

## GRAPEVINE

## Third-age art

• GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ **BEST KNOWN** in Israel as the Sausage King, former restaurateur **Marcel Hess** is also a veteran first responder to emergency calls on behalf of sick and injured people. He has been a first responder since the age of 18, firstly in his native Switzerland and later in Israel, where he is seldom seen without his Saint Bernard dog.

During a recent visit to Basel, Hess also acted as an emissary for United Hatzalah founder and president **Eli Beer** and the organization's CEO, when he delivered a first responder's kit for use in Switzerland. He presented the kit to **Bruno Trost**, chief commander of the first responders in the Canton of Basel. Before making aliyah more than 20 years ago, Hess was Basel's chief home-front paramedic.

The presentation was made at the Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois, where Theodor Herzl stayed during meetings of the World Zionist Congress, and where he was famously photographed leaning over the balcony. There is a dispute as to whether the iconic photograph was taken in 1897, 1901, 1903 or 1904. The hotel, which dates back to 1681, has hosted numerous dignitaries.

In Tel Aviv this week, Swiss Ambassador **Jean-Daniel Ruch** celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Switzerland with a Basel Night at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.