

Weekly Bulletin of

The Jerusalem Rotary Club

Club # 13459, District 2490

18 March 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:

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

25 March:

Prof. Israel Knohl, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: "The Exodus between History and Myth"

1 April:

District Governor Mali Levi's visit to the JRC: "The State of Rotary Israel Today and Tomorrow"

Future Events

16-18 April:

Annual outing to Peniel-by-Galilee. Three days of guaranteed fun. For details see page 3

7-10 May:

55th annual District convention near Iraklio, Crete



This Week's Programme

Telem Yahav, Political Reporter, "Yedioth Ahronoth":



Preliminary view of coalition building

Telem Yahav was born in 1985 in Ramat Gan. He did his military service with the IDF Nahal Brigade. Telem then went on to study Communications and Political Science at Tel Aviv University.

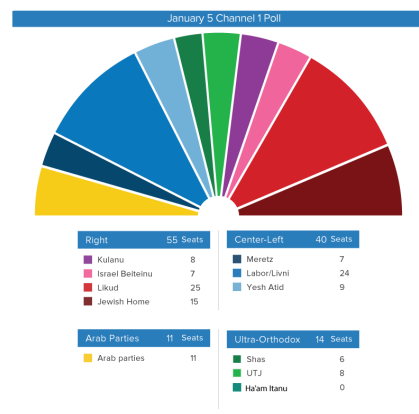
During his student years, he was editor-in-chief of Tel Aviv University's student magazine, *Teza*. Upon graduation he was hired directly from university by Israel's leading newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, where he has been working for the past four years. He covers social, labor and welfare

issues and is the reporter covering politics. Telem has been reporting on all political parties and politicians, most recently for the elections to the 20th Knesset.

Telem lives in Jerusalem with his wife, and enjoys long distance running and marathons in his free time.

Art Braunstein, Programme Chair ♣

Lunch meeting at the Jerusalem YMCA, Wednesday, 18 March at 13:00



From the Editor

The issue of our long involvement in projects, both local and international, merits our attention. In the coming few weeks, the Bulletin will dedicate space to this issue under "The Great Debate". Your participation and contribution to a constructive debate will be greatly appreciated as we value all members opinion.

On page 4 we start by bringing the complete presentation of R/Dan Shanit, as he presented it to the Club on 18 February.

Yaron Amitai ♣



Dear Editor,

I'm a member of Rotary Club 25 (District 5580) in Duluth, MN, USA and will be visiting my son (new Oleh with Garin Tzabar) in late March. I'd love to come and attend your meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at the YMCA while in Jerusalem. Will that be alright to attend, and bring my guests, friend Jill McDermott and my son, Travis Yon? Thank you!

Melanie Goldish
Brockville RC
Duluth, Minnesota, USA



Dear Melanie

We would be delighted if you could join us on March 25. This is a dinner meeting and many spouses and offspring are sure to attend as well. The speaker will be Prof. Israel Knohl of the Hebrew University, you may want to look him up on the web.

We look forward to having you with us.

Yaron Amitai, JRC

Hi fellow Rotarians. My name is Janet Eaton from the Rotary Club of Brockville. I am a past president of the club. My daughter, Sarah Wheeler, an undergraduate student in Life Sciences from the University of Toronto, will be staying at the YMCA on the 29th of April and would like to visit and have dinner with you. My email is homes@janetandray.com.

Janet Eaton
Brockville RC
Ontario, Canada



Dear Janet

You are most welcome to join us for dinner on April 29. I believe we'll have an interesting film maker speaking plus a 30 minute documentary film.

We look forward to having you with us.

Yaron Amitai, JRC



International Toast

Jo'burg

On the 18th of March 1992 in a national referendum white South Africans voted overwhelmingly in favour of ending the racist policy of Apartheid, 68.7% to 31.2%.

To honour the event today we toast the **Rotary Club of Johannesburg** - the first to be chartered in South Africa. When it was chartered on 21 April 1921, it was the first Rotary Club on the African continent. Its initial Annual Dinner and Dance was held in 1925 at Polleys Hotel. The local press gave more space to descriptions of the dresses of Rotary Anns than to the speeches made...

The Club meets Tuesdays at 18:30 at the Country Club of Johannesburg in Auckland Park. The president is Linda Vilikazi who during apartheid would not have been allowed onto the premises.

After almost 20 years of decline and decay, Johannesburg (more commonly known as Jo'burg) is now looking optimistically towards the future.

Its centre is smartening up and new loft apartments and office developments are being constructed at a rapid pace. The cultural districts of Newtown and Braamfontein, with their theatres, restaurants, cafes and museums, teem with creativity and energy. The Inner City itself, once a no-go zone, is becoming a tourist gem, with plenty of pleasant surprises.

However, the wealth divide remains stark, and crime and poverty haven't been eliminated. The affluence of Rosebank and Sandton contrasts with the desperately poor townships such as Alexandra. Nonetheless it's exciting to experience the buzz of a city undergoing a rebirth.

Shlomo Khayat & Lonely Planet ♣





Peniel 2015

Into the real Heights of the Golan

Who would have thought that our initial Peniel-by-Galilee three day outing would become a club tradition. Yet here we are, planning and making the preparations for the 6th Jam-boree that takes place 16-18 April, a mere four weeks away.

Each year we choose an area within easy reach of Peniel where we spend the signature day of exploring interesting ar-

chaeological sites, visiting local communities and enjoying the stunning scenery of the Galilee and the Golan.

This year we have chosen the central Golan with its impressive dormant (we hope!) volcanoes and will visit Har Bental and Har Avital, high points from where we will view vistas that extend beyond the country. We move on to Ya'ar Odem, Birket Ram, Gonen and much more along the route. We also hope to meet with people who live in the area, both Jewish and Druze, to hear about the reality of everyday life in the Golan.

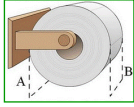
This busy day is bracketed by two days of shorter visits and taking advantage of swimming in the pool and lake. And we have not even begun to talk about the fun cocktails,

evening games and the boisterous meals — helped of course by the vast supply of wine that you have brought. The boring aspects of costs, transport and rooms, will follow very soon. Just watch this space.



David
Seligman



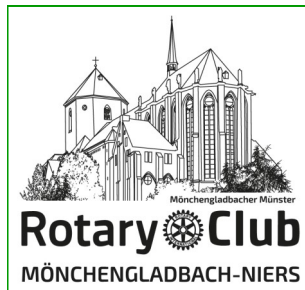


The Great Debate

How Rotarians shape the future of 6000 pupils in a German town

On 18 February, our own R/Dan Shanit spoke to the club about his experience on his first assignment as a member of the Cadre of Technical Advisers of the Rotary Foundation. Dan was required to produce an interim evaluation of a Global Grant project: "A sustainable, multi-level project for the prevention of violence at elementary schools in Mönchengladbach, Germany".

All my pre-evaluation studies and my Rotary experience, could not have prepared me for my encounter with these dedicated Rotarians, members of the Rotary Club of Mönchengladbach, who set out to combat violence in their schools by changing children's mindsets.



Mönchengladbach, suffers from a major crisis. It has lost its textile industry, which has now moved to Asia so leaving unemployment in its wake for its diverse population drawn from a wide array of countries. The school system is thus challenged by language barriers and cultural differences leading sometimes to alienation, anti-social behavior and violence.

The Rotary BOXENSTOPP project involves over 6000 pupils, in 23 primary schools. It offers a structured training program for pupils, teachers and parents in all schools, including distinct rules for conflict management through presentations, training sessions and discussions. The program aims: to enhance the pupil's self confidence; to enhance pupils' civilized dialogue and responsible communication; to enhance integration of all pupils in their class community while building mutual support and friendly relationships, ultimately enhancing the ability of pupils to manage and resolve conflicts without resorting to violence.

A professional organization *Gewalt Frei Lernen* (GFL) handles the educational implementation of this initiative. Pupils learn how to ignore in-

sults; how to react to jostling in a non-violent mode and how to send the correct body language signals. This coaching emphasizes the value of comradeship and a sense of mutual social responsibility: they demonstrate this through "walls of friendship", where classmates line up wall-like, between quarreling pupils.

All teachers and headmasters of the participating schools undergo theory lectures and practical training. Parents are contacted by schools with detailed description of the project objectives, methods and implementation, and are requested to sign agreement to the new rules and participate. GFL then run parent sessions so that the pupils' new ethos is understood at home.

Some 35 members of the initiating RC take a very active role, acting as project coordinators regularly attending training sessions for pupils, teachers and parents. They also complete questionnaires detailing the performance of instructors and the response of the pupils, teachers and parents. The project managing committee, including former and current club presidents meet regularly, having hands-on involvement in the project management, financial supervision, future planning and reporting to all club members. Strikingly, these RC members have harnessed the support of Mönchengladbach's distinctive businesses and institutions whilst also engaging the public via a stand at the local Christmas market. It was impressive to note the Rotary spirit becoming "contagious".

After its first year, significant preliminary achievements have been observed, including the reduced verbal and physical violence among pupils as evidenced by the teachers interviewed; introduction of a structured standard system for violence containment which is greatly appreciated by teachers; and an increase



(cont.)

in net teaching time as a result of the substantial reduction of teachers' required involvement in conflict management in class. Rotarians also found improved pupils' satisfaction with schooling as evidenced by parents and pupils alike.

The issue of sustainability was actually a central topic in my intensive 3-day dialogue with the local project committee and club leadership. The successful preliminary outcome of this project seems a strong indicator for continuation. To guarantee sustainability it would be preferable to integrate this initiative within the regular educational system, in terms of school management and teacher education as well as regular training of pupils. To that end I advised the following staged interventions:

1. Embarking on a scientific study in an attempt to prove concept viability and outcome results.

2. Considering the production of a documentary film offering wider exposure of the project's values and methods.
3. Harnessing the partnership of the local media including the already favorable Rheinische Post newspaper and a regional TV station.
4. Involving a local or national celebrity in a major event around the topic of violence free learning/ violence free city.
5. Involving the political leadership of the city in an image upgrade campaign of the city around this initiative – declaring it a "Violence Free City."

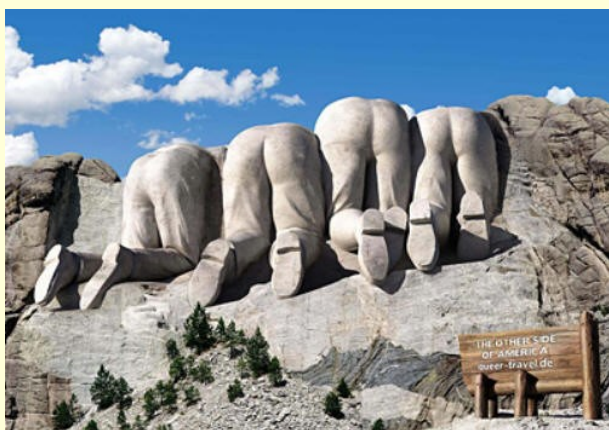
Dan Shanit ♣



Happy Hour

How things look different

You know, there are some things you just never think of, like what Mt. Rushmore looks like from the Canadian side !!



Sent in by Carry Polak ♣



Quiz of the Week

Oops. Perry Rided, last week's winner of the Quiz prize, gets as promised a **bottle of Georgian wine** rather than a vintage photograph of Jerusalem. No broken promises, Perry!

The Editor



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

