



הסוכנות היהודית
JEWISH AGENCY
FOR ISRAEL
לארץ ישראל



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Members of Knesset visit

A delegation of Members of Knesset had an official visit (August) to South Africa. Organized jointly by the Knesset and The Jewish Agency in partnership with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the South African Jewish community, the trip included high-level meetings with leaders from throughout South African society, as well as a series of meetings and visits aimed at deepening the Israeli lawmakers' familiarity with South African Jewry. During their time in South Africa, the five Members of Knesset—representing both the coalition and the opposition—met with senior political figures from across the political spectrum.

While in Johannesburg, the lawmakers met with the leaders of the local Jewish community and with Jewish Agency representatives, as well as with families who are about to immigrate to Israel. They also KDL and met with Jewish students, youth movement leaders, and alumni of Masa Israel Journey. In Cape Town, the MKs visited the South African Jewish Museum, the Holocaust Centre, and the local Herzlia School, and celebrated Shabbat at the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation (Gardens Shul). Throughout their time in South Africa, the delegates were accompanied by representatives of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, the South African Zionist Federation, IUA-UCF (Keren Hayesod), and the Embassy of Israel in Pretoria, who helped organize the visit.

Member of Knesset Dr. Nachman Shai (Zionist Union), who co-chairs the Knesset Caucus for Strengthening the Jewish World and led the delegation, said: “The delegation’s visit and meetings with the Jewish community dealt with the ties that bind the Jewish people worldwide, including Israel and the South African Jewish community. The community’s devotion and attachment to Israel left a deep impression on us. South African Jewry’s connection to Zionism and to Israel are the community’s hallmarks, positioning it in a place of honor among the world’s Jewish communities.”

Secretary General of The Jewish Agency for Israel, Josh Schwarcz, who accompanied the delegation, said: “This is part of The Jewish Agency’s ongoing joint initiative with the Knesset to bring dozens of MKs and Israeli government decision makers to Jewish communities worldwide. These visits are critical to strengthening the bonds with Israel and to deepening Israeli leaders’ understanding of the challenges facing the Diaspora.”

Aliyah Department Statistics for 2017

The Aliyah Department has seen a huge increase in numbers of people making Aliyah since last year. In 2016 - 270 olim left. From January to mid October 2017 – 234 olim have left. From October to December 2017 we expect approximately another 60 olim to leave making an estimate of 294 olim.

MASA and experiences in Israel

Masa

112 young adults are taking part or registered so far to start their Masa programs in Israel. We are expecting the numbers to grow by the end of Masa academic year in August 2018, due to the new MASA grants to SA and new marketing strategy.

Israel Encounter

In December close to 200 grade 11 and 12 learners from various schools in JHB and CT will take part in what seems to be probably the last Israel Encounter tour. There will be 5 groups going (JHB mixed group, CT group, Girls group, Boys group, Yeshiva College Kfar group).

Partnership2Gether

P2G School Twinning Delegation in Jhb and Cape Town 10 – 17 August

The P2G School Twinning Joint Teachers Seminar took place in South Africa this year, from 10 – 17 August 2017. 27 Israeli educators visited Cape Town and Johannesburg. They spent time teaching in the schools, enabling engagement in face-to-face dialogue, getting first-hand experience of teaching in South African schools and allowed both sets of teachers to spend time planning educational materials together, for the year ahead. It was an extremely successful delegation, with bonds between the schools and teachers being strengthened and an exciting curriculum planned for 2017/2018.

Tanach-Tashach marathon: 14 – 15 September 2017

A group of 4 dynamic South Africans led by Rabbi Ramon Widmont, joined 4 Israeli's from the Partnership region to run a 24 hour relay marathon of 200km in the beautiful scenery, surrounding the area of Mateh Yehuda.

Journey to Poland: 23 – 30 July 2017

10 South Africans, from Cape Town and Johannesburg joined 10 Israeli's from the P2G region, in the second annual Journey to Poland, led by Nicci Raz, Director of SAZF and highly experienced tour guide, Liz Elsby, from Yad Vashem. The group experienced the history of the Jews of Poland as well as the horror of the Holocaust. This journey allows South Africans and Israelis to share their moving experience in Poland and also experienced being in the P2G region and in Yad Vashem before their departure to Poland. All participants agreed that it was an extremely successful delegation and was well organized.

A quote from one of the participants: "Being in Poland definitely makes one more aware of how vulnerable we all are. It is about remembering the past and making sure that it never happens again, but also about going forward to make this world a better place".

Youth Movement Seminar

On 29 and 30 October 2017, the first Youth Movement Seminar will be held in Israel. Approximately 65 South Africans on gap year programmes, will participate in this seminar, which will be 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 region, which will combine all the SA youth movements as well as representatives from local equivalent youth groups in Israel.

CyCalive: 6 – 13 August 2017

Grade 11 students of different cultural and religious backgrounds came together on Sunday, 6 August 2017, to cycle the challenging distance from Johannesburg to Durban, in the spirit of Ubuntu. The Group of boys from Torah Academy and Moletsane High in Soweto, were joined by 4 boys from the Partnership2Gether region of Beith Shemesh – Metah Yehudah and were

accompanied by chaperon, Chaim Danino. Great connections and many life lessons were learned. The overall experience was extremely enriching for all the participants.

Diller Teen Fellows

The programme handed over to the SAZF during September.

Israel Quiz 2017

Israel Centre together with the SA Zionist Federation hosted the Israel Quiz 2017 successful Israel quiz, which was held at King David Linksfield High school auditorium. 10 finalists displayed their knowledge of Israel, Zionism and Judaism. School and learners who participated in the Israel quiz were from Torah Academy, KDVP and Yeshiva collage. This year Israel Quiz focused 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 1st Zionist Congress.

The quiz was renamed after the late Shimon Peres 'The Shimon Peres Israel Quiz. A special 1 year anniversary since the passing away of Mr. Peres was held in his honour.

WZO porogrammes

Walking a Tightrope – Gusti Braverman's visit

A very successful workshop to 35 youth and students disscusing in round tables topics regarding Israel-Diaspora connection. The seminar followed by the film Ben-Gurion – Epilogue. The WZO activities during October run both in Johannesburg and in Durban.

Debating

45 High level learners from KDLH and KDVP debate in Hebrew about various topics about Israel.

Cooking in Hebrew

The programme started on the 18th October, where 24 none Hebrew speaking members of the Jewish community learn to cook while speaking in Hebrew. The programme runs every 3 weeks. While cooking, a different topic about Israel is discussed.

Soweto – ‘Your neighbor’

It started from a tour Dani Habebe went on in Soweto. Funded by the Jewish agency and with the involvement of Rabbi Kacev, a bus to Soweto is lent and takes the learners from KDL as well as teachers who help Soweto learners with extra lessons of various school subjects.

Upcoming project – ‘Tachlis’

Teaching Hebrew on a High level where one will learn Israeli vocabulary and slang like an Israeli speaks on a day to day basis.

NAALE Eite Academy

14 young SA were accepted to NAALE programme. It's a huge increasing of number since the Israel Centre took responsibility on the programme.