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# GILI LUSTIG:

## LEADING ISRAEL'S OLYMPIC DELEGATION TO PARIS



**A**s the Paris Olympics approach, the Olympic Committee of Israel's Executive Director, Gili Lustig, shares insights into the final preparations and the significance of this global event for Israeli athletes.

"We're working around the clock on the final organization before the delegation leaves for Paris," says Lustig. "The first athletes to enter the Olympic Village will be the soccer team. They will be followed by gymnast Artem Dolgopyat and his team, and the archers, who start competing just before the opening ceremony."

Lustig emphasizes the importance of preparatory activities, such as conveying key messages and values to the athletes and staff. One significant aspect is a visit to the Yad Vashem memorial, where the delegation pays respects to the widows of the 1972 Munich massacre victims.

"This visit underscores the importance of remembering the past while representing Israel on the global stage."

Another crucial tradition is receiving the President's blessing. Lustig explained: "We go to the President along with the Sports Minister, and it's equally important to us to do this together with the Paralympic athletes. The message is that these two delegations

come together, receiving the blessing of the state before the mission."

The final stages of preparation include organizing flights, logistics, and ensuring a smooth entry for athletes into the Olympic Village, not to mention to myriad security concerns.

The geopolitical context adds an extra layer of significance to Israel's participation in the Olympics.

"Clearly, after October 7, everything changed," Lustig notes, referring to the ongoing conflict and rising antisemitism worldwide. He acknowledges the personal impact on everyone involved, with many athletes having friends or family in the military or security forces.

"Our goal is to ensure that our athletes know their role in the Olympics is to perform at their best. Their primary focus should be on performance, as success is the best ambassador," says Lustig. He emphasizes the importance of staying focused on the sport and avoiding political statements, in line with Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter, which prohibits mixing sports and politics.

Despite the challenges, Lustig remains optimistic.

"Israeli sports made an extraordinary leap in Tokyo with four medals, two of them gold, and we reached seven finals. Our achievements in

European and world championships have been higher than in the Tokyo cycle. We expect at least four medals, possibly between four to five medals, and we aim for 15-18 finals."

While well-known athletes like Anastasia Gorbenko and Artem Dolgopyat are expected to shine, Lustig acknowledged the potential, even likelihood, for surprises.

"There are always surprises in sports, with athletes rising to the occasion unexpectedly. That's the beauty of it," he says, recalling Avishag Semberg's unexpected bronze medal in the last games. He highlighted judo, gymnastics, sailing, and marathon as strong fields for Israel.

As the Israeli delegation heads to Paris, Lustig's leadership and dedication ensure that the athletes are not only ready to compete but also to represent their nation with pride and resilience. The entire country stands behind them, hoping for successful and joyful moments in the upcoming games.

Reflecting on his experience, Lustig shares a message of pride and preparedness.

"We have a really good team leading this effort. They've worked very hard to ensure we arrive optimally prepared for the Olympic Games. It is a special pride to represent the country in these times."

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Killed resisting the terrorist attack on the Israeli Men's Dormitory  
L-R: Moshe Weinberg 33, wrestling coach; Yossef Romano 31, weightlifter

Killed by fragmentation grenade, flames and smoke inhalation while bound in the first helicopter  
L-R: David Berger 28, weightlifter; Eliezer Haffin 24, wrestler; Ze'ev Friedman 28, weightlifter; Yaakov Springer 31, weightlifting judge



Killed by close range automatic rifle fire while bound in the second helicopter  
L-R: Amitzur Shapira 40, track coach; Kehat Shorr 53, shooting coach; Mark Slavin 18, wrestler; Andre Spitzer 27, fencing coach; Yossef Gudfreund 40, wrestling referee

Killed in rescue effort  
Anton Flogerbauer 32, GCH police





# CHAMPION

## GOLDEN GYMNAST

### ARTEM DOLGOPYAT



#### INTERVIEW

By URIEL STURM

**A**s anticipation for the upcoming Olympics reaches its peak, athletes around the globe are finalizing their preparations. Among them is Israeli gymnast Artem Dolgopyat, who enters the games as the reigning gold medalist in the men's floor exercise competition. In an exclusive interview with *The Jerusalem Post* just two weeks before the Games, Artem shares his journey, the pressures he faces, and his hopes for the future. "It's been a tough month. I didn't have a championship competition in Israel, but I had another competition and have been training intensely and I already feel relatively ready," Artem noted, his calm demeanor reflecting his determination. This year, Artem competes with the added pressure of being a champion and gold medal holder, as a member of Maccabi Tel Aviv. "Last time, in Tokyo, it wasn't like this. But that is in the past and this position comes with a new advantage," he says. Dolgopyat, born in Ukraine before moving to Israel at age 12, is obviously very concerned with the current geopolitical situation in both of his home countries, but he is trying to keep his mind off of the wars as much as possible ahead of the Olympics.

"I'm trying to focus on the middle and staying resilient. Of course, my heart is with my country, but I am determined to stay centered amidst all the chaos." The presence of Israeli supporters in Paris is something that Dolgopyat believes will significantly boost morale. "In Tokyo, we were there in Corona, so there weren't allowed to be so many fans. But I think a lot more will come [to Paris], and yes, there will be more flags, which will be inspiring." Competing at such a high level inevitably brings nerves. "Of course, I feel pressure. I actually feel pressure only on the day of the competition and on the way there. Before that, I don't feel it as much. But on the day of the competition, there's always pressure. You feel it in your stomach." He acknowledged that the difference between victory and defeat can be minuscule. "That is definitely part of the pressure. A podium finish and missing the final seem very far away, but really the difference can be very, very small." Artem expressed optimism about his expectations for the Israeli delegation. "I hope [we win] as many [medals] as possible, and more than Tokyo." With fellow blue-and-white gold medalist



Linoy Ashram not returning to these games, Artem carries a unique responsibility. But he fully embraces the role. "Like I said, I definitely feel the pressure, but it isn't something I dislike. I am proud to represent Israel and I look forward to having a great competition. In closing, Artem made sure to share a heartfelt message that he said superseded anything else on his mind and in his heart. "I hope all the hostages return soon. And I believe that we are a very strong nation and that everyone will continue in their own way and support the country as much as they can and in any way they can."

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# SWIMMING SENSATION

## ANASTASIA GORBENKO – STRONG ISRAELI MEDAL CONTENDER

By REBECCA SZLECHTER

**A**nastasia Gorbenko, a swimming sensation and one of Israel's top medal contenders, is preparing to dominate in the swimming competitions at the Paris Olympics this month.

Born in Haifa in 2003, Gorbenko began swimming at an early age and quickly showed great promise in the sport. Starting her success as a youth, she had victories and record-breaking performances, drawing the attention of the Israeli swimming community. At 12, she won first place in a national championship, an extremely notable turning

point that spotlighted her athletic ability.

Her first global breakthrough was in 2018 when she was just 15 years old. Winning two gold medals at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires in both the 200-meter

breaststroke and 200-meter individual medley, she showed a clear indication of her hard work and her ability to perform well in different aspects of the sport.

Her success continued during the European Junior Olympics, where she won multiple medals across various events, showcasing her incredible talent and ability to perform at higher levels. In 2019, Gorbenko made history at the young age of 16 when she won the gold medal in the individual medley and silver in the 200m breaststroke, displaying her strength and versatility. In August 2020, she again earned the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke and bronze in the 200m individual medley, confirming her standing as a rising star in more serious competitions.

In the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, Gorbenko competed in several competitions, including the 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter individual medley, and 100-meter freestyle. Beyond her individual success, Gorbenko's teamwork skills have contributed to Israel's athletic achievements as well. Playing a crucial role in the 4x100m medley relay team, she helped win the silver medal at the 2019 European Junior Olympics. Her incredible teamwork demonstrates her collaborative ability and her expertise in group settings, further emphasizing her excellence and

qualifying her as a well-rounded athlete.

In recent years, Gorbenko has continued to excel. In 2023, she broke the Israeli national record in the 200-meter individual medley at the World Championships, finishing fourth overall. This performance solidified her place among the world's elite swimmers. She also won gold in the 100-meter breaststroke and 200-meter individual medley at the European Championships in Rome, further cementing her status as a top contender.

In 2024, Gorbenko continued her impressive form, winning multiple medals at the World Cup series, including gold in the 200-meter individual medley and 100-meter freestyle. Her consistent performances have kept her at the forefront of international swimming, making her a serious medal contender for the Paris Olympics.

Proudly representing Israel and looking forward to the quickly approaching 2024 Paris Olympics, Gorbenko is training to make a notable impact. Her past successes, along with her dedication to the sport, will be crucial in bringing home medals. Gorbenko's record-breaking performances and greatness in team contributions highlight her as an outstanding athlete and will continue to serve as a role model for the next generation of Israeli swimmers.



## ADAM MARA'ANA, AN ISRAELI SWIMMER OF JEWISH AND ARAB DESCENT

**T**he first Arab Israeli to represent Israel in the Olympics since 1976, Adam Mara'ana will compete in the 100-meter backstroke, an event in which he matched the Israeli record earlier this year. Mara'ana, 21, a Haifa native, is the son of a

Jewish mother and an Arab Muslim father. "My mother is Jewish, I served in the army, studied Torah, celebrated bar mitzvah, and my father is an Arab Muslim," Mara'ana told the *New York Post*. "I'm very proud of it and he's very proud of me."



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# SHE'S A RUNNER SHE'S A TRACK STAR: ISRAEL'S FASTEST WOMAN

By MOLLY MYERS

Israeli Olympic athlete Lonah Chemtai Salpeter runs 190-200 kilometers a week – in silence.

"I always like to listen to my heart beating," Chemtai Salpeter said in an interview with ISRAEL21c. "... I run without music."

The track star is gearing up for her third Olympics representing the Promised Land after becoming an Israeli citizen just in time for the 2016 Olympics. Her journey to becoming an Olympian, and an Israeli, began in her home country of Kenya.

She was born in Kenya in a home with no running water or electricity. At the age of 20 in 2008, she moved to Israel to be a nanny for the Kenyan ambassador, whose wife was studying abroad in Australia.

In her free time, Chemtai Salpeter took up running as a hobby. In 2010, she participated in a 10-kilometer race after the embassy asked for volunteers.

She finished the race in 47 minutes.

From there she began training seriously and met her soon-to-be husband and coach, Dan Salpeter. Though in love, the couple faced major challenges as an interracial couple in Israel. Because Chemtai Salpeter is not Jewish, she would struggle to gain citizenship and couldn't legally marry Salpeter.

Yet the couple remained strong, and in 2014 married in Nairobi and had a child named Roy. Upon returning to Israel, the couple pressed the government for Chemtai Salpeter's citizenship, but to no avail.

They didn't give up, and knew if Chemtai Salpeter qualified for the Olympics she



## KENYA-BORN ISRAELI'S JOURNEY TO HER THIRD OLYMPICS AS SHE AIMS TO EARN THE HARDWARE TO MATCH HER IMMENSE TALENT

would be guaranteed citizenship and the chance to pursue her dreams.

Finally, at the annual Tel Aviv marathon, Chemtai Salpeter beat the Olympic qualifying time by five minutes and won the race. She was off to Brazil, as an Israeli.

### OLYMPIC STRUGGLE

Chemtai Salpeter boasts many medals and wins. Most notably, she placed first in the 2018 European Athletics Championships in Berlin. Her win even received praise from the Israeli government.

"Lonah Chemtai, you are a true star! You have brought great honor to our country," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Yet the Olympics have yet to prove fruitful for Israel's fastest woman. At the 2016 Rio Olympics Chemtai Salpeter dropped out of the marathon at kilometer 30 after suffering intense chest pain.

Prior to traveling to Brazil she was nursing her 20-month-old son. Brazilian officials

recommended she not bring him because he might get sick. No longer nursing, Chemtai Salpeter suffered intense chest pains from her extra breast milk and could not complete the race.

Cut to the 2021 Olympics, the runner suffered a different female problem – menstrual cramps. Chemtai Salpeter was in the front pack of the race with only four kilometers to go, looking like she would place, when she had to pause.

Twenty minutes later she ran the last four kilometers. When asked about what happened by a male reporter, she turned to the only female reporter in the crowd and said "You understand."

The Paris Olympics give her the opportunity to redeem these losses and push her boundaries.

In just a few days, Chemtai Salpeter will participate in the Olympic opening ceremony, reportedly as a flag bearer for Israel, according to Ynet. And then the fun begins and Salpeter will tune everything out and take aim at fulfilling her dreams and making Israel proud.



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# ISRAEL'S RICH OLYMPIC HERITAGE

BLUE-AND-WHITE ATHLETES HAVE SHINED BRIGHTEST AT THE GAMES IN THE WATER AND ON THE MAT

By REBECCA SZLECHTER

Israel, a nation of resilience and talent, has made an indelible mark on the global stage through its participation in the Olympics. Since joining in 1952, Israeli athletes have exemplified sportsmanship, dedication, and remarkable triumphs (along with being targeted in the tragic terrorist attack at the 1972 Munich Games). Spanning from 1992 to 2020, across diverse host cities including Tokyo, Rio, Beijing, Athens, Sydney, Atlanta, and Barcelona, Israel has proudly brought home 13 Olympic medals (all in Summer Games).

In the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Israel's Olympic journey of medals began with a historic achievement in judo. Oren Smadja won a bronze medal, becoming the first Israeli male athlete to win an Olympic medal. The current coach of the Olympic-bound national judo team, Smadja in June lost his son, Sgt.-Maj. (res.) Omer Smadja, who was killed in combat in the central Gaza Strip.

In the same 1992 Olympics, Yael Arad – the current Olympic Committee of Israel Chairperson – had already secured a silver medal in the women's half-middleweight judo category, marking Israel's first-ever Olympic medal. This set a precedent for future successes and inspired a new generation of Israeli judokas, which continues until today.

The 1996 Atlanta Olympics saw Gal Fridman clinch a bronze medal in sailing, in the men's windsurfing event, marking the country's first medal in a water sport. Fridman's accomplishment was a significant milestone, showcasing Israel's potential in sailing. In the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Michael Kolganov earned a bronze medal in the K-1 500 meter canoeing event, further establishing Israel's prowess in water sports.

Fridman made a remarkable comeback at the 2004 Athens Olympics, securing Israel's first gold medal in the men's windsurfing event.

Additionally, Arik Ze'evi continued Israel's triumph in judo by winning a

bronze medal in the men's half-heavyweight category, further proving the country's consistent performance in the sport.

The legacy in sailing continued at the 2008 Beijing Olympics with Shahar Tzuberi bringing home a bronze medal in the men's windsurfing event.

The 2016 Rio Olympics saw further success in judo, with Ori Sasson and Yarden Gerbi each winning bronze medals. Sasson competed in the men's heavyweight category, while Gerbi competed in the women's half-middleweight category. Their achievements underscored Israel's enduring excellence in judo.

The most recent 2020 Tokyo Olympics was particularly fruitful for Israel, with athletes winning four medals across different sports. The mixed judo team won a bronze medal, showcasing teamwork and national pride. Avishag Semberg earned a bronze in taekwondo, marking Israel's first Olympic medal in the sport. Additionally, Israel celebrated two gold medals: Artem Dolgopyat in artistic gymnastics, who triumphed in the men's floor exercise, and Linoy Ashram in rhythmic gymnastics, who won the individual all-around competition, becoming the first Israeli woman to win a gold medal in gymnastics.

Looking to the upcoming Olympics in Paris, Israel is poised for further success. The Israeli Olympic Committee predicts that the nation will bring home at least 4-5 medals and make more than a dozen finals. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing geopolitical situation, Israeli athletes continue to train rigorously and remain determined to make their country proud.

As Israel prepares for Paris, the spirit of perseverance and excellence that has defined its Olympic history remains ever-present. The nation's athletes are ready to add new chapters to their storied legacy and inspire future generations with their achievements, while injecting a much-needed dose of joy and comfort to Israel on the global stage.



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**GASHAU AYALE – RUNNING DOWN ISRAEL'S DREAMS**

At 28 years old, Ethiopia-born Gashau Ayale, of Maccabi Tel Aviv, has established himself as a key figure in Israeli athletics. He first gained national attention with his impressive performances in local and international competitions, consistently breaking personal and national records after moving to Israel in 2012 at the age of 16.

Ayale made his Olympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, representing Israel in the marathon. Despite the challenging weather conditions and a highly competitive field, he finished 36th, marking a significant achievement for his first Olympic appearance. This experience provided him with valuable insights and motivation, propelling him to further refine his training and strategy.

Beyond the Olympics, Ayale has also excelled in other major events. He secured a bronze medal at the 2021 European Athletics Championships in the half marathon, showcasing his ability to compete at the highest levels. His dedication to the sport and rigorous training regimen have earned him accolades and respect within the athletics community.



**TOM REUVENY – SAILING THE ISRAEL FLAG WITH PRIDE**

Tom Reuveny, a dynamic 24-year-old sailor from Israel, has rapidly emerged as a formidable contender in the world of competitive sailing. Born and raised in Tel Aviv, and a member of Bnei Herzliya, Reuveny's journey into the sport began at a young age, influenced by Israel's rich maritime culture and his family's passion for the sea.

Reuveny first gained international attention in his teens, securing impressive finishes at the European and World Youth Championships. In 2023, Reuveny had a breakthrough year, clinching a silver medal at the World Sailing Championships and securing his qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

**SHACHAR SAGIV – TRAILBLAZING TRIATHLETE**

Shachar Sagiv was born in 1994 in the Haifa area, and he has been making waves on the international triathlon stage with remarkable endurance and versatility as part of Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Sagiv's journey into triathlon began in his teenage years, where he showcased a natural aptitude for swimming, cycling, and running. His dedication and relentless training quickly paid off, earning him accolades in local and national competitions. A pivotal moment in Sagiv's career was his participation in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where he competed in the men's triathlon.

Beyond the Olympics, Shachar has competed in numerous ITU World Triathlon Series events, consistently achieving impressive results. His discipline and strategic approach to training have earned him a reputation as one of Israel's top athletes, period.

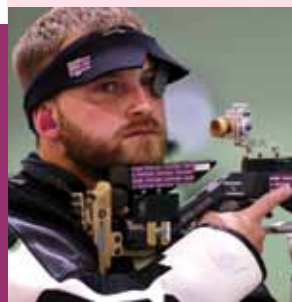


**SERGEY RICHTER – ISRAEL'S SHOOTING STAR**

Sergey Richter, born in 1989 in Ukraine, has become one of Israel's most accomplished and recognized Olympic shooters. Immigrating to Israel with his family in 1996, Richter quickly adapted to his new homeland, where he began his journey in the sport of shooting.

Richter's dedication to the sport was evident early on, and his talent soon shone through. Part of Maccabi Ra'anana, he specializes in the 10-meter air rifle and 50-meter rifle events, where his precision and calm under pressure have earned him numerous accolades. Sergey represented Israel in three consecutive Olympic Games: Beijing 2008, London 2012, and Rio 2016. His best Olympic performance came in London, where he narrowly missed a medal, finishing in ninth place.

Beyond the Olympics, Richter has consistently excelled in international competitions. He won a gold medal at the 2013 European Shooting Championships and has several World Cup medals to his name. His achievements have not only brought him personal recognition but have also elevated the profile of shooting sports in Israel. As he prepares for the Paris 2024 Olympics, Israel looks to him with hope and pride, expecting his steady hand and sharp focus to bring home a medal.



**TOMER SALZMAN – BIKING PRODIGY**

Tomer Salzman, 26, has emerged as one of Israel's premier mountain bikers. Hailing from Kiryat Tivon, Israel, Salzman discovered his passion for mountain biking at a young age. His dedication and hard work have propelled him to the forefront of the sport, representing Israel on the international stage.

Salzman's breakthrough came in his teenage years when he began competing in national and international competitions. His skill, endurance, and fearless approach to challenging terrains quickly garnered attention. Tomer's prowess in mountain biking was solidified with impressive performances in the Under-23 category, where he consistently ranked among the top competitors.

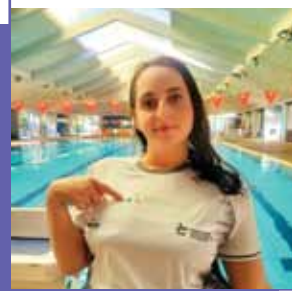
In recent years, Salzman's career has seen significant milestones. He has competed in the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships and various World Cup events, earning respect and admiration from peers and fans alike. His relentless pursuit of excellence and continuous improvement has made him a formidable competitor and a true ambassador for Israeli sports.



**VERONIKA GUIRENKO – OVERCOMING ODDS**

A 26-year-old Israeli Paralympic swimmer, Haifa native Veronika Guirenko is celebrated for her remarkable achievements and inspiring journey. Born with a visual impairment, she has demonstrated exceptional resilience and dedication, competing in the S13 classification.

She first gained international attention at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics with standout performances in the 50m and 100m freestyle events, finishing among the top contenders. Beyond her Paralympic success, Guirenko has excelled in World Para Swimming Championships, consistently setting personal bests and breaking national records, and she holds Worlds and European silver and bronze medals in the 50m Breaststroke SB2. She continues to train rigorously, with ILAN Haifa, and her story is a testament to the power of perseverance as Veronika aims to bring home some hardware from the Paris Paralympics this summer.



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Windsurfing  
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**TOMER SALZMAN**

Mountain Biking

**VERONIKA GUIRENKO**

Paralympic swimmer  
from ILAN Haifa

We, the leading sports agency in Israel, are incredibly proud to congratulate Artem, Sergey, Shachar, Gashau, Tom, Tomer, and Veronika on their participation in the biggest sporting event in the world!

To us, you and your fellow members of the Israeli delegation are true champions. Your excellence, determination, perseverance, and sportsmanship serve as an inspiration and a source of immense pride for all Israelis.

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**THE TEAM – THE LEADING SPORTS AGENCY IN ISRAEL**







# WEINSTEIN, FOX(ES) AND OTHER NON-ISRAELI JEWISH ATHLETES TO WATCH



By JACOB GURVIS

**T**here are veterans like an Australian gold medalist canoe paddler. There are newcomers, like the youngest American female wrestler ever.

The 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris feature dozens of Jewish athletes among the estimated 10,500 competitors representing roughly 200 countries in 329 events across 32 sports.

Here are some Jewish athletes (non-Israeli category) to watch:

## AMIT ELOR, YOUNGEST FEMALE WRESTLER IN US OLYMPIC HISTORY

Amit Elor, whose parents are Israeli, is making her Olympics debut with the US wrestling team. She is the youngest female wrestler in history to represent the US at the Games.

At only 20, Elor is already a two-time world champion and ranked No. 1 in the 68-kilogram class. She has also won gold medals at the 2023 Pan American Championships, the 2022 and 2023 U23 World Championships and at three consecutive Junior World Championships from 2021 through 2023.

Elor's 2022 World Championship win, which came when she was 18, made her the youngest senior world champion in US history.

## CANOE PADDLER JESSICA FOX- AND HER YOUNGER SISTER, NOEMI

Aussie Jessica Fox, who is regarded as the greatest individual paddler of all time, is back for her fourth Olympics, where she'll look to build on her collection of medals – one gold, one silver and two bronze.

Fox, 30, won her Olympic gold in the canoe slalom in the Tokyo Games, becoming the first-ever woman to win gold in the event. Fox had been among the athletes pushing for the canoe slalom event to be opened to women, which happened in Tokyo.

Fox's Jewish mother and coach, Myriam Jerusalemi, won bronze in the K-1 (single kayak) slalom competition for France at the

1996 Olympics. Her father, Richard Fox, paddled for Britain at the 1992 Olympics. Her younger sister Noemi, 27, is making her Olympics debut in the women's kayak cross event, which is being held for the first time in Paris.

## NICK ITKIN AND HIS FELLOW US JEWISH FENCING STARS

Fencing has quietly become a sport dominated by Jewish athletes in recent years, a trend led by Los Angeles native Nick Itkin, currently ranked as the No. 2 men's foil fencer in the world. He was previously No. 1.

Itkin, 24, won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics to go along with a number of other recent medals and championships at major international fencing tournaments, as well as two NCAA titles. After winning a silver medal at the 2023 World Fencing Championships, Itkin became the first US man, and third US fencer overall, to win individual medals at back-to-back world championships.

Itkin is joined on the US fencing team by Eli Dershwitz, the No. 3-ranked saber fencer in the world and a two-time Olympian who won gold at the 2023 World Championships in saber – becoming the first American man to do so. Dershwitz, 28, is the grandson of Holocaust survivors and a two-time Maccabiah Games gold medalist.

On the women's side, 21-year-old Maia Weintraub, the No. 13-ranked woman foil fencer in the world, is a two-time US national champion with several World Cup gold medals.

(And for Israel, Yuval Freilich, 29, who won a gold medal at the 2024 Grand Prix in Qatar, is the country's first fencer to qualify for the Olympics since 2008.)

## USA SHOOTER ADA KORKHIN

Brookline, Mass., native Ada Korkhin was first introduced to air pistol shooting by her Israeli father Yakov when she was 9 years old. A decade later, the 19-year-old is headed to Paris to represent the US in the 25-meter pistol event.

Korkhin, a rising sophomore at Ohio State University, won a team gold medal in that event at the 2024 Championship of the Americas Games in Buenos Aires, and silver medals at the 2002

USA Shooting Pistol National Championships as well as the 2022 USA Shooting National Junior Olympic Championships.

## JEMIMA MONTAG, AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING RECORD-HOLDER

Australian racewalker Jemima Montag returns to the Olympics for the second time, where she will look to improve on her sixth-place finish in the women's 20-kilometer racewalk event.

Montag, 26, is a two-time gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games and a silver medalist at the 2023 World Athletics Championships. She also holds Australia's record in the 20-kilometer racewalk. She is also a full-time medical student at Melbourne University.

## SAM SCHACHTER, CANADIAN BEACH VOLLEYBALLER

Ontario native Sam Schachter, 34, returns to the Olympics, where he and his Jewish beach volleyball teammate Josh Binstock competed in 2016. The Jewish duo won a silver medal with Canada's indoor volleyball team at the 2013 Maccabiah Games, before becoming the Canadian national champions the following year. They also paired up at the 2015 Pan American Games and the 2018 Commonwealth Games, where they won silver.

## CLAIRE WEINSTEIN, RISING STAR FOR USA SWIMMING

At only 17 years old, Claire Weinstein is primed for a breakout. The New York native, who celebrated her bat mitzvah at Reform Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains, won a gold medal at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest with the US women's 4 x 200m relay.

Last month, Weinstein clinched her spot in Paris by placing second in the 200-meter freestyle in US Olympic Team trials with a time of 1:56.18, behind only Katie Ledecky, the seven-time Olympic gold medalist. Weinstein had beaten Ledecky in that event at the 2023 US Swimming Championships by only .02 seconds. (JTA) •



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| SW271B     | Two-toned, automatic New Swift GLX     | 6                        |

Low safety level 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High safety level

| Model           | Avg. Fuel Consumption in L/100 km | Emission Level |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Manual Swift    | Combined 4.5                      | Level 3        |
| Automatic Swift | Combined 4.8                      | Level 3        |

Fuel emission level for motor vehicles\*\*  
Minimum emission 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 Maximum emission

\* Manufacturer's data, according to lab results. Standard (EU) 2017/1151, under WLTP conditions.  
\*\* The level is calculated according to clean air standards (detection of pollution data from motor vehicles in ad), 2009



**OAKLEY RELEASES SPECIAL PARIS 2024 COLLECTION**

**'OAKLEY OLYMPICS INNER SPARK: YOU'VE ALREADY WON'**

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

The world's leading sports and sunglasses brand Oakley is releasing a special collection for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The special and unique Olympics collection of the world's leading eyewear and lifestyle brand, "The Inner Spark," has six iconic and groundbreaking models of the brand that have been redesigned using advanced technologies and breathtaking colors.

The collection teaches that in order to conquer the obstacles around us, we must first accept and conquer the obstacles within us. Oakley redesigned

groundbreaking models that offer the widest and highest quality field of vision.

The designs create a balance between the expected and the unexpected, between control and surrender, inspired by the movement of the human nervous system that guides us in everything we think, say or feel.

Oakley's unique technology is the PRIZM lenses – a unique technology that directs the colors in the activity environment, sharpens depth perception and improves the ability to follow moving objects, thus contributing to a sense of security during activity.

The brand offers dedicated glasses for each sport, with the specific characteristics



and requirements, both in frames and lenses. In addition, the wide variety of models, designs, colors and optical solutions for athletes who wear eyeglasses, makes the brand one that makes a significant difference when performing sports activities, contributes to an amazing visual experience, and increases the sense of security in the activity environment.

The models are led by elite athletes and contenders for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Price range NIS 759–1,119. Available in authorized stores.

**OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, REALTIME SALUTE PARALYMPIC ATHLETES BEFORE FLIGHT TO PARIS**

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

Senior officials of the Israeli Olympic Committee and senior officials at Roltime Group, the official Samsonite importer in Israel, met for a team-building day in Tel Aviv together with the members of the Paralympic delegation in preparation for the trip to the Paris 2024 Games.



The event, which opened with the blessing of the Chairman of the Paralympic Committee, Moshe Motz Matlon, who thanked all the sponsors, also included a rich meal and the distribution of Samsonite luggage.

Yarden Wachs, CEO of Samsonite Israel said: "We are proud of the Israeli Paralympic athletes and will continue to stand by their side in Paris 2024 as well with great hope that they will bring Israel as many successes as in past competitions. Over the years, the Paralympic athletes have aspired to excellence, achievement, and advancement of the Israeli sporting

spirit, and therefore we are proud to be a part of their journey, on the way to success on the world stage.

"The Israeli spirit of victory is more important than anything, especially in such a difficult time, and therefore we place as a top value the goal of bringing national victories and individual victories in each of the Paralympic sports to this country.

"Roltime and the Samsonite brand wish all 25 members of the Paralympic delegation to Paris great success in the Games, which will begin on August 28."

Those who arrived to help out were: Matlon – chairman of the Israeli Olympic

Committee in Israel, Dr. Ron Bolutin, head of the delegation, goalkeeper Noa Malka, who won the silver medal at the European Youth Championship in 2022, who will participate in the Paralympic Games for the second time, alongside Roni Ohayon, center for the Israeli national team In women's goalball, European runner-up for 2023; The rower Shmulik Daniel, a combat soldier in Egoz who was seriously injured in an operational activity at Mount Dov, who came in sixth place in Tokyo; rower Moran Samuel, winner of a silver medal in Tokyo and a bronze medalist in Rio, formerly a player of the Israeli basketball team; Swimmer Mark Malyar, world champion, who won two gold medals and one bronze medal at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020, and Shahar Milfelder, a rower in a mixed doubles boat, who volunteered to serve in the IDF, completed an officer's course in the Air Force and came in 2023 together with Saleh Shahin to first place in the pairs division.

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