



l. to. r.: Director of the Thalia Theater, Joachim Lux; Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel; business consultant Prof. Dr. Burkhard Schwenker; SPD politician Torsten Albig; Left Party leader Dr. Gregor Gysi; internet entrepreneur, Dr. Fabian Heilemann

Germany

Our German Friends, under the leadership of Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel, held the eighth of its "Bridging the Gap" dialogue series on October 27. Taking its name from our Youth Wing's flagship Jewish-Arab art program supported by the German Friends, the series was launched in 2013 in cooperation with the Thalia Theater of Hamburg, one of the most important theatres for spoken drama in Germany. The program aims to counteract prejudice through dialogue and discussion of issues of cultural identity, inviting the participation of leading practitioners from the fields of science, philosophy, politics, and the arts. The acclaimed series has to date attracted an audience of more than 12,000 people. Participants in the most recent event – entitled "The Nanny State and the Disempowerment of the Individual" – were four leading personalities from politics and business. The event was moderated by Joachim Lux, director of the Thalia Theater, and introduced by Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel. The dialogue series is also an opportunity for the German Friends to present the Israel Museum and its programs to a wider German public.

Our German Friends also hosted the Museum's International Executive Council in Berlin on January 15–18 (see page 38), celebrating fifty years of the Israel Museum; fifty years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany; twenty-five years of the German Friends; and twenty years of "Bridging the Gap."



At the press conference for *Temple, Scrolls, and Divine Messengers*, l. to r.: Adolfo Roitman; James Snyder; Executive Director of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, S. Alice Mong; CEO of MetLife, Hong Kong, Lennard Yong; Consul General of Israel in Hong Kong, Sagi Karni

Hong Kong

Director James Snyder and Dr. Adolfo Roitman, IMJ Curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Head of the Shrine of the Book, participated in the opening event of the traveling exhibition *Temple, Scrolls, and Divine Messengers: Archaeology of the Land of Israel in Roman Times* at the Asia Society in Hong Kong (see page 40), and in the impressive media events that surrounded the opening, which was attended by Carrie Lam, the Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Government. Adolfo also lectured to the general public on the topic of "The Belief in Heavenly Beings in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism," and to the Hong Kong Friends of the Israel Museum on "The Shrine of the Book in the Israel Museum," organized by the Co-Chairs of our Hong Kong Friends, Mark and Patricia Zilkha.