

Grapevine: Pretty women

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Miss Israel on women's day, a swan song at Yakar and Dudu Fisher sings for Gilad Schalit

... INTERNATIONAL SINGING star Dudu Fisher, whose crowning achievement was arguably his role in Les Miserables, has dedicated "Bring him Home" – one of the most moving songs from the musical – to abducted soldier Gilad Schalit. More than 60 Israelis – among close to 750 passengers cruising the Caribbean in the last week of January for Jewish Music Festival at Sea – heard Fisher sing the song and were almost moved to tears. This was probably the largest kosher cruise ever, and was jointly organized by Eddie's Travel and Kosherica.

Other entertainers included Avraham Fried, Lipa Schmeltzer, and cantors Avi Albrecht, Binyamin Helfgot, Naftali Hershtik, Netanel Hershtik, Bentzion Miller and Yaakov Motzen. Motzen actually celebrated his wedding on board the first night, with other cantors intoning the sheva brachot (seven blessings): Yaakov Yitzhak Rosenfeld, Aaron Shifman, Shlomo Simcha, Yaakov Stark, Benjamin Warshawski, and Berel Zucker. Also performing were the Amiran Dvir band and the NY Synagogue Choir. Passengers were literally hit by a wave of music, and they loved every minute of it.

All food was prepared on board by award-winning chefs from some of Israel's top hotels, leading Eddie's Tours CEO David Walles to note that there was no need for religiously observant Jewish travelers to compromise on culinary quality.



SINGERS AVRAHAM Fried (left) and Dudu Fisher (right) stand with David Walles, CEO of Eddie's Travel, which helped organize last month's Jewish Music Festival at Sea kosher cruise.