

President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Visit Kibbutz Sarid

Monday, June 19, 2023

On June 19, 2023, Kibbutz Sarid and KKL were honored by the three-hour visit of the following distinguished Czech guests:

1. Madam Chair - Markéta PEKAROVÁ ADAMOVÁ and her husband Tomáš PEKARA
 2. Madam 1st vice Chair of the Parliament Věra KOVÁŘOVÁ
 3. Deputies - Mr Robert KRÁLÍČEK and Mr Jakub MICHÁLEK
 4. Mr Martin PLÍŠEK - Director of the office of Parliament
 5. Mr. Petr PELC - Director of the office of Madam Chair
 6. Ms Kateřina BARTOŠOVÁ - Director of the security Department of the Parliament
 7. Ambassador to Israel Mr. Martin Stropnický;
 8. Michal Dvořák, First secretary, public diplomacy
- and several other distinguished guests from the Parliament staff, as well as a journalist and photographers.

It was an exciting moment indeed for Kibbutz Sarid, when the Czech government delegation met with us on Monday, June 19, 2023 for a tour of the Masaryk Forest hosted by KKL Israel.

Czech KKL has invested and encouraged development of the Masaryk Forest for almost a century, dating back to its collection of money to finance planting of over 13,000 seedlings as a tribute in pre-state Israel to President T.G. Masaryk on his 80th birthday. On the 100th anniversary of the

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founding of the Czech Republic in 1918 funds were raised by Czech KKL for revitalization of the forest. Together with KKL colleagues in Israel, the forest now boasts a lovely Open Museum, and forestry students from Mendel University in Brno arrive in what has become a happy tradition every year to volunteer in the upkeep of the forest.

After the ceremony in the Masaryk Forest, the Czech delegation was invited for lunch in the Kibbutz Sarid dining room. Traditionally, every kibbutz dining room was always the heart of the community - hosting meetings, political and cultural events, holidays and exhibitions as well as serving meals. Meals in kibbutz dining rooms have to a large degree disappeared with privatization, but Kibbutz Sarid is proud to still offer lunch to members, school children, hired workers and guests.

After lunch, a reception and small ceremony was held in the Sarid clubhouse beneath the dining room. Gifts were exchanged, brief speeches given and a short discussion of kibbutz life and of the Masaryk Forest ensued. Sarid member and pianist Ilan Kapelner entertained the guests playing a piece by Dvorjak. Three kibbutz members sang Israeli folksongs translated into Czech on a screen in the background, so that our guests could share in the beauty of the words with us.

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Madam Chair Markéta PEKAROVÁ ADAMOVÁ shares a moment of conversation with Sarid member Gidi Tzur, caretaker of the Masaryk Forest and son of Czech founders of Kibbutz Sarid, June 19, 2023.

It was truly an honor for Kibbutz Sarid to host what to date has been the highest- level government/diplomatic visit ever. We understand that the total length of this mission to Israel was 3 days, and that this visit to Sarid and the Masaryk Forest was of special importance. Our distinguished guests seemed extremely appreciative and took interest in every aspect of our enjoyable encounter.

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We extend our sincere hospitality to each and every member of the delegation and hope they will return to visit the Masaryk Forest and Kibbutz Sarid.

Warmest Regards,

The Czech Hub at Kibbutz Sarid:

Amnon Danzig

Laurie Sapir

Adi Rosen

Gidi Tzur

Zvi Yelinski

Kibbutz Sarid

Nir Rushkin

Community Director

<http://www.czech-israel.com/>