
Abraham

Abraham is the first Biblical character to be sent to the Promised Land. He first appears in the Book of Genesis as Abram, until he is re-named by God in Genesis 17:5. God appeared to Abram and told him to depart. After settling in Haran, where his father Terah died, God then told Abram to leave his country and his father's house for a land that He would show him, promising to make of him a great nation, bless him, make his name great, bless those who blessed him, and curse those who cursed him. Following God's command, at age 75, Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and the wealth and persons that they had acquired, and traveled to Shechem in Canaan. Genesis 17 records the inauguration of Abram into God's covenant that was initiated thirteen years ago, as was stated in Genesis 15. Abram is now ninety-nine when God declares Abram's new name: "Abraham, a father of many nations." In Islamic and Jewish traditions, Abraham is referred to as "our Father."



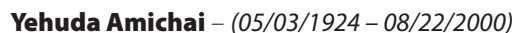
AUTOGRAPH



Yisrael Aharoni – (01/01/1953 – PRESENT)

Aharoni is an Israeli celebrity chef. He was a pioneer of high quality cuisine in Israel and a prominent figure in the development of its culinary culture. Aharoni traveled to the Far East to master the secrets of Chinese cookery and also apprenticed at some of the finest restaurants in France. Upon his return to Israel, Aharoni opened his first restaurant, "Yin-Yang," on Rothschild Boulevard in Tel-Aviv. Later, he opened another restaurant in Tel Aviv, "Tai-Chi" in Gan Halir. In the late 1990s, he opened "Tapuach Hazahav" (The Golden Apple), a French gourmet restaurant. He developed and hosted a 32 episode series on the foods of Israel's different ethnic groups. Aharoni also DJs regularly at two of Tel Aviv's leading bars and is often the guest DJ at Israel's leading nightclub, the Oman 17.

AUTOGRAPH



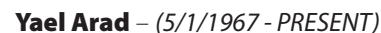
Amichai was born in Würzburg, Germany, to an Orthodox Jewish family, and was raised speaking both Hebrew and German. He was a member of the Palmach, the strike force of the Haganah, the defense force of the Jewish community in Mandate Palestine. Amichai is considered by many, both in Israel and internationally, as Israel's greatest modern poet. Amichai's poetry deals

with issues of day-to-day life and with philosophical issues of the meaning of life and death. His work is characterized by gentle irony and original, often surprising imagery. Amichai's poetry has been translated into 40 languages.



Avi Arad – (8/1/1948 - PRESENT)

Arad is an Israeli-American businessman, born in Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. He became the CEO of the company Toy Biz in the 1990s, and soon afterward became the chief creative officer of Marvel Entertainment, a Marvel director, chairman, CEO and the founder of Marvel Studios. He produced such films as *The Amazing Spider-Man* (2012), *Iron Man* (2008), and *Bratz* (2007).



Arad is the first Israeli to win an Olympic medal; she won a silver medal for Judo in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. She is widely recognized as one of Israel's most successful athletes and is credited with bringing judo into the athletic mainstream.



Menachem Begin – (08/16/1913 - 03/09/1992)

Begin was an Israeli politician, founder of the Likud party and the sixth Prime Minister. Before independence, he was the leader of the Zionist militant group Irgun, the Revisionist breakaway from the larger Jewish paramilitary organization Haganah. He proclaimed a revolt on February 1st, 1944 against the British mandatory government, which was opposed by the Jewish Agency. As head of the Irgun, he targeted the British in Palestine. Begin's most significant achievement as Prime Minister was the signing of a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979, for which he and Anwar Sadat shared the Nobel Prize for Peace.

In the wake of the Camp David Accords, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula, which was captured from Egypt in the Six-Day War. In 2005, he was voted the 4th-greatest Israeli of all time, in a poll by the Israeli news website Ynet to determine whom the general public considered the 200 Greatest Israelis.





Moshe Dayan – (05/20/1915 – 10/16/1981)

Dayan was the the 4th Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, and he went on to become Defense Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel. At the age of 14, he joined the Haganah (pre-state Jewish militia). He was always seen wearing an eye patch from an injury sustained in 1941 where a bullet shattered binoculars into his eye; it took 6 hours to evacuate him and he lost his

eye. Although he did not take part in most of the planning of the Six-Day War, he personally oversaw the capture of east Jerusalem during the June 5-7 fighting. He was also a writer and amateur archeologist.

AUTOGRAPH

David Faitelson – (11/08/1971- PRESENT)

Faitelson, also known by his full name Davide Moshé Faitelson Pulido, is an Israeli-born Mexican sports journalist. He currently lives in Southern California with his wife and three daughters. During his career, Faitelson covered the World Cup from 1986 to 2006 and every Olympics from 1988 to 2008. Faitelson is known for his dramatic, inspirational reports on the colorful side of the sport.



AUTOGRAPH



David Frenkel – (1983- PRESENT) Frenkel is a 29-year-old chef from Israel, currently Head Chef at Pronto in Tel Aviv, named best Italian restaurant in Israel by *TimeOut* magazine. He came in third place at the 2012 S.Pellegrino Cooking Cup - an event that sees ten young chefs from around the world take part in a competition that combines sailing and cooking.



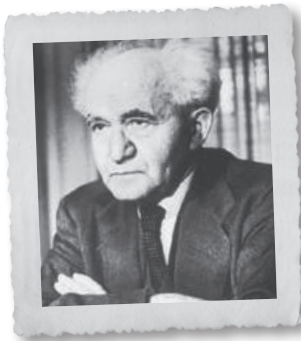
AUTOGRAPH

Gal Friedman – (7/16/1975 - PRESENT)

Friedman won a bronze medal in the Atlanta 1996 Summer Olympics, and a gold medal in the 2004 Athens Olympics. He is the only Israeli athlete to win two Olympic medals, and the first (and only, so far) Olympic gold medalist in Israeli history. Fittingly, his first name, Gal, means "wave" in Hebrew.



AUTOGRAPH



David Ben Gurion – (10/16/1886 – 12/01/1973)

On May 14, 1948, Ben Gurion formally proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel and was the first to sign the Israeli Declaration of Independence. He later served as Israel's 1st Prime Minister. Ben Gurion is now buried in S'de Boker, a kibbutz in the Negev. He was honored by being named one of Time Magazine's 100 most important people of the 20th century. Israel's largest airport in Tel Aviv is named in his honor.

AUTOGRAPH

Hadag Nachash – (founded 1996)

Hadag Nachash are an Israeli hip hop/funk band, founded in 1996 in Jerusalem. The group's name literally means "The Snake-Fish". It is also, however, a Hebrew wordplay on the phrase Nahag Hadash – in Israel, people who have only recently gotten their driver's licenses must place a tag on their back window with these words.



AUTOGRAPH

Ofra Haza – (11/19/1957 – 02/23/2000)

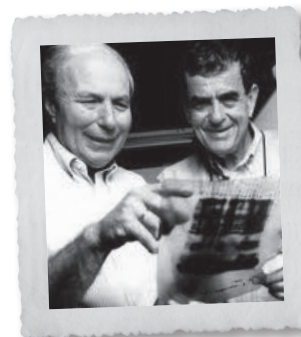
Haza was an Israeli singer of Yemenite Jewish origin, as well as an actress and international recording artist. Her voice has been described as mezzo-soprano, of near-flawless tonal quality, capable of lending itself to a variety of musical styles with apparent ease. Inspired by a love of her Yemenite Jewish culture, the appeal of her musical art quickly spread to a wider Middle Eastern audience, somehow bridging the divide between Israel and the Arab countries. At the age of 19, she was Israel's first pop star and retrospectively, music journalists described her as "The Madonna of the East". As her career progressed, Haza was able to switch between traditional and more commercial singing styles without jeopardizing her credibility. Her music fused elements of Eastern and Western instrumentation, orchestration and dance-beat.



AUTOGRAPH

Avram Hershko/Aaron Ciechanover

Hershko and Ciechanover were awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation. This protein is believed to be involved in the development and progression of cancer, muscular and neurological diseases, immune and inflammatory responses. In 2005, they both were voted the co-31st-greatest Israeli of all time, in a poll by the Israeli news website Ynet to determine whom the general public considered the 200 Greatest Israelis.



AUTOGRAPH



Theodor Herzl – (5/2/1860-7/3/1904) Herzl was an Ashkenazi Jewish Austro-Hungarian journalist. During his lifetime, he became concerned by Anti-Semitism and concluded that the only solution was the mass immigration of Jews to a land they could call their own – the State of Israel. Known as the father of modern Zionism, Herzl is remembered by a famous quote from his book: “Im tirzu, ein zo agadah – If you will it, it is no dream.”

AUTOGRAPH

Gavriel Iddan

Iddan is an Israeli electro-optical engineer and the inventor of wireless capsule endoscopy. Initially at RAFAEL Armament Development Authority working on guided missile technology, Iddan got the idea for an endoscopic capsule while on sabbatical in Boston from a neighbor of his, an Israeli gastroenterologist suffering from undiagnosed stomach pain. After working on the idea for almost twenty years, he successfully created a prototype in 1998 – a disposable pill-sized camera that passes straight through the digestive tract, continuously broadcasting to an external receiver.



AUTOGRAPH

Ami James – (4/6/1972- PRESENT)

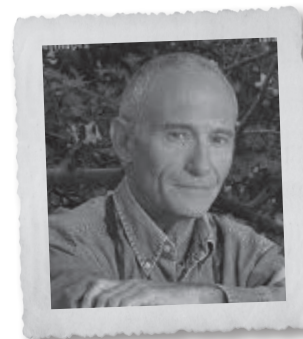
James is an Israeli-born tattoo artist. He is the co-owner of the Miami Beach, Florida tattoo parlor *Love Hate Tattoos*, the subject of the TLC reality television show, *Miami Ink*. He is also the owner of *The Wooster Street Social Club*, a New York tattoo parlor, and the subject of the show *New York Ink*.



AUTOGRAPH

Alex Levac – (1944- PRESENT)

Levac an Israeli photojournalist and street photographer. He won the Israel Prize for photography in 2005. The judges who chose to award the prize emphasized the humanitarian perspective of his work. “No other photographer is as involved as Alex Levac in the Israeli experience,” they wrote.



AUTOGRAPH



Golda Meir – (05/03/1898 – 12/08/1978)

Meir was the 1st Female Prime Minister of Israel, and was often called the “Iron Lady” of politics. Born in the Ukraine as Golda Mabovich, she immigrated to the United States in 1903, but moved to British Palestine in 1917. She was one of only 2 women to sign Israel’s Declaration of Independence. Meir was Prime Minister during the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and the Yom Kippur War. She died from cancer in Jerusalem at the

age of 80 and is buried on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem

AUTOGRAPH

Mordecai Meirowitz

Born in Israel, Meirowitz invented the code-breaking board game *Master Mind*. Released in 1971, the game sold over 50 million sets in 80 countries, making it the most successful new game of the 1970s.



AUTOGRAPH

Ohad Naharin – (1952- PRESENT)

Naharin is an Israeli contemporary dancer, choreographer and dance company artistic director. In 2005, he was awarded the Israel Prize, for dance and in 2009, he was honored with the American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement.



AUTOGRAPH



Yoni Netanyahu – (03/13/1946 – 07/04/1976)

Netanyahu was a commander of the elite Israeli army commando unit Sayeret Matkal, also known as the Israeli Special Forces. He was awarded the Medal of Distinguished Service, Israel’s third highest honor, for his conduct in the Yom Kippur War. His younger brother, Benjamin Netanyahu, is the current Prime Minister of Israel. Netanyahu joined the Israeli Defense Forces in 1964. He was the only Israeli soldier killed in action during Operation Entebbe in Uganda, a counter-

terrorist hostage rescue mission on July 4th, 1976.

AUTOGRAPH



Ahinoam Nini – (06/23/1969- PRESENT)

Nini also known by her professional name, Noa, is an Israeli singer. On November 4, 1995, Noa was on stage performing for an audience of 500,000 at a peace rally in Tel-Aviv just minutes before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. In 1999, Noa was honored with the “Crystal Award” by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where she performed together with Palestinian artists and participated in numerous panels dealing

with peace in the Middle East and the role of art and artists towards bringing it about. Two songs that Noa is famous for, “Mishaela” and “Boker,” are used as Folkdance songs at Camp Louise.

AUTOGRAPH

Hanoch Piven – (08/21/1963- PRESENT)

Piven was born in Uruguay and raised in Israel. As an artist, Piven’s illustrated compositions are assembled from common objects and scraps of materials, including items which might be associated with the subject (for example, using bologna and bottles to create Boris Yeltsin for Haaretz in 2000; or brains, magnifying glasses, and electrical wire create Stephen Hawking for Die Weltwoche in 2006). His caricatures appear in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Entertainment Weekly*, among other publications.



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AUTOGRAPH

Natalie Portman – (06/09/1981- PRESENT)

Also known by her real name, Natalie Hershlag, Portman, is an actress with dual American and Israeli citizenship. She began acting as a child but mainstream success came when she was cast as Padme Amidala in the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy (released in 1999, 2002 and 2005). In 1999, she enrolled at Harvard University to study psychology while still working as an actress. She said that she felt more Jewish in Israel and that she would like to raise her children Jewish: “A priority for me is definitely that I’d like to raise my kids Jewish, but the ultimate thing is to have someone who is a good person and who is a partner.” She has 2 Academy Awards, 3 Golden Globes, 5 MTV Movie awards, and 13 Teen Choice Awards.



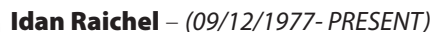
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Bar Refaeli – (06/04/1985- PRESENT)

Rafaeli is an Israeli model and occasional actress. She was the cover model of the 2009 *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue* and was voted #1 on *Maxim* magazine’s Hot 100 list of 2012. Bar Refaeli was born into an Israeli Jewish family in Hod HaSharon, Israel. She began a modeling career at the age of eight months, and appeared in various commercials. Refaeli has appeared in *ELLE* (France), *Maxim*, and *GQ* (Italy). She debuted in the 2007 *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue*, becoming the first Israeli model to appear in the magazine, and posed with rock band Aerosmith. In 2009, Refaeli was the cover model for the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue*.



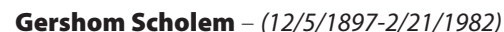
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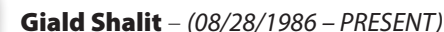
attended by many young Ethiopian Jews who introduced him to Ethiopian folk and pop music.

Haim Saban – (10/15/1944 - PRESENT)

Saban is an Egyptian born Israeli-American television and media proprietor. In the 1990s, Saban's company became best known for the production of *Power Rangers*.



Scholem was a German-born Israeli Jewish philosopher and historian, born and raised in Germany. He is widely regarded as the founder of the modern, academic study of Kabbalah, becoming the first Professor of Jewish Mysticism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Shalit is an Israeli soldier who was kidnapped by Hamas militants near the border with Gaza on June 26th, 2006. Shalit was held in captivity for over 5 years. Israel never stopped looking for a solution to rescue Shalit during his time in captivity. He was released on October 18, 2011 in a prisoner exchange with Hamas for 1,027 Palestinian prisoners.

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AIRY & LOUISE'S EXCELLENT ISRAEL DAY **15**



Naomi Shemer – (07/13/1930 – 06/26/2004)

Shemer was a leading Israeli songwriter hailed as the “first lady of Israeli song and poetry.” Shemer was born on Kvutzat Kinneret, a kibbutz her parents had helped found, on the shores of the Sea of Kinneret. In the 1950s she served in the Israeli Defense Force’s Nahal entertainment troupe and began songwriting and composing. During her career, she set famous poems to

music, such as those of the Israeli poet Rachel and

adapted well-known songs into Hebrew, such as the Beatles songs “Let It Be.” In 1967, she wrote the famous patriotic song Yerushalayim Shel Zahav, sung by Shuly Nathan.

AUTOGRAPH

Offer “Vince” Shlomi – (4/25/1964- PRESENT)

Shlomi, also known as Vince Offer, the “ShamWow!” Guy, or Headset Vince, is an infomercial pitchman, writer, director, and comedian. In the late 2000s, Offer began appearing on television commercials for the products “ShamWow!”, a super-absorbent towel and the “Slap Chop”, a kitchen utensil.



AUTOGRAPH

Gene Simmons – (08/25/1949 – PRESENT)

Simmons, born Chaim Weitz, is an American rock bassist, singer-songwriter, entrepreneur and actor. Known as “The Demon,” he is the bassist/secondary vocalist of KISS, a hard rock band he co-founded in the early 1970s. In March 2011, Simmons visited Israel, where he was born. He described the trip as a “life changing experience.” He talked about how he still feels that he is an Israeli: “I’m Israeli. I’m a stranger in America. I’m an outsider.” Simmons has plans to bring his band, KISS, to Israel. He has always said that he is an ardent supporter of Israel. At a press conference in Israel, he spoke both Hebrew and English



AUTOGRAPH

Hillel Slovak – (04/13/1962 – 06/25/1988)

Slovak was an Israeli-American musician best known as the original guitarist and founding member of the Los Angeles rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers. His guitar work was primarily rooted in funk and hard rock, although he often experimented with other genres including reggae and speed metal. He is considered to have been a major influence on the Red Hot Chili Peppers’ early sound. Born in Haifa, Israel to survivors of the Holocaust, Slovak immigrated

with his family to the United States when he was five years old. Slovak met future band mates Anthony Kiedis, Flea, and Jack Irons while attending school in Los Angeles.



AUTOGRAPH



Michael Solomonov

Chef Solomonov was born in G'nei Yehudah, Israel and was raised in Pittsburgh. In May 2008, Solomonov opened Zahav in Philadelphia, where he explores the traditional cuisine of his native Israel. He won a 2011 James Beard Award for Best Chef Mid-Atlantic. Solomonov is highly regarded as a premier chef in the Philadelphia region and is credited with reviving interest in modern Israeli cuisine. Popular dishes served at his restaurant

include variations on hummus and salatim, fried cauliflower with labneh, and spiced eggplant with couscous.

AUTOGRAPH

Subliminal – (11/13/1979 - PRESENT)

Also known by his real name, Ya'akov "Kobi" Shimoni, Subliminal is an Israeli hip hop artist and music producer. Through lyrics and concerts, Subliminal and his rap group aim to inspire and encourage a new generation to stand as a unified Israeli nation. He can be seen at many of his concerts wearing American hip hop clothing and a large Star of David chain necklace. Subliminal is the artist behind the song "Hafinali."



AUTOGRAPH

Hannah Szenes – (07/17/1921 – 11/07/1944)

Szenes was one of 37 Jews from Mandatory Palestine parachuted by the British Army into Yugoslavia during the Second World War to assist in the rescue of Hungarian Jews about to be deported to the German death camp at Auschwitz. She was arrested at the Hungarian border, imprisoned and tortured, but refused to reveal details of her mission. She was eventually tried and executed by firing squad. She is regarded as a national heroine in Israel where her poetry is widely known and the headquarters of the Zionist youth movements Israel Hatzzeira, a kibbutz and several streets are named after her. The best known of her poems is Halikha LeKesariyah ("A Walk to Caesarea"), more commonly known as Eli Eli ("My God, My God").



AUTOGRAPH

