

The Academy
of Jewish Thought and Learning

Annual Report 2022

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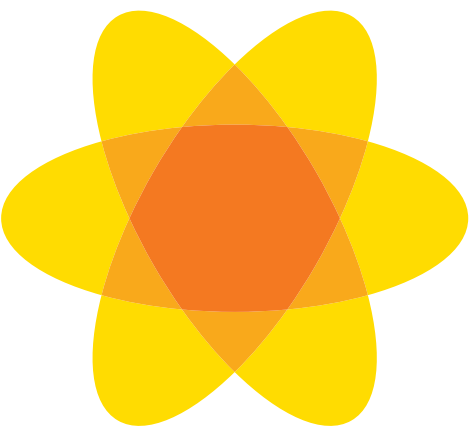
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The Academy
of Jewish Thought and Learning

Our Mission

Our mission is to create a vibrant, Modern-Orthodox programme for Jewish learning, thought and scholarship, that inspires our community with a lifelong love of Jewish learning and Israel; and to utilise this platform to impact broader society in all ways.

Our Impact and Vision

The Academy’s vision is to be the heartbeat of the traditional, Zionist South African Jewish community, ensuring its values are relevant and dynamic for the next generation of Jews, with inspired, skilled and trained educators and leaders.

Our Values

- 1. *Ivdu et Hashem beSimchah* – we sense a real joy and privilege in everything we do, especially the hard things, as part of our mission for Hashem.
- 2. *Yozmah* – innovate and take the initiative!
- 3. *Yosher* – authenticity, doing the outstandingly right thing.
- 4. *Ichpatiyut* – Care! Caring for our team and all our students with empathy.
- 5. *Rosh Gadol* – maintaining a big picture view.
- 6. *Yachad* - One for all and all for one – every challenge is ours!
- 7. *Ein lo yachol, yeish rak lo rotzeh* – We deliver on our commitments, no matter what.
- 8. *Miktzo’iyut* – Professionalism in every way.
- 9. *Eizehu chacham? Halomed mikol adam* – Constant learning and improvement and actively seeking constructive input on our strengths and weaknesses.



Our Goals

- 1. To educate adults by increasing their Jewish knowledge, improving their textual skills and building their confidence as independent learners.
- 2. To develop outstanding educators who teach with love, respect, openness, intellectual honesty, professionalism and creativity.
- 3. To study with *Yirat Shamayim*, a profound reverence for Hashem, in order to appreciate Jewish knowledge within its G-dly context.
- 4. To promote the full participation of women in Jewish learning and teaching.
- 5. To foster a culture of love for knowledge, higher learning, respect, tolerance and open discussion within the field of Jewish learning.
- 6. To encourage our students to help create this culture through passing on their own knowledge and experiences at home and within their own communities.
- 7. To exchange ideas at the highest level through academic research and the advanced study of traditional Jewish texts.
- 8. To deepen our community’s understanding and love for Israel.
- 9. To examine critical issues facing modern society with intellectual honesty, integrity and courage; in order to understand and develop Torah responses.
- 10. To develop programming for formal and informal educators to achieve professional accreditation and training to the highest standards internationally.
- 11. To work with the wider community in achieving these goals.

Our Leadership

Chairperson: Stacey Dembo
Treasurer: Menachem Kay
Dean: Rabbi Ramon Widmonte
Member: Michael Sternberg
Member: Dorothy Sank



Adult Education



63
Courses over
past 2 years



4400
Adult Education
Students



>17500
Students accessing
material worldwide



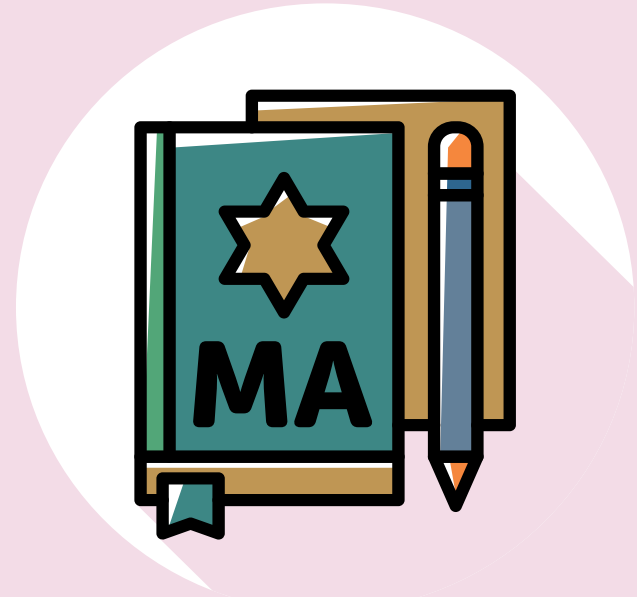
Thirst for Hope

>3000
Students
impacted
daily

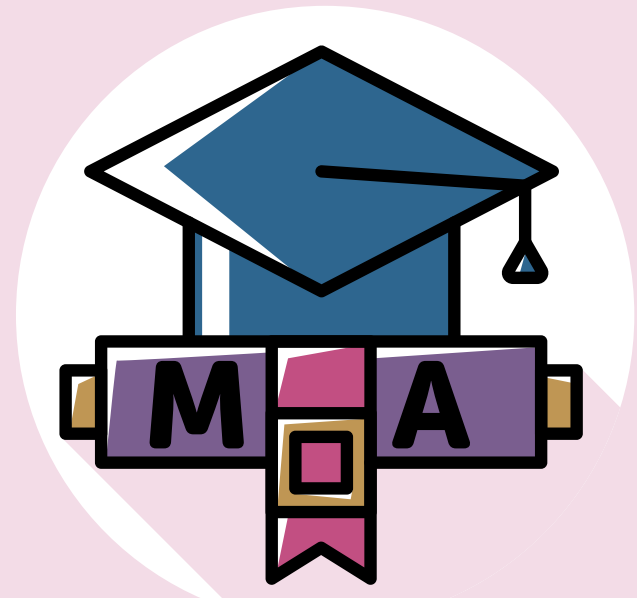
>15000
Total people
impacted
daily through
projects



NED Teachers Training



10
Current
MA Students



23
MA in Jewish
Education students
graduated



>4000
Kids impacted in
Jewish Day Schools
and beyond



Educators Symposium

115
Students

17
Sessions

8
International
Speakers





The Chairperson

As the world fought the Covid-19 pandemic, The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning continued to bring inspiration and hope to our students, both in Adult Education and through the National Education Development (NED) programme.

For most of 2021 and into 2022, we succeeded in bringing Torah learning from

across the world into the homes of our students through the power of technology and Zoom. While this allowed us to promote our vision of inspiring our community with a lifelong love of Jewish learning and Israel, we were thrilled to once again to learn face to face with some of our Community of Thinkers. In light of the fact that the return to ‘in person’ spaces has been reported across the world as gradual, we are currently working on the concept of hybrid courses going forward.

Some other exciting highlights include “ i3 ” — our Israel Innovation Incubator for Grades 10 to 12 — being launched, while our third and fourth cohorts of Adult Education Master’s students have completed their Master’s degrees through LSJS. We also witnessed the continued growth of the next phase in NED – the accreditation and upskilling of Hebrew and Jewish Studies teachers in South Africa. These programmes will enable South African Jewish educators to achieve and maintain professional, accredited degrees and ongoing professional development in the shortest period possible.

We can thus say with pride that the Academy has been at the forefront of dealing with challenging circumstances and turning them into opportunities for growth and learning. May Hashem continue to bless us on this trajectory in order that we may continue to do so in the years ahead.

Wishing you all a Shana Tova U’ Metuka.

Warm Regards

Stacey Dembo



The Dean

What a year it has been! In many ways the worst of years as 2021 took such a high toll on our community; but for us at the Academy, this has been a year of true blessing.

Your generosity, vision and partnership has made a huge difference to enabling us to do all we have – we thank you deeply for working with us to make the impact we have done

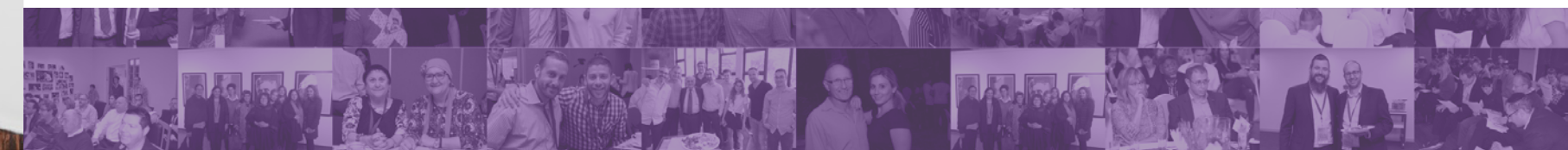
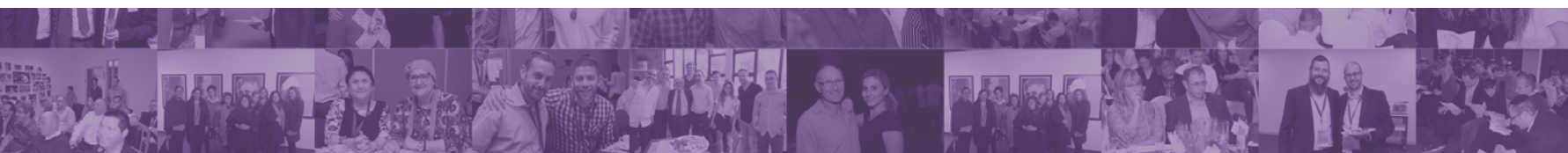
collectively. It is a true team effort all round.

We thank all our adult students and the teachers involved in teacher training. We thank our international faculty members and partners – from Vermont to Massachusetts, London and Jerusalem. We also thank our dedicated Academy team who make the magic sauce that makes the magic happen. Hashem, of course, is the crucial supporter and backer of all of us and we pray that all our stakeholders merit blessing and inspiration for the year to come.

Finally, our dedicated board members have been the backbone for all our decisions and processes and we bear them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

With blessing,

Rabbi Ramon Widmonte





i³ Launched

What is the best way to combat the shift away from Israel in Generation Z?

The Academy has always concentrated on Adult Education and Teacher training... except in this area. After years researching the available programming internationally, it became clear to Rav Ramon that something new was needed.

Most international curricula on Israel all suffer from the same positioning issues:

- They assume that Israel needs to be defended.
- They assume that positive sentiment towards Israel can be instilled through rational discussion.
- They are reactive.

None of these positions is a winning proposition because they miss the fundamental point. Gen Z youth today are growing up in a world so radically different in every salient regard that previous educational and identity paradigms simply do not apply to them. In many regards, they no longer feel their Jewish identity in a manner comparable to people born in the 20th century. Gen Z Jews are far less likely to feel that they are part of a persecuted minority group called Jews, who need protection; they view themselves increasingly as free-floating citizens of the world, part of a global civilisation living in the universe of Instagram, NFTs, Crypto, Musk, TikTok and human rights, where each individual is the only sacred ground.

How does one reach out and connect Gen Z to Israel?



i³ Israel Innovation Incubator

The idea is simple – train a group of Grade 10-12s to tap into the power of Israel to transform their own lives, develop skills they would never do outside of an Israel-paradigm, and launch careers for life.

The driving idea behind i³ is that Israel will only make an impact on Gen Z if the country becomes a significant positive contributor to their lives in a tangible manner.

Firstly, i³ is a 21st-century skills course helping Grade 10-12s across the South African Jewish day schools discover their own strengths in areas not usually developed in traditional schooling. Based on the World Economic Forum's Top 10 Skills, the i³ skills that we seek to develop are:

1. Failing Forward
2. Cross-disciplinary Creativity
3. Teamwork and Network
4. Tenacity
5. Complex Problem solving
6. Critical thinking
7. Question Authority!
8. Dress down!
9. Mission focus
10. EQ (Emotional Intelligence)

Secondly, for a group of students who really want to take things further, we have partnered with start-ups in Israel as well as with the Haifa Technion in Israel to bring these aspiring entrepreneurs to Israel, assign them mentors from amongst the Israeli Start-up space and incubate their ideas to produce the next Waze or MobilEye.

All we need is one successful start-up and it becomes clear to every Jewish student that Israel is the single biggest asset in their professional lives.

No defending.

No reacting.

Just Infusing.

The Academy has run this for close to a thousand students across South Africa – 600 in Cape Town and 250 pupils in Johannesburg respectively.

The Academy intends to continue into 2022/23 with this initiative and welcomes any interested parties in helping us further it.



Adult Education: Zoom and in-person – a hybrid challenge

After two years since Covid-19 first reached South African shores, the first ‘in-person’ course began again in March 2022. Dr Yarden Bauer taught the three-part course Joseph – Will Any Dream Do? in a partnership with the Emunah Beit Midrash in Glenhazel, Johannesburg. This was followed by Ilana Stein’s course on the Evolution of the Haggadah which took place at Greenside Shul in Johannesburg. In order to accommodate those who still wished to stay away or were in another town or country, the course was run as a hybrid course – i.e. in person as well as on Zoom.

NED Programme: Master’s Degrees awarded

The NED (National Education Development) programme’s Master’s Degree in Jewish Education continued in the past year, with school teachers, rebbetzins, principals, rabbis, adult educators and community leaders gaining incredible personal and professional results. The MA — offered in conjunction with the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) and accredited by Middlesex University in the UK — was undertaken by a number of South Africans over the past year.

2021 saw the graduation of Rabbi Ari Kievman and Rabbi Avi Shlomo

2022 saw the graduation of the following individuals:

Cindy Moritz ♦ Gita Osrin ♦ Rabbi Ramon Widmonte

Sheila Valentini ♦ Tamar Bloch ♦ Yael Fish ♦ Rebbetzin Zeesy Deren

It is an incredible achievement both personally and for our community, as it raises the bar for Jewish education in South Africa.

NED MA Graduates: Titles of Dissertations

- **Kievman, Rabbi Ari:** Exploring the benefits of daily learning programmes for Senior Citizens: What draws seniors through the door?
- **Shlomo, Rabbi Avi:** Grading and Reporting Judaic Studies in an Orthodox High School
- **Bloch, Tamar:** G-d in the mind of a five-year-old child
- **Valentini, Sheila:** The Classroom Experience of Dyslexia at Religious Jewish High Schools. Students speak from their perspective.
- **Fish, Yael:** The Integration and Engagement of an Appropriate Vision and Ethos in a Community Jewish Day School
- **Widmonte, Rabbi Ramon:** Frameworks for Jewish education – resonances and dissonances between Jewish day schools’ structures and their Jewish studies goals.
- **Deren, Rebbetzin Zeesy:** Spiritual Education



Rabbi
Ari Kievman



Rabbi
Avi Shlomo



Cindy Moritz



Gita Osrin



Rabbi Ramon
Widmonte



Sheila Valentini



Tamar Bloch



Yael Fish



Rebbetzin
Zeesy Deren



Adult Education

Our Adult Education Programme seeks to inspire adults with a lifelong love of Jewish learning. It is the largest Jewish adult learning programme in South Africa today. With over 3,500 students countrywide and now with an international audience as well, we offer a unique style of empowering, adult learning coupled with exposure to some of South Africa's top Jewish educators.

The past year continued the challenges and opportunities of Covid-19 and the Zoom space. In a case study done by Rav Ramon Widmonte, it was found that at least 35% of our students prefer the online, Zoom learning experiences, particularly due to their convenience, and the quality of international educators now available. Whilst some students found the Zoom process very alienating, a majority of our students would still attend Zoom learning, even after Covid-19.

With the return to the possibility of in-person education, new challenges arise. Our students now cover all corners of the globe thanks to Zoom and we would like to continue to offer them the high standard of education that we have been able to provide over the past two years.

Our team has put together a mobile hybrid unit that allows students to be anywhere – including in the classroom.



Our Faculty and Guest Speakers

We would like to thank our faculty for all their hard work and dedication in creating and teaching these courses. Your effort does not go unnoticed. Without you these courses would not have happened!

The following people presented in 2021-2022:

Local faculty

Dr Yardena Bauer, Dalya Erster, Saul Adler, Sam Greenblatt, Brent Davidoff, Yochi Ress, Ronit Janet, Batya Bricker, Adrian Chiger, Jake Shepherd, Rabbi Sam Thurgood and Aviva Thurgood.

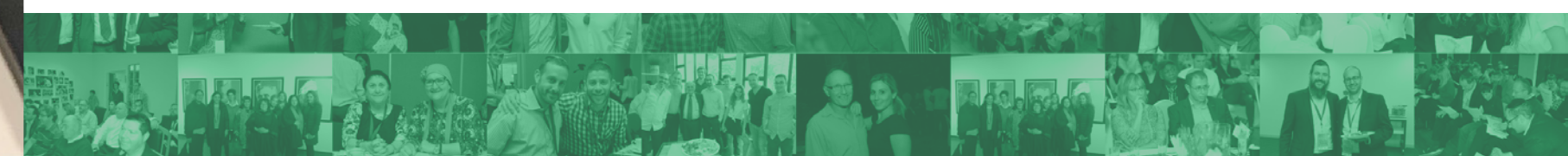
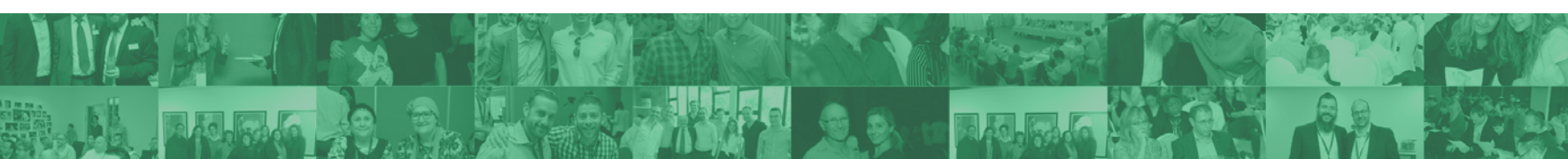
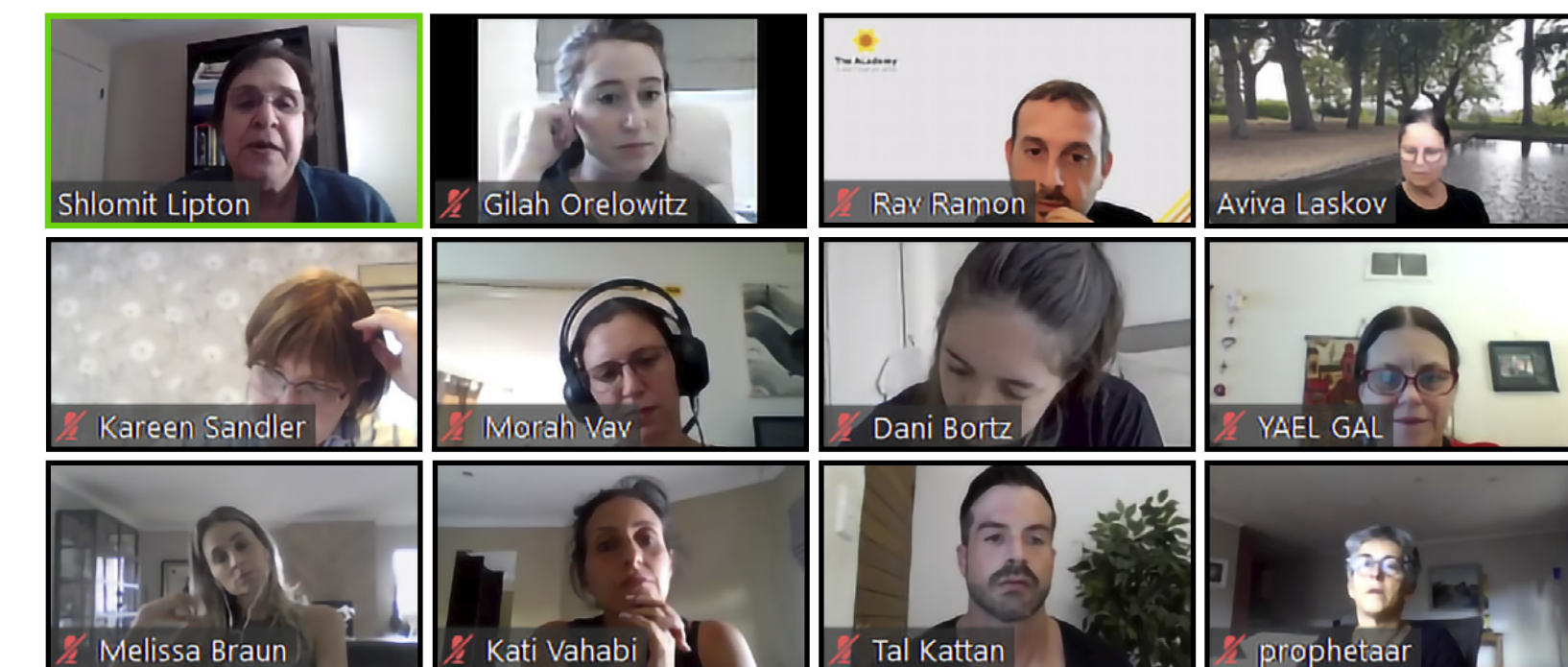
International faculty

Sarah Sassoon, Tammy Levy, Rabbi Doron Chitiz and Gila Chitiz.

Guest speakers

Thanks to the wonders of Zoom, we were able to host a number of guests speakers, both South African and from abroad:

Rabbi Raphael Zarum, Rabbi Aviad Tabory, Rabbi Doron Perez, Professor Yossi Leshem, Ilan Ossendryver, Alen Kacal, Dr Richard Laub, Professor Alex Lubotzky, Dr Yosef Ofer, Micha'el Orlev, Ella Blumenthal, Jordy Sank, Gabriella Blumberg, Esther Badenhorst, Malka Bina, Dr Bryna Levy, Oshra Koren, Raffi Berg, Dani Limor, Takele Mekonen, Lt. Col. Dr Avi Yitzhak, Dr Avraham Neguise, Rabbi Dr Ivan Learner, Rabbi Pinchas Allouche, Rabbi Mark Dratch, Rabbi Hillel Maizels, Ziona Tanzer, Dr Yael Ziegler, Dr Erica Brown, Ilana Kurshan, David Kramer.





Menachem Begin: The Principles, The Person, The Leader

In November 2021, together with partners, the Hidden Light, the Academy was proud to present South Africa's first taste of the first-ever documentary made on the life and leadership of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, followed by an in-depth course on the man and the leader.

Begin answered so many of the questions Jews and Israelis posed to themselves; and he posed at least the same number in return! What does peace look like for Israel and its neighbours? What does Jewish pride look like? What are Israel's responsibilities to the tired, hungry, huddled masses worldwide, yearning for freedom? Is Israel colour-blind? Is the Holocaust a lesson to be learned or a more present danger? Rav Ramon and guests immersed themselves into the world of Menachem Begin – and a set of learnings for Jews in the 21st century.



A Tale of Two Ezras

The book of Ezra-Nehemiah is the Biblical record of the Jews' return from the Babylonian exile to Jerusalem, while Iraqi Jews returned to the modern State of Israel in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah in the 20th century. The culture and society of Iraqi Jews was one of the most venerable, passionate, rich and integrated in the

Jewish world. But within a few years, it had all imploded in an explosion of antisemitism that has often been overshadowed by the European Shoah which took place at the same time; many of us unaware of what was.

Faculty member Sarah Sassoon, now living in Israel, explored both these incredible stories, their historical context, the journey of return to a nascent state and the emotional and spiritual quest and struggles both faced. She interviewed survivors of the "Farhoud" (the Iraqi pogrom) and the Maabarot (where the Iraqi Jews lived when they arrived as refugees in Israel) and gave her spellbound audience a glimpse into a vanished world.

Menachem Begin - Photographer: Ilan Meiri, Israel Press and Photo Agency (I.P.P.A.) / Dan Hadani collection, National Library of Israel / CC BY 4.0



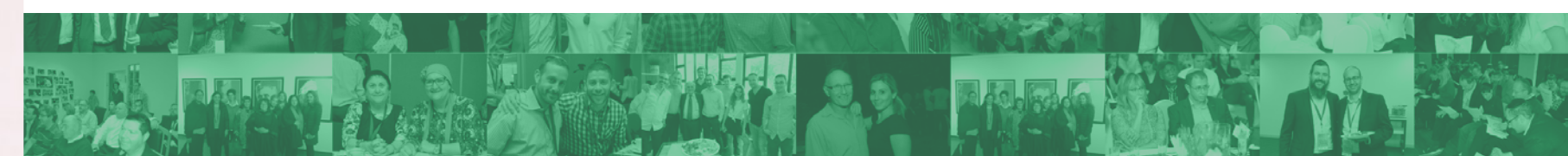
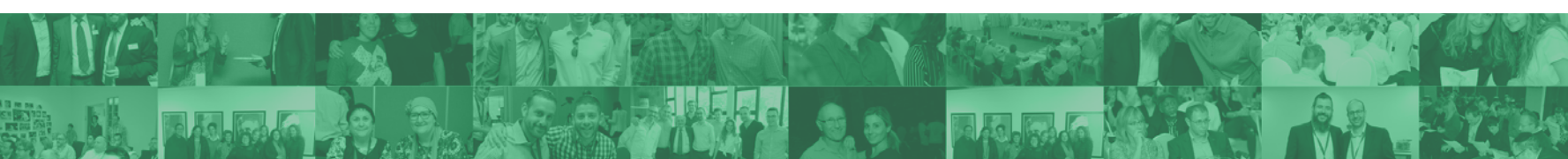
I Am Here – In Life and in Film

In this course, Rav Ramon Widmonte was joined by director Jordy Sank, and producer Gabriella Blumberg in conversation about the award-winning film that they produced, where holocaust survivor Ella Blumenthal recounts her experience of the Holocaust, interspersed with sensitively drawn animations that bring her story and memories to life.

The conversation dealt with what two millennials learnt from a Holocaust survivor – and the film they made about it. Why would 20-something year olds make a Holocaust film? Why would Ella want to make one? How do we respond to the Holocaust denialism that is part of the prevailing discourse?

At a time when Holocaust denialism has gained fringe legitimacy, this was an important conversation about an important film and a counter to those who deny the horrors of history.

Expanding beyond this, Rav Ramon, Jordy and Gabriella spent hours with students at the Jewish day schools utilising the film and the process of its making as a way to explore these complex issues.





Judaism & Peterson / Harari – Photo on left by Gage Skidmore & photo on right by CityTree עובייר



NED – Educator Training and Enrichment

Our National Education Development Programme (NED) is a holistic educational leadership development programme that aims to upskill educators in schools (formal and informal), adult educators, Rabbis, Rebbetzins, campus educators, and education leaders with Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees; Israel education; Hebrew teaching training and the best-of-breed mentorship and inclusive training.

Master’s Degrees

This two-year remote learning programme presents a unique opportunity to grow and learn from within the community and beyond. The Academy is proud to be working with LSJS to help facilitate South African students’ access to the Master’s degree in Jewish Education accredited by Middlesex University. This is an internationally recognised Master’s degree in Jewish Education. It is a challenging research-based MA, empowering the student to explore the areas of greatest interest to them, culminating in a case study and dissertation.

By November 2021, the next two cohorts of South African educators had graduated with a Master’s degree in Jewish Education. So far, some 23 people have completed or are participating in the NED MA programme, as we aim for a sea-change in the quality and training of educators across the country.

For the first time in South Africa’s history, we have accredited, international-quality degree and training programmes in Jewish Education (see Highlights, p. 7).

Contact ned@theacademy.org.za for more details on the MA programme



What some of our graduates have said:



The NED and LSJS MA programme challenged me in ways I was never challenged before, but the rewards made it all worth it. I learned so much about educational theory, how to research literature, authenticate data, and present compelling academic arguments. I am very grateful to NED and LSJS for making this programme so accessible to us in South Africa.

Rabbi Avi Shlomo



This Master’s course pushed me to my limits in so many ways and I loved every minute of it!

Tamar Bloch



Participating in the London School of Jewish Studies MA programme was, in retrospect, possibly the best way for me to spend lockdown. An unexpected bonus was networking and learning from the talented cohort. I am grateful that this programme gave us the opportunity to contribute valuable insight into our chosen fields of research and I hope that my findings will enrich the lives of Jewish students and educators.

Sheila Valentini



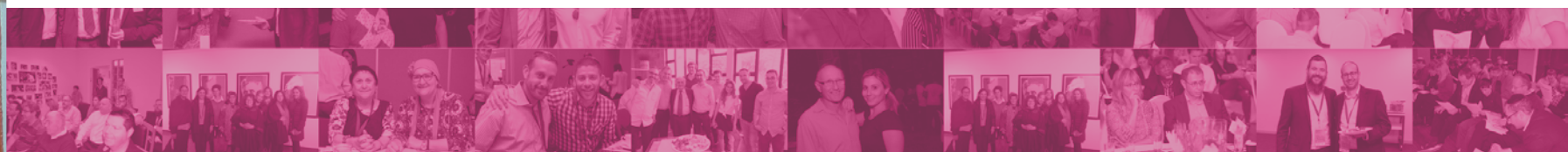
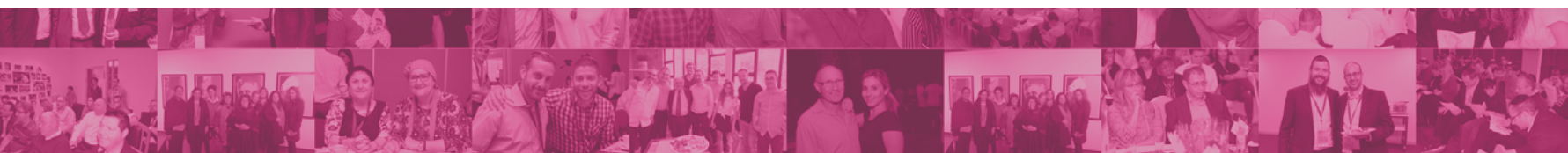
I thought I understood what working in Jewish education entailed. However, through my MA studies, I came to realise that this was just the beginning. I was simultaneously immersed as both a teacher and a student, and because of the MA, I was able to experience Jewish education in a multifaceted way - both in theory and practice. I am forever grateful for this experience, and look forward to continue to implement my learning into our school environment.

Yael Fish



My MA experience was definitely one that developed – or proved – my inner grit, between Covid, a new-born, running a school and seven kids from home! But with faith in Hashem and love for the subject I was researching, I made it through.

Rebbetzin Zeesy Deren



Teacher Accreditation and Upskilling

Over 2020 and 2021, having found that more than 75% of Jewish studies and Hebrew teachers in Jewish day schools have no teaching qualifications (such as the minimal requirement – the PGCE, Post Graduate Certificate in Education), the Academy began building further programmes to resolve the issue.

the Academy has now created the frameworks for working with educational content providers (local and international), Jewish educational organisations (schools, adult education organisations), the educators themselves and with government (where necessary) to:

- 1. Ensure every educator is offered a customised educational roadmap towards professionalisation.
- 2. Incentivise every educator to follow this roadmap and achieve professional degrees accredited locally; such incentives will include significant scholarship opportunities.
- 3. Ensure that every educator is incentivised to continue, after accreditation, through a tightly monitored CPD (Continual Professional Development framework).
- 4. Ensure that the profile of Jewish educators in the country will be uplifted through excellence awards, symposia and other mechanisms.
- 5. Provide educators with the financial assistance (interest-free study loans and scholarships) to be able to fund their own training.

The structure that has been formed will enable all South African Jewish educators to achieve and maintain professional, accredited degrees and ongoing professional development in the shortest period possible.



Structure of NED



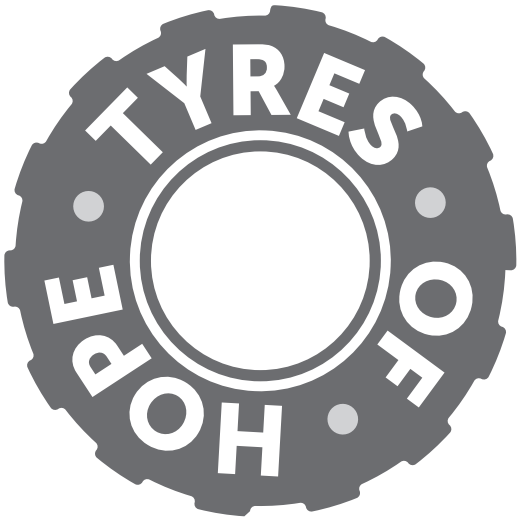
THIRST FOR HOPE

Thirst for Hope is a grassroots project instilling hope in underprivileged children across South Africa. Through environmental education centred on the implementation of Israeli AgriTech technology, Thirst for Hope has been running for five years and feeds over 3,500 underprivileged youth daily through development of sustainable feeding scheme gardens.

Our Thirst for Hope initiative, through our various partnerships and innovative implementations is making a difference daily, in underprivileged communities in South Africa.

Thanks to generous donors and corporate sponsorship, a borehole was dug for a school in Diepsloot, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, to enable access to potable water. Grey water systems and flush toilets were set up to ensure the schools have sanitation; where there is no access to energy, we implement solar energy solutions.

Finally, we have been providing mentorship and partnerships which allow our pupils to access funding to university education and then bring the graduates back into their communities as mentors. A major focus is sustainability – from the model of the system that ensures that the school system reaches a sustainable cycle of education and food production to the recycling programmes we run to raise soil standards and remove plastic waste and recyclable rubber.



Tyres of Hope

Our initial Tyres of Hope pilot project was run, with the Embassy of Israel in South Africa, being our key implementation partner in this project. The chosen site was at a community school in northern Johannesburg, which has had an extended relationship of a number of years with Thirst for Hope. Our focus for this pilot was the 10th Grade year consisting of 300 students.

After undergoing a thorough educational programme on water sustainability and recycling, the students began to recycle within their environment, using tools to practice water conservation and smart planting. The excitement of learning and creating an environment of hope within their reality was evident in their faces!

Our innovative tyre planting model, which uses recycling to reduce a negative environmental impact, while producing food to eat, was implemented successfully at the school. Implementation was successful in the school and the “tyre plants” are beginning to flourish, and the pupils and their respective families will soon reap the benefits of quality and nutritious food, ‘home grown’ at their children’s school.

Throughout the project, we stressed Israel’s environmental offering, the partnership with the embassy and our vision of Israel being a partner in alleviating challenges facing South Africa. We are grateful to the Embassy of Israel in South Africa for its partnership and support in this vital project.

The project has provided long-term sustainability for the school. On recent oversight visits to the school and community, the Tyres of Hope model is still be used for planting and the garden has expanded into a hybrid mix of tyre and ground planting, providing daily nutritious food for the school’s feeding scheme.



INTERNATIONAL



London School
of Jewish Studies

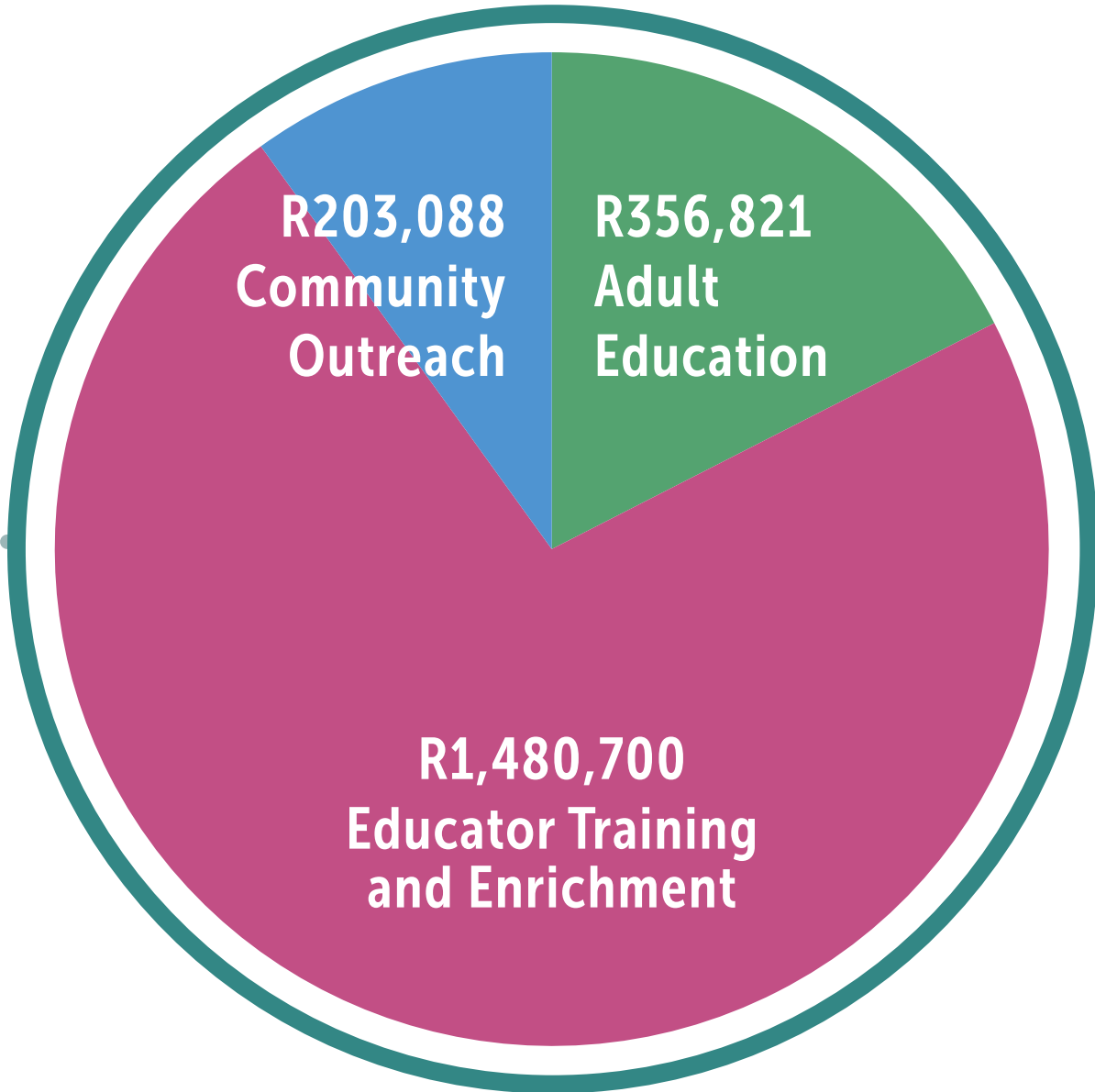


Middlebury

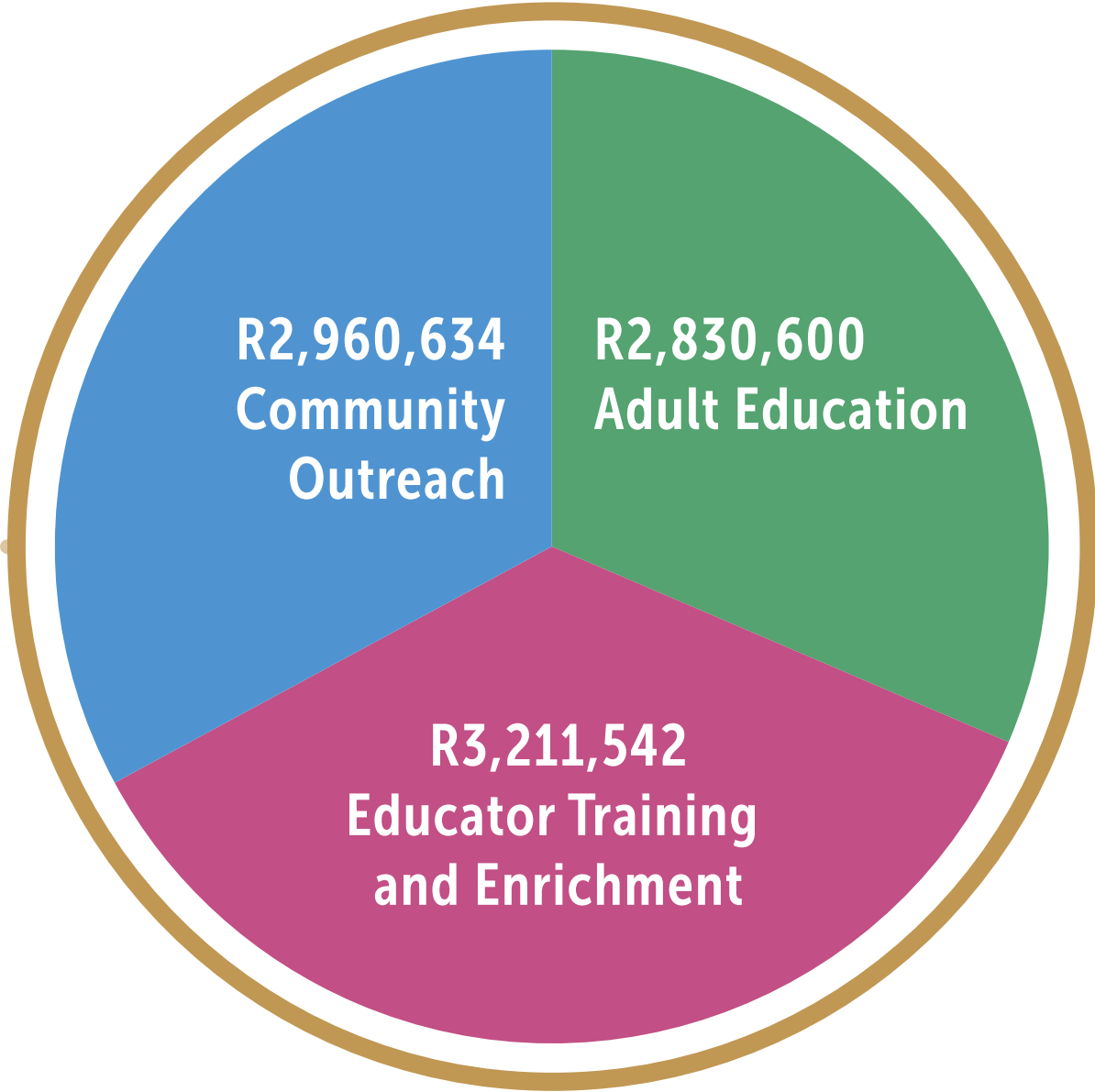
NATIONAL



Income	R2,040,609
Adult Education	R356,821
Educator Training and Enrichment	R1,480,700
Community Outreach	R203,088



Expenditure	R9,002,775
Adult Education	R2,830,600
Educator Training and Enrichment	R3,211,542
Community Outreach	R2,960,634



Deficit for Fundraising	R6,962,166
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Sustainability Factor - % of expenses covered by revenue	23%
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Plans and Budget 2022

LUTRIN & ASSOCIATES

REGISTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

Telephone: 011 444 3590

Fax: 011 444 0197

Email: info@lutrin.co.za

Emergency No: 083 375 0146

30 August 2022

The Trustees
The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

1 Sandler Road
Fairmount
Johannesburg
South Africa

2192

PBO 930053683

169-984 NPO


Annual Audit Certificate – S18A PBO’s

This certificate serves to confirm that we are the auditors of The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning, PBO 930053683, 169-984 NPO.

As per Interpretation Notice 112 of the Income Tax Act 58 Of 1962 Section 18A(2B) and (2C) we include the following as per the required 18A Audit Certificate;

- This certificate is valid for the period 1 March 2021 – 28 February 2022
- The SARS reference number has been confirmed as 9899252168
- The PBO issued eighty two (82) 18A receipts for a total Rand value of donations of R 4 986 261,63

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing applicable to compliance auditing. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the above-mentioned companies have complied with the relevant sections of the Income Tax Act on Audit certificates.



P O Box 37172, Birnam Park, 2015, South Africa

1st Floor, Block D, Sandhavon Office Park, 12 Pongola Crescent, Eastgate Ext. 17, Sandton, 2090

Partner: Milton Lutrin CA (SA) – Practice No: 963607 and Tax Practice No: PR-0084325

In association with Dion Abrahamson CA (SA) – Practice No: 987606



We examined, on a test basis, the accounting records, as well as the underlying documents from which the accounting records were written up. The entries in the books, and the documentation thereof were found to disclose the true nature of the transactions in so far as this can be determined through examination. It was also identified that these S18A receipts issued were found to be utilised to carry on the PBO’s core activities – i.e. The promotion of education and training programmes relating to environmental awareness, conflict resolution, reconciliation, human rights and democracy and programming on family stability. The above includes programming at schools and training and curriculum support – as described in Part II of the Ninth Schedule to the Act.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the PBO was, in all material respects, in compliance with the requirements of SARS on issuing S18A certificates.



Milton Lutrin
Lutrin and Associates

Practice Number 963607



THE ACADEMY OF JEWISH THOUGHT AND LEARNING
(REGISTRATION NUMBER PBO 930053683 169-984 NPO)
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

These annual financial statements were prepared by:
D Abrahamson
Chartered Accountant (SA)

These annual financial statements have been audited in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Companies Act 71 of 2008.
Issued 01 September 2022

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

(Registration number: PBO 930053683 169-984 NPO)
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

General Information

Country of incorporation and domicile	South Africa
Nature of business and principal activities	Education in Jewish Thought, Sustainability, Water Conservation, Conflict Resolution, Teacher Training
Directors	Rabbi Ramon Widmonte Stacey Dembo Menachem Kay Dorothy Sank Michael Sternberg
Registered office	372 Rivonia Boulevard Sandton 2128 Edenburg 2192
Auditors	Lutrin & Associates Chartered Accountants (SA) Registered Auditors
Level of assurance	These annual financial statements have been audited in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Companies Act 71 of 2008.
Preparer	The annual financial statements were independently compiled by: D Abrahamson Chartered Accountant (SA)
Issued	01 September 2022

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The reports and statements set out below comprise the annual financial statements presented to the stakeholders:

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Level of assurance

These annual financial statements have been audited in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Companies Act 71 of 2008.

Published

01 September 2022



Independent Auditor's Report

To the management of The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

Opinion

We have audited the annual financial statements of The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning (the company) set out on pages 7 to 16, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 28 February 2022, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the annual financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning as at 28 February 2022, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act 71 of 2008.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the annual financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (IRBA Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of annual financial statements in South Africa. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IRBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Code is consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards). We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the document titled "The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning annual financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2022", which includes the Directors' Report as required by the Companies Act 71 of 2008 and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, which we obtained prior to the date of this report. The other information does not include the annual financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the annual financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the annual financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the directors for the Annual Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act 71 of 2008, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Annual Financial Statements



P O Box 37172, Birnam Park, 2015, South Africa
1st Floor, Block D, Sandhavon Office Park, 12 Pongola Crescent, Eastgate Ext. 17, Sandton, 2090

Partner: Milton Lutrin CA (SA) – Practice No: 963607 and Tax Practice No: PR-0084325
In association with Dion Abrahamson CA (SA) – Practice No: 987606

Independent Auditor's Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the annual financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ruth and Abraham

Lutrin & Associates
Milton Lutrin
Partner
Chartered Accountants (SA)
Registered Auditors

01 September 2022
Johannesburg



P O Box 37172, Birnam Park, 2015, South Africa
1st Floor, Block D, Sandhavon Office Park, 12 Pongola Crescent, Eastgate Ext. 17, Sandton, 2090

Partner: Milton Lutrin CA (SA) – Practice No: 963607 and Tax Practice No: PR-0084325
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The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

Directors' Responsibilities and Approval

The directors are required by the Companies Act 71 of 2008, to maintain adequate accounting records and are responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is their responsibility to ensure that the annual financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended, in conformity with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities. The external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements.

The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The directors acknowledge that they are ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the company and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the directors to meet these responsibilities, the board of directors sets standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or loss in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the company and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the company's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the company is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the company. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the company endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

The directors are of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The directors have reviewed the company's cash flow forecast for the year to 28 February 2023 and, in the light of this review and the current financial position, They are satisfied that the company has or has access to adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The external auditors are responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the company's annual financial statements. The annual financial statements have been examined by the company's external auditors and their report is presented on page 3 - 4.

The annual financial statements set out on pages 7 to 16, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the board of directors on 01 September 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Approval of annual financial statements

Stacey Dembo

Stacey Dembo

Dorothy Sank

Dorothy Sank

Michael Sternberg

Michael Sternberg

Rabbi Ramon Widmonte

Rabbi Ramon Widmonte

Menachem Kay

Menachem Kay

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

Directors' Report

The directors have pleasure in submitting their report on the annual financial statements of The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning for the year ended 28 February 2022.

1. Incorporation

The company was incorporated on 22 April 2016 and obtained its certificate to commence business on the same day.

2. Nature of business

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning was incorporated in South Africa with interests in the non-profit industry. The company operates in South Africa as a public benefit organisation.

There have been no material changes to the nature of the company's business from the prior year.

3. Review of financial results and activities

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act 71 of 2008. The accounting policies have been applied consistently compared to the prior year.

Full details of the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the company are set out in these annual financial statements.

4. Directors

The directors in office at the date of this report are as follows:

Directors	Office	Nationality
Rabbi Ramon Widmonte	Dean	South African
Stacey Dembo	Chairperson	South African
Menachem Kay	Treasurer	South African
Dorothy Sank	Member	South African
Michael Sternberg	Member	South African

5. Events after the reporting period

The directors are not aware of any material event which occurred after the reporting date and up to the date of this report.

6. Going concern

The directors believe that the company has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and accordingly the annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have satisfied themselves that the company is in a sound financial position.

7. FutureFund

The FutureFund, is presented in this set of financials, although the fund is an independently managed fund with the central purpose of providing bursaries to Jewish Studies and Hebrew Educators in the NED programme. This fund has independent trustees and an independent management process.

8. Auditors

Lutrin and Associates has been appointed as auditors for the company for the year ended 28 February 2022.

9. Date of authorisation for issue of annual financial statements

The annual financial statements have been authorised for issue by the directors on Thursday, 01 September 2022. No authority was given to anyone to amend the annual financial statements after the date of issue.

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

Statement of Financial Position as at 28 February 2022

	Note(s)	2022 R	2021 R
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	3 110	5 954
Intangible assets	3	324 296	418 033
Other financial assets	4	68 308	68 308
		395 714	492 295
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables		-	111 597
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2 245 041	485 227
		2 245 041	596 824
Total Assets		2 640 755	1 089 119
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Retained income		1 449 593	836 279
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	1 191 162	252 840
Total Equity and Liabilities		2 640 755	1 089 119

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note(s)	2022 R	2021 R
Revenue			
Licensing fees		-	6 650
Adult education		236 750	326 285
Educational tours		-	85 424
NED students fees		476 816	1 130 737
Donations audit		-	60 170
Donations Received		5 119 565	4 182 882
Donations travel		10 800	10 000
		5 843 931	5 802 148
Other income			
Other income		12 826	30 141
Expenses (Refer to page 9)		(5 261 651)	(5 180 406)
Operating profit	7	595 106	651 883
Investment income		18 208	11 373
Profit for the year		613 314	663 256



The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning
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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note(s)	2022 R	2021 R
Operating expenses			
Accounting fees		18 146	16 950
Academy faculty		2 021 600	1 900 000
Advertising		8 080	5 572
Agri-tech implementation		-	42 904
Auditors remuneration		-	60 170
Educator and Leadership Training Expenses		833 539	644 843
Bank charges		30 522	35 243
Catering and events		64 839	42 142
Cleaning		-	7 797
Computer expenses		107 165	106 770
Curriculum development		659 680	620 000
Decor		-	140
Delivery expenses		5 191	-
Depreciation		96 581	16 581
Education consultants		3 256	15 860
Employee costs		932 664	1 213 951
Fundraising expenses		33 456	85 000
Graphic Design costs		205 238	198 263
Hire		-	2 350
Insurance		11 266	9 757
Internet expenses		25 692	20 481
Lease rentals on operating lease		-	3 590
Legal expenses		25 738	-
Special Education Programming		8 593	-
Motor vehicle expenses		17 027	16 003
Printing and stationery		49 686	30 334
Profit and loss on exchange differences		-	37 470
Repairs and maintenance		-	1 300
Staff training		-	530
Telephone and fax		53 758	44 966
Travel		49 934	1 439
		5 261 651	5 180 406

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning
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Statement of Changes in Equity

	Retained income R	Total equity R
Balance at 01 March 2020	173 022	173 022
Profit for the year	663 257	663 257
Balance at 01 March 2021	836 279	836 279
Profit for the year	613 314	613 314
Balance at 28 February 2022	1 449 593	1 449 593
Note(s)		

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning
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Statement of Cash Flows

	Note(s)	2022 R	2021 R
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	9	1 741 606	36 868
Interest income		18 208	11 373
Net cash from operating activities		1 759 814	48 241
Cash flows from investing activities			
Sale of financial assets		-	5 455
Net cash from investing activities		-	5 455
Total cash movement for the year		1 759 814	53 696
Cash at the beginning of the year		485 227	431 530
Total cash at end of the year	5	2 245 041	485 226



The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

Accounting Policies

1. Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies

The annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities, and the Companies Act 71 of 2008. The annual financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, and incorporate the principal accounting policies set out below. They are presented in South African Rands.

These accounting policies are consistent with the previous period.

1.1 Significant judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty

Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

Management did not make critical judgements in the application of accounting policies, apart from those involving estimations, which would significantly affect the annual financial statements.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

The company reviews the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment when changing circumstances indicate that they may have changed since the most recent reporting date. During the current year, the directors determined that the useful lives of certain items of surveillance equipment should be shortened, due to developments in technology.

The financial effect of this reassessment, assuming the assets are held until the end of their estimated useful lives, is to increase the depreciation expense in the current financial year and for the next 3 years, by the following amounts:

1.2 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. is initially measured at cost.

Cost includes costs incurred initially to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment and costs incurred subsequently to add to, replace part of, or service it. If a replacement cost is recognised in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment, the carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised.

Property, plant and equipment is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, losses.

Cost include costs incurred initially to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment and costs incurred subsequently to add to, replace part of, or service it. If a replacement cost is recognised in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment, the carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised.

Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method to write down the cost, less estimated residual value over the useful life of the property, plant and equipment as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Office equipment	Straight line	6 years
IT equipment	Straight line	3 years

The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in profit or loss unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

Where major components of an item of property, plant and equipment have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits, the cost of the asset is allocated to the components and they are depreciated separately over each component's useful life.

The residual value, depreciation method and useful life of each asset are reviewed only where there is an indication that there has been a significant change from the previous estimate.

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Accounting Policies

1.3 Intangible assets

An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and subsequently at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Research and development costs are recognised as an expense in the period incurred.

Amortisation is provided to write down the intangible assets, on a straight-line basis, as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
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In cases where management is unable to make a reliable estimate of the useful life of an intangible asset, its best estimate is applied, limited to 10 years.

The residual value, amortisation period and amortisation method for intangible assets are reassessed when there is an indication that there is a change from the previous estimate.

1.4 Tax

Current tax assets and liabilities

The entity is exempt from income tax as it meets the requirements of a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) set out in section 30(3) of the Income Tax Act No 58 of 1962 and has been granted in terms of section 10(1)(cN).

1.5 Share capital and equity

An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities. The entity is a Non-Profit organisation and as such has no share capital

1.6 Revenue

Revenue is made up on donations received and services rendered. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding sales taxes and discounts.

Interest is recognised, in profit or loss, using the effective interest rate method.

1.7 Foreign exchange

Foreign currency transactions

Exchange differences arising on monetary items are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

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Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

	2022 R	2021 R
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2. Property, plant and equipment

	2022			2021		
	Cost or revaluation	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value	Cost or revaluation	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value
Office equipment	17 062	(13 952)	3 110	17 062	(11 108)	5 954
IT equipment	66 900	(66 900)	-	66 900	(66 900)	-
Total	83 962	(80 852)	3 110	83 962	(78 008)	5 954

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2022

	Opening balance	Depreciation	Closing balance
Office equipment	5 954	(2 844)	3 110

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2021

	Opening balance	Depreciation	Closing balance
Office equipment	8 684	(2 730)	5 954
IT equipment	22 304	(22 304)	-
	30 988	(25 034)	5 954

3. Intangible assets

	2022			2021		
	Cost	Accumulated amortisation	Carrying value	Cost	Accumulated amortisation	Carrying value
Application under development	308 135	-	308 135	308 135	-	308 135
Course development	137 372	(121 211)	16 161	137 372	(27 474)	109 898
Total	445 507	(121 211)	324 296	445 507	(27 474)	418 033

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2022

	Opening balance	Amortisation	Impairment loss	Total
Application under development	308 135	-	-	308 135
Course development	109 898	(13 737)	(80 000)	16 161
	418 033	(13 737)	(80 000)	324 296

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2021

	Opening balance	Amortisation	Total
Intangible assets under development	308 135	-	308 135
Other intangible assets	123 635	(13 737)	109 898
	431 770	(13 737)	418 033

4. Other financial assets

At fair value		
Investment	68 308	68 308



The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning

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Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2022

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

	2022 R	2021 R
4. Other financial assets (continued)		
Non-current assets		
At fair value	68 308	68 308
5. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash on hand	12 021	19 234
Bank balances	1 770 339	386 326
FutureFund - Investec Bank Account	462 681	79 667
	2 245 041	485 227
Cash and cash equivalents held by the entity that are not available for use	462 681	79 667
6. Trade and other payables		
Trade payables	116 024	155 406
Amounts received in advance	597 490	-
FutureFund	462 681	79 667
Salaries clearing	14 967	17 767
	1 191 162	252 840
7. Operating profit		
Operating profit for the year is stated after accounting for the following:		
Operating lease charges		
Premises		
• Contractual amounts	-	3 590
Amortisation on intangible assets	93 737	13 737
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	2 844	2 844
Employee costs	932 664	1 213 951
Retainer - design and marketing	205 238	198 263
8. Employee cost		
Employee costs		
Basic	794 167	1 171 255
UIF	3 448	(5 471)
Other short term costs	135 049	48 167
	932 664	1 213 951

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Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

	2022 R	2021 R
9. Cash generated from operations		
Profit before taxation	613 314	663 257
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	96 581	16 581
Loss on foreign exchange	-	37 470
Interest received	(18 208)	(11 373)
Changes in working capital:		
Trade and other receivables	111 597	(83 657)
Trade and other payables	938 322	(585 410)
	1 741 606	36 868

10. Going concern

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

11. Events after the reporting period

The annual financial statements were authorised for issue on Thursday, 01 September 2022 by the board of directors of the company.



From Apps to Netflix, Megillat Rut to Rembrandt’s art, Poland to Lithuania, teachers to students, the Academy has been providing strength, knowledge and inspiration to thousands in South Africa and now to thousands internationally.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors over the past year, we have achieved some notable successes in the education of the South African Jewish Community and even internationally, a furthering of knowledge and love of Judaism and Israel, the ongoing engagement of our students.

Every year, we are humbled by those committed individuals and organisations who have helped us to further our dream of creating a Community of Thinkers.

Make a Difference

South Africa’s Jewish education requirements are enormous and in urgent need of money and logistical support. The Academy is therefore grateful for all donations received either for specific projects or those donated in general to be used wherever they are needed most. Only with your help can we continue to inspire adults with a lifelong love of Jewish learning and bring the Academy space – stimulating, interactive, collaborative and dynamic – to you and to others across the globe.

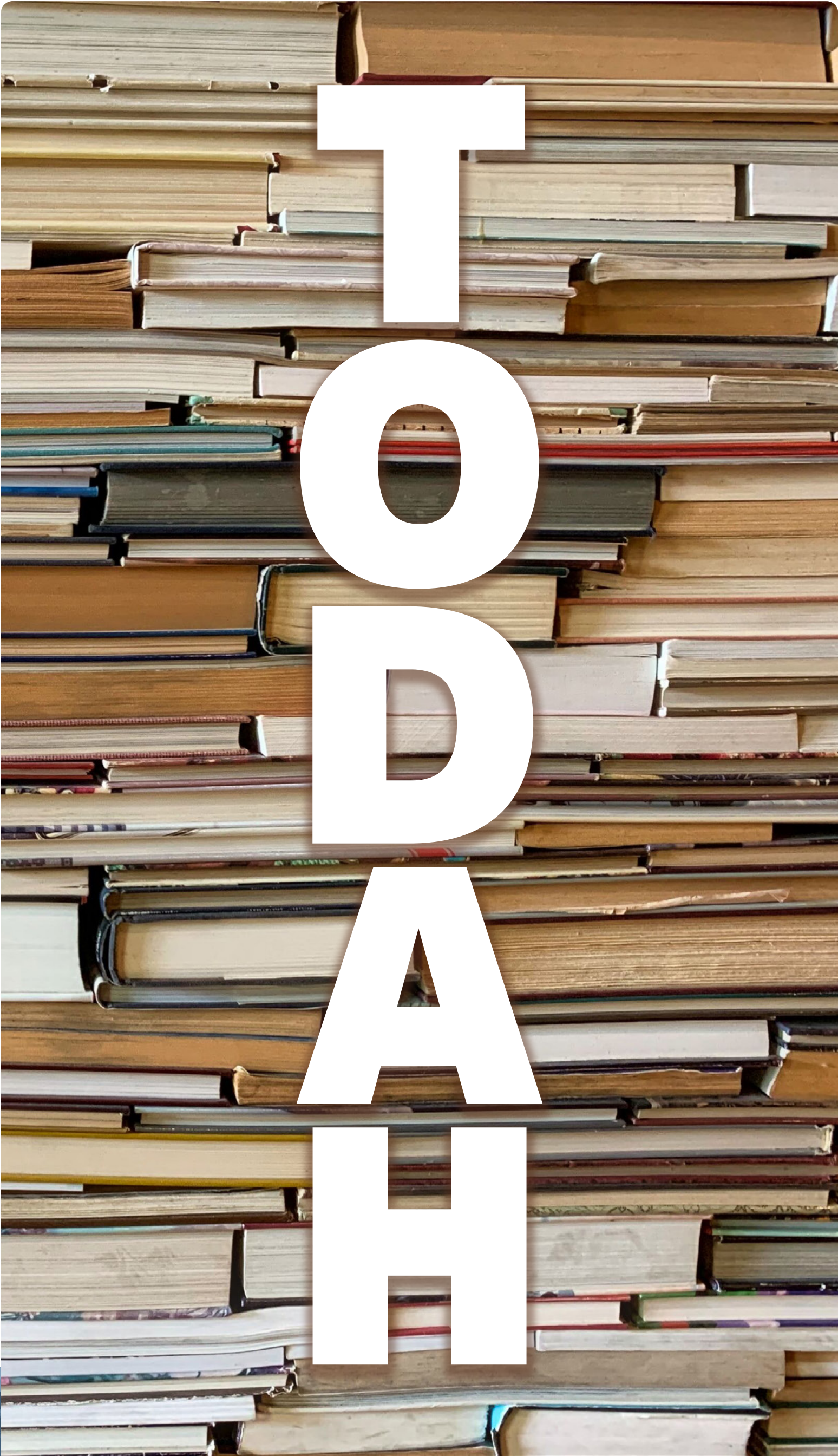
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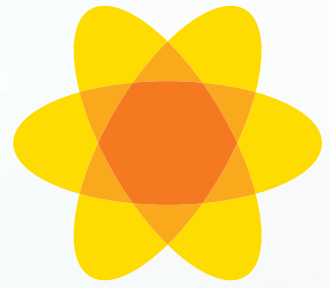
Our banking details are:

Account Type	PLATINUM BUSINESS ACCOUNT	Account Number	62618420400
Branch Code	253305	Branch Name	ROSEBANK BRANCH 037
Swift Code	FIRNZAJJ		

To donate via our donation portal, go to:
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All donations are eligible for a Section 18A certificate and are used exclusively for Section 18A activities. For more details, please email accounts@theacademy.org.za





The Academy
of Jewish Thought and Learning

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The Academy of Jewish Thought & Learning

