A DREAM FOR ISRAEL
Among the most important Jewish concepts we pass along to our children is tzedakah, generally translated as giving or charity, but whose meaning is more the obligation to live a righteous and charitable life. Equally important is ensuring that the arts and culture of our people be taught and strengthened. Many grandparents have expressed to AICF that they see this next generation more focused on social, political, and environmental issues than culture and the arts. They fear their grandchildren will grow up without strong ties to their cultural heritage.

An important way to create these strong cultural and artistic ties could be through a young person’s Bar or Bat Mitzvah project. Imagine your child or grandchild raising funds for music lessons for a young cellist in the Negev or a brilliant young film director in Tel Aviv, and then having the opportunity to meet that artist later. Imagine a young person connecting with culture on such a personal level. Beyond the lesson of tzedakah is the lifelong bond formed between youth to youth, America to Israel, culture to culture.

“If 1,000 young Jewish Americans supported 1,000 young Israeli kids, ties could be strengthened that would last forever.”

Contact David Homan at 212.557.1600 or david@aicf.org to discuss getting your child involved in a Mitzvah project with AICF.
EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION ON THE ARTS

It is everyone’s concern that interest in and support of the High Arts is fading. From “Opera at the Movies” to symphonies with visual accompaniment, the arts are being redefined to engage a new generation. The younger generation is focused on philanthropy that results in an immediate impact, and most of this is done through a social context. How we engage people through the arts is of utmost concern. Add to this the framework of Jewish identity, and we are faced with the issue of not only getting younger donors to attend, but to have them participate in a way that is meaningful to them.

AICF works to create a broader understanding of Israel by facilitating opportunities to directly experience Israel’s culture. Furthering the understanding of culture through Israel and her artists can develop future generations of cultural support in every local community.

“The arts are being redefined to engage a new generation . . . How we engage people through the arts is of utmost concern.”

Shiri Tintpulber, cello, born in Israel in 1993. She has studied the cello for the past 5 years under the guidance of Hillel Zori. Shiri had recitals at the Israel and the Givatayim Conservatories. Recently she has participated in a tour of the Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts Orchestra in Paris and Zurich. Shiri is a member of the Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and of the Jerusalem Music Centre Young Musicians Program where she has played in a trio coached by Nitai Zori. She is a former 1st player of the Young String Coast Orchestra (Matan – 2006, 2005). Shiri has participated in master classes of Uzi Wiesel and Emanuel Gruber. She is a first time winner of the AICF scholarship. Her mother is the pianist Michal Tal and her father the conductor and musical director Shlomo Tintpulber, both former AICF scholarships recipients.

Ofri Nehemya, jazz-drums, 14 years old, born in Israel. Ofri has studied drums for the past six years, starting with his father, the drummer Naor Nehemya, and his current teacher is Eitan Itzkovich. Ofri is a natural talent, starting to play the drums at the age of two while watching instructional drums videos. He learned on his own to identify and play the exact musical segments that were presented on the videos. Ofri has played with chamber and jazz ensembles at the Givatayim Conservatory, big-band and Dixieland ensembles at the Jaffa Music Center and a jazz ensemble under the guidance of Doron Tirosh. Ofri has won AICF scholarships since 2004. His sister, Hadar is a former winner of the scholarship for jazz-voice, and his mother for voice as well.
An Interconnected Jewish System for the Arts

Israeli artist engagements in the US tend to involve JCCs, federations, consulates, foundations, or synagogues. Often times an artist will play an event in one location, fly back to Israel, and then return to play a 2nd event in a neighboring city. Each venue pays for the full travel costs and promotion for its individual event, which lowers the fee they can pay the artist.

AICF has embarked on a program to make it possible for these Jewish organizations to coordinate their programming of Israeli artists. By working together, we will save time and money, and get higher caliber artists. The artists will also receive higher fees and get better exposure. This interconnected Jewish system for the arts will benefit many people, strengthening Jewish Identity in local communities in both the US and Israel and bettering the lives of Israeli artists.

The tools AICF has begun working on to make this vision a reality are:

**Artist Database:** Online, searchable database of Israeli artists, with sample material and links to their websites.

www.aicf.org/artists

**Israeli Cultural Calendar:** Online, searchable calendar by date, city, artist, and medium to find Israeli artists.

www.aicf.org/calendar

**UJC/Federation Feeds:** Soon to come: Look, Listen and Read Jewish at www.ujc.org. AICF will be providing regular Israeli artist features and events to Federation websites all around the country.

“Since its inauguration in October 1989, The Suzanne Dellal Centre has enjoyed ongoing support from AICF for its young creators in the field of dance. There is no doubt that the continuation of AICF support for the arts in Israel will tremendously assist in strengthening and developing all forms of the art, and for us at the Suzanne Dellal Centre, the form of dance in Israel and around the world.”

Yair Vardi, Director
Suzanne Dellal Center
“I believe what the AICF is trying to accomplish could make our touring dreams come true. Being an international touring band from Israel, booking our last tour of the USA was not an easy task. While many organizations invited the band to perform, there was no link between them and no serious cooperation in order to make a successful tour happen that would be logical in terms of traveling and would also cut costs for everyone involved.

The most important thing is to realize that we’re all trying to work for the same cause and that’s bringing young quality culture from Israel to the communities across the US and the rest of the world. There’s so much great fresh culture coming from Israel. The only right thing to do is to create this network that will connect all these great artists with the communities nationwide that are so thirsty for it. Everyone could benefit from this and find what they’re looking for. My band could benefit from this in the immediate time frame as we’re currently planning our next tour at the end of 2008 along with the release of our brand new album.”

Yuval Gerstein, guitarist/vocalist, Coolooloosh
www.coolooloosh.com

“I was 28 years old, a fresh T.A.U. graduate, when I was awarded an America-Israel Cultural Foundation grant. The $2000 stipend (when the dollar was a dollar...) enabled me to work with leading writers and directors in Hollywood and New York, west and east. Over those nine months, I gained insights that vastly influenced my worldview and future career in film directing. Ten years later, this “film Americana” had shaped my vision to establish the now-renowned Sam Spiegel Film & Television School- Jerusalem.

Throughout the past decade as the school’s director, I’ve gained great appreciation for AICF’s generous support for our programs. And I’ve had the honor of seeing hundreds of our students awarded AICF stipends, strengthening them as I was strengthened by my own grant. Thank you, AICF, for your crucial, ongoing role in cultivating and supporting Israel’s newest generation of film and TV professionals. “

Renen Schorr
Founder-Director
The Sam Spiegel Film & Television School- Jerusalem
International Recognition

by Orit Naor

If only we could make others understand the richness of Israeli society, the spirit, and the culture. I am sure this is how many citizens feel when their complex lives are reported and thereby distilled in the news. As someone who has traveled around the world, I am well aware of how others perceive Israel. Images and perceptions may vary, reflecting conflicting attitudes, but often it is images that pierce the world’s consciousness—many times not in our favor.

There is no doubt that Israel faces unique challenges, diverse and complex. These challenges are both internal and external. Our delicate social fabric is stretched so thin, exposing both tension and anxiety. Under these extreme circumstances, Israeli art can therefore be an island of sanity, an island enabling us to enjoy, if only for a short while, a relaxed and balanced pause, a time to observe and reflect.

One of Israel’s main challenges is to maintain a vigorous democracy under extremely tense circumstances. The artistic work of Israel is essential to its democratic process. Honest and critical artistic responses to “charged” topics can play a significant role in our day-to-day democratic conversations.

The world’s perception of Israel is essential to our survival, and that perception might be improved if more attention could be paid to our art, and how in this small country we do indeed reflect on our own troubles. Art enables and even softens the dialogue among Israel, her neighbors, and the rest of the world. Israeli artists live and work globally, strengthening Jewish communities and serving as a great source of pride for the country.

Young, skilled artists are an exceptional source of hope—one that we should nurture. Creating the right conditions for them to flourish both in Israel and throughout the world will have a direct effect on the quality of our life in Israel and on Israel’s relation with other nations.

The establishment of a Jewish state in Israel created an opportunity to renew cultural life in our ancient home. Israeli artists add both traditional and new dimensions to a vibrant and dynamic environment. Yet even though we are a prosperous country, support of art is still dependent on the international recognition it receives.

Roman Rabinovich Wins Silver Medal at Rubinstein Competition

22 year old Israeli pianist and AICF recipient, Roman Rabinovich, won 2nd prize at the 12th Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition. He was awarded the Silver Medal and the “Sara and Moshe Mayer Prize” of $15,000. Roman will be performing at this year’s gala so be sure to come hear him play!

Sam Spiegel Film School Takes First Prize in Cannes

The Sam Spiegel Film School’s film, “Himnon” (Anthem), directed by their student Elad Kaiden, was awarded the First Prize Cinéfondation in the Cannes Film Festival’s student competition. The jury chose the film out of 17 selected finalists’ films from Europe, North America, Asia and South America; more than 1,200 films were submitted overall.

The prize includes €15,000 and a guarantee to present his next film in one of Cannes official categories in the future.

“Israel alone cannot help her artists and sustain their art . . . Art enables and even softens the dialogue among Israel, her neighbors, and the world.”

by orit Naor, AICF’s new Executive Director in Israel
Shirley Brill Receives Top Prize in Geneva International Competition

Rising clarinet star and AICF recipient, Shirley Brill, won the top prize in one of the world’s most prestigious competitions – the Geneva International Competition. The competition started with 133 participants (7 of them Israeli and AICF recipients) from 35 countries. In the final round Shirley played the Mozart Clarinet Concerto as a soloist with the Geneva Chamber Orchestra. She also won the Coup de Coeur Breguet Prize, sealing her title as “The winner of the Geneva International Competition.”

Yoav Talmi Receives Israeli Government Cultural Award

Conductor-composer and AICF recipient, Maestro Yoav Talmi, received the Frank Peleg Israeli Government Cultural Award, paying tribute to Talmi’s high-level artistic achievements through many years of activity. He was remembered for guiding the San Diego Symphony from 1989 to 1996 and is currently artistic director and conductor of the Quebec Symphony and principal guest conductor of the Israel Chamber Orchestra.

Nivi Alroy Receives A.I.R. Gallery Award

Illustrator-sculptor and AICF recipient, Nivi Alroy received the A.I.R. Gallery Award for 2008-9. The award is a highly competitive grant and fellowship awarded by the gallery to women artists. Nivi will also have a solo show at the gallery and be represented by them.

News You Won’t Hear on CNN

The Gala of the Israeli musical “Sallah Shabati” took place on June 26, 2008 in Sderot. It was a co-production of the Cameri Theater and the Sderot community center. The Cameri Theater decided to put on this specific musical in Sderot as a contribution and tribute to the people of Sderot in view of the security and economic situation of this Qassam-stricken town. The musical is about a Mizrahi Jewish immigrant who moves his family – a wife, 7 children and an unidentified old lady – to Israel shortly after the official establishment of the State. Sallah Shabati, arriving with his family in Israel is brought to live in a ma’abara – a transit camp – next to a well established Kibbutz. He is given a broken down, one room shack in which to live with his family and is attempting to make enough money to purchase adequate housing. His money making schemes are often comical and frequently satirize the political and social stereotypes in Israel of the time. The musical is based on the play and movie written by the famous Israeli writer and satirist Ephraim Kishon.

All the rehearsals took place in Sderot in spite of the security situation.

“Covering wars in this region is, unfortunately, a lifetime occupation. But if you look underneath the endless conflicts Israel is immersed in, you could see what are we trying to protect: a constantly renewing Israeli creation, bursting with talent, in all forms of art: music, dance, plastic arts. It is that richness that makes life in Israel worth fighting for.”

Alon Ben-David is a television and print journalist who has been covering the Middle East conflict for more than 20 years. Specializing in defense, Mr. Ben-David is currently senior defense correspondent for Israel 10 TV and Jane’s Defence Weekly.
Creating a Legacy of Israel’s Art

Endow Israel’s Culture Forever
$100 million dollars

Why you should support the arts & culture of Israel

With all of the requests for your charitable gifts, why should you choose to donate to AICF? Why should you endow teaching positions in the arts, support our artists at home in Israel, or help them achieve international recognition? Whatever your personal reasons—to help find and fund Israel’s next brilliant violinist, jazz pianist, or perhaps a photographer—you can help show the world another side of Israel through her culture. Your support will leave a legacy not just for your family, but for each child of Israel. Helping endow Israel’s culture forever can have an even larger impact than you could imagine. It’s not just a truism that by working together we can meet the challenge for the arts. We can keep our brilliant artists at home, encourage and fund our teachers, and find the means to showcase our talented artists abroad.

And with all this, we really do more. We give Israel a source of its strength. No one who has heard the Israeli Philharmonic in Tel Aviv perform or the young Israeli composer Avner Dorman’s latest work can ever deny the importance of the arts to Israel. No one visiting the Israel Museum and seeing the magnificent Sigalit Landau installations can deny the emotional impact of the arts. Who would challenge the importance of our younger artists who try to explain and understand the social and political state and the stress of daily life though their art?

It is the ineffable, the anecdotal, the feeling of possibility that art brings, and that your donation will bring, plus the very real, practical knowledge that your donation goes directly to support a student, teacher, or performance. Each time an audience hears that performer, each time someone gazes at a painting, or sees a film, your donation will continue to echo, a legacy for Israel.

Endowing Teaching Positions:
$20 million

More than 100 of the best artistic minds in Israel could be supported for 5 years, allowing them to stay in Israel and support their homeland. They want to do this and you can help.

Subsidize Israel’s Artists:
$18 million

Opportunities in Israel exist for only the most successful and established artists, and often students must compete with their own teachers for the same support and opportunities. The artists who stay in Israel do so for the best of reasons, and supporting them with program funding to make a concert series possible, art openings marketable, or dance performances memorable, would go a long way by providing enough income for these artists to live and breathe their work in Israel.

“Why should you choose to donate to AICF? Helping Endow Israel’s culture can have an even larger impact that you could imagine.”

“Art refers to reality, extends reality, and places it in a different context. Art inspires us to see reality from new viewpoints. This is perhaps man’s most important ability and he often forgets that he’s got it- the ability to change points of view. We need a new viewpoints to create a new future.”

Michal Rovner, Artist
Creating a legacy of Israel’s art and culture

**International Opportunities:**

**$12 million**

Some of the best artists who live in Israel cannot make enough money from their initial forays abroad to take full advantage of opportunities they’ve created. The costs of travel abroad, or travel back to Israel are usually well above any potential artist fees or commissions, so artists choose either to stay abroad, or experience much diminished careers than their talent deserves. This does not serve Israel well.

**Targeted Arts Support:**

**$50 million**

Targeted arts support for artists, especially those young artists beginning to develop their careers, is crucial. Very little support like this exists at the moment. Among the various difficulties faced by Israeli artists, the concern is always the same: how to exist as an artist and get the proper support to continue a career in Israel. Individual support for artists, and their groups in all the disciplines, will engender more creativity, a more stable arts economy, and create a more close-knit forum for how these artists’ work translates to the rest of the world.

“We can keep our brilliant artists at home, encourage and fund our teachers, and find the means to showcase our talented artists abroad.”

The State of Israel is blessed with great talent, but, regrettably, current governmental priorities do not include appropriate support for the advancement of education and the arts. As director of the Keshet Eilon Music Center, I am troubled by the gap between the level of violinists in Israel and the rest of the world. If constructive action is not taken to improve the conditions of violin teachers in Israel, we risk losing even those few masters who still remain here. We must do everything possible to fund an environment that will allow the best artists to remain in Israel and bring back those who are abroad, to save the art of violin playing here.

*Shlomo Mintz, patron*
*Keshet Eilon Music Center*

Israel is unique in her support of musicians through their army service. They are always AICF recipients.

Patron of Keshet Eilon
Shlomo Mintz instructs young Israeli violinist Semion Gavrikov at a masterclass in the Keshet Eilon Concert Hall

Israel is unique in her support of musicians through their army service. They are always AICF recipients.

“*We can keep our brilliant artists at home, encourage and fund our teachers, and find the means to showcase our talented artists abroad.”*  

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Shlomo Mintz instructs young Israeli violinist Semion Gavrikov at a masterclass in the Keshet Eilon Concert Hall

**Israel is unique**

In her support of musicians through their army service. They are always AICF recipients.
A Cultural Milestone for Israel

Celebrate AICF’s 70th and Tel Aviv’s 100th Anniversary in Style:

Dec 23, 2009 at the Israel Opera House, Tel Aviv
The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Batsheva Dance Company perform in honor of AICF.

January 10, 2010 at Carnegie Hall
A landmark event for Carnegie Hall, many of Israel’s most celebrated instrumentalists perform in honor of AICF.

Featuring Pinchas Zukerman, Shlomo Mintz, Joseph Kalichstein, Miriam Friend, Mischa Maisky, and Yefim Bronfman, among others.

AICF’s impact on Israeli culture can be felt worldwide. Look for our international PR campaign linking events honoring us all around the world, from hundreds of successful artists in music, dance, drama, film and television, and art and design.
Celebrate Israel’s 60th

On Sunday, Dec 7th, 3pm at Frederick P. Rose Hall
Jazz at Lincoln Center. We will celebrate more than six decades of cultural support by AICF, with special performances by an All-Star Israeli Jazz Band, and some of our Aviv Competitions winners.

An event not to be missed!

For tickets and more information, please visit www.aicf.org/donate
call AICF at 212.557.1600 or email admin@aicf.org.

We are privileged to bestow our Aviv Awards on Leon Fleisher and Lorin Maazel, with a special presentation by Jonathan Biss and Emanuel Ax.

(Lorin Maazel)

(Leon Fleisher)

(Emanuel Ax)

(Jonathan Biss)

(Below, Top Row, Left to Right) Dan Aran, Semion Gavrikov, Uri Gurvich, Rafi Malkiel, Yaala Ballin, Gilad Hekselman and Einav Yarden. (Below, Bottom Row, Left to Right): Itai Kriss, Tal Ronen, Roman Rabinovich, Anat Cohen and Omer Klein.
Young Leadership
Get involved with AICF’s young leadership group

Join us for jazz concerts at Joe’s Pub, art openings, film screenings, wine tastings and anything else cultural and Israeli in New York.

Contact:
Jonathan E. Goldberg
virtualpower100@yahoo.com
or Chaim Theil
cyapt81@gmail.com

“Participating in, understanding, and supporting the arts is a major part of my Jewish identity, as is my support for Israel and its people. The AICF — with its mission of helping Israeli artists and art institutions flourish — enables me to stay connected to my Jewish heritage.”

Jonathan E. Goldberg, Young Leadership Director and Board Member, America-Israel Cultural Foundation

Photo from Israel Nonstop film and jazz night—a partnership event with the young leadership of the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra