



Beer, Science and Good Spirits

Weizmann Institute scientists and students brought news from the front lines of scientific research to local venues



(l-r) Prof. Israel Bar-Joseph and Rehovot Mayor Rahamim Malul



Prof. Daniel Zajfman

To help celebrate the 120th anniversary of the city of Rehovot, research students and Institute scientists, in partnership with the municipality, ventured out to the city's pubs and coffee shops to meet with the public and share their experiences on the front lines of global human knowledge.

Institute President Prof. Daniel Zajfman got pub-goers in the Kiryat Weizmann Science Park

pondering the possibility of life on other planets. Vice President Prof. Israel Bar-Joseph, meanwhile, held a discussion on science education, together with Rehovot Mayor Rahamim Malul, in one of the colorful coffee shops in town. Computer scientist Prof. Irit Dinur was joined by the director of Rehovot's annual women's film festival for a talk on "Women in Science and Film."



Prof. Irit Dinur



Tirosh Shapira



Hila Zigdon

In other establishments around town, crowds came from Rehovot and beyond to have a beer or espresso and hear research students explain the subjects that engage them on a day-to-day basis. These were:

Nanophysics: Emil Weisz; Dark Matter: Ran Budnik; Infinite Energy: Guy Rosenzweig; Super Computers: Ariel Biller; Beam Me Up, Scotty: Ephraim Shahmoon; How Did Life Begin on Earth? Omer Markovitch; Evolution Now: Erez Garty; The Brain: Uri Livneh; Mysteries of the Organism: Tirosh Shapira; Engineered Mice and Biomedical Research: Muhammad (Modi) Ali; Miniaturization: Igal Levine; How to Divide a Cake Fairly and Efficiently: Omer Tamuz; Sheep, Washing Machines and ATMs: Giora Alexandron; Food and Genetic Engineering: Eli Ezrielev; Coding and Decoding: Hila Zigdon; and Flying Trains and



Uri Livneh

Super Efficient Electric Circuits: Ilia Gutman and Ariel Gispan.

The evening opened with a “happening” for children: Nano Comics, Science and Good Spirits,” based on the comic series that is, in turn, based on scientific research at the Institute. In addition to the display of comics, including larger-than-life cardboard cutouts of the Nano Comics characters, there was a creative workshop led by research students Tal Shapira, Vered Tzin, Idan Efroni and Yotam Asscher, together with the Nano Comics writer and illustrator Meir Goldberg and Yaniv Shimoni. Especially popular was the session on the personal story of Nobel Laureate Prof. Ada Yonath, which recounted the challenges she face in her long research career and her perseverance, which eventually led her to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009. ■



Nano Comics workshop



Nano Comics exhibition