

FOCUS ON TELFED



Compiled by **Sharon Bernstein**

Western Province Zionist Council (WPZC)

Reports Telfed Chairman **Itz Kalmanowitz**

I feel privileged to have been invited to participate in the Bi-annual conference of the WPZC held at the Albow Centre in Cape Town during September. There were visitors and participants engaged in activities centred around the youth, women, fundraising, local community welfare, the aged and Zionist activity. It is heartening that so much activity takes place, indicating a warm, caring and dedicated community.

The Conference was held in a positive atmosphere of optimism and support. If there were areas of disagreement, which in any politically oriented organisation are inevitable, it was not reflected in overall support and concern for Israel and its future.

Participants with experience in the field led the main sessions dealing with Aliya & Youth activities. The desire to participate in the debates was strenuous, even aggressive, but always constructive and illuminating. Whilst the rate at which decisions to make Aliya is slow, the general interest displayed in private conversations, lead one to feel a sense of optimism that this could undergo change.

Dr David Breakstone from the WZO delivered the keynote address. He gave a presentation of the acute problem of the widening socio-economic schism in Israeli society and the need to recognise and meet this challenge. A session devoted to the media and its treatment of Israel's security was useful to hear debated by a concerned Zionist leadership.

South African Jews are living through a period of major change. In order



Itz Kalmanowitz



to compensate for 300 years of historical inequities, the majority government imposes on the one hand through a policy of 'affirmative action', difficulties for young white graduates to achieve, while on the other, exciting opportunities to bring about a just society in the longer term.

As the community, and especially young people, face this new challenge, it is heartwarming that support for Israel and the desire to participate in the Jewish historical experience remains strong and vibrant.

In Telfed We Trust

The Stanley & Zea Lewis Foundation, administered by **Telfed**, is one of the major Trusts which assists Telfed in caring for the welfare of the Southern African community in Israel. The Trust distributes study bursaries to needy students and financial assistance to families and individuals who have fallen on hard times.

Stanley & Zea Lewis recently met with Telfed representatives to review the work of the Trust and it was agreed that further funds have to be raised in Israel and abroad in order to meet the increased demand for assistance.



Telfed Chairman Itz Kalmanowitz, Israel Centre Director Dorrn Klein, Owen Futeran, SAZF Chairman Avrom Krengel.

PRAS Project Turns Three

Reports **Debbie Chitiz**

Nineteen students and a student coordinator helped a wide variety of people from new immigrant children to the elderly and from all across the country. Excellent feedback has been received from all the participants - students and recipients alike. Although the programme ran from January to June – most of the students have retained contact with their clients and continue to visit them on a regular basis.



Natalie Sandler and Sheri Kassel

Through PRAS, the *olim* students who had difficulty with school work have managed to pass the school year with ease and adapt to Israeli society with the help of their "older brother or sister", while aging couples have benefited from the relationship formed with a "grandson or granddaughter".

Sheri Kassel who recently completed three years as the Coordinator of PRAS, has handed over the reins to **Natalie Sandler**. We wish Sheri *behatzlacha* and thank her for the dedicated job she did over the past three years.

Likewise we wish Natalie a successful



Stanley & Zea Lewis with Israeli Trustees Sam Levin & Nick Alhadeff, and Telfed representatives Annette Milliner & Sidney Shapiro.



term as PRAS coordinator for the current academic year.

Applications are now being received from students willing to participate in our fourth PRAS programme. If you have a good command of the English language, have filled in an application for a Telfed scholarship and feel that you will have the time available to participate, please call Debbie on 09-7446110 ext 205.

Manof Celebrates 25 years

While the focus this year by **Telfed's Projects Committee** has been on Modi'in, where some 40 apartments have been snapped up by Southern Africans both in Israel and from abroad (See Telfed March 2005). The year 2005 also marks the 25th anniversary of one of Telfed's earlier successes.

Visitors from all over Israel, including representatives from Telfed and the Jewish Agency, attended moshav **Manof's** 25th celebrations. Since the first 35 families moved to their new homes in 1980, a further 100 have joined and there are a further twenty homes under construction. Vice-Chair **Hilary**



'Manofniks' Irit and Sidney Kaplan, Janice and Jack Freedberg with Telfed Vice-Chair Hilary Kaplan.

Kaplan brought greetings from **Telfed**, expressing that "Unlike the Maccabiah athletes this week who are uncertain if they will be taking home a medal or not, it is a sure thing that the success of Manof on its 25th is deserving of a Gold."

Farewell To Shula Rubinow

After 37 years of service, **Shula Rubinow** has taken her leave of Telfed. "Its tough," she says, "After all, its like saying goodbye to family." No doubt her expertise will still be sought and evidence of this was that within a week of her farewells at Telfed, she was boarding a plane to Australia to where she was sent on short-term *shlichut* by the Jewish Agency.



Shula Rubinow

Writes Telfed Vice Chair Annette Milliner: "There was never a time that you turned your back on anyone requiring information—whether they were *olim*, *vatikim*, senior citizens,

young students or unqualified people wanting to make their life in Israel. You were there to advise and hold their hands until their feet had touched solid ground. You were the shoulder they could cry on; their confidante, but above all, your knowledge was encyclopaedic."

Writes Telfed Vice Chair Hilary Kaplan: "Most people need books of reference, websites etc, but not so with Shula. She would be able to rattle off all the new laws and conditions, updates and changes. This ensured that whoever Shula dealt with got the very best assistance with the utmost care and sensitivity. You will be sorely missed by all those whose lives you touched."

Writes former colleague Narda Korakin: "When I recall working with Shula, I am reminded of a mother hen, looking after all her new aliyah "*chicks*" clearing their path from any obstacle they may encounter and 'feeding' them constantly with crucial information to ensure their 'survival'.

Writes former Telfed Chairman David Kaplan:
 “While for many people, a job is a job - not so with Shula. She approached her work with a passion and dedication that endeared her to the many thankful recipients of her services and earned her the respect from her colleagues in the Jewish Agency and other immigrant organizations. How often I recall *outsiders* tapping into her expertise and commenting, “If anyone will know, Shula will.” *She didn't just come by that reputation, she earned it.*

All members of the Telfed Executive and Staff wish Shula the best of health, happiness and fulfillment in the future.

Telfed Hosts.....

Addressing a **Telfed** gathering in Raanana, South Africa's new Chief Rabbi, **Warren Goldstein**, said that in the light of his country's “political miracle” - even suggesting “we can see the hand of God there” - Israel can no longer “rely on the *push* from South Africa anymore. For South Africans to come to Israel today, it has to be a *pull aliyah*.” He stressed, “the South African Jewish community should no longer be looked upon as a community in crisis. With the former emigrants returning to the country, including Jews, the sizes of our communities have stabilized.”

The Chief Rabbi proudly asserted, “We have a stable democracy and a balanced budget. Critics of South Africa are running out of reasons” to criticize their former country.



Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein with Itz Kalmanowitz and Sidney Shapiro.

We wish Telfed Magazine continued success in all its its endeavours.

Selwyn & Valerie Feinblum & family

Prior to his departure in taking up his new position as ambassador to South Africa, **Ilan Baruch** paid a courtesy call at Telfed where he met with the Management Committee. Discussions ensued on *aliyah* and bi-lateral trade relations. South Africa has been without an Israeli ambassador since **Tova Herzl** departed some eighteen months ago.

Cognisant of South Africa's growing fundamentalist Muslim movement, Baruch expressed in a recent interview to *Ha'aretz* that “Whoever shows support for violence against us, is not a partner for conversation. I don't think I should seek out Hamas supporters for dialogue.” In the wake of Israel's disengagement from Gaza, he may well have an easier time than his predecessor, whose ambassadorship coincided with the most violent period of the *Intifada*.

Keen to learn from the South African experience of reconciliation, he expressed that on “people-to-people issues, we could learn a lot and apply it to our endeavours to create improved relations between Israelis

Best wishes to "Telfed" on its 30th anniversary from the Chaverim of Kibbutz Yizreel....



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and Palestinians. I aim to explore these opportunities in South Africa.”

Netzer Visits Telfed

Reports Margo Sugarman

Netzer, the South African Reform Movement's youth movement, sent its first group to tour Israel this June. The group of fifteen ranging from age 16-22 visited **Telfed** for a chat and a light lunch. In spite of having spent several hours on a bus before reaching Ra'anana, the group was full of energy, and filled the conference room with their high spirits and enthusiasm for the programme they were on. They were given some background on Telfed's activities in Israel, and were fascinated to hear from **Yael Weiss** about life in Israel as a young Israeli about to enlist in the army.

The Netzer group then brought the **Telfed's Youth & Students Committee** up to date on one of South



Netzer group at the Telfed offices.

Africa's lesser-known youth movements. While Netzer may be small in numbers, the dedication and commitment of its members both to Israel and to South African causes are significant. We hope that this encounter in Israel will be the first of many.

Telfed also hosted a student tour under the auspices of **SAUJS** as well as a **Mizrachi** Pilot tour.

Telfed Looks to the Future

By Hilary Kaplan

Every organization needs to reflect on its mission and vision from time to time. Members of the Telfed Executive met at Beit Issie Shapiro on Friday 23rd September to participate in a Retreat to do just that.

Facilitated by professionals **Derek Perlman** and **Batya Hodatov**, the executive divided into small workshops.

“**What makes Telfed unique?**” All the participants agreed that the assistance it gives to the Southern

FOCUS ON TELFED

African community - *welcoming new olim, finding employment, housing projects, the granting of scholarships and bursaries, financial assistances in the form of grants or loans or just keeping the community connected through the website, magazine or special events* - is what makes Telfed unique.

However the most challenging discussion followed a report by Director **Sidney Shapiro** on the changing environment in which Telfed functions.

Operating under new, harsh financial constraints – an end to the Jewish Agency budget starting from 2006 - the participants had to think clearly as to which activities and projects should remain priorities.

Each of the groups came up with interesting and challenging ideas. This was the beginning of a process that together with Telfed's professional staff will help determine the direction of the organization and how best to implement the ideas presented to ensure that Telfed will always be a 'unique' organization caring for its community.

Telfed invites you to send in your thoughts and/or suggestions on what you



Ilana Bank and Michelle Woolf at the Telfed retreat.

feel the priorities for the organisation should be. Log onto the Forum at www.telfed.org.il

and let us hear from you. You can also email us at: info@telfed.org.il or write to Telfed (See address on page 1).

Mazal Tovs

•*Mazal tov* to **Sidney and Michele Shapiro** and **Janice Green** on the birth of a grandson. •*Mazal tov* to **Leanne Gaffan** on her marriage to **Gadi Hareli**.

REGIONAL NEWS

Eilat

Mid-September, Telfed's most Southern Regional Committee met with **Debbie Chitiz**, who traveled from Raanana to personally voice Telfed's support and encouragement.

Fonda Dubb was elected "Social Coordinator" and **Linda Dreiblatt**, Telfed Assistance Coordinator. Besides the delicious sandwiches and *melkert* courtesy of Fonda, Debbie presented challenging ideas on how to channel the group. Members of the community know whom to turn to for social and financial assistance and a strong, willing and supportive group was formed. The next event will be a "Chanukah" get-together on Saturday evening, the 24th December. Further details will follow.

Kfar Saba

The Telfed Regional committee is active in a variety of projects in the general community. Its **Keren Aliza Fund**,

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named after a former Zimbabwian member of the committee, assists children with special educational needs. In September the Fund donated NIS 500 to assist two children whose family could not afford to buy schoolbooks.



Provisions provided by Beth Protea residents were distributed by Telfed to needy members of the Southern African community around Israel.

The main reason why the committee is able to obtain municipal facilities for Telfed functions at nominal cost, is "because we are so active in our city's activities under the banner of **Telfed**," explains **Janine Gelley**, Chairperson of **Telfed**, Kfar Saba. She cites the example of the Cancer Society where "our committee has been active for over a decade."

Modi'in AGM

Modiin recently held their AGM attended by Telfed's Vice Chairs, Annette Milliner & Dave Bloom as well as staff member Debbie Chitiz.

The Mayor of Modiin opened with a few words of greetings and spoke of his visits to South Africa to encourage *aliyah* to his

city. He looked to the local community to welcome newcomers and presented instances of other successful towns in Israel where South Africans had settled and integrated so well.

Annette brought greetings from **Telfed**, thanked outgoing and Modiin's first Chairman, **Haim Miller**. Clint Rubin was

elected the new chairman." **Dave Bloom** gave a Power Point presentation on Telfed's activities - and spoke of the vital role of Telfed in reaching out to the community through its magazine, website and email newsletter.

The guest speaker, **Marlyn Butchins** gave a presentation of her *Dizengoff Quilt Project* (See **Telfed Magazine** March 2005)

Ra'anana

Telfed's Ra'anana Regional Committee is presently organizing museum tours. In August a group of 57 visited the new Yad Vashem Holocaust museum. The next tour will be to the **Menahem Begin**

cont. on next page



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NEW ARRIVALS

Heritage Centre, scheduled for Friday the 11th November. If you are interested in registering, contact **Barry Kornel** on 050-6700154 or **Debbie Chitiz** at Telfed, 09-7446110 ext 205. •

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Fleischer, Alan (accountant)
Friedman, Ephraim (jeweller) and Merle née Louis (academic)
Jaacobi, Yitzchak and Thelma née Frack (housewife)
Plen, Aviva
Isaacs, Julian
Marshak, Michael and Dina née Sacks (retired)
Sassi, Amos and Oraleah née Philips (doctor)
Sevitz, Belinda (occupational therapist)
Gobey, Uri (computers)
Aremband, David and Florence
Hovsha, Laura (childcare)
Kezurer, Kevin, Katie and children: Reuben, Nitsah and Matityahu
Galgut, Myron and Jacqueline

CAPE TOWN

- Bitton**, Ittamar
Friedman, Evelyn nee Dorfman (retired)
Kornblum, Moshe (rabbi), Gilah nee Galloon, (speech therapist) and children: Rifka, Aliza, Esther, Yonatan, and Baruch
Marcus, Lior (business manager)
Sherman, Lazar and Batya

DURBAN

- Davidowitz**, Choni, Miriam and Moira

HARARE

- Kohll**, Edgar and Joyce nee Cork (retired)

BETH PROTEA

B•U•L•L•E•T•I•N



reports Channi Hurwitz

THE MAGIC NUMBER THIRTEEN

Sometimes in life, the dream and the reality are two completely separate issues. With Beth Protea, that has never been the case. What started out as a vision by a group of insightful women and men, with the needs of their community in mind, has turned into an immaculately functioning organization imbued with love, caring and compassion. The result exceeds the bounds of any regular household.



Celia Olswang lighting the first candle with Lynn Lockoff. left: MC Channi Hurwitz with



candle-lighters Beth Protea Chairman Harry Chweidan and Paul Liptz.

This year, Beth Protea proudly celebrates its Barmitzvah. To commemorate this special birthday, a Gala Dinner was held at the end of August as a tribute to all those wonderful people who made the Beth Protea dream a reality. Entertaining our guests at the Daniel Hotel in Herzliya were the Ra'anana Symphonette and the special vocal talents of Yevgeny Shapovalov, Vladislav Garay and Colin Schachat, resulting in a concert never to be forgotten.



Telfed Vice-Chair Hilary Kaplan, Beth Protea Director of Public Relations Lyn Bach with donors Sheila and Eric Sampson.

At the end of September, a Special Birthday Party celebration was held at Beth Protea for all the residents, their families, friends and the staff. On this special night, thirteen candles were lit—each one illuminating a particular facet of the Protea Diamond, reinforcing our belief that “Even

a little light can transform much darkness”.

The dedication and warmth – the hallmark of the relationship between Beth Protea’s residents and staff – were all too evident in the display of partnership of the evening’s celebration.