



Weekly Bulletin of

The Jerusalem Rotary Club

Club # 13459, District 2490

22 October 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

October 29:

Steve Gray, Program Director, Keshet Center for Educational Tourism in Israel Ltd.: "Innovation Nation Tours". Dinner meeting

November 5:

Club Assembly & General meeting of the Jerusalem Rotary Foundation

Future Events

November 12:

Outing to the Israel Museum, guided by Rita Kersting, Guido's wife

January 30-31:

District outing to the Galilee, incl. the Rotary annual event at the Paul Harris Peace Forest in Birya



This Week's Programme

Ophir Yarden, Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI):

"Methodologies for Interreligious Engagement in Israel/Palestine - Experience from the Field"

Ophir Yarden was born in the US and immigrated to Israel in 1978. He is a specialist in informal Jewish education teaches Judaism to Christian theologians.



Ophir is a Senior Lecturer in Jewish and Israel studies at Brigham Young University's Jerusalem center and lectures widely elsewhere. He has taught at several other Jerusalem institutions including Hebrew University and the Hebrew Union College. Ophir lectures regularly at Christian Seminaries including the Swedish Theological Institute, the Sisters of Zion Biblical Studies Program at Ecce Homo, St. George's College, The Pontifical Biblical Institute and, previously, the Ratisbonne Pontifical Institute of Jewish Studies for Christians, all in Jerusalem.

Ophir earned his M.A. in Middle East Studies and has pursued advanced Jewish studies at the Shalom Hartman Institute and the Schechter Institute of Judaic Studies, both in Jerusalem. Ophir's research interests center on Jewish identity and its changes over history, and he has published several articles on civil religion in Israel.

In 2005 Ophir returned from 3 semesters in Stockholm where he served as the Scholar-in-Residence of PAIDEIA: The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden.

Currently Ophir is Director of the Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel at the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI) in Jerusalem.

He lives with Sara and their children in Jerusalem.



Luncheon meeting on Wednesday, 22 October, 13:00 at the Jerusalem International YMCA ♣



International Toast

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Ernest Hemingway's novel, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, was published on 21 October 1940. It is the story of an attack on a bridge leading to the city of Seville during the Spanish Civil War.

Jews are said to have settled in Seville after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Later, when conquered by the Muslims, it was placed in the charge of its numerous Jewish inhabitants. Following a massacre at Granada, many Jews from that city fled to Seville, where they were hospitably received. Seville became the center of Jewish scholarship, taking the place hitherto occupied by Cordova and Granada.



In 1148 Seville fell into the hands of the Almoravids, whose leader ordered the Jews to accept Islam, many who remained faithful to Judaism were sold into slavery or imprisoned.

In November, 1248, Ferdinand III of Castile conquered Seville after a siege of 18 months. The Jews, carrying the scrolls of the Law, met him as he entered the city, and presented him with the key of the ghetto, handsomely adorned in silver and inlaid with inscriptions in Arabic, Hebrew and Spanish.

Ferdinand was very gracious to the Jews. He remembered all who had rendered him service in capturing the city, as well as the Jewish tax-collectors, physicians, and interpreters; he gave the Jews some of the mosques, to be transformed into synagogues, and permitted them to live in the ghetto where they had shops, a market, a Jewish court, slaughter-houses, and their synagogues, of which there were three large and about twenty small. There was a Jewish cemetery in a suburb of the city.

Ferdinand's son confirmed his father's good practices. In the middle of the 14th century

some 7,000 Jewish families were living in Seville; many of them were engaged in industry and commerce.

All that changed in the 15th century with the arrival of the Inquisition to Spain.

However, today in remembrance of Hemingway's book and the early history of Seville we raise our glasses in toast to the 11 members of the **Rotary Club of Seville**, founded in 1998 and to its president, Gregorio Pérez-Lobo González!

Mike R. ♣

Read more (in Spanish!) on:
<http://www.rotarysevilla.es/>



A Letter from Belfast

Dear Mike,

Many thanks for this and for the copy of your 17th September Weekly Bulletin.

It was gracious of you and your fellow Club members to toast our Belfast Club in honour of Chaim Herzog, both a great Israeli and a prestigious son of Belfast.

This is just to let you know that your greetings were reported to our Club meeting yesterday and that copies of the Weekly Bulletin were circulated to our members.

Our members are very appreciative of the honour and the gesture of goodwill represented in your Club's commemorative gesture.

With best wishes to you and your fellow Rotarians,

Alvin McKinley

Hon. Secretary

Rotary Club of Belfast





Fireside Evenings

Launch Announced

The 2014-15 Board of the Jerusalem Rotary Club has decided to reinstitute the traditional Fireside Program - a chance to mingle socially and to get to know each other better.

The Fireside Committee (Louis Polak and Kern Wisman, whose identity is being held in the strictest possible secrecy – so don't tell anyone) is now ready to accept commitments to host Fireside evenings at anytime between now and Pessach.



Please start looking at your calendars, both for times you would like to host a Fireside and times you will be unavailable to attend a Fireside.

There are differing opinions as to what to do or what to serve at a fireside. We suggest finding a comfortable balance somewhere between

This:



and this:



Forms will be distributed by email and hard copies at upcoming meetings in which to note preferences.

Kern W. ♣



Innocents Abroad

Away from the Ebola

Dear Yaron,

Accra is a fine city compared to some other places in the continent. Generally, Ghana is looked upon as a model nation by Africans living in West Africa. We have not been to Liberia since we left for holiday in July.

According to reports from reliable people who reside there, not just reported by world media, things are not progressing well as it's hard to gain control of the situation, and the matters are

likely to get worse before they get any better.

We have been busy in Accra but managed to explore some of the city in weekends and evenings. There are plenty of good places to hang around to eat and enjoy high quality live



bands, as well as hotel surroundings with nice pools to relax.

Yesterday, we explored a local cultural event, African poems recited by Africans. Unlike some other African cities, Accra appears relatively safe even during dark hours. People drive with their windows open and doors unlocked despite hawkers and beggars strolling around. Traffic can be quite bad but not as bad as in some other places we've been to.

There are a lot of traffic jams. Some of the taxis look like they're ready for the scrap shop, which is good on the other hand that the drivers won't dare to go too fast for the fear of a vehicle breaking down!



Infrastructure is relatively OK. 24 hour power, running water and internet works, but I guess that applies to certain areas only. I'm sure there are suburbs and towns where the life is less developed.

Thanks for sharing our news in the Rotary Bulletin. Good to keep in touch.

Regards,

Roy Risaanen

Accra, Ghana ♣



Happy Hour

Unpublished Letters to "The Daily Telegraph"

Dear Editor,

I find it intensely humiliating to be asked by airport security staff if I have packed my own bag. This forces one to admit, usually within earshot of others, that I no longer have a manservant to do the chore for me. Gentlemen should be able to answer such questions with a disdainful: "Of course not! Do I look like that sort of person?"



Arthur W. J. G. Ord-Hume,
Guildford, Surrey

There is a brilliant and simple solution to the controversy over racial profiling at airports. All passengers will be required to step into a booth that scans for explosive devices and automatically detonates any device found. Harmless individuals will be released immediately after being scanned. Muffled explosions, contained within the booth, will be followed by an announcement that a seat has become available for standby passengers.

It's a win-win for everyone.
Robert Readman

Bournemouth, Dorset

Am I alone in hating Ryanair more than the Taliban and liquorice combined?

Chris Sandilands

Carousel I, Stansted Airport



My first thought on seeing your headline, "Pupils to be taught about sex at seven" was, "What, in the morning?"

When I was a child, the school day began with prayer. But you can't stop progress.

Peter Homer

Highworth, Wiltshire

I've often wondered whether Britain's education system is in a state of decline. Then I visited Google and started to type, "Can I get...". Before I finished my query the first suggested search in the drop-down list appeared: "Can I get pregnant from a dog?". Now I know.

Robin Whiting

Castle Rising, Norfolk



If I tried balancing my drink on the side of the bath, as suggested by one of your correspondents, I would probably end up with coq au vin.

Michael Talamo

Carshalton, Surrey

Am I alone in thinking we should tell Vladimir Putin to stick his gas-pipe up his fundament and apply a lighted match to it?

M. E. Martin

Southborough, Kent

I swear that if I hear Ride of the Valkyries again on Classic FM, I may not be responsible for my actions.

David Watt

Thame, Oxfordshire



Sent in by Yaron 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.

Visit our website:

www.JerusalemRotaryClub.org

