



Weekly Bulletin of

# The Jerusalem Rotary Club

Club # 13459, District 2490

11 February 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

### 18 February:

R/Dan Shanit: "Rotarians Shaping the Future of 6,000 Pupils in a German Town"

### 25 February:

Michael Alan Ratney, US Consul General: "Jerusalem Between East & West"

## Future Events

### 17-18 February:

Carnival (sorry, you'll have to be in Brazil, Trinidad & Tobago, or wherever)

### 16-18 April:

Annual outing to Peniel-by-Galilee. Details to follow



## This Week's Programme

### Mr. Guy Klaiman, General Manager, the Jerusalem Waldorf Astoria Hotel:

### "The Waldorf Astoria Makes the Jerusalem Scene"

**Mr. Guy Klaiman** is an expert hotelier with over 26 years of experience in the business. He has brought his knowledge and passion to Hilton hotels all over the world from London to Glasgow to Istanbul to Tel Aviv and now back to Jerusalem. Mr. Klaiman's return to his native country was guided by his strong understanding that the opening of Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem is a notable moment in this ancient city that prides itself on warm hospitality. As General Manager, Mr. Klaiman is ensuring that this new upscale, luxury hotel is making a meaningful contribution to Israel's tourism map.



The Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem is located on the site of the former Palace Hotel, previously one of Jerusalem's most renowned properties which last checked-in guests in 1935. Set within a uniquely preserved Ottoman facade, a meticulous restoration and ambitious construction have created an exceptional new luxury hotel.

Its 226 elegant rooms and suites were designed with contemporary opulence and offer the finest state-of-the-art amenities. Under the leadership of Executive Chef Itzik Mizrahi Barak, the Palace and King's Court Restaurants offer exquisite gourmet cuisine. The Business Center boasts nine state-of-the-art meeting rooms equipped with the latest digital technology. The Palace Grand Ballroom brilliantly shines as the largest banquet facility of its kind in downtown Jerusalem.

*Lunch meeting at the Jerusalem YMCA, Wednesday, 11 February at 13:00 ♣*



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HOTELS & RESORTS

WALDORF ASTORIA JERUSALEM



Dear Editor,

I received a call from Helene's daughter last night informing me that she had undergone the 3 hour surgery very well and is on the road to recovery. This is a message that I received from her daughter this morning.

"Helene awake and giggling. Wanted to know how much she swore when she came out of the anesthetic. We had warned the nurses and apparently she rose to the occasion!

Shabbat shalom to us all and thanks for your support

Rafi et al."

Marilyn F.

Dear Yedida and Shlomo,

Toda raba raba for the generous invitation to your wonderful house and the most delicious lunch today!

We enjoyed the hours with you very much, the lovely and exquisite food, the wine, and being with you.

We keep a very warm feeling from this outstanding invitation.

Thank you very much for this special treat to the two of you!

Rita and Guido

and Rosalie and Jimmy who loved the pancakes (!) and games with the other children.



## *Fireside Programme*

### **A Football Fireside**

For years we have always celebrated Fireside evenings in the same way. A pleasant evening of food and conversation with fellow Rotarians, new and potential members. This year, my wife Yedida, had the good idea of inviting to our second fireside, that usually takes place in the evening, not only the usual crowd but also their children for brunch!

On the morning of Saturday January 24, Guido and Rita with their children Rosalie (10) and Jimmy(8), Michael Borchard with his three children Florian (11), Johannes (7), and Charlotte (5), all arrived. Unfortunately Michael's wife Ines couldn't join us but we had the pleasure to host his parents Prof. Dr. Klaus Borchard, a long time Rotarian, and Uli (Ulrica) his wife. Our own Sweet Maggie, together with four of our own grandchildren, Noam (14), Omri (13), Tal (11) and Yael (6), made up the rest of the party.

The children had their own table and enjoyed pancakes, "banana kaas", favourite goodies and juices. While the sedate Elders were still at the cheese, sipping their wine and having a lively discussion, all the children, boys and girls of all ages, were already down in the garden playing football!!

It was such a lively atmosphere that all the Elders left the dining room but not their wine glasses, to sit on the terrace overlooking the garden to cheer on the football players and the laughing younger ones who were playing table games with the smiling encouragement of Maggie.

We enjoyed the lovely sunny day, had tea and cakes with lots of amusing small talk, all in a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere.

At the end of the afternoon the guests departed and we all promised to repeat this wonderful day that we had all so enjoyed!

In the spirit of Rotarian inclusiveness I strongly recommend that we have more Family Firesides and family events.

*Shlomo K. ♣*





## From the Board

### Board meeting 4 February 2015\*

The President reported formally that Danny Fessler of Club Haifa had won the election for District-Governor for the year 2017-2018. The Board expressed concern for the apparent lack of transparency in the manner the election was conducted and requested the President to write a letter requesting clarification to the Legal Advisor of the District and the Election Committee.

The treasurer gave the Financial Report. At the moment we have 34 members, almost all have paid their dues in full. All club dues to the District and to Rotary International have been paid. Our financial situation is good.

Ruth Harris reported on the outstanding results of the Bazaar that raised more than NIS 25.000. Ruth and Barbara Wisman and their helpers were praised for their efforts. To compensate for the items stolen prior to the bazaar the YMCA proposed not to accept a part of the funds raised at the sale. However the Board felt that a joint project with the YMCA be discussed

to maintain our good relations.

### The Service Avenues

**Firesides:** Until now all members who wanted to be invited have had at least one invitation. In order to make sure that everyone gets a second invitation, a few more hosts are urgently needed. **Membership Committee:** The Board accepted the proposal of two new members: Sari Taha and Elias Messinas. The proposal will be circularized to all the members, and if no objections are received by 11 February, the intention is to inaugurate both during the evening meeting on 25 February.

**Interior:** Kern reported on the research into the new audio-visual materials and the pulpit the club needs. Mike Rand and Eli Kenner to assist him in selecting the appropriate equipment

### Any other business

**Club Brochure:** The suggestion was raised that members who some years ago contributed to the publication of the brochure for our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, should get their contributions returned as updating the material will take additional time.

David L. ♣



## International Toast

### Accra Airport

Today sixty years ago, on 11 February 1951, Kwame Nkrumah (1909–1972) won the first parliamentary election on Gold Coast, the former British colony that in 1957 became Africa's first independent nation known as Ghana.

After Ghana became a republic in 1960, Nkrumah became President. An influential 20th-century advocate of Pan-Africanism, he was a founding member of the Organisation of African Unity and was the winner of the Lenin Peace Prize in 1963. He saw himself as an African Lenin, and was eventually toppled by a CIA-backed coup.

Accra, Ghana's capital, boasts no less than 13 Rotary clubs (!). The **RC of Accra Airport** was chartered in 2000, and has since chartered one Rotaract Club. The first woman Club President and first woman Assistant Governor in Ghana are both from this club.

The club prides itself on its love for fun and non-conformism. Very early in the club's life, it decided not to raise funds through the traditional Rotary Balls, and dinner dances, but through discos and "Bob-a-Jobs" and movie nights.

The Accra Airport club raised a record \$50,000 from its movie night in 2009 and has launched a \$250,000 Foundation as a funding resource base for its projects.

As you know we have a special connection to Ghana as our Video Conferencing project with the Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem has enabled them, through a project with the Windsor Rotary Club in Canada to which we have contributed, to undertake a training programme for medical support staff at St. Joseph's Hospital in Jirapa in northern Ghana.

Yaron A. ♣







*You Are Here*

## Salonica, "Mother of Israel"

In 1423, the Byzantines and Venetians defenders of Thessaloniki held out until it was captured by the Ottoman Sultan Murad II on 29 March 1430.

Many of the city's inhabitants were slaughter-ed or fled. The 1000 or so Romaniot Jewish residents were packed off to Constantinople and the city lay largely empty. No wonder that in 1492 the Sultan seized the opportunity to attract cosmopolitan Spanish Jews to what was then Ottoman Solun.

Meanwhile, Turkish and Armenian administrators took charge of government affairs while Turkish landlords were granted large estates in the country side where the peasant population was largely Slavic of Bulgarian decent. Unruly Albanians and Gypsies also settled in the



city. For centuries, Solun was largely a Jewish town, surrounded by a Slavic countryside and ruled by Turks – a true "Macedonian salad".

With the breakdown of the Ottoman Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the capital of Turkey-in-Europe was cut off from its hinterland of independent Bulgaria and Serbia. The newly constructed Balkan railroad system fell into decline. People emigrated, an exodus that intensified after the Balkan wars of 1912 when Greek troops occupied the city and



after the fire of 1917 that ravaged the city.

In 1923, one million Greeks left Asia Minor for Greece after the disastrous Greek military adventure that

led to the ensuing population exchange. The Jews became a minority in a largely Greek and somewhat anti-Semitic town. The tragic events of 1942, when the Jews were gathered in Liberty Square by the Nazis, loaded onto cattle trains and packed off to Auschwitz, ended Salonica's cosmopolitan days.

Yaron A. ♣



*Happy Hour*

## Grexit days?



## 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)

