

modiinlife

ISSUE 2 ■ FEBRUARY 2017



Needs of deceased are just as important as those of the living

– Read city councillor Jonny Cline’s new column: Page 7

Right path for bikers – and everyone else

City spend will include more money on shops, public transport, business, road safety and water park

Report by Marion Stone

MORE INVESTMENT in high standard education, including new schools and kindergartens, investment in the city’s youth including a youth centre, more shops, increased spending on public transport – and even more cycle paths.

These are just some of the developments promised in the Modiin-Maccabim-Reut municipality leaflet which was included with anona bills sent to residents in the mail.

The small six-page glossy includes the following information:

Education

Top priority to invest in high standard education.

Special needs school “Psifas” (Mosaic) - now open and working.

New school opened named “Shibulim”.

New classrooms for the ‘Yozma’ school, and building of the intermediate ‘Ironi Hey’ school.

Completion of four new sports halls in “Avnai Chen”, Ulpana, Ariel and Nadav Democratic schools.

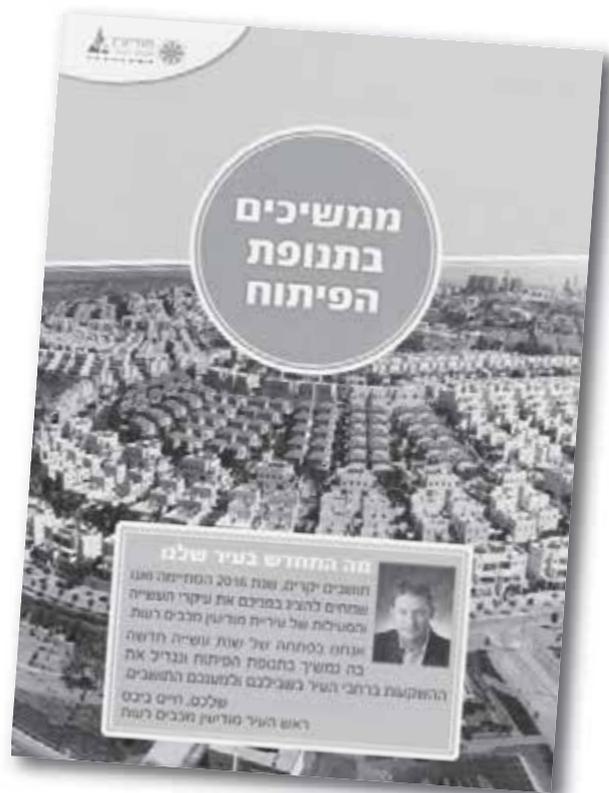
This year will see additional classes at “Ha’Ela” school, and the “Gvanim” special education school, plus a new sports hall for “Yachad” school.

A junior school and seven kindergartens in the new “Tziporim” neighbourhood for the next academic year are currently being built.

Investment in youth

A new building for the Ezra movement in Nahal Tsalmon, and a new building for the “Tavor” scouts in Paz Street.

The “Noam” youth movement’s building in Cramim has



■Cover of the six-page leaflet which was delivered with Anona bills to Modiin residents

been upgraded.

In the coming months work will begin on another building for youth in the Cramim neighbourhood.

Neighbourhoods and parks

New Community ‘Pais’ Building includes a youth centre, a senior citizens centre and ‘Yad LeBanim’ house.

■Story continues on page 2

Promenade, fountains in the new city centre

Continued from page 1

New Building for Social Services in Emek Ha'Ela.

A promenade/walkway has been completed in Cramim that extends from Rehov Nisan and includes seating, play areas and sculptures

"Bet Academ" will be continued this year for the families of autistic children in the city and an accessible playground that will combine activities for neighbourhood children as well as children with special needs.

Making the city accessible

Givat Habroshim and Horshat Hanoflim have been made more easily accessible for people with impaired vision.

During the year work was done on accessibility at road junctions, lowering of pavements and marking of disabled parking.

In 2017 work on Givat Titora will make it more easily accessible for the entire population.

Investing in businesses

The Technological Park in Modiin, Maccabim, Reut continues to grow, and today 140 businesses in fields of hi-tech, commerce and trade, laboratories, biotechnological plants and logistics centres can be found there.

In 2016, nine plots of land intended for offices, hi-tech and commercial enterprises were marketed to a value of NIS 3 million.

Einav Centre – This is a 1,000 dunam area which includes 150 commercial businesses of various types, recreational events, offices, light industry, garages, and multi-purpose plots.

In the near future, Israel Railways will begin working on the 'Modiin Arch' project which will facilitate connecting the Modi'in line to the Express Jerusalem-Tel Aviv train line.

Work includes extending the car park at Paatei Modiin, and also the construction of a footbridge between the train station and the Einav Centre.

City centre

The new city centre is planned to stretch over land between the Municipality building, and Fikus/Arar streets, and within its area will be a combination of shops, residential units, public buildings, and a main promenade furnished with fountains, playgrounds, seating, kiosks, and of course, a bicycle path.

Investing in public transport

Work on the Urban Transport Terminal (bus and train station) is coming to an end. There will be a new operating system with transport setting off from the Terminal that will shorten the bus routes, and lead to an improvement in quality of service.

Investing in biking paths

Two new paths this year:

From Rehov Nissan via Emek Harod to Emek Ha'Ela

• A route connecting the Transport Circle to Sderot HaHashmonaim and road 431.

In 2017 we will continue paving bicycle paths:

• From Sderot HaHashmonaim (near entrance to the city



•The city centre development in Modiin

from road 443) via Emek Ha'Ela to the new football ground
•From the Maccabim Reut junction on the 443, along Sderot Yair Parag to Sderot Menachem Begin.

Investing in road safety

During the past year much work was done to slow down traffic and increase road safety. Throughout the city tens of roundabouts were constructed, mini-islands and road bumps.

In 2017 this work will continue including new roundabouts at Dam HaMaccabim/Admonit, Emek Dotan/Emek Jezreel, Dam HaMaccabim/Ze'elon.

Investing in the city's development

Water and Sport Park

A Park for sport and recreation will be created on land close to the Technology Park, that will include a wave pool, a tube path, surfing, fountains, a picnic area, restaurants and cafes, children's playground and more. Work is expected to begin this year.

The Municipal Swimming Pool

Work has already begun on covering over the municipal swimming pool, and it is expected to be ready and open to the public by April 2017.

Park Aneva

This year will see upgrading of the city's main Park to include an adventure park, with a huge surfing machine, adventure boats, omega, swings for all ages, synthetic grass, shady areas surrounding water based activities during the heat of Summer.

For more information

The Municipal website is: www.modiin.muni.il

Facebook: Modiin Maccabim Reut

The municipal app: modiin maccabim reut – can be downloaded from Appstore

The municipal hotline operates 24 hours, 7 days a week. Dial 106 or 08-9726020

We salute you!

Awards for volunteers 'who make difference'



■ Representatives of the city's Hadassah-Israel group (left) and ESRA with civic dignitaries

Story and photos by Marion Stone

A VOLUNTEERS' Fair in Modiin's Azrieli Mall in January was followed by an award presentation to outstanding volunteers in recognition of the fine contribution they make to the city.

There is an impressive total of 70 organisations in Modiin, and their energy, enthusiasm and results gained from their various projects and activities were praised by Mayor Chaim Bibas and others including Miguel Harf, Shimon Gueta, Ilan Ben

Saadon and Yaakov Almog.

There was a warm and cheery atmosphere in the mall as the volunteers enthusiastically explained the purpose of their work.

They also greeted friends and neighbours as they passed by, and also enlisted new volunteers.

Modiin council members were present and they had their photos taken with volunteers who were manning the various stalls.

English speakers volunteer for

various causes, and Anglo groups – ESRA and Hadassah-Israel – were well represented.

Awards were later presented to outstanding volunteers at the Einan Hall.

A special award was presented to Shula Zakken, who has retired from the War Against Cancer Modiin branch after 10 years of tireless work.

A concert then took place, with music by the group Transistor, much of it written by the late Arik Einstein.



■ Shula Zakken receives her award (left) from Mayor Chaim Bibas and (right) group Transistor play

Please forward this newsletter to whoever you think might be interested

‘Please know how much your information to the Anglo community in Modiin is appreciated. It's wonderful to finally be somewhat in the know of what is to be expected in our future here’

–Rachel Feinerman



I’VE JUST received a copy of the first *modiinlife* and want to congratulate you for conceiving and executing this excellent initiative. *Kol hakavod* to you all!

As new olim to Modiin, my wife and I are very grateful to have this short and very readable newsletter. We wish it every success and look forward to reading, enjoying and learning from future issues.

David Weitzman

THIS IS AN excellent idea and an excellent work. It is something that really fills a gap in needed information for the Anglo community. Mazal Tov.

Diane Salzman

I ENJOYED reading your articles in the newsletter. It is good to know what is going on in our community. I hope you will continue to print it! Mazel tov!

Leah Urso

I FORWARDED *modiinlife* to my two groups before reading it. I am glad that I did ... very informative ... written well ... interesting ... keep up the good work.

Marcia

A BRILLIANT idea! It will be great to get up-to-the-minute information from a reliable source about our beautiful city!

Vivienne Maron

WE REALLY enjoyed the first edition of this newsletter and would like to sign up to receive it regularly.

Sandy Regev

WE VERY much appreciate this new endeavor and will look forward to each issue.

Sandra and Gerry Wine

BRAVO! Thank you. A breath of fresh air. Well written.

Gershon

GREAT newsletter. Please put me on the mailing list.

Bonnie Bachenheimer

TODAH Rabba. This is great!!!

Joan Einhorn

MAZEL TOV to all those who were involved in this new newsletter. It is exactly what I have been craving. I longingly look at the Modiin local newspaper and wonder what is in it that I am missing out on knowing about. As an older Olah my Hebrew is negligible so the English news about my city and what is happening is much appreciated. I shall look forward to the next issue. *Kol Hakovod*.

Evelynne Cherny

KOL HAKAVOD on this new publication. It's a very welcome addition for "us Anglos" and a nice way to keep informed about goings-on in Modiin. We look forward to continued articles and information as our city continues to grow and flourish!

Dorothy Friedman

I AM VERY impressed with the newsletter. I think it's a wonderful opportunity for English-speakers to hear about what's going on in their city.

Rachel Shani

I REALLY appreciated your opening article 'Future of our city is revealed'. Please include me on your mailing list.

Stanley Epstein

We've stumbled on something, so let's explore the possibilities

ALTHOUGH many Anglos live in Modiin, how many of us actually know what's going on in the city, what future plans are in store for us? Perhaps when we get together with friends we chat and glean some information. But in the main – and especially those whose Hebrew is either rusty or non-existent – we simply don't know.

And, of course, we should. We pay taxes, arnona (rates) and utility bills, so we're entitled to be as well-informed as the next man, even if that man is Israeli born and bred.

The first issue of *modiinlife* had only been out a day or two and the comments featured above are typical of those received. Anglos are proud to live here, but it seems we don't know what's happening until it's happened.

This monthly newsletter isn't going to be a salve for all of that, but we hope to make a difference and make Anglos aware of developments, ideas, schemes which might impact on their lives.

But we need help, especially with translations. If you think you could assist us – and it will be a labour of love, there's no income from this so no payment – then please get in touch.

We think we've hit on something that's missing from people's lives that could make a difference.

So please join us for what hopefully will be an enjoyable, satisfying journey. Our address is at the foot of page one.

And thanks to everyone who took the time to write in.

Crane and able

Changing landscape as new homes mushroom



■Cranes dominate the skyline as new homes continue to be developed in and around Modiin

City's first food fair goes down a treat

A WEEK-long food fair was held in Modiin for the first time in January in which more than two dozen cafes and restaurants offered different styles of food.

A total of 26 venues took part, offering a special from its menu for just NIS 49.

The idea behind the food fair – or *Tayim Lehakir* in Hebrew – was to promote the venues and to especially encourage younger people to take part.

The event was organised by the Young Citizens' Centre and the Committee for the Promotion of Businesses, led by municipal council members Shachar Mai-On and Elad Simonovich.

Have you just signed up for an internet or phone bargain? Then why not share the details with us?

HAVE YOU recently renewed your internet or phone contract? Have you negotiated a great deal?

Then why not share your good fortune with other readers of *modiinlife*?

Write in with details of your new contract, who it's with and

how much you're paying and a few brief details of internet speed etc.

And we promise not to divulge your personal details – just the information to pass on to other readers.

Write to us here at: modiinlife@outlook.com

Please forward this newsletter to whoever you think might be interested

Let's hope that the proposed city hotel is neither too fancy nor too expensive

THANK YOU so much for the first edition of *modiinlife* – it is a great idea. For quite some time I have thought: if only someone could make a short English edition newspaper.

About the proposed hotel, I hope that they do not make one too fancy and expensive! What I think we need is something quite simple where our visiting family and friends can stay the night.

Most of us want the family to be with us in our

own homes but simply have not the room to sleep them at night.

I for one will very much regret it if the inter-city buses no longer pick up and drop off en route to the central station. I think this is certainly a step backwards in the service.

Thank you again and may you have much success in your new venture.

Valerie Sonderegger



Hospital will be needed sooner rather than later



You have your say

This is the page you write! Let's have your comments on issues of the day – or any of the articles featured in this edition of *modiinlife*.

Our email address is: modlife@outlook.com

Please include your name, address and phone number.

I THINK a hospital in Modiin will be necessary sooner than later. The only choices can be over 35 minutes away and longer if there is traffic.

While there are physicians here, there is only first-line medical care here. For tests and procedures other than ultrasounds, X-rays and cardiac care one needs to go out of the city.

Somewhere near Ligad or Yishpro, not too close to populous areas, might be a good location.

I also happen to think the plan for the city will make it over-congested.

Because Modiin serves a middle to upper income population as well, there is a desire for larger property, even private houses.

An area for higher income private houses and larger apartments would have brought in larger income families.

Instead of building bigger apartments or houses to accommodate the desires for bigger properties, the city is just seeking to overbuild similar sized apartment on top of apartments.

Betty Bendavid

And when will work start – when resident No. 250,000 has moved in or beforehand?

HOW long does it take to build a modern hospital with enough wards and suitably equipped to face the challenges of 21st century medicine?

I ask because I see that Modiin (*modiinlife*, January issue) will not have a hospital until the population reaches 250,000.

But the question in my mind is: when will construction actually start on this hospital? Will the city fathers wait until the 250,000th resident has moved in before the first soil is turned?

Or will it be when the population has reached say 200,000 will a start be made so that completion could more or less tie in with the population goal?

I think I might know the answer to that one. But it's worth posing the question nonetheless. Those two dates could be years apart.

Modiin resident

When supermarket plastic bags do have a use

THE LAW to cut down on the use of plastic bags for grocery shopping has been on the horizon for several years. When I first heard about it, I started to take with me re-usable cloth bags when I went shopping and brought home fewer plastic bags as a result.

Now that the law is in effect, I didn't feel much difference – until recently. At the supermarket I bought spray bottles of kitchen and bathroom cleaner. Once home, I sat on the couch, and a little later felt my clothes had become wet and cold, as had a cushion. A bottle of cleaner had leaked!

I say that plastic bags do have a use, and strongly recommend their use for anything containing liquid.

Marion Stone

These chicken trays are not so eco-friendly



•Chickens... now sold on polystyrene trays

I'M PUZZLED. Can anyone please explain to me why the supermarkets are no longer placing fresh chicken in plastic bags – which can be placed in the re-cycling cages – but are putting them on bio-undegradable polystyrene trays instead, destined to add to the insurmountable landfill?

Tay Green

Jonny Cline



OUR MAN ON THE MODIIN-MACCABIM-REUT CITY COUNCIL

Burial in Modiin: is it a fate worse than death?

SO MUCH OF my time as a resident of Modiin-Maccabim-Reut is taken up thinking about real estate (what are the apartments like in the new neighbourhoods? Is my apartment really the size for which I pay arnona? How much has my apartment gone up since I bought it, and what could I buy for that amount if I were to sell?) that I rarely spared a minute to think about real estate of another kind, a more permanent residence, if you will.

Approval was recently given, and work has begun, on the future stages of development of the municipal cemetery. A programme was released describing what burial solutions would be made available to whom, with services rendered by whom, and at what cost.*

I admit that when I was reading the plans, my attention was apparently just as focussed on the needs of the living as those of the deceased.

In touring the facilities, reading of the options for burial, and learning of the new infrastructure that would be added in order to provide a more facilitated process of purification and burial, I was interested in hearing about the electrical infrastructure that is to provide lighting and sound for funerals and visiting.

I found great interest in the availability of an option for what is considered secular or non-Jewish burial. I was touched by the funeral home on contract being able to offer the full service without affecting the freedom of a family to hold a burial service of their wishes.

Growing up in the UK, I was vaguely aware of the fact that the Jewish community had its own cemeteries. Since my father took over the running of his community's local burial board I have learned a great deal more – the good, the bad and the ugly. For this reason I was actually happy to be able to answer a question put to me recently, even if the answer that I had to give will probably not satisfy the challenge faced by the person who wrote to me.

The question posed was: *In my home country I would have been assured of a burial, in the ground, in a plot near my family. Here I am afraid that I will be not be buried as I would wish, and to secure the resting place I would expect is not only expensive, it is extortionate. What can I do?*

It would have been a pleasure to have been able to answer all of the needs and emotions bound up in that question, but I am afraid to say that the answer holds both good news and bad.

The answer must begin by peeling away the layers of

assumption and expectation, and can then focus on what is available.

I too had assumed that there are basic rights after death, based upon the fact that the deceased had paid national insurance contributions during their lifetime. Sometimes it is only when a question is asked that you learn the raw truth.

In both the UK and the US it is up to the deceased and their nearest and dearest to arrange and to pay for their funeral. If the deceased has no person (not necessarily Jewish) wishing to claim their body, they are cremated. In extreme cases where the remains of the deceased are not claimed, they are buried in a mass grave.

In Israel, every body is buried, in some way consummate with Jewish Law, at the expense of the State.

Abroad, the conscientious member of a community will pay to that community's burial board, the individual wishing to take care of their own needs and, not wishing to be a burden on others, will take out burial insurance. The State/Crown do not cover costs.

In the case of a family in economic hardship in the US/UK, there are schemes to help in covering the minimal expenses for a simple funeral – these may come in the form of National Insurance claims, or could be covered by charity.

In Israel, including Modiin-Maccabim-Reut, every body is buried.

There is indeed a catch – the State-funded funeral is in accordance to policy set by government, be it "Sanhedria style" (internment in a burial wall) or otherwise. Any personal preferences must be at the expense of the individual.

When considering the real estate requirements for burial, I appreciate the great investment of the State of Israel in its citizens. Our city aims to call itself home to 120,000 residents at any one time – growing to 240,000 eventually. Many of us live in high-rises. If indeed a quarter of a million people per generation are to seek their eternal rest within the city limits in our municipal cemetery, how incredible is it that we have a commitment from the State and city that we shall have a plot of our own? Taking this into account, it also makes sense that to reserve the eternal resting place of our wishes may cost a little more.

*See: <http://bit.ly/2jnzJwu> (Website in Hebrew only)

Got an issue you want to raise with Jonny? Contact him at jonnycline@gmail.com



Guide to stop you from stumbling and seriously harming yourself

Here's how to prevent falling . . .

ONE IN THREE older people fall at least once a year. Most falls and injuries occur at home. Over 65s – at least 30% have a fall. 5% of the 30% end in broken bones.

Most often causes of falling

Home accidents
Decreased stability and balance
Decreased muscle strength
Decreased vision and hearing
Side effects of medication

How to protect yourself

Organise your home without dangerous obstructions
Take care and watch out for risks
Exercise
Doctor should monitor medication
Maintain good standards of vision and hearing

Organisation in the home

Bathroom: Instead of climbing into a bath, take showers.
Try to use liquid soap – blocks of soap slip out of the hand.
Try to dry yourself before leaving the shower or slippery bath.
Dry floors immediately to prevent slipping and falling.
Don't lock bathroom door from the inside.
Install grip rails for security, use rubber mat to prevent slipping.
Sit on a stable plastic chair in a shower cubicle.

Lounge: Don't have things cluttering the floor (toys, cables etc.)
Avoid putting rugs and mats on the floor.
Keep walkways clear of furniture.

Kitchen: Keep everything reachable.
Do not climb on steps, especially if over 70 years old.
Prevent slipping – keep floors dry.

Stairs: Keep stairs clear of obstructions.
Rail by stairs must be stable.
Must be well lit.

Lighting: A night light should be on in corridors/toilet.
Pathway to the toilet should be lit.

Taking Care: Do not rush up and down stairs.
When going down stairs, remove eye glasses
Get up slowly from bed or chair. To rise quickly may cause dizziness, falling.
Exercise: Regular exercise – such as walking, swimming, gym.

Advantages of physical exercise

- Contributes to good health.
- Strengthens bones and muscles.
- Regular exercise is good protection against falls.
- Not enough exercise increases danger of falling.

Correct use of medication

- Tell your doctor of all medicines you take, including 'over the counter' and alternative/natural preparations.
- If you are taking medication that causes dizziness or drowsiness, plan your activities so that you are not affected by this and not in danger of falling.

Maintenance of vision and hearing

- Defective vision can cause falls.
- Wear glasses with correct lenses for your own vision quality.
- Loss of hearing could cause risk of falling, plus not hearing the sounds around you, such as vehicles when crossing a road.
- Use a hearing aid.

Aids to help mobility

- Use aids recommended by doctor/physiotherapist.
- Any aids must suit your height, adjustments to be made by professionals.
- Aids must be in good standard condition.

When should you contact a doctor?

Ministry of Health recommendations:

- Two falls in one year.
- A fall that caused a need for treatment or hospital admission.
- Walking or balance problem, just beginning or getting worse.

Physiotherapy treatment for preventing falls – procedure:

- Obtain a referral from family or specialist doctor.
- Make an appointment for check-up/diagnosis in physiotherapy department.
- Decision for treatment programme – individual or group.

▪From a presentation by Akiva Schwartz, physiotherapist at Kupat Holim Clalit, Modiin

They never said that making aliyah was going to be an easy ride. They were right on that one



By David Weitzman

ALL NEW olim have their story about what went well with their aliyah, and what was problematic. Overall, ours went smoothly, but not without some frustration.

Minor problems such as registration with a Kuppas Cholim and getting a Senior Citizen card (a 10-shekel cinema seat on a Tuesday is a no-brainer) were trivial compared with the 'straightforward' task of getting an Israeli driving license.

I was advised to have an eye test, get my doctor to confirm the result, and then go to the licensing authority office (why do I have to go? why can't I mail the application?).

I set off with all the required documents and drive out to where a recommended driving instructor tells me I have to go – Ramle. I grab a numbered ticket on entry and settle down to wait the one-and-a-half hours before my number is called.

But the lady at the counter is super-efficient. Within 10 seconds she tells me that I've come to the wrong place – I should be in Holon. I plead with her that a reliable source told me to come to Ramle, but her decision is unshakeable and I retire, beaten.

A few days later, clutching my file of papers, I venture further afield to Holon.

This is a much larger and busier place than the Ramle office. I wait 90 minutes and then give up as I have an appointment back in Modiin. At least, I now know where to go.

So several days later I grit my teeth, set out early and am confident of success. My numbered ticket is 53 more than the number showing on the monitor, so I reconcile myself to a long wait. And long it is – four hours!

Others are clearly experiencing similar frustration in their efforts to deal with various transportation matters and, from time to time, tempers break and shouting looks likely to end in fisticuffs. Sundry persons share their frustrations with me, and I realise that my 'simple' application could turn out to be much more complex.

Exactly four hours after my arrival my number appears and I eagerly approach the counter.

Mercifully, the lady scans my papers, pronounces them in order, and tells me that I should return in three weeks to collect my authorisation to arrange a driving test.

I chance my luck. "Is there a counter from which I can collect them without having to queue up?", I ask innocently. "No," is the reply, "you'll have to queue again." OK, I tell myself, this is still the Middle East.

As instructed, I return to collect my papers. I'm lucky - only a two-hour wait this time, and then I'm told that there's a problem with my application: more medical information is needed.

I've been driving for nearly 60 years, but clearly very high standards are applied to those seeking Israeli licenses – not that one would suspect that from the driving observed on the roads.

I appeal to the counter lady and she seems to have mercy on me. "When you come back, come to me and you won't have to queue." I thank her profusely, make a note of her name, and leave fairly comforted.

On my fifth attempt I arrive with a further doctor's letter confirming my fitness to drive. I seek out 'my lady'. She's on break, but I position myself opposite her desk and wait.

She returns and I greet her with a big smile, hand her my documents and remind her of her kind offer. She denies everything and tells me to go and queue up elsewhere in the hall, and no amount of pleading has any effect. She makes it clear that she views me as a total liar.

At the end of my tether, I march over to another desk, shove my papers into the hands of the unsuspecting staff member and leave. Now I need to go back in the next few days (my sixth excursion), but my wife assures me that my application has probably been binned and I shall have to start all over again.

Ah well, I suppose it wouldn't be a real aliyah without some frustration.

■ Professor David Weitzman made aliyah from the UK with his wife, Avis, last September. They live in Modiin and he is available for psychological and emotional support to driving license applicants from overseas.

It happened to me . . .

ARE there any experiences of living in Israel – like the one on this page – you'd like to share with *modiinlife* readers?

We'd love to hear from you.

Your piece needs to be about 700 words.

You'll find our email address on page one.

Step to it: New book highlights nature walks in Modiin – while three are planned for February

MODIIN RESIDENTS who like to stride out and walk will be delighted to learn that a new book is available absolutely free containing walking ideas and suggestions in and around the city.

Nature Walks in Modiin is a sumptuous 50-page full colour large format paperback published by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI).

The book contains about a dozen walks together with historical information, details of fauna and animal and bird life.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please email: mmarionmail@gmail.com

Meanwhile, the Modiin branch of the SPNI has now released details of walks for the year ahead. These are:

On **Thursday 2nd February**, between 5pm and 7pm, there will be a Tour of The Monk's Valley.

On **Friday 17th February**, from 9am to 11am, there will be a walk from Givat Sher to the Ancient Synagogue at Umm al-Umdan.

And on **Saturday 25th February** there is to be a drawing tour on Givat Titara.

Please note that all walks are conducted in Hebrew.

Cost: single NIS 20, family NIS 50, on Shabbat NIS 60.

Tickets from the 106 hotline (08 972 6020)



■ **The cover of the new book - and it's FREE!**

Tours are based on private car travel unless otherwise stated. If weather is stormy, the tour will be cancelled.

Updates through the 106 hotline (08 972 6020) or at: www.modiin.muni.il

Start-up notion



Fancy helping to produce a newsletter for the Anglos of Modiin? We'd love to have you on board. Drop a line to: modlife@outlook.com

PARKING SPOT

... the first of what we hope will be a long-running series!



IT'S NOT until you make the move to Israel that you see how bad the driving can be. And it's the parking, too. Modiin certainly has its fair share of terrible parkers.

Tay Green has been photographing such examples since she made aliyah nearly five years ago. Her file of pictures is so big it's eating up her computer memory!

Here's one example she took in a supermarket car park in the city. Why use one parking spot vertically when you can take up three horizontally?!

If you see any examples of bad parking, take a shot and send it in to us together with brief details of where it was taken. We'll photoshop out number plates so car owners aren't embarrassed!

■ Send your shots to: modlife@outlook.com

All aboard! Rail evening pulls into Mall

THE MODIIN to Jerusalem train is one of the topics on the agenda for a meeting about railways and trams scheduled to take place in the Azrieli Mall on Monday January 30th from 5.30pm.

The evening is being organized by

Dr Steve Sattler, a tramologist, from Jerusalem, and will be conducted in English.

Other items for the evening include a Dvar Torah on wagon wheels in Pharaoh's Egypt, trains of the 1950s and 1960s, updates on model trains.

There will also be an open discussion on trains and/or trams, and also a ladies' corner.

Those attending are asked to bring an item of train or tram memorabilia.

The meeting is scheduled to take place in either the Food Hall or Gregg's.

Meanwhile, train enthusiast Les Brown, of Modiin, whets our appetite with this

Israeli station only few people know about . . .

A BIT LIKE Platform 9¾ in the Harry Potter books, there is a railway station in Israel that only certain people know about and ordinary mortals are totally unaware of.

It no longer serves commuters but you could once upon a time catch a train from there and go to Cairo, Damascus, or Amman.

For a short time you could also catch a train to Beirut which would connect you to Baghdad and Istanbul, and over a line built by the soldiers of the British Empire.

Located at Haifa Mizrach, is the Israel Railways Museum in the once smokey and grimey Engine Shed, which was built to serve the Hedjaz Railway.

Since trains do not stop at Haifa Mizrach, it exists purely for train operation reasons, so you will need to either walk, take a taxi or a catch a bus to get there.

The origins of the Museum began in 1983. It managed shortly after by a legend in Israel Railways known as Paul Cottrell. There, until his death in 2007, he worked tirelessly at the Museum. Some of the exhibits are:

Palestine Railways coach

Built by the Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon Company in 1922 for Palestine Railways as a first-class saloon coach, it was rebuilt in 1929 as a 6 berth saloon sleeper.

It was in use until the 1960s conveying those who could afford it plus railway managers, government officials, foreign dignitaries such as emperors, royalty and prime ministers such as Winston Churchill, when he was Colonial Secretary, and Israel's first PM, David Ben-Gurion.

Egyptian State Railways passenger coach

This example of a typical Egyptian State Railways six-wheel passenger coach was built in Belgium around 1893. Many were requisitioned by the British Army during World War 1 and converted to ambulance coaches for use in Palestine for transport from the front lines to hospitals in Egypt.

Following that, they were used on secondary passenger services and later on internal railway uses prior to installation in the Museum.

Hillmens Pride

This is something you will definitely not find very often - a concrete bunker was built and installed on top of a flat wagon for the purpose of responding to Arab attacks on trains during the 1936-39 disturbances. The wagon now sits on a the remains of an American Box Car that came to Israel during World War 2.

British Railways coach

In 1977, Israel Railways bought around 10 ex-British Railways coaches built there in 1970-71. After modifying them for Israel Railway operation, they included them in train sets intending that although in a socialist country like Israel, there is no class distinction, that should not stop Israel Railways from charging a premium to ride in these vastly superior carriages to anything else on the network.

Whilst they were indeed superior in winter, in your average Middle East summer they were a sauna as only a small window could be opened.

They rapidly became very unpopular and were removed from service as quickly as possible. The one is the Museum is fitted with air-conditioning as it is used as a classroom.



■A former British (L&SWR) World War 1 ambulance coach at the Israeli Railways Museum in Haifa which is due to be restored

Haifa East Goods Shed

The Goods Shed houses displays of signals, model trains, telephony systems, electric staff instruments, tickets and locomotive number and builders plates.

Future plans

There are many projects around to develop the Museum and restoration of historical items to operation.

Palestine Railway administration in 1921 imported a number of these First Class compartment coaches with leather upholstered seats and armrests.

There is already a well developed and well intentioned plan to hopefully restore this Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon product to operation.

There are railway exhibits all around the country. In addition to preserved carriages and wagons around the country, one notable location is the Be'er Sheva Turkish station which is located in the centre of Be'er Sheva unlike the current Israel Railways station which is on the outskirts of Haifa.

Professor to talk on 'possible solutions'

ONE OF Israel's leading figures in understanding the Arab and Muslim worlds will speak in Modiin on 'Israel and the Palestinian issue - Possible solutions' on Thursday February 2nd 2017.

Prof Mordechai Kedar will be talking at the invitation of ESRA Modiin in the Residents' Room, Ground Floor, Dimri 4th building, 41 Yigal Yadin, at 10.30am.

He is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Middle East and Islam (under formation), a research associate of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and a lecturer in the Department of Arab Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

Admission: NIS 35; ESRA members NIS 25. Register on 055 669 3744 with Evelynne Cherny or email evelynne.cherny@gmail.com

modiinlife what's on

THEATRE



■ **INCREDIBLY**, it's been around for 40 years and is still as fresh as when it debuted on Broadway in 1977. Now *Annie* is heading to Modiin in LOGON theatre group's latest production. It plays the Hechal Hatarbert for one night only on Sunday March 5th. Tickets: 08 973 7333.

MOVIES

PLANNING a trip to the movies? Here's a list of new releases scheduled to play the Rav Chen and/or Globus Max cinemas in Modiin during February. See websites for timings.

■ **Bastards** with Owen Wilson, Ed Helms: Two brothers are in for a shock when they discover that their mother lied about the death of their father

■ **Hidden Figures** with Kevin Costner: The story of three African-American women who were the NASA brains behind astronaut John Glenn's journey into orbit,

■ **T2: Trainspotting** with Ewan McGregor: 21 years on, and Renton, Spud, Sick Boy and Begbie return in a

sequel again directed by Danny Boyle.

■ **Fifty Shades Darker** with Jame Dornam: The second instalment in the *Fifty Shades of Grey* erotic romance story.

■ **Fist Fight** with Ice Cube: A high school teacher tries his best to keep it together amid pranks on the last day of term.

■ **The Great Wall** with Matt Damon: A mercenary warrior is jailed within the Great Wall and discovers the mystery behind one of the wonders of the world.

■ **Rings**: A woman is on the receiving end of a terrifying curse that threatens to take her life in seven days.

Don't forget: Tuesday is pensioner day at the cinema - NIS 10 a ticket

Ashdod visit and four days at Dead Sea

HERE'S a list of some of the trips/events being organised by the Modiin Absorption Department in February and March:

Monday February 6: Hermon trip - entrance, cable car and bus ride. NIS 70. Coach leaves 7am.

Wednesday February 8: Tu'Bishvat ecological farm tour - includes baking pittas, making necklaces, face painting, and making spice mix; NIS 15. Bus leaves Iriyah 2.30pm, returns 5.30pm.

Tuesday February 14: A trip to Ashdod, including a guided tour of the port and the Philistine Museum. NIS 50. Coach leaves 8.30am from Iriyah.

Sunday February 19: Yiddish Shpill in Israel: A Yiddish musical comedy about the life, songs and poems of Yiddish poet Cadva Moldovsky. NIS 45. Coach leaves 6.30pm from the Iriyah.

Sunday March 19 to Wednesday March 22: Dead Sea trip. Includes a trip to Massada (with cable car and headphones). Staying at the Crown Plaza Hotel, four days, three nights, half-board. NIS 1280 per person in double room.

Sunday March 26: Lecture by Eyal Offenbach. NIS 15. At the Olim Centre, 29 Irusim Street, Reut.

Further information: Shulamit Resnik on 08 610 4331, Lee-at Salomon on 08 653 6684 or email: leeat_s@modiin.muni.il

■ *Please note that most trips/events are only for Modiin's Olim who have lived in Israel up to 10 years.*

Want to add an event to future listings? Send details to: modlife@outlook.com