

# THE JERUSALEM POST

## Grapevine: Kobi Oz sings ‘mama loshen’

By GREER FAY CASHMAN  
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Yiddish everywhere, a women-only concert raises funds for the families of Carmel fire victims, a Lebanese conductor's Jaffa leanings, and three good girls go to the air force.

WHILE MANY people are making strenuous efforts to rehabilitate the Carmel Forest, others are focused on the grieving families of the 44 people who perished in the fires. Among those who are raising money for these families are the Chesed Fund of Baltimore, Maryland, Staiman Media Israel and the Israel Region of the International Young Israel Movement, which all joined forces for a women only benefit concert for the bereaved families at Jerusalem's Heichal Shlomo.

The concert featured Ayelet Hashachar, a three-member internationally acclaimed women's band from Baltimore. The band, which came here to perform in a voluntary capacity, was able to do this thanks to the generosity of Frank and Danielle Sarah Storch of the Chesed Fund.

The bereaved families have also been adopted by the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization, whose chairwoman Nava Shoham Solan movingly related how a person's life can change completely with a knock on the door.

Rebbetzin Mimi Jankovitz of the Ahavas Yisrael organization spoke of the importance of turning negative feelings around and letting them go. The world is full of needless hatred and resentment, she said, and rather than let those feelings fester and break up friendships, it was more important to focus on the relationship.

Ayelet Hashachar has a keen following here. Its bewigged members, Lisa Aronson Friedman, Shalomis Koffler Weinreb and Stephanie Rabinowitz, are all trained, professional musicians who did not always lead a Torah observant lifestyle. Friedman, on keyboard and vocals, is a classically trained pianist; Weinreb, on guitar, percussion and vocals, is also a composer and has been a professional musician all her adult life; and Rabinowitz, vocals and guitar, worked in theater in New York City and Baltimore. The trio teamed up about a decade ago. They perform their own music to verses from Psalms and various biblical passages.

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Greer Fay Cashman is a veteran Australian born journalist whose by-line has appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* for some 35 years. She has written on a wide variety of subjects and says she has been educated by her profession.

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