

THE MAOZ PROGRAMME

Offering enhanced informal Jewish/Zionist/Israel education to the community, suitable for all ages. You cannot afford to miss these opportunities!

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ISRAEL AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

FEDSPEAK

A SHARED TOMORROW



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Volume 8 NOVEMBER 2013

ISLA FELDMAN WINS COVETED SAJBD AWARD



In August this year, Isla Feldman, National Director of the SA Zionist Federation and formerly National Director of the Jewish National Fund, was chosen to be a recipient of the 2013 Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award. The award was introduced in 2003 to honour members of the Jewish community who have made a particularly outstanding contribution to South African Jewry, whether in a lay or professional capacity.

In nominating Isla for the award, the Board noted with admiration her more than 3 decades of service to the Zionist cause in South Africa, for many years as head of the Jewish National Fund SA and also of the SA Zionist Federation. It was noted that Isla had always mirrored in her tremendous commitment and passion to devotion of the greater Jewish community or Zionism and the State of Israel. She has been an inspiring leader and an invaluable colleague, having combined unflinching dedication to whatever task was at hand, with the professional skill, wisdom and experience to ensure its successful completion.

The award was presented to Isla at a glittering event held at the Sandton Sun Hotel, attended by some of the most prestigious members of the community, and with keynote speaker Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission.

In her reply, Isla stated how delighted and thrilled she was to have achieved this "completely unexpected but very welcome honour bestowed" upon her, and stressed that without "the unwavering support and encouragement given to (her) by the Chairmen and Executive committees of both the SAZF and the JNF, and by the dedicated, loyal and hardworking staff of both organisations, I would not be standing here tonight." She spoke with great pride of the wonderful achievements of the JNF in South Africa, and the marvellous environmental awards it has won. She mentioned that the JNF and the SAZF had together over the years played host over the years to numerous outstanding Israel dance-groups, musicians, orchestras, singers, speakers both political and historical, and medical, agricultural and technological experts in their fields. She reminded the audience of the hugely successful Rally for Israel held during the Intifada at the beginning of the century under the banner of the SAZF; and spoke too of how the SAZF had instilled a love of Israel and Zionism in the unique South African community.

Isla ended her talk with a tribute to her beloved late husband Paul, without whose continual support and encouragement she would probably not have been able to achieve such excellence in her working life.

EXCITING COMPETITION!

Watch this space for details of our new competition, starting January 2014, with fabulous prizes to be won! Don't miss getting your copy of FedSpeak every month which will enable you to participate!

Monthly competition, monthly draws, monthly lucky winners – what a treat!

WONDERFUL PRIZES!



Coexistence Girls' Soccer Team (See page 5)

2014: SA ZIONIST FEDERATION: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

23 – 28 February: **Astrith Baltsan tells the story of Israel through music**, in her special show which presents a revolutionary up-to date research of Israel's national anthem Hatikvah – from ancient Sephardic Jewish prayer, to classical music by Mozart and Smetana; from Rumanian folk songs to first Jewish settlements in Israel.



June: **Dr Ruth, hilarious comedienne and hugely supportive Zionist, of diminutive stature but frank, open and with a thick German accent which adds to her undeniable charm.** She is known and loved the world over, and entertains her audiences with great aplomb.



February: **Benjamin Anthony of Our Soldiers Speak. This is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that convenes seminars and information sessions pertaining to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).** Sgt Anthony is a brilliant speaker who emphasizes above all the morality of the IDF.



4 – 8 August: **Dr Qanta Ahmed, British-born Pakistani Muslim, associate professor of medicine at the State University of New York, unashamedly pro-Zionist,** strongly supportive of Israel and of women's causes, who describes Eretz Yisrael as "a vital shelter, an only shelter, from lethal, genocidal anti-Semitism." She writes prolifically about Israel and is an outstanding speaker.



9 March: **South African Friends of Israel Advocacy Conference, which will bring together representatives of the Jewish and Christian Zionist communities to showcase the advocacy highlights of 2013 and focus on interaction, networking and debate.** Those attending will be coming from across the country, showing their support for Israel.



21 September: **Africa Bless Israel, a mammoth celebration during which representatives from neighbouring African countries will be uniting to bless Israel in a multilingual song and prayer service.** A capacity crowd of 20 000 people is expected after which a donation will be given to an organisation in Israel. Jewish and Israeli songs will be translated into all the various African languages and sung by the head delegates of each represented country.

To be confirmed for 2014

- **Chen Zimbalista, Israeli percussionist and conductor who presents an enchanting array of rhythmic sounds cajoled from more than forty instruments,** with his programs taken from classical, jazz and ethnic repertoires.
- **Rona Ramon, widow of Ilan Roman, an Israeli fighter pilot who later became Israel's first astronaut and died tragically in 2003.**
- **Ra'anana Orchestra, one of Israel's finest.**
- **Christian Zionist Film Festival, a huge success in 2013 and feted to be even bigger next year.**
- **Jewish Film Festival showcasing international films**

5 May: **Yom Hazikaron: Speakers are from Hope for Heroism, which is a non-profit organization, created and run by disabled Israeli officers,** which gives critical and immediate help to disabled Israeli combat soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the safety of the Jewish people.



6 May: **Yom Haatzmaut this year will be celebrated at an exciting street party in Long Avenue and the Yeshiva Campus,** catering to the delights of both children and adults, showcasing Israeli music played by a variety of bands.

2015 – SAVE THE DATES!

7 – 8 March 2015:
The 48th SA Zionist Federation Conference – Brilliant speakers



MAOZ: INFORMALLY ENHANCED ZIONIST/JEWISH EDUCATION

The Maoz Programme, offering enhanced informal Jewish/Zionist/Israel education to the community, is suitable for all ages from pre-primary to senior citizens. Under the auspices of the SAZF and the Israel Centre, local and international speakers offer a myriad of political, historical, cultural and social topics. You can participate in video conferences and classes; watch intriguing and challenging documentaries; host groups and speakers in your homes; and benefit from the increased knowledge and awareness that will come from your participation in the programme.

For more information for your schools, your organisations, and your meeting groups, call Lisa on 011 645 2510 or lisa@beyachad.co.za

You cannot afford to miss these opportunities!

MIDDLE EAST NEWS

Iranian human rights record heavily criticized



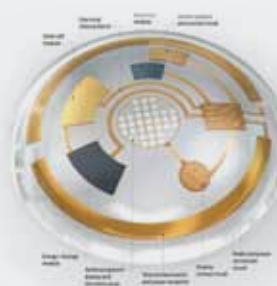
Ahmed Shaheed, UN special rapporteur on human rights in Iran, told the UN General Assembly's Third Committee last month that "any renewed or revitalized dialogue between Iran and the international community must include and not seek to sideline the issue of human rights." Shaheed, who was not allowed to enter Iran to carry out his assignment of investigating charges of human rights abuses by the government there, added that his sources indicated that the clerical regime in Teheran has executed 724 people in the last 18 months, including several dozen since the recent election of President Hassan Rouhani.

Israel signs agreement with EU Space Agency



In yet another blow to efforts to isolate Israel in the international arena, the Israel Space Agency signed a cooperation agreement with the EU on Monday, designed to increase exchanges of knowledge and personnel in the field of satellite navigation, one of the EU's most prestigious hi-tech industries. "This accord is an important landmark in EU-Israeli relations and stresses the mutual respect on both sides in the field of R&D," said Science, Technology and Space Minister Yaakov Peri.

Israel blesses the world



Prof. Zeev Zalevsky of Bar-Ilan University has invented a device ripped from the pages of science fiction, a bionic contact lens to help the blind see. The device, designed to be worn like a traditional contact lens, stimulates the cornea with electrode impulses from a camera which can be held in one's hand or mounted on eyeglasses. "It's like reading Braille, not with your fingertips but with your eyes," says Zalevsky. The system needs more testing and certification but Zalevsky hopes to have a device on the market within two years.

HEADLINE NEWS

Nesim Güvenis, the deputy chair of the Association of Turkish Jews in Israel, said that a growing number of young Turkish Jews are fleeing the land of their birth, many of them immigrating to Israel. The primary cause is a rise in diplomatic tensions between the Islamist regime led by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Israel, as well as rising levels of anti-Semitism in Turkey which has mirrored the rising levels of Islamist political and social influence.

One billion Euros in EU aid funds to the Palestinians has been wasted or "lost" due to corruption, according to a harsh critical report published by the European Court, the official institution located in Luxembourg. Iran's Supreme Spiritual Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said last month that "we should not make a mistake in knowing the main enemy, who in the present time is global arrogance and the criminal Zionist network."

The position of the USA, Israel's main ally, in the Middle East received a shock recently when it was reported that Prince Bandar bin Sultan, intelligence chief of Saudi Arabia, told European diplomats that his country was preparing to make a "major shift" away from the traditional partnership with Washington. He explained that Riyadh has been alarmed over the Obama Administration's mishandling of the so-called "Arab Spring" in general and specifically in regards to the civil war in Syria. Additionally, America's apparent willingness to come to an accommodation with Iran and the lack of progress in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have angered Saudi Arabia.

As the threat from Iran continues to dominate security and defence considerations throughout the Middle East, reports have surfaced of broad intelligence and political cooperation between Israel and the Sunni oil kingdoms in the Persian Gulf, usually with the cooperation and mediation of Western powers friendly to both. The Pentagon has announced plans to sell \$10.8 billion worth of highly sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the latest such deal which has seen ever increasing military assistance from Washington to these two countries.

Jerusalem Mufti Sheikh Muhammad Hussein recently issued a demand for Islamic preachers around the world to use part of their sermons for the Moslem holiday of Eid al-Adha to remind Moslems around the world of their connection and responsibilities towards the Al-Aksa mosque in Jerusalem's Old City. His speech also included a traditional canard about "Jewish plots and conspiracies" to destroy the mosque and otherwise damage Islamic sites in Jerusalem.

The Toronto Transit Commission has refused to accept advertisements from an anti-Israel group in Canada because they were "inaccurate and misleading." The posters which were intended to be mounted in TTC buses and subways, as well as shelters and other public areas, accused Israel of "stealing Palestinian land" in an act which is "illegal under international law." The posters were sponsored by a group calling itself Canadians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East.

The Central Bureau of Statistics released a report last month showing that despite a robust economy and low unemployment in Israel, nearly 40% of Israeli children are at risk of poverty in the Jewish State. "Parents need to think twice before sending their child to extracurricular activities and before buying their child expensive medicine," said Prof. Asher Ben-Arieh, of the Hebrew University, "to avoid the child ultimately becoming less enriched and less healthy."

According to Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, the Bushehr nuclear plant is to begin producing fuel in three months. These remarks were made after he said Iran would begin taking control of the civilian nuclear reactor from Russia. It is as yet unclear when Iran will begin using locally produced fuel

Israeli aid is flowing to Syrian refugees

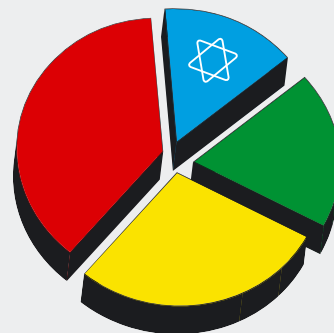


The Israeli NGO IsraAid has been quietly handing out purple sacks filled with humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan for several months, although they have made great pains to remain as anonymous as possible. IsraAid has been involved in disaster relief in many countries and usually doesn't mind getting positive publicity, but in Arab and Moslem countries discretion is necessary.

"We don't announce with trumpets that we're Israeli," said one aid worker JTA. "There's no need for that." However, on an individual basis, even when a refugee discovers that the aid workers are Israeli, they usually don't protest much. "You're talking about hungry people," she said. "If I hand someone a can of tuna, do they really care where it's coming from?"

MIDDLE EAST NEWS

Israel's emigration rate among lowest in developed world



Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics figures show that the number of Israelis who left the country in 2011 and had not returned by the end of 2012 stands at 16,000 - one the lowest figures over the past three decades and among the lowest rates in the developed world. The low emigration rate in 2011 paradoxically coincided with mass protests that erupted that summer over the cost of living in Israel, although it does represent a 3.8 percent rise compared to 2010, when the rate of emigration was 15,600. In addition, in 2011, about 9,500 Israelis who had resided in the country and who spent an extended period abroad returned to Israel.

Israeli researcher discovers cell-destroying protein that may help eradicate cancer



"Killing these cancer stem cells is the holy grail of cancer treatments and thus holds promise for complete eradication of cancer,"

says Dr. Sarit Larisch of the University of Haifa. These words follow more than a decade of research that could give hope to cancer patients worldwide. Along with her colleagues, Larisch has established the basis for developing a new, more effective treatment for cancer using a protein called ARTS. "ARTS-based cancer drugs could potentially change the treatment method of cancer worldwide," said Larisch. "We have found that ARTS is particularly important for the death of defective stem cells. We therefore believe that ARTS-based drugs will specifically eliminate cancer stem cells."

AND THEY SAID...

"The locations of most of the scientific research centres in Syria and the storage facilities are known and under surveillance, thus, he will give up those centres and facilities for sure without lying. That said however, Bashar al-Assad will not give up the chemical stockpile.

Defected Syrian Brig.-Gen. Zaher al-Sakat to CNN's Christiane Amanpour. He said that in addition to four secret locations within Syria, the regime is currently transferring chemical weapons to Iraq and Lebanon. (CNN, Oct. 1, 2013)

life is contemptible, it makes no difference whether that life is Jewish life, Christian or Muslim, for us it is the same, but taking the human life is something our religion rejects but this doesn't mean that on the other hand you can say Nazis committed crime against a group now therefore, they must usurp the land of another group and occupy it. This too is an act that should be condemned. There should be an even-handed discussion."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, in an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, according to a translation provided by CNN, which led many people to think that Iran had changed its tune with regard to its past denial of the Holocaust. (CNN)

"Transparency [from Iran] is not enough. The [nuclear] monitoring can be terminated suddenly. And once you have a robust program, breakout is relatively quick."

Robert Einhorn, formerly one of the State Department's top Iran nuclear strategists and now at the Brookings Institution. (New York Times, Sept. 28, 2013)

"I have said before that I am not a historian and historians should specify, state and explain the aspects of historical events, but generally we fully condemn any kind of crime committed against humanity throughout the history, including the crime committed by the Nazis both against the Jews and non-Jews, the same way that if today any crime is committed against any nation or any religion or any people or any belief, we condemn that crime and genocide. Therefore, what the Nazis did is condemned, but the aspects that you talk about, clarification of these aspects is a duty of the historians and researchers, I am not a history scholar."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, in an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, according to a translation by the semi-official Iranian news agency FARS which clearly makes no mention of the Holocaust and never said "Whatever criminality they committed against the Jews, we condemn." (National Post, Sept. 26, 2013)

"I've said before that I am not a historian and then, when it comes to speaking of the dimensions of the Holocaust, it is the historians that should reflect on it. But in general I can tell you that any crime that happens in history against humanity, including the crime that Nazis committed towards the Jews as well as non-Jews is reprehensible and condemnable. Whatever criminality they committed against the Jews, we condemn, the taking of human

TWO BROTHERS BRING ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY TO KENYAN FARMING



Sometimes a little help can go a long way. That is what brothers Gilad and Yonatan Millo thought when they decided to found a non-profit organization to promote better sustainable agriculture and self-empowerment in Africa.

Israel for Africa (IFA) of, which Gilad is Chairman and Yonatan Vice President, uses the knowledge and technological advances achieved in Israel to empower Africans.

After serving as Deputy Ambassador at the Israeli Embassy in Kenya and then as Consul for Media & Public Affairs at the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles, Gilad moved back to Kenya in order to work for Amiran Kenya (an Israeli company, today East Africa's leading private sector agricultural entity). Amiran gave Gilad the knowledge and understanding of the needs of the small and medium scale farmers in East Africa.

IFA, which started its operations in 2011, has focused its maiden activities on two project concepts, both anchored on agriculture. The first is "IFA Sustainable Community Center," which supplies agricultural tools and technologies to communities in need, coupled with agribusiness training and a sustainable model that allows the community to maintain the center based on the income it generates. This project includes the donation of an Amiran Farmers Kit (AFK), which includes a Farmer's Greenhouse, a gravity fed drip irrigation system from Netafim, seeds, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, training and extension services from Amiran.

With the farmer's kit, recipients will be able to produce horticultural crops and much higher yields and "Israeli" quality, since the seeds in the kit are from Israel. The target audience for this program includes, at this point, communities from rural areas in Kenya, but IFA intends to extend the program to neighboring African countries in the near future.

The second project is "IFA Youth Empowerment," which helps poverty-stricken youth to empower themselves. The main goal is to help them to cross the psychological barrier, to teach them that they have the power to do so much for themselves and their communities, and that they don't have to just look for food in order to survive, but also acquire skills that will enable them to be truly independent.

This project is in its pilot year, and includes about two groups of 35 youths; aged 18 to 30, from Nairobi's Kibera slum, which is the second largest slum in the world. Next year IFA aims to expand it to 30 groups and 500 youths.

Since its inception two years ago, Israel for Africa was warmly welcomed by the international development community in East Africa and by the Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation also known as "MASHAV." The current Israeli ambassador to Kenya, Gil Haskel, officially launched IFA's activity in Kenya in October.

ISRAEL IN CONTEXT

A team of 20 Israeli doctors and medical staff from Save a Child's Heart (SACH) has just flown to Tanzania to provide free heart surgeries. With them was Tanzanian Dr Godwin Godfrey who returned home following five years of training in Israel. Elsewhere, a team of 11 cardiac surgeons and nurses from Israel's Sheba Medical Center performed 10 complex heart operations over 4 days in Nigeria.



Tel Aviv University researchers have developed a website and smartphone app that will allow you to submit your individual Genetic DNA sequence map for analysis. Prior to pregnancy, check for risks of birth defects; or select medical treatments that will be most effective without side effects.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) recently issued its first-ever Human Capital Index. Israel came 4th in the world for capacity for innovation, 3rd for life expectancy, 2nd for tertiary education attainment, and joint 1st for water, sanitation and hygiene.

Israel's largest and most comprehensive institution of higher learning, Tel Aviv University, is home to over 30,000 students studying in nine faculties and over 125 schools and departments across the spectrum of sciences, humanities and the arts. During the upcoming academic year, TAU will be offering two on-line history courses within the framework of Coursera, an education company that partners with the top universities and organizations in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free.



Israeli startup Inno-Bev's all-natural WakeUp won "Best Functional Drink" at the Drinktec Beverage Innovation Awards. Instead of a high caffeine energy drink, enjoy guarana, ginkgo biloba, elderberry and a unique apple sugar with a low glycaemic index that reduces sugar fluctuation.



In the last 10 years, Israeli exports to Africa have increased from \$342 million in 2002 to \$1.2 billion in 2012. 2.6% of Israeli exports go to Africa. Japan-based robotics manufacturer Yaskawa Electric Corporation has invested in and formed a strategic partnership with Israel's Argo Medical Technologies. Argo manufactures the ReWalk exoskeleton that enables paraplegics to walk. The investment will aid R&D to streamline manufacture.



Israel's Insuline has developed InsuPad - a device that warms the body after diabetics inject themselves - even after meals. The pad helps less insulin absorb much quicker and reduces hypoglycemic incidents. J&J Lifescan has just signed an agreement to market InsuPad in Germany.



Students in the bio-design program of the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem's Hebrew University have designed a robotic intubation device that guides itself to the lungs. The "GuideIN Tube" prevents accidental insertion of the air tube into the food pipe, which can be fatal. **Researchers at Sheba Medical Center and Weizmann Institute together with those at Duke University in the USA have identified genes ASNS and TECPR2 responsible for two serious neurological disorders in children.** The discovery will identify carriers and prevent such severe genetic diseases from being passed down.

When ex-Bar-Ilan President Professor Eugene Kogan spotted that an Iranian study had omitted mentioning his work, he contacted the Iranians. Their response was "We thank you for bringing the study to our attention. In the next issue we will gladly mention your research. We believe that scientists are messengers of peace, and scientists' way of thinking is different from politicians' way of thinking."

Israeli start-up Smartli has developed an automatic grocery shopping system that uses sensors to track the items missing from your fridge. It then generates a shopping list, and ensures that these items are delivered directly to your door at your preferred time.

Israel's Frutarom is truly a global innovator. It develops and sells flavors and ingredients for food, beverage, supplement and pharma health industries in 140 countries. Its 31 R&D labs include eco-friendly Wedenswil in Switzerland where its biogas equipment has been upgraded to produce 2,600,000 kWh of energy per year.

The Alexander boutique brewery in Emek Hefer in central Israel has won a gold medal in the 2013 European Beer Star competition for its Alexander Black English-style porter beer. The competition included some 1,500 beers from 40 countries.

Building Bridges Through Sport



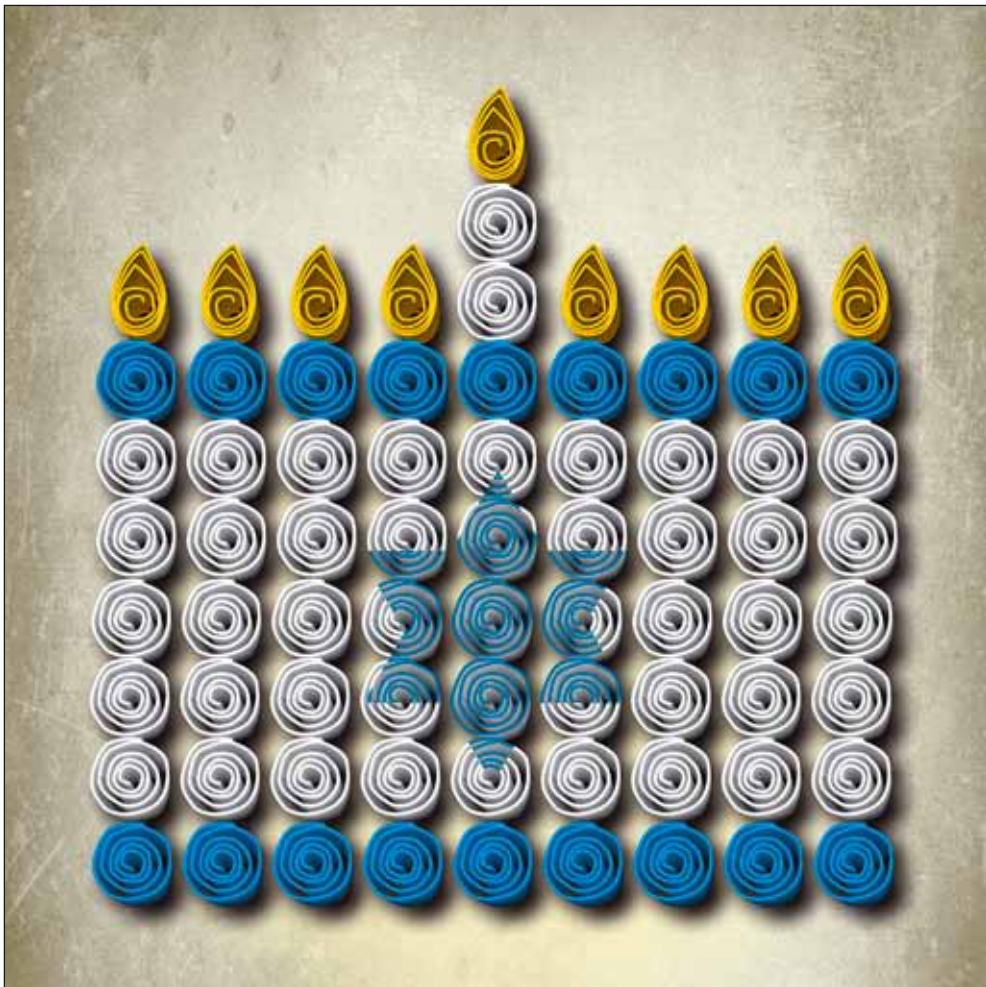
Co-Existence Team and Chaperones, Shimon Shamila (Director Israel Centre, SA) and Michael Freeman (Deputy Ambassador of Israel), photo courtesy Ilan Ossendryver

In October 2013 The Israel Centre and Partnership2Gether, in conjunction with The Peres Peace Centre brought a delegation of eight teenaged girls, 4 Jewish and 4 Arab, to South Africa to play soccer. The Co-Existence Girls' Soccer Team proved beyond a doubt that participation in sports is definitely the best way to encourage interaction among people of different faiths, colours and creeds.

The visit encompassed a variety of activities for the girls, in both Johannesburg and Cape Town, where they were able to meet and extend a hand of friendship to young South African female soccer players, to show off their soccer skills, and most of all, to counter the widely-held misconception that there is no communication between Israelis and Arab Israelis, and that the country is little more than a conflict zone.



Co-Existence Team, Herzlia, St Cyprians and Langa soccer teams and organisers at Century City, Cape Town



This Chanukah, our patterns together,
will shine brighter as one.

www.jewishagency.org/sa

In Johannesburg, the co-existence team participated in a soccer round robin together with two teams from the Crusaders Football Club, Sandringham High School, Afrika Tikun, Edenvale High School and King David Linksfield High School, they had the opportunity of enjoying a practice session with coaching team staff from Super Sport United, visited the Nizamiye Mosque in Midrand and the Afrika Tukkin centre in the Alexandra township where the girls played and sang nursery rhymes with the little children and participated in a traditional African dance with some of the older children

In Cape Town, the co-existence team played at Century City against teams from Herzlia Middle School, St. Cyprian's School and Langa, the Delegation presented at the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council Youth Council Yom Rabin ceremony, with The Peres Peace Center representative and a Muslim and Jewish girl speaking about peace, they visited classes at Herzlia Middle School to interact with local pupils and were privileged to be taken on a

personalised tour of Parliament by Steve Swart of the African Christian Democratic Party. A highlight of the trip included touring Cape Town, going up Table Mountain and experiencing the beauty of the Mother City

Though the Arab and Israeli teens live in villages minutes apart from one another, this program provided one of the more positive and practical opportunities they have to interact. The motivation for bringing them to South Africa was launched by the Partnership2Gether program and the Israel Centre, in support of the Twinned Peace Sports Programmes initiative of the Peres Centre for Peace. Promoting bridge building and coexistence through sport has been one of the many excellent ways in which the Peres Centre has sought to break down stereotypes and change attitudes towards the "other" between Jews and Arabs in Israel. Ultimately one of the Jewish girls summed up the aims of the Partnership2Gether Coexistence Soccer Delegation and The Peres Peace Center itself: "It's not 'them' and 'us', it's 'we' together!"

Aliyah, a journey Home

Everyone has a different story to tell about their experience of Aliyah. Some claim wonderful, some claim difficult, but all define it as both rewarding and fulfilling. So it's no surprise that 2013 saw a 26% increase on last year in the number of South Africans making Aliyah.

"We are witnessing a process that began a few years ago where South Africans are choosing Israel first when they wish to emigrate" says

Shimon Shamila, Director of the Israel Centre South Africa. "We can say without doubt that more and more South Africans are choosing Israel as home and today the Promised Land is their number one emigration destination"

We interviewed different people from all walks of life who will be making Aliyah in the next few months to find out why Israel was their place of choice.

Kayla Ackerman, 18

Kayla calmly sits in our offices on a sunny Friday morning and casually mentions she is in the midst of her matric finals. At the end of November, when her exams are done, she will be making Aliyah, alone, simply because she "loves Israel"

Her eyes light up as she explains how she visited Israel for the first time earlier in the year on Israel Encounter, a student program offered by the Israel Centre, and was totally surprised with her immediate connection to Israel. She saw in Israel a place with more opportunity for young people to prosper, where they could be independent and how living there would be more fulfilling than living anywhere else in the world.

Kayla will devote the first 5 months to living on Kibbutz Ein-Hashofet, learning Hebrew, working with children, learning about their farming facilities and settling in Israel. After that, she has chosen to do Garin Zabar - a 3 month preparatory program for the army. Once she enters the army, she hopes to become a paramedic.



Kayla Ackerman

Gur Family

Michelle has a smile in her voice as she describes how they have always loved Israel and how it has always held a special place in their hearts. Ari was born in Israel but he has lived in South Africa for half his life and all three of their beautiful children were born here.

The Gurs will be making Aliyah at the end of January 2014, having decided to make a better life for themselves following an incident in their home last year. They are lucky enough to have family in Israel and when they arrive they will live in their apartment in Givat Shmuel and Tali will attend school in Ra'anana. Their sons Daniel and Saul will continue their studies in America and South Africa respectively.

While they are sad to leave South Africa, they look forward to their new life in the wonderful country Israel, and anticipate lots of visits from family and friends!



Uri, Michelle, Daniel, Saul and Tali Gur with Michelle's parents Selwyn and Anne Uria

Ruth Rabinowitz, 70

Ruth fell in love with Israel at the age of 17 after a Student Zionist tour and immediately wanted to make Aliyah. Life happened and for various reasons, some 53 years later, after re-cultivating that love, she will be making Aliyah sometime in the next 6 months.

Ruth still lives in her family home of 42 years and while leaving South Africa is a difficult decision, she has a daughter and grandchildren in Israel and wants to be close to the people who are dearest to her and who matter – and that for her is the major draw card.

Over the years, Ruth, who is a doctor by qualification, has been involved in many community based projects, including starting MamaEarth Foundation. She is passionate about the environment and when she gets to Israel, one of the many things she hopes to do is expand the work she has started with her grandchildren's school in implementing sustainable living projects.

Nanni Ruth with Ori and Shira



What does the JNF mean to the Jewish people? Do you really know the story of the JNF?

The box below is from Romania. In 1920 Jews dropped small coins, like the ones below into it. Who were the people who did this? These were not rich people. They were simple working men and woman who dreamt of reclaiming their ancient homeland for their ancient people. The funds from this box, along with countless others from around the world purchased land from Arab landlords when Britain controlled the Land of Israel. The land they bought was held on trust for the Jewish people so they could cultivate it and reforest it.

What happened to the Jews who dropped their copper coins in this box? Statistically they had about an even chance of being alive 25 years latter. By 1945 almost half of the Jews of Romania had been murdered, simply because they were Jews. But the land they purchased is still in the hands of the JNF today, still held on trust for the Jewish people. About half of those donors never had the chance to see the land they purchased; they had everything taken from them, even their lives. But no one can take away what they achieved for their brothers and sisters.

As you can see the JNF is key part of the Jewish people's history and identity. Take for example this story from Don Krausz, a holocaust survivor who lives in Johannesburg.

"On 14 May, 1940, the Luftwaffe bombed Rotterdam, some time after the city had surrendered to the invading Germans. Needless to say we lost everything, including our home, business, stock and private possessions. The heat generated during the conflagration was such that marble melted.

My father was a merchant of Persian carpets and held a large stock. Persian carpets are made of wool which does not burn but shrivels. So my father concluded that not all the stock could have been destroyed. Even a small piece of a Persian carpet can be made into a cushion and has value.

Once the debris had cooled sufficiently, my father hired workmen to excavate the ruins of our premises. No remnants of carpets were found and nothing recognizable of value. All that was retrieved was a strange-looking misshaped lump of metal which was eventually identified as the contents of our Blue Box. That relic occupied a place on our mantelpiece where a Blue Box would usually be found. It was left behind when we were arrested and taken to the concentration camps."

From these and countless other tales it is easy to tell the depth of connection that the Jewish people have to the JNF. Through this organisation, which started more than 110 years, the Jewish people were able to return to the land that they were forced to flee to millennia ago but to which they always hoped to return.

The JNF plays still today an immeasurable role in helping to fulfil the vision of Isaiah to make the desert and the land of Israel bloom.

Who/what is the Jewish National Fund?
The Jewish National Fund is a worldwide Jewish community development and environmental organization. It is over 110 years old and is strongly connected with the creation and development of Israeli society, especially in the water preservation, forestry, agriculture, education and tourism sectors. Everyone knows about the work the JNF does in Israel but what about the beyond this? Below are just some of the projects for which the JNF is famous.

Work internationally

Al Gore, former US Vice President and Nobel Prize winner for his environmental activism, wrote that JNF, as a tree planting movement, could serve as a model for many countries in the world, and that the tree planting JNF does in arid regions and wastelands is one of the great ecological success stories of our times.

JNF is a major contributor at international events such as COP and WSSD and works with a variety of international research groups for example by combating desertification in Kazakhstan.

JNF shares knowledge about coping with forest pests, builds greenhouses in Rwanda and collaborates with forestry authorities worldwide including in South Africa.

Relationship building with other groups

JNF maintains a partnership with the Palestinian Authority in fighting fires in open country. JNF foresters guide and instruct the foresters in the Palestinian Authority with their experience in extinguishing fires.

JNF has special forest groves that are designated for supplying fir trees to churches, monasteries, embassies and other Christians right before Christmas.

The Arab Scouts youth movement is invited to be guests at JNF field and forest centres. Each group visits for about a week, and JNF subsidizes the activities. 10,000 children take part in these projects annually.

JNF forests are made available to Bedouin shepherds who help to sustainably graze the area and prevent forestry fires.

In the Arab town of Sachnin, in the Lower Galilee, JNF constructed green wetlands. The wetlands purify wastewater and serve as an educational-experimental station for wastewater management.

Wadi Atir is a special project for the Bedouin town of Hura. Plans are being completed this year in conjunction with KKL-JNF USA. The project will include agriculture, tourism, forestry and ecology. The project is intended to serve as an example for treatment of the herds of sheep, to keep them outside the town in the nearby vicinity, and to take advantage of the process for creating tourism initiatives connected to Bedouin culture - goat cheese industry, wool products, spices and medicinal herbs.

Despite attempts to smear the JNF it is important to note the following:

- The JNF works for all people of Israel regardless religion or ethnicity and rents its land on a similar basis.
- The JNF only plants on sovereign land belonging to it or to the state of Israel. It does not work on Palestinian land unless requested by them to do so.
- If there is a case of uncertainty regarding the ownership of land, the JNF follows the law of Israel and the decision of its independent judiciary.
- The JNF does not engage in actions that remove people, whoever they are, from their land. If a legal eviction order is declared by the courts, it is a matter for state police to handle.
- These activists are simply out to bully organizations connected to Israel even if these happen to be soft targets such as environmental organizations trying to make the world a better place.



Nine Candles of the Jewish National Fund

<p>To date, the Jewish National Fund has planted 260 MILLION trees in Israel, a remarkable feat in such a small country. Israel IS the only country IN THE WORLD that entered the 21st Century with a net GAIN of trees, and must be the only country in the world that leaves national forestry to an organisation that is not a governmental.</p>	<p>The JNF is the major contributor towards water security in Israel today. As a desert country, water is always an issue, but water technologies in Israel are world trail blazers. The JNF has built 244 massive water recycling reservoirs allowing Israel to recycle 87% of all its grey water. The next best international statistic is Spain which recycles 18%. By 2020 it is expected that Israel will be recycling 95% of used water. More than 70% of all agricultural and industrial water comes from these recycled facilities.</p>	<p>The JNF holds the only global registry of Jews through their "Books of Honour". By registering Birchs, Bar- and Batmitzvahs, Marriages, and remarkable achievements in the "Golden Book", a registry of Jews worldwide is collected, recorded and safeguarded. These massive books are very impressive and can be viewed at the JNF offices in Jerusalem.</p>	<p>Israeli agriculture has produced some truly remarkable results with regard to watering vegetables with saline water. The sweetest tomatoes and even potatoes are cultivated in desert conditions with sub-quality water. All this is possible through the innovative work of the R&D stations around the country, each studying the unique conditions of soil, water table and weather in the specific regions in which they are located. They service the local farmers with information that results in Israeli farmers producing the highest yield per square meter in the world.</p>	<p>Most definitely our overarching Shamash. Now 112 years old, it represents the oldest international Jewish fund which bound diaspora communities together in their hope and longing for a Jewish homeland. Back then the Blue Box collections bought some 15% of the land of Israel which defined the borders of modern day Israel to some extent. The purchase of this land was on behalf of you and me, and the Jewish people of the world own that land! Still today our Blue Boxes develop Israel in remarkable ways, as you will see in our pillars below.</p>	<p>The JNF is very involved in the development of new towns, villages and agricultural settlements. The JNF provides infrastructure for new developments, building roads, creating plots and bring the services of water, electricity, sewage etc. to the new area being developed. Parks are also designated, designed and planted by the JNF in these areas ensuring green lungs in all developed regions.</p>	<p>The JNF recognises the ever-present threat of terrorism and danger to Israel. Recently a massive security planting was undertaken along the full length of the Gaza border, creating a green screen to protect farmers, villages and traffic from being targeted by sniper fire and random ketusha and scud rockets. The JNF has also over the years built many kilometres of security roads offering alternate routes to citizens. These may take a bit longer as they wind around groves of trees or camouflage screens but they ensure a safer journey in times of an attack or war. Holiday camps for children, to evacuate them from a hot spot or relieve them from stress, are ongoing projects of the JNF.</p>	<p>The tragedy of a country at war or exposed to terror attacks has unfortunately resulted in a large number of paraplegic or partially disabled citizens. JNF parks and trails consider this, and many of our parks have a trail or play and exercise equipment for use by the disabled. Low guard rails for an unobscured view for someone in a wheelchair but a concrete ridge if one uses a cane. This ensures that disabled people feel respected and catered for, as they are often the war heroes of our precious Holy land.</p>	<p>Israelis love cycling and the JNF has built cycle trails across Israel for the enjoyment of the public. All JNF facilities are free and open 24/7. With the majority of residents housed in small apartments, Israelis really value their outdoor space and facilities. The JNF improves the quality of life for all Israel's citizens, whether by the quality of air from afforestation or the water security for a growing population, outdoor parks, hikes, cycle trails, forests or the quality of agriculture and export ability from abundance of crops. The JNF is backing and partnering the land, development and people of Israel.</p>
Trees	Water	Certificates	Research and Development	The Blue Box	Development	Security	Disabled Facilities	Cycle Trails

Annual YAD Comedy 2013



The YAD Comedy event took place on Tuesday 29 October at Monte Casino to a full house. It was wonderful to see young Jewish people getting together, having a good time and supporting the important and vital work of the IUA-UCF. As YAD committee chairman, Darren Blend said in his speech:

"I am inspired by the work of this organisation and I urge all of you to support the IUA-UCF, who are working tirelessly to ensure you live in South Africa safely, free of anti-semitism and knowing you are always protected."

With you we can make a difference

Shmuel is a 12 year-old boy afflicted with cystic fibrosis. The Jerusalem hospital where he awaits a needed lung transplant to save his life has become his home. Now, he spends hours with volunteers who teach him and encourage his growth potential. His skills have improved significantly, preparing him to integrate smoothly into his grade level upon his release from the hospital.

"When we first met Shmuel, he was quiet, confused and sad. Today Shmuel brightens up the staff every day. We encourage him and applaud this miraculous change."



"I have been very lucky to get help from donors around the world," says Russell Katz, a new immigrant from South Africa serving in the IDF. "As a lone soldier, I received gift packages of warm clothes and a subsidized flight last year to visit my family, and even help with the rent."

One of 700 lone soldiers who are discharged from the IDF every year, Russell is thrilled to be part of a people that find it important to support their brothers and sisters around the world. *I have tremendous gratitude to all these unnamed people that supported me while I am out there defending our borders, and more importantly our people."*



Wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah



We would like to thank all the supporters of our 2013 Yom Kippur Appeal.

With your donation we can help more people like Shmuel and Russell as well as secure our local community.

www.iuaucf.org.za

TZOFIM: The ISRAEL SCOUTS

Israel and Nigeria ink a new aviation deal to provide for direct flights between the two countries.

The Bilateral Air Service Agreement enables airlines from both countries to fly directly to each other without stopovers.

Proponents of the deal hope that the agreement will continue the strong growth of Israel-Nigeria ties. Each year tens of thousands of Nigerian Christians make pilgrimages to Israel's holy sites. "The agreement will pave way for direct flights into the two countries... Before now, Nigerians travelling to Israel, including Christian Pilgrims have had to endure the long winding stop-overs in neighbouring countries before being airlifted to the Holy Land," said Nigerian Aviation Minister Princess Stella Oduah.

The agreement comes amid a visit to Israel by Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, who will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres to discuss further deepening the countries' bilateral ties.



Tzofim is a 94-year-old coed, multiethnic youth movement which focuses on fostering future societal leaders from the bottom up, putting many responsibilities in the hands of the young people themselves. It also teaches the youngsters how to tie knots, orienteer, build a campfire and perform community service just like Scouts do in other countries.

Tzofim's main goal in the early years is to teach morals that kids learn through games and activities, such as being a good person and helping their friends. As it progresses, it becomes more about being involved in the community and the culture, and knowing about what's going on in the world. Tzofim was the first Zionist youth movement in Israel and remains the country's official national youth movement. This year, more than 160 Tzofim "tribes" (troops) in 105 municipalities,

encompassing more than 60,000 Jewish members and 25,000 Arab members, offer twice-weekly activities as well as joint trips and summer camps.

Tzofim Tzabar, run by Friends of Israel Scouts, works with 2,000 Hebrew-speaking children in North America in grades three to 12. There are 18 similar tribes in the United States and one in Canada; and the goal is to strengthen the connection between North American Jews and Israel.

Tzofim Friendship Caravan, an entertainment troupe, has grown to include four groups of 10 Scouts and two counselors each. They bring Israeli cultural activities to American Jewish summer camps, and stage Israeli musical shows in Jewish communities across 41 states and two Canadian territories.

Tzofim Tzamid tribes across Israel serve about 1,000 physically and developmentally challenged Scouts. However, this is not the only marginalized population the movement embraces. About 10% of all Israeli youth of Ethiopian origin - 1,500 children and teenagers - are members of Tzofim. Tribes have been formed also for teens at risk, or for teens in jail or foster care.

Over the past few years, hundreds of Tzofim have deferred army service to take advantage of a new one-year volunteer opportunity with youth in development towns, underprivileged neighborhoods or cities with large immigrant populations.

South African Friends of Israel (SAFI)

"South African Friends of Israel" is a movement that promotes inter-faith dialogue between the South African Jewish community and the broader South African community in the pursuit of ensuring a balanced view and a better appreciation of Israel by all South Africans.

Visit our Facebook site for updates and events.

www.facebook.com/SouthAfricanFriendsOfIsrael

Texas A&M University Campus to open in Nazareth



A new university, called "Peace University", has recently opened in Nazareth. It is the Israeli campus of Texas A&M University, funded mostly from the US.

The Texas A&M Peace University is an initiative of Governor of Texas Rick Perry and Israel's Minister of Education Shai Piron, together with Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and Prof Manuel Trajtenberg, chair of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education.

Texas A&M Peace University is the first branch of a US university to be set up as a fully-fledged university here. Behind the initiative is the idea that a "peace campus" in an area with a mixed population of Arabs and Jews will contribute to the area's development and promote messages of peace and cooperation.

The aim is to attract Jews and Arabs (both Muslim and Christian) from Israel and around the world. The institution is intended to be an engine for narrowing social gaps and to provide an international standard of higher education while at the same time fostering co-existence.

First Syrian baby born in an Israeli hospital



For the first time since Syria's civil war broke out, a woman in labour, not injured in the infighting but simply needing medical assistance, was brought into Israel for help where she arrived at the Ziv Medical Centre and gave birth to a healthy 3.2kg boy on 3 November, the first Syrian baby to be born in an Israeli hospital. The first-time mother, a nurse by training, told Ziv Medical Staff that the village in which she lives near Kuneitra is under strict curfew and getting to

a nearby hospital was out of the question. "I was very worried about coming into Israel but I was more worried about the health of my baby. The Israeli midwives and doctors have treated me with the utmost respect. I don't feel like I'm in an enemy country, everyone is so helpful," she said. Mira Eli, head nurse of the maternity ward, said that every patient regardless of religion, race or nationality receives the best care, including the Syrian new mother.

The new mother also spoke of severe food hardships in her village and noted that the Ziv Medical Center's meals marked the "first time in ages that [she] ate meat and vegetables. I feel great, I am eating and getting stronger and my sweet little boy is receiving outstanding care. I thank everyone for the devoted care, their concern and understanding."