Tsameret Hashivyon

Public activity report

Our first year in Ashdod

14 July 2025 to 13 July 2026
Israeli registered association · 580820975

In our first year in Ashdod we opened a football school, set up chess boards at Duna and invited readers to meet writer Rubén Gallego. We also took residents' concerns to City Hall and the Knesset.

15–20
children and teenagers trained regularly with the football school

≈70
guests at the opening of our chess club

≈80
people joined the philosophy club's opening evening

Football training in the first year

Our pre-season sessions took place on 20, 21 and 27 August 2025. From September the main group trained twice a week. By the end of our first reporting year on 13 July 2026, the group had spent about 80 days training, including the extra session on 17 April and the first six days of our summer programme.

The full football season

Football school equipment

In September 2025, Super Papa contributed ₪10,000 towards setting up the football school and buying sports equipment. In October the association bought children's match and training kits, clothing for coaches, goals, balls, cones, agility ladders and hurdles.

From Ashdod to the Knesset

15 September 2025	**Meeting with Tatiana Mazarsky in Ashdod** We met Knesset member Tatiana Mazarsky to introduce Tsameret Hashivyon. We discussed sports for children and teenagers, and how people with disabilities can take part in community life in Ashdod.
16 September 2025	**Civic Initiatives Forum at the Knesset** The following day our delegation travelled to the Knesset. Alongside associations from across Israel, we presented the work of our community in Ashdod.
21 October 2025	**Tsameret Hashivyon opens its doors** We invited Ashdod families to meet our football school and discover the chess and philosophy programmes we were preparing at Duna. Our young footballers took to the stage, and Knesset member Tatiana Mazarsky greeted the guests. Writer Rubén Gallego joined us, and his daughter Sofia performed for the audience.
9 November 2025	**Meeting Yair Lapid in Ashdod** At a public gathering in Ashdod, Nikita Bezman met former Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid in person and told him about the association's work. Knesset member Tatiana Mazarsky also attended.
4 May 2026	**Health and social support in Ashdod** At Duna Community Centre, we met Tatiana Mazarsky to discuss health, social support and the needs of residents with disabilities. We handed over materials that informed subsequent parliamentary inquiries.
6 July 2026	**Working session at Ashdod City Hall** The city presented its call for community projects. We discussed eligibility and how to apply, then began preparing proposals for future activities.

Photos from our public meetings

Readers, families and the philosophy club

13 December 2025	**Rubén Gallego's philosophy club opens** About 80 people came to Duna for the opening of our philosophy club. Writer Rubén Gallego welcomed readers to a series of conversations about books and cinema. We met again in January and February. The three evenings gave readers in Ashdod a chance to get to know the author and ask him questions in person.
19 December 2025	**Hanukkah painting workshop with Irina Polevaya** Grandmothers came with their grandchildren, and families worked side by side at Irina Polevaya's Hanukkah workshop at Duna. Irina showed everyone how to build a pattern out of tiny dots of paint. Children and adults painted spinning tops and decorated Hanukkah lamps. The room rang with children's laughter as the patterns took shape.
10 January 2026	**An evening with Rubén Gallego at Duna** Rubén Gallego welcomed readers to Duna's small hall. Following Freaks, we chose Red Torpedo for the January programme. In this Italian documentary by Mara Chiaretti, Rubén tells his own story. Readers could talk to him in person, bring a favourite book for him to sign or buy one at the meeting and take it home with his autograph. The club's photo report
21 February 2026	**The philosophy club meets again** Rubén Gallego hosted our February club meeting at Duna. Ashdod residents and members of the association gathered for the third evening in the series that began in December. We served tea and refreshments so guests could stay and talk together.
3 May 2026	**Tsameret Media interviews Rubén Gallego** Irina Pospelova interviewed writer Rubén Gallego at his home for Tsameret Media. They talked about education and culture, about inclusion and the part people with disabilities play in community projects. After the meetings he had led at Duna, the recording gave readers outside Ashdod a chance to hear him for themselves. Watch Irina Pospelova's interview from 35:23
9 May 2026	**Around one table in Ashdod** In February we brought members of the association together for a meal. On 9 May we set the table again in Ashdod. Older residents and people with disabilities joined members of the association for our second community meal. The association's account of 9 May

> ### Freaks at the philosophy club
> Our philosophy club discussed Freaks, an American film directed by Tod Browning in 1932. The story unfolds in a travelling circus. When the trapeze artist Cleopatra learns that Hans, a fellow performer, has inherited a fortune, she plots to marry him for his money. His friends in the troupe come to his defence. To continue the conversation, we invited readers to discuss Red Torpedo, Mara Chiaretti's 2006 documentary in which Rubén Gallego tells his own story. Freaks in the AFI Catalog

The Tsameret Media team

The chess club’s first season

We invested about NIS 17,000 in chess equipment bought directly from the manufacturer. We used it for lessons and tournaments, and took boards out to the Ashdod promenade and to residents of the City housing complex.

31 January 2026	**Open chess on the promenade** The association set up chessboards on the promenade and invited passers-by to try the game and meet the club.
25 February 2026	**Opening of the Tsameret–Duna chess club** About 70 people joined us at Duna. International master Boris Maryasin and national master Anton Rakhmilevich moved from board to board, playing children and adults in simultaneous exhibitions. Our guests included deputy mayor Shimon Katznelson, city culture portfolio holder Ofir Lasri, Duna director Marina Wexler and Ashdod Chess Club director Arkady Ryabukhin. Oren Tavil, chief executive of the municipal culture and leisure company, joined the players at a board. Kan Darom’s report on the opening
21 May 2026	**Shavuot for young players** About 70 children came to Duna for the Shavuot tournament we organised with Ashdod’s municipal chess club. Schoolchildren played five rounds in age groups, with a separate section for beginners rated up to 1350. The children also tried the giant chessboard. Results · under 1350
22 May 2026	**Shavuot rated tournament** We organised the rated rapid tournament with Ashdod’s municipal chess club. Arkady Ryabukhin was the chief arbiter. Each player had fifteen minutes plus five seconds per move. Boris Maryasin scored 4½ points in six rounds, with four wins, one draw and one loss. Federation record for Boris Maryasin
29 May 2026	**A tournament for kindergarten players** Mikhail Tsygankov organised and refereed an unrated tournament for children finishing kindergarten. Around forty children sat down to play. At the end, Shabtai Ishmailov presented their medals.
12 June 2026	**FIDE teacher education course** From 12 to 14 June, Nikita Bezman, Shabtai Ishmailov and Mikhail Tsygankov took part in the FIDE EDU Preparation of Teachers Course.
21 June 2026	**Chess with residents of the City housing complex** At the City residence, 39 HaTsiyonut Street in Ashdod, residents and visitors from Tsameret sat together for chess and conversation.
10 July 2026	**Summer series · event 1** 11 players took part in the under-1500 group and played five rounds. We ran this first event with the city chess club. Cups and medals were presented after the games. Results and standings

Tournament archive and results

How the season continued

Our first reporting year closed on 13 July. Here is how the work continued through 24 October 2026.

By 24 October 2026, Tsameret-Duna had held 10 tournaments. With Ashdod’s municipal chess club, we organised the Shavuot events on 21 and 22 May and the 6 summer tournaments. The season also included separate tournaments for children finishing kindergarten and for residents of the City housing complex. Both were played without a rating calculation.

2 August 2026	**Preparing for the City chess tournament** The club returned to the residence with chess sets and a demonstration board. Residents played together ahead of the August tournament.
16 August 2026	**Tournament and awards at the City residence** The residents’ hall hosted the last event in our series, an unrated chess tournament. The players recorded their moves and gathered for the presentation of cups and medals. Duna Community Centre helped us buy the awards.
23 October 2026	**City and Knesset guests at the Ashdod Open** Deputy Mayor Shimon Katznelson and Knesset member Evgeny Sova visited our chess tournament. Sova spoke to the players and joined them at the board. Final standings · Chess-Results

Arkady Ryabukhin, director of Ashdod’s municipal chess club, helped with tournament planning and administration. He was chief arbiter at the Shavuot rapid tournament on 22 May. We submitted the results of rated competitions to the Israel Chess Federation.

Our community in pictures