



Weekly Bulletin of  
**The Jerusalem Rotary Club**  
Club # 13459, District 2490  
29 March 2017



### *Club Officers*

#### **President:**

P/ Dan Shanit

#### **Secretary:**

PDG Irène Lewitt

#### **Executive Secretary:**

David Seligman

#### **Treasurer:**

R/ Robert S. Hammer

#### **Immediate Past**

#### **President:**

P/P Yaron Amitai

#### **President Elect**

David Lilienthal

#### **Board Members:**

P/P Ruth Harris

P/P Shlomo Khayat

P/P David Seligman

P/P Kern Wisman

R/ Art Braunstein

R/ Tony Kolankiewicz

R/ Perry Roded

### *Upcoming Programs*

#### **05 April—Lunch**

Rotary Club—Bombay Queen City

**"India on the march with**

**Mumbai Rotary"**

#### **12 April—Passover**

**No Meeting**



Suggestions for speakers or subjects for a talk or discussion are welcome.

Please write to the Chair of the Program Committee, Art Braunstein, via the Contact Form on our website.

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



### *This Week's Program*

## **Dr. Jon Seligman—Archeologist**

**Director of the Excavations,  
Surveys and Research Department  
The Israel Antiquities Authority  
Jerusalem**

### **"Excavation in Lithuania"**

### **"The Great Synagogue of Vilna & the Ponar Escape Tunnel"**



Dr. John Seligman is the Director of the Excavations, Surveys and Research Department of the Israel Antiquities Authority. Previous positions include twelve years as the Jerusalem Regional Archaeologist and six as a research archaeologist. Dr. Seligman studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and University College London, receiving his doctorate (summa-cum-laude) from Haifa University on the subject of the 'Rural Hinterland of Jerusalem during the Byzantine

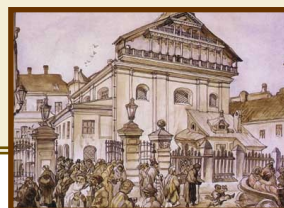
period'. Jon has directed some thirty excavations in Jerusalem, Bet Shean, in the Carmel Mountains and recently to uncover the remains of the Great Synagogue of Vilna (Lithuania) and has published widely, including three books (on the Temple Mount, the Holy Sepulcher and the Roman farm at Nahal Haggit), and numerous chapters and articles in books, journals and other publications. He also participated in the planning team for the Master Plan for the city and Old City of Jerusalem.

The title of this week's talk is correct but lacks all the real excitement of the topic. Prior to WW2 Lithuania had a large Jewish population and Vilna was referred to as "Jerusalem of the North." The Great Synagogue was a magnificent building that was destroyed by the Nazis and obliterated by the Soviets. It was the synagogue of the revered rabbi, the Vilna Gaon, and was part of a major compound of shtetlach (small gathering place for prayer and study), kollels (study yeshiva for married men), mikvas (ritual bath house), kosher butcheries and more. Except for one corner of the synagogue no major archaeological dig has taken place to date.

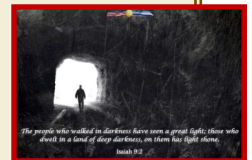
Ponar was a notorious forest where thousands of Jews and others were murdered and buried in mass graves. Towards the end of the war the Germans tried to hide the extent of their heinous crimes by getting surviving men from the ghetto and the concentration camps to dig up the bodies from the pits and to burn them. The Burning Brigade, as they were called, knew that as soon as their grisly task was over, they too would be killed. They hatched a plan and dug a tunnel to escape. Over the years the story of the tunnel was told but nobody knew where it was.

Massive excavations at both sites is currently not possible. Dr. Jon Seligman, after a roots trip to Lithuania, organized a team from the Israel Antiquities Authority, archaeologists from Vilnius University and American Universities where there were experts in ground penetrating radar. What emerged was an incredible story that illuminates aspects of the Holocaust, archaeology, modern technology, Jewish life in Lithuania and the desperation for human survival.

**All told an amazing story.**



Watercolor by J.Kamarauskas





*From your Editor*

Dear Friends,

I received this from Kern Wisman. I am sure we are all sorry to see him and his lovely wife Barbara leave us, but am just as sure that we all wish them both much success in their new adventure in Colombia, Missouri.

"Dear Editor,

For a while it has seemed like, to paraphrase Mark Twain, that "The report of my departure has been grossly exaggerated".

Well, actually, as it turns out, it hasn't been. Though some unexplained speculation did precede the fact by some time, the rumor is now becoming a reality.

Having reached an age where retirement is a possibility and with family needs at home in the States, Barbara and I have come to a point where we will be ending the services we have performed and which brought us to Israel and to Jerusalem.

We will be leaving our beloved Jerusalem and our 20 years of service in the Holy Land the end of June, this year.

It has been a pleasure to serve the club, get to know its members, and to share in the projects that we have embarked upon together for our international and local communities.

We hold you very dear in our hearts!

We most likely will look into applying for Rotary membership in Columbia, Missouri, where our son lives and where we will go to live to be near him.

Best regards and hopes for a successful future,

P/P Kern and Barbara Wisman"

Next week, the 5th of April, P/P Ralph Jhirad and 12 members of the Bombay Queen City Rotary Club of Mumbai, India will be visiting us, and will be having lunch with us. It promises to be an interesting lunch!

If you wish to read about India Jews, here are some internet links which might be of interest to you:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Jews\\_in\\_Mumbai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Mumbai)

Beth Hatefutsot, website being built and partially working:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Jews\\_in\\_Mumbai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Mumbai)

Jews in Mumbai:

<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/india/articles/jews-in-mumbai-their-home-away-from-the-homeland/>

I am sure this week's lecture will be fascinating! I hope to see you all.

I wish you all a very good week till the next Bulletin !

Rosa



# **2017 ESHKOL DATES**

## **31 March**

District meeting on Ethics  
(See above on right hand side)

## **25 April**

Paul Harris Awards to Israeli Personalities

## **11/13 May**

District Convention  
(Ma'aleh Ha-Hamisha)

## **10-14 June, Atlanta USA**

RI World Convention

## **29 June**

Governors Changeover





## The Spring Solstice and the Bright Side of Life



Tomorrow Friday, we are moving to daylight saving time in Israel, and with it the light in our lives grows and my optimism rekindles. Tomorrow, my father will undergo an operation to place a valve in his heart, to help regulate his blood flow, and to boost his good health. At 82, he is fit, active, his mind clear and his memory working, with a loving partner—my mum—by his side.

Agreeing to have a valve placed to regulate his heart's blood flow is a statement. In a sense, he is saying yes to life and to what life has to offer him. He has dreams to buy a sailing boat with a friend, something he always yearned and sail in the Greek sea that he so much loves and feels nurtured by. In short, at 82 he still sticks to his dream, and pursues his passion.

And this time marks a new start for my mother as well. She too is opening a new page; by learning the new digital technologies that she shunned away from. Today, she was proud of sending me by email her first photograph, shot with her brand new smart phone. Hurray!

By acquiring the digital skills of Facebook, email, and smart phone technology, she is affirming her willingness to be part of and co-create the present day culture.

And for their life-affirming attitude, I am proud of my folks.

I pause to wonder: Does the light grow within me too? Am I life-affirming and out there looking to expand and grow as they do? Do I also ride the wave of renewal and rebirth that my folks are so actively pursuing? Am I willing to risk the comfort zone of the known to pursue my passion? And what is my passion?

When I was a child I dreamt of a writing career which I partly materialized when I worked as the Senior Writer and Managing Editor of the Yad Vashem magazine. But there came a time I felt I wanted to write about what I wanted, cared deeply, and moved me to my gut.

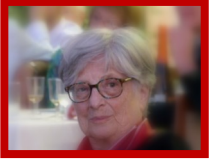
I guess that now that my Jerusalem Post blog is a reality, I have sort of actualized the dream of writing for writing's sake. Last week, I ordered my new pair of reading glasses from my trusted optician, optic Sabanin the German Colony. I got myself a purple-colored frame, elegantly designed, which I found made me feel good and look at my best. I hated to admit that my eyesight has yet again deteriorated, but hand in hand with this physical deterioration, I truly sense that now I see better than ever before!

I now clearly see when women and men are exploited and put down; when they are belittled when they ask for more! And I see that life is collectively pushing us to own our power, to dare to pursue our respective passions and dreams. I see that humanity is at a turning point, being asked to dare be all of who we are and contribute our respective talents towards the good of all.

With this acquired inner seeing that comes with age, I sense that life is always asking us to grow, move on, and expand. I hear the call, calling us to pursue vitality and fulfillment. And I too, agree it is never too late to learn, never too late to grow, and never too late to pursue our loves and dreams; especially now, at this season that the light is on the rise.







*From our Secretary*

### **RI Staff from the Europe/Africa Office supports Dutch polio fundraiser**

**(written by staff member Peter Schnell)**



The End Polio Now Tulips are part of a special polio fundraiser organized by the seven Dutch Rotary districts. The tulips are red and yellow—the colors of our End Polio Now campaign—and they are sold as “tulip bulbs” in colorful boxes. The bulbs need to be planted in the fall and the flowers will come out and blossom in the spring of the next year.

In Switzerland, one box contains 25 bulbs and costs approximately US \$30,-, two thirds of which goes to PoloPlus. The other third pays for the actual costs of the bulbs, packing and transport.

The original Dutch campaign is in its third year and for the first time, the tulip bulbs have also been offered on sale in Switzerland by PDG Urs Herzog, the Swiss PolioPlus National Advocacy Advisor. When the boxes were offered to RI staff at the Europe/Africa Office, people showed keen interest to support this campaign and 21 staff members bought a total of 32 boxes.

The attached picture show PolioPlus National Advocacy Advisor Urs Herzog handing over the boxes to staff at EAO.





## International Toast

From Guido de Werd

### On the Rotary Club of Paris, France

<http://www.rotaryparis.org/>



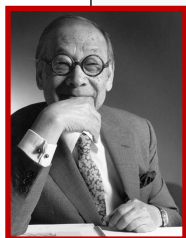
Twenty eight years ago, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 1989, French President Francois Mitterrand opened the Pyramid in the Court of the Louvre Museum in Paris,

designed by the famous Chinese-American architect Ieoh Ming Pei. Today the Paris Pyramid, based on the model of the Pyramid of Gizeh in Egypt belongs to the 20 landmarks of Architecture in the world. Mitterrand's idea was, two hundred years after the French Revolution, to make the Louvre one of the most important museums of the world. The Pyramid,



accompanied by three smaller pyramids to give daylight to the three entrances to the wings of the museum, is the visible symbol of the underground entrance of the museum,

necessary to receive the millions of visitors. Mitterrand personally commissioned Pei to design the new entrance, as one of his Grand Projects. In 1989, at it's opening, the new Pyramid was much discussed and the opinion, that such a modern building destroys the historical quality of the buildings of the Louvre, was widely accepted.



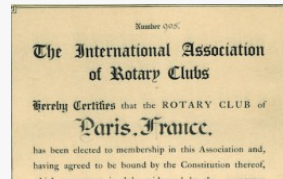
**Ieoh Ming Pei** was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 1917 in Kanton, today Guanzhou, today the third city of China. At the age of seventeen, just after World War II, he travelled to the US. He studied at Harvard. After his studies, he started his own office in 1955 and soon became world famous. In 1983 he got the

Pritzker Prize, the Nobel Prize for Architecture.

Pei has also some projects in Israel. In the early 1960s Pei designed Kyriat Wolfson, a complex of apartment buildings, overlooking the Valley of the Cross. He was hired to convince the Jerusalem planning committee to agree to the "taller-than-normal" construction. In 1967 Pei submitted his design, which called for three towers of 29 stories each.

The local planning committee permits for towers of 16 stories. Pei refused to downsize the towers. **During 2004/2009 Pei designed the First International Bank Tower, a 32-story skyscraper on Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv, Israel.**

At the moment, Pei, who will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in some weeks, is planning a new tower in the Etz Haim complex on Jaffa Road at the corner of Etz Haim Street.



The oldest Rotary Club of France is the RC Paris, founded in 1921, just after World War I. In 1922 the Club already had 22 members.

Today, this flourishing club has 250 members. The Club chartered about 20 Rotary Clubs. Already in 1929 there existed a contact to Cairo, Egypt to charter the local club. Forbidden by the Germans during World War II, the club was founded again in 1945. In 1998 the club accepted the first woman as member, eleven years later, in 2009, for the first time a woman became president of the club.

The members meet every Wednesday 12.30 pm at the **Le Meurice**, 228 Rue de Rivoli, Paris 75001, just near the Tuileries and the Louvre.



The Club has many international activities; they support the Foundation "End Polio Now", the club organizes every year the "Course Cheer Up" against cancer and it also supports young students from all over the world who come to study in Paris.



Bazar in Paris, RC Paris



Guest of the RC Paris, with



RC Paris helps the youth





From ELIAS MESSINAS

## Jerusalem When Ecumenical Cooperation and Peace Take Off

On Tuesday March 22, Jerusalem celebrated the inauguration of the restored aedicule that adorns the tomb believed to be of Jesus Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Jaffa gate was full of black limousines, police and security. The market crowds were not shopping and bargaining, but standing and photographing the colorful processions walking down the market steps on their way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was built in the fourth century by Constantine the Great in what is today the Christian quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. The Church complex originally consisted of an enormous basilica, a courtyard, and the rotunda, built around the tomb. The Church was heavily damaged in 1009 by the [Fatimid conquerors](#). It was reconstructed by the Byzantines in 1048, and later in the mid-twelfth and sixteenth centuries.

The aedicule was built over the tomb in the nineteenth century after an earlier structure was damaged from the collapse of the rotunda roof. In the 1940s the aedicule was braced with iron girders due to subsequent deterioration. The team of the National Technical University of Athens, headed by Prof. Antonia Moropoulou, that restored the aedicule, removed the iron scaffolding, and strengthened and cleaned the structure from foundation to roof.

I arrived to the Old City at 9:30. It was unusual for me to walk the Old City market empty of people, as I joined a procession of Armenian dignitaries – our paths met at the entrance to the market out of pure coincidence – allowing me to join the festive entourage indulging myself in feeling like a VIP for a moment in the city.

The front plaza of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was buzzing with visitors and the ringing of bells. I entered the Church. The Rotunda was already full of dignitaries and clergy. The usual crowds of pilgrims were replaced by press photographers and amateurs with smartphones, men in festive religious costumes and designer suits. I could hear Greek, Arabic, Italian, Armenian, English, and other languages around me. I raised my eyes to the restored aedicule, shining under the rotunda dome skylight. There was no doubt that this was a special occasion! The excitement escalated as the Greek Patriarch Theophilos and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos of Constantinople entered the Church, accompanied by the Greek Prime Minister Kostas Tsipras, and as the ceremony started with the choirs filling the space with music.

The Greek Orthodox Church, although historically the primary patron of the site, shares the Church in a very complex Status Quo, with the Latin and Armenian Churches. The tension among them is legendary! One has to look over the main gate of the church to see a ladder that has been

kept in place since 1853.

The \$3.5 million restoration, covered by international donations, including donations from the World Monuments Fund and King Abdullah of Jordan, not only strengthened the aedicule, but also the cooperation of the three rivaling patrons of the church. Cooperation started in the 1960s over needed restoration projects, some completed and others under way. The restoration of the aedicule, is an additional manifestation of the benefits of cooperation between them.

For cooperation to emerge, time is a key factor. According to Robert Axelrod a professor at University of Michigan and author of 'The Evolution of Cooperation' the logic is simple: If two egoists play a game once, both are tempted to choose defection – to bit their opponent and take a bigger share. But, if the game is played an indefinite number of times, and the players cannot be sure when the last interaction between them will take place (so that one can defect), both players have an interest in reciprocity, to earn them maximum points. This indefinite number of interactions is a condition for cooperation to emerge. This seems to be the secret discovered by the three religions sharing the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Axelrod called it 'TIT FOR TAT': each player emulates the previous player's move: if one defects, one wins the other loses. If one reciprocates, then the other imitates and cooperation unfolds in perpetuity enabling both players to accumulate maximum points and benefits.

What theory could be more appropriate in an ancient site in an eternal city? At their speech, the leaders of the three churches acknowledged the benefits of this cooperation. The Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos, for example, said that the model of cooperation among the three Christian faiths 'offers future generations hope and spiritual leadership' sending out a global message of 'ecumenical significance for the entire human family, as the restoration is not only a gift to our city but to the whole world'. The Armenian Patriarch Nourhan Manougian spoke about a 'manhood of love, based on the teaching of Jesus' while the Latin Apostolic Administrator Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa spoke about the 'common aspirations of the three Churches realizing that the new model of relationship is good for us' and that 'we will continue jointly to improve our relationships'.

With such an important ecumenical message of cooperation coming out from the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the religious communities now need to find how to emanate and amplify this message, from the Holy City to the world. If three rival communities can cooperate and benefit, it is possible for cooperation to thrive in Jerusalem. Hope for peace and coexistence in the Middle East is regained, which can serve as a model for cooperation and peace in the world.

**Church of the Holy Sepulcher  
The restored aedicule**



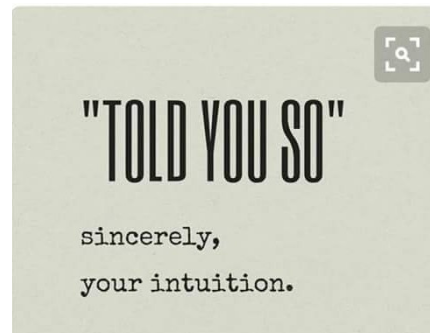


**BREAKING NEWS FROM  
DAVID LILIENTHAL !!!!!**

**What do we learn from  
cows, buffaloes, Elephants?**



**It is just impossible to  
reduce weight by eating grass  
and salads and walking**



**CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS QUOTE ?!?!**

In an article about Donald Trump, the author wrote about him as being “a special case – a semantic and factual shape shifter who seemingly channels former US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan’s quip:

*‘I know you think you understand what you thought I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant’.*”

Elliot Jagger, Jerusalem Report, 09.01.2017

**Jerusalem Rotary Club**

Weekly Lunch Meetings are at the YMCA,  
26 King David St, Jerusalem Wednesdays at 13:00.  
The last Wednesday of each month is a dinner  
meeting at 19:00.

Meetings are conducted in English.

Visiting Rotarians and other guests are welcome.

Luncheon/Dinner costs: NIS 75, students and lone  
soldiers: NIS 50, children under 18: NIS 30.

For Kosher meals please book in advance.

For this and other enquiries please contact us  
through the Contact section on the website.

Please visit our website:

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

