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An added dimension



SENIOR CITIZENS at Nofei Yerushalayim playing table tennis. (Oren Biran)

and in understanding how important that is.”

A founding member of the board of the Jerusalem Foundation as well as a former chairman of the ADL and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, among many other executive positions that he held, Bialkin said that the relationship between the US and Israel cannot be anything but symbiotic, and he sees Jerusalem as “a symbol of humanity, ambition and determination to spread the doctrine for which we know we stand. Jerusalem is the center of modern cultural society.”

GRAPEVINE
• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

What do **Sari Nusseibeh**, Elizabeth Taylor, Isaac Stern, Golda Meir, Arthur Rubinstein, Casper Weinberger, Marlene Dietrich and Willy Brandt have in common? They all appear in historic photographs that are on view at the visitor center at Teddy Park in Jerusalem, which is one of more than 4,000 projects of the Jerusalem Foundation, which was established just over 50 years ago by legendary Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek and **Ruth Cheshin**, who headed the organization for 45 years.

Last week another dimension was added to the visitor center with the inauguration of the Teddy Kollek Digital Archive, which was assembled at the initiative and relentless prodding of American Jewish community leaders **Kenneth** and **Ann Bialkin**. The Bialkins, who had been longtime friends of Kollek and supporters of the Jerusalem Foundation since its inception, were unable to come to Israel in January to mark the 10th anniversary of Kollek’s death, but were able to come toward the end of June, which is why the inauguration ceremony of the digital archives was held last week.

Members of the Jerusalem Foundation executive board admitted that without Kenneth Bialkin’s dedication to the project, it would never have gotten off the ground, and many of the interesting things that they learned about Kollek in the process of compiling the archive would have faded into the dust of history.

Kollek’s son, **Amos Kollek**, an international filmmaker, said that the digital archives are an important means of preserving his father’s name and deeds, because in an Internet age people quickly forget. The implication is that with Google at their fingertips, there’s not much need for people to remember. To a new generation, Ben-Gurion is an international airport, and Begin is the name of a highway, Kollek instanced.

Several speakers noted the cultural institutions that Teddy Kollek had initiated in Jerusalem, saying that they were part of his vision for the city, but his son commented that although Mayor **Nir Barkat** has likewise been encouraging culture, “at the same time he’s encroaching on Arab neighborhoods.”

Most speakers emphasized that Teddy Park, which is frequented by Arabs and Jews from all sectors and every part of Jerusalem, is one of the best examples of Kollek’s vision of a place for all the residents of the city to enjoy in peace and harmony.

Kollek’s daughter, **Osnat**, a talented artist, whose portrait of her father hangs in the visitor center, recalled that she was a small child when her father was first elected. When she asked him what it means to be a mayor, his reply was: “I am the senior street sweeper of Jerusalem.”

Bialkin readily admitted that he had been caught up in the spirit of Kollek’s dedication to making Jerusalem a live and living place. “My dedication cannot compare to what I saw and admired in Teddy and Ruth working as a team,” he said. “They inspired me and helped me in identifying as a Jew

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GRAPEVINE

• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ NOTED EXPERT on the elderly Prof. **Yossi Tamir**, the director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Israel operation, addressed a gathering of some 170-plus diplomats on Wednesday, sponsored by the Israel Mission to the UN as part of the UN's Open-end Working Group on Aging conference. In addition, a photo exhibition – "A New Look at Aging," featuring original, bold and witty photos from photographer **Oren Biran** – gave viewers an inventive glimpse of the vibrant lives of Israeli seniors. **Asher Kleingold**, 87, who was featured in some of the photos, also shared his experiences as an active senior. Biran was also present, as were JDC CEO David **Schizer** and Nofei Yerushalayim senior housing director **Pnina Sulzbacher**, who quoted George Bernard Shaw, who said: "We do not stop playing because we're getting older, we're getting older because we stop playing."

"While there are many challenges that seniors face and innovative solutions that can ensure their independence and dignity," said Tamir, "Oren Biran's photography reminds us above all that the elderly remain keen to stay involved in their communities, and our societies are best served

by welcoming their talents, wisdom and contribution."

The photograph's subjects are all residents of Nofei Yerushalayim in Bayit Vegan. The playful images, reflecting the wistful pleasures and excitement of seniors at play, coupling off and enjoying a party, were aligned with JDC's ongoing efforts in Israel to contribute to changing attitudes toward the elderly and improving and strengthening the self-image of the elderly themselves.