

## **ISRAEL CENTRE**

### **Aliyah**

An incredible increase in numbers of people making Aliyah since October last year. 2016: 272 Olim. From January to May 2017: 133 Olim.

In 2016 – 307 new files were opened. So far, between January and May 2017, 108 files have been opened.

**Aliyah Expo:** The Israel Centre hosted the Annual Aliyah Expo 2017, which took place in Cape Town, May 15th & 16th and Johannesburg, May 17th & 18th. Israeli delegates arrived in South Africa to represent their organizations, which included various Aliyah departments – Employment, absorption and property, Municipalities, representatives from Higher education facilities and Israeli Student Authority.

### **MASA and experiences in Israel**

#### **Masa Programmes**

Masa – 150 young adults took part in Masa long term programs in Israel. With the new grants that Masa is giving to South Africans we are hoping to see the numbers grow.

#### **Higher Education and Masa expo**

Representatives from Bar-Ilan U, Hebrew U, Technion, Israeli Student Authority and Aardvark Israel Masa program came to SA to take part in our annual expo in CT and JHB. They've addressed grade 11 and 12 learners in CT and JHB schools. Parents meeting in Cape Town and Careers Evening in JHB were huge success with a lot of families that have arrived to receive information.

The representatives also spoke on Chai FM. We are still receiving enquiries re studies and programs in Israel from people that have been to the expo.

### **Israel Encounter 2016/2017**

Israel Encounter tour took place in Dec 2016-Jan 2017. Over 160 grade 11 learners from various schools in JHB and CT took part in the tour.

Dec 2017 will be the last cohort of Encounter, based on the model and financial support established 10 years ago.

### **Masa / SAUJS annual welcome back party**

Over 180 students attended beginning of the year of SAUJS welcome back party in February sponsored by Masa.

### **NAALE ELITE ACADEMY**

1st group - September 2016: 6 students took part in the screening. 5 students were accepted.

2nd group - January 2017: 7 students took part in the screening. 4 students were accepted.

June 2017: 8 students are partaking in the screening which is taking place July 16<sup>th</sup> 2017.

## **Partnership2Gether**

**Steering Committee 13 – 17 November 2016:** The annual P2G Steering Committee was held in Israel in 2016. A lively delegation of P2G staff, from Cape Town and Johannesburg, together with many new lay leadership from South Africa traveled to Israel, for 5 days of intense meetings, to plan the 2017 year ahead. The SA P2G delegates were also able to experience the beauty of the Beit Shemesh – Mateh Yehudah region and enjoy the warm hospitality of this amazing community.

**P2G Madrichim to Youth Movement Summer Camps:** 6 Madrichim from the region participated in the youth movement's summer camps. 2 Madrichim were sent to Bnei Akiva, 2 to Habonim and 2 to Netzer.

**Israel Encounter Visits the Region:** 170 Grade 11 students from schools around SA visited our P2G region as part of the programme for the annual Israel Encounter tour to Israel during December/January 2016/2017.

## **P2G School Twinning 2016-2017**

There are three schools in Cape Town, who participate in the School Twinning Programme, the Herzlia Primaries Constantia, Highlands and Weizmann.

In Johannesburg, there are a total of five schools in the School Twinning Programme, The King David Primaries; Linksfield, Victory Park, Sandton, Linksfield High School and Yeshiva High School for Girls. Torah Academy Nursery School has recently joined the programme and has already started connecting with their partner school in Beit Shemesh.

P2G School Twinning pedagogic advisor visits have continued with Yael Katz, visiting all Twinning Schools in Johannesburg and Cape Town, from 22 – 25 May 2017. These visits help to facilitate the running of the programmes throughout the year and provide additional training and workshops for the twinning teachers and principals.

The P2G School Twinning Joint Teachers Seminar will take place in South Africa this year, from 10 – 17 August 2017. 27 Israeli teachers are scheduled to visit Cape Town and Johannesburg, for this delegation. Here the Israeli teachers will enjoy home hospitality from the SA twinning teachers from each school. They will spend time teaching in the schools, enabling engagement in face-to-face dialogue, getting first-hand experience of teaching in South African schools and allow both sets of teachers to spend time planning educational materials together, for the year ahead.

**Journey to Poland:** 23- 30 July 2017 - 10 South Africans, will join 10 Israeli's in a meaningful journey to Poland and Israel, led by Nicci Raz.

**Tanach-Tashach marathon: 14 – 15 September 2017:** 4 South Africans will join 4 Israeli's from the Partnership region to run a 24 hour relay marathon of 200km in the beautiful scenery, surrounding the area Mateh Yehuda

**Youth Movement Seminar :** In 2017 there will be roughly 65 South Africans on gap year programmes organised by the 3 youth movements represented in South Africa (Bnei Akiva, Habonim Dror and Netzer). The aim of this project is to introduce a yearly seminar in the Mateh Yehuda – Bet Shemesh which will combine all the SA youth movements as well as representatives from local equivalent youth groups

**Inter-Generational Bar/Batmitzvah Programme :** An innovative Jewish experience for Grandparents and Grandchildren, which will be run in Cape Town. Monthly sessions will be held, which will offer a platform for Grandparents to share their experiences of Jewish life and heritage and inspire the younger generation with their commitment to Jewish community, Jewish values and Israel. This Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience will strengthen the teens' relationship to their family, the local community, the Jewish people and Israel.

**CyCalive: 6 – 13 August 2017:** 4 Young men from Beit Shemesh, will join Grade 11 Students from Torah Academy and Moletsane High School and will together cycle the challenging distance from Johannesburg to Durban, in the spirit of Ubuntu.

### **My Family Story**

A roots project in partnership with the Beit Hatfutsot Museum. This year Leah Meyerowitz's project named, " My Grand Family" and Joshua Goldberg's project, named "The Glasses Cabinet" were chosen as worldwide winners!

Leah and Joshua now have a chance to join a special group of 50 kids worldwide, and personally take part in the amazing two day celebrations held at Beit Hatfutsot – The Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv on Thursday, June 8th and Friday June 9th, 2017. Most importantly, Leah and Joshua's displays will be unveiled at the worldwide group exhibition where they will be on view to the thousands of visitors to the international museum.

Herzlia middle school in Cape Town run the programme for the first time. Although the school didn't make it to this year's dead-line, the plan is to submit the works to Beit-Hatfuzot museum next year.

**Merav Shany, P2G Director's visit to South Africa: 22 – 25 May 2017:** The new P2G Director visited South Africa for the first time from 22 – 25 May 2017. She spent 4 extremely busy, but enriching days in both Johannesburg and Cape Town, visiting schools connected to the School Twinning Programme, meeting prominent members of the South African Jewish community.

## **Diller Teen Fellows**

Diller Teen fellows is running with our 3 cohort of 20 teens from King David Linksfield and Victory Park. This year's teens were a very diverse group, ideologically, religiously, culturally, academically and popularity. The fellowship has been exceptionally successful and this year after 2 years of understanding the in's and out's of the programmes, our workshops, shabbatons and Hosting of the Israeli's in Johannesburg is at a very high level both on a local level as well as in comparison to the international programmes. During July the group will spend 3 weeks in Israel for the Israel Summer Seminar with all other global DTF.

## **Zionist caravan May 2017**

Every year the Israeli Mishlachat is undertaking a road trip to visit Jewish communities and Non-Jewish friends in the Western and Eastern Cape. This year we visited the following places: Villiersdorp (2/4), Plettenberg Bay (3/4), East London (4/4), Port Elizabeth (5/4), George (6/4).

Overall we met over 150 people for a meaningful encounter. The theme of the Caravan this year was "The Israel Quiz". That was run a "Pub-Quiz" style. Over and above the quiz we advertise the different available options in Israel i.e. MASA programmes, Universities, Internships and Aliyah. The functions were educational, fun and inspiring and the overall feedback was very positive.

## **Project Ten**

The Jewish Agency together with the South Africa Zionist Federation have partnered in establishing a new Project Ten centre in Durban, South Africa. The Centre was officially open on November 1st. Micaela Browde took over as the director of the centre since the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort. The centre works with local NGO's and recently developed additional programmes: established a youth movement for underprivileged kids in Amaoti; Tumaini under resourced community centre that works with refugees; and opened a computer class to develop basic IT skills. We are working

currently to develop new fields of activities in agriculture and medical aspects as well.

In parallel with our volunteering, our volunteers take part in Jewish Service Learning – evening activities where we look at the Jewish Values that inform our work, International Development, Personal Development and local culture. The volunteers participated in KZN community events: Jewish Holidays, Yom HaAtzmaut, Yom Hazikaron and Yom HaShoa'a  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort begun in mid-May. This is the biggest group so far, of 15 volunteers from Israel, North America and France.

### **Natan Sharansky Project Ten visit**

Chairman of the Executive of The Jewish Agency for Israel, Natan Sharansky, embarked on a five-day trip to Africa to inaugurate Project TEN's new volunteer centres in Namulanda, Uganda and Durban, South Africa.

His also included a visit to Johannesburg, where he met with Jewish community leaders, Jewish Agency emissaries, and non-Jewish supporters of Israel.

### **Israel Quiz 2016**

Israel Centre together with the SA Zionist Federation hosted the successful Israel quiz, which was held at the Edward Nathan Sonnenberg auditorium in Sandton. Over 200 attended to support the 15 finalists in their final quiz round, displaying their knowledge of Israel, Zionism and Judaism.

School and learners who participated in the Israel quiz were Torah Academy boys, KDVP, KDLH and Yeshiva collage.

Israel Quiz 2017 will take place in September with focus on the special events: 50 years for the reunification of Jerusalem, 100 years to the Balfour Declaration, 70 years for the Partition Plan and 120 years for the 1<sup>st</sup> Zionist Congress.