5.4.2017

2016 Activity Report - Honorary Consul of Jerusalem

General Overview

In the beginning of 2016, the Israeli government selected me as the head of the Israeli District of Culture and Art, a position that allows me to significantly strengthen the cultural ties between the two countries.

I would like to note that I am proud to be the Honorary Consul of Georgia in Jerusalem and do everything in my power to strengthen relations between Georgia and Israel in all areas - economics, tourism, culture, science and technology, and so forth.

It is my pleasure and honor to perform these roles as a wonderful collaborative effort with the Georgian Ambassador of Israel, Mr. Paata Kalandadze. He is an amazing ambassador who is well acquainted with the State of Israel, its traditions and Israeli society.

The main activities in which I took part:

* In my former position as deputy mayor of Jerusalem, I played a central role in the decision and execution of naming a street in Jerusalem after the Georgian national poet, Shota Rustaveli, and placing a monument in his memory.   
  In 2016 the site was in need of renovation, cleaning and lamp posting, as well as ensuring improved maintenance of the street by the municipality. I held a number of site visits with various city officials, as well as a concluding visit together with the ambassador. As a result, the place was cleaned, lamp posts were installed and the street is now maintained better than before.
* The Ein Karem Festival in Jerusalem - each year the Ein Karem Festival takes place in Jerusalem. In 2016 we decided to make it an international festival, and we brought artists and musicians from Georgia to the event.   
  We invited an ensemble of eight women from Georgia, whose appearance at the festival was wonderful and compelling for the thousands of participants. The streets were decorated with Israeli and Georgian flags and the ambassador of Georgia was invited to greet the audience from the stage.
* The Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra performed at the Jerusalem Theater. The ambassador participated and gave a blessing, and the concert was accompanied by an exhibition of paintings on the walls of Jerusalem’s central theater.
* Artists from Georgia participated in the Stone Sculpture Festival, where I introduced them to the Israeli Minister of Culture.
* Property Tax Reduction for the Georgia House - In my former position as Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem I assisted in establishing the Georgia House in the Gilo neighborhood in Jerusalem. The site operates to this day as a place of prayer and meeting place for religious leaders visiting Israel. The place accumulated many debts, and through a series of meetings with the City Manager we were able to obtain a significant discount and resolve the debt.
* Hosting the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Ms. Tamar Chugoshvili. I was pleased to help organize some of her meetings with senior officials of Israel and to hold a meeting with her and the ambassador in which we discussed ways to advance the ties between the two countries and bring investors to Georgia.
* We hosted a gala evening for a delegation from the city of Tbilisi, in continuation to hosting the mayor of Tbilisi in Jerusalem. The mayor of Jerusalem took part in the event and in a concluding discussion on collaboration between the two cities.
* Dinner with the President of the State of Israel and the President of Georgia.
* During the year 2016 I paid several visits to Georgia:  
  I participated in the traditional conference of honorary consuls where we met with the foreign minister. I met with the prime minister of Georgia at the gala and bestowed him with a gift from Jerusalem.   
  A visit with a delegation of doctors from the United States and Israel to examine collaborative opportunities.   
  A visit with a Jewish investor from England who is advancing construction plans for 12,000 housing units in Tibilisi.  
  An additional visit was dedicated to traveling with my family in Georgia and getting to know the country.
* Helping Israeli families who ran into trouble while traveling in Georgia.
* We began working with the ambassador on organizing events for the Georgian Independence Day on 5.26.2017 and in honor of 25 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Georgia.