



Weekly Bulletin

# The Jerusalem Rotary Club

Club # 13459, District 2490

25 February 2015

## Club Officers

### President:

P/ Nezar Tannous

### Secretary:

R/ David Lilienthal

### Treasurer:

P/P Sandi Darmon

### Immediate Past President:

P/P Sandi Darmon

### President Elect 2015-16:

R/ Yaron Amitai

### Board Members:

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P/P Ruth Harris

P/P Shlomo Khayat

R/ Mike Rand

P/P David Seligman

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PDG Irene Lewitt (ex officio)



## This Week's Programme

### Mr. Guy Michael Alan Ratney, U.S. Consul General: "Jerusalem between East and West"



**U.S. Consul General Michael Alan Ratney** arrived in Jerusalem on July 29, 2012, the 50<sup>th</sup> American diplomat to lead this mission since the United States established a permanent diplomatic presence here in 1857.

Before assuming his duties in Jerusalem, Consul General Ratney was Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Media and, prior to that, spokesman for the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

Since joining the Foreign Service in 1990, Michael has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Doha, Qatar, as well as tours in Mexico City, Baghdad, Beirut, Casablanca, Bridgetown, and Washington, DC.

He earned a BS from Boston University, and an MA from the George Washington University. Michael Ratney is married to Karen Sasahara, also a Foreign Service Officer, and now posted at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, Yemen. Their home is Massachusetts.



**Dinner meeting at the Jerusalem YMCA, Wednesday, 25 February at 19:00 ♣**



## Upcoming Programme

### 4 March:

Visit of DG Mali Levi: "The State of Israel Rotary Today and Tomorrow" (tentative)

### 11 March:

Pending

## Future Events

### 16-18 April:

Annual outing to Peniel-by-Galilee. For more information see page 4

### 7-10 May:

55th annual District convention of near Iraklio, Crete

### 6-9 June:

Rotary International Annual Convention, Sao Paulo, Brazil



## From the Editor

### A night to remember!

This week we are honoured to have the US Consul General in Jerusalem as our speaker. In this monthly dinner meeting we will induct two new members, Sari Taha and Elias Messinas. Let us all attend and welcome them to the club!

There will be good wine on the tables: for the occasion we chose Or HaGanuz red, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz, from their Idra and Yanai vineyards (see inset).

Shlomo Khayat has joined the enlarged Bulletin staff as a weekly contributor to the International Toast column.

See you all on Wednesday evening!!

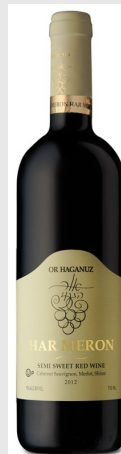
Yaron A. ♣

### Or HaGanuz

Founded in 2005 in the Upper Galilee village of Or HaGanuz, the winery lies about six kilometers north west of Safed and at the foothills of Mt. Meron. An interesting story behind the founding of the winery, as the community is one of ultra orthodox Jews, the name of the winery and village is taken from the kabbalah – Or HaGanuz, meaning "Hidden Light," referring to what many consider to be the first act of creation.

The winery is currently producing 140,000 bottles annually with the intention of bringing the American Orthodox crowd into the world of wine. The winery is also a "service winery", allowing other winemakers to use their facilities to make wine under their own labels.

Israel Wines ([www.israelwines.co.il](http://www.israelwines.co.il)) ♣



## International Toast

### Cairo Sunrise

During the last week of February we commemorate two events in Egypt-Israel relations. On 24 February 1949 the two countries signed an armistice agreement in Hotel des Roses in Rhodes and on 27 February 1980, they exchanged ambassadors for the first time.

Since the peace agreement signed with Egypt the bilateral relations, although "cold," still stands fast in all the turmoil of the Middle East. Bilateral relations on the security level are in fact strengthening to combat similar threats to both countries.

International Rotary's Director Jim Davidson was sent from the USA to tour the Middle East to create new Rotary Clubs in the region. He flew from Greece to Egypt for a brief visit to Cairo where on 29 December, 1928, the Cairo Club was inaugurated. For this special occasion the members had the novel idea to charter a Nile steamer. On the morning of the 11 March, 1929, the Rotarians and their guests embarked on the boat and steamed sedately up the river.

Luncheon was served and this was followed by

the presentation of the Charter and Flag, possibly the first and only time this has been done on a boat. Some time after tea, the party returned to Cairo and so the Cairo Club was launched.

These boats, which I remember well, the

"dahabayah," are common in Cairo as floating restaurants, cafés and are also used for banquets and other festivities.

A few months later the Jerusalem Rotary Club was chartered on 11 March 1929, sponsored by the Cairo Club who presented us with the beautiful bell that we use to this day.

Cairo has 10 Rotary clubs. The English speaking **Cairo Sunrise RC**, chartered in 1998, meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. but on the last Wednesday of the month they have a spouses' night. If you can, come to the vintage Conrad Hotel in central Cairo and meet President Magueb Zikri and the members!

Shlomo K. & Wikipedia ♣





## Club Projects

### Gala Dinner at Gan Shalom

Dear Parents,

Well... it's been a while.

Some of you are in the preschool this current year, some of you are out of the country, but hopefully – wherever you are, you're happy to hear from us. We're happy to be writing to you!

The preschool is humming with children's sounds throughout the day, busily active in its 34<sup>th</sup> year already!

This year we have 7 classes for children aged 8 months to 5 years, providing excellent bi-lingual, multicultural education to 106 children.

As you know, we operate in a constantly changing environment, both politically and economically. However, our goal is to provide the best care and education to whoever chooses to join us is our way and the vision of the JIY. As part of that effort we also give out scholarships each year, and this is where this amazing Gala Dinner becomes relevant.

As you may remember, we made a very special friend 2 years ago – Raef Guirges, the Egyptian marathon runner, running for world peace and the love of God. Raef connected to the children in a most beautiful way, and comes back to visit us each year, running the full marathon with the flag that he and the children designed together, bearing the preschool's logo throughout the city.

This year, Raef has kindly accepted our idea of telling his life story, how he came to run over 100 marathons with no previous experience, carrying his mission through 5 continents. He'll be joined by the London based chef Nissim Daud, who is creating for us a gourmet vegetarian meal of 5 courses. There'll be good wine, and it will all be conducted by the well-known "Vinum Regnum" knight and international wine judge, Andre Suidan.

We'd love to see you among our guests! We also ask for your help in spreading the word about this event. It could be a great idea for a gift for someone special, or a chance to meet up with parents from a few years back.

Either way, it promises to be an unforgettable evening – make sure you don't miss it!

Tickets are available with me – mail back or (cell) phone me. Can't wait to see you!

When and where? Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm at the JIY. Tickets are reasonably priced at 200 NIS.

Do feel free to end this out to your mailing list, post it on fb and spread the word in any way. It's all for the common good cause of the peace preschool.

We thank you sincerely.

Yours,

*Yours, Alexandra and the preschool staff*

**Alexandra Klein-Franke**

**Director of the Erna and Henry Leir Peace  
Prschool, YMCA**

אלכסנדרה קליין-פרנק  
מנהלת גני השלום ע"ש ארנה והנרי ליר, ימקא  
אלכסנדרה קלאין- פרנק  
مديرة روضات السلام على اسم إيرنا وهنري لير  
جمعية الشبان المسيحية



### Gan Shalom and the JRC

Gan Shalom, the Peace Nursery School, and the Jerusalem Rotary Club have been connected for many years as they share the same principles of tolerance, friendship and creating bridges.

On the rooftop of the Y, above the nursery school, there is a play area with a safety floor and modern equipment for the benefit of the children that was the outcome of a joint project with our club and American Rotarians. We have also maintained our contact with contributions to the school's scholarship fund. Long may it flourish.

David S. ♣





## Peniel-by-Galilee

### Peniel No. 6

Already a year on and we will soon again enjoy the glories of the Kinneret, the Golan and the warm and friendly atmosphere of the stunning view of the water and the hills from the marvelous terrace at Peniel.

This year we plan to visit the central Golan to see the vistas from the extinct volcanoes of Har Avital and Har Bental, as well as the interesting sites of Ya'ar Odem, Birket Ram and Gonen. Naturally there will be swimming, the bibulous cocktails before dinner, wine with dinner and fun and games later. More to follow.

David S. ♣



## Happy Hour

### Signs that talk



Sent in by Carry P. ♣



## Jerusalem Rotary Club

Meeting at the YMCA, 26 King David St, Jerusalem Wednesdays at 13:00, last Wednesday of each month at 19:00. Meetings are conducted in English. Visiting Rotarians and other guests are welcome.

Luncheon/Dinner cost: NIS 65, students and lone

soldiers: NIS 50. For Kosher meals please book in advance. For this and other enquiries please e-mail club secretary David Lilienthal: [rawdav@gmail.com](mailto:rawdav@gmail.com).

Visit our website:

[www.JerusalemRotaryClub.org](http://www.JerusalemRotaryClub.org)

