Our Mission

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging "the intellectual gap" in tolerance and understanding, by enhancing relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures.

We strive to eliminate the use of religion as a tool which, historically has been used, by some, to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts. Through our projects, and our concrete gestures of good will, we hope to pave the way towards global understanding targeting the every day person. We must now all recognize the dangers of ignorance, apathy and silence.
Meet Us

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Rabbi Yitshak Asiel Chief Rabbi of Serbia and Montenegro
Sunil Thomas Advisor in India
Pave the Way Foundation
Awards and Gifts
Jerusalem medal from the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Al Aqsa Fatwa from the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Order of Knighthood from the Anglican Church-St John of Jerusalem, Medal from the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Tree of Life award from the Jewish National Fund, Special Star of David made by Palestinians in Bethlehem, Vatican's Servitor Pacis Award (Servant of Peace), Old Friends New friends for help with the concert in Venice for Hospital of St. Padre Pio, Order of Knighthood by Pope John Paul II, Medal of Peace given by Pope John Paul II, Rosaries given by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, Order of Knighthood by Pope Benedict XVI, Humanitarian Award given by The New Seminary United Nations, Nostre Aetate award awarded by Sacred Heart Universities Center for Christian Jewish Understanding, Bronze Statues of Padre Pio given by the Hospital of St. Padre Pio Cross given by the Macedonian Orthodox Church, Original relic of St Pio Pietrelcino given by the hospital of St. Padre Pio, Oil Painting given to and painted by Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See- H.E. Amb. Oded Ben-Hur, Benemerenti Medal of Good works from the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George.
Pave the Way Foundation

• A 501 (c) 3 public charity with a mission calling for inter-religious action – not just dialogue
• Meeting the real problems, of today's world, with real effective answers and solutions.
• Challenging the conventional accepted methodology of working towards peace with innovative proven success.

Arranging an historic viewing of Maimonides Manuscripts- Vatican Library 2003

Borrowing Rare Hebrew manuscripts

Dealing with a Problematic Israeli notice that was eliminated

Initiating and obtaining permission for an historic Maimonides Manuscript loan to the Israel Museum

Arranging a historic Jewish mission to the Pope Jan 2005 to deliver a message of thanks
Pave the Way Foundation

...And succeeding in each of our projects with historic success.

Negotiating property questions to finalize diplomatic issues

Gary Krupp with Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI at a meeting February 2005.

Working with Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See Oded Ben-Hur

Working with Apostolic Nuncio to Israel Archbishop Sambi working on the Full diplomatic relations
How can we do what others can’t?

Access and Quid Pro Quo

Our President and Founder, Mr. Gary Krupp, was knighted by Pope John Paul II to the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great on July 29, 2000. Mr. Krupp became the seventh Jewish man in history to be so honored. This honor makes him a trusted member of the Papal household with a spiritual love and attachment to Israel and his Jewish heritage.

On July 23, 2005, Mr. Krupp was informed that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had approved him to be invested into the Episcopal Order of St. John.

January 15, 2007 Mr. Krupp was raised in rank by Pope Benedict XVI

Mr. Krupp is the only Jewish men in history to be so honored by both the Catholic Church and the Episcopal Anglican Church

Pave the Way delivers results because we genuinely care about the needs and concerns on all sides of a project. We ask from one, after we have delivered. It is our non-biased multi-religious position, along with our demonstrated desire to help both sides, which has been the formula of our success.

Marc Sisk, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in New York left with Suzanne Bishopric, Chancellor, John Drexel IV, United States Prior of the Order of St. John bottom row right.
Our success is about access and Interreligious action not just dialogue

Organized the largest Jewish audience ever in history to meet with a sitting Pope. Vatican deemed this to be the most important event in Judeo-Catholic history comparing our audience with the Pope’s visit to the Great Synagogue of Rome in 1986.

Working on problems in the Middle East with Palestinian Officials Nasser Al-Kidwa Palestinian Foreign Minister

Gary Krupp was the recipient of the Jewish National Fund Tree of Life Award for work with the State of Israel
The Pave the Way’s Vision

The major conflicts on earth today are based on religious extremism.

The world’s religions have created these radicals and seem to be powerless or unwilling to confront them or challenge the religious interpretation which is the basis for committing acts of violence. Pave the Way is committed to bonding the world’s religions by normalizing relations through major gestures of good will, and by educating the everyday person to the reconciled messages of their diverse faiths. It is hoped the unified message will be used to combat those who are using religious intolerance and extremism for their own gains.

There are literally thousands of well meaning groups who have dedicated all of their efforts and resources, towards inter-religious dialogue. The widely accepted belief is that through the interaction – Rabbis speaking to Priests who are speaking to Imams and so on – the religions may come to the theological terms with one another and be able to disseminate this information to their congregants.

History has shown that this has not occurred as originally hoped. Education and information about each other’s religions and the philosophical changes have not filtered down to the everyday person. The level of ignorance of the average person about each other peoples’ religions is remarkable.

Anti-Semitism, as well as other all other forms of religious bigotry, is at its highest level in history. The bottom line is that whatever conventional methods these well known organizations are employing, to reverse this trend, simply have not worked. Because of the state of technology and weapons sophistication, the sense of urgency is much stronger now to discredit those who commit acts of violence in the name of religion.

We believe that it is inter-religious action along with dialogue, that is sorely needed now.

On the following pages you’ll find examples of the projects we have successfully undertaken and completed along the lines of our core mission statement.
Recognized experts on Vatican - Israeli affairs

- CBS TV New York
- Channel 12 News in New York
- God Squad show in New York
- “Rome Reports” TV News Magazine
- Vatican Central Television
- MSNBC Show in New York
Some of the Projects of Pave the Way Foundation
Finalization of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See
Vatican –Israeli Catholic - Jewish Relations

The Worldwide Catholic Church is the largest of the Christian Churches. With 1.2 billion followers in 47 Catholic countries, a solid, bonded relationship would be important in dealing with some of the problems in the Middle East and will further Israel's diplomatic standing in both the United Nations and the European Union.

Traditionally, more Catholics travel to Israel and the Holy Land than members of any other religion. Over the past 40 years (with the adoption of Nostra Aetate), the Catholic Church has literally done a 180 degree turn in their understanding of and with their theological relationship with the Jewish people. For example, the Catholic Church does not support any means to proselytize Jews as the other Christian Churches do. It is a sin for a Catholic to be anti-Semitic. Unfortunately, very few Catholics and even fewer Jews know of these changes.

The Holy See and the State of Israel are both the seats of a religion while also being separate sovereign states. A bonded relationship between the two religions and the two states will have a major potential benefit in diplomatic, economic and religious arenas. What are the current problems between these entities and what has Pave the Way been doing to identify and to help achieve the solutions?

In 1992, Pope John Paul II decided that he wanted to recognize the State of Israel. At the time, he insisted on exchanging diplomats before the legal relationship was actually negotiated or finalized. Issues such as the Church’s access as an legal entity to Israeli courts and tax exempt status of church property were to be finalized at a later date. The basic terms of an agreement were signed by the fundamental agreements. This stated that a bilateral commission would be created to negotiate and finalize these outstanding issues, culminating in full diplomatic relations. This never happened.

Although the Israeli government told the Church that they can ignore the tax bills they would receive, some local municipalities began tax collection lawsuits against churches. In addition, since the Israeli government had not developed a means of identifying the Church as a legal entity, individuals have attempted to seize church property and the the church had no legal right to defend themselves in court. Problems such as these, along with property issues, have strained the relationship between the Holy See and Israel. Israel had, because of more pressing defense issues, ignored their obligation to finalize the issues of the fundamental agreements. On August 28, 2003, the Israelis had decided that they would suspend the mandated bilateral commission talks indefinitely. This important relationship was hemorrhaging rapidly.

Pave the Way had taken on the task of reaching out to Israeli government officials, American Jewish organizations and American members of Congress in order to make this situation known by the Israeli government officials. We found, through our contacts within the government, that many of the high ranking Israelis officials had no idea that this situation even existed. We were able to demonstrate the importance of repairing this deteriorating relationship. We traveled to Israel and met with many officials. We contacted the individuals with influence from the U.S. By April 2004, we were able to convince the government to restart the talks. This action immediately warmed the relationship.

The negotiations are still ongoing but the Israeli government has now come to realize the importance of a solid relationship with the Christian world. This is a relationship with one-third of the world’s population. A finalization with the Catholic Church impacts Israel’s relations with all of the religious denominations. We are optimistic that this relationship will be finalized soon..
Individual meetings with religious officials and diplomats

Through our network of close personal relations with many of the decision makers on all sides, Pave the Way has been able to achieve unprecedented success in each project we started. The biggest obstacle we have had to overcome was that level of doubt that potential supporters had about our ability to accomplish our goals. We were asked, “How can such a small unknown organization achieve these things when the large groups, known by everyone have not succeeded in any of these areas?” It has been through the real, personal relationships we have developed over the years that we have succeeded. We have spent all of our time in accomplishing our projects rather than self-promoting publicity.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic delegate to the United States

Bishop Rt Rev Riah Abu El-Assai, Former Episcopal Bishop in Jerusalem

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, with Meredith and Gary Krupp of Pave the Way

Cardinal Jose Saraivia Martins

Cardinal Walter Kasper, prefect of the congregation for Christian Unity

Fr. Issahag Minasyan, HB the Patriarch of the Armenian Church
Holy See - Israel: 10 years later, the problems still to be resolved

Rome (AsiaNews) - The meeting of Tuesday, September 14, with Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Secretary of State, revolved around problems concerning visas, tax measures for the Church in Israel and the ownership of the Cenacle in Jerusalem: this is what Avraham Poraz himself, Israeli Interior Minister told AsiaNews, while on visit to Vatican City on the eve of the Jewish New Year. In the afternoon of the same day, the minister also paid a brief call on Pope John Paul II at Castel Gandolfo.

"The visa problem -- the minister explained to AsiaNews -- has been the source of many complaints in the past. For a visa to be issued, authorization was required from another ministry, that of Religious Affairs. The process was complicated and did not work. Now, at the request of Prime Minister Sharon, visas depend on the Interior Ministry alone and this has speeded up the process and improved service. The only difficulty left is for people arriving from countries hostile to Israel (Saudi Arabia, other Arab countries, etc...) who are subject to screenings and can be denied entry. The Vatican says: but we know these people! And so we ask the Vatican to vouch for them. By doing so, the whole question will be greatly simplified. The Holy Said has said that is is prepared to do this. In this way, someone takes responsibility for these people. I think, therefore, that the visa question is all but resolved."

Tax exemptions for religious institutions was another question discussed in Tuesday's meeting. The minister explained that measures for tax exemptions date back to the British Mandate. The question of tax measures is part of the agenda for the implementation of the Fundamental Agreement between Israel and the Holy See. "According to our laws -- Poraz explained -- places of worship (churches, synagogues, etc.) are exempt from taxes. If these institutions include shops or offer accommodations for a fee, then taxes can be levied. The only outstanding problem is concerning monasteries, where religious communities are housed. I have decided that they should not pay taxes, but pay only for municipal services, such as cleaning, sewage, water, etc. Municipalities need these taxes because otherwise they would not be able to offer such services."

Another matter mentioned by Poraz concerns the ownership of the Cenacle, once a property of the Franciscans, then of the Muslims and now of the Israeli government. On the occasion of John Paul II's visit to the Holy Sites in the Holy Land, there had been talk of the possibility of returning the place of Jesus' Last Supper to the Church.

Poraz said that "the problem today is a disagreement among the various Churches on who is to take possession of it. And Israel cannot enter into this disagreement. The Orthodox Church and Armenian Church have the right to pray there, together with the Franciscans. There are problems with the use of all the Holy Sites, but these are settled by the rules of the Status Quo. There are no such rules for the Cenacle. Everyone is expecting a decision from Israel, but there is no concrete decision yet."
Israel – Holy See: no apparent fruit after 10 years of diplomatic relations

Fr. David Jaeger, expert in Israel-Holy See agreements, says 10 years ago the Church took a courageous step in initiating diplomatic relations with Israel. Now Israel must show the same courage in returning to the bargaining table.

Jerusalem (AsiaNews) – Tomorrow marks the 10th anniversary since the “Fundamental Agreement between the Holy See and the State of Israel” went into effect. Thanks to this agreement, the Holy See has accepted Israel’s request to conduct diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Yet such relations are only the first step in a series of agreements which would have guaranteed the Church’s freedom and rights in Israeli territory. However 10 years after the historic accord was struck the Church in Israel is disappointed, disconcerted and worried.

In effect Israel has never transformed the Fundamental Agreement into law and hence Israeli judges state they cannot recognize it in a court of law. Likewise the only other agreement reached so far was (on the state recognition of legal status of ecclesiastical authorities in 1997), was not passed into state law. However the most serious matter occurred on Aug. 28 2003, when the entire Israeli diplomatic delegation withdrew from all negotiations with the Holy See, while talks were underway to reach an extremely important agreement on safeguarding Church property and its tax exemption status. The pact was scheduled to be concluded by the 10th anniversary of the Fundamental Agreement.

Last July Israel’s foreign minister, Sylvan Shalom, heralded the signing of the accord “within 3 months”. Yet since then Israel has refused to return to the bargaining table with the Vatican, despite its explicit commitment as part of the Fundamental Agreement established 10 years earlier.

Meanwhile, while lacking laws regulating its relations with the State of Israel, the Church finds itself if ever greater difficulty. With such stumbling blocks in their way, such as the absence of traditional exemptions from state taxes, Catholic organizations and institutions (e.g. St. Joseph’s Hospital in Jerusalem, among others) find themselves being dragged to court. Moreover, without such agreements in order, Church personnel are denied entry visas and stay permits for Israel.

Anxiety about the future has gotten worse due to the absolute silence the Israeli government has kept over its reasons for cutting diplomatic relations with the Holy See. And this is evidenced in various daily problems, like when Israeli troops invaded Jerusalem convents in order to build parts of the “Wall of Separation” (or “security barrier”, as the government prefers to call it).

AsiaNews asked the opinion of Fr. David-Maria A. Jaeger, Franciscan priest and one of the greatest legal expert in Holy See-Israeli agreements:

“The State must understanding that it has an absolute legal obligation to return to the bargaining table. Its commitment to do so is part of a solemn international agreement signed and ratified by the State of Israel – otherwise Israel would be defined as defaulting (on the original pact). As for the rest, the rules governing Church-State relations interest the State just as much as they do the Church. If the State wants the rules respected, it must not act like a defaulter. Israel cannot continue cutting itself off from negotiations for too much longer. The Catholic Church made an historic and courageous step, and with great foresight, in accepting to normalize its official relationship with the State of Israel. In return the Church’s legal status in Israel was promised to be normalized as well. I don’t think our interlocutors want to make this historical enterprise fail. The negotiations themselves were undertaken in an atmosphere of reciprocal trust and goodwill. And if the (Israeli) government accepts taking up talks again I foresee both parties obtaining good results.”

Fr. Jaeger says the reasons behind the stall in diplomatic relations are “unexplainable”. He stresses that Diaspora Jews have asked the government to reconsider its move and to take up talks again. “For me the 10th anniversary since the Fundamental Agreement went into effect brings back memories of great hope and urges us to continue having it,” Fr. Jaeger concluded. “Yet certainly this anniversary cannot be filled with a festive spirit.”
Reopening of Israeli-Vatican Talks Is Possible

JERUSALEM, MAY 7, 2004 (Zenit.org).- The superior of the Custody of the Holy Land says that the reopening of talks between Israel and the Holy See would encourage pilgrimages and improve the situation of Christians.

Franciscan Father Giovanni Battistelli was reacting to Israeli press reports that said talks are under way on such issues as the granting of visas to priests and religious, and the restitution of the Cenacle.

"If the news published by Israeli newspapers is confirmed, of the opening of negotiations between Israel and the Holy See, it would certainly help the renewal of pilgrimages in the Holy Land and improve the conditions of Christians," Father Battistelli said.

In statements published by the Italian bishops' news agency SIR, the custodian said: "I hope the negotiations can begin again as soon as possible."

He also hopes that the "room of the Cenacle," located on Mount Zion in Jerusalem and surrounded by rabbinical seminaries, will be restored to the Catholic Church.

The Tel Aviv newspaper Maariv quoted a source at the Foreign Affairs Ministry who said the government might start on a new path with the Holy See.

According to the newspaper, U.S. President George W. Bush, who faces an election this year, asked Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon last month "to accelerate the transactions."

ZE04050724
By 2004, full relations between Israel and Vatican: ambassador gives his word

Rome (AsiaNews) - Negotiations between Israel and the Vatican will reach a positive conclusion “by the end of 2004”; talks that took place July 5 in Jerusalem were not productive “because it was still too early”, as explained by the Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See, Mr. Oded Ben Hur, in an interview with AsiaNews. He says he is “profoundly optimistic” about the process: “Technical difficulties exist, as do resistances, but we hope the accords will be concluded by the end of 2004, at the most in early 2005”. Ambassador Ben Hur’s optimism is based on a particular certainty: “that the government [lead by Sharon, Editor’s note] is absolutely determined to conclude the accords by the end of the year”. The Fundamental Agreement between the Holy See and Israel, signed 10 years ago, was to lead to series of concordats that were to ensure the rights and freedom of the Church in Israeli territory. In all these years, however, Israel omitted to enact the Fundamental Agreement under state law. On August 2003, without explanation, Israel withdrew its delegation entirely from negotiations when the two parties were working on provisions protecting Church properties and tax exemptions. On July 5, negotiations began again, but the meeting, after only 3 hours, was adjourned to the beginning of September. Various observers complained that, after a year’s wait, the meeting ended without producing any results. Ambassador Ben Hur specifies that “the meeting of July 5 should not be judged negatively. That date was part of the protocol and showed that relations are going ahead after last year’s stall.”
Ecclesiastical sources had told AsiaNews that the meeting was to be “a fully-fledged negotiation and not a pro forma meeting”. Ambassador Ben Hur remains nevertheless optimistic: “There is no doubt that, with the next appointment of September 5th, there will be much more substance on the table. The July 5th meeting produced nothing because it was still too early. It was only last May that we revived Israeli/Holy See relations.

Ben Hur explains that last May he brought together various Vatican and Israeli figures to convince them to continue discussions. Among those invited were representatives of the Foreign and Finance Ministries, along with Avigdor Itzhaki and Illan Cohen, respectively Sharon’s out-going and in-coming chief of staff. “The difference between last August [2003, when negotiations stalled, Editor’s note] and now is the involvement of the Sharon government. To have contributed to bringing about this more direct involvement is a source of satisfaction for me”. Pressue from the United States was indeed a factor behind the July 5th meeting, which he defines as “an occasion to break the ice”, adding that “however, of importance was also all the work carried out behind the scenes carried out by Israeli and Vatican figures together with me.”

The Israeli diplomat says that the process must be viewed with “great patience”. And he justifies the slow pace of work in these past months: difficulties in finding legal terms; the need to review traditional laws and modernize them, to find ways to “enhance relations with the Catholic community”, without diminishing “caution toward the various religions in Jerusalem”. In any case, Ben Hur affirms that “the representatives of various Ministries have done enough preparatory work by now on legal infrastructure,” thanks to which “the accord will not only be ratified, but implemented.”

Yet there are even deeper roots to the reasons for such a slow pace. According to Ambassador Ben Hur, in these past years, Israel had given little value to these accords with the Vatican, explaining that he has been seeking for some time “a greater appreciation for the importance of Israel/Vatican relations. In Israel, people do not realize how things are, they think that relations exist and take them for granted. Instead, we cannot ignore the Catholic world which makes up at least one fifth of humanity. On the other hand, it gets difficult to draw the Israeli government’s attention when there are daily conflicts, the fight against terrorism, relations with the United States and Europe, economic problems. Israel is a small state and we do not have a lot of personnel to assign to such studies.”

As proof of the Israeli governments interest toward Christians, Ambassador Ben Hur recalls that last February, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon launched a full study on the importance of Christians and on relations between Israel and the Christian world, creating a committee which consists of academic and political figures. “It is a gradual process,” Ben Hur says, “this decision was perhaps not appreciated by all Israeli, but it is going forward. I’m counting on a bit of patience in limiting criticism and being more open and positive.

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February 17, 2004

Mr. Gary L. Krupp KCSG  
President  
Pave the Way Foundation  
Suite 3805  
350 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10118  
USA

Dear Mr. Krupp,

I am sending this letter of support to express my deep appreciation for your remarkable work to promote good relations and cooperation between the Holy See and the State of Israel.

In particular your efforts to galvanize Israeli compliance with its commitments made in the Fundamental Agreement and to demonstrate gestures of goodwill to the Vatican are of enormous importance, both for the bilateral relations themselves and for Catholic-Jewish relations around the world.

This moment in time is of particular significance as we draw close to the conclusion of John Paul II’s pontificate, requiring us to do all we can to ensure that the new era will continue on the historic path that the present Pope has forged for Catholic-Jewish relations.

I fervently hope that Israel’s leadership will recognize the wisdom of your approach and pray the Almighty will strengthen your hand in all your endeavors.

Behatzlachah,
Diplomatic advisors to action

Through each project, we have sought the advise of those who had been through these obstacles preventing change before us. We have used our personal relationships and our personal access to achieve our goals. Success in this arena does not come easy. There are many frustrations and setbacks along the way but persistence has enables us to over come those elements that would turn others back. Pave the way is very proud of what we have accomplished in such a short time and with such limited resources.

Ambassador Meir Rosenne, former Israeli Ambassador to France

Ambassador Shmuel Hadass, first Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See

Meeting with Oded Weiner of the Chief Rabbi of Israel; Mordechai Moti Levy, Advisor to the President of Israel; Rabbi David Rosen, Int’l Dir of the AJC; Avi Granot, advisor to the Mayor of Jerusalem

Nahum Rakover, former Attorney General and legal scholar in Israel
Pilgrims: A not so big “Welcome” to Bethlehem, Jericho and Emmaus.

Jerusalem (AsiaNews) – There are obstacles placed in the way of pilgrims wanting to visit the Holy Land. Over the past few days Israeli border officials have been passing a leaflet in English and Arabic to travelers arriving in Israel and Palestine. Written in large print is a great big “Welcome to the State of Israel”. However the leaflet specifies that “entry into the territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority” (i.e. Gaza, Judea and Samaria) “is forbidden”. This means that it is impossible for pilgrims to reach Bethlehem, Jericho, Emmaus and Qumran, traditional destinations for all Christian pilgrims.

A written request is necessary to enter these territories, while waiting for the authorization from the Israeli military government, which promises to respond within 5 working days.

The request itself does not authorize any entry. Only a written response from the military government’s Foreign Relations Office constitutes a valid authorization.

Anyone daring to enter these territories without authorization risks serious sanctions: “legal measures” and even “deportation and refusal of future re-entry into the State of Israel”.

Special instructions are given for those requesting entry into the Gaza Strip. The request must be submitted directly to the Foreign Relations Office, located in the “Erez” crossing, recently the stage of a suicide attack.

To make further inquiries, the leaflet gives the Office’s telephone numbers: 08-674-1556; fax: 08-689-2613).

Below we attach the original text of the “Information” leaflet:

Welcome to the State of Israel
Letter of Support Shmuel Hadas  
First Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See

Ambassador Shmuel Hadas  
Kubovy 30A, Jerusalem 96757  
Tel/fax 972 2 6411460  
Cell 972 66 214224  
E-mail: e-hadas@internet-zahav.net

To: Gary L. Krupp, KCSG  
Date: Monday, February 24, 2004  
Pages: 1

Mr. Gary L. Krupp, KCSG  
President  
Pave the Way Foundation, Inc  
Suite 3805  
350 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10118

Dear Mr. Krupp,

I am writing you today to lend my support to the Pave the Way Foundation. As the first Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Holy See, I am keenly aware of the importance that the relations between Israel and the Holy See be strengthened. This is not only very important for the well being of Israel but for the situation of the Jewish People throughout the world un combating anti-semitism. As many of the individual items you are working on may seem difficult, I encourage you to persevere in your efforts. The notion of arranging cultural exchanges as the exhibits you hope to launch here in Israel and the return of religious property to the Church, will most assuredly promote gestures of good will between the religions and will ultimately be extremely beneficial. Additionally, we hope to see the prosperity plan you submitted, be implemented one day between the Israelis and the Palestinians to contribute to create an economic foundation which the peace we all long for. can be built upon.

As an advisor for Intercultural Cooperation of the Peres Center for Peace, I am happy to submit the package you gave me in New York, to the Center for possible consideration as well.

If you believe I can be of further assistance to you and the projects of Pave the Way Foundation, please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Best regards,

[Signature]

Ambassador Shmuel Hadas
Diplomatic advisors to action

Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See Oded Ben-Hur has been a tireless advocate for improved Vatican Israeli relations. He is a close friend and advisor to Pave the Way.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres

Rabbi David Rosen

Israeli director of Religious Affairs Zvi Tal

Chief of Staff to Benjamin Netanyahu Minister of Finance Yecheil Leiter
Religious prelates and diplomats

Israil Consul General to New York Arye Mekel with Fr. David Jaeger legal representative for the Holy See in Israel with Fr. John Connor

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, permanent observer to the United Nations for the Holy See, has been an wonderful friend and advocate for our cause.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord George Carey, Chair of the ethical committee of the World Economic Forum and author of the Alexandria Declaration for peace in the Holy Land

William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore tireless friend of reconciliation between the religions

Nasser Al-Kidwa Palestinian Ambassador to the UN with Br. David Carroll

Renato Cardinal Martino President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace with Fra. Andrew Bertie, 78th Grand Master of the Knights of Malta. Cardinal Martino has helped us with many of our issues
Religious prelates and diplomats

Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York

Justin Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia

Moshe Fox Dir. Of Media Israeli Embassy and Consul General to Israel in Washington DC

Gadi Golan and Zvi Tal of the Israeli foreign ministers office

Former Amb. Daniel Ayalon Israeli Ambassador to the United States

Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Secretary of State of the Vatican

Commendatore Krupp addressing Pope John Paul II
Mr. Gary KRUPP, KCSCG
Pave the Way Foundation
New York
via facsimile

Rome, 13 June 2004

Dear Mr. Krupp,

Once more I feel impelled by events - this time happily positive developments - to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for the unique contribution you have been making, with the Pave the Way Foundation, to securing onward progress in building up the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish People.

It should please you to learn that, thanks in a truly significant measure to your efforts, the Government of Israel has now resolved to return to the negotiations with the Holy See, from which the Israeli delegation pulled out on 28 August last year. The talks are set to resume on 5 July, and it is hoped to have made substantial progress by the middle of September.

When the Government of Israel withdrew from the negotiations last August it was a crisis of unprecedented seriousness, with possible dire consequences for the entire edifice that both sides had been constructing with such shared determination since the Fundamental Agreement of 1993. For some of us, on both sides, it was a time of tremendous anxiety and even despondency, but you held fast to the hopes we all share, refused to give up, moved heaven and earth, as the saying goes, to help bring about the healing of the relationship. Your unrivalled, unparalleled access to officials and others on both sides, has been crucial to the enterprise. And it has got results!

Please allow me to insist on the uniqueness of the role of Pave the Way. There are, of course, many organisations devoted to advancing Catholic-Jewish dialogue and friendship. None, however, has equally grasped the indispensable requirement of a healthy relationship between the Church and the State in Israel as
a condition of possibility, and a powerful stimulus, for that continuous growth in friendship between the Catholic Church and Jewish People that the Fundamental Agreement called for. A rules-based relationship between Church and State in Israel is the essential requirement for avoiding friction, and increasing cooperation, there and everywhere else. To allow that relationship to fail might have had reverberations well beyond Israeli territory itself. It was a prospect none of us cared to contemplate, and now - thanks to your extraordinary dedication and ability - may indeed never have to consider.

On the verge of the resumption of the negotiations, with prospects for their ultimate success as yet somewhat uncertain, I respectfully urge Pave the Way not simply to rest on its well-deserved laurels, but to continue to work mightily for the talks to conclude positively, for new Agreements to be forged, for the way ahead to become truly paved. Thus my words of thanks and praise for the Pave the Way Foundation come together with an appeal, an appeal for you to stay the course, to maintain - and increase - the effort to mobilise both Jews and Catholics to support the sincere shared striving for concord and prophetic working together, starting from Israel, and centred on Israel.

With renewed assurances of my highest consideration,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
(The Rev. Dr.) David-Maria A. Jaeger, O.F.M.
(The Official Spokesman of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land)
Mr. Gary KRUPP, KCSG
Pave the Way Foundation
New York

Dear Mr. Krupp,

Please allow me to send you this further message expressing heartfelt - and growing - appreciation for your unique role, with the Pave the Way Foundation, in "rescuing" and building up the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish People, specifically the State of Israel. I apologize for the e-mail format, but am travelling, and will be for a while, and have not wished to delay discharging this obligation. After decades of growth in friendship between Catholics and Jews, the Fundamental Agreement between the Holy See and the State of Israel (1993) was expected to consolidate these achievements and show the road to further progress. In recent times though, serious difficulties have emerged, remarkably, and there has been a need for brave persons and organisations to step into the breach, to heal rifts, and to help put the relationship once more on a positive track. While I keep in touch on this with a great number of persons and entities, I can and must say that your role has been precisely unique. I do not think I can thank you enough. Just in recent months you were able to be decisively instrumental in resolving quickly a truly major problem before it got out of control when you intervened to have the Israeli government withdraw what was, in effect, a warning to pilgrims not to visit Bethlehem. It was a move not meant to have that effect, but which would have had it, and would have provoked a major clash, had it not been especially for your timely and fruitful intercession. All please owe you thanks!

It is also my sense that your intercession is having a very significant effect towards resolving an even larger crisis, the two year old problem of visas denied in large numbers to Church personnel in the Holy Land. I cannot say that it is resolved yet, but things have definitely taken a turn for the better, and you are a very significant part of that. Most of all though, I am grateful for your grasp of the need for negotiations between the State of Israel and the Holy See to resume, after Israel walked out on them on August 28 last. As all concerned acknowledge, only serious and sustained suasion from influential individuals and bodies in the United States, can achieve a purposeful return by Israel to the negotiating table. You have already proved your ability at such suasion, and I hope you keep at it! For Israel to continue to stay away, would cast a pall over the entire historic relationship and endanger the achievements of the Fundamental Agreement, by suggesting to Catholics that it was not sincerely meant, and was all in vain anyway, with consequences possibly reaching far into the future that I prefer not to contemplate. I refuse to contemplate them because I am not giving up. And it is comforting to know that Pave the Way is not giving up either!

Quite recently I have the sense that the goal is achievable. I have been to Israel recently and have met people close to the Prime Minister. We need just that extra (mighty) "push" from the U.S. for the Israeli delegation to be sent back to the table, and for a reasonable bilateral agreement to come out of it. You know better than I just how important that would be to the cementing of the friendship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish People, so necessary at this time.

With great respect for your skill and devotion, and with the deepest gratitude, I am,

Yours truly,

(The Rev. Dr.) David-Maria A. Jaeger, O.F.M.
(The Official Spokesman of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land)
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

STEVE ISRAEL
Second District, New York

September 12, 2003

His Excellency Daniel Ayalon
Ambassador of the State of Israel
3514 International Dr. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing you today to alert you to a growing situation, which you may or may not be aware of, between the State of Israel and the Vatican. A fellow Long Islander, Mr. Gary Krupp, KCSSG, has reached out to me, to try to garner support for an effort to finalize the relations between the two States. Mr. Krupp has the unique distinction of being one of only seven Jewish men in history to be Knighted by the Pope to the Order of St Gregory the Great and is now only one of three who are still alive. It is in his position as a Jewish member of the Papal Household that he has been a strong advocate for improving relations between Israel, the Jewish people and the Worldwide Catholic Church. In addition, Mr. Krupp has been attempting to create gestures of inter-religious goodwill by bringing about important cultural exchanges through his foundation, the Pave the Way Foundation. For more information, please visit Pave the Way’s website at www.pavethewayfoundation.org.

The problem, as Mr. Krupp has informed me, is that the Holy See has been in negotiations for over 4½ years with representatives of the Israeli Government. In 1993 the Holy See initiated normalization with Israel but there were a few incomplete items which were, according to the original agreement, to be finalized by 1996. These items are still incomplete. Many negotiated solutions for the final agreements have languished simply because they Prime Minister’s office has not given this issue a priority for completion.

Father David Jaeger, spokesman of the Franciscan Custody in Israel and lead legal council to the Holy See, has been disappointed by recent Israeli cancellations of all future mandated talks. To make matters worse, certain Israeli tax authorities have initiated enforcement action against Catholic Institutions, notably St Joseph’s Hospital in Jerusalem counter to Israel’s undertaking to refrain from such action pending the outcome of negotiations.

I billion Roman Catholics and the Vatican. There are a few extremely small problems, which if addressed, can result in this new improved relationship. I would appreciate your forwarding this information to the Prime Minister’s office, where I encourage the full attention to finalizing negotiations.

The Vatican and Israel were both hoping that agreements could be reached by December 30, 2003 in time for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of Israel’s normalization with the Holy See.

Father David Jaeger can be reached in Rome on his American mobile phone (202) 437-5416 or in Israel on his cell 972 53 933090. His email in Rome is 75257.1563@compuserve.com. In addition, Mr. Dov Weissglass has Fr. Jaeger’s contact information. Mr. Krupp is available to you at any time on his cell phone at (516) 432-7560 or at (516) 770-4234. He can be reached by email at Krupp@optonline.net.

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, since I sincerely believe that if properly resolved this can only be a “win win” situation for all parties.

Sincerely,  

Steve Israel
Erroneous press reports in Europe, reported that Israel was not renewing the visas of any of the Catholic caretakers and they are all subject to arrest and expulsion. Pave the Way immediately confronted, this provocative story, and brought it to the attention of Israeli officials who acted immediately. Israel called an emergency session of the Ministry of Interior to process some of the backlogged visa renewals. The results was a positive report in European news services. The following is the provocative Il Tempo article as it appeared in Italy.

Israele, religiosi trattati come clandestini
Sono almeno un centinaio i sacerdoti e le suore privati del permesso di soggiorno dal ministero degli interni di Tel Aviv

GERUSALEMME — In 56 anni di vita dello stato di Israele non vi era mai stata una crisi del genere: personale ecclesiastico e religioso, privato senza motivo dei permessi di soggiorno. Il fenomeno riguarda molte decine di sacerdoti, religiosi e religiose, condannati a vivere in condizioni di clandestinità, soggetti a essere fermati per strada come immigrati illegali. Solo la scorsa settimana, il 17 marzo, due suore del Santissimo Rosario sono state fermate dalla polizia; due giorni prima un frate francescano è stato bloccato. Il punto è che queste persone si trovano da anni in Israele o nei territori occupati. Ma le loro domande di rinnovo del permesso di soggiorno o il rilascio del permesso di soggiorno per i nuovi arrivi, giacciono senza risposta negli uffici del ministero degli Interni. Il visto diventa anche un problema umanitario: alcuni religiosi hanno l'urgenza di uscire da Israele per stare accanto ai loro genitori sul letto di morte. Ma essi non possono lasciare il paese perché rischiano di non potervi rientrare. La politica di non rilasciare i visti al personale ecclesiastico era cominciata durante il governo precedente, quando al dicastero degli Interni vi era un ministro del partito fondamentalista Shas. Un anno fa, con l'arrivo di un esponente del partito laico liberale Shinui, si sperava che le cose sarebbero cambiate. Il nuovo ministro degli Interni e altri esponenti governativi hanno dato molte assicurazioni e promesse alle autorità ecclesiastiche, ma non se n'è realizzata nessuna. Il blocco dei visti mette in questione anche l'Accordo fondamentale fra la Santa Sede e Israele, di cui si celebra il decennale. L'Accordo riconosce il diritto della Chiesa di dispiaggiare il proprio personale e le proprie istituzioni. L'ironia è che queste situazioni non si erano mai verificate prima, quando non vi erano gli Accordi. Secondo le stime di alcuni religiosi, vi sono almeno 100 persone "illegali", ma il numero aumenta sempre di più: ogni giorno scadono i visti e non vengono rinnovati. Si tratta soprattutto di persone entrate regolarmente e che avrebbero bisogno del rinnovo. Questo coinvolge non solo il personale in Israele, ma anche quello nei territori occupati, perché per andare nelle zone controllate dall'Autorità Palestinese, occorre in ogni caso fare scalo in Israele. Il passaporto burocratico era snella: i sacerdoti erano assegnati alla Chiesa al servizio della Terra Santa e ogni 2-3 anni scattava il rinnovo automatico del visto. Da parte delle autorità israeliane c'è completo silenzio, che qualcuno definisce "un muro di gomma". I religiosi dapprima supponevano si trattasse di semplici disguidi burocratici. Ma ormai il fenomeno è troppo massiccio, dura da troppo tempo e riguarda troppe persone. Ormai la Chiesa di Terra Santa rischia di non avere il personale sufficiente per far funzionare santuari, parrocchie, ospedali, scuole. E tutto questo silenziosamente, senza che le autorità israeliane si pronuncino, senza annunciare nuove regole o nuove esigenze.

I responsabili della Chiesa, i vescovi di Terra Santa e dall'estero si sono rivolti diverse volte alle autorità israeliane, ma hanno ottenuto solo vaghe promesse finite nel nulla. All'inizio del 2003 le autorità governative hanno promesso di deliberare nuove procedure, ma nulla di questo è risultato vero. Padre David Jaeger, francescano, portavoce della Custodia di Terra Santa commenta: «È una situazione allucinante e kafkiana. Il problema è gravissimo e peggiora di giorno in giorno. Le promesse fatte dalle alte cariche del governo finora non sono state mantenute. Non ci danno a sapere le ragioni di questa nuova politica, non vi sono canali istituzionali di dialogo capaci di veicolare una risoluzione della situazione. È tempo che la Chiesa in Terrasanta si appelli alla solidarietà della Chiesa nel mondo. I governanti del paese devono avere chiaro che la situazione interessa l'intera chiesa cattolica nel mondo». 

Negative article appearing in Rome Newspaper
Israel's Visa Denials Portend Woes for Church Institutions Religious Running Into Bureaucratic Roadblock

ROME, MARCH 25, 2004 (Zenit.org).- Catholic religious living in Israel and in the Occupied Territories are facing a hard time because of the authorities' systematic refusal to grant visas, the Italian press reported.

The result: the Church in the Holy Land might not have enough personnel to run the "shrines, parishes, hospitals and schools," the Rome newspaper Il Tempo reported.

On March 17, for example, two women religious of the Most Holy Rosary congregation were detained. Two days earlier, a Franciscan friar was also blocked, the newspaper said.

Priests and religious who have been in the Holy Land for a long time are having serious problems, as the office of the Interior Ministry is not renewing their permits, the newspaper said.

"Lack of visas is also becoming a humanitarian problem," Il Tempo noted. "Some religious have to leave Israel urgently to take care of parents on their deathbed. But they cannot leave the country as they run the risk of not being able to return."

"The new Interior Minister and other governmental figures in the past have calmed the situation and promised ecclesiastical authorities to resolve it, but have failed to do so" now, the newspaper said.

The refusal of visas raises question about the Fundamental Agreement between the Holy See and the state of Israel, signed 10 years ago. The agreement gives the Church the right to deploy its own personnel and institutions, Il Tempo explained.

"What is ironic is that these situations never happened before, when there were no such agreements," the newspaper noted.

According to estimates, quoted by the newspaper, there are about 100 ecclesiastics and religious living in an "illegal" situation, as their visas have not been renewed.

Franciscan Father David Jaeger, a spokesman of the Holy Land Custody, told AsiaNews: "We are dealing with a very serious problem indeed, one which is getting worse by the day."

"Promises made by top-ranking government officials have not been kept so far," he said. "They won't let us know their reasons behind the new policy. There are no official channels of dialogue to bring about a resolution to the situation."
Israelis Aiming to Ease Visa Delays for Religious and Priests

Ambassador to Holy See Says Solution Is Imminent

ROME, APRIL 19, 2004 (zenit.org).- An Israeli commission is reviewing the bureaucratic bottleneck that causes delays in the issuance of visas to religious and priests in the Holy Land.

Last month, the Italian press reported on the increasingly difficult situation that Catholic religious face in Israel and in the Occupied Territories due to the authorities' systematic refusal to renew their visas.

According to a report April 13, the Israeli Embassy to the Holy See sent AsiaNews an official official note stating that the "directors and officials of different Ministries ... together with the ambassador of Israel to the Holy See, have made evident the need to resolve in a brief period of time the complex and delicate situation."

"Immediately after Easter procedures will be accelerated to unblock the accumulation of dispatches," the note states.

According to the text sent by the Israeli diplomatic headquarters to the Holy See, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon himself requested the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Commission to "review the criteria, rules and necessary times ... as well as a review of the whole bureaucratic mechanism" which has led to the delay in the issuance of visas.

The commission already held meetings on several occasions in February.

The last meeting took place April 5 at the Ministry of the Interior. There was a debate on the new procedure that eases bureaucratic practices, shortens security controls, and revises the the categories of visas -- including for priests, volunteers, temporary workers and scholarship holders.

Oded Ben Hur, Israel's ambassador to the Holy See, told AsiaNews last week that the effects of the modification of the procedure might be felt "in seven to 10 days."

The note also stressed that "great importance" that the Israeli government attaches "to the strengthening of good relations between Israel and the Christian world and, in particular, with Catholics and the Holy See" and affirmed that "the apostolic nuncio in Israel will be informed of all decisions and deliberations in regard to the visas."

Ecclesiastical sources in Jerusalem, contacted by AsiaNews, said: "We hope that this time the promises -- reiterated other times over the last two years -- will be fulfilled."
A middle management office, attempting to keep protestors out of the Palestinian territories, decided to require written permission to enter the territories. A handout was given out to everyone arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport. This un-official experiment would set up a major clash with all of the Christian pilgrims as well as create a logistical nightmare. It would have destroyed the already decimated Israeli tourism industry. Pave immediately brought this matter up with Israeli Ambassador to the Vatican, Oded Ben-Hur, who agreed with the folly of the experiment and had the policy abolished.
Pilgrims no longer limited to travel through Judea and Samaria

Rome (AsiaNews) – There are no longer problems and obstacles for pilgrims wanting to reach Bethlehem and the Occupied Territories. Israel’s ambassador to the Holy See, Oded Ben Hur, told AsiaNews today that the Tel Aviv airport no longer passes out leaflets stating that visits to the Occupied Territories are limited and that it has “returned to previous procedures”.

Last Jan. 22 AsiaNews reported that Tel Aviv airport military personnel handed out leaflets to pilgrims wanting to travel to the Occupied Territories (Bethlehem, Jericho, Emmaus, Qumran, etc.), informing them they needed special authorization to visit these places.

Military authorities were given the final authority to grant permission or not. Israeli sources confidentially told AsiaNews the procedure risked stopping tourism in the Holy Land.

The Ministry of Tourism, worried about the procedure’s consequences on the flow of tourism (which was already tested by problems with terrorism and Israeli-Palestinian tension), attempted to put the brakes on requiring such special authorizations.

Yesterday, Feb. 18, the Israeli tourism minister, Raphael Ben Hour, issued a statement in Hebrew, asking “to get rid of the leaflet informing tourists that their travel to Palestinian Authority territories, in Judea and Samaria, was prohibited.”

In the statement he said “instructions have been given to border police to stop passing out the leaflet … at Ben Gurion airport” so that “tourist travel to Judea and Samaria will be permitted according to the rule and norms” of the past. In his statement he makes no mention of Gaza, which has been placed under tight control following the latest terrorist attacks.”

During a telephone call with AsiaNews, Ambassador Oded Ben Hur said “all this (the leaflet and its stipulated travel restrictions) was a mistake and we have corrected it.”

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Maimonides Manuscripts

A Gesture
Maimonides Manuscripts

Phase One

June 2002, Pave the Way was asked to intervene on behalf of the Maimonides Research Institute of Haifa, Israel, to request a viewing of rare Maimonidian manuscripts that had been housed in the Vatican Library for hundreds of years. Access to these manuscripts had previously been denied. Our request through Pave the Way was approved and September 2002, the Vatican Library was specially opened for our delegation of world famous Hebrew scholars. These individuals came from Israel, the United States and Europe. The visit was historic and enormously emotional for all involved.

We had two meetings at the Vatican Library and opened new lines of communications with the officials. This unique visit and the results of our meetings led to our initiating Phase Two of improving relations between the state of Israel and the Holy See through cultural exchanges.
Phase Two

After a successful visit and opening of the Vatican Library, we then initiated Phase Two. In the summer of 2003 we contacted the Israel Museum in Jerusalem to ask if they would be interested housing the first exhibit of Maimonides manuscripts. Mr. James Snyder enthusiastically accepted the offer and said, “[In] 2005, we will be celebrating our fortieth anniversary and will have exhibits from the famous museums of the world. The addition of the Vatican museum will be the jewel of the exhibit.”

We then met with the curators of the Israel museum in Rome along with the Israeli Ambassador. The curators met Mr. Krupp in Rome where he introduced them to the Prefect of the Vatican library and arranged for them to pick the actual manuscripts they wanted to borrow.
After multiple meetings at the Vatican library and with the good offices of Israeli Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur and help from Fr. David Jaeger, legal representative to the Franciscan Custody in Israel, we have been able to gain permission for the first-ever loan of the Mishneh Torah, the Code of Jewish law written by Maimonides. This historic exhibit will begin on September 2005 in the Israel Museum.

This effort has now helped us move towards Phase three.
12 July 2005

Mr. Elliot M. Hershberg
Chairman
Pave the Way Foundation
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3805
New York, NY 10118-7896
USA

Via telefax: 001-516-432-7561

Dear Elliot:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 13, 2005, and also to update you regarding our plans for the forthcoming opening of our display of "Rome to Jerusalem: Four Jewish Masterpieces from the Vatican Library."

You will recall that this very special loan is coming to the Museum in the context of our series of "Timeless Masterpieces," being singular loans in Art, Archeology, and Judaica, from major world museums, celebrating our Museum's three curatorial wings on the occasion of our 40th Anniversary. "Rome to Jerusalem" will be the last in this series, opening in Jerusalem on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. We would be happy to have representatives of the Foundation among our guests on that occasion.

We are grateful to the Pave the Way Foundation for its assistance in introducing our project to the Vatican and in helping to initiate our loan request of the Vatican Library, and our appreciation will be acknowledged in our press materials, in the exhibition's accompanying publication, and in the exhibition galleries.

Please let me know of any further questions at this time, and please also let me know if you will be joining us in Jerusalem in September.

With warm regards in the meantime.

Sincerely,

James S. Snyder
Director
09 December 2004

Don Raffaele Farina
Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
Cortile Belvedere
V-00120 Citta del Vaticano
Italy

Via telefax: 00399-06-6988-5327

Dear Don Farina:

I am writing in response to the wonderful news conveyed by your letter of December 2, 2005, regarding the approval by the Vatican Library of our request to borrow four important Jewish manuscripts for display in Jerusalem in celebration of our Museum's 40th Anniversary in 2005.

These manuscripts will play a central role in our anniversary year of exhibitions of "Beauty and Sanctity," and we are deeply grateful for your consent to their loan.

We realize that you have made special exceptions to enable us to bring these manuscripts to Israel. Their loan to us, representing an historic first occasion to show such treasures from your collection in Israel, carries great significance in many ways, and we are most deeply grateful to you.

We will be returning all of your completed loan documents shortly.

With warmest regards, together with our deep gratitude, in the meantime.

Sincerely,

James S. Snyder
Director
Pave The Way Foundation annuncia il prestito in seguito alla più grande udienza di capi ebrei mai tenutasi prima d’ora con il Papa

Gary Krupp, fondatore e presidente dell’ associazione Pave the Way, ha annunciato, in data odierna, che il Vaticano ha acconsentito a prestare all’ Israel Museum di Gerusalemme, i rari manoscritti di Mosé Maimonide, in occasione del 40° anniversario del museo che si celebrerà a settembre.

Il sig. Krupp ha rilasciato questa dichiarazione al termine di una speciale udienza privata con Papa Giovanni Paolo II, alla quale hanno partecipato circa 160 capi ebrei, rabbini e cantori degli Stati Uniti e di Israele. Questa udienza speciale, alla quale ha partecipato il gruppo più numeroso di capi ebrei mai riunitosi nel corso di un incontro con il papa, è stata organizzata a riconoscimento degli sforzi compiuti dal Papa nel corso del suo pontificato che dura ormai da 26 anni, sforzi che si sono concentrati nell’ abbattere le barriere dell’ odio. Inoltre, è stato messo in evidenza il contributo del papa a favore della riconciliazione religiosa tra il popolo ebreo e lo stato di Israele.

Il gruppo che ha partecipato all’ udienza comprendeva Oded Ben-Hur, ambasciatore israeliano presso la Santa Sede; il rabbino Adam Mintz, presidente del New York Board of Rabbis; il rabbino Shmuel Rene Sirot, ex rabbino capo in Europa e Francia; il rabbino David Lincoln, rabbino capo della sinagoga di Park Avenue, New York; il rabbino Shlomo Riskin, rabbino capo di Efrat, il rabbino Joseph Arbib della Grande Sinagoga di Roma e Gadi Golan, ex direttore degli Affari religiosi del Ministro degli esteri israeliano.

Il gruppo comprendeva inoltre 12 Cantori che ieri sera hanno tenuto un concerto nella Grande Sinagoga di Roma in onore della delegazione e dei rappresentanti del Vaticano e della comunità ebraica di Roma.

Pave the Way, la cui missione è quella di unire gli uomini di buona volontà, indipendentemente dal loro background religioso, ha consacrato molto del proprio tempo e ha compiuto numerosi sforzi collaborando con i funzionari del governo israeliano e i rappresentati della Santa Sede in Israele per la conclusione di accordi decisivi con i quali si sanciscono diplomatiche stabili fra Israele e il Vaticano.

“La nostra missione prevede numerosi progetti di azioni interreligiose e questa missione ha portato al consenso da parte del Vaticano di prestare i manoscritti ad Israele. Il Vaticano è il più grande depositario di manoscritti ebraici di tutto il mondo”, ha affermato il sig. Krupp, uno dei tre ebrei viventi ad essere stato ordinato dal Papa cavaliere dell’ Ordine di San Gregorio Magno. Il signor Krupp si è poi messo in contatto con l’ Israel Museum per sollecitare la presentazione della domanda presso la Biblioteca Vaticana e dare così avvio alle procedure per il prestito dei quattro rari manoscritti ebraici, tra cui un illuminante manoscritto del rabbino Mosé Ben Maimon Maimonide.

“Grazie all’intervento del Nunzio apostolico, l’ arcivescovo Pietro Sambi e la Custodia francescana in Israele, in particolare, il consiglio e l’ aiuto di padre David Jaeger, la Santa Sede ha approvato il prestito di tali manoscritti”. Inoltre padre Jaeger, portavoce e legale rappresentante della Custodia francescana in Israele e professore di diritto canonico ha affermato: “Entrambe le parti si impegnano ad una cooperazione culturale”.
Israel Museum Catalog

New Exhibitions

Beyond the Eye of the Beholder
The donors to the 2005 Exhibition Fund
Les Amis Français du Musée d'Israel
An Anonymous Foundation, Israel

Rome to Jerusalem
Merryl and James Tisch, New York
Special assistance provided by the Pave the Way Foundation

The Museum gratefully acknowledges the generosity of all those who contribute to its exhibitions:

Francis Allys
The Lindy and Ed Bergman Visiting Artists Fund

Design for Thought
The donors to the 2005 Exhibition Fund
Les Amis Français du Musée d'Israel
British Friends of the Art Museums of Israel
The British Council

In the Beginning
The Sam Weisband Trust, Beverly Hills
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Vanishing Point
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The donors to the 2005 Exhibition Fund

The Beauty of Sanctity
The donors to the 2005 Exhibition Fund
Les Amis Français du Musée d’Israel à Jerusalem
An Anonymous Foundation, Israel

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
The donors to the 2005 Exhibition Fund
Hans Richter, Vienna

Sacred Beauty
The Aaron Buzan Foundation, South Africa
The Buzan Foundation, Switzerland
An Anonymous Foundation, Israel
The donors to the 2005 Exhibition Fund
Les Amis Français du Musée d’Israel

Exhibitions
15 Youth Wing
14 Events
17 Rockefeller Museum
20 Schlessinger

Visit us at www.israelmuseum.org

Catalog

Israel Museum
Jerusalem
August–September
2005
Phase Three deals with a gesture of good will to the Vatican and while giving an invaluable gift to the library enabling the first step towards opening the manuscript collection up for world learning. Through the most generous offer made by a private Jewish foundation, Pave the Way has initiated the process of digitizing the manuscript collection of the library. This offer will save the library millions of dollars in imaging costs while allowing the Vatican library to protect and preserve its priceless collection forever. This project is currently about to begin the pilot process portion.
Here, the digitizing process and the software is demonstrated to Fr. Rafaelle Farina, SBD, Prefect of the Vatican Library. Pave the Way will be credited with opening up the largest manuscript collection in the world for eventual access over the internet. This has enormous potential. We are also offering to digitize the manuscripts of the Franciscans in Israel.

**Phase Four** will be the potential permanent loan of manuscripts, or other religious significant articles, to the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Our success in Phase Four will depend on how successful we are in finalizing many of the diplomatic questions. The work here is ongoing.
On September 5, 2005, the George S. Blumenthal Foundation was invited into the Vatican Library to launch a pilot program for the digitization of the Vatican Library manuscript collection. This is the first step toward finalizing permission for this most important international educational project, initiated and promoted by Pave the Way Foundation.

Ardon Bar-Hama Engineer at the entrance of the Vatican Library

Ambrogio Piazzoni Vice Prefect and Fr. Raffaele Farina S.B.D Prefect of the Vatican Library with Mr. Ardon Bar Hama

The Pilot begins

An Amazing example of the infrared Photographic techniques, developed by Mr. Bar-Hama. This portion of the dead sea scrolls was uncovered through this unique technology
The SENSE
Conference
Education
Educational Challenges
SENSE Conference

In order to better understand each other, we must reach the largest audience possible with educational messages about the facts with each religion. Pave the Way has found that, although there is some merit to dialogue between religious leaders, it is information to the masses that is really needed since they are the beginning and the end of benevolent and malevolent reaction and consequent negative use of religion.

Pave the Way Sponsored an event with the Diocese of Rockville Centre in New York and seven Synagogues (SENSE) – a conference on Vatican-Israeli Relations Jewish Catholic relations held in November 2004. This was well attended by local Catholic and Jewish members of the community. The event was videoed for the local Diocesan Television network.
Educational Challenges
SENSE Conference

We brought the Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See, Oded Ben-Hur, in from Rome and the Legal advisor to the Franciscan Custody in Israel, Fr. David Jaeger, OFM. We had the Bishop of Rockville Centre, Most Rev William Murphy and Rabbi Jack Bemporad, educator at the North American College in Rome.
In Catholic-Jewish relations, Bishop Murphy is 'friend and partner'  

By Mary Gorry

Wantagh - Catholics and Jews from around Long Island met at the Suburban Temple here on Sunday, Nov. 7 to hear a panel of Catholic and Jewish leaders, including Bishop William Murphy, discuss the great strides made in Catholic-Jewish and Vatican-Israeli relations and the work that still needs to be done."Jews and Catholics, Israel and the Vatican: Building Bridges," presented by the South East Nassau Synagogue Enterprise (SENSE), the Pave the Way Foundation, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre, marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican. Bishop William Murphy chats with Oded Ben-Hur, ambassador of Israel to the Holy See, at a conference Sunday in Wantagh marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican. (TLIC photo by Gregory A. Shemitz)

In addition to Bishop Murphy, the panelists included Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding and a professor of Interreligious Studies at the Vatican's Angelicum University in Rome; Father David-Maria Jaeger, a Franciscan Friar and legal representative for the Franciscan custody of the Holy Land; Father Priamo Etzi, associate dean of the Pontifical Athenaeum at the Franciscan University in Rome; and Oded Ben-Hur, the Israeli Ambassador to the Vatican."My first impression as a seminarian, as a young priest, was of Cardinal Cushing of Boston," said Bishop Murphy. "Throughout his life he was an unabashed and unapologetic fighter for changing Catholic-Jewish relations.""At the second Vatican Council, he rose onto the floor for only two reasons," said the bishop. "He spoke with great gusto in favor of religious freedom. Two weeks later he was on his feet again to give a ringing endorsement to a declaration on the Jews, to an end to anti-Semitism."Since the opening of dialogue between Catholics and Jews, Catholics have begun to see Jesus "in the perspective of his Jewish-ness," noted Bishop Murphy. "We've learned to like each other and we've also learned that we want to understand each other better.
"Our two faiths use the same words but often mean very different things," said Rabbi Bemporad. Catholics and Jews will never understand the others' religion "unless we talk to each other theologically," he said. It's important to remember, however, that "it's not religions that communicate. It's human beings that communicate," noted Rabbi Bemporad. It's also important to remember that the issue is not whether or not Catholics and Jews agree on matters they are discussing. "The issue is rather whether we understand one another," he said. The Catholic Church "has had the courage and is the leader and has established the model" of working with Judaism, noted Rabbi Bemporad.

Because of the Catholic Church, Judaism is viewed as Christianity's "dearly beloved elder brothers," he said. "Jesus was born, raised, and died a Jew," said Mr. Ben-Hur. "We have so much in common but we were afraid to talk about it. Two thousand years of unpleasant history between Jews and Christians created a kind of suspicion, fear, among Jews. It created fear and this fear created detachment, and this detachment created something that is very sad, ignorance," ignorance about what it means to be a Christian on the part of the Jews, and on the part of Christians, what it means to be a Jew. Israelis have spent so many years defending the right of Israel to exist that they never gave much thought to the future, noted Mr. Ben-Hur, but they are now, and that's what having a dialogue with the Vatican is about. In a relationship of love and friendship, "it is important to say 'I love you,'" said Father Jaeger, but it also important to act in ways that show that love. "Together we must stand for justice, we must stand for peace which is the fruit of justice."

"We have come a long way in 40 years," noted Bishop Murphy. "Whatever the future is, I pledge to you I will always be your partner and your friend."
Jewish Mission to Thank Pope John Paul II: A Gesture
On January 18, 2005, more than 148 Jewish leaders, Rabbis and Cantors attended this historic event…

Considered one of the most significant events in Jewish-Catholic history, Pave the Way organized and led the largest Jewish delegation in history to Rome. Its purpose was to meet with and thank a sitting Pope.

The event was covered in almost every major newspaper and news service in the World. This was important for both Jews and Catholics since initiatives, such as this very emotional audience, will help to maintain the relationship between Jews and Catholics into the next Papacy. It also was a unique way to show the world the changes that have been adopted by the Catholic Church and it’s relations with Jewish people. The Vatican compared the importance of our audience, to the historic Visit of Pope John Paul II to the Great Synagogue of Rome April 13, 1986.

Sadly, this was to be the last major audience of Pope John Paul II. He became ill 11 days after this gesture of thanks.
Mr. Krupp, attired in the uniform of his Papal Order, made a statement of gratitude for all that Pope John Paul II has done for the Jewish people and for the State of Israel. Sadly, this was the last major audience of Pope John Paul II.
Your Holiness:

We are a group of people who represent a cross section of Judaism, who have traveled here with the blessings of millions of our faith in order to thank you. Soon after your ascension to the throne of St. Peter, you made a telling trip to Auschwitz in order to pay homage to victims of the Holocaust. You have defended the Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your Twenty-six year pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as a "sin against God and humanity.” This tone of reconciliation has been the corner stone of your papacy and its relations with the Jewish people. On April 13, 1986, you became the first Pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue. Upon presenting his credentials to you in June 2003, Israeli Ambassador Oded Ben-Hur expressed this enormous gesture best when he said, “On that day you took upon your shoulders the 2000 year old church, back to the first century synagogue of Capernaum, where Jesus used to pray, thus closing an historic circle".

You moved the Holy See to initiate the process of normalizing of diplomatic relations with the state of Israel in 1992, the beloved biblical homeland of the Jewish people, symbolically acknowledging the existence of Eretz Yisrael yesterday, today, and forever.
Your pilgrimage to Israel and the Holy Land on March 21, 2000, was immortalized in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people around the world, when you placed your prayer asking for forgiveness in the Western Wall. Your solemn remarks during your visit to the Hall of Remembrance, Yad Vashem profoundly moved us and touched our hearts.

It is impossible to describe the emotional impact these milestones have had on Jews worldwide. Your Holiness, these reconciliatory acts have, in fact, been a hallmark of your pontificate as you have also tried to repair the ancient rifts in all of the religions in the world. The Jewish Ethics of the Fathers beautifully captures, in verse, the love you have exhibited for all humanity. Rabbi Hillel says: "Be among the disciples of Aaron, by being a lover of peace, a pursuer of peace, a lover of all humanity and bringing them closer to religion."

For your acts of love of all humankind and your implacable pursuit of peace and reconciliation of all the faiths, your Holiness truly is the personification of these ideals and spirit of Aaron, the high priest of ancient Israel.

In closing, you have referred to us, the children of Abraham, as your beloved elder brothers. My prayerful wish is that Jews, Christians and Muslims, the three children of Abraham, may soon bond together in one common cause and voice to defend all humanity against those who defame God by committing wanton acts of violence in his holy name.

Your Holiness, thank you,..... thank you,....... thank you.

Shalom,.... Shalom,..... Shalom
Ladies and Gentleman, Dear Friends,

With affection I greet the members of the “Pave the Way Foundation” on your visit to the Vatican, and I thank Mr. Krupp for the kind words which he has addressed to me on your behalf.

This year we will be celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration Nostra Aetate, which has significantly contributed to the strengthening of Jewish-Catholic dialogue. May this be an occasion for renewed commitment to increased understanding and cooperation in the service of building a world ever more firmly based on respect for the divine image in every human being.

Upon all of you, I invoke the abundant blessings of the Almighty and, in particular, the gift of peace. Shalom aleichem, shalom, shalom.
April 14, 2005

Mr. Gary L. Krupp KCSG
Pave the Way Foundation
Suite 3805
350 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10118

Dear Mr. Krupp,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for including me in the historic audience with Pope John Paul II on January 18, 2005, which was arranged by Pave the Way Foundation. Myself, along with the other Rabbis, Cantors and Jewish leaders were very glad to have had the opportunity to simply thank this great man of peace for all he has done for the Jewish people and for the State of Israel. Although our history with the Catholic Church has not always been positive, prior to the second Vatican Council’s declaration Nostra Aetate, certainly one must acknowledge the major changes in theology and diplomacy that have occurred. I also very much enjoyed the historic Cantorial concert the evening before, at the Great Synagogue of Rome.

Sadly, with the Pope’s passing we pray that this relationship will continue in the same spirit that Pope John Paul II invigorated by his meaningful gestures. I would like to thank you again for the insight to have been able to deliver this message of thanks thereby setting the precedence that the Jewish people do appreciate acts and gestures of kindness and are not afraid of expressing this.

Please keep up the good work of Pave the Way Foundation in your quest to end the use of religion for justifying acts of violence and for your work in initiating repatriation of Hebrew manuscripts and other cultural and educational projects.

Sincerely,

Shlomo Riskin
Unos 160 rabinos agradecen al Papa su lucha contra el antisemitismo

martes, 18 enero 2005

La asociación judía Pave the way fue recibida en Audiencia por el Papa.

En una audiencia en el Vaticano celebrada a los 40 años de «Nostra Aetate»

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO, martes, 18 enero 2005 (ZENIT.org).- Juan Pablo II pidió que se refuerce el compromiso a favor del diálogo entre judíos y católicos al recibir este martes a un grupo de unos 160 rabinos y cantores de Israel, Europa y Estados Unidos.

El encuentro sin precedentes --nunca habían venido al Vaticano tantos rabinos para una audiencia privada con el Papa-- fue solicitado por la «Pave the Way Foundation» para recordar los cuarenta años de la declaración del Concilio Vaticano II «Nostra Aetate» (28 de octubre de 1965), que marcó un giro decisivo en el diálogo judeocristiano.

Asimismo, Gary Krupp, presidente la Fundación, había propuesto el encuentro como una oportunidad para agradecer al Papa Karol Wojtyla el extraordinario esfuerzo realizado con su vida, y en particular con sus más de 26 años de pontificado, en la lucha

Brasil e no Mundo

Cento e sessenta rabinos no Vaticano para agradecer João Paulo II
Por seu apoio ao povo judeu, especialmente ao denunciar o anti-semitismo

CIDADE DO VATICANO, segunda-feira, 17 de janeiro de 2005 (ZENIT.org).- Cerca de 160 rabinos e cantores judeus provenientes de Israel, Estados Unidos e Europa serão recebidos esta terça-feira em audiência por João Paulo II no Vaticano.

O encontro foi solicitado para celebrar o quadragésimo aniversário da declaração do Concílio Vaticano II Nostra Aetate (28 de outubro de 1964), que marcou uma virada na relação entre judeus e católicos.

Segundo um comunicado difundido pela fundação que pediu o encontro, a «Pave the Way Foundation», os representantes judeus darão graças a João Paulo II pelo que fez a favor da reconciliação entre judeus e católicos. Neste sentido, os rabinos pretendem recitar uma oração especial em honra do Papa.

Gary Krupp, presidente e fundador da «Pave the Way Foundation», sublinhou que «sua Santidade João Paulo II tem uma longa história de apoio o povo judeu, sobretudo na hora de denunciar o anti-semitismo e a discriminação de todo grupo étnico». 
International coverage of the event

Unos 160 rabinos agradecen al Papa su lucha contra el antisemitismo

La asociación judía Pave the way fue recibida en Audiencia por el Papa.

En una audiencia en el Vaticano celebrada a los 40 años de «Nostra Aetate»

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CBS4 | cbs4boston.com

Pope Meets With Jewish Leaders

• Calls For More Understanding

Jan 18, 2005 12:05 pm US/Eastern

Pope John Paul II called for renewed commitment to stronger dialogue between Jews and Catholics Tuesday as he warmly received more than 100 Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors and their relatives in what was described as the largest such audience at the Vatican.

Most of the participants were from the United States, including a large contingent from the New York metropolitan area, but there were also rabbis from Israel, France, India, Canada and Croatia among the group wanting to thank the pontiff for his dedication in improving relations between Jews and Catholics.
International coverage of the event

A „Pave the Way” – „Kövezd ki az Utat” – Alapítvány és a Vallásközi Megértés Központ közleménye a zsidó vezetők és a Pápa kedden esedékes találkozójáról

A közlemény a következő vastag betűs szavakkal kezdődik:

„KÖSZÖNET II. JÁNOS PÁL PÁPÁNAK A VILÁG MINDEN RÉSZÉRŐL ÉRKEZETT 160 RABBITÓL, AKIK A VATIKÁNBNAGYÜLNEK ÖSSZE”

Kedden, január 18-án délelőtt, 160 rabb kántor a Vatikánban találkozik II. János Pál pápával. A történelem eddigi legnagyobb magánkihallgatásáról van szó, amelyre valaha is sor került a Vatikánban egy Pápa és zsidó vallási vezetők között. A rabbik, akiket a „Pave the Way” – a „Kövezd ki az Utat” alapítvány gyűjtött egybe, a kihallgatás során elismeréssel adóznak azokért a történelmi lépésekért, amelyeket a Szentszék tett a katolikusok és zsidók közötti kapcsolatok javítása érdekében, és köszönetüket fejezik ki a Pápának azokért az erőfeszítéseire, amelyeket pápaságaeddigi 26 éve során tett, hogy kiengesztelje a két vallást, és ledöntse a gyűlölet falát.

A rabbik, a kihallgatás során imát mondanak majd a Szentatya tiszteletére.

Gary Krupp, az Alapítvány elnöke és létrehozója a következőket nyilatkozta: „Alapítványunk küldetése, hogy
From: The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation - Jerusalem
To: pavetheway@optonline.net
Cc: irwf@irwf.org
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2005 7:19 AM
Subject: To "Pave the way foundation"

Mr.... Elliot M. Hershberg / Chairman of the Board of Directors
Mr.... Gary L. Krupp, KCSG / President

Pave the way Foundation

Dear Mr.... Hershberg and Mr.... Krupp:

On behalf of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, we want to congratulate your organization for the recent visit paid by your distinguished members to Pope John Paul II.

"The Pave the way foundation" iniciative encourages understanding between world's religions promoting peace and respect. Your goals are very similar to those of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.

The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) is an Interreligious and non-profit organization, with the aim of promoting peace among nations and people, as well as developing educational projects based on concepts of solidarity, dialogue and understanding, with no distinctions.

The Foundation, with branches in New York, Buenos Aires, and Jerusalem, has focused all of its efforts to honour the deeds of Raoul Wallenberg, who is considered one of the greatest heroes of our times. Our mission is to render homage, promote the message and remember the actions of all those Heroes of the Holocaust, who like Raoul Wallenberg, Aristides de Sousa Mendes and Angelo Roncalli, among many others, risked their lives to save persecuted people during the Second World War.

Since being set up in 1996 the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation has carried out an extensive international campaign in recognition of the achievements of this Swedish diplomat and the Silent Heroes of the Holocaust, including Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Roncalli (later Pope John XXIII), Aristides de Sousa Mendes and Jan Karski, among many others.

The Angelo Roncalli International Committee was established by the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation in September 2000 to render tribute to the humanitarian deeds achieved by Nuncio Angelo Roncalli --later known as Pope John XXIII-- on behalf of those persecuted by the Nazi regime. Among the many significant initiatives taken by the Angelo Roncalli International Committee, we can mention an extensive research project to determine and broaden the humanitarian measures begun by Apostolic Delegate Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli for refugees persecuted by the Nazi regime in different countries of occupied Europe. You can read this research at:
http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/roncalli/research/summary/

We wish your organization much success,

Dr. Mario E. Ablin

The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation / Jerusalem
Cantorial Concert

On January 17th 2005, Pave the Way Foundation sponsored the first-ever concert of Cantorial expression in the Great Synagogue of Rome. Twelve of the top Ashkenazi Cantors gave a wonderful spiritual concert before the Roman Jewish Community, Vatican officials and the Pave the Way Papal Visit delegation. The audience swelled to more than 1000, filling the Great Synagogue. This was a free concert of goodwill to all.
Comunità Ebraica di Roma
Pave the Way Foundation di New York
Jewish Cantors Association of America & Canada

Canti Liturgici Ebraici
17 gennaio 2005 – ore 20:30
Tempio Maggiore, lungotevere Cenci – ROMA

Coro Ha Kol
Mº Claudio Di Segni – Mizmor shiru l’Ad. shir chadash
Rav Vittorio Della Rocca
Rav Alberto Funaro – Yafutzu
Cantor Avraham Amar – En kelenu
Cantor Eliezer Kepecs – Vela’Irushalaim ircha
Cantor Josh Rubenstein – Sim shalom
Cantor Leslie Rimer – Far vos zingi a Chazzan
Cantor Motti Fuchs – Amar Rabbi Eleazar
Cantor Victor I. Beck – Birkat HaChodesh
Cantor Yehuda Rossler – Retze
Cantor Michael Trachtenberg – Shalom Rav
Cantor David Montefiore – Mimcomcha malkenu
Cantor Steve Shor – Sheibane Bet Hamikdash
Cantor Ofer Barnoy – Ad Hena
Cantor Gadi Elon – Habben yakir li Esraim
Cantor Sol Zim – Avinu shebashamaim
Cantors Ensemble – Jerusalem Peace Medley

Alla tastiera Chiara Ricci
Nation’s top cantors to perform at celebration honoring Pope

Vatican City, Jan. 14, 2005 (CNA) - On January 18th, Pope John Paul II will receive twelve of the United States’ top cantors, who will perform for him at the Papal Palace.

The historic event is being held to honor the Pope for his years of good will and hard work toward bridging cultural and religious divides between the two faiths.

According to a press release, the group “will recognize the Pope’s efforts during his 26-year pontificate in bringing down the walls of hate as well as his contribution toward religious reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of Israel.”

Steve Shor, a New York native and cantor at Temple Shalom in Brooklyn is one of the cantors chosen to perform for the Holy Father. He said that performing for the Pope will be “one of his greatest honors.”

On January 17th, The 12 cantors will also perform a concert at the Great Synagogue in Rome for Vatican delegates and the Roman Jewish community.

During the event, the press release states, “the Rabbis intend to recite a special prayer in his honor…and the cantors will sing a special blessing to commemorate the event.”

The event, which will bring together some 160 Jewish rabbis, cantors and laypeople from the U.S. Europe and Israel, “the largest gathering of Jewish leaders ever to meet with a sitting Pope”, is being praised as a “once in a lifetime event.”

The celebration is being sponsored by the Pave the Way Foundation.
Documentary:
“In the Name of God”
EDUCATION
Documentary on the Words and Spirit of the Alexandria Declaration

As enlightened and peace loving peoples of all faiths, we have a responsibility to work against those forces that would commit violence while invoking the name of God. Through the efforts of our foundation, and with an initiative, such as this documentary, we hope to give a voice to the quiet majority of the peace loving religious faithful worldwide. As we see daily headlines of acts of terrorism and ongoing investigations and prevention into terrorist threats, we have made a significant observation. The efforts of our governments are only directed towards the effects of terrorism rather then cause.

Resources are being expended on defense, homeland security, and investigative work. Remarkably little is being invested in addressing the environment from which radicalism the initial acts of violence grow forth. Governments have repeatedly failed in the fight against malicious religious zealots, who use religion as the vehicle to promote acts of violence and their own political agendas. It is these radicals and whose lies are the roots of these murderous atrocities. People with little hope for their future are easily swayed by the message, that acts of violence are blessed and provide the promise of paradise for martyrdom. We believe that it is the unified voices of the world's religions that can only effectively combat these religious extremist’s rhetoric.
We wish to produce a comprehensive documentary featuring religious scholars and leaders of all faiths. The documentary will question how religion, and the holy books deal with the questions of killing of innocents and the use of suicide and how, according to all of our beliefs, we indeed are our brother's keeper. The program will begin with an examination of how religion has been used throughout history for the justification of violent acts. The interviews will be multi-lingual with subtitles in Arabic, Hebrew and English. Furthermore, we wish to send the message that the so-called religious leaders, who are promoting acts of barbarism, are simply trying to "steal the souls of the misguided.” This documentary will be distributed to all public and private television network worldwide. The film will be distributed through each of the participating religious groups as well. This project will feature the participation of the original signatories of the Alexandria Declaration for Peace in the Holy Land. The Alexandria Declaration is our inspiration and blue print for this project. By empowering the silent majority to action, if one life can be saved, by preventing murderous acts in the name of God, then this project will be a success. Please visit our website to view the Alexandria Declaration for Peace in the Holy Land.
Increasing Tourism to the Middle East

Peace
As we have observed, the best incentive to maintain the peace process with Israel and her neighbors, is to encourage tourism to the region.

Through the unique relationship Pave the Way has with many Catholic communities, we have initiated an all important effort to increase Christian tourism to the region.

More Christians come to Israel and the Holy Land then any other religion. Mindful of this, Pave the Way has initiated changes with the Israeli ministry of Tourism in order to make Christian pilgrims feel welcome.

The largest Catholic fair in the world is “The meeting” in Rimini, Italy the last week of August of each year. Here over 1 million of the most influential Catholic performers, religious leaders, athletes, business people gather for one week. Pave the Way has requested and been granted permission for the State of Israel to participate in this festival, This year Israel will be participating offering special incentives for Catholics to return to the Holy Land.
The primary vision of Pave the Way is to oppose religious extremism in all of the religions of the world. When religion is used as a reason to kill innocents, then all civilized societies must loudly oppose this.

In an ongoing effort to galvanize the moderate Muslims, who oppose the denigration of their religion by the barbaric acts of a few, Pave the Way has gathered a group of Muslim leaders who wish to come to Israel in order to show a gesture of respect to not only the Jewish people and Israeli citizens but also to the world.

Pave the Way is initiating and sponsoring the pilgrimage of these benevolent moderate Muslim leaders to come to Israel, where they will meet officials and pray at the Yad Vashem memorial for the victims of the Holocaust.

This gesture will send a very powerful message to the world, that not all Muslims believe in violence and that we can live in peace with respect for one another. It is hoped that this will also give an incentive for this silent majority, to become more proactive in loudly opposing suicide murders and the use of their religion for violence. This pilgrimage is planned for the Fall 2005.
Cultural and Educational Projects

Education
A Blessing to One Another -

Pope John Paul II & the Jewish People -

Education

The living interactive exhibit of Pope John Paul II and his relations with the Jewish people from his boyhood relations until the end of his pontificate.

Pave the Way Foundation sponsored this most informative and inspiring exhibit to New York City on September 6, 2006, to the Museum of Jewish Heritage-New York.

Opening speakers left to right Gary Krupp President of PTWF, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican's Ambassador to the UN, Dr. Jerzy Kluger board member of PTWF and childhood friend of Pope John Paul II and Governor of the State of New York George E. Pataki. PTWF Board members Richard Kandel director, Elliot Hershberg Chairman of the board and Gary Krupp President of Pave the Way Foundation sponsor of the exhibit.
Nostra Aetate
Education

Pave the Way Foundation is working with the Israeli Government (paste this address to your browser for more information http://www.israelfm.org/ica/,) to enhance the year-long celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the second Vatican Council’s Declaration Nostra Aetate. This historic document changed forever, the Catholic relationship with the Jewish people. Mr. Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation along with Rabbi Jack Bemporad on the board of advisors of Pave the Way, are traveling guests speakers on Catholic-Jewish relations and Vatican-Israeli relations.

DECLARATION ON
THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO
NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS
NOSTRA AETATE
PROCLAIMED BY HIS HOLINESS
POPE PAUL VI
ON OCTOBER 28, 1965
Long Island Philharmonic performance to honor Pope John Paul II - Culture

Fall 2005:

A special Interreligious performance of notable music will be performed at the Cathedral of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre, NY to honor the memory of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. This will be sponsored by the Diocese of Rockville Centre along with Pave the Way foundation, and a number of Jewish and Muslim organizations. This event will be televised on national religious television.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Diocese of Rockville Centre Announces Concert Dedicated to Pope John Paul II’s Interfaith and Ecumenical Efforts
Long Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus to Perform Fauré’s Requiem at St. Agnes Cathedral on October 16 ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK, September 29, 2005 - The Diocese of Rockville Centre announced today that the Long Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, under the direction of Frances C. Roberts will perform Fauré’s Requiem, at St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. The free concert is dedicated to the memory of the late Pope John Paul II and his commitment and outreach during his Papacy to the interfaith and ecumenical communities. October 16 is a significant date in the life of Pope John Paul II as it is the anniversary of his election as the 263rd successor of Peter (October 16, 1978).

“This concert will bring together Long Island’s interfaith and ecumenical communities,” said The Most Reverend William Murphy, Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. “Peoples of all faiths will gather in the Cathedral to reflect on all that Pope John Paul II has done to bring us closer together. The late Holy Father’s legacy is so broad, but one of the largest components of that legacy is his reaching out to peoples of other faiths.”

Working with the diocese in support of this free concert is Pave the Way Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to promoting peace by embracing the similarities common to the world’s religions through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. The Long Island Philharmonic Orchestra is also underwriting a portion of the costs involved in this performance.

“The second we heard of this concert we wanted to be a part of it and we invite representatives of all faiths to this special event,” said Gary Krupp, president, Pave the Way Foundation, Inc. “On January 18, 2005, Pave the Way Foundation initiated and led the largest group of Jewish leaders in history to meet privately with Pope John Paul II. Sadly, ours was the last major audience granted by His Holiness,” said Krupp. “We brought together a cross section of Jewish leaders to thank this extraordinary man for all he has done for the Jewish people, the State of Israel and his reconciliatory outreach to all of the world’s religions,” added Krupp.

Composed in 1888, and revised in 1900, the Requiem is Gabriel Fauré’s most popular work. It departs significantly from the standard liturgical text. The work includes two new sections, the lyrical Pie Jesu and the transcendent In Paradisum, with its soaring vocal line. Fauré omitted the Dies Irae and the Tuba Mirum - for most composers an opportunity to exploit the full dramatic possibilities of the orchestral and choral forces.

Accordingly, this Requiem conveys peacefulness, serenity and acceptance, and the work has been described as a Requiem without the Last Judgment. Long Island Philharmonic Executive Director Neil Birnbaum describes Fauré’s Requiem as “the most widely-loved of the many settings of the Requiem. In comparison with the large-scale masterpieces of Verdi, Brahms and Berlioz, Fauré’s seems gentle and unassuming. It is this very quality of understatement that contributes to the work’s universal popularity and makes it impossible not to be moved by the ethereal beauty of this humble masterpiece.” Birnbaum continues, “the qualities of understatement and humility make this work the perfect selection. The Philharmonic is proud to participate in this celebration of Pope John Paul II’s life.”

A reception in the St. Agnes Center will follow the concert. All are welcome.

About the Long Island Philharmonic Orchestra
Now in its twenty-sixth season, the Long Island Philharmonic was founded in 1979 by the late Harry Chapin. In recognition of its artistic achievements, the State of New York has designated the Philharmonic as a “Primary Arts Organization.” It is the only professional symphony orchestra on Long Island and is the principal orchestra of the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University in Nassau County serving a population of 1.4 million. The Philharmonic also performs on Long Island at the Staller Center at SUNY Stony Brook, as well as Heckscher Park in Huntington, the Brookhaven Amphitheater in Farmingville, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow and Great Neck’s Steppingstone Park. The Philharmonic's activities include a classical series, a New Years Eve concert, youth concerts, and free summer parks concerts. For more information, visit, www.liphilharmonic.com

About Pave the Way Foundation
Pave the Way Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to promoting peace by embracing the similarities common to the world’s religions and encourages understanding, through cultural, technological, and intellectual exchanges. By funding specific projects, the foundation hopes to pave the way towards further cooperation and mutual acceptance, and in turn, embrace our similarities and savor our differences. The end result are gestures of good will, which promote peace, understanding and mutual respect. For more information, visit www.pavethewayfoundation.org

About The Diocese of Rockville Centre
The Diocese of Rockville Centre was formed in 1957 and covers 1,222 square miles in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The diocese serves approximately 1.4 million Catholics (total population in both counties is approximately 3.3 million). There are 134 parishes in 115 towns. Last year over 20,000 baptisms, 18,000 confirmations, 20,000 first communions and 5,000 marriages took place in the diocese. There are 2,137 students in Catholic kindergarten, 23,825 in primary or elementary school, 12,628 in secondary school and 3,300 in higher institutions. There are 2,137 students in Catholic kindergarten, 23,825 in primary or elementary school, 12,628 in secondary school and 3,300 in higher institutions. There are 76 Catholic elementary and high schools and one Catholic college in the diocese. Catholic Health Services of Long Island consists of five hospitals, three nursing homes, two home-care agencies, two senior housing complexes, a community-based home for those with special needs and a hospice. Last year, Catholic Charities assisted more than 80,000 individuals who are poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged on Long Island. For more information, visit www.drvc.org

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Classical music lovers of all ages and faiths filled St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, Oct. 16 for a presentation by the Long Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, of Fauré’s Requiem in memory of Pope John Paul II’s outreach to the interfaith and ecumenical community. Msgr. Donald Beckmann, top left, director of the diocese’s office of ecumenical and inter-religious affairs, Bishop William Murphy and Gary Krupp of Pave the Way Foundation applaud the performance as cellist Jay Shulman, at left, performs.
Pave the Way implements the acquisition of a state of the art PET CT Scanner to the hospital of St. Padre Pio – Technology

New York, Pave the Way Foundation, an interreligious foundation whose mission is gestures of good will between the religious has announced that through the generosity of the devotees of St. Padre Pio world wide, and the supporter of Pave the Way Foundation is donating a state of the art medical diagnostic machine of enormous importance. The General Electric PET-CT Elite Scanner is the most advanced medical diagnostic machine available today and is used in the diagnosis of various cancers and in cardiac studies as well.
Pave the Way Foundation has joined with Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, a hospital in Italy, and Miss Antonietta Torsello of Costello Franco, Italy, to help to promote a fund raising effort to purchase a PET scan machine. This device is needed to advance medical services to the needy in Europe. On November 14, 2005, a concert will be performed in Venice with over 25 artists from around the world to raise funds for this project.
Monument of Pope John Paul II in Krakow Poland and in Jerusalem, Israel- Education

On May 27th, 2006, Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation along with the Board and advisors and special guests and contributors, presented a special sculpture representing a monument to be placed in Poland, the homeland of Pope John Paul II. This event was held at a papal dedication ceremony in Wadowice, Poland, the birth place of Pope John Paul II.

This project has been planned with Jerzy and Irene Kluger, lifetime friend of Pope John Paul II, and H.Em. Stanislaus Cardinal Dziwisz, secretary to the Pope for over forty years.

PTWF delegation in Auschwitz May 28, 2006 presenting statue of the Polish monument of Pope John Paul II to the Chief Rabbi of Poland Rabbi Schudrich. Pictured from PTWF with Rabbi Schudrich (l to r) Rabbi and Mrs. Benjamin Blech, Rabbi Schudrich, Sculpture Sam Philipe, Gary Krupp, Elliot Hershberg, Meredith Krupp, and Karen Hershberg. This monument will be in commemoration of Pope John Paul II for his lifetime commitment to religious reconciliation.

Pope Benedict XVI receives a gift of the model of the monument.

Gary Krupp and Jerzy Kluger, both of Pave the Way, welcome Pope Benedict XVI and Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz into the childhood home of Pope John Paul II in Wadowice Poland during the Papal mission to Poland May 27, 2006.

The Monument is being built in Netanya, Israel
Pave the way foundation has been working with Reverend Richard Donahoe, Rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham Alabama. Father Donahoe was able to identify the availability of the Bodmer Papyrus. The Bodmer Papyrus is the oldest written version of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke and contains the oldest written version of the Lord's Prayer written between 175 and 225 AD. Pave the Way initiated contact for Fr. Donahoe with the Vatican Library. It was also through the efforts of Pave the Way that we were able to identify the donor and to help to bring this historic acquisition to worldwide availability in the care of the Vatican library January 22, 2007.

Pave the Way Foundation is extremely pleased to have played a key role in this most historic event.
“Islam and Judaism- closer than further away”- EDUCATION

Below are some of the photos from the lecture held at the Islamic Center of Long Island in Westbury New York on February 11, 2007 and the Sufi Circle lecture at Fordham University, Lincoln Center, New York on April 21, 2007

The program is entitled “Islam and Judaism- Closer than Further Away”. Rabbi Abraham Kiss is an expert in the Qu’ran, the New Testament as well as the Hebrew Scriptures. The Rabbi speaks 10 languages including Arabic. His early education in Morocco and Egypt has pointed out the many similarities between the two Faiths to an enthusiastic capacity audience. The lecture was enlightening to all who attended. One surprising comment was that the Muslims in fact follow Talmudic law correctly. He gave several examples of this including the Muslim method of bowing during prayer which is biblical and was the original form of worship in the Jewish temple. The use of a prayer rug, when prayer is instituted outside the temple, is actually Talmudic which prohibits bowing during prayer on bare stone outside the temple. In addition, the Mosque is devoid of all images and furniture, which is also Talmudic in its origins and followed strictly by Muslims.

If your Mosque, Church or Synagogue is interested in a lecture, please contact Pave the Way Foundation at office@ptwf.org.

These lectures are free of charge as a part of the ongoing mission of Pave the Way Foundation.
Birmingham Project

Education

Pave the way is initiating a most important project of international learning and empowerment in Birmingham Alabama. The first international children's conference on religious tolerance.

Below are the meetings with the religious leaders in Birmingham all participating in this most important project.
Palestinian third electoral Party

Peace

Throughout the history of the modern State of Israel peace has alluded all of the people of the region PTWF is working with prominent Palestinians who wish to give the Palestinian people another choice. Contrary to media coverage of this region, the Palestinians and the Israelis desperately want peace. The media seems to only report on the exceptional few extremists. The truth is all of the people from both sides have the same message. For three generations we have been at war and we don't want our children to have to continue this.

The Dajani family is beginning a movement towards starting a third electoral party in Palestine. PTWF is committed to help make this a reality.

In Dr. Dajani's own words you can see the essence of the Wasatia Party:

"Wasatia is a concept extracted from the Arabic word "wasat" which means "middle of the road", and "center of the circle". It is used in Arabic to mean also "balance" "moderation". In the Holy Quran, it is used to mean "goodness", "righteousness", "justice", and "straightforwardness". Wasat is said to be that which is in the midst of extremes such as hot and cold, rich and poor, empty and full, generosity and stingyness, courage and cowardice.

It is time for wasatia creed to emerge and rise in the Moslem world that it may draw the best and the brightest from among the Moslem community. The new initiative adopts the wasatiah Islamic tradition and the shura Islamic concept as its main pillars. Al-Wasatia calls for Muslims to take mid-ground that stands between those who sanctify strict tradition and those who opt for rational thinking in reading and explaining the Holy Quran in compliance with the Surah in the Holy Quran: "And so we have created you a midway nation."

The wasatia concept is reflected also in many other verses in the Quran such as: "Be neither miserly nor prodigal, for then you should either earn reproach or be reduced to penury." Al-shurah Islamic tradition advocates collective and consultative decision-making.

The goal will remain to seek peace and move to the center away from radicalism. The wasatia road taken in conflict resolution is negotiation, not confrontation. It is not win-lose situation but the win-win situation" - Dr Munther S. Dajani, Professor, Dean, Faculty of Arts Al Quds University-Jerusalem

Wasatia teaches tolerance – the Holy Books of Jews Christians and Muslims- Dr. Mohammed S. Dajani - Founder
Improving relations between the religions - Peace

Affirmation of His Beatitude Theofilos III Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem

- The Greek Orthodox Church has duly elected a new Patriarch of Jerusalem. This process was legally conducted and the newly elected Patriarch, His Beatitude Theofilos III, immediately enjoyed full endorsements by all of the other Christian Churches, by the Jordanian Government and by the Palestinian Authority. These are the required approvals. The Israeli government must also affirm the legal status of the Patriarch. The Israeli's process is taking additional time and consequently the new Patriarch cannot discharge his duties or take possession of the residence or business affairs of his Church.

- In the interest of inter-religious harmony and positive, improved relations, Pave the Way Foundation has requested that the Prime Minister give this problem his attention. We have requested that the required affirmation be granted as soon as possible.

- Gary and Meredith Krupp of PTWF meet with H.B. Theofilos III
Improving relations in Orthodoxy

Peace


Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem H.B Theofilos III

H.Em. Archbishop Stefan of Macedonia

Ukrainian Archbishop of the United States H.Em. Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos
Project Baby

A Gesture

Welfare Mom baby gifts

PTWF is keenly aware of the concept of "the Gesture." Mindful of this concept we have used this in almost all of our projects to give something concrete, that one can see and feel, as a means to "pave the way" to positive relations and to open a path to better understanding between the faiths. This is particularly important to children in combating the intentional distortion of religious and prophetic text which has been used as a tool to teach bigotry and hatred. Food is the most basic of human needs, and helping to provide for a newborn baby is a universal gesture of caring.

Personally managed through our wonderful advisors in Israel, famed sculptor Sam Philipe and Fr. Angelo Ison OFM, PTWF is beginning a project of giving basic baby supplies to welfare moms in Israel. The difference is that our gifts, are not restricted to one group. One third goes to Muslim moms, one third to Christian moms and one third to Jewish moms. We hope to expand this throughout the region. We are told by the welfare department that no one is helping in this critical area of need.

PTWF is currently seeking to advance this project by soliciting religious institutions to support the families of other religions. Churches will adopt a Jewish and Muslim family, Synagogues will adopt a Christian and Muslim family and Mosques will adopt a Christian and Jewish family. Each family will receive six-month supply of baby formula and diapers for their child and the supporting institutions will be able to meet the family and engage them if anyone travels to the region. The giving institution will receive a beautiful silver sculpture created by Sam Philipe as a thank you for their participation along with press coverage on our website and with the international media.

If you, or someone you know wishes to sponsor a needy family, please email us at office@ptwf.org and let us know you wish to help. The cost of six months supply of baby formula, diapers and some toys is approximately $525.00 per family.
Removing Religion as a tool for violence

Peace

PTWF continuously is working toward this most important goal. As we use our gestures to establish our true intentions and credibility we work continuously to impress the world wide leaders to intervene on the side of peace and to speak out against those who use religion as a tool for private agendas and violence.
Educating and informing on the reality of change

We are continuously traveling around the world speaking before groups and houses of worship on all of our projects. This is essential to enlighten the every day person to the realities of the dangers of religious extremism.
New Projects

• Vatican Museum tour

• Repair ancient rifts between the Orthodox faiths

• International Congress of the laity on religious reality

• Concert for Peace to benefit Africa

• Peace projects in the Middle East
Photo Album