

Melton Mini School is coming to Johannesburg

OWN CORRESPONDENT

AFTER FIVE years of The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School's huge success in Cape Town, the Jewish community in Johannesburg will now be able to take part in this enriching and world-renowned programme.

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is a curriculum- and text-based programme designed by Jerusalem's Hebrew University

and teaches Judaism to adults who aim to increase their connection with their Jewish roots and their Jewish knowledge.

On February 5, Johannesburgers will be treated to "a delicious "Taste" of Melton, said Ariella Milner.

There will be two "Taste" sessions: One at 11:00 and the other one at 16:00. Each session will last an hour and a half. There is no charge.

The Mini-School has adopted the literacy

approach to teaching. This approach focuses on the three aspects essential to teaching Judaism to adults:

Intellectual honesty.

Exposure to a wide variety of texts which present several different views of issues from within the tradition will enable students, regardless of their personal goals, to make educated and informed choices.

Educational value.

The classroom environment utilises the strengths of intellectual interaction between adults who bring with them many years of learning in order to tackle the intellectually challenging material.

Practicality

In adopting the literacy approach the Mini-School, drawing on its international network and vast experience, is able to teach in multiple settings and adapt to different cultures.

• Ariella Milner may be contacted on 082-804-6113, (011) 882-4051 or milnerariella@gmail.com for further information.

Don't let hate poison you, Holocaust survivor stresses

ALISON GOLDBERG

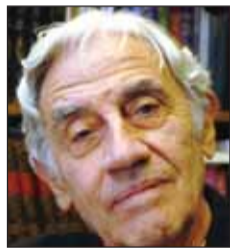
DACHAU SURVIVOR Elly Gotz (pictured), prompted by a question about forgiveness at the end of his narrative: A return to Dachau after 65 years, said he had obviously given it a lot of thought. Gotz was delivering the keynote address in Johannesburg last Thursday night at Liliesleaf Farm. This was for the United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27; the day the Russians freed Auschwitz.

"I was full of hate and thoughts of revenge. After liberation by the Americans in 1945, I stole a bicycle from a German farmer, but gave it back. I realised my thoughts would destroy me - not my enemies.

"I couldn't accuse a whole nation, though there were many bystanders who could have done more. I gave up hating and was able to move forward and fulfil my dreams. Some nations are teaching their children to hate, but it destroys the people who hate. Let us stop hating."

The United Nations this year focuses on the one and a half million Jewish children, children of the Roma and other races deemed by the Nazis to be inferior, who were murdered in the Holocaust. The local event was organised by the United Nations Information Centre, the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, and the Liliesleaf Trust. Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia was where six of the 10 Rivonia trialists were arrested in 1963.

Eighty-three-year-old Gotz's life, is the story of a sturdy weed defying destruction. At each juncture of this Kaunas, Lithuanian-



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROB BEINTEMA/WWW.DURHAMREGION.COM

born's life, he is saved by his determination to better himself: acquire another language, learn a new skill.

Gotz was 13 when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941 and occupied Lithuania. Denied high-school, he attended a trade school in the then-created Kaunas ghetto and concentration camp, learning locksmithing and general metalwork, becoming an instructor at 15.

In October 1941, on one single day, 10 000 Kaunas Jews were marched up a hill and shot down into mass pits. The commander of that Einsatzgruppe, Helmut Rauca, settled in Toronto after the war, practically Gotz's neighbour, but was only extradited to Germany 25 years later to stand trial for war crimes. He died beforehand.

In 1944, Elly and his father were transferred to Dachau, outside Munich, separated en-route from his mother in Northern Germany. She was a nurse who before the Germans sent trains to take the unknowing away, was ready, if discovered in their hiding place, to inject the entire family with a solution to induce heart-attacks.

In cattle cars, stacked upon each other, Gotz, an only child, and his father, were part of the remaining Kaunas Jews of an original 28 000: 3 000 men to Dachau, 3 000 women to Stutthof.

"How did I ever get here?" he asked himself on arriving in Dachau. His mechanical skills saved both his life and his father's, whom he managed to get to work in his workshop. At another point, he saved his father's life again, pulling him into a toilet, at the beginning of a selection.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

CANADA'S FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSES SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

JERUSALEM - Canada's foreign minister emphasised his country's staunch support of Israel.

"Israel has no greater friend in the world than Canada," John Baird said on Monday at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum.

Baird, on his third visit to Israel, also said: "Canada does not stand behind Israel; Canada stands shoulder to shoulder with

Israel." He repeated the sentiments later in the day at a meeting with Israeli President Shimon Peres.

At the 12th annual Herzliya Conference Monday night, Baird called the delegitimisation and demonisation of Israel the "new anti-Semitism". He also voiced Canada's support for a two-state solution for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, (JTA)

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בייה
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