JUDITH YOVEL RECANATI

Judith Yovel Recanati is a prominent entrepreneur, philanthropist and social activist in Israel. A member of the Recanati Family, which has made philanthropic endeavors the guiding principle of its public life, Ms. Yovel Recanati has been tirelessly advocating the integration of youth in Israeli society, with aim of seeing them assume future leadership roles.

While studying psychotherapy at Bar Ilan University, Ms. Yovel Recanati met Dr. Yossi Hadar z”l, and in 1998 they formed Natal – Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War, which strives to provide multidisciplinary professional assistance for trauma victims of terrorism and war, and their families.

Dr. Hadar passed away shortly after Natal was founded, but Ms. Yovel Recanati, who still serves as the organization’s chairperson, continues to promote their joint social enterprise, which is vital for a country where security and terror incidents are part of everyday life.

In 2004, Ms. Yovel Recanati, her late husband Dr. Israel (Rolly) Yovel z”l, and their three daughters formed the Gandyr Foundation, whose name is an acronym for family members Gili, Noa, Daria, Judith, and Rolly. The foundation seeks to bolster Israeli society’s resilience by supporting and nurturing civil society organizations, and placing an emphasis on the advancement of youth in Israel ahead of their becoming adult members of society.

In 2006, the Gandyr Foundation founded the Shitufim organization in collaboration with Zionism 2000, the Rashi Foundation and the Jewish Federations of North America. Shitufim seeks to promote civil society in Israel and create a culture that sustains social organizations, and regulates their interaction with the private sector and the government.

The Shitufim Center serves as the professional home and an information and knowledge center for civil society communities and organizations. It strives to expand the scope of private philanthropic work pursued by affluent Israelis, and promote dialogue between social groups and the private and government sectors.

Every day, when she is the grandmother of seven, Ms. Yovel Recanati continues her work, and in 2008 she was named the recipient of the Presidential Award for Volunteerism. She is active in “Committed to Give,” which promotes Israeli philanthropy, in the Jewish Funders Network, and in the Lion of Judah-Israel organization, which promotes women’s philanthropy in Israel. Ms. Yovel Recanati also serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Israel Museum, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Yahel Foundation and Tel Aviv University.

As an academic institution that strives to train future leaders, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya shares Ms. Yovel Recanati’s vision, and this partnership has been reflected in her various activities for the IDC. Over the past five years Natal has been holding unique activities on campus, teaching IDC students about the impact of military service and combat situations on those suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder, and on the prevention and treatment of PTSD. This activity reflects IDC Herzliya’s values and the great appreciation it has for students serving in the Israeli Defense Forces and in the security forces. It also reflects the IDC’s goal to nurture leadership among its students.

In keeping with the tradition set by Ms. Yovel Recanati and her late husband over a decade ago, the Gandyr Foundation sponsors scholarships for IDC students who are struggling financially, as part of its commitment to advancing Israeli youth and facilitating their role as influential members of Israeli society.

In recognition of her social and philanthropic endeavors, and in appreciation of her role in advancing the integration of youth as contributing members of Israeli society, Judith Yovel Recanati is hereby named an

Honorary Fellow of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya

Prof. Uriel Reichman
President and Founder

May 28, 2014
Herzliya, Israel