

## THE EMC REMEMBERS OUR GREAT LEADER, GUIORA ESRUBILSKY 1947-2013



אנו כולנו מביכים את הסתלקותו הפתאומית של חברנו הטוב גיורא  
ז"ל .  
גיורא היה שם נרדף למכביסט אמיתי .  
הוא אהב את התנועה אהבה ללא פשרות.  
הוא גם אהב את מדינת ישראל אהבה עזה .  
אנו נדע בתנועה להנציח את זכרו בצורה המכובדת ביותר .  
אנו משתתפים בצערה העמוק של מרתה והילדים .  
לעולם לא נשכח אותו .  
תהיה נשמתו צורה בצרור החיים .



We all mourn the sudden passing of our dear friend Guiora.  
Guiora was synonymous to a real Maccabist.  
His love for the Movement was without compromise.  
His love for Israel was very strong.  
The Movement will find the way to memorialize Guiora in the most honorable manner.  
We share the deep condolences of Marta and the children.  
We shall never forget him.  
May his soul be bound in the bond of life.

Yair Hamburger  
Chairman, Maccabi World Union

On November 26, 2013, 23 of Kislev 5774, one day before the lighting of the first candle of Chanukah, the Maccabi family lost the President of MWU, Guiora Esrubilsky.

Guiora devoted his life to the Movement; he had many positions in his Maccabi career. When he became the President of MWU, his personal influence changed the Movement. His devotion, his personal contact with the people around him inspired everybody to do their best. His loyalty and his friendship were genuine and came from deep inside.

His love for Maccabi, his love for the Maccabeans, his idealism these were the things we shared. His Legacy is my motivation for the future to continue, with him in my heart and thoughts.

From the first day of his election until the last days of his life Guiora was a partner and a close friend of the EMC.

Guiora cared so much to what is happening in Europe.

His last visit as President, his last speech took place in our confederation. His speech during the Gala evening of Maccabi Germany in Berlin was so full of motivation to all the Maccabeans, who were present there. He was looking forward to the European Maccabi Games in 2015 in Berlin.

Guiora took part in meetings of our Executive; he was always there to assist us - the Bar Mitzvah celebration of Maccabi Spain, the EMG in Vienna 2011, his visits to Finland, Holland, Hungary, Sweden, Germany, Ukraine, etc.

We will never forget his idea of the Mutual Responsibility Program that helped the EMC to develop T.O.s in smaller or less fortunate communities, and his influence in giving our T.O.s the support that they needed so badly to be a part of the 19th Maccabiah last summer in Israel.

On a personal note, I lost a very close friend whom I will miss very much. He will be a part of me as long I live.

The EMC Executive will continue Guiora's Legacy for the greatness of our Movement.

Yehi Zikhro Baruch,

Rest in peace.

Motti Tichauer  
Chairman of the European Maccabi Confederation

Guiora Esrubilsky was the President of our Movement of immense stature and presence with Maccabi blood in his veins. His contribution to the Maccabi family was immeasurable and he leaves a huge void even though he completed less than four years in office as President of Maccabi World Union.

Guiora supported European activities unreservedly and was present at the European Maccabi Games in Rome 2007 and Vienna 2011.

He will be sorely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him and our meetings will not be



the same without him.

Our thoughts and condolences are with his wife Marta and his family who can be extremely proud of Guiora's very many impressive achievements and high standing within World Jewry.

Stuart Lustigman  
President of the European Maccabi Confederation

It is not easy to lose a friend you have known for 35 years. In fact Guiora and myself started to be active in the MWU the same year.

With the years our friendship grew together with the mutual trust. Guiora knew how to appreciate his close friends and was grateful for their accomplishments. He was very impressed with the re-birth of Maccabi USSR. At the time he was Chairman of CLAM and on behalf of his organisation he sent us a letter of thanks.

Through the years I had the pleasure of knowing him and appreciated him more and more. Not only for his efficient leadership but foremost for his kindness and friendship.

As the President of our movement he brought many innovations within the leadership. He was an inspiration for all of us, we surely will miss him.

Michel Grun  
Hon. Life President of the European Maccabi Confederation

**Poem by Hanna Senesh:**

יש כוכבים שאורם מגיע ארצה רק כאשר הם עצמם אבדו ואינם.  
יש אנשים שזיו זכרם מאיר כאשר הם עצמם אבדו ואינם.  
אורות אלה המבהיקים בחשכת הלילה - הם הם שמראים לאדם את  
הדרך."

*"There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are no longer among the living. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for humankind."*



Un líder nos deja su legado:

Guiora Esrubilsky, z. l., nuestro Presidente, referente y amigo, ha atravesado la Eternidad prematuramente. Los que le conocimos, gozamos de su confianza y afecto, de su apoyo y amistad, lo lamentamos profundamente. Aun estamos en estado de shock por una noticia increíblemente triste: ya no nos lo encontraremos en breve, por lo menos no en éste, su mundo macabeo.



Pero también es cierto que Guiora no se ha ido sin más: ha dejado un camino de honradez, congruencia, profundos valores judíos de apoyo desinteresado y amor a su Pueblo, a Israel y a su Movimiento. Un hombre activo y decisivo, de firmes convicciones y con un sentido preclaro de la vía a seguir. Guiora está y estará presente no solo en nuestro recuerdo, si no formando parte de las particulares historias de aquellos que le apreciamos y admiramos, y de nuestro Maccabi! Por eso se

merece que hablemos de el no solo en pasado, sino en presente y en futuro. Gracias, Guiora por tu Legado! Quienes te conocimos siempre nos alegraremos de haberte encontrado por estos lares y haber podido aprender de ti, un gran líder y persona. Martha y familia, estamos con vosotros!

Jazak veematz!!!

A leader leaves us his legacy :

Guiora Esrubilsky , z"l , our President , role model and friend, has gone prematurely into Eternity . Those who knew him, enjoyed his confidence and affection, support and friendship, we deeply regret his passing . We are still in shock by the incredibly sad news : we will no longer see him, at least not in this, his Maccabean world.

But Guiora has not gone without leaving nothing, he has left a path of integrity, consistency, deep Jewish values of selfless support and love to his people , Israel and his Movement . An active and decisive man; a man of strong convictions and a shining sense of the way forward. Guiora is and will be present not only in our memories , as part of the individual stories of those who appreciate and admire him, but also in our Maccabi ! So, he deserves that we speak about him not only in the past tense, but in also in present and future. Thank you, Guiora, for your Legacy ! Those who knew you will always rejoice to have been able to learn from you , a great leader and person . Marta and family, we are with you !

Chazak veematz !

Sandra Israel  
Vice Chairman of the European Maccabi Confederation

To Guiora z.l.

It has been a great honor to know you and walk on your path for two years, it should have been ten times longer.

I will always remember you and thank you for having helped me to become a better person, a better mother, a better Maccabi leader.



Rabbi Simeon's words taken from Pirke Avoth well explain my feeling: "There are three crowns: the Torah crown, the priestly crown and the kingly crown, but above all these there stands the crown of good reputation". The work of faith and love you cleverly accomplished in Maccabi, can certainly be attributed to crown of good reputation.

May you rest in peace, good Friend.

Claudia De Benedetti  
Honorary Education Director of the European Maccabi Confederation

Although I did not know Guiora as well as other members of the Maccabi family, I was very fortunate to spend a weekend with him and Marta just over a month ago in Berlin.

It was clear from the time that we spent together that this was an honorable man with strong morals

and values. He listened to my views and visions and responded in a clear, precise manner.

I will always be grateful for his support which allowed so many dreams to come true in the 19th Maccabiah Games.

The best way that the Maccabi family can pay there respects to this great leader is to make sure his dreams are fulfilled and that his legacy continues for many generations to come.

Robert Cohen  
Honorary Sports Director of the European Maccabi Confederation



Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you some parts of the eulogy which I delivered at Guiora's funeral and some of my personal thoughts.

"We have lost a great leader and friend and I have personally lost my dearest of friends.

Guiora had many qualities which I would like to point out at this time.

Guiora the exemplary family man.

The love he had for his wife and children and grandchildren was unparalleled and he devoted his life to their wellbeing. Rarely did he travel anywhere without the company of his dear wife Marta. She was his permanent companion.

Guiora the friend.

We had a personal friendship which spanned over 35 years, since meeting him at a Maccabi Plenum in Israel. In all these years, unbelievably, we never had an argument or mayor discussion, although we may have had on occasion different points of view. He was everyones friend and would never deny anyone a favor, no matter how big or small. He made everyone around him truly feel that they were indeed his good friend. All of us who had the opportunity of knowing him and being with him truly understood the high quality of human being which he was. His latest act of friendship towards me and my whole family was when he flew to Bogota for just one day, one week before his passing, to share with us in our joy on a special occasion which we had. This was Guiora Guiora the great leader. His love of Judaism and all that it represented was truly incredible and remarkable. His dedication to this cause was total and uncompromising. Any conversation which anyone had with Guiora, rather it be regarding business affairs, or personal matters would invariable conclude talking about Maccabi World Union. or the Latin American Jewish Congress or the World Jewish Congress, or some other community related issue.

Guiora the man of principles.

Guiora would never compromise his principles for anything in the world. If you would wish to persuade him to change his opinion, you had best start by convincing him that the principle was wrong, otherwise it would be futile task. For Guiora his principles where above everything else and he would defend them at all costs.

This is the legacy which he leaves us. We will never be able to replace him.  
We will miss him forever.

May you rest in peace my dear friend. We will never forget you and we will always be guided by your legacy."

Now my personal thoughts.



Guiora's love and devotion to Maccabi World Union was extraordinary and unique. He has left a big vacuum in the leadership of our beloved Movement. The best way that we can honor his memory is to continue the work which he did through out his lifetime of devotion to this Organization. We must remain united with this sense of purpose and that we will continue the work of promoting Jewish continuity through Sports and Educational programs which have made us so successful through out our history. It is through our unity and friendship and our team effort that we will be able to achieve and accomplish these goals.

Guiora would not have liked it to be any other way.

Kind regards to all and Jaazak Veematz.  
Ronald Bakalarz

Apreciados amigos,

Me gustaría compartir con Uds. algunos apartes de las palabras que exprese durante el entierro de Guiora y algunos pensamientos personales.

"Hemos perdido un gran dirigente y yo personalmente he perdido mi mejor amigo.

El tenía muchas grandes cualidades que deseo destacar en estos momentos.

1. Guiora El hombre de familia. El amor y respeto que sentía por Marta era muy especial. Todo su vida lo hizo en función de sus hijos y de su esposa. Tenía una especial adoración por sus nietos. Y su dedicación a toda su familia venía por encima de todo.

2. Guiora el Amigo.

Tuvimos una amistad de mas de 35 años, desde que nos conocimos en una Plenaria de la Union Mundial Macabi en Israel. En todos esos años no tuvimos ni una sola discusión. Era el amigo que no le negaría hacer un favor a nadie. Siempre ayudaba a quien podía, no importaba el tamaño del favor. Todos los que tuvimos la oportunidad de compartir con el, sabíamos la calidad de ser humano que era. Todos los que lo conocían sentían que tenían en el un buen amigo, y así era. El último acto de amistad hacia mí y toda mi familia fue venir a Bogota la semana pasada por un día para compartir con nosotros una alegría. Eso era Guiora.

3. Guiora, el líder. Su amor por el Judaísmo y todo lo que representa era increíble. Su dedicación a las causas Judías y comunitarias era total. Cualquier conversación que se tenía con él sobre temas de negocios o temas personales, siempre terminaban invariablemente en temas de Macabi Mundial, o del Congreso Judío Latinoamericano o del Congreso Judío Mundial o de algún otro tema comunitario.

4. Guiora el hombre de principios. Guiora no comprometía sus principios por nada en el mundo. Si se quería persuadirlo de cambiar de opinión, tenía uno que primero convencerlo de que el principio era errado. De lo contrario, no cambiaría de posición. Para él, sus principios estaban por encima de todo y a cualquier costo los defendía.

Ese es el legado que nos deja. Nunca podremos reemplazarlo.  
Lo extrañaremos para siempre.

Descansa en paz mi querido amigo. Nunca te olvidaremos y siempre nos guiaremos por lo que tu nos legaste."

Ahora mis pensamientos personales.

El amor y la dedicación que Guiora tuvo hacia la Union Mundial Macabi era extraordinaria y única. Él ha dejado un gran vacío en el liderazgo de nuestro querido Movimiento. La mejor manera que podremos honrar su memoria es continuar el trabajo al cual él dedicó toda su vida dentro de esta organización. Debemos mantenernos unidos alrededor de este propósito de promover la continuidad Judía a través del Deporte y de los programas Educativos, que hemos desarrollado con tanto éxito a lo largo de la historia de nuestro Movimiento. Es a través de esta unidad y de esta amistad y de nuestro trabajo en equipo que podremos obtener y alcanzar nuestras metas.

Guiora no lo hubiera querido de ninguna otra manera.

Cordial abrazo para todos y Jazaak Veematz.  
Ronald Bakalarz

**European Maccabi Confederation**  
*Promoting Jewish Activity in Europe*