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“The AICF has been a wonderful source of funding to further the development of talented Israeli individuals and various arts organizations.... I urge everyone to support it. May it continue for many more decades!”

—Pinchas Zukerman

Photograph copyright Mr. Takashi Orii

Michal Rovner
Aviv Awardee
Weave, Tokyo, 2006
installation view
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FROM THE DESKS OF . . .

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF DRAMATIC CHANGE FOR THE AMERICA-ISRAEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION. We are fortunate to have several new board members and a young and energetic professional staff. Together, they are building on the legacy of Vera Stern’s long and devoted leadership.

We have begun to reach out to over ten thousand alumni who have benefited from AICF over the past years. This revitalized connection will help spread the story of AICF’s long history and important place in Israel’s artistic life. Contacts have been established through the US, and we hope to involve many of you in supporting AICF’s mission fostering the creative arts in Israel.

Chapters in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Cincinnati, and a revitalized San Diego are currently planning exciting events showcasing young scholarship recipients embarking on careers in music and art. AICF will be a truly national fund raising organization benefiting Israeli students and institutions in the arts.

Internally, the staff has updated our mission statement, upgraded the technology, modernized procedures and brought an overall vibrancy to the Foundation. They have made an already superb organization more accessible for those who appreciate the unique objectives of AICF.

AICF is the only institution that provides extensive assistance to young Israelis with study scholarships. Throughout the broad spectrum of the arts, over one thousand students annually benefit from the generosity of our donors. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Your help nurtures the soul of Israel.

Come and experience the joy of hearing our AICF scholars perform at the Annual Gala Concert. Please join us at the 92nd Street Y, NYC on Sunday, November 11, 2007 at 2pm.

With All Best Wishes,
— BILL SCHWARTZ, PRESIDENT

www.aicf.org
Our new website has been launched. Come learn more about the AICF, and how we support Israel’s arts and culture.

IN MEMORIAM
Among many loyal friends of AICF, sadly we note the passing of:

Claudine Belmont  Renee Kay
Irma Colen  Paul C. Nevitt
Fred Cowan  Sally Pearce
Phyllis Hirschfeld  Arthur N. Reicher
Charlotte Karlen  Seymour A. Rosenthal
Ena S. Karlsberg  Jerome Sachs

Leon Sloss  Virginia Sloss
Jeanette Solomon  Anne-Marie Steinberg
Elisabeth Tamari

America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Inc.
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**Celebrate Israel with the America-Israel Cultural Foundation**

**Here at the AICF we take pride in being the largest private supporter of Israel’s emerging cultural icons and institutions for the past 68 years. Going forward, we will continue to enhance our programs and sponsorship commitments.**

By nurturing young artists we ensure that every generation of Israelis grows up with the cultural support needed to balance the day-to-day political difficulties surrounding the State of Israel. Our artists often discuss with us how they can develop new opportunities in Israel for their artistic pursuits, and we remain committed to creating a flourishing cultural climate.

Over 1850 applicants auditioned for scholarships this year. We expect to grant 600 new scholarships and 14 abroad scholarships allowing artists to study at leading schools worldwide. In July we opened our 9th Annual Artic Exhibition in Tel Aviv, featuring over 120 young Art & Design recipients.

Recently we have begun major efforts to increase the influence of Israeli culture throughout the US. Our national expansion starts in New York, where we will hold a series of concerts and openings throughout the year. Make sure to catch Israeli Jazz at Joe’s Pub, concerts and celebrations of Israeli culture, and art openings and events throughout the New York area, including New Jersey, Westchester, and the Hamptons.

In addition to exciting new events planned by our dynamic Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles Chapters, young Israeli artists will perform in many new cities across the country — bringing Israeli arts and culture to a much wider audience. In 2008, look for musical performances in these and additional areas: Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Florida, and throughout California.

Please take a look at our new website and contact us if you’d like to learn more about this leading organization so integral to Israel’s cultural continuity and growth. The America Israel Cultural Foundation turns 70 in 2009. We hope that you’ll join us in celebration and continue to support our abiding commitment to Israeli Culture.

— **GIDEON PAZ AND DAVID HOMAN**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, ISRAEL AND USA**

(top to bottom) Band leader Rafi Malkiel, the David Glukh Klezmer Ensemble, Ensemble Nobile with mandolinist Avi Avital. Look for all three groups to perform next year at AICF events around the US.
Bar and Bat Mitzvah Giving Project

Today’s teens and their families embrace philanthropy as a meaningful part of their Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience. One of the many ways to integrate the concept of mitzvah as a Jewish young adult is by supporting Israel’s talented young artists.

Through our new giving project, Bar and Bat Mitzvah candidates can establish an AICF scholarship in their name for a similarly aged teen in Israel. This scholarship supports whichever artistic discipline inspires them personally: music, theatre, dance, film & television, or art & design.

A 13-year old violinist in Boston named Ben embraced this program as part of his own Bar Mitzvah experience. He was paired with Daniel Askerov, a gifted young violinist who lives in Beit Shemesh, Israel. Ben and his parents created a scholarship for Daniel, raising funds through friends and family. Their generosity and kindness brought about a meaningful bond that connects Ben and his family not only to Daniel, but to the heartfelt expression of tzedakah.

Although household names today, Itzhak Perlman, Menashe Kadishman, and Yefim Bronfman were once unknown artists with great passion and potential. They were able to achieve so much partly because of an AICF scholarship made available to them when they needed it most. For as little as $1800, a scholarship can be established in your name or the names of your children or grandchildren.

To learn more or to get involved in establishing a scholarship – please visit our new website at www.aicf.org or contact the New York office by phone: 212-557-1600 or e-mail: info@aicf.org

“Dear Ben,
I’m writing in order to express my appreciation. I believe that I will be a professional violinist and I intend to learn seriously. For now I’m continuing studying at the Academy High School of Music and Dance in Jerusalem. I will do my best in order to fulfill your trust and help by learning truthfully and seriously.

Sincerely yours,
Daniel”

AICF recipients Shira Mani and Yael Kleiman were recently accepted to the New World Symphony fellowship program.
I will dare say that the world of Israeli culture and, as a result Israeli society, owes a debt of gratitude to the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. The America-Israel Cultural Foundation is a central and indispensable partner with the Office of Cultural Affairs, which I head. The Foundation strengthens Israeli culture and exposes Israel’s culture beyond its borders.

The AICF, older than the State of Israel itself, has been an essential force in the creation of Israel’s cultural landscape. Through the extraordinary vision of its founders, AICF has supported Israel’s most prominent cultural institutions and nurtured new generations of artists throughout the decades. Some of the early beneficiaries of AICF support are now national treasures and continue to be in the vanguard of Israel’s cultural scene – to name just a few: the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Habimah Theater, and the Batsheva Dance Company.

Israel produces generations of talented, fully motivated artists in numbers that are beyond proportional comparison to many other nations. However, young artists need the opportunity to train, study, and improve their skills. They are in need of support to assist them in realizing their potential. In its 68 years of existence, AICF has funded tens of thousands of young Israeli artists to study and hone their talents in the most prestigious schools, with the finest mentors. If many conversations heard in the halls of Juilliard are carried on in Hebrew, it is due to the continuous activities of AICF. The top echelon of Israeli artists, artists who have achieved international acclaim, owes a great deal to AICF for being there at a pivotal time in their careers.

—YORAM MORAD
Cultural Attaché in the USA
Office of Cultural Affairs
Consulate General of Israel in New York

“AICF’s jazz night was fantastic. You won’t want to miss the next one!”
—Yoram Morad

Israeli Jazz at Joe’s Pub

Avishai Cohen (top) and Eli Degibri (bottom) played to a sold out crowd at AICF’s first Israeli Jazz Night at Joe’s Pub in August. Look for the next Jazz Night over the Winter, followed by America’s first Israeli Jazz Festival in the Spring.
To Our Beloved 
Vera Stern, with gratitude:

Your dedication to AICF has meant support for thousands of artists in the State of Israel for over 43 years. By helping countless individual artists and nurturing the rich cultural life of Israel, your legacy will continue for generations. We applaud you as our new Chair Emerita, and we thank you on behalf of all those whom you have helped.

Pinchas Zukerman has been recognized as a phenomenon for nearly four decades. His musical genius and prodigious technique have long been a marvel to critics and audiences, and his exceptional artistic standards continue to earn him the highest acclaim. His devotion to younger generations of musicians who are inspired by his magnetism has been applauded worldwide. Equally respected as a violinist, violist, conductor, pedagogue, and chamber musician, Pinchas Zukerman is indeed a master of our time.

“AICF has been a wonderful source of funding to further the development of talented Israeli individuals and various arts organizations. Over the last 68 years it has continued to be a vital source of help on many cultural levels. I urge everyone who has had the good fortune to be in contact with this organization to support it and give back to it. It is an important success and I endorse the dedicated work of so many individuals who understand the importance of culture in our society. May it continue for many more decades.”

—Pinchas Zukerman
Outstanding Musicians at Our 68th Gala

Mezzo Soprano **Maya Lahyani** was born in Israel in 1982. She started her musical training at the Petach-Tikva Conservatory and served as a soldier-musician in the IDF. Maya received her Bachelor of Music from Mannes College and currently studies there for her Masters degree. She has been a member of the Mannes Opera since 2005, where she sang the roles of Frugola in Puccini’s *Il Tabarro* and Cherubino in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Maya has taken part in the International Opera Summer Program in Tel-Aviv, directed by Miss Joan Dornemann, since 2004. She has been awarded scholarships from AICF since 1998.

Pianist **Benjamin Hochman** is achieving widespread acclaim for his performances as orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. He is also a recipient of AICF Scholarships. He is an imaginatively mature artist with an innate ability to combine beauty of line within the overall shape of a piece. Mr. Hochman has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras, Seattle Symphony, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra under eminent conductors such as Jaime Laredo, Jun Märkl, Bramwell Tovey, and Pinchas Zukerman.

The **Ariel String Quartet**, recent Grand Prize winners of the Fischoff Prize, was founded in 1998. They were initially coached by venerated teacher and violinist Avi Abramovich. Since 2004, the group, a New England Conservatory Honors Ensemble, has been under the tutelage of Paul Katz, Martha Katz, Kim Kashkashian, and others teachers at NEC. They were First Prize winners in the international competition “Franz Schubert and the Music of Modernity” in Graz, Austria, 2003, and in 2004 they received the audience prize at the “Aviv” competition, Tel Aviv.

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Annual Gala Concert 2007
68 years supporting the arts in Israel

**November 11, 2007**
Sunday 2:00 PM at the 92nd Street Y
Kaufmann Concert Hall on Lexington Avenue

**Featuring Pinchas Zukerman**
King Solomon Award: William F. Baker, President Channel 13
Aviv Award: Michal Rovner, Artist

THANK YOU Lena Shinkov, 2007 Gala invitation design competition winner
hundreds of artists throughout the world have been featured on these pro-
grams, including many AICF alumni - especially on WLIW21, the sis-
ter station. Many educational segments of Channel 13 have been used as
classroom tools by teachers, and PBS was named the most trusted public
institution and news source in America according to a recent Roper Study.
William Baker is the most visible face of PBS in New York.
Mr. Baker has been the recipient of 7 Emmy awards, holds honorary
Doctorates from Fordham, The New School, Seton Hall, and Long Is-
land University, and has guest lectured at many universities, including the
University of San Diego, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale. Additional
awards include the New York International Film Festival Award, the RCA
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An Academy of the Arts and Sciences Fellow and recent winner (2007)
of the Lincoln Center Institute Mark Schubart Award, Mr. Baker has also
published books and articles on varied subjects, including broadcasting and
television, photography, Antarctica (he has traveled to both poles), and light
houses. He has helped launch the Discovery Channel, Disney Channel,
and Oprah Winfrey. He has been described as a visionary, an outstanding
leader in both public and commercial television, a “man of diverse interests
which [he] pursues with such eagerness and depth,” and as “unique in the
industry.”

Mr. Baker has a B.A., M.A., and PhD from Case Western University. He
has two children with his wife Jeannemarie. It is an honor to present to him
our King Solomon Award for his leadership and philanthropic activities on
behalf of the continuance of the arts.

William F. Baker, CEO of WNET
Channel 13, has led the most watched
public TV station in the US, with 6.2
million viewers monthly. Channel 13
is the largest producer of cultural and
arts programming in America.

Hundreds of artists throughout the world have been featured on these pro-
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houses. He has helped launch the Discovery Channel, Disney Channel,
“AICF supported me in the moments when I needed their help the most. These were the years that I started creating independently, the years that I was already in New York, totally unknown and struggling. Meira Geyra called me out of the blue, reminding me that this scholarship fund exists and it was there for me. And suddenly, a short while afterwards, the fund arrived that lifted me up at a specific point, both spiritually and financially.” —Michal Rovner

Michal Rovner was born in Israel and since 1988 has had a studio in New York. Her work — in video, film, sound, sculpture, paper, and canvas — has been the subject of more than 40 solo exhibitions. This fall, Rovner is taking part in an exhibition of modern and contemporary sculpture: Beyond Limits, a Sotheby’s exhibition at the Chatsworth House in England, will be on view from September 8 – November 4, 2007.

Rovner’s major exhibitions include a mid-career retrospective at the Whitney Museum in New York in 2002; the highly acclaimed exhibition at the Israeli Pavilion, Venice Biennale, 2003; PaceWildenstein Gallery, New York; Jeu de Paume, Paris; the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tate Gallery, London; and the Chicago Art Institute.

In 1997 Rovner completed the film Border, shot along the border of Israel and Lebanon, which premiered at the Museum of Modern Art, New York and the Tate Gallery, London. In 2001, a collaboration with composer Philip Glass resulted in a film entitled Notes. In addition, Rovner has created multiple site specific video installations including: Overhang (2000), a site-specific installation at the Chase Manhattan Bank on Park Avenue in New York City; and Weave, a projection on the entire facade of Chanel buildings (architect Peter Marino) in Tokyo, Osaka, and Hong Kong.

In 2005 Rovner was given the opportunity to create her first work for the new historical museum at Yad Vashem. She created Living Landscape, a permanent 12-meter high video wall, which restores and reconstructs footage depicting pre-war Jewish life. Her second work for Yad Vashem, To Be a Human Being, was created for the exhibition, Spots of Light: To Be a Woman in the Holocaust. This work was based on a group interview conducted with ten female Holocaust survivors.

Over the past decade, Rovner has developed a vocabulary using highly kinetic images to evoke a world teetering between reality and illusion. Empowering these visual elements, she composes her work much the way an author uses words and phrases to compose prose or verse. These assemblies coalesce to reveal the most fundamental human themes, giving them tangible form even as the subjects themselves dissolve towards the edge of abstraction.

Rovner had her initial solo show in 1987 in Tel Aviv. It was at this time that the AICF first supported her, when she was struggling to establish recognition for her unique voice, and before she had received international acclaim. Rovner was the recipient of five successive grants which helped her to develop and realize her artistic vision, furthering her close relationship with the AICF and its Artistic Director, Meira Geyra.

The AICF is proud to present Michal Rovner with our Aviv Award in recognition for her achievements in the Arts.
ARTS

In the Words of Renowned Alumni

MENASHE KADISHMAN
“The America-Israel Cultural Foundation is like a spring of pure water. Everything is done with love for Israeli art and culture. Who are we without the art? We are grateful to all the people who are devoted to AICF and its cause. Without it we are blind.”

JOSEPH KALICHSTEIN
“What a joy it will be to salute AICF on its big anniversary coming up! It is not possible to overstate what the Foundation (“HAKEREN,” to all Israeli artists) meant—and continues to mean—to aspiring gifted Israeli kids. So many of my colleagues, and even a larger number of younger musicians I have taught and listened to were touched by AICF, and so many of these careers would have never bloomed or even existed without it. To be that influential in the lives of so many extraordinary people is truly a rare and blessed thing. We all cherish you!”

BOAZ VAADIA
“As an Israeli born sculptor who grew up on a farm, I was inspired by the nature around me. I work with nature as an equal partner, that’s still the strongest thing I deal with today, that primal connection of man to earth. It’s in the materials I use, the environments I make and the way I work. The AICF supported me early on in my career, when it really counts, which enabled me to come to NYC and pursue my passion. Throughout my entire career I have been thankful to the AICF for this support. It marked a pivotal point in my life and was instrumental in leading to my success. To this day, I still carry a deep appreciation for the AICF.”

MARGALIT OVED
“Once the America-Israel Cultural Foundation discovered our presence, Inbal Dance Theatre performed at the major theatres of Europe. This was followed by 5 weeks of sold-out performances at the Martin Beck Theatre on Broadway and throughout the United States. AICF’s support allowed us to express the artistry of the Yemenite Jews, a culture that the world wanted to see and hear. After the world premiere in New York City, members of the audience rushed out onto Broadway and danced the Hora.”

OHAD NAHARIN
“The contribution of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation to the lives of so many artists is unique. In the most fragile times of our lives as young artists, we found support, understanding, and caring that made a huge difference in our careers.”

Special thanks to Susan Zanger for her help in the creation of this newsletter.
Get Involved Through Giving

The amount of artistic talent in Israel is limitless. This talent, the very food for Israel’s cultural soul, needs your support.

**Named Scholarship:** Make a difference in a young artist’s life and establish a connection with him/her that will last a lifetime. A donation of $1,800 funds a student’s studies for one year. You will receive a personal letter and biography from your student, allowing you to correspond and feel the impact of your contribution.

**Annual Campaign:** Donations of any amount go towards our varied programs throughout the arts. Every dollar goes a long way to support Israel’s talented youth.

**Become a Partner**
For every $1,800 you give, another young Israeli artist is supported.

- **Governor** $25,000 12 named scholarships
- **Benefactor** $10,000 6 named scholarships
- **Fellow** $5,400 3 named scholarships
- **Patron** $1,800 1 named scholarship
- **Supporter** other amount

**Endowments**
Given in amounts of $25,000 or more, endowments can be created as designated by the donor for specific scholarships or programs. The AICF has funded several generations of Israeli artists and endowments help establish a legacy of Israeli artists for years to come.

**Planned Giving**
Support can be given in the form of endowments or as general contributions to AICF’s scholarships and various programs. The generosity of our donors, through charitable gifts and bequests, makes a significant impact on what AICF is able to give to Israel.

Contact the AICF to discuss other ways you can support the arts in Israel:
- Designating assets from your retirement account is one way to provide support and receive tax benefits.
- If your company has a matching gift program, contact your employer to learn about how to make your support of the arts go even further. How to make your support of the arts go even further.

“**We appreciate the America-Israel Cultural Foundation for their great help with purchasing musical instruments and giving us a scholarship.**

*A lot of thanks from the Gurfinkel family!!!!”

“I have a vision to become a famous ballerina, and I can say for sure that the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and its scholarships really gives me the proper help and support to fulfill my vision step by step to the future.”

—Chen Drory

16 year old Chen Drory, winner of multiple dance competitions and prizes in Israel and abroad
Artic 9 is an Annual Catalogue and Exhibition that features students who received AICF scholarships in art & design for the academic year 2006/7. This year’s scholarships have been awarded mainly in the fields of painting, sculpture, photography, metalwork, and multimedia. Artic has become a brand identity to Israeli art dealers and galleries. It signifies innovative and cutting-edge creative work, and also provides what is for some their first exposure to the public eye and professional criticism.

(Left to right) Eli Barak, untitled, 2006; Evgeniya Abramovich, Lace forest, 2006; Hila Bar-Nof, Table Lamp, 2006; Tzachi Buchbut, Saw, 2006