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Picture of the week on instagram

Guy fulfilled a dream and celebrated a birthday at MDA station in Rehovot with the MDA paramedic that saved his life, Ariel Plaut, after being injured in a traffic accident



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An exciting news?

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The Vera & Jack Ackerman Fleet - A Legacy to Save Lives

On a sunny morning of the 26th of September, several close friends of Vera & Jack Ackerman Z"l along with MDA representatives, amongst them Prof. Eilat Shinar, Deputy Director General Blood Services & Ben Bar-Lev, Fundraising Manager at MDAUK, came together to dedicate the lifesaving Intensive Care Fleet in their memory at the Magen David Adom Blood Services.

The lovely ceremony saw several of Vera & Jack's close friends reminisce about the special couple. Peter Zeitlin who assisted Vera for many years along with his brother Michael, were also the ones who made sure to fulfill Vera's Estate and specific charitable requests. "Vera considered herself a simple woman, but she was far from it. She was smart to recognize the dangers of Nazism and escaped Hamburg with her sister before their rise to power; sadly she lost her family in the Holocaust. She and Jack lived modestly as our neighbors and they knew the value of money. After Jack's passing I was humbled when she entrusted me with her financial affairs and feel great pride in fulfilling her desire to donate five lifesaving Intensive Care Units to Magen David Adom and the people of Israel as she valued the importance of this organization."

Rabbi Kaplan, who knew Vera, also spoke about his fond memories of her. "I recall that I would call Vera to check on her wellbeing and later received requests to stop doing so because she had stated to others that she feels the Rabbi should not waste his time on her when others need him more. Her humility was astonishing."

Prof. Eilat Shinar, Dep. Director General Blood Services, Ben Bar-Lev, Fundraising Manager at MDA UK and Ido Gutin, Director of the British Desk at MDA Israel all expressed their appreciation to those present who knew Vera and Jack.

"This is a wonderful legacy attesting to such special and unique people, a legacy that will continue to save lives in their name" said Ben Bar-Lev.



Photos: MDA Spokesmen

MDA Bows its Head

Vice President and Former CEO of the British Friends of MDA in the UK Died after a Serious illness



The MDA management and friends share in the grief of Anita and the entire Benson family upon the passing of the late Eli Benson, a senior member of British Friends of MDA, who left his wife Anita, 4 sons and grandchildren. Benson was a diverse man, a true friend who accompanied the activities of MDA closely, devoted his time and served until 2012, for more than 14 years, as CEO of the British Friends of MDA in the UK. After his retirement he served for six years as Vice President of the British Association.

For more than 14 years in his capacity as CEO of the British Friends of MDA in the UK, Benson was the cause of the Association's many accomplishments, and during his tenure, British Friends of MDA donated ambulances, Mobile Intensive Care Units, medical equipment, Medicycles and special rescue vehicles as well as advanced equipment for blood units checking.

Eli Benson, of blessed memory, will be remembered by many as a warm Zionist who has helped the State of Israel in particular and the Jewish world in general. These funds were invested in the construction and rehabilitation of MDA stations throughout Israel, the purchase of ambulances, Mobile Intensive Care Units, emergency Medicycles, regional command vehicles, bullet-proof ambulances, etc. The other funds raised by the English community were invested in the acquisition of communications systems, Blood tests and MDA blood services.

In 2012, when he reached the age of 70, retired Eli Benson retired from his position in a moving ceremony held in Tel Aviv. During the ceremony, a new Mobile Intensive Care Unit was donated to MDA in honor of Benson by the British Friends of MDA.

Defibrillator for Every Synagogue in Milan

The Italian Friends Society of Magen David Adom is donating defibrillators to all of the synagogues in Milan

The AMDA in Italy has recently, before the Holy Holidays, launched a new project in order to increase safety in the Milan synagogues. They have, thanks to many donors, purchased 8 defibrillators that have been provided to 8 different synagogues in Milano on behalf of MDA and the Italian Friends Society of Magen David Adom.

In addition, before Rosh Hashanà, 21 volunteers attended, with great motivation, a 5 hours training course on topics regarding first aid and the use of defibrillators. This course was taught by professional instructors from the Italian Red Cross, thanks to the great cooperation with them.

Every year about 60.000 people in Italy die as a result of cardiac arrest. Fast and efficient treatment can save up to 30% of these patients, and the defibrillators, as a result of an electric shock, may return the patient's pulse.

These steps are only the beginning; we are planning to collect further donations, continue installing defibrillators in additional synagogues in Milan, and continue organizing training courses for volunteers. In doing so we hope to save more lives, and help others do the same.



Photos: MDA Spokesmen

MDA Youth Volunteer Ari Neshet Z"l

The Talented Boy, the Handsome One, whose Smile never Left his Face and Loved to Help Everyone

The MDA family is mourning the passing of MDA youth volunteer Ari Neshet, who was seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident earlier this week in Tel Aviv and died of his wounds at the age of 17.

About a year and a half ago, Ari Neshet decided to volunteer for MDA and began studying a first aid course for youth at the MDA station in Tel Aviv, Ari completed the course successfully and immediately afterwards he became part of the youth volunteers at the MDA station in Tel Aviv. He volunteered on the ambulance every week and took part in the humanitarian activities at the station. As part of his volunteering in the ambulance, Ari helped EMTs and Paramedics, provided medical care and first aid to the sick and many injured whose lives were saved thanks to him.

His friends at the MDA station in Tel Aviv, where Ari spent about a year and a half, said that Ari was a talented and handsome young man, smiling and full of joy of life, who volunteered with all his will and dedication to save lives.



British Christians Donate Two Ambulances to Israel in Remembrance of the 1948 Hadassah Convoy

Christian Friends of MDA UK (CFMDA) donated two ambulances to Magen David Adom and the people of Israel in remembrance of the 1948 Hadassah Convoy Massacre when two ambulances were blown up and 79 people killed including doctors, nurses, students, patients, Hebrew University faculty members, Haganah fighters and a British soldier.

The ceremony was held on Mt Scopus in Jerusalem adjacent to the actual location of the tragedy with a reception at the Hadassah Hospital which is where the 1948 convoy was headed.

The ceremony was attended by 60 people including Sir Ian and Lady Gainsford, President of MDA UK, Rev. Mark Madeley, president of CFMDA UK and Elaine Feingold, widow of the late Norman Feingold z"l who had the vision for Christian Friends of MDA.

Also present were Barbara Goldstein, Deputy Executive Director of Hadassah Jerusalem Office and Christine Darg of Jerusalem Channel.TV with her tour group together with other friends and supporters from the UK and Israel.

CFMDA UK president Rev'd Mark Madeley said "CFMDA was formed in 2006 during the Second Lebanon War as a very practical way of showing our support for Israel". Since then Christians in the UK have donated 7 ambulances, a bloodmobile and an Emergency Room to the people of Israel.

Barbara Dingle Executive Committee of CFMDA and organiser of the guest list commented "this was a very special and deeply moving occasion. Whilst we mourn the tragedy of the massacre, we are truly thankful to all our supporters around the country who have made this remembrance possible and in some small way, righted a wrong from the Mandate era".



Photos: MDA Spokesmen

Susan Edel, MDA Volunteer, Recognized with IAJGS Salute



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES
38th IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
JEWISH GENEALOGY
5-10 AUGUST 2018 • WARSAW, POLAND

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Susan Edel Recognized with IAJGS Salute

Susan Edel, a Petach Tikva resident, was given a Salute recognition from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) at the recent conference in Warsaw, Poland. The award recognizes noteworthy projects, activities and accomplishments relating to Jewish genealogy.

Susan has been a volunteer with the Magen David Adom (International Red Cross) with its tracing service since it was established 10 years ago. She works to restore family links and reunite families separated by the Holocaust. In her work, Susan uses all of the major genealogical resources, including JewishGen, JRI-Poland, Yad Vashem, the International Tracing Center and more. She has had many unique successes.

Susan has represented Magen David Adom at many International Red Cross Conferences. She is also a volunteer with IGRA (Israel Genealogy Research Association) and a valuable member of their team.

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is an umbrella organization of more than 82 Jewish genealogical organizations worldwide offering the world of Jewish ancestry where you live. The IAJGS coordinates and organizes activities such as the annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and provides a unified voice as the spokesperson on behalf of its members. The IAJGS's vision is of a worldwide network of effective and respected community-enabling people to succeed in researching Jewish ancestry and heritage. Find IAJGS at: www.iajgs.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/iajgsjewishgenealogy.

The 2019 Conference is scheduled in Cleveland, Ohio, July 28 – Aug. 2, 2019. Details of the conference will be announced as planning takes place and will be posted on the upcoming conference website: www.iajgs2019.org, as well as the IAJGS website.

A True Simchat Torah with the Local Community



Youth volunteers and adults from the MDA station in Holon set a mission to strengthen the connection with the community in the city and invite Holocaust survivors, children from the city's kindergartens and adults with disabilities to the various events at the station. The

volunteers organized the traditional "Hakafot" on Simchat Torah and danced at the station with Torah scrolls brought from the nearby synagogue. Children with special needs were invited to the celebration, who danced with them, held the Torah scrolls, and sang the holiday songs in an exciting celebration that lasted for many hours.



Our Happiest Sukkah

Youth volunteers and adults from the Netanya MDA station built a sukkah at the station where they invited resident Holocaust survivors and sang together the holiday songs, ate together in the sukkah and spoke to the survivors who were moved by the gesture and were excited to meet the young people who were saving lives in the city.

