



**Division for External Relations
and Resource Development**

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1

At the Canadian Friends annual Mount Carmel Dinner on May 1st, one of Canada's most prolific and acclaimed film producers, **Robert Lantos**, received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (honoris causa) in recognition of his lifelong contribution to the film industry and his bravely outspoken opposition to the BDS anti-Israel movement that seeks to delegitimize and isolate Israel, both in film and on campus. In a powerful, moving and *inspiring speech* to 550 guests gathered at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Hungarian-born, Lantos, addressed current attitudes towards Israel, comparing pre-war Hungary to modern day Jew hatred. University of Haifa President **Amos Shapira**, and Vice President for Development and External Relations, **Yariv Sultan**, presented the Honorary Doctorate degree to Lantos. **Heather Reisman** delivered a warm tribute to Lantos and **Simcha Jacobovici** and **Gerry Schwartz** performed the "hooding". Also participating in the program, were Canadian Friends President, **Dr. Arnie Aberman** and Dinner Patron, **Tony Comper**. Dinner proceeds will establish "**The Robert Lantos Scholarship Fund**" for students enrolled in the University's Israel advocacy program, "*Ambassadors Online*".



2

President Amos Shapira met with friends and supporters of the University on a whirlwind three-city four-day trip to the U.S. in the first week of May. In Chicago the President was a guest at the home of Khalil Khalil with other Charter Donors of the Arab Student Scholarship Fund. The group discussed plans to increase participation and an upcoming visit to the University. In Boston President Shapira visited with long-time benefactors. In New York, President Shapira spoke to a group of young high tech entrepreneurs at a WeWork office about leadership and innovation. He also met with members of the Board and staff of the American Society and visited with Board of Governor member Tzili Charney.

**4**

The Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies, supported by the Livnat family recently launched a special exhibition the "[Long Way Home](#)", designed by students of the program. It tells the stories of Holocaust survivors and their long journey from Europe to Atlit Detention Camp in Northern Israel. Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, the former Chief Rabbi of Israel and currently Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, attended the event. In a moving talk he shared with those present the story of his childhood, from his experiences in Buchenwald concentration camp to his arrival as part of the first group of "youth Aliyah" at Atlit Detention camp in Northern Israel. The speech and exhibition formed part of the University's Holocaust Memorial Day events, and was attended by hundreds of students and staff. The MA program in Holocaust Studies is also supported by the Arie & Eva Halpern Foundation (USA) and the Azrieli Foundation (Canada), amongst others.

**3**

As part of the University's Israeli Holocaust Memorial Day, the *Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library* introduced two digital photographs collections found at the library. The first is a collection of illustrations of artist and holocaust survivor Nahum Bendel. His illustrations show his hometown of Covasna in the Carpathian Mountains in Romania, the concentration camps he was in and his life in Israel. Another collection is the Strochlitz Institute Holocaust Research collection, which deals with research of the Holocaust and the Second World War. The collection includes personal collections of photographs, especially from Romania and Hungary. [Link to the Collections Page.](#)

**5**

A rare scarab seal belonging to a senior Egyptian official of the Thirteenth Pharaonic Dynasty (the 18th-17th centuries BCE) has been found at Tel Dor on Israel's Carmel Coast. The seal was discovered by Alexander Ternopolsky, a birdwatcher, who handed it over to the archeological team working at the site. "The scarab must have belonged to a very senior figure in the kingdom, probably the viceroy responsible for the royal treasury," explains Prof. Ayelet Gilboa from the Department of Archeology at the University of Haifa, who is heading the excavations at Tel Dor. "The owner of this scarab filled a similar position to that held by Joseph in Egypt after he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams". This finding was widely publicized in the media: [The Jerusalem Post](#), [Haaretz](#).

