

# Sports and Rehabilitation Center - Haifa

Ilan Haifa swimmers have reached unprecedented achievements in the Para Swimming European Championships!

11 Swimmers representing Israel participated in the European Championships that took place in Dublin, Ireland, in August 2018. Among them were 9 swimmers from Ilan Haifa, all trained by Coach Jacob Bininson: Inbal Pezaro, Ami Dadaon, Mark Malyar, Erel Halevi, Iyad Shalaby, Bashar Halabi, Yulia Goridchuk, Ariel Malier and Veronica Girenko. In the competitions, Ilan Haifa swimmers have reached exceptional achievements and brought great pride and honors to the association:

Inbal Pezaro won a Gold medal in Women's 200m Freestyle competition in a close match with a young Italian swimmer, a Silver medal in 200m Freestyle, and a Bronze medal in the Women's 100m Freestyle competition.

Ami Dadaon, 17 years old, participated for the first time in the European Championships and improved his results in all fields,

winning two Gold medals: Men's 100m Freestyle and Men's 150m Individual Medley, and two Silver medals: Men's 50m Breaststroke and Men's 200m Freestyle.

Mark Malyar, 18, won a Silver medal in Men's 400m Freestyle and Bronze medals in the Men's 100m Breaststroke and 100m Backstroke.

Erel Halevi won a Bronze medal in the Women's 400m Freestyle.

Iyad Shalabi, won a Bronze medal in the Men's 150m Individual Medley.

Ilan Haifa's swimming team won a

total of 12 medals!!!

Jacob Bininson, who coached the nine swimmers, said:

"The team today is composed of veteran and young swimmers. The success achieved by the veterans causes the younger team members to try harder and succeed, and vice versa. I was very proud to watch the swimmers every day fight and win medals".

We congratulate the talented swimmers, their coach and the Sports Center on their perseverance, professionalism and excellence!



Standing right to left: Mark Malyar, Erel Halevi, Yoav Valinsky Seated right to left: Ami Dadon, Iyad Shalabi, Inbal Pezaro.

## Mutual Support in Ilan

We are very proud of Ilan summer camps that collaborated summer camps from other communities for an entire week of activities in light of the security situation in the Gaza vicinity: Lavi summer camp, which took in the Sa'ad summer camp, and

the Kfar Etzion summer camp, which hosted the Alumim summer camp. You have made us all very happy, especially the children and their families.

Well done!!

Kibbutz Lavi Summer Camp hosts the children of Sa'ad Summer Camp



# A special vacation to the children of Tel-Aviv branch and their families in Shefayim

For the past 20 years, Ilan's Tel Aviv branch is offering children with physical disabilities and their families a weekend full of activities.

The weekend is designed for about 80 families, enabling them to enjoy and relax from their daily hardships. For most families, this is the only vacation they can go to - due to the financial cost and the special needs of their disabled child. The birth of a child with physical disabilities greatly diminishes the fun activities of the family. The daily care leads to mental burnout, physical fatigue and difficulties in maintaining social relationships. Ilan Tel Aviv pays most of the vacation, including: Full board, entrance to Shefayim water park, activities and performances such as, circle of drummers and jugglers, creativity workshops, balloons, karaoke evening, movie screening and transportation to the vacation site. Going on a family vacation with a child who has physical disabilities enables the family to enjoy a normative experience, to meet families in a similar situation, to exchange information and to expand their social circle. The families, and most importantly the children, feel comfortable to have fun surrounded by people in similar condition.

The vacation provides them with moments of joy and happiness,

and each year the families look forward to it, as one mother wrote to us:

"I can't express in words how happy this yearly vacation in Shefayim makes me and my family, this is our family vacation. These are the only few moments my husband and I are able to see our children happy and free, and all thanks to your

contribution. The vacation that is provided to the entire family brings joy, fun and happiness, it enables us to enjoy a fun experience together, and much more. My family and I hope that you will continue in the future to bring light to dozens of hearts through your generous contribution."



Ninja Israel competitors: Alon Kipnis, Omer Tzur, Yonatan Honig and Dor Ad volunteered to visit the families on the vacation site to spend time with the families and make them happy. They gave the children Ninja Israel T-shirts and spent time with them during the day in Shefayim Water Park.



# Summer Camps 2018!



**Testimony of a mother, from an article published on Ynet website, 13.7.18:**

Rotem is an 18 year old boy with cerebral palsy. Rotem was born a healthy child, but one night he began to convulse, changing his life and family life forever. His mother, Irit Arnov, tells about the constant need to watch and care for him, as well as the understanding that sometimes you need to let go. "During the summer, when many parents are concerned about keeping their children with special needs occupied, Arnov is actually quite calm. Rotem participates for an entire week in Ilan's Summer Camp. He has been joining the camp for ten

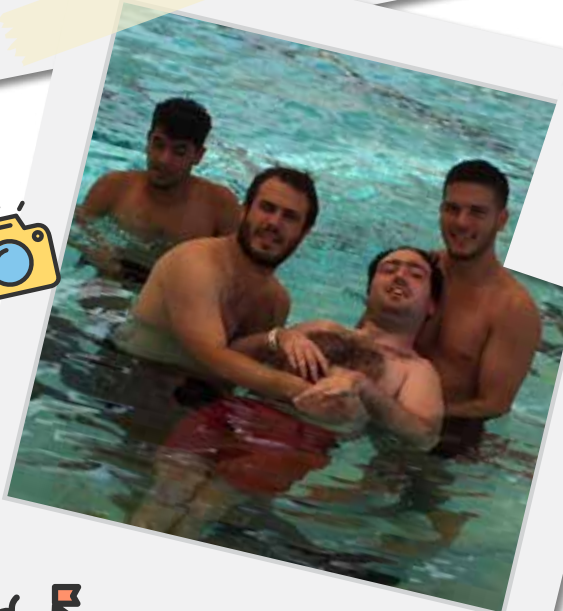
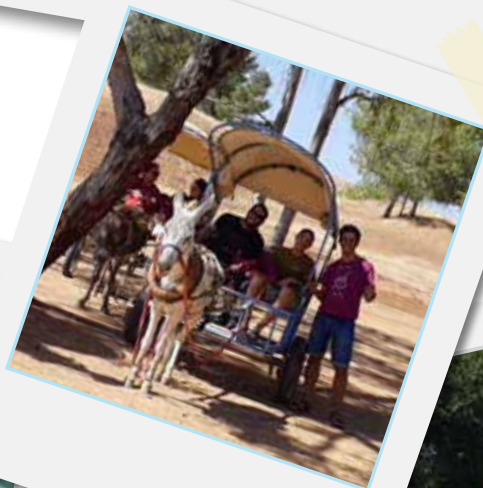
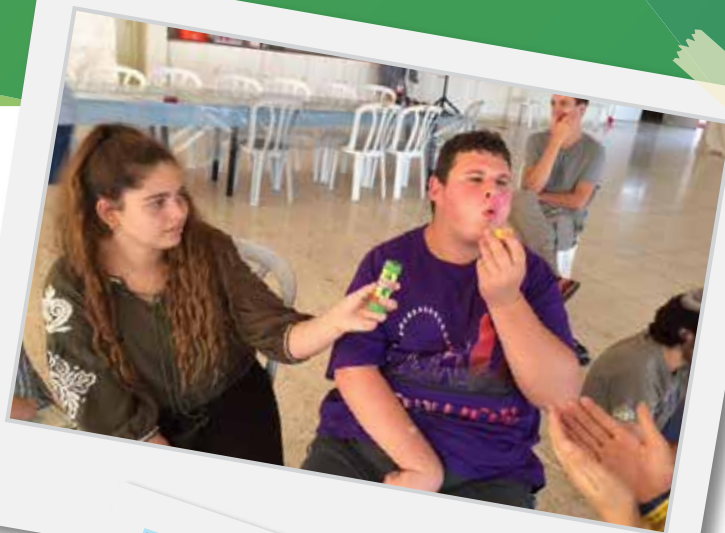
years, it took her two years to let go. The summer camp takes place in Kibbutz Lavi, which is not far from their home. In the past, Arnov would bring her son each morning to the camp and arrive every evening to bring him back home. Then she left him to sleep over for a night or two until she finally felt safe enough to let go.

"I can understand the parents that can't send their kids and those who aren't able to let go," she told in the article. "When he was eight years old, I thought to myself, 'who leaves home like that?' I felt guilty. Rotem has to take medication each morning and each evening and I was worried. We understand our

children best and we take care of them the best. These are disabled children with special needs; some of them also need to have their diapers changed. After I let go, I realized how good it was, and that the volunteers were making every effort for him. I trust them and Rotem has a great time. He goes with friends from school and he waits for this summer camp all year long.

Sometimes I call one of the guides to talk to Rotem and it feels as if I am disturbing him. The volunteers are the high school students and they do everything in a wonderful and valued effort. I look at them and I am deeply moved".





This summer, Ilan summer camps were held in 31 communities and kibbutzim throughout the country, which hosted the children of Ilan for an entire week, including sleep over. The campers and their guides continued to enjoy a variety of cultural, artistic, and recreational activities, to spend time in the pool, the sea, water parks, zoos and participated in a variety of attractions.

Ilan Summer Camps are operated with the help of volunteering youth, who stop their daily routine for an entire week in order to take care of the campers, the children of Ilan. We thank the wonderful youth, the dedicated camp coordinators and the various communities and kibbutzim who devote a great deal of time and effort so that Ilan children will enjoy the summer months, just like everyone else.





# An Exciting Event for ILAN at the Residence of Israel's Consul General in New York

By: Shani Kenzi,  
Marketing Manager

On Wednesday, June 13, 2018, a solidarity evening for ILAN was held at the residence of the Consul General of Israel in New York, Mr. Dani Dayan.

ILAN was represented at the event by Mr. Ehud Rassabi, the organization's chairman; the director general of the organization, Mr. Boaz Herman, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Alon Dumanis and the organization's marketing manager Mrs. Shani Kenzi. Key members of the Jewish community in New York, leaders in New York's business

sector, and representatives of the Israeli consulate were invited to the event.

Consul General Dani Dayan congratulated the guests and the organization representatives for their cooperation. The event was moderated by the director general of the organization, Mr. Boaz Herman. During the event, the organization's chairman, Mr. Ehud Rassabi, spoke about ILAN and its activities over the years in rehabilitating and treating people with physical disabilities.

Brig. Gen. (res.) Alon Dumis

presented his moving and inspiring story. He told about contracting polio when he was one year old, his connection to ILAN and the support he received from the organization, and his outstanding achievements.

During the event, the film "Shades of Color" was screened, documenting the moving story of the twin sisters Orel and Oranit Nigarker. Orel was born with cerebral palsy and attends the ILAN Day Center in Be'er Sheva. At the center she is exposed to a variety of activities, including



From left to right: Dr. Alon Dumanis, CPA Ehud Rassabi, Mr. Danny Dayan, Mr. Boaz Herman



rehabilitation through art. Ornit, her twin sister, is organizing a "Surprise Exhibit" in honor of their birthday, in which a selection of Orel's paintings will be exhibited. Many of the guests expressed

their great excitement over the event and numerous new contacts were formed with the objective of future collaboration with the foundation.

**ILAN would like to thank Consul**

**General Dani Dayan and the staff of the consulate for their warm welcome at his home and for the opportunity to tell the story of ILAN in New York.**

## Jerusalem Branch - a trip to ancient Acre

**By: Irit Binyamin, Supportive Communities Coordinator**

Ilán Jerusalem operates a community support project for independent living in South and West Jerusalem. It includes 140 members with disabilities and their families. The project

enables people to continue living in the community while providing them with a sense of security and support of the staff, which includes social workers and head of the community. The services include a medical center and assistance in cases

of emergency, realization of rights, assistance with minor home repairs, accompanying to medical treatments, bringing medicines, and social activities that empower the members and provide them with a framework for creating social relationships, enjoying themselves and alleviating any sense of loneliness. The social activities include lectures, workshops, gatherings, tours and vacations. As part of the desire to renew and diversify the sites of the tours and the trips offered to the community members, we traveled to northern Israel to visit the special sites of ancient Acre. Our community members enjoyed a day full of tours, a great meal and wonderful company.





# ILAN exhibits for the first time paintings at UN headquarters in New York!



**By: Shani Kenzi,  
Marketing Manager**

ILAN artists are “Honorary Ambassadors” at UN Headquarters! On Tuesday, June 12, 2018, a first-ever exhibit of paintings by ILAN artists opened at UN Headquarters in New York. In the exhibit, titled “Shades of Color,” were displayed some 20 works by ILAN children and adult artists attending the organization’s day centers in Tel Aviv, Be’er Sheva, Beit Kesler in Kiryat Haim, and ILAN-supported special education schools. The goal was to raise awareness of the integration of people with disabilities in society while expressing special appreciation to the talented artists.

We at ILAN believe that art is one of the most powerful means available to these children for self-expression. Through art, many of them discover their extraordinary

abilities and talent. Beyond that, thanks to art, they can feel that they are “equals among equals.” ILAN and Israel were represented at the United Nations by Mr. Ehud Rassabi, the organization’s chairman; Mr. Boaz Herman, its director general; the marketing manager, Mrs. Shani Kenzi and Brig. Gen. (res.) Alon Dumanis, who spoke about the activities

carried out daily, in order to empower ILAN’s clients in all areas of life, providing them with the tools necessary to lead meaningful lives.

Brig. Gen. Dumanis related his personal story. He contracted polio as an infant and grew up in ILAN – and told of his awe-inspiring achievements during his lifetime.

The event was attended by



Israel's ambassador to the UN with the representatives of ILAN at the exhibition



Brig.Gen (res) Alon Dumanis

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Danny Danon, who spoke at the exhibit opening; representatives of organizations throughout the world involved in the rehabilitation of people with disabilities; diplomats; and UN staff members.

ILAN artists talked about the works they exhibited: Fifteen-year-old Idan Zessler of Karmiel was born with a connective tissue disease and is paralyzed in his lower body. Though this means he must use a wheelchair for mobility, his disability does not prevent him from taking part in his favorite hobbies – singing, swimming, and most importantly, painting. Idan has a disabled brother and a non-disabled sister. He is a



Israel's ambassador to the UN, Mr. Danny Danon

student at the Tefen School in Kfar Vradim, which is supported by ILAN. His painting "My Colorful Parts" was exhibited at the United Nations. "I painted the picture after listening to Gotye's song "Somebody that I Used to Know." The song made me think about humans being made up of parts, parts of thoughts and behaviors. I painted myself the way I would like everyone to see me. A young man made up of parts, but who is actually whole. Like everyone else," says Idan.

Orel Nigarker, 24, from Dimona, who attends ILAN's day center in Be'er Sheva, says that her great love is drawing and that her disability does not prevent her from practicing it. Orel, who

was born with cerebral palsy, is dependent on a wheelchair for mobility. She has a twin sister who is not disabled with whom she enjoys an especially close relationship. Her dream is to study art in college. She called her work at the UN "Sunflowers," and says that the painting and the sunflowers symbolize freedom, independence, and growth.

**ILAN presents a unique and holistic model for the treatment and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, including at the international level. The exhibit demonstrates the organization's concept of empowering people with special needs, their ability for self-expression, and living up to their potential.**

