

Supporting Israel

B'nai B'rith remains a staunch advocate for Israel, in Washington, D.C., in foreign capitals and at global organizations such as the United Nations.

B'nai B'rith established a presence in pre-state Israel in 1888. Now, our World Center in Jerusalem is our direct link to Israel, the people, the government and the booming technology and medical industries. For more than 30 years, the World Center has used its vast network of contacts across Israel to keep B'nai B'rith at the vanguard of important issues. If it's happening in Israel, we are connected.

המרכז העולמי של בני ברית • ירושלים



B'nai B'rith World Center • Jerusalem

The World Center hosted missions to Israel to introduce various ambassadors and international staff to a country they only have read about. B'nai B'rith hosted two Minister of Parliament missions to Israel this year, plus arranged and hosted U.N. staff and ambassadors.

B'nai B'rith continues to present its prestigious award for Diaspora reporting, recognizing excellence in Diaspora reportage in Israel print, broadcast and digital media. This year's winners were Amanda Borschel-Dan, the Times of Israel's Jewish World editor and Allison Kaplan Sommer, staff writer at Haaretz. Both journalists submitted an impressive array of articles on Diaspora communities and Israel-Diaspora relations published during 2015.

Additionally, a Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of Luis and Trudi Schydlofsky was conferred upon senior Israel Broadcasting Authority journalist Ya'akov Ahimeir, editor and presenter of the Saturday night foreign news and culture magazine show "Ro'im Olam" (Seeing the World), on Channel 1 Television. Ahimeir also appears on the Voice of Israel's daily radio news program "HaBoker HaZeh" (This Morning). A special citation for fostering Israel-Diaspora relations through the arts was presented to Idan Raichel. Ron Dermer, ambassador of Israel to the United States, presented the keynote address on U.S.-Israel relations during this year's award ceremony.



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The World Center, in conjunction with Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael (KKL-JNF) held, for the 14th consecutive year, a unique joint Holocaust commemoration ceremony on Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day). This is the only event dedicated annually to commemorating the heroism of Jews who rescued fellow Jews during the Holocaust. More than 850 people attended the event, including about 200 Border Patrol Cadets who provided an honor guard and 200 high school students, along with Jewish rescuers and survivors. The ceremony was held at the B'nai B'rith Martyr's Forest "Scroll of Fire" Plaza. This years' event memorialized the rescue efforts of Jewish educator and Leningrad resident Shmuil Markowitz Pevzner (1912 –1991).

The B'nai B'rith Uruguay Fraternidad Award is an opportunity to cross cultural boundaries. The award is presented to artists from different arts to recognize excellence in these various disciplines. Winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the State of Israel where the B'nai B'rith World Center prepares an intensive itinerary combining tourism with professional interchange, site visits and high-level briefings geared toward fostering ongoing professional ties between the countries. This year's winners were Federica Folco, a dancer and choreographer, and Alicia Alfonso, an actress and singer.

With grant funding from The Helmsley Trust, B'nai B'rith sent three delegations—two with Members of the European Parliament and one of United Nations diplomats—to Israel as part of the *Parliamentary & Diplomatic Missions to the State of Israel* initiative. This program, which brings international leaders to Israel and provides them a first-hand education about its culture, people, industry and policies, aims to develop new friends and lifelong advocates for the Jewish state. Each trip featured similar but separate itineraries that included events, tours and presentations that were personally curated by our on-the-ground team in Israel, and took into account specific requests and interests of trip participants. Based on detailed feedback, the trips were wonderfully successful, advancing the stated program goal and helping to change the perception of Israel one emerging world leader at a time.

B'nai B'rith brought a group of senior U.N. diplomats from multiple continents—accredited to agencies of the world body in New York, Geneva and Paris—to Israel for meetings with government and other officials, visits to communities threatened by terrorists, exposure to Israeli humanitarian and innovation work and briefings by B'nai B'rith experts.

