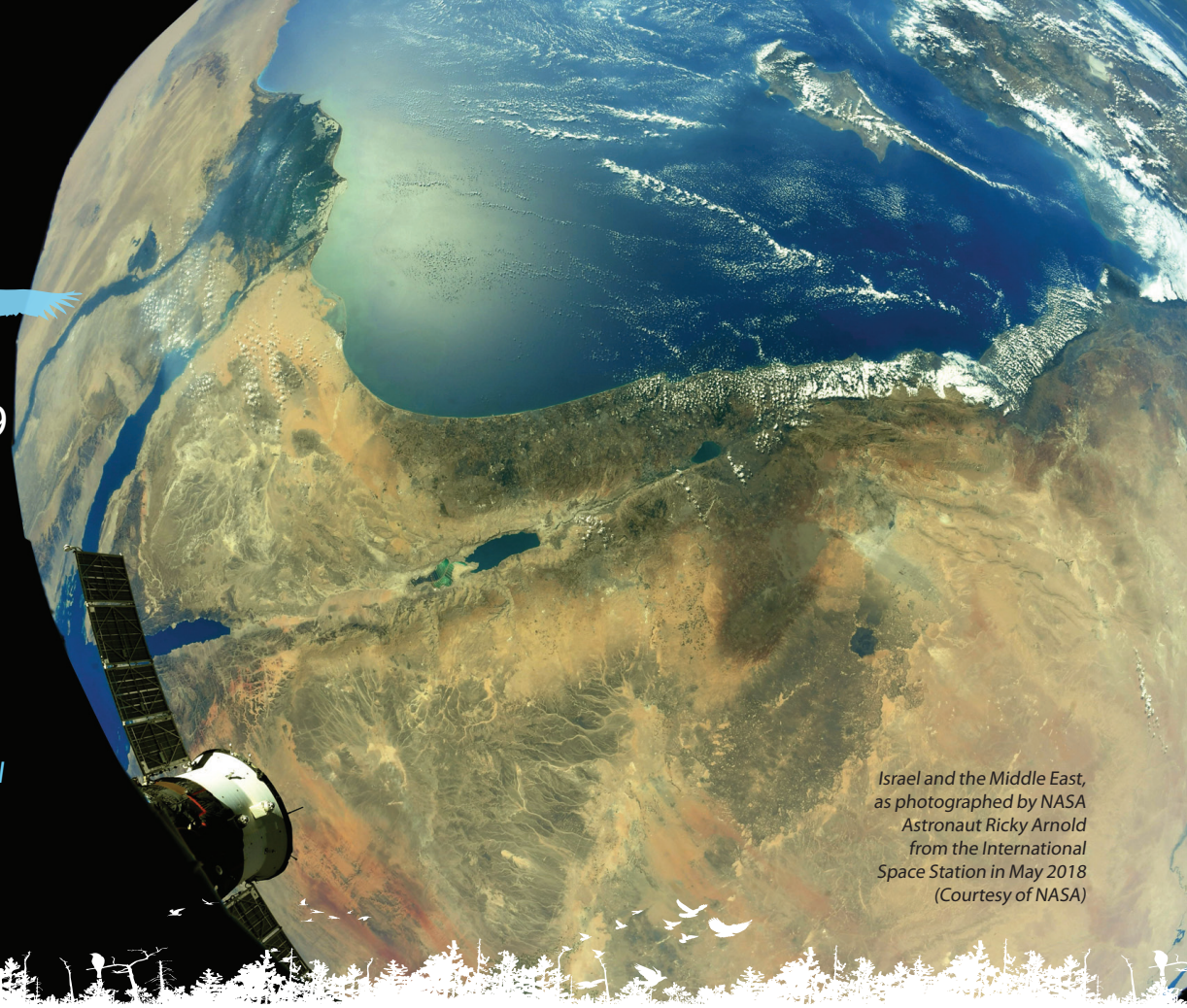
"...דֶּרֶךְ הַנֶּשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם..."

FLIGHT 2 HOPE

March 30th- April 5th 2019

FLYOVER TO WELCOME
THE SWIFTS AND MIGRATING BIRDS
RETURNING FROM AFRICA TO THE
MIDDLE EAST, AS A SYMBOL OF
BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN NATIONS
AND RELIGIONS

AS PART OF THE SPRING MIGRATION BIRDING FESTIVAL EVENTS, March 25th - April 1st 2019



Israel and the Middle East, as photographed by NASA Astronaut Ricky Arnold from the International Space Station in May 2018 (Courtesy of NASA)

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel
Educate. Love. Protect.

The Hoopoe Foundation
Society for the Protection of Nature

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
אוניברסיטת תל אביב

Arrabin Center For Peace & Development
مركز حمايل للسلام والتنمية

הקרן לירושלים
مؤسسة صندوق القدس
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION

LOCKHEED MARTIN

ISA
Israel Space Agency
Ministry of Science & Technology

Swifts at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem, as documented by camera and prepared using a unique algorithm by German photographer Lothar Schiffler

Ricky Arnold, NASA Astronaut and keen birder, in the International Space Station (Courtesy of NASA)





Greetings From Mr. Reuven "Ruvi" Rivlin

President of the State of Israel

THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, March 3, 2019

Mr. Richard (Ricky) Arnold II
Educator and NASA Astronaut

Dear Mr. Arnold,

Many people dream of space travel, of becoming astronauts for even a moment, but you realized that dream and have even spent many hours spacewalking.

I heard Professor Yossi Leshem tell the story of how excited he was when he gathered together a group of people who were attending the evening prayers for the Sukkot festival, so that they could observe with their own eyes as the international space station passed over Israel on its orbit. I was even more moved to think of the importance of that sight for the children who could truly visualize for the first time how a real space station and astronauts look, and have their curiosity aroused about space travel and scientific study.

The space station where you served until recently, which was manned by two Americans, two Russians and one German, was a microcosm reflecting how far the world has come since the end of the Cold War and an illustration of the fact that every conflict comes to an end. I hope that one day we will get to see a space station crewed by residents of the Middle East, living side by side.

I want to thank you for choosing to come here to Israel to welcome the swifts with us and for participating in the flyover along the borders in the company of representatives of the three religions, signifying current and future cooperation between them. You are an exceptional ambassador for peace.

Sincerely,

R. Rivlin

Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin

Greetings



Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog

Chairman of the Hoopoe Foundation

The Hoopoe Foundation of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) was established in 2010 with the aim to strengthen all aspects of bird conservation in Israel with an emphasis on education, the protection of birds and their habitat, research that will contribute to the first two aims as well as the promotion of activities in cooperation with our neighbors, the Jordanians and the Palestinians. As the Chairman of the Hoopoe Foundation, I am glad to take part in the unique initiative of the seminar that combines birds with no boundaries and the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity.



Ricky Arnold

NASA Astronaut

Having previously lived and worked in the Middle East and North Africa for 8 years while teaching children of all of the region's faiths, it is wonderful to return to a place that in many ways still feels like home. I recently returned from humanity's most distant outpost – the International Space Station. The ISS was built on the belief that when humans do leave Earth, we do so not as representatives of a country, but as of a species. The ISS has lived this vision since the arrival of its first crew in the year 2000 and has remained a continually crewed outpost of the human race since that time. It has been visited by astronauts from eighteen countries – and counting.

Visitors to the ISS have the rare privilege to look down on our home planet and see its sublime beauty, apparently free of the political boundaries and strife that far too often accompany them. We orbit the Earth once every ninety minutes passing over time zones and date lines, mountain ranges and canyons, unfathomable depths and treacherous shoals for the expressed purpose of improving life on Earth while laying the groundwork for humankind's future exploration of the solar system. I am honored to join this international crew as we trace the flight of the swifts back into the eternal city of Jerusalem.



Avi Blasberger

Director , Israel Space Agency, Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology

"The Israel Space Agency, operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Technology. It is responsible for the civilian space program. ISA especially supports scientific research and development with real, economic potential such as the development of unique and innovative technologies. In addition, the Agency operates on the premise that all space related activities contribute to the Israeli economy, to the country's international standing and also benefit citizens of the world in terms of agriculture, communications, monitoring of environmental pollution and research. We work together with colleagues from different countries and cultures, expanding cooperation and reciprocal relationships with various agencies in the field of space. Collaboration on space can bridge gaps. Israel has focused on miniaturizing the technology and developing small, light satellites with high resolution, remote sensing and communication capabilities, then capturing from space -much higher than a bird's eye view- what the human eye is not able to see from the Earth. Because space belongs to everyone, that's why we promote collaboration and cooperation. I am honored and happy to take part in this unique event."



Prof. Yossi Leshem

The initiator of the FLIGHT2HOPE events

Yossi is a Professor Emeritus in Tel Aviv University, in the school of Zoology and studied bird migration for 5 decades. In the past, he was CEO of SPNI. Yossi is the Secretary of the Hoopoe Foundation. As part of his position, he initiated the flyover, lecture day and the hosting of the astronaut and the British pilots as a tribute to increasing the collaboration between the 3 Abrahamic religions: Islam, Judaism and Christianity, through the migrating birds that know no boundaries. The events were organized after the International Swift Conference in Israel that Yossi held in the spring of 2018, alongside Amnonn Hahn, Director, The Friends of the Swifts Association.



Mark Coreth

"Tree of Hope" Sculptor & Project Initiator

I was asked to create a sculpture for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. The sculpture had to symbolise the history of that extraordinary city and the movement of people as well as give a message of HOPE. I created the 'Tree of Hope'. I made an olive tree in bronze which talks of the walls of Jerusalem but gave it a dynamic canopy of swifts which are my symbol for the dynamic movement of people. Combined the sculpture sends a message of HOPE. The sculpture is in the heart of the Old City. Ever since it was put in place I have dreamed of flying around Jerusalem and migrating into the city with the swifts and more importantly with a team of people who share this dream of the sculpture. To have amongst us people from each of the Abrahamic Faiths and to fly and learn alongside nature... flying with birds... it is a worthy dream. To team up with Prof Yossi Leshem, Generals Mansour Abu Rashid and Brig. Gen. Baruch Spiegel has enabled this story to progress and with a fair wind it will make for a special day.



Iris Hann

CEO, Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)

Iris Hann is an environmental planner and a lawyer, and an entrepreneurial leader and a longtime, senior voice in the environmental movement. Hann began her career at SPNI in a junior position, a teacher-soldier in the Shikmim Field School. For more than a decade Hann rose in the ranks of SPNI, with responsibilities that ranged from environmental education to environmental planner in the Nature Preservation Division. Hann holds an MA in urban and regional planning and a law degree from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. Hann is the first woman to hold the position of CEO since the establishment of SPNI. Hann worked as an environmental planner and lawyer in civil society organization, in the private sector and in the public sector, where she served as Acting Head of the Planning Division in the Ministry of Environmental Protection.
Hann has lectured in colleges and universities, has also published articles in distinguished journals in her field.



General Mansour Abu Rashid

Chairman of Amman Center for Peace & Development

ACPD is a non-profit organization which was established in 1999 and focuses on five main areas: Crisis management: developing solution oriented concepts and policy alternatives. Regional security: working towards providing the region by developing confidence building measures and fostering security co-operation: Cross Border Cooperation: developing comprehensive cooperation on geographical basis and involving a wide spectrum of local constituents. Peace education: building a concept and action plan devoted to integrating peace education into the school systems and the Barn Owls and pest control agent in agriculture project.



The Swift - a "Flag Species"
The Common Swift is a "flag species" of a bird connected to the urban environment worldwide. It arrives in Israel from Africa at the end of February, and migrates back to Africa in June, thus its nickname "the 100-day bird". The swifts spend all of their first three years after leaving the nest airborne – eating, drinking, sleeping and even mating in the air! (Photo: Amir Ezer)

Seminar Background and Objectives

In 2016 British sculptor Mark Coreth was commissioned by the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital to create a sculpture to symbolize the history of Jerusalem, the movement of people and to spread a message of HOPE to the region.

Mark spoke at the 5th International Swifts Conference held in Tel Aviv from March 11th - 16th 2018 describing his Tree of Hope and its aims of uniting the three Abrahamic Faiths - Jews, Moslems and Christians. The conference was headed by Professor Emeritus Yossi Leshem of the Tel Aviv University and Director of the International Center for the Study of Bird Migration. Amongst the 80 odd delegates and speakers from 20 countries were two gentlemen of particular note, General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid from Jordan and General (Ret.) Baruch Spiegel from Israel, both were instrumental in engineering the Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel in 1994.

At the end of his speech Mark suggested that we should organize a flight of mutual respect following the migration of the swift as it returns to Jerusalem; this flight would be in light airplanes and include pilots from the three Abrahamic Faiths. The suggestion was taken up enthusiastically by the conference participants and notably by those mentioned above.

Mark Coreth was brought up as a child in Kenya East Africa. He joined the British Army as an officer and served with the Household Cavalry from 1978 to 1993. He saw action in both Northern Ireland in 1979 and the Falkland Islands War in 1982 as well as serving on two tours of duty with the UN in Cyprus. Coreth is now a sculptor of international renown (www.markcoreth.com). He is represented by one of London's top art galleries, Sladmore Contemporary in Mayfair (www.sladmore.com). Coreth has mastered the essence of sculpting the natural world by traveling to the ends of the Earth to study and understand his subject matter. Coreth is a sculptor with deep passion and sensitivity, this can be seen through various major works that he has undertaken many on a purely philanthropic basis, such as his Ice Bear Project that was created as a result of a number of trips to the High Arctic. Amongst his numerous interests Coreth is a private pilot.

After an extensive visit to the Holy Land Coreth created an olive tree in bronze, the Tree of Hope, that has its roots in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem. It stands in the Muristan in the Old City of Jerusalem, in a garden belonging to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. The Muristan is located at a point where the four Quarters of the city meet and between the holy sites of the Western Wall, the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, in other words where the Abrahamic Faiths meet. Amnnon Hahn, Director of Friends of The Swifts Association, added 15 nesting boxes for the Swifts above the "Tree of Hope", to integrate the sculptor and real nesting Swifts. The Hospital has recently opened an eye clinic in the building overlooking the garden. The bronze olive tree symbolizes the ancient wall of the city. An old olive tree can be full of old and dead wood but always has fresh growth, fruit and leaves. Coreth made the canopy of the tree not of leaves but of flying swifts. The swift is a bird that migrates annually through the Holy Land, many making their nests in the city's walls and rooftops. Swifts are birds of dynamic movement and HOPE, the swift has been migrating from sub Saharan Africa to Europe and Asia long before religious or political boundaries existed. Coreth recognizes that nature can pass a very powerful message to mankind; his bronze swifts are now migrating from the heart of Jerusalem in groups of three right across the world as 'prayer flags' quite simply asking that the three Abrahamic Faiths might too travel and exist together in mutual respect.



Sculptor Mark Coreth and Designer Bayan Hadieh
(Photo: Amnonn Hahn, The Friends of The Swifts Association)

Champions of the Flyway

Champions of the Flyway is now a well-known fund and awareness-raising event in global birding and conservation circles. Since our humble beginnings back in 2014, we've raised over $350,000 for bird conservation, mainly for projects tackling the illegal killing of birds migrating along the flyways. Over the past five years we've shed light on the many challenging issues migratory birds face, helping six different Birdlife International partners in their ongoing struggle against the slaughter of migrants on the ground.

2018's Champions project was our most successful to date. Not only did our teams raise over $100,000 to fund projects to protect the birds of the Adriatic Flyway, but we also encouraged two different Birdlife Partners (Birdlife Serbia and Birdlife Croatia) to overcome political boundaries and to work together for the benefit of birds. Champions – inspired by the birds we're helping to save – know no borders.

In 2019, Champions of the Flyway is answering an urgent, emergency call from our brothers and sisters south of the equator – namely, the terrible plight of the Rift Valley's vultures. It's a call that – if left unanswered – has profound and long-lasting effects not just for these unique and iconic birds, but for entire natural and human communities which they are such an integral part of.



The Palestinians and Israeli Sunbirders team with their trophy at the Champion of the Flyways competition (Photo: Yuval Dax)

For the first time, Champions is joining forces with an African Birdlife partner – Nature Kenya.

Together, we're hoping to raise funds and awareness for one of the most burning bird conservations issues on the table today. Incredibly, no less than seven species of vulture are in serious decline, four of which are, tragically, already classed as endangered. The reasons are diverse, but one of the biggest factors is poisoning and illegal killing of vultures in the Great Rift Valley.

Together with Nature Kenya we aim to engage in a large-scale project that will include funding a special Rapid Response team on the ground to identify carcasses and treat them, before their effects unwittingly spread to vultures, nature's original garbage disposal experts.

We will also be funding the development of several educational programs with the local people of the Mara area and Narok province in Kenya, aiming to leave a lasting legacy for the Rift Valley's vulture conservation. This may be a slightly different project compared to previous campaigns, but we feel that the Flyway Family can to step up where we are needed the most, and the vultures of East Africa need our urgent help – sooner rather than later. We are eternally grateful to our supporters over the years, but we now need your help more than ever to help protect and save nature's clean-up crew, the bringers of life and some of the most majestic birds on this beautiful planet of ours.

COTF website: http://www.champions-of-the-flyway.com/

3rd International Bird Observatory Conference (IBOC)

Eilat, Israel

March 28th - April 1st, 2019

see link to the detailed program of the conference: **https://bit.ly/2EwjyaB**







Dan Alon (on the left) Director of the Israel Ornithological Center (IOC), the Society for the Protection of Nature, alongside Jonathan Meyrav (in the Center) director of birding tourism in IOC, and Noam Weiss (on the right),Director of the International Birding & Research Centre in Eilat, initiated and led the champions of the Flyway since its establishing 6 years ago, and the IBOC conference in Eilat. It is the 3rd conference, after it was held for the first time at the famous migration site in Falsterbo, Sweden, and for the second time at Cape May migration site at the East Coast, USA.



Migrating Steppe Eagle over Eilat mountains (Photo: Hadoram Shirihai)



Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse - male and female, near a water source In Eilat (Photo: Thomas Krumenacker) https://www.iboc2019.com/

MAIN SPONSOR

March 30th, 2019 (evening speech)

20:45 >> **Ricky Arnold** - Experiences from space & the connection to migrating birds.

21:15>> **Prof. Yossi Leshem** - Building partnerships and cross border cooperation to enhance environmental education concerning birds

Birding Tour

Eilat, Israel

April 1st, 2019

06:30-07:00 >> Breakfast

07:00-08:30 >> Bird Park and ringing station

08:30-11:00 >> Eilat mountains - raptor migration

11:00-13:00 >> Underwater Observatory Park

13:00-16:00 >> Lunch or snorkeling in Coral Beach

16:00-18:00 >> Flamingos in northern salt ponds



Honey Buzzard migration over Eilat Mountains (Photo: Hadoram Shirihai)



Ornithologists gather from all over the world to watch the bird migration in Eilat (Photo: Jonathan Meyrav)

9 planes that will participate in the flyover from England to Israel



No. 1: G-ALYC *Pilot: Mark Coreth*



No.2: G-BXDB *Pilot: Alex Howard*



No. 3: D-EIDT *Pilot: Marie-Josee Hunter*



No. 4: G-FEGN *Pilot: Jonathan Elwes*



No. 5: G-BIRT *Pilot: Bill Hall*



No. 6. *Pilot: Peter Fernandes*



No.7: N2379C *Pilot: Gilbert Greenall*



No. 8: G-ATKT *Pilot: Rodney Blois*



No. 9: G-0Z0I *Pilot: James Gibson Fleming*

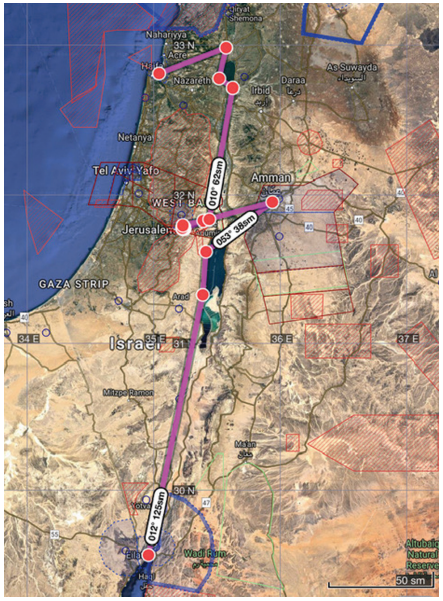
A flyover over the Israeli-Jordanian border, marking the connection between the three Abrahamic religions and migrating birds which know no boundaries

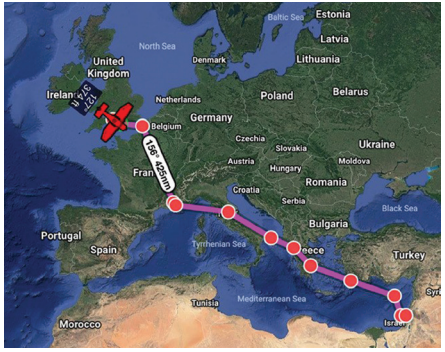
The flyover will take place on April 2nd 2019, as a part of the FLIGHT2HOPE events. The Royal Air Squadron (RAS) will participate in it. The RAS is a unique flight organization - both in Britain and all over the world. It became known for its famous members, ambassador activities, charity work with youth, support for the armed forces and a variety of flight activities. In the beginning, RAS members flew mainly in Britain and France, however, from the 90's onward, they started taking other significant journeys to remote destinations: Russia, Tanzania, Pakistan, Morocco, USA, South Africa, Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic countries. A distinguished member of the organization is Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and other honorable members, amongst them there are royals, the current Air Force Chief of Staff and some Air Force Commanders from countries outside Britain.

The British sculptor Mark Coreth, a member of the prestigious squadron, was invited in 2016 by St. John Hospital in Jerusalem in order to create a statue that symbolizes the history of Jerusalem and to spread a message of hope in the area. That is how "The Tree of Hope" statue was born - an Olive tree with 150 life-size bronze Swifts sculptures. Coreth believes that the statue represents the union of the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The Swifts that nest all over Jerusalem represent no boundaries. Additionally, Mark Coreth and Prof. Yossi Leshem organized a flyover of 9 planes, flown by British pilots, as well as Jewish, Christian and Muslim pilots. The Flyover will start in Eilat, along the Jordanian border all the way to Beit She'an, and will fly over Jerusalem and Amman, the capitals of the two neighboring countries that signed a peace treaty in 1994.

The preparations for the flight and the professional accompanying of the flight was carried out by AYIT Company (Eagle in Hebrew), that is located in Sde Teyman Airfield north of Be'er Sheva, led by the CEO, Eli Peretz , and the pilot Israel Feingold. AYIT Company grew from the joint research with the Israeli Air Force, SPNI and Tel Aviv University, aiming to reduce collisions between migrating birds and aircraft. The company runs commercial flights, Flight school- Gliding Club and a skydiving club: "Sky Kef".

Flight route on April 2nd 2019





Flight route from England to Israel



Drew Feustel, NASA astronaut at the International Space Station (Courtesy of NASA)



Swift entering its nest in the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem (Photo: Flash 90)



October 26th 1994: signing the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel over two decades and a half ago. Front row (from left to right): Jordanian General Mansour Abu Rashid, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, US President Bill Clinton, Jordanian Prime Minister Abdelsalam Al-Majali. Back row (from left to right): Israeli Brig. Gen. Baruch Spiegel, Judge Elyakim Rubinstein Rubinstein, Judge Amnon Rubinstein, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, President of Israel Ezer Weizman, His Majesty King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Way of a Vulture in The Sky Lecture Day

YMCA Auditorium, 26 King David St. Jerusalem

April 3rd, 2019

06:30-07:30 >> Visit to the Jerusalem Bird Observatory (JBO) ringing station in the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) grounds [optional]

08:30-09:30 >> Convening, light refreshments and exhibition by German photographer **Lothar Schiffler** - "Airlines – Bird Tracks in the Air"

09:30-10:15 >> **Convener: Prof. Yossi Leshem**
Opening movie
Musical interlude – **Nirim School, Ma'ale Adumim**
Greetings:
Brig. Gen. Tomer Bar, Head of the Israeli Air Force (IAF) Headquarters
General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid, Chairman of the Amman Center for Peace and Development (ACPD), Jordan
Avi Blasberger - Director General of the Israeli Space Agency
Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog, Chairman of the Hoopoe Foundation, SPNI
Iris Hann, CEO of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI)

10:15-11:00 >> **Keynote speaker** NASA Astronaut **Ricky Arnold** - No Borders, Only Beauty: a bird's eye perspective of our home planet

11:00-11:30 >> **Mark Coreth (England)** - The Tree of Hope sculpture in the Old City of Jerusalem's Christian Quarter – the swifts, connecting between three religions

11:30-12:00 >> **General (Ret.) Mansour Abu Rashid (Jordan) and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Baruch Spiegel (Israel)**, From war to peace, and the Nature Defense Forces as a pioneering initiative

12:00-12:30 >> **Coffee break**

12:30-13:00 >> **Amir Balaban** - Gazelle Valley Park in Jerusalem, paradise for mammals, birds and the public

13:00-13:30 >> **Amnonn Hahn and Itai Bloch** - Swifts "fifth generation flying machines"

13:30-14:00 >> **Col. (Ret.) Ehud Biderman** - Birds and planes, who has greater abilities…

14:00-14:05 >> **Lecture day summary**

14:00-15:30 >> **Lunch break**

15:30-17:00 >> Walk from Jaffa Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem to see the **Tree of Hope** at St John's Eye Hospital in the Christian Quarter (Muristan)

17:00-18:30 >> Event at the Western Wall to observe and welcome the Swifts returning to Jerusalem from Africa

Dinner, Israel Aquarium, The Tisch Family Jerusalem Biblical Zoo

April 2nd, 2019

19:00-19:40 >> A guided tour in the Aquarium, by Shay Doron, Chairman of the Jerusalem Foundation

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19:40 >> Dinner at the Aquarium

Greetings:

Shay Doron, Chairman of the Jersualem Foundation

Ran Bar, Director General of the Ministry of Science and Technology

Alon Levy, Director of the Jerusalem Bibical Zoo

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog, Chairman of the Hoopoe Foundation

Mark Coreth, UK

Ricky Arnold II, NASA

Menu - Buffet

Beverages
Red and white wine - Teperberg Winery
Natural Juice
Mineral water and sodas

Salads
Green salad of baby greens
Cherry tomatoes with almond and capers in Pesto
Root vegetables in vinegrette
Roasted eggplant with Tahine
Bulgur with fine herbs
Champignons and dry tomatoes in lemon and white wine dressing
Middle eastern carrot salad

Hot Courses
Veal Tajine with dried fruit in Ras-el Hanut spices
Makloube - upside-down middle eastern dish of rice and vegetables with grilled boneless chicken thighs
Fillet of St. Peter's fish in lemon grass sauce
Baked potatoes in olive oil and fine herbs
Roasted vegetables with almonds

Desert
A variety of petits fourres and mousses
A platter of seasonal fruit
Coffee and tea



Courtesy of the Tisch Family Jerusalem Biblical Zoo



Photo: Adi Philipsbourn



Photo: Ruthi Sholer

Astronaut's Program

Bloomfield Science Museum Jersualem



Arab and Jewish students of science and technology (Photo: Avi Hayon)



9:30-11:30 >>	• Astronaut lectures to 200 school children and teachers • General Mansour Abu Rashid, Chairman of ACPD: Regional cooperation in the Middle East
13:30-14:00 >>	• A meeting with the Israeli Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin
14:00-17:30 >>	• Visit to Palmachim AFB, Israel Air Force and lecture to officers and soldiers

British team

- Visit to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital
- Visit to the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem
- Visit to Swifts nest boxes project in the school next to the Church of the Nativity
- Tour in Jerusalem



Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin
Israeli Air Force Commander



FLIGHT2HOPE

ניסן תשע"ט, אפריל 2019

Souvenir Stamp in collabaration with Israel Philatelic Service

06/02/2019 069761 *005590 21.08.2017

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The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel
Educate. Love. Protect.
אוניברסיטת תל אביב TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

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The Hoopoe Foundation

For the research, education and protection of birds and their habitat

The Hoopoe Foundation of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) was established in 2010 with a generous donation by Moshe and Racheli Yanai of 250,000 USD for ten years. The aim of the foundation is to strengthen the subject of birding in Israel with the emphasis on education, the protection of birds and their habitat, research that will contribute to the first two aims as well as the promotion of activities in cooperation with our neighbors, the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

During the fourth year of activities, an additional donation of 1,000,000 USD was received form Gelfand Family Foundation of Boston, in order to significantly promote pilot activities initiated by the Hoopoe Foundation – "The Nature Defense Forces – Commanders Take Responsibility for Their Environment" and the birds project. Another anonymous donor joined the activities in the first year by donating 25,000 USD each year for birding activities and then an additional 25,000 USD each year for the Nature Defense Forces (NDF). In 2013 the amount of 800,000 USD was reached, and Moshe and Racheli Yanai decided to double their annual donation to the Hoopoe Foundation for the next ten years, to reach a total of 5 million USD that will be devoted to the significant promotion of both channels of the Hoopoe Foundation: bird protection and the Nature Defense Forces. The scientific aspects of all the projects are in partnership with the Tel Aviv University. Each channel is managed independently with a separate management, budget and bookkeeping within the SPNI. The impact and success of the Hoopoe Foundation projects in both channels has been and continues to be of enormous significance, with 45 projects in education, nature conservation and bird research as well as 51 projects in the initiative "Nature Defense Forces - Commanders Take Responsibility for their Environment".

In 2015, the Hoopoe Foundation Chairman, Moshe Yanai, resigned his position and it was taken by Maj. Gen. (Res.) Doron Almog, Israel Prize laureate for 2016 and the founder of ALEH Negev – Nahalat Eran.

WHY "HOOPOE"?

The Eurasian Hoopoe was chosen as Israel's national bird in 2008 in a countrywide campaign as part of the State of Israel's 60-year anniversary celebrations. 1.1 million people took part in the voting, among them 4,500 schools, 9,000 kindergartens, all the IDF units and the general public via the YNET website. The ceremony announcing the winning bird was held at the residence of Mr. Shimon Peres, then President of Israel.



Eurasian Hoopoe – the logo of the Hoopoe Foundation (Photo: Thomas Krumenacker)

The selection of the national bird took place as an official part of the anniversary events, and the elections were held in a full democratic process with a public committee consisting of conservationists, media, scientists and schoolchildren with the final selection done by all sectors of the nation. The national bird campaign was awarded two prestigious prizes for the most successful campaign of the year (Roaring Lion Award and Effie Award).

The Eurasian Hoopoe is conspicuous due to its special coloring (orange, white and black) and mainly because of the crest decorating its head. This "sign of royalty" led to its appearing in the Jewish sources. The Hoopoe is a resident and breeding species in Israel, and nests in buildings and tree trunks. It eats insects that it pulls out of the ground with its long beak. We decided to name our foundation when it was established after Israel's national bird, the Hoopoe.

Tree of Hope

Mark Coreth was asked to produce a sculpture to go in the Garden at Muristan belonging to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. The commission was to make a piece of sculpture that would tell the whole history of Jerusalem, the movement of people and to give a message of HOPE for the region. A tired old olive tree is full of dead wood but always has growth, leaves and fruit, life… Mark therefore saw the olive as his symbol of the City. BUT on seeing the swifts nesting in the Western Wall of the Temple and flying excitedly over the City… there he saw the symbol of the dynamic movement of people. The swift is a bird of dynamics and HOPE, an ideal image, he combined the two. The 'Tree of Hope' was created by Mark, a Christian, it was cast by a foundry in Netanya but worked upon by members of all the Abrahamic faiths. Aspects of the garden were also funded by Jewish, Palestinian and Christian philanthropists and donors. There are 150 swifts in the canopy of the tree, many now sponsored raising $5000 a swift to go to fund the Eye Clinic. BUT importantly there are now an increasing number of swifts migrating from the tree in the very heart of the Old City of Jerusalem… quite literally winging their way around the world spreading the message of HOPE and most in groups of three as prayer flags for the Abrahamic Faiths to fly together. We also have the nesting boxes above the clinic as an intricate part of the sculpture, so the bronze swifts will be joined in their migration by the real bird… All these swifts ARE a part of the sculpture in Jerusalem even though they are detached. The TREE of HOPE is therefore becoming the largest and hopefully one of the most significant sculptural messages in the world... Hope for unity amongst the Abrahamic Faiths.

شجرة الأمل / النحت: مارك كورت . تصوير : باروخ غيان

طلب من مارك كورات تصميم تمثال ليدمج في حديقة موراستان التابعة لرتبة ست جون في مشفى العيون في القدس. الهدف من التمثال

هو عمل ابداعي يسرد تاريخ القدس وحركة الانسان وتعبر عن أمل لكل المنطقة . شجرة زيتون معمرة على الرغم ان جميع اجزائها ليست على قيد الحياة ,تستمر الشجرة بالنمو مع الاوراق وحبات زيتون حية .

اعتبر مارك شجرة الزيتون كعلامة تمثل المدينة , وعندما رأى تعشيش السمامة في حائط المبكى وتحليقها فوق المدينة اعتبرها رمزا لحركة الانسان . السمامة هي طيور تعبر عن الحركة والأمل, رمز مثالي, قام بدمج الأثنين ."شجرة الأمل" انتجت على يد مارك , مسيحي ,في مسبك بنتانيا . بينما اشترك في بنائه اشخاص من جميع الديانات الابراهيمية . اقامة الحديقة مولت من قبل متبرعين يهود ,فلسطينيين ونصارى.

هناك 150 عنصر لطائر السمامة بين اغصان الشجرة , الكثير منهم يدعم كل سمامة ب 5000 دولار تعطى لمشفى العيون , ولكن ما لا يقل أهمية هو أن الآن عدد السمامات المهاجرة من الشجرة يرتفع في قلب البلدة القديمة من القدس , وبطبيعة الحال يطيرون في انحاء العالم وينشرون الأمل, وفي مجموعات من ثلاثة كما أعلام الصلاة من الديانات الإبراهيمية الثلاثة تحلق معا. كجزء لا يتجزأ من التمثال، تم تركيب خلايا التعشيش لطائر السمامة أعلى مبنى المستشفى بحيث ينضم للسمامة البرونزية المنحوته في المستقبل سمامات مهاجرة حقيقية التي ستقرر التعشيش في المكان. هذه السمامات هي جزء من تمثال في القدس على الرغم من أنهم لا يهتمون بأمره . لذلك، فإن "شجرة الأمل" تصبح واحدة من أعظم التماثيل في العالم، والأكثر أهمية للأمل والأخوة بين جميع الديانات الإبراهيمية.

עץ התקווה / פסל: מארק קורת | צילום: ברוך גיאן

מארק קורת התבקש להקים פסל שישולב בגן מוריסטן השייך למסדר סט. ג'ון של בית החולים לעיניים שבירושלים. המטרה היתה לפסל יצירה שתספר את כל ההיסטוריה של ירושלים את תנועותיהם של בני האדם ושתעביר מסר של תקווה לאזור כולו. עץ זית זקן שלמרות שמרבית חלקיו כבר אינם חיים, ממשיך לגדול עם עלים וזיתים חיים.

מארק ראה בעץ הזית כסימן מייצג של העיר, ואולם, כשראה את קינון הסיסים בכותל המערבי של בית המקדש ואת מעופם המתרגש מעל לעיר הוא ראה בהם את הסמל לתנועות של בני האדם. הסיסים הם ציפורים של דינמיקה ושל תקווה, סמל אידיאלי. הוא שילב את השניים. "עץ התקווה" נוצר ע"י מארק, נוצרי, בבית יציקה גדול בעיר נתניה, אך לבנייתו היו שותפים אנשים מכל הדתות האברהמיות. הקמתו של הגן מומנה מתרומות של יהודים, פלשתינאים, ונוצרים. ישנם 150 דמויות של סיסים בין ענפי העץ ורבים מהם מגייסים תמיכות של 5,000 דולר לסיס עבור בית החולים לעיניים, אך לא פחות חשובה העובדה שכעת עולה מספר הסיסים הנודדים מהעץ שבלב העיר העתיקה של ירושלים.. ובאופן ברור עושים את דרכם בעולם ומפיצים את התקווה, ובקבוצות של שלושה כדגלי תפילה של 3 הדתות האברהמיות הטסות יחדיו. כחלק בלתי נפרד מהפסל הותקנו תאי קינון לסיסים מעל למבנה בית החולים כך שאל סיסי הברונזה של הפסל יצטרפו בעתיד סיסים נודדים אמיתיים שיחליטו לקנן במקום. הסיסים הללו הם חלק מהפסל שבירושלים למרות שאינם מחוברים אליו. לכן, "עץ התקווה" הופך לאחד מהפסלים הגדולים בעולם, המשמעותיים ביותר לתקווה ולאחווה בין כל הדתות האברהמיות.



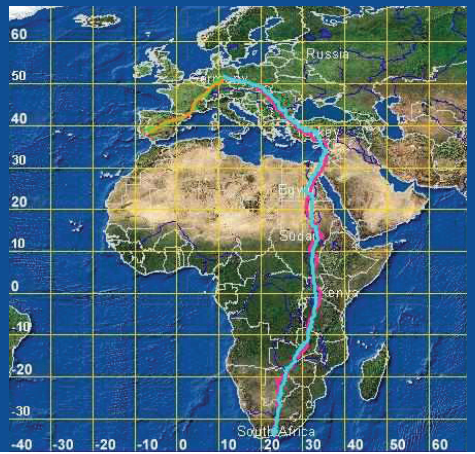
The Tree of Hope (Photo: Baruch Gian)

In the center (white suit) Prince William, UK, in front of the "TREE OF HOPE" with the management of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital in the Christian Quarter in Jerusalem; this is the first official visit by a British royal to Israel and the Palestinian Authority

The Western Wall Rabbi, Shmuel Rabinovich, is blessing each year at the Swifts ceremony, While coming back from Africa to nest in the holiest place for the Jews. The Western Wall is one of the oldest sites in the world for nesting Swifts (Photo: Amnonn Hahn, the Friends of the Swifts Association)







The migration route of the German White Stork "Princessa" from Loburg, Germany to Cape Town, South Africa – almost the same route used for 13 years (1993-2005) 11,000 km in each direction



Migrating with White Pelicans over Israel tracked by a motorized glider with Yossi Leshem (Photo: Jerry Young)



Drawing: Tuvia Kurtz

