

NEW JUDGES APPOINTED TO THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL

By staff writers

Two out of the three new non-permanent Hong Kong judges to the Court of Final Appeal are members of the Hong Kong Jewish community.

The Honourable Justice Frank Stock and the Honourable Justice Michael John Hartmann (together with the Honourable Justice Robert Tang Ching) were appointed by Chief Executive Donald Tsang on the recommendations of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission (JORC). Local judges, persons from the legal profession and eminent persons from other sectors comprise the JORC.

Tsang said, "The three judges are outstanding lawyers who have considerable experience in handling criminal and civil cases including constitutional cases. Their appointments will increase the number of non-permanent Hong Kong judges



Justice Stock

from three to six and will provide the much-needed flexibility in deployment to deal with the case load of the Court of Final Appeal."

The administration will now seek the endorsement of the Legislative Council on the recommended appointments.

Justice Stock was born in Rhodesia in 1945. He received his Bachelor of Laws degree



Justice Hartmann

from the University of Liverpool in 1967 and was called to the Bar in England and Wales in 1968, in Australia in 1983 and in Hong Kong in 1984. He was appointed Queen's Counsel and then he was a Solicitor General and finally he joined the High Court. In 2009 he was named the Vice President of the Court of Appeal. His expertise is in criminal, civil and public law. He is married, has two children

and three grandchildren.

Justice Hartmann was born in Mumbai, India in 1944. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of London in 1967. In 1971 he was admitted as an attorney, notary public and conveyancer in Zimbabwe and was a partner in a firm in the capital city. In 1983 he came to Hong Kong joined the then Legal Department as Crown Counsel. He was then Deputy Principal Crown Counsel and in the 90s he was a District Judge. In 1998 he joined the High Court. His expertise is in family, public and constitutional law. He is married and has two children.

Israel Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo 2010

1 May marked the opening of the Shanghai World Expo. The Expo is expected to attract over 70 million visitors over the next six months. Over 200 countries are participating at the Expo.

It is the first time Israel has built a national pavilion at a World Expo, at a cost of US\$6 million.

Israel's pavilion highlights innovation and ancient Jewish culture. The message of Israel to the World Expo is "Innovation for Better Life" and it echoes the theme of the Expo, which is "Better City, Better

Life." Over 3.5 million visitors are expected to go through the pavilion.

Irit Ben-Abba, the State of Israel's Commissioner General for Expo 2010, said the 2,000 square-metre pavilion symbolizes innovation and technology.

Haim Z. Dotan is the Chief Designer of the Pavilion and explained it consists of three areas – The Whispering Garden, The Hall of Light and The Hall of Innovations. The Whispering Garden is a green orchard that greets visitors as they enter the building with trees that whisper in English and Chinese when

you come close to them. The Hall of Light includes a 15-meter high screen that displays films of Israel's innovations and technological achievements. The Hall of Innovation is the centerpiece of the pavilion, with a special audio-visual show where Israeli children, scientists, doctors and inventors introduce themselves and share their hopes for a better future via hundreds of screens.

For those visiting the Expo, Rabbi Mendy and Mrs Sara Alevsky will be available to service all their Jewish needs. They can be reached at expo@chinajewish.org.

IN THIS ISSUE

Regional News

First Wedding at Ohel Moshe Synagogue **3-7**

Art and Culture

Just for Laughs **8-9**

Business News

Israel raises Asian wealth fund **10**

62nd Anniversary

Learning about Yom Ha'atzmaut through our children **12-13**

Independence Day Greetings

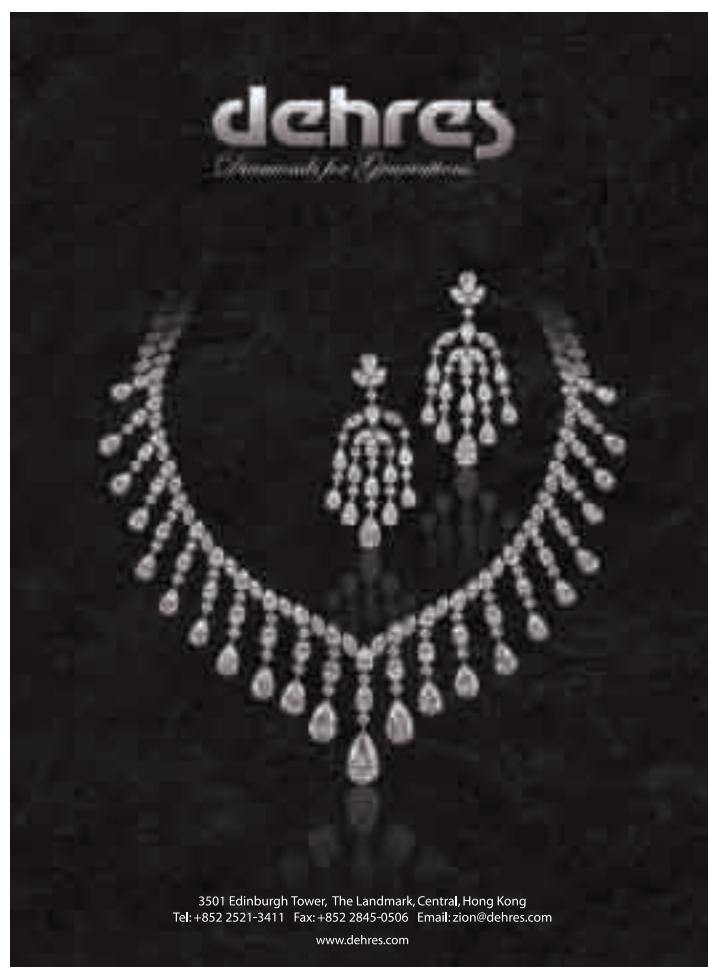
Prime Minister of Israel
Consul General of Hong Kong **14-15**

Festival

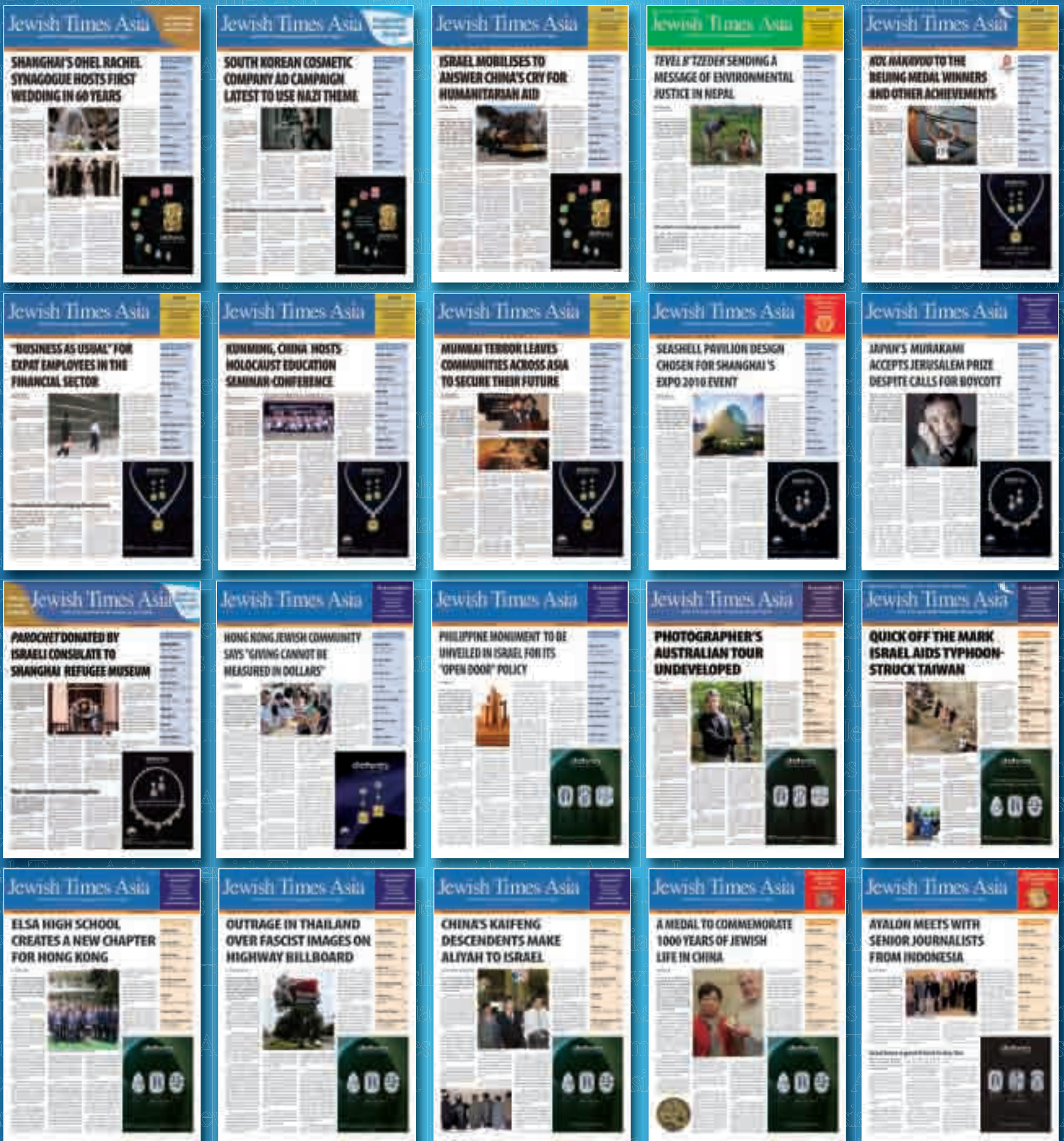
Shavuot **17**

Jewish communities in Asia

Candle-lighting and the months Parshas **19**



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First wedding at Ohel Moshe Synagogue in 60 years

The wedding of Ran and Osnat Fridman took place on 21 March (6 Nissan 5770) at the historical Ohel Moshe Synagogue in Shanghai. This was the first wedding at the synagogue in 60 years.

The wedding was led by Rabbis Shalom and Avraham Greenberg. The *chuppah* was made possible through the relationship of the Rabbis and the Chinese government. Most important was the help of Mr Chen Jian, Curator of Ohel



Ohel Moshe Synagogue



Osnat and Ran Fridman with Chen Jian

Moshe Synagogue and Director of the Foreign Affairs Office in Shanghai Hongkou District Government Office and Mrs

Amy Liao from Foreign Affairs.

The Shanghai Chabad Jewish Center catered the event



Under the chuppah

with the help of Rabbi Abraham Shlezinger from New York and DJ Simcha was in charge of the music.

Over 150 family members and friends arrived from different parts of the world, including Israel, USA, Russia, China and other countries to share in the *simcha*.

Ran and Osnat thank Rabbi Shalom and Avraham Greenberg, the Shanghai Jewish Community and all the people who made their *chuppah* and *simcha* come true.

Shanghai's other synagogue Ohel Rachel also held its first wedding ceremony in 60 years in March 2008 with the marriage of Denis Gi'han and Audrey Ohana.

Israeli organ trafficking ring broken

Israeli police arrested six men, including an IDF brigadier general and two lawyers from northern Israel, suspected of being involved in an organ trafficking ring.

The ring was apparently operating throughout the country and used local media as well as the Internet, to attract potential donors by offering up to US\$100,000 dollars for a kidney.

People were flown to Eastern Europe, Ecuador and the Philippines to have the organ (kidney) removal surgery and upon their return to Israel were paid US\$10,000 or less, while others received no payment at all. Traffickers would then turn around and demand US\$120,000 dollars for the organ transplant, while many of the donors were left with medical complications.

Israel outlawed providing organ donors with financial rewards in 2008. All organ transplants are supposed to be carried out through the National Transplant and Organ Donation Center.

122nd IPU meeting held in Bangkok

The 122nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 March to 1 April.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand opened the Assembly. Officials from Israel that attended included Mr Majalli Whbee, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Mr Meir Sheetrit, Member of Parliament, Former Minister of Justice, Transportation, Finance,

and Internal Affairs, Hon. Mr Eyal Yinon, Secretary General of the Knesset and Mr Tibor Shatev-Schlösser, Director of International Organisations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They also participated in the Assembly.

The IPU was established in 1889 and is the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. It works for peace and cooperation among peoples

and for the firm establishment of representative democracy. Bangkok hosted participants from 153 member countries.

The resolutions of the meeting included: cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight against organised crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism, among other moves.

Two die in fire at Israeli engineer's home in Taiwan

An early-morning fire at the home of an Israeli engineer Boev Igor left two dead and two injured. The fire started on the second floor of a four-storey apartment building, in Hsinchu City in west Taiwan.

Su Huang-chi, chief of a local police station said Igor and his 8-year-old daughter jumped from the second-floor balcony. They suffered minor injuries and are recovering in hospital.

Igor's wife and 10-year-old daughter died on the fourth-floor balcony, after flames surged upwards. Neighbours said that Igor's wife dashed out of the apartment building to seek help but ran into the building again. "She shouted 'Somebody Help! Somebody Help!' And then ran back into the building. Apparently she wanted to rescue her family," a

neighbour told cable TV channel CTI.

Igor had arrived a few days earlier to work for the Nuvoton Technology Corp, a semiconductor company in the Hsinchu Science Park, police said.

"Fire experts will inspect the scene of the fire to determine the cause of the fire," Su said.

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Regional News

Hong Kong gathers to remember Holocaust

On 11 April, the Hong Kong Jewish Community gathered for a Holocaust Memorial Ceremony. Over 120 people from all congregations attended the event, which was held at the Jewish Community Centre.

Amikam Levy, Consul General of Israel, who opened the memorial spoke about anti-Semitism and how it has not disappeared from the world.

He said Jews still "have real enemies" who must be found and defeated. "We have to be prepared for every challenge and every enemy who wants to destroy us." There is a "moral imperative for the world to stand against anti-Semitism." Mr Levy finished his speech on the following note: "Mankind must put an end to anti-Semitism before anti-Semitism puts an end to mankind."

The theme of the memorial was the children of the Holocaust and to that effect, children from the community read different accounts of the Holocaust including *At Terezin* written by

Teddy in 1943, Chaim Potok's *But The Children Saw Too* and *Fear* from 12 year-old Eva Pickova. Throughout the night names of the 1.5 million children who lost their lives were read.

A projection showed paintings from the children of Theresienstadt. This camp was used by the Nazis as a model camp with which they blindsided the world to their real ongoing extermination of the Jews at other death camps like Auschwitz and Birkenau.

About 140,000 Jews were deported to Theresienstadt. 15,000 children were deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz. Only 100 survived, but none under the age of fourteen.

Six candles were lit in memory of the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. Shani Ben Or and Rachel Zweig sang *Tachat Ziv Kochvay Shamayim* and *Eli, Eli*. Rabbi Jackson from Ohel Leah Synagogue recited *Yitzkor*.

Beijing Embassy launches the Heart for Life Project

On 18 March the Embassy of Israel together with the United Foundation for Children's Health launched the Heart for Life project in Beijing.

Heart of Life was initiated and sponsored by the Embassy of Israel as a meaningful way to commemorate the 18th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Israel and China. As part of the project, the Embassy of Israel will provide 18 life-saving surgeries to 18 Chinese orphans with different medical problems. Heart for Life symbolises the positive, long-standing ties between Israel and China, 18 life-saving surgeries for every year of Israeli-Chinese diplomatic relations.

"Life is the most important value in the Jewish tradition" says Nadai. "According to the Talmud, saving one life is equal to saving the entire universe, as every person is seen as a complete universe in himself. The idea of the Heart for Life project is to lend the opportunity for new life to these 18 orphans. We all hope and believe that after receiving the surgeries, these



Ambassador Amos Nadai

18 children will be adopted and thus have the opportunity to live a new and happy life."

"We are so blessed to be involved in such an amazing project. These life-changing surgeries offer the children a chance at a real future," says Maggie Fu, United Foundation for Children's Health Operations Manager.

Under the umbrella of the Heart for Life project, the Embassy of Israel and the United Foundation for Children's Health has arranged the Israel-China Pe-

diatric Cardiology Conference.

During the conference, leading Israeli experts from the field of pediatric cardiology met with 70 Chinese doctors from over 15 hospitals to discuss advancements and innovations in the field. Israel, a leader among the nations in the field of medicine, is happy to share its medical know-how with China for the benefit of both peoples. We see the conference as a fruitful opportunity to further enhance Israel-China relations in the field of medicine.



Chag Shavuot Sameach



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Regional News

China, Israel vow to enhance bilateral ties



Shimon Peres and Hui Liangyu

Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu recently held talks in Israel, with Israeli President Shimon Peres with both vowing to further promote bilateral relations.

Israel and China established diplomatic ties 18 years ago reaching achievements in the areas of politics, economy, culture, science and technology, amongst others. Hui stressed that promoting Sino-Israeli relations are in line with the long-term interests of the two countries and peoples.

Peres asked his guest to convey warm greetings to his Chinese counterpart, highlighting the friendly feelings of the Israeli people towards the Chinese people.

Noting that China has become one of the world's largest economies in a relatively short period and that the Chinese government is making enormous efforts to build a harmonious society, eliminate poverty and improve the living condi-

tions of the Chinese people, and is also attaching great importance to agricultural production and food safety,

Peres said that the Israeli government and people admire China's accomplishments and ambitions. Israel is willing to expand its scope of cooperation with China and further advance bilateral ties, the Israeli leader said.

Hui also met with Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Strategic Affairs Moshe Ya'alon, during which the two sides agreed to further strengthen the friendly cooperation between the two countries in trade, agriculture, science and technology, culture, tourism and other areas.

During his stay in Israel, Hui also visited a number of agricultural projects in an Israeli kibbutz and attended a signing ceremony of cooperation documents between Chinese and Israeli firms.

Director General for diplomacy and diaspora affairs makes official visit

Ronen Plot is the new Director General, Ministry for Public Diplomacy and the Diaspora for the State of Israel under minister Yuli Edelstein.

Plot visited Hong Kong in March as part of an official visit to the region. He then travelled to New Zealand to attend the official opening of the new Israeli Embassy in Wellington.

While in Hong Kong, he met leaders of the Jewish community and representatives from the consulate. The goal of the meetings was to find ways to cooperate and strengthen the relationship between Hong Kong and Israel through Mr Plot's office.

He noted that this community has special characteristics. "I now see what a powerful place this is. I am impressed at the success clearly visible here with its modern life and infra-



Ronen Plot

structure. What an achievement!" he commented.

When comparing the Hong Kong community with other communities around the world, Plot said, "Indeed I am very happy that the Jewish community is respected by the local government. It is not always like this. In other places Jews

have to struggle and fight to reach their goals."

Plot would like to arrange for seminars in Israel to provide training and guidance to support Israeli public diplomacy and to locate and train advocacy representatives in the Jewish Diaspora. This would open a direct dialogue within communities, like the one in Hong Kong, with an opportunity to exchange views and experiences.

"Ariel Sharon's dream was to bring all Jewish people from around the world to live in Israel. This ministry feels the same way today. It is a big dream, but we are practical people, so we have to see what we can do (to achieve that) and what we are doing right now is to strengthen the ties between the Jewish people and the State of Israel," he said.

Hong Kong Barmitzvah in Israel

The Bruck family from Hong Kong celebrated Julian Hugo Bruck's Barmitzvah at the Kotel in Jerusalem. The Barmitzvah took place on 12 April 2010 (28 Nissan 5770).

A number of current and former members of the Hong Kong Jewish community attended. The morning *Shacharit* service was led by Rabbi van den Bergh, the former rabbi of Ohel Leah Synagogue.



From left to right: Adrian Bruck, Jacob Zion, Rabbi Joseph Pick, Michael Bruck, Julian Bruck, Rabbi Martin van den Bergh, Anna van den Bergh, Elanna Bruck, Sharon Bruck and Rina Zion.

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Regional News

JWA Ball entertains and raises money for charity

The Jewish Women's Association of Hong Kong (JWA) organised and hosted Israel's 62nd Independence Day Ball at the JW Marriott Hotel on 25 April. Over 320 people from Hong Kong's Jewish community attended the ball. A full evening of music, stand-up comedy and Israeli dancing filled the ballroom.

Daphna Peyser, Chairwoman of the JWA delivered the welcoming address and Mr Amikam Levy, Israel's Consul General to Hong Kong also spoke. Riki Shamesh was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Over 80 items were available for a live auction and silent



Israeli dancing at the ball

bidding in order to raise money for charity. Some of the items up for bid included a one-on-one hour-long meeting with Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Chairman of Yad Vashem (which sold for HK\$260,000), a 62 carat diamond bracelet, a gourmet

dinner at home with a Michelin star chef and a signed guitar from David Broza.

Highlights of the evening included Canadian comedian Joey Elias, Isaac Ofek playing the saxophone with his band and a piano performance by Alon and Guy Ostrum. Alon and Guy are identical twins from Israel and they were featured in a moving documentary presented at the event.

The twins were diagnosed with leukemia when they were 10 months old. After unsuccessful chemotherapy they got a bone marrow transplant from their father, who was a rare perfect match. Dr Yaniv and his team at the Schenider Oncology Medical Ward treated them and



Alon and Guy Ostrum

in the process discovered they were extremely talented pianists.

All proceeds of the event will go towards JWA's beneficiaries including the Tlalim Association, Alut, WIZO, the

Hong Kong Community Chest and the Hayim Association, which supports the Schenider Oncology Medical Ward and where JWA plans to purchase new equipment that supports bone marrow transplantation at a cost of US\$110,000.



Isaac Ofek and his band



Daphne Peyser



Consul General Amikam Levy



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Regional News

Yom Hazikaron in Beijing and Hong Kong

Simultaneous events around Asia took place to mark *Yom Hazikaron* on 18 April. In Beijing the Israeli Embassy hosted the ceremony. The Embassy's 7th floor was the venue for over 150 attendees from the Beijing community and other visitors to the city.

Those gathered lit candles upon entering the site and honoured those who gave their lives for the State of Israel including Israeli military veterans, military personnel and also victims of terrorism.

The memorial was led by Colonel Yossi Engel-Sher.

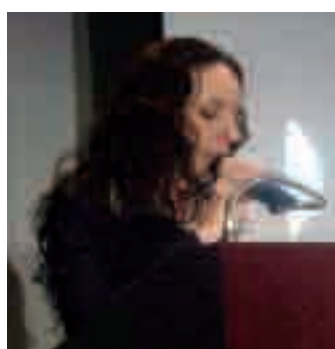
Chabad Rabbi Shimon Freundlich sang *El Maleh Rachamim* and after the ceremony he commented, "It is one of those prayers you never get used to regardless of how many times you say it." Attendees bowing their heads in a minute of silence followed the prayer.

Israel's Ambassador, Mr Amos Nadai, was present and spoke a few words. Different members of the community sang and read a variety of stories, poems and accounts of fallen soldiers.

An audiovisual presentation started with the word *Yizkor*



Display at entrance to event in Beijing



Sharon Regev

(remember) and then moved on to pictures of soldiers and those left behind, from Israel's creation until the present day. A reminder that the State of Israel is strong because of the sacrifices the fallen have made.

A couple of teenage students placed a wreath at the front of the room as a sign of respect and the evening ended with the singing of *Hatikvah*.

At the same time in Hong Kong, Israel's Consul General to Hong Kong, Mr Amikam Levy, organised and addressed a community event at the Jewish Community Centre.

The event was attended by



Beijing community

a large gathering of community members. The one hour programme included poetry, a musical performance by Yaron Bar Tal on guitar and singing from Shani Ben-or, a memorial film and a personal testimony read by Sharon Regev who lost her

father during the first Lebanon War.

Daniela Yaukel lit the memorial candle and Eddie Epstein recited *El Maleh Rachamim*. Rafeal Aharoni recited *Kaddish* and Shay Razon recited *Yizkor*.



Yaron Bar Tal and Shani Ben-or performing in Hong Kong

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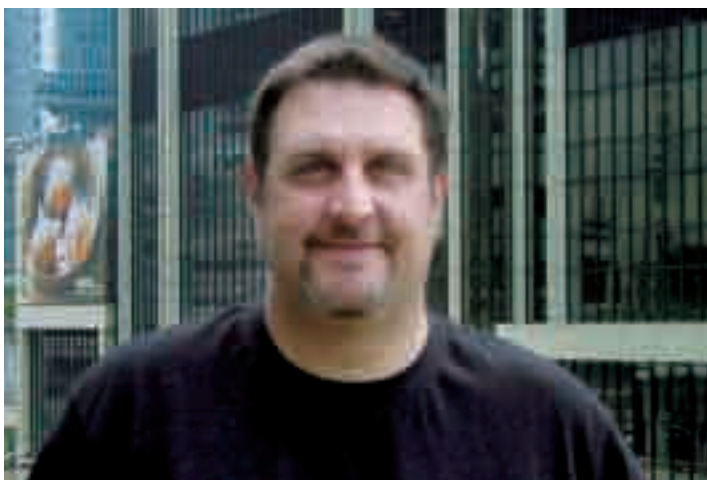
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Just for Laughs - Joey's humour is contagious

Joey Elias is one of Canada's funniest stand-up comedians, and you can see why. He looks funny and has an unforgettable stature and a face that is readily caricatured – no offense. Elias has just spent a weekend in Hong Kong and was performing as part of the JWA, Annual Dinner Ball to celebrate Israel's 62nd Anniversary. It was his first trip to Hong Kong and Asia.

Elias was born in Montreal of an Israeli father. He attended Herzliya High School, had his barmitzvah in Israel and like all good Jewish boys his parents expected him to be a lawyer or a doctor. Fortunately he had other plans; originally he wanted to go into politics but realized that this career was too serious.

Elias began performing comedy in 1992 after losing a pool hall bet to a friend. His loss was the comedy world's gain. Since his humble beginnings on amateur night stages, Joey has appeared in no less than 12 Just For Laughs Festivals and the 2004 and 2006 Just For Laughs Cross Canada Tour. In 2004 he also ventured to Afghanistan to



entertain Canadian troops stationed overseas. He has also visited troops based in Rwanda and Haiti.

His impressions of Hong Kong, "Very humid, lucky I don't have frizzy hair. I would look ugly" Elias commented. "After spending 15 hours on a plane you want to get off and enjoy some fresh air. I should have stayed on the plane."

Though his humour is spontaneous and very interactive, Elias also has a serious side and an interest in charity. After being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, he established a diabetes-charity

camp and clinic to raise funds for research and equipment. His primary fund raising activity is an annual golf tournament, which this year will be held in August at the Ile Perot Golf Club.

When he is not performing or talking on a nightly comedy radio show on CJAD, he relaxes by listening to music, reading and cooking.

Israeli conductor to make his Taiwan debut

Israeli conductor Amos Talmon made his Taipei debut in April with his concert *Voice of Israel – Now and Then*.

Talmon presented music from Israel's present and past while collaborating with local talent. Cellist Ku Mei-yu played Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* and Talmon conducted the Moment Musical Youth Orchestra in Marc Lavri's *Emek* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B minor, *Pathétique*.



Amos Talmon

tion will bring young musician's talents and music to Israel and Taiwan.

Talmon began directing in 1999 and he launched his career by conducting the Israel Philharmonic, the Israel Symphony Rishon-LeZion and the Jerusalem Radio Symphony. In 2000 he founded the Music Angels Herzliya Foundation in an effort to support young Israeli soloists. Since 2001 he has been in charge of the Grand Symphonic Series at the Herzliya Center for Performing Arts, which hosts Israel's finest orchestras.

Kohlberg and Harouni in Manila

Two of Israel's leading young pianists arrived in Manila for a number of performances.

On 24 April they participated in the Filfest concert series at the Insular Auditorium in Alabang. On 27 April they performed at the Grand Ballroom at the Intercontinental Hotel to celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of the State of Israel, which was hosted by Israel's Embassy to the Philippines.

That was followed by a performance at the Grand Ballroom at the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel in Cebu City on 29 April.

Ambassador Zvi Vapni, and Emily Benedicto Chioson, Israel's Honorary Consul in Vi-

sayas, hosted the evening in cooperation with the Arts Council of Cebu Foundation.

Yaron Kohlberg was born in Jerusalem in 1983 and is the winner of numerous prestigious international prizes. From 1992 he has been a regular recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarships with distinction.

Bishara Harouni was born in Nazareth, studied the piano with well-known teachers in Haifa, Jerusalem and Germany. As a concerto soloist he enjoys associations with major orchestras in Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Norway, Britain, Israel and the US.



Yaron Kohlberg



Bishara Harouni

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Taipei hosts Israeli and British choreographers



Emanuel Gat

Choreographers Emanuel Gat from Israel and Akram Khan from England will present their work at Novel Hall in Taipei this month, according to Lin Hwai-min, the Artistic Director of the Novel Dance Series 2010.

Gat will feature *Winter Voyage* with music from Franz Schubert, *The Rite of Spring* with music from Igor Stravinsky and *Silent Ballet* which uses silence as well as live sounds to express the process of creation and the alchemy of physical abstraction. Khan will present *Gnosis* which is his latest solo.

Gat was born in Israel in 1969 and became a dancer after his military service in 1990. Choreographer Nir Ben Gal was his teacher and Gat joined Ben Gal's company and toured in Israel and the world. Shortly



Akram Khan

after Gat began working as an independent choreographer, and over the next decade created a number of independent projects.

He received numerous awards and in 2004 he established his own company, Emanuel Gat Dance, which received Israel's Minister of Culture Award in 2005 for outstanding dance performance. He continues to choreograph and perform on stages in North America, Europe and Asia.

Akram Khan was born in London in 1974. He began dancing at the age of seven and was on stage at fourteen. He studied contemporary dance and started his solo career in the 1990s. In 2000 he launched his own company and was a Choreographer-in-Residence and later an associate artist at the South Bank Centre until 2005.

PercaDu perform in Hong Kong

PercaDu, the world-class percussion and marimba duo from Israel, performed for the first time at the Sheung Wan Civic Centre in Hong Kong on 30 April.

The duo also stayed for a few days more to perform at the Israel Independence Day reception attended by the Israel Consul General and dignitaries from the Hong Kong government.

They presented works from Bach, Piazzolla and Liszt amongst other, as well as their own contemporary and electro-acoustic music. Their unique virtuoso style was energetic and intense. They commanded their instruments and provided the audience an amazing auditory

and visual experience.

In 1996 Tomer Yariv and Adi Morag, both graduates of the soloist class of the Royal Danish Academy of music in Copenhagen, met at Alon Bor's teaching studio and formed PercaDu. They now divide their time between performances in Israel and tours in Europe, the US and the Far East playing recitals and as soloist with some of the world's most celebrated orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the LA Philharmonic Orchestra.

They have also taught master classes at the renowned Juilliard School of Music in New York City.



Solo exhibition featuring Israeli artist Nathan Slate Joseph

From 5 May until 6 June the Sundaram Tagore Gallery in Hong Kong presents: *Salvaged steel vessels, sculptures and wall reliefs*, by Israeli artist Nathan Slate Joseph.

Joseph creates raw, tactile works by staining shards of discarded steel with pigment and acid. Exposing the metal to rain, wind and sunlight in his outdoor studio, he achieves unpredictable patinas and textures. Joseph has been an integral part of the New York School of Art for the past 30 years.

Today he is renowned for his works exploring themes of globalisation, immigration and climate change.

For his first solo exhibition in Hong Kong, Joseph unveils a new series of three-dimensional paintings, freestanding sculptures and wall-mounted vessels. Intensely coloured, Joseph's art

straddles the realms of painting and sculpture, East and West, nature and the man made.

Curator Sundaram Tagore says, "Nathan has been an important part of the fabric of New York City's art scene for many years, but his work has a universal element."

Joseph moved to New York City from Israel in the 1960s. A journey to Mexico in the 1970s inspired a shift toward his dramatic colour palette.

The vibrant building facades and the manner in which their colours intensified over time fascinated him. By incorporating colour into his works, Joseph extended the language of the junk art movement.

Years later, he travelled to China, India and Indonesia where he encountered shantytown dwellers crushing cans and scavenging for materials to make shelters. He then began to



combine urban aesthetics with a concern for nature.

Joseph's work is in numerous public and private collections and he is reviewed regularly in publications such as *Art in America*.

Chag Shavuot Sameach Happy Shavuot to all communities in Asia

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Israel raises US\$200 million on Asian sovereign wealth fund

According to *Reuters* the Ministry of Finance Accountant General has raised US\$200 million in a private placement of bonds with an Asian sovereign wealth fund.

The two-year bonds were raised under the shelf prospectus of European Medium Term Notes programme. Sovereign wealth funds manage large investment portfolios of countries, and are considered in the world's capital markets as sophisticated strategic investors.

In addition to the bond issue,



the Accountant General made a swap deal to convert part of the government's dollar debt into shekels.

Barclays Capital, a market

maker for Israel government bonds, was the underwriter.

The two deals enable the government to raise capital at a lower cost. The financing in shekels after the swap deal is 0.3 percentage points lower than the yield on fixed-interest government bonds for the same period.

Accountant General Shuki Oren said, "The fact that a sovereign wealth fund has decided to make this deal with the State of Israel is another vote of confidence in the soundness of the Israeli market and economy."

Israel extends cooperation to West Bengal

Israel agreed to extend cooperation to West Bengal in a variety of areas such as IT, solar power, agriculture, medical equipment and water management as part of its efforts to further strengthen trade ties between the two countries.

Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and Israel's Ambassador to India, Mark Sofer reached the agreement after meeting for an hour.

The two leaders discussed how they could work together through partnerships with companies in the public and private sector in both countries.

Sofer said that the proposed Free Trade Agreement between Israel and India would boost trade and it would be the first one-to-one free trade agreement for India. The partnership was also discussed with various Chambers of Commerce and with the Confederation of Indian Industry.



Israel's Biomedical Industry sets date for annual event

The Israel Life Science Industry (ILSI) and Kenes International will organise ILSI Biomed Israel 2010 that is estimated to attract 7,000 participants and industry leaders interested in cutting-edge technological innovations and business opportunities.

The event will be held 14 – 16 June at the David InterContinental Hotel in Tel Aviv. The conference attracts the world's leading biotechnology, pharma, medicine and medical device entities and is considered the largest life science conference outside of the US.

New for this year's event, is an Innovation Pavilion, which will showcase 60 Israeli start-up companies' products.

ILSI Biomed Israel 2010 will place emphasis on the practical and business aspects of one of the most advanced and successful industries in Israel focusing on cardiology, vaccines, oncology, 'cell care', personalised medication, and metabolic disease fields.

The conference will serve as a platform to connect science, technology and industry, and will be accompanied by an exhibition covering the latest biotechnology and medical device innovations.

The event is co-chaired by Ruti Alon, General Partner, Pitango Venture Capital and Chairperson of the Israel Life Science Industry and Israel Markov, Chairman, Given Imaging.



Biomed Israel exhibitors in 2009

Israeli Hi-Tech companies woo Taiwan

Miki Admon, the Director of the Hi-tech Division at Israel's Export and International Cooperation Institute, headed an Israeli delegation of semiconductor manufacturers, photovoltaics and flat panel display makers for a three-day visit to Taiwan.

Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute and the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei organised the meeting. During the gathering Israeli companies participated in a seminar and business-to-business meetings in order to find further cooperation between the

two countries.

Ophir Gore, the Israeli Economic Attache to Taiwan noted that upgrading the cooperation between Israel and Taiwan in these fields would be beneficial to both sides. Taiwan is known for mass-production and commercialisation of hi-tech products, while the Israelis are advanced in research and development.

The meeting was also the first research and development cooperation exercise between the two countries and they announced a proposal for joint research and development projects in communication, green energy and cloud computing.

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The voice of the Survivors

That was the theme for the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day 2010 at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The voice of the survivors is the link that binds the painful and tormented history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust to the future, to hope and to rebirth.

On 11 April, the opening ceremony was held at the Warsaw Ghetto Square on the museum grounds. President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin, President of the Supreme Court Dorit Beinisch, Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar and the Chairman of Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev amongst others were all present.

The Chief Rabbi of Israel Meir Lau lit the Memorial Torch during the ceremony, which was followed by addresses from President Peres and another by Prime Minister Netanyahu. Six torches were



Israeli dignitaries

then lit by six survivors: Eliezer Ayalon, Hannah Gofrit, Shara Israeli, Leo Luster, Baruch Shub and Jakob Zim. And then Chana Weiss gave an address on behalf of the survivors.

The next day at 10am sirens sounded across Israel and everything stopped for a couple of minutes. Then a wreath-laying ceremony took place at the Warsaw Ghetto Square which

included all the dignitaries from the day before and members of survivor and fighter organisations. Later at the Hall of Remembrance and at the Knesset there was a recitation of Holocaust victims' names.

According to The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims there are over 200,000 survivors living in Israel today and 25% are economically needy.



Members of the Organisation of Veterans, Partisans and Wounded in Action Against the Nazis laying a wreath

The Foundation helps 55,000 of them with nursing, emergency life button applications and other services. The number of survivors is continually diminishing as many of them are over the age of 80.

According to the Dorner Commission of Inquiry into Assistance to Holocaust Survivors, 80,000 survivors who were in Nazi concentration camps are

eligible for monthly allotments equal to 75% of German reparations. Since January 2010, the government has been financing a charge card worth 7,200 Israeli Shekels a year for Holocaust survivors who are not eligible (about 25% of survivors) for reparations for persecution during World War II. The card can be used to buy food, medical equipment and drugs.



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Learning about *Yom Ha'atzmaut*

Children and families in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong spent *Yom Ha'atzmaut* learning about Israel and enjoying Israeli food.

Beijing

Ganeinu, the Jewish day school in Beijing, celebrated *Yom Ha'atzmaut* or Israel's Independence Day, by transforming their classrooms into different cities in Israel. Students spent their morning "travelling through Israel" and learning about the importance of each city.

In each classroom the teacher would share some history of that particular city and students then spent around 20 minutes with creative craft ideas that would support their learning at their level.

I travelled with the Grade 2 class. Our trip started in Ber Sheeba with an explanation that this city was in the south of the country and it was a desert area. The classroom had a tent as a biblical reference to Abraham's tent and then students played with coloured sand, putting it into glasses and sealing it in. Then they made pita bread, which is traditional in this part of Israel and finally they sat down in the desert to have tea.

We then went to Jerusalem, the capital, where students were encouraged to write a message to put on the Kotel. A big Kotel was hanging on one of the walls.

The flag of Jerusalem was hanging and the different elements that make the emblem were explained. For example: the lion as a sign of strength, the Kotel in the background symbolizing Jerusalem itself and the olive branches as a sign of peace. Kids were then given small yellow and brown tiles and glue and each student made their own Kotel. When they were done, the teacher inscribed on each Kotel: *Yerushalaim shel zahav* or Jerusalem the golden.

In the next classroom the kids learned the names of the twelve tribes. A basket on the middle of the table had a variety of different cards. Each card was printed with the symbol



and the name of a tribe and students were encouraged to find the twelve tribes in the least amount of time.

Finally, students were given the choice of tracing the cards and colouring them or creating a symbol of how the tribes went to the different corners of the world by either putting together strips of paper or drawing on a paper that had the symbol already.

Next was Tel Aviv and we entered a café in this vibrant city. The room was filled with small tables covered with blue and white tablecloths and each table had a small candle and coffee beans to create the right ambiance.

Tel Aviv is the place where David Ben Gurion proclaimed Israel's independence and his picture was posted on one of the boards. Students were given a coffee cup and markers so they could draw an Israel related theme on their cups. Once the cups were done, the teacher made hot chocolate with chocolate chips for the students and they sat at the café and ate cookies. Finally they were given a piece of flat wood, blue and white paint and they all painted their own Israeli flag.

Our next stop was Tzfat,

a city of Jewish thought. The teacher explained that in Tzfat there is a lot of blue and she showed the students different pictures of the city in which blue was the commonality. Students were then given a thick black piece of paper and something that looked like a pencil. They were to copy any picture of Tzfat from them any that were hanging around the classroom.

As the pencils ran through the black paper, colours appeared, creating beautiful drawings of a very interesting city with a deep history. Then students were given different pieces of blue paper that, when intertwined, made Stars of David one next to the other.

We were then off to Hebron where we were welcomed outside the room by the teacher who warned us this was a very dangerous area that was filled with tension. She explained the story of *Ma'arat Hamachpela* (The Cave of the Patriarchs) and she showed a video of why this region is so important to the Jews.

She told the students the biblical relationship of this city and our forefathers and mothers and then brought the kids into a make-shift cave where the names of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rivka, Jacob, Leah and



Esav were written. She told the story of how Abraham found the cave and decided to bury Sarah there and then she explained how everyone else came to be buried there as well. Including why it is only Esav's head that is buried and not his entire body.

Our trip's final stop was the beachfront town of Eilat. When we entered the classroom it felt as if we were under the sea, with fish all around us. The students were given paper fish, algae, glue and rocks and they were encouraged to make their own aquarium.

To wrap the morning, students entered the cafeteria and had a delicious lunch with falafel, pitas, Israeli salad and fries. A well deserved reward after a long day of travel on *Yom Ha'atzmaut*.

Shanghai

The Consulate General of Israel in Shanghai hosted a BBQ, and the event took place on 25 April at Chavalier Place in Shanghai.

Various members of the consulate welcomed people at the entrance and gave each of them a plastic blue and white bracelet.

The traditional BBQ included a variety of Israeli salads, hummus, olives and of course Kosher meat, falafel, corn on the cob, fries and pita bread. A variety of sweets were available, including popcorn and cotton candy for which kids lined up.

Israeli music played in the background with the local community mingling with a variety of businessmen who were in



through the eyes of our children



China for the Canton Fair and their families enjoyed the celebration.

Hong Kong

The Hong Kong community held the *Yom Haatzmaut Chagiga Festival* on 19 April in the Garden Room of the Jewish Community Centre. A full evening of fun and activities for the children to get involved in.



Highlights included pita making, sand painting and face painting. Traditional Israeli food was available.

Ohel Leah synagogue also provided a special *Maariv*/ Evening Service to commemorate *Yom Haatzmaut* which also concluded with the blowing of the shofar.

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Message by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Diaspora Communities on the occasion of the 62nd Independence Day of the State of Israel



Israel’s Independence Day celebrates a double miracle in the life of the Jewish people.

The first miracle is the restoration of Jewish sovereignty. There is no other example that I know of in the history of nations in which a scattered people, practically left for dead, has been able to re-assert its national life.

The second miracle is what we’ve done since the establishment of the Jewish state. Israel is in fact becoming a regional economic power and one of the world’s leading technological powers.

All the powers of creativity and genius in the Jewish people are bursting forth in every area: in science; in technology; in medicine; in the arts. This incredible burst of creativity promises a great future for the Jewish people and for all mankind.

This double miracle is a testament to the life-force of the Jewish people. It’s a testament to the deep wells of hope we carry inside us and to the deep connection that we have both to our past and to our future. The two miracles that have already occurred are only the beginning. If we stand together, if we remain committed to our common destiny, there’s nothing we cannot achieve.



Chag Sameach!

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Benjamin Netanyahu
Jerusalem, Israel



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Message by Consul General of the State of Israel in Hong Kong and Macau Mr Amikam Levy on the occasion of the 62nd Independence Day of the State of Israel



Today we are celebrating the 62nd Independence Day of the State of Israel.

For me, to represent the State of Israel in Hong Kong is a real privilege. Hong Kong is not just a gateway to Mainland China, I find the HKSAR model itself a wonderful model that works efficiently. It is here where I feel great desire and enthusiasm to initiate news ideas and to broaden the scope of our activities. Now is the right time to do business as we succeeded to overcome the global economic crisis with promising indications appearing in the macroeconomic.

Israel's economy, having mostly endured the global recession, is booming. It is reflected in the growth of investment in hi-tech industry and of the number of start-up companies. This is time to open window of opportunity in the fields like alternative energy, water technology, homeland security, environmental technology and infrastructure. Our people are small in number, but we have unlimited creativity and ability to change and to flourish. Speaking about changes, as the world hates changes; but it is very clear that to change is to grow. If you don't change, you don't grow; and if you don't grow, naturally you are not really living.

In Israel, we face the necessity to make decisions for our future, mainly to ensure economic stability, to establish a new reform to minimise the obstacle to prosperity, to invest in education and to do everything needed to achieve real peace in the Middle East.

The State of Israel is a country that says "yes"; we say yes in a loud and clear voice for peace, love and generosity; we say yes to infrastructure; we say yes to economic stability; we say yes to economic co-operation with the Chinese people in Hong Kong and Mainland China,

China is a great friend of the State of Israel. In addition to the very similar culture and values that we share, there are a lot of similarities between the Israeli and the Chinese economies too, for one thing we both see technology key in the development of the global economy. We share deep commitment to our bi-lateral relations. Israel has established diplomatic relations with Mainland China 18 years ago and we have been here in Hong Kong for the past 24 years. I have no doubt that the relationship will continue to thrive, in terms of economic partnership, joint ventures and on science and technology.

Israeli companies continue to play a very important role in Hong Kong's business community, while Hong Kong is Israel's largest trading partner in Asia, Israel is Hong Kong's second largest export market in the Middle East. In 2009, the total bi-lateral trade between Israel and Hong Kong was valued at about 3.8 billion USD, in which 2.8 billion USD was Israel's exports to Hong Kong and about 1 billion USD was Israel's imports from Hong Kong. Israel's economic activities in Hong Kong are well reflected by the 85 Israeli companies with their Asian headquarters in Hong Kong, representing a wide range of sectors: telecommunications, hi-tech, diamonds, cosmetics, homeland security, transportation services, financial services and logistics.

In the past year we were honoured to have official VIPs of secretary-level of the Hong Kong SAR Government and business delegations visited Israel, exchanging knowledge and experience. We will also sign a Memorandum of Understanding on culture in June.

We are also trying to contribute our knowledge in the fields that are very important to Hong Kong; I mean here to keep a green environment. In this regard, Israel's knowhow in the development of electric vehicle is one of our latest achievements. 62 years ago the industries of Israel were agriculture-based; and now as we look around, Israel has become a technology powerhouse. The State of Israel represents innovation, hi-tech, stable economy and a better future.

Israeli National Day reception with a difference

Held on 4 May at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, the reception celebrating the 62nd Independence Day of the State of Israel was graced by the presence of two ministers from Israel, Dr. Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Finance, and Mr Gilad Erdan, Minister of Environmental Protection. They were leading an official delegation to inaugurate the Israeli Pavilion at World Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

The special guest was Mr Gao Yu-chen, Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong SAR.

Coming from the Hong Kong SAR Government were: Mr Wong Yan-lung, Secretary



Guest of honour Wong Yan Lung, and Ambassador Amikam Levy

for Justice, the guest of honour; Mr Tsang Yuk-sing, President of the Legislative Council; Dr. York Chow, Secretary for Food and Health; Mr Tsang Tak-sing, Secretary for Home Affairs; Mr Edward Yau, Secretary for the Environment; Mrs Rita Lau, Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development; and Mr Tony Nguyen, Director of Protocol.

Other distinguished guests were Captain Ofer Aloni and Captain Zeev Ben Dor, senior captains of El Al Israel Airlines and former combat pilots of Israel Defence Forces.

There was very good crowd with about 600 guests, including consul generals, rabbis and leaders of the Hong Kong Jew-

ish community, Chairman of the Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, local business leaders and friends of Israel.

Ambassador Amikam Levy, Consul General of the State of Israel in Hong Kong and Macau, said in his speech that the secret of success of the State of Israel flourishing in the desert for 62 years was the human assets.

He added that this not only based on the Israeli people's determination, faith and ability, the success also lies in a power to think outside the box. "Creativity for us is a fundamental value," he said.

He also highlighted the thriving relationship between



Performance by PercaDu

Israel and Hong Kong and the potential cooperation in fields such as alternative energy, water technology, homeland security, environmental technologies and infrastructures.

Following the official ceremony, PercaDu, a world class Israeli percussion duo of Tomer Yariv and Adi Morag, performed for the guests, with a series of works by Piazzolla, Bach and Liszt, among others.



Ambassador Amikam Levy giving his speech



Master of Ceremony Mrs Nava Levy

Lag B'Omer and Yom Yerushalayim

Lag B'Omer

The period between Pesach and Shavuot is called the Omer, it lasts for 49 days, which we count daily. It is considered a time of mourning. The Omer is a specified measure of grain required for offering during Temple times.

We refrain from enjoyment during this period so weddings and other celebratory activities are postponed and cancelled. It is also customary to refrain from haircuts.

However on the 33rd day which is commonly known as Lag B'Omer we celebrate with outings and light bonfires and actively participate in joyous activities.

In Israel many visit Meron, in the northern part of the country, which is the resting place of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, whose yahrtzeit is marked on Lag B'Omer.

Bar Yochai, who lived in the 2nd century CE, was the first to publicly teach the mystical aspects of the Torah known as the *Kabbalah* and is the author of



the *Zohar*. Zohar means glow or luminescence. On the day of his passing, Rabbi Shimon instructed his disciples to mark the date as "the day of my joy."

Chassidim explain that the day a righteous person leaves earthly life it marks at point in which his deeds, teaching and work achieve their culminating perfection and the climax of their impact on our lives.

So each Lag B'Omer we celebrate Rabbi Shimon's life and the revelation of the Torah's mysticism. Because his teaching illuminate the darkness of this world and it serves as a beacon of light, we honour his memory by lighting candles or bonfires, which symbolically represent the light and eternal

fire the Torah.

Lag B'Omer also commemorates another event. The Talmud tells us that in the weeks between Passover and Shavuot a plague took the lives of thousands of Rabbi Akiva's disciples because they were not respectful towards each other. On Lag B'Omer the dying ceased. That is why Lag B'Omer is also carries the theme of Ahavat Israel, as it is imperative to love and respect one another.

Because Rabbi Akiva was teaching the Torah's oral tradition to so many students, the fact that they all perished is a tragic loss as we lost all those dimensions of understanding.

However, the Omer brought a new chapter in Rabbi Akiva's life as he took five sages who were able to survive (Rabbi Meir, Rabbi Yehuda, Rabbi Elazar, Rabbi Nechemiah and Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai), recitify the lack of appreciation for one another, reclaiming the learning and the integration of the Jewish people.

Yom Yerushalayim

Yom Yerushalayim, or Jerusalem Day, is the most modern of all the holidays on the Hebrew calendar. It is celebrated on 28 Iyar, one week before the eve of Shavuot.

Although Jerusalem has always been the spiritual capital of Judaism and in the hearts of Jews everywhere, the holiday celebrates the Israeli army's victory in the ancient, eastern part of the city on the third day of the Six-Day War in 1967 when a unification of the two sections of the city took place, ending 19 years of separation.

While still less popular than *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Jews worldwide are increasingly embracing

this holiday and developing Diaspora traditions to mark the event.

Jews worldwide continue to chant age-old liturgy and quote poetry that make constant reference to Jerusalem as central to our people. Daily we pray towards Jerusalem and all conclude our Seders with the words "next year in Jerusalem."

In Israel and in the Diaspora festivals of music, dance and theater bring Jews together to mark the day.

Educators use this time to increase knowledge on the specifics of the city including the history and the role it has played in our collective conscious.



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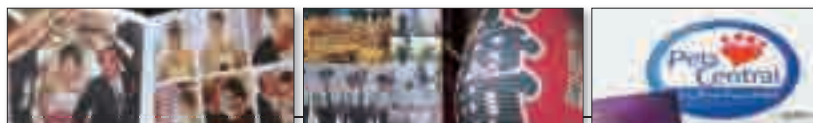
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“Giving” the Torah on Mount Sinai

Shavuot, the Festival of Weeks, is the second of the three major festivals with both historical and agricultural significance (the other two are Passover and Sukkot).

Agriculturally, it commemorates the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the Temple, and is known as *Hag ha-Bikkurim* (the Festival of the First Fruits).

Historically, it also celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, and is also known as *Hag Matan Torateinu* (the Festival of the Giving of Our Torah).

The period from Passover to Shavuot is a time of great anticipation. We count each of the days from the second day of Passover to the day before Shavuot, 49 days or 7 full weeks, and reminds us of the important connection between Passover and Shavuot: Passover freed us physically from bondage, but the giving of the Torah on Shavuot redeemed us spiritually



from our bondage to idolatry and immorality.

It is noteworthy that the holiday is called the time of the “giving” of the Torah, rather than the time of the “receiving” of the Torah.

The sages point out that we are constantly in the process of receiving the Torah, that we receive it every day, but it was first given at this time. Thus it is the giving, not the receiving, that makes this holiday significant.

Shavuot is not tied to a par-

ticular calendar date, but to a counting from Passover. Because the length of the months used to be variable, determined by observation and there are two new moons between Passover and Shavuot, the festival could occur on either the 5th or 6th of Sivan.

However, now that we have a mathematically determined calendar, and the months between Passover and Shavuot do not change length on the mathematical calendar, Shavuot is always on the 6th of Sivan.

It is a Yom Tov an official holiday and work is not permitted during the festival.

It is customary to stay up the entire first night and study Torah, then pray as early as possible in the morning.

In addition it is customary to eat a dairy meal at least once during Shavuot. There are varying opinions as to why this is done. Some say it is a reminder of the promise regarding the land of Israel, a land flowing with “milk and honey.”

According to another view, it is because our ancestors had just received the Torah (and the dietary laws therein), and did not have both meat and dairy dishes available.

People customarily eat *blintzes*, *kreplach*, *rugalah*, and cheesecake. Other food-based rituals include the preparation of two loaves of challah, specially shaped. The two loaves are representative of the two loaf temple offering that was required to be made on Shavuot as well as the two meals, meat

and dairy.

The shape of the challah varies widely depending on origin but not matter the shape, concentric, rungs or ladders, the two loaves create the perfect contrast and reminder of Pesach when we are forbidden from eating leavened bread.

The Book of Ruth is read on the festival, one of the five scrolls or Megillot.

On a practical level, Ruth is read because the story connects Shavuot to its agricultural roots. On a deeper level, the acceptance of Ruth of the laws of the Jewish people is reflective of the acceptance of the Jewish people of the Torah.



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Leading Jewish organisations looking for NextGen social entrepreneurs

My project of working as a foreign correspondent and agricultural expert ripened slowly. No matter where I have been in the world, breaking bread has helped me build bridges.

When my family moved to the United States from Brazil, it was through food that I began to appreciate the expansive diversity of my new home. Whenever we moved, we experienced our surroundings by tasting the available immigrant cuisine: first, Providence's Portuguese breads; next, East Lansing's Sichuan-style buffets; then, Chicago's South Indian fare on Devon Street. Once I left home, I savoured Boston's Portuguese and Italian cooking, and explored New York's French, Vietnamese and Cantonese gastronomies. Most recently, living in Beijing and Taipei, I came to appreciate the broad scope of Chinese cooking from its panoply of traditions.

Through this process of constantly re-adapting to new cultures and coming to accept new ideas, I have developed the tendency of revising my own assumptions and values. It is this continual searching and willingness to take risks that inspired me to establish *AgriGate*, a business intelligence newsletter focused on China, one year ago.

Aside from the "built environment" in which we all live and work daily, food and agriculture constitute the second single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, as explained in *Just Food*, by James E. McWilliams.

Simultaneously, the populations of emerging nations, like China, are beginning to have incomes allowing them to consume food the way wealthy Western nations have for decades. The agricultural sector accounts for 13% of China's GDP, growing 8% annually, yet China faces acute challenges in areas where other countries, Israel particularly, already demonstrate proven successes.

At this point, I've been living and reporting out of Greater China for nearly three years. I first came to Beijing in 2007 as a Princeton-in-Asia fellow at the China Foreign Affairs University, where I taught journalism to college students while studying Mandarin intensively.

At that time, I also began reporting for *Newsweek* magazine and the *Engineering News-Record*, both of which I still con-



Manuela Zoninsein

tribute to regularly. After working as the dining editor of *Time Out* Beijing, and becoming aware of how quickly China's consumption habits were changing, I began researching and reporting on the question of sustainable agricultural systems, which has now become one of my main areas of focus along with clean technology and sustainable building. I am now convinced of the need to find sustainable means for ensuring global food security.

I saw an opportunity to not only meld my professional interests – food, agriculture, the environment, China – but also to provide a service and hopefully advance the public good.

Given the quickly evolving media world, I also sought a way to apply new communications technologies and to learn to navigate the challenges and excitement of producing and sharing information.

AgriGate is a daily business intelligence newsletter focused on the agricultural technology market in China. More specifically, we are looking at those technologies and techniques in which Israel already has proven expertise, namely water technology, solar technology and biotechnology.

I was lucky enough to discover the PresenTense Institute, a 6-week-long Jewish entrepre-

neurship "incubator" for startups based in Jerusalem, through a former fellow and friend. Paired with the ROI Summit in Tel Aviv, funded by the Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, my summer in Israel in 2009 taught me so much.

For one, I met an incredible and incredibly inspiring cohort of young, intelligent and innovative Jews from all over the world. I now count these wonderful people as my friends, with whom I still keep in touch and who regularly motivate me not only to stay connected to global Judaism, but also to continually expand my notion of what contemporary Judaism is. In fact, I hope to visit some of these friends—in Brazil, England, Mexico and Romania, to name a few—in the near future.

For another, I now count these young Jews as professional colleagues, mentors and mentees. Through these networks, I have expanded my media and journalism network, thereby discovering new outlets for my journalistic work. Moreover, I have acquired so many new and important skills, for example learning about new media and communications platforms and how these can be utilised to build communities and reach audiences.

One additional and very practical lesson has been to learn

a great deal about the greater organisational ecosystem of the Jewish world.

While this may be obvious and second-nature to some in the Jewish world, as I did not receive a traditional Jewish education and have now been living abroad for several years, this is a conspicuous new lesson to me. It's

also crucial to my work building *AgriGate*, as I consider how my publication can serve the broader Jewish world as well as Israel, and exactly what institutional tools, support and processes will benefit my project.

But most importantly, these programmes helped me to start taking my ideas seriously enough to follow through.

As the only English-language publication and research center providing analysis and monitoring of China's agricultural technology sector, *AgriGate* will provide global competitive advantages to venture capital groups, private equity funds, high-tech companies, academic researchers and government organisations throughout Israel. We will disseminate information regarding the governmental and business landscape, including relevant policies, business news, influential executive and governmental profiles, market trends, and challenges to operating in China.

AgriGate seeks to be the information gateway for Israeli companies interested in learning about and entering this massive market. By enabling technology to overcome geographic boundaries, *AgriGate* will help the world arrive at innovative solutions to face today's agricultural challenges. Simultaneously, Israel will advance global leadership in agritech, positioning itself to thrive in a world where China is the ascendant superpower.

Supplied by Manuela Zoninsein

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May Parashas

8 May 2010 / 24 Iyar 5770: BEHAR/BECHUKOTAI

Just as humans need a day of rest, so does the land need its rest every seven years. The laws of Shemitta (the seventh year) and the Jubilee (the fiftieth year) do not only describe how this is done. They also impress on us the fact that land is not ours to do as we wish, but we need to look after it in order that it will give of its produce both in our generation and in future generations. Concurrent are the laws of preventing poverty and supporting the poor and those who fall on hard times. The Torah twice speaks of calamities that may befall us if we do not listen to G-d and obey His Commandments. The first is be for the conclusion of the Book of Vayikra, Leviticus. This Book is also Called Torat HaKohanim because it contains many of the laws appertaining to the Kohanim and their service in the Temple.

15 May 2010 / 2 Sivan 5770: BAMIDBAR

A census of the Israelites in undertaken in the Wilderness, by way of the counting of the Half Shekel. Each Israelite was counted according to the tribe to whom he belonged, which was determined through his father. This is one of the sources of the teaching that we should follow the traditions of our fathers, whereas our religious identity is determined through our mother. Each tribal leader had to vouch for

their members. The Levites were counted separately. The formation of the Israelite camp and how they travelled in the wilderness is described. The Tabernacle was at the centre and surrounded on each of the four corners by three of the twelve tribes, each with their own banner and insignia. The Levites are appointed to carry the different parts of the tabernacle and to assist the Kohanim.

22 May 2010 / 9 Sivan 5770: NASO

Each of the Levite families was given specific tasks in the carrying of the Mishkan through the wilderness, and also their involvement with the Temple services. They were to serve from the age of 30 till the age of 50. Only those who had been purified could enter the Temple. In addition to confessing a sin, restitution needs to be to the one who has been wronged. The ritual of the Sotah – the wayward wife is explained. The Laws of the Nazir are explained – he or she is forbidden to eat or drink grapes or grape products, having any contact with the dead, not cutting his or her hair. The Priestly Blessing. The dedication of the Mishkan by each of the 12 Tribes.

29 May 2010 / 16 Sivan 5770: BEHA'ALOTCHA

The Mitzvah of lighting the Menorah in the Mishkan by the Kohen Gadol. The Levites are consecrated – each were lifted as an offering by Aaron. The institution of Pesach Sheni, the second Pesach to be observed on 14th Iyar by those who were contaminated or far away when Pesach should have been observed in Nisan. The Torah describes how the Tabernacle should be set up and taken down during the journeying of the Israelites. Moses is commanded to make for himself two silver trumpets with which to call the Israelites to start and stop on their journey. They were also a call to arms, and also to announce the Festivals. Moses invites Yitro, here called Hobab, to accompany them on their journey to the Promised Land. The people complain about the Manna. The establishment of the Sanhedrin. Miriam challenges Moses.

HOLIDAYS/ FASTS/ ROSH CHODESH/ SPECIAL DAYS

Lag B'Omer: 2 May 2010 (18 Iyar 5770)	Rosh Chodesh: 14 May 2010 (1 Sivan 5770)
Yom Yerushalayim: 12 May 2010 (28 Iyar 5770)	Shavuot: 19 May 2010 (6 Sivan 5770) – 20 May 2010 (7 Sivan 5770)

Candle Lighting Times for May

Countries	7 May	14 May	21 May	28 May
Bangkok	6:17	6:19	6:21	6:23
Beijing	6:56	7:02	7:09	7:15
Guangzhou	6:39	6:42	6:45	6:48
Hong Kong	6:34	6:37	6:40	6:43
Katmandu	6:22	6:27	6:31	6:34
Kobe	6:30	6:35	6:40	6:45
Manila	5:56	5:58	6:00	6:02
Mumbai	6:45	6:47	6:50	6:53
Perth	5:16	5:11	5:07	5:04
Shanghai	6:18	6:23	6:28	6:32
Singapore	6:48	6:48	6:49	6:49
Seoul	7:08	7:15	7:20	7:26
Taipei	6:06	6:12	6:16	6:19
Tokyo	6:13	6:19	6:25	6:30

Candlelighting times are taken from Chabad.org.

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