



MATANEL FOUNDATION

Conference Report  
December 2014

Name of the Activity: Hope from the Maghreb – Tikun Movement Conference 2014

As part of the activity: Matanel Prize for Unique Social Contribution award ceremony

Date of activity: December 1<sup>st</sup> 2014

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We wish first to express our deep thanks to the Matanel Foundation for its confidence and encouragement in our work towards the fundamental renewal of Israeli society and culture. The Tikun conference – Hope from the Maghreb – was held Monday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 at 18:30 (9 Kislev 5775) at the Mishkenot Sha'ananim Conference Centre in Jerusalem. As part of the conference, the 2014 Matanel Prizes for Unique Social Contribution to Israeli society were awarded.

Hope from the Maghreb: Over this past decade we are witnessing a cultural ferment in Israel among artists originating from the Maghreb. *Piyut*, film, the Mimouna's new spirit and Moroccan theatre all point to a rising interest that is being warmly embraced by third generation artists and audiences. The Jews of the Maghreb continue to hold their country of origin close to heart, and a parallel interest can be found among the Arabs of the Maghreb. Morocco is remarkable in that sense, compared to Arab countries. Note the Jewish Museum in Casablanca and the animated discussion in the Moroccan parliament concerning the status of Moroccan Jews. This friendship continues to be maintained in an age where zealousness reigns in these parts. The Middle East is ablaze and appears to be on a path that threatens the peace of the entire region and affect the lives of all those who live there. Can we, originating

from the Maghreb – Jews and Arabs alike – possibly contribute to generating a new Jewish-Muslim discourse? What promise does this friendship carry to those Muslims and Jews living in Europe of today? Might the Maghreb not harbor a gift, a treasure that bears blessings for the area? The Tikun Movement seeks to inspire a new dialogue between Jewish and Arab artists, intellectuals and social activists.

### **Activities Report**

The Tikun Movement, thanks to the gracious support of the Matanel Foundation, marked the end of the 2014 year of activities with the Tikun Conference: Hope from the Maghreb.

Among the participants were leading intellectuals and creative artists, as well as leaders in the educational and social fields in Israel, for whom the link to Morocco is an inspiration and an example of a society that exhibits tolerance and solidarity. The conference also hosted several guests from Morocco.

The conference's central objective was to place the historic friendship between Jews and Muslims on the public agenda in order to show that good relations between neighbors in Israel and in the entire region are possible, just as they were in the past.

Ms. Einat Levy, who initiates and leads in-depth tours of Morocco, joined with the movement's leadership team to head the research towards establishing the conference's content. Ms. Levy recruited the speakers interviewed them with Ms. Shira Ohayon, the conference moderator; both generously contributed their abilities and efforts on Tikun's behalf in the best of spirits.

The conference's content focused on three main axes we identified as currently active in Israeli society: a. the domain of the arts, film and music, inspired by authentic musical sources; b. academia, research and education; c. promoting inter-organizational relations between Israel and Morocco and raising awareness. The conference expanded the sphere of our impact and attained impressive public presence through the written and broadcast media.

### **Main achievements during the activity (main achievements, number of participants etc.):**

A most meaningful achievement during the conference was the award of the 2014 Matanel Prize for unique social contribution to Mr. Gaby Malka, Mr. Koby Breme and Mrs. Yuvi Tashuma under the auspices of Mrs. Joëlle Aflalo and Mr. Gad Boukobza of the Matanel Foundation who, having just arrived from Belgium, honored us with their presence. Kamel Hashkar, director of the film, "Tin'ir Jerusalem: Voices from the Mellah" who was in Israel at the time, was with us. We screened a video address by Elmahdi Budra, President of the *Mimouna Club* in Morocco. Rabbi Haim Luk shared some of his experiences in Morocco with a visual presentation and performed several songs. The publicity for the conference reached thousands through the social media, membership lists and personal invitations; registration was closed several days early and over 250 participants attended the event.

## Conference Program

- 19:10            **Greetings and Introductory Remarks**  
Dr. Yaacov Ma'oz  
Mrs. Joëlle Aflalo  
Mr. Gad Boukobza
- 19:20            Matanel Prize award ceremony
- 19:30            Address by Yuvi Tashome, Matanel Award winner
- 19:35            *Paytan* Rabbi Haim Luk
- 19:45            **"Ajo ajo elkoun" – Come, come hither, brothers:  
A cross-boundary Israel – Morocco dialogue**  
Opening remarks: Dr. Meir Buzaglo  
**1<sup>st</sup> circle – Past – Present (conservation and awakening)**  
**Ms. Shira Ohayon**  
**Prof. Moshe Bar Asher**  
**Dr. Meir Buzaglo**  
**Dr. Yehuda Maimaran**  
**Koby Oz**  
**Hannah Azoulay Haspari** presented her film: *Orange People*
- 20:15            Kamel Hashkar speaks about his film:  
*Tin'ir – Jerusalem: Voices from the Mellah*
- 20:23            Israel – Morocco: An Encounter Point in Film  
Screening of excerpts from "Orange People" and Tin'ir – Jerusalem:  
"Voices from the Mellah"
- 20:30            Filmed address by Elmahdi Burda, President, *Mimouna Club*
- 20:35            **2<sup>nd</sup> circle – Where to from here? (Renewal)**  
**Dr. Meir Buzaglo**  
**Dr. Nimrod Goren**  
**Einat Levy**
- 21:10            Musical Performance: **Neta Elkayam**

## **THE 2014 MATANEL PRIZE**

The Tikun movement is honored to have been chosen by the Matanel Foundation to award the Matanel Prize prizes to Israeli leaders for significant achievements in social change, for the promotion of social justice, and for social empowerment in Israeli society.

### The Tikun Movement Committee for the Matanel prize:

Dr. Meir Buzaglo, President and founder of Tikun movement; Dr. Yaakov Maoz and Mrs. Hanna Gur, members of the Board of Directors.

After evaluating numerous projects and potential candidates, the Committee chose three individuals whose actions best illustrate the basic principles of Tikun: activism for social justice, Jewish values renewal, and striving for a better society in Israel on the basis of Jewish social values.

The three excellent individuals chosen: Mr. Gabriel Malka from Haifa University, Mr. Kobi Bremer from Tel Aviv and Mrs. Yuvi Tashome from Gedera. Details on their actions and achievements in various aspects of social justice, social empowerment and social activism which drew our attention follow.

Mr. Gabriel Malka was awarded the Matanel Prize for his life-long achievement and unique social contribution. Mr. Malka is renowned for his work and for his commitment to bridging the gaps in Israeli society. Born in Morocco in 1949, he came to Israel in 1969. He is currently the national CEO of the National School of Tourism in Israel. Mr. Malka served as a board member in several organizations for social change and mutual social responsibility, as well as in academic institutions. He served as Dean of Students at Haifa University, in which role he was awarded the Prime Minister's prize for Jewish-Arab coexistence. During this period, the Unit for Social Involvement was established; the Unit developed and operated programs for people with special needs as well as educational leadership programs for diverse sectors in Israeli society from which scores of social leaders emerged. Gavriel Malka was the founding and national CEO of ISEF, and headed numerous social projects during the course of his illustrious career. The Matanel Prize was awarded to Mr. Malka for his outstanding leadership in social action, for education to mutual social responsibility and coexistence, and for the cultivation of young and diverse leadership. Gavriel Malka is a source of inspiration to us, in the Tikun Movement, and we respect and cherish his achievements.

Mrs. Yuvi Tashome, born in Ethiopia, made her Aliyah as a child with her family. She studied at the Kibbutz Ein Tsurim high school and served in the IDF as a soldier-teacher for two years in a boarding school for youth at risk. Her growing interest in environment issues led her to the Society for the Protection of Nature, where she studied and worked as an educator and youth

counselor. Between 2000 and 2004, she established a program at-risk youth of Ethiopian origin in the city of Yavneh, while maintaining her role as a youth worker in environment and green programs at the Society for the Preservation of Nature. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of unique programs aimed to consolidate the family ties among new immigrants from Ethiopia through caring for nature and environment. Mrs. Tashome was subsequently appointed director of the Sorek Field School (Kiryat Gat area), where she launched courses and training programs for hundreds of youth in the region, including courses for developing leadership skills among the young adults, many of them from Ethiopian origin. During those years, Yuvi Tashome also took a course in permaculture, which she implements in her neighborhood, part of her work towards the preservation of ancient agricultural traditions from Ethiopia. In between, she also studied at a pluralistic Beit Midrash and, later on, led student study groups in Talmudic studies. Since 2006, Yuvi Tashome has headed the *Chaverim Ba'Teva* NGO [Friends in Nature] – actually a community within the city of Gedera, the city where she lives with her husband and family. "Through my profound belief that a shared common vision of empowerment, education, social justice and involvement in community action can generate significant and positive change in our community" says Yuvi, "I found the strength to devote myself to the community I have established in Gedera, which I hope will serve as a model for additional communities in the country."

In recognition of her work, Mrs. Tashome was awarded the honor to light one of the twelve torches traditionally lit every year in Jerusalem to launch Israel's Independence Day festivities. Yuvi Tashome is now preparing herself for her next role – election to the Gedera city council, where she will seek to represent the needs of small communities and empower young leadership for social activism and involvement, mainly of young adults and parents of Ethiopian origin. Yuvi Tashome was awarded the Matanel Prize for her unique and ground-breaking social leadership.

Mr. Koby Bremer became famous in Israel overnight, following a decision of the Supreme Court of Justice (June 2013), which ruled that Tel Aviv municipality should not discriminate between owners of small local groceries and large chains of stores, on the ground of breaching labor laws. According to municipal law, groceries and businesses in general must close on Shabbat and Jewish festivals. In the recent years, however, grocery chain stores open for business on Shabbat nevertheless (in fact 24 hours a day and 7 days a week). They are able to pay the resulting fines due to the high income they make, while small neighborhood groceries that cannot afford the fines must close on Shabbat as well as lose income.

Koby Bremer, owner of a small family neighborhood grocery on Tel Aviv's Shenkin Street and head of the local union of grocery store owners, submitted the appeal to the court to bring to an end the situation in which, as he explained, he was forced to choose between his livelihood or his family – as well as his right to rest one day a week. Bremer, while not a religious man, emphasized that his positive attitude towards Jewish tradition and specified that his struggle should not, under any circumstances, be linked to tensions between religious and secular sectors in the country. In this particular issue, Bremer was the underdog – having to fight

against the mighty businessmen owners of the Tel Aviv chain stores. As a result of his steadfast struggle, the Supreme Court ruled that the municipality of Tel Aviv should implement the rules approved by the city council, and refrain from discriminating against the groceries owners.

Bremer's goal was to restore the right of the common man to a day of rest and to enjoyment of his family life, in keeping with the law that ensures the right to rest on Shabbat. His position, while not originating from a personal religious point of view, is based on a vision of human rights that fits completely with Tikun Movement concepts of Judaism and human rights.

Mr. Bremer was awarded the Matanel Prize for his outstanding social and civic involvement and for his contribution to equal opportunity, as inspired by the universal social values of Judaism.

Attached: Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as PDF documents)

Please join photos – as photos – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as PDF document.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/882902128394414/>

<http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4597650,00.html>

<http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4611986,00.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=181&v=h6lavqso6O8>