

ARTS IN BRIEF

Gov't brings entertainment to South

The Science, Culture and Sport Ministry approved the transfer of around NIS 1 million last week for cultural activities to be held in shelters and reinforced areas, due to the current security situation in the South.

"Art for the People" (*Omanut La'am*) was setting up special headquarters to organize requests for cultural planning (054-772-2912).

In addition, competitive sports organized by the local councils were going to be relocated to safer areas.

• Jerusalem Post staff

Playwright Harold Pinter buried

Nobel Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter was buried at a London cemetery Wednesday in a small private funeral attended by family and close friends.

Poems and excerpts from his plays were read at the 15-minute ceremony, which followed his death Christmas Eve after a long struggle with cancer.

Some 50 people, including luminaries from Britain's literary world, gathered under a tree at Kensal Green Cemetery for the service.

Pinter's wife, the writer Antonia Fraser, attended along with actor Michael Gambon and fellow playwright Tom Stoppard.

There are plans for a memorial event honoring Pinter, with details expected to be announced shortly.

• AP

Two Madoff books in the works

The Bernard Madoff books are in the works.

Less than one week after the former chairman of the Nasdaq Stock Market was arrested for an alleged multibillion dollar Ponzi scheme, publishers HarperCollins and the Random House Publishing Group each announced that they had signed up books about the scandal.

In 2010, HarperCollins will release an investigative work, currently untitled, by reporter-anchor Andrew Kirtzman, who has been featured on the New York television stations WCBS and NY1; Random House will publish a Madoff book, also currently untitled, by Richard Behar, a journalist who has written for *Time*, *Fortune* and other magazines.

• AP

CONCERT REVIEW

• By URY EPPSTEIN

JBO
Kantorei Sankt Barbara
YMCA Auditorium
December 27

In celebration of the Polish Year in Israel, Krakow's Kantorei Sankt Barbara chamber choir appeared here for a guest performance with the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra, conducted by David Shemer.

It was a welcome opportunity to make a first acquaintance with little-known Polish Baroque music that had not been played in this country before. The elegant and lighthearted Adam Jarzebski's orchestral *Sentinnella* and *Canzon Seconda*, despite noticeable Italian influences, nevertheless sounded somewhat different from the often more heavy Baroque works from the rest of Europe.

Grzegorz Gorczicki's *Completorium* conveyed the spirit of worshipping God with joy – and that's what it was performed by the choir.

The four soloists sounded best when they were singing together, blending in harmoniously with each other.

Although not Polish, Bach's *Mass in G minor* was the concert's conclusion. The choir sounded fairly well-rehearsed and firmly consolidated.

The art of simplicity

Sally Macklef is one of 60 Israeli photographers whose work is currently on display in a traveling exhibition in China

• By KAROLINA PAJDAK

Sally Macklef's subjects are dancing, celebrating, laughing and holding each other's hands. Her view of Jewish life is a view of joy and community. Her pictures are of religion and worship, of the elementary things in life.

The young photographer from Tel Aviv shows her country through her own eyes. She shows marriages and bar mitzvas, families who pray and learn together.

Macklef is one of 60 leading contemporary Israeli photographers whose work is on display right now in China's Three Gorges Museum in the city of Chongqing. Called "Inside Israel," the exhibition in honor of Israel's 60th anniversary was curated jointly by Yang Chaupang from the Three Gorges Museum and Esther Dollinger, Doron Pollack and Iris Elhanani from Israel.

After its visit in Chongqing, the exhibition will travel around China, providing an overview of the Israeli photography scene these days.

It contains a unique variety of photographs displaying contemporary Israel, its landscapes and nature, modern lifestyles, Judaism, ethnic groups and Israeli architecture, as well as the types of artistic photographs prevalent in the Israeli photography scene.

Both prominent leading artists and young, developing artists are participating in this project; they come from all levels of Israeli society and from all over the country. The exhibit includes pictures of young soldiers by famous photojournalist Ziv Koren, photos of naked Tel Aviv beach boys by Rotem Ritov and daily street scenes by Adi Brande.

And then the religious world of Macklef comes in. For her, showing her works in Asia is like coming full circle. The 36-year-old artist fell in love with photography while traveling through Asian countries like Japan, Laos and India years ago. "It was the simplicity of life and the innocence which fascinated me so much," the photographer recalled. "The people cared about food and friends, not about problems of luxury like we have."

THE SEARCH for simplicity led Macklef to change her whole life

three years ago. After a successful career in management, after traveling the world and being busy all the time, Macklef decided to listen to her heart. She quit her exciting job and began to study photography seriously.

"Everybody said I was stupid," Macklef said. "But with all the glamour, I felt like I was living a lie – and I decided that the time for truth had come."

The camera was always with her, like a part of her body – like her third hand or third eye, according to Macklef.

She now thinks it was crazy that she studied economy and business at all. "I was afraid to turn 40 one day and still be working as a waitress looking for a breakthrough as an artist," Macklef explained.

Her final decision to go with photography came along with her final decision to embrace religion – which came with her husband. With him, Macklef became more and more religious.

Raised in a secular family, she started to learn and study Bratislav Hassidut. A lot of her later works are evidence of her new life as a Hassidic Jew.

Her most famous picture included in the Inside Israel exhibition shows Hassidic men dancing during Lag Ba'omer, one of whom is her husband. Macklef sat for hours upon hours with a small pocket camera, taking hundreds of pictures during the celebration of more than 300,000 people. "All this happiness fascinates me, this power of community," Macklef explained. "I realized that when you're not happy, you can't believe in God."

Another picture shows two women tightly holding a baby after his circumcision. There's so much love in the mother's eyes, there's pride and joy. The picture reflects Macklef's personal fulfillment. "It shows the Jewish way of life. The way of life where I found the simplicity and innocence I was always looking for."

Inside Israel is currently at China's Three Gorges Museum, Chongqing. After Chongqing the exhibition will move to Harbin and will be exhibited to the public during the International Ice and Snow Festival.



■ (ABOVE) HAPPILY RELIGIOUS. "There's so much love in the mother's eyes, there's pride and joy," Macklef says of her photo from a Brit Mila.

■ INSIDE ISRAEL. The power of community is a fascinating subject for the artist.

■ (BELOW) FULL CIRCLE. Sally Macklef first fell in love with photography while traveling in Asia. (Karolina Pajdak)



CELEBRITY GRAPEVINE

• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS are in order for pop star **Arik Einstein**, who on Saturday celebrated his 70th birthday. A talented actor as well as a singer and songwriter, Einstein in his younger days was also a fine athlete and was the Israeli junior high jump champion. His career has spanned more than 40 years, and he remains a favorite even with a generation young enough to be his grandchildren. Speaking of grandchildren: He has 18, plus a great-grandchild. Israel Radio's *Reshet Gimmel* broadcast a marathon tribute to Einstein over the weekend, playing listeners' favorite songs and albums. Ten of Einstein's most popular albums were played in full.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Arik Einstein turned 70 yesterday.

■ WITH MONEY getting ever tighter, many of the celebrities who were paid vast sums for endorsing or presenting a huge variety of products and services will find themselves either out of work or having to compromise on their fees. Upscale fashion designer **Dorit Sadeh** decided that she was sufficiently good looking to model her own clothes and features prominently in her latest advertisements. But some companies still believe in adding celebrity status to their products – and in paying big money for the privilege. According to a report in *Yediot Aharonot*, comedian **Eli Yatzpan** has signed a

three-year contract to tell the public that **Wissotzky** is definitely his cup of tea. His fee: NIS 1 million a year. Nice work if you can get it.

■ THERE ARE others with big money to spend. **Dancer, choreographer and occasional fashion designer Ido Tadmor**, who is well known to Channel 2 viewers as an adjudicator of dance contests, has joined forces with the Go Active fitness promoters to start a national chain of dance schools under the title "Go Dancing." Go Active, which has infinite faith in Tadmor's talents, is putting up NIS 4 million for a pilot project of three schools in Bat Yam, Rishon LeZion and Ness Ziona.

■ IF HANUKKA has already been and gone, it means that Purim and Pessah will be upon us before we know it. Despite the economic crisis, people will most likely continue the increasingly popular tradition of relocating to hotels during Pessah – it's easier than all that cooking. **Ruby and Lenny Davidman** have, for years, been organizing Pessah hotel groups; in recent years they've selected **Yehuda Katz** of *Reva L'Sheva* to be the program and entertainment director. This year is no exception, though the venue has moved from a Dead Sea resort to Eilat's *Crowne Plaza*. Scholar in resi-

dence will be **Rabbi Ari Berman**, the former rabbi of the Manhattan Jewish Center in New York. Other lecturers will be **Rabbi Reuven and Shani Taragin**, who are each very well known on the kosher lecture circuit.

■ POPULAR SINGER-guitarist **David Broza** will perform a benefit concert for the Jaffa Institute at its annual gala dinner on January 13. Well known radio personality **Amnon Pe'er** will conduct an auction to help swell the proceeds of the dinner, which is being held to support children and youth at risk.

■ ISRAEL RADIO'S **Yaron Dekel** was in South Africa last week and accompanied a group of 90 new immigrants to Israel. He returned to Israel just in time to get ready for the Sokolov Prize ceremony taking place on Monday at Tel Aviv's Einav Center.

■ ALTHOUGH RESISTANCE to Greek influence and conquest is detailed in one of the verses of the Hanukka song "Maoz Tzur," it did not deter the powers that be at Jerusalem's Mamilla Mall from inviting famous Grecophile **Shimon Parnas** to host a musical event at the mall during Hanukka. Parnas has hosted the Greek-oriented *Taverna* on television, Greek musical programs on radio and Greek concerts across the country, so of course the flavor was Greek. The mall's owner, Tel Avivian **Alfred Akirov**, came to the capital for the candle-lighting ceremony.

■ TELEVISION MORNING show hosts **Sigal Shahmon** and **Moshe Datz** have parted company. The chemistry between them was never particularly good, and it deteriorated rapidly because she needed heat while he wanted to be cool. Datz insisted on having the air conditioner on in the studio, a factor that caused Shahmon to grow cold toward him. The situation became intolerable when a second air conditioner was installed. When Datz wasn't looking, Shahmon occasionally turned it off, but she still had to bring a heater from home to keep warm. This did not go down well with Datz. In addition, the show's producers were looking for ways to cut costs, so for the foreseeable future Datz will be a solo anchor.

■ IN THE musical comedy *Annie Get Your Gun*, there's a song that starts "Anything you can do, I can do better..." and that apparently is the theme song for the rivalry between **Yediot Aharonot** and **Maariv**. After *Yediot's* endless promotion for its tell-all interview with *Big Brother* winner **Shifra Kornfeld**, *Maariv* came out on the same day with an equally candid interview with runner-up **Yossi Bublil**. In Kornfeld's case, everyone's getting on the bandwagon: Her siblings and her hairdresser have been interviewed, and she's gotten a couple of interesting job offers. Meanwhile, Bublil has also had a couple of offers to boost his income – and considering that he lives in Ashkelon, which is now part of the confrontation line, chances are that more such offers will be forthcoming.