

SHANA TOVA - 5775 !

The Executive of the European Maccabi Confederation wishes all Maccabi members a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in the 14th European Maccabi Games in Berlin in 2015!



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACCABI LITHUANIA

The re-constituent Congress of the Lithuanian sports club Maccabi (8/1/1989)



The sports club Maccabi (in Lithuanian Makabi) existed in Lithuania from 1920 to 1940 (in Vilnius from 1916). The Maccabi headquarters were based in 20 Vilniaus Street in Kaunas. In 1926, there were 83 divisions of the club uniting four thousand members throughout Lithuania. In Kaunas, the club was publishing a biweekly newspaper and had its stadium. The delegations of the Lithuanian Maccabi took part in the first and second Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv in 1932 and 1935, respectively.

As the transformations began in Lithuania in 1988 and the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee was re-founded on 11 December 1988, opportunities opened up for Maccabi to re-establish itself. Initially, we three -- Daumantas Todesas, Arkadijus Reitblatas and I -- discussed the possibility of re-establishing the club. This was the period marked by the rebirth of ethnic-cultural communities. Leaders of the Lithuanian Communist Party used to quote Gorbachev and spoke of socialism with "a human face", but at the same time the repressive mechanism was fully operational and ready to rebuild the socialist system.

Taking into consideration potential risks, we decided that a try to re-establish the sports club that did not have any political ambitions would end, in the worst case, in prohibition and penalties without judicial or other major repression.

I and Todesas drafted the plan for preparing and conducting a re-constituent congress and composed a steering group of only our friends and acquaintances because a danger that informants and agent provocateurs could infiltrate into the club was very real at the time. Thus, the steering group for re-establishing the Maccabi included us -- Semionas Finkelsteinas (Chairman), Daumantas Todesas, Arkadijus Reitblatas -- and our invitees Dovydas Fligelis and Sergejus Kanovicus. Members of the group shared the duties among themselves.

Reitblatas had the opportunity to pass the message about the process of re-establishing Maccabi abroad. He got in touch with Michel Grun, Chairman of the European Maccabi Confederation, and stayed in constant contact with him throughout the preparation for the congress.

For the sports club Maccabi to be officially recognised, it was crucial for the organising committee to arrange and hold a congress, prepare documents and adopt them under the

then strict hierarchical procedure and sequence. Therefore, special focus was on selection of the congress delegates, drafting of the action programme and articles of association of the club, work of the secretariat and mandate commission of the congress, vote counting procedure, etc.

The congress was held in the computing machines factory based in Vilnius, with participation of 85 delegates and over 200 guests. We gathered to the re-constituent congress of Maccabi in festive and uplifting mood as it marked the start of our Jewish, spiritual and, in general, national revival rather than just the revival of sport. Naturally, the Maccabi re-established could not even remotely match the pre-war Maccabi by capabilities and massive participation. After all, 92% of our fellow nationals were buried in the mass graves in Kaunas 9th Fort and Paneriai, gravel pits on the outskirts of cities and towns or trenches in the woods.

The re-constituent congress was opened by Chaimas Gurvicius, who later became the secretary general of the club. He wrote about the congress in the journal *Komjaunimo Tiesa* of 10 January 1989 the following: "Carnations burning scarlet, seven candles, painful violin melody reminding of the years of suffering, children leading veterans onto the stage, and the welcome address by Chaimas Duskesas as if evolve into the overture to spirituality, which makes an event an event. Later Arvydas Juozaitis will say that "the Jewish nation is the nation of spirit" and those words will be all the more true because we will have already felt this spirit in programme reports, in the passionate speech by writer Grigorijus Kanovicius, and in the text of the decision of the re-constituent congress to re-establish the sports club, which was greeted with acclamation."

The congress lasted for seven hours with short breaks. The floor was given to many delegates and guests, including Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the Jewish Cultural Association of the Lithuanian Cultural Foundation, and Jonas Uloza, former Chairman of the Lithuanian Physical Culture and Sports Committee. Thirteen members were elected to the board of the club with Semionas Finkelsteinas as its Chairman.

Though this article mentions just few names, a number of people took part in re-establishing the Maccabi: Chaimas Gurvicius, Sima Visnevskis, Ilja Bereznickis and Alikas Bereznickis, Liova Ritvas, Maksimas Veksleris, Jakovas Radis, Sofija Gurviciutė, Liudmila Kucinskaitė and others.

Participation of the Maccabi delegation in the 13th Maccabiah Games (3/7/1989-13/7/1989)

After the Lithuanian sports club Maccabi, the first Maccabi club in the Soviet Union at that time, was re-established, we have received an invitation from the European Maccabi Confederation to take part in the 13th Maccabiah Games in Israel. During the preparation for this historic step, Michel Grun and Sidney Greenberg, both Vice-Presidents of Maccabi World Union, came to Vilnius to meet the activists of the sports club Maccabi, the Jewish community of the city of Vilnius, the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee and Sports Committee, and the newly-founded Jewish Society of Aesthetics and Physical Education, and the Maccabi Chess Club.

The organising committee was created, and it formed the delegation (57 people: 7 officials, 25 athletes and 25 members of the Jewish folk music group Faerlach) and handled the matters relating to tickets, visas, outfits, souvenirs, etc. Thanks to Todesas, Vice-President of the club, the Lithuanian delegation had its outfits and beautiful souvenirs. All symbols of our club were the brainchild of Ilja Bereznickis, an artist and Maccabi football player.

It is important to note that we received enormous help from Petras Statuta, Secretary General of the Lithuanian International Olympic Committee, with preparations for the re-constituent congress and during the Maccabiah Games.

There was quite a story with the tickets. We booked the tickets for the flight Moscow-Tel Aviv-Moscow through Aeroflot. But a couple of weeks ahead of the flight, we were told that tickets were cancelled. With great anxiety, we communicated this to Michel Grun, but he and Sidney Greenberg managed to obtain the tickets for our delegation of 57 people for the flight Warsaw-Tel Aviv-Warsaw. Michel Grun just asked us if we were going to make it to Warsaw. We said that we would do it, although we were not quite sure whether we would be luckier on the Polish border than earlier with the tickets.

On 2 July 1989, we were solemnly welcomed by the leaders of Maccabi World Union, television and the press at the airport. There was also a press conference held. I and swimmer Ela Pavinskiene appeared on the live broadcast in the sports section of the country's main news. Our delegation was given special attention during the Maccabiah Games. The reason was that up to 1989, the photos of dissidents were carried along the way of the Soviet delegation during the

opening ceremony of the Games.

The organisers still identified us with the Soviet Union. They did not understand and hardly heard about the ideas of the Lithuanian reform movement Sajudis. We and organisers of the Maccabiah Games and leaders of the European Maccabi Confederation discussed the conditions of our participation. We had to parade during the opening ceremony with three flags: Lithuanian tricolour, flag of the USSR (it was 1989 after all) and flag of the Lithuanian Maccabi. A girl had to carry a board bearing the inscription that there was the delegation of the USSR and Lithuania. The stadium and the Olympic village had to fly Lithuanian flags.

The biggest surprise was waiting for us during the rehearsal of the opening parade. The board was showing the inscription USSR in huge letters, but the name Lithuania was hardly legible. As we entered the stadium, the announcer declared that the Soviet delegation was parading. The stadium did not fly a single Lithuanian flag.

At 8 a.m. we went to the office of Arie Rosenzweig, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the 13th Maccabiah Games. We had seen each other many times before that, and we had a very warm relationship. I told him that we could not participate in the Games, if the conditions negotiated in advance were not met. Thus, the USSR and Lithuania had to be written in letters of the same size on the board, it had to be announced at the opening ceremony that the Lithuanian delegation entered to parade the stadium and Lithuanian flags had to fly in the stadium and its environs. The Chairman of the Executive Committee listened to our demands with concern and, after a consultation at his office, reported that our conditions would be met.

Arie Rosenzweig kept his promise. When the announcer said that the Lithuanian delegation had entered the stadium, the Israeli President, Cabinet members, Maccabi leaders, and all the people in the grandstands rose to their feet. It was an unforgettable moment.

Our Maccabi delegation was the first to take part in the games recognised by the International Olympic Committee under the Lithuanian tricolor.

It was not so easy to take the delegation of 57 members to Israel in the summer of 1989. But we did it and honestly represented Lithuania at this Jewish celebration. The results were quite good: wrestler Grigorij Chaziner (living in Australia now) won the second place, chess player Eduardas Rozentalis scored third and the mini football team took the high fifth place. Table tennis players with Michailas Duskesas at the forefront and badminton players led by Genadijus Plavinas performed quite well too. Swimmer Ela Pavinskienė, our only female athlete, stroke fear into other competitors by saying, in an interview just before the event that she would fight for the top prize.

Since 1989, the Lithuanian Maccabi participated in seven Maccabiah Games and five European Maccabi Games raising the profile of Lithuania in the world and winning 11 gold medals, 20 silver medals and 14 bronze medals.

It will be a great pleasure to remember other activities and achievements at the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of reestablishment of the Lithuanian sports club Maccabi in Vilnius Town Hall on 20 September 2014.

Semionas Finkelsteinas
President of the Lithuanian sports club Maccabi

FLF SEMINAR IN ROME, ITALY, SEPTEMBER 5th-7th, 2014

Thirty young people, active in Jewish communities around the world gathered in Rome September 5th-7th, for three days of learning mixed with fun, and of course with a bit of tourism.



The young people gathered in Rome for three days of learning about Maccabi Jewish-Zionist leadership, with the Sports Director of the European Maccabi Organization (EMC), Robert Cohen and the EMC Shaliach, Asaf Golan. The sessions were dedicated to learning

and to exchange of ideas, in particular towards the European Maccabi Games to be held in Berlin in 2015, in which the young leaders will be involved both as athletes and as volunteers.

Through the personal engagement and great leadership of Vittorio Pavoncello, President of Maccabi Italy, this conference became a very unique and unforgettable experience for the young leaders.

The conference sessions took place in the prestigious Hall of the Northern League in the Capitol. The participants heard the Ambassador of Israel, Naor Gilon, who spoke about the crisis in Israel and has provided more elements to counter the sea of lies and false information that for many have become truth. There was also a fascinating meeting with the young President of PD Rome, Thomas Giuntella. The participants received a greeting from the Mayor of Rome Ignazio Marino; after having learned about the group, the Mayor made a good speech addressed to the young leaders and then opened for the group the Sala Giulio Cesare, where the City Council meets.

Shabbat service in the synagogue and a fantastic intimate Shabbat dinner were hosted by the Jewish community and were also attended by the EMC Education Director and Counsellor of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, Claudia De Benedetti.

After Shabbat, on Saturday evening, young Italian Jews, over 500, have welcomed their European brethren to a Pool Party at the Sporting Villa York.

The Sunday morning finally provided the most intense part of the program, including a wonderful meeting with the Congresswoman Laura Coccia, a Paralympic athlete, young protagonist of an extraordinary story, of will, of sport, of life, moving words, courage, impossible challenges, but until now, against all odds, victorious.

"I believe that beyond the organization of the sports event the largest in the world after the Olympic Games, to put together a group of people creating connections and comparison is really a mitzvah," said in a quiet moment Robert Cohen, Sports Director of the European Maccabi Confederation and FLF Coordinator. "We thank Vittorio, his daughter Sara, the devoted Maccabi team members - Angelo Della Rocca, Miriam Sofia, Fabrizio Della Rocca, President Maccabi Rome, the CER, Ugei, and Delet. It is important to mention the support of the European Maccabi Confederation and the Jewish Agency for Israel who made this project possible in all means."

In times like this, we need to be strong and proud of being Jewish and Zionists, and these seminars offer a great opportunity for strengthening the identity of a group of young people who understand that everything is possible, building networks, improving their personal and professional skills and knowledge while connecting to the Maccabi activity throughout Europe.

The FLF will continue giving the best training and tools to its members and the T.O.'s will benefit from the skilled young leaders on a daily basis.

SUMMER U, CZECH REPUBLIC, AUGUST 24th, 2014



At the 31st SummerU, organized by the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) we had the opportunity to organize a Maccabi Day.

More than 150 students (age 18 - 30) from more than 25 countries attended this Summer University, which offered some leisure time, contents, lectures and a wide range of activities for the participants.

The goal of making a Maccabi Day at SummerU was engaging more young people in our different Maccabi organizations and exposing the upcoming EMG2015 in Berlin, by showing them that Maccabi is more than just sports, and that it is just within their reach.

With the highly appreciated help of Adam Jusztin (Chairman of Maccabi VAC Hungary) and our FLF members Jana Romanova and Martina Nedorostova (Slovak Macabi Organization), Klara Klimentova (Hakoach Czech Republic) Mona Meiron (EMG2015 Berlin), we held an amazing activity in which the participants experienced the Maccabi Spirit directly through their veins.

The winning team was awarded with medals and a special price - tickets to the EMG2015 Opening Ceremony.

A strong relationship was built with EUJS, an organization which has the same values as we have in the EMC - promoting Jewish activity in Europe!

MEMORY EVENING, ST.PETERSBURG

September 5, 2014, Maccabi St.Petersburg, together with the community of progressive Judaism "Masorti" held the traditional evening in memory of 11 Israeli athletes murdered by terrorists at the Munich Olympics in 1972.



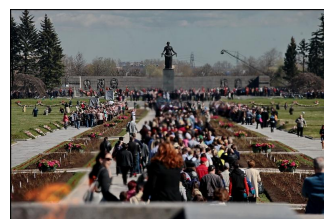
The audience of 30 people gathered at the Jewish Community Center in St. Petersburg. Leonid Tsivyan from Israel, a member of the Zionist Forum, a political scientist, and a lawyer, gave a lecture on the political situation in the world.

Boris Klimovich, a veteran member of the Board of Maccabi, honorary coach of the Russian Federation, was a witness of the tragic events.

11 candles were lit in memory of the murdered athletes followed by a Kaddish.

CEREMONY IN ST.PETERSBURG

September 8, 2014 in Piskarevskoe Memorial a public event took place in commemoration of the start of the siege of Leningrad during WW2.



The ceremony was attended by thousands of people, representatives of various public, governmental and political organizations of St. Petersburg. The Jewish community was represented by Makkabi St. Petersburg sports veterans. They read the Kaddish and also laid wreaths at the memorial of the dead Jewish residents and defenders of the besieged Leningrad.

MACCABI VAC HUNGARY HANDPRINT CERAMIC

The Maccabi VAC Hungary in the summer of 2014 prepared and organized the Jewish athletes hands in the preparation of hand model ceramic.



The all Hungarian Jewish living athlete's handprint captures a ceramic board. The ceramic board is prepared by Klara Kosa ceramic artist. The full series will be presented in September 2015 at an exhibition. The first Olympic champion athlete in the factory was the gymnast Agnes Keleti.

EMC TENNIS TOURNAMENT, SOFIA, BULGARIA

EMC Tennis Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria, run by Youri Alkalay and Maccabi Bulgaria, is taking place September 17-21, 2014.



SPORT IS PEACE

On August 10, 2014 in Odessa started the 2nd International Football Tournament "Friendship of Peoples" in memory of coaches from Odessa, Boris Krichinivker and Jozef Klatsman. The tournament was organized by the Odessa Jewish Cultural and Sports Club "Maccabi". The general sponsor of the tournament was the "Teletrade" company. The tournament was held with the support of the All-Ukrainian Association of Maccabi.



8 teams took part in the tournament - 4 strongest teams of national communities living in Odessa (Jewish, Bulgarian, Georgian, Gagauz) and 4 amateur teams, which are among the best in the city (SC "Odessa", FC "Teletrade", FC "Chernomorets U-17", SC "Spartacus"). Matches were held on Sundays at the stadium of the sports base of FC "Chernomorets".

On August 8 at the press center "Odessa-Media" a press conference was held on the opening of the Tournament with the President of "Maccabi Odessa", Alexander Bromfman, and Honorary President of "Maccabi Odessa", ex-coach of the national football team, Semen Altman.

In the opening match the football club "Maccabi Odessa" won against SC "Odessa" after a bitter struggle with a minimum score. The winning goal was scored by Gennady Gilerman. The Maccabi team included experienced players that played in the Premier League teams in Ukraine and abroad - Gennady Altman, Vitaly Parakhnevich - and young promising footballers - Anatole Clement, Maxim Poshekhontzev, Yigal Arie Beletsky. The coach is the legendary Odessa football player and coach, Viktor Zubkov.

The organizers, patrons and sponsors believe that the tournament this year was more relevant than ever, showing once again that the multinational Odessa is for peace and friendship between the peoples in the united Ukraine!

Alexander Greenberg

MACCABI GB SCOTLAND AT THE MACCABI GB COMMUNITY BADMINTON COMPETITION

11 badminton players competed as part of Maccabi GB's Community Badminton Tournament. The day was a great success with Team Maccabi GB Scotland returning home with 4 medals - two Gold and two runner up.



It was a tremendous opportunity for our communities to connect cross border, giving our Junior athletes actual tournament experience as part of their training for the European Maccabi Games next year, as well as interacting with other young Jewish people from, across the UK. Out of the ten players who represented Scottish Jewry, 6 have been selected to play in Berlin and two of them represented Team Maccabi Scotland in the Vienna Games in 2011.

We would like to thank again Maccabi GB for their incredible hospitality and look forward to creating more events like this in the future!

UPDATES FROM MACCABI GB

Streetwise helps Community's youth to combat Antisemitism across the UK

Monday 1st September 2014, Hendon - In light of the events of this summer's most recent conflict in the Middle East, Streetwise - a joint initiative between the CST and Maccabi GB - have created a series of brand new and innovative Antisemitism Workshops to provide Secondary School students with information and skills to avoid dangerous situations and learn how to report and combat Antisemitism. Over 220 young people have signed up already with the first two Workshops taking place over the weekend.

Maccabi GB Futsal kick off pre-season with a win

Maccabi GB Futsal 1 - 0 London Saints

Wednesday 27th August 2014 - Having had a successful 2013/2014

Season, Maccabi GB Futsal have been working hard in the pre-season period, training up to three times a week. This was the first time the players had competed since the side bowed out at the FA Futsal Cup Quarter Final stage back in May and it was clearly evident in the performance.



Maccabi GB
sport for everyone!

Final day gold rush sees Team Maccabi GB smash JCC Maccabi Games medal tally

Friday 15th August 2014, Cherry Hill, New Jersey - As the final whistle, bell and horn rang out across Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Team Maccabi GB can now proudly return to the UK knowing that their final day medal haul of 62 has seen them break all previous records to bring home a record-breaking 142 medals.

European Maccabi Confederation
Promoting Jewish Activity in Europe