

Weekly Bulletin of

# The Jerusalem Rotary Club

Club # 13459, District 2490

23 March 2016

## Club Officers

### President:

P/ Yaron Amitai

### Secretary:

R/ David Lilienthal

### Treasurer:

P/P Eli Kenner

### Immediate Past President:

P/P Nezar Tannous

### President Elect 2016-17:

R/ Dan Shanit

### Board Members:

R/ Art Braunstein

R/ Geert Cohen Stuart

P/P Sandi Darmon

P/P Ruth Harris

P/P David Seligman

R/ Dan Shanit

R/ Nuha Tannous

R/Guido de Werd

P/P Kern Wisman

PDG Irene Lewitt, ex-officio

## Upcoming Programme

### 30 March Dinner Meeting:

Prof. Menahem Blondheim  
Director, The Truman  
Peace Institute, Jerusalem

**"Promoting Peace During  
Middle East Implosion"**

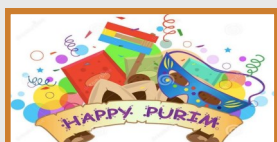
### 6 April Meeting:

Prof. Maurice Romani, Interdisciplinary Dept. Ben  
Gurion University

**"Libyan Jewry-The Fate  
of a Minority"**

### 14-16 April Outing:

Peniel-by-Galilee. Register  
with David S.



## This Week's Programme

**R/ Michael Mertes**

**Political Analyst**

**"Will the refugee crisis tear Europe apart?"**

**Michael Mertes** is a German freelance writer and political analyst for Dimap, one of Germany's leading public opinion research institutes. He is about to publish a book on the German-Uruguayan poet Carl Wilhelm Diehl (1824-1885).

His publications in 2015 included the essay *"Uneasy Neighbours. The EU and Israel – A Paradoxical Relationship"* (/KAS International Reports/, April 2015) and the essay *"Too Big for Europe, Too Small for the World? The German Question Reconsidered"* (The Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs/, Vol. 9 / Number 3 2015/5776).

Michael was a political adviser to Chancellor Helmut Kohl from 1987–98. He then worked as a journalist from 1998–2006 and represented the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in the Federal (Berlin) and European (Brussels) institutions from 2006–10. From 2011–14, he headed the Israel Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Michael has been a member of the Rotary Club Bonn Sud – Bad Godesberg since 2001 and takes pride in having been a member of the Jerusalem Rotary Club from 2011–14. He is also a member of



Rotary's Germany-Israel Country Committee for his Home District 1810.

**Lunch meeting, on  
Wednesday 23 March  
at 13:00 (1pm), Jerusalem YMCA**



## You've Got Mail

Dear Yaron,

I am very pleased our fellow Rotarians and guests enjoyed their visit to Cyprus and were left with positive feelings.

It has been a real pleasure meeting you all and please convey my warmest greetings to everyone.

Special greetings to Abby!

Best Regards,

Litsa Aresti

Deputy District Governor 4290



Dear fellow President Yaron

Hope that my message finds you and Abby well. I want to thank all the officials, members and guests of your group and also Sami Abu Janeb from the Embassy of Israel, for the great fellowship night we had last night.

I also want to personally thank you for giving us the opportunity to meet and interact with our fellow Rotarians from the State of Israel. It is in our hands to seize the momentum and start something together. Let me take this opportunity to wish you as the President and to all the Members of Jerusalem Rotary Club, **happy Charter Day!**

Yours in Rotary

Christos Tsirides

President 2015-16

Rotary Club of Kyrenia



Dear Yaron,

Congratulations on a most successful Rotary project!

There has never been any Rotary tour quite like this one. I've been a member of the Jerusalem Club for almost 50 years and can confirm that neither our Club (nor any other Israeli Rotary Club) can look back on such a successful Rotary tour outside Israel!

The programme was excellent, the meetings with Cyprus Clubs most interesting and productive, especially the one in Nicosia and the itinerary, transport and hotels were very well planned. Above all, your personal input and involvement

were מעל ומעבר! As you know, Pamela and I had visited Cyprus many times in the past but most of what you showed us this time was new or vastly changed.

From a sunny, resort island Cyprus has become a busy meeting point in the Middle East for East, West, North and South and we were glad to hear from the Israel Embassy representative that ties with Israel are excellent.

The itinerary was well thought out and the logistics functioned like clockwork. Together with Abby you succeeded in creating a wonderful spirit of camaraderie and true Rotary fellowship.

We look forward to the next expedition!

Werner and Pamela Loyal



Dear Yaron,

What an excellent review! I congratulate you on your excellent work and thank you for your endeavor. It took a lot of effort to organise things the way you did and I'm very glad it all went so well.

I look forward to seeing you during your next visit to Larnaca and I will work together with our incoming president to organise a possible visit to Jerusalem next year.

Yours in Rotary,

Tigran Kalaydjian

President 2015-16

Rotary Club of Larnaca



Dear Yaron,

It was also pleasure for us to welcome you in our Island, let's keep in touch and when next in Cyprus please give me a call.

B. R. Regards

Louis Loizou

President, Rotary Club of Limassol

Year 2015/2016

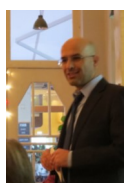


Glad it was a successful visit. I had the pleasure and honor to be in your company. Please contact us any further help is needed.

Sami Abu Janeb

Deputy Head of Mission

Embassy of Israel, Nicosia





Dear Yaron and Avigayil

I would like to thank you for the week during which we learned a lot, met the nice people of your and other clubs as well as Rotarians from Cyprus with whom we can keep contacts.

Thanks and yishar kokhachem!

Zwy and Zvia Fuhrer

Haifa Rotary Club



Kol Hakvod Yaron. Pity I could not be with you.

P/P Laura Netzer

District Secretary 4290



What a pleasure!

Hemda Ordeman-Kolton

Manager

Issta Raanana & Kiryat Hasharon-Netanya

Dear Yaron

Congratulations! I am glad everything worked out well. I apologise I did not manage to come and see you over the weekend due to some family commitments.

PS: You looked good in your carnival costume but your wife looked way better ☺ ☺ ☺

Elena Varnava Varka

Kypros Tours Ltd.

Limassol, Cyprus



Hi Yaron,

Great to have JRC over. Missed you on the last day of the carnival. Sirpa and I were checking the parade. This is our photo from Carnival night.

Regards,

Roy Rissanen



## International Toast

### Rotary Club of Madrid

On 23 March 1766, the “Hat Revolt “ or “Esquilache Riots”, named after Minister Esquilache, occurred in Madrid .

King Charles III attempts to modernize led to discontent because of the rising costs of staples and to measures affecting Spaniards' apparel. Wearing long capes and broad-brimmed hats was forbidden, replacing these with French-style short capes and three-cornered hats. This intended to modernize conservative society and improve safety. Long capes could conceal weapons, while large hats hid a person's face, a boon for criminals.

The uprising escalated but the palace was defended. The King, while accepting the demands of the rioters, feared for his safety and he and his ministers left for the summer residence at Aranjuez. The 30,000 rioters, fearing that the King would send troops to crush the revolt, protested and sent the bishop to the King with their demands. The king again accepted but remained in Aranjuez, leaving the government to his ministers.

Today we toast the **Rotary Club of Madrid**, founded in 1920, the oldest club in Europe. After the difficult period of Franco's Junta, the club was reinstated in 1977.

It supports “Polio Plus” but its main activity is the distribution of meals to the needy. Since 1998 420,000 meals costing €500,000 have been distributed. The club meets on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. at the Hotel Palaca, Plaza de las Cortes, in central Madrid.



- Guido de W. ♣





Cyprus 2016

## Musings after Cyprus

What began as a brainstorming session some months ago blossomed into a reality beyond the original rough idea. As part of our events and outings we would plan a trip abroad, to Cyprus. A guided tour that would take us to see as much of the island as possible in a week on both sides of the island, Greek Cypriot and Turkish.

Our President, Yaron, had written a guide book to Cyprus and he planned a route, organized the logistics and announced the tour. The numbers started rolling in and soon we had 22 from our club, members, spouses and friends and 13 from other clubs around the country. A full week with a full fellowship complement.

We were welcomed at the airport by Deputy District Governor **Lisa Aresti** and President of the Kyrenia RC, **Christos Tsirides**. We hit the ground running and after being dropped off at the hotel in **Larnaca** we headed to the old **St. Lazarus Church**. Lazarus, who was raised from the dead by Jesus, became the first bishop of Cyprus and then died again 30 years later. A beautiful church that over the



centuries went through several transformations as different powers took control of the island. Then on to the first of several delightful restaurants in the old Turkish Quarter where we were joined by members of the two Rotary Clubs of Larnaca, including **Presidents Tigran Kaylajian** of the Larnaca RC and **Andri XXX-Charalambous** of the Larnaca-Kition RC.

The next day we were joined by our charming and knowledgeable Greek Cypriot guide, Antonia, who kept us informed for the

remainder of the week. We explored the Southeast corner of the island as we passed through the British Territorial base of **Dekelia** where the "Illegal Immigrants" (ma'apilim) camps were located. We watched from afar the occupied Greek town of **Varosha**, now ghostlike and empty.

Crossing over the *Green Line (sic)* to Turkish occupied Famagusta took us to the famous Crusader Cathedral that is an impressive replica of Notre Dame in Paris and to Othello's Tower, just to help us with the sense of unreality. On to Salamis with its Roman remains and well preserved theatre.

The day in divided Nicosia just gave us a taste of its richness and interest. At this point the party was joined by PRID Gidi Peiper and his wife Chen. The Old City, surrounded by the imposing Venetian fortifications, is full of gems from the different religions and historical periods. Particularly striking were the Crusader Cathedral that is now a mosque, the caravanserai and the surprising Bauhaus buildings that were designed by the same 'yekke' architects who worked in Tel Aviv.

The Fellowship Evening was a Rotary highlight, hosted by the Kyrenia RC that is now based in Nicosia. All our participating clubs (**Jerusalem, Jerusalem West, Haifa, Carmel, Tel Aviv, Ramla, Ramat Hasharon** and **Verkorotary** of Finland (!) – remember



our old friend and member Roy Rissanen and his wife Sirpa) ex-

changed flags with the six Nicosia clubs. After a welcoming address by Christos, who had welcomed us at the airport, Gidi spoke on Rotary fellowship and looked forward to future cooperation and ties with the Cypriot clubs. David S. presented a brief profile and the activities of the Jerusalem RC and the evening continued with folk dances, music, wine and mezes. A very tired party on the coach back to Larnaca.





## Cyprus 2016 (Cont.)

Halfway through the week and we made our way to the western part of the island as we changed our base to Limassol. The leafy and much cooler **Troodos Mountains** with its beautiful old villages like **Kakopetria**, **Pedoulas** and **Omodos**, the typical British 'Hill-Station' of **Platres** and the Byzantine church of **St. Nicholas of the Roof**.

The area also produces the sweet **Commanderia wine** that Richard the Lion Heart described as, "The wine for Kings and the King of wines!"

There was no escaping the incredible Crusader period with its penchant for castles and forts as we climbed the stairs at the watch tower at **Ko-lossi** and gazed at spectacular ancient **Kourion**.



Our imagination let us see Aphrodite rising from the blue sea at "**Petra tou Romiou**" as we stood on the pebbly beach looking at the famous rocks.

On to **Pafos**, its impressive Roman mosaics and lovely fishing harbor. In less romantic mode we learned about **General Grivas** at the site where he landed in a failed attempt to impose **enosis** (union) with Greece.

All touring and no rest makes for an exhausted group. On the morning of the fun **Limassol Carnival** we had a chance to rest and for those so inclined, to swim. The **carnival parade** was mind boggling in the number of floats, the thousands of participants, the riot



of colour and costume and loud, loud music. Districts, clubs and community organisations from all over Cyprus participated as they sang and threw handfuls of confetti over the watching crowd. For us the evening concluded with a **Carnival Party** hosted by the Limassol RC where we too finally dressed up in costumes that ranged from the silly to the amusing.

The last day took us all the way to the Turkish occupied North. After crossing the steep mountain range, **Kyrenia** spread out before us, clearly a beautiful town. The **Crusader Castle of St. Hilarion**, built on the mountain crags, overlooks the town and gives panoramic views in all directions. On another hill the magnificent Gothic **Bellapais Abbey** with its impressive ruins and views. Just outside the town we saw the site of the Turkish invasion and finally we down to the lovely **old port of Kyrenia**, where we sat and enjoyed our last meal in Cyprus. Back on the bus to Larnaca airport, farewell to Antonia, and our flight home.

This was a fascinating tour and we all learnt a lot about nearby neighbouring Cyprus that has so much of interest that we were unaware of. The Green Line and its divide provided a number of parallels with our own situation and how powerful is the narrative that each side espouses. However, we all came away feeling that it was a worthwhile enjoyable week. Hopefully the new links with our Cypriot Rotarian friends will continue with joint activities, projects and fellowship. Our thanks to Yaron for all the time and effort he spent in organizing the visit and to all who helped give us this wonderful experience.

Our thanks to Yaron for all the effort in organizing the visit and to all who helped give us this wonderful experience.

- David S. ♣







# Happy Carnival

## Limassol 2016



### 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)

Follow the Jerusalem Rotary Club on social media: (Press 'Control' and click on icon to go to site)

