

ISRAEL IN JULY

BY SHARON ROSENBLATT, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL STUDIES CONFERENCE

The 41st Annual Conference of the Association for Israel Studies will focus on the topic of: "Israel and the International Community Challenges and Prospects" at the University of Haifa from July 7-9, 2025



IN JULY, ISRAEL EXPERIENCES HOT, DRY SUMMER WEATHER. TEMPERATURES ARE GENERALLY HIGH, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH AND ALONG THE COAST, WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR VERY HOT AND DRY CONDITIONS IN EILAT AND THE DEAD SEA AREA. JERUSALEM ENJOYS SLIGHTLY COOLER TEMPERATURES DUE TO ITS HIGHER ELEVATION.

FILM FESTIVAL

The Jerusalem Film Festival will take place in from July 17 - 27 at the Jerusalem Cinematheque. Since 1984, this festival showcases diverse films in a variety of genres including short films and documentaries. The festival serves to bring awareness to Israeli filmmakers as well as to honor international filmmakers.



INTERNATIONAL PUPPET, THEATER & FILM FESTIVAL

The International Puppet Theater and Film Festival takes place in Holon. Established in 1995 and organized by the Israel Puppet Center, there are around 30 performances by resident and international artists, conferences, exhibitions, and an opening street procession. There are also incredible puppetry workshops for professionals and amateurs. The festival is largely free to the public.

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THE MACCABI GAMES

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The Maccabi Games are a series of athletic competitions for Jews throughout the world, organized by the Maccabi World Union. The main Maccabiah Games, considered the largest, are held every four years, with other regional and youth games held in various locations.

They are often referred to as the "Jewish Olympics". With over 10,000 competing athletes, the Maccabiah Games is the third-largest sporting event in the world behind the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup.



In 1948, mere weeks after the establishment of the Jewish Homeland, four men – Harry Henshel, Charles Orenstein, Edward Rosenblum and Harold O. Zimman – embarked on a mission to help Israel develop as a nation through sports, and to promote fitness and athleticism for Jewish youth. With that goal in mind, the United States Committee Sports for Israel (USCSFI) was formed. The organization quickly realized its goals as Israel was officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee and became eligible to compete in the 1952 Olympic Games. From there the organization developed projects that would increase Jewish identity, strengthen Jewish bonds and create a heightened awareness of Israel.



The Games will be held throughout July.

The games will take place in Haifa, Jerusalem, Netanya and Tel Aviv. Approximately 1,300 team members will represent the USA, and almost 80 countries will participate. Categories for competition include open, juniors, masters, and para-athletes. The games include team sports like baseball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball, as well as such as swimming, tennis, table tennis, and gymnastics. Additionally, the Maccabiah includes events like track and field, martial arts, and water sports.

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