

ISRAEL AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION



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ISRAEL

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ISRAEL

SOUTH AFRICA EXPO

The South African Zionist Federation, in association with the Embassy of Israel, the Israeli Trade Office, SAFI and the IUA, is delighted to announce that on 8th March 2015, the first-ever ISRAEL-SOUTH AFRICA EXPO will be held in Johannesburg

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AFRICA STANDS WITH ISRAEL



From left to right: Rina Wiese, Reeva Forman, Aviad Sela, Alida Schultz, Christo Wiese, Isla Feldman

On 21 September 2014, Vuka Africa Foundation and House of Prayer for all Nations, in partnership with Beza International Ministries, Ethiopia and the Institute of Christian Leadership Development, hosted the inaugural Africa Stands With Israel dinner at the Maslow Hotel

in Sandton, Johannesburg. This dinner was a first step to mobilising people, churches and other organisations not only to pray for Israel, but to stand with Israel, including using political and civic platforms.

In 2010, 18 African nations celebrated their Jubilee (50 years of liberation from colonialism). In 2011, Africa's spiritual leaders declared that it was a Jubilee for the entire continent, not only for those specific nations. They received a mandate from the Lord to pray and to educate the church in Africa to understand the importance of the nation of Israel in His plan and for the church to stand and bless Israel. The leaders understood that Africa's blessing is linked to Africa standing and blessing Israel.

Israel's Ambassador to South Africa, Hon. Arthur Lenk, was the guest of honour, and Dr. Betta Mengiustu, founder of Beza International Ministries in Ethiopia and visionary of the Africa Arise conference, was the key note speaker. Jewish leadership from the SAJBD, SAZF, SAFI, Magen Dovid Adom and the Israel Center was present.

As well as Ambassador Lenk and Dr. Megiustu, speakers included Rabbi David Masinter of Chabad House, Pastor Olusegun Timothy Olanipekun of the Institute for Christian Leadership Development, and Apostle Linda Gobodo. Formidable South African business woman Wendy Luhabe was

program director. The evening hosted more than one hundred guests, a diverse group of South Africans from high profile business people to villagers, young and old representing all racial groups, as well as delegates from different African nations, all united by their love for and support of Israel.

Pastor Gobodo, Founder of Vuka Africa Foundation, together with Reeva Forman, Vice-chairman SAZF, spearheaded this event, thus marking the beginning of a movement in Africa that will enable Africa to receive the full portion of her blessing as she stands to bless Israel. Pastor Linda has been taking this message across the continent, calling on Africans to recognize that this is their season to arise, to lead their restoration and rebuild Africa's ancient ruins and desolations. She believes that standing with Israel will undoubtedly usher Africa into her Jubilee, a season of true liberty both politically and economically.

Isla Feldman, National Executive Director of the SAZF, noted how proud she was of the initiative and hoped it would lead to great success.

HEADLINE NEWS

In the wake of the recent attack in northern Sinai, which killed 33 Egyptian soldiers, Cairo has raised the idea of a building an eight-mile barrier along its border with Gaza to deter Islamist terrorists from moving in and out of the Palestinian territory.

The success of Israel's controversial West Bank separation barrier in lowering suicide attacks on the Jewish state by as much as 90%, appears to have not gone unnoticed by Egypt which is now facing a comparable problem from Gaza-based Palestinian terrorists.



In anticipation of this happening, Egyptian authorities took the extraordinary step recently of ordering residents of communities near the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip to evacuate their homes so they can be demolished as part of an effort to create a buffer zone with the Strip. The zone will be part of a wider effort to crack down on the smuggling of weapons and other contraband between the Strip and Egyptian territory which has come in the wake of a recent terror attack which killed 33 Egyptian soldiers and for which Egyptian authorities said terrorists based in the Strip were partially responsible.

The executive board of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has endorsed draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly by Jordan and the Palestinian Authority condemning Israel for various and sundry "violations" in what the report referred to as "Occupied Palestine." The resolution, which include a long list of accusations of nefarious Israeli actions in Jerusalem, Hebron and the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, has already been endorsed by several Arab and Islamic governments and NGOs despite being dismissed as "ludicrous" by Israeli and Western observers.



A positive article in the Palestinian Authority's official daily [newspaper] lauded Israel and Israeli employers of Palestinians for their positive employment ethics towards their Palestinian workers. At the same time, the article condemned Palestinian employers for taking advantage of their workers. The article explains that Palestinian workers get their full rights when employed by Israelis directly and that the only time they do not get their full rights is when there is a Palestinian middleman: "The [Israeli] work conditions are very good, and include transportation, medical insurance and pensions. These things do not exist with Palestinian employers. Israel has forced its employers in the West Bank to pay [Israeli] minimum wage - 23 shekels an hour - to Palestinian workers. However, the PA passed a law, but does not force the employers in PA areas to implement it, thereby exposing workers to potential exploitation."

Trucks loaded with construction materials entered the Gaza Strip on October 14, six weeks after the end of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in the area.

The office of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) said the shipment of the materials will include 600 tons of cement, 50 truckloads of aggregates and 10 truckloads of iron. The transfer of the supplies was carried out in accordance with an oversight mechanism that will be implemented by UN representatives, in cooperation with PA officials. The mechanism is designed to ensure that the construction activities will concentrate on the renovation of homes and public buildings for the benefit of residents of the Gaza Strip, while maintaining the security of the State of Israel.



At a press conference on 13 Oct 2014 in Jerusalem, prominent leaders of major Jewish and Christian global organizations announced an historic joint initiative calling on world leaders to take urgent, determined actions to halt the brutal persecution of Christians in the Middle East.

Direct from the BBC: \$5.4-billion has been pledged to help rebuild Gaza. After its long war with Israel this year, an aid conference in Cairo had initially sought to secure \$4-billion in funding. The United Nations' Palestinian Arab "refugee" agency, the UNRWA, described the financial needs as "unprecedented" ahead of the Cairo meeting. The large figure is aimed at reconstruction efforts, particularly with winter coming in Gaza. That said, Hamas are now most likely also on the line to every arms dealer in their phone book, making history repeat itself yet again



Bilateral trade between Israel and the UK rose by 28% between January and August, reaching record levels. Israeli exports to the UK were worth £1.6 billion, up 38%.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is preparing a series of significant changes in the Likud, among them early primaries, the possibility to ensure external candidates, and changing the election method for the Knesset. Likud officials appraise that the far-reaching changes are carried out under the assumption that the 2015 budget recently passed will be the last one issued by the current government and new elections are expected within a year.



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Bruce and Jill Fordyce visit



9time Comrades Marathon winner, Bruce Fordyce and his wife Jill, visited the Hebrew University. After participating in the Jerusalem Marathon, Bruce's keen interest in Archaeology lead to him touring the Archaeology department of the HU. Curator, Daphne Tsoran, led the tour of the exhibition and teaching hall, which was followed by a visit to the restoration lab, where they were shown some fascinating and rare new finds.

Following the visit to the Institute, Bruce and Jill had a comprehensive tour of the Mt Scopus campus.

For more information on the SAFHU, contact Carmel at (011) 645 2506. safhu@beyachad.co.za.

Visit our website at www.safhu.co.za



Latest Inventions



MobilEye - Biggest-ever Israeli IPO paves way for driverless cars The MobilEye aims to turn drivers into passengers, using "driverless technology." MobilEye uses a monocular camera that magnifies images, together with sophisticated software that

calibrates how much time a driver needs to brake in order to avoid colliding with the vehicle ahead. If the driver gets too close, an alarm goes off, and in some vehicles, the software is connected to the braking system — so that if the driver fails to brake in time, the system does it for him.

Prof. Amnon Shashua of the Hebrew University, invented Mobileye, a system designed to prevent accidents by warning the driver in real time about dangerous situations and driving conditions.

(Photo credit: Nati Shohat/Flash90)



What if you could "hear" colours? Or shapes? These features are normally perceived visually, but using sensory substitution devices (SSDs) they can now be conveyed to the brain noninvasively through other senses. At The Hebrew University, the blind and visually impaired are being offered tools, via training with SSDs, to receive environmental visual information and interact with it in ways otherwise unimaginable. SSDs are non-invasive sensory aids that provide visual information to

the blind via their existing senses. For example, using a visual-to-auditory SSD in a clinical or everyday setting, users wear a miniature camera connected to a small computer (or smart phone) and stereo headphones. The images are converted into "soundscapes," using a predictable algorithm, allowing the user to listen to and then interpret the visual information coming from the camera. With the EyeMusic SSD (available free at the Apple App store at <http://tinyurl.com/oe8d4p4>), one hears pleasant musical notes to convey information about colours, shapes and location of objects in the world.

Prof. Amir Amedi: innovating solutions for the blind and visually impaired, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

(Photo: Hebrew University)

ISRAEL IN CONTEXT

Yossi Kabessa, a 33-year-old applied physics PhD candidate from Israel, won the \$100,000 Singapore Challenge 2014 at the Global Young Scientists Summit in Singapore (GYSS) for his project using genetically engineered bacteria to detect pollutants and hazardous materials in municipal water systems. Five of the 10 finalists were from Singapore, one was from France, one from Germany and three from Israel. That was a remarkable achievement, considering there were students from MIT, Cambridge and Harvard participating.



Robbie Williams, one of the world's biggest pop stars, is expected to arrive in Israel for the first time in the spring of 2015. Pending any last-minute surprises, the British singer will perform at Tel Aviv's Yarkon Park or at the Ramat Gan Stadium in early May.



The majority Shiite nation of Azerbaijan is the biggest supplier of oil to Israel. Israel's Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman and Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon visited the Azeri President recently. It was the first Defence Ministry visit since diplomatic relations were established 22 years ago.



Yanki Margalit is an Israeli entrepreneur. He is also the chairman of Spacell – the company that is planning to make Israel only the fourth nation in the world to land a spacecraft on the Moon.



Israel has the largest percentage of vegans per capita in the world – nearly four percent of the population, or about 300,000 — in addition to about 560,000 vegetarians. (Vegans consume no animal products at all, while vegetarians may eat dairy, eggs and other animal-derived foods.) Omri Paz, 32, founder of VeganFriendly, organized the biggest Vegan Fest on the planet. The biggest? Yes, definitely! Bigger than those in Canada and Germany.



Scientists at Moshav Ein Yahav in Israel's southern Negev desert have perfected a method to prevent a grapevine scourge from multiplying, deploying the bug's own drive to reproduce as a weapon to destroy it. Moshav farmers release odours that indicate a female bug is in the area, and male mealybugs go into a frenzy, seeking out lovers that aren't there – literally dying of exhaustion and preventing the next generation of bugs from being born.



A 1,900 year old ritual bath (mikve) was recently exposed at Ha-Ela Junction in excavations undertaken by the Israel Antiquities Authority and financed by the Netivei Israel Company, prior to widening Highway 38. An enormous 1,700 years old water cistern was revealed nearby in which graffiti was discovered that had been engraved on the reservoir's ceiling by Australian soldiers during WWII.



Moshe Tzori invented a tool called CommonSensor to let the trees, or any plants, decide for themselves how much water they need. Plug it into the soil, and the wireless device can measure the amount of water currently available to the plants. The unit is linked wirelessly to a computer-run interface and also to a controller attached to the automated irrigation system. The end result is that the crops drink only when they are actually "thirsty." CommonSensor would help avoid the problems of over-watering and under-watering so that crops of all kinds can be grown to their full potential



OpRegen, developed by Israel's CellCure NeuroSciences is designed to treat patients with the severe stage of the dry form of age-related macular degeneration (dry-AMD). Dry-AMD is the leading cause of visual impairment in an aging population.



WORDS FROM...

"Would the Met present an opera based on the 'Death of Robert Kennedy Jr.' by the Palestinian 'freedom fighter' Sirhan Sirhan? Why doesn't the liberal establishment ever speak about Robert Kennedy's assassination as a Palestinian terrorist act?"

(Robert Feinberg, in a letter to the New York Post. The John Adams opera "The Death of Klinghoffer" opened last week at New York's Metropolitan Opera amid accusations that the 1991 work is antisemitic and glorifies terrorism. – NY Post, 26 October 2014)

"The risks presented by a nuclear-capable Iran are sobering. The Islamic Republic, not unlike ISIS, is governed by irrational theological dictates that call for conquering and disseminating a radical stream of Islam through violence. Iran supports terrorism in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and the Gaza Strip. Armed with a nuclear umbrella, the Islamic Republic would be infinitely more dangerous. The preoccupation with Islamic State is principally the result of the recent gains made by the terrorist organization, its savagery and the fact that it took the world by surprise. The group's ability to maintain gains and persevere, however, is less clear. In the long term, a nuclear Iran would be far more dangerous than Islamic State. It should treated as such."

(Jerusalem Post, 22 October 2014)

"The emergence of the Islamic State (IS) on the battlefields of the civil war in Syria, and its subsequent spectacular successes in conquering parts of Syria and Iraq, have grabbed international attention. The gruesome pictures of IS's barbaric beheadings supplied to the international media has only added to IS's notoriety. The Islamic State's quest to establish a new bloody Caliphate became a cause célèbre. Many pundits have decided that the Islamic State is fundamentally changing the Middle East and they grope for new strategies to meet the challenge. In reality, however, the novelty of the Islamic State, as well as the magnitude of the threat it poses, is greatly exaggerated. It is crystal clear that the Iran-led Shiite axis remains the main threat to stability in the Middle East. Iran's journey toward a nuclear arsenal – a true game changer – must be stopped. Unfortunately, the gullible West seems to continue to appease Iran, while the "threat" of the Islamic State serves as a welcome diversion."

(Professor Efraim Inbar, BESA Centre, 19 October 2014)

"Support today for the Jewish State of Israel is more than a moral imperative. It is also of strategic importance, also a matter of our own, long-term interests."

(Stephen Harper, Canadian Prime Minister)

"Just as Christians defend Jews against anti-Semitism, just as Christians support Israel, we Jews have an obligation to speak out against the growing persecution of Christians in many parts of the world. Islamist extremists have launched a full-fledged assault on our Western values, on our civilization, and Jews and Christians must work hand in hand to defeat this threat. For too long, the world has remained silent in the face of this evil. We must act before it is too late."

(Ronald Lauder, head of the World Jewish Congress, 13 October 2014)

"After being here for more than a millennium, this is the Christians' last stand in Iraq. Over the centuries we have faced the sword so many times for our beliefs. In two, three, four years Christians will not be here because Daesh (ISIS) will kill us. We will probably be living in the UAS, Canada or Australia. Otherwise, we will be erased from this Earth."

(Safa Jamel Bahnan, formerly a truck driver at the Mosul airport, National Post, 5 October 2014)

"Within Iran, since Rouhani became president, roughly 1,000 Iranians have been executed. Recently, Ahmed Shaheed, UN special investigator on human rights in Iran, released a report detailing multiple cases of torture, rape, electroshock, burnings, amputations and floggings. Saeed Abedini, an Iranian-American Christian pastor, has spent more than two years in Iranian prisons, charged with 'attempting to sway Iranian youth away from Islam.' "

(Clifford May, National Post, 2 October 2014)

ISRAEL BLESSES THE WORLD....



Israel's long-established tradition of assisting developing countries continues with a large-scale project of cooperative agricultural academies in India, with officials in both countries looking to expand the program to the west coast resort province of Goa. "They don't have enough food production and enough effective agricultural production, and they also have a growing tourism industry,"

said David Akov, consul-general in Mumbai. "We don't know exactly what form it is going to take. What we do know is that there is interest from the Goa chief minister and Goa businesses." The general concept is that the Israeli government - Mashav - brings technology and experts according to the demands and requirements of local governments.

....AND BLESSES THE WORLD YET AGAIN



Kol Ami synagogue in West Hollywood, California, was the scene of an inauguration ceremony last month to launch a joint project between the municipality and Israel on treating HIV/AIDS. The project, which received strong support from California Governor Jerry Brown and the Israeli consulate in

Los Angeles, will see medical professionals and NGOs from both communities sharing knowledge and resources to combat the disease. In related news, Israel has sent doctors and medical aid to West Africa to battle the Ebola epidemic there and plans to send more.

....AND AGAIN



A Jerusalem-based Israeli company called Yevul Mayim, which uses rooftop rain collection systems to capture water for household use, has already saved consumers in Israel millions of shekels and is attracting interest from governments and corporations around the world. It has already built hundreds of systems for homes, schools

and government buildings in several countries in Africa and is set to expand operations into many other countries. Meanwhile, an Israeli developed mobile phone app called "About Ebola" is being credited with helping health care workers in West Africa educate local villagers in their own language to battle the deadly epidemic.

Did you know?

- Did you know that some 500 million birds representing 300 species migrate across Israel's skies twice a year in the autumn and spring along the Great Valley Rift?
- Did you know that Israeli scientists are developing a nose drop that will provide a five-year flu vaccine?
- Did you know that Israeli researchers have discovered that bursts of gentle electricity may slow down the progression of Alzheimer's?
- Did you know that Israeli artists have developed new bus stop libraries available free of charge to commuters and travellers across the country?
- Did you know that an Israeli smartphone app already in use worldwide enables drivers to avoid jams, and navigate their way through crowded city streets, using data from their phone's GPS?
- Did you know Israeli company Project RAY has developed the world's first smartphone for people with visual disabilities?
- Did you know that an Israeli company has developed a revolutionary new tool that could allow surgeons to close wounds without stitches or staples minimizing scarring and risk of infection?
- Did you know that Israeli researchers are playing an important role in identifying a defective gene that causes a rare and usually fatal disease in Arab infants?
- Did you know that an Israeli has invented a 'bone glue' that will reduce the need for bone transplants and heal bone defects caused by cancer?
- Did you know that Israeli researchers have shown that a daily dosage of Vitamin E is effective in helping to regain hearing loss?
- Did you know that Israel has one of the most progressive medical marijuana programs in the world? For thousands of Israelis suffering cancer, MS, Crohn's and chronic pain, pot provides vital relief.
- Did you know that Israel has one of the world's only playgrounds totally suitable for special needs children?
- Did you know that the continuous monitoring solution called EarlySense allows hospital nurses to watch and record patients' heart rate, respiration and movement remotely through a contact-free sensor under the mattress? The system's built-in tools include a wide range of reports on the status of patients, including alerts for falls and bedsores prevention.
- Did you know that the White City refers to a collection of over 4,000 buildings built in a unique form of the Bauhaus or International style in Tel Aviv from the 1930s by German Jewish architects who immigrated to the British Mandate of Palestine after the rise of the Nazis. Tel Aviv has the largest number of buildings in the Bauhaus/International style of any city in the world. In 2003, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO – proclaimed Tel Aviv's White City a World Cultural Heritage Site, as "an outstanding example of new town planning and architecture in the early 20th century."

SOUTH AFRICAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL - SAFI



South African Friends of Israel has come of age. The recent Israel Solidarity Rally in Johannesburg was a clear indication of the impact that this initiative is having on South Africa (and Africa as well), both on the Jewish world and the broader Christian world.

Apart from the communal leaders, the Chief Rabbi and the Israeli Ambassador, six of the eight guest speakers from the SA Christian community had all previously travelled to Israel on initiatives that had involved the direct support and involvement of SAFI.

And the thousands of supporters from these Christian communities by extension were participating in response to the message: That South Africa does Stand with Israel..

SAFI operates on the belief that the vast majority of South Africans, on a grassroots level both culturally and religiously, entertain a positive predisposition towards Israel and local Jewry.

SAFI sees as its responsibility the need to galvanise and amplify the voice of this majority by engaging with our friends through community projects, workshops and trips to Israel.

The key to SAFI is that it is based on positive, pro-active work. We are constantly going out and making friends, seeking common interests and ideas and working on these interests and ideas to make a difference for both South Africa and Israel.

The 'net sum game' is that doing good in South Africa, doing good for Israel, making friends and having fun doing it, is undoubtedly the best way of being a South African Jew and defending Israel at the same time.

SAFI's prime objective is to create a 'sea-change' in South Africa and turn the country into a great friend of Israel – from the bottom up and in due course at all levels.

It may be an ambitious initiative – but we believe we can do it !

ISRAEL'S TIES WITH THE WORLD GROWING DESPITE EFFORTS TO ISOLATE HER



Israel recently gained representation in the management of the Universal Federation of Travel Agents Associations (UFTAA), one of the largest trade unions in the world for tourism workers. Yossi Fattal, director of the Israel Tourist and Travel Agents Association, was selected to join the UFTAA's leadership as chairman of the committee for aviation affairs and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). "I am very happy that Israel was chosen,"

says Fattal. "The organization has refrained from appointing an Israeli for many years for political reasons." Israel also signed a Cooperation Agreement with Thailand which will also allow for expanded ties with Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. The Memorandum of Understanding will see large new markets opening up for Israeli companies while Israel will share expertise on agriculture, education and other human development issues with its new Southeast Asian partners.

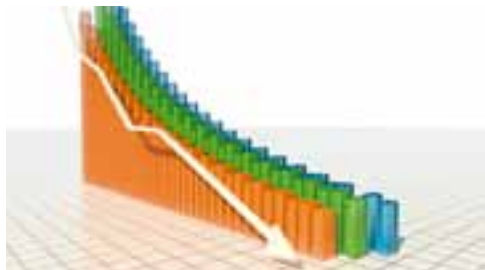
ACADEMICS SIGN PETITION OPPOSING ISRAEL BOYCOTT



More than 1,350 academics from around the world have signed a petition opposing faculty or student boycotts of Israel. The online petition of the Faculty for Academic Freedom was posted in October. Academics from colleges and universities in France, Britain, the Netherlands and Russia, as well as the USA and

Israel, have signed the petition. An academic boycott "violates the very principle of academic freedom. The factual record does not support the accusations and narratives of the BDS movement. Many are based on overstatements, cherry picked evidence, outright falsehood, or on disputed or highly biased data," reads the petition.

MIDDLE EAST MORTALITY RATES



Since the 1967 War, when Israel gained control of the West Bank, Palestinian infant mortality rates – often used as an indicator of the level of health in a country – have been reduced from about 100 deaths per 1 000 births to 13.49 per 1 000, and in Gaza to about 15.46 per 1 000.

Both the West Bank and Gaza have a lower rate of infant mortality than Egypt, which is set at 22.41 per 1 000; lower than Syria's, which comes in at 15.97 per 1 000; than Jordan's at 15.73 per 1 000; and lower than Turkey's, at 21.43 per 1 000.

Life expectancy is also higher than it was prior to 1967, having risen by about 10 years. While in Israel that is measured at 82.1 years, higher even than in the USA, in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and Egypt respectively, life expectancy is measured at 75.69 years; 74.64 years; 74.10 years and 73.29 years.

Despite these figures, Israel is still accused of perpetrating genocide against the Palestinians. The truth will out.

MACCABI SA GETS ACTIVE



In line with Maccabi SA's commitment to increase its involvement in the community, the last two months have seen a surge in events across the sporting spectrum.

Maccabi SA was delighted to host the first lawn bowls tournament in over 18 years, organised by convenor Raymond Leibman. In September over 45 bowlers participated in this symbolic event which included the awarding of the re-established Herb & Paul Nathan Trophy to overall winner Stan Friedman.

In October the first Maccabi SA event of its kind took place at Modderfontein Reserve. A mountain biking social attended by 27 enthusiasts, including many junior cyclists, kicked off with a talk by cycling champion and Maccabi gold medallist Kevin Evans. Evans spoke about his experiences at the Maccabi games and gave advice on

equipment, training and nutrition. The group then took part in a ride in the reserve.

Maccabi SA also held a rugby launch at King David Linksfield where a three year plan was presented, with the ultimate goal being GOLD at the 20th Maccabiah in 2017. The strategy session was followed by a braai, giving guests the opportunity to socialise and discuss future plans.

The Maccabi SA Junior Cricket Committee organised a very successful 2-day 20/20 cricket tournament in October, with the final held under lights at Montrose Primary. Over 120 junior cricketers competed in the event which, as the first of its kind, is certain to grow in strength.

We are encouraged by the interest shown in these events and look forward to providing the community with many further opportunities to socialise and get active.

YAD VASHEM LISTED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP 10 MUSEUMS



Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem, has been named one of the world's ten most important museums by the TripAdvisor travel website. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev said in response that "the visitors' selection of Yad Vashem - the Memorial Mountain, as a recommended and important site to visit also reflects the Holocaust's place as a pivotal cultural-historic event for the entire human society. This impressive and significant achievement is the result of a joint effort made by all the employees of Yad Vashem who are working, each in his own field, to provide the Memorial Mountain's visitors with a significant and high-quality experience...the creation of high standards at Yad Vashem is shared by all employees at the front of the visits or behind the scenes."

ISRAEL EMBARKS ON A CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE HI-TECH AMONG MINORITIES



Israel's Ministry of the Economy has launched a project to integrate 1,000 Arab, Druze, and Circassian students and academics from the technological fields into hi-tech companies within 3 years. "Talented individuals from the Arab sector have incredible potential which has not yet been realized, and they can be absorbed and integrated through the program," said Economy Minister Naftali Bennett. "The most significant challenge facing Israeli hi-tech today is the shortage of skilled manpower required for the technological professions, and this is what we are working to solve."



6 TOP WAYS TO GREEN YOUR VISIT TO ISRAEL



By Abigail Klein Leichman

Help a forester, glean excess crops, pick medicinal herbs and see how Israel recycles trash, reclaims wetlands and farms with natural pest control.

If ecology is your thing, consider including some friendly “green” stops in your itinerary wherever and whenever you’re planning travels in Israel. You’ll be surprised at the innovative programs happening here, from wastewater recycling to wetland reclamation.

1. Waste Recycling



Hiriya Center for Environmental Education, Ariel Sharon Park - A family enjoys a visit to the Hiriya Landfill Restoration Project. Photo by Flash90.

The Center for Environmental Education, located in what was once the first Israeli compost factory, is the focal point for visitors to Hiriya, a former landfill being transformed into a huge nature park. The award-winning site attracts tourists and professional visitors from Israel and abroad. Open to the public on Fridays and national holidays; book in advance: 972-3-739-6633, visit@hiriya.co.il.

Boasting a unique and innovative waste separation system, approximately 200 tons of waste is recycled daily in the Arrow Ecology facility at Hiriya using a unique system that separates organic from non-organic waste using water. There is a sorting and recycling facility for construction debris; a system to collect biogas; centers for recycling garden trimmings, paper and cardboard; and the Green Basins system of pools with unique plants and aggregates that form a natural sieve to absorb microbes from leached garbage “juices.”

2. Water Recycling continued

The JNF has built over 244 water recycling water reservoirs doing much to save Israel’s water economy. The interactive experience at this international educational-ecological center — in the Shafdan Plant of the Dan Region Association of Towns for Sewage and Environmental Issues — combines educational films, a simulation of an underground pipe and a tour of the water cycling process: pre-treatment, settling basins, biological reactors, clarifiers, Archimedes screw, spreading basins, primary sedimentation, anaerobic digesters, thickening and dewatering.

Visitors also discover how raw wastewater is reclaimed and used for agricultural irrigation in the Negev. The tour, lasting two hours, is offered three times a day in Hebrew, English, French, Spanish and German. Information & registration: visitors@igudan.org.il; +972-3-955-5222.

3. Wetland Bird Haven



Oforia Visitors Center at JNF's Hula Nature Reserve - Spectacular wildlife is an everyday scene at Hula Nature Reserve.

The Hula Nature Reserve is not only one of the world’s best places to witness resident aquatic birds and bird migration between Africa and Europe, but also exemplifies the reversal of misguided environmental policies. In the 1950s, this vast wetland in northern Israel was drained for agriculture. Though part of it was preserved, many species of wildlife became extinct. In the 1990s, the valley was re-flooded and turned back into swampland that is once again a haven for flora and fauna.

At the Oforia Visitors Center at Agamon-Hula Lake, the story comes alive with active migration maps, 3D animation, a giant model of the valley, dioramas with light and sound, and an interactive trivia game. Best of all, you can watch migrating birds during all hours of the day, year-round, on a guided tour or on your own. The reserve has paths, a floating bridge over the swamp, and blinds from which to observe the birds. Paths are wheelchair accessible. Reservations for Oforia: 972-4-686-0114.

4. Medicinal Herbs



Hava & Adam Multidisciplinary Center for Sustainable Living - Israel's oldest education center for sustainability.

This non-profit eco-educational farm in Modi’in offers workshops including mud-building; medicinal herbs; organic agriculture; outdoor cooking; and creating crafts from recycled and natural materials. The first and oldest educational center in Israel that focuses on sustainability, Hava & Adam opened in 2003 and welcomes international visitors to see the farm’s alternative energy systems, compost toilets and “gray” water nourishing a large variety of organic produce. A typical visit includes a tour (English, Hebrew or Russian) and a workshop. Information: 972-52-291-3214, visit@havaveadam.org.

5. Be A JNF Forester



Forester for a Day - Forester for a Day participants.

Groups of at least 15 can participate in the Forester for a Day program, working side-by-side with foresters from Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) to clear underbrush, prune trees, and prepare fire breaks and forest paths in the Ben Shemen, Carmel, Birya or Lahav forests. The program (available in English, German, French and Spanish) runs two to three hours, and each participant receives a KKL-JNF hat, pin and a certificate of appreciation. Information and registration: Revital Ovadia, 972-2-670-7367; ReviO@kkl.org.il

6. Urban Growth



CityTree Urban Ecology Community, Tel Aviv - Get your hands in the soil at CityTree.

CityTree, at 25 Bialik Street near Tel Aviv’s Carmel Market, welcomes visitors to participate in its workshops and weekly communal dinners. Its recently opened B&B has five bedrooms. Tourists can spend a few hours or a few days observing how CityTree participants share resources, barter goods and support the local economy, eating organic and local produce. Founder and manager Tami Zori gives tours (in English) in exchange for a donation. Information: 972-3-525-4196; tree@citytree.net.

For More information please go to www.Israel21c.org for a wealth of cool Israel news as well as great ideas of what to do while visiting the country



The annual YAD Fundraising Golf Day was held at Killarney Country Club on 17th September. It consisted of a shotgun start with a full field. YAD is committed to encouraging young Jewish adults to be more informed and connected to our organisation and the golf day is one way of encouraging more support for the important and vital work that IUA-UCF does.

The sponsor of event, Dischem was extremely generous and the result that was achieved would not have been possible without their and our other sponsors support. East Vaal Motors sponsored a car as a prize for a hole-in-one which added to the excitement of the day. Unfortunately there was no winner of this prize. Many generous prizes were supplied by various donors for the first 10 four balls and a successful auction was held at the dinner.

The day was an incredible achievement and an added bonus was the perfect weather. All in all it was an extremely enjoyable and well-run event and was appreciated by all the participants.

Thank you to all those who played and/or helped out during the day. Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you!

We would like to thank all those who participated in the Yom Kippur Appeal and donated so generously to ensuring the security of our Jewish community. It is thanks to this sense of responsibility that the High Holydays and Sukkot could be enjoyed in peace and without incident. We appeal to those members of the community who have not yet pledged, please make a difference and make a donation. Some of the proceeds of the Appeal will go towards purchasing much needed life-saving mobile bomb shelters in Israel.

It is imperative and crucial that now more than ever before we secure our community and ensure our safety and rights as a free society.



YAD LEADERSHIP MISSION

On 23 October 2014, a group of enthusiastic participants of the YAD Leadership course embarked on an unforgettable week-long trip to Israel as part of the curriculum. This is a highlight of the course where participants were enriched through exposure to exclusive and unique experiences and interactions with Israelis from various sectors of society. The YAD Leadership course and the Mission are run in conjunction with the Israel Centre.

The prestigious leadership development course has been running successfully for a number of years now and the main aim is to train young volunteer leaders who will lead communal organizations in the future. The current YAD committee members are graduates of this course. During the course the participants are introduced to cutting-edge knowledge from experts and leaders in a wide range of disciplines. The course curriculum covers issues ranging from the psychology of volunteering to communicating and marketing in the digital age, as well as insights into South African and Israeli politics and how to formalize organizational strategies.

From the moment the group met at O.R Tambo until the last moments of the Mission, it was non-stop excitement, fun, inspiration and education. Some of the highlights were a visit to the Knesset and meetings with ministers and decision makers. They were also privileged to meet the South Africa Ambassador to Israel, Sisa Ngombane.

The goal of strengthening bonds and closer ties between our community and Israeli society was certainly achieved. Many of the participants felt that this Mission was a life-changing experience and one that they will always treasure. They experienced Shabbat in Jerusalem, a visit to Yad Vashem, celebrating with our Partnership Together region of Mateh Yehuda's 50th year anniversary, a visit to the south of Israel i.e. Sderot and Ashkelon, a day in Beit Shemesh, among other incredible experiences that are too numerous to mention.



The delegation with the South African Ambassador to Israel Sisa Ngombane

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The IUA/UCF mission, like all IUA missions, was a life altering experience. We hurtled around the country at breakneck speed led by the in-fatiguable Naomi whose love and passion for Eretz Yisrael is both inspiring and infectious. We visited memorials and museums, paid our respects to those who perished for our land, met politicians, security experts, strategists and ordinary people who make an extraordinary contribution. We travelled to the Gaza border, drank too much wine in the Judean Hills and climbed a mountain to see where David slew Goliath. But most important of all we made new friends, strengthened our bonds with our brethren in Israel and learned enough to start the journey to take our rightful place among the leaders of Am Yisrael. Thank you for an unbelievable experience - May there PG be many more! -Fran and Ariella Blumenthal

The YAD Israel mission is an incredible journey through past and present Israel that reinforces one's connection to Israel as the Jewish homeland. The mission provides the participant with key insights and tools that enable the participant to act as an ambassador who bolsters and inspires the support and defense of the Jewish state and its people. I encourage all future leaders of the Jewish community in South Africa to apply for the YAD leadership course as it equips participants with powerful skills to lead the next generation. -Devon Kaplan

We were honoured & privileged to participate in the recent yad mission to Israel. The trip exceeded all expectations and served as the catalyst to reawaken a dormant fervent zionism which couldn't have occurred at a moment poignant and appropriate time. From the Gaza border and moshav home hospitality to the inner workings of the Knesset and menachem begin museum, we experienced Israel first hand from all her complexities to all her inherent splendor. This was perfectly complimented by the tour leadership who radiated ahavat yisrael and a passion for her people. Thanks to all for this incredibly memorable and inspiring trip. -Martin Smookler

At first I was very weary of just another tour to Israel as I have been on many similar programs in the past. My expectations have been completely met and delivered much more than I could have ever imagined. Visits to the Knesset and meeting the various ministers all the way to eating at an authentic restaurant in the vineyards of Tzafon in Matanah Yehuda. The trip has allowed me to make a much stronger connection to my homeland and my inner zionist self. This has all been possible through the extreme passion and enthusiasm of Naomi who has also made the tour in such a way that accommodates for both flexibility and structure. Gidon Alter

The IUA has provided the most wonderful experience. I have learnt so much and have been privileged to meet the leaders of our community and be part of such a special team of individuals/learners. The course has contributed to my personal growth and career development. - Danielle Isaacs Greenberg



Deputy Minister Mr Ofir Akunis with the group.

I feel extremely privileged to have been a part of and attend such an outstanding tour to Israel. The tour was highly educational showing us places and insights we would have never seen. From visiting kibbutzim closest to the Gaza border to an army base revealing how the Israeli soldiers are on guard 24 hours a day to protect her citizens and country to running around the Knesset, meeting multiple ministers has just been fascinating. I feel so much more informed about the situation in Israel, the beautiful way of life in Israel and of course the kindness Jews show to fellow Jews in less fortunate positions. Naomi is a one of a kind leader always making sure the group was at the forefront of any action. She made sure we were well fed and luxuriously bedded. Her insight and knowledge is remarkable teaching us constantly and showing us the diversity of life in Israel. Thank you for an unbelievable trip to Israel and I cannot wait to be a part of Naomi's team and pass on the knowledge of our beloved homeland. -Pamela Alter

What an amazing trip to Israel, the last time I was there was four years ago and going there now I can feel how much I have matured and grown. It was such a beautiful experience with such amazing people. Thank you so much to Naomi Hadar and the IUA UCF for this adventure. - Tana Guinsberg

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Experience Israel, Explore Your Future.


 ISRAEL CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA

Rabin Memorial Day



Youth Movement Council discussion at Rabin Memorial Day, led by Aviad Sela, Director Israel Centre South Africa

The Israel Centre together with the Youth Movement Council hosted a ceremony to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the death of Yitzhak Rabin.

The newly structured Youth Movement Council, represented by Betar, Bnei Akiva, Hahonim, Netzer and SAUJS, each had a representative speak movingly about Yitzhak Rabin. It was a ceremony that demonstrated unity among all South Africa Zionist and Jewish Movements - an evening that delivered a clear message on the legacy Prime Minister Rabin left behind after his tragic death in 1995.

A memorial candle was lit by Israeli Ambassador Arthur Lenk and a heart-warming address was

After the ceremony, leaders from all Youth Movements met to share and explore their commonalities, according to Jewish and Zionist values. These future leaders proved that as a Youth Council they are able to find the common ground of Jewish Youth Movements and to work together for the common good of the next generation of South African Jewry and the Jewish community as a whole.

Israel Partnership2Gether Focus on South Africa



From Left:

Taryn Gingell P2G Co-ordinator, **Naveh Yogev** Outgoing Missions and School Twinning Co-ordinator, **Tammy Kedmi** Operations Coordinator, **Brenda Ganot** Project Manager-Community Building and **Ori Leizer** Betar Shaliach on a team building weekend on Acco.

The four day Partnership2Gether Steering Committee meeting took place on Kibbutz Tzuba near Jerusalem. Members from the South Africa partnership met with their Israeli counterparts for the annual meeting to determine partnership projects for the year ahead.

The Partnership2Gether team look forward to working together in bringing many exciting projects from the region to South Africa in the next year. All these projects are aimed at ensuring a strong connection between Israelis and Jewish South Africans.

During the same week, a young leader's delegation from Johannesburg, led by IUA Executive Director Naomi Hadar participated in the 50th anniversary celebrations of Mateh Yehuda. The region hosted a 5 day program for all Partnership communities from around the world. The invitation was extended to the many people connected to the Partnership2Gether Program in South Africa as a way of thanking them for their ongoing commitment and involvement.

The festivities aimed around celebrating the many years of creation, growth and achievement in the region.



Partnership2Gether Outgoing Missions and School Twinning Co-ordinator, Naveh Yogev, speaking about the history of Partnership Region

Participants got to experience the many fun activities the region has to offer – including wine tasting and dinner at 2 of the regions finest wineries, visiting a Jewish/Arab community, a tour of Beit Shemesh and a picnic lunch at Tel Azeka, the site famous for overlooking the valley where David conquered Goliath. Delegates had the opportunity to meet each other and participants of the Jewish Education Maccabim programme, demonstrating the essence of the Partnership – people to people connections.

The Diller Fellowship Programme



The Diller Teens Fellows program is a leadership development programme for Jewish teens - Grade 10 and 11 – with a unique model that allows them to experience Jewish diversity, peoplehood and a partnership with Israel.

The program has run successfully with North America and Israel, and the Israel Centre South Africa is proud to become a part of this successful initiative. From January 2015, South Africa will be included in the partnership.

Gilad Spiltanik will be running the South Africa leg of the Diller Fellowship from the Israel Centre office at Beyachad. He will be responsible for selecting 20 candidates from various schools in Johannesburg and will lead and guide the group throughout the year.

The objective of the fellowship is to develop future leaders of the Jewish Community. Their mission is defined as "To create an international network of inspired and empowered Jewish teens who will serve as active, effective leaders with a strong Jewish identity, a sense of commitment to their communities, the Jewish people, and Israel, motivated to make the world a better place"

Based on this, the Diller Fellowship programme is defined by 4 Pillars:

LEADERSHIP

Participants are encouraged to define their strengths, weaknesses and personal leadership goals. The programme provides tools, feedback and mentoring to assist with this.

JEWISH IDENTITY

The programme is based on the belief that leadership results from a strong sense of self and appreciation of others. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their Jewish Identity and how they understand their history, traditions and values. The result is a deep understanding of what it means to be Jewish, as an individual and as a group.

ISRAEL

Participants gain a new perspective on Israel based on a direct and genuine connection to the place and the people. The highlight of the programme is a 3 week summer seminar in Israel that brings teens from around the world to engage in the diversity, energy and complexities of modern Israel.

TIKKUN OLAM

"Repairing the world" is a central theme of the fellowship. Participants are given the opportunity to find and lead Tikkun Olam projects of their own. This allows them to move beyond academic participation and become involved in a "hands-on" capacity.

For more information contact the Israel Centre on 011 645 2560 or visit <http://dillerteenfellows.org/en>

The Israel Quiz 2014



From left: Avrom Krengel - Chairman SAZF, Aviad Sela - Director Israel Centre SA, Moshe Wohlberg, winner and Michael Freeman - Deputy Ambassador at Israel Quiz Finals

The final round of the Israel Quiz, under the auspices of the Israel Centre and the South African Zionist Federation, was hosted at the offices of law firm Edward Nathan Sonnenburg in September this year.

15 Learners from King David Victory Park High, King David Linksfield High, Torah Academy Boys High, Yeshiva College Boys High and Hirsch Lyons Boys High proved themselves well prepared and extremely knowledgeable as they answered questions on Israeli history, wars, policies, society, culture, defence force, sporting and scientific achievements.

All 15 learners took time from their busy daily High School Curriculums to study and participate. They proved to be impressive ambassadors of their schools and the Israel Centre looks forward to their continued involvement in Zionist and Jewish activities.

Knowledgeable judges Aviad Sela, Bev Goldman and Ori Leizer unanimously proclaimed the winners:

1st Place: Moshe Wolberg, Hirsch Lyons Boys High School

2nd Place: Yossi Bank, King David Victory Park High School

3rd Place: Ellie Joffe, Torah Academy Boys High School

4th Place: Deena Katzen, King David Linksfield High School

5th Place: Daniel Teeger, Yeshiva College Boys High School