

# מידע רדיו וטלוויזיה

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רק"ע : רשת:

**The head of the American Space Agency, NASA is due to sign a** : כותרת:

,Newscaster: The head of the American Space Agency NASA is due to sign a scientific cooperation agreement .today with his counterpart from the Israeli Space Agency The NASA official spoke at the opening of the 5th ,International Ilan Ramon Space Conference. The conference being held at the Fischer Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies in Herzliya, is named for Israel's first astronaut who was killed in the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. A Kol Israel reporter says the opening session included a prerecorded video address from President Shimon Peres welcoming the participants. Research scholarships were granted to 2 young Israeli scientists to fund their space research studies. Professor Colin Price is head of the Tel

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Aviv University's Department of Geophysics and Planetary Sciences, which hosted the NASA delegation yesterday. 7 years after the Columbia tragedy, the university yesterday dedicated a computer classroom in memory of Ilan Ramon and Professor Joachim Joseph, who gave Ramon a Torah scroll to take up into space that he had saved in Bergen-Belsen where he was sent to at the age of 13. Joseph survived the concentration camp, but died in Israel last year. Professor Price spoke to Steve Lindy about Ilan Ramon and the dedication ceremony at Tel Aviv University where Ramon earned a Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Computer Engineering in 1987.

Professor Colin Price: Ilan Ramon, who was the first Israeli astronaut, flew on the Space Shuttle Columbia, and the tragedy of the death of Ilan Ramon occurred on the 1st of February 2003, 7 years ago. And so every year, during this week, around the 1st of February, we have visitors from NASA who come for the various memorials, and a few years ago, a conference around Ilan Ramon and space research was set up, which is held at the same week every year.

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Steve Lindy: And yesterday you named what exactly after  
Ilan Ramon

Professor Colin Price: So the scientific experiment that was  
carried out on the space shuttle with Ilan Ramon came  
from our department of Geophysics and Planetary Sciences  
and one of the key scientists was Professor Yehoyachin  
Yosef from our department, who also passed away more  
than a year ago. And so they worked very closely  
together, Ilan Ramon and Professor Yosef. And so yesterday  
we dedicated a new student classroom for undergraduate  
students in the memory of both Ilan Ramon and Professor  
Yosef, in addition to the scientific connection between  
them, there was also a very strong emotional connection  
because Professor Yosef was a Holocaust survivor that  
celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Bergen-Belsen, and the Torah  
that was smuggled into the concentration camp by the  
rabbi from Amsterdam, and that he used for his bar  
Mitzvah, a very small Torah, he kept afterwards, and the  
rabbi asked him to tell his story to the world if he  
survived the camps, which he did luckily. And this  
remained quiet for many years until Ilan Ramon himself

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saw this little Torah in the house of Professor Joseph  
many years later, just before the launch of the space  
shuttle, and he asked Professor Joseph if he could take this  
Torah to space with him, and to explain to the world the  
story of the little Torah, which he did in a press  
conference from space. So this connection between the little  
Torah and basically the history of the Jewish people, which  
is shown between Professor Joseph and Ilan Ramon is also  
a very strong connection between the families, and another  
reason why we dedicated the room to the memory of the  
2 of them together  
.Newscaster: Professor Colin Price