

Who are we?

Netzer South Africa is the non-profit Jewish Progressive Zionist youth movement of South Africa. We form a branch of the international Netzer movement, *Netzer Olami*, which has its offices in Jerusalem. Netzer exists in over ten countries, including Panama, Australia, USA, Belarus, Germany, France, Israel, England, Russia, Spain and the Ukraine. Our parent bodies include the South African Union for Progressive Judaism and the South African Zionist Federation.

One of our main aims is Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) through Jewish education and community. The Jewish values of equality, tolerance and respect for all humanity are the core of our ideology, and help create the unique warm atmosphere at our Machanot.

Highlights from 2009

Netzer has had an interesting and exciting year in 2009, with many changes taking place both in terms of new leadership and new and innovative events. In the beginning of the year, Maia Zway took over as Rosh Cape Town (Head of Cape Town branch), Hayley Kornblum as national Mazkira (National Chairperson) and Gizbarit (Treasurer) and Jackie Maris took a second gap year to take up a full-time position as Gauteng Youth Worker. This is a new position which Jackie fulfilled spectacularly and we are very grateful for all her hard work. Nigel Budlender stayed on as Rosh Durban (head of Durban branch).

We also welcomed our new Gauteng shlichah, Mor Rubenstein and our new Cape Town shlichah, Hila Gavrieli. Unfortunately for us, Hila had to leave in August as she was offered an opportunity she could not refuse to study medicine in Israel. She was replaced by Rina Epstein, who will be with us for the next year.

Netzer has run several successful events in all centres. In Cape Town we ran two extremely successful Mini-Machanot (mini camps) and Durban also ran a Mini-Machaneh. Johannesburg ran Day Camps for the first time which were very well run and well attended. In all centres, we have run activities and seminars on topics ranging from Jewish festivals and Judaism, Zionism and Israel, hadracha, social action and many more. We have also been very involved in all the Reform communities as well as the wider Jewish community, attending and helping out at events.

We are looking forward to the climax of the year: May Machaneh Even Derech (Milestone) be a raving success!

Machaneh Even Derech 2009

This year is a very special year: it is Netzer's 30th birthday! This is a huge milestone for us, and hence the theme of this year's machaneh is Even Derech, or Milestone. There is so much that this educational theme can offer and we will be delving into a wide range of topics: Netzer's milestones, the milestones of the Jewish people, Israel's milestones and each chaver's (member) own personal milestones. Of course, there is so much that still needs to be done in our world, and so many milestones still to achieve and we will inspire each and every person to want to create positive change in the world. And, of course, all this while having tons of fun! Happy birthday Netzer Olami!

This camp form includes details about this year's Machaneh Even Derech and the application form that must be completed by channichim with their legal guardian. Please take the time to read through the form and ensure that we are supplied with correct and accurate information about your children so that they can have the best camp experience possible. Netzer machanot offer exciting, challenging and fun educational activities with madrichim that have been intensively trained to care for all chaverim (members). We will have trained medics, lifeguards and a doctor and psychologist on call to ensure that all our chaverim are safe while they enjoy the experience of the year!

Deadline for Application forms is Friday NOVEMBER 6**

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תנועת נוער ציונית רפורמית עולמית



NETZER OLAMI

INTERNATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ZIONIST YOUTH MOVEMENT

Dear Netzer Channichim of South Africa – Shalom:

30 years ago, in 1979, an Israeli Shaliach named MOSHEH COHEN arrived in South Africa on a mission to establish a new Jewish youth movement for the children and youth of the Reform congregations in the country. In the very same year, another Israeli Shaliach named ARIC CHATZOR, landed in Australia carrying the very same mission.

Moshe Cohen established the new youth movement in Johannesburg and they called themselves "*Hamagininim*" or "*The Defenders*". Arik Chatzor established a youth movement in Melbourne and gave it the name NETZER – Noar Tzioni Reformi – Reform Zionist Youth. Then, both of these new movements – Hamagininim of South Africa and Netzer of Australia united to establish the new Reform youth movement – Netzer Olami.

The dream then became a reality. It started with 4 members in Johannesburg. Today, as we proudly celebrate our 30th anniversary, Netzer Olami is a youth movement of about 15,000 members, operating in 14 countries.

Therefore, dear Channichim – you should feel deep pride. You are the ones that can point and say: "Here, in our country, in our congregations, it all started! We contributed to the worldwide Reform movement, this movement which has become so important for educating Reform Jewish youth." You are coming to participate in your summer camp – "Even Derech". Let this camp become for you a real **Milestone!** Let's make the first Netzer Sniff in the world one of the more important ones once again! Let's double our membership next year, both in Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as in Durban, East London and any other place where young Jewish kids are looking for a meaningful Progressive Jewish youth movement.

I would like to wish you all, on behalf of Netzer Olami, happy thirtieth birthday and a really successful and meaningful Machaneh!

Chazak Ve'ematz.

Maoz Haviv
Mazkir Clali
Netzer Olami – TaMaR

Avrom Krenzel- Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation

Welcome to all channichim who will be attending the 2009 Netzer Machaneh Even Derech. You are in for a real treat – the annual Machaneh, but with a difference: the celebration of Netzer's 30th birthday! A very hearty mazaltov to a Youth Group which truly makes a difference for its members.

After a long year of school, studying and exams, this Even Derech will definitely be the highlight. This is *your* time to share adventures with old friends and excitement with new ones; this is *your* time to have great fun while travelling along new paths and in different directions; and this is *your* time to grow and develop, to find skills and talents you may have been unaware you had, and to showcase them for everyone.

Machaneh is very special, very well organised, and almost solely focused on fulfilling all your needs and desires while you are away from home. You will be looked after, comforted, cared for, challenged, questioned, praised and given space in which to be yourself in a new yet familiar environment. You are so very fortunate to have dedicated and devoted madrichim who will be there for you every step of the way, encouraging you in your love of Israel and of Zionism, explaining your roots and your background and giving you the tools to develop in a truly Jewish environment. The success of the Machaneh will be their success; and they will pull out all the stops to ensure that it is indeed a success – for everyone present.

But most of all, this is a really fun time, a time of laughter and a time to build great memories that will be with you forever.

On behalf of all of us at the South African Zionist Federation, I wish you a successful and enjoyable time, a wonderful birthday celebration, and a safe return to your families.

Rabbi Greg Alexander- Temple Israel Rabbi

When I was 13 most of my friends saw their bar mitzvah as a ticket out of Jewish life - I was lucky. I was hooked on something called Netzer (in those days it was Netzer Maginim) and it was just getting better. I had a large group of friends, I was encouraged to think, to sing, dance, act crazy, and explore myself, my Jewish identity and what it meant to be a teenager in South Africa.



By the time I was 21, I had looked after children from ages 6-18, been responsible for running an entire movement with annual events and budgets in the millions of Rands, run an office with a secretary, fundraised from businesspeople, created advertising and marketing campaigns, run telethons, been to Israel on two international conferences and more, where most people my age were just finishing a BA or BCom.

More than any other influence in my life, Netzer gave me the skills and confidence to meet the challenges I faced growing up and I still today draw on some of the skills that I learnt back then. And you know what - at age 37, I am still going back to camp this year, this time as the Rabbi on Camp and taking my family with me.

I would strongly recommend Netzer to any parent and any child, and don't hesitate to call me to talk further.

L'Shalom
Rabbi Greg

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Eric Beswick- Executive Director of Temple Israel

I firstly want to congratulate Netzer Olami on their 30th Birthday which is being celebrated this year. I was fortunate and honoured enough to be in Israel this year for the official Birthday party, which was a truly memorable event.

Our congregation is extremely grateful for the role that Netzer plays in our congregation today, especially in terms of showing our children that learning about their Progressive Jewish ideals can be done in such a creative and FUN way. Our shul events are always given a tremendous lift by the wonderful and unique ruach (spirit) that Netzer provides.

Jewish communal involvement does not stop after Netzer. Many former graduates of Netzer Cape Town have played, and are playing, vital roles in our congregation, not least of which are Rabbi Greg Alexander and former Temple President Greg Flash

As a graduate of Netzer myself, I am always watching them with a careful eye, and am proud to have our congregation in such a close association with Netzer Cape Town, and long may it continue.

Steve Lurie- SAUPJ National Chairman

Year after year Netzer has achieved accolades from the South African Zionist Federation for running the most successful Zionist programs amongst all the Youth movements. Netzer is also one of the few religious camps that are held. These camps are getting better and better every year.

Our children need to be made aware of what Progressive Judaism is all about, as well as being able to find meaning in what we practice. They need to be able to argue about our religion from a position of strength when they meet their peers, particularly from Jewish Day schools. By attending the camp they will not only come away feeling more positive about their Progressive identity, but will have a new found confidence in what we stand for.

Camp is one way in which our youth can experience the vibrancy and excitement of Judaism: sharing, learning, leading and living the Jewish dream together.

The SAUPJ would like to thank Netzer's National Leadership and Shlichim for their wonderful contributions and enthusiasm in which they make learning such fun for our youth. We take this opportunity to wish Netzer a successfully camp for 2009 and a happy 30th birthday!



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The Hanhalla

MAIA ZWAY- Rosh Machaneh (Head of Camp)

Maia, hailing all the way from Gauteng, is in Cape Town this year taking on the role of Rosh Cape Town and Rosh Machaneh for camp. She spent 10 months in Israel last year on Shnat, where she learnt many valuable hadracha (leadership) and organizational skills, which she will put to good use as Rosh Machaneh. She will make sure that camp runs smoothly for everyone involved, and most importantly, make sure that everyone is having a great time! She is committed to empowering the youth and creating positive change in the world. Some interesting tidbits about Maia: she was born in Ecuador in South America, lived there for 11 years and speaks fluent Spanish; she is studying a BSocSci at UCT majoring in Psychology, Politics and French and she often has massive fudge cravings.



JACKIE MARIS- Rosh Chinnuch (Head of Education)



Jackie Maris is one of our Hanhallah members for Machaneh Even Derech in 2009. She is commonly known as our Youth Worker in Joburg and has just completed her second year of dedication to the movement by taking another year off to run the Netzer in Joburg and revitalize a community that long needed her care. Her first gap year was to complete the 10 month leadership programme that Netzer runs in Israel, Shnat Netzer. She has put her all into creating a vibrant Netzer community in Joburg with her education and leadership skills and we'll be seeing these very skills soar with Jackie as our Rosh Chinuch - Head of Education for our Machaneh this year. She is truly excited about giving our channichim (participants) the best knowledge there is and ensuring that their madrichim (leaders) know exactly how to do that.

HAYLEY KORNBLUM- Metaem Machaneh (Camp Co-ordinator)

Hayley, a native Cape Tonian, has been in Netzer from the tender age of 6 and it seems only natural to see her on the Hanhalla this year (no, we're not sick of her yet!). Hayley has been a madricha (leader) in Netzer for 3 years and spent 10 months in Israel last year learning, volunteering and fine-tuning her excellent hadracha (leadership) skills on Netzer's gap year programme, Shnat. Hayley is passionate about Netzer and will put this passion, as well as her incredible hadracha and organizational skills, to great use this year as part of the logistical team of Machaneh Even Derech, 2009. She will be ensuring that camp runs smoothly so that we can get down to what Netzer is really all about: tons of fun and the best informal education around.



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NIGEL BUDLENDER- Rosh Techni (Head of Logistics)

Machaneh Even Derech will be Nigel Budlender's second Machaneh as a member of the Hanhallah. A member of Netzer since the age of eleven, Nigel is sure to bring experience, skill and wisdom to his role on the Machaneh leadership body. He has not only been a madrich (leader) in the movement since 2004, but was also a participant in Netzer's gap-year leadership programme in Israel in 2007. On top of this, he has been running the Durban snif (branch) of Netzer South Africa for the past two years and we have every confidence that Nigel's capability and know-how will add to an incredible Machaneh this year.



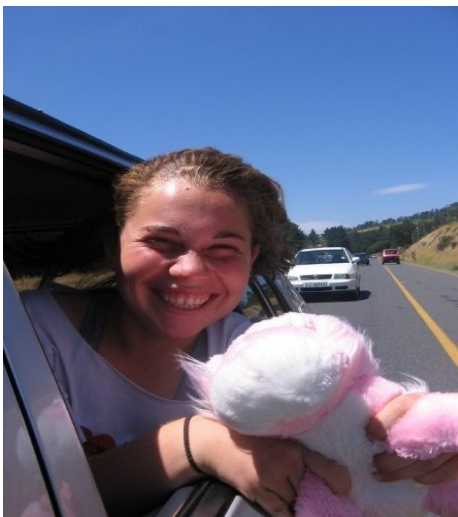
The Shlichim

MOR RUBINSTEIN- Rosh Mishlachat (Head of the Israeli emissaries)

Mor Rubenstein, coming all the way from Israel, is our busy Gauteng Shlichah who will show us exactly why she is no Sandton kugel. She has been greatly involved with the Johannesburg and Pretoria congregations and has been doing great Netzer work there. Mor will bring our team a solid background knowledge in Israel and Zionism. Not only that, but Mor will also bring her leadership skills and "Israeli Chutzpah" to Machaneh in her position as Rosh Mishlachat (Head of the Israeli emissaries) and will help make sure things are done efficiently and effectively. Mor will be looking forward to this amazing camp experience, and will be using her Israeli-know-how to help make camp a big a success, as ever. We definitely look forward to having her on board this Machaneh.



RINA EPSTEIN- Netzer Cape Town shlichah



Rina's debut with Netzer was in 2005 and since then she has been creeping her way back to South Africa for her next Netzer fix. She next came to machaneh in 2007 and enjoyed it so much that she decided she needed to dedicate a year of her life to the movement in South Africa, and the time has now come for her to do so. Rina joined the Cape Town leadership in October 2009 and will be putting her excellent hadracha knowledge to use as an integral part of our leadership and tzevet for Machaneh Even Derech 2009.

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