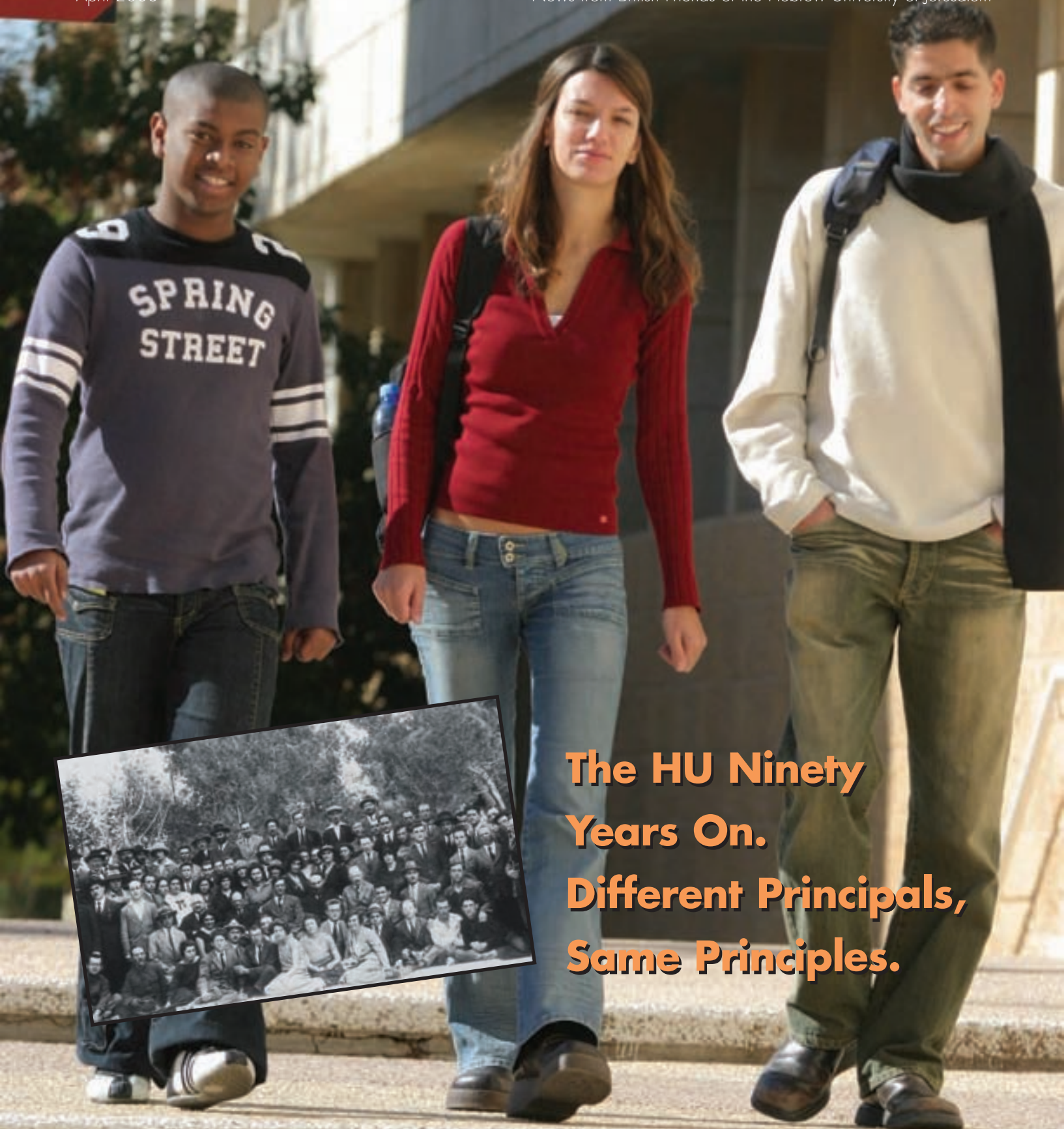


Vision

April 2008

News from British Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



**The HU Ninety
Years On.
Different Principals,
Same Principles.**

Recruit, Retain & Revive

Readers of Vision don't need convincing of the value of supporting the Hebrew U; you already do, and as incoming Chairman – a new boy – I very much appreciate the vital contribution you already make.

Nonetheless, in my first direct address to many of you I think it may be worthwhile if I take the opportunity to state where I want to lead BFHU - and why.

In general terms, I intend to maintain and develop what you have already built. Just as Israel's only real resource is its intellectual capital, the chief asset of which is the Hebrew U, so BFHU's only real resource is you. I want BFHU to help you maintain and develop your relationship with the University - and through the University, Israel and its friends and supporters everywhere. The more we can get you involved with the fascinating projects and people of the HU, the more everyone benefits; literally, the world.

Let me spell this out: I want us to help you make your next conversation about Israel



– or your next trip there – be about the cutting edge medical research you're involved with, or how HU is helping feed the world, or the influence of the HU's think tanks, or the guys making relationships across the Arab/Israeli divide.

The way to do this is to know you, to broker introductions, to focus on the topics which turn you on, to make it easy to get involved. So, to be a little more specific, I intend to help the more active

Friends make contact, both with the University people and with those Friends who've been less active. With the help of my team we've put together plans to network as much as we can, to reach out, to serve up opportunities and materials which can excite. The plan is ambitious, and costly, and it will take time to work. But the University is behind it, and so are my staff and Board, and many friends out there; so I'm confident we can do it.

Let me close my first address by saying this: I want you involved. The Hebrew U is an icon, an unarguable good for Israel, the Jewish People, even the World. Getting involved with it is undoubtedly going to help all sorts of things you and I – and all BFHU friends believe in. I intend to help you make it one of the most interesting, fun, and rewarding experiences of your life; and maybe even the lives of those who come after you.

Brent Isaacs *Chairman, BFHU*



Front cover inset: The first students at the HU.

The HU Network works!

At BFHU we believe in networking; our role is to build stronger and better networks of friends. In this newsletter you can see how these networks support the University through raising awareness of the work of the HU, by demonstrating the challenges that the University faces, and how they enable you to be part of the family of friends, celebrating the vision of a world-class University. Our part is to develop and strengthen these networks of friends for support and for celebration. We aim to do this through our newsletter, our different events and increasingly through personal contact, by phone, email or meetings.

At this time of celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the State, while tensions in the country increase and the peace talks are once again at risk, President Magidor's words are so apposite. "Tensions between immediate needs and the future have always been with us. Part of our success is our ability to find the right balance between immediate and long-term values or dreams. To lay the corner stone of the University in 1918 was a definite act of bold vision given the conditions of the settlement and the country then, and the state of the world. That same spirit should guide us now, and we should find the balance between short and long termism."

HU makes a major impact on Jerusalem, on Israel and on the world. By being part of our network, through attending an event, through informing yourself through our newsletter, by supporting us with a donation, you allow the country to continue to develop the dreamers who will continue to give Israel that edge in the world, to continue to be world leaders.

May I thank all our friends, for your interest, support and energy; through it we all benefit. The next few months will no doubt be challenging, but it was ever thus!

I hope that you will enjoy this newsletter. Please contact me personally by email, phone or letter for further information or with any views that you wish to express.

Wendy Pollecoff *Executive Director, BFHU*



Wendy Pollecoff with (from the left) Michael Gee, Vice-President of BFHU, The Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks and Lady Sacks

MICHAEL GEE – OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

Michael Gee, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, has been the personification of the BFHU for many years. Indeed my involvement and that of many others was as the result of gentle arm twisting by him. Looking back, Michael has been the constant factor in our efforts. Trustees, Executive Directors and staff have made their mark but have changed whilst Michael has provided the glue that has ensured that the BFHU has met its aim of raising funds for, and increasing awareness of, the University.

More recently Michael has led the major reorganisation that has revitalised the British Friends. A new Constitution has been adopted and a Board of Directors, with a number of younger members, together with a Council of Patrons have been established.



We have no doubt of Michael's continued commitment to the University in his new Role as Chairman of the Council, and will always be truly grateful for his hard work and dedication.

Bernie Myers *Vice-Chairman, BFHU*

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

The British Involvement



Norman Bentwich OBE, first Attorney-General of Palestine and later, Professor of International Relations at the HU. Buried on Mount Scopus.

I was at the laying of the foundation stones of the Hebrew University on July 24 1918, when I was an Officer in the Occupied Territory Administration of Palestine. That was a great occasion. It was the crown of Dr Weizmann's activities in the Zionist Commission, which had come out to give the first fulfilment of the Balfour Declaration. The home of the University, Sir John Gray-Hill's house and estate on the ridge of Scopus, had been purchased in the midst of war. Everyone that mattered in Jerusalem, military and civil, including General Allenby with his staff and the heads of all the churches, all Jewish Jaffa and Tel Aviv that could walk or could scrounge a drive up to Jerusalem, detachments from the Jewish colonies, and a Jewish deputation from Egypt, flocked up on that afternoon.

Fourteen stones were laid in the grounds overlooking the Wilderness, the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. Those who laid them represented the different classes and communities, including the Christian and Moslem communities. One stone

Dr Chaim Weizmann and other dignitaries observe the laying of the foundation stones



was laid by a group of young children of the Yishuv who represented the young generation. Weizmann made the only speech, proclaiming that learning was the Jewish Dreadnought; and two telegrams were read: one from Balfour, the other from the French Government. In the evening there was a dinner with General Sir Arthur Money, the Chief Administrator, Brigadier Sir Gilbert Clayton, Chief Political Officer of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force and Colonel Wyndham Deedes, head of the Arab Bureau, as chief guests.

The Foundations Laid



Dr Chaim Weizmann, scientist, leader of the Zionist movement for almost 30 years, Chairman of the Founding Board of the Hebrew University and first President of the State of Israel.

In 1913 I was charged with the task of organising the University Committee, and Ruppin, the Head of the Palestine Department, was instructed to look around for a suitable site.



Ruppin actually secured, some time later, the piece of land on Mount Scopus on which I had set longing eyes in 1907. The money for this purchase came from Isaac Goldberg, a Russian Zionist. Ruppin also obtained an option on the Gray-Hill House, which we finally acquired in 1916.

The oddity of this last circumstance lies in the fact that in 1916 the war was going full blast and Palestine was in the hands of the enemy Turks. I still remember the astonishment of the Gray-Hill family when they were told that there was a buyer for their estate on the Scopus. Lady Gray-Hill, in particular, was so moved by this evidence of our faith in the ultimate victory of the Allies that she agreed to cede the property to us in advance of the formal arrangements for its transfer. She told us, when we had sealed the bargain, that this act of ours had done more than anything else to convince her that England was going to win the war. I could not help thinking of the ancient Romans, coolly buying and selling suburban parcels of land which the victorious armies of Hannibal, then besieging Rome, still occupied.

Before leaving London I had secured from Mr Balfour his consent in principle to our trying to lay the foundation stones of the Hebrew University on the plot of land acquired for that purpose on Mount Scopus – subject, of course, to the consent of the military authorities on the spot. In May 1918 we approached General Allenby on the subject and found him at first – not surprisingly, perhaps – very much taken aback. He exclaimed: "But we may be rolled back any minute! What is the good beginning something you may never be able to finish?"

My reply was: "This will be a great act of faith – faith in the victory which is bound to come, and faith in the future of Palestine. I can think of no better symbol of faith than the founding of the Hebrew University, under your auspices, and in this hour". He was not unimpressed, but he repeated: "You have chosen almost the worst possible

time. The war in the West is passing a most critical phase; the Germans are almost at the gates of Paris". I said: "We shall win this war. The present crisis is only one episode". In the end Allenby agreed to send a telegram to the Foreign Office asking for advice, and after a short interval received an affirmative reply.

And so, in July, 1918, a modest but memorable ceremony took place. On the afternoon of the twenty-fourth the foundation stones of the Hebrew University were laid on Mount Scopus...The physical setting of the ceremony was unforgettable and sublime beauty. The declining sun flooded the hills of Judea and Moab with golden light, and it seemed to me, too, that the transfigured heights were watching, wondering, dimly aware perhaps that this was the beginning of the return of their own people after many days.

Below us lay Jerusalem, gleaming like a jewel...

The foundation stones ceremony

- Dr Chaim Weizmann identified the Mount Scopus site as suitable for the proposed University as early as 1907.
- Dr. Arthur Ruppin (a senior Jewish Agency official and later Professor of Jewish Sociology at the Hebrew University) secured plots of lands with funds provided by private donors, the first paid for in 1913 with a donation by Isaac Leib Goldberg, a Russian Zionist. Subsequent land purchases were supported by the Kadoorie family of Hong Kong, the Bentwich family of London and the Rosenbloom family of Pittsburgh, among others.
- The purchase of the estate at the eastern end of the plateau was completed in 1916. It was owned by Sir John Gray-Hill and his wife, whose estate comprised a large country house (now the Gaster Building housing the Institute of Contemporary Jewry) and smaller buildings.
- The Gray-Hills supported the Zionist venture, especially the plan to build a new university, which they recognized as an extraordinary act of faith in the middle of the Great War.
- In a ceremony close to the Gray-Hill mansion on the afternoon of July 24, 1918, with fighting taking place only a few miles away, the foundation stones of the University were laid. Present were leaders of the Yishuv and General (later Viscount) Allenby, commander of the British forces that liberated Jerusalem and Palestine from the Turks.

Influence the future

Benefit the world

The Hebrew University is Israel's foremost academic institution and one of the world's leading centres of learning and research.

Thirteen of Israel's fifteen Supreme Court justices are Hebrew University graduates along with a quarter of the members of the Knesset, prominent business leaders, actors, scientists and entrepreneurs, as well as 5 Nobel Prize winners in the past 6 years.



Provision of Scholarships

A university education is a key qualification for many positions in modern society. At the same time, the cost of a degree continues to rise and government grants continue to be cut.

Many Hebrew University students have to supplement their income with a part-time job. Each year, 14,000 of the University's 24,000 students apply for financial aid.

Currently, the British Friends' Scholarship Campaign funds 200 scholarships. We would like to increase our support by creating new scholarships.

Scholarship Costs

Full annual scholarships currently cost:

Undergraduate degree	£1,575
Master's degree	£4,200
PhD	£5,500



giftaid it

Your donation can be worth 25p more per £1 donated at no extra cost to you if you are a UK taxpayer – you just need to sign a Gift Aid declaration. Higher rate taxpayers receive additional tax relief.

For more details, please call **Alison Baker** or **Gill Benson** on **020 7691 1487** or email alison.baker@bfhu.org or gill.benson@bfhu.org

Lack of financial resources should never be a barrier to students. A scholarship can ensure Israel's intellectual future at Israel's leading teaching institution – the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Professor Menachem Magidor, President of the Hebrew University

Ways to provide support

Top up your existing fund

Many of our existing scholarship funds fail to generate enough income to fund the entire cost of a scholarship. If you already have a scholarship fund, help us to provide more support by topping it up. Even if your scholarship is fully funded, you can top up your fund to allow us to provide one or more additional scholarships.

Fund a one-off donation

Your gift could support a student (or a group of students) for one year of their degree, depending on the level of your contribution.

Endow a new Scholarship Fund

By making a regular donation, you can fund a scholarship and build up a lasting endowment fund at the same time, designed to provide a fully funded annual scholarship for years to come.

Annual Report

Once a year we will send you a written profile about your scholarship recipient. This is often accompanied by a personal note of thanks from the student. We can also arrange for copies of the report to be sent to family members and friends.

Donor recognition

The Hebrew University seeks to honour its supporters appropriately. There are many British names inscribed on the Walls of Recognition on the Mount Scopus Campus, overlooking the Old City. Each summer, the University dedicates inscriptions at an unveiling ceremony for family and friends.



Listen, Learn – Love It!

SUMMER COURSES AT THE HU 2008 The Rothberg International School at the HU attracts students from more than 50 countries around the world. They find intellectual challenges, artistic expression, religious bonds, political analysis and cultural activities. Enjoy the buzz, a feast of knowledge and a wide variety of extracurricular activities. All ages – whether you are 18 or 80, you'll be welcome and catered for! Call Jo on **020 7691 1478** or email students@bfhu.org for full details.

Language Courses

Jerusalem Ulpan: 24 June to 31 July
Summer Ulpan: 6 August to 25 September

• Biblical Hebrew - Elementary

For students of Hebrew, Bible and Theology. It is approximately equivalent in scope to a first-year university course in Biblical Hebrew. Students should be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet.

• Literary Arabic- Elementary Level

Designed for students with no knowledge of Arabic. The course is very intensive and requires numerous hours of homework.

• Spoken Arabic- Elementary Level

An introductory course designed to enable students to hold a basic conversation in Arabic, in the dialect spoken in Jerusalem.

• Literary Arabic Elementary Level Optional Supplementary Course

• Biblical Hebrew - Intermediate Level
Biblical grammar and syntax, intensive study of biblical vocabulary, and the reading of biblical selections from the First Temple period.

• Spoken Arabic- Intermediate Level

This course is designed for students with a background in the study of Arabic and will focus on the dialect spoken in Jerusalem.

• Biblical Hebrew- Advanced Level

The study of texts from various biblical periods: early biblical poetry, classical biblical Hebrew, late Biblical Hebrew, epigraphic Hebrew, and the Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

• Literary Arabic- Advanced Level

Aiming at improving further the reading comprehension and grammatical understanding of the students, though some attention will be paid to listening.



Summer Institute for Middle Eastern Studies

1 to 31 July 2008

- Emergence of the Modern Middle East
- Introduction to Islam: Belief and Ritual
- Islamic Revival and Revolution: Iran, Shi'a Islam and Society
- Jewish-Arab Relations: Social-Psychological Aspects
- Theories of International Relations and the Realities of the Middle East

Summer Institute for the Bible

1 to 31 July 2008

- The Pick and the Pen: Between Bible and Archaeology
- The Books of the Bible
- The Ancient Near East: History, Religion and Scripture

Summer Institute for Israel Studies

1 to 31 July 2008

- The Emergence of the Modern State of Israel
- Israeli Society as Reflected Through Music and Film
- The Concept of Self-Defence in Zionism and Israeli Reality
- Photographing a Place, a People, a Past

Special Programmes in Archaeology

- Excavating Biblical Hazor
22 June to 1 August
- Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project
22 June to 1 August
- Tel Beth Shemesh Excavations
1 to 30 June
- Tel Dor Excavation Project
29 June to 1 August
- Prehistoric Archaeology & Anthropology Field School at Kfar HaHoresh
15 June to 1 August

Psychology

1 to 21 July

- Trauma and Resilience: Theory and Practice from the Israeli Experience
- Clinical Training in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Post-Traumatic Disorders. For advanced clinicians interested in adapting their clinical skills to the trauma field

Obligated to Act

In spring 2006, Asaf Rajuan, Michal Gomel and Eylona Fizman, then in the second year of their studies at the Baerwald School of Social Sciences, and specialising in community work, were shocked to learn that one-third of the approximately 240,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel were impoverished. They launched a campaign and, within 18 months, the plight of Holocaust survivors was on the national agenda and had led to a change in government policy.

Asaf Rajuan felt its significance as an Israeli teenager. "It spurred my interest in human rights, our place in the world, and other dilemmas that youth struggle with. No one recognised that the elderly in our neighbourhoods were the survivors, no one thought of them as individuals and asked what they needed," he says.

He soon found that several of his classmates felt similarly. Eylona Fizman's great-grandmother and grandparents are all survivors. "My family lives in France and receives compensation directly from

Germany, so I was shocked to learn what happens here," she says. "We felt obliged to act," adds Michal Gomel.

Although their overall aim was to improve the situation of all of Israel's elderly, "we decided to start small by focusing on survivors before tackling the even bigger issue," says Fizman. Thus they launched the 'Every Survivor Has a Name' campaign demanding government recognition of the rights of all survivors to receive assistance.

They mobilised the student council, recruited Tafnit movement founder Maj-Gen. (res.) Uzi Dayan and MK Colette Avital and worked with documentary makers Guy Meroz and Orly Vilnai Federbush whose TV exposé shocked the country. Over the next 18 months, they also organised a series of demonstrations that received massive public support and much media attention, leading the government to create a commission on Holocaust survivors resulting, in new benefits and welfare services for Holocaust survivors, who would also be honoured during the country's 60th



L-R: Eylona Fizman, Asaf Rajuan and Michal Gomel

anniversary celebrations in 2008. "The issue of social justice is prominent at the Baerwald School," says Gomel. "Using the tools that the School gave us to both address the subject and implement what we had learned, we were able to bring about social change."

For Rajuan, the campaign's success was a personal victory over those who said he wouldn't be able to change the system, but the biggest achievement was the survivors who finally perceived that after 60 years of feeling rejected by society, Israel cares about them.

Feeding the World

The Hebrew University's Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences in Rehovot is among the world's top such faculties based on its cutting-edge scientific breakthroughs such as long shelf-life tomatoes, advanced irrigation systems, bio-control and soil solarization methods, optimized dairy and fish production, and heat-tolerant chicken breeding.

Agricultural economist Eli Feinerman, Faculty Dean, says "With a growing world population and decreasing agricultural resources, it's becoming increasingly difficult to provide enough food for everyone's needs. We believe that synergetic, integrative and interdisciplinary research across traditional boundaries will lead to the scientific advances needed for fighting hunger."

Professor Orna Halevy, founding head of the Faculty's combined MSc/PhD program in animal sciences and veterinary medicine, agrees. "Animal scientists study normal, healthy animals, while veterinarians care for sick animals. We've amassed a great deal of knowledge about the same organism. It



Prof. Orna Halevy

makes sense that we should work closely together" says Halevy "By pooling our expertise, it will be easier to move forward on crucial questions of animal health and food production."

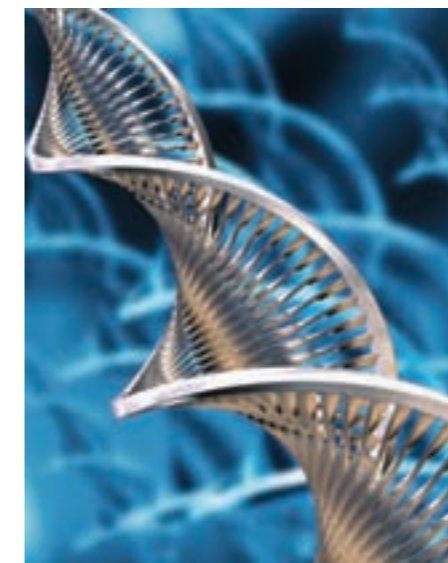
The production of poultry meat – has been the focus of Halevy's work for the last 17 years. "My work focuses on 'satellite' cells – that proliferate at the very end of embryonic development and in the first few days after chicks hatch. We found that illuminating post-hatch chicks with green light caused a high proliferation of satellite cells and, subsequently, the most robust muscle growth." This technique is currently employed by poultry farms in Israel and the USA. Halevy went on to discover that illuminating incubated eggs produced even better results.

The research's greatest application may be in the world's poorest countries, where high temperatures are a fact of life, but could take an environmental disadvantage and turn it into a tool for more efficient food production.

Routes to Roots

THE theory that Jews of Eastern European descent are of Germanic – that is Ashkenazi – origin is almost universally acknowledged as a truth. Like some other scholars, Judeo-Slavic researcher Dr. Alexander Kulik of the Department of Russian and Slavic Studies and vice-chair of the Chais Center of Jewish Studies in Russian at the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies says this is far from accurate. Indeed, he is combining both traditional and innovative research approaches to explore the true origins of Eastern European Jews, whose progeny accounts for a majority of contemporary world Jewry.

The "common knowledge theory" as Kulik describes it, holds that during the Middle Ages Jews from Germany emigrated en masse to Poland, the "then-land of opportunity". There are numerous historical loopholes in this theory, says Kulik. "Most significantly, there is evidence of a Jewish presence in these lands dating back to at least the early Middle Ages, long before the incursion of German Jews can be documented."



The real mystery, however, lies in unraveling the origin of these early medieval communities. Can they, to list the prevalent theories, be traced to Byzantium, Persia or to the converted local Turkic tribes of Khazars?

"An understanding of the origin and the cultural characteristics of Eastern European Jewry depends on an evaluation of the Jewish presence in the region before the migration of German Jews," says Kulik, but traditional historical scholarship has gone as far as it can. "Direct, primary evidence of Jewish life in the Middle Ages and earlier is scarce" he says. "That means using innovative, multidisciplinary approaches as

encompassed by three diverse research directions: historical-philological, linguistic and genetic studies."

Kulik's expertise lies primarily in the historical-philological approach. With a command of many ancient and modern languages, he is engaged in examining source material previously considered irrelevant.

These are not newly discovered sources, but rather material that Kulik defines as "non-direct evidence," with "a relative abundance of Slavic sources indicating the presence of Jews in the region." These "non-Jewish, non-traditional" sources, mostly translations into Slavic, encompass years of literary production in which Jews participated and left their cultural mark, says Kulik. The original texts include Hebrew and Greek — and the Greek-Jewish texts among them, he says, hint at the Greek origins of some of these Jews. "Properly analyzed, ancient texts can shed light on the cultural characteristics of their authors and readers," says Kulik. "Likewise, language can preserve extremely ancient elements that reflect the origins of its speakers."

Kulik hopes that combining history, philology and regional studies might reveal a world that has left little physical traces. The goal, he says, is not only to prove whether or not these Jews were of Ashkenazi origin, but also to answer numerous basic questions about Jewish identity, cultural history, patterns of inter-communal assimilation, migration and more.

Newton in Jerusalem

Isaac Newton was arguably the greatest physicist of all time, with his achievements including the synthesis of celestial and terrestrial mechanics in his laws of motion, the law of universal gravitation and his theory of light and colors. An outstanding mathematician too, he created the calculus which became the basic tool of theoretical physics. Newton's lesser known aspect – as a deeply religious scholar with a profound interest in the Bible, the New Testament and ancient history – is the focus of the 'Newton's Secrets' virtual exhibition, part of the David and Fela Shapell Digitization Project at the National Library of Israel. The virtual exhibit is based on a recent exhibition at the Library which displayed manuscripts and illustrations by Newton never previously shown in public. Curators of the exhibition, which attracted much local and international attention, were Professor Yemima Ben-Menahem of the Hebrew University's Department of Philosophy, Professor Mordechai Feingold of Caltech and Professor Stephen Snobelen of the University of King's College in Halifax, Canada.

The manuscripts reveal that Newton's interests encompassed alchemy, theology, ancient history and even calculations to determine the date of the end of the world (his estimate was 2060). He also sought to decipher what he regarded as "secret knowledge" encoded in the Bible and other ancient cultures' sacred texts. "He applied the same meticulous diligence to his studies of these texts as to his scientific research. He related to science with a religious fervor that led him to see himself as some sort of prophet" says Ben-Menahem. Exhibit highlights include: Newton's studies of Solomon's Temple, a passage copied from Maimonides' writings, comments on Hebrew expressions, excerpts from the Shema prayer and his rejection of the Trinity.

'Newton's Secrets' virtual exhibition:
www.jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/mss/newton/

INNOVATION AND REVELATION

Beyond Imagination

To delve into astrophysics is to take a journey beyond our wildest imaginings. On a clear, dark night glance upward and you can see not only bright individual stars but also a faint hazy band of light. You are looking at our galaxy, the Milky Way. Several hundred billion stars slowly rotating about a black hole. Our Sun, a modest star, is located near the outer edge of this immense spiraling disc.

Dark Matter is Conjured

In 1933 Fritz Zwicky, working at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), measured the speed of galaxies moving in the Coma cluster and discovered the galaxies were moving so fast that according to Newton's law of gravitation, they should have been flung out into space. The calculations showed clearly that there wasn't enough visible matter around, not enough gravity. By the 1970s "dark matter" had been invoked to explain this and other cosmological phenomena that have been observed since then.

The problem with "dark matter" is that you can't see it. But as soon as you assume it's there, it can explain why spinning galaxies and clusters don't fall apart.

Jacob Bekenstein, the Michael Polak professor of Theoretical Physics, a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and an Israel Prize laureate in physics, "was never happy about dark matter. "You could always have as much of it as you needed to explain things," he says, "but I didn't really pay much attention to it;



Prof. Jacob Bekenstein

I was working on other things." Indeed, Professor Bekenstein's work on the thermodynamics of black holes established his reputation as a world leader in gravitation physics.

Move Over Newton

In 1982, Bekenstein met with fellow astrophysicist Professor Mordehai Milgrom who had recently found that if you modified Newton's law of universal gravity, you could explain the rotation of a spiral galaxy as well as the motions seen in certain clusters. None of this required the existence of dark matter.

When Milgrom "presented me with the facts – and there weren't many known at that time – I was converted almost on the spot to MOND, the scheme of Modified Newtonian Dynamics" recalls Bekenstein, who resolved to turn the description of what is observed into a new theory of gravity.

It wasn't until 2004 that Bekenstein's TeVeS theory was published. Unexpectedly, it was found not only able to explain gravitational lensing but also a whole range of other cosmological phenomena which had previously required invoking dark matter.

Cosmological Explosions

While you are looking at the night sky it is worth contemplating that everyday, somewhere in the observable universe, there is an explosion so enormous that it will emit for a few seconds as much radiation as all the stars in the whole observable universe put together. Such explosions can never be seen, however, since they radiate gamma rays which our eyes can't detect. In fact, these mysterious "gamma-ray bursts" were only discovered during the Cold War era, when the

Americans sent a military satellite into space to check that the Russians were abiding by the treaty banning the explosion of nuclear devices in space. While amazed to detect bursts of gamma-ray energy, it was clear that they were too far away to be bombs. In fact the discussion soon centered on exactly how far away they were. The consensus among astrophysicists was that these explosions were taking place somewhere in our galaxy.



Prof. Tsvi Piran

Professor Tsvi Piran, the incumbent of the Schwartzman University Chair, was skeptical. "It didn't fit," he explains. "I suggested that they were much further out – on the other side of the universe! And if that was true, then the energy released had to be enormous." Other predictions about the nature of these explosions were made

by Piran and his team, including his student Re'em Sari, who recently returned to the Hebrew University as a faculty member after nine years at Caltech. The team's work was confirmed in 1997 by the observations of the Italian-Dutch BeppoSAX satellite.

At about this time Professor Piran also established a model, now generally accepted, which suggests that many of these explosions are caused by the collision between neutron stars, which are cold "dead" stars which have run out of energy. Piran describes these extraordinary heavenly events with evident fascination and excitement: "These explosions are so gigantic that they stand alone as beacons at the edge of the observable universe. But it is fortunate that they are so rare: in a million years you could expect one in our galaxy."

FROM THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Dreams Come True

Two graduates of the University's Saltiel Centre for Pre-Academic Studies, now studying for their degrees, share a passion to make their mark.

Asher Sofan

Spend even a short while with second year law student Asher Sofan and you know that you are in the presence of a very determined, highly intelligent, and angry young man who expresses himself clearly and sharply. "The Mechina healed me," he says, "and my experience there gave me what the government should give society – a clear message that with hard work you can achieve your ambitions."

Sofan's childhood years in Ashkelon could easily have crushed his spirit and limited his horizons. "When I was six, three of my four siblings and I were placed in an orphanage because my parents were found to be incapable of raising children," he says. "We grew up in a very poor neighbourhood where higher education was never given a thought. "The message was to do your three years of military service, then get a job and stay out of trouble – and jail."

Sofan's father died when he was 13 and he left the orphanage at 15 because, as the oldest son, he felt responsible for providing for his family. When he was 23, he decided to try to change his life and pursue his dream of studying law. Fortunately he had heard about the Joseph Saltiel Centre for Pre-Academic Studies at the Hebrew



Asher Sofan in the Law Library, Faculty of Law

University – or Mechina, as it is known in Hebrew – and enrolled in July 2005. He describes his first weeks as full of self-doubt. "I was totally unsure that I'd be able to succeed, I had no learning habits whatsoever, and my self-esteem was low," he says. He soon found that the Mechina was staffed by "caring, excellent teachers, and the students were very supportive of each other. We were united by our common experience."

Today, Sofan is studying for his law degree as part of the Atidim social leadership program at the University's Federmann School of Public Policy and Government. Sofan is frank about his views "I hold society responsible for the poor and the weak among us," he says. Sofan wants, eventually, to enter politics where he hopes to generate a society that truly cares about its disadvantaged members and encourages everyone to strive for education so that they can realise their potential.

Zehava Chananya

For 24-year-old Zehava Chananya, a third-year chemistry student at the Faculty of Science on the Edmond J. Safra Campus at Givat Ram, life is unremitting: her passion for studying, her determination to succeed, and the need to earn money to support her family are the demands and challenges she faces every day.

A five-hour flight in 1990 brought seven-year-old Chananya and her family to Israel from Ethiopia. Her mother and five siblings now live in an Ethiopian enclave in Rehovot. It is a desperately poor neighborhood, where high unemployment and inadequate education have driven the community into a downward spiral fuelled by drugs and crime.

But Chananya's mother instilled in her children the immigrant's eternal mantra: "Education is the key to a better life."

Chananya quotes her mother's wisdom with obvious pride and gratitude. After graduating high school and doing two years of national service, she realised that to fulfil her dream of higher education she needed to improve her school grades. When she heard about the Mechina, Chananya knew that this was her way forward.

The demands of the intensive study programme at the Mechina meant she had barely any time to work. She was living, after paying her rent, on about \$3 a day, which had to cover food, clothes, books and her bus fare home every weekend. A cleaning job on Fridays supplemented her meagre resources. Still, Chananya's eyes shine as she recalls that year – "the teaching was fantastic and the Mechina prepared me in so many ways for studying at the University."

Today, fascinated by her chemistry course,

she plans to go on to graduate studies in pharmacology. She receives more financial aid than she did while at the Mechina and she has a job that occupies every hour that she is not studying. The money she earns goes to her siblings – "to help them get an education" she says.



Zehava Chananya in the recently completed Student Laboratory Building, Faculty of Science

Medical Mission 2008



Dr Patricia Hamilton

Dr Patricia Hamilton will be giving this year's Henry Cohen Lecture at the Hebrew University on 23rd June 2008. Dr Hamilton is a Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Neonatal Paediatrics at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. She is an active clinician in Neonatology and her research interests have included the pathophysiology of birth asphyxia. She has been closely involved in developing new curricula and teaching and assessment methods, and in working to make MMC appropriate for paediatrics. Dr Hamilton is currently chair of an NHS/Academy group looking at developing leadership in the medical profession.

British Friends of the Hebrew University will be organising a mission to go out to Jerusalem from 22 – 27 June. This will include visits to various medical facilities within Israel and an opportunity to look around the Faculty of Medicine and meet with some of the Hebrew University's foremost medical researchers.

For further information contact Julia Markson on 020 7691 1474 or email julia.markson@bfhu.org

Glasgow Friends

The Glasgow Friends of the Hebrew University recently held a successful evening both socially and financially, which coincided with and celebrated the 95th birthday of Dr Leslie Naftalin, Honorary President and founder member of GFHU.

The evening was held in conjunction with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra at their performance of William Walton's Balshazzar's Feast conducted by internationally renowned conductor Richard Hickox.

At the pre concert drinks, organised by GFHU, Richard Hickox gave a stimulating talk about the work and, following the concert, 60 guests enjoyed a wonderful tea hosted by Gail and Michael Greenhill in their new home.

Funds raised at this event will go towards 3 new projects supported by Glasgow Friends of the Hebrew University: the Gilo Centre for Citizenship which promotes tolerance and understanding between Arabs and Israeli High School students; Israeli post-graduate students to enable them to complete their diplomas in Public Health under the leadership of Professor Elliot Berry; and funding vital work in the field of neo-natal research.

Ninety Years of Higher Education 60 Years of Statehood

Participants at this year's Hebrew University Summer Celebration will have the opportunity to examine the Hebrew University's unique role in shaping the State of Israel in the past, present and future. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Understanding our heritage Monday 2 June

Turn back the clock and tour Mt. Scopus – by foot and by film – in the early 20th century! Follow in the footsteps of Chaim Weizmann, Albert Einstein, Judah Magnes and other illustrious HU founders. Hear what student life was like in the 30's and 40's, learn about the convoys during the War of Independence, the University's relocation in 1948 and return to Mt. Scopus in 1967.

Impacting our reality Tuesday 3 June

Meet some of the many students who are changing the face of Jerusalem through a variety of social justice initiatives in education, law, social work, and more. See first hand how the Hebrew University contributes to the community through a tour of our projects in Northern Jerusalem neighbourhoods.

Forging our Future Wednesday 4 June

It is said that the future lies in the human capacity to innovate. Meet young scientists at the Edmond J. Safra campus who are shaping Israel's – and our world's – future. Learn about the latest advances in fields such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, and computer science. How will our evolving knowledge of synapses, neurons, dendrites, ligands, and peptides influence your future?

Board of Governors 2008 An Unforgettable Journey



In Memoriam

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our close friends and supporters of the Hebrew University. We extend our condolences to their families, and look forward to continuing their long association with the University that they loved so much.



Lilian Neuberger

1912 – 2007

Lilian Neuberger's support for the Hebrew University began over 50 years ago. She and her late husband Albert (a prestigious scientist and an Honorary Doctorate in his own right) endowed several scholarship funds – the first was established by Lilian to celebrate Albert's 70th birthday.

When Albert died, Lilian inaugurated a Lecture Series in his name at the Jerusalem University and the Neuberger Lecture is now in its 9th year. The criteria for the lectures are broadly drawn and lectures have been held in various subjects, but Lilian's overriding requirement was that it shows the Hebrew University as a place of excellence and that the speaker returns from the visit as a suitable ambassador for the University and Israel.



The Honourable Leonard Cohen OBE

1922 – 2007

The Hon. L H L Cohen was the son of the Law Lord, Lionel Cohen. The Lionel Cohen Lecture achieved its 55th Anniversary this year and is regarded as a major event in the legal year in Israel, not only for the Law Faculty of the Hebrew University, but also for the Judiciary and legal practitioners of Israel.

Leonard Cohen, who maintained a strong interest in the Lectureship, had even more connection than his late father with Israel and was the Past President of the Jewish Colonisation Association. He travelled frequently to Israel and the Hebrew University. His son, Jonathan Cohen QC, continues the tradition and is chairman of the Trust.



Judith Baron-Cohen

1933 – 2008

Judith's family's involvement with the Hebrew University goes back nearly half a century. Her father, Michael Greenblatt, was a founding member of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University and was honoured with an endowed Chair in International Law in his and Judith's mother Bessie's name. Judith was involved in setting up two further Funds at the Hebrew University: The Judith Baron-Cohen and Bessie Greenblatt Cancer Research Fund; and The Miriam & Morris Baron-Cohen Ethiopian Students Scholarship Fund. Judith's immense commitment to the Hebrew University touched the lives of all who knew her.

You can donate to the The Judith Baron-Cohen and Bessie Greenblatt Cancer Research Fund by going to www.bfhu.org/memory and typing in "Baron Cohen" in the search field.



So far, so very good!

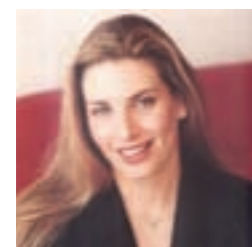
January 2008

Neuberger Lecture Jerusalem

The ninth Prof Albert Neuberger Memorial Lecture was given by Prof David Farrell, Head of the School of Social Sciences at Manchester University. Prof Farrell spoke on "If Electoral Reform is the Solution, What is the Problem?" The lecture was followed by a celebratory dinner.



Nava Swersky Sofer London



Breakfast in the City and Cocktails in the West End were held for guest speaker Nava Swersky Sofer, the President and CEO of Yissum – the technology transfer company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, responsible for marketing the inventions and know-how, such as the patented cherry tomato.

White Night @ Dolce London

Over 300 guests braved the January weather to attend White Night at London's newest nightclub Dolce. The new BFHU Young Professional's Committee raised £4,000.



Women's Group New Year Concert London



The Women's Group began the year in style with a recital by the young soprano, Alice Woodbridge and accompanied on piano by Marcus Andrews. The evening raised money to assist 2 Russian students, immigrants to Israel,

studying at the HU's Faculty of Medicine.

February 2008

Einstein Lecture Bournemouth

In advance of the Einstein UK tour, Michelle Supper spoke to the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation about Einstein and his close ties to the Hebrew University.



Jewish Book Week

London, Bournemouth, Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and Leeds



Hebrew University Professors Shlomo Avineri and Rachel Elior chaired and spoke at this year's Jewish Book Week. Prof Elior gave a fascinating talk on "Jewish Mysticism" and how its content could be divided into two major focuses: Chariot and Temple Mysticism; and Kabbalah and Messianism. Prof Avineri gave his unique analysis into "Great Writers of the 20th Century: Isaiah Berlin" and how Berlin's multi-layered Jewish identity gave an insight into the conflicted identities of many Jewish intellectuals.



Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor Anne Filer, and 60 other members of the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation came to hear Jerusalem born author, Eshkol Nevo, speak about his novel "Homesick" at this year's Jewish Book Week on tour, sponsored by the BFHU.



March 2008

Recital & Supper London



Myrna and Isaac Kaye were guests of honour at a packed evening hosted at the home of Louise and Norman Naftalin. Guests were treated to recitals by musicians of the Buchmann Mehta School of music. The event raised money for both the Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University.

This bronze sculpture, by Hedva Ser, entitled "Etz Hashalom" (Tree of Peace) is at the entrance of the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's campus in Ein Kerem. It includes a quote from Elie Wiesel: "It takes no more than a moment to tell your fellow man that you love him and in so doing you have already won a victory over destiny."

Israel's only dental school, in addition to teaching dentistry and researching dental medicine has also inaugurated a collaborative programme with Al-Quds University where visiting graduates undertake advanced specialty training. The First Middle East Symposium on Dental Medicine – a breakthrough in cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian academics – was held in November 2006.





Alumni Inaugural Celebration

The Hebrew University Alumni Association in the UK is proud to announce its inaugural event, which will take place on 15th May 2008 at the home of HE the Israeli Ambassador, Ron Prosor.



Hear HE the Ambassador and Guest speaker, President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Professor Menachem Magidor.

If you're an Alumni of the HU we would love you to join us on this special night!

For more info or to be put on the guest list email alumni@bfhu.org or call 020 7691 1471. But hurry, as places are limited!



Email is our main channel of communication as it is the cheapest form of contact. The Hebrew University Alumni Association is continuing to build up its UK database of graduates (750 email addresses and counting) but we know that there are many more of you out there and we would love to be able to reach you!

All we need is your name, matriculation year(s) and the course you attended. Just email those details to alumni@bfhu.org and, if you know of anyone else who studied at the Hebrew University, let us know, or ask them to contact us at alumni@bfhu.org

BFHU · Reg address 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NE
Telephone 020 7691 1500 · www.bfhu.org
Charity reg number 209691 · Reg company number 6350828

Save the Date!

Book online now at www.bfhu.org

For more information on any of these events call 020 7691 1481.

Tuesday 13 May

Gala Dinner

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.
Durbar Court, The Foreign Office, London SW1

Wednesday 14 May

Israel @ 60 with Sir Martin Gilbert

Sir Martin Gilbert gives a unique lecture on the History of Israel and will be signing his book.

Kinloss Learning Centre, London N3 3DU

Thursday 15 May

Legacy Tea

Honouring those hidden heroes who think to support the Hebrew U for the next generation.

Venue NW London

Thursday 15 May

Alumni Inaugural Celebration

Guest speaker: President of the Hebrew University, Prof. Menachem Magidor.

At the home of HE the Israeli Ambassador, Ron Prosor

Sunday 29 June

Salute to Israel

Join us at the first ever UK "Salute to Israel" parade. Look out for the Israeli Universities' float and help celebrate the Hebrew University's unique contribution to the State of Israel.

Missions

For further information on the Missions contact Julia Markson on 020 7691 1474 or email julia.markson@bfhu.org

3 – 5 May

Legal Mission to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Join The Right Hon Sir Mark Potter KT., President of the Family Division of the High Court, and meet the key players at the Law Faculty and students on the law programmes being sponsored by the BFHU.

30 May – 4 June

Summer Celebration at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Meet students and professors, join workshops, tour Jerusalem, share ideas and mingle with other supporters from around the globe.

22 – 27 June

Medical Mission 2008

Dr Patricia Hamilton is giving this year's Henry Cohen Lecture at the Hebrew University on 23rd June 2008. The mission will include visits to various medical facilities within Israel and an opportunity to look around the Faculty of Medicine and meet with some of the Hebrew University's foremost medical researchers.

Please give us your email address!

Emailing information to you is the cheapest form of communication for the Charity. Either email friends@bfhu.org with your email address or log on to our website and sign up at www.bfhu.org