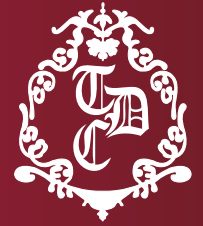


The Diplomatic Club



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Dear friends,

2015 was an eventful year, during which all of us fostered hope for peace. We wish the Middle East a happier 2016, focused on peace and development, where hatred dissolves and harmony blooms.

Merry Christmas!

According to Christian tradition, Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth and the town is inhabited by one of the oldest Christian communities in the world, though the size of the community has shrunk in recent years due to emigration. According to Biblical tradition, the city is also believed to be the birthplace of David and the location where he was crowned as the king of Israel.

Happy New Year!

New Year is one of the best festivities of the year. This event is treated specially by people across all the cross-sections of life, all round the world, even though a certain degree of trepidation is always attached to it.

New Year 2016 will surely be no different. Each of us would weave a veil of fantasy and contemplate about the high and low tides that may affect our life in the next year. We at *The Diplomatic Club* will be your friend in need, through the thick and thin all-round the year.

We wish you all the joy and happiness for the next year. We want you to enjoy peace and prosperity, and live happily with good health and familial pleasures. No matter what you need, you may come to us for suggestions.

We also hope that all the political and economic problems will be solved as soon as possible. We wish that no more bombs would fall in the Middle East and other parts on this planet! We are sure that some of these wishes are just dreams, but we are also sure that sometimes dreams can become true. So don't stop to believe in it.

Happy Holidays!

Julia Verdel and *The Diplomatic Club* team

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Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshiev: prospects for cooperation between Kazakhstan and Israel

By Eveline Erfolg



A year ago Doulat Orazbekovich Kuanyshiev was appointed as Ambassador Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the State of Israel. A historian, a teacher, a translator of Spanish and Portuguese, and all-in-all a very pleasant man, he agreed to answer a few questions and share some of his perspectives and insights on a variety of subjects.

DC: Doulat Orazbekovich, is it difficult to be an ambassador to Israel?

DK: Well, in terms of, say, personal comfort we are fine. My family and I have settled in well, and we feel great. Naturally, the first thing one notices when one comes to Israel, after hearing so much specific news about this country, is that the situation is not as tense as it was thought to be. If we speak in terms of personal impressions, I was here three times before, yet so much has changed. The country has become more beautiful, greener, it is obvious. In general, it is

clear that European standards are being implemented, and the fact that Israel is a member of the OECD is appropriate.

So much for personal impressions; now, in terms of professional experience, here I have a very good understanding and cooperation with my direct partners from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I also interacted with Israeli diplomats before I had been posted here, in India and in various other countries, even during my first mission as a young diplomat in 1992-94 in Turkey. I always enjoyed good relations with Israeli diplomats; they are very professional and responsive partners.

Essentially, I was impressed and puzzled by the scope of work that needs to be done here. At the same time, on a personal level, Israel is definitely something worth seeing. In addition to the textbook places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, my wife and I, together with our son, also visit other beautiful places, such as Ein Hod, Caesarea and Zichron Yaakov.

DC: Israel and Kazakhstan, where the majority is Muslim, established diplomatic relations in 1992, and the countries have formed strong ties since. How would you describe the current state of Kazakh-Israel relations?

DK: Kazakh and Israeli relations are very developed; it is sufficient to say that on the agenda today is the first ever visit of an Israeli

Prime Minister to Kazakhstan. We hope that this visit will be historic, not only because it will take place towards the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of our relations in 2017; I believe it can give a certain impetus to their further deepening.

Kazakhstan has close and consistent cooperation with Israel; we are linked by intensive bilateral economic and trade relations, as well as common activities within the framework of the UN, CICA, WTO and other international formats.

Historically, Kazakhstan has been a place of great diversity. While the country is predominantly Muslim, we have 17 different faith groups living in peaceful co-existence and freedom, as guaranteed by our Constitution. We are proud to be a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural country, and our forward-looking tolerance and hospitality have been recognized by many world leaders and traditional confessions.

We founded the Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana that plays significant role in preventing divisions, as well as enhancing openness and cooperation between traditional faiths and different ethnic groups. The Congress provides platforms for dialogue and cooperation to promote peace and stability. In this regards, it is necessary to say that the Israeli Chief Ashkenazi and Sephardic Rabbis participated in these events.

DC: Both countries, Israel and Kazakhstan, report ongoing bilateral trade across a widerange of economic sectors. What are the general prospects for mutual cooperation?

DK: Israel is ranked 51h among Asian trade partners of Kazakhstan. Our mutual trade turnover amounted to nearly \$1.6 billion in 2014. Over the last decade, Israel business investment in our economy amounted to \$212 million. 270 joint companies are operating in various industries of Kazakhstan's market.

The main items of Kazakhstan's export market are crude oil, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and cereals. In the same time, Kazakhstan imports agricultural products, industrial equipment and pharmaceutical products. Nevertheless, we believe that the potential of our relations is not fully realized, due to the fact that so far, Israeli partners were hesitant and did not risk investing in Kazakh projects. For Kazakhstan, the concept of economic and trade cooperation is closely linked to the investment aspect, because it allows the creation of long-term, fundamental relations, which surely reflects the seriousness of intentions.

Israel is one of the world's leading nations for innovation and technology, and it takes a leading position in the areas of water desalination and agricultural industries. There is huge potential of mutual cooperation for Israeli and Kazakhstan business and companies. The leading Israeli agricultural companies are implementing greenhouse

and poultry farming projects in Kazakhstan. In addition, the world leader in water treatment solutions IDE Technologies, for several years has been working in the western region of Kazakhstan, providing technical solutions for water supply in rural areas.

We are extremely interested in enhancing and widening cooperation in high-tech, agriculture and medicine. Only for the last year more than 100 Kazakhstan doctors and nurses underwent medical training courses and internships at leading Israeli medical centers and clinics.

One of the opportunities to expand our bilateral economic relations could be a new economic policy "Nurly Zhol" ("The Path to the Future") declared by President N. Nazarbayev in November 2014. "Nurly Zhol" is a response to the challenges of external factors related to the fall in energy prices, the deepening global economic crisis, as well as the "war of sanctions" between the West and Russia. Among the seven priorities of the Program: the development of transport and logistics, industry and innovation, energy, housing and utilities, social infrastructure, as well as support for small and medium enterprises. In this regard, Kazakhstan invites Israeli companies to take active part in implementation of the infrastructure development projects related to the initiatives of the President of Kazakhstan.

DC: Kazakhstan doesn't view membership in the Eurasian Economic Union as mutually exclusive to strong economic relations with the European Union. Your comment, please.

DK: In 2014, Kazakhstan became a part of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), alongside Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. The EEU will act, not in competition with Europe, but in a way that we believe will serve the interests of both sides.

Recently, during the EEU summit in Kazakhstan, the organization's leaders have decided to start a negotiation process on creating a free trade zone agreement with Israel, which expressed interest in launching such negotiations. We believe that a new agreement will be aimed at removing trade barriers between countries – members of EEU and Israel, and will increase trade balance and investment flow to the EEU.

The EEU offers great opportunities for Israeli business. This single market includes more than 170 million consumers and a unified legislative code, which functions based on the WTO norms, and is harmonized with the macroeconomic policy areas, competition rules, technical regulation systems, transports, as well as natural monopolies' tariffs, agricultural and industrial subsidies.

DC: Kazakhstan's foreign policy is aimed at the development of widespread cooperation with the countries of Europe, Asia, America and the Muslim states. As your country pushes forward with building multifaceted ties, how will it maintain the balance it has struck with the key players in the region, namely Russia, the U.S. and China?

DK: Last year Kazakhstan joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) and assumed a variety of corresponding obligations regarding trade liberalization, while protecting those economic sectors vital for Kazakhstan during the transitional period, so that they can develop in conditions of fair competition, in accordance with international standards.

As for the EU – it remains Kazakhstan’s largest trade partner. Trade between Kazakhstan and Europe reached \$53 billion, while European companies are the source of half of the \$200 billion of foreign direct investment in our country over the past 20 years. Last year, we concluded talks with the EU on an enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, marking a new era in our relationship, and signed documents associated with Kazakhstan’s accession to the WTO.

China has become a major player across Eurasia. Today, Beijing is more than ever, has the ability to access strategic resources and communications with Europe via Central Asia, Russia and the Arctic. The involvement of China in the affairs of Central Asia is growing and, consequently increasing its impact on the economy, politics and security of the region. The Silk Road Economic Belt provides a platform for the further acceleration of China’s economic cooperation with Central Asian countries.

Russia and Kazakhstan form the core of the Eurasian integration process and heads of states underline the close ties between

countries, pointing to the EEU as an engine for cooperation in the economic realm. Our President has insisted on EEU without political constraints. Despite economic and financial hardships, as a result of volatility of national currencies, Western sanctions against Russia and low commodity prices, our countries managed to retain the high intensity of trade and economic relations.

The US is Kazakhstan’s close partner in developing the country’s energy market. Kazakhstan’s government welcomes foreign investors to develop these mineral resources. The US has supported Kazakhstan’s entry into the WTO. The US benefits from our “multi-vector” policy which focuses on strengthening cooperative relations with major players, promoting geopolitical pluralism and resisting the hegemonic ambitions of leading powers.

DC: Both Kazakhstan and Israel support the efforts of the international community to strengthen regional safety and dialogue between nations. The threat of terrorism in Kazakhstan plays an increasingly important role in its relations with Israel. Your comment, please.

DC: Kazakhstan hosted two rounds of successful talks to find agreement over Iran’s nuclear program. As a state with a strong commitment to the nonproliferation regime, we have consistently advocated for the solution of the situation around Iran’s nuclear program by political and diplomatic means, which will

contribute to strengthening the international security system. Kazakhstan welcomed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action over the Iranian nuclear program approved by group of international mediators: the U.S., Russia, China, France, the U.K. and Germany this year. We hope that they would unite to fight against terrorism posing a serious threat to the entire civilized world. In addition, I would like to draw your attention to the Kazakh President’s speech at the UN Leaders’ Summit on Countering ISIS and Violent Extremism in September, 2015. President N. Nazarbayev underlined that we need to establish a UN led counterterrorism coalition and develop a common mechanism for tracing, detention and extradition of the adherents of violent extremism and terrorism. UN resolutions and decisions on countering violent extremism should have legally binding nature. They must be reviewed and adopted by the Security Council.

The situation in the Middle East has remained a destabilizing factor for Global security. Kazakhstan supports the legitimate right of the Palestinian people for self-determination, and stands for a fair solution of the problem of Palestinian refugees, as well as creation of an independent State of Palestine. At the same time, Kazakhstan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and, in this regard, supports the aspiration of Israel to live in security and recognize its legitimate right to fight against terrorism by the most resolute action.

Kazakhstan also supports the efforts made by the UN, the

League of Arab States, the US, Russia and other stakeholders, to resolve the crisis through genuine political dialog between Syrian authorities and the opposition, aimed at a peaceful future without violence and bloodshed. In 2015 Kazakhstan hosted two meetings of Syrian opposition leaders, which provided an opportunity to discuss the political situation in Syria and possible solutions, such as the creation of a provisional government. The negotiations were based on Geneva principles in finding a solution, the condemnation of all forms of terrorism and a collective call to end foreign paramilitary involvement.

It is necessary to eliminate the primary cause of violent extremism and not only deal with the consequences. States must reject unconstitutional and illegal actions by any forces in whatever country that would lead to the destruction of statehood.

DC: This month, the flag of the International Exhibitions Bureau was delivered to Astana. What do you expect from EXPO 2017?

DK: Kazakhstan supports the UN initiative “Sustainable Energy for All,” and this is why the theme of the next international exposition in Astana is *Future Energy*. With the growth of the global economy, the problem of access to modern technology and energy resources is becoming increasingly urgent. By the year 2020, energy imports to Asian countries will reach 80%. These facts have contributed to Kazakhstan’s determination to be a proactive provider of global energy. At the same time, it is essential to focus on alternative energy sources and the development of environmentally friendly technologies.

EXPO 2017 will run from 10 June to 20 September, during that time Kazakhstan will host delegations from over 100 countries, strengthening

diplomatic relations, promoting discussions on international trade and commerce, and hosting debates on key global topics.

Israel has officially confirmed its participation in EXPO 2017. In this regard, we appreciate the Israeli government for its support of Kazakhstan’s initiative, and believe that Israeli participation in EXPO 2017 will bring mutual benefits for both countries. Israel is one of the leading countries in the area of new technologies and innovations, and EXPO 2017 opens and expands new opportunities for Israeli companies and business.

I believe that EXPO 2017 will help bolster Kazakhstan’s role as a Central Asian leader in promoting the need to develop responsible, sustainable energy policies. In addition, the initiative will establish Kazakhstan as a global leader on the challenge of future energies, and it will serve as a catalyst for the country’s transition to a «green» economy.



President Rivlin welcomes new ambassadors to Israel



H.E. Mr. Peter Huleniyi, Ambassador of Slovakia to Israel

Recently, H.E. Mr. Peter Huleniyi, presented his credentials to the President who welcomed him and said, "Slovakia is one of Israel's closest allies in Europe. On my visit to Bratislava as Speaker of the Knesset, I was greatly impressed by the strong connection between the Jewish community and the Jewish people, to Slovakia. I appreciate greatly your support in the international arena and especially your efforts to prevent Palestinian unilateral moves." The President concluded, "I hope you and your wife will feel at home here in Israel."

Ambassador Huleniyi thanked the President, and began in Hebrew to note, "It is a great honor for me to be here today." He continued, "Today is the 2nd November, both as the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, and the day on which I present my credentials – is one of the most important days of my life. It is quite incredible to see what your country has achieved in such a short time."

He spoke of the cooperation and bilateral relations between the countries and said, "I see great potential in our economic cooperation. While we are both small countries, we are powers - you of innovation, and we of production in many fields." The President responded by saying, "The great achievements of Slovakia in the last two decades are testament to the potential of our cooperation."

Ambassador of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Periyasamy Pillai Selvaraj presented his credentials to the President who congratulated him on his appointment and said, "There are great similarities between the ways our countries are made up of many communities. We know very well how hard you have worked, and what you have achieved for the sake of your people and your nation, and we would be pleased to see the ties between us strengthen, and through cooperation, reach achievements of which we will both be proud."

Ambassador Selvaraj thanked the President and said,



H.E. Mr. Periyasamy Pillai Selvaraj, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Israel

"From the moment I arrived in Israel, I felt at home. The connection between our peoples is very important, and we wish to widen our cooperation especially in the fields of tourism, agriculture, and industry. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the good relations between our peoples, and to express my hope that they will go from strength to strength in the future."

Ambassador of Uruguay, H.E. Mr. Nestor Alejandro Rosa Navarro presented his credentials to the President, who welcomed him and said, "The relationship between Uruguay and the Zionist movement goes back over 100 years; and we appreciate that Uruguay was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Israel." He added, "We also appreciate greatly the firm stand Uruguay has taken against the violence and incitement against Israel."



H.E. Mr. Nestor Alejandro Rosa Navarro, Ambassador of Uruguay to Israel

Ambassador Navarro responded by thanking the President and said, "The warm relationship between our two people has a long history, and we are committed to working to deepen the good relations between us through economic and cultural cooperation."

Ambassador of Norway, H.E Mr. Jon Hanssen-Bauer presented his credentials to the President. President Rivlin welcomed him and said, "I know that you have much experience and understanding of this region, and the need to ensure the security of the citizens of Israel in order to bring an end to the conflict with the Palestinians. We want to live in peace, not just with a peace treaty."



H.E. Mr. Jon Hanssen-Bauer, Ambassador of Norway to Israel

The President went on to speak about the relations between the two countries, and said, "There is much potential for cooperation between our countries, especially in the fields of innovation and energy – where we can work to find solutions to benefit the whole world."

He added, "Today, the world is smaller than ever, and what happens in one region has an impact on the whole world. The situation the Middle East has resulted in hundreds of thousands of refugees, and the world must work together to find a solution to this human tragedy."

Ambassador Hanssen-Bauer thanked the President and said, "I want to convey the deep appreciation of King and Government of Norway. This year we mark 65 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries, of which we are very proud. Our cooperation has grown over the years, and this year alone there has been an increase of 20% in our investment in Israel, which is out of a faith in the strength of the Israeli economy. I see great importance in my role to increase and expand the relations between our countries."

The Ambassador added, «We are proud of the fact that we hosted the Oslo Accords, and are very aware of the difficulties since. We are here in order to assist in the reaching of an agreement which will bring peace and security to Israel. I want to express my deep appreciation for your personal efforts to strengthen Israel as a democratic and Jewish state, and to protect equal rights and opportunities for all the citizens of Israel. We recognize that the values, upon which Israel was built, are the same values upon which Norway was built."

Ambassador of Ireland, H.E Ms. Alison Kelly, presented her credentials to the President who welcomed her warmly and said, "In many ways, Israel

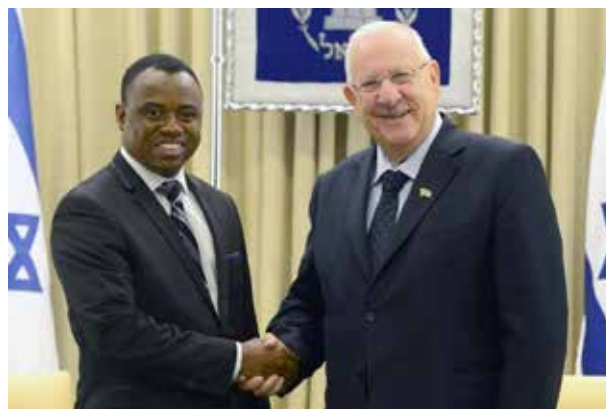
and Ireland are so similar. Ireland, like Israel, is a beautiful country, filled with a mix of tradition and faith. I want to express my high regard for the ongoing economic, cultural, and academic cooperation between our countries."



H.E. Ms. Alison Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Israel

The President noted that the Ambassador had arrived during a very difficult period, and that stressed that Israel was committed to the status-quo on the Temple Mount, and said, "Israel has no war with Islam, and we have no intention to change the status-quo agreement on the Temple Mount – we have not, and will not change one letter of the agreement."

Ambassador Kelly thanked the President for his warm welcome and noted she was deeply honored to be representing Ireland in Israel. She spoke of the expansion in the bilateral relations between the two countries and said, "My team and I will continue to work to strengthen and expand the cooperation between our countries, especially in the fields of technology and medical advances, among others."



H.E. Mr. Osman Keh Kamara, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Israel

Non-resident Ambassador of Sierra Leone, H.E Mr. Osman Keh Kamara presented his credentials to the President who welcomed him warmly and said, "I want to express my appreciation for the good relations between our countries, which we see expressed in the many

citizens of Sierra Leone who participate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Mashav program."

Ambassador Kamara said, "Thank you for your warm words about my country. You have helped us immensely in our struggle against Ebola, and in the development of dialysis treatment. I want to express my deepest appreciation for your help. I will do all in my power to ensure that my time as Ambassador to Israel will serve to strengthen and further the ties and cooperation between our countries."



H.E. Mr. Alexander Petrovich Shein, Ambassador of Russia to Israel

The Ambassador of Russia H.E. Mr. Alexander Petrovich Shein has also presented his diplomatic credentials to the President. President Rivlin began, "I want to express my deepest sympathies to the families of those who perished in the plane disaster in the Sinai. Our thoughts with their families and all the Russian people at this time." He went on to add, "We live in a small world, where an event in one region can affect the world. We understand Russia's strategic concerns, while we need to be aware of all that is going on around us. The name of the game is security - without security, we will never be able to move the process forward."

Russian Ambassador Shein thanked the President for his welcome and noted, "President Putin sees Israel as a very important partner in the Middle East, and Russia is keen to widen our bilateral relations with Israel – there is much potential for cooperation in the areas of hi-tech, culture, agriculture, and more."



H.E. Ms. Barbara Susnik, Ambassador of Slovenia to Israel

Following, Ambassador of Slovenia H.E. MS. Barbara Susnik presented her diplomatic credentials to the President, who congratulated her on her appointment and said, "We greatly appreciate the good relations between our countries, and we are proud to have been among the first nations to recognize Slovenia's independence."

Ambassador Susnik expressed her condolences over the passing of Fifth President of Israel Yitzhak Navon, and spoke with the President about the historic and significant friendship between Israel and Slovenia.



H.E. Mr. Werner Matias Romero Guerra, Ambassador of El Salvador to Israel

Next, Ambassador of El Salvador H.E. MR. Werner Matias Romero Guerra, presented his diplomatic credentials, and said, "Throughout the years, Israel has been by our side, through good and bad times. It is a great honor for me to represent my country in Israel, and work to strengthen our bilateral ties in many fields."



H.E. Dr. Bardhyl Canaj, Ambassador of Albania to Israel

Finally, Ambassador of Albania, H.E. DR. Bardhyl Canaj presented his diplomatic credentials to the President and invited him to visit Albania, noting that the President was "well known in Albania and the media followed his activities and statements closely." The President thanked him for the invitation, and wished him much success in his new role.

Holiday Bazaar Raises Nearly NIS 60K for Beit Uri Residence



Host Jean Murphy, second from left, thanked the Beit Uri choir for their performance and Beit Uri's staff for their dedicated work which enriches the lives of residents and the community at large. Pictured left to right:

Elina Durian, choir master Jean Murphy Hezi, a resident at Beit Uri who makes beautiful handmade paper and works of art Jeanette Koll, parent supporter in charge of fundraising and development at Beit Uri

The Beit Uri Residence for the Mentally Challenged held its annual holiday bazaar Friday, Nov. 27, organized by diplomats living in Israel. Thanks to gorgeous weather and a record number of supporters, the event raised almost 60,000 shekels. The bazaar featured an impressive number of crafts, foods and artistic creations, produced at Beit Uri by the residents themselves. The designs were their own, the workmanship their own, and even many of the raw materials were cultivated at Beit Uri.

Event goes commented on the high



Choir members perform at the Beit Uri holiday bazaar in Herzliya Pituach

quality and artistic expression in products like candles, handmade paper, ceramics, baskets, wood carvings and weavings, and Beit Uri residents themselves competed with each other for sales, in friendly play with shoppers.

A special feature was a mini concert performed by residents singing and playing instruments, led by choir master Elina Durian, and Yossi Shachar, director of Beit Uri. It was joyful and heartwarming, and didn't leave a dry eye in the house.

The event, Beit Uri's largest fundraiser of the year, was organized by members of the diplomatic corps living in Israel: Mrs. Maria Kuglitsch, Ms. Jean Murphy, Mrs. Ane Vahr, Mrs. Kaori Matusomi and Ms. Mary Knight-spouses of Ambassadors from Austria (recently departed,) EU, Denmark, Japan, and the U.S. Deputy Ambassador, respectively. It was hosted by Jean Murphy and her husband EU Ambassador Lars Faaborg-Andersen in Herzliya Pituach.

Beit Uri opened in 1969 on a large tract of land in Afula, and today is home to more than 100 youth and adults with a wide range of mental and physical challenges. Residents,



Candle-maker Zeevi with his instructor Aliza Almagor

aged 6 to 60, live with hearing and visual problems, behavioral disorders, Down Syndrome, autism and other compromised abilities; but they positively thrive with the education, care giving and myriad activities which are accessible to them at the village.

Beit Uri's "On the Hill" Café is a unique project managed at the residential home, where high-functioning residents prepare and serve delicious meals at the dairy kosher café daily for both individuals and groups. Over the last two years, the café has welcomed its nearby neighbors, the business community, educational constituents, diplomatic visitors and the Israeli President's wife, Mrs. Nehama Rivlin, who was moved by the "loving and nurturing environment of Beit Uri" and announced the promotion of mentally challenged communities as one of her goals.



Yossi Shachar, Director of Beit Uri and passionate member of the choir, welcomed shoppers and explained the mission of Beit Uri.

On hearing of the bazaar, Mrs. Rivlin reiterated the importance of the work done by Beit Uri and expressed appreciation for the generosity of its many supporters. On the Hill Café products were a big hit—more than 300 packages of pastries, preserves and olives were sold, made in their own kitchens by residents.

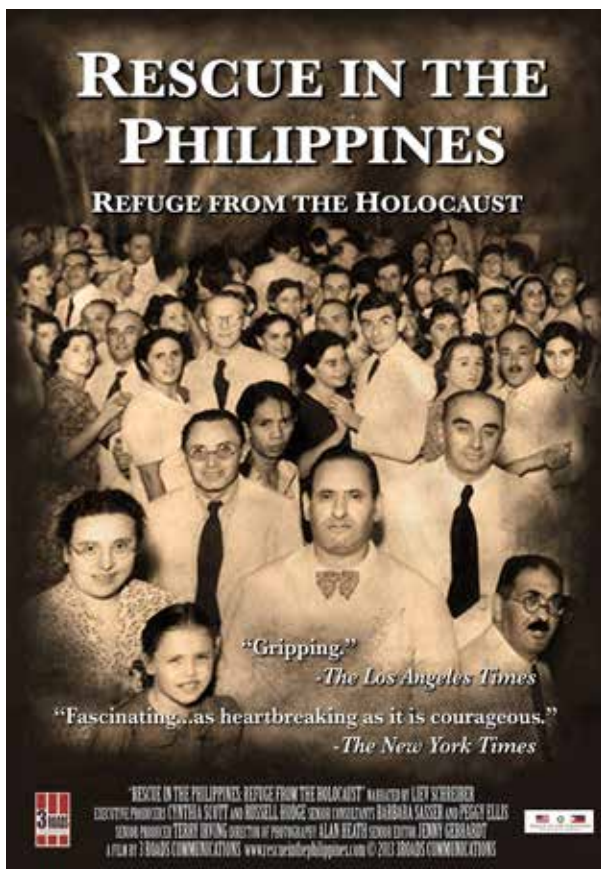
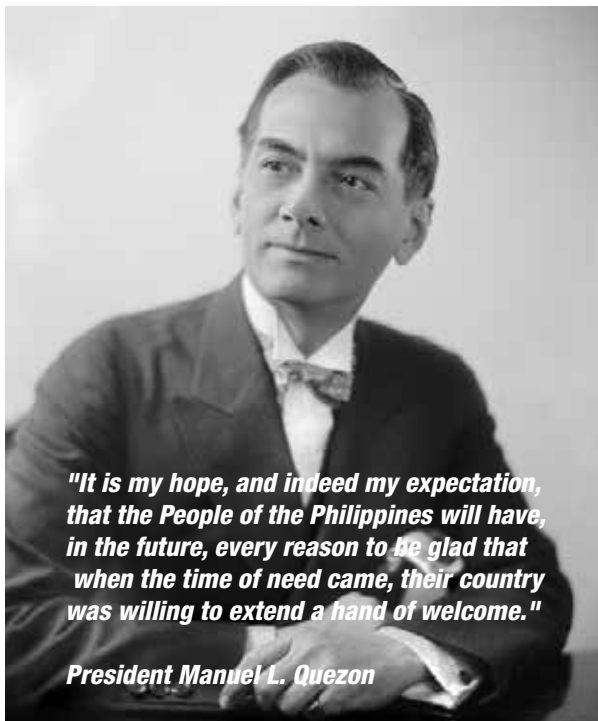
Beit Uri is growing, and constructing a new assisted-living residence. With a one-to-one ratio of committed care-givers to a population whose abilities range from high functioning to constant monitoring, the financial



Olives, fruits and pastries, picked and prepared by Beit Uri residents, were among the most popular products at the Beit Uri Bazaar. With rock-star confidence, Hezi spoke about his paper-making to Stella Seroussi, member of the International Women's Club in Israel.

outlay is extensive and needs are great. The organization gladly hosts visitors to their village of hope, and seeks grants and charitable contributions.

Also unique is Beit Uri's governance by anthroposophic principles, which encourages residents' observance and awareness of the natural world around them. Residents live close to nature—whether hiking in the woods, growing organic herbs in a large productive garden, or shearing their own farm animals for wool, to use in their delightful handmade crafts.



"Rescue in the Philippines: Refuge from the Holocaust", a film documenting the story of 1,300 Jews fleeing the Holocaust and finding a safe haven in the Philippines, was screened for the first time in Israel on November 2015 at the Yad Vashem.

Documentary Film on the Philippine Sanctuary for Jews Premiered at the Yad Vashem

The one-hour documentary recounts how President Manuel L. Quezon, the five Frieder brothers Philip, Henry, Alex, Morris, and Herbert, then US High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul McNutt, and then Army Colonel Dwight Eisenhower - men of different backgrounds, yet united by their moral courage to help others in need - helped 1,300 Jews escape the Nazis and immigrate to the Philippines. At a time when many countries shut their doors or circumstances made it desperately hard for Jews to escape with their lives, these men embarked on a plan of rescue and settlement in the Philippines, risking their reputations and careers, simply because they believed it was the right thing to do.



Ambassador Imperial speaks about President Quezon's moral courage to help Jewish refugees during the premiere screening.

President Quezon ordered an "Open Door Policy" initially allowing up to 10,000 European Jews to enter the Philippines. He went further by donating a land he owned in Marikina (outside Manila) for settlement and lobbying more land for Jewish refugees in Mindanao. As the Philippines was then a Commonwealth Government subject to US policies on visas, High Commissioner McNutt took on the task of convincing the US to keep the Philippine borders open and issue thousands of working visas for Jews. The Frieder brothers worked on raising funds to transport Jewish refugees to Manila, providing them jobs in the brothers' cigar factory, and building housing and schools for their children.

During the program, Philippine Ambassador to Israel Neal Imperial said that the event was purposely held in November to coincide with the anniversary month of the "Kristallnacht" (Night of Broken Glass) and show that 77 years ago the Filipinos were in solidarity with the European Jews, expressing outrage at the racism and inhumanity of the Nazis and their sympathizers through a large indignation rally held in Manila in 1938, when other countries chose to be silent.

Diplomatic delegation of embassies of Africa visits Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot



The delegation of diplomats from African countries visited Kaplan hospital. The gathering was an initiative of *The Diplomatic Club* together with representatives at the medical conference. Diplomats were surprised by the modern facilities and high level of the staff's professionalism.

The group was joined by seniors of the hospital including CEO Dr. Carlos Gruzman, CFO Amir Ben Ari, Head Cardiology Array Prof. Kobi George, Head Pediatrics Division Prof. Eti Granot, Head Day Care Surgery Dr. Alex Duchan, Head Unit IVF Unit Prof. Zeev Shoham and others.

National Day of Romania in Israel



The National Day of Romania in Israel was celebrated at the National Museum of Art in Tel Aviv, with over 700 people participating. The Israeli officials that spoke were Yaakov Litzman, minister of health of Israel, and Yoseph Yonah, member of the Knesset and chairman of the Romania-Israel friendship group. The event was dedicated to the Romanian and Israeli doctors who helped the victims of Colectiv Club. At the event also participated His Beatitude Theophilus III, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Mrs. Monica Schwartz, Israeli-Romanian soprano sang the national anthems of Romania and Israel, and Mrs. Sofia Vicoveanca sang Romanian traditional folk music.



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National Day Reception celebrates the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Akihito of Japan

On the evening of December 4th, 2014, Ambassador and Mrs. Matsutomi hosted at their residence the annual National Day Reception celebrating the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Akihito of Japan.

Over 600 guests attended the event, among them H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Yair Shamir, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Harel Locker, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office; H.E. Amb. and Mrs. Nissim Ben Shitrit, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel (former



Ambassador to Japan); Mr. and Mrs. Avi Berger, Director General of the Ministry of Communications; Mr. Zvi Oren, President of Manufacturers Association of Israel ;Dr. Roni Bornstein, Chairman of the Israel-Japan Friendship Society and Chamber of Commerce; Mr. and Mrs. Arie Kutz, Chairman of the Israel-Japan Friendship Society, as well as distinguished guests from various arenas, Japanese living in Israel and representatives of the diplomatic corps in Israel.

Following the National Anthems of Japan and Israel, performed by a Japanese violinist living in Israel, Ambassador Matsutomi, in his speech, along with congratulatory remarks for His Majesty's 81st birthday, expressed a strong will to advance bilateral ties, with reference to this year's high-level exchanges in both political and economic fields, as well as advancing the relationship in the Cultural field, with the launching of the event "Japan Cultural Week in Jerusalem" held in October and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's recent performance in Japan which fascinated Japanese citizens.



Japanese delegation visits hospital in Gaza

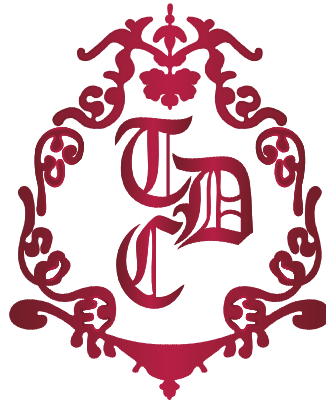
GAZA, (PIC) - A Japanese delegation from Hokkaido Foundation for the support of health services in Palestine visited the charitable Heart and Vascular Hospital in Gaza.

The hospital's director Dr. Mohammad al-Aklouk received the Japanese delegation led by the director general of the Hokkaido Foundation Dr. Yoshio Nakozoka.

Dr. Aklouk welcomed the delegation and reviewed the most significant services offered by the hospital along with its most remarkable stories of success.

Aklouk hailed the support of the Japanese people in general and the efforts of the Hokkaido Foundation in particular in supporting the Palestinian people. He underlined that the visit contributes to the development of the hospital and the continuation of its services.



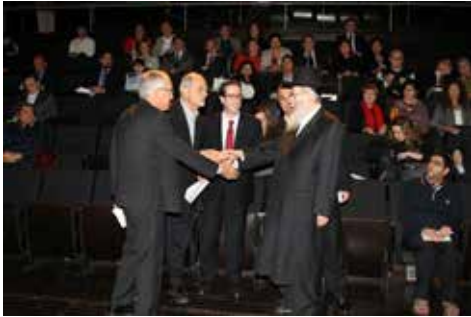


The Diplomatic Club

Be Well in Israel Conference



Etgar Strategic Solutions & Entrepreneurship



BE WELL IN ISRAEL

By Eveline Erfolg

As part of its efforts to serve the diplomatic community in Israel, The Diplomatic Club hosted the 'Be Well in Israel' conference, dedicated to Israeli medicine and healthcare for diplomats.

For one evening, the lobby of the Wohl Center at Bar Ilan Campus transformed into an exhibition area displaying a wide selection of healthcare services tailored to the specific needs and requirements of the diplomatic community. The Diplomatic Club wishes to thank all the supporters exhibiting in the conference, including Maccabi Healthcare Services, Hadassah University Hospital, Herzliya Medical Center, Assuta Hospital, Meuhedet Healthcare Services, Kaplan Medical Center and many others.

With well over 100 in attendance, the event was joined by many distinguished leaders in various fields of Israeli healthcare and medicine, among which were Israeli Minister of Health Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, President of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce Mr. Uriel Lin, Associate Director General of

the Israeli Ministry of Health Prof. Arnon Afek, and Director-General of Maccabi Healthcare Services Mr. Ran Saar.

Health Minister Litzman came to the conference to express support in the initiative offering a uniform basic healthcare package for foreign citizens. In his speech before the representatives of the diplomatic community in Israel, Minister Litzman gave his assistant's cell phone number and assured the diplomats that they can always contact him with any problems they encounter when dealing with the Israeli medical authorities.

"We have a good healthcare system. If our help is needed, we will help, but you must be healthy, so you won't need us," said Litzman, "my assistant Haim speaks English and you can call him anytime. Thousands are calling and each and everyone gets a response."

Many speakers complimented Minister Litzman's work on the healthcare system long after he left the conference. Prof. Arnon Afek said that the current Minister of Health





“is not destroying the existing system, but is building more resources”.

The conference was led by Ms. Julia Verdel, the CEO and Managing Director of The Diplomatic Club in Israel. Ms. Verdel announced the Club’s initiative to hold an international healthcare conference with the aim to set world-class standards that will allow ambassadors, diplomats, representatives of churches and foreign journalists, residing in a foreign country, to benefit from the same level of medical services in every country where they are staying.

Ms. Verdel explained that healthcare is quite a dramatic issue for the members of the diplomatic corps and their families during their mission. In most cases, diplomats are asked to insure themselves privately, even though they are entitled to state services. She offered to bind these different services into a uniform package of the same high quality that will be provided to all diplomats around the world. The workshop day, which featured innovations in the national and private healthcare systems, included a number of lectures and discussions on a variety of healthcare related

subjects, with simultaneous translation into French and Russian.

The lectures were delivered by prominent specialists representing the different components of the medical care delivery system, such as Big Data, a subject addressed by Prof. Varda Shalev, Director of MaccabiTech, as well as new technologies in fertility treatments in Israel, a subject elaborated by Prof. Ronit Haimov-Kochman, infertility specialist at the In Vitro Fertilization Unit of Hadassah Hebrew University Hospital.

Another important issue treated during the workshop day was breast cancer, explained by Dr. Tamar Sella, Director of the Marlene Greenebaum Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Breast Center. In addition, Prof. Louis Shenkman, Head of the International Department at Herzliya Medical Center, revealed a number of important facts regarding the necessity of a routine medical screening. The lectures were concluded by Ms. Zohar Aviv, Clinical Director of International Courses for Medical Professionals and Medical Tourism at the Kaplan Medical Center.







Welcome to Maccabi

Israel's leading healthcare services

Maccabi Healthcare Services has been providing high quality medical services for more than 70 years, guided by its founding principle of supplying advanced healthcare of the highest standard. Maccabi's main mission is to provide comprehensive personal medical care to each member with the most sincere dedication.

During the past year Maccabi has received further support of its communication strategy, as the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute has published a survey commissioned by the Israeli Ministry of Health. Among its highlights, the survey stated that Maccabi members have the highest level of satisfaction of all healthcare recipients in Israel.

Maccabi Healthcare Services was established in 1941 by the Maccabi World Union. Unlike other HMOs of that period, Maccabi aimed to offer health coverage benefits also to those who did not belong to one of the various employee unions. From its inception, Maccabi added a variety of specialists to its ranks, mainly from Western Europe, and offered its members a choice of their own doctors, believing that independent physicians would provide members with the best and most professional healthcare. Over the years, Maccabi has positioned itself as a leader in terms of medical services quality, as well as in terms of customer satisfaction. Maccabi is based on community

services, with its 5241 physicians across the country being its primary contact with its members. Maccabi also offers a wide range of complementary services through several subsidiaries, including: Assuta Medical Center, MaccabiDent, MaccabiTivi, MaccabiPharm, Maccabi Fund, Maccabi Care, and many others. At the end of 2013 Maccabi had over 2 million policyholders.

Well-Come Healthcare Plan

Whether you are returning to Israel after residing abroad for several years or you are a tourist, diplomat, student or foreign citizen, Maccabi's 'Well-Come' healthcare plan offers you a range of services that corresponds to the basket of health benefits enjoyed by all Maccabi members. Now you can ensure your peace of mind on healthcare for you and your family.

Maccabi's healthcare services are based on modern technologies, with the goal of providing the general public with the type of medical care usually only found in private health insurance plans. Maccabi has the highest proportion of specialist physicians, and its members can personally select any physician and service provider throughout the country.

People of all ages may join the 'Well-Come' plan, subject to medical underwriting and the terms described on the Maccabi website. The plan includes a

wide variety of medical services (treatments, hospitalizations, and medications) in Israel. The range of services provided is comparable to the basket of health services established by the National Health Insurance Law, including:

- **Unlimited access to primary medical services: a general practitioner and pediatrician**
- **Hospitalization services and referral to an emergency room**
- **Professional medical services**
- **Examinations in imaging, diagnostic, and gastroenterology institutes**
- **Laboratory and elective hospitalization procedures**

State-of-the-art technologies

Maccabi Healthcare Services offers you the best of modern technology, and is constantly striving to improve its medical facilities and treatments with the aid of the latest developments. Maccabi Online is the most progressive, personal internet service in Israel and it can be accessed via the internet, smartphones, and information kiosks. Moreover, before issuing medications at pharmacies, our innovative technology can evaluate the new medications against previously supplied medications, to prevent potentially dangerous interactions.

Another advanced benefit is teleradiology, which is a digital transmission of radiological images from every clinic in Israel, for rapid diagnosis by the best specialists in the national teleradiology center. Simply visit either Maccabi's Facebook page or website at www.maccabi4u.co.il, to be impressed by the variety of services that awaits you at Maccabi.

Assuta – Bringing Medical Advances to the Whole Family

Envision an operating room with a multi-armed robot, whose range of motion exceeds that of the human hand. Imagine being able to get a 3D image from inside the human body in vibrant color. Or picture a technology that can comfortably deliver a complete radiation treatment in one dose.

These wonders and others like them are used every day at Assuta. Since its establishment in 1935, the hospital has led the way in the use of cutting-edge technologies, bringing the future right to the heart of Tel Aviv. With pioneering advancements that range from diagnostics all the way through rehabilitation, Assuta provides an all-embracing medical solution for the entire family.

Diagnostics of the Future

Assuta's leadership begins with state-of-the-art diagnostics, using the most advanced technologies available to best suit the needs of both patients and doctors. Incorporating all existing medical imaging tests, including MRI, CT, PET-CT, ultrasound, and X-ray, Assuta's imaging institutes are staffed by Israel's foremost radiological experts. Assuta was one of the world's pioneers of PET-MRI



imaging and the first hospital in the country to begin using it. This is a clear reflection of the importance the Assuta places on remaining at the forefront of medical innovation. The technology improves diagnostic accuracy, helping medical professionals better predict the results of clinical and paraclinical treatments. Faster, more precise diagnosis gives patients even greater confidence in their medical care, letting them know that they are in good hands every step of the way.

Long Term Care for Long Term Health

Assuta goes beyond diagnosis and treatment to ensure patients' full recovery and satisfaction even after all procedures are complete. Assuta's physical therapy and rehabilitation center has always focused on those suffering from sports injuries, recovering from orthopedic surgery, or dealing with ongoing pain in the joints and spine. Recently, however, the center has expanded its expertise

to move far ahead of traditional rehabilitation centers. It is now able to administer unique rehabilitative treatment for neurological damage caused by stroke, as well as treatment following jaw injury or buildup of crystals in the ear. These diverse treatments allow Assuta to fully serve all of its patients, no matter the medical issues they face. Assuta's dedication to progressive medical care provides a framework that guides all the hospital's treatments. It has led Assuta to develop outstanding expertise in a variety of areas, becoming the ideal comprehensive medical solution for patients with a wide range of needs.

Bringing New Hope to Cancer Patients

Breaking new ground in the use of surgical and medical treatments, Assuta provides oncology patients with the very latest, most wide-ranging options. For example, innovative Intrabeam technology enables targeted, one-time delivery



of radiation during and after surgery, thereby reducing side effects and saving precious time by eliminating the need for frequent hospital visits. Similarly, NanoKnife makes it possible to treat tumors located near major blood vessels or in areas not accessible to surgical intervention. As a result, a significant percentage of pancreatic cancer patients, as well as patients with hepatic or intestinal tumors previously considered inoperable, can now extend and improve their quality of life.

A Step Ahead on Orthopedic Innovations

In the last decade, the entire medical world has seen a rise in procedures that were rarely attempted in the past due to their complexity and long recovery periods. But as technology advances, so do the advantages of these intricate procedures. Staying ahead of this trend, Assuta performed the first hip transplant in Israel that benefited from computerized planning and

customized, 3D-printed parts. This innovation is setting new benchmarks for precision and personalization in orthopedic surgery around the country, offering patients better care and long-term comfort.

Seeing the Future Clearly

The Assuta Eye Institute is renowned as one of the largest of its kind, performing the full range of eye surgeries, including cataract surgery, cosmetic plastic surgery, and pediatric strabismus surgery. As the ophthalmological center continues to expand, more surgeries are constantly added to the list. The center now attracts vitrectomy patients, as well as patients requiring surgery for the most complex ophthalmological conditions, including those resulting from diabetes or old age. With these procedures, Assuta provides eye care for all ages, meeting the needs of families throughout Israel and the world.

Next-Gen Care for the Next Generation

As part of Assuta's commitment to medical care throughout the entire family lifecycle, the hospital has developed two of the country's leading IVF (In-Vitro Fertilization) departments, at both its Ramat HaChayal and Rishon LeZion locations. The number of procedures at both branches has grown steadily over the years, and with it the overall rates of successful pregnancies and healthy births following treatment. These are just a few of fields in which Assuta has achieved renown among both patients and medical professionals. The uniquely diverse range of cutting-edge medical treatments and technologies, combined with premier service and accessible, central locations, makes Assuta an ideal family healthcare solution for patients from around the world.

Assuta is always at the service of members of the Diplomatic Club, ready to provide information, support, and advanced care of every kind.

Contact Us:

touristcenter@assuta.com

Tel: +972-3-7644044 (please mention that you are a Diplomat Club member)

www.assuta.com

20 HaBarzel St, Ramat HaChayal

Medical tourism - "fountain of youth" or illness of healthcare systems?

By Jacky Ovadia



Medical tourism is one of the most rapidly developing fields of the world's economy. Many governments are heavily investing in attracting medical tourists, who are a source of income and a way to promote healthcare in their country.

According to *Patients Beyond Borders* the estimated market size of medical tourism is \$55 billion, with an annual growth of 15% to 25%.

This is a rapidly growing market, and analysts expect this trend to continue in the coming years. However, the statistics might be incomplete or inadequate, which is typical for many young industries.

In the absence of a central regulatory body coordinating global data collection, a variety of marketing organizations are inflating the numbers and projections in their personal interests.

Some countries are even misleading the media for public relations purposes, and report about goals, rather than actual performance data.

This is a vibrant industry that brings economic benefit and strengthens the local healthcare system. Surprisingly, even countries with a weak healthcare system, can be very successful in promoting medical tourism.

Notable examples are Thailand and India. According to *Bloomberg Rankings* of the world's healthiest countries, Thailand is located in the lower ranks in the 77th place, which

didn't stop it from providing medical services to over 2.5 million foreign patients, mainly from Western Europe, in 2012.

India is an even more striking example, ranked 103rd, it is gaining a reputation as a destination for advanced heart procedures, and every year the local private hospitals are treating hundreds of thousands of foreign patients, providing excellent care at a very low cost. Over 100 destinations worldwide offer a variety of medical services, if we include Rwanda, Peru, New Guinea, and more recently, Puerto Rico. In fact any government that has something to offer, no matter how limited the offer is, has invested resources in this field.

Most of the market is concentrated in about twenty leading medical destinations, including Thailand, India, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea, and the Philippines in Asia; Israel, and recently the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East; Germany, Switzerland and Spain in Europe; the United States, Costa Rica, Mexico and recently Puerto Rico in the Americas.

Many countries invest in this area because they see it as an opportunity for the development of their economy and tourism, as well as improvement of medical personnel and infrastructure. The enthusiastic government support of medical tourism includes market research and trade incentives.

In addition, governments invest in creating brands that are supposed to build trust and credibility based on the following criteria: sophisticated medical infrastructure, advanced hospitality industry, as well as

accessibility, transparency and credibility at all levels of service, combined with a welcoming hospitable culture, open to all.

Thailand: Despite the social and political unrest in recent years, Thailand has shown rapid growth of over 20% annually. Thais are world-famous for their extraordinary hospitality, which is one of the reasons it has become the leading tourist destination in Asia.

In addition, medical costs are lower than in Singapore, which means that medical procedures are 40% to 60% cheaper in comparison to the US, European Union countries or Japan.

Thailand is the most popular destination when it comes to cosmetic surgery, orthopedics, cardiology, dentistry and fertility treatments.

South Korea: The Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare had recently updated its forecast to 267 thousand medical tourists by the end of 2015, and an average annual growth of 35%. In other words, from a turnover of 0.9 billion in 2009, it went to \$3.6 billion in 2015.

These developments contributed to the creation of 30,000 jobs in healthcare and other sectors, such as hospitality, catering and others. Most customers come from China, Russia and neighboring countries. The government maintains a policy of active support that includes tax-exemptions for investors, minimization of government regulation and increased government investment.

UAE: This is one of the most interesting examples of government investment. There are more than 120



Expanding Your Medical Professional Horizons At Kaplan Medical Center

Dr. Carlos Gruzman: "With more than 20 years of experience, the Kaplan Medical center is a leader in training programs for medical professionals around the globe"

The Kaplan Medical Center is affiliated to the Hebrew University Medical School of Jerusalem and is known as an academic institution and teaching hospital where more than 50 wards and services are recognized for residency training. Since year 1995, the Kaplan Medical Center is providing international training for doctors, nurses and administration employees from around the globe.

Dr. Carlos Gruzman - CEO: "As a leader in implementing training programs, the Kaplan Medical Center is dealing with international training for more than 20 years. With the massive knowledge base and professionalism of our multi-lingual speaking staff, we provide countless training opportunities for medical and hospital administration personnel from around the world".

The Kaplan Medical Center provides advanced courses in the fields of cardiology, gynecology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pediatrics, geriatrics, internal medicine, surgery, trauma & intensive care, oncology & hematology, administration, health systems management and many more. Training programs at Kaplan Medical Center are available from 1 day to 1 year long, dedicated to a single trainee or to groups, depending on the actual needs of each institution.

Moreover, in each and every field of expertise as mentioned above, the Kaplan Medical center provides the most tailored made, flexible and adapted training programs available, where the client gets the most suitable training programs for their medical and administration needs and the best value for their money.

Zohar Aviv - Clinical Director, International Courses For Medical Professionals And Medical Tourism, Kaplan Medical Center: "We believe that our purpose is to spread around professional knowledge and experience to all medical personnel around the world".

Since year 2010, the Kaplan Medical Center is accredited by JCI (Joint Commission International) for patient safety. After two successful accreditation processes (last one was held on 2013), the Kaplan Medical Center added many more training programs dealing with patient safety protocols and accreditation preparations.

In addition to training programs, the Kaplan Medical Center is providing Medical Tourism services for all foreign citizens, implementing a unique personalized medicine methods for better treatment and faster recovery results.

For further information and prices on the unique training programs and medical tourism services provided at the Kaplan Medical Center, please contact Zohar Aviv by phone +972-8-9441652 or by email Zohar_a@Clalit.org.il.



BLOOMBERG RANKINGS

THE WORLD'S HEALTHIEST COUNTRIES

Rank	Country	Health Grade	Total Health Score	Health Risk Penalty
1	Singapore	89.46%	92.52%	3.07%
2	Italy	89.07	94.61	5.54
3	Australia	88.33	93.19	4.86
4	Switzerland	88.29	93.47	5.17
5	Japan	86.83	91.08	4.25
6	Israel	85.97	91.97	6.00
7	Spain	84.36	91.26	6.90
8	Netherlands	84.09	88.40	4.31
9	Sweden	83.30	89.37	5.47
10	Germany	83.58	88.81	5.23

hospitals and specialty clinics with JCI certification, and all the facilities comply with American standards.

In the last decade the government has invested more than \$100 million in healthcare facilities, research and education. The goal is to mobilize thousands of local and foreign patients that have become accustomed to receiving medical treatment in Thailand, Singapore, India, US and other countries.

Dubai is an example of a healthcare cluster focused on the pursuit of quality standards and excellent patient treatment. Combined with research and international academic affiliation, its ambitious goal is 500 thousand medical tourists by the end of 2015.

India: Advancing aggressively, for the past year India has focused on legislating and implementing regulations for the medical sector to lure medical tourists. Analysts estimate that India will grow and become one of world's most important destinations in this field.

India is a low-cost leader in the medical tourism market. Patients are willing to bridge cultural differences for savings of as much as 85% compared to their country. One of the most important contributions of this sector in India is mobilization of revenues to finance high-quality and affordable medicine

available for the local population.

Official policy treats the industry as part of its export activities, and many international hospitals are opened with the government's support. Apollo Hospitals, the Indian chain of private hospitals, performed 746 transplants in 2010 (more than the busiest transplant center in the world, second only to the United States).

Singapore: The country hosts 550,000 medical tourists a year, through aggressive regional and international promotion. Singapore offers public and private health systems, specializing in complex surgeries. Present government activities position Singapore as one of the world's leading medical destinations, which is also the most expensive in Asia, due to the higher cost of living and a thriving economy.

Government support in the field of medical tourism is critical, in order to keep experts in the country of only 5.3 million inhabitants. Sponsored by the Ministry of Health, the physicians are sent for training in the world's leading medical centers; they return with knowledge that allows them to offer high-quality services complying with international standards.

Singapore's healthcare system is consistently ranked as the world's leader, with a significant gap in

comparison with the US, Canada and most EU countries.

Israel: Boasts a great reputation in the field of medicine. Promotion of medical tourism contributes significantly to the independence of hospitals and healthcare organizations, as the revenues reinforce the public healthcare system and enable the provision of more affordable services for citizens.

The economic contribution of medical tourism in 2013 was approximately \$370 million with 36,000 customers, spending an average of \$8,900 per visit (8 times more than the average non-medical tourist who spends about \$1100). Medical tourism also generates revenue for the Israeli economy as a whole. However, the big winners and the main engine behind the blossoming medical tourism industry are the hospitals themselves. Israel is known worldwide for its high rankings – often first – in global health indices, and it leverages this to provide a second-tier in medical tourism: medical training. Many countries are sending medical teams to Israel for professional training in the fields of trauma, oncology and cardiology, at advanced learning centers established to train Israeli professionals.

Bloomberg Rankings positions Israel in the 6th place of the world's healthiest countries, with a total health score of 91.97% – higher than Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, France and the US.

Jacky Ovadia is a specialist in business development and marketing of medical tourism, a strategic adviser to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and a consultant for "Clalit" – the largest chain of hospitals in Israel.

Herzliya Medical Center

The Most Luxurious Private Hospital In Israel



Herzliya Medical Center (HMC) is a luxurious private hospital, located in Herzliya by the Mediterranean Seaside, and in close proximity to exclusive hotels.

The International Department serves the needs of visitors from over 50 different countries and dedicated to the care of foreign nationals in Israel including: diplomats, tourists, and businessmen.

We believe that high quality medicine is, first and foremost, personal medicine, the type of medicine that takes into account the entire spectrum of the patient's medical and service needs, down to the last detail.



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- **Medical staff** – over 500 of the most experienced and senior doctors in Israel, including public hospital department and unit heads.
- **Medical Procedures** – the hospital performs operations of all types including complex invasive medical procedures assisted by state of art technology.
- **Personal service** – the international department staffed by a multilingual team speaking a total of 11 different languages cater to all the patients' needs.
- **Exclusive Hospitalization** – private rooms or luxurious well designed suites with sea view.

AETNA U.S.A | B.C.B.S AXA-ASSISTANCE | Cigna U.S.A | Cigna U.K | PPP | AIG SIMPLY HEALTH METLIFE | AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE | TRICARE | S.O.S INTERNATIONAL | BUPA | BUPA LATIN AMERICA | HEALIX | ALLIANZ | IMG | MSH | HTH | GEO-BLUE (HTH) | EURO-CENTER | REDBRIDGE | UNITED HEALTH CARE | GEHA | IMA GIE | Global Benefit Group | DAVID SHIELD | GLOBAL EXCEL | APRIL | CELTA ASSISTANCE | PATRA



Health & Medical Directory 2015/16

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medical centers & hospitals

The Diplomatic Club



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RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

All the Reasons for a Right Choice



Rambam's Multidisciplinary Heart Team: Cardiologists (left) and cardiac surgeons (right), performing an aortic valve replacement. They are but one example of Rambam's medical teams renowned for their expertise worldwide.

Rambam Health Care Campus is one of Israel's largest academic hospitals, located in Haifa, a city renowned for the peaceful coexistence of its multicultural citizens. The hospital is situated in one of the most picturesque locations in Israel between Mount Carmel and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Department of International Medicine at Rambam offers the latest in modern and technologically advanced medical procedures. Each year thousands of patients worldwide apply online for specialized medical care in our department.

Patients seek our help for a wide variety of consultations, treatments, and therapies, provided by renowned specialists in their field,

including cancer, bone marrow transplantation, general surgery, heart disease, and serious pediatric conditions.

Our multicultural and multilingual (Hebrew, English, Russian) staff have one goal: to assure you receive the best possible healthcare – a personal experience with empathy and respect.

If you, a member of your family, or others you care for are facing a challenging medical treatment or surgery, making the right health care choice makes all the difference. Contact us now for a consultation with one of our experts.



A-Sham, The First Arab Food Festival

Part of the Holiday of Holidays Festival of Downtown Haifa

A-sham , the first Arab Food Festival, took place within the framework of the Festival of Festivals, in downtown Haifa from December 8-11, 2015. The A-sham Festival celebrated the world of Arab cuisine, showcasing dishes which are fast disappearing from the local culinary landscape. The festival, an initiative of the Downtown Haifa Administration, is under the creative direction of 2014 Master Chef Israel winner Dr. Nof Atamna-Ismaeel from the northern Israeli Arab city of Baqa al-Gharbiyye and by Arieh Rosen.

The word A-sham in Arabic refers to the geographic area known as the Levant, with its famous Arab cuisine, which stretches from Aleppo in the north through to the Negev in the south, in Lebanon and Trans-Jordan. The festival was focus on the interesting cultural context of the Levantine kitchen, looking at culinary interpretations of special life-style moments - for example cookies made with hilbe (fenugreek seeds) for the nursing mother to improve the quality of her milk. Together, the chefs will bring back tastes that are slowly disappearing for reasons that include being too labor-intensive - such as habisa, a black and white pudding sweetened with carob juice that takes hours to prepare - and being associated with "poor" cuisine - such as haroumanieh, green lentils cooked with eggplant in pomegranate juice.

During the four-day festival, 25 selected chefs from around Israel were each cooperated with a downtown Haifa restaurant, creating at least one "festival dish" from the Levantine kitchen. The festival dish costed no more than NIS 35, and a map detailing all 25 restaurants, chefs and dishes were available to festival-goers, allowing them to taste their way through the festival.

Participating chefs include Hamoodi Abouelafia, Balkees Abu Rabia, Meir Adoni, Hila Alpert, Johnny Gurik, Habib Dawoud, Osama Dallal, Massimiliano di Mattero, Zuzu Hanna, Moyin Halabi, Haim Cohen, Avi Levy, Alaa Musa, Elias Mattar, Omer Miller, Omar Elwan, Hmodi Okala, Naher Araid, Nashat Abbas, Husam Abbas, Dukhul Safadi, Amos Sion. Dr. Nof Atamna-Ismaeel will also be hosted in a famous Polish bakery in Haifa, dating back to the 1940s, where she prepared two sweet festival dishes.

Local restaurants hosting the chefs in downtown Haifa include Jack VeHa'afunim, Angus, Jacko Seafood, Jotti, Dovrin 7, The Diner, Ha'Ogen pub, Ha'namal 24, HaMa'agan, the Pint Pub, Venya Bistro, Talpiot Hamara, Kula, Libira, Lahza, Ma'ayan Habira, Noventa Nova, Sangria, St. Etienne, Café Palmer, Hummus Fadi, Hummus Faraj, Café Sammy, Star restaurant, Kalman's, Kielser's, Spira bakery shop and Strudel cafe. Participating growers and producers include Ghanem Dairies from Baqa al-Gharbiyye , Arak Masada from Kfar Ma'aliya and Abu Wassim.



Alphaville is coming to Tel Aviv. February 5-6, 2016

German band Alphaville is coming to Tel Aviv, Israel for two concerts in February 2016. The band is stopping in Israel as part of its European Tour. Marian Gould, Bernhard Lloyd and Frank Mertens formed the band back in 1982 under the name "Forever Young" but then changed it to Alphaville two years later. Lead singer Gould is currently the only original member still in the band.

Alphaville has sold more than 6 million albums. Some of its hits include "Big in Japan", "Forever Young", and "Dance with Me." Alphaville will be performing on February 5 & 6, 2016 at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.



The Magic Flute

Children Opera Hour

Papageno the bird catcher embarks on a perilous journey to find princess Pamina and return her to prince Tamino who loves her and waits for her. On his journey he will encounter the Queen of the Night and her three ladies and at the end of the day will also find love. Mozart's beloved opera in a special version for the entire family with colorful costumes.

Sderot Sha'ul HaMelech 19, Tel Aviv-Yafo

TUE 1.12.15 17:00 | TUE 5.1.16 17:00 | TUE 23.2.16 17:00

TUE 8.3.16 17:00 | TUE 5.4.16 17:00



Shamel Pitts returns with a new LIVE performance: BLACK BOX.



*Performed By Shamel Pitts
Produced By Galit Reich
Lighting Design By Tom Love
Graphic Design By Zohar Shemesh
Videography By POISON
Music Edit By: Dudi Bell
Photos: Alex Apt Photography*

Black box is A Poetic Dance Performance written, conceived and performed by Shamel Pitts. The Black Box is being used as a metaphor referring to the "Black Box" device found on airplanes. the Black Box is to survive and record all events that happen before the crash. a Black box also refers to a performance space which is usually more intimate and of closer proximity than a theatre.

Little Black Book of RED is a collection and fluid arrangement of many texts and prose written over several years by Shamel Pitts and it began as a private book project and developed into a physical visualization of the atmosphere and stories in the book, which deals a lot with the tension between dualities.

Originally, the first performances of BLACK BOX were in Shamel's apartment, in a small room that he painted all BLACK, performed for 30 of his closest friends, on his 30th birthday for 30 minutes. Now it is performed out of home in Beit Haomanim. Each performance will be followed by a gallery gathering and discussion of the work.



Il trovatore
Giuseppe Verdi
 New Production | Sung in Italian |
 Duration: 2 hours and 45 minutes

Libretto Salvatore Cammarano | **Conductor** Daniel Oren | **Director** Michal Znaniecki | **Set Designer** Luigi Scoglio | **Costume Designer** Giusi Giustino | **Lighting Designer** Bogumil Palewicz

Among the soloists:

Manrico Gustavo Porta, Alfred Kim | **Leonora** Svetla Vassileva, Dinara Alieva, Ira Bertman | **Di Luna** George Petean, Ionut Pascu, Tito You | **Azucena** Marianne Cornetti, Enkelejda Shkosa | **Ferrando** Carlo Striuli | **Inez** Alla Vasilevitsky, Anat Czarny | **Ruiz** Eitan Drori

The Israeli Opera Chorus

Chorus Master: Ethan Schmeisser
 The Opera Orchestra - The Israel Symphony Orchestra
 Rishon LeZion

English & Hebrew Surtitles

Translation: Israel Ouval

*SAT 26.12.15 11:00 | **THU 31.12.15 20:00 |
 FRI 1.1.16 13:00 | SAT 2.1.16 20:00 | MON 4.1.16 20:00
 TUE 5.1.16 20:00 | THU 7.1.16 20:00 |
 FRI 8.1.16 13:00 | SAT 9.1.16 20:00 |
 MON 11.1.16 20:00 | TUE 12.1.16 20:00 |
 WED 13.1.16 20:00 | FRI 15.1.16 13:00 |
 SAT 16.1.16 20:00

* TOWARDS OPENING 26.12.15, 11:00

** PREMIÈRE 31.12.15, 20:00

Pilobolus
dance company



One of the leading modern dance companies of our time returns to Israel with a new program featuring five new works.

On the Nature of Things - Performed by three dancers balanced on a two foot wide column.

The Inconsistent Pedaler - A surrealist tale about a girl who rides a bicycle. A collaboration with Etgar Keret and Shira Geffen.

Automation - A new collaboration with Sidi Larbi Cherakaoui. Automation takes place in a mirrored world somewhere between "Tron" and "Bladerunner" at the same time.

MEGAWATT - A electrifying experience. A full-company piece. A breathtaking display of the company's physical endurance.

All is not lost - A collaboration with the Grammy winning band OKGo.

"Fascinating and rebellious." (**Fort Worth Star Telegram**)

WED 20.1.16 20:00 | THU 21.1.16 20:00 |
 FRI 22.1.16 13:00

Sderot Sha'ul HaMelech 19, Tel Aviv-Yafo
 Israeli Opera

5 most important sites any Christian should visit in Israel

The holy land is full of places important to Christianity. Some of those places connect to certain stories and people, but only the most important ones are the places where Jesus lived and died. The story of the holy land is the story of Jesus and in the locations listed here, you will be able to follow His footsteps, His miracles and His legacy to the world.



Nazareth

In the New Testament, the city is described as the childhood home of Jesus, and as such is a center of Christian pilgrimage, with many shrines commemorating biblical events. While you walk these streets you imagine how Jesus walked here 2000 years ago. Over a dozen sites and places of interest for the Christian tourist are waiting to be seen around Nazareth, which is the largest Arab city in Israel. From the Basilica of Annunciation to the colorful Old Market, Nazareth has you covered for a beautiful day filled with Jesus's spirit and new experiences.

The Jordan River

This river which witnessed Jesus's baptism gets its water from the melting Hermon mountain snow. It runs from North to South from the Sea of Galilee and into the Dead Sea. Jordan River offers more than just hikes, water sports and natural reserves- you can also be baptized at the Yardenit baptismal site. Yardenit is a registered baptismal site and is located on the banks of the river between magnificent Eucalyptus trees. It is the perfect spot for recollection in serenity.



Jerusalem is as important to Christianity as Nazareth, and holds dozens of historic and religious locations to visit. To this day, Jerusalem remains the point where fortunes are shaped and epic battles are fought. Jesus and Jerusalem are bound together, and you can feel that as you walk the streets which are filled with raw beauty and ancient secrets. The Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa and many sites of great importance, await you in the Holy capital of Israel.



Cana of the Galilee

The very first miracle Jesus had ever performed was turning water into wine at a poor couple's wedding in Cana. Visiting Cana is an emotional and inspiring experience. It is possible to actually witness a Christian wedding or the renewal of wedding vows when you visit, acts that became a tradition over the years. The small village is located in between the scenic views of the Galilee and was recently renovated. A beautiful promenade was built to welcome the 200,000 tourist that visit Cana every year.

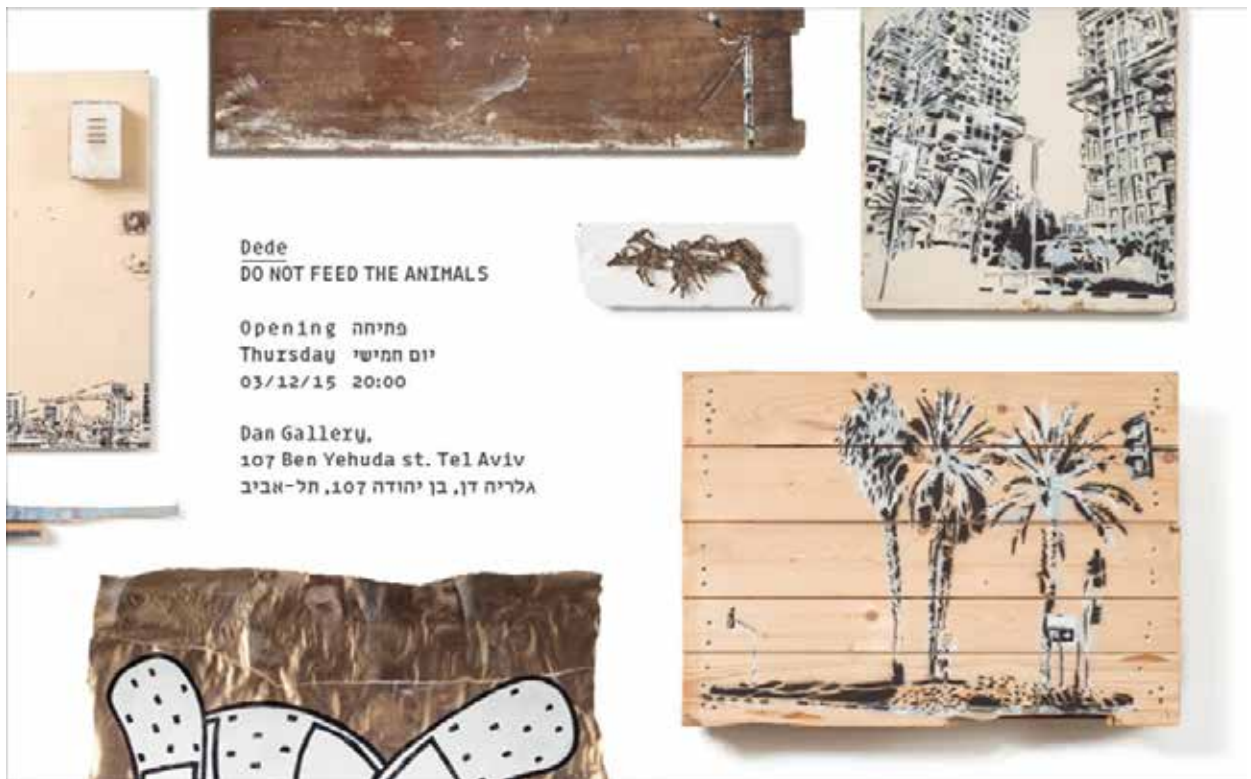
Sea of Galilee

This is where Jesus gathered his first disciples, and performed the miracle of walking on water. By the gorgeous shores of the Sea of Galilee, surrounded by beautiful mountains, you will not only feel how special it is, you will also understand what Jesus felt when he came here. You will gaze upon the same views which Jesus did, and hopefully you will find inspiration just like He did. The entire surrounding of the Sea of Galilee is filled with history. You might want to take the stone path from Capernaum to the place of multiplication of loaves and fishes.

Once you've visited these special places, you will realize how this experience changed you, how it made you stronger and inspired. Once you've felt those things, you will understand that falling in love with the holy land is inevitable. This season, come visit the Land of the Bible for a once in a lifetime trip. We are waiting for you!



DAN Gallery Dede Do Not Feed the Animals | 3.12.15



Dede
DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS

Opening פתיחה
Thursday יום חמישי
03/12/15 20:00

Dan Gallery,
107 Ben Yehuda st. Tel Aviv
גלריה דן, בן יהודה 107, תל-אביב

The exhibition Do Not Feed the Animals introduces a new body of works by Israeli street artist Dede, familiar to audiences from the public sphere.

In recent years, motifs that allow to easily trace his imprint keep surfacing in the artist's works:

Band-Aids diversely used, little structures, sheds and buildings all integrate in his paintings, in the figures of animals made of wooden planks, ever on the run, searching or struggling.

His large paintings are on display over walls in the public sphere, as well as in galleries, different art events and exhibition spaces in cultural hubs around the world, such as London, New York, Tel Aviv and Berlin.

Opening- 3/12/15, 20:00 pm, Dan Gallery, 107 Ben Yehuda St. Tel Aviv

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Dan Gallery for Israeli Art
107 Ben Yehuda st. Tel Aviv / T. 03.5243968
Sun-Thu 10:30-19:00, Fri 10:30-14:30

גלריה דן לאמנות ישראלית
בן יהודה 107 תל-אביב / טל. 03.5243968
א-ה: 10:30-19:00, ימי ו': 10:30-14:30

ASTROLOGICAL FORECAST SEPTEMBER 2015 TO AUGUST 2016

By: astrologer ROY LOEB

FOR PERSONAL CONSULTATION:

MOBILE: 054-804 - 1123

Aries

21.3 – 20.4

You have been going through many changes in the past few years having to do with your image and personality. During this period, these changes will continue to impact those of you who were born on dates in the middle of the sign. You will be able to change the way you look (hair style, mustache, weight, etc.). Work will prove very satisfying and you'll become comfortable in your position, things seem to go your way. Romantically you will be in demand and experience some magical moments of falling in love during the fall and into winter.

Taurus

21.4 – 20.5

Two challenging years are now behind you. During this period you will find time for leisure activities. Romantic encounters are not going to be too serious but those that will prove themselves positive, especially new ones, will happen around December. Emotionally you feel relieved and comfortable.

Gemini

21.5 – 20.6

his period is going to be a bit more challenging than the 12th preceding

months, especially for those born on dates at the beginning of the sign period. You find yourself feeling lonely in spite of your innate social disposition. Relationships in general disappoint you but if you are in a serious relationship, you may be able to take it to the next level. Financially you are likely to focus on saving up money. You feel good at home and may decide to expand, decorate or move to a better home, any change in this area will prove positive.

Cancer

21.6 – 22.7

You are communicative and friendly to people around you and getting great feedback in return. Most of your efforts during this period are focused on work so it's important to keep a good relationship with your superiors or clients. If you are in a charged relationship that is not going well, it will most likely end.

Leo

23.7 – 22.8

You had it good last year but during this period you will make good profits on your money and your income will grow. You may find new hobbies and hidden talents but will have to invest the time. Single Leos may find love that arrives from overseas, you are likely to travel and make contacts abroad.

Virgo

23.8 – 22.9

This is your time! Plenty of opportunities will come your way. You will feel very optimistic and



rewarded. Remodeling is possible. Family members may call on you for assistance. All that said, you do feel a bit closed in at home, somehow tied down. In the romantic sphere and especially for Virgos born on dates at the beginning of the period, there is some uncertainty with matters of the heart. It will be difficult for you to understand where you stand so it becomes important to keep the communication open with your partner.

Libra

23.9 – 22.10

You will have to work hard for money during this period. Single Libras will have surprise romantic encounters. It's important to make sure the prospect is good and will stand the test of time, otherwise it will dissolve quickly. You are very independent within a relationship and need your own space. At work things will not be very clear, especially for Libras born on dates at the beginning of the sign so it becomes important to nurture a good relationship with your employer. You will enjoy time in solitude and keep yourselves busy with enjoyable activities.

Scorpio

23.10 – 22.11

In November you surfaced from a challenging period and you now feel the relief. This period of time will be a much better one. Your finances are the only thing that may get in the way a little. You tend to want to break away at work and must be patient and spend more time investigating the facts. Socially, you will be at your peak and communicate a lot, especially at the beginning of the period. You will meet many new people and enjoy their company.

Sagittarius

23.11 – 21.12

You are entering a challenging period. Things seem to stagnate and it's difficult to move ahead. You will be called upon to do some soul searching and work of the personal growth kind. On the up side you are bound to learn many new things; as you will soon find out, life will prove a great teacher. The career front however will flourish and you will be up for a promotion. Expect surprises in the romantic sphere too. You will have surprise encounters with at least one prospect that turns serious for a long period of time.

Capricorn

22.12 – 20.1

This year is good for study and enrichment on subjects that long held your interest. You will travel abroad during this period. Even though you are comfortable alone it will prove more challenging at this time. Romantic encounters and connections will be good but not without work.

Aquarius

21.1 – 19.21

Your finances will be unstable and feel a bit like a roller coaster. In spite of that, there are chances of several unexpected sums of money coming in, including an inheritance. You are attracting many people into your life during this period. The friendship and communication you hold in such high esteem will reach new heights. You will be very satisfied at work and may be up for promotion in December or January.

Pisces

20.2 – 20.3

This year will be a great one for you, especially romantically. You feel the prospects are good and lead somewhere. Single Pisceans will have new and exciting encounters, those of you attached will experience the relationship deepen and be completely joyful. You will get excited by things having to do with fantasy and imagination. Work will be taxing and demanding so you will have to invest a lot in this area but you will reap the rewards in the following years.

The State of Israel

The chart of Israel shows an increase in the violence with the Palestinians. We are going to see more incidents that will echo around the world. The current wave of violence will die down in the next couple of weeks but it seems like there is another flare up during May 2016 that may be more difficult to manage. The economy will suffer too, with unpleasant economic regulations handed down from Jerusalem. The only comfort

in the situation is that Israel's relationship with many countries around the world will improve and it will finally regain global support.

The United States of America

This winter, the U.S. will undergo a paradigm shift that will bring about some challenges. The positive attitude and support of Israel will remain intact. The country's foreign policy however will change in 2016. Internally, the economy seems to be shifting as well, out with the old and in with a new economic plan. Towards the end of this period the country will accomplish most of its goals and will strengthen its international relations all over the world.

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