

# The Friends of Alex (FOA) Celebrate His 80<sup>th</sup>

Professor Alex Keynan, has, for four decades, served Israeli and international science policy in more capacities than one can name: Chairman of Israel's National Council for R&D, a Vice President for Research and Pro-Rector of the Hebrew University, a Visiting Professor at the Sloan-Kettering Institute and Rockefeller University, a member of the prestigious Pugwash Conference, Pugwash Council and two WHO Global Advisory Committees...the list goes on and on. Alex's latest book on "Scientific Cooperation and State Conflict," which explores the roles scientists can and have played in mitigating international belligerence, was favorably reviewed in *Nature* by John Ziman, who rightly called Alex the recognized "doyen of such studies."



For the last decade, Alex has served as a Special Advisor to the President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, where he was a major force in helping establish the Israel Science Foundation (ISF), a new Focal Initiative in Research in Science and Technology (FIRST), and a series of influential science policy meetings, publications and Batsheva de Rothschild seminars. In fact, for the last 40 years, few major Israeli science policy initiatives have gotten started without Alex's sage advice or gentle prodding. Yet, for the last 30 years, he has spent every summer at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, teaching and doing research...and making yet more international contacts as Israeli science's unofficial Ambassador-at-Large.



Despite his quiet unassuming manner, Alex, with his contagious smile and trademark crimson sweater, is also perhaps Israeli science's most avid and best-known "people-person." An inveterate traveler, he continues to pursue his lifelong twin passions of Biology and Science Policy on several continents (he once *simultaneously* did research in Microbiology at MIT and Public Policy at Harvard). Still, he never loses sight of the scientists behind the science, interviewing, inspiring, learning from, teaching or just enjoying them. Many of his best-known reports and initiatives follow an unorthodox method that is typically "Alex": first you sit down and talk one-on-one with 50-60 particularly knowledgeable, broad-minded people...

Alex's list of friends and admirers reads like a multi-volume Who's Who of international scientific leadership. This year, on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities held a formal reception and workshop on "Science Policy in Israel" in his honor. One speaker noted that all senior Israeli scientists now active in science policy and administration were proud to be full-time members of a special international fellowship, "The Friends of Alex (FOA)." Another speaker, considering all the people Alex has influenced, directly or indirectly, in his long career, added, "We're all really Friends of Alex!"



Their remarkable zest for life unabated. Alex and his wife, Malka, Secretary of the Batsheva de Rothschild Foundation, are now spending a sabbatical at the Rockefeller University...after, of course, their annual summer pilgrimage to the Woods Hole chapter of the FOA.

## Israel Academy Official Honored

Prof. Ruth Arnon, the Israel Academy's Chairperson for the Sciences (1995-2001) has received the 2001 Israel Prize for her many important contributions to immunological research. She has recently been appointed as the national Advisor on Science and Technology to Israel's President. She was also recently appointed to the European Research Advisory Board, which advises the European Union on RTD policy. She is currently the incumbent of the prestigious Paul Ehrlich Chair of Immunology at the Weizmann Institute of Science.