



Dear Friend,

2006, our 80th Anniversary year, has begun in spectacular style. Not only did a Hebrew University Professor win a Nobel prize in Economics, but the University was ranked amongst the world's top 200

universities by the Times Higher Education Supplement (TES). Indeed, it was the only Israeli University mentioned. Furthermore, three of its departments featured in the top 100: 36th in humanities, 54th in social sciences, and 71st in biomedicine. The vogue for surveys is likely to continue and with the Nobel Prize now to be factored in the HU ranking is sure to increase.

These findings reaffirm our belief in the University's excellence and the immense contribution it makes to the improvement of people's lives around the world. Supporting the University means investing in people – students, faculty and researchers – who are committed to transforming lives, alleviating hardship and improving the condition of all humankind.

I would like to draw your attention to an area where the University is in urgent need

of funds: retaining young faculty. As a result of cuts in Israeli postdoctoral grants, most young university faculty members are forced to leave Israel to continue their research at universities abroad. To continue to excel, the University must be able to attract and retain the cream of the talent pool and it is imperative that we enable them to stay at the Hebrew University to continue their invaluable work. Your support helps the University nurture and encourage its greatest assets – its teachers and students.

Thank you all,

Michael J Gee
Chairman

Happy Birthday BFHU!

We are celebrating our 80th birthday and to mark the occasion, this year we will be highlighting the extraordinary richness of the British contribution to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. You will find highlights in this newsletter but more will be featured in our exciting new website to be launched shortly.

British Friends were instrumental in establishing the University, and since the charity was founded in 1926, have provided scholarships for disadvantaged students, supported research projects and encouraged young British students to study at the University.

This year our Legal Friends are supporting the Street Law Programme which will feature in their mission to the University in May led by Baroness Ruth Deech when she will deliver the Lionel Cohen Lecture. The Cultural Friends worked closely with the University's Stephen Spielberg Film archive to produce a short film "Once Lost, Now Found". After a sell-out Gala screening at Everyman Cinema, the film will now be



shown in Everyman cinemas around the country. The Glasgow Friends hosted Professor Elliot Berry of the School of Public Health who so enthused them with his talk "Food & Mood" that they have decided to support a scholarship programme for 3 years.

Students need support in many different ways and with over 70% coming from outside Jerusalem, housing is an acute

problem. The New Student Village is rising so rapidly, it is currently TWO years ahead of schedule and, when complete, will provide modern housing for 1,800 students. The entire project is the brain-child of Fred Worms OBE, the previous chair of our Student and Alumni Committee. I hope that you will support our 'Brick by Brick' campaign for the establishment of the British Building; we are already half-way to achieving this aim so every single brick really counts.

I would like to thank everyone involved in raising money for our cause. It is only with the support of our staff, trustees, committees and donors that we can continue to raise awareness of the University's positive contribution and its immense impact on the world.

Wendy Pollecoff
Executive Director

Focus on Giving

A marathon fund-raising for the Jonny Fraser Memorial Scholarship



Jonny Fraser lost his life tragically at the age of 21, trying to save the life of his drowning friend on a backpacking expedition across India. Though his life was short, Jonny lived it to the full and packed it with interest and achievement.

Jonny made full use of all the opportunities his education offered him. He had a profound belief in individuals and their power to change the world for the better. In his memory, his family has established the Jonny Fraser Memorial Scholarship Fund to help students from the developing world, especially Africa, to attend the Hebrew University and study medicine, animal welfare, agriculture and

social work. The Frasers believe the Fund will provide practical help and empower these students to improve their local communities once they return home.

One of Jonny's closest friends, Daniel Grant from Pinner, pictured right, will run the Flora London Marathon on April 23rd to raise money for the Jonny Fraser Memorial Scholarship Fund. Daniel is currently following a strict training regime, and hopes to run the gruelling 26-mile course in under 4 hours, beating his time in last year's event. He has already raised over £4,000 – placing him amongst the top 10 fundraisers nationally – and is looking to raise a lot more.

Daniel and Jonny were great friends at school and university. "Jonny was so kind. You could always speak to him and he always made you feel wanted. This scholarship is the fulfillment of a dream for Jonny who just always wanted to help people."

If you would like to sponsor Daniel, visit the Marathon's official website www.justgiving.com/jonnyfraser



Alternatively, to find out more about the Fund or to make a contribution directly to the British Friends, call **Alison Friend t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk**

Book your place to help libraries

University libraries are in urgent need of renovation and funding for books. The table (right) shows the annual expenditure on library material by the HU in comparison to universities in the United States. It is clear that the HU lags behind in terms of library spending – Harvard, the leading university in the USA, spends over 500% more, to service 20% fewer students. Even Iowa, a second-tier university with an equivalent-sized student body, spends twice as much.

The University is looking to refurbish every single one of its outdated libraries over the next few years. Your investment now will go a long way in supporting this project.

University	Number of Students	Total spent on library material/yr \$ 000's
Harvard	18,884	25,647
Iowa	22,662	10,320
Hebrew University	22,240	5,075

Adopt a Village



Seventy per cent of students studying at the Hebrew University come from outside Jerusalem.

Having first completed their military service, these students are faced with the financial burden of tuition fees and housing expenses. The new Scopus Student Village addresses their long overdue housing needs and alleviates their financial burden, through fixed rents at reasonable rates.

The Scopus Student Village, within walking distance of the Mount Scopus campus, will comprise 1,500 air-

conditioned rooms in 11 Jerusalem stone buildings overlooking the Old City and the Judean Hills. All rooms are equipped with high-speed internet connection and 'smart wiring' to cut down on electricity use. The complex will also serve Rothberg's international students and is conveniently located near the shops, cafes and other amenities of the French Hill.

The Village will provide housing for 1,800 students. Most students will live in apartments of three to five bedrooms with shared kitchen, dining room and

bathrooms. There are also a number of two-bedroom apartments for married couples and young families.

The British Friends are raising funds for one of the central buildings in the complex, appropriately named 'Britannia House'. Help us create a better place for the leaders of Israel's next generation. Contact **Alison Friend t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk**

Jacquie's Living Legacy



The British Friends of the Hebrew University rely on the generosity of their legacy benefactors to support key projects at the University. We realise that behind every legacy lies a story – often an incredibly personal and poignant one – and sometimes very unexpected. Jacquie Ricketts, pictured on the right, who has left a legacy to the Hebrew University to honour her father's memory, agreed to share hers.

Rediscovering Jacquie's roots

Jacquie lost her father when she was young. After his death, her mother remarried and all evidence of him disappeared from the house; his name was never mentioned. Nevertheless, Jacquie held his memory close and in time researched her family history at the Records Office. It was there that she discovered he was Jewish.

Jacquie's journey to Judaism

Jacquie decided to rekindle her faith and began the process of conversion at London's Sternberg Centre. Through her study, she learned about the British Friends and about the Legacy Tour; she decided to take the opportunity to visit Israel for the first time and recognise her father's contribution to her education and conversion. "It was a wonderful experience – the holiday of a lifetime," said Jacquie. "I made great friends. I felt closer to Israel. Seeing everything happen made me feel part of the Jewish family."

The future?

"You don't always know where your money is going when you give to charity, but the legacy idea is marvellous. You see your money in action." With the help and support of Avril Fleishman at the British Friends, Jacquie has now completed her conversion with the ritual of mikveh.

We are grateful for Jacquie's support and hope that the dedication to her father on the Hebrew University Wall of Honour on Mount Scopus is a fitting tribute to a clearly inspirational man.

For information on the BFHU 2006 Legacy Tour to Jerusalem, June 9-15, contact Avril Fleishman t: 020 7691 1471 or e: avril.fleishman@fhu.org.uk

Focus on Health

A little culture goes a long way

Hebrew University medical researchers have revealed a surprising way to combat infection caused by the hospital superbug MRSA: it appears that the live bacterium found in yoghurt could be used as the key ingredient in an antiseptic.

According to Professor Mark Spigelman, microbiology specialist at the Hebrew University, "using friendly bacteria... as an antiseptic may prevent the spread of bacteria resistant to antibiotics and dramatically improve infection control in hospitals."



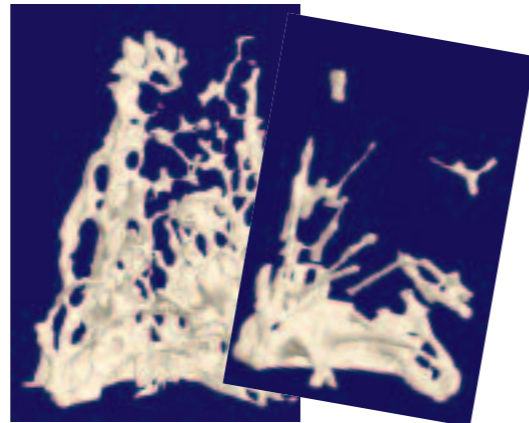
MRSA is an organism resistant to many known antibiotics and is transferred quickly through direct body contact. It stays on skin, clothing or equipment with no apparent effect. However, once it gets under the skin or into the lungs, it can cause severe infections including pneumonia. Its prominence has recently been highlighted around the globe as a link between MRSA infection and rising hospital deaths has been confirmed. Patients are more vulnerable to its effects because their immune systems are already weakened. Although it is unlikely that we will see doctors administering yoghurt to their hands any time soon, this is a step towards controlling a highly developed disease in a simple and effective way.

HU team develop a possible cure for osteoporosis (naturally)

Hebrew University researchers have developed a natural method to prevent the leading cause of bone fragility in humans. The team from the Bone Laboratory, led by Professor Itai Bab, aims to treat osteoporosis using substances automatically produced by the body.

The method centres on a previously untapped nerve receptor located in the immune system. The HU team discovered a high level of these new receptors in bone and linked their presence to retention of bone density. By stimulating these receptors, the research team showed that they could encourage the body to continue building new bone and stop bone loss: the first step towards developing a new drug to counter osteoporosis.

Since their initial study, the research team has gone on to develop a new synthetic compound, HU-308, to activate the receptor. It has already been shown to slow the development of osteoporosis in mice. In early results from the next stage of testing, HU-308 has been shown to be an effective anti-osteoporotic, free of any psychological side effects attributed to other drug treatments.



Atox Bio baffles bioterrorists

A research grant in the field of biodefence has been awarded by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), to HU Prof. Raymond Kaempfer, for the development of a broadly effective drug against potential agents of bioterrorism. The review panel has termed the research unique in the world.

Superantigens are deadly toxins produced by staphylococcal and streptococcal bacteria that even in very low amounts can incapacitate humans, posing a bioterror threat. These toxins are also responsible for a majority of fatal toxic and septic shock cases, yet no drug or vaccine against them is available. The toxins released by these bacteria are insensitive to antibiotics.

The new drug for biodefence will be developed in collaboration with Atox Bio, a company established by Yissum, the Technology Transfer Company of the Hebrew University, which holds the license to the intellectual property.

According to Uri Danon, CEO, Atox Bio, "The grant will fund development of the drug for biodefence, using a shortened pathway towards US Food and Drug Administration approval. It will require only the completion of Phase I clinical trials for licensure and will be quickly on the market."



Could cannabis stop cancer?

PhD student Natalya Kogan, left, a winner of the 2005 Kaye Innovation Awards, has shown that derivatives of the cannabis plant are effective in stopping cancerous growths.

Kogan's newly developed compounds – "quinonoid cannabinoids" – not only inhibit cancer growth as effectively as existing chemotherapy but, by acting more selectively on cancerous cells, they appear to have fewer side-effects. But that's not all – one of Kogan's new cannabinoids was found not just to stop new growth, but to actively reduce tumour size – a new step towards successful anti-cancer drugs.

Kogan's research demonstrates clearly how prizes such as the Kaye Innovation Awards are so important in fuelling continued excellence and creativity around the University. British pharmaceutical industrialist Isaac Kaye established the Awards in 1994, which are given annually to faculty, staff and students within the University, to develop innovations with strong commercial potential and whose social benefit outstrips the award's mere monetary value.

Johnson & Johnson joins forces with the Hebrew University

On 9th February 2006 Johnson & Johnson, the international pharmaceuticals firm, launched a new research fund together with the Hebrew University's technology transfer company, Yissum. The fund will identify, encourage and nurture innovative research ideas at the University. Students whose projects have the potential to become major scientific breakthroughs will be honoured with endowments; to keep the net as wide as possible, a panel of representatives from J&J, the University and Yissum will consider the potential projects.

During the launch Professor Hervé Bercovier, vice-president for HU's research and development, outlined the first research proposals that have been submitted to the fund and Professors Hermona Soreq and Howard Cedar gave updates on the work being undertaken in their own fields. The first recipients of the fund are expected to be announced shortly.

Johnson & Johnson

Focus on Community

Magnificent Seven boost Europe's largest Jewish educational event

As part of a line-up that included some of the world's leading Jewish educators, the British Friends hosted 7 eminent professors from the Hebrew University to address this year's Limmud Conference, the largest Jewish educational event in Europe. Held at Nottingham University, it attracted over 2,000 people from Britain, Israel and the rest of the world, with diverse Jewish backgrounds, as well as representatives from other faith communities including Islam.

The British Friends had a prominent position at the Conference, displaying the exhibition of Einstein's life around the walls of the café area and hosting a cocktail evening for conference delegates to 'Meet the Professors'. The faculty members, from across the University's departments, met with unprecedented approval from delegates and fellow educators alike and many were voted amongst the favourites of the 350 presenters.



BFHU staff were on hand throughout the conference to meet potential students and show the variety of programmes on offer and, hopefully, the Friends' partnership with Limmud will continue to grow. BFHU plans to continue the relationship with Limmud by supporting their Day Limmud events throughout the country, as well as Limmudfest, the annual family-friendly August bank holiday retreat. For more details on Limmud, visit their website at www.limmud.org

Grape Expectations Food & Mood

In February, Professor Elliot Berry shared the secrets of a good diet with a packed theatre at ORT House. As the Hebrew University's resident expert on eating disorders and Dean of the University's Braun School of Public Health, Professor Berry won the approval of the entire audience by explaining why merely "eating a little less" and "doing more exercise" were the only keys to losing weight and staying healthy. Much of Professor Berry's recent work has centred around how diet affects outlook, for instance, a "Mediterranean diet" rich in fruit and vegetables can reduce stress, and antioxidants found in chocolate, tea, wine and grape juice can improve positive feelings. Professor Berry admitted that he preferred wine to the other options, since "it's more fun than grape juice".

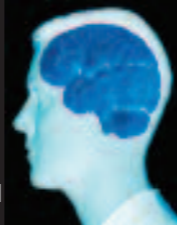


Hebrew University found at Everyman Cinema

Friends Culture Group organised 'Once Lost, Now Found' – a rare collection of film clips from the earliest days of Jewish settlement in Palestine, shown courtesy of the Spielberg Film Archive at the Hebrew University, captured a mesmerised full house at the Everyman Cinema in Hampstead at the end of March. The archive footage was edited by one of the world's most versatile filmmakers Julian Doyle. His credits include editing Monty Python's 'Life of Brian' and 'The Meaning of Life' as well as creating the special effects for Terry Gilliam's 'Brazil'.

Marilyn Koolik, former curator of the Archives, gave fascinating insights into the life of early Jewish communities in Israel and explained how the work at the University was pivotal in preserving films of Jewish heritage and keeping Jewish culture alive and flourishing. The evening's success has led to BFHU and the Everyman joining forces to take the film to cinemas around the country; look out for more information soon.

Art and the Brain



The British Friends treated 200 patrons to an evening of creativity and champagne at the British Academy last December. President Emeritus, Professor Hanoch Gutfreund, shared fascinating insights on the brain's capacity to appreciate aesthetics – the result of a uniquely innovative study recently carried out at the HU's award-winning Interdisciplinary Centre for Neural Computation (ICNC) on the relationship between creativity and the mind. The outcome of the unique encounter between 10 of Israel's leading artists and 10 leading researchers and professors from ICNC, declared by the EU as a Centre of Excellence, culminated in the monograph Art and the Brain. One of the 80 handmade limited edition prints featured in the book was on display.

To sum up a stimulating evening, BFHU Chairman Michael Gee said: "Art and the Brain demonstrates the ingenuity of HU's researchers, their ability to cross disciplines and so strive towards informing all of us. We would like to thank all those donors who attended for their invaluable support of the Hebrew University."

BFHU meets thousands at Ally Pally ZF Israel Expo

Along with six other leading Anglo-Jewish organisations, BFHU supported the Zionist Federation's high-profile Israel Expo. Alexandra Palace welcomed several thousand visitors on a clear mid-November Sunday to sample Israel's sights, sounds, smells and tastes, and heard from Shoshana Bloom, our Student Affairs Co-ordinator, about study opportunities at the Hebrew University. By supporting Israel events like the Expo, we raise awareness of the University to a broad audience and help people who miss out on our mailings discover the range of opportunities on offer. If you know someone who would be interested in joining 24,000 other students next semester at the Hebrew University, call **Shoshana Bloom t: 020 7691 1478** or visit our w: www.fhu.org.uk



Memoirs are made of this

Geisha expert, Lesley Downer treated a British Friends audience to an insight on the secret history of the vanishing world of the geisha.

A private screening of the highly acclaimed film "Memoirs of a Geisha", at The Screen On Baker Street, helped the British Friends raise thirteen hundred pounds for student scholarships at the University.

BFHU's spokeswoman Mikki Saperia said: "This is just one of our events to raise money for disadvantaged students at the Hebrew University. We are looking forward to our next Japanese themed event to reflect the great work that the University contributes to in East Asia."

Last November, BFHU sponsored four Hebrew University students to the Leeds biennial 'Together for Peace' Festival. The students, together with invited students from Leeds University and Palestinian higher education institutions, participated in forums with the aim of encouraging dialogue and greater understanding. "It was great to hear different views on the issues and let people know ours," said Avishai Bar Asher, a Hebrew University philosophy undergraduate.

The festival aims to bring Leeds' wide-ranging religious and social communities together and encourage dialogue. Along with the HU students, invitees also included representatives from the Leeds Inter-Faith Forum, a representative from the Jewish-Arab Peace Organisation, based in Givat Haviva, Leeds University academics and local MPs. A successful antidote to the academic boycott in the UK, the BFHU hopes to repeat the event and continue to spread awareness of the Hebrew University's incredibly multicultural student body.

Leeds Festival for Peace



Einstein's godson at Jewish Museum



The godson of Albert Einstein, now living in Switzerland, revealed his family's close relationship with Einstein, during a private viewing of the Albert Einstein: Man of the Century exhibition at the Jewish Museum organised by the British Friends of the Hebrew University.

Einstein was the sandek (godfather) at Mischa Battsek's brit. While he was growing up, Einstein sent him books which Mischa has since donated to the National Library at the Hebrew University. Mischa mentioned his father who studied with Einstein and left Europe with him. Later they worked together to bring Russian refugees to Israel.

After viewing the exhibition, he praised it and felt it identified important themes of Einstein's work.

The British Friends will shortly be taking the exhibition around the UK into schools, universities and other cultural and community centres. If you are interested in bringing the exhibition to your region, please contact **Jason Caplin** t: 020 7691 1477 or e: jason.caplin@fhu.org.uk

BFHU brings Nobel Laureate Robert Aumann to London

Professor Robert John Aumann has become the fifth Hebrew University alumnus and the second faculty member, to receive a Nobel Prize in the past four years. Aumann received his honour in the field of Economics, for "having enhanced our understanding of conflict and co-operation through Game Theory analysis".

Professor Aumann was invited by the British Friends for a one-day fund-raising visit on 5 April. He met with Goldman Sachs and the London School of Economics and attracted significant media interest.

Now officially retired from the University, he still works tirelessly to raise funds for the Centre for Rationality and Interactive Decision Theory which he helped found in 1991. We look forward to welcoming him back in the Autumn.

Provincial Groups

Glasgow Friends of the Hebrew University displayed the Einstein Exhibition in March at the elegant Garnethill Synagogue. It will also visit other groups around the country such as Leicester. The exhibition provided a focus for the Friends to encourage schools, local community groups and others to learn about Einstein, his life and works and the HU to which he left his entire legacy. For further details about existing Provincial Groups or if you would like to start one in your area, contact **Alison Friend** t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk

EVENTS DIARY

Tours

Legal Group Tour

Sunday 28 May – Wednesday 31 May
Join Baroness Deech who will deliver the annual Lionel Cohen Lecture – "Student Complaints: A New Area of Higher Education Law"
Contact Alison Friend t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk

American Friends Tour London & Israel

Monday 5 June – Thursday 14 June
'In the footsteps of the Rothschilds'
Contact Jo Goldfine t: 020 7691 1473 or e: jo.goldfine@fhu.org.uk

International Friends Meeting – Board of Governors

9-15 June at the Hebrew University
Contact Alison Friend t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk

Living Legacy VIP Tour

9-15 June in Jerusalem
Contact Avril Fleishman t: 020 7691 1471 or e: avril.fleishman@fhu.org.uk

Women's Group Tour

9-14 November
Contact Alison Friend t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk

All tours are open to any Friend. We hope you will find them of interest.

Social

80th Anniversary Celebration Appeal Party

Wednesday 7 June, Banqueting House
Contact Jo Goldfine t: 020 7691 1473 or e: jo.goldfine@fhu.org.uk

Annual Legal Dinner with Baroness Deech

Tues 31 October 2006, Middle Temple Hall
Contact Alison Friend t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk

Women's Group

June 2006 – Visit to the Fan Museum, Greenwich

September 2006 – Make-up demonstration
Contact Alison Friend t: 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk

Culture

'The Dead Fiddler'

Sunday 7 May 2006 @ 2.30pm
New End Theatre, Hampstead
Contact Avril Fleishman t: 020 7691 1471 or e: avril.fleishman@fhu.org.uk

Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society in association with BFHU

Monday 15 May
'A Second Temple Burial Answers Modern Medical Questions'
Talk by Prof Spigelman from the Kuvim Centre at the HU
Contact Alison Friend 020 7691 1476 or e: alison.friend@fhu.org.uk

Tate to Tate

Sunday 9 July 2006 @ 1.30pm
Tour of Tate Britain & river cruise on the Thames and tour of Tate Modern
Contact Avril Fleishman t: 020 7691 1471 or e: avril.fleishman@fhu.org.uk