The annual memorial ceremony to mark the anniversary of the murder of Yitzhak Rabin Z"L took place last week at the University. Israeli television's very first news anchor, Mr. Haim Yavin, spoke at the ceremony: "Yitzhak Rabin Z"L and I were not friends and we never had similar world views. But thanks to his integrity and modesty, his stubbornness and his stick-to-itiveness that were traits of his all along the way – I valued him greatly."

Chen Qun, President of East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai and his colleague Yu Lizhong, Chancellor of NYU Shanghai, two of the leading research universities in all of China, headed a Chinese delegation that visited the campus last week and met with Rector David Faraggi and President Amos Shapira. During the visit a collaboration agreement was signed that will include establishing a Shanghai-Haifa academic center on the ECNU campus, joint research, lecturer and student exchanges etc. "We view the University of Haifa as our unique and strategic partner in Israel," said the heads of the Chinese delegation. "The University of Haifa is proud to be the first university in Israel to open an academic center in Shanghai," said the Rector.
Two additional visits took place last week: Shana Penn, the Executive Director of the US Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture met with Dr. Zohar Segev and Dr. Marcos Silber of the Department of Jewish History and with staff from the Strochlitiz Institute of Holocaust Studies; Stanley Gold, president of a US investment firm met with President Amos Shapira, Prof. Hanan Alexander, Dean of Students and Head of the International School, and Prof. Rassem Khamaisi, Head of the Jewish-Arab Center, and heard from them about the University’s vision for a "campus of research and peace." Mr. Gold also visited the Sagol Department of Neurobiology and Etiology, chaired by Prof. Mouna Maroun, as well as the Institute of Evolution where he met with Prof. Tzion Fahima and Prof. Abraham Korol.

And more news from ASUH, which held their first-ever Chicago Gala in honor of The Harry and Sadie Lasky Foundation, and the CEOs and founders of The Trendlines Group, D. Todd Dollinger and Steve Rhodes. Over 100 participants, among them Prof. Alfred Tauber, Board of Governors’ Chairman. All came to honor Mitchell Feinberg who accepted the University of Haifa Carmel Award of Merit on behalf of The Lasky Foundation as its Director, and Todd Dollinger and Steve Rhodes, Chicago natives and founders of The Trendlines Group, who were presented with the ASUH Global Business Development Leadership Award in recognition of their contributions to innovation in Israel. Admiral (Ret.) Ami Ayalon, Chairman of the Executive Committee, provided the keynote address while

The American Society of the University of Haifa (ASUH) held its annual New York Gala at the American Museum of Natural History with hundreds of participants, including Ido Aharoni, the Consul General of Israel in the US. The prestigious University of Haifa Carmel Award of Merit was presented to Audrey Gruss, founder and chairperson of the Hope for Depression Research Foundation, by Prof. Alfred Tauber, Board of Governors’ Chairman. Prof. Alan Dershowitz presented the same award to The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, represented by Trustee Sandor Frankel. The many guests enjoyed a musical performance from award winning Israeli pianist and composer Guy Mintus and Israeli opera singer Maya Yahav Gour.

One of the latest contributions to the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library is a 350 year old, very well preserved Bible, found among the books of Micha Shagrir, an Israeli film director and producer. This copy, dating from 1677, features exegeses (critical textual analyses) by the known Hebraist David Clodius (1644-1684). It also includes many cramped comments between the lines and in the page margins, in miniature handwriting in Latin, that were added by about a dozen different readers from the 17th and 18th Centuries. The fascinating tale of the book’s arrival, from Frankfurt via Cairo and Jerusalem and finally to us here in Haifa, is an inseparable part of its long history.
internationally renowned Israeli singer/songwriter David Broza gave a performance.

And more from the Library – last week a delegation of three library managers from Shanghai visited. The visit took place in the framework of a publications exchange program between the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library and the Shanghai Library, in a program named "Window of Shanghai", where our Library received donations of hundreds of books on: Chinese history, politics, economics, geography, society, culture, literature and art, etc. The members of the delegation also shared, among other things, their electronic book collection project (in Chinese and English) where it is possible to search for and read full texts of books for free online. The Library's Main Foyer showcased an exhibition of pictures of modern Shanghai sent specially in honor of the visit, as well as a showcase selection of books from the collection donated through the years in the "Window of Shanghai" program.

Last week, Vital Capital’s Gallery for African Studies hosted an event to celebrate the newly established International MA in Child Development at the University of Haifa. The guests included the international students, government representatives; as well as University of Haifa President, Mr. Amos Shapiro, the head of the program, Prof. Abraham (Avi) Sagit-Schwartz, Mr. Ilan Fluss, Director of, Policy Planning and External Relations at Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), and Miss Nada Ajami Tondo from Liberia who spoke on behalf of the students. Mr. Eytan M. Stibbe, founder, partner and director at the Vital Capital

The winner of The Joseph and Racheline Barda Chair for the Study and Research of Jewish Heritage in Egypt Award for 2014 is Ms. Liat Maggid-Alon, a doctoral student at Ben-Gurion University, who is writing her thesis on "The Jewish bourgeoisie in Egypt in the first half of the 20th Century: Gender and family perspective." Likewise, a scholarship was also awarded during the ceremony to Mr. Ilan Cohen, a master's degree student from the University of Haifa's Department of Land of Israel Studies, whose thesis deals with the Damascus Jewish community during the period of the Cairo Genizah. The author Mr. Avraham Bar-Av (Ben-Tata) gave the keynote address at the event, based on his first novel "17 Sheikh Hamza Street, Cairo," and his wife, the poet Ms. Lydia Bar-Av, accompanied him with readings from the book.

Participants in the Israel Studies and 20th Century Jewish Histories (ISJH) International MA Program, headed by Prof. Gur Alroey, Head of the School of History, enjoyed an especially original opening event that included, dinner and a lecture about the Druze. The group of students was very impressed by the stories, the food, and the daily life of the Druze. "This year, an especially interesting and varied group of students joined the program, and including students from China, the United States, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Italy, Serbia, Holland and Germany," said Prof. Alroey.
Fund, who is also contributing to the program was also in attendance. 17 out of the 25 students in the program are from African nations and came to the University in order to acquire the tools and knowledge necessary to return to their countries and assist at-risk children. UNICEF and the World Bank, who are working with the program's staff, sent representatives to the event with warm greetings and wishes for the success of this important program.

The green roofs project is picking up momentum. In an article aired on Channel 10 News last week, in cooperation with the Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Research Center, the main advantages of the novel technology were presented. Dr. Shay Levy, the Center's Manager, said: "The green roofs have a number of uses: increasing the variety of species; improving the landscape; improvement in the energy efficiency of buildings and savings in electricity; isolating the structure from noise; minimizing the 'municipal heat island' phenomenon; improving the sealing on the roof and preserving it for many years; increasing the value of the property and surrounding properties; and minimizing runoff and the burden on the sewage system; etc."

The opening event of the "Five Units Club," meant for educators who teach five units of study in mathematics, an advanced matriculation level in Israel, took place last week at the Faculty of Education. The goal of establishing the club is to develop communities of teachers who support teaching math at a high level, the professional development of such teachers and supporting their work. The project is being financed by the Trump Foundation, and with the assistance of the staff of the Mathematics Teachers Center of Above Elementary School Level, the academic staff of the Department of Mathematical Education and the University's Interdisciplinary Center for Research and Advancement of Giftedness and Excellence (RANGE).
Dr. Noga Collins-Kreiner at the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and Researcher at the Center for Tourism, Pilgrimage & Recreation Research was interviewed by Bloomberg about the renewal of tourism in Israel following “Operation Protective Edge.” She was quoted as saying: “While Israel may be mildly successful reaching out to niche markets, its real attraction still lies in its historical roots. If you want to see where Jesus was born, this is the only place,” she said. “It is with religion, tradition, culture, history and archeology that we play our winning card, with the New Testament as our best brochure.”