

ICASSI 1980, Bat-Yam, Israel

The 1980 International Rudolf Dreikurs Summer Institute returned to Israel for the second time. It was located in the Royal Blue Hotel at Bat-Yam, a suburb of Tel Aviv, a newly opened luxurious, air-conditioned hotel overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. There were tennis courts, swimming pools with large outdoor lounging areas, and upper, open terraces with expansive views of sandy beaches and blue-green water to the horizon.

Accommodations provided full room and board for visiting participants while most host country faculty and participants commuted from their homes. Special entertainment by Israeli performers set the stage for lively welcome to the beauty of Israel song and dance.

The comprehensive program was arranged, as many previous evaluations had suggested, into a very full schedule, adding the requested extra Bloc of scheduled time. Bloc 1, as a General Session, featured Family, Marriage and Teacher Centers, on alternating days. Bloc 11 had Beginning and Advanced Theory classes. Bloc 111 and 1V were for Professional and Personnel Development classes and groups. After dinner, Bloc 1V was filled with International Exchanges (including the annual ICASSI Classical Music Concert, and a novel

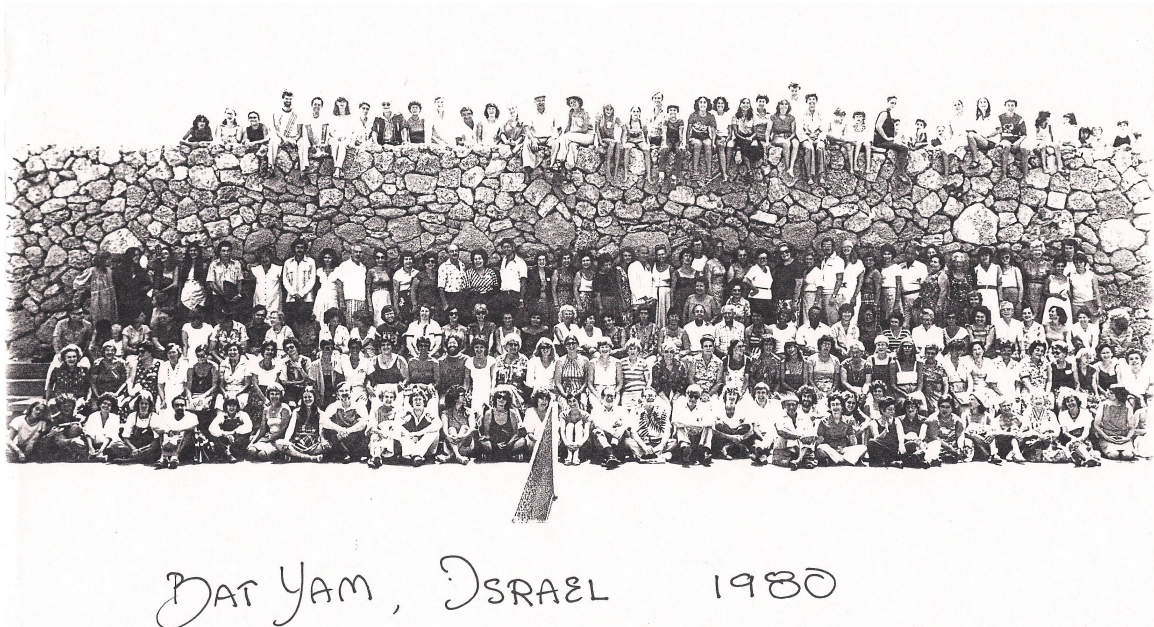


BAT YAM, ISRAEL

1980

Children and Youth Program), Special Interest Sessions, and lectures.

Two special guest lecturers dealt with very topical Israeli studies and concerns: "The Evolution of the Concept of Peace among Arab and Jewish Children" by Miriam Spielman and "Associations for the Betterment of Human Relations" by Dr Nira Kfir.



Excursions, through the Shalom Tours, were planned for the free weekend: Saturday, to Massada, Ein-Gedi and the Dead Sea; and Sunday to the ancient Biblical cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Jaffa. Visits to kibbutzim were also arranged for participants, along with visits to homes to observe Shabat with Israeli families. Pre and post ICASSI tours included Caesarea, Acre, Haifa, Nazareth, Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee, Meggido and Druze villages, Yad Vashem in the Jerusalem hills, the Shrine of the Book, the Knesset, the Museum of The Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv, and other historical and modern sites, while the ICASSI Faculty spent the time for staff development and in meetings.

The ICASSI office, with its library of Adlerian literature and its office staff, was centrally located off the spacious Lobby and popular refreshment and musical entertainment area. Many stopped in to share experiences during tours of this historic and diverse country and to comment upon the fabulously attractive arrangement of decorative trays of food at breakfast time.

However, problems did arise. The daily ICASSI Newsletter had stressed that the Royal was a kosher hotel which imposed some restrictions. Although participants had welcomed different cultural customs and foods as in integral part of ICASSI, the unexpected, strict religious rules and the actual experience of Shabat in this hotel presented some problems difficult to fit into the tight ICASSI schedule. One difficulty which involved the

leisurely-paced luncheons was solved by the management to let ICASSI have a western self-service style of lunch.

Other inconveniences were not easily understood nor changed. Realizing the overall dilemma, Yoel Varod had taken time to write a personal and very informative explanation of the ancient religious customs of the Orthodox Jews. Unfortunately, due to the illness of the secretary and the pressure of other typing, not all participants had received a copy before ICASSI had ended.

Since the ICASSI banquet fell on Shabat, there was an endless delay. Only a few in the long line-up understood that ovens could not be turned on nor could anyone begin to work until sundown. Once seated at the banquet tables, it took a little time to adjust to the religious, ceremonial dinner in an adjoining part of the room and to recapture the joyful spontaneity of this gala ICASSI evening. However, the inconveniences were well compensated by the many colourful aspects of Israeli customs and the luxury of the hotel and the beauty of the blue Mediterranean.

Special thanks were extended to the Israeli hosts and to all who contributed to this historic visit to Israel. Several comments termed ICASSI'80 a "monumental experience"; another remarked that "happiness was an Israeli breakfast"; others said "Shalom!" – Until ICASSI '81 in Vermont, USA