

The Diplomatic Club



September 2008



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Dear Members,

Like every year in the diplomatic community, summer is the time of changes. So we are happy to welcome all new diplomatic staff to Israel. And to wish our regular members a fruitful year starting straight after the summer break.

As always, the Diplomatic Club is happy to help all his members with adjusting with life in Israel. Whether by sending you the Medical Directory, by opening channels to insurance deals or by offering you discounts in many shops, theatre and concert halls, air tickets and duty free boutiques, not to say anything about the phone deal the Diplomatic Club has secured for its members to shield them from the steep rise in the costs of international phone calls these last two years, the Diplomatic Club is here to help you.

As the summer is now over, it is time to go back to work. And the Diplomatic Club will work harder than ever to bring its members new and improved services. We would like to draw the attention of our new members and remind our regular ones a special offers and rubrics that available on our site www.diplomacy-club.com under the rubrics Discount schedule, Real Estate, Car Services and Second hands.

Please note the opening of a new site "Mall – on -line" will provide additional service for the convenience of the diplomatic corps, easy shopping and TAX REFUND according to the law of state of Israel.

The Diplomatic Club and staff wish you a successful academic year.

Yours sincerely,
Julia Verdel
General Manager
And the Editorial Team

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WHO WILL BE THE NEXT MAYOR OF JERUSALEM?

A little background. In the Ashkenazi Charedi world there are 2 parties, Aguda and Degel Hatorah. Aguda is Chassidic and Degel represents the Yeshivish community. Aguda and Degel generally have rotation agreements for mayor. One term Aguda one term Degel. This is what happened in Bnei Brak, Beitar and other places. This arrangement has come under fire recently as it forces highly successful mayors to abandon the job after 1 term for possibly inferior people.

In Jerusalem, before the last election Degel and Aguda signed an agreement and Lupoliansky from Degel was elected with the agreement that Aguda would put up the candidate in this election. The Aguda candidate is Meir Porush. However, Porush is not well liked by many groups in the Charedi world (especially Degel) including many Chassidim (especially Ger). Therefore, Degel and parts of Aguda are not happy with his candidacy. Recently polls have shown Nir Barkat, a chiloni candidate as trouncing Porush.

Based on the above Deri is thinking of running, he will certainly have the support of Shas and may get the support of Degel. If no one candidate gets 40% of the vote there will be a runoff. Deri believes that with 2 Haredi candidates (and the Charedi population about 40%) there is little chance of anyone getting 40% and all he would need to do is beat Porush. Then in a runoff, he would get the Charedi support by default to keep the chiloni out of office.



Arcadi Aleksandrovich Gaydamak, (born 1952 in Moscow, USSR) is a Russian-Israeli billionaire businessman. Gaydamak is also a French citizen, having lived mainly in France from 1973 until his return to Israel in 2000. He possesses Canadian and An-

golan passports and has travelled, in the past, in the capacity of a representative of the government of Angola. He was awarded the Order of the Legion of Honour by the French Republic. His son Alexandre Gaydamak is also a businessman and owner of Portsmouth F.C. in England. In February 2007 he announced the establishment of an Israeli social movement, Social Justice,[1] which became a political party in July 2007



Rabbi Meir Porush (born 11 June 1955) is an Israeli politician and member of the Knesset for the Haredi party Agudat Israel, which together with Degel HaTorah forms the United Torah Judaism list. His father Rabbi Menachem Porush held a similar position and was one of the longest serving Knesset members. The Porush family is one of Jerusalem's most prominent, and is descended from a lineage that can trace itself back by ten generations in Jerusalem.

Born in Jerusalem, Meir Porush was educated in a Talmudic college. Before entering the Knesset, he served as a member of Jerusalem City Council, and was at one stage deputy mayor of Jerusalem. He was first elected to the Knesset in the 1996 elections as an Agudat Israel candidate on the United Torah Judaism list, and was appointed Deputy Minister of Housing in Binyamin Netanyahu's government. He retained his seat in the 1999 elections and chaired the Knesset inquiry into financial problems of local councils. After Ariel Sharon won a special election for Prime Minister in 2001 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Housing and Construction.

He retained his seat in both the 2003 and 2006 elections, but has not served in the cabinet since 2003. In 2005 he caused controversy by saying that then PM Ariel Sharon

reminded him of Benito Mussolini. He has also called for Israel to give up its nuclear weapons. Porush lives in Jerusalem with his wife and twelve children

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Aryeh Deri (born February 17, 1959 in Meknes, Morocco) is the former leader of Israel's Shas Party. He was replaced by Eli Yishai after Deri was jailed for corruption,[1] having been found guilty of taking \$155,000 in bribes while serving as Interior Minister, and sentenced to three years at the Maasiyahu Prison. He was released after serving twenty-two months due to good behavior.

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Nir Barkat was born in Israel in 1959, he was raised in Jerusalem. He completed his service in the IDF with the rank of Major. Nir received his Bachelor's degree in computer science (BSC), and completed extensive studies towards an MA in business administration at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

In 1988, Nir Barkat founded the BRM Group, one of the first entities worldwide to develop anti-virus software. BRM later became a technological incubator, investing in companies such as BackWeb and Checkpoint Software. Nir served as chairman of Checkpoint for its first four years.

At the beginning of 2000, Nir was a founding partner of BRM Capital, a \$150 million Venture Capital Fund which focuses on software and communication infrastructures, specializing in investments in Israeli related companies and helping them become global leaders in their field.

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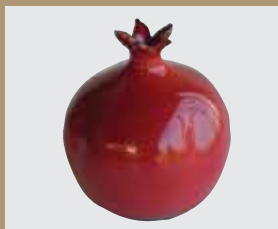
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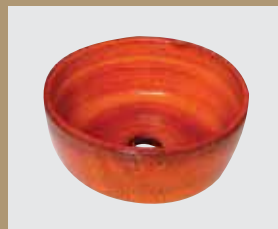
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AMBASSADOR JAMES B. CUNNINGHAM

Ambassador James B. Cunningham arrived in Israel on August 18, 2008. Before arriving in Tel Aviv, Ambassador Cunningham was U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, responsible for the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions of China. Prior to Hong Kong, he was Ambassador and Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1999-2004) and Acting Permanent Representative from January to September 2001. Ambassador Cunningham holds the rank of Career Minister in the Foreign Service.

Ambassador Cunningham has spent much of his career working on European and security affairs, with broad experience in multilateral diplomacy. After early tours in Stockholm, Washington, Rome and the U.S. Mission to NATO, he served as Chief of Staff to NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner. He advised the Secretary General on all NATO issues in the context of the unification of Germany and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union, and on the management of the 1,200 member international staff.

Just after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Ambassador Cunningham became Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Mission to the UN. From 1993 to 1995, he served as Director of the State Department's Office of European Security and Political Affairs, with responsibility for many aspects of U.S. policy toward Europe. He served as Deputy Chief of the U.S. Embassy in Rome from 1996 to 1999.

Ambassador Cunningham was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania and graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University, with degrees in political science and psychology. He is married to Leslie Genier of Mineville, New York. They have two grown children. He speaks Italian, French and Spanish. Ambassador Cunningham is the recipient of the Department's Superior, Merit and Performance awards; the National Performance Review's Hammer Award for innovation in government management; and the President's Meritorious Service Award. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Asia Society.



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The Audi A4. The new saloon

The next generation of the marque's best-selling car is ready to hit the road—with a sporty progressive personality. Tense and dynamic in design, it speaks the language of engineering perfection



Self-assured

Even at first glance, this is unmistakably an Audi. The new A4 is a saloon with exceptionally dynamic features. The designers have lent the front end a particularly sporty edge, sending out a clear message. The A4 is self-assured and dynamic in stance. The hood is flat, its vee line running directly into the headlight contours. Generous air inlets give the vehicle more width.



Power



FOR MANY YEARS, the developers at Audi have pursued the aim of making their engines more powerful and more economical, employing innovative technologies to combine enjoyment and efficiency. They have been particularly successful with the power plants for the new Audi A4. All engines are equipped with direct injection - the gasoline models using the FSI® concept, the diesels common rail TDI®. Whatever the engine, direct injection provides high torque for sporty acceleration, smooth power development and outstanding fuel economy. The highlights in the gasoline engine range include a completely new four-cylinder unit with 1.8 liter displacement. It combines turbocharging with FSI direct injection and provides remarkable acceleration and outstanding traction for its class in practically every rpm range. The meatiest engine is the new 3.2 liter FSI with its innovative Audi valvelift system - one of the most powerful six-cylinders in its class with 265 horsepower.

POWERFUL TRACTION and exemplary fuel consumption—TDI® is a synonym worldwide for both. In the new Audi A4, this successful engine technology has been taken to new heights: A new 2.0 liter TDI in the Audi A4 celebrates the birth of a new engine generation. The four-valve 2.0 liter TDI engine for the first time features a common rail injection system with fast-acting piezo injectors for extremely smooth running. Elaborate refinements mean that the new TDI already meets the future Euro 5 emission standard, only due to come into force in 2010. The use of the latest common rail technology gives the 2.0 TDI decisive advantages in terms of emissions, engine acoustics and weight. The enormous injection pressure of up to 1,800 bar ensures particularly fine fuel atomization. Piezo injectors with faster nozzle needles allow more flexible injection cycles with smaller and more precisely controllable amounts of fuel. The result is optimum carburetion and particularly efficient combustion.

Safety



Innovative driver assistance systems, available on demand, make a significant contribution to greater safety and comfort in the new Audi A4. For example, they use “seeing” sensors to monitor the area to the front, rear and side of the vehicle to alert the driver to possible collisions. The development of systems like these is driven by the fact that, when driving, almost all important information is received by the eyes. In the Audi A4, radar and video sensors perform part of this task and support the driver’s vision to help him concentrate on the essentials in difficult situations. For instance, the saloon is available on request with the automatic distance control system adaptive cruise control. Taking into account the distance to the vehicle in front, the system automatically adjusts the preselected speed by accelerating and decelerating independently in a speed range of 30 to 200 kilometers per hour. Adaptive cruise control has already proved a success in the Audi A8, A6 and Q7. Completely new to the mid-size class are two further systems which are available as optional extras for the new Audi A4: Audi lane assist—an assistance system which alerts the driver to lane drifting—and Audi side assist, which supports the driver when changing lanes.

Accident research shows “mental factors” to be a frequent cause of accidents. Due to inattentiveness, drivers often fail to notice other road users. This is where assistance systems come in with their ability to recognize a hazard situation and alert the driver to driving errors. Example: lane changes. Audi side assist warns the driver with a visual signal in the side mirror when the turn signal has been activated but there is a vehicle in the adjacent lane. The system can identify cars in the driver’s blind spot as well as rapidly approaching vehicles. The “electronic eye” is a 24 gigahertz radar system which operates with two sensors in the rear bumper. The sensors have a range of around 50 meters to the rear and also cover the driver’s blind spot to the side of the vehicle. In developing driver assistance systems, Audi focuses not on what is technically possible but on the benefit for the driver, allowing him to remain in control at all times.



Character

Three cars in one. In a conventional vehicle, balancing the systems which determine a car's handling and feel is always a compromise. That's why Audi developed the innovative Audi drive select system, used for the first time in the new A4. With a single push of a button, the driver can change the character of the vehicle by switching between sporty and comfortable handling. Comfortable for relaxed driving on long journeys, balanced for agile yet enjoyable driving, and sporty for spirited driving on winding roads. Drivers no longer have to make compromises. The idea comes from motor racing, where the setup of the vehicle—the optimum tuning of all technical parameters—is key to lap times and victory. Audi drive select implements this philosophy in the new A4.



Audi drive select works like a parallel reaction: Four vehicle systems—engine, automatic transmission, suspension and steering—can be simultaneously influenced by the driver at the touch of a button to vary their characteristics between sporty and comfortable. Depending on system and mode selected, gas pedal characteristics and thus engine response, shift times, steering properties and damper tuning are changed. The most important components of Audi drive select are the electronic damper control system, based on an extremely powerful controller which recalculates damper oil flow every millisecond, and the dynamic steering system which works with a backlash-free, low-friction, speed-sensitive gear unit. The dynamic steering system varies the steering ratio and steering torque depending on speed and makes driving even sportier. It also stabilizes the new Audi A4 in critical situations by working closely with the ESP stability system.

Agility



THE FRONT axle is positioned very far forward for a longitudinal engine layout with front-wheel and all-wheel drive. This way, the front overhang is further shortened, resulting not only in a more dynamic appearance but also in a distinct improvement in handling. The shorter overhang allows a longer wheelbase and a virtually perfect axle load split between the front and rear wheels. The result is sportily precise steering coupled with high ride comfort. As an added bonus, the long wheelbase creates more room and comfort for passengers. The change in axle position was made possible by an idea borrowed from the Audi A8: The front axle differential now sits in front of the clutch. The drive shafts are thus located further to the front of the car, and the wheels are moved forward accordingly.

THE OUTSTANDING HANDLING of the new A4 begins with the suspension. Maximum driving enjoyment, high safety reserves combined with optimum comfort were the development goals—from the first moment of concept design through to the final test drives. The Audi engineers have achieved this with a completely redesigned suspension. It comprises a lightweight five-link front axle and a high-tech trapezoidal-link rear axle. New simulation methods were used to achieve better results in shorter time. The effort has paid off. The suspension in the new Audi A4 raises the bar in the mid-size class. The saloon offers amazingly agile handling and maximum steering precision, giving the driver clear feedback in all situations. Besides the new vehicle architecture with a shorter front overhang and a longer wheelbase, a big part in this is played by the new, completely redesigned steering system. The steering gear now sits low down in front of the front axle and directs the steering forces to the wheels with meticulous precision. All models of 190 horsepower upward are also equipped as standard with a servotronic steering system which regulates the amount of power assistance as a function of speed—for comfortable steering with the minimum of effort at low speeds and maximum steering precision at higher speeds.



IT'S FESTIVAL TIME

By Ksenia Svetlova

Driving to Amman you just can't help but counting huge billboards with faces of George Wassuf, Amr Diab, Cheb Khaled and Placido Domingo on them. The billboards are as numerous as the images of the royal family - King Abdallah II, his wife Rania and the deceased king Hussein and sometimes even outnumber them.

The Jordan Festival - ex Jerash festival is in town and its spirits are sweeping Jordan off its feet. Just like every year the superstars of An Arabic music scene are featured: the Egyptian Amr Diab, the Lebanese Fadel Shaker and the Algerian Cheb Khaled. These popular singers can easily fill multi-thousand concert halls and the organizers know that the admirers will follow their idols everywhere as long as they will secure the contracts with the coveted star, which isn't an easy deal at all, considering that the agents from all ends of the Arab world battle over them. Summer is the hottest time in terms of music as well as weather in the Middle East, as Jerash, Carthago, Alexandria, Beirut and other cities fight for the title of the most influential event in music life. This year Jordan could attract not only the desired Arab superstars, but also a plead of international performers - pop-sensation Mika, Jazz singer Diana Krall and the cherry on the top - Placido Domingo, the magnificent Spanish tenor. Yet, just a few weeks prior to the beginning of the festival, the remarkable event was under a threat of cancellation. Even music has a political dimension in the Middle East and by the beginning of July, shortly before the festival was opened a rumor spread that a French company, Publicis Groupe, which allegedly took part in organizing the festival also handled Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations couple of months ago. Amid this rumors a few participants proclaimed they will boycott the event. President of the Cairo-based General Union of Arab Artists Sayyed Radi told the Jordan Times that Egyptian singers Amr Diab and Mohammad Hamaqi were not coming to Jordan for their scheduled concerts. The Jordanian Artists Association Shaher Hadid added that many other Egyptian, Syrian and Lebanese participants cancelled their participation since all of them oppose normalization with Israel. The Jordanian authorities have denied as baseless the claim that the Publicis Groupe was involved in the Jordan Festival saying that the organization of the festival are 100% Jordanian and the French company only helps

in contracting with singers and artists. Yet the cat was out the bag already and scandal wasn't even close to setting down. The JAA heads also demanded canceling the participation of Algerian star Cheb Khalid, who has allegedly performed with an Israeli artist in Rome.

The country's trade unions, Islamic-led opposition parties and some influential Jordanian public figures all issued statements urging the government to cancel the event. The fateful moment came on July 8 at the opening of the festival when Elissa, Omar al-Abdullat and George Wassouf were about to perform. Despite the fear of cancellation the concert took place and attracted thousands of enthusiastic fans. However, some more surprises were yet to come: eight days later a gunman opened fire at an unsuspecting crowd in Amman Roman theater. He injured 4 Lebanese, 1 Arab Israel and 1 Jordanian who came to attend the concert. The gunman who eventually shot himself was soon identified as Thaer Wheidi, 18-year-old, who lived in Baqaa refugee camp, north of Amman. Some eyewitnesses of the event claimed that the shooter had mistaken the Lebanese group with the Israeli tourists and then opened fire. A shooting incident in addition to a serious conflict between the organizing authorities and the local unions could result in a wave of cancellations from both Arab and international artists threatening the continuation of the festival. Even so, the organizers were determined to continue and the prestigious event went on, showing immense steadfast and stability.

On the evening of 21/07 shortly before what can rightfully be called the high point of the festival- the concert of Placido Domingo, Julia Miguenes and Monica Yunus the tension around the historical ruins of Jerash was almost palpable. Hundreds of policemen and security officials guarded the event, which was well secured even by Israeli standards - metal detectors and body search including. The authorities were determined not to let anyone to spoil Jordan's special moment. A few moments prior to beginning a sound of a helicopter was heard: the mother of the

King came to attend the exquisite concert. Then the maestro stepped out from the dark and conquered the audience at once with his charming smile. The ecstasy in the 5000 Roman amphitheater lasted every moment of almost 3 hours of magic. Accompanied by Cairo symphonic orchestra and two talented opera singers - Monica Yunus and Julia Miguenes - Domingo ruled the stage as the true King of Opera. Thousands of Jordanians, Lebanese, Syrians, Europeans, and Americans refused to say goodbye and encored the tenor again and again. How many opera lovers in Israel would sacrifice their right hand for the opportunity to listen to the famous singer, who many years ago, young and obscure, on the brink of fame sang in Israeli Opera. Apparently, a road to Amman, (2-4 hours including border crossing procedures) still proves to be an unbridgeable distance for many Israelis. "We just don't want to feel unwelcome, to feel awkward there" told DC Sarah Meir, a Jerusalemite opera-lover who adores Placido Domingo. Meir was actually one of the few Israelis who knew that the legendary tenor is about to perform in Jordan and followed on the news all the related developments. "Boycott and security threat are common ordeals at the Israeli festival. It's sad that Jordanians now experience the same problems, yet it's clear that until fanatics and extremists dictate their politics at the Middle East, no one will be able to fully distance himself from the reality and enjoy music and arts" Sarah's husband James says. Indeed, not too many Israelis would risk taking a trip over the border to enjoy a concert, and the vast majority isn't even aware of such venues taking place at such a close proximity as no advertising of the festival is available in Israel. In Lebanon, Syria and Egypt music fans follow the "festival news" religiously and the advertisings run in major newspapers. At the same time, the festival is a huge hit among Arab Israelis or "48 Arab" as they are often called in Jordan. They read about the concert in Arabic language newspapers published in Israel or in PA and flock to Jordan hotels and retreats in the summer. Rami Abdullah is anxious to get a ticket for a coming Amr Diab (an Egyptian megastar) concert. He already saw Diab once in Cairo and is willing to pay quite a lot to experience his favorite singer live in Jordan. The tickets to Jordan festival cost between 40-70 JD, yet one also has travel expenses and accommodation to think about. "I wish he could come once to Israel, but now it seems impossible- there are many fans between Arab Israelis, and I believe that Jews would love him too, if they knew about him. Maybe someday he will participate in an Israel festival which is also held in the beginning of the summer". But for now it seems that Amr Diab won't come to Israel, and that the Jordan festival will be off limit for the Israelis - performers and audience just as well...

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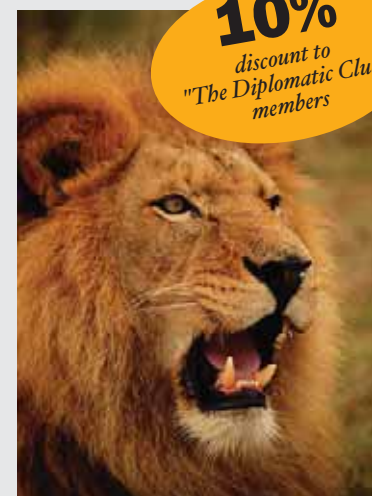
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The Wine house

Wines and beverages Est. 1978

13 Maskit Street, Herzeliya Pituach, Tel: 09-9577957, Fax: 09-9577959
26 Ha'alia street, Tel Aviv, Tel: 03-6824022, Fax: 03-6825513

 פורלין forelin
ביסטרו צרפתי קלאסי



Forelin restaurant is a chef restaurant that offers a colorful menu, using the best premium high quality & fresh ingredients. On the menu – fish, seafood and meat dishes, all conducted by Chef Amir Marcovitz.

The restaurant has a clean & elegant atmosphere and an outstanding service with good quality at reasonable prices. The restaurant is located close by the board walk.

Open daily from 12:00 pm.
Business menu served
Sunday – Friday
12:00 – 17:00.

Forelin | 10 Frishman St. | 03-5222664



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4 Hasadnaot st., Herzliya | Tel 09-9568844

Meat Bar established its reputation as the ultimate meat-lover's haven at its original restaurant, located on Chen Blvd. in Tel Aviv. The opening of Meat Bar's new branch in Herzliya Pituach in 2008 was a cause for local celebration.

The secret of Meat Bar's success is very simple: carefully selected fine meats, which are cured on premises, and professionally and lovingly prepared by Chef Michael Shlomovitz and his expert team. The restaurant's menu selection offers the carnivores among us, and the rest of us too, an abundance of tempting options to choose from: Appetizers such as beef fillet carpaccio and home-made Italian sausage; main courses such as Angus entrecote and 500 gm. lamb chops, plus dream hamburgers with a selection of side dishes. The dessert menu won't disappoint your tastebuds either, offering Crème Brulee in a variety of flavors, profiteroles and malawi.

Meat Bar Herzliya's designer décor, styled by Shai Shlomi and Yael Zwartz, moves your culinary pleasure into the realm of the perfect dining experience. Ceiling fans, stunning draperies, an irresistible bar, a strong presence of dark wood, clean lines and mood lighting come together to create a feel that is both striking and pleasing to the eye. The soft tones of fine jazz and lounge music meld perfectly with the relaxed and refined ambiance.

The restaurant also boasts a gorgeous private room which is perfect for hosting every type of event, wireless internet and business lunches served Monday to Thursday in the afternoon.



Diplomatic Mini Mondeal

Football games between continents
Which will take place on 28/09/08
At the Sporteck (park Yarkon)
Jaffa/Tel Aviv

The outlined program is as follows:

- 9:00 Coffee reception
- 10:00 Opening ceremony of Sport
- 10:30 Commencement of Games which will continue through the day
- 16.00 BBQ

It wills one of the biggest social events that the Diplomatic Club support. Initiated by the diplomatic community, this day supposes to bring a lot of families of diplomats together (couple of hundreds people: players, families of players and support staff)

We hope that the above condition meet you well and look forward to you to representing your country in the event. This is non professional Gamest.

The Games will be open for everybody, who is interested in joining us and likes football. Please, be so kind to give us a flag of your country.

For children all attractions in the park will be opened.

Please fill out the enclosed form to advise us of participation in the games.

A prompt response will be appreciated, to help us through the organizing process.

Participation fees: single – 70 NIS, couple – 130 NIS.

Participation fees for BBQ only :single 50 NIS couple 90 NIS

BBQ for children free of charge

Registration Form

Name of Embassy/Consulate:

Name of contact person:

Tel No: _____

Fax No: _____

Teams (of 7 each)

Name of Single participant

Name of Team	Age	M/F
1. Asia		
2. Africa		
3. America		
4. Europe		
5. Former SU		

Number of invitations required to the BBQ _____



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