

# Resources and Cultural Events for the General Public

## **Pe'er, Opening the Treasures of the Mind**

Through the *Pe'er* project, the Open University offers the general public free access to its study materials in electronic format. Most of the electronic books also include a full audio version to which users can listen on mobile players. Some courses include video lectures recorded at the OUI by the books' authors. This year, an additional six books were recorded: three volumes of the course "Genocide"; the book *Republican Regimes in 20<sup>th</sup> century France* from the course "Democratic Regimes", the book *Sociology of Culture*, and one volume of the book *The Jews of Yemen: History, Culture, Society*. Production included preparation of the books for narration, and other processes needed for digitization. The audio books are available on the *Pe'er* website for the general public, and on individual course websites for students' use.

## **Pe'er in Russian**

Two textbooks for courses offered in Russian ("Democracy and National Security," and "Ethiopia: Christianity, Islam, Judaism") have been uploaded to the Web and are available to the public for free through *Pe'er*. The books are available for viewing on PCs and Tablets. Funding for this project has been made possible by the Avi Chai Foundation and by the Genesis Philanthropy Group.

## **Lamda – The Open University Bookstore**

During the past year 31,076 OUI books were sold at the Lamda bookstore: 16,327 to individual customers, 4,442 to other bookstores and distributors, and 10,307 to institutes and universities. The website has been updated and now supports different browsers, is compatible with search engines, and allows e-books to be downloaded to Back Office software, in order to offer them for sale in the future.

## **Cultural Events for the General Public**

The Open University held a range of symposia, concerts, lectures, conferences and other cultural activities this year, which were open to the general public. Symposia topics were related to courses and to new books published by OUI faculty members. For the first time this year, events were held at locations other than the OUI campus in Ra'anana, including the Ramat Aviv campus, Beit Yatziv in Beersheva, and the Wadi Ara campus in Givat Haviva. The inauguration of two new research centers took place at the Ra'anana campus. In addition, Dov Lautman, Honorary President of the Israeli Friends, was honored at a special event which took place at the OUI campus. The Open University conferred an Honorary Fellowship upon Mr. Lautman for his dedicated work on behalf of countless organizations.

### **Symposia**

- Chinese Art and Musical Fireworks
- Religion, Nation, and Democracy: A Triangle in the Eye of the Storm
- Man and Space: The Next Fifty Years
- Teaching Citizenship and Politics
- A Constantly Changing Past: History and Historiography of the Land of Israel During Mandate Times
- The Fifth CS Theory Day
- The Third Israel Database Day
- Conference initiating the translation of OUI books into Arabic (Wadi Ara Campus in Givat Haviva)
- A New Look at China: "Everything Under Heaven"
- The Social Protests: One Year Later
- Protest: Rage and Revolution in the Middle East
- Solar Cycle 24 and its Effect on Infrastructure and Spacecraft
- Location: Between the Local and the Global
- Gender Issues in Film
- A Different Model for Recruitment
- Exile and Borders
- Nobel Prizes and the 2011 Turing Award: Physics, Computer Science, Medicine, and Chemistry
- Nobel Prizes 2011: What for and Why? Literature, Economics, and Peace
- Social Justice and Social Security: from Protest to Social Change



From the exhibition "Zmanim": A Visual History

- Marketing in an Era of Social Protest
- CS Theory Day at the Open University
- Turkey: from Ataturk to Erdogan

### Exhibitions

- **"Zmanim": A Visual History**, Designed by the late Nira Arbel, Curators: Yona Leshed Rubinstein and Ruth Shalem
- **Fireworks Bloom in Winter: An Israeli Artist Paints in China**, Artist: Bilha Stempel, Curator: Irit Salmon
- **A Window into Reality: Israeli Tributes to the Italian Renaissance**, Curator: Alec Mishory
- **Marked Places**, Curator: Carmit Blumensohn

### Concerts

- **"Ode to Joy": Beethoven at his Best – the 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony: A Musical Lecture**, with pianist Roi Aloni
- **Fate and Longing: Sparks and Sounds**, with the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra, conducted by Gil Shohat. Soloist: Yaniv d'Or
- **An Invitation to a Magical Morning: Dancing with the Cello**, with Cellormonia Quartet – Cellists of the Israeli Sinfonietta Orchestra Beersheva (Beit Yatziv, Beersheva)

- **A Confluence of Rivers**, Summer concert with the Bab El Insan Band (Wadi Ara Campus, Givat Haviva)
- **Jazz Evening: A Tribute to George Gershwin**, with Dan Cohen (piano), Valery Lipetz (contrabass), Danny Benedict (drums), Rami Schuler (vibraphone)
- **An Evening of Piano: Rachmaninov and Friends, with Two and Four Hands**, a concert with explanations by Gil Shohat
- **Sounds From the Heart: Yoni Rechter and the Israel Chamber Orchestra**
- **Romantic Concert**, with Keren Dvir Steckler (clarinet), Irit Livneh (viola), Anat Sharon (piano) (*Beit Daniel*, Zichron Yaakov)
- **Jazz Concert: A Tribute to Duke Ellington**, with Dan Cohen (piano), Udi Kazmirski (contrabass), Gilad Dobreski (drums), Vered Dekel (vocals)
- **Jazz Concert: A Tribute to Cole Porter**, with Dan Cohen (piano), Udi Kazmirski (contrabass), Gilad Dobreski (drums), Albert Begger (saxophone)
- **Tzelilim**, a series of chamber concerts for the general public, with explanations
- **Noon Concert**, a concert held every few weeks for OUI employees and the general public, produced by Anat Sharon, Dept. of Literature, Language, and the Arts