

DR. HELENA KAGAN



THE FIRST PEDIATRICIAN IN ISRAEL



Helena Kagan was born in 1889 in Uzbekistan.

She studied medicine and piano in Switzerland. She moved to Israel in 1913. She opened a clinic in Jerusalem but the Ottoman authorities did not allow her, as a woman, to work as a doctor. As a result, she worked as a nurse in hospitals in Jerusalem. During the First World War, she worked in the field of medicine when there was a serious shortage of doctors in the country.

Kagan opened the first pediatric ward in the country. She established a pediatric ward in the Bikur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem.

When she noticed how poor the children were, and that there was no one to look after them while their parents worked, she opened the first day care center in Israel.

Dr. Kagan set up a day care center for orphans in the Shaarei Hesed neighborhood of Jerusalem.

During the War of Independence, she oversaw the medical and sanitation services in the Jewish community of Jerusalem. Thanks to this role, she succeeded in saving children who lived in dangerous areas in Jerusalem. She made sure to find them places to live in safer areas, and helped them through the WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization) day care that she set up. She was among the founders of the "Union of Hebrew Women for Equal Rights in Erez Israel", which would later become the Israeli branch of WIZO - a movement that unifies women from all strata of society.

Kagan set up the first "Family Health Center" in the country. This move stemmed from the understanding that the first months of a baby's life are critical for his survival and growth and that many women did not know how to take care of their babies. She trained a team of nurses who would make the rounds between the houses, and teach women how to look after their babies. If these nurses

noticed babies in bad condition, they would provide "drops of milk" as they understood that the mother's body wasn't producing enough milk for the baby- and this is where the name of these clinics in Hebrew - Tipat Chalav - meaning "A Drop of Milk" originated from.

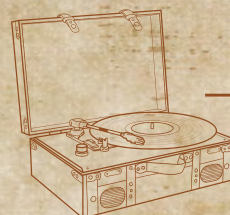
She set up "The Center for the Child and the Youth" in order to solve the problem of wandering and violence among the children on the streets.

She died in 1978 in Jerusalem.



Dr. Helena Kagan examines a clinic baby

EDITH GERSON-KIWI



Edith Kiwi was born in Germany in 1908.

She learned piano and composition and on completion of her studies was a certified concert pianist.

In 1935, she immigrated to the land of Israel, and became a professor of musicology in the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, a position she filled until she retired.

She founded the Museum of Musical Instruments at the Academy.

Gerson-Kiwi founded and managed the archiving, collection and phonogram (written

symbols representing sounds) of Jewish music.

The archive was established right after the state was founded, during the time of the mass migration that brought huge numbers of immigrants from different ethnic groups.

Professor Edith Kiwi preserved tunes, songs and texts of the immigrants through recordings, photographs and videos. So too regarding the unique customs of each ethnic group, which, up until then, had only been preserved orally. In this way, they were saved

from being forgotten and neglected. Professor Gerson-Kiwi was awarded a prize for her work in researching and preserving the folklore of ethnic groups in Israel.

Gerson-Kiwi passed away in 1992 in Jerusalem.

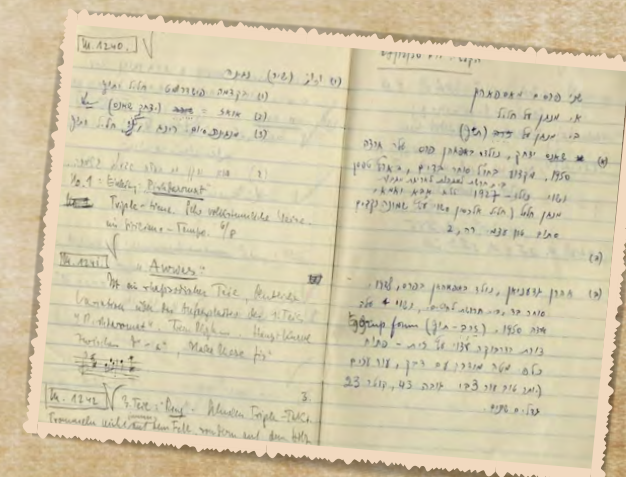
Her archive, including personal documents, musicology pieces, correspondences, reports, materials from conventions and advertisements, can be found in the National Library.



Prof. Edith Gerson-Kiwi with a record player, 11.1.1952.
Photo: Family collection



Edith Gerson-Kiwi and recording technician in the improvised "recording studio" close to the "King David" hotel, Jerusalem. 15.2.1955
Photo: Family collection.



Documentation of a recording 1950, handwritten by Edith Gerson-Kiwi.
Gerson-Kiwi collection, Music Department, National Library.

ANNA TICHO



Anna Ticho was born in Brno (today the Czech Republic) in 1894.

In her teens, she moved with her family to Vienna, and it was there that she learned drawing and art.

She immigrated to Israel in 1912, and got married that same year to the ophthalmologist, Dr. Albert Avraham Ticho.

Anna Ticho worked alongside her husband as an operating room nurse in the clinic situated in their house. Along with helping out in the clinic, she drew

many drawings, using paint, pen, ink, charcoal, pastel and pencil. She drew the people and views of Jerusalem.

Her works were displayed in many solo exhibitions both in Israel and abroad and were highly acclaimed.

She was a co-founder of the New Bezalel School, today the Bezalel Academy of Art, and was the recipient of many honorary titles and awards.

A little before her death in 1980, she was awarded the Israel Prize, for painting.

She hosted important figures in her house- people from the fields of art, literature and philosophy, leaders, government and military officials - both from Israel and abroad.

She willed her beloved house (Ticho House) to the Israel Museum so that it could be function as a museum, changing exhibition space and place for cultural events for the leisure of the people of Jerusalem.



The Anna Ticho House
From the website "Nostalgia Online"



The Anna Ticho House
Photo: Talmor Yair



Old Olive Tree, by Anna Ticho
Charcoal on paper, 400x345
Courtesy of the Israel Museum,
Jerusalem

DR. EILAT MAZER



She was born in 1956 in Israel.

An archaeologist who, in recent decades, worked on excavations in the fortified hill area on the hillside of the Temple Mount. This was the exact place where her grandfather, the "dean" of biblical archaeologists in Israel, Professor Benjamin Mazer, had carried out excavations decades earlier. She even succeeded in carrying out excavations by his side for a number of years and discovered together with him very impressive buildings from the First Temple period.

She uncovered a large stone building in the City of David. According to the dating, location and size, Mazer raised the possibility that it

was no less than the Palace of King David.

In 2010, she announced that a section of the wall that surrounded the City of David had been uncovered, and dated it to the days of his son, King Solomon.

A stunning discovery of hers was a seal from the First Temple period. The seal was imprinted with the words "Belonging to Hezekiah [son of] Ahaz, King of Judah" – the first seal of the Kings of Judah that was ever discovered in an organized archaeological excavation.

She found seals with other imprinted names from the Bible.

Mazer was part of an impressive initiative of

documenting every stone among thousands of stones making up the wall that encircles the Temple Mount.

Another moving discovery was a sparkling gold medal showing a seven-branched candelabra. On either side of the candelabra were two symbols- a shofar on the right and on the left, what seems, at first glance, to be a rectangular object- perhaps a coal pan- with some kind of decoration on it. A gold chain was found underneath the medal. This treasure is over 1,400 years old- seemingly from the time when the Persians ruled in Israel.

She passed away in Jerusalem in 2021.



Photo: Yoav Elkali, Moriah Tadmor
<https://www.israelhayom.co.il/article/136879>



Photo: Abir Sultan Flash 90
<https://www.makorishon.co.il/culture/356101/>

RACHEL YANAIT BEN-ZVI



Rachel Yanait was born in Ukraine in 1886 as Golda Lishansky.

In 1908, she immigrated to Israel and changed her name to Rachel Yanait, after the Hasmonean king Alexander Yanai.

She was an active member of Poale Zion movement.

She helped found the Hebrew Gymnasium high school in Jerusalem and taught there. She was among the founders of the Haganah paramilitary organization.

She studied agriculture abroad and before the First World War broke out returned to Israel. During the war, she worked in an agricultural research center in Atlit, under Aaron Aaronsohn.

She was a member of the Israeli Jewish Infantry Brigade Group of the British army. After the war, in 1919, she married Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.

In 1920, she founded The Educational Farm in Jerusalem, in order to prepare plants for the forestation of the Judean Hills and to train youth in agriculture in Jerusalem. She overcame the difficulties presented by nature (arid boulders, lack of water, etc.) and developed the project until it became a working, education farm for young women.

She took part in the Zionist Congresses as an emissary of the movement from Israel.

In 1943, she visited Syria and Lebanon as a representative of The Women Workers' Movement and brought back young women with her to train on the Educational Farm and the agricultural projects aimed at women workers.

She helped found Israel's General Federation of Labor.

When her husband, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, was chosen to be the President of Israel, they developed the concept of the President's House as a cultural house for all. After he passed away, she established the Ben-Zvi

Institute, for the purpose of studying the history of the land of Israel, Jerusalem and Jewish communities in the Middle East.

She preserved the presidential cabin in the Rehavia neighborhood of Jerusalem.

She founded the Foundation of Libraries for Israeli Children.

After the Six Day War, Yanait was active in the Movement for Greater Israel.

She was awarded the Israel Prize for her special contribution to society and the State of Israel for all of her life's work.

Rachel Yanait Ben-Zvi passed away in 1979.



Rachel Yanait (second from the right) with farm girls, 1922



GALILA RON-FEDER AMIT



Galila Ron-Feder Amit was born in 1949 in Israel.

She is an Israeli writer who has written approximately 400 books, mostly for children and teenagers, some for adults.

She writes books in which children and teenagers have to overcome difficulty in their private or family lives.

At the age of nine, she started writing adventure books.

She wrote a novel about a girl whose brother was active in the Etzel underground movement. She sent the draft to Menachem Begin. In response, he invited her to meet him and complemented her on her work. After many years of knowing him, she published the book "B'Oz U'Ve-Hadar: The Story of Menachem Begin"

She has ten foster children from broken homes. Her life with these children greatly influenced her writing and inspired the series of book Zion. The series tells of Zion Cohen- a child who lived a troubled life, and is fostered by the Sharoni family. The original book quickly turned into a series of ten books that describes Zion's adventures.

Ron Feder-Amit is a popular writer in the Hebrew children's literature niche.

Her books have been translated into many languages, including English, German, French and Japanese. A number of her books have been made into films and features in children's magazines. She has written essays in journals and media outlets dealing with education and children's literature.

Her first book, The Neighborhood Children in the Underground Movement, describes the adventures of a group of Jerusalemite children in the time of the British Mandate. After that, she wrote her first book series – Anonymous Children – that tells of the adventures of Haifa children who help fighters in the three underground

movements against the British.

Her most successful series is Ginger which deals with the mysterious adventures of Udi Shahar and his friends.

A selection of some of her most prominent books: International Mission, which describes a group of children who solve mysteries all over the world. The Time Tunnel describes significant events in Jewish, Zionist history. The Science Commando Unit exposes readers to basic scientific knowledge.

Galila Ron-Feder Amit writes many adventure books, some of which take place in a historic or scientific context.

