
MESSAGE FROM THE EMC CHAIRMAN



Dear Chaverim, Maccabim,

As the year 5775 comes to an end and we welcome the year 5776, it is the moment for all of us to reflect on the previous year.

We experienced terrible losses in our Maccabi Family by murderous terrorists; those were tragic incidents that made us all so aware that we, as a Peoplehood, have to be alert and stay united as one, to defend our human right for a decent life as Jews .

The 14th European Maccabi Games in Berlin this summer gave proof to the existence of the Jewish People as a Nation. Jewish life is an integral part of Europe.

The venue of the 1936 11th Olympic Games turned during the EMG to a Jewish village. Alone this fact showed the importance to have the Games there.

We are experiencing historical days with an unpredictable outcome, as we watch the news of the refugees who are swamping Europe. Let us all hope that all this will not harm our situation in Europe. The European governments have to underline their responsibility not only for the refugees, but also for securing a life in dignity, human rights and freedom of religion for each citizen in Europe.

For the upcoming year 5776 I wish you, your communities, and your families a prosperous successful Shana tova u metuka!

To all of you, who are so dedicated to our Maccabi Movement, a great Toda raba for all that you are doing!

Be strong and courageous,

Am Israel chai !

Motti

THE 14TH EUROPEAN MACCABI GAMES

For the first time in its 86-year history, the 14th European Maccabi Games (EMG) were held in the German capital Berlin, on July 27 - August 5, 2015. Most of the competitions took place on the same venues in Berlin, which hosted the Nazi Olympic Games in 1936.



Before the Games started, an exhibition entitled "Jewish Star in the German Sport" was opened at the square of the Berlin Main Train Station. The exhibition presented the sculptures and stories of 17 prominent Jewish German athletes. Most athletes have emigrated and continued their career in other countries; six were killed during the Holocaust.

On July 28, 2015, the day of the Opening Ceremony, 600 Juniors participating in the Games, had a study tour of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The Juniors heard lecturers in different languages and had meetings with survivors. At the end of the program there was a memorial service, conducted by Rabbi Carlos Tapiero.

Before the Opening Ceremony, a very moving memorial ceremony took place at the Maifeld in the Olympia Park in the presence of the German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection Heiko Maas and leaders of MWU, EMC and the Jewish Community of Berlin. It was difficult to hold the tears when listening to the words of the 94 years old Holocaust survivor, Margot Friedlander, who was born in Berlin, went to Makkabi when she was a child and lost her family in the Holocaust. Mrs. Friedlander finished her speech on an optimistic note; she said that it was heart-warming to see so many young Jewish athletes from all over the world and it was certainly the right decision to bring the Games to Berlin. The audience spontaneously broke out in singing Am Israel Chai. The ceremony ended with Kaddish prayer from the Chief Rabbi of Berlin, Rabbi Ehrenberg, and of course Hatikvah.

The European Maccabi Games were opened in the Berlin Waldbühne by the German President Joachim Gauck with 10,000 spectators on site, followed by many thousands of viewers of life streaming worldwide. Gauck emphasized in his opening speech, among other things, the historical site of the Olympic Park: "How symbolic it is that Jewish athletes from all over Europe gather here of all places, on the site, in the shadow of the Olympic Stadium, to compete in a sporting contest". The EMC Chairman Motti Tichauer had the opportunity to give President Gauck a plaque on behalf of the EMC as a token of appreciation for the support of the Games. The audience was greeted by the President of Maccabi World Union Leo Dan Bensky; the Chairman of the European Maccabi Confederation Motti Tichauer and the President of Makkabi Germany Alon Meyer. After the parade of the delegations, the audience enjoyed a very colorful show, with guest appearances of international and Israeli stars.

More than 2,300 athletes from 37 countries (including guests from Australia, South Africa, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, and USA) and the largest ever delegation from Israel arrived in Berlin and took part in competitions in 19 sports in the Olympic Park and some outside venues. The largest delegation was from Makkabi Germany. The medals table was led by Germany with 54 gold medals and 144 medals in total, followed by the United States. A total of 166 sets of medals were awarded. The biggest tournament was futsal with 33 teams.

The competitions in the Berlin Olympic Park and other sports venues were well attended. Lets's Play Together Friendly matches enjoyed great popularity and high attendance figures. EMG2015 national teams played against the DFB All-Stars in football and against players of ALBA Berlin and Maccabi Electra Tel Aviv in basketball.

One of the highlights, in addition to the opening ceremony, was the Kabbalat Shabbat on July 31, in which a Guinness World Record was set. 2,322 participants were seated comfortably in a hall of epic proportions. The Chief Rabbis of Berlin led the service. Rabbi Carlos Tapiero led a very special service for the Juniors participating in the Games.

Another special event was an exhibition brought to Berlin by VAC Maccabi Hungary, dedicated to the Jewish Hungarian athletes that won medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. The Exhibition was opened by the Hungarian Consul in Germany in the Hungarian Embassy in Berlin, with the participation of the Hungarian delegation to the Games and Maccabi leadership.

The 14th European Maccabi Games in 2015 in Berlin ended with a ceremony at the Berlin Estrel Hotel. The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, the Ambassador of the State of Israel Yaakov Hadas-Handelsman; President of the EMC Stuart Lustigman; President of Makkabi Germany Alon Meyer and Director of the Organizing Committee of the EMG Dr. Oren Osterer parted from the 2,300 athletes. The MVP - Ken Gradon Award was awarded to David Jano from the delegation of Hakoah Denmark by Robert Cohen, the EMC Hon. Sports Director. The Chairman of the EMC Motti Tichauer officially closed the largest Jewish sports event in Europe and invited all Jewish athletes to participate at the 20th Maccabiah 2017 in Israel.

The EMC Executive

**With gratitude to Makkabi Germany for hosting
the 14th European Maccabi Games in Berlin !**

EMG2015 RESULTS



EMG2015 LETTERS

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
MACCABI WORLD UNION**



Dear Friends,

Last night Eva and myself returned from a fantastic 10 day experience in Berlin participating at the 14th European Maccabi Games. The significance of Jewish athletes returning to the Olympic Park of Berlin, the very place where 79 years ago Jews were prohibited to participate in the Olympic Games, cannot be stressed enough! It is difficult to describe the emotional feelings everybody experienced during the Opening evening, again showing the survival and revival of the Jewish people! There, at the center of Hitler's Olympic Park when thousands of Jewish athletes and supporters sang the Hatikvah we proved that we are alive,
AM ISRAEL CHAI!

On behalf of the Maccabi World Union I want to send a BIG Toda Rabah to the organizing committee, led by the President of Makkabi Germany, Alon Meyer and the CEO of the games, Doktor Oren Osterer. I spoke to several participants, both athletes and leaders, from many countries and they all had a wonderful experience. Especially sport venues, accommodation and transportation were applauded. Friday night, July 31st we had the privilege to be part of the Guinness world record Shabbat dinner with more than 2300 participants, unbelievable and very well organized! Congratulations also to Rabbi Carlos Tapiero for the educational part for the juniors. The trip to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp was a very moving experience for all participants. Friday night Shabbat service conducted by Rabbi Carlos was excellent, the room was packed with hundreds of well behaving juniors, we really enjoyed being there!

Once again, Kol Hakavod to the European Maccabi Confederation and to Makkabi Germany !

Chazak Veamaz

Leo-Dan Bensky
President
Maccabi World Union

The MWU Chairman, Yair Hamburger

My dear friends of the EMC,

What can I add to the nice and true words of my partner, the President Leo -Dan Bensky.

I thank personally any one of you for assisting the organizers of the Games in Berlin.

Because of you they could have achieved to make it to such a big event.

It was really a very emotional and moving event.

Maccabi Poland

We would like to thank you very much for your support and a great event in Berlin, the best ever! We had 4 participants and 4 medals, everybody won a medal 100% effectiveness!

Makkabi Sweden

What a time we had! FANTASTIC!
Thanks for all your help - all the time!

Maccabi Belarus

EMG 2015 is in history now. Congratulations to all participants - athletes, organizers, volunteers with great success this fantastic Jewish sport event. Maccabi Belarus Delegation won 16 medals, Including 14 gold - 5th place between all countries. Thanks to all for support and helping Maccabi Belarus Delegation.

Ann Diamond Stoller

From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank you for making Sam Stoller's name celebrated at the Maccabi Games and having me hand the torch to the daughter of Marty Glickman, Sam's running partner. This was something I nor my family for many generations to come will ever forget.

FACCMA

We are pleased to contact you, and through you, the Organizing Committee to express our congratulations on the development of the EMG2015.

Beyond the excellence with which the Games were carried out, we produced an enormous satisfaction and excitement have been involved in this event, beyond the sporting aspects, had such significance for the Jewish people, having been developed for the first time in Berlin after World War II and to have sung together the Hatikva at "Olympic Stadium."

We also want to thank you, especially for the careful organization that led our delegation.

We take this opportunity to renew our commitment to continue working together to build a caring, inclusive and representative community, rooted in our values, traditions and committed to the continuity of Jewish life. As our motto defined "Jewish Continuity, our greatest pride."

We said goodbye, greeting you with our traditional and Maccabean ...

Maccabi USA**SUCCESS AT TEN PIN BOWLING AT THE EMG**

Jonathan Körösi from the Swedish delegation to the European Maccabi Games in Berlin did something unbelievable during the Ten Pin Bowling competition, he scored 300 points, 12 (!) strikes in a row.

That's really something special. Kol Ha Kavod, Jonathan!

MACCABI BIRTHRIGHT GROUPS

About 120 participants from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia visited Kfar Maccabiah in August in the framework of Maccabi-Birthright.

The guests had a tour of the Maccabi Museum with Rabbi Carlos Tapiero, heard about Maccabi in Europe from Stella Syrkin and got information about MASA programs.



On September 3rd 2015 a Post Taglit - MASA event "Taglit Shuk" was held in a local bar in Budapest, presenting all the different program for the Hungarian alumni participants. Maccabi Hungary had a desk to recruit young people to sports and other activities.

MACCABI CAMP IN ARMENIA

July 26 - August 4, 2015 children of the Jewish community of Armenia took part in a Maccabi camp. They had sports exercises every day, went on a hike to an ancient Jewish cemetery of the Middle Ages, learned about Israel and Maccabi, and sang songs in Hebrew.



MACCABI DAY IN ATHENS

Maccabi Sports Day was successfully organized on May 9th at the JCC in Athens, with the participation of 35 adults and children. Elders brought to their minds memories of their childhood and teenage years in Maccabi of Athens, while the younger ones discovered in enthusiasm the pulse of the team. The Maccabi Sports Day included activities such as table tennis, chess, scrabble and billiards and was concluded by a short speech by a member of the Maccabi Association in Athens, who shared with the audience a brief flashback to the past, indicating the participation of Maccabi Athens in 3 Maccabi championships in Israel, in 2 Maccabi Championships in Europe and other events, as well as important distinctions. The event ended with the awarding of medals.



MACCABI SAMARA FAMILY CAMP "MISHPACHA 2015", SAMARA, RUSSIA

June 7 - 17, the annual Maccabi Samara camp celebrated its 20th anniversary in a family camp with 100 participants. In addition to classes on the topics of Jewish history, history of the State of Israel, and history of the Jews of Samara, sports activities, as well as therapeutic activities for children were held daily. In the morning before breakfast jogging and exercises were conducted for children and adults.

In the afternoon, sports activities were held (soccer, volleyball, netball, chess). On the last day an award ceremony took place, not only for winning places, but simply for taking part, to be sure every child received an award. Despite the rainy weather a Summer Mini Maccabiah was held, which was attended by both adults and children of all ages.



REPRESENTATIVES OF MACCABI UKRAINE AT PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The winner of the 15th Maccabiah, Leonid Segal from Maccabi Kharkov won the European title in Table Tennis among masters. Leonid Segal won the Gold Cup in the men's doubles paired with the Estonian Rein Lindman. The European Championship in Table Tennis among masters, which took place from 29th June to 4th July 2015 in Finland, was attended by 1,813 sportsmen and sportswomen from more than 30 countries in Europe.



86 athletes from Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania, France, India and Ukraine participated in the 6th yearly competitions of the international Badminton tournament «VARA-2015», which was held in Kishinev, Moldova July 3-5, 2015.

The games were held in singles, doubles and mixed categories in four groups: "A" - professionals; "B" - fans; "C" - newcomers and masters 45+.

The Maccabi Ukraine team was represented by Igor Romanov, a board member of Maccabi Ukraine, Executive Director of "Union of Jewish Religious Communities of Dnepropetrovsk Region". Igor Romanov won two silver medals in this prestigious international tournament. Congratulations to Leonid Segal and Igor Romanov on their high sports results. We wish you good health and new achievements!

TOURNAMENT IN ZAPOROZHJE, UKRAINE

August 2, 2015 a Rapid Chess tournament took place in Zaporozhye Jewish community "Yahad", dedicated to the European Maccabi Games in Berlin. The tournament was organized by Maccabi Zaporozhje. 15 best players of the Community took part at the tournament.

The tournament participants heard a lecture and watched a film about the history of the Maccabi Movement.

At the end of the tournament winners were awarded with diplomas and prizes.



MINI-MACCABIAH IN THE SUMMER CAMP, NIKOLAEV, UKRAINE

At the time when Berlin hosted the European Maccabi Games, the summer camp for families in Nikolayev, organized by the society of Jewish culture, held a sports day "Mini Maccabiah" with great success.

The opening ceremony of the Mini Maccabiah included a torch ignition and speeches from the Chairman of the regional Jewish community and board member of Maccabi Ukraine, Michael Goldenberg; and the Head of the youth club, Aleksey Pavlishchev.

Five teams participated in various kinds of events that were prepared by the madrichim of the camp.

Sports passion, support of fans and joy of winners accompanied the teams at all stages of the competition.



"FRIENDSHIP OF NATIONS 2015" - TRADITIONAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN ODESSA, UKRAINE

August 16, 2015 the traditional football tournament of teams of national communities "Friendship of nations 2015" started in Odessa. The tournament is dedicated to the memory of the famous Odessa football coaches Jozef Klatsman and Boris Krichinivker. One of the organizers and the initiator of the tournament is Maccabi Odessa. This year's tournament is held under the patronage of the Odessa mayor Gennady Trukhanov.

The team Maccabi-Odessa is a 2-time silver medalist of the tournament. In our team this year will debut the player Evgeny Zubok, a player of a student team of Ukraine, member of the 28th World University Games in the city of Kvanzhu (South Korea), Taglit participant in 2014.



Maccabi Odessa thanks Maccabi Ukraine and the Israeli cultural center of Odessa at the Embassy of Israel in Ukraine, for their help and assistance in the preparation and organization of the tournament.

CYCLING GRAND PRIX IN ODESSA, UKRAINE

August 1-2, 2015 an international cycling Grand Prix was held in Odessa for the first time. The competition was attended by 16 teams from 7 countries. Among the participants was a cycling team Galilee Cycles from Israel.

July 31, 2015 the cyclists team Galilee Cycles together with Maccabi Odessa held a master class of cycling for Jewish children of Odessa. The event was organized with the support of the Israeli cultural center in Odessa at the Embassy of Israel in Ukraine, "Imanu El" community and "Sport Park Hillel."



NEWS FROM MACCABI GREAT BRITAIN

Latest MGB Jewish Walking Tour of London awakens group to history of Mayfair

19th July 2015 - Maccabi GB held the latest Jewish Walking Tour Of London, which had a unique twist as it delved into the history, culture and inner-workings of Jewish Mayfair. The 20-person, sold-out group met outside the Intercontinental Hotel, with their official tour guides then leading them to their first stop - the house where two-time British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, died.



Maccabi GB™
Actively Jewish

Boys Town Jerusalem and MGB help Community put their best foot forward

12th July 2015 - Boys Town Jerusalem (BTJ) and Maccabi GB (MGB) introduced a new sport to the Community as 50 Jewish people of all ages took part in a Footgolf Fundraiser - a sport which combines the leisurely aspects of golf with the football skills of 'the beautiful game'.

The event at Tudor Park Golf Course in Barnet, was hosted by BTJ in partnership with the Community's key provider of Jewish sport, health & wellbeing programmes, and also welcomed Councilor Mark Shooter, the Mayor of Barnet, along with his family.

European Maccabi Confederation
Promoting Jewish Activity in Europe