



החברה העירונית  
לתרבות, ספורט ומרכזים קהילתיים  
באשדוד בע"מ - חל"צ

Ashdod, 7 October 2024

To whom it may concern

### **Recommendation Letter for the Event "My Jewish Roots"**

It so happens that we are writing this recommendation letter on the Day of Memory, which adds even greater significance to this recommendation for the event organized by the "Am haZikaron" – "People of Memory" Institute. If the memory of all the atrocities that have happened to our people had been preserved as carefully as this Institute does, perhaps such tragedies could have been avoided. "Am haZikaron" serves as a true guardian of national memory, and they brought this to life in a remarkable event on September 24, 2024.

Historically, it has not been easy to organize such events in Ashdod, despite its large Russian-speaking population, a community that truly benefits from them. We know that the team at "Am haZikaron" worked for three years to make this event a reality with us, and we take great pride in that.

The actors, Genady Yusim and Maria Belkin, are exceptionally talented, and we are truly pleased they could be here. In just one hour, three millennia of Jewish history flashed before our eyes, and we felt as though we were part of the events. It was especially moving to witness how our teenagers felt pride in their Jewish heritage during certain scenes. This is invaluable, as they will soon serve in the army to defend their country, and they need this sense of identity.

While the historical reenactment was remarkable, blending entertainment with true historical knowledge, the family history hour with Nelly Rosenberg was particularly eye-opening. It is astonishing to realize that we respond to our names throughout our lives, often without knowing their true origins or meaning. Many of the elder participants finally learned the origins of their family names, and now they have stories to pass down to younger generations. Some even began to share these stories, as I learned later. In a few cases, both father and son were present in the audience, which made the experience even more meaningful.

"My Jewish Roots" is a highly professional event that presents heavy topics such as the Spanish Inquisition and pogroms with a lightness that engages the audience. This approach opens the door to conversations about difficult subjects. I can only commend the Institute for organizing such an event, which, to the best of my knowledge, has no parallel in the Jewish world.

Sincerely yours,

Marina Stein

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