

THE MAOZ PROGRAMME

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

Page 2



ISRAEL CENTRE SOUTH AFRICA

Building Bridges Through Sport and Aliyah is a journey Home for many and of all ages.

Page 5

JNF SOUTH AFRICA

What does the JNF mean to the Jewish people, do you really know the story of the JNF and The Nine Candles of the Jewish National Fund. Page 6

IUA-UCF

Annual YAD Comedy 2013 and support for Israeli Soldiers Page 7



ISRAEL AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

FEDSPEAK

A SHARED TOMORROW

www.sazionfed.co.za

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE IUA

Volume 10 JANUARY 2014

SHOWSTOPPING ENTERTAINMENT: THE STORY OF HATIKVAH



ASTRITH BALTSAN presents HATIKVAH:
The story, the lyrics and the magic behind the music... on piano

Astrith Baltzan, internationally renowned Israeli concert pianist, 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.

Astrith has travelled around the world entralling audiences with her incredible talent; and will be presenting Hatikvah in Johannesburg in a way no-one has ever before experienced. You cannot help but get caught up in the magic, the music, the miracle of this amazing performer and her brilliant presentation.

- **Date:** SUNDAY 16th February 2014
- **Time:** 15h30 – 17h30
- **Donation:** R150
- **Bookings:** lisa@beyachad.co.za
011 645 2510

SGT BENJAMIN ANTHONY – OUR SOLDIERS SPEAK



Our Soldiers Speak is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation 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.

- **Date:** Wednesday 5th February 2014
- **Time:** 19h00
- **Donation:** R50
- **Bookings:** lisa@beyachad.co.za
011 645 2510

ARIEL SHARON – In memoriam



Soldier, strategist, politician, man of his people, and a true son of Israel: he fought for peace for his country and his compatriots all his life, courting praise and adoration, criticism and condemnation, in almost equal quantities.

"His death marks the passing of one of the last Israeli leaders to have helped shepherd the state through its early years ... He was a courageous defender whose leadership changed the course of our history ... He rose to power as a brilliant military commander and war hero who bulldozed foes ... And like all real leaders, he had a north star that guided him. His north star was the survival of the state of Israel and the Jewish people, wherever they resided."

His memory lives on, together with his legacy of total devotion to his land and people. He will not be forgotten.

2014: SA ZIONIST FEDERATION: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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.



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.

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.



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.



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

2015 – SAVE THE DATES!

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

SUPERB HASBARAH from the SA ZIONIST FEDERATION

Are you interested in receiving the most up-to-date hasbarah information from the SAZF? Analysis, opinion, criticism? From the world's foremost opinion makers? International politicians? Top journalists?

You are?

Then send your e-mail address to froma@beyachad.co.za and ask her to add you to the sazf mailing list – and learn more every day.

It's 2014: you cannot any longer afford to be one of the less informed!

HEADLINE NEWS

The Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry, alongside the Tourism Ministry, announced an initiative to inject NIS 60 million into a campaign to promote eco-tourism in rural Israel. The money will be spent improving infrastructure including trails, camping facilities, rest stops and parks. "Increasing cooperation with the Tourism Ministry to strengthen tourism in rural areas will enrich vacation experiences and will ensure better levels of service to vacationers," said Agriculture Minister Yair Shamir. "Communities of the periphery will bolster their economies thanks to increased tourist traffic and a diversification of resident employment."

In a sign of economic cooperation despite enduring political problems, Israeli companies exploring for natural gas in the offshore Leviathan reservoir inked a deal this month to sell 4.74 billion cubic meters of natural gas for \$1.2 billion over 20 years to the Palestine Power Generation Company. The gas will fuel a planned 200-megawatt electrical power plant in Jenin. Israeli and PA leaders hailed the agreement as laying the foundations for a lasting peace and economic prosperity which would benefit the entire region.

There was some good news for Israel on the international relations front, as over 90 American universities have publicly rejected a recent recommendation by the American Studies Association to boycott Israeli academic institutions. The Association of American Universities (AAU) and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) have also rejected the call to boycott Israeli universities. "Boycotts are not in themselves matters of principle but tactical weapons in political struggles," the AAUP said. "Academic boycotts strike directly at the free exchange of ideas."

ISRAEL'S FOLDING CAR OF THE FUTURE

Israel's two-seat City Transformer will solve several urban problems, running on a rechargeable battery and taking up no more parking space than a motorcycle.

The City Transformer (www.citytransformer.com) quadricycle is designed as an electric two-seater that folds down with the press of a button from 1.6 meters to just one meter (3.2 feet) in width. Its 2.2-meter (7.2 feet) length matches the size of a motorcycle parking spot. The entire vehicle will weigh about 400 kilograms (880 pounds). For now, the City Transformer exists only in virtual space and a wooden model, but the engineers are optimistic about securing the \$1 million investment needed to construct a

prototype in collaboration with industrial design company Yama Design, Research & Development in Netanya.

City Transformer stands out from other current designs mainly because of the unique way it folds and other safety features, according to Formoza. It is designed for higher-speed driving (up to 90 km, or 56 miles, per hour) as well as longer-distance driving than potential competitors in this category. But even more importantly, Formoza envisions manufacturers building their own models on the City Transformer skeleton, in the same way that various brands of computers all have Intel technology inside.

ISRAEL AND GERMANY

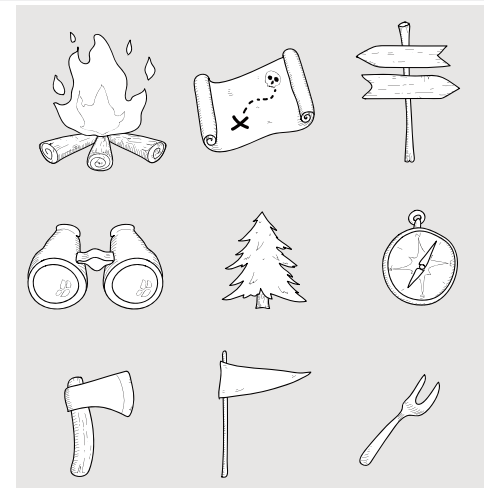


Re-elected last year with a powerful majority as Germany's Chancellor, Angela Merkel has been an outspoken supporter of Israel and has been vigilant in ensuring the security of Germany's Jewish community. Merkel offered strong support for circumcision shortly after a local district court ban on the practice. "I do not want Germany to be the only country in the world where Jews cannot practise their rituals.

Otherwise we will become a laughing stock," she was quoted as saying.

In August, Merkel became the first German leader to visit the Dachau concentration camp. In her weekly podcast at the time, Merkel warned that Europeans must remain vigilant against Holocaust deniers and right-wing extremists. "We must never allow such ideas to have a place in our democratic Europe," she said, adding that her trip to Dachau would be with "feelings of shame and dismay".

Earlier last year, Germany delivered its fifth Dolphin-class nuclear capable submarine to Israel, showing its commitment to the Jewish state's security needs.



MALALA, PAKISTAN, AND ISRAEL

<http://www.meforum.org/3688/malala-youssefzai-pakistan-israel>



Pervez Hoodbhoy, an openly-avowed supporter of Malala, is the remarkable Professor of Nuclear Physics at Islamabad's Quaid-i-Azam University, a man who has won almost as many awards as Malala has. Active in many fields, he has devoted much of his writing and debating to education, and he has extolled the benefits of secularism and deplored the harm done to his country by the religious leadership and their insistence on hardline, unchanging traditionalism.

'No major invention or discovery has emerged from the Muslim world for well over seven centuries now. That arrested scientific development is one important element - although by no means the only one - that contributes to the present marginalization of Muslims and a growing sense of injustice and victimhood.' ('Science and the Islamic World – The quest for rapprochement', Physics Today, August 2007)

In a compelling and insightful article, he examines the roots of the modern problem through four 'metrics': the quantity of scientific output, the role played by science and technology in national economies, the extent and quality of higher education, and the degree to which science is present or absent in popular culture.

He cites a study from the International Islamic University in Malaysia, which shows that Muslim countries have a mere 8.5 scientists, engineers, and technicians per 1000 population, compared with a world average of 40.7 and 139.3 for countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Forty-six Muslim countries together contributed 1.17% of the world's science literature, yet 1.66% came from India and 1.48% from Spain. Of the 28 lowest producers of scientific articles in 2003, no fewer than half belonged to Muslim countries.

By another measure, he points out that his own country, Pakistan, has produced a mere 8 patents in 43 years. More Israeli (population 7.5 million) patents are registered in the USA than from Russia, India and China combined (combined population 2.5 billion).

He adds that "no Pakistani university, including QAU, allowed Mohammad Abdus Salam to set foot on its campus, although he had received the Nobel Prize in 1979 for his role in formulating the standard model of particle physics." The reason? Abdus Salam belonged to the deeply unpopular and much persecuted Ahmadi sect (referred to by Malala), the only Islamic denomination to forbid jihad. Imagine any of my old universities (Dublin, Edinburgh, or Cambridge) refusing entry to a Nobel Prize winner who happened to be a Jew or a Muslim or a Seventh-Day Adventist.

This inability to match up to the challenges of the modern world has much to do with a reluctance to obtain knowledge from non-Muslim sources. The UN Arab Human Development Report for 2003 makes this clear:

Given that 'English represents around 85% of the total world knowledge balance,' one might guess that 'knowledge-hungry countries,' the Arab states included, would take heed of the sway of English, or at the very least, would seek out the English language as a major source of translation. Yet, from all source-languages combined, the Arab world's 330 million people translated a meagre 330 books per year; that is, 'one fifth of the number [of books] translated in Greece [home to 12 million Greeks].' Indeed, from the times of the Caliph al-Ma'mun (ca. 800 CE) to the beginnings of the twenty-first century, the 'Arab world' had translated a paltry 10,000 books: the equivalent of what Spain translates in a single year.

IDF COMPUTER GENIUSES - DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

hackathon | 'hakəθɒn|

A hackathon (also known as a hack day, hackfest or codefest) is an event in which computer programmers and others involved in software development, including graphic designers, interface designers and project managers, collaborate intensively on software projects.

Just days before the end of their training to become officers, soldiers in the Air Force's Ofek Unit participated in a 48-hour hackathon.

The goal of this exercise: for soldiers to innovate, create and keep themselves on their toes. This out-of-the-box thinking is why the Ofek Unit was presented, in the same week, with the Chief of Staff's Award for Excellence. The award recognizes the unit's many years of intense focus on innovation. "Excellence for me is a way of life," says Col. U, the commander of the unit. "It's a worldview that says that in everything you do, from big to small, do it in the best and most correct way that you can," he says.

"The Ofek Unit, as the elite programming unit of the Israel Air Force, is here to strengthen the Air Force, to provide the added value and the qualitative advantage," he continues. "And it seems that we do this well - through the many operational capabilities that we develop, and through the very strong spirit of our people - who serve with initiative, inventiveness and creativity."

During the 48-hour hackathon, the unit's soldiers were tasked with developing new computer programs for the Air Force and the IDF [Israel Defence Forces]. At the end of the session, participants presented their concepts to other soldiers, commanders responsible for their training and the commander of their unit. "I have no idea what they've developed since yesterday morning," says Col. U, just a few minutes before the beginning of the presentations. "I want to be surprised."

The soldiers involved were divided into three groups, each of which was responsible for developing a computer program of its choice. These programs could go on to play a central role in the Air Forces' systems. "Our relationship with the rest of the Air Force is very strong," says Col U. We know in advance what is expected of us, and we bring those solutions very quickly to the battlefield."

One program, called "Kinetics," was the first of three innovative concepts developed by the soldiers. A soldier presented the project before a dazzled audience, controlling a computerized map that allowed him to move across virtual terrain using hand gestures. He moved quickly from right to left, zooming in and out and adding markers to various points on the map.

Before the hackathon started, the groups sat down and thought carefully about what the Air Force actually needs. "We've been here since yesterday, and we haven't stopped," says one of the soldiers. "We even slept here last night. This hackathon was an unforgettable experience and a real pleasure to participate in."

At the end of the presentations, Col. U had one crucial message for the unit's soldiers: that the unit's goal is to do what until recently the world thought was impossible.

AND HE SAID...

"It is heard sometimes, [from] the enemies of the Iranian nation, like from the mouth of the malevolent, untouchable rabid dog of the region, the Zionist regime. They move their chins [saying] that Iran is a threat to the entire world. No. This is a saying of the enemy and exactly the opposite point to an Islamic origin [what is said originally in Islam]. The threat to the entire world are those forces of evil and evil-creators who have shown of themselves nothing but evil, such as this fake regime of Israel and some of its supporters.

The Zionist regime is actually a regime that its foundations are very weak. The Zionist regime

is destined for deterioration [to vanish]. This regime is a regime that was imposed, was created by force, and a phenomenon that was created by force is not viable. The support of those individuals, who are in a way indebted to the Zionist regime, for this regime is a source of shame and disrespect for them. Some of the Europeans also, unfortunately, lip out [falsely flatter] and go to the leaders of the Zionist regime, those who cannot be even referred to as human beings and are actually wild animals, and humiliate themselves and sanction [harm and isolate] their own people."

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to 50,000 Iranian paramilitary militia Basij commanders in Tehran's Grand Prayer site. (Iranian television, 20 Nov 2013)

2014 – THE SHMITA YEAR BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER



Israeli authorities are busily planning for the upcoming "Shmita" or sabbatical year in which many Jewish farmers in Israel will obey the Biblical commandment to rest from growing crops. Deputy Religious Services Minister Eli Ben-Dahan and Senior Citizen Minister Uri Orbach announced a plan to assist elderly citizens to have their debts forgiven, which is also part of the Biblical ordinance. "This is a tremendous opportunity to implement the central idea of the shmita that every person can begin his life anew every seven years with a new slate," said Ben Dahan. According to the Jewish calendar, the shmita year begins September 2014.



AMAZING ISRAEL



Imagine a world in which you didn't have to worry about how and where to charge your mobile phones, laptops and tablets everytime you left home. It is a world that is fast upon us. Within a few short years, there will no longer be plugs, outlets and wires. One will simply place any electronic device on a table, and it will receive electricity from an embedded surface. Starbucks and McDonalds are both now involved in pilot testing of Israel's PowerMat technology. To date, 26 Starbucks branches in Boston and San Jose — and McDonalds in Manhattan — are fully wired and equipped. Patrons simply place Duracell PowerMat-enabled mobile devices on the table in any of those locations and it will charge automatically. Those whose devices are not equipped with PowerMat technology receive a small key ring that hooks into their devices.



A team of researchers at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem recently published research which promises to aid development of treatments for clinical depression, a biological reaction to chronic stress which affects millions of people around the world. The Hebrew U. team published its findings, which focus changes in one type of non-neuronal brain cells - microglia, in the academic journal Molecular Psychiatry. Hebrew U. hopes to work with industry to bring new treatments to market in the near future.



Mobile communications giant **Broadcom** has 1000 Israeli employees thanks to five of its last eleven acquisitions. "When we need a new technology, we usually look at Israel first, because there is so much telecom innovation going on there," said CTO and co-founder Dr Henry Samueli.



Officials with the Israel Water Authority recently announced that the Jewish State has enough fresh water from natural sources to operate the country's desalinization plants at 70% of their capacity in 2014. The plan is expected to produce significant savings of money and energy as well as allow crews to carry out needed maintenance and repairs

Maj. Oshrat Bachar has been appointed the first female battalion commander in the IDF and will soon be promoted to Lt. Colonel and take command of the "Eitam" battalion, a Combat Intelligence unit in the Southern Command along the border with Egypt. Her husband, IDF Maj. Ohad Bachar recently told the IDF magazine that he is proud of his wife for "realizing her ambitions and making a breakthrough as the first woman in the role."

The global accounting firm Ernst & Young today released an independent study that for the first time quantifies the economic impact of Taglit-Birthright Israel on the Israeli economy. From its inception in 2000, the group has taken more than 350,000 participants through its program, which has contributed more than \$825 million to the Israeli economy.

US billionaire Warren Buffet has donated \$10 million to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The contribution was announced by his close friend Eitan Wertheimer at an event last month to celebrate 75 years since the hospital's establishment. Wertheimer has been a close friend of Buffett since the sale of the family's precision tool developer and manufacturer Iscar Ltd to the American's company Berkshire Hathaway. In May 2006, Berkshire Hathaway bought 80% of Iscar for \$4 billion, and in May 2013 it exercised an option to buy the remaining 20% for \$2.05 billion.

Aliyah goes "up" in 2013. Aliyah increased in 2013. 19,200 "Olim" arrived in Israel in 2013, compared to 18,940 who arrived in 2012. Much of the increase was due to a 63% rise in immigration from France.

A plan was unveiled recently to turn the Knesset building in Jerusalem into an environmentally friendly structure, including the installation of hundreds of solar panels on the roofs and devices to conserve water and energy. The multi-year plan is expected to save the government hundreds of thousands of shekels. Organizers of the effort expressed the hope that the Knesset will set an example that will be followed as the government and the military begin planning for the construction of dozens of new facilities in the coming years, as well as for the private sector in Israel.

Israel plans to cut oil use in transportation by 60% by 2025 and will tap into its newfound natural gas deposits to make it happen. It is also investing heavily to help start-ups developing battery and biofuel technologies, and is offering an annual \$1 million prize to innovators in the field.



Idan Raichel's latest album, 'Quarter to Six,' is included among Apple online store's Best World Albums of 2013. The Israeli musician, known for his Idan Raichel Project, previously went to the top of the iTunes World music sales chart in 2012 with his "The Tel Aviv Session" album.

FATHER GABRIEL NADDAF



Hailing from the village of Yaffia, situated between Migdal Ha'emek and Nazareth, Naddaf is an Eastern Orthodox priest who has become a leader in the drive for Christian enlistment in the Israel Defence Forces.

Naddaf has undertaken this effort at great personal risk and has been subject to threats. Nevertheless, the movement has seen success, as Christian enlistment in the IDF tripled in 2013.

Describing him as "The Good Father" in a recent profile piece, the Jerusalem Post said that "Father Gabriel Naddaf has reached the conclusion that Christian Arabs residing in Israel must link their fortunes to the Jewish state."

"Our goal is to guard the Holy Land and the State of Israel. We have broken the barrier of fear - the state deserves that we do our part in defending it," he said, in a meeting in 2013 with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, who recognized his efforts.

ISRAELIS COLLECT COATS AND BLANKETS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES



When thousands of Syrian refugees received cartons packed with warm blankets, clothes and sleeping bags, they were surprised to learn that the winter gear was collected by dozens of Israeli students and IDF employees at an army base in northern Israel.

Like neighboring northern Israel, Syria can experience bitterly cold winters, with temperatures falling to as low as -3 degrees Celsius [-26.6° F]. For refugees who are living in makeshift accommodations or even sleeping in the rough, keeping warm can be a challenge.

Shimshon Camp, one of the IDF's largest Ordnance Corps bases, is also the home of the Aman-Shimshon school, attended by 125 students from grades nine to 12, and the drive is their initiative. "Our students include Druze, Bedouin, both Christian and Muslim Arabs, Circassians and Jews," says school principal Nitzan Amit proudly. Last month, teacher Hana Perlmutter discovered

project Human Warmth, which collects warm gear for Syrian refugees. "As a daughter of Holocaust survivors I knew we had to help out," she said. So Perlmutter contacted Nur Suwad, the deputy head of the student council, and he immediately got involved. "I put the project at the top of my agenda," he says. "We all pitched in."

The students filled up a large space near the principal's office with donations, and have collected 100 kg worth of gear. They then used a truck to transfer the equipment to the Syrian refugees across the border. Amit asked the hundreds of soldiers at the IDF base to donate unused equipment.

"They asked us to remove all Hebrew lettering," says organizer Etti Cohen. "So we wrote greetings in Arabic and put them in the pockets of the clothing, so that the Syrian refugees get a little bit of support."

WHY I WANT TO LIVE IN ISRAEL

— Libby Snyder

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/why-i-want-to-live-in-israel/>



People are constantly asking me why I want to live here. It's not an easy question to answer. Because it's not rational — or logical — it's emotional. It's what's in my heart. After all, my Hebrew name literally translates to "my heart" — so it's the only natural way to live my life.

There's something in the air here. Something vibrant. It's not that the world is less beautiful elsewhere — by far not. But the air here is different. It may sound cliché: This is the promised land, the holy land, our homeland. But all clichés have some truth to them. This is God's land. It's the center of our planet, no matter which map you look at. It's the land of the Bible, no matter which major religion you're coming from. It's the land of ancient history, the land of mythology, and the land of mystery. It's no ordinary land.

There are many reasons — rational, logical reasons — to not want to live here. Economically it's very difficult. Politically it's a mess. And bureaucratically it's a nightmare. But no matter how much Israelis love to complain about life here, very few of them can find themselves truly happy living anywhere else. Because there's something about living in Israel that is simply wonderful, and can't be translated into economic terms.

We are building something here. We are part of a communal effort. America hardly notices if I'm there or not. But Israel needs my presence, my contribution. It's so easy to make an impact here. It's so easy to see things grow.

It's wonderful to step outside of the house in December in a T-shirt. It's wonderful to see Jews from every country in the world dancing together in nightclubs, finding ways to communicate and laugh and kiss, despite our many language barriers. It's wonderful to walk into a café, grumpy and hungry after a long day, and see the café employees gathering around the counter to light the Chanukah candles together. It's wonderful that the gym doesn't play music on remembrance days. It's wonderful to eat only the fruits and vegetables that are in season at any given time, and to drive past acres of orange groves on your way to work. It's wonderful to board a bus and see young men that look like your cousins in army uniforms, their arms crossed over their M-16s, nodding off

into an exhausted sleep on the shoulder of the stranger sitting beside them. It's wonderful to feel the simcha and ruach at Israeli weddings, the boisterous jubilation thumping through the room and your veins. It's wonderful to live in a place that embraces Shabbat — the only country where we can get a real taste of God's wisdom, in His ordainment of a weekly day of rest. It's wonderful to walk along the sea at sunset, especially on a Friday — and see every type of Jew you can imagine, from the runner to the street performer to the chassid to the fisherman, each enjoying our beautiful coastline in his own way. It's wonderful to drive around the Sea of Galilee or down to the Dead Sea, and experience the silencing of sheer beauty. It's wonderful to be surrounded by inspiration, everywhere.

And it's not hard to remember that our grandparents didn't have the luxury of complaining about Israel's many shortcomings. Or their parents, or their parents, or their parents. We are blessed to live in this generation, at this time. Our generation is at a critical juncture: We are the ones who are going to decide the state of our future State. Now is the time to be here, if we want to pave some kind of way. Because at the end of the day, life is so short — and you have to ask yourself, "Do I want to leave behind a comfortable material lifestyle, or a meaningful contribution to the growth of the modern Jewish state?"

Yes, there are so many things I miss about life in America. There are the little things: CVS. Target. Sephora. Being served a glass of water when I sit down at a table in a restaurant. And I long for the big things: My family. My friends. Speaking and hearing my mother language all around me. The other place I call home.

But — that critical pause, "but", says it all — we are building something here. We are trying to make something of our lives, something better for our children, and their children, and their children. The hope being that, one day, things will get a little easier, and we won't struggle to answer the endlessly surfacing question: "Why do you want to live here?"

Because the heart doesn't ask logical questions. The heart just tries to guide each of us to our truth.



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!

STAY CLOSE TO YOUR PETS EVEN WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM HOME

A team of young Canadians and Israelis hopes to ensure that during a long day at work, or even a vacation abroad, pet owners can stay virtually connected to their furry friends.

The goal of the system is to take "the guilt away from leaving your pet at home." The developers of an electronic toy and mobile-application control system, called Pawly, won the grand

prize of the Global Startup Battle, an initiative sponsored by Google. The Pawly system centers around a robot-like mechanism that takes videos in real time and allows owners to speak to and hear from their pets. Four wheels on the flatbed system always touch the floor, so owners can virtually move around and interact with the pet, and a treat dispenser enables further interaction. A modular rubber case protects the rolling device from chewing, water and other shock and is both antibacterial and nontoxic.

ISRAEL TRADES WITH INDIA

Trade and diplomatic relations between Israel and India have been on the fast track since the start of Manmohan Singh's premiership, and the two countries "are emerging as a mature, dependable, and accommodating couple," according to a Middle East Forum paper. In a recent visit to India to discuss a Free Trade Agreement between

the two countries, Israel's Economy Minister Naftali Bennett said that the bilateral trade (between India and Israel) "could easily be doubled in the next five years."

Currently, Israel is India's second largest supplier of military equipment, and India is the second-largest Asian economic partner of Israel. Trade between the two countries now stands at \$5 billion, excluding defence contracts.

MINORITY COMMUNITIES SPEAK OUT FOR ISRAEL

Representatives from minority communities in Israel staunchly came out in support of the country as a Jewish and democratic state at a human rights event held by the Zionist organization Im Tirtzu. The conference, titled Zionist Conference for Human Rights, was held at the Zionist Organization of America House in Tel Aviv.

Individuals from the Muslim, Druse, Bedouin, and Christian Arab communities spoke about Israel's role in defending human rights, in a mixed crowd that also included a rabbi, a kibbutznik and a homosexual.

The purpose of the event was to draw attention to Israeli minorities that support the state and "understand that only in a Jewish state will they have human rights." One objective of the conference is "to break the monopoly of human rights" that the "extremist anti-Zionist forces" currently have on the issue and to share the term, "human rights" with the entire political spectrum.

Gabriel Nadaf, a Greek Orthodox priest who supports IDF enlistment and the integration of Christians into Israeli society spoke at the event, stating that as a priest that lives in the Middle East, "I understand that human rights cannot be taken for granted."

People that are "slandering the state enjoy a high standard of living and are spitting into the well from which they drink," he said.

Anet Haskia, an Arab-Israeli Muslim from Acre, declared, "I am a proud Zionist," and that she is against a Palestinian state and a division of the country. "There are a lot like me," she added and said her daughter is the first Muslim to be enlisted in the Golani Infantry Brigade. She acknowledges that racism exists in Israel, but that "society will not change if we do not integrate."

(Jerusalem Post, 18 December 2013)



Plant a Tree Save the World

Look what trees can do: Produce oxygen and improve air quality • Stabilize carbon emissions and fight global warming • Provide shade and cool hot summer forests and cities • Protect the earth and rehabilitate damaged habitats.

Trees know how to give hope. Join us.
KKL-JNF - 240 million trees and we keep on planting.

**Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael
Jewish National Fund
Tu Bishvat 2014 (5774)**

Kav LaYodot KKL-JNF information center:
1-800-350-5501 www.kkl.org.il




**Give a tree to Arik
in the Forest of Giving**
www.forestofgiving.co.za
011 645 2541

Ariel Sharon. 1928-2014
A fearless warrior and bold leader who devoted his life to protecting and building Israel and her people.

For just R85 you can honour late Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in the Forest of Giving. When giving a tree in memory of Sharon online, make sure to use his full name **Prime Minister Ariel Sharon** and use the email address sharon@forestofgiving.co.za

Go to www.forestofgiving.com
call 011-645-2537
email jnf@beyachad.co.za



Jewish National Fund South Africa

ISRAEL CENTRE 2014 ACTIVITIES

WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED

JANUARY

- 1st-12th Israel Encounter
- 1st-15th Onwards Israel SA
- 19th T.E.N. Project Launch

FEBRUARY

- 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Hebrew Café
- 9th-11th Mishlachat Seminar
- 12th Educator Briefing
- 20th MAOZ Every 2nd week for 10 weeks

MARCH

- 2nd Leadership Training course
- 4th Youth Zionist Council
- 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Hebrew Café
- 6th & 20th MAOZ
- 24th Israel Quiz Round one
- 9th P2G Argus Delegation
- 23rd-31st Zionist Caravan west

APRIL

- 1st Windows 2014 Photo Project
- 3rd & 24th MAOZ
- 9th Youth Zionist Council
- 30th Hebrew Café

MAY

- 7th & 14th Hebrew Café
- 8th & 29th MAOZ
- 8th-16th Zionist caravan East
- 19th-25th Higher Education Masa Expo
- 19-21 JHB
- 22-25 Cape Town

JUNE

- 11th, 18th, 25th Hebrew Café
- 16th Aliyah Q&A
- 12th & 26th MAOZ

JULY

- 2nd Youth Zionist Council
- 6th-8th P2G cyalive
- 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th Hebrew Café
- 10th & 24th MAOZ
- 27th Youth Council Debate

AUGUST

- 4th Youth Zionist Council
- 6th, 20th, 27th Hebrew Café
- 7th & 28th MAOZ
- 11th Israel Quiz Round Two
- 13th King David Linksfield Seminar
- 21st King David Victory Park Seminar
- 29th-31st Aliyah2gether 29 August - 3 September

SEPTEMBER

- 1st-3rd Aliyah2gether
- 7th-14th Aliyah Expo 2014
- 7-10 JHB
- 11-14 Cape Town
- 17th Hebrew Café
- 14th Israel Quiz Finals

OCTOBER

- 8th & 29th Hebrew Café
- 21st Aliyah Q&A

NOVEMBER

- 1st Shabbat Aliyah
- 4th Youth Zionist Council
- 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Hebrew Café
- 20th-24th P2G Steering Committee in Israel

DECEMBER

- 3rd DEC - 3rd JAN Onwards Israel SA TBC
- 29th DEC - 12th JAN Israel Encounter TBC

Dates and events are subject to change without prior notice.

ISRAEL CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA

www.jewishagency.org/sa

