

MY WEEK CARA CASE



► I WAKE to a glorious Mediterranean sun! I am in Tel Aviv to attend the Tel Aviv University annual board of governors week. Governors and leaders of TAU from around

the globe come to this beautiful campus in Ramat Aviv to see at first hand exciting new projects like the Porter EcoBuilding, meet university leaders and students; and participate in seminars and events.

● Today begins with a stimulating analysis of the current Middle East situation with Meir Dagan, former Mossad head; Professor Shamir, former Israeli Ambassador to Egypt, and Professor Uzi Rabi, of TAU's Centre for Mideast Studies. TAU president, Professor Joseph Klafter, then introduces a new collaboration between TAU and Cambridge University in inter-religious studies. A delightful lunch in the Palm Tree Garden follows with some of TAU's international students many of whom are from the UK.

I race back to my hotel to change and head back to campus and the stunning Smolarz Auditorium to witness the prestigious International Dan David Prize ceremony. The award recognises and encourages innovative and interdisciplinary research. Two of the six recipients, sharing a \$1 million prize, are Sir Martin Gilbert and Dr Robert Conquest, for their outstanding achievements in history and biography. Sadly due to ill health Sir Martin is unable to attend and his wife and son accept the award on his behalf.

Wednesday brings dinner with the UK Trust's Living Legacy Mission. Amid the special dynamic of the 25 participants of this Mission there is a litany of jokes and fun generated by Mission participant and TAU honorary doctorate recipient, Maureen Lipman. Maureen led a brilliant master class during her stay and gave a moving tribute to her late husband, Jack Rosenthal.

Back in the London rain, I am in time to put the final touches to TAU's 6th annual student film screening at the Odeon Swiss Cottage. We showcase four excellent films produced by students at TAU's School of Film and Television. Many in the audience have been coming to our screenings for years including our past MC, Dan Patterson.

Delighted to see some teenagers in the audience this year, I am sorry my own teenage son, Zack, cannot be here as he has to attend a football trial for next years' Maccabiah Games. Football runs in the family as my younger 2 boys each have training sessions for their Maccabi Lions teams as well.

I am no stranger to packing in a lot in a day and as the screening comes to a close I dash off to join my family at the barmitzva of the son of a close friend.

Our jobs and family can come together in the loveliest of ways.

Cara Case is executive director of Tel Aviv University Trust in the UK