

The Launching of The “Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association”

The Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association (FDRA) was launched at a spectacular Gala Event on September 13, 2006. The event was hosted by Daniel’s family, UBS Wealth Management and Silex Trust and was attended by many guests, amongst them Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai.

The varied programme included a fantastic multi-media presentation and a film about the Centre. Chen Tzimbalista, the world renowned percussionist rounded off the evening with a riveting performance. The UBS Wealth Management Trophy for Outstanding Rower of 2006 was awarded to Mary and Igor Kogan, more about whom you can read in this Newsletter. Olympic kayaker Adi Gafni received the Silex Trust Prize for Outstanding Athlete.



Above: Mayor Ron Huldai.
Below: Dame Shirley Porter and Prof. Itamar Rabinovich



We are thrilled to report that seventy new members joined the Association since the Gala event and we have received some generous donations toward promoting rowing in Israel. The Association has already awarded numerous scholarships and is involved in the “Sea of Friends” programme, described in greater detail later in this issue.

Mr. Arie Brosh, former Head of Naval Intelligence and commander of a warship in the Israeli Navy, has agreed to act as chairman of the FDRA.

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What's New?

at the Daniel Rowing Centre



Activities for the Disabled

The Centre was specifically designed as a highly accessible building for people who are physically challenged. A ramp leading up to the building, a lift inside and specially adapted sports equipment all make rowing and kayaking possible for people with special needs.

The Centre, in collaboration with Bet Halochem and the Israeli Rowing Federation, is in the forefront having created specially designed rowing classes for disabled athletes as they prepare to compete in the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008.

“This new category is of great interest to the almost twenty disabled athletes who train regularly at the Centre, some coming every day of the week”

disability who meet the criteria set out in the adaptive rowing classification regulations set by the World Olympic Committee. The word “adaptive” implies that the

The 2008 Beijing Olympics will be the first time that adaptive rowing will be one of the sports participating. Adaptive rowing is practiced by disabled athletes in twenty-four countries. It is suitable for rowers with a

equipment is “adapted” to the special needs of the user. This new category is of great interest to the almost twenty disabled athletes who train regularly at the Centre, some coming every day of the week. Ten of them have the same goal: to participate in the Paralympics in Beijing in August, 2008. In order for them to achieve this precious goal the team has to first succeed in the World Rowing Championships in Munich, Germany in August 2007 and rank in one of the top eight places.

Mary and Igor Kogan are part of the team and have already been voted on as members of the official Israeli Paralympic team. Mary and Igor scull together in a double sculling boat. More about this special couple in the next item.

Mary and Igor Kogan

Mary and Igor Kogan made Aliya from Uzbekistan just five years ago. Both Mary and Igor, parents to seven year old Elena and five year old Igor, are disabled but this has not held them back from becoming skilled athletes whose training at the Centre enhances their family life and leads them toward their goal of bringing home the Gold medal when they represent Israel in the Paralympics in Beijing. Their great advances in the sport have already brought them, and Israel, great accolades including first place in the Final B in the World Rowing Championships in Eton, England in 2006 and seventh place overall. Mary and Igor are both determined and hard-working, and travel to the Centre every day in order to train. In just five years, each member of the Kogan family has become a true Israeli thanks to the Centre, the team and the sport.



The Sea of Friends Programme

“It was an amazing and rewarding experience to see the children discuss these issues and then apply them in the water activities.”

The first issue of Ripples introduced the Sea of Friends Programme. One of the groups that recently participated in the programme came from Jaffa. This group, consisting of sixteen Jewish and Arab children at risk, aged 9-11, came to the Centre once a month. Each session revolved around one issue comprising the meaning of responsibility, team work, the relationship between the group and the individual, leadership qualities and so on. It was an amazing and rewarding experience to see the children discuss these issues and then apply them in the water activities. The FDRA is sponsoring another group from the Shapira neighborhood in south Tel Aviv and Issue 3 of Ripples will report on their activities.



The Daniel Regatta 2006

The annual regatta in memory of Daniel took place on the 15-16 of September, 2006, two days after the Gala Launch Event. Athletes from all four rowing clubs in Israel took part in the competitions, with the Centre, inaugurated only three years ago, entering twenty-six athletes, all of whom presented impressive results.

We hope that the regatta, which takes place every September, will become a tradition and will be a major sporting event in Tel Aviv and throughout Israel.



Scholarship Awards by the Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association

To celebrate its inauguration and in an attempt to show continuous support for the DRC and its activities, the FDRA granted several scholarships to promising young athletes at the DRC. The Association has set up a Scholarship Fund which will grant scholarships to outstanding athletes on an annual basis.



Linda Streit with the athletes and coaches at the scholarship award ceremony

A Message from Daniel's Family



A Message from the Chairman

Well, we seem to be at last rowing towards a target, now that we have established The Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association, which is supporting numerous projects that you will be reading about. The Daniel Centre is now a hive of activity, with so many children and adults using all the facilities. This is what we envisaged when we first thought of how to commemorate our beloved Daniel – that we wanted to have a centre which would reflect his love of life and the sport of rowing. Schoolchildren are now getting a taste of what rowing means, when they challenge each other on the ergometers in their classrooms, and this encourages them to come and try the 'real thing' – rowing on the river. (Adults are signing up for courses, physically challenged people are being introduced to rowing – and what a difference it is making to their lives). Now we want to encourage more and more people to take up the sport, and one of our goals is to see rowing as part of the school curriculum. It is only by starting off at a young age that we can train for the future – and who knows, maybe there is a budding Olympic champion out there? London 2012 here we come!

All good wishes,

Shirley, Linda, Joanna and John

Dear friends,

I am very proud to have been nominated to serve as Chairman of the Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association. The purpose of the Association is to support and encourage the sport of rowing throughout the country, and to also enable access to the activities which take place at the DRC to underprivileged and disabled populations.

May I take this opportunity to welcome the new friends of the Association and express our thanks and gratitude to the generous donors. We would like to encourage you to donate to the FDRA and help us to widen the range of our activities for all sections of the community.

Yours sincerely,

Arie Brosh
Chairman of the Association

Join the vision of the Daniel Rowing Centre through the FDRA

The Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association is an Israeli registered charity (no. 580 419 349) with the aim of furthering the sport of rowing in Israel. The FDRA is governed by a board of directors, has an external auditor and complies with all of the rules and regulations relating to charities in Israel.

For any further information about the FDRA and about the ways you can contribute, please contact the FDRA Director, Ms. Renata Shmueli, on +972-3-7419023 or by e-mail: amuta@drc.org.il.

Additional information about the Daniel Rowing Centre may be found on its website, at www.drc.org.il.

