

The Diplomatic Club

December 2016 | since 1998



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*Bishop
Dr. Munib
Younan*

10-16

*President
Rivlin receives
diplomatic
credentials
from new
ambassadors of
Belgium, Latvia,
Switzerland,
Greece, Finland,
Turkey, France,
Canada &
Guatemala*

22-25

Christmas





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Dear friends,

2016 has been an eventful year so far, and as we approach the end of the year, it is time for us to celebrate the many great moments and companions occurred in our lives.

We wish the Middle East an active 2017 year, 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 HANUKKAH!

The first night of Hanukkah is the festival of lights. Let the fact that the busses were still running in Israel show that it really isn't that major of a celebration for the Jewish faith. However, it's still important in that it commemorates the Jewish reclamation and rededication of the

Holy Temple in Jerusalem from the Greeks, and the small amount of olive oil they found to light the temple's menorah which miraculously lasted for eight days. Chanukah Sameah.

We just want to wish you all the best and of course health for the next year. Due all this holidays we are celebrating a miracle.

We hope all your dreams and a wish comes true.

We also hope that all the political and economic problems will solved as soon as possible.

We wish that no more bombs are falling in the Middle East and other parts on this planet!!

But I am also sure, that some of these wishes are just dreams. But I am also sure, that sometimes dreams can get reality.

So I don't stop to believe in it.

Remain courageous and once again **HAPPY NEW YEAR** and all the best and see you next year!

Happy Holidays
Julia Verdel
Publisher
And the Editorial Team



The Diplomatic Club

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Bishop Dr. Munib Younan,

66, was born and raised in the holy land, where he worked as a youth pastor and teacher. After earning a degree from Finland's University of Helsinki, Younan was ordained in 1976

and became pastor of the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem, a post he held for three years. He has also served parishes in Ramallah and Beit Jala and has studied at Chicago's Lutheran School of Theology.

Bishop Younan was the first to translate the Augsburg Confession, a key document of the Lutheran church, into Arabic, and he holds an honorary doctorate by Wartburg College in Iowa. He has headed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land since 1998. In 2010 he was elected President of the World Lutheran Federation.

Bishop Younan and his wife, Suad, have three children and one grandchild.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is a global communion of 145 regional and national Lutheran churches in 78 countries; membership is based on a common doctrine. Member bodies include, for example, the Churches of Sweden,

Denmark and Norway; the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Tanzania, America, Finland, and Hanover (Germany); and the Protestant Christian Batak Church of North Sumatera, Indonesia. In total, the LWF represents two-thirds of the world's 70 million Lutherans in areas such as theology, humanitarian assistance, and interfaith relations.

The presidency of the LWF is an elected position, with member churches choosing a president every seven years. The most recent elections were held in 2010 and resulted in the election of Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, the first LWF president from the Middle East.

He is simultaneously continuing in his position as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, which has 3,000 members in six congregations in Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories. The Diplomacy Club recently met with Bishop Younan in his offices at the stately Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem's Old City.

TDC highly appreciates Dr. Dani Haimovic, Head of the Israeli Center for Christian-Jewish Friendship and Cooperation, for his kind assistance in composing this interview.

D.C. Tell us about the Evangelical Lutheran Church community in Israel and the Palestinian territories, and the services it provides.

The Lutheran Church entered the Middle East about 170 years ago through missionaries who came here not only to preach gospel,

which is essential for us, but also through education and social services. In addition to our six congregations we have a strong educational ministry. The first girls' school in Palestine, Talitha Kumi [now in Beit Jallah], is ours, and was founded in 1852 to promote

the role of women in Palestine. We also have primary schools in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Ramallah, with a total of 3,000 children in our schools. Only 6 percent are Lutherans, while 50 percent are Muslims. The rest are Christians of other denominations



The goal is to provide a holistic education. We mold the whole personality and identity of the Palestinian. We teach them how to live with other religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity. We teach them non-violence education and how to dialogue in order to achieve their human, political and national rights, and at the same time we promote the role of women, and we give them a quality education.

We also have pilgrimage houses and ministries such as the Augusta Victoria hospital [in Jerusalem] and clinical services in the West Bank. As a Lutheran church we have a vocational training center in Jerusalem which is helping Palestinians -- Muslims and Christians alike -- to get vocational training. We also have women there, of course, getting training in Information Technologies, welding, carpentry, auto mechanics. In Bethlehem we are developing a college for music, art and communication. The strength of the church today, my church and others, is not in the numbers but in the ministries. We care for the service of the human being,

regardless of race, political views, religion or ethnicity – or gender.

For us, the promotion of women in church and society is a big priority. We have a women's committee, made up only of women, while many other churches have women's committees comprised only of men. Our committee is charged with promoting women not only in attending worship but also as an integral part of the leadership of the church and of society. They take on issues such as domestic violence, women's political rights and women's rights within the church. To empower women is an integral part of the identity of the Lutheran.

D.C. You mentioned that your schools teach dialogue and non-violence. What relationships do you personally have with clerics of other religions?

The church never lives in its own bubble. It is an integral part of the fabric of its society. As God determined that we are living here together, Muslims, Christians and Jews, we have to live together, and must find ways to live together. It is my policy and that of the

Lutheran church to find ways and means to teach people to live with Islam, and with Judaism, and the Muslims with Jews and Christians. To live with other religions is an art. Every person who lives in this country must be an artist, to live with the other.

I have an excellent relationship with the Muslim leadership, from the highest levels – the Mufti and the Chief Justice of the Islamic court – and with normal imams, and we have Muslim-Christian dialogue. We talk about common living. How can we live together? How can we see God in the other?

D.C. What have been the results of those conversations?

The most important result is when you build trust among the community. When you build trust you can dialogue with anybody. And of course there are common statements. For example, we participate in "A Common Word", a document signed by 138 Muslim clerics, stating that the core of religion is loving God and loving their neighbor. The problem today is not loving God – all of us love God, whom we don't see. The crisis today is loving the neighbor: How can I love my neighbor who is a Christian, who is a Muslim, who is a Jew, who is a Palestinian, who is an Israeli, who is a Jordanian, who is from another ethnicity or another nationality? How can I reflect this love and accept my neighbor, and the humanity of my neighbor? Once you accept the humanity of the other you accept his human, political and national rights.

Some years ago we [Christian and Muslim clerics] issued the Amman Declaration, which stated we must respect every religion's symbols, traditions, and holy places, and there should be access to holy

places for everybody. And we have been working with the King of Jordan and the United Nations to create Interfaith Harmony Week. Religion should not be a source of problems but an active source of peace and finding solutions.

D.C. What of dialogue with Jewish leaders?

Indeed the second dialogue is

disagreements should not prevent us from building bridges, because when the grassroots sees that we [clergy] are building bridges, they will also try to build bridges, despite the political situation, which is more about separation.

I have been asked several times to go to synagogues to speak. Sometimes Jewish groups come

We have had difficult times, such as in 2002 [during the height of the Second Intifada], we disagreed. The rabbis here, and the clergy, we represent our societies. We can disagree. But even when we disagree we must build bridges, because we have to live together, whether we like it or not.

D.C. What is being done to promote



between Christians and Jews. We started that 21 years ago, a group with some of our rabbi friends, who are Reform, Orthodox and Conservative. We had meetings every six weeks – maybe now less frequently because we all got busy, not for lack of intention, though I had breakfast with this group this morning – in which we study each other’s traditions about justice, co-existence, peace, self-defense, and each other’s festivals. Certainly we disagree, but the theological

to my church and worship with us. We’ve had a common Seder meal together.

It is important to learn about each other. Ignorance is the enemy of the human being.

One of the problems of extremism is they want to dictate what the other religion is. It is important to combat any form of extremism, no matter in which religion. We must promote an agenda of moderation.

dialogue between Muslims and Jews? How is your church involved in those efforts?

In 2005 we started an important project, the Council of Religious Institutions in the Holy Land. It includes both the Ashkenazi and Sephardi Chief Rabbis of Israel, the heads of local churches in Jerusalem, the Chief Justice of the Islamic court in Palestine and other Islamic leadership.

When [the laypeople] see that we [clergy] have a positive language, it will infiltrate to the grassroots. What the leaders say, the people follow – right or wrong. We leaders have a key role, and sometimes we underestimate it. We must speak the language of living together, not the language of separating each other, not the language it pleases the politicians for us to speak.



For two or three years we have had Palestinians and Israelis monitoring what the [Christian] clergy, rabbis and imams are declaring about each other in the press. Sometimes we have found the problems are with the religious leaders, and we must repent for this. We have to teach what is right about the other, not what we think is right, but to teach about the other as they actually are.

We also have a team of 18

professors, led by a professor at Yale, monitoring 700 textbooks in Palestine and Israel, to see what they are teaching about each other in the subjects of religion, humanities, civics and geography. The results will be announced at the beginning of 2012. We are prepared to approach both the Ministries of Education of Israel and of Palestine to make the necessary changes.

We have to start with the children. We have the right to disagree politically and about our faith, but we have no right, as human beings, to incite each other or to teach the wrong things about each other, even if we disagree.

D.C. Do you think it is possible for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be solved through dialogue alone, without one side forcing the hand of the other through force or

terrorism?

I am a man of peace. For 63 years we have fought. What did fighting bring to us? More hatred, more prejudice, more separation, more fear. The only way for us is to sit and dialogue for a two-state Jerusalem based on 1967 borders and a shared Jerusalem. Fighting solves nothing. Violence breeds more violence. Dialogue, combating extremism and strengthening moderation, that is

what we need in this country, in Palestine and in Israel.

D.C. Regarding negotiations based on the 1967 line, many Israelis are suspicious that such a solution would not be enough for the Palestinian side, that the aim of some powerful Palestinian groups is ultimately the destruction of the State of Israel. What evidence do you have that a two-state solution would bring an end to the conflict and lead to a true peace?

I'm not a politician, but I want to make it clear: We must change the mentality of fear and war to a mentality of trust. This is for me more important than any political solution at the moment. If we want a two-state solution, we must trust in each other, and make every effort that it will be a success. Nobody can erase the other. When we speak of a two-state solution, it means they will be side-by-side, the Palestinians with the State of Israel. I believe it is possible. Certainly, these two states will not have a soldier against a soldier. As a clergyman, I would say we don't need arms. We need education and economic growth. If there is a two-state solution, the states must cooperate. They cannot be enemies. Once there is a solution, I believe it will be forever.

We must think even further, not be stuck where politicians want us today. If we have a two-state solution, why can't we have a Middle East Union, where every state is independent but at the same time economically and politically are interdependent? Then every state is sovereign, and there is a neighbor they can trust. I believe this vision is possible. Maybe I am naïve, but I'd rather be naïve for peace than anything else.

D.C. In light of the Arab Spring, how optimistic are you about the future



of Christianity in the Middle East?

We have to be careful not to generalize. We have to take each country as a separate case. Iraq is a problem now. We have seen churches vandalized. We have seen even mosques being vandalized – who did it? Certainly extremist forces who want to see a conflict between Christians and Muslims. We must not be naïve. But you don't see it in this country. In Jordan, in the holy land, we have freedom of religion.

D.C. There is a sense, however, that in Muslimmajority communities, such as Bethlehem, the Christians are being squeezed.

Some are trying to say so. I go to Bethlehem every day. We have churches in Bethlehem. I see what I live. We have full freedom of religion. No one is squeezing the other. You might see individuals speaking this or that. We Christians are speaking freely; no one checks

our sermon. But there are always issues between the Church and the government, both in Israel and in Palestine.

We do have a significant problem of a shrinking Christian population in the holy land, due both to birth rate issues [as compared to Muslims, Druze and Jews, Christians have the lowest birthrates in Israel and Palestinian territories], and emigration. Christians are now less than 2 percent of the population here – we used to be 15 percent. Studies show that when Christians leave the region, they have three reasons: the lack of peace, the lack of jobs, and growing extremism in Israel and Palestine.

But even in Bethlehem or Ramallah – on the West Bank– the Christian church is respected. I'm not talking about fringe groups who always look for problems. I mean, we have not had one church burned. We have good relations with the Muslims and with the

local mosques.

D.C. How would you characterize your relationship with Hamas?

I would prefer not to go into these things. I am not a politician and I don't want to speak about these issues. They go out of my sphere.

D.C. What is your message to the people of the Middle East, in one or two sentences?

The Arab awakening has shown us common values in the Middle East we all share, and we must encourage them: dignity, respecting each other's human rights, accepting gender balance, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of minorities. If we in the Middle East continue to make these values a reality, we will have changed it to a Middle East that accepts the other as God created them. Let us give peace based on justice, and reconciliation based on forgiveness, a chance.

THE FIRST ARAB-HAREDI BUSINESS COOPERATION CONFERENCE WAS HELD ON TUESDAY (29.11) AT THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ISRAEL IN RAMAT GAN. AMONG THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE "HIGH-TECH IN ARAB AND HAREDI SOCIETY" AND "WOMEN'S BUSINESSES IN A RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENT".

EU Ambassador to Israel Lars Faaborg-Andersen on behalf of the European Union was proud that the EU Delegation to Israel is able to host the business elites of two important and growing communities in Israel. Two communities that rarely communicate with each other, yet might have more interests in common than first meets the eye.

It is my sincere hope that this conference will be a first step, not only in forging links between Arab and Haredi businesses but also in fostering better understanding between the Arab and Haredi communities in general.



photo: Nir Kafri

PRESIDENT RIVLIN RECEIVES DIPLOMATIC CREDENTIALS FROM NEW AMBASSADORS OF BELGIUM, LATVIA, SWITZERLAND, GREECE, FINLAND, TURKEY, FRANCE, CANADA & GUATEMALA

President Reuven Rivlin this morning (Monday) at his residence received the diplomatic credentials of new ambassadors to Israel from the Belgium, Latvia, Switzerland, Greece, and Finland. Each ceremony began with the raising of the flag and the playing of the national anthem of the visiting country, included an honor guard, and - after the presentation of the credentials - the signing of the guest book, before the playing of Israel's national anthem 'Hatikva'.



President Rivlin welcoming H.E Mr. Olivier Belle , Ambassador of Belgium to Israel.

President Rivlin concluded by extending an official invitation to the King of Belgium to visit Israel in the near future.

Ambassador Belle thanked the President for his warm welcome and said, "We have just arrived but feel at home, and have already visited much of your country." He noted, "There are many challenges," and that "Israel is a special country for Belgium. We have a

President Rivlin first welcomed Ambassador of Belgium H.E Mr. Olivier Belle and said, "I know you will feel at home here as I was made to feel during my visit in your country." He noted, "You have an important role to fulfill regarding the ongoing agreements that we are working on together." President Rivlin spoke about the importance of

the relationship and friendship between the two peoples, and of "the need to fight - not Islam - but to fight terror, because terror is terror is terror wherever it occurs." He added, "You are the army and the police that protects the heart of the European Union. We must carry on to work together to share the burden of security in the face of the threats."

long friendship and it is necessary every day to consolidate this friendship - based on shared values - and I will do my best to do so." The Ambassador spoke of the need to work to fight against discrimination and antisemitism, and added that Belgium was proud of its bilateral relationship in the



President Rivlin welcoming H.E Ms. Elita Gavele, Ambassador of Latvia to Israel.

were an important bridge between the two peoples. She noted that the Latvia President was due to come to Israel in 2018, and that there were high level ministerial visits planned including the Agricultural Minister who was arriving later in the day. The Ambassador noted, "We will celebrate our 25 years of relations with cultural events and discussions," and commented on the success of recent political consultations.

fields of culture and innovation especially.

The President then welcomed Ambassador of Latvia, H.E Ms. Elita Gavele, and noted that "Within a year we will celebrate 25 years of the relationship between our countries." He congratulated the Ambassador on her country's joining the OECD, and noted, "For both states, Israel and Latvia, this is very important as we don't have much natural resources but we have a lot of human resources and we appreciate very much the cooperation between our people."

The President spoke of the importance of Holocaust education, and added, "We would like to emphasize the importance of your efforts to educate the next generations about what happened in the Holocaust, and to understand this must be remembered by all mankind and humanity."

Ambassador Gavele thanked the President and noted that "The Jewish people in Latvia have done so much for our country, and there are nearly 4,000 Israeli citizens here from Latvia," who she noted

She stressed, "A main issue is to improve our economic relationship".

President Rivlin then received the diplomatic credentials of



President Rivlin welcoming H.E Mr. Jean-Daniel Ruch, Ambassador of Switzerland to Israel.

A m b a s s a d o r of Switzerland, H.E Mr. Jean-Daniel Ruch. The President noted that "Next year we will commemorate 120 years since the first Zionist Congress which took place in Basel. Fifteen Zionist Congresses took place in Switzerland, and indeed it is well known across the Jewish world that Herzl said 'In Basel I established the new Jewish state'." He noted "This reminds us how important Switzerland was for the new Jewish renaissance", and added, "Switzerland is also very important to Israel in terms of commerce, and we are also cooperating in many other fields including on the need to safeguard the whole world," in the face of security threats.

Ambassador Ruch thanked the President and said that he felt, "The relationship between our peoples is an emotional one stretching back – as you said - to the first Zionist Congress," and added that, "Israel in the conscious mind of Switzerland is a country with which we share many similarities - countries that are around the same size, with diverse societies." He noted that "We also have many personal connections. There are around 20,000 Swiss citizens living in Israel, the largest Swiss community east of Europe. This has developed into a vast array of



President Rivlin welcoming H.E Mr Konstantinos Bikas , Ambassador of Greece to Israel.

economic, cultural, and nowadays scientific links and cooperation." He said that, "Among many in Switzerland, Israel is seen almost a sister country when it comes to hi-tech and the development of sciences." He noted that fostering this relationship would be one of his priorities.

He concluded, "Switzerland - as the nation which hosts the ICRC, and the host of numerous peace conferences - is keen to see a just and lasting peace in this region. We remain committed and remain available - of course peace must come from the actors - but we will do whatever we can to bring peace to the people of this region."

President Rivlin then welcomed Ambassador of Greece, H.E Mr. Konstantinos Bikas. "It is a real honor to welcome an ambassador from the state which is the

birthplace of democracy," said the President, and added, "the connection between the Greek people and the Jewish people is thousands of years old. As much as someone could never say that the Acropolis is not part of the Greek people, no one could say the Western Wall is not the place where Jews have prayed for centuries. We do not need to imagine history - we can see history."

The President spoke of increased Israeli tourism to Greece and of the strengthening relationship between the two countries. He also stressed the importance of the upcoming trilateral meetings with Cyprus

Ambassador Bikas thanked the President for his "Kind and wise words". He said "Our relations in the last years have become

strategic ones, based on the history we share, the values we share, on the democracy we share. History is something both for Jews and for Greeks that can never be taken away, it is part of who we are and we must respect it.

Lastly, President Rivlin welcomed Ambassador of Finland. H.E Ms. Anu Saarela and said, "I admire Finland's attitude toward education, the most important thing for every leader in Finland. Israel is considered the Start-Up nation with great universities, and I know that the cooperation between our two peoples in these issues is very important."

He added, "We can agree to disagree on many issues, but we share the values of democracy

and the dignity and the honor of all people."

Ambassador Saarela said, "Thank you for kind words about my country. We share much more than divides us," she noted. "We want to learn from Israel, from your multiculturalism – the way you have built this country with people coming from all over. We also share the quest for innovation and hi-tech, I am sure we can deepen those ties even further," she added.

The Ambassador stressed, "We also share the objective of peace. I would like to especially stress what you said, and salute you for defending the fundamental values we share of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. These are the values on which our countries are built."

She concluded, "Next year Finland will celebrate 100 years of independence, and we are looking forward to presenting Israeli society with many sides of our culture, innovation, and more."

President Reuven Rivlin this morning (Monday) at a ceremony at his residence in Jerusalem, received the diplomatic credentials of the new Ambassador of Turkey to Israel, H.E. Mr. Mekin Mustafa Kemal Okem, the first Turkish Ambassador to Israel for more than six years.

President Rivlin began by saying, "I want to start, by expressing my deep condolences to the Turkish people, to the victims of the terror attack in Istanbul, and to the families who have lost their loved ones. Mr. Ambassador, all



President Rivlin welcoming H.E Ms. Anu Saarela , Ambassador of Finland to Israel.

life is sacred. Terror is terror -whether in Brussels or Paris, Istanbul, Jerusalem, or Cairo. We have a duty to stand together against this terrible threat. "

He continued, "Mr. Ambassador, today is an honor, and a real moment in history. I want to express my appreciation for President Erdogan, and I thank him again for Turkey's help in fighting the fires across Israel last month. Our friendship goes back in history, and I hope that the reconciliation and the appointment of new ambassadors will open a new and promising page in this relationship. We must work together to promote our economic relations, trade and energy cooperation, as a real engine of growth for our friendship."

The President stressed, "Mr. Ambassador, as you know the Middle East is changing. We must find the way to give strength to the voices of peace and stability. We must strengthen our common ground. When I spoke to President Erdogan, we spoke about the situation in Gaza. I want to thank him for his commitment to help return the Israelis and the bodies of our soldiers held by Hamas. Israel like Turkey places great importance in rebuilding the lives of the civilians in Gaza; in infrastructure, economy, energy, water, and more. This must be with the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority. It is also an important

way to show that we can live together in this region."

He concluded, "Israel and Turkey share a desire for peace and prosperity for all the peoples of the Middle East, and it is an honor and privilege to welcome you, as Ambassador of Turkey, here in Israel, welcome."

Ambassador Okem thanked the President and said, "I have just had the honour to present my credentials to the President of the State of Israel, His Excellency Reuven Rivlin. It is an honour for me to officially begin my tenure as Turkish Ambassador to the State of Israel as of today, and I would like to thank you for the warm welcome shown to me and my family.

He added, "Indeed, Mr. President this is a new beginning in our bilateral relations and in our joint efforts, in this region in which we have close ties, historical ties. Our region has more than its share of challenges but also of big opportunities. As before, Turkey and Israel will work together to make sure that these opportunities are fully utilized and challenges are met.

He concluded, "As per instructions of my president, His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and my Prime Minister, His Excellency Binali Yıldırım, I will explore all opportunities for cooperation in every field to the mutual benefit of our two nations. And, as an ambassador, I will do my best to enhance our relations in every field - regardless of any difficulties that we may face, we



President Rivlin welcoming H.E. Mr. Mekin Mustafa Kemal Okem, Ambassador of Turkey to Israel.



President Rivlin welcoming H.E Mrs. Hélène Le Gal, Ambassador of France to Israel.

would grow stronger and cooperation would increase. The President added, "We know of the goodwill of the President of France to bring to an end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the only way to bring about an understanding with our neighbors is to through direct negotiations. We welcome any initiative to end the tragedy between Israel and the Palestinians, but the Palestinians reject our offer for direct negotiations time and again – we have no war with Islam, but they must accept we

will be able to overcome together with our partners and friends Israel. So I am looking forward to closely working with all of the institutions in this country and do my best to cooperate with them. As you have just said Mr President, our hope is that this cooperation will also work for the benefit of other nations, particularly to the Palestinian Authority as well."

Hélène Le Gal. He welcomed her and spoke of the good relations between the two countries and stated that he was hopeful that as she took up her post these ties

are here to stay in our homeland.

The Ambassador thanked the President for his warm welcome,

During their meeting, President Rivlin once again reaffirmed his wish to convey Israel's hope that the renewal in relations between Israel and Turkey would lead to the freeing of the Israeli citizens held captive in Gaza, and to the return of the bodies of the fallen Israeli soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin being held by Hamas, so they could be brought for proper burial in Israel.



President Rivlin welcoming H.E Ms. Deborah Lyons , Ambassador of Canada to Israel.

President Rivlin first welcomed Ambassador of France, H.E Mrs.



President Rivlin welcoming H.E. Ms., Ambassador of Guatemala to Israel.

and noted that as this was her second posting to Israel, having served in Israel 20 years ago, she had a sense of returning home. She said, “France was of course very active in the first 20 years of the state to help build the military capacity here, and this is still one of the main domains of our relationship if we think about counter terrorism, and we have a lot to discuss on this matter.” She added, “We are a permanent member of the Security Council and we are always keen to propose things, to try and find ideas for the different conflicts of the world. It is always in a very good spirit towards Israel. I would like to say that France and Israel share many values especially democracy, and freedom of speech and I appreciate your messages on these subjects.”

The President then received the credentials of new Ambassador of Canada, H.E. Ms. Deborah Lyons. He welcomed her and said, “Next year you will celebrate 150 years and I congratulate all Canada

on this.” He added, “Canada’s friendship is of great importance to us, it is a true friendship. Also when you may have criticisms we hear they are out of love – between true friends.”

Ambassador Lyons said that, “The reception I have received from all the Government and people of Israel has been fantastic. I have been here for two and a half months, and we have had the prime minister, who of course came for a sad occasion, and then the visit of the Governor General who came with a large business delegation. I don’t see it slowing down in the new year and we are looking forward to a very busy time, as it should be between us as close friends. We are natural friends, natural colleagues, but there is much more we can do together. We are looking forward to you being able to visit Canada.” She noted that Canadians could learn much from Israel and said, “We have a new expression in the embassy from the more than 350 Canadians we have hosted

in Israel since I arrived, and that is “Wow Israel!”

The President then received the credentials of the Ambassador of Guatemala H.E. Ms. Sara Angelina Solis Castañeda. The President stressed the importance of the recent visit by President Morales of Guatemala to Israel, as a milestone in the relationship between the two countries. He

said, “The visit of your President was significant and important, and strengthened the good ties between our countries – ties which are warm and friendly. I welcome you to your new post, and wish you much success in the role.”

The Ambassador thanked the President for his words and said, “It is a high honor to be here and a privilege to represent Guatemala to Israel - a country we love so much. It was a great honor to have President Morales visit at the beginning of my term.” She noted that in addition to strengthening the bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, technology and health, “I am talking to some of the universities in Israel, and want to help Israelis understand about the history of the civilization in Guatemala, and the history of the Mayan people who lived there thousands of years ago.”

Photo Credit: Mark Neumann / GPO



MOSSAWA CALLS FOR INCREASED BUDGETS FOR WELFARE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE ARAB COMMUNITY

The Mossawa Center called on members of the Knesset Finance Committee to increase the budgets allocated to welfare and poverty alleviation in the 2017-2018 budget. The NIS 6.47 billion budget for the Ministry of Welfare in 2016 is insufficient to close persistent gaps between the Arab and Jewish populations in Israel.

According to Mossawa's recent report on the budget, "Health and welfare are severely neglected in the Arab population. Both areas were overlooked in Government Resolution 922 despite the large gaps in disability, poverty, hunger, and mortality rates between Arab and Jewish citizens." The 2014 National Insurance report indicated that 52.6% of Arab families live below the poverty line, while just 13.6% of the Jewish population lives in poverty. Poverty rates rose among Arab families from 51.7% in 2013 to 52.6% in 2014. By contrast, the overall number of individuals in the Arab population living in poverty decreased by 4%, due to the decrease in Arab family sizes.

Persistent issues in the Arab community resulting from poverty demand immediate attention. According to Mossawa's analysis, birth defects, disabilities due to work-related accidents, crime, and drug use are a far greater burden to the national economy than investment in preventative measures.

The Ministry of Social Services and the National Insurance Institute, which manages a special fund to provide assistance to citizens in need, bear the greatest burden for high levels of poverty in the Arab community. The procedure for receiving benefits from these government agencies and private insurance companies is often too



navigate without assistance. The creation of Rights Centers to assist citizens in need of social services will streamline the process of distributing funds for poverty alleviation.

The Mossawa report recommends dismantling the "matching" system, which requires that the government contribute 75% of each social worker's salary and local authorities contribute the remaining 25%. Many Arab local authorities cannot afford to pay the remainder of social workers' salaries, and are forced to go without vital social services. Ending the matching system will improve access to social services in poor localities. In addition, all staff, including graduates of Jordanian and Palestinian universities, must receive the necessary training to help applicants utilize benefits.

Following recommendations published by the Committee to Fight Poverty in Israel in 2014, NIS 100 million was budgeted in 2016 for new "Noshmim l'Revacha" poverty relief programs in 94 localities and Rights Centers in 103 localities, including

will assist 16,500 families throughout Israel. The Mossawa Center calls to increase budgets for poverty relief to NIS 250 Million in the 2017-2018 budget.

The Mossawa Center recommends that the Ministry of Welfare:

- Terminate the matching system for funding social workers' salaries.
- Expand the plan for fighting poverty, including creating Rights Centers and individualized assistance.
- Improve services for elderly care.
- Improve services for assisting girls and women in crisis.
- Improve services for homelessness and child exploitation.
- Improve services for rehabilitating and reintegrating prisoners into the community.
- Implement a program to build welfare offices, instead of renting office space.
- Allocate the resources needed to ensure access of marginalized communities, including unrecognized villages, to health services

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT ISRAEL DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD



The Tourism Ministry to provide free shuttle transport between Jerusalem and Bethlehem for Christmas Mass celebrations. Tourism Minister today hosted a pre-Christmas reception for Church leaders in Jerusalem.

Tourism Minister Yariv Levin and representatives from the Tourism Ministry today hosted the traditional pre-Christmas reception for leaders of the Christian communities and churches in Israel at the Shimshon Center, Beit Shmuel in Jerusalem. The minister sent season's greetings for Christmas to the Christian communities and invited the faithful around the world to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Tourism Minister Yariv Levin: "I welcome you and the believers from your communities who are expected to arrive in Israel for the Christmas holiday and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are doing our utmost to ensure that their stay in Israel will be successful and enjoyable. The ministry invests significantly throughout the year in the conservation and upgrading of Christian sites in order to ensure that every Christian can visit the sites that are sacred for him and find them in good order, as befits their status. I invite you to visit the holy sites and enjoy the uniquely powerful religious and spiritual experience of the Holy Land."

Also participating in the reception were the Director-General of the Tourism Ministry Amir Halevi, His

Beatitude Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilus III, the Armenian Orthodox Patriarch Nourhan Manoogian, the Custodian of the Holy Land Fr. Francesco Patton, His Eminence Vatican Ambassador Giuseppe Lazzarotto, representative of the Latin Patriarchate Bishop William Shumali – Latin Patriarchate, Executive Director of the Christian Embassy Dr. Jurgen Buhler and representatives from many other Christian communities in Israel. Also in attendance were Ambassadors, members of the diplomatic community and representatives

will visit Israel in December, of whom half are Christian.

From 15:00 on Christmas Eve (December 24) through to 03:00 on Christmas Day, the Ministry of Tourism will offer free shuttle transportation, helping pilgrims travelling between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Buses will leave every 30 minutes on the hour and half hour from the bus stop near the Carta Parking lot (opposite Jaffa Gate and near to the Mamilla Boulevard). The bus will also stop near the entrance to the Mar Elias Monastery, and at the



of government and private bodies involved in promoting Christian tourism to the Holy Land.

The Tourism Ministry is working to welcome the hundreds of thousands of visitors expected to arrive in Israel for the Christmas period. According to Tourism Ministry statistics, over half of all incoming tourists to Israel were Christian. The ministry estimates that approximately 120,000 tourists

Rosmarin junction, before continuing via Rachel's Crossing to Bethlehem - and then back again. There may be changes to the schedule due to demand. Representatives from the Ministry of Tourism will welcome tourists and pilgrims at Rachel's Crossing with a small gift in the spirit of the holiday. The ministry will also provide a firework display during the traditional Christmas parade in Nazareth.



KAZAKHSTAN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

This year Kazakhstan is celebrating its 25th anniversary as an independent nation. Over the years, Kazakhstan has demonstrated its commitment to multiculturalism, global peace-building, security and development, as well as its efficiency as an impartial honest broker working for the common benefit.

Kazakhstan became an independent nation in 1991, the last and largest of the republics to achieve sovereignty following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Israel was among the first country to recognize the independence of the newly emerged states of Central Asia and to reach out to five new countries of the region. It was a unique opportunity to make new friends in the Muslim world, and also to create alternatives for energy

market. Was needing to reconnect with the Jewish communities across Central Asia was also a reason to create strong and friendly relations with Central Asian countries. However, much of the potential, especially in the economic field, has remained largely undiscovered.

From Kazakhstan's point of view, the Israeli leader's arrival to Astana only a few days before the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, on Dec. 16, symbolizes growing international recognition of country's efforts on the international arena. Kazakhstan today is not just a regional leader, but a remarkable international player. Being already a member of more than 70 international organizations and unions, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation,

the Eurasian Economic Union, the UN Human Rights Council, the World Health Organization, etc., Kazakhstan has recently been elected to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2017-2018, which makes it an even more important player in the international arena.



TO CELEBRATE THE 83RD BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR AKIHITO

Ambassador of Japan H.E. Mr. Koji Tomita and his wife hosted a reception at his residence. The celebration which also marks the national day of Japan was attended by prominent figures of both Turkish and diplomatic community.

Ayoob Kara, Deputy Minister of Regional Cooperation represented the Israeli Government and was praised Japan's contributions to projects undertaken jointly by Israel and the Palestinian Authority.



RICH HERITAGE. MEET NEW WORLD LUXURY WITH MASKIT



Maskit is a luxury fashion brand founded in Israel in 1954 by the extraordinary vision and determination of Ruth Dayan, the former wife of the late general and statesman Moshe Dayan. Ruth created Maskit as a fashion and decorative arts house that created jobs and preserved the ethnic crafts and culture of the diverse communities living in Israel.

Maskit became Israel's only fashion house. Each item captured a vivid inspiration, a distinct human element that set it apart from other top brands. Maskit became a lifestyle statement for celebrities and regular women alike, a hallmark of the arts and crafts

Today, the Maskit magic lives on. A two-year journey of research has led the team through the captivating Israeli landscapes to reconnect with

Maskit's original artists and roots. At the age of 100, Ruth is working with designer Sharon Tal, her life partner Nir Tal, in cooperation with industrialist Stef Wertheimer and his life partner Lynn Holstein, to revitalize the brand and continue its legacy. An honors graduate of the Shenkar School of Design, Sharon worked in Paris with Alber Elbaz at Lanvin, and then became the head of embroidery at Alexander McQueen in London. Together, Ruth and Sharon are driving the future of Maskit, infusing its rich heritage with modern fashion and remaining focused on delivering top-quality and exclusive designs.

"Not every label has a story, tradition and history like Maskit's" says Sharon Tal, the fashion house's head designer. "The decision to revive a company like Maskit and march its special quality in the direction of the future is not only a great honor, but

also a connection to the ethos taking over the design world, of connecting and combining with local, authentic crafts.

This year, Maskit inaugurated its new flagship store on Hazorfim street in Jaffa, sister to two shops in Tel Aviv. The store is situated in a 19th century stone house and aims to speak in the unique language developed by Maskit over decades. The space, which preserves the original walls and arches, is arranged so the visitors can move around and discover something new and exciting every time. One of the walls serves as a gallery of the fashion house's history and activities, including rare items from Ruth Dayan's personal archive.

Today, Maskit items are sold in Europe and the United State, as well as in Israel. Maskit offer two



important values- high qualities and uniquely Israeli designs. Last year, Maskit Collections were shown in 20 countries.

In order to preserve the brand's authenticity, Tal makes sure to include the iconic "desert coat" and "egg coat" in every collection, and to renew and add contemporary relevance to items from particular periods. In addition, Maskit launched itself into home design a year ago.

Told through fashion, Maskit is the story of Israel. It narrates the country's history through its textiles, embroideries, craftsmanship, and designs. Its clothes illustrate Israel's geography, its multitude of newcomers originating from diverse cultural backgrounds, and its biblical panorama and heritage.



MASKIT HOUSE, JAFFA
14 HAZORFIM ST., TEL AVIV
TEL: +972-(0)3-6884004

MASKIT, OLD JAFFA
2 MAZAL DAGIM ST., TEL AVIV
TEL: +972-(0)3-6444947

MASKIT HILTON, TEL AVIV
205 HA-YARKON ST., TEL AVIV
TEL: +972-(0)3-5295545

WWW.MASKIT.COM

  MASKITDESIGN



Christmas

Christmas is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.

An ANCIENT HOLIDAY

The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the arrival of the man called Jesus, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many peoples rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In Scandinavia, the Norse

celebrated Yule from December 21, the winter solstice, through January. In recognition of the return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs, which they would set on fire. The people would feast until the log burned out, which could take as many as 12 days. The Norse believed that each spark from the fire represented a new pig or calf that would be born during the coming year.

The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year, most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition, most wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking.

In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decide who would prosper or perish. Because of his presence, many people chose to stay inside.


SATURNALIA

In Rome, where winters were not as harsh as those in the far north, Saturnalia—a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture—was celebrated. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice and continuing for a full month, Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. For a month, slaves would become masters. Peasants were in command of the city. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could join in the fun.

Also around the time of the winter solstice, Romans observed Juvenalia, a feast honoring the children of Rome. In addition, members of the upper classes often celebrated the birthday of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun, on December 25. It was believed that Mithra, an infant god, was born of a rock. For some Romans, Mithra's birthday was the most sacred day of the year.

In the early years of Christianity, Easter was the main holiday; the birth of Jesus was not celebrated. In the fourth century, church





officials decided to institute the birth of Jesus as a holiday. Unfortunately, the Bible does not mention date for his birth (a fact Puritans later pointed out in order to deny the legitimacy of the celebration). Although some evidence suggests that his birth may have occurred in the spring (why would shepherds be herding in the middle of winter?), Pope Julius I chose December 25. It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festival. First called the Feast of the Nativity, the custom spread to Egypt by 432 and to England by the end of the sixth century. By the end of the eighth century, the celebration of Christmas had spread all the way to Scandinavia. Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25th, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.

By holding Christmas at the same time as traditional winter solstice festivals, church leaders increased the chances that Christmas would be popularly embraced, but gave up the ability to dictate how it was celebrated. By the Middle Ages, Christianity had, for the most part, replaced pagan religion. On Christmas, believers attended church, then celebrated raucously in a drunken, carnival-like atmosphere similar to today's Mardi Gras. Each year, a beggar or student would be crowned

the "lord of misrule" and eager celebrants played the part of his subjects. The poor would go to the houses of the rich and demand their best food and drink. If owners failed to comply, their visitors would most likely terrorize them with mischief. Christmas became the time of year when the upper classes could repay their real or imagined "debt" to society by entertaining less fortunate citizens.

AN OUTLAW CHRISTMAS

In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday.

The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the American Revolution, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Christmas wasn't declared a

federal holiday until June 26, 1870.


IRVING REINVENTS CHRISTMAS

It wasn't until the 19th century that Americans began to embrace Christmas. Americans re-invented Christmas, and changed it from a raucous carnival holiday into a family-centered day of peace and nostalgia. But what about the 1800s peaked American interest in the holiday?

The early 19th century was a period of class conflict and turmoil. During this time, unemployment was high and gang rioting by the disenfranchised classes often occurred during the Christmas season. In 1828, the New York city council instituted the city's first police force in response to a Christmas riot. This catalyzed certain members of the upper classes to begin to change the way Christmas was celebrated in America.

In 1819, best-selling author Washington Irving wrote *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.*, a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas in an English manor house. The sketches feature a squire who invited the peasants into his home for the holiday. In contrast to the problems faced in American society, the two groups mingled effortlessly. In Irving's mind, Christmas should be a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday bringing groups together across lines of wealth or social status. Irving's fictitious celebrants enjoyed "ancient customs," including the





crowning of a Lord of Misrule. Irving's book, however, was not based on any holiday celebration he had attended – in fact, many historians say that Irving's account actually “invented” tradition by implying that it described the true customs of the season.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Also around this time, English author Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, A Christmas Carol. The story's message—the importance of charity and good will towards all humankind—struck a powerful chord in the United States and England and showed members of Victorian society the benefits of celebrating the holiday.

The family was also becoming less disciplined and more sensitive to the emotional needs of children during the early 1800s. Christmas provided families with a day when they could lavish attention—and gifts—on their children without appearing to “spoil” them.

As Americans began to embrace Christmas as a perfect family holiday, old customs were unearthed. People looked toward recent immigrants and Catholic and Episcopalian churches to see how the day should be celebrated. In the next 100 years, Americans built a Christmas tradition all their own that included pieces of many other customs, including decorating trees, sending holiday cards, and gift-giving.

Although most families quickly bought into the idea that they were celebrating Christmas how

it had been done for centuries, Americans had really re-invented a holiday to fill the cultural needs of a growing nation.

CHRISTMAS FACTS

- Each year, 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States alone. There are 21,000 Christmas tree growers in the United States, and trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25th, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.
- In the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous—a lot like today's Mardi Gras parties.
- From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law-breakers were fined five shillings.
- Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.
- The first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.
- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the

red-and-green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.

- The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Claus-clad donation collectors into the streets since the 1890s.
- Rudolph, “the most famous reindeer of all,” was the product of Robert L. May's imagination in 1939. The copywriter wrote a poem about the reindeer to help lure customers into the Montgomery Ward department store.
- Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition in 1931.

In honor of the 275th Anniversary of the City of Bethlehem & the 1741 Gemeinhaus!

On December 24, 1741, city was christened "Bethlehem" by the Moravian Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf, and, in 1937, Bethlehem was deemed "Christmas City, USA," making Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites the perfect blend of rich history & Christmas traditions.



Bethlehem by night christmas hours



Deemed "the best way to see Bethlehem," this bus tour explores the history & traditions of Bethlehem with guides in period dress.

Sit back and experience the Christmas City on a trip back in time with our certified costumed guide. This tour includes a visit to the famous star atop South Mountain, a look at early and current local holiday traditions, and access to historic highlights in north and south Bethlehem.

Kemerer museum christmas hours



427 North New Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Visit the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, the only museum dedicated to style and design in Pennsylvania.

Tours of the museum are offered every hour, leaving on the hour. Self-guided options are available for select galleries.

Moravian museum christmas hours



66 West Church Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

This Christmas, visit the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem - Home of the 1741 Gemeinhaus, the oldest building in Bethlehem, a National Historic Landmark, and is celebrating its 275th anniversary. Tours of the museum are offered every hour, leaving on the hour.

1810 Goundie house christmas hours

This 275th Anniversary Christmas, visit the 1810 Goundie House - The first Federal-style brick residence in Bethlehem and home of the town brewer, Johann Sebastian Goundie.



19

BALLET DU GRAND THEATRE DE GENEVE ★

DANCE
DEC 19-22, 8PM
Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center



21

LAST WORK BY OHAD NAHARIN ★

BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY
DEC 21-22
Suzanne Dellal Center

22

ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

MANFRED HONECK
8 PM Bronfman Auditorium

DESIGNERS' MARKET AND FOOD MARKET ★

Every Thursday 12 PM - 8 PM
Every Friday 10 AM - 4 PM
Dizengoff Center

26

HARP DAYS ★

HARP MUSIC FESTIVAL:
WORKSHOPS, MASTER CLASSES, CONCERTS

DEC 26-28
Israel Conservatory of Music

ANDALUSIAN ORCHESTRA

SPECIAL CONCERT FOR HANUKKAH

5 PM
Anis Auditorium

27

OVERVIEW ★

EYEGLASSES EXHIBITION
Until APR 29
Design Museum, Holon ●

HANUKKAH AT HATACHANA

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS, JUGGLING AND SOAP BUBBLES ★

DEC 26-28
10:30 AM - 15:30 PM
Hatachana

28

LIGHTING HANUKKAH CANDLES ★

DEC 24-31
Rabin Square, Sarona and Habima Square



29

REGARDING AFRICA: CONTEMPORARY ART AND AFRO-FUTURISM ★

EXHIBITION
Until APR 22
Tel Aviv Museum of Art

HANUKKAH AT THE CINEMATHEQUE ★

Shows, movies and environmental activities
DEC 29 - JAN 1
Tel Aviv Cinematheque

Hamshusalayim, Jerusalem. December 2016

Hamshushalayim is an event series that takes place on four weekends in Jerusalem in December. The series offers the public an amazing array of events at cultural institutions in the city with museums and tourist sites opening free of charge to the public and tens of free or very affordable music performances, street theater, musical. exciting night tours, and concerts across Jerusalem. The Hamshushalayim series will take place in 2016 on the weekends of December 1-3, December 8-10, December 15-17, and December 22-24.



23

MEDITERRANEAN FRIDAYS ★

Every Friday 10:30 AM – 4 PM
Greek Market, Jaffa

TRIBUTE TO THE BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB

10:30 PM Zappa Herzliya ●

DRUMMERS' BEACH ★

LIVE MUSIC
Every Friday's sunset
Dolphinarium

24

ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

EVGENY KISSIN SOLO RECITAL

8 PM Bronfman Auditorium

NINO KATAMADZE & INSIGHT

GEORGIAN MUSIC CONCERT
8:30 PM HaYahalom Theatre,
Ramat Gan ●

WINTER MARKET

LOCAL DESIGNERS' PRODUCTS
Beit Romano

25

KEREN ANN CONCERT

10 PM
Zappa Tel Aviv



30

ANNELIES

CLASSIC MUSIC CONCERT BASED ON ANNE FRANK'S DIARIES

12:00 PM
Israel Conservatory for Music

VIENNESE CHRISTMAS BALL

Mozart, Haydn, Strauss, Offenbach

DEC 16, 30, 8:30 PM ★
St. Nicolas Armenian Church,
Jaffa

31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS

ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

11:00
Habima Square



DJ Hardwell Plays in Jerusalem, Israel. January 26, 2017

DJ Hardwell, ranked the number 1 DJ in the world, according to the DJ Mag Top 100, is coming to Tel Aviv in January 2017. Hardwell, whose full name is Robbert van de Corput has grown in a relatively short time seen major success, now hosting his own radio show which is broadcast on 25 international radio stations, a podcast which is consistently in the iTunes top 10 in 30 countries, and a number one Billboard Dance Chart success with his remix of The Wanted's "Chasing the Sun". After his sold out concert in 2013, DJ Hardwell will perform again in Israel at Jerusalem Pais Arena, on January 26, 2017.



Regarding Africa: Contemporary Art and Afro-Futurism

*Catalogue courtesy of Naomi
and David Kolitz*

*Exhibition courtesy of Barbara Toll /
The Evelyn Toll Family Foundation*

*Luciana Kaplun's work supported by Outset
Contemporary Art Fund and
Tel Aviv Arts Council*

This large-scale group exhibition presents art being made today in, or about, Africa, from an Afro-futurist perspective that challenges traditional divisions: fantasy, imagination and cosmology, usually associated with past mythology, are incarnated into science fiction and futurist representation. The various narratives span between colonialism and its ramifications to a re-examination of the African body, landscape and culture—through utterances that shatter the usual distinction between truth and fiction, between myth and science, between technology and spirituality.

OPENING DATE:

Friday 09 December 2016

CLOSING DATE:

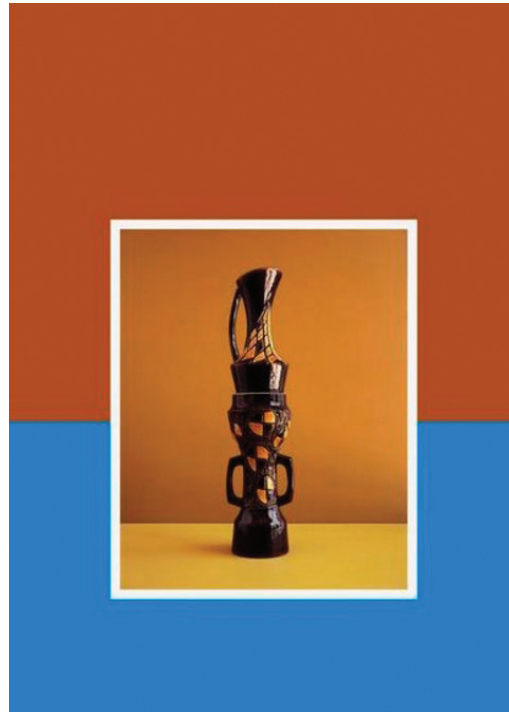
Saturday 27 May 2017

LOCATION:

Lilly & Yoel Moshe Elstein Multi-Purpose Gallery Herta
and Paul Amir Building

CURATOR:

Ruth Direktor





In keeping with its annual tradition, KKL-JNF will once again be distributing Christmas trees to local churches, monasteries, convents, embassies, foreign journalists and the general public as the holiday approaches.

Distribution will take place in central and northern Israel, in accordance with lists provided by the Ministry of the Interior, the Municipality of Jerusalem and other bodies. Private individuals, too, can buy a tree for the token sum of 80 NIS

The trees used for Christmas trees are Arizona cypresses.

Christmas tree distribution prevents illegal felling of the trees and allows people to enjoy the festive presence of a Christmas tree.

Distribution in Central Israel

In the central region distribution will take place on Sunday, December 18th, and Monday, December 19th, from 9:00 - 13:00

Those interested should contact Yossi Sherwani to arrange collection:
Tel: 02-9969224 (land line);
or 050-7774114 (mobile).

How to find us:

From Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, follow Route 38 through Beit Shemesh and HaEla Junction.

Distribution in Northern Israel

Northern distribution of Christmas trees will take place at the following addresses. Please coordinate your arrival ahead of time.

1. Nazareth: Distribution every day from Saturday, December 10, 10:00 - 16:00
Contact Hisham Abu Ras – 050-8235178

2. Moshav Beit Lehem Haglilit, Farm no. 4: Distribution every day from Sunday, December 4, 9:00 - 15:00.
Contact Yossi Yagar - 054-6686669;
04-9831037

3. Shfar'am: At the Shfar'am tree nursery, which is located on Road no. 781 between the I'billin Junction and the Gil'am Interchange. Distribution every day from Sunday, December 4, 8:00 - 18:00
Contact Hayl Hasson– 04-9860582 / 052-8509181

Distribution in Jerusalem

The Jerusalem Municipality will continue its annual tradition of distributing complimentary Christmas trees to Jerusalem's residents in celebration of the holiday. **One-hundred and fifty trees will be distributed on Tuesday, December 20, at the Jaffa Gate Plaza from 9:00-12:00 PM** upon presentation of a valid ID card.





StopMarket

Grand supermarket

in Arena mall, Herzliya Pituach

The best 'buying experience'



Sunday - Thursday
07:00-23:00
Friday and Shabbat
08:00-22:00

Every week, on Sundays to Tuesdays

Fruit and Vegetable Market

The cheapest in the area

Conditional on a purchase exceeding NIS 150, not including products from the Fruit & Vegetable Department, and 'Stars of the Week' promotions. Limited to 2 kg per product per customer. No double discounts. For products by weight only. Subject to term & conditions (can be viewed in the branch).



Fresh Fish Department

The most renowned and high quality department in the area, thanks to the rich selection and the uncompromising service.



Professional and High Quality Butcher

Professional and courteous team of butchers waiting for you with a fresh variety of choice cuts of meat.



On Wednesdays and Thursdays

All of the cleaning and laundry products

HALF PRICE

For the second product of the same type

Not including 'Stars of the Week' promotions



Professional Wine Department

A huge selection of wines from the best vineyards in Israel and around the world. wide range of alcoholic beverages included

At unbeatable prices !!

Just add wine Cheese Delicatessen

A rich and high-quality selection of cheeses from Israel and around the world



StopMarket Arena Mall,
Herzliya Pituach

Special parking lot
for stopmarket customers

Deliveries to Herzliya, Ramat Hasharon, Kfar Shmaryahu,
Rishpon Ramat Aviv Gimmel, New Ramat Aviv, Neve Aviv, Shikun Lamed,
Zahala, Azorei Chen zones and Gush Hagadol and Sde Dov area.



Tel: 09-9549353 | Entrance from the Tel Aviv Gate (opposite the open Marina parking lot) - elevator 3 from the parking lot - to the 1st floor

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