN A \$100 MILLION PROJECT TO DEVELOP THE MIDDLE EAST'S NEW PARTICLE ACCELERATOR — THE SYNCHROTRON-LIGHT FOR EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OR SESAME WITH COLLEAGUES FROM PAKISTAN, IRAN, EGYPT AND JORDAN.

SESAME'S MEMBERS ARE IRAN, PAKISTAN, ISRAEL, TURKEY, CYPRUS, EGYPT, THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, JORDAN AND BAHRAIN — A GROUP AMONG WHICH DIPLOMATIC DISCOMFORT IS RIFE: IRAN AND PAKISTAN DON'T RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, FOR EXAMPLE, NOR DOES TURKEY RECOGNIZE CYPRUS.

PROGRESS ON THE ACCELERATOR IS MADE THROUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEETINGS, DISCUSSING TECHNICALITIES AND COMING TO AGREEMENTS, UNAFFECTED BY THE ENMITY THEY MAY FEEL OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE HALLS, THE REPORT SAID.

THE AIM OF SESAME IS TO "FOSTER SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCELLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" AND PREVENT OR REVERSE REGIONAL BRAIN DRAIN "BY ENABLING WORLD-CLASS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SUBJECTS RANGING FROM BIOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MEDICAL SCIENCES THROUGH BASIC PROPERTIES OF MATERIALS SCIENCE, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, AND LIFE SCIENCES," SESAME SAYS ON ITS WEBSITE.

IT ALSO AIMS TO BUILD "SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL BRIDGES AMONG DIVERSE SOCIETIES, AND CONTRIBUTE TO A CULTURE OF PEACE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE."



Treatment of Champions

Senior physiotherapist, Adam Badir, is responsible for the speedy rehabilitation of several elite athletes, including world and Olympic champions. At Assuta Reaction Physiotherapy Centre, Badir continues to assist athletes return to training after injury, in addition to working closely with orthopedic doctors in pre-operative physiotherapy and guides them through their rehabilitation.



When Alexander Shatilov, the Olympic gymnast, injured his knee in 2010, many were quick to "write off" his career. But there was one person who knew that there was not only hope that Alex would return to compete, but also to achieve, and even surpass his lofty goals. "We got to work, and over the course of a four month process,

Rotterdam", recalls Adam Badir, physiotherapist, who has since accompanied Alex to dozens more competitions. Today, Badir runs the Assuta Reaction Physiotherapy Centre. Shatilov isn't the only one who can thank Adam Badir for their speedy recovery after injury. Featuring in his 'rehab resume' is also the Russian high-jumper Andrey Silnov, who despite undergoing double ankle surgery, managed to win gold at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Also the well-known Israeli drummer Meir Yisrael, who performs with the legendary Shlomo Artsi, owes his return to the big stage to Badir. The iconic drummer fractured his wrist, and

I was able to rehabilitate Alex so that he finished fourth in the World Championships in

like Shatilov, many doubted his ability to return. Badir, who treats the Israeli Olympic delegation (including accompanying them to the recent Games in Rio), as well as numerous other professional and amateur sportspeople, is the heart and soul of the physiotherapy clinic at Assuta Ramat Ha'Chayal (Tel Aviv) – a well-designed, modern clinic equipped with the latest rehab equipment. The practice, which is located on level 8 of the hospital and which was recently renovated, consists of four private treatment rooms and an open space accommodating a further six beds. The practice is open six days a week, with friendly operating hours (details at the end of this article). Pain and the desire to return to activity is not foreign to Adam: Badir himself was badly injured in a motorcycle accident and underwent intense rehabilitation. "No one believed that I would get back on my feet, but I understood that there was hope and that helped me regain self-belief. From then on my mantra has always been that there is no such thing as 'impossible'".

Due to his personal experience, Badir understands all too well the needs of his patients – the unrelenting desire to return to function as quickly as possible. Therefore he works around the clock, treating patients from first thing in the morning until late into the night, including on Fridays and some festivals, and always makes himself available via telephone. At his request, his personal cellphone number is listed at the end of this article! Badir, a specialist in the treatment of sports and spinal injuries,

opens up his practice to those suffering sports injuries, to those about to undergo, or recovering from orthopedic surgeries, and those experiencing joint or spinal pain. In addition to traditional orthopedic physiotherapy, physiotherapists at Assuta

University, *Yariv Shapiro* has specialized in orthopedic and sports rehabilitation. In addition to his work at Assuta Reaction, Yariv works intensely with Israel's national Rugby Team, travelling with them abroad and treating them at home.

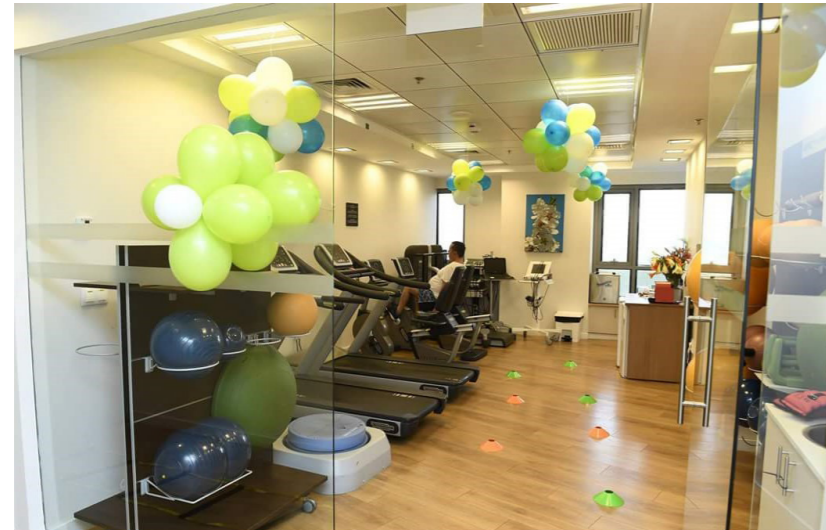
the field of play. Ilan currently works with Maccabi Tel Aviv Football Club in addition to his work at Assuta.

Eyal Gabay is the resident acupuncturist at the clinic. Eyal combines Traditional Chinese Medicine and Shiatsu massage to provide a comprehensive and complimentary treatment to clients. His many years of experience working with orthopedic injuries gives Eyal the edge that often means the difference between a full recovery rather than simply a reduction in symptoms.

Zvika Cohen specializes in Zen-Shiatsu massage therapy. He has over ten years of experience treating athletes and the general public—helping people overcome not just orthopedic injuries, but utilizing his shiatsu skills to assist oncological patients, those with fibromyalgia, those experiencing emotional stress, and issues related to pregnancy.

What is the benefit of pre-operative physiotherapy?

Badir: "Before undergoing surgery, we recommend physical preparation including



Reaction also specialize in treatment of vestibular disorders (such as vertigo), TMJ (jaw) pain, pelvic floor dysfunction and much, much more.

But a great clinic is built around a great team, not simply on one individual, and Adam has surrounded himself with some of the best in the business. Amongst the staff at Assuta Reaction is *David Borowski* – an Australian-born physiotherapist with a degree from Melbourne University. David has vast experience working sports teams including with Australian Rules Footballers, and currently accompanies the Israeli Gymnastics delegation to training camps and competitions abroad.

Since obtaining his physiotherapy degree at Tel Aviv

Assisting with rehabilitation of clients at Assuta Reaction, *Ilan Richardson* provides the crucial link between manual therapy and return to activity. Ilan, originally from Australia, holds a degree in Sports Science from Deakin University. Ilan integrates his knowledge of human movement, physiology and pathology to bring injured clients back onto



muscle strengthening and work to improve range of movement, as well as instruction for the post-operative phase. This preparation can ease the tension for the patient, by allowing them to know what to expect immediately following surgery. Sometimes the injured area can be very tender before the surgery – often there is swelling, muscle wasting, or restricted range of motion. Early physiotherapy intervention can ensure that the rehab process is quick and easy."

"We created a new kind of sports medicine center based around our values: that the patient feels that the clinic is their second home, that they're present as long as is necessary, and that they do the work that is necessary to recuperate AT the clinic. Our clients require a comprehensive rehabilitation experience, not just a surgery, or a quick treatment that gets them back home as fast as possible. There's a significant psychological factor in rehabilitation. Someone who undergoes complicated surgery, is undergoing a traumatic time in

their life. We have some patients who are with us for months, there are even some injuries that take a year, or even a year and a half from which to recover. We, as a staff, need to understand how to provide the treatment that returns people to full activity, but is also enveloping, to be with them, to provide a pleasant atmosphere, to encourage them ,to speak with and to listen to them. Sometimes a patient obtains encouragement from the fact that they engage with other



people experiencing similar injuries. That's also a form of support. We have patients who remain at the clinic for most hours of the day, for weeks and even months!"

What is unique about Assuta Reaction in terms of treatment and rehabilitation?

Badir: "We work in tandem with surgeons. The doctors' involvement in the rehab process following surgery is very high, and is not limited to simply a scheduled check-up. I, as a physiotherapist try and consult with the doctor as often as is required, and guide my patients to any necessary examinations or refer them to any required specialist doctors, if the need arises. I consult doctors if there's any deviation from outlined surgical protocols. It's vital to understand that an improper rehabilitation can undermine an otherwise successful surgery. My aim is to bring about the best outcomes in the shortest amount of time."

Assuta Reaction Physiotherapy Centre | Level 8, Ha'Barzel 20, Tel Aviv 03-7644830 | Adam Badir: 054-4928913

Schedule of fees
 Physiotherapy appointment 420NIS
 Package of 10 appointments 3,000NIS
 Package of 20 appointments 5,400NIS
 Personal training session 250NIS
 Massage/Acupuncture 300NIS



Lorenzo Villoresi – Master of Fragrances

by Eveline Erfolg

Thanks to his remarkable view of perfumery, as well as ingenuity and phenomenal skill, Lorenzo Villoresi long ago acquired a worldwide reputation, which in 2006 earned him one of the highest honors in the field of perfumery – the François Coty Award. Today, he is the most famous Italian perfumer, and he continues to surprise and delight the connoisseurs of the art of perfumery throughout the world.

DC: How did you become a perfumer? Is it something you always wanted to do?

LV: I never thought of becoming a perfumer. In fact, I would have maybe become some sort of academic researcher in the field of ancient cultures, as I studied Ancient and Biblical Philosophy. When I was a student in the University of Florence, I became curious about the trade routes of the merchants of the Renaissance period, and during the 1980s I traveled extensively. I've been to several North African countries, including Morocco, Egypt and even Sudan; I also traveled the Middle East, and, of course, Israel, where I learned some Hebrew.

I was fascinated by the world of aromas and flavours that I discovered in my trips, and I used to buy spices, oils and essences as gifts for my family and friends,

who liked my presents and encouraged me to dive deeper into this field. I started to collect and experiment with extracts of plants, and to make my own compositions. With time, it became necessary to further study the process of distillation and methods of creation. I used the spices I brought with me in the kitchen, and also made sachets for my friends and for my mother. I did not think it would be my work; I was doing it as a hobby.

And then, in 1989, a girl who worked for Fendi, showed my work to her management. They made an appointment and asked me to create a collection of perfumed items for the home. Before this, I had only created fragrances for my family and friends.

Back then, the purchasing offices of many large companies, not only Italian, were located in Florence. Occasionally, they were looking for high quality products and someone who could produce them. They started to contact me, and gradually I began to advise on perfumery. I also wrote several articles on the subject.

At some point I realized that I couldn't figure out what I was doing. For years I had been making all sorts of items and considered it a hobby. All my family and friends thought so as well, they were convinced that in the end, I would return to my academic career. But I preferred the world of fragrances.

I continued to create items for different firms. I made scented candles, room essences and potpourris; I also started to

create for myself. Soon, my wife Ludovica joined my work, and in 1991 we released our first fragrance "Uomo," which is my personal favorite. It was followed by "Donna," and other fragrances.

Today, we create not only perfumes and colognes, but also scented candles, soaps, bath oils and incense.

DC: How do you create your fragrances? Where do you find your sources of inspiration?

LV: It depends. I'm usually inspired by myths and legends of different cultures and ancient history, as well as by landscapes and exotic worlds of different countries, I appreciate multiculturalism.

There are ideas that I can develop for several years, sometimes they get stuck, but usually, it takes several months to a year to complete a new fragrance. For me, creating a new perfume is a kind of translation of my ideas and dreams into the real world. I can transform my vision into something tangible, like a painting, and convey the emotional dimension through the fragrance.

My own approach to perfumery is completely unbound – I am not creating in any specific style, and I do not wish to belong to any trend. The products that I make are not related to any trends, they are timeless, just like objects of art, because a perfumer, in his essence, is an artist who creates the images he envisions out of the scents. The emergence of the

idea, its realization, the creative process, and the display of emotion – it all can be embodied in a beautiful harmonious fragrance, just as in a musical composition, or in any other form of art.

The actual production is a manual process that combines the current technologies of aromatic art with the traditions of Florentine perfumery of the Renaissance period. This process requires time, patience and much attention to detail, in contrast to the commercial production of conventional mass perfumery. It is hard work to create a perfume, and I always try to keep the individuality of each ingredient in the composition.

DC: What ingredients do you like to work with?

LV: I like deep, strong extracts, which are called "absolutes." They are used in very small quantities. I love the aromas of different woods, spices and citrus plants.

I grew up in Tuscany. Our house stood in the middle of a garden, and I was surrounded by a wide variety of plants, vegetables, fruits and spices from childhood. I still remember the smell of fresh tomatoes, crushed laurel leaves, flowers... I conducted my first distillation experiments with household plants and flowers from the garden.

Today, I use ingredients of the highest quality. For example, essential oils, such as ylang-ylang, which gives the perfume its longevity; or such as real musk, or rare iris root, there are so many interesting aromas. I collect them

while traveling. I brought a lot of spices from the Middle East and Africa, where I was also inspired to use black pepper in my fragrances. This is how I made "Piper Nigrum," a combination of black pepper and nutmeg, among other ingredients.

DC: Speaking about your creations, today, the Yaffa Ross Sea & Sun store is launching your latest. Please tell us more about it.



"Kamasurabhi" launching event at the Yaffa Ross – Sea & Sun, Israel.
From left to right: H.E. the Ambassador Francesco M. Talò, Ludovica Passi, Yaffa Ross, Ornella Talo and Lorenzo Villoresi.

It is called "Kamasurabhi," which in Sanskrit means "Perfume of pleasure and joy." I tried to paint a picture of India with this fragrance, a blend of deep and bright colors and scents.

The composition opens with exotic flowers, sambac jasmine, rose and orange blossom. And of course Sandalwood, the ultimate Indian scent. And then it slowly envelops, and reveals notes of tuberose, ylang ylang and narcissus, followed by notes of patchouli, leather and amber. All accompanied by the gentle sandalwood, like the aroma in an

Indian shrine, a scent of something sacred and mysterious.

DC: Your creations include personalized fragrances as well. A myriad of prominent figures and celebrities enjoys their own tailor-made perfume created by you. How does that work?

LV: First, you have to understand that when I create a perfume for someone, I act as a kind of mediator between that person and the aromatic world. I make the fragrance, but, in a certain sense, it is actually the client who creates it, with my knowledge and ability.

This process begins with a conversation. I ask the client a lot of different questions, such as what are his favorite scents, what are his food preferences, which scents he remembers. I also ask about his childhood and the associations he links with a particular scent.

I do this in order to determine the ingredients for the perfume, and the most important thing is the harmony between them. It usually takes me a few hours to materialize the fragrance envisioned by the client.

It is a very interesting and rewarding process; these clients are frequently artistic souls, sensitive to the world of smells, and fascinated with the idea that their thoughts and emotions can be translated into scents, I just help them to do that. We keep the formula, and can recreate it again, in various forms, even after many years.

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TO CLEAN THE SEA OF GALILEE (KINNERET)

Australian ambassador in Israel, Dave Sharma, Embassy staff and their families, KKL-JNF volunteers, about 150 Australians youngsters and Kinneret Authority advocacy teams - mobilized to clean the Kinneret Municipal Association ("Igud Arim") Zinbari beach. The event took place in the framework of the international clean-up day that KKL-JNF has been leading for the last 16 years.

The participants made sure to separate garbage in order

to recycle into friendly bags (Brown paper for garbage, Blue for plastic garbage, green for organic garbage, white for general garbage). It is important to note that the cleaning teams had been surprised to find fairly clean beaches.

At the end of the activities, the Australian ambassador in Israel, Dave Sharma, said: "the international clean-up day initiative, which started initially in Australia, has become an international tradition, I am proud for that. each and every one of us needs to treat the environment the same as one does its own home. Our home, is not the street or city in which we live, but planet Earth, the responsibility is international, crossing borders and countries, only together in cooperation, can we protect our planet. 100 years ago Australian soldiers fought right here against the Ottoman empire to liberate the country, and now, Australian youngsters are here to safekeep

and preserve it."

The clean-up activities mark the opening of Australia week in Israel (OZRAELI) which celebrates the diplomatic-cultural-social cooperation between the two States, and continue in a line-up of events during the week.



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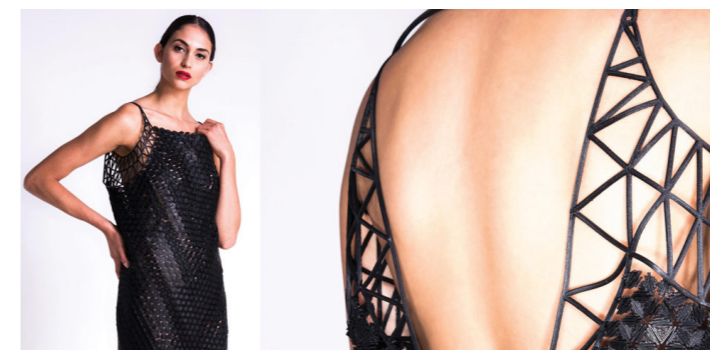
Downloadable, printable clothing may be coming to a closet near you. What started as designer Danit Peleg's fashion school project turned into a collection of 3D-printed designs that have the strength and flexibility for everyday wear. "Fashion is a very physical thing," she says. "I wonder what our world will look like when our clothes will be digital."



"My goal was to create a ready-to-wear collection printed entirely at home using printers that anyone can get," said Peleg. Inspired by Eugène Delacroix's painting, "Liberty Leading the People", Peleg wanted to challenge herself in creating a collection that could be manufactured entirely on home-scale 3D printers.

To complete the project, she used Witbox

3D printers as well as a 3D rendering software called "Blender". She also received advice from leading 3D printing experts at TechFactoryPlus and XLN, located in Israel. She experimented with a number of different printing materials until she pinpointed FilaFlex as the most precise and flexible material that could be made to look like fabric.



According to Peleg, the five outfits she 3D printed for her project are just the beginning of a much larger conceptual change in the world of fashion – in which everyone is their very own in-house designer. "Just imagine the potential...If you're cold, print your own jacket. Traveling with no luggage? Just print your clothes in the hotel room. Will we soon be able to design, share and print our own clothes directly from home?"

Jerusalem March October 20, 2016

The Jerusalem March takes place during Sukkot each year. The march runs from three starting points to the Sacher Park and attracts participants from around the world who make this a very interesting event. Following this, there are family events and activities in the Sacher Park. The 2016 Jerusalem March takes place October 20. This is the 61st year of the march. There is a small participation fee for taking place in the full march, although the ceremonial march taking place in Sacher Park in the afternoon is free for all.



The most popular Jerusalem March, the family march, runs from Safra Square in the heart of downtown Jerusalem to the Sacher Park. Other marches run from Mount Scopus, and from Ramot. The ceremonial march includes up to 10,000 participants from around the world and takes place in the afternoon at 3pm in Sacher Park – this is free for all.

Sukkot Dance Festival October 8-10, 2016

The Sukkot Dance Festival at Adama in Mitzpe Ramon, in the heart of the Negev Desert will be a fascinating and special event. Taking place over Sukkot between October 8-10, the Dance Festival features evening performances including international acts from Poland and Hungary, followed by quiet dance parties into the night, whilst the days feature workshops, classes and masterclasses.



Akko Festival. October 17-20, 2016

The Akko Festival takes place every year in Akko on Israel's Northern Coastline. The Fringe Theater Festival takes place among the Crusader ruins and beachfront promenades of the Old City of Akko for four days during the Jewish festival of Sukkot and features tens of special performances of original, avant-garde fringe theater from Israel and around the world by some 500 artists with over 60 shows including special premieres, guest performances, street theater and outdoor events. This year at its 37th edition, the festival features theater premieres, street theater, parades, interactive theatre, dance performances, video and musical performances, a craft fair and panels socio-cultural projects and much more. In 2016, the festival will take place between October 17 and October 20, 2016. Ticket price varies from NIS 20 to NIS 75.



Haifa International Film Festival October 15-24, 2016

The Haifa International Film Festival was the first international film festival in Israel and still takes place every year in the city of Haifa. Ever since the first event in 1983, the Haifa Film Festival has grown in size dramatically and shows an interesting mix of films both from Israel and around the world. The 2016 Haifa International Film Festival will take place between October 15 to October 24 and will include a huge number of premiers, 280 film screenings, and involve over 300,000 people in the activities which include outdoor events, screenings, and workshops.



The Film Festival, which has been held since 1983, is internationally renowned as one of the 50 most important film festivals held around the world and promotes topics of pluralism, co-existence and the aspiration to peace. The Festival hold two prestigious, award bearing competitions each year ("The Golden Anchor" and "The Directors of Tomorrow") and Israeli cinematographic competitions in four categories: Feature Films, Documentary Films, Dramas and Television and Short Films. The Festival encourages the making of original, quality local cinematography and attracts talent, both new and old, from all walks of cinema: Producers, directors, script writers, actors etc. Participated in the past are talents as: William Dafoe, Harvey Keitel, Brenda Beltin, Klaus Maria Branduaer, Sophie Marceau, Joseph Feins, Paul Jameti, Eliot Gould and many other fine personalities have attended the Festival).

Israel in the FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifications

Israel national soccer team will play two qualification matches for the FIFA World Cup that will take place in 2018 in Russia. The qualification matches are taking place in September and October 2016. Israel will play in the "UEFA Group G", along with other five countries: Spain, Italy, Albania, Macedonia, and Liechtenstein. The competitors for the Israel national team will be Italy and Liechtenstein.

Please find more information and tickets below:

September 5, 2016: Israel VS Italy, Sammy Ofer Stadium in Haifa
October 9, 2016: Israel VS Liechtenstein, Itztadion Teddy in Jerusalem



**FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018**

Tamar Festival. October 17-20, 2016

The Tamar Festival is an annual festival held near the Dead Sea in Israel during the Sukkot holiday. This five day Tamar Festival is one of Israel's largest music festivals, featuring some of Israel's greatest musicians as well as music from around the world all in a unique and powerful setting in Israel's Negev Desert. The 2016 Tamar Festival will run between October 17-20 and will feature the likes of Ester Rada, Marina Maximilian, Kutiman with Princess Shaw, Dudu Tasa, Balkan Beatbox, Barry Sakharof, Mosh Ben Ari, Omer Adam, Lucille Crew, Avraham Tal,

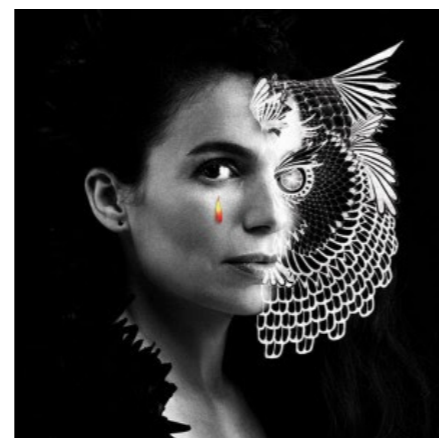


Armin van Buuren in Jerusalem, Israel. September 29, 2016

Legendary DJ, Armin van Buuren will perform in Israel in September 2016 in Jerusalem. Armin Van Buuren was ranked as the number one DJ in the world every year between 2007 and 2010, again in 2012. Aside from his big hit tracks, he is known for his weekly radio show which has 20 million weekly listeners from around the world. Armin van Buuren will perform at Jerusalem Pais Arena on September 29, 2016. Tickets information will be published soon.

Yael Naim in Tel Aviv, Israel. September 27, 2016

French-Israeli singer Yael Naim will perform in Tel Aviv, Israel in September. The Indie-Folk singer and song writer has become widely famous after Apple used her song "New Soul" for the launch of its MacBook Air. She sings in English, French and Hebrew and amongst her hits we find "Toxic" (cover of Britney Spears' famous song) and "Walk Walk". Yael Naim will perform at the Performing Arts Center in Tel Aviv, on September 27, 2016. Ticket information will be updated shortly.



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