A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY…

Full days and evenings keep everyone active at Beth Protea. Regular lectures, concerts, movies, exercise programs, art classes and outings. Indoor carpet bowls now boasts more than 14 regular players, “Parliament” discussions headed by Yehuda Drori packs in a crowd, new and innovative evening programs introduced by Residents Committee Chairman Leon Lewis persuades our residents to share their personal stories. Bridge club evenings meticulously presided over by Bobsy and Monty still one of the weekly highlights and is open to anyone from the outside who wishes to participate. The list goes on and on. The days and the nights are simply not long enough.

OUR VERY OWN ENGLISH ROSE …

Who would believe that Beth Protea hosts its very own “English Rose”. This rose in the form of talented singer/performer – resident Judy Lane Bernstein – who wooed her audience here at Beth Protea recently when she treated us all to an evening of old time favorites. What a treat to have such a treasure right within our own walls. Way to go Judy!

MAGIC MILESTONE …

It is certainly not every day that we have the opportunity of celebrating a 100th birthday. Just recently, all the residents enjoyed a scrumptious afternoon tea provided by the Hyde family in celebration of Lily’s milestone 100th birthday. A lady to be reckoned with. A lady of note. Her family shared stories of her full and active life with us all, enlightened us with tales of her successful history. How honored we are to have this special lady living with us here at Beth Protea.

TWENTY YEARS ON …

A day none of us will ever forget. Honoring that torturous day in our history when Yitzchak Rabin was violently struck down, Beth Protea paid tribute to the man and his vision on the 20th anniversary of his passing. David Kaplan, former Chairman of Telfed and co-founder of TBT, addressed the well-attended gathering and was supported with recollections by members in the audience.

HAPPY 23rd BIRTHDAY BETH PROTEA …

Where have the years gone to!! October was time to celebrate our 23rd birthday. And what a celebration it was. Closing our eyes, it was easy to imagine we were in Central Park as we listened to the calming sounds of Simon & Garfunkel. Wonderful renditions performed by the ever talented Moni Arnon.
While Hamlet lamented “perchance to dream” for “there lies the rub”, for young Jews in the youth movements in Southern Africa following the Second World War, dreams were never a “rub” they “were our life blood,” says Bnei Zion youth movement graduate, Doddie Gordon of Kibbutz Hasolelim. “It inspired us to come and fight for Israel and then to stay on and build this country,” says the recently turned 80 year-old who, during the early fifties had been mesmerised listening to “our Shlichim from Israel relate stories of the heroic Southern African Machal Volunteers of 1948” at his weekly Bnei Zion meetings in Mayfair, Johannesburg.

His opportunity to follow in their brave footsteps came with Israel’s call to help fight in 1956, and in April - at the age of twenty - he was part of the first group that boarded a flight to Israel. “No sooner had we landed, than we were absorbed into the Nachal Battalion where our training included bayonet practice and parachute jumping.”

In this issue we report on recent celebratory events in Israel of Southern Africa’s Bnei Zion and Habonim youth movements, and explore the paths of those who dared “To Dream the Dream” in the words of internationally acclaimed ‘Les Misérables’ lyricist of Herbert Kretzmer (see page 37) and who followed their dreams in our Cover Story (Page 24).

Still very much following its dream is Telfed.

Since 1948 when Telfed was established to assist the early ‘dreamers’ who put their lives on hold to come and fight in the War of Independence, it has not stopped dreaming. This year marks Telfed embarking on an ambitious new project for South African high school graduates to consider study options in Israel. If in earlier days, the ‘dreamers’ came in garinim (groups) to kibbutzim and moshavim when Israel was an agricultural economy, the idea today is come and study at the “Start Up Nation’s” finest universities and colleges. At the IDC Herzliya alone, there are 1,800 foreign students from 86 countries, with over sixty from South Africa, 45 of them studying in English at its prestigious Raphael Recanati International School (RRIS).

Embracing this “Sexy phenomenon,” as described by RRIS head, Jonathan Davis, Telfed’s new project, SASI (South Africans Studying in Israel) will transform a dream into reality. “It is something we are well experienced in,” asserts Telfed’s new Chairman, Maish Isaacs.

As we celebrate Chanukah this year, let us identify with that ancient “Little band of Hasmonaeans”. While as Jews, we remain eternally outnumbered and beset by tyrants determined to destroy us, we have - through faith and fortitude – always overcome.

With the lighting of the chanukiah, we celebrate light over darkness and what better way to illuminate the journey ahead than to promote and facilitate higher education for future generations in Israel.

In the years ahead, Telfed’s SASI is destined to be a blue and white “Class Act”.

David E. Kaplan. Editor

From the Editor

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The Magazine for all Ages
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At the AGM earlier this year of the Meyer Hirsch Goldschmidt Foundation held at the Telfed office in Ra’anana, a plaque was unveiled dedicating its Volunteerism and Community Development Office in memory of Paul and May Arieli and their son, Louis Ariel (children/grandchildren of the late Meyer Hirsch Goldschmidt.) The plaque was unveiled by Dr. Jeanne Katz, granddaughter of the late “MH” as he was affectionately known, and her husband, Professor David Katz.

The ceremony marks an inspiring journey that began with the arrival in Cape Town of “MH” from Germany in 1920 where he founded MH Goldschmidt (Pty Ltd) together with his wife, Germaine. The family’s legacy of communal responsibility began with MH emerging himself in local Jewish causes, most notably ‘signing for’ hundreds of German refugees seeking safety in South Africa. Over the years he supported a variety of causes both in SA and Israel, and helped found and sustain Cape Town’s Herzlia School. The Foundation - with both Cape Town and Israeli branches - was designed to perpetuate his ideas, and to inspire future generations.

This illustrious history exuded at the ceremony at Telfed where the Goldschmidt legacy of communal responsibility spans over four generations helping those in need, all in the spirit of the values perpetuated by the family.

A strong supporter of Telfed since the 1980s, “the Meyer Hirsch Goldschmidt Foundation has been able to assist students to further their education and to provide vital community support services,” expressed Telfed Chairman, Maish Isaacson.

Heart of Gold. (l-r) At the Meyer Hirsch Goldschmidt Foundation AGM at Telfed, Maish Isaacson, Chairman of Telfed is seen with Foundation Fund Auditor Mike Solomon, Dr. Jeanne Katz and Professor David Katz following the unveiling of a plaque honouring the Goldschmidt and Arieli families.
Ambassador Arthur Lenk is a man on a mission. He is not just Israel’s diplomatic representative to South Africa, a country which has grown increasingly hostile in the last few years, but he is a firm advocate for dialogue and seeing how Israeli smart tech can help the African state.

Organised by Telfed, Ambassador Lenk recently addressed a large audience at the Shivtei Community Hall in Ra’anana where a curious and concerned audience listened with great interest as he described the situation in South Africa. He spoke of the many success stories achieved through bilateral relations between the two countries.

“South Africa and Israel share many of the same challenges with regards to agriculture and water. Israeli vendors have worked with rural communities in helping to deal with many of the challenges they face and with their technology, have created solutions and sustainability,” said the Ambassador.

Israel is synonymous with “being the start-up centre of the world” and hence attractive for entrepreneurs keen to learn the secrets of its success. This is the same for South African ‘tech-preneurs’ and there has been a steady flow of professionals coming to Israel. “Our Embassy has facilitated many visits from excited entrepreneurs who are eager to share ideas and glean knowledge,” said Lenk.

These kinds of relationships are definitely throwing a spanner in the nefarious works of BDS South Africa and helping to break down barriers and pre-conceived notions about Israel.

Palaver over Pretzels
The Ambassador also weighed in on the effect that BDS South Africa is having on the Jewish community and on retailers, like Woolworths. “The tomatoes that Woolworths

continued on page 6
sells are actually grown in Limpopo using Israeli technology but everyone knows that Israel is synonymous with a really good quality brand and that is what is attractive to customers.”

The disruptive form of activism by BDS supporters in the form of till jamming, looting and store lie-ins, has not deterred shoppers from seeking out their favourite tomatoes, Israeli pretzels or cherries. It seems like quite a palaver over some pretzels!

Regarding how to deal with BDS (Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions), Ambassador Lenk believes that the more coverage we give them in social media, in places like Twitter and Facebook, could be counterproductive. “We could be feeding the beast.” It cannot be denied that the intimidating tactics of BDS and their supporters have made many in the community extremely nervous.

Members of the audience also expressed their concerns about the intimidation of Jewish students on campuses around the country, especially during March when universities become a hotbed of anti-Israel activism, conveniently packaged as “Israel Apartheid Week”.

Ambassador Lenk advocated an Israel Equality Week would be more fitting and spoke about programmes to empower students by working with Stand With Us and others that come to South Africa from Israel for this purpose.

Ambassador Lenk chooses to maintain a positive focus on the future and the mutual benefits that bilateral ties between Israel and South Africa bring. This is not to say he is unaware of the challenges, especially as relations between the two states cool on some fronts. One thing is for sure, navigating the twisted turns Lenk is proving adept at exercising diligent diplomacy.

**Staff Snippets**

Lots to welcome at Telfed these days:- Debbie Friedman and Tasha Elliston both as Resource Development Associates.

Tasha deals with Keren Telfed donations, Telfed Magazine subscriptions and its distribution, while Debbie is responsible for the Telfed e-newsletter, the website and Facebook pages as well as the magazine and website’s advertising.

Sizzling with enthusiasm, the British-born newcomers to the
Telfed family express that “working for the Southern African community through Telfed is a great honour and privilege!”

Dana Ben Chail is the new Head of Volunteerism, community projects and events. Dana was a past Shlicha for the Jewish Agency and Hillel on university campuses in the USA and brings with her much experience in the field of volunteerism. She holds a Master’s degree in Organisational Development from Bar Ilan University.

Dudy Jacobs is a Klitah counsellor, who under Telfed’s professional guidance, will be serving Olim from the Netherlands, attending to their immigration and absorption needs.

New additions to the ‘Telfed Family’ arrived with tiny Lihi, a baby daughter to Telfed’s PRAS programme head, Dana Levy-Tavor. A hearty Mazel Tov to Dana and her family!

Filling in for her while on maternity leave for six months will be Hadas Kline who was the PRAS coordinator for the greater Jerusalem area for the last three years while studying for her social work degree at Bar Ilan University.

PRASworthy

PRAS, Telfed’s unique bursary programme, has been steadily growing and improving throughout the years.

“Over 150 handpicked students participate in PRAS who volunteer with the Southern African Olim community assisting them to adapt to Israeli life and integrate into Israeli society,” said Dana Levy-Tavor who heads Telfed’s PRAS programme. For this upcoming academic year, “we have received 352 applications from University students throughout the country, of which the vast majority are of Southern African descent.”

There are four student regional coordinators headed by Hadas Kline ensuring the smooth running of the programme.

PRAS’s opening seminar took place on the 13th of November 2015 at the IDC in Herzliya. This will be followed in January by a public Bursary Award Ceremony in Jerusalem hosted by the mayor, Nir Barkat. Watch the Telfed press for further details.

Job Hunting

Southern African job seekers were treated to a workshop at Telfed recently given by Ron Bowman, President of the Dale Carnegie College in Israel. Bowman, who hails from the U.K. and the U.S., addressed how to job search, improve one’s competitive edge, be goal-orientated and increase self-awareness and self-confidence. He stressed “making first impressions count and it helps having a positive attitude in life.”

continued on next page
“The participants came away enriched and encouraged, with many new tips and tools,” said Sharon Bernstein who heads Telfed’s employment division.

Nurturing Leadership

Much has happened since last year when Telfed approached the Diller Foundation of the USA to set up a “South Africa – Beit Shemesh/Mateh Yehudah Diller Teen Leadership Training Programme”.

Until that time Diller had only worked with the USA and Israel. In July, Telfed’s CEO, Dorron Kline, met with the Diller Teen Leadership programme participants in Beit Shemesh. “It was wonderful to see twenty 10th and 11th graders from Johannesburg meet their counterparts from Beit Shemesh and Mateh Yehudah,” says Dorron. This followed an earlier visit to South Africa of 20 Beit Shemesh/Mateh Yehudah participants. Next year Diller plans to expand the programme to Cape Town.

“I can’t thank Telfed enough for this opportunity,” said Yakira Shepherd, one of the Johannesburg Diller participants. Gilad Spitalnik, the Diller Counselor from Johannesburg said, “The Diller programme has changed the lives of these teens. Soon the Jewish community of Johannesburg will feel the tremendous impact of twenty new young Jewish leaders.”

Following the successful launch of Diller – South Africa, the Zionist Federation of Australia will also be following suite. Telfed is proud to have been the catalyst for further Diaspora communities to follow in the wake of Telfed’s initiative.
A Taste of Telfed

A summer picnic was held at the Telfed Amishav buildings in Tel Aviv. “It was lovely to officially meet the new property manager of ISRENTCO, Dafna Rosenfeld, together with the veteran Telfed staff members - Susan Sharon and Dorron Kline,” said tenant Dianne Sher.

“It was especially heart-warming for all the Amishav little babies and young children to meet each other... and bless them - there are quite a few.”

Dianne suggests “having more functions like these - it reminds people what Telfed is about – assisting Southern African (and now Australian) Olim. We appreciate the effort that Telfed put in to making the gathering meaningful, fun and tasty.”

This summer, a sumptuous breakfast was served in honour of Telfed’s stalwart team who assist the staff “come rain or shine,” week after week. Attending the breakfast were Rosaline Bak, Gordon and Melanie Bloch, Leon Blum, Sharon Epstein, Pamela Jankelowitz, Felicia and Dave Levin and Helene Cohen.

Developing Young Leadership

Telfed has recently established a committee headed by new Exco member Daniel Winer to encourage, recruit and engage volunteers up to the age of 35 to facilitate the absorption of immigrants of this age bracket and to build the next generation of community leaders.

“We expanded Telfed’s Young Volunteers Committee that comprises Southern African and Australian volunteers 35 years old and younger. Their mandate is to advance goals relevant to their age group,” says Daniel.

Another Young
Volunteers Committee was formed in Jerusalem. Together with Telfed’s professional Klitah staff, representatives participated in a “meet and greet” interactive session with new olim in the Jerusalem environs, a move warmly welcomed by Jerusalem’s Southern African community.

Hot under the new committee’s belt, “was our successful Shabbat excursion to Tzfat during the weekend of the Shabbat Project in late October,” says Daniel. “The response was overwhelming with close to sixty young people participating. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this fantastic opportunity to connect and experience something so enriching.”

In response to the tense situation in Jerusalem, “We collaborated with World Bnei Akiva and the Sydney Jewish Community of Australia to organise a “happening” in downtown Jerusalem. Over 1000 people participated with at least 250 at any one time,” said Daniel. “Even those who had participated at the ‘Telfed Young Olim Shabbaton’ in Safed, joined in.”

So what was the event?

“We literally set up shop at the bottom of Ben Yehuda Street, created a vibe, handed out pizza and danced until the police came to shut the party down.” May this always be the most important calling for the police to arrive on a scene!

For more details: daniel.e.winer@gmail.com

TECI Soars

This year, for the third year in a row, TECI (Telfed Ethiopian Community Initiative), in conjunction with the Mauerberger Foundation Fund sponsored a group of Ethiopian families comprising 44 individuals to enable them to attend YAHALOM’s Family Summer Camps providing a rare opportunity for minority Ethiopian, Russian-speaking, Yemenite and other Israeli families to share an intensive Jewish family experience in.
Jerusalem. Run by ex-Capetonian Derek Perlman, the annual camp focuses on Zionism, Israeli history, Jewish culture and values, whilst strengthening relationships between parents, children and siblings.

“TELFED can be proud of the role it is playing in strengthening Israeli society, whilst providing ex Southern African Olim an opportunity to contribute to the process,” says TECI chairman, Mel Cohen.

TECI is also helping the Ethiopian Community open a shop trading in second-hand goods in the Mevasseret Zion Absorption Center. Besides retailing good-quality clothing and regular household goods at bargain prices, this shop will also provide in-house marketing, negotiation and people skills to groups of Ethiopian youth so that they can utilize the experience and skills gained to advantage in securing employment.

Regional Roundup

Netanya

As part of the Telfed ‘On the Move’ outreach to other communities, Telfed Netanya held a community get-together in July at a centre for young Ethiopian girls and women. The Telfed women spent the morning socialising with the young women, “chatting in English and Hebrew about make-up and clothes,” as well as providing “a scrumptious tea.”

Rishon Le’Zion

Summer Breeze. Although there was no boerewors “we had plenty of chicken wings, legs and kebabs as well as plenty of salads, cold drinks and fruit for dessert at our summer braai,” says Telfed Rishon Le’Zion Regional Committee head, Beryl Schmidt. “It was so nice to sit in the cool evening air, chatting, watching the sun go down and eating.”

Ra’anana

Telfed hosted Southern African and Australian olim to a “taste and comment” session of Meatland’s new flavoured boerewors, dry wors and biltong provided by Meatland in Ra’anana.

With “Braai Maestro” Geoff Mallach “keeping the boeries rolling” supported by Richella Mallach, Tali Hoffman and Telfed’s Susan Sharon as waitresses, no wonder the consensus was, “Nu, when are we having this again?” When they do, they may need to hire out Ramat Gan Stadium!

New Year Honour

Invited by the mayor of Tel Aviv, Ron Huldai, to a special gathering to toast the New Year, Huldai personally expressed his appreciation to Telfed for encouraging Aliyah to the
city by providing below market rate rentals to Olim in the two Telfed buildings in Amishav Street. “This was recognition of literally building a better future,’ quipped Telfed CEO, Dorron Kline.

Hasharon

The Telfed HaSharon Regional Committee held its course in personal safety in September for teenage girls.

The course was run by highly-skilled professionals from El Ha-lev, an organization well-known and experienced in running such courses across the country. “It is clear that the workshop provided them with a feeling of empowerment and strengthened their confidence in their ability to take care of themselves,” said Liron Spindler, Social Worker, Beit Keren, Hadera.

Men from the Ministry

by David Kaplan

Threatened by enemies determined to either physically expunge us from our ancestral homeland or undermine our very legitimacy by word, Israel’s diplomats are daily on the firing line while at the same time engaged in strengthening Israel’s trade and cultural ties globally.

Amongst this diplomatic cadre are Southern Africans, three of whom recently addressed a public meeting hosted by Telfed in Ra’anana.

Meron Reuben, Liron Bar Sadeh and Paul Hirschson – recently addressed a public meeting hosted by Telfed in Ra’anana.

Meron Reuben, Chief of State Protocol, and who served as Israel’s Ambassador to the UN in 2010 to 2011 - following earlier postings in South America - presented an insight into the life of an Israeli diplomat. “It was wonderful to sit behind the same desk as Golda. I sometimes found myself scratching around looking for the initials G.M. carved into the old wood.” That he did not find, but what he did discover, as with every Israeli diplomat, “we have to be constantly on guard with every word that leaves our lips.”

Who can forget his first address to the UN when he said: “I appear before you today and state the profound and enduring wish of my nation to establish peace with the Palestinians. A peace based on security and mutual recognition. A peace that will ensure prosperity for our two peoples.”

Today Meron deals with 87 resident Ambassadors in Israel, nine consulates, eight multilateral international organisations and 160 honorary consuls.

Liron Bar Sadeh served previously at the embassy in Rome and took on the position of Ambassador to Latvia in August of this year, is the daughter of the late Leib Frank, who served as Director of Telfed from 1962 - a year after he immigrated to Israel until he retired in1979. “I thought I would be a writer and teach – but here I am serving my country as a diplomat.” Clearly, “you follow in the proud footsteps of your father of impressive service to community and society,” said former Telfed Chairman Dave Bloom.

Newly ensconced in Dakar, Senegal in West Africa is Paul Hirschson. He serves as Israel’s ambassador to seven countries in West Africa — “about 14% of Africa!”

“Israel approaches West Africa with three main issues in mind:
humanitarian, economic and strategic,” says Paul. “It comprises Israel’s largest ever humanitarian footprint.” Embellishing on this footprint, Paul cites “a major agricultural development project in Senegal where we plan to develop 5000 smallhold family farms, a dialysis center and three mobile medical clinics in Sierra Leone and a $10 million contribution to the Ebola Fund. The embassy has much to oversee.”

On the economic front, Paul advises that “Israeli technology is being deployed to produce 75% of Senegal’s sugar,” and this from a country that currently imports 100% of its sugar.”

Paul notes that “with Hezbollah raising funds through ‘charitable fundraisers’ and other activities in West Africa, the destabilizing repercussions of the Arab Spring and the disaster that is Libya, the dialogue underway between Israel, Senegal and West Africa in general is critical.”

These inspiring diplomats are following in the illustrious footsteps of such Southern African luminaries as Michael Comay, who took over from Abba Eban (also born in South Africa), as Israel’s ambassador to the UN in 1959 and later to the Court of St. James, to Cape Town born Gershon Gan who, in the same year that Mandela ascended the presidency in SA, opened the first embassy in Zimbabwe covering Malawi, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. Until recently Gershon served as a member of the Telfed Media Committee. He contributed to the evening by adding his insights and experiences in the foreign office.

Israel’s Foreign Office is not without a sense of humour. When initially Meron asked for a posting to China, “they gave me Chile. They thought I would be satisfied with at least the first three letters being the same!”

With Telfed each year presenting 500 scholarships to students - many of them studying Government and Diplomacy at the IDC, Herzliya - we can look forward to these young and idealistic faces a little older in the years ahead playing their part in determining the destiny of the State of Israel.

**War & Remembrance**

Each year in October, the former chevra in Israel of SA Habonim gather at Kibbutz Yizre’el at a ceremony dedicated to the memory of Dudi Silbowitz and Neil Freed who lost their lives in the same tank across

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the Suez Canal in the 1973 Yom Kippur war. The moving ceremonies at the graveside are always followed by a thought-provoking lecture to inspire riveting debate in true Habonim tradition. This year’s lecture was by Telfed’s CEO, Dorron Kline who spoke on the Jewish community in South Africa and the enlarged role of Telfed today in facilitating Aliyah, not only from Southern Africa but also from Australia, as well as advising on matters pertaining to Dutch and Ethiopian Aliyah.

The Habonim movement that spawned generations of SA Olim had a contemporary presence with the attendance of the young 2015 Habonim “Shnaties” from SA in their blue chultzot (shirts) and who laid wreaths on the gravestones.

Were Dudi and Neil looking down from their celestial perch, they would have been truly touched.

Northern Exposure

As part of its “On the Move” policy, Telfed has been literally ‘on the move’ organising trips both to the north and south of the country. Earlier in the year, Telfed visited the Southern African communities living in the towns, kibbutzim and moshavim near Gaza.

More recently, Telfed has focused on the north. In June, a busload of Southern Africans visited Kishorit - a village for adults with special needs, Karmiel - which has strong South African connections and Manof - an industrial Moshav that was established by Southern African olim and which celebrated this year its 30th anniversary.

This tour was followed in October to Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu near the Jordan River and Be’at She’an National Park. During lunch at the kibbutz, Telfed Exco member Joel Klotnick, presented gift vouchers to Moishe Boshoff, a new Oleh from South Africa who is currently doing his Ulpan on Sde Eliyahu.

At the Be’at She’an National Park “where we visited the excavated ancient Roman city, we saw a hippodrome, bath house, an amphitheatre for the ‘wonderful’ blood sports of the day and a brothel. After all, what was there to do in those days without TV?” remarked Peter Bailey, one of the organizers of the tiyul.

Of course there is the famous synagogue built 1,500 years ago at kibbutz Be’at Alpha with its impressive mosaic floor that has been almost perfectly preserved and welcomes visitors from all over the world.

Raring to Go

Bubbling with enthusiasm are these young shlichim (emissaries) off to South Africa at a training session with Telfed CEO Dorron Klein (centre top).

Back row: Guy Hadad (Betar and Aliyah Shaliach from Rosh Ha’ayin), Dorron Kline (Telfed CEO), Tzachi Levy (past Habonim Shaliach to Johannesburg and today the head of the post high school Shlichim programme at the Jewish Agency).

Front row: four Shlichot to King David: l-r: Shlomit Hadas (from Jerusalem), Chen Avraham (from Petach Tikva - whose grandparents are originally from South Africa), Moriah Trock (from Haifa) and Yael Angadya (from Sderot).

Training Shlichim

When Jewish Agency (JAFI) Shlichim are sent to South Africa, Telfed forms an integral part of their pre-Shlichut training.

Five JAFI Shlichim participated in an intense training session, held at Kiryat Moriah in Jerusalem with Telfed’s CEO, Dorron Kline. The training focussed on learning about Telfed and its activities and the Jewish Community in South Africa.

Following the training session, Shlomit, one of the female Shlichot commented, “We have learnt so much about the South African Jewish Community and now feel much more prepared and confident for our Shlichut. Thank you.”
Yael, daughter of Phillip and Deborah Zabow of Kfar Saba, married Idan, son of Hadas and Beto Grazul of Kibbutz Huqoq.

Roei, son of Aya and Roni Kessler of Rosh Ha'ayin, married Liat, daughter of Jenny and Howie Gordon of Kibbutz Tzora.

Dana, daughter of David and Hilary Kaplan of Kfar Saba, married Elad, son of Shlomo and Bella Dvir of Kfar Saba.

Tamir, son of Hanan and Andy Schwartz of Johannesburg, married Lorelle, daughter of the late Andy Shub of Johannesburg and Martin Shub of Cape Town.

Yael, daughter of Nadine and Stephen Kalmek of Kfar Saba, married Ohad, son of Nitsa and Dudu Kleiner of Jerusalem.
Jonathan Zausmer is a good storyteller.

Vividly capturing recollections from his childhood in the quaint Western Cape coastal village of Hermanus in the fifties and sixties, the author’s style is both “whacky” and charming and will resonate with all South Africans with a special ‘close-to-home’ feeling for former Capetonians.

The reader is whisked from modern-day Israel back in time to a Jewish family living in the seaside resort and fishing town.

His feelings are mixed as he arrives in Cape Town in the present and is overcome by “the magnificence” as well as “The stark gruesome reality on the outskirts of the urban sprawl.” It “places a dark shadow on sensations of nostalgia,” as he returns to the village of his birth and yearns to find a physical trace of his previous life. A Hassidic melody and an old Jewish joke merge in this bitter-sweet journey home.”

The author jumps time zones and locations and keeps his reader utterly engrossed and intimately engaged. The young son Jayson faces the challenges of growing up and discovering - as he comes of age - that he is surrounded by a racist, ethnically divided and an anti-Semitic South Africa at the peak of Apartheid. This process involves encounters with “non-whites”, Afrikaners, Christians and Jews with widely different outcomes, and lessons for him and for the reader today.

The issue of ‘identity’ dominates throughout the book. The author describes it as “the heart of the story... the drama, bliss and torment of childhood, illuminated by time.”

The book’s five-page glossary indicates his rich use of local terminology.
and the language of Jayson’s world. This incorporates Yiddish (from his parents), Afrikaans (from his teachers and school friends), Hebrew (from Israel and Jewish tradition) and many typical South African colloquialisms. Many expatriate readers will nostalgically relate with amusement to the mosaic of languages used in daily interactions.

Contributing colourfully to an “all in the family” publication is the rich contribution by the author’s sister Jillian Zausmer Goldberg of her magnificent sketches.

My favourite chapter is “No Place for Sissies in Africa” - an eloquent analogy on the one level of Jayson’s challenges in provincial “red-neck” South Africa as he chooses to become a ballet dancer, and on another – the powerful tensions and dynamics of an obviously troubled society seen through the naive eyes of a young Jewish boy.

There will be few readers familiar with Cape Town who will not share the author’s following observations and feelings: “As we broke through clouds into a familiar winter’s day, I could not refrain from that tinge of exhilaration as I looked out and saw the bay, the mountains, every crag and creek still a part of my very being. The ‘Table’ and its siblings - an elegant Lion’s Head and an anguished Devil’s Peak - and their constant clouds all shifting and gathering and dissipating in a very Cape way, orchestrated by the changing winds and tide. I believed at that moment that if I were to circle the Cape ten thousand times, if I were to see this magnificent Capescape every day emerging from below, I would never tire of it.”

And neither will the readers ‘tire’ as they turn the pages and the stories unfold.

Anyone growing up in South Africa in those years will enjoy many aspects of Jonathan’s book and be left with a mixed feeling of sadness for a lost youth and yet a broad smile for experiencing a unique and well written series of short stories depicting many shared experiences.

About the author:

Jonathan Zausmer was born and raised in Hermanus, moving later to Cape Town where he matriculated at Herzlia High School. He has an undergraduate degree in the humanities and social sciences from the University of Cape Town and a Master’s in Business from Boston University. He made Aliyah to Israel in the framework of Habonim-Dror to Kibbutz Nir Eliyahu, where he lived and worked for several years, and was part of the first group that founded and established the town of Kohav Yair where he lives today.

Jonathan was a founding member of the Forum Tzora peace action group and is an active member of the Geneva Initiative NGO. He contributes regularly to the Times of Israel Ops and Blogs section and has been interviewed on i24 NEWS on matters relating to Israel and South Africa. Jonathan is married with three children and is the managing partner of a business enterprise.
Pedalling Peace

In a rare show of sportsmanship, delegations from Israel and the Republic of Iran to the 2015 Special Olympics in LA overcame national tensions to bond over their common interest – sport. Seeking medals for athletic achievement, they accomplished ‘as well’ for diplomacy – even before their aircraft touched down in California.

Initiating the ‘diplomatic’ track was a Southern African Oleh in the Israeli pack.

Plain Truth

As Israel and Iran were making daily headlines over the America-sponsored Iranian nuclear deal, their teams boarded the same plane from Rome to Los Angeles. Proudly wearing their national blazers, there were understandably anxious moments of possible in-flight flare ups. There was little need for concern and the transatlantic flight presented a perfect opportunity for the two peoples to get to know each. Pedalling peace was Johannesburg-born cyclist Alon Dolev, who sidled up to the Iranian delegation’s head coach Yaser Tahmasbi and struck up a conversation.

“We had twelve hours of flight and what else was there to do but talk,” said Alon, son of Robbie and Rachel and who made Aliyah as a family in 1991. Leading the proverbial ‘peloton’, others joined the inspirational cyclist and aspiring medalist and soon the “two teams were talking animatedly with each other. It was a delight to see and a message what sport can achieve,” remarked a delighted Israeli Head of Delegation, Reuven Astrachan.

“They spoke mostly about sport; politics was the last thing on anyone’s mind,” added the Iranian Head of Delegation Asghar Dadkhah.

No talk about bombs; only the fear they may bomb out on the track or on the field!

Photo Finish

Unlike in most competitions, where Iranian athletes tend to avoid meeting Israelis, members of this Islamic republic’s delegation had no problem being photographed with their supposed enemies. Among the many photos that were emblazoned across the globe was the one of Alon with Yaser, the Iranian coach. This led to the pair being invited onto the stage at the Special Olympics Closing Ceremony, and as they say, “a photo is worth more than a thousand words,” Alon’s father Robbie proudly told Telfed Magazine.

Kirsten Suto Seckler, Chief Marketing Officer for the games confirmed it was a deliberate decision by the Special Olympics Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to sign.
organizing committee to “send a powerful message.” Of course, it remains to be seen whether their country’s delegates will pass the proverbial ‘torch’ and stay in touch following the games, but they did exchange pins. This might appear merely a ‘pin prick’ but as the Israeli coach revealed, “Palestinian delegates routinely refuse pins from Israeli athletes.”

Apart from returning to Israel with messages of goodwill, Alon returned with two medals in cycling: Silver and Bronze, to add to the two silver medals he won in the 2011 Athens World Special Olympics Games.

On the Ball

Each of the Israeli delegates was awarded a Special Olympics LA Games basketball, and following their return to Israel, they were invited to visit the Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem. A go-getter, Alon had no hesitation in asking Netanyahu to autograph his ball, and no less ‘on the ball’, Bibi had equally no hesitation obliging. The ball - signed also by all the Israeli SO World Games participants - now proudly resides in a glass cabinet at the Special Olympics Israel Headquarters at the Wingate Institute.

Diagnosed at a young age with a disability, Alon has come a long way since the age of six when he started riding a bike with safety wheels in his local park in Ramat Aviv. At fourteen, he joined the Special Olympics organization as an athlete and following numerous gold, silver and bronze medals in local and national Special Olympics competitions, Alon today is one of the top Special Olympics riders in the country.

Alon intends to train hard over the next four years to qualify for the 2019 Special Olympics World Games, where he hopes to win an elusive gold medal. In our books, Alon is already our Southern African community’s “Golden Boy”.

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Lily Hyde – 100th birthday:
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Hundred Years Separation
Lily Hyde of Beth Protea who recently celebrated her 100 years is seen here with her newest great grandson who was born this past Rosh Hashanah. Originally from Pretoria, Lily, who made Aliyah from Australia three years ago – being one of the oldest immigrants to Israel in history – received 100 year birthday greetings from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Bligh Turnbull.
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Sixties “HaBonim” Reunion
When on the 28 August 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. bellowed “I had a dream” he reached out beyond the hundreds of thousands at Washington's Lincoln Memorial. To young generations across the globe, the message to reshape the world free of racial prejudice and war resonated.

For young Jews, already receptive to the Biblical lamentation “Next year in Jerusalem” and Herzl’s “If you will it, it is no dream” here was a new dream of a universal dimension to mesh into their complex cultural cauldron. This resulted for the Habomin chevra in Southern Africa of the sixties, a revitalized Zionist roadmap, philosophically grounded in Utopianism. As this writer recalls, “It was not simply enough to go on Aliyah; one had to head for a kibbutz where, by setting a personal example of living an egalitarian lifestyle, one was changing the world.”

Hooked onto the ideology of A.D. Gordon’s ‘practical’ or Labor Zionism, driving a tractor or milking a cow were profound experiences having global impact. Although for the cows, this was probably a “moot” point!

For members of SA Habonim who joined kibbutzim as part of garinim(groups) during this period...
One often heard: “We are leaving an ideologically reprehensible South Africa, to build in our ancestral homeland “a brave new world”.

One such individual, and the driving force behind the ‘We Were Dreamers’ visit in May is Stephen Pincus, a legal luminary and top business executive in Toronto, Canada, as well as a member of the Board of Governors of MAKOM - the education lab of the Jewish Agency. Steven was Mazkir Klali and Rosh Machaneh in 1980 during the movement’s jubilee. His illustrious cousin Louis (Aryeh) Pincus co-founded SA Habonim with Norman Lourie in 1930, and following his Aliyah in 1948, became the first managing director of El-Al. He later rose to the position of Executive Chairman of the Jewish Agency. In 1981, Stephen was in the SA garin that established Tuval.

Decades later, what became of these dreamers and their dreams? Were they naïve or did they fulfill their visions whether in Israel or elsewhere?

This question inspired the “We Were Dreamers” tour of former Habonim chaverim. “Over 25 came from South Africa, the UK, the USA and Canada - all sharing common dreams,” said tour organizer, Julian Resnick, Mazkir Klali of Habonim Dror Olami and a former Capetonian. Julian today is a member of Tzora, the kibbutz with the highest number of Southern African members in Israel.

Julian describes the visit “as something between a mission, a tiyul and a Habonim Seminar - definitely not a holiday. We looked both at the dreams and those who did the dreaming. And the choice of the past tense in ‘We Were Dreamers’ forced us to question “Where we are today?”

The group met with high profile leaders and opinion makers, notably - Jewish Agency Director Alan Hoffman and its Executive Chairman Natan Sharansky; Hebrew University Professor Emeritus Gidi Shimon, Yehoshua Engelman, Rachel Korazim, Yuval Diskin, Etgar Keret, Nabil Sha’ath, Yossi Klein Halevy, Miri Eisen, Muki Tzur, Rachel Kaldron, former Israel Supreme Court President Asher Grunis, MK Danny Danon and many others.

“The meetings,” says Julian, “were connected to the dream of a progressive Israel; an Israel of peace and equality; the successes of Israel and the distance still to travel to fulfill our aspirations.”

For Stephen, “We felt a powerful sense of déjà vu at several levels: from the sublime - debating r’s metaphors of the desert, the lake, the mountain and the bridge - to the trivial of how we ever managed to get through the past 35 years without adhering to Errol the Camp Organiser’s gruff commands?”

But the “We Were Dreamers” programme went beyond nostalgia. By engaging with the issues, the speakers and each other openly, critically and passionately - with tolerance and imagination - we brought together our diverse perspectives to create a rich Habonim experience. And in re-evoking some sense of what it once felt like to dream, that experience may well prove transformative.”

A highlight of the tour was the evening where the visitors joined over

Regaling the Past, Facing the Future. Past members of the South African Bnei Zion youth movement celebrate at the Movement’s 2015 reunion with youngsters from Kibbutz HaSolelim at the kibbutz’s memorial park and cultural centre. Representing Telfed was Dorron Kline (top right).
100 Habonim Olim for dinner at Hayarkon Park in Tel Aviv. The programme included a panel on “Our Dreams – Past, Present, Future” including Stephen and Julian, Henry Schein, CEO Stanley Bergman, Intel Israel CEO Maxine Fassberg, and Habonim SA Manhig Errol Anstey. As to the future, “this trip has inspired a broader MAKOM initiative for a Dreamers 2016 trip planned for next July from participants all around the world,” says Stephen.

A Plateful of Nostalgia

Earlier in the year, Habonim held a ‘Sixties Reunion Dinner’ on Kibbutz Tzora. Amongst the over 100 Habonim Olim attending was Stephen Schulman from Ramat Hasharon, who in the sixties had been this writer’s madrich at ‘Gedud Kfar Blum’ in Claremont, Cape Town.

Stephen reports: “The afternoon air was redolent with emotion as we congregated from all parts of Israel and abroad to renew friendships, meet former madrichim and chanichim and relive old movement memories.” Stephen was thankful for the name tabs – “a most praiseworthy foresight preventing embarrassing encounters.” During the afternoon, “there were group photos of the various towns across Southern Africa and of course, a Jewish mother’s wet dream – one of all the many doctors present!”

Following dinner, “with full stomachs and consequently hearts well disposed towards our fellow men, we sat around our tables facing a stage for the evening’s entertainment. As all of us - ranging in ages from middle 60’s to late 70’s sat there - something marvelous occurred. We divested ourselves of all those accumulated years and returned to our movement days. Whenever anyone appeared on the stage, some character at the back would repeatedly shout: “Take it off, take it off!” Even when Gidi Shimoni, the eminent doyen of the movement stood to give the keynote address, he wasn’t spared. Gidi gave his talk and gracefully ignored the request to stand in his gatkes!”

No evening would have been complete without the usual skits. “Mistakes were made, cues missed and lines forgotten. Still, who cared? We enjoyed every minute of it. For a brief period, we were transported back in time to that magical period of our youth where camps, seminars, campfires, woggles, scarves and blue shirts defined who we were! “

With entertainment concluded and “dessert resting comfortably under our belts, we ventured outside into the cool night air, and there, at the end of the lawn a burning campfire awaited. We sang all the old movement songs, and were amazed at how how the lyrics had remained embedded in our memories.”

The surprise finale and highlight was the mifkad eish - a towering 20 foot high Habonim emblem that stood proudly at the end of the parking lot. Standing mesmerized, the group gazed upon the golden glow of the huge burning badge - a perfect backdrop emblazing the past, the present and illuminating the future.

The writer could not resist enquiring from Stephen whether the campfire was “put out in the traditional Habonim way?” “Does a Scotsman ever reveal what he has under his kilt?!” quipped my former madrich.

The Hardy Boys and Girls

Made of stern stuff are the former members in Israel of South Africa’s Bnei Zion movement! While lesser mortals on the 7th of August’s heat-wave would have stayed indoors with their air-con, not so for this hardy lot who came from all over Israel with their families in the blazing heat to attend the Bnei Zion Reunion on Kibbutz Hasolelim.

Welcoming them with ice-cold water on arrival were the youngsters in their blue youth movement shirts who were born on Hasolelim and were celebrating this year, their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. “As part of their assignments, these youngsters helped in organising the reunion as well as learning about Southern African Zionism through its youth movements,” says Michael Mensky, Chairman of Kibbutz Hasolelim. Formerly of Johannesburg, Michael served as the first Director of the Telfed initiative Israel Centre when it was established in South Africa in 2002. He was followed by Dorron Kline today Telfed’s CEO and who proudly represented Telfed at the reunion.

Sterling Stuff

While the movement’s ‘innings’ in South Africa was relatively brief, it was a colourful slog; and while their
‘batsmen’ were all out before the Beatles sang “She Loves You” in the early sixties - having merged with its much larger sister-secular movement, Habonim - the Bnei Zion chevra left their mark on Israel and Zionism that resonates to this day. As Dorron expressed in his address: “After 75% of Bnei Zion madrichim had left for Israel, the leaders decided to close the movement down. It had achieved its objectives.” It was a defining act that emblazoned success.

In Hasolelim’s Cultural Centre, participants viewed the rich selection of photos relating to Bnei Zion’s establishment in 1945 and its rapid development as it established itself in cities and town across South Africa. Over a period of a few years, over 33 of its madrichim (leaders), volunteered for the IDF as part Machal-Nachal. “This was an outstanding accomplishment of which South African Jewry can be proud,” says Kibbutz Hasolelim member, Doddie Gordon, who, in March 1956, was in the first group of Machal overseas volunteers who left for Israel to serve in the IDF. “We were in the Nachal Paratroop brigade No. 50. Later that year, we were stationed on Kibbutz Hasolelim as part of our military training and when the Sinai War broke out, we participated. After the war, we returned to the Kibbutz and while we had great admiration for our Bnei Zion Madrichim for their establishment of Kibbutz Timorim, we wanted to make our own mark and decided to make Kibbutz Hasolelim our home.”

It’s not an unfamiliar story of a next generation wanting to carve out its own destiny!

Gidon Katz recalls arriving on Machon in 1955 armed with a letter from his parents granting permission to be conscripted into the IDF. “The army laughed at me and said “Listen. Our wars do not last too long, so by the time you finish your training, all the action will be over. You focus on becoming a madrich”. War broke out, we participated. After the war, we returned to the Kibbutz and while we had great admiration for our Bnei Zion Madrichim for their...
Visitors walked through the Bnei Zion Memorial Glen that displays the names on plaques on the new ‘Board of Names’ that was unveiled by Tzemach Bloomberg.

“As we stand here in the Memorial Glen,” said Doddie, “I have personally come to know almost every name on this board and it is a privilege to join with their families in remembering them. We honour and think of them with joy, as we remember and celebrate their colourful lives.”

One of the many names that appear is Mendel Kaplan (z’l). “I was a naughty bugger,” he revealed once to this writer. “At my first machaneh (camp) in Lakeside - I must have been about ten - they covered me one night from head to foot with Nugget boot polish. No part of my body was spared.” Mendel implied he may have had it coming. From “Naughty bugger” Mendel would emerge in 1987, as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency. His tenure of eight years was marked by several historical events that rank as salvation sagas worthy of biblical comparison, most notably, his role in the mass Aliyot of the Russians and Ethiopians that would secure the destiny of the State of Israel.

Genesis

Early in 2015, Telfed organised a tiyul to Moshav Timorim, the pride of the Bnei Zion movement. However, the saga of this moshav started not where it stands today near Ashkelon, but north, on top of a picturesque hilltop in the Yezreel Valley where modern day Timrat stands, overlooking Israel’s first moshav, Nahalal.

A few years after Sinai Rome and Mervyn Isaacson established Bnei Zion in 1945, the first recruits embarked on an adventure only “for mashugenah idealists” as one person put it. It was 1948, and there was no road to Timorim to speak of, and conditions were primitive. “In winter one had to wade through the bots (mud) to get to the top,” says Les Sheer, today a resident of Rechovot.

An indication of how “mashugah” or idealistic these youngsters were is encapsulated in this account by the former Director of ISRENTCO, Telfed’s property management company - Norman Spiro (z’l). He was on his way from Cape Town to fight in Israel’s War of Independence in 1948 when he stopped off at the Hachshara farm near Johannesburg, where his fellow Bnei Zion chevra were preparing for life in Israel. “I was handed two eggs stamped with our movement’s logo and instructed to personally hand it to the chevra at Timorim. I did not shirk from this crazy mission and schlepped these eggs half way across the world to Timorim. On the way our ship stopped at Marseilles where we picked up Holocaust survivors en route to Israel. Some of them I believe were returning survivors from the Exodus and there I was clutching these blooming eggs.”

Frontier Life

Life on Timorim was tough.

“Our fields were nearly a two hour drive away by tractor,” relates Les Sheer. “Being so far away, we used to camp there during the season for periods of a week to ten days at a time. Showers! In our dreams! We had no such luxuries. The water was brought in a mobile tank and used only for cooking, drinking and very sparingly for washing.”

The wives used to take turns to come and cook and life was also dangerous. “We always had to be watchful for Arab marauders. There was no fence separating us and Jordan, and we used to have an extra person on the tractor with a rifle, over and above the driver who had his Sten gun beside him. We had some close shaves, but that was frontier life.”

There were the lighter moments.

The Milky Way

Les relates about his first experience in milking a sheep “which was always carried out at night. Don’t ask me why - don’t know till this day! Anyway, there was no electricity, only paraf-
fin lamps, so I couldn't see too well what I was doing. I was designated a sheep and told to get cracking. I followed their instructions by squeezing the teat in a downward motion and the next moment found myself sprawled on my back. Determined not to let a sheep get the better of me, I attacked the teat again and… thump! After being kicked a third time, the boys were hysterical. They had set me up with a bloody ram.”

On another occasion when the Bnei Zion chevra were on Hachsharah on Gvat before moving to Timorim, “we were working with these young recently released Palmachim who thought they knew everything,” continues Les. “This bloke comes in, sees no milk in the cooler, so opens the fridge and helps himself to some bottles. I tried to stop him but to no avail so I walked into the dining room for lunch. About ten minutes later the man in charge of the cows comes storming in, shouting: ‘What the bloody hell is going on here? The expert has come to do the artificial insemination of the cows and all the semen in the fridge is missing. Who the hell is responsible?’

Great strides were made when a sheet metal factory was established by Chaim Chait, who had arrived on the famed ship from South Africa, the ‘Drom Afrika’, which had successfully dodged the British naval forces by posing as a fishing trawler and arrived in Haifa bay the same day in 1947 as the Exodus. He was joined by his brother Max. Both had joined fighting units in the War of Independence. Their first major order in their new enterprise on Timorim was to supply the ducting for air conditioners to the first Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv. The business became so successful that it emerged into Miromit (the world’s first solar heating factory), which is Timorim spelt backwards.

Shortly afterwards, Timorim, then relocated to its present position in the south and again made history. “Our next big order was to supply the ducting for Shimon Peres’ ‘textile’ plant in Dimona,” revealed a reunion participant, still finding the need to impart this knowledge quietly.

Great strides were made when a sheet metal factory was established by Chaim Chait, who had arrived on the famed ship from South Africa, the ‘Drom Afrika’, which had successfully dodged the British naval forces by posing as a fishing trawler and arrived in Haifa bay the same day in 1947 as the Exodus. He was joined by his brother Max. Both had joined fighting units in the War of Independence. Their first major order in their new enterprise on Timorim was to supply the ducting for air conditioners to the first

At the reunion, black and white photos adorned the display boards of summer camps at Lakeside near Cape Town. In uniform and in bathing costumes, outside tents and on the beach, they capture the spirit of youngsters having fun but also the promise of ‘great expectations’ far removed from the sand dunes and bush of Lakeside.

It was inevitable that many of those smiling faces of boys and girls would make their mark in Israel; fighting in its wars, establishing settlements and businesses or reaching the pinnacle in their professions or trades. “My parents were dead against me coming to Israel,” admits Les, who recently presented his autobiography to Telfed. “But Israel offered me the most exciting life I could not have experienced anywhere else in the world. I would not have changed anything.” •
By David Kaplan

Rev. Himelstein’s voice carried far beyond Johannesburg’s Great Synagogue also known as the Wolmerans Street Shul as evident by his choral music heard in synagogues around the world.

Born in Warsaw in 1905, Himelstein began singing in a synagogue choir at the age of six, and by the age of fourteen, was collaborating with some of the greatest chazzanim in Poland. In 1936, he was invited by the Roland Street Shul in Cape Town, whereafter, he moved to the Yeoville Shul, and finally to The Great Synagogue.

In his last years, Rev. Himelstein composed music for chazzanim and shul choirs, many of which have become part of the beloved repertoire of shuls and chazzanim throughout the world.

From Corridor to Choir

One of the many young men Himelstein taught for their Bar Mitzvahs is Rafi Barnett from Jerusalem who credits the illustrious cantor and composer for his enriching lifetime association with “shuls and choirs.” It all began in 1963, when he was in Standard 3 and a pupil at the Bernard Patley Cheder attached to the Yeoville shul. “I came out of class and there in the corridor stood this man who I had never seen before and who reminded me of a teddy bear. Then in a thick Yiddish accent he asks: “Can you zink (sing)?” Not waiting for a reply, he pulls out a little box which had the keys of a piano on and a little stylus and says, “Nu!” And there in the corridor, “I start singing la, la, la going up in an ascending pitch, when he raises his hand to stop me and concludes our first encounter with: “You kum to kvier on Monday.” And that was the beginning of an enriching relationship that saw Himelstein in 1966 teach Rafi for his Bar Mitzvah and where after three years, Rafi was teaching youngsters for their Bar Mitzvahs. “He taught me all that I know and it all began with a chance meeting in a corridor.”

It was while a volunteer on Kibbutz Kfar Etzion in 1974 following the Yom Kippur War, “that I heard of his sad passing. And yet never a day goes by that he is far from my thoughts as his music lives on though my singing and the voices of others.”

Accountant and choirmaster of the Etz Chaim Choir of Shivtei Yisrael in...
Ra’anana, Moshe Cohen starting singing in Himelstein’s choir in 1965 at the age of eleven. “He was an outstanding composer and his son Lior has been a credit to his father in improving on the arrangements that are sung all around the world.” He relates that when his wife Tessa was in Vancouver “looking up distant relatives of mine who had moved there from India, it emerged that one of my cousins, a ‘choir junkie’ like me, gave her some CD recordings of their choir performances. I was amazed that among them were many of Himelstein’s works.”

Most popular of his recordings, Moshe lists are: Mi Sheasa Nissim, Kedusha, Veneemar Haleluya, Tikanta Shabat, Baruch Haba (arranged and composed together with chazan Malovany then of the Yeoville shul), Hanerot Halalu, Veshameru and Vayechulu. “Probably his most famous and beautiful work is Ad Heina, a composition for Chazan and Choir which has been sung at many concerts worldwide.” Moshe’s younger brother David, a renowned pathologist, living in Kochav Yair, joined the choir at age nine, was Himelstein’s protégé, and would later take over conducting the famed choir.

Michael Stanger from Ramot who sang for many years with the choir ‘Ramatayim’ under the baton of Richard Shavei Zion and today sings with the Jerusalem Cantors Choir, testifies to Himelstein’s popularity today. Michael sang with Himelstein right up to coming on Aliya in 1972 – all throughout his school years. “He was a warm person, who loved what he was doing; loved the music he was composing and all this rubbed off on us youngsters singing in his choir. He imbued in us this love of choir music that lives on through us as we continue to sing in choirs all over the world. I feel proud to be playing a small part in continuing his enriching legacy.”

“In his works for cantor and choir,” says Ramatayim Musical Director Shavei Zion, “he was the most successful composer in synthesizing Eastern European’s chazzan-centered and Western European choral-centered synagogue music, which resulted in a beautiful blending of sound that emanated from South Africa and that is enjoyed and appreciated around the world to this day. That is a great legacy.”
If one thought one was familiar with the names of the major terrorist groups operating globally, one was quickly in for an ‘explosive’ awakening when the giant screen lit up at the 15th Annual Summit on Counter Terrorism with huge pyramid charts spotlighting lists of terror organizations, their offshoots and their leadership. There was a loud exasperated ‘WOW’ from the global audience as cameras clicked to record the nefarious names. Wondering out aloud whether they were all of equal concern, my companion Harris Green, treasurer of Telfed and a cofounder of TbT (Truth be Told) poignantly noted: “Many of us take our security for granted without being even remotely aware of the threats we face. Who took much notice of Al Qaeda before 9/11 or who ever heard of Islamic State (ISIL) a few years ago!”

‘Names today, nightmares tomorrow’ screamed off the screen.

Over 1,000 top decision-makers, defense, intelligence and police officials, prominent academic scholars, and security industry leaders from over 60 countries participated in the conference organized under the IDC Herzliya’s Institute for Counter Terrorism. Head of the international school, a former member of the Telfed staff and a shaliach to Cape Town in the 1980s and who today head’s the IDC’s International School, Jonathan Davis, moderated many of the plenary sessions.

The ‘The Shifting Sands of Terror’ conference explored the landscape of warfare today with its multifarious players in a constant state of flux - like shifting sands. It struck this writer how analysts and advisors need to exercise cerebral jujitsu to be on top of their game.

Issues addressed ranged from the threats posed to the world by a nuclear Iran, ‘Cyber Terrorism’, the current European refugee crisis and the growing instability in the region caused by the spread of the Islamic State and the resulting collapse of the old political orders in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya.

Addressed by an impressive list of international players and senior researchers, “this conference, brought home to me just how sophisticated the world terror has become,” sighed Harris. Rather sobering was an American security analyst’s apology: “Sorry, if I may be responsible for keeping you awake tonight.”

Name Calling

Most fascinating was the session “What is the Name of the Game: Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) or Countering Terrorism?” Moderated by former South African and Editor-in-Chief of The Jerusalem Post, Steve Linde expressed “Our paper has no problem using the word terrorism,” while most purveyors of news sanitize their descriptions of terrorist
groups “such as Dash or ISIS, calling them militants or extremist violent groups.”

How do we deal with the core problem “if we cannot publically and honestly identify it?”

Proudly exemplifying balance in its news coverage, “The JP had no problem calling the suspected Jewish attack on the Palestinian village of Duma an act of Jewish terror,” said Steve. “We should expect this honesty from the entire news industry but this is hardly the case when it comes to coverage of Islamic terrorism.”

Both The Jerusalem Post and the IDC Herzliya were profoundly connected with the horror perpetrated by ISIL a year earlier with the public beheading of Steven Sotloff, who held citizenship of both the United States and Israel. “His Jewish background and Israeli citizenship were not made public during his work in Muslim countries or during his captivity for fear that the information might endanger his release,” revealed Linde.

A student at the IDC Herzliya from 2005-2006 and an erstwhile correspondent for the JP, Linde paid tribute to his colleague and spoke of how he agonised over whether to publish the photo of the British executioner above Steven before the beheading. “It was a painful dilemma but as a journalist I felt sometimes a photo is worth a thousand words.” However, before calling upon the first speaker, Linde stressed: “this discussion is all about words – our definition of terrorism, extremism and what does that mean in practice?”

For this writer, the most memorable quote from the Conference was an extract taken from ancient American Indian folklore conveyed by Tom Ridge, the former US Secretary of Homeland Security:

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”

The message was clear; we have a responsibility to safeguard the lives of future generations.

In an age of so much man’s inhumanity to man, the writer reflected on the words written by Sotloff while in captivity which was smuggled out of Syria and shared at his funeral:

“Everyone has two lives. A second one begins when you realize you only have one. …Hug each other every day. Live your lives to the fullest and pray to be happy.”

Inspirational Ian

Love, Set and... Oh, what a Match!

“Let me begin at the end! I do not have to think back on life as a cup half empty or half full, for mine runneth over.” This is how Dr. Ian Froman concluded his riveting off-the-cuff speech at a spectacular event organised by the Israel Tennis Association (ITA) honoring his contribution to tennis and to the State of Israel.

May we all be blessed to look back and express the same!

On the roof of the “Israel Canada” headquarters in Herzliya Pituach, family, friends and folk from Israel’s tennis world were entertained with anecdotes and sumptuous cuisine with the stunning backdrop of the bright orange glow of the setting summer sun over the Mediterranean.

From the stars in the sky, there were the stars of tennis such as Amos Mansdorf, Gilad Bloom and Shlomo Glickstein. Also there - but on video-clips and photos - were Ilie Năstase, Jimmy Connors, Brad Gilbert and Tomas Muster, all taken with Ian at his

continued on next page
proud “off-spring” – the Israel Tennis Center in Ramat Hasharon.

From those around the world who were unable to attend, there were audio-visual messages giving Ian “a big hug.”

I thought of the Beatles number, “All You Need is Love” as there was a lot of it about – There was the love of Ian for tennis and the State of Israel and there was the reciprocal love of the Israel tennis world and the State of Israel for Ian. There were speeches and messages from both worlds - Assaf Tuchmayer, Chairman of the ITA, Danny Gelley, Director of the ITC, and Dr. Uri Schaefer, head of the Israel Sport Authority, and representing the family, there was a warm and illuminating ‘trip down memory lane’ by Ian’s daughter Yarona – a product of the real ‘Love Affair’ that began it all.

Open Court’ship

Representing South Africa at the 1963 Maccabi Games in tennis - having competed in the men’s singles at Wimbledon in 1955 - a young graduate in dentistry “fell in love with Israel” and made the decision to make Aliyah. Only snag was when he returned to Johannesburg after the Maccabi Games, he also fell in love with a young girl named Ruth. After courting Ruth for a few weeks, Ian was faced with a dilemma – it’s either Ruth or Israel!

“I doubted a Joburg girl would ever come rough it up with me in Israel and so I stopped asking her out. What was the point?” Still, he could not shake her from his mind and so called her again to ask her out but this time she turned him down. Explains Ruth: “I wanted to live in Israel and thought: “What was the point in pursuing a romance with a Joburg dentist who will want to stay!”

Fate intervened when “I went along to some big do at Ruth’s parent’s home,” says Ian. An intimate chat over cocktails revealed they loved Israel as much as each other, and that same night announced their engagement. Shortly thereafter, the newlyweds moved to Israel in 1964 and so began their journey into the history books. Froman never went on to practice dentistry and instead proceeded to change the face of tennis in Israel.

It did not happen overnight!

After arriving in Israel, “I thought I would slot into the local game, only to discover tennis in those days was something out of the Jurassic Age. I used to run around like a madman just to find a place to train. There were no facilities and we often used to sneak onto private courts to practice.” Apart from private courts, the only privileged folk playing were mostly tourists at beach hotels. This motivated Froman who together with Freddie Krivine, Joseph Shane, Harold Landesberg, Rubin Josephs, and Dr. William H. Lippy began fundraising to launch tennis as a sport in Israel by building a national tennis center. This was achieved on an old strawberry patch in Ramat
Hasharon donated to the ITC by the government and on April 25, 1976, the late Leah Rabin, wife of the late Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzchak Rabin, cut the ribbon to the Center, and 250 children signed up to participate. Who in a sense also “signed up” was the Prime Minister who for the rest of his life played frequently for well-deserved relaxation!

The Israel Tennis Centers, under Froman’s direction, grew over the years from strength to strength, as tennis centers opened up from Kiryat Shmona in the North to Beersheba in the South. It was little wonder that this chapter in the history of tennis in Israel is referred to as the “Froman revolution”. In 1989, Froman received the Israel Prize, the country’s most prestigious civilian award.

This recognition was bestowed not so much for the Center’s contribution towards striving for excellence in the sport, but more for providing community enrichment programs and popularizing the sport across the socio-economic divide. The centers from inception, catered to children and families from all religions and ethnic groups – without prejudice.

“Tennis should not be an elitist game and we set out from the beginning to make it accessible to kids from lying areas,” asserted Froman. “We included children from all backgrounds and religion, providing them with a lifetime sport in an educational environment.” The ITC has proved an enriching sporting mechanism where Jews and Arabs can meet and play from a young age and foster better understanding. Adhering to this philosophy, Ian’s protégé and present director of the ITC, Danny Gelley, has been instrumental over the past year of arranging tennis enrichment projects with a tennis center in Soweto, South Africa. (See Telfed March 2015).

Recognising the immense contribution beyond sport, State President Chaim Herzog, said in presenting the prize to Froman: “You have created a virtual social revolution throughout Israel.”

Telfed Connection

While listening to Ian relating stories of the past, the writer stood there and enjoyed flashbacks of Telfed’s association with the Israel Tennis Centers. First thought was of the mass Russian Aliyah in the early 1990s, when Telfed introduced the Direct Absorption scheme and rented apartments in Rishon Lezion for these new Olim. As important as accommodation was, it was raised: “What about ‘time out’ for fun, recreation and integration?”

The result was the joint ITC-Telfed Tennis & Dance Project where Russian adults from the Merkaz Klitah in Kfar Saba were bused to the tennis center in Ramat Hasharon once a week where they received instruction in tennis and Israeli folk dancing. They were divided into groups and then alternated and the entire project was conducted in Hebrew. Ian was always about keeping a watchful eye on things. “Where are these participants today?” I wondered. Teachers, doctors, physicists, leaders in IT - would these Russians remember the early days in Israel playing tennis and dancing? I thought of the mass of refugees today fleeing Syria and Libya, and Europe struggling to grapple with this ‘uncomfortable’ crisis. And here we were - a tiny country welcoming over a million Russians with Telfed and the ITC posing the question: “Wanna dance? Anyone for tennis?”

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"In your Dreams"

And then in later years at international tournaments such as the Joyce Eisenberg Open, the Israel Open and the Davis Cups, Telfed volunteers were there preparing and manning the VIP tents and serving as gatekeepers and seat ushers. “I remember how Ruth Froman showed us in the beginning how to get the food tables in the VIP tent just right,” recalls former Telfed Vice Chairman Hilary Kaplan.

This writer’s reverie was suddenly jolted, hearing: “In your dreams.” Froman was going back over 25 years when on a fundraiser tour in the USA, a young curly-top ten year old Gilad Bloom was told by a potential fundraiser at a private home in Florida, “I’m going to play you tomorrow and I will beat you.”

“In your dreams,” replied the precocious youngster.

No need to fear – the donation came through and much more and as you travel today around Israel, you will see Ian’s signature in the shape of tennis centers in Arad, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Beersheva, Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Kiryat Shemona, Ofakim, Tiberias and Tel Aviv.

Froman has come a long way from that momentous time in 1955 when he played in the men’s single in Wimbledon before losing in the third round to eventual finalist Kurt Nielsen. With his ‘Doubles Partner” Ruth, here is a couple that have contributed to the State of Israel and have remained over five decades - character wise - this country’s “Top Seeds”.

When Benny Met Bar

When Season 2 of the popular X Factor began airing in June 2015, Southern Africans in Israel had a particular interest. “Many expressed they never watch these reality shows and are only doing so because of me,” said Benny Raphael, who at 76, made it to the final twenty out of hundreds of entrants. Stopped in the streets, supermarkets and shopping malls with people asking for his autograph, Benny told Telfed Magazine, “I felt strongly that this was my time.”

A melodious voice - “inherited from my mother” - Port Elizabeth born and bred Benny, exuded confidence. “Most of the contestants had some musical training; others had sung professionally,” while Benny’s sole experience was singing at Betar camps in the early fifties.

Bar None

Decked out in a tight-fitting long dress befitting her curvaceous body, Bar Refaeli, the stunning international fashion model and X Factor host, expressed to the nation on stage: “Benny, you are making history - you are the oldest contestant ever to appear on the X Factor.” Benny was beaming!

Cheering him on were his Betar buddies who were riveted to their TV sets and constantly emailing “the chevra” of his progress. Malcolm Finn from Kfar Shmaryahu recalls how Benny at his first Betar camp in Lakeside in 1953, “quickly established a reputation for singing around the camp fires. Every time he sang he had the girls swooning, especially when he crooned the crowd favourite – RAMONA.”

He still seems to be having that effect with the ladies! Judge Shiri Maimon, a former Israeli Eurovision contestant said, “You are a star – all you need is a stage”; the eventual winner, Daniel Yafe has invited him to do a duet with her in the future but the biggest surprise of the show, Benny
After one of his performances he remarked to her: “I brought someone this evening you may want to meet.” “Nu, bring your friend onto the stage,” said Bar. A senior woman walked onto the stage and Bar screamed: “Safta, mah at ohsah po?” (“What are you doing here?”) It turned out that Bar’s granny partners Benny once a week in Ballroom Dancing at a studio at Beit Gil Hazahav, the retirement home in Tel Aviv where Benny lives. Being “good friends,” Bennie brought her along and the two proceeded to do a gig on the stage to the delight of all - endearing him to a TV audience of all ages. It was evident that with 90% of the national audience youngsters, “having me as a contestant broadened the viewership to include all ages.”

What was the initial song that Benny sang and so impressed the four judges - rock singer Rami Fortis, pop singer-songwriter and composer Moshe Peretz, pop and R&B singer Shiri Maimon, and pop singer Ivri Lider?

“It was the Cole Porter classic, “I Get a Kick Out of You”.

Well, we all got a kick out of watching Benny week after week during the blazing summer months. Adding to the sweltering weather, Benny was “Hot Stuff”!

**Herbert’s Dream**

It’s quite amazing how Jews from dorps in South Africa managed to dream way beyond their small towns and make it big in the wide world,” expressed international lawyer David Kretzmer from Kochav Yair. David need look no further that his own father and uncle who were born and bred in Kroonstad in the former OFS. His father Eliot, who passed away in Israel in 2014, emerged from a “one horse town” to be mayor of his country’s largest city – Johannesburg, before making Aliyah in 1994. His uncle Herbert Kretzmer is a world famous lyricist with whom Telfed Magazine sat down with during the period of Eliot’s shiva in Kochav Yair in December 2014. At 89, Herbert’s voice is a low rumble which one journalist described as “If a coffee percolator could talk, it would sound like Herbert Kretzmer.”

**Far from Miserable**

Seen by more than 70 million people-

*continued on next page*

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**Music for Millions.** Attorney David Kretzmer from Kohav Yair with his world famous lyricist uncle, Herbert Kretzmer at a show of ‘Les Misérables’ in London.
ple in 44 countries and in 22 languages around the globe, the stage production of the world’s longest running musical, ‘Les Misérables’ is still breaking box-office records after 30 years.

And yet, so few are aware that its famous lyricist, who received the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French government and an OBE (Order of the British Empire) from the British monarch is none other than Herbert Kretzmer from London, formerly of Kroonstad!

Charming and witty, it was sheer pleasure passing time with Herbert over copious amounts of his nephew’s 12 year-old Chivas Regal. The stories flowed as one was taken back to the world of film and stage and a ‘who’s who’ of the sixties and seventies. Herbert, as a top Fleet Street journalist - “before I was a composer” - had interviewed them all. He refers to a thank-you letter from Frank Sinatra, not for composing the lyrics to a song, but for an article he wrote on the singer: “Your column was most compassionate and sensitive and I am most grateful to you,” wrote ‘ol’ Blue Eyes.

Herbert dismisses the missive “on a loo level,” displaying as much reverence as pride. The letter appears in his publication ‘Snapshots - Encounters with Twentieth Century Legends’, a compilation of interviews with Tennessee Williams, Louis Armstrong, Truman Capote, Cary Grant, John Paul Getty, Marlene Dietrich, Marcelle Marceau, Groucho Marx, Niel Simon, the director of Exodus, Otto Preminger, Peter Sellers and many others. A Jewish angle is frequently evident. Sellers, he notes “as a supreme example of a man smothered by his mother,” while Marcelle Marceau, “the son of a kosher butcher, was in the French resistance, and escorted groups of children to safety using mime to keep them amused during dangerous crossings.” Most these ‘living legends’ would become his friends with one exception - Leni Riestahl, Hitler’s favourite film maker. In that interview he abandoned his urbane charm. “If I had a stance, it was adversarial.”

His insights of the stars are riveting. Over breakfast with Yul Brynner (“owner of the most celebrated skull in the world”), Herbert discovered a ‘shy philosopher”, while Walt Disney, “the creator of the most famous rodent in the world, confided mice frightened him.”

Although journalism played a major part of Herbert’s professional life, it is as a lyric writer that he will be most remembered. “Old songwriters don’t die,” he says, “they just de-compose.”

The Write Stuff

Arriving at the Beverly Hills Hilton for the 2013 Golden Globes, Herbert noted that his table “was an awfully long way back,” from the stage. No matter he thought, “I will not be making that walk.”

How wrong he was when the announcement came that ‘Les Miz’ won the award for Best Musical. “I’m in pretty good nick for 87 but by my calculations it was going to take me about half an hour to get there. But adrenalin and applause are potent drugs,” and along with Claude-Michel Schönberg, the French composer who wrote the score, and Alain Boublil, who first conceived the idea for a musical version of Victor Hugo’s novel and wrote the original French lyrics, “I positively cantered to the stage.”

It was there, amid the blinding television lights “and the gratifying cheers and whoops of the audience, that something rather special happened.”

As he stood there, catching his breath and savouring the moment “I felt someone gently slip their arm through mine - a much appreciated gesture of support and comfort.”

It was academy award winner Anne Hathaway. “Almost 30 years ago, I wrote a lyric — ‘I Dreamed a Dream’ - and Anne sings it so beautifully in the film that it can break even the stoniest of hearts.”

Recalling when he sat in his Knightsbridge flat all those years ago, “agonising over whether the line about ‘but the tigers come at night’ would work or not, I never dreamed of what Les Misérables would become. Like Hugo’s novel, it’s one part chase story, one part moral fable and one part love story, but when you put those elements together the result has proved irresistible.”

And yet, without Herbert, there might have not been the award winning movie. ‘Les Miz’ had been ticking along very nicely - the longest-running musical in the West End (27 years), the third-longest running Broadway musical (16 years) and the second-long-
Telfed chairman Maish Isaacson, members of the Directorate, Executive Council and all staff express heartfelt condolences to families whose loved ones (listed below) have passed away in recent months:

**In Memoriam**

Abe Jaffe (Even Yehuda)
Eliezer Fuchs (Jerusalem)
Ghita Hurwitz (Herzlia)
Henry Broide (Petach Tikva)
Kenneth Kruger (Ra’anana)
Uri Spruch (Ramat Beit Shemesh)
Yvette Fehler (Tel Mond)
Harry Berson (Ra’anana)
Rhebe Taylor (Ra’anana)

Tributes by David Kaplan

Yitzchak Dunsky (z’l)

When accountant Yitzchak Dunsky took up the position of treasurer of Telfed – one of the most important voluntary positions in the organization overseeing its trusts and properties - he was following in a proud family tradition. His brother David Dunsky was Telfed’s second chairman (1953-1959) followed by his eldest brother Israel Dunsky (1960-1969) who initiated a Telfed meeting with David Ben Gurion which led to Israel’s first Prime Minister visiting South Africa “in the interests of Jewish education.”

Quietly spoken but steadfast, most who sat with him at Telfed Boardroom meetings remember Yitzchak “as a difficult fellow to budge once he has set his mind on an issue.” However, Yitzchak had many issues as treasurer to contend with. It was the period when two of Telfed’s largest Trust Funds were established enabling Telfed to assist the needy enabling Telfed to assist the needy members in the community and to institute the “Quality of Life” programme to provide children with extra-curricular activities. It was also a period of housing shortage caused by the massive wave of Russian Aliyah driving prices up and Telfed was active in developing new housing projects for South Africans, among these was the successful settlement of Tzur Yigal next to Kochav Yair, a previous Telfed initiative.

Always charting a safe course, Telfed’s financial situation was in safe hands.

Telfed extends heartfelt condolences to his wife Joyce and family.

Russell Gaddin (z’l)

Russell Gaddin was one in a long line of inspiring Jewish leaders in Southern Africa who believed “that Aliyah was not only about promoting living in Israel but doing it oneself.” He led by personal example.

President of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, an Honorary Life President of the South African Board of Jewish Education and Chairman of the IUA-UCF, Russell earned “time

Le’Chaim

Nearing the much depleted bottle of the younger Kretzmer’s scotch in Kohav Yair, I wondered how many of Herbert’s famous interviewees – captured in Snapshots - would have guessed that he would become as celebrated as any of them by writing the English lyrics for the stage behemoth Les Misérables. “I am not a religious man,” Herbert reflects, “but I do feel I am in some way born under a rhyming planet,” one whose celestial path passed over Kroonstad.

As a 12 year-old country boy, Herbert had a dream. “I saw myself on a hilltop with a microphone in my hand and the wind blowing in my hair. I knew that somehow, somewhere, I would be a communicator.”

The song that made him most famous ‘I Dreamed a Dream’ probably most encapsulates 90 year-old Herbert Kretzmer’s life – so far! •
out" when he made Aliyah with his wife Battie, settling in Modiin in 2009. That was never on the cards as “I was quickly roped in” joining the Telfed Aliyah Projects Committee where he was active in Telfed’s Hadera Building Project.

“If in South Africa we spoke all the time about building Israel in the abstract, here was an opportunity to participate in a literal constructively way.”

The loss felt by the Southern African community in Israel was expressed by Telfed’s CEO, Rabbi Dorron Kline officiating at the ceremony. “While Russell knew that he could have had a huge funeral in South Africa or a modest gathering with close family and friends here in Modi’in, this is what he wanted,” said Dorron. “Having a smaller funeral in Israel exemplifies Russell’s approach to life. He didn’t do his tremendous good deeds for praise and accolades; he did what needed to be done for the SA Jewish community, Zionism and Israel. Therefore, when he died, he wanted to be buried in Israel – a Zionist to the very end. The big crowds he could do without.”

Telfed extends heartfelt condolences to wife Battie, their children and grandchildren.

Freda Pincus (z’l)

“How can I honestly do justice in paying tribute to you Mom in just a few minutes? You led such a full life I think it would take all of your 96 years to relate and even then, I would leave too much out,” lamented her son Leon at her funeral in July. Leon had it right.

In an age when ‘Zionism’ is under assault, Freda hails from a family entrenched in active Zionism that began in the 1930s and was revealed in a Telfed Magazine feature (August 2014) entitled: “Revivim Revealed”.

In 1932, Freda’s parents Barney and Fanny Berold from Parow near Cape Town visited Palestine as part of a group of Diaspora Jews and met with Avraham Granotsky, Chairman of the JNF and signatory to Israel’s declaration of Independence when he encouraged them “to invest” in the future Jewish State by purchasing land. Of the group, only the Berolds bought and in 1936 took ownership of a sizable plot of land in the Negev, which “we later agreed to donate for the purposes of establishing a frontline defensive kibbutz,” and in 1943, Kibbutz Revivim was established. “As far as I know,” said Freda, “Revivim is the only case of privately owned Jewish land being donated for this purpose.”

Settlement of the kibbutz began with only three men and as it grew, women joined, one of whom was Golda Meir’s daughter. During the War of Independence, Revivim became the centre of Israel’s defense of the Negev and 34 soldiers, including one woman, fell in battle.” All this and more is recorded in the kibbutz’s museum; what is not recorded is the enriching connection of the kibbutz to Freda’s family.

Freda’s husband Alec, together with her brother George Berold were active in Telfed serving on the Executive and many of its major committees. While George was Vice Chairman of Telfed and served on its finance and housing committees, her husband Alec worked closely with Judge Joseph Herbst on the Education and Bursary committees.

For visiting Capetonians, the Pincus household on Moshe Sharett Street in Tel Aviv was like a branch of Telfed and on the To-Do List. “How we remember the visitors always streaming through our house like a railway station – always welcome with such warmth,” recalled Leon. As this writer well recalls, over and above the “taste of Israel’ with plentiful food, you received a healthy infusion of Zionism and advice on what to do, where to go and always encouragement to make Aliyah. Many did, if many years later.

Freda and Alec lost a son Meyer in the Yom Kippur War, and in his memory established the Meyer Pincus Barel Fund which is administered by Telfed and whose proceeds go towards offering bursaries to needy students. In this way, the Pincus legacy of service to others in Israel lives on.

Telfed extends heartfelt condolences to children Leon, Carol, Paula and their families.

Colin Gontier (z’l)

Telfed extends condolences to Telfed staff member Nikki Leviner, Head of Resource Development for the sad and untimely passing of her dear brother Colin Gontier in the UK.