

# Kol India

*September 2019 / Elul 5779*





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Sydney Switzer

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*Do YOU want to write for Kol India? Writeups of events, opinion pieces, recipes, community celebrations, and whatever else you can think of are all welcome!*

*Contact Jeremy for more information.*

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# Ladies Camp in Khopoli *by Cheryll Tucker*



It was the first time I had signed up to go for AJDC's annual Ladies Camp, held this year from the 17th to the 19th of June. With the stress and the pressure of living in a city like Mumbai, I needed a break 'Far from the Maddening Crowd' and found it at the UK's Resort which was tucked into the Khopoli Hill Station, a two-hour drive from Mumbai.

We left around 9:00 am from the EPJCC, with thanks to Ashley Jacob and Judah Sankar who helped all of us with our bags while we boarded the bus. On our arrival at the resort we were

allotted our rooms which were very nice. The three days at the camp were well planned with activities like games, swimming and rain dancing.

Sydney Switzer led several interactive sessions and discussions relating to rituals we practice in Judaism. She also led a Musical Shacharit where we sang songs from the morning service, accompanied by guitar, and a painting workshop focussed on prayer and meditation. I led a text study from the book of Esther called '12 Months of Purification', and Ruby Samuel led a session where she gave us insights and



wisdom through her anecdotes. On our return journey to Mumbai we stopped to visit Pen Synagogue.

The entire trip was relaxing, and we were able to learn from life's lessons beyond a classroom-style atmosphere, to appreciate nature, and to build meaningful friendships. Thanks to Sydney Switzer, Sinhora Phansapurkar and Helen Kasookar for organizing the camp. Their kindness and patience was remarkable.



# My Journey

## Exploring Kochi *by Keren Shapurkar*

Over the years many groups from all over the world have come to connect and learn about the small Jewish community of India. Interacting with these groups has always made me proud of our Bene Israeli heritage. When I heard the news that JYP Youth Camp this summer was to Kochi, I knew it would be a special camp as this time we weren't only talking about our Bene Israeli community, but together we were going to go on a journey to discover and learn about the once vibrant, influential and dynamic community of Kochi, which has left prominent traces around the bustling streets of Kochi till today.

On the 23rd of May, a group of 15 youth from the JYP joined the group of students from Hebrew Union College (HUC) to spend four days in Kochi. We were all very excited to meet the students who were learning to be Reform Rabbis, Cantors, and Jewish Educators. We walked through the mesmerizing and calming streets and learned about the city and its people, while talking about life in our respected countries. Once we reached the Pardesi Synagogue we admired the beauty and sang a few songs which created such a powerful memory for me. I was happy and honored to be there where a lovely





community once lived. It was a bittersweet moment.

The next day we took a local boat to the Kadavumbagam Synagogue. Passing through the calm and marvelous backwaters I looked forward to the day and what camp would teach us all. The Synagogue was breathtaking and its history was even more interesting. We heard tales of the community from Mr. Elias who takes care of the Synagogue.

Before Shabbat, all of us were dressed in Indian clothes, and it felt like we were one big Jewish family ready to welcome Shabbat. After lighting the Shabbat candles the mood automatically became special and pure as members of the group shared how they celebrate their Shabbat - be it leading a service for the community or spending time with friends and family. I realized how Shabbat might have a different meaning to each one of us but yet it is special in our own way.

On Saturday morning I decided to join the Sacred Movement session led by one of the participants from the HUC group, which was unlike anything we had tried before. The energy that filled the room was amazing as quaint ukulele was being played in the background, and we connected through body, mind

*continued...*





and soul. In the evening we had a few sessions to get us thinking and talking about issues which aren't really black or white, and which every Jewish community might face. Even though we had differences of opinions, we respected everyone's opinions.

As the camp was coming to an end, I realized that what was so special about the group was that they were so open to Indian culture and were eager to learn and interact with us, be it dancing to the Macarena or Zingaat, or even singing Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu and even

gorging over the sometimes spicy Indian food.

Youth Camp has always given me so many wonderful and terrific memories, great friends and Jewish connection from all over the world. Having been to a few Youth Camps over the years I have realized that whenever you meet a Jew from any part of the world there is an instant connection. In spite of the differences in our languages, customs and tradition, we are all very proud of being Jewish and in the end we are all one.

# The March of the Living

by Richard Kazn Young

My connection to the Shoah-Holocaust began in 1993, through the film *Schindler's List* by Steven Spielberg; it's this film that made me sit back and start looking into the history of the Holocaust. Being a student of filmmaking, I dug deeper into many documentary films about the Holocaust. My Polish Jewish roots from my father's side made it even more personal.

The March of the Living takes place on *Yom HaShoah* - Holocaust Remembrance Day. This crucial date meant a lot to me in Mumbai, where I would organize programmes, screen films, and put on presentations or exhibitions about the Holocaust with both the Jewish and the non-Jewish communities. The March of the Living trip to Poland brought out a gush of emotions and images pouring out that had been stored in my heart and mind visually for 25 years.

We met with our group from the UK at the Warsaw airport, and my Bus Group Leader handed me a yellow *Yartzeit* (remembrance) candle to light at one of the death camps. We travelled to the various sites, museums, cemeteries, synagogues and death camps, including Belzec, Majdanek, and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

What I had seen in photos and films during my research, I could now see for real. I could touch it, feel it - the place, the soil that the victims and survivors walked on, I now walked on and connected with them.

For me it was as if my connection to the Holocaust had just begun, in spite of reading, learning, and hearing stories of victims and survivors for over 20 years. The time I spent in Poland in the cities of Warsaw, Lublin, Krakow and finally



Lodz brought about a totally different perspective to what I had known relating to the Shoah-Holocaust.

I was very fortunate to have had a wonderful Bus Group, mostly in their mid-fifties to seventies, and full of energy. If it weren't for them and their support I wouldn't have made this journey, and I am also very grateful to our Educator Rabbi Gideon Sylvester, who was hard at times but very giving,

and our Bus Leader Michelle Smaje, lovingly always smiling and patiently encouraging us to walk a little faster and make it to our destination.

Hearing and meeting with eight Holocaust survivors was truly a very fortunate experience. To see them walk with such vigor and energy, and to speak with such passion and emotion about their experiences as survivors was such a blessing. Harry Olmer was



one of the eight survivors from the UK who joined us on our bus.

I am very grateful to the JDC team in Mumbai, and to the March of the Living UK for giving me this opportunity to be a part of this great work of being a Witness, and a participant on the March of the Living 2019. As Elie Wiesel rightly said, “[Survivors] are an endangered species now, this is the last chance you have to listen to them. I believe with all my heart that whoever listens to a Witness, becomes a Witness.”



I returned home with my yellow *Yartzeit* candle, without having lit it. It came with a card that bore the name of a four-year-old boy - Szymon Wechter of Zamosc - who perished in Belzec in 1942. That yellow candle came back with me unlit, as a Witness and as a Testament, and has now become a Living Memory. Light, transformed from a simple yellow candle, into the story of the Wechter family of Zamosc, which I am privileged to be a Witness to. So my Journey in a way has just begun.



# Shavuot with the JRU

by Sinnora and Johnny Jhirad

Shavuot, also known as the Feast of Weeks, occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan. Shavuot has double significance. It marks the all-important wheat festival in Israel and it also commemorates the anniversary of the day when G-d gave the Ten Commandments to the nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai.

The holiday is one of the *Shalosh Regalim*, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. The word Shavuot means weeks, and it marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer. Its date is directly linked to that of Passover; the Torah mandates the seven-week Counting of the Omer, beginning on the second day of Passover, to be immediately followed by Shavuot. The counting of days and weeks is understood to express anticipation and desire for the giving of the Torah. In the Orot HaTorah Ladies Group session

before Pesach, JSC Fellow Sydney Switzer had given a talk on the Counting of the Omer and given some short texts to be read on each of the forty-nine nights of the Omer. The texts were very insightful and full of deep wisdom. Every day of the Omer we used to eagerly look forward to the text of that night.

On Passover, the people of Israel were freed from their enslavement to Pharaoh; on Shavuot, they were given the Torah and became a nation committed to serving G-d. During the existence of the Temple in Jerusalem, an offering of two loaves of bread from the wheat harvest was made on Shavuot by every Jewish family. It is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. The Book of Ruth is also read.

The Jewish Religious Union together with the AJDC celebrated Shavuot on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019. We all brought

some food-grains to be donated, signifying us bringing our offerings to the Temple. There were three short sessions. The first interesting session was conducted by Sydney Switzer on the Ten Commandments. The contest of putting the Ten Commandments in order was keenly played by all teams. Cheryll Tucker gave a talk on the significance of the offering of two loaves of bread. Florence Haeems conducted a knowledge enhancing quiz on Shavuot which was followed by a nice meal containing paneer and carrot halwa to celebrate the significance of the Shavuot dairy meal.

## Orot HaTorah

*The women of our community meet monthly to celebrate Rosh Chodesh. Here are some recent highlights.*



*Join us each month for activities, discussions and snacks in a warm and communal environment.*

*Contact Sinhora at 24360578 to find out more.*



# A History of the Jewish Religious Union *by Noreen Elijah*

It brings me great pleasure to present to you the story of the “Jewish Religious Union” - JRU, and Synagogue “Rodef Shalom”.

There was a young, intelligent, hardworking Bene-Israeli girl, Jerusha Jhirad, belonging to an Orthodox Jewish family living in Bombay. For Jerusha’s education, she was sent to a well recognized High School in Pune, 200 kilometres from Bombay. While still in school, Jerusha got the news of her elder sister’s serious illness while delivering her baby. Her sister was treated during childbirth by Dr. Benson M.D. London. Jerusha then made up her mind to become a doctor, take the M.D. (London) degree and be in charge of the Cama Hospital Bombay, one of the first hospitals for women, under the British Government.

Jerusha’s schooling and medical studies were entirely dependent on her scholarships. She proceeded to London in 1914 (the year World War I broke out), to take up further medical studies. When in London, she joined the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, attending Shabbat and High Holy Day Services. However, her first introduction to Liberal Jewish thought took place much earlier. With some prize money to spend, Jerusha purchased and read Claude Montefiore’s “Bible for Home Reading”.

In the London Synagogue, she met Lady Lily Montagu, Claude Montefiore, and Rabbi Israel Mattuck, who made a lasting impression, and who helped even after her return to Bombay. In the year 1925, Dr. Jerusha Jhirad was able to bring together eminent Jewish people, judges and lawyers, professors



and teachers, engineers, doctors and other professionals together to the idea of Liberal Judaism - thus the JRU was formed. The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) was formed in 1926 - one year after the JRU was formed.

A number of our current JRU Board Members have strong roots in the JRU: Rina, whose grandfather Mr. M.G. Moses was the President for many years; Rivca, whose father Shalomo Aptekar, lawyer, was an eminent member and a Lay Minister for a number of years; Rivca's aunt Dr. Miss Segulla Aptekar, President of the 'Sisterhood', and Rivca's uncle Dr. Samuel Aptekar, who was the President for many years.

Victor, Norma and myself, whose father Abraham Elijah was a trustee and worked day to day to see that the Synagogue was in a "Tip Top" condition. Our mother Rose Elijah held the

Sisterhood meetings in her home. I can still see her baking cakes, and making stacks of perfect sandwiches. Today, these families continue the hard work and are the backbone of the JRU.

During the 50's and 60's the WUPJ sent Rabbis to Mumbai - Rabbi Dr. Heller (who brought with him JRU's first Sefer Torah), Rabbi Richard Israel, Rabbi Hugo Gryn, and Rabbi Elisha Nattiv, among the many who have visited us. In the year 1958, with the encouragement of Rabbi Hugo Gryn, with a bank balance of just Rs. 38/-, prayer, faith and enthusiasm, and with the help of loans, a three-story building was bought - "Rodef Shalom". The first Liberal Synagogue was born.

Dr. Jhirad and Rabbi Hugo Gryn had a vision together to set up the "Jewish Religious Union" - 'Rodef Shalom' - a place where men and women can pray together equally and share the Bima - "Holiness is for all people".

It brought the Jews of Mumbai together - Liberal Judaism in Mumbai was at its peak from the 1960's to the 1990's. However, in the Communal Riots of 1993, the top floor - the Synagogue - was burnt. The Synagogue was destroyed, along with the Sefer Torah, Prayer Books, library, furniture - everything was gone!

The fire destroyed everything - but not the spirit and idea of Liberal Judaism in the minds and hearts of the Congregation. We came together to work hard and to rebuild. We have prayed and celebrated and observed the High Holy Days and festivals together many a time in the halls of JDC, ORT and the Jacob Sassoon Hall. It was during these difficult years from 1994, for the next 20 years, when my late husband Norman Elijah was President of JRU and motivated his team - and the congregation - to stay together, and pray together. In 2004, the WUPJ gave Norman an award at their

conference in Jerusalem. The award was for "Keeping the Synagogue Going, Without a Synagogue".

Other members of our Synagogue have also won awards. Elijah Jacob and Norma Suvarna have won the "Ner Tamid" award from the Union for Progressive Judaism Australia. Many of our members have attended conferences at WUPJ and UPJ Australia, to name a few: Sam and Homi Levi to Johannesburg, Norman Elijah to Paris, David Haeems to Melbourne, Norma to London, and Norman and myself to Melbourne and Tasmania. Members have also attended the Beutel Seminar in Jerusalem - Rina, Noel and Elijah.

The WUPJ sends us Rabbis each year to lead the High Holy Day Services. Some of these include Rabbi Joel Oseran, Rabbi Stanley Davids and his wife Resa four times, Rabbi Leon Morris twice, and Rabbi Judith Edelman Green,

## Gan Katan Thane

*Thanks to our dedicated volunteers for giving their Sundays to running these amazing programmes for children in Thane!*



who will be coming for the eighth time this year. Steve Denenberg from UPJ Australia visited us many a time to discuss and sort out any of our problems.

We have created a record of sorts, by celebrating the Bnot Mitzvah of four ladies between the ages of 50 to 84! All read portions of the Torah.

The Trustees are working hard to redevelop the building. The agreement with the Developer is in place. The office of the Charity Commission is convinced and satisfied that all records are honest and true. The Heritage Committee of Mumbai is convinced that the beautiful and old building built in 1907, now unsafe, should go for development. The Lease of the land will be renewed and G-d willing - the work on the new building will begin very soon. G-d specializes in the impossible.

# Doing Good *by Rivka Moshe*

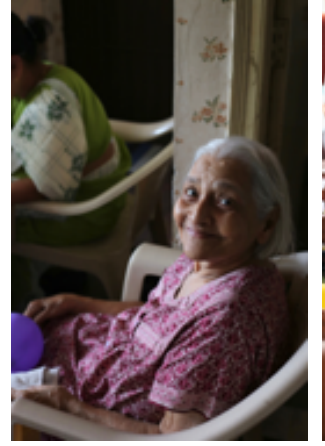


As per the programme arranged by AJDC and the Gabriel Project Mumbai, a group of volunteers, including myself, participated in Mitzvah Day 2019. Our programme was to visit the Nehru Planetarium with 24 kids and the teachers from the slums of Kalwa.

As we entered the first hall where they explain about the solar system, the kids were very attentive and happy to learn. Then we went upstairs to the planetarium to see the stars and constellations. We all enjoyed so much.

We then came to the JCC by bus with the children, and all of us had lunch served personally by Elijah and Pandu. Then the children had ice cream and enjoyed dancing. The children were happy for ice cream and the sweets given by Sharona Nathaniel. Likewise we all learnt and enjoyed the experience of Mitzvah Day.

# An Ode To Mitzvah Day *by Seema Jhirad*



A J D C चे गेट

तेथे सीमा, डायना (कोर्लेकर), रुबी (कुरुलकर,

मस्सील), बिना,

मेरी व सोफी यांची झाली भेट

एलायजाची परवानगी घेऊन

डेविड सोबत बाइतीमध्ये पोहचलो थेट

सिडनी सिनोरा येऊन झाले थेट

पाहून आम्हा सर्वांना वृद्धाची मने गेली मोहरून

भेटलो त्यांना मिठी मारून कडकडून

गप्पा गोष्टीं, चित्रकला, आणि गाणी

गाऊन केले त्यांचे मनोरंजन

चित्रकलेत गढून गेले त्यांचे मन

जेवण झाले, झाली वेळ निघण्याची

मुलीला सासरी पाठवताना

जशी होते आईबापाची मनास्थिती

तशीच झाली त्यांची स्थिती

वृद्धावस्था इतकी वाईट का ?

ज्या हाताने भरवले,

ज्या खांद्यावर खेळवले,

हाताचे बोट धरून चालवले,

काबाड-कष्ट करून भरण-पोषण केलं

त्यांचा इतका तिरस्कार का ?

त्यांना समजून घ्या,

अनमोल रत्न आहेत ती,

‘जुने ते सोने’ आहेत ते

आम्हा सर्वांतर्फे

A J. D C चे धन्यवाद

# Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebrating

*by Nissim Pingle*



On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the EPJCC was transformed into a festive space, with Israeli flags decorating the walls and popular Israeli music playing in the background. Around 85 people attended this year's Israeli Independence Day celebrations. Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut at the EPJCC has been a way to express solidarity with the state of Israel and a concrete link in the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel.

This year our celebration had a very interesting theme - 'Kibbutz Galuyot: An Ingathering of the Exiles'. Our JSC fellow Sydney Switzer helped us plan the programmatic side - the different stations featured traditions from different Jewish communities around the world. They included a hummus-making station for Jews from the Middle East, seed planting for American chalutzim, 'Learn to Write in Cyrylic' for Jews from



the Former Soviet Union, and Sfenj-frying for Moroccan Jews. There was also a quiz with questions about Israel and a piñata for the children.

People of all age groups attended the event. The Consul General of Israel, Mr. Yaakov Finkelstein and his family, and the Consul Galit and her family also graced the occasion! The event concluded with a buffet dinner that was enjoyed by all.

# Limmud India

by *Elijah Jacob* **2019**

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee along with the Indian Joint Trust and the Youth & Young Adult Engagement Division held their sixth successful year of Limmud India at Club Emerald, Chembur on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The day began with a heavy downpour and we were a bit apprehensive about people attending the event, but in spite of the heavy rainfall, we had a turnout of about 115 participants.

The Limmud programme started off with registrations and breakfast followed by an opening session wherein the community members got to know each other through icebreakers. There were three concurrent sessions during each of the three morning blocks, which included topics on Community Leadership, Health, Text Study, Tai-Chi, a special session on Israeli sports by

the Deputy Consul of Israel Mr. Nimrod Kalmar, and a session given by the JDC Global Seminar participants highlighting the history of the JDC worldwide. Café Dilemma featured lively debates on topics including Aliyah, antisemitism and the preservation of Jewish cemeteries of India. The children participated in our Mini Limmud programme conducted by Maayan Shapurkar and alumni of the Szarvas Camp in Hungary, where each of the madrichim prepared special sessions for the children to interact with. A delicious lunch followed the morning session including tasty Malaysian soup, various salads as starters, and creamy baked Rasagollas for dessert.

After lunch we started with three concurrent sessions on the Holocaust given by the March of the Living participants who visited Poland in April 2019 under the aegis of AJDC. This was



followed by one final round of sessions presented by our dedicated volunteers.

Following high tea and snacks, all the participants were treated to a Jewish Trivia quiz conducted by Ivan Kasookar and Eilanit Gadkar. Five teams competed strongly and the winning team won special EPJCC mugs to take back home as gifts. The Closing Ceremony began with a special rendition of the song 'Eretz Eretz' by the children of Mini Limmud and a special farewell to the JSC Fellows - Sydney Switzer and Dov Boonin - followed by a Vote of Thanks to all the presenters and participants of Limmud.

Indeed Limmud 2019 took each and every one of us present at the venue one step further on our Jewish Journey.



# The JYP Cricket League

*by Sharon Samuel*



With the IPL season and the cricket fever spread across the nation, the JYP did not fall back. On 5th May, 2019 we held our very own Cricket League with seven teams from Mumbai, Thane, Elai and Alibaug.

It was a fun filled event with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. The event went on for five hours and all the spectators had a gala time watching the matches. People from different age

groups participated in this event. We played a match of four overs each. The teams 'Mumbai Jews' and 'Revdanda' reached the finale, where the 'Mumbai Jews' won the Cricket League. All the players won medals and a trophy.

This event was greatly successful in gathering Jews together and bringing about a spirit of teamwork, patience and cooperation.

***With best wishes***

***To our Jewish brethren***

***In India and abroad***

***For a Happy New Year 5780***

***And well over the fast***



***From Magen Hassidim Synagogue***



***L'Shana Tova 5780  
and Best Wishes***



***From Capt. Victor, Elizabeth Elijah  
& Family.***

***Sigma Shipping Agency Pvt. Ltd.  
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***New Year Best Wishes  
From the Committee***

***Tiphereth Israel Synagogue***

***Compliments for the Festivals***



***From Noreen Elijah***

***High Holiday Greetings*** 

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***From The  
Golden Age Group***

***The Managing Committee  
And the Trustees  
Of the Jewish Religious Union  
Rodef Shalom***



***Wish all our Brethren the world over  
A very happy Rosh HaShanah  
And a meaningful Yom Kippur.  
We wish you all G-d's blessings.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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in India, Israel and all over the World***

***Wishing you a very Happy New Year 5780***

***May this New Year***

***Light your house with health and happiness***

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***Shana Tova!***

***Wishing One & All a Very, Very  
Happy New Year 5780 (2019-20)!***

***Wish Best Wishes From  
David, Rebecca, Oren and Nessica -  
The Birwadkars!***

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With Compliments From***



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# Local Fundraising Update

**Total Target**  
**Rs. 27,44,600/-**

55% Raised  
Rs. 15,11,330/-

## **Youth + Volunteer Development**

Target:  
Rs. 13,28,800/-



43% Raised  
Rs. 5,72,450/-

## **Emergency Medical and Rehabilitation**

Target:  
Rs. 1,43,000/-



56% Raised  
Rs. 80,740/-

**JCC**  
Target:  
Rs. 4,72,800/-



71% Raised  
Rs. 3,37,640/-

## **Bayiti Home**

Target:  
Rs. 8,00,000/-



65% Raised  
Rs. 5,20,500/-

*\*As of 31st August, 2019*

# Donations

From 1st May 2019

To 31st August 2019

Name	Receipt	Amount
<b>Bayiti</b>		
<i>Benjamin Hannock Ashtamkar</i>	6026	2 000
<i>Johnny and Sinnora Jhirad</i>	6064	2 000
<i>Wellwisher</i>	6074	2 000
<i>Ruby Sassoon Kurulkur</i>	6101	1 500
<i>Sophie Moses Akshikar</i>	6102	1 000
<i>Johnny and Sinnora Jhirad</i>	6156	2 000

## Emergency Medical Fund

<i>Noreen Elijah</i>	6060	6 000
<i>Noreen Elijah</i>	6164	6 000
<i>Samir Singh</i>	6183	5 000
<i>Victor and Elizabeth Elijah</i>	3033	2 500

## Welfare

<i>Cheryll Tucker</i>	6059	1 000
<i>Annie and Elijah Jacob</i>	6061	1 111
<i>Aaron Kolet</i>	6068	1 000
<i>Ruby Sassoon Kurulkur</i>	6101	1 000
<i>Sophie Moses Akshikar</i>	6103	1 000

## Youth & Young Adult Engagement

<i>Samir Singh</i>	6038	5 000
<i>Wellwisher</i>	6122	5 000

## Donations *continued...*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Receipt</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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### JCC Programmes

<i>Nathan Aston</i>	<i>2421</i>	<i>1 000</i>
<i>J.I. Tours (HUC Group)</i>	<i>6048</i>	<i>34 000</i>
<i>All India Jewish Welfare Association</i>	<i>6083</i>	<i>3 000</i>
<i>The Jewish Religious Union</i>	<i>6084</i>	<i>3 165</i>
<i>Yoel Bentzion Kurulkur</i>	<i>6179</i>	<i>3 000</i>

### Patron & Platinum Memberships

<i>Neha Prashant Worlikar</i>	<i>6028</i>	<i>6 000</i>
<i>Samuel Joseph Marshall</i>	<i>6049</i>	<i>6 000</i>
<i>David R. Ashkenazy</i>	<i>6055</i>	<i>10 000</i>
<i>Sifra Lentin</i>	<i>6180</i>	<i>6 000</i>

## A Note from The Editor

It's been a pleasure bringing you these past six issues of *Kol India*. More than that, it's been a pleasure spending the past two years working in your community, and being welcomed by so many amazing people. *Kol India* seeks to highlight the vibrancy of the Jewish community and share the stories of the individuals who make up the whole, and I've been blessed to share in the making of so many memories and stories over these past two years. Likewise, my experience in India has given me countless insights into my own Judaism and helped me form my own personal story, something which I'll always carry forward with me. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this journey!

Sydney Switzer, JSC Fellow 2017-2019

SydneyRSwitzer@gmail.com

# Upcoming Events

- September 8** Advisory Council Meeting & Phone-a-Thon
- September 15** Heroes for Life Meeting with Youth
- September 22** High Holiday Seminar with Rabbi Judith Edelman-Green
- October 4-5** JDC, JRU & ORT Young Leadership Seminar
- October 27-29** JDC Family Camp
- November 17** Global Day of Jewish Learning
- December 26** Khai Fest 2019 (TBC)

**JRU Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Prayer Services** will be held at the EPJCC on the 29th and 30th of September, and 8th and 9th of October respectively. **Simchat Torah Services** will be held on the 21st of October.

**Weekly Torah Class** - Every Monday, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the EPJCC.

**Weekly Hebrew Class** - Every Wednesday, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the EPJCC.

**Gan Katan Thane** - Every other Sunday, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm at Sha'ar HaShamaim Synagogue in Thane.

# Spend a Year on Kibbutz in Israel

Be a volunteer –  
experience living in Israel!



**G**et exposure to Israel's cultivation and harvesting methods, water conservation, how fruits & vegetables are grown, dairy farming techniques, foriculture, milk collection and processing and to the kibbutz way of life.

We send young men and women (ages 18 and 35), some taking a year off their studies and others who have graduated, although even non-graduates are welcome.

You work about 8 or 9 hours a day and stay on the kibbutz and are paid stipends for the work. Living quarters are provided. Volunteers can have their meals at the Kibbutz Dining Room or prepare their own meals at the Volunteers' Quarters.

Virtually all kibbutz have total connectivity, a common recreation room, swimming pool and sports facilities, regular cultural activities, common celebrations of Festivals and National Events that you are free to participate in.

Celebrate the joys of kibbutz life - festivities, tours of the country, its cultural and sporting activities while living in the countryside.



**Contact:**  
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**Skype: abraham.yehuda**

**Solomon F. Sopher, President  
India Jewish Congress,  
Sir Jacob Sassoon Charity & Allied  
Trusts & Synagogues**



**Wishes the WORLD JEWRY a very  
HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

**‘Shana Tova 5780’**