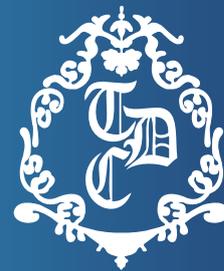


The Diplomatic Club



July 2010



PEOPLE

BETWEEN
SEOUL AND
RISHPON

MIDDLE EAST DIGEST

FIVE NEW
AMBASSADORS

DIPLOMATIC EVENTS

DIPLOMATIC
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Dear Friends

Granting privileges and immunities to diplomatic envoys is a long-standing norm of international law. The formal sending of envoys as representatives of Nation States may be traced back to the practice of ancient Greece. The ambassadors exchanged between the members of the Amphictyonic League were regarded as inviolable. Similar practices can also be found in the States of ancient India or in the Roman Empire.

These practices, established on a customary basis, were codified in the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The success of the Conference and of the Convention which it drew up may be ascribed first to the fact that the central rules regulating diplomatic relations had been stable for over 200 years.

Countries which have recognized the Convention believe that such practices

Contribute to the development of friendly relations among nations, irrespective of their differing constitutional and social systems. This view is reflected in paragraph 3 of the preamble to the Vienna Convention.

The purpose of diplomatic privileges, immunities and exemptions, as described in the Convention, is not to benefit individuals themselves but to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of diplomatic missions that represent States.

However, I have to remind you that one of most controversial issue was whether sending States were entitled to the right to install and use a wireless transmitter. Today, in the time of internet and mobiles this sounds very much "old fashioned".

It became obvious already in the mid '80s that the traditional method of interpretation using the commentaries of the UN International Law Commission no longer leads to the desired results in terms of practicality because of the rapidly changing environment.

We would like to draw your attention and remind you that the Diplomatic Club started to work on the diplomatic privileges in 1998 and most of them were published in only one of the Diplomatic Club Bulletins, when the club was established in Israel.

We very carefully studied the needs of diplomats in modern times and we are proud to announce that we have found the solution to several exceptions to the Vienna Convention. One of them - Bad debts. Historically the problem of large debts run up by diplomats has also caused many problems. Some financial institutions will not extend credit to diplomats because they have no legal means of ensuring the money is repaid.

The Diplomatic Club work harder than ever to bring the new financing benefits and improved ideas and services for you and will work hard to realize it.

As always, the Diplomatic Club is happy to help all its members with adjusting to life in Israel. Whether by sending you the Medical Directory, or Restaurant Guide, by opening channels to insurance deals or by offering you discounts in many shops, theatre and concert halls, air tickets and duty free boutiques, not to say anything about the phone or real estate deals the Diplomatic Club has secured for diplomats to shield them from the steep rise of their expenses.

For our initial concept of the Diplomatic Club, we looked at the activities of several such clubs which operate in different countries and which provide similar activities to those we plan.

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On the whole, diplomatic privileges and immunities have been served as efficient tools facilitating relations between States.

For more details pleas contact the Diplomatic Club management.

Sincerely
Julia Verdel
CEO & General Manager
The Diplomatic Club, Israel

BETWEEN SEOUL AND RISHPON

By Ksenia Svetlova



They like to dine at Aroma restaurant and enjoy the colorful beach life, they remember carrying gas mask during the 2-d war in the Persian Gulf in 2003 and wish for peace to come at last to the Holy land. Ambassador of South Korea Ma Young-Sam and his wife Ma Eun-Kyung experience Israel for the second time and seem to savor every second of their stay here. They both miss their native Korea, but talk about their current home with great fondness. In his beautiful villa in peaceful Rishpon Ambassador Ma Young-Sam draws unexpected parallels between South Korea and Israel.

K.S. Mr Ambassador, now it's your second time to Israel. In total, you've spent here more than 5 years of your life and saw Israel in different situations. What do you remember the most?

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Yes, during our first stay here the war in Iraq erupted, so we had to carry the gas masks wherever we went, then of course there were the disengagement from Gaza. Since I left the country the war with Hizbullah broke off, and after we came back in 2008 we experienced the war in Gaza. Something is always going on in this region, that's for sure. Now we witness the return of talks between Israelis and Palestinians and we hope that the peace will finally come to this country. We hope

and pray for permanent peace to be established in the whole area. Certainly, there is also another aspect to life here – people still live their lives, go out, go to the beach...

K.S. Although South Korea is very far from Israel, it seems that this situation is somehow familiar to you, after all your people also live in a constant shadow of a conflict.

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Definitely. We also experience this unique situation in which peace is not exactly peace, and the conflict isn't a conflict. It's both stable and unstable, and in this aspect the characteristics of the Middle East area and my home country are alike. Some people tend to think that life in Israel is all about the conflict – this is what I call the "CNN effect".

We are also facing the North Korea threats and two months ago our ship was sunk as a result of North Korea attack. So we are witnessing some rising tensions, but still we are living our normal life, like in this country. For example, just now, during the Mondial thousands of people went out on the streets to cheer our team and enjoy the game. So even though we are having threats from the north, we still able to live our normal life.

K.S. So you believe that the situation in Korea resembles that of Israel, but what about the diplomacy? In your opinion, what could Israel learn from your country in this sphere?

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Personally, I learned a lot from Israel in regards to this situation, but perhaps Israel can also learn something from the Korean experience. I believe that self-defense capabilities are most important. As long as we have the ability to defend ourselves, no country can threaten us. Also dialogue is very important. We have been engaged in a dialogue with North Korea for a long time, and also Israel is engaged in dialogue with the Palestinians. Reconciliation between people has a crucial role. When North Koreans will understand and know South Koreans, when the Israelis will understand the Palestinians and vice versa, then a lot of problems could be solved. I believe that cultural exchanges are very important, common events, communications and of course dialogue.

K.S. It also seems that the growing cooperation between Iran, Syria and North Korea poses threat to both Israel and South Korea, despite the geographical distance.

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Well, it's clear that the security of the Middle East and that of South Eastern Asia are interlinked. North Korea wants to proliferate their technology and knowledge in this area and we see it as a most negative development., Once a North Korean plane carrying a large suspicious cargo was stopped in Thailand for investigation. It was bounded to this region. We also are very concerned by the Iranian nuclear program. What we need to do is to boost exchange of information on this matter, we need to understand on what level we need to deal with these issues – in-

ternational forums, UN Security Council and so on. We had excellent consultations with Japan, US, EU, Russia and other countries in this regard and we all agree that we are against the proliferation. Also, we have good cooperation on information and consultation on political area with Israel.

K.S. In your opinion, is it possible for North Korea to undergo some kind of reform process or a local “perestroika” in the near future?

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: If you compare it to the former Soviet block, the situation in North Korea is very different. The people in USSR enjoyed some freedom of expression and were aware of what is happening outside USSR. The East Germans knew perfectly well what is going on in Western Germany and they had good communication with the Western part of Germany, so they easily agreed on unification. In the case of the North Korea I doubt that people there know much about the outside world, even South Korea. There are rumors, but they don't really know the reality. It's a very poor society and people suffer from hunger but the change is still far away.

K.S. How much information on Israel is available in your country? What do people know about Israel?

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: The South Koreans view Israel in 3 different angles. First of all, many people know that Israel is small, but very strong country, strong enough to defend itself. When I was very young I studied about Israel's struggle for independence and stability, about its history. Secondly, there is a lot of information on Israel's economic developments, how the desert was turned into land, the technological innovations, the renewable energy etc. And another, very important element is religion. We have many Christians in Korea, and each one of them dreams of performing pilgrimage to Jerusalem at least once in their life. Israel is very close to South Koreans.

K.S. There is a Korean chorus that performs regularly in downtown Jerusalem. What draws them here, so far away from home?

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Israeli people love culture and music, and also our people love it as well. Also, South Koreans have good opinion on Israel because of religion, they want to show our culture and enjoy the cultural exchange. For example, the Israeli Kibbutz chorus performed in Korea and was very welcomed. By the way, Seoul is not that far away from Tel Aviv nowadays – for a few months now we have 3 direct flights a week. Just 10 hours – and you are in Seoul!

K.S. How can you characterize the recent visit to Seoul of President Shimon Peres? Were you surprised by the act of protest that was held in front of the Israeli embassy in the capital?



Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Obviously, the visit took place in a very delicate time – it happened shortly after the incident with Turkish flotilla in the Mediterranean, but we welcomed President Shimon Peres very much. I was at the airport to greet him and I saw how he was warmly welcomed by the crowds of people who waved Israeli flags. Also, on the way to the hotel, close to the gate there were dozens of people who were waving the flags to greet him. He was very moved and even wanted to step out of the car and talk to them. The next day I heard that there were approximately 20 people who carried out a demonstration in front of the Israeli embassy. I thought what was the percentage of this occasion? Very small, but since it reached the news, it seemed as a big deal. I believe that this was an unfair description of our welcoming of President Shimon Peres.

K.S. How fruitful was this visit in terms of bilateral relations between the two countries? What can be done to realize the huge potential of these relations?

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Mr Peres had very good summit with my President Lee Myung-Bak and they agreed on many ways to increase the cooperation. He had chosen to visit a very unique place – while many other officials choose to go to large industrial zones, he went to our science park where he was welcomed by a robot. Also he took a ride on an electric bus and had very good talks with the scientists Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). It's important to mention, that President Peres was accompanied by 60 Israeli businessmen, some of them of Arab origin, and they had extremely fruitful talks

with their counterparts. Some of them will soon come again to South Korea to finalize the agreements with local businessmen. As for the scientific cooperation, KIST and Weitzmann institutes agreed on joint research programs, while the Business Association signed a pact with ministry of trade and labor that they will establish a fund to support partnerships between medium and small businesses.

K.S. How can you describe your cultural experience here? Do you feel at home in Israel?

Ma Eun-Kyung: If not, why would we come here again? For me living here is very comfortable, I like the people very much and the weather. After living in Washington and New York I believe it's the best weather and we don't complain about it even in the midst of summer. The people are extremely kind here, sometimes even too kind – I ask for directions while in the car, and they would stop their car and approach me to explain. Also, since I studied Hebrew, it's so much easier to get by around here, I can talk to people while at the market or when I travel to different places.

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Israeli culture is very rich, there is a huge variety of performances, plays and concerts. Slowly we catch the pace of your culture and embrace it.

K.S. For how long do you plan to stay here in Israel?

Ambassador Ma Young-Sam: Of course, I'm always at the service of my country. If they would decide that I should go to another country or travel back to Seoul, I will leave. However, if possible, I would like to prolong my stay here. “Ani maskima” - I agree, adds Ma Eun-Kyung in fluent Hebrew.

Kfar Maccabiah is a unique combination of two hotels in a single entity- one is a luxurious 5-star Suite Hotel, and the other a 4-star Hotel.



Kfar Maccabiah is spread over 20 acres of greenery and has a very unique atmosphere surrounding it. It provides anything our guests might require for utmost comfort.

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The Hotel is located in the center of the Dan Agglomeration, 15 minutes away from the airport and from Tel Aviv's business, shopping, and entertainment centers.

We offer a **Conference Center** as well as a 12-acre **Sports Club**- one of the largest in Israel.

The Suite Hotel comprises of 124 luxurious 5-star suites, and the Hotel offers 126 spacious and accessorized 4-star level rooms.

Hotel guests enjoy the **Sport Club's** facilities, which include 5 swimming pools, luxurious gym facilities, 14 tennis courts, sauna, jacuzzi and a variety of activities.

The **Conference Center** offers 25 conference rooms in varying sizes as well as halls with capacity of up to 1000 participants. They can be used for conferences, conventions, exhibitions, product launches, and private events.

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*Exclusive Benefits for
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- A separate elevator to the Suite Hotel.
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- Ravishing terrace in each Suite.
- Free use of the Business Room.
- Free entrance to "Time-Out" Spa for use of the gym, Jacuzzi, wet and dry sauna, relaxation area and refreshments.
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- Shuttle service available
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FIVE NEW AMBASSADORS FROM HONDURAS, BRAZIL, KENYA, BOTSWANA AND UKRAINE SUBMITTED TODAY LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL

Five new ambassadors of the countries of Honduras, Brazil, Kenya, Botswana and Ukraine submitted the letters of credence to the President Shimon Peres today. The official ceremony of welcoming their entry into Israel as their countries' ambassadors was held at the President's house.

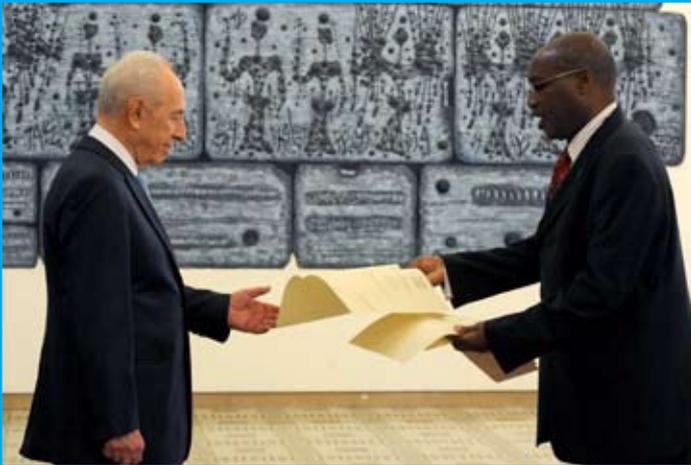
President and ambassadors discussed ways to strengthen the countries partnership in the areas of tourism development, technological, security, and economical relations. President told them: "I can assure you that here in Israel you will never have a moment of boredom or unemployment. All sectors: public, business and scientific are open for cooperation between us, and we have a lot of work to do. Please know that my door will always be open to you to promote and assist your work in favor of strengthening the partnership between our countries. I see it as our job and our duty".

Ukrainian ambassador noted that the cancellation of visas agreement between the two countries is expected to be signed during the next month and referred to it as an historic decision that will lead to strengthening the relations between Ukraine and Israel on all levels.

Ambassador of Honduras, the former Chief of Staff said to the president in the name of new ambassadors that he is very excited about his serving term in Israel and that Israel is a popular favorite in Honduras.



Botswana ambassador, H.E Mr. Roy Warren Blackbeard



Kenya ambassador, H. E Lt. Gen. Augustino S.K Njoroge



Ukraine ambassador, H.E Mr. Hennadiy Nadolenko



Honduras ambassador, H. E Gen. Jose Isaias Barabona Herrera



Brazil ambassador, H. E Ms. Maria Elisa De Bittencourt Berenguer



A group photo of the course participants.



The members of the Israeli delegation with Chile's military personnel.



Chile's military personnel at the M.C.S course.

EASING CHILE'S TRAUMA

In the wake of a natural disaster, representatives of Rambam's Teaching Center for Trauma Emergency and Mass Casualty Situations, travelled to Chile to teach local professionals how to deal with mass casualty events. In turn, the delegation members learned how to cope with earthquakes

Israelis in South America are widespread, but not every day do they travel to the Latin American continent to share life saving knowledge and experience with local professionals. A team from The Teaching Center for Trauma Emergency and Mass Casualty Situations at Rambam returned last week from Santiago, the capital of Chile. There, it led a special five-day course for 300 medical personnel, among them senior members of Chile's air and ground forces, as well as representatives of its rescue units and police force. The course focused on managing mass casualty events. News of the Israeli delegation spread, and 12 doctors and nurses from Paraguay also showed up.

Just four months ago, Chile was hit by a powerful earthquake that registered 8.8 on the Richter scale. In the wake of the earthquake, a tsunami hit the country's southern coast, causing enormous damage. Residents of the area are still coping with the aftermath of the catastrophe, which destroyed entire areas and caused the collapse of numerous.

Ironically, the Rambam team had been invited to lead the course more than half a year ago. The disaster revealed a lack of preparedness on the part of many Chilean bodies to handle mass casualty events, and the need for Israeli knowhow and experience became all the more critical.

The course was initiated by Dr. Alfredo Mizrahi, a Jewish Chilean physician who works in Las Condes Hospital in Santiago. Dr Mizrahi, a long-time friend of Rambam, initiated the first such course in Chile two years ago, on organizing a trauma center. The recent course, held under the auspices of the Jewish community, included lectures and workshops. Three Rambam representatives led the delegation: Dr Moshe Michaelson, director of the Trauma Unit, Gila Hyams, head of the Teaching Center for Trauma and Mass Casualty Situations and Nurit Naeh, director of Public Relations. The delegation also included Dr Leon Poles from Kaplan Medical Center, an expert in chemical warfare and mass casualty events,

Dr Amir Blumenfeld, former head of IDF Trauma Unit and adviser to the Ministry of Health for M.C.S, and Mr. Chaim Rafalowski, the Chilean-born representative of emergency medicine for Magen David Adom. "The delegation members presented a broad array of ways to deal with these events," said Dr Michaelson, adding, "The response was incredible -- the participants

"I was so excited to hear about the heroism of the medical teams that worked in such awful conditions during the catastrophe," added Hyams.

During the tour, the delegation met with Dr. Daniela Guede, a young doctor who arrived in the area shortly before the earthquake, and who remained to treat the injured. The



the tsunami disaster site.

were hungry for knowledge. They didn't stop showing interest and asking questions, and at the end of the course we received many offers for cooperation and additional courses."

A day before the course began, the delegation toured the tsunami disaster site, which is being renewed. This restoration is being conducted, in large part, with the support of Chile's 15,000-member Jewish community. The community also donated two ambulances that were dedicated at a ceremony in the presence of the Israeli delegation members, the regional governor and minister of health, as well as representatives of the Jewish community. "The pictures here are very difficult. Four months after the disaster there is still damage everywhere. Where hospitals once stood, there are now tents," said Gila Hyams, asserting that the Jewish community's assistance has been very significant.

doctor, who also took part in the Rambam course, met several months ago with General Elon Glazberg, head of the IDF trauma unit, who came to learn from the Chilean experience in coping with earthquakes. During his stay, Dr Gelzberg advised Dr Guede on how to re-organize her clinic, which was destroyed in the tsunami and moved to a temporary shelter.

Rambam's Teaching Center is known globally, especially for its wide experience in treating those wounded in fighting along Israel's northern border and in accepting difficult trauma cases referred from other hospitals in the north of the country. Representatives from Rambam's School for Organization and Treatment of Trauma travel around the world in the framework of Rambam courses. Due to the hospital's expertise in this area, the center recently held a course in trauma for medical personnel in NATO countries.

DIPLOMATIC CLUB FINANCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION SESSION AT THE DAN HOTEL, TEL AVIV

The Diplomatic Club held a financial services information session for the Diplomatic Corps, accompanied by a cocktail reception at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv on June 14. Performing at the reception was the renowned opera singer, lyrical soprano Ms. Julia Sokolov. The Diplomatic Club Israel CEO Ms. Julia Verdel delivered an address on “Modern Diplomatic Privileges and Immunity as Part of Modern Diplomacy”. Additional speakers included Mr. Ron Bedny, CEO of U-Bank, who spoke about “Specialized Banking Services with a Global Reach”, Ms. Michel Goren, Manager of the Personal Banking Division at U-Bank, speaking on “Presentation of Banking Services”, and Ms. Irit Batat, V.P; Marketing and Business Development, American Express, speaking on “American Express for Diplomats; Presentation of Credit Card Services”. The program ran from 3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.






 יקבי רמת הגולן
 • ארץ היין •

DIPLOMATIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In honor of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa, the Diplomatic Club organized a Diplomatic Mini Mondeal football tournament on Sunday 6 June 2010.

We invited foreign embassies in Israel (either on their own, e.g. England, or as a group e.g. former Soviet Union) to participate in a seven-a-side football tournament Ramat Gan. Prizes were given for 1st, 2nd places in the tournament and an after tournament barbeque was arranged. **There were teams from :**

ITALY, GB, EU, JAPAN, AFRICA, former Soviet Union.

There were 3 substitutions and a draw at the beginning. All the family was invited to come.

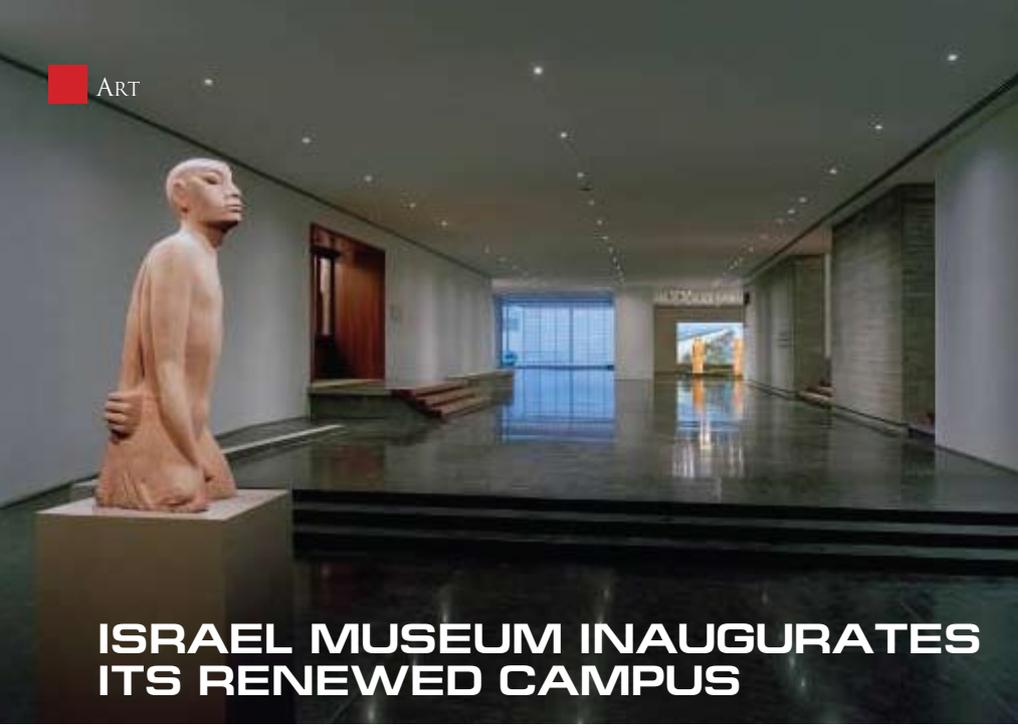
Prizes were given for

- 1 st – to the former Soviet Union
- 2 nd – to the EU
- 3 - to Great Britain

Wine and a lot of water was supplied by sponsors, as well as sun protection cream.

The tournament began at 8:00 on 6.06, there was a break at 13:30; at 14:00 was the final, and at 15:00- price there was a prize-giving ceremony and BBQ.





ISRAEL MUSEUM INAUGURATES ITS RENEWED CAMPUS

New Galleries, Orientation Facilities, and Public Spaces Enhance Visitor Experience of Museum's Campus and Encyclopedic Collections Contemporary Artists Zvi Goldstein, Susan Hiller, and Yinka Shonibare Curate Special Exhibitions Highlighting Masterpieces from the Collection

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, inaugurates its renewed 20-acre campus, featuring new galleries, orientation facilities, and public spaces, on July 26, 2010. The three-year expansion and renewal project was designed to enhance visitor experience of the Museum's art, architecture, and surrounding landscape, in complement to the original architecture and design of the campus. Led by James Carpenter Design Associates of New York and Efrat-Kowalsky Architects of Tel Aviv, the \$100-million project also includes the comprehensive renovation and reconfiguration of the Museum's three collection wings – for archaeology, the fine arts, and Jewish art and life – and the reinstallation of its encyclopedic collections.

The Museum opens its renewed galleries with a series of exhibitions highlighting new acquisitions and long-held masterpieces across its collections. In addition, to celebrate the project's completion, artists Zvi Goldstein, Susan Hiller, and Yinka Shonibare have curated Artists' Choices, a special three-part exhibition that juxtaposes works from all three of the Museum's collection wings. The renewed campus will also feature two new monumental commissions – Olafur Eliasson's *Whenever the rainbow appears* and Anish Kapoor's *Turning The World Upside Down, Jerusalem* – which respond directly to the Museum's site and setting.

Completing the inauguration of the renewed campus, a special week-long series of public programs and events is planned, including concerts by prominent Israeli

musicians, activities in the galleries for all audiences, and a late-night art and music festival, engaging artists, writers, and performers with the renewed Museum and its landscape.

"Forty-five years after the Israel Museum first opened its magnificent campus, we have completed a renewal project that allows us to serve our public as never before," said James S. Snyder, Anne and Jerome Fisher Director of the Israel Museum. "The most ambitious undertaking in our history, this project has yielded a truly transformational change across our site. We look forward to welcoming our visitors to the Museum's stunning new public spaces and galleries, planned to provide a richer and more enjoyable experience of

our unparalleled collections and of our powerful Jerusalem hilltop setting."

The Israel Museum has seen tremendous growth since the 1965 opening of its original landmark campus, designed by Alfred Mansfeld and Dora Gad as a modernist reference to Mediterranean hilltop villages. The Museum's architectural footprint has increased ten-fold since its opening, and its collections have grown significantly throughout this time and particularly in the past ten years. The project, which broke ground in June 2007, doubles the Museum's gallery space and grows its architectural footprint by approximately 15%, all within the Museum's existing 20-acre campus. In total, it encompasses 7,800 square meters (84,000 square feet) of new construction and 19,000 square meters (204,500 square feet) of renovated and expanded gallery space.

Isaac Molho, Chairman of the Museum's Board of Directors, said, "The Israel Museum's campus renewal project strengthens the Museum's position as one of the most important social and cultural centers in the country – giving it a standing of the highest priority in the State – and also as one of the most outstanding museums in the world. The renewed Museum will provide generations of visitors, both from Israel and from abroad, with unique experiences of the art, culture, and history of communities throughout time and around the globe."

The project is supported by a \$100-million capital campaign, which was completed in December 2009 and represents the largest collective philanthropic initiative ever undertaken for a single cultural institution in the State of Israel. The Museum is also in the midst of an endowment campaign and has raised nearly \$60 million toward its \$75-million goal, which will double its institutional endowment to \$150 million, comprising the largest endowment for any cultural institution in the country.



SYMPOSIUM ABOUT WORLD WAR ONE AT THE HOSPICE

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BATTLE FOR THE HOLY LAND



A few days ago an academic symposium held in the Austrian Hospice of the Holy Family came to a close. It was the first such symposium to be held in fifteen years and the second since the guest-house re-opened in 1988. Whilst the speakers in the previous symposium looked at a broad range of subjects relating to Austria's presence and impact in the Levant, and specifically in the Holy Land, the latest symposium focused on a specific issue which has played an important role in Austria's enduring esteem among locals: the expedition of the Austrian Army's howitzer battalion in the years 1916 to 1918.

Audience was delighted to have as the main speaker Dr. Robert-Tarek Fischer (Vienna), whose recent work on the subject was published by the Peter Lang Publishing House. Herbert Maurer (Vienna) concentrated on the literary ambience at the dusk of the Austro-

Hungarian Empire. Dr. Ruth Hummel (USA) reported on interviews she had conducted in the Holy Land over a period of almost 25 years with witnesses to the events of the time. Georg (Kevork) Hintilian, Jerusalem's local historian, devoted his talk to a discussion of outstanding Austrian personalities. Dr. Norbert Schwake, director of the German war cemetery in Nazareth, recounted the fate of some individual soldiers during this period and identified their graves.

The symposium was made possible through a generous contribution by KR Rudolfine Steindling who has been supporting the activities of the Hospice for several years.

A selection of photographs from the Hospice archive and from the "Sceptre and Pilgrim's Staff" exhibition at the Cathedral Museum Vienna offered thematic accompa-

niment to the various research perspectives: a group picture of Archduke Hubert Salvator with Alois Musil and Rector Franz Fellinginger belongs to the context of the Empire's 'prestige work' in the Orient. In the winter of 1916/17 Austrian soldiers provided the inhabitants of Bethlehem with daily provisions. This 'humanitarian involvement' has remained a vivid memory for many people still living there. The sight of imperial troops in the Holy Sepulchre plaza and escorting the Latin Patriarch Camassei on his visit to the Hospice illustrate Austria's attempt to relieve France of its status as "Christian Protector" in the Middle East.



BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER PHILISTINE TEMPLE AND EVIDENCE OF POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE AT TELL ES-SAFI/GATH, THE BIBLICAL "GATH OF THE PHILISTINES"

Prof. Aren Maeir, of Bar-Ilan's Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, announced this morning that he and his international team have discovered a Philistine Temple, including a number of ritual items, dating back to the Iron Age (10th century BCE). "Interestingly, the architectural design of this Temple, with its two central pillars, is reminiscent of the architectural image that is described in the well-known Biblical story of Samson and the Philistines, when Samson knocks down the temple by standing between the pillars and pushing them down. Perhaps this indicates that the story of Samson reflects a type of temple that was in use in Philistia at the time," said Prof. Maeir, who has directed

the excavations at Tell es-Safi/Gath for 13 years. Tell es-Safi/Gath is located in the southern coastal plain of Israel, not far from Kiryat Gat, about half-way between Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

Prof. Maeir also indicated that his team had found impressive evidence of an earthquake in the 8th century BCE reminiscent of the earthquake mentioned in the Book of Amos 1:1. The team uncovered walls moved from their place and collapsed like a deck of cards as a result of the powerful earthquake -- assessed at a magnitude of 8 on the Richter scale -- reported Maeir.

This summer's excavations at Tell es-Safi/Gath have also uncovered further evidence of the destruction of the city by Hazael,

King of Aram Damascus, around 830 BCE, as mentioned in Second Kings 12:18, as well as evidence of the first Philistine settlement in Canaan (around 1200 BCE) and different levels of the Canaanite city of Gath.

The Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project (www.dig-gath.org) is a long-term investigation aimed at studying the archaeology and history of one of the most important sites in Israel. Tell es-Safi/Gath is one of the largest tells (ancient ruin mounds) in Israel and was settled almost continuously from the 5th millennium BCE until modern times.

Participants in this summer's dig hail from the US, Canada, Australia, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, UK, Holland, Poland, and Israel.



OPERA AND SONG

Every vocal ascent is happy in its own way. Some of those, whose singing career has successfully taken place, were unaware of their God's gift up to 18-19 years (i.e. until the voice mutation) and began to study music as adults, often having other professions. To those, who were taught to play on some instrument from a young age, it was easier to switch to singing, when their voice has revealed after the youth change. So it was, for example, with Paul Lisitsian who as a child studied cello, and then became one of the best baritones. Another example is now world-renowned baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky - and I am a witness, as I taught music history in his group - he had intended to study musicology after musical-teaching college. Dmitri was hardly convinced, to the chagrin of my fellow theorists, that there are still vocal perspectives for him.

But the singer Julia Sokolov, whose artistic formation takes place in front of us and has already impressed us by the rapid growth and versatility, got involved into the singing as a child and says that she always wanted to sing, and the idol of her adolescence was Maria Callas. Julia started to sing in the chorus "Cantilena" and the city's children's ensemble, in Baranovichi in Belarus, where she was born. Then, in Israel, where she lives since she was 15, Julia engaged in conservatory and was a soloist-vocal of pupil orchestra, then joined the Jerusalem Ruben Academy of Music, vocal faculty and graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree.

Her teacher - the famous Israeli singer Michal Shamir, who made an international career in leading opera houses in the world such as Berlin, Vienna, Hamburg, Geneva, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and others. Michal believes that "Julia has a beautiful voice with very expressive tone, and her singing is emotionally expressive".

However, the audience is already acquainted with Julia Sokolov in the various artistic manifestations. Julia sang the most complex (vocally and in stage terms) parties in the Israeli Opera productions - the Countess Rosina in "Il Nozza di Figaro" by Mozart in Italian and Rosalind in Jerusalem's staging of "Die Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss in German. That is, Julia made her debut as heroine of the classical Viennese opera and classical Viennese operetta.

She twice became the winner of the Cultural Foundation Award "America-Israel". In January 2010 she won the contest of young singers that was held in Jerusalem. As a result of this competition, Doron Solomon, the conductor of "Sinfonietta" Orchestra of Be'er Sheva, invited her to perform the Fiordiligi's aria from "Cosi fan tutte" by Mozart and Violetta's aria from "La Traviata" by Verdi at the April symphony concert. Here at this concert it became clear to me that Julia is indeed natural opera singer with great vocal abilities, very good artistic nature and understanding of the music and drama unity.

In addition, Julia Sokolov steadily performs across the country in the chamber (romance) and vocal concerts. For example, together with the singer Anatoly Line, one of the best baritones of Israel and with the pianist and composer Alexander Krinsky, Julia recently presented the show "Songs that come up from the screen" in several cities of the country. The program is based on the classics from cinema music composers of the twentieth century, such as Isaiah Berlin, George Gershwin, Isaac Dunaevsky, Michel Legrand, Andrey Petrov, Alexander Zatsepin. She appeared before the audience on TV channel "Israel +" in March, when fragments of this program were shown.

Such versatility, the ability to modulate in different layers of music shows us the rich musician nature, the excellent profession-

alism and the artistic multidimensionality. That's why musicians, collaborating with a young singer, praise her with sincerity. Daniel Ehrlich, the director who run an opera by Mozart and Strauss' operetta, has no doubt in her future as a great opera singer, "because she is blessed with more than unique voice", and Ido Ariel - pianist, ensemble player and coach of many Israeli singers, believes that "the voice of Julia - one of the most beautiful and rich lyric sopranos, full of expression and power". Pianist Igor Berov says, "From the first joint rehearsal I immediately realized I was dealing with excellent professional with a stunning beauty and timbre of voice, excellent intuition, subtle stylistic diversity, great work capacity and a wide repertoire".

And even more so you can believe to responsive and experienced musician, composer and pianist Alexander Krinsky (his songs were performed by Lev Leshchenko and Joseph Kobzon - famous Russian singers). He was working in the Moscow Philharmonic in academic and pop genres for many years, and he assures that Julia Sokolov "equally possesses such qualities as beauty of voice timbre, at the stage energy behavior, outer beauty, facial expressions, gestures - all of these make every performance by her so harmonic".

But I was inquiring Julia about thorns in her professional maturing. She arrived as a school-girl without having learned even in a musical school and there she goes straight to the Jerusalem Academy of Music. And already performs parties of the major characters!

Julia doesn't really get my repatriate's skepticism: - "I'm almost native. I finished school here, engaged in Holon-Bat Yam conservatory. I spent a lot of time on solfeggio (You can't go without developing hearing in our profession); I learned languages, parties, roles, participated in contests. I'm always learning something, preparing for exams and competitions, concerts and performances. Also, I need to retain good physical fitness. Nothing is given effortlessly. Now I learn to my second degree, finished a master class by Professor Jeanette Favaro-Reuter at the Leipzig Conservatory, I'm preparing for the symphonic evening with the complex and contrasting classic program, and for one of the reputable international competitions - I will not tell you which, as a precaution, - and to work in the summer opera master classes with the Metropolitan Opera.

P.Y.: Do you strive to enter the international level?

Julia Sokolov: First of all, I aspire to learn a lot. And any actor wants to go international.

P.Y.: What originally formed your attraction to the musical profession?

Julia Sokolov: Initially, of course, the family, as my mom sings beautifully. And in childhood and youth - singing and learning in the chorus "Cantilena", which was led by a remarkable choirmaster Boris Gavrilovich Kozhevnikov.

He is now assistant professor of choral conducting at the Faculty of Education in University of Vitebsk.

P.Y.: And how your relatives feel about your learning and working? Do they encourage your affairs or say: "Let it go, there is plenty of musicians in Israel, find a better profession?"

J.S.: I was lucky with my relatives. My husband Oleg Shapiro – a famous designer, supports me a lot. And he is, by the way, the author of the video clip made to the music of Gluck that was shown on television.

P.Y.: Oh, it's Helen's aria from the opera "Paris and Helen" by Gluck, with instrumental party arranged a-la Emerson, with synthesizer and drums.

J.S.: I think that Christophe Willibald Gluck himself was the greatest innovator in the drama and the orchestration and was always responsive to the contemporary audience; I think he would not object.

P.Y.: Wagner orchestrated Gluck' operas in the late-romantic-style – with five clarinets, rectifier horns and trombones. Why would not arrange them by the means of rock music a century and a half later, especially not in the theater, but in the genre of video clip. But let's go back to your parents. Maybe they are musicians, opera lovers?

J.S.: Indeed, my mother Svetlana Kaminsky is a naturally very musical woman, she is a gifted singer.

P.Y.: What an artistic name! Once upon a time Jewish Theatre had a great actress named Esther Kaminsky, she was called "Jewish Eleanor Duse." Her daughter Ida has also become a famous actress, and her son Joseph was a famous violinist and composer. Do you know about these namesakes?

J.S.: You bet! But they are not just namesakes. Great Jewish actress Esther-Rachel Halpern, whose name was given to Jewish Theatre in Warsaw (still existing) married entrepreneur and actor Abraham Kaminsky. His brother is my great-grandfather. My mother, therefore, is a great-niece of Ida and Joseph. Except for my great-grandfather, they had a cousin: violinist Simon Pullman. He worked in Vienna, but in the terrible years of the Holocaust he has been taken to Treblinka and perished, like millions of Jews. Joseph, a violinist known already in Poland and Germany, was invited to Symphony Orchestra of Israel (then called of Palestine), in 1936. Bronislaw Guberman, who created the Orchestra, was also born in Poland. Joseph Kaminsky served as concertmaster of the Israel Philharmonic and was his "home" composer for many years.

P.Y.: Yes, many works by Kaminsky – overtures, the play "Aliya", Violin Concerto and The Concerto for Trumpet



and Orchestra, Ballade for Harp and Orchestra remain in the repertoire of the Israel Philharmonic, and are recorded on discs. At one time Joseph Kaminski was the conductor of the orchestra – in any case, he conducted a concert in honor of the Jewish Brigade, which departed to the Egyptian front in October 1944.

J.S.: And daughter of Ida Kaminsky Ruth married a brilliant trumpeter and creator of the jazz orchestra named Eddie Rosner (his passport name was Adolf, but in the 30's he left it for obvious reasons). Together they fled from the Nazis to the Soviet Union, lived in Belostok in Western Belarus for two years (Rosner even got the title of Honored Artist of the BSSR). My mother doesn't know about Ruth and my grandfather seeking for each other or meeting. During the war, Rosner and orchestra performed at the fronts and in many cities. After the war they tried to return to Poland, but were arrested; Rosner was sentenced to 10 years in the camps, and Ruth – to five. In the early 50's Ruth went to Poland and then to her mother in New York, and Rosner remained in the Soviet Union as a head of the re-created by him orchestra until its dissolution, after which he left to West Berlin in the 70th, where he died.

P.Y.: So, you are a relative of the Kaminsky artistic family and in a sense repeating the path of Joseph Kaminsky: coming from the former Polin to the motherland of ancestors.

J.S.: Yes, Baranovichi was once the territory of Poland.

P.Y.: But back to your repertoire and genre preferences. Do you imagine yourself as an opera, chamber, or pop singer? Or a teacher – in fact you are also teaching singing at the Music Center "Steinberg" in the city of Holon.

J.S.: I do not think that the artist should decide his profile for himself once and for all and never surpass these boundaries. Remember, how many opera singers performed beautifully on stage. The brightest example here, of course, is Muslim Magomayev. Academic school, the correct setting of the voice and breathing are not an obstacle, but always a help – both in pop songs and in jazz. How many talented pop singers left the stage early because their

voice was worn out! Worn out because they did not work on setting their voice, and setting in fact is needed in order to mitigate the voice depreciation rates. On the other hand, many opera singers can not do jazz improvisation, and pop singers are not acquainted with the world chamber repertoire.

P.Y.: There were happy exceptions: for example, the entire Soviet Union knew Eduard Hil as a crooner, but he performed the program from the Schubert and Mahler cycles in the Small Hall of the Leningrad Philharmonic at the same time – I attended his chamber music concert at Engelgard hall myself.

J.S.: So, ideally, it should be. And if I feel that I somehow lack the skills or understanding, I strive ... to understand and learn. Yes, I am very fond of Mozart and Gluck – there is such a depth that life is not enough to learn it. But the late-romantic German "Lied" (by Richard Strauss, Mahler) attracts me too. One of the performances I am preparing to includes 4 songs by Richard Strauss for voice and orchestra. I like Russian romances, and Spanish Romancero –and now I'm working on Spanish songs by Manuel de Falla. I do not share the neglecting attitude to operetta, as some of my colleagues and peers do. Operetta has such a scope for multiple actors' decisions, and moreover, Johann Strauss and Kalman wrote for a well-set opera voices. Recently, I and Anatoly Line, a great singer and a wonderful actor, played excerpts from Lehar's Operettas for several evenings, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Great Aliyah (Repatriation). The audience received us so warmly! And it is such happiness for an artist to see that he brings joy!

I hope I have something to say in jazz and on stage and have something to learn from jazz pianists, many of whom have an academic education – take Alexander Krinsky for example, he is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory. And I must admit I am very much involved in teaching now. When you teach others, "pull out" the voice, discover hidden talents in a person, you discover a lot of things in a new light.

P.Y.: I thank you and wish you success in all your endeavors and all fields.

LOVE BUILDING BIG TIME CHEF



Tuesday morning I came to Tel Aviv to meet the famous Israeli chef and host of Israel's longest running cooking shows, Haim Cohen. The meeting was set in his very own grill-bar named "Dixie", located very close to Azrieli towers, in the heart of Tel Aviv. Haim descended into the bar dressed in a casual manner, and invited me in.

- First of all, tell me about your family, and the dishes your mother used to cook at home.

- White rice was a must-have, just like a bread. There were some vegetables cooked in tomato sauce, like okra, green lentils or white lentils with meat, cutlets, schnitzel, stuffed vegetables, and cube-soup.

When my mother was 9 years old, she was living in Kerem Ha-Teymanim neighborhood. One day she was wandering on Balfur Street, and one Polish woman named Sharpansky called her, she asked a girl to come up and help her clean, saying she'd pay her for

this job. She agreed to come and work for the Polish lady, secretly from her parents. Aside from cleaning help, Sharpansky also wanted help with cooking, so she taught my mother Polish-style cooking. When she got married, she continued to cook Ashkenazi food for the family, along with Turkish-style and Kurdish dishes.

- My mother was working in the evenings in cleaning offices, so she would take me along. On the way, we would sit down in some café, and have a cup of coffee with Sabrina or Cremeschnitten. The glasses were fit in the steel glass-holders, and every glass carried red half circle of women's lipstick on it. As a child, I was sure it was a special glass decoration.

- My mother first introduced beef fillet schnitzel in our house in order to bring up the traditional dish a little. Only growing up and travelling around France, I understood the meaning of that thinking out of the box my mother made, when I saw that type of dish being prepared in fancy restaurants.

Haim tells - One day I arrived to "Kiosk", a restaurant ruled by Shaul Evron. He didn't have many dishes, but he had roast beef, foie gras, and various things that I wasn't aware of their existence. It was my first time to try roast beef, and that's how it was - I had one piece of "Russian Bread", huge layer of butter, and a slice of bleeding roast beef and little sea salt on top. Because my mother always cooked only kosher food, I was sure sky is going to crack open and someone was going to kill me for eating meat with butter at the same moment. I tried it anyway, and I didn't believe how good it was. I think it was the crucial moment in my life that defined my very future.

- I was going down the Ibn Gvirol Street when I saw "For Sale" sign on restaurant called "Keren". The name "Keren" stayed, because we didn't have the money to rename it. I served trout in butter and capers, shrimps in butter and garlic, roast beef, veal brain in lemon sauce, etc. The restaurant was working ok, but not quite successfully.

Then one of the regular customers said to Haim: "Maybe you want to change the menu?" He didn't know what to do, but he

consulted a friend, who was a journalist. She advised Haim to go to South France, to a very famous 3 Michelin stars restaurant "Moulin de Mougins", for a week training course. The kitchen in "Moulin de Mougins" was tremendous, especially compared to "Keren's" half-o-yard kitchenette. The chef was famous Roger Vergé, founder of "Moulin de Mougins". 50 people were working in the kitchen, cutting, frying and moving around. It was a see-only course. No cooking. After a week, Haim decided to go back. He memorized three recipes by heart, and came back to Israel. The dishes he learned were tarin foie gras, zucchini flower stuffed with mushrooms and lobster sauce.

In France Haim became exposed to the aesthetic plane of the food serving. He learned the French way of decorating, and decided to serve food alike at "Keren." It took about two weeks until one of the local food guides arrived at his restaurant. "And since then I have only been trying to justify this big name given to me," - says Haim.

More importantly, while in France, Haim made a wish, to acquire such a big restaurant one day, with spacious kitchen and big parking. He came back home, carrying three recipes and a wish. Four years later "Keren" was reopened in a new place in Yaffo, 500 sq. meters instead of 35.

- "Keren", especially in Yaffo, was a very French style restaurant with some Mediterranean flavor. And one day I decided to do the local cooking. Why? I saw that fancy restaurants abroad were turning places to celebrate, not for daily meals. And I wanted to make my place more of a local style flavor. I saw my cooks bringing hummus for a breakfast, and thought to myself, if hummus was so common in Yaffo, I can make a dish with it. But, of course, it was designed and served in French way. I introduced common ingredients in fancy dishes. The food can be intellectual, and make you curious, but some things can be familiar, so people will find their way through new taste. For example, I made calamari dish with hummus soup. It's something new and made people curious. Calamari rings with butter and garlic, and suddenly hummus soup. I played with food in that way. I dyed potato puree with octopus ink, making it black, and served it with octopus tentacles on top. It was scary black dish, but when you ate it, you felt the same taste of puree, and it was calming, but still there was something new.

- How do you define Israeli cuisine today?

I think, in my time, the basis for Israeli cuisine was founded. It's eclectic and contains many flavors, especially of the Arabic kitchen. If you take something, you adjust it to your needs. Nothing can travel around and stay intact. People change too. So coming here, every Diaspora brought its flavors and traditions. Israeli cuisine is still very young,



and we cannot define it by one word, we feel the need to be particular. Some time must pass, before we learn to say Israeli cuisine, like it is with French cuisine.

- Today there are many more places to eat out. What do you think caused this cultural change?

- If we look at Israel, what happened here in 60 years, we will see that we bring in things that are not here. Since charter flights appeared, people started travelling a lot, seeing other places and bringing their wishes here. El Al stewards were sneaking in canned asparagus and champignons, and it was astoundingly rare. Today these are commonly grown in Israel, and you can go and buy it from local market. We want to be special, but we also want to be like everyone else.

- When you travel, you are exposed to a lot of new flavors. But still, you miss home food. Do you take new recipes and make them "new" here?

- My inspiration comes from my surroundings. It can be anything, even some food stop on the road. I can pass on the market, try something and get the new idea instantly.

- Do you think Michelin Guide will ever make it here? Do you strive for this kind of celebrity?

- No. There was a trial to make a food guide here, and someone Israeli tried to give ratings to restaurants. But I don't think we need Michelin here today. Israel is renowned

for its culinary name. Famous chefs coming here are always amazed by the quality and range of products available here.

- Why do you think big chefs are men?

- It was born that way. Traditionally, women were home preparing food, while men went to synagogue and to work. It's a world perception. Standing in kitchen generally is very hard. Industrial way, I mean, by weight lifting and also shifts working, it's all very demanding and hard for woman. Also, a woman is very practical in her way of operation. She does several things at once, children, laundry etc. Man can stay more focused on the final goal, leaving the chaos behind and serving the dish. After cooking man you have to bring professional cleaning in. Of course, women are equally talented in cooking, after all, traditional cooking was made almost exclusively by women. Man will always admire his mother's cooking.

- Who do you think helped you the most during your career?

- My mother, of course. It's because of her way and her wisdom I made my way to be who I am today. Her open mind, the encouragement she gave me, her beliefs. In my time, cooking wasn't a profession. You could be a doctor, a lawyer or engineer; these were the things to do, mainly because food culture wasn't developed yet. I got here out of love, not tradition nor learning. I can still really feel how I was loved, and this love took me far.

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