

MANCOM NOVEMBER 2014/2015

Israel Encounter – Dec /Jan 2015

Will be taking place in Israel for 10 days. Gr 11 learners from Johannesburg and Cape Town are eligible to take part in the Encounter program. The tour coordinator from Israel will be coming to SA later in the year to discuss the program with parents of children going on Encounter.

Diller Jan 2015

Israel Centre in partnership with the Helen Diller family foundation had their official launch Sunday January 18th 2015 where we proudly introduced 20 of SA's finest Diller Teen fellow leaders. It was a very inspirational morning with guest speakers: The Honorable Chief Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein; Rabbi Craig Kacev - Director South African Jewish Board of Education; Aviad Sela - Director Israel Centre; Gilad Spitalnik - Diller Teen fellows co-ordinator; Mark Reisbaum - Director Diller Foundation; Liat Raviv - Senior Israel director of International Diller Teen; Avrom Krengel- Chairman South African Zionist Fed. **Diller is an international initiative promoting Jewish teen leadership. Since its inception the program has grown to include 9 community partnerships in North America, Israel and now South Africa.**

Nechama - School Twinning Teachers Development Programme January 2015

In January 2015, Nechama Weingartern-Mintz, a Pedagogic advisor to the School Twinning programme, in Israel, visited the School Twinning schools in Johannesburg and Cape Town, to motivate and support the school twinning teachers in implementing school twinning in their classrooms. **Goals are:** Deepen the South African teachers understanding of, and identification with, the concepts, goals and educational benchmarks of the programme. Create a common twinning language such as, concepts of Jewish peoplehood and Jewish and Israeli Identity. To extend the programme to include English, Jewish Studies, Hebrew and Media teachers into the school twinning programme.

Israel / SA Expo – March 2015

The annual Aliya together expo was incorporated into the Israel / SA expo in collaboration with the SAZF. It took place at the Sandton Convention centre, Johannesburg.

It was very beneficial to the community and offered opportunities for both local and Israeli businesses. Some of our organisations and business that took part in the expo were Banks, medical aid schemes, property rental and purchase businesses, institutions of higher learning and others that provide invaluable services to those South Africans contemplating making the move to live in Israel. We were honoured with the presence of Jewish Agency chairman Natan Sharansky. Mr. Sharansky was interviewed by Kathy Kelar of Chai FM and Anthony Katz from the Jewish report. He Visited exhibition and mingled with the exhibitors.

Windows 2015 – March/April 2015 (P2G)

South Africa is partnered with the town of Beit Shemesh - Mateh Yehuda. As part of the School Twinning programme, Gr 5 & 6 learners from the twinning schools in Israel and South Africa participated in an exciting competition, Windows 2015. The objective of the competition was to encourage the children to learn more about each other's day to day existence in the places they live, play and visit. Participants were required to take a photo from a building structure, train or car, including a window frame, that depicted their daily life, and to upload it to a website with a brief explanation of what they saw. Their twinning counterparts voted for their favourite photo and explanation.

Purim competition 2015

Israel centre organised a Purim competition in order to celebrate the Chag together with the Jewish community. Competition ran from the 5th – 6th March.

This was a community event supported by various Jewish schools which helped promote the competition by advertising in their weekly newsletter and handing out flyers to the learners. Contestants emailed pictures (dedicated email address created purimcomp@gmail.com) dressed up in their costume and the most original and stand out costume won a prize in its category. Pictures were posted on FB for all to enjoy and see the great costumes.

4 categories:

- Babies – 5 years
- 6 years – 9 years
- 10 years – 13 years
- Group selfie max of 4 people (families, friends, teachers...)

Wonderful prizes were sponsored by several well-known companies.

Guest Speaker: Brig. Gen. (ret) UDI DEKEL

Israel centre had the honour and privilege to host an insightful evening with Brig. Gen. (ret) Udi Dekel, Director of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), the leading think-tank in Israel. The evening was a successful one with the community taking a lot of interest. Mr. Dekel addressed many pressing issues concerning Israel / Palestinian conflict and gave us insight into the political dilemmas Israel is currently facing. An open discussion took place and many issues and concerns were answered. The evening was covered by a local newspaper and an article was published.

Maccabim delegation to South Africa 7th – 14th May 2015

A group of Maccabim graduates from the region visited SA from 7 – 14 May, on a Partnership2Gether (P2G) mission in order to learn about and understand their "partnership community". The group consisted of 12 participants from various religious and professional backgrounds. During this mission, the group met with various organisations in Johannesburg and Cape Town, in order to expose them to the various facets and dynamics of the South African Jewish community. Two representatives from the group were interviewed by a local radio talk show called "The afternoon drive" which brought about an overview of the group's purpose.

Beith Ha'am Seminar 10th May 2015

Israel centre was honoured to host Beit Ha'am Seminar and delighted to have Mrs. Gusti Yehoshua Braverman – Head of the WZO Department for Diaspora Activities arrived to SA from Israel to run a day Workshop. Opening introduction and greetings presented by Gusti Braverman along with Benji Shwartz. Workshops group discussions took place on different identities (Jewish, Zionist, South African & Universal). The goals of the Workshop were to understand the importance of dialogue among diverse groups of people and to understand that we can be critical of Israel while still standing under the banner of Zionism.tz – Chairman of the SAZF and Aviad Sela – Israel Centre Director. Johannesburg local Jewish radio station Chai FM took interest in interviewing Mrs. Braverman which gave Mrs. Gusti a platform to announce the Seminar and its purpose.

Israel studies at King David Linksfield / Victory park

Twice a week we gave sessions to Matric students about Israel's history, current affairs and Israeli sessions, which allowed students to ask questions and receive knowledge about the state of Israel.