



Linda Says
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Linda Blachowitz - Event & Décor Stylist
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Building of 'Lost Shtetl Museum' begins in Lithuania



Students representing the local high school and Jewish ORT Solomo Aleichemo High School in Vilnius laying the cornerstone of the museum. Photo: Eli Rabinowitz

The construction of a new museum in Lithuania to commemorate Jewish life lost in the Holocaust began in May, after a ceremony attended by Lithuania's Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament, Foreign Minister, senior diplomats and Jewish leaders.

Designed by a Finnish company that also designed the award-winning POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, the state-of-the-art museum in Šeduva, 175 kilometres northwest of Vilnius, will open in 2020.

The museum complex will include a sprawling Jewish cemetery which was completely restored and opened

in 2015, monuments at three separate sites of Holocaust mass executions and burials, and a symbolic sculpture in the middle of the town.

"It will tell the story of the life of what was once the largest European Litvak Jewish population living in shtetls. Lifestyle, customs, religion and the social, professional and family life of the Jews of Šeduva will serve as the centrepiece of the museum exhibition. Museum visitors will be taught the tragedy of Šeduva's Jewish history, which ended in three pits near the shtetl in the early days of World War II, concluding five centuries of the history of the Jews of Šeduva," says the museum's website.

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Miracle Drive 5778 a huge success



At the Miracle Drive dinner, Rabbi Mendel Popack, guest speaker, Adv. Thuli Madonsela and Avigail Popack

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Mamanet magic inspires Cape Town community



When Mamanet member and paediatrician, Dr Miriam Herman reached out to Bnoth Zion WIZO in Cape Town, she quickly understood the power of the Cape Town community.

At a presentation hosted by WIZO and its members, Mamanet founder and Chairwoman, Ofra Abramowitz and Dr Herman spoke to a keen audience, including Marc Falconer, Principal of Herzlia High School, Tina Brenzel, Head of Herzlia Sports; Kerry Hoffman and Karen Gootkin from Souper Troopers; Daphne Miller from the Union of Jewish Women and Michal Ilan from the South African Zionist Federation Israel Centre and Partnership2gether. Mamanet (Catchibol) is a team

sport similar to volleyball, and is unique in that it is exclusively for mothers, and is the largest community sport enterprise of its kind in the world. Started in Israel 13 years ago to combine sports and social responsibility to build stronger communities, it has grown in popularity across the globe. Mamanet leagues "give mothers the chance to work out, have fun, meet other women from their children's schools, and set an active example to their kids".

Abramowitz said they were awed by the response from the Cape Town community, with offers to help with the establishment of Mamanet here pouring in. "This is how a community is built", said an emotional Abramowitz.

Putting the mitzvah in Bat Mitzvah



Kaylee Dirmeik, Liron Dirmeik and Zack Carpel pack baby bags with friends at Kaylee's Bat Mitzvah celebration.

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