

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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JNF SOUTH AFRICA

Tu B'Shvat @ Highlands House and the Blue Box is back.
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IUA-UCF

Out the box thinking brings unique exhibition to the Peace Makers Museum in Nelson Mandela Square. **Page 7**

ISRAEL CENTRE SOUTH AFRICA

Israel Quiz 2014, Educator cocktail event and MAOZ.
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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 2 MARCH 2014

AMAZING ISRAEL

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company unveiled its first hotel in Israel, with the much anticipated official opening of The Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya. Spectacularly located overlooking the Mediterranean, the property is a first-of-its-kind industry leader for Israel's luxury hotel market and the country's first true 21st century "Urban Resort". The Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya is a contemporary resort situated above the Marina with accommodation including 115 rooms and 82 suites and residences. Contemporary interiors inspired by the colours of the Mediterranean coastline combine with the sweeping sea views to create a spacious relaxed ambience in each of the rooms and suites.



Researchers at Tel Aviv University have developed a computer algorithm that identifies genes involved in the aging process. The findings could lead to the development of medication that transforms cells from a diseased state into a healthy one.

Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, alongside an Israeli startup called TyrNovo, have made a major step towards halting diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's – by essentially stopping the brain from aging. The researchers found that TyrNovo's novel and unique compound, named NT219, selectively inhibits the process of aging in order to protect the brain from neurodegenerative diseases, without affecting lifespan. This is a first and important step towards the development of future drugs for the treatment of various neurodegenerative maladies.

After months of preparations and touring Israel, Hollywood star Natalie Portman is to begin filming her directorial debut based on Amos Oz's autobiographical novel. She has defined this production as "the project of her life", and is working in the Haredi area of the Nahalot neighbourhood. The movie is based on a 2002 book by Oz entitled "A Tale of Love and Darkness", and Portman will direct and play a woman suffering from mental illness.

The makers of the \$7 Israeli-developed Keepod "thumb drive" have launched the first project in their program to "enable" some of the world's 5 billion people who don't have access to a computer. Via Crowdsourcing, you can help give 1500 of Nairobi's slum dwellers a new chance in life.

Dr. Yuval Golan of Ben Gurion University explains a nano-particle and the exciting possibilities in the world of nano-technology. They include storage systems, contact lens sensors for diabetics, protective clothing, water purification, renewable energy and ultra-fast computers.

The United Nations and the Rwandan government have allowed the Herzliya company Circ MedTech, which developed the device, to commence the circumcision of 700,000 Rwandan men in order to combat HIV/AIDS. The PrePex is made of two rings and a special rubber strap. The rubber strap's purpose is to cut circulation to the foreskin, so the foreskin decays and falls off within a week. Then the device is removed and the procedure ends. PrePex is an ideal solution, as it is cost-effective at \$12 for apiece for a mostly reusable device, and can be carried out by lower-level medical professionals and nurses

Kirkland, Washington's Alaska Structures Inc. (AKS), teaming with Israeli company Bney Meir, announced the delivery of a newly developed mobile field hospital to the Israeli Defence Forces. The contract, worth over \$3.5 million, will increase medical preparedness and capacity of the IDF. Bney Meir, AKS' official representative in Israel, is an ISO-9000 certified, authorized supplier of the Israeli MoD and a certified service provider for AKS. The contract for the Israeli Field Hospital (IFH) includes customized AKS deployable medical shelters, environmental control units, electrical systems, generators, as well as a medical oxygen concentrator system.



There are almost 13,000 photo apps on iTunes and Google Play. Almost the entire top ten originate from Israel. The reason is probably due to the fact those apps are the hottest trend in the smartphone market right now. And Israelis are the biggest users of smartphone apps in the world.

Falling is one of the leading causes of injury for the elderly, and fall-related treatment costs the US at least \$75 billion a year. Now a new orthopaedic shoe being developed in Israel will give the elderly a chance to walk out in the world with more confidence in each step. The B-Shoe is a device that would extend the amount of time that elderly people can live without canes and walkers. Built with pressure sensors in the sole of the shoe and a small roller device in the heel, it gives the elderly peace of mind by automatically correcting any imbalance as they walk. When the shoe's computer senses the centre of gravity of an individual moving backwards, indicating an imminent fall, it rolls back one shoe a few inches to steady the person's balance.

CHAG SAMEACH!

We all love the wonderful festival of Purim that celebrates the deliverance of the Jews from their enemies in the biblical Book of Esther.

SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel, SAZF Executive and Staff look forward, together with you, our readers and community members, to a joyous festival characterised by delicious hamantashen, the delivery of mishloach manot to friends and family, gorgeous costumes and hundreds of the most colourful curses heaped on the head of Haman.

And should you choose to replace "Haman" with "Hamas", go right ahead – with our blessing.

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 a Le'Chaim Sunset Picnic in the Park, for adults, and at fabulous Gold Reef City for kids. Watch this space for details!

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.

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.

- **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**

HEADLINE NEWS

Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett revealed that the government has budgeted NIS 1 billion a year for programs to encourage Jewish identity among Diaspora populations, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency. The effort, known as the World Jewry Joint Initiative, was announced to an international summit of Jewish professionals in Jerusalem in November.



Israel, joining the US and Canada, has been accepted as an observer state of the Pacific Alliance, made possible as a result of efforts led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with the leaders of its member states. In the coming months, the Prime Minister is due to visit Colombia and Mexico in order to promote cooperation with the Pacific Alliance. The combined GNP of the Pacific Alliance member states amounts to over \$2 trillion and constitutes 36% of the GNP of Latin America. It is the eighth largest economy in the world, accounts for 50% of Latin America's trade and 26% of its foreign investments (over \$70 billion). Israel currently exports \$864 million worth of goods to the Pacific Alliance countries per annum, approximately 1% of Israel's total exports.

Last month, for the first time, Israel participated in one of the core coordinating groups focused on human rights and social policy at the United Nations. Israel joins the "JUSCANZ" caucus in the UN's Third Committee along with the world's most advanced democracies including the U.S., Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Norway, and Switzerland. Israel's Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor hailed Israel's admission into JUSCANZ and said: "An historical injustice has been corrected. Anyone who champions human rights must celebrate this announcement. Israel's admission into JUSCANZ highlights the international community's recognition of our democracy. In the Middle East, a region where women are stoned to death and minorities executed, we are a beacon of human rights, equality, and freedom." The Israeli Mission to the UN is leading in promoting women's empowerment, gender equality and the rights of person with disabilities.

Israel Aerospace Industries became the latest Israeli company to find success in the highly competitive East Asian hi-tech market when the company opened a new research and development centre in the city-state of Singapore. The centre's purpose is to research methods and solutions to defend networks against cyber-attacks.



The Hamas-Gaza Strip government's Ministry of Education has released a statement accusing the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) of imposing "inappropriate" curricula on students who reside in the refugee camps to which the agency caters. The statement said, "We denounce the publication and distribution of syllabus in UNRWA-run schools without the approval of the ministry of education and higher education."

A large delegation of French business leaders arrived in Teheran recently, the latest signal that despite tough talk in Western capitals about maintaining pressure on Iran until a final agreement has been reached on dismantling its renegade nuclear program, the Iranian sanctions regime might already be unravelling. "A new chapter has begun in relations between Iran and Europe," Mohammad Nahavandian, President Hassan Rouhani's chief of staff, told the delegation. "You should carry the message back that potential for cooperation with Iran is real and not to be overlooked. Those with longer foresight stand to win this race."

During his recent visit to the US, Jordanian King Abdullah II met with the leaders of several Arab and Islamic organizations. He stressed the importance of leaders using their influence in their communities and with Congress to advance the causes important to them all, including the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank with eastern Jerusalem as its capital. He also stressed the importance his government attached to efforts at what he called resisting Israel's efforts to erase the "Arab, Moslem and Christian identity" of Jerusalem.



The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) published a report in January showing a steep rise in the number of terror attacks and fatalities in the West Bank from 2012 to 2013. The total number of terrorist incidents for 2013 was 1,271, compared to 578 in 2012. Additionally, three Israeli civilians and three members of the security services were killed by terrorists in the West Bank in 2013, with another 44 being wounded. The Shin Bet added that it had broken up 190 planned terrorist attacks in 2013, as opposed to 112 in 2012.



Reports out of Lebanon indicate that Israel's neighbour to the north is witnessing a thriving Al-Qaeda movement, which is battling the Iranian-backed Shi'ite terror militia Hezbollah for control of the country and the opportunity to launch attacks against Israel. Abu Sayyaf Al Ansary, Al-Qaeda's self-declared leader in Lebanon, issued a statement this week that the group was setting up shop in Lebanon. "After the flag of Islam was raised from Iraq to the Levant... we have decided to announce our allegiance to them," he said. "We swear allegiance to Emir Abu Bakr Al Hussein Al Baghdadi, from Tripoli, so that we will be a door for him, God willing, from Lebanon to the holy site [Jerusalem]."

WORDS...

"The Iranian nation and armed forces are ready for an all-out defence and protection of the country with all their power and they will respond to any aggression with reciprocal and inconceivable strikes."

Maj. Gen. Yahya Rahim Safavi, senior military aide to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, said his country would unleash Lebanon's Hezbollah on Israel should there be any military action against his country (WND, 12 Feb, 2014)

"The most powerful of all the speeches was delivered by the Israeli ambassador, Ron Prosor, who spoke of his father's escape from Nazi Germany. "In the last century," he said, "this pattern of defamation, degradation and bloodshed has been the hallmark of an impending atrocity. Despite the pledges - even in this chamber - of 'never again,' we have seen the pattern repeat itself over and over again." To judge by the UN treatment of the opportunity for an intelligent and enlightening debate about the lessons of war, the pattern isn't going to change anytime soon. I no longer fear the danger of world government - or hold out much hope for universal peace - after seeing the way the world behaves when it's talking to itself."

Andrew Roberts, historian, after attending the Security Council Open Debate on universal peace. (Wall Street Journal, 5 Feb. 2014)

"This is the president at his worst. Self-pitying and self-absorbed, he wants to let us know how upset he is. He casts himself as a bystander in three years of inactivity punctuated by blunders (e.g. rubbing out his "red line" on the use of WMDs). And yet he still insists on the phony choice between direct military action and essentially doing nothing."

Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin. (Washington Post, 5 Feb. 2014)

"Egypt is again an open front for jihad. The world is being turned on its head, and, for the United States, the ability to rely on Egypt as a stabilizing force in the region - rather than a source of problems - is really being challenged."

Brian Fishman, a researcher in counterterrorism at the New America Foundation in Washington. (NY Times, 5 Feb 2014)

"The theological arguments offered by jihadists are fundamental to the resultant act of terrorism. We see this not only in the ways the perpetrators frame the world and their aims, but also in the ways they justify the violent acts they commit. Understanding this is essential to challenging the ideology which inspires acts of religious violence. The existence of traditional and respected legal opinions which differ from modern jihadist views, as laid out in our report, however, fundamentally challenges the jihadists' claims to exclusive truth."

HJS Researcher Hannah Stuart at the launch of her report, "A Guide to Refuting Jihadism", 5 February 2015

"Canada finds it deplorable that some in the international community still question the legitimacy of the existence of the State of Israel. Our view that Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state is absolute and non-negotiable."

"Criticism of Israeli government policy is not in and of itself necessarily anti-Semitic. But what else can we call criticism that selectively condemns only the Jewish state and effectively denies its right to exist, to defend itself while systematically ignoring or excusing the violence and oppression all around it?"

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

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during his visit to Israel in January 2014

"The last century has taught us that when a radical regime with global ambitions gets awesome power, sooner or later its appetite for aggression knows no bounds. That's the central lesson of the 20th century. And we cannot forget it. The world may have forgotten this lesson. The Jewish people have not."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his speech to the United Nations, on 1 October 2014.

JEWISH PASSENGERS ON BELGIAN TRAIN TOLD TO GET OFF AT AUSCHWITZ

Jews on a recent train in Belgium were treated to a twisted announcement on the train's speaker system: that they should get off at Auschwitz and take a shower. The bizarre incident is believed to have been the work of adolescents who stole the keys that operate the loudspeaker. The incident prompted the Belgian rail company SNCB to file a complaint with police over incitement to hatred. One of the passengers said in French, "Ladies and gentlemen, we are approaching Auschwitz. All Jews are requested to disembark and take a short shower."

OECD PRAISES ISRAEL'S STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH

In December 2013, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development praised Israel's economic growth in 2013 and predicted that its economy will continue to grow in 2014 and 2015 at a rate that exceed growth projections for the OECD's other 33 member nations. "Israel's output growth remains relatively strong, unemployment is at historically low levels, its high-tech sector continues to attract international admiration and new off-shore gas fields have come on stream," the OECD said. The report projected that Israel's economy would grow by 3.7% in 2013, compared to 3.9% growth in 2012. Growth projections for 2014 and 2015 were pegged at 3.4% and 3.5% respectively.

CULTURAL BOYCOTT? NOT LIKELY



British-Irish singer de Burgh, who is most famous for 1986 love song 'The Lady in Red,' will perform in Tel Aviv on March 29th, 2014;

and veteran Canadian star Paul Anka is to return to Holy Land for one concert on July 24th this year.

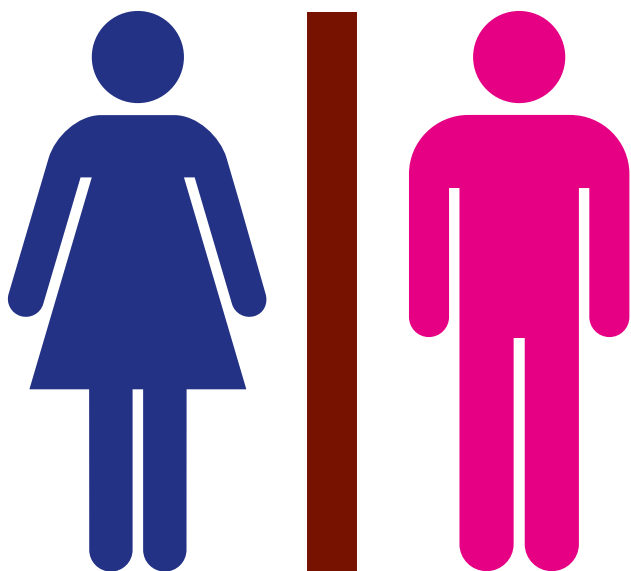
ISRAEL BLESSES THE WORLD



A team at Jerusalem's Hebrew University have created a molecule that could reduce the chances of people who have diabetes or similar conditions from developing impaired cognition, reduced brain function, and dementia later in life. Prof. Daphne Atlas of the biological chemistry department in the Alexander Silberman

Institute of Life Science, team leader, wrote, "This study paves the way for preventive treatment of damage caused by high sugar levels and for reducing the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in diabetics or people with elevated blood sugar levels."

IRAN ISSUES NEW 'GENDER TESTS' FOR FEMALE SOCCER PLAYERS



Reports out of Iran indicate that players in the Islamic Republic's professional female soccer league will soon be subject to gender tests to prove that they are in fact female, following revelations that men, some of whom had undergone surgical procedures to change their gender, were playing in the league.

According to the new regulations, medical teams will arrive unannounced at practices and all female players will be required to undergo an examination to determine their eligibility to play in the female league. Those passing the exams will receive a certificate allowing them to continue playing, those failing will not receive the certificate and will be banned.

SUICIDE BOMB INSTRUCTOR BLOWS UP HIS STUDENTS

Would-be suicide bombers got to meet their 72 virgins a bit early recently when their clumsy tutor accidentally detonated an explosives-packed car during a how-to-bomb lesson at their Iraqi terror camp. The blast, at a training camp disguised in an orchard in a Sunni area north of Baghdad, killed the instructor and 20 of his students. The camp, outside Samarra,

was run by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, an extremist Sunni group that recently broke with al Qaeda and has specialized in car bombings, officials said. A police officer said the camp members were attending a lesson on making car bombs and explosive belts when a glitch set off one of the devices.

DROUGHT STALKS ISRAEL AND THE WIDER MIDDLE EAST



Israel's Water Authority published a report in February showing that the country is undergoing one of the worst droughts in modern history, with little precipitation since the large snowstorm in early December. While there is still hope that more rain could fall before the summer, the rainy season ended prematurely in 2012-13.

Water Authority officials said desalinization and water recycling programs guaranteed the supply of safe water for Israeli households, but the agricultural sector is suffering and surrounding countries without Israel's infrastructure advantages are in serious trouble.



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!

FOREIGN MINISTRY GRANTS PASSPORTS TO SURROGATE CHILDREN



Israel's Foreign Ministry recently issued a passport to the first of several babies born to surrogate mothers in Thailand from genetic material from homosexual Israeli couples. The passport will allow the biological parents of the babies to bring them home to Israel, following several months of bureaucratic hurdles and protests from various parties who were opposed or in favour of giving the children Israeli citizenship. The Foreign Ministry decision comes against a backdrop of increased legal and social activism by Israel's homosexual community.

WORLD BANK TO FINANCE RED SEA – DEAD SEA CONDUIT



Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority signed with the World Bank an agreement to finance the construction of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Conduit, the first step toward the realization of the ambitious Red Sea-Dead Sea Conduit which Israel has been promoting for 40 years. In the first stage, a 180-kilometer pipeline will be laid along the Jordanian side of the Arava, to carry 100 million cubic meters of brine a year from a desalination plant to be built north of Aqaba to the Dead Sea. The water entering the Dead Sea will slow the fall in its water level, currently at 1.2 meters year, by 10%. The Red Sea-Dead Sea Conduit will cost an estimated \$200-400 million, which will be financed by the World Bank with bridge loans that will be repaid by donor countries and philanthropists.

JERUSALEM LAUNCHES MASSIVE URBAN RENEWAL EFFORT



Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat recently announced the launching of a massive urban renewal effort in the capital. His plans involve government work to clear "bureaucratic barriers" to greater residential and commercial building as well as deferring fees for seven years to give investors an incentive to build. "Urban renewal is one of the main tools in increasing the supply of housing in the capital, by making more efficient use of land," said Barkat. "Urban renewal through evacuation and construction is an opportunity to improve and upgrade the city." Shmulik Levy, chairman of the Jerusalem Contractors, said, "The reform will lower the price of housing in Jerusalem, ensure improvement in housing occupants in the city and attract new tenants."

ISRAELI CARE FOR PALESTINIANS



Last month, two pregnant Palestinian women from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip were cared for at Haifa's Rambam Health Care Campus, which has special facilities for treating the complications in their pregnancies. One of the Palestinian women gave birth prematurely and her child was diagnosed with a serious heart condition, which was successfully treated by Israeli doctors. Another 35 year old Palestinian woman gave birth to twins and was also treated for a congenital blood clot which threatened to make childbirth a fatal experience, but instead was a joyful one thanks to the Israeli medical team which treated her. Meanwhile, a program was announced this week to donate thousands of Arabic books to schoolchildren to encourage them to read.

All this in the face of the destructive BDS Campaign which is trying – through its international offices and network – to demonise and eventually destroy Israel. Ironic, isn't it?



President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria and senior government officials were accompanied on a tour of Israel by Nigeria's Chabad Rabbi. They also visited Yad Vashem, below.



South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth

South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth are researching and documenting for all the country towns and villages in South Africa where Jews have lived or are still living.

For purposes of our research we require old trade and telephone directories (preferably prior to 1960)

These are some of the directories required:

- Transvaal Telephone Directory •
- Cape Times Directory of Southern Africa •
- Donaldson's Trade Directory •
- Dennis Edwards Trade Directory •
- Braby's •

Please contact us at
museum@beyachad.co.za or 011 645 2598

CERN TO ADMIT ISRAEL AS FIRST NEW MEMBER STATE SINCE 1999

Left to right: Eliezer Rabinovici, Chair of the Israeli Academy of Science's National Committee for High Energy Physics, Eviatar Manor, Israel's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, CERN Director-General Rolf Heuer and Giora Mikenberg of the Weizman Institute



Following a resolution unanimously adopted at the 169th session of the CERN Council, CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) will admit Israel as the Organization's 21st Member State. Israeli Membership will be effective from the date on which Israel formally notifies UNESCO that it has ratified the CERN Convention. CERN was established under the auspices of UNESCO, and UNESCO remains the depository of the CERN Convention. Israeli scientists have been involved

in the CERN program since 1991 and Israel has been an Associate Member of CERN since 2011. Today, Israel is involved with the ATLAS experiment at the LHC, as well as the ALPHA and COMPASS experiments, and experiments at CERN's ISOLDE facility. Israel contributes to the LHC and CLIC accelerators, and operates a tier-2 centre of the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid. Israel also supports the involvement of Palestinian students at CERN.

COSMETIC FACELIFT FOR JERUSALEM



The Jerusalem Municipality has announced that the government will grant the city NIS 405 million over the next five years for various beautification projects.

The funds will be spent on improvements to parks, sporting facilities, schools, bike paths and other family-friendly infrastructure projects, as well as increased cultural opportunities. "Jerusalem residents will soon feel the unprecedented

investment in our neighbourhoods, which will improve their quality of life," declared Mayor Nir Barkat. For many olim, Jerusalem is the city of choice to make their new lives in Israel, to feel the spiritual connection with their spiritual home; and this announcement will not only encourage more to settle there but will no doubt increase the exciting diversity of population that currently characterises the city.



At the memorial service for the late President Mandela, left to right: Mary Kluk, Chairman SAJBD, Ben Swartz, Vice-Chairman SAZF, Zev Krengel, President SAJBD, Avrom Krengel, Chairman SAZF, Wendy Kahn, Director SAJBD.

HOW ISRAEL IS SAVING OUR PLANET

(with thanks to www.israel21c.org)

When 22-year-old Emmmanuel Buso was pulled barely-alive from the rubble of a three-story building 10 days after an earthquake devastated the island of Haiti, the first faces he saw were those of the Israeli rescue workers who had flown across the world to save lives.

For Haji Edum, from Zanzibar, his life-saving moment came twice, when he was flown at age 15, and then again at 23, to Israel for open-heart surgery. He is just one of thousands of youngsters to receive emergency heart care from volunteer doctors in Israel.

War veterans suffering post-traumatic stress in the US; farmers in Senegal, India and China; young women in South Sudan; the wheelchair-bound in Africa; cardiac patients in Gaza and Iraq – all have received life-changing help and expertise from Israeli specialists.

Today we all know the story of Israel the startup nation. News of its technological prowess and incredible innovation has spread far and wide. But what many people don't know is that Israel is exporting far more than just technology. It is also sharing its experience and skills in a whole range of humanitarian and environmental fields to help people everywhere live better, fuller and healthier lives.

Since Israel was founded in 1948, the country has set itself the goal of becoming a light unto the nations. In the early years of the state, despite austerity rationing, the Israeli government founded MASHAV, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Centre for International Cooperation, as a vehicle to share Israel's creative solutions with the rest of the developing world.

Israel remains true to that vision and every year, with little fanfare, and sometimes very little press attention, Israelis work long hours to find solutions and offer relief to some of the most pressing problems of our times.

From environmental breakthroughs that will help reduce greenhouse emissions, to technologies that can increase food production and save vital crops, to humanitarian aid missions in the wake of catastrophic natural disasters, Israelis are providing significant assistance. Here are some of the innovations:

An Israeli company is developing a toilet that needs no water, and generates its own power to turn solid waste (including toilet roll) into sterile and odourless fertilizer in 30 seconds. Liquid waste is sterilized and then used to flush the toilet. Developer Paulee CleanTec has been awarded a grant by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which reports that about 80 percent of human waste goes into rivers and streams untreated, and 1.1 billion people don't use a toilet.

Fifty years ago, Lake Victoria carp was a significant part of the diet of Ugandan villagers. But when Nile perch was introduced to the lake, it decimated the carp population and villagers and their children began to show symptoms of protein deficiency. So Professor Berta Sivan of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem introduced a multiyear project to help these African families. Using expertise developed in Israel, her project not only successfully spawned carp on Ugandan fish farms, but also provided training on how to dig and fill ponds and raise the small fish. Now local children have an abundant supply of protein.

About 50% of every grain and pulse harvest in the developing world is lost to pests and mould, but an Israeli scientist has developed a surprisingly simple and cheap way for African and Asian farmers to keep their grain market-fresh. International food technology consultant Prof. Shlomo Navarro invented huge bags which keep both water and air out. The bags are in use all over the developing world, including Africa and the Far East, and even in countries that don't have diplomatic ties with Israel.

In January 2010, Israel won international praise for the speed and expertise with which it responded to the devastating 7.0-magnitude Haiti earthquake that killed 300,000 people, injured hundreds of thousands and laid waste to the poverty-stricken country. Some 240 Israeli doctors, nurses, rescue and relief workers arrived in Haiti just days after the quake, bringing medicines, communications and medical equipment. IDF volunteers set up the country's most advanced and well-equipped field hospital in the capital of Port-Au-Prince; and Israeli search-and-rescue missions began pulling survivors from the rubble and saving many Haitians. Today Israel continues to send aid and assistance, including educational projects, trauma programs, micro-financing, development and relief work, rebuilding of communities and schools, aid packages, empowerment for women, and medical assistance.

The invention of drip irrigation by Israeli Simcha Blass and its development by Netafim, and later Plastro and NaanDan Jain, has completely revolutionized agriculture across the world, enabling farmers to increase their yields with less water. Constantly upgraded Israeli drip-irrigation techniques are regularly shared with other countries through MASHAV, Israel's Centre for International Cooperation.

Tal-Ya Water Technologies has developed reusable plastic trays to collect dew from the air, reducing the water needed by crops or trees by up to 50%. The square serrated trays, made from non-PET recycled and recyclable plastic with UV filters and a limestone additive, surround each plant or tree. With overnight temperature change, dew forms on both surfaces of the Tal-Ya tray, which funnels the dew and condensation straight to the roots. If it rains, the trays – which are now on sale – heighten the effect of each millimetre of water 27 times over.

About 1.6 million children under the age of five die from untreated drinking water in developing nations every year. An Israeli company has developed a water purification system that delivers safe drinking water from almost any source, including contaminated water, seawater and even urine. It has been used in Taiwan, Myanmar and Haiti, and will be part of contingency plans in case of disaster at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.

Israel is building a model agricultural village in South Sudan to teach local farmers about Israeli agricultural methods and technologies to help the fledgling African nation thrive.

The lives of thousands of endangered animals in West and Central Africa are being saved thanks to the tireless efforts of Israeli law enforcement activist Ofir Drori, who founded the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) in Cameroon, Africa's first wildlife law-enforcement NGO. The organization helped propagate a zero-tolerance approach to illegal wildlife trafficking in Cameroon, which has resulted in hundreds of arrests and prosecutions. The model has been replicated throughout West and Central Africa in activities that go beyond nature conservation to the defence of human rights.

Again, all this in the face of the destructive BDS Campaign, which is particularly vicious in South Africa. **When will the world wake up to the infinite possibilities that emerge from co-operation with Israel?**



We are Bringing Back the Blue Box

- Your contributions built the land of Israel

TO GET YOUR BLUE BOX TODAY CONTACT US
 (T) (011) 645-2541 (E) jnf@beyachad.co.za (W) www.jnf.co.za

“No jewish home is complete without a blue box”



TU B'SHVAT @ HIGHLANDS HOUSE

The SAZF (Cape Council), the Israeli Mishlachat and the JCS from Herzlia High School, celebrated a belated Tu B'Shvat with the residents of Highlands House on Thursday 30 January 2014.

With seedlings, soil, beautifully decorated pots and tools in hand their green fingers all got busy with the task on hand. The finished products were hung on trellises for all to see and care for their plants. Thereafter, Yaniv, our community shaliach, spoke to the residents about the significance of Tu B'Shvat. The residents thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the SAZF, Mishlachat and learners from Herzlia High School. It was wonderful to see young and old interacting and enjoying each other's company.

The SAZF (Cape Council) and Mishlachat hope to visit and hold many more combined events together with Highlands House on a more regular basis in the future.



art exhibition

William Kentridge
Naama Nothmann
Susan Woolf
Dean Simon
Renee Talkins
Rinat Goldstuck
Sid Forman
Herman Wald
Jack Halton

Loren Hodes
Moshe Castel
Adriana Naveh
Lukov
Fleishaker
Leider
Zina Roitman
Evens Berejena
Antique Judaica
and others

IUA-UCF Modern Art and Judaica

Peacemakers Museum Exhibition
9th- 18th March
Auction 12th March 6:30pm



Securing our Jewish Future with a strong Israel in our 

The IUA-UCF has brought together a significant collection of art-works in collaboration with Stephen Wertz & Co and the South African Gold Coin Exchange and will be holding an exhibition and auction in March at the Peace Makers Museum in Nelson Mandela Square.

At this challenging time it has become essential that organisations think out of the box to fund raise and the IUA-UCF is excited to introduce this new and unique initiative. The goal of the event is to raise funds for the growing needs of the IUA-UCF beneficiaries, namely the SAZF, The Israel Centre, the CSO, SAUJS and the SAJBD as well as supporting worthy and essential projects in Israel. It is paramount to ensure the security and well-being of our local Jewish community with a strong Israel in our hearts.

The theme of the exhibition has a Jewish thread running through it. Either the artists are Jewish or the non-Jewish artists have depicted a Jewish subject. There are local, Israeli and other international artists whose works will be on display. A collection of paintings, sculptures, photography and Judaica.

The IUA-UCF wishes to thank Alan Demby for all his support, the artists and Natalie Knight, as consultant, for all their generosity and commitment to the local Jewish community and Israel.

The Johannesburg Jewish community is invited to be a part of this creative initiative and to support the IUA-UCF.



Stephan Wertz & Co.
AUCTIONEERS OF SECURITIES & FINE ARTS

EDUCATOR COCKTAIL EVENT

In an effort to enhance co-operation between the Jewish Zionist organisations and Jewish Day schools in Johannesburg, the Israel Centre hosted an Educator Cocktail Event at Beyachad during February.



Educator Cocktail Evening at Bevachad - 12 February 2014

Via video conferencing, Natan Sharansky, prominent Israeli politician, human rights activist and author, and Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, addressed a group of educators on confronting Jewish Education in the Diaspora.

Sharansky was extremely positive about the need for enhancing Jewish and Zionist education in diaspora communities. He spoke about the various Jewish Agency programs available to young Jews in the diaspora, and how the Jewish Agency will be investing in the younger generation so as to build and strengthen their Jewish identity and connection to the State of Israel. He stressed the importance of doing this from an early age, and that should be taught at school and in the home.

The initiative was greatly welcomed by Avrom Krenkel, Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, who lauded the commitment coming from Israel as an indication of how important it is to increase knowledge in the diaspora of our Jewish heritage and of Israel.

Rabbi Kacev, Director of SABJE, alongside Sharansky in Rabbi, voiced his excitement at being part of many of the future initiatives of the Jewish Agency. "The

meeting of heads of school, senior educators and community representatives with the Israel Centre served to confirm the tremendous work that the centre does throughout the year for Israel education in the schools and broad community and at the same time reinforce the very good relationship that exists. This is a resource of great benefit to the community and it was a treat to be sitting with Natan Sharansky in Israel as he addressed those present and see first-hand the passion he has for diaspora Jewry and the respect which he has for the South African Jewish community"

Rabbi Hazdan, Dean of Torah Academy, present in the audience said, "We are heartened and reassured by the growing investment and partnership between the Jewish Agency and the diaspora to focus on the vital core issue of Jewish Identity in Jewish education. The Torah Academy is grateful for the projects from which we have benefited through the efforts of the Israel Centre the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Federation."

Overall, the evening proved to be extremely interesting and opened the door to educational initiatives between Israel and South Africa.

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(pro rata to number of students)

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TOPICS TO BE COVERED

History of the Land
Explore the Jewish people's historical connection to the land of Israel

Public Diplomacy (Hasbara)
Acquire useful information, approaches, techniques and skills to help you stand up for Israel

Land and Borders of Israel
Exploration of the History of Israel's borders

The Case for Israel (2 sessions)
Review key points of the Middle East Conflict as presented by Prof. Alan Dershowitz, via DVD

Israel Inside
Learn about Israeli culture, innovation and what makes it a country so unique to the world

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr. Avrom Krengel
Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation





Mr. Shimon Shamila
Director of Israel Centre and Head of Jewish Agency Mithlachot

Rabbi Lawrence Peretz
Managing Director of Yeshiva College and Rabbi of Mizrahi Shul





Mr. Michael Freeman
Deputy Ambassador of Israel to South Africa

