

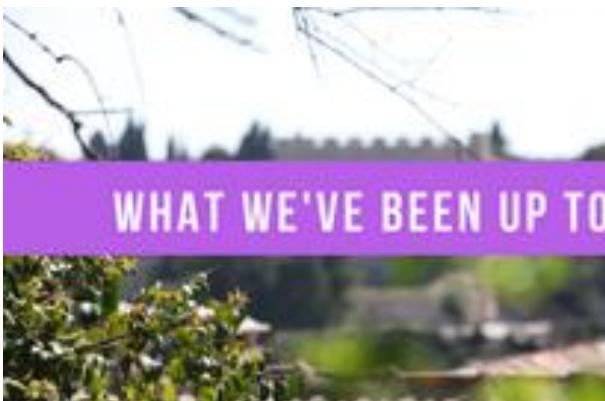
ISRAEL



Consulate General of Israel
TORONTO & WESTERN CANADA

NEWSLETTER

March 22, 2018



Israeli Knesset Delegation

Spotlight on Israeli Culture Starts in



March!



On March 21, the Director-General of the Knesset, Albert Sakharovichof and a parliamentary delegation were welcomed into the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Accompanied by Israeli Consulate Economic Attaché, Nissan Amdur, the group met with the Seargent at Arms, MPP for Eglinton-Lawrence, Mike Colle and sat in on the morning session. Afterwards the delegation returned to the consulate for a further meeting with CG Baram and members of the Jewish community.

Young Ambassadors Reception



Spotlight on Israeli Culture will celebrate Israel's 70th birthday by showcasing a number of Israel's dynamic artists, some of whom will perform in Canada for the first time. From March 8th until June 1st, the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, in collaboration with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto, and various local cultural partners will enrich Toronto's cultural scene with the vibrant, original, and hugely diverse creativity of contemporary theatre, music, film, art, and dance from Israel.

Over these two months, thousands of Canadians will have a chance to be moved and inspired by the magic of these incredible artists and to get to know a different Israel: one of people, creativity, differences and possibility. One of a little country with a big, creative heart.

For the complete list of events, please visit:
www.spotlightonisraelculture.ca

Chutzpah! Festival: Uri Gurvich Quartet

CG Galit Baram hosted a group of CIJA (Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) Young Ambassadors and other professionals on March 19. The Consul General spoke about her life in public diplomacy and the work of the consulate. A discussion about Canada-Israel relations and the Middle East followed.

'Beyond Duty' Exhibit & Film Screening



On the evening of March 14, the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto and the Consulate General of Japan in Toronto partnered to present the first of two screenings of the film 'Persona Non Grata' at Congregation Darchei Noam. The film recounts the story of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, who through incredible bravery managed to save an estimated 6000 Jews during WWII by issuing transit visas. CG Galit Baram, CG Takako Ito and Toronto City Councillor James Pasternak, were present to deliver opening remarks to a full house. Also in attendance were a sizable number of representatives from the Consular corps in Toronto. A second screening was held on March 19, which also managed to pack the synagogue hall. It was presented by Deputy CG Irit Stopper and Japanese Consul for Public Relations Mihoko Matsui.



On March 4th, Internationally acclaimed saxophonist and composer Uri Gurvich played in Vancouver at the Norman Rothstein Theatre as part of the Chutzpah! Festival. Uri Gurvich was a member of the Tel Aviv Jazz Orchestra and at age twenty won Jazz Player of the Year in his native Israel. Winning great acclaim as a band leader Gurvich and his quartet have appeared at the legendary Village Vanguard, NYC Town Hall, Tel Aviv Jazz Festival, DC Jazz Festival, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Burlington Jazz Festival, Red Sea Jazz Festival, The Stone, and more.

Chutzpah! Festival: Dance Double-Bill



The Chutzpah! Festival presented a dance double bill on March 10th, at the Norman

The night also marked the beginning of the exhibition 'Beyond Duty'. An Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiative, the series of photographs honors international diplomats designated as 'Righteous Among the Nations'. The designation is the highest award that Israel grants non-Jews and recognizes those who helped Jews escape persecution during the Holocaust.

Meeting With Bob Saroya



CG Baram was in Markham on March 14 to visit Member of Parliament Bob Saroya. The pair were pleased to reaffirm a positive working relationship while discussing Canada-Israel cooperation.

Bint El Funk & 'Spotlight on Israel'

Rothstein Theatre in Vancouver.

'F 63.9', is a performance choreographed by award-winning Jivko Jeliazkov, that explores the desolation and transformation brought on by infatuation and love. The show takes its name from the World Health Organization classification for an impulse disorder.

'Black Label' is a performance choreographed by Machol Shalem Dance House (Jerusalem) Artistic Director, Ofra Edel. It recounts a journey told through the eyes of Ethiopian-Israeli Iskias. Through his story as an Ethiopian immigrant, we experience the reality of present-day Israel.

West of the Jordan River



From March 9th-15th, Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema presented Amos Gitai's documentary *West of the Jordan River*. This urgent portrait of the Israel-Palestinian conflict takes a cross-sectional look at the situation today from a multitude of perspectives. Directed by award-winning Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai, who returns to the occupied territories for the first time since he made his acclaimed 1982 film, *Field Diary*. *West of the Jordan River* shows how people from different



On March 9, the Consulate General of Israel and the Ashkenaz Foundation joined with the Spotlight on Israeli Culture showcase to present the Jewish Yemeni Fusion band Bint El Funk at Revival Bar in Toronto.

The group's performance marked the opening of the festival which runs between March 8 and June 1. CG Baram and Deputy CG Irit Stopper were on hand to talk about Israel's energetic and innovative artists visiting Canada.

Woman's Day

sides and angles are working towards peace as conventional politics fail to resolve one of the world's foremost and longstanding issues. This human approach to the subject provides new insight and will expand your understanding of the peace process and the myriad of obstacles many are struggling to overcome.

Ayelet Tsabari



On March 15, as part of the Toronto Public Library's 'Writer in Residence' program, author Ayelet Tsabari discussed her life and craft. Tsabari's debut story collection 'The Best Place on Earth', has won multiple awards and was named a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. Her next project, which is a memoir in essays is due to come out in 2019.

Born in Israel to a large family of Yemeni descent, Ms. Tsabari grew up in Tel Aviv, and traveled extensively throughout South East Asia, Europe and North America. She studied film and photography in Capilano University's Media Program. She has directed two documentary films, one of which won an award at the Palm Springs International Short Film Festival.



The Consulate General of Israel celebrated International Women's Day on March 8. CG Baram marked the occasion with roses and words of praise for the professionalism of her female colleagues.



Air India to Inaugurate New Route to Israel

70 Years of Israeli Achievement

Excerpt and Photo from 'Israel 21C'

March 15, 2018

Excerpt and Photo from Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
March 21, 2018



Join us on a journey through the last 70 years to discover how Israel has become one of the most creative and innovative countries in the world. Our fascinating timeline of accomplishment is the first part in a special multimedia package we've created to celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary.

Full Story Here: <http://bit.ly/2G4QNU5>

Israel's Winemaking More Global, Contemporary than Ever

Excerpt and Photo from 'Chicago Tribune'
March 7, 2018



The modern, large-scale experiment with wine continues in the country known today

Tomorrow (Thursday, 22 March 2018), Air India will launch its direct flight from New Delhi to Tel Aviv, with a grant from the Tourism Ministry. The route opened following the marketing efforts of the Tourism Ministry that included a grant for marketing the new route, the opening of an Israel Government Tourist Office in India and dedicated campaigns that resulted in a steady increase in the numbers of tourists from India. In 2018, the upward momentum in tourist traffic from India has increased, with a 33% increase in incoming tourism in Jan-Feb 2018 on the same period last year and 54% on the same period in 2016.

In 2016, the Tourism Ministry Director-General met in India with the CEO of Air India, presenting him with the business potential inherent in opening a direct route to Israel. Today, it is possible to point to the beginnings of the realization of this potential, with a 47% increase in tourist entries from India in 2017 as opposed to 2015. More than 50 million Indians hold

passports.

Having identified the significant potential in incoming tourism from India, the Tourism Ministry increased its marketing budget in India and, four years ago, opened a tourist office in Mumbai to promote Israel as a tourism destination. The ministry is working to bring 80,000 - 100,000 tourists from India within the next few years.

Outgoing tourism from India is the fastest-growing in the world, with significant tourism potential. Today, India is the second largest source country in the Far East for incoming tourism (after China). There are about 300 million middle class Indians and about 34% of Indians prefer to spend their disposable income on travel and vacations.

More than 30 000 Expected to Run Largest Ever Jerusalem Marathon

*Excerpt and Photo from 'The Times of Israel'
March 8, 2018*



More than 30,000 people, including some 4,000 from abroad, are expected to run in the Jerusalem Marathon on Friday, the largest number yet to take part in the annual race.

as Israel.

Maybe "contemporary" is a better word than "modern." The claim could be made that the Holy Land's modern wine industry began in 1882, when Carmel Winery was founded by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, of the legendary Chateau Lafite Rothschild in the Bordeaux region of France.

The thing that is interesting about Israel is that it has sort of started over where wine is concerned. It began "starting over" roughly 30 years ago, sure (and an influx of talent and investment from California followed). But when you consider that the area once known as Canaan (known today as Israel) has a multi-millennial relationship with wine, it is as if the starting gun for the latest race has just been fired. This is the part of the world where wine was born, and for dozens of centuries, it was reserved for religious ceremony.

But over the last three decades or so - a blink of an eye in Middle East-time - Israel has been looking at itself not only as a place that can produce wine to contribute to the glory of God but also as a place capable of producing wine worthy of a spot on the dining table. Wine that appeals to a much larger audience and a much wider range of usage. In other words, it's not just for Passover anymore.

Most Israeli wine (not all of it) is kosher, and there is no reason to avoid kosher wine. To find the best Israeli wines, though, you will probably want to avoid kosher mevushal wines, which traditionally have been boiled or flash-pasteurized to retain their kosher status.

Other than that, think of Israeli wines as you would think of wines from a lot of other places in the world: food-friendly, reasonably priced (not across-the-board cheap but also not overly expensive) and

The guest of honor at the marathon is Olympic medalist and long-distance running world champion Haile Gebrselassie from Ethiopia. Gebrselassie holds two Olympic gold medals in 10,000-meter running and four world titles for that same distance, and he was the first in the world to break the 2:04 time for the marathon run.

International runners came from 60 countries including from China, the US, Germany, Poland, Portugal, and Lithuania. The city of Hong Kong sent the greatest number of runners from outside Israel, followed by Los Angeles, Beijing, and London.

The route will start next to the Knesset and take them past Mahane Yehuda Marketplace, Mount Scopus, the Old City, David's Tower, and the Haas Promenade.

Full Story Here: <http://bit.ly/2u2qvNy>

Tel Aviv to Mark Israeli Independence With New Walking Trail Around Major Sites

Excerpt and Photo from 'The Jewish Chronicle'
March 16, 2018



A new walking trail connecting key heritage sites will launch in Tel Aviv next month to mark the 70th anniversary of the

somewhat widely available. More than half of Israeli wine exports land in the United States.

Full Story Here: <http://trib.in/2FRmYmD>

Israeli Doctors Develop Revolutionary Eye Drops that Could Replace Glasses

Excerpt and Photo from 'The Times of Israel'
March 8, 2018



Israeli ophthalmologists at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem and Bar-Ilan University's Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA) revealed last month that they have successfully developed eyedrops that repair the corneas, improving near-sighted and far-sighted vision. These "nanodrops" were successfully tested on pigs' corneas, according to the researchers, and are expected to be tested on humans in clinical trials later this year.

If proven successful on humans, the groundbreaking discovery could remove the need for eyeglasses. The nanodrops are made up of a synthetic nanoparticle solution, which helps correct cornea-related vision problems. Dr. David Smadja, a research associate at BINA and the Head of the Ophthalmology Research Unit at Shaare Zedek who led the team of ophthalmologists, made the announcement at Shaare Zedek's second

founding of the State of Israel.

The kilometre-long path, which aims to tell the story of Tel Aviv's beginnings and the run-up to independence, will start at the First Kiosk of Tel Aviv, an iconic building at the corner of Rothschild and Herzl boulevards in Neve Tzedek.

This was the first neighbourhood to be established in the city a century ago. The gold-edged trail will then proceed along Rothschild Boulevard past landmarks including the Nahum Gutman fountain, the Akiva Aryeh Weiss house, the Great Synagogue, Haganah Museum and Independence Hall.

Visitors will be able to learn through a mobile app about the stops on the trail as it guides them past the Shalom Meir Tower, a statue of Meir Dizengoff and the Bank of Israel visitor centre. At each stop, interactive pages will appear on the phones of app-users providing "rich historical content and background on the surrounding area", a spokesperson from the Tel Aviv-Yafo mayor's office said. The path, she added, will be illuminated at night.

Those who prefer a map to an app will be able to pick one up from the city's tourist offices and follow it in English French, Spanish, German, Chinese or Russian - in addition to Hebrew and Arabic, which are Israel's two official languages.

The Independence Trail is a joint project of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage.

The project ties in with Israel's new campaign promoting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as a single, two-centre holiday destination.

annual research conference last month. He said the nanodrops could "revolutionize ophthalmological and optometry treatments of patients with myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness) and other refractory conditions," The Jerusalem Post reported. According to Dr. Smadja, the drops could eventually replace multifocal lenses, and allow people to see objects from different distances.

Full Story Here: <http://bit.ly/2oUc2gV>



[PM Netanyahu Addresses AIPAC Conference](#)

[PM Netanyahu Meets with US-UN Ambassador Haley](#)

[PM Netanyahu Meets with President Trump](#)

[PM Netanyahu Comments on Prince William's Israel Trip](#)

[Meet Some of Israel's Female Ambassadors](#)

These female Ambassadors are playing central roles in shaping and implementing Israel's foreign policy around the world. Their stories send a message of empowerment and hope to all women. Happy International Women's Day from Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs!

[5 Facts About Women in Israel](#)

As Israel joins the world in marking [#InternationalWomensDay](#) - here are 5 interesting facts to know about women in Israel.

[#WorldWildlifeDay - 10 Incredible Nature Reserves in Israel](#)

Israel is small in size, but is home to a rich variety of nature reserves where wildlife is conserved, and wild plant and animal species are protected. Join us on a quick tour in ten of Israel's most amazing wildlife nature reserves:

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