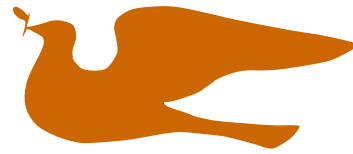


Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies Journal of Activities



June 2008

The Institute summarizes its activities in the form of a journal that reports on the subjects it has been addressing, the publications it has produced, and the coverage it has received in the media.

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Julie Sandorf, Susan Gluck, and Israel Kimhi on a tour of the city

Special Meetings and Visitors

Special Cabinet Meeting in Honor of Jerusalem Day

- **Ora Ahimeir**, director of the Institute, and **Dr. Maya Choshen** were invited to speak at a special meeting of the Israeli government devoted to the subject of Jerusalem.
- **Ora Ahimeir** opened by explaining that the Jerusalem Institute of Israel Studies has been dealing with research on the capital for 30 years. The Institute's approach has been to conduct academic research aimed at policy-making, without any special interests or political funding guiding the work undertaken. The only considerations driving the Institute's work are the search for accuracy and the desire to provide decision-makers with a sound basis for determining policy.
- As people who are devoted to Jerusalem, who research Jerusalem, and who fear for its future, the Institute's researchers are concerned with the untenable gap between the tens of practical decisions the cabinet has made to strengthen the city and the reality of their not being



implemented. Ahimeir asserted that if the government is serious about wanting to improve the situation in the capital, it must translate its intentions into action. There is no lack of plans and strategies, both of the Institute and of other bodies, but without significant change in Jerusalem the moral claims regarding the status of the city will be left invalid.

- **Dr. Maya Choshen** gave a presentation that reviewed the demographics of Jerusalem, the trends of development among the population, and the deteriorating economic situation. With that, she presented the Institute's research on forces for economic growth.

Meeting of the Knesset Committee on Foreign Relations and Security

- **Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov**, head of the Jerusalem Institute, and **Prof. Mari Fitzduff**, Director of the Conflict and Coexistence Programme at Brandeis University, were invited to take part in a discussion devoted to obstacles to conflict resolution held by the Knesset's Committee on Foreign Relations and Security. Prof. Fitzduff visited the Institute following the meeting.

Visit of the President of the Revson Foundation to the Institute

- The new President of the Revson Foundation, **Julie Sandorf**, and member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, **Susan Gluck**, visited the Institute. In a meeting that lasted a number of hours, representatives of several generations of researchers at the Institute presented selected projects. The special relationship between the Institute and the Foundation was discussed, and **Galit Cohen**, of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, spoke as a representative of a governmental decision-making body on the important connections between her ministry and the Institute.
- The guests from the Revson Foundation were also taken on a tour of the city by **Israel Kimhi** and **Dr. Maya Choshen** and to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum, by **Ora Ahimeir**.



Julie Sandorf and Susan Gluck at the Jerusalem Institute

Briefing for Ambassadors and Israeli Representatives Abroad

- All the Ambassadors and Heads of Delegations due to be leaving this summer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for duties abroad took part in a seminar on Jerusalem run by the Institute.

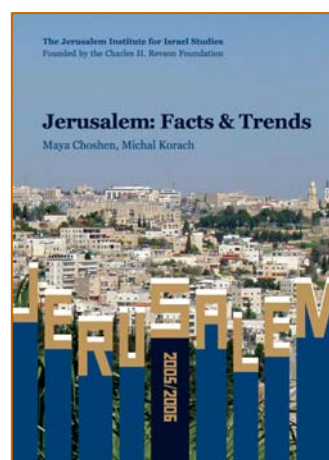
The seminar was the initiative of **Reuven Merhav**, former Director-General of the Ministry and today a fellow of the Jerusalem Institute; **Israel Kimhi** directed it and lectured.

Brainstorming on Managing the Holy Sites of Jerusalem

- A project under the auspices of Windsor University in Canada, this gathering was held at the YMCA building and centered on a policy paper proposed by **Prof. Michael Dumper**. **Ora Ahimeir**, **Prof. Ruth Lapidoth**, and **Dr. Itzhak Reiter** participated from the Institute.

The Jerusalem Statistical Yearbook

- The distribution of the *Yearbook* as well as the accompanying publication – *Jerusalem: Facts and Trends*, which summarizes trends in the city's development – has been completed. The publications were sent out to all of Israeli delegations abroad, to important Jewish organizations in the world, to the central Jewish Federations, branches of the "Hillel" Students Organizations, heads of regional councils in the Jerusalem district, and all the foreign delegations posted in Israel. The distribution was carried out with the support of the Pratt Foundation.
- The Steering Committee of the *Yearbook* met for consultations and to receive a report. **Prof. Moshe Sicron**, former adviser to the Central Bureau of Statistics, is the head of the committee; **Anna Hazan**, of the Ministry of the Interior, **Yossi Sharabi**, of the Jerusalem Municipality, **Pnina Tzadka**, of the Central Bureau of Statistics, and **Uri Ulman**, of the Jerusalem Municipality serve as committee members. It was decided to expand the scope of the statistics on Jerusalem available on the Institute's site, even if not all the additional material appears in the printed version. Furthermore, it was agreed to upload the additional data as soon as possible, without waiting for the publication in the next yearbook. It was also decided that efforts should be made to prepare new data from the annual surveys conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, such as the social survey, and to make them available both on the site and in the yearbook.
- In honor of Jerusalem Day, **Israel Kimhi** lectured at a conference of the Movement to Strengthen Jerusalem.



New Publications

- *Jerusalem and Its Role in Islamic Solidarity*
By **Yitzhak Reiter**
published in cooperation with Palgrave Macmillan
196 pages, in English

The book is an expanded and translated version of the book, originally published in Hebrew, *From Jerusalem to Mecca and Back*. The book addresses the worldwide Islamic unity on the issue of Jerusalem, the growing threat of extremists under the slogan of "Al-Aqsa [an important mosque in Jerusalem] is in danger," and the arousal of religious fanaticism for political purposes.

- *Changing the Deposit Law on Beverage Containers: A National Cost-Benefit Analysis*
By **Doron Lavee**
Published with the Environmental Policy Center
163 pages, in Hebrew, with an abstract in English

The book investigates the benefits of expanding the deposit law on beverage containers as well as the widening of competition and public involvement in the recycling process. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of the Treasury adopted the principles presented by the research and have since proposed corrections to the law in accordance with them.



Conferences

The Role of Evaluation Studies

- **Ora Ahimeir**, director of the Institute, opened the conference, and the first panel included **Prof. Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov**, who presented a talk on evaluation as a learning process; **Prof. Ilan Yaniv**, who spoke about psychological barriers to evaluation,



Ilan Yaniv, Rita Sever and Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov

and **Dr. Rita Sever**, who gave a talk on evaluations as a dialog. All three lecturers are on the faculty of the Hebrew University.

- On the second panel, **Sarit Moray** of the National Insurance Institute talked about the issues and lessons to be learned from research assisting the development of social services. **Dr. Maya Choshen**, of the Jerusalem Institute, talked about evaluation from the standpoint of the person doing the evaluating. **Aharon Malach** from the NGO "House of Hopes," spoke about evaluations from the standpoint of the subject being evaluated.



Aharon Malach

- On the third panel, **Dr. Maya Kahanoff** of the Jerusalem Institute and the Hebrew University gave a talk on the challenges of conducting assessments in the background of ongoing, a-symmetrical conflict. **Dr. Hagai Agmon-Snir** of the Intercultural Center in Jerusalem spoke on assessing the results of Israeli-Palestinian projects. **Dr. Hagit Hacoheh-Wolf**, of the Hebrew University, addressed the effects of funding and surrounding conditions on the success of an evaluation. **Udi Spiegel**, of the Jerusalem Foundation, ended the conference by expressing appreciation on the Foundation's behalf to all those involved.



Hagai Agmon-Snir

- The goals of evaluation, as outlined by **Dr. Choshen** in her talk, include:
 - To assist in clarifying operative definitions of the goals of a project as set out by its presenters;
 - To offer feedback during the course of activities;
 - To identify strong and weak points in the establishment and management of a project and to propose ideas for improvements;
 - To evaluate the achievement of the goals of a project from the standpoint of its contribution to the community overall and to a given population in particular;
 - To help in the spread and reception of the program and its ideas.

Between Militarism and Policy

- In cooperation with the University Institute for Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation of Tel Aviv University, this conference was held to celebrate the publication of the book *Between Militarism and Policy in Israel: The Influence of the Army on the Transition from War to Peace* by **Dr. Kobi Michael**, a senior researcher at the Jerusalem Institute.






Kobi Michael


- Michael claims that Israel stands before three first order challenges to its security: the Gaza Strip, the Iranian threat, and the Syrian arena. The experience of recent years and especially from the Oslo process and the Second War in Lebanon indicate the notable weakness of Israel's national leadership and its growing dependence on the military echelons. This dependency perpetuates the problematic asymmetry between military strategy and national strategy in a way that leads to the hegemony of the first over the latter. Given this reality and both the conditions of a low level of public confidence in national leaders and a high level of confidence in military leaders, Israel is apt to find itself caught in the logic of military thinking in a way that might inhibit it from dealing in a wiser way with all the threats and challenges with which it is presented.
- **Prof. Moshe Semionov**, head of the Institute for Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation at Tel Aviv University, and **Prof., Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov**, head of the Jerusalem Institute opened the evening; **Prof. Gabi Sheffer**, of the Hebrew University, spoke about the security network within Israeli democracy; **Yagil Levy**, of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, lectured on the distinction between supervision of the military and control over militarism; and **Shlomo Brom**, from the Institute for National and Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, gave a talk on relations between the military and political echelons in Israel.

In the Media

- Information from the Institute's press release for Jerusalem Day appeared in almost all the media, most notably in the newspapers *Haaretz*, *Maariv*, *Israel Hayom*, and *Kol Hazman*, as well as on "Mabat", the news magazine of television's Channel One, Channel One television in English, Russian newspapers *Nash* and *Vesti*, Nana – news on the internet and INN. Non-Stop Radio and radio station Seven's news focused on the rise in fertility in Jewish families; the

newspaper *Makor Rishon* presented a comparison between the optimistic outlook presented by Jerusalem's Mayor on the city's economic flourishing and the data published by the Institute. The newspaper *Hamodiyya* addressed the findings that the mortality rate is higher among the Jewish population than among the Arab population. Israel Post and Ynet published details from the Institute's data on the high poverty rate in Jerusalem;  *Yediot Yerushalayim* emphasized a variety of the Institute's negative economic indicators. *Local Jerusalem* published the Institute's detailed press release in its entirety.

- Interviews with the Institute's experts relating to Jerusalem Day were broadcast on Jerusalem Radio and Radio RAM (**Yair Assaf-Shapira**); on television's Channel One News, Army Radio, radio's Reshet Bet, the BBC in Arabic, and Channel Three (**Israel Kimhi**); on television's Second Channel, The Voice of Israel in English (Ora Ahimeir), Reshet Moreshet, Yoman Moreshet, and the Knesset Channel (**Dr. Maya Choshen**); and radio's Reshet Bet and the Knesset Channel (**Dr. Dan Kaufman**).
- In interviews conducted with them, both mayoral candidate **Nir Barkat** on Israeli television and **Nadav Shragai** on radio station Seven cited Institute material.
- A tour of the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee of Jerusalem's Arab neighborhoods was covered by the newspaper *Israel Hayom*. The tour, guided by the Institute's **Israel Kimhi**, was held in preparation for the upcoming vote on the Law for Securing Jerusalem.
- Criticism of the meager involvement of the government in solving problems in Jerusalem, aired by representatives of the Institute at a special cabinet meeting to which they were invited, was reported on the front page of the *Jerusalem Post* and in the newspaper *Hamodiyya*. 
- The Institute's weekly columns in the Jerusalem paper *Kol Ha'Ir* were on: the number of children in Jerusalem and where they are concentrated, by **Dr. Maya Choshen**; the rate of participation in the civilian work force in Jerusalem, also by **Dr. Choshen**; the quantity of precipitation in Jerusalem and nationwide in the last year, and the number and types of vehicles entering Jerusalem, both by **Micah Korach**; housing standards and housing density in Jerusalem, by **Yair Assaf-Shapira**. 
- **Dr. Shmuel Berkowitz** was interviewed on the radio show Din VeDvarim on radio station Reshet Bet regarding his book on Jerusalem's Holy Sites.

- The journalist **Tsafrir Rinat** of *Haaretz* published an article on the damage done to Israel's open, green spaces based on the book by **Motti Kaplan** recently published by the Institute. 
- **Dr. Kobi Michael** was interviewed following the publication of his book on state-army relations in Israel. Michael was interviewed by **Emanuel Halperin** on Channel Two television and on the Knesset Channel.
- A long and substantive interview with architect **David Kroyanker** was broadcast on Israeli television's Channel One devoted to his ongoing project at the Institute on documenting Jerusalem's architecture. It was the second broadcast of the interview.

Statistics

The Institute's Site

www.jiis.org.il

- Number of visitors: 13,993

Publications

- Number of publications sold: 27
- Best-selling publication: *The Beduins in Israel – Land Conflicts and Social Issues*, by **Joseph Ben-David**



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