



Weekly Bulletin of

# The Jerusalem Rotary Club

Club # 13459, District 2490

3 December 2014

## 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:**

R/ Yaron Amitai

P/P Ruth Harris

P/P Shlomo Khayat

R/ Mike Rand

P/P David Seligman

R/ Nuha Tannous

P/P Kern Wisman

PDG Irene Lewitt (ex officio)

## Upcoming Programme

**December 10:**

Annual bazaar, YMCA.  
Doors open at 10:00

**December 17:**

David Lawrence, author of historical novels: "Prelude to Sovereignty – The Jewish Brigade"

## Future Events

**January 30-31:**

Annual Rotary Paul Harris Peace Forest event in Birya and District outing to the Galilee

**April 28-30:**

Annual outing to Peniel-by-Galilee. Three days of fraternizing, touring and swimming. Mark it in your calendars!



## This Week's Programme

### R/Lenny Wolf, Archeologist & Antiquities Dealer: "The So-Called Afghan Genizah"

**Lenny Wolfe** made aliyah from Scotland in 1972 and has lived in Israel ever since, most of the time in Jerusalem. He served in Nahal in the regular army and the Hermon unit in the reserves.



Lenny studied archeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and chose antiquity dealership as a lifetime career. From his Musrara lair he deals in antiquities specializing in inscriptions and iconography relating to the three monotheistic religions. He holds an annual Burns' supper at his home, this year being the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual, Judaeo-Caledonian, Politically Correct, First Degree Burns' Supper.

Lenny is married with one wife and three children.

On this Wednesday, he will talk on the 'So-Called Afghan Geniza', a trove of mediaeval Jewish documents purportedly from Afghanistan written in Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Judaeo-Arabic and Judaeo-Persian. Of singular academic interest, it is possible the third most important find of such material after the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Cairo Geniza (or genizah). Lenny recently managed to acquire part of the Afghan Geniza for the National Library in Jerusalem.



*Lunch meeting at the Jerusalem YMCA, Wednesday, 3 December at 13:00 ♣*





## New Members

### From Lorelei to Jerusalem

Dear club members,

My name is Michael Borchard. I was born in Munich and I am Roman-Catholic. My father is Prof. Dr. Klaus Borchard, a university-teacher and town-planner and the former President of the Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität in Bonn. He has been a member of Rotary for almost 50 years and he used to be one of the Presidents of the Bonn-Rheinbrücke Rotary Club. Due to this fact Rotary has always been a part of our family life. My mother studied medicine in Munich and worked as a medical assistant.

I was brought up in Bonn, attended school in this beautiful city at the River Rhein in Germany. After my national service in the Bundeswehr (German Federal Armed Forces), and leaving the army with the rank of a Lieutenant I studied Political Science, History and Public Law. I finished my studies 1994 with an M.A.-degree. After a short time working as a free-lance journalist I started to work at a research unit of the German Federal Archives, which mainly dealt with relations between the former East Germany (DDR) and the Federal Republic of Germany. Besides this full-time-job I started to work on my dissertation for my doctorate.

In the year 1997 I joined the team of speechwriters in the Federal Chancellery, where I was working for the former Chancellor Helmut Kohl under the guidance of my predecessor as Director of KAS in Jerusalem, Michael Mertes. In 1998 I finished my doctorate and acquired the graduate degree Ph.D. For this dissertation, which dealt the diplomatic implications of the prisoners of war question for the two German states between 1949 and 1955. I was awarded the Geffrub-Prize for the best dissertation.

In the year 1998 I was asked by the Prime-Minister of the German federal state of Thuringia, Professor Dr. Bernhard Vogel, to join the State Chancellery as the head of the division for speechwriting and fundamental issues. I worked there for almost six years. Before resigning in 2003, Bernhard Vogel, who was also president of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), asked me

to join him at Foundation. In 2003 I was appointed director of the fundamental issues department and think tank of KAS.

At the end of 2013 I was asked by the president of the Foundation, Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, to succeed Michael Mertes as the director of KAS in Israel, one of its most important offices.

In 2000 I married Ines, the daughter of a Portuguese mother, a former diplomat at the Portuguese Embassy in Germany. Ines used to work as a Pediatric M.D. For now she is taking care of our three kids, Florian (10), Johannes (8) and Charlotte (4). They currently attend the Jerusalem American International-School.

During my time in Thuringia 1999 I took part in an exchange program sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the KAS. This gave

me some insights about Jewish life in the U.S.A. Being a close



advisor to Prime Minister Bernhard Vogel, I had to deal with the memorial site at the former concentration camp Buchenwald, just 10 kilometers away from Erfurt, the capital of Thuringia. I wrote numerous speeches about the ambivalence of Weimar, being the historic center of German intellectual spirit and humanism with Goethe and Schiller, but also the place of incredible dehumanization and unimaginable and inhumane cruelties.

In 2004 the AJC asked me to participate in "project interchange" and invited me to visit Israel. This visit was an outstanding life-changing experience. The AJC is an advocative institution but tried to draw a very balanced picture of the political situation during the Second Intifada. The result of this trip was that I fell in love with this vibrant and interesting, but also challenging and ambivalent country, and its people.

Since then I have been here and in the Palestinian Territories almost every second year for a couple of days.



In my new job here in Israel and given the sensitivity of German-Israeli relations, I am very aware of the fact that there will always be the pillar of the historic responsibility of Germany vis-a-vis Israel. My task during the next years will be to help to build up a second pillar besides this first one. One could call this second pillar "the pillar of cooperation and fascination". We should learn that beneath the layers of the very dominant Middle East Conflict, Israel is a fascinating country and that cooperation and the exchange of ideas and best-practice might bring these already very reliable relations between Israel and Germany to new dimensions.

I feel honored to become a member of the Jerusalem Rotary Club and not only because of my family experiences with Rotary. After attending the recent meetings here I got the feeling that there are many very open-minded and warm-hearted personalities in this club, which is, especially in this exiting but also challenging city full of tensions, something that cannot be valued highly enough.

*Michael Borchard*



### **For auld lang syne**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brevity is the soul of wit, so I shall make this very brief. I first came across the Rotary on the sign outside the library in my native Glasgow when I started borrowing books at the age of nine. I thought it was some sort of secret society. I am terribly disappointed that you all appear to be normal law abiding citizens.

Jerusalem is the ultimate Holy City sacred to the three monotheistic religions. The fourth monotheistic religion, consumerism, does not have a say here. Therefore one does not usually associate sexual activity with Jerusalem.

However, if one reads the bible and other literature one remembers David's indiscretion with Bathsheba: that a thousand wives were not enough for Solomon, therefore he had what is

probably the most famous tryst in history with the Queen of Sheba: Cleopatra's lust for Herod the Great: that when Hadrian came here to found the pagan city of Aelia Capitolina on the ruins of Jerusalem, his bed was kept warm by his favourite Antinoos; and the antics in Jerusalem in the



late Ottoman period as recorded by Simon Sebag Montefiore in his modestly titled, 'Jerusalem: the Biography'.

Ladies and gentlemen, If you look down on the YMCA building from the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of Jerusalem Tower you will realize that

this very building that we are in is a monument to all the sexual activity that has ever taken place in Jerusalem.

We live in a great country. Every few years we vote politicians into power expecting a degree of decency from them. We obviously have short memories because instead of distributing funds to worthy social causes and the needy they distribute largesse in the form of denationalized assets, banking and insurance licences with little or no control, and a host of other guises to a small clique. The charitable work done by Rotary goes a small way toward righting this wrong. In addition to edifying lectures and interesting company, that is one of the reasons I am here.

A word on 'interesting company' is in place. One of Jerusalem's endearing qualities is the cosmopolitan mix, Jews, Christians, Moslems and expatriates. It has always been like this and should continue to be so. The legislation being discussed in the Knesset could well upset this. The proposed legislation is fraught with danger and what I am expressing is very understated.

*Lenny Wolfe ♣*





## International Toast

### Treasure islands

Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson, the Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, and travel writer, was born in Edinburgh on 13 November 1850.

His frequent global wanderings lent themselves well to his brand of fiction. Stevenson developed a desire to write early in life, having no interest in the family business of lighthouse engineering. Publishing his first volume at the age of 28, Stevenson became a literary celebrity during his life when works such as *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *Strange Case*



of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* were released.

In 1890 he purchased a tract of land on the island of Ulutu in Samoa and established himself and his family on the island. He took the native name *Tu-sitala* ("Teller of Tales") and soon became involved in local politics.

On 3 December 1894, Stevenson was talking to his wife and straining to open a bottle of wine when he suddenly exclaimed, "What's that!" asking his wife "Does my face look strange?" and collapsed. He died a few hours later of what appeared to have been a cerebral hemorrhage.

In remembrance of his wonderful books, which I so enjoyed reading in my youth, I offer today's toast to the **Rotary Club of Edinburgh**, which was founded in 1913. The club's 115 members meet on Thursdays at the King James Thistle Hotel in Edinburgh.

Mike R. ♣



## Happy Hour

### Pastor in pain

A Priest was about to finish his tour of duty, and was leaving his Mission in the jungle where he has spent years teaching the natives when he realizes that the one thing he never taught them was how to speak English.

So he takes the chief for a walk in the forest. He points to a tree and says to the chief, "This is a tree."

The chief looks at the tree and grunts, "Tree."

The Priest is pleased with the response. They walk a little further and he points to a rock and says, "This is a rock."

Hearing this, the chief looks and grunts, "Rock."

The Priest was really getting enthusiastic about the results when he hears a rustling in the bushes. As

they peek over the top, he sees a couple of natives in the midst of heavy sexual activity.

The Priest is really flustered and quickly responds, "Man riding a bike."

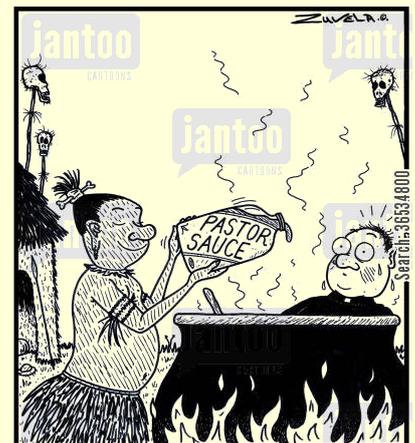
The chief looks at the couple briefly, pulls out his blowgun and kills them both...

The Priest goes ballistic and yells at the chief that he has spent years teaching the tribe how to be civilized and be kind to each other, so how could he kill these people in cold blood that way?

The chief replied, "My bike."

**ENJOY YOUR DAY and remember to keep off the roads when riding somebody else's bicycle.**

Sent in my Rafi A. ♣



### 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)

