

Dear Friends in Israel and Abroad,

Is it just me – or did 2009 fly by before we really had time to adjust!! Here we are already at the beginning of 2010 and hopefully, this will be a year filled with peace, good health and happiness for us all.

This last year has been a tough one for world financial markets and sadly we have all felt the effects. However, optimism is in the air and we must all look forward with positivity and hope.

I send you – our valued friends and supporters – my warmest thanks for your continued support. What would we do without you all !!!

Sincerely yours



Lyn Bach –
Director, Public Relations & Fund-Raising

Dear Friends,

We are living in challenging times, but when we see the quality of life being provided to our residents, we have immense pride on how their lives are so much richer because of Beth Protea. You – the community – help us to do this and none of this would be possible without your ongoing support.

We are proud to be associated with this special facility and want to take this opportunity and raise our hats to the wonderful management and staff that make this all possible.



Maurice Lavin
Chairman
Beth Protea



Selwyn Feinblum
Chairman
Keren Beth Protea



Selwyn Feinblum and Maurice Lavin

A WORD FROM ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS...

Lynette Karp, Hon. Life President of Jaffa

Arriving in Israel as new Olim at pensionable age, anxious about what we would do to keep ourselves occupied in Israel, it was great to discover that this society thrives on volunteers. It is inevitable that one looks in the area of one's experience when searching for a meaningful activity to fill your days. Shortly after Beth Protea opened, I visited the premises on a visit to Israel, to compare facilities with Jaffa, the Jewish Aged Home in Pretoria, with whom I have been associated with for the last 26 years.

Shortly after our aliyah in March 2008, we settled in Kfar Saba, and on the invitation of Lyn Bach we were hosted at Beth Protea and shown around this most impressive facility. I offered my services to Lynn Lochoff as a volunteer, specifically because the ethos of the home was so comfortably familiar – to say nothing of the local South African accent around us everywhere !!!

What a wise decision it was of mine – I can honestly say that our aliyah has been phenomenally smooth and our lives have been showered with blessings since we arrived in Israel – undoubtedly one of those, for me, has been the satisfaction I enjoy by working my once a week at Beth Protea. To volunteer is a mitzvah – for those you serve obviously – but infinitely more so is the fulfilment that one gets from being able to give of one's time to be of service to others.

Beth Protea is hardly a retirement home – the daily programme is busier than many businesses. There are vibrant, alert and active and interesting residents that set the tone for this home. It is such a privilege to meet and mix with them all. Involvement with the superb staff complement has been inspiring and motivating. I work in the Assisted Living Department where we enjoy our weekly hour of reading topical, sometimes controversial often inspirational articles which inevitably becomes a discussion group. The stories of personal experiences that have come from some of our residents are absolutely fascinating.

So much so, that, in co-operation with the staff we are presently considering how to gather material from throughout the home with a view to perhaps publishing a book of these inspiring recollections. There is nothing static about volunteering in this kind of environment.

My day at Beth Protea is the focal point of my week and I look forward to an exciting future there – now as a volunteer and one day G-d willing perhaps as residents ourselves.

PENPALS WITH JAFFA ...

Harriet Hedy Unruh – Cultural Activities

Recently, at the suggestion of Lyn Bach of Keren Beth Protea and Ronny Silberman from the Jaffa Residents' Home in Pretoria a Pen Pal Club was initiated. A list of residents was mailed to us with details of their interests and hobbies and two of our residents responded. I myself found the name of a family friend from my home town, Springs.

We hope that the communication between our 2 homes will continue to grow as more of our residents join the Pen Pal Club and share their lives with each other – even if it is only on paper.

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IN MEMORY...

It is with great sadness that we join the rest of the South African Jewish Community in acknowledging the loss of 3 wonderful men. All of them were great friends of Beth Protea and instrumental in ensuring we realised our dream of creating a haven for ex Southern African retirees in Israel. Their memory will live on in our hearts forever and they will be sorely missed. "יהי זכרונם ברוך"

STANLEY LEWIS נ"ר September 2009
Excerpt from Eulogy read at the Memorial Service in Israel by Herman Musikanth, past Chairman Beth Protea & Keren Beth Protea

It is with a great sense of loss and sadness that we are gathered here today to pay tribute to our late beneficiary and Trustee of Beth Protea, Stanley Lewis.

Stanley had two main passions in his life that determined his conduct. Firstly and above all else, his dedication to his family's needs. Secondly, his concern for the dignity of all persons associated with him and all those who met him.

The concern for his family and the dignity of others could explain his commitment to Beth Protea. Beth Protea is really a family concern and dedicated to maintaining the dignity of its residents.

Stanley not only contributed generously in financial terms to the benefit of Beth Protea, but always was ready to assist and could be called upon to do so.

His presence was felt whenever he participated with us. It is heartbreaking that this dapper over-eighty young man is no longer with us.

He will be sorely missed by all.

ERNEST SAMSON נ"ר October 2009
Excerpt from obituary by Eliot Osrin Cape Town, South Africa that appeared in the Cape Chronicle

Ernest Samson, a community stalwart of many years, passed away in Stamford, USA on October 5, 2009, aged 90. A great communal worker and fund raiser Ernest was also a most generous top donor with Jewish education being his greatest passion. He was a trustee of a number of communal organizations.

An ardent Zionist he after 1967 worked with a Jewish agency promoting a series of Economic Development conferences and was instrumental in playing a major role in the marketing of Israeli products both in South Africa and the U.K.

He is survived by his wife Renee, daughters Jeanne and Claire, his sons-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Message from Renee Samson:
"The concept of Beth Protea was amazing. It has been a lifesaver for elderly South Africans. When South African's immigrated as couples and one would pass away, the remaining spouse could be isolated. For one of our friends, this has given her a second life. Having the security and wonderful services for seniors has made a huge difference in people's lives. It has been a gift to have been able to be a part of this endeavour."

MENDEL KAPLAN נ"ר November 2009
Tribute by Isaac Bloch, past Chairman Beth Protea & Keren Beth Protea

Mendel was truly remarkable when one considers the depth and breadth of his commitment to and involvement with family, friends, community and the Jewish world at large.

His connection to Beth Protea was more than just being one of its major benefactors. In deciding to promote the Beth Protea concept and obtain financial support from South African Jewry, Mendel was the obvious person to approach for guidance. As was his way, he looked at this as a challenge to be dealt with in the correct way. His advice was quite straightforward: "Get the former South Africans living in Israel to make significant contributions, and break the pattern of automatically turning to South Africa, and you will then be successful in South Africa as well." He was so right, and it worked.

A real appreciation of Beth Protea by Mendel was the result of his personal experience when his uncle Solly Kaplan spent his latter days at Beth Protea. Mendel could not get over the quality of loving care his uncle received and made his appreciation known wherever he could in both words and in kind.

MESSAGE from Lynn Lochoff

Lynn Lochoff - Director, Beth Protea

They say : Time flies by so fast when you are having a good time. Well I have had a great year as the time has just flown.

Actually who could not have a good year being surrounded by such amazing people, volunteers, staff and residents. This feeling is felt by all. My son, a young man, came to work temporarily with one of our residents in the nursing unit at BP, after just a few weeks he came to me and said that the experience had been such a wonderful positive one, that he has decided that geriatrics is now the field of his choice. Well!! If that doesn't say it all.

I wish us all a wonderful, healthy and peaceful year.

HIDDEN TALENT IN THE NURSING CARE UNIT ...

Sharon Hatchuel & Michelle Ivri

Art therapy is a way of letting people express themselves. No one knows for sure how art therapy works, but somehow the simple act of drawing, painting or crafting seems to relax, slow down your heart rate and breathing, and decrease blood pressure – and so you get a feeling of achievement, a good feeling all over. You don't have to be artistic in order to be creative!!!! In the Nursing Unit we do art works that are interesting and cater to each resident's level. We do a lot of projects in groups – giving a feeling of team work and we do crafts/murals according to each chag during the year.

The Beth Protea Nursing Department is always decorated colourfully – and all the work done by OUR residents. We put our heart and soul into finding the right work for our residents so that they enjoy it, and that the department is adorned beautifully!!! All are invited to come and see our wonderful art work.

DONATE AND CELEBRATE! By making a donation of your choice, you can show "someone" special that you care, and at the same time, make a worthy contribution towards a cause you believe in. Call Marcelle at the Keren's office today on 09-9585496 and arrange to send one of our beautiful greeting cards on your behalf.



JEWISH HARMONY SINGERS

A couple of months ago, Keren Beth Protea received a donation by a wonderful anonymous donor. We were asked to use these funds for holding the premiere concert of the Jewish Harmony Singers in Israel.

What a concert this was!



On November 30, our supporters were treated to an evening of entertainment of the highest international standards. The voices of Colin Schachat, Steven Leas and Azi Schwartz filled the theatre in a unique blend of harmony with special guest appearance by young Micha Schachat – a mere 13 year old with the voice of an angel. Accompaniment by the very talented Raymond Goldstein & his 9 piece Musical Ensemble provided the perfect background to a wonderful evening. Of course no evening would be complete without a little something to “whet” the appetite. Our caterer Debbie Sandler did a superb job of ensuring all our guests had a true gastronomically enjoyable experience.



WALK IN MY FOOTSTEPS ...

How often have you asked yourself where exactly does your money go when you make a donation to Beth Protea. Next time this question comes to mind, remember what you are about to read.

In keeping with Beth Protea’s policy of maintaining the dignity of its residents, the identity of the recipients receiving financial assistance is kept anonymous. However, we feel that perhaps having a little insight into just one of the many stories on file, may open a window to the extremely difficult circumstances that have surrounded some of these special people, any one of them could be your family or friends.

“A” currently resides in Beth Protea. We made contact some years before while “A” was renting a small room in an apartment above a noisy factory with two other borders. An avid music lover, this small pleasure was denied as the only time music could be enjoyed was when the factory would close down for the night. “A” had no immediate family in Israel and no possibility of obtaining financial assistance from offspring living abroad. Feeling more alone than ever, rescuing stray animals became a desperate search for much needed companionship and affection. An emergency medical situation precipitated contact with PROTEA PLUS (the outreach program at Beth Protea). The enormous stress of facing one obstacle after another, only served to weaken an already compromised reserve and depression set in. Regretfully at the time (even though application had been made), Keren Beth Protea’s limited funds rendered help unavailable as the existing waiting list had equally deserving cases all waiting desperately for entry. Finally, when all hope seemed to have dissipated, the Keren was able to collect the large sum of money needed to ensure that they would be able to offer “A” the security and dignity of a warm and wonderful home, a place where all the anxieties and fear of daily life would disappear as joy and peace took over.

“A” joined the Beth Protea family. Music returned like a long lost gift, along with all the security and comforts that all of us would want to give our parents.

This is one of the stories with a “happy ending”. Sadly, this is not always the case. We do the very best we can and would be unable to continue to do this without the support of our valued “friends” and “donors”.

WE ARE REMEMBERED BY WHAT WE LEAVE TO OTHERS

You don’t need to have a fortune to leave behind a legacy.

In fact, you would be amazed at how even the smallest things can change a life forever. All it takes is a few minutes of your time. By completing a simple form and attaching it to your will, you can make a real difference to the lives of those in your community who are in need.

Because your community is family!!!

Because kindness knows no borders!!!

Don’t hesitate, don’t procrastinate, do something today because in a flash, tomorrow can change your life forever.

Talk to your lawyer, your accountant, your family and know there is something you can do to make a difference.

LOCAL CAMPAIGN

As was outlined in our last Newsletter, our efforts over the last few months have been concentrating on awareness and fund raising amongst our local community.

The last year has been a difficult one for everyone, but as we start 2010, we are optimistic and plan to continue our efforts. It is our responsibility to take care of our financial stability to ensure a healthy future for the most vulnerable in our community. I know I can count on you – our loyal friends and supporters to help us honour the tradition of caring for those less fortunate than ourselves with dignity and compassion – no less than we would want for our own parents.

... OUR HARD WORKING RESIDENTS ...

BRIDGE & BREAKFAST

By popular demand the Beth Protea residents once again held a sensational card and breakfast morning in the Beth Protea dining room. Skilled organisation by Doreen and her team of Bobsy, Phina, David, Benny & Ena made sure all the details were taken care of. This card morning is held annually to raise money for Keren Beth Protea and this year exceeded all previous sums raised. This once again serves as a small example of the ongoing community work undertaken by our own residents to help in whatever way they can. All the mouth watering catering is lovingly prepared by the residents and their families (special thanks to the Segall family) and the food gets better every year. The morning was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



BOOTIES FOR SALE

Keep your baby's tootsies warm this winter ...

One of our newer residents, Esther Kunde, is producing the most amazing little booties for your special bundle.

So next time you are looking for a small gift – for a newborn, toddler or you simply want to spoil your own – remember to ask Esther to show you her colourful range, all ready for sale.

All proceeds of this enterprising idea and hard work is going to Keren Beth Protea.

Once again, the residents rise to the occasion to do their part in helping the Keren raise the much needed funds it requires.



HAVE YOU SENT YOUR "FRIEND'S SUBSCRIPTION THIS YEAR?"

This is a small, yearly financial commitment which helps us make such a difference to the lives of many of our residents. For more information about becoming a friend and other ways of donating, please contact the Keren's office on **09.9585496** or e-mail : **friends@bethprotea.org.il**



Bonhams¹⁷⁹³

The South African Sale 23 & 24 March 2010 London

Bonhams' South African sales have proved that the market for the best quality South African Art is now firmly established in London, the centre of the global art trade.

Illustrated:
Irma Stern (1894-1966)
'Ripe fields'
oil on canvas
Sold for £252,000 (ILS 1,574,150)

We are currently consigning works for our March and October 2010 sales. Of particular interest are works by 20th century artists including Irma Stern, Jacob Hendrik Pierneef, Gerard Sekoto, Alexis Preller, Maud Sumner, Maggie Laubser and William Kentridge among many others.

To arrange a free and confidential auction valuation with a view to selling, please contact your local Bonhams agent, Joslyne Halibard, on 02 999 8337 or email: sapictures@bonhams.com

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