

Events



The Open University held a range of symposia, concerts, lectures, conferences and other cultural activities this year. More than 15,000 individuals participated in events offered to the general public at the Raanana campus. Dozens of symposia were filmed and posted on the OUI website: <http://www.openu.ac.il/Events/>.

Academic Symposia

- "Massaging" the Brain and Raising Awareness
- The Power of Language in Literature and Music
- "In Pursuit of Happiness": The American Dream Then and Today
- Ethiopia: 2000 Years of History
- Between Nationality and Social Status
- Monitoring Accounting Information Systems at a Time of Risk Mapping and Exposure to Embezzlement and Fraud
- Don Isaac Abarbanel – 500 Years Since his Death
- The Cambodian Inferno – 1975-1979
- The Catholic Church: A View from the Cinema
- The Presence and Relevance of Religion in the United States
- The Usefulness of Violence: Twenty Years since the Outbreak of the Intifada
- Family-State Relations in Israel
- Representations of Knowledge (a series of guest lectures)
- Lebanon: The Challenge of Diversity
- Learning Disabled in Academia: Policy, Evaluation and Coping
- Mao Tse Tung and Another 1,300,000,000 People: The History of China in the 20th Century
- Social-Economic Policy in Israel: The Influence of the Knesset
- Public Policy and the Welfare State in Israel
- Multitasking: Juggling in Technological Environments – Mission Impossible
- Who Wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls? Current Research
- A New Reality? Technological Applications: Virtual Reality in the Real World



From the concert, "Fire and Soul"

- The Role of Commercial Broadcasting in Contemporary Public Discourse
- The Origin of the Nation: Essence, Slogan or the Strength of the State?
- International Management: Research and Applications
- Children's Literature: From the Brothers Grimm to Harry Potter
- Psychology and Spirituality: Emotional and Spiritual Development in Theories of Spirituality
- Reagan Plays President: Politics and Film in Black and White and Color
- Tribes and Tribalism in the Middle East
- Some are Worth More than Others: Knowledge and Power in History
- Digital Aging: Technologies in Old Age
- Theories of Computer Science

Symposia and Events for the General Public

- Feminist Thinking after Gender Trouble
- Love of Books and Love of Libraries
- Between Destruction and Preservation: The Environment at a Dangerous Crossing
- Graffiti: Street Culture as Expression
- Revealed and Concealed Nature in Photography and Art
- Addiction in Works of Art
- Open Knowledge for the Public Good
- Israel in the Eyes of Others (Celebrating Israel's 60th Birthday)
- Leading in a Competitive Market
- Science and Pseudo-Science
- Psychologist Discourse: Distress and Ways of Coping
- Climate Change and Global Warming – Nature or Man's Doing?

Conference: "Learning in the Technological Era"

"Learning in the Technological Era" is the third of a series of national research conferences on learning technologies initiated by the Chais Center in collaboration with EDEN, The European Distance and E-Learning Network. The conference contributes to the shaping of a community of Israeli researchers in the field of instructional technologies and to the positioning of the OUI as a leading organization in the study and implementation of learning technologies. More than 500 researchers from most of the academic institutions in Israel and from many organizations and companies participated in the conference this year. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of E-learning and Learning Objects*.

World Usability Day in Computers and Technologies

World Usability Day aims to make technological products, computer software applications and websites easier to access and simpler to use. It is also intended to express the protest of many individuals in the face of "the wonders of technology" that are supposed to make our lives easier but in fact cause frustration. On this day, 204 events took place in 39 countries under the slogan "Making Life Easy." The OUI held a symposium in collaboration with the Israeli branch of the Usability Professionals' Association (UPA) with lectures by leading experts on usability.

Exhibitions

Several exhibitions were held in display areas on the Raanana campus:

- **Graffiti: Street Culture as Expression:** Photographic observation of Berlin streets. An exhibit of the works of Dror Maayan. Curator: Dr. Mati Meyer of the Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts.
- **Revealed and Concealed Nature:** A photographic exhibition featuring works by photographer Shai Ginott. Curator: Dr. Yohai Rosen.
- **Birds on Exposed Concrete – A Meeting between Man and Nature:** A group exhibition of works by graphic designers of the OUI Publishing House marking Earth Day and the Environment. Curators: Yona Leshem and Ruth Shalem.
- **Interwoven in the Israeli Landscape – Perspectives of Six Photographers:** An exhibition marking the 60th birthday of the State of Israel. Photographers: Shuka Glutman, Tarin Gertner, Sharon Yaari, Marcelo Lauber, Dana Levy and Yigal Shem-Tov. Curator: Mimi Smilan.

Concerts

- Annual concert of the **Raanana Symphonette Orchestra** at the Open University. Conductor: Gil Shochat.
- **Fire and Soul.** Vocal concert by the **New Jerusalem Fire Choir** of Dimona under the leadership of choir director and producer David Revell, co-director Elesheva ("Sister Soul") and band leader Yahirah.
- A festive concert performed by the **Jewish-Arab Musical Youth Orchestra**, under conductor Wissam Jubran.
- **Tzelilim.** A series of concerts for the music-loving public, with explanations by Dr. Ron Weidberg of the Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts.
- **In Music and in Words.** A cantorial concert featuring members of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute, under conductor Naftali Hershtik, with pianist Raymond Goldstein and guest cantors David Ullman and Yehuda Rottner.
- **Noon Concert.** A concert held every few weeks for OUI employees and the general public, produced by Anat Sharon of the Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts.