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Through the Chair ...

This was supposed to have been the final Newsletter of 2025. Instead, it is the first of 2026 and on behalf of the National Executive, I wish all our subscribers a happy, healthy and trouble-free Gregorian New Year!

I asked the editor to delay publication, in order to give you more information about 2 major events in 2026: the National Convention/AGM and a Mediterranean cruise with Mano Maritime, as you will see below.

We ended 2025 with our annual Quiz, held once again on Zoom. We seem to have hit upon a winning formula, with more than 100 participants in 11 homes around the country – in Bet Shemesh, Rehovot, Ra'anana, Netanya, Tel-Aviv, Zichron Ya'akov and Tel-Aviv.

Judging by the feedback we have had, the quiz was enjoyed by all, and our thanks must go to the quizmasters, Ellie & Steve Morris and Helen & Hugo Gottlieb, not only for setting the questions but also for the professional presentation.

Regarding the cruise, my thanks to all those who replied to our request for interest. It turns out that there is a slight majority in favour of the shorter cruise and that is the option we will be going with. Apologies to all who said they prefer the longer cruise, but I hope that will not deter you from joining what promises to be a superb social event on a par with last year's.

Hopefully, we will follow up with more events throughout the coming year.

With my best wishes for a quiet and peaceful 2026,

Kind Regards,

Ian Banks,
National Chairman
052-3425581; ianbanks1aw@gmail.com

HOB'S ANNUAL CONVENTION AND AGM

Where? The recently renovated 4-star
DANIEL HOTEL, HERZLIYA

When? Sunday 10th May – Tuesday 12th May
(with option to reserve a 3rd night)

The programme will include:

Sunday Evening: AGM, with guest speaker Wing Commander Alison Morton, the Naval & Air Attaché at the British Embassy;

Monday: An outing or other activity (to be announced)

Monday evening: Fun & games (and a revival of the "peanut quiz")

The price (for 2 nights half-board) in "Superior" room):

Double room - NIS 2,250

Single room - NIS 1,525

The price quoted is a group rate and is contingent upon a booking of no less than 10 rooms by 27th February, 2026. If we cannot comply with that condition, we will either cancel and refund your deposit or attempt to renegotiate the terms.

A booking form will be sent out very shortly

ANOTHER GREAT MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

After careful consideration and canvassing the opinions of our subscribers, we have decided to book the shorter cruise:

5 days (4 nights) 25/10/2026 – 29/10/2026

Ports of call: 26/10 – Rhodes: 27/10 – Agios Nikolaus (Crete).

Price range: From €408 in a “Classic” cabin without a window on deck 3 to €582 for a “Deluxe” cabin with a window on deck 6 or 7.

Prices are quoted in Euros, per person in a double cabin. There is no discount for single occupancy (i.e. a single person in a cabin pays for 2).

As with our last cruise, the prices we have been offered are dependent on us booking a minimum of 20 cabins.

A booking form and payments schedule will be published in the next Newsletter.

Report on National Zoom Quiz 2025

In what has become a welcome annual fixture in the HOB calendar, last Motzei Shabbat saw the HOB National Quiz on Zoom.

In Bet Shemesh seven couples got together at the home of Cherill and Ian Banks. Everyone contributed towards the meal of bagels, toppings and desserts.

Watching on the big screen, it was, as usual, very well compiled and organised by Ellie and Steve Morris and Helen and Hugo Gottlieb. We found the difficulty distribution of the questions just right. The graphics were as usual very impressive.

All in all it was a fun evening and we enjoyed seeing all the other participants on Zoom.

Thank you to the organisers and to the hosts.

Judith Lipzcer



HOB Netanya Annual Charity Quiz



Thursday, January 15th, 2026, at 7:30 PM

We're excited to announce the return of our Charity Quiz! Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 15th, 2026, at 7:30 PM. Join us at the Bet Israel Social Hall, 19 Yehuda Hanassi Street, Netanya.

Gather your friends, family, or colleagues and form a table of up to eight people. Play for the chance to win ₪2000 for your chosen charity, with the winning table receiving the cheque on the night.

The cost is ₪100 per person, which includes a delicious kosher supper.

We can't wait to see you there on January 15th! Please reply as soon as possible.

Booking is essential by Thursday, January 8th.

To make it easy, please provide the name of your charity and the number of people at your table when making payment. You can pay via PayBox at this link: <https://bit.ly/4q2zENc>, by BIT to 054-551-9840, or by cash on the night (by prior arrangement).

HOB - NETANYA

NETANYA MAYORAL ELECTION JANUARY 2026

Personal Invitation to a Debate Ahead of the Mayoral Elections, Tuesday, January 13th 2026

You are invited to the Netanya Mayoral Election Debate of the English-speaking community of approximately 12,000 residents.

The debate will take place in the Social Hall (2nd floor) of the Bet Israel Synagogue at 19 Yehuda Hanasi Street, Netanya. The debate is sponsored by all English-speaking organizations: AACI, ESRA, HOB, TELFED.

Date: Tuesday, January 13th 2026

Time: Reception at 6:30 PM.

The debate will begin at 7:00 PM sharp.

Moderator: Yoni Ariel – former editor of Maariv International, Jerusalem Online and the news editor of Makor Rishon. Yoni is the President of

Kehilat Kadesh Bet Israel.

The event will be held in English as this is a debate for the English-speaking public in the city. Since this is a personal election for mayor and not for the council, candidates are asked to come in person and not send a representative.

Format Netanya Mayoral election debate 13/01/2026

Timetable Schedule

18:30 - 19:00 Reception

19:00 - 19:15 Each candidate will present themselves (4 minutes per candidate)

19:15 - 19:45 Moderator's questions to each candidate- 5 minutes response time

19:45 - 20:15 Each candidate can ask one question to another candidate - 5 minutes response time

20:15 - 20:30 Coffee break

20:30 - 21:00 2nd round moderator's questions, submitted by participants in advance - 5 minutes response time

21:00 - 21:30 Questions from floor

21:30 Summary closing remarks

NETANYA HOB
Report on Wine, Pizza, and Music

We had a very successful pizza and wine evening with music on 24th December, for approximately 40 guests. There was dancing and everyone seemed to be having a great time. It was an opportunity for people to get together and have a good chinwag.

Cynthia Greenspan

HOB Rehovot

Rehovot branch is convinced that if we offer food, people will come! So, for our December pre-Chanukah event we invited members to a Salt Beef and Latkes evening.

Attracting members from Netanya, Ra'anana, Petach Tikve, Mazkeret Batya and, of course, Rehovot and environs, 24 HOB enthusiasts arrived to taste the offerings.

Large amounts of delicious salt beef, heaps of cole slaw and tasty latkes, served with pita, seemed to go down very well. A nice glass of wine and grapes and strawberries for dessert completed the menu.

For entertainment, we played a "Who am I?" game. Ranging from Dr. Who, Queen Elizabeth 1st and Oprah Winfrey, via Donald Trump, David Ben-Gurion and Harry Potter, we had to ask questions to discover the identity of the person whose name was pinned on the back of our clothing! Most succeeded, although Uri Geller, Lord Grantham and Tom Sawyer seemed a little more difficult to crack. All attendees had a good time, a small profit was made and HOB Rehovot can certainly add this event to their list of successes.

Ellie Morris

HOB TEL AVIV

The Tel Aviv Branch will be having a social and their AGM on Sunday, January 18 at 8pm.

For further details, please contact Colin Green at: Tel: 054-549-9478, or email: greenseer@btopenworld.com

Dates For Your Diary

15 Jan: HOB Netanya - Annual Charity Quiz

18 Jan: HOB Tel Aviv - AGM and Social

24 Jan: HOB Rehovot - The Body Has Its Reasons - Antigym

28 Jan: HOB Netanya - Travel Writers Talk by Mark Gordon & David Z. Harris

11 March: HOB Netanya - AGM

10-12 May: HOB National - National Convention, Daniel Hotel, Herzliya

Take a look at our new website, for more details about forthcoming events and to keep updated with our activities.

<https://www.hob-israel.com/>

DRAMATIC TEMPORARY TEL AVIV AREA EXHIBITIONS

These emotionally gripping museum presentations are currently in the Tel Aviv area:

“Evgeny & Yakov Henkin – Images of Memory” at Muza-Eretz Israel Museum, Ramat Aviv until 7th February 2026 and

“Hedy (Hedwig) Strnad – Prague Fashion Designer” part of the “Heroines – Fashion & Hope in World War 2” exhibition at Design Museum, Holon until 18th April 2026.

As you will see, these two exhibitions are linked both by the fortuitous way they were discovered after the Holocaust and by their respective illustrations of the fashions of the 1930s.

My wife Yehudit and I saw the Henkin brothers’ story during the recent HOB visit to the Muza-Eretz Israel Museum. After the organised viewing of some of the museum’s permanent pavilions, we independently viewed a temporary exhibition in the Rothschild Center - **“Evgeny & Yakov Henkin – Images of Memory”**.

These Jewish brothers born in Rostov-on-Don, Russia at the very start of the 20th century were extremely talented amateur photographers (Evgeny was a musician and Yakov an economist). In the years following the 1917 October Revolution, Yakov and his family and sister moved to Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) where he photographed fully the town's everyday life. Evgeny moved to Berlin, Germany as a musician in 1926. He too photographed daily life including the rise of Hitler and the increasing persecution of Jews and Jewish businesses. In 1936, the anti-Semitic violence drove him back to the Soviet Union where about a year later he was falsely arrested as a German spy during Stalin's purges and shot in January 1938. In 1941, after Germany invaded Russia, Yakov enlisted in the Red Army and, soon after, was wounded on the Leningrad front and died of his injuries.

For about 70 years, the brothers' rolls of 35mm negatives (and some prints) from Evgeny's German Leica and Yakov's Fed (Russian copy of the Leica), gathered dust in boxes in the Leningrad home of the Henkin family. Starting in 2012, the thousands of photos were digitised, and the true value of the brothers' work realised. It is a wonderful illustration of life in the inter-war period, and, as the exhibition blurb states, "an evocative chronicle of their times and surroundings" showing "a search for humanity in a disintegrating world".

The exhibition displays many of their photographs, comparing their styles and their expertise in capturing moments and composing pictures.

Particularly gripping is a video, in Russian with English subtitles, of experts and Henkin family members explaining the background of the brothers, their lives, the false accusations by the Soviet NKVD against Evgeny, and illustrating the significance of their photographs.

The museum has produced an illustrated catalogue of the portion of their work on display, mainly showing people and the lifestyles of the 1930s.

Here is an example from each brother:



Evgeny Henkin "Women pose in front of a hair salon, Berlin 1930s"



Yakov Henkin "Sports Club, Leningrad, 1930s"
© Henkin Brothers Archive Association (HBAA)

However, for Jewish historical and fashion reasons, the Henkin exhibition links with the **story of the Prague Jewish fashion designer, Hedy Strnad** which we recently saw at the Design Museum in Holon. It is part of a wider exhibition devoted to the role of women's fashion during and after World War 2 entitled **"Heroines"**.

Hedy was an accomplished and famous fashion designer in pre-war Prague, Czechoslovakia which Germany invaded in March 1939. Hedy's husband, Paul, wrote to his cousin Alvin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA hoping to get visas for him and his wife. As evidence of her fashion skills, he enclosed 8 illustrations of her designs. No visas were obtained and the Strnads perished in the Holocaust.

60 years later, the family in Milwaukee discovered the letter and the illustrations perfectly preserved in the basement of a family house. They donated the documents to the Jewish Museum Milwaukee who set up a research project, uncovered the history of Hedy and reconstructed her designs. They called the project **"Stitching History from the Holocaust"** and it's on show at the Design Museum Holon with eight clothing and accessory ensembles created in Israel, true to the cuts, techniques, and raw materials of the period. Here are one of Hedy's 8 dress designs that her husband enclosed in his letter, followed by a photograph of its recreation on a mannequin at the Design Museum, Holon:



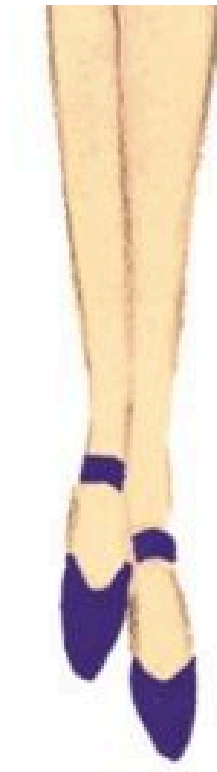


Illustration by the Jewish designer Hedy Strnad, 1939. From "Stitching History From the Holocaust", an original exhibit on loan from Jewish Museum Milwaukee; presented as part of Heroines: Fashion and Hope in World War II, Design Museum Holon. Curator: Ya'ara Keydar



Hedy Strnad's fashion show, from "Stitching History from the Holocaust", an original exhibition on loan from Jewish Museum Milwaukee; presented as part of "Heroines: Fashion and Hope in World War II", Design Museum Holon. Curator: Ya'ara Keydar (Photo: Elad Sarig).

Historically Accurate Designs & Recreations: Moni Mednik, Senior Lecturer at Shenkar College.

Both these stories became known by chance after more than 60-70 years – the preservation of the Henkin brothers' portfolios of photos because their family held onto the unopened boxes of negatives and prints

through the years of Soviet oppression - the fortuitous discovery of Paul Strnad's letter to his relative in Milwaukee. It's sad that there are many more such stories lost through our tragic past 😞

Richard Gordon, Ra'anana – December 2025

Internet Web references:

<https://www.erezmuseum.org.il/en/exhibitions/evgeny-and-yakov-henkin/>

<https://www.dmh.org.il/en/exhibitions/heroines/>

I am grateful to the following for their help in selecting and granting permission to use the photographs in this article:

Henkin Brothers Archive, Lausanne, Switzerland – Olga Walther

MUZA – Eretz Israel Museum Tel Aviv – Raz Samira, Lisa Langbart, Shani Spivak, Hadas Ribak

Jewish Museum Milwaukee – Cassie A. Sacotte

Design Museum Holon – Stav Breuer

Raffle for 2 free tickets to see LOGON's performance of "Pajama Game!"

Send in your answers to the 4 questions below by January 31st. The correct answers will be put into a raffle, and the winner will receive 2 free tickets to a performance of their choice.

- 1. What novel was the Pajama Game based on and who was the author?**
- 2. Who was the famous understudy for Carol Haney (Gladys) in the original Broadway show, who later became a big movie star?**
- 3. Who played the lead love interest, Sid Sorokin, in the original Broadway production?**
- 4. What iconic number features Gladys, the secretary, and a washing machine?**

Send your answers to: cherillbanks@gmail.com



The Light Opera Group of the Negev (LOGON) presents

The Pajama Game

Including the songs "Hey There",
"Hernando's Hideaway", "Steam Heat"...

Music and Lyrics by
RICHARD ADLER and JERRY ROSS
Book by GEORGE ABBOT and RICHARD BISSELL
Based on the novel "7-1/2 Cents"
by Richard Bissell

Givatayim, Givatayim Theatre	February 17
Rehovot, Michael Sela Auditorium	February 22
Netanya, Matnes Ir Yamim	February 24
Raanana, Yad Lebanim	March 1
Modi'in Heichal HaTarbut	March 8
Jerusalem, Jerusalem Theatre	March 10
Beer Sheva, Mishkan	March 15

All performances start at 19:30.
In English with Hebrew surtitles.

Director: Yaacov Amsellem
Musical Director: David Waldmann
Choreographer: Keshet Margolis-Stein
Costume Designer: Einat Smulian
Scenery Designer: Myra Bennett

Tickets: www.negevlighopera.com
Contact: 08-6414081
negevlighopera@gmail.com

This amateur production is presented by
arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also
supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk



What happens when romance blossoms at the workplace where everything is about to crash?

The classic Broadway musical-comedy ***The Pajama Game*** is this season's production by The Light Opera Group of the Negev (LOGON). A 1950's union strike against management at the Sleep-Tite Pajama factory in the American Midwest and a comic romance between the superintendent and the leader of the grievance committee is the setting for the timeless show. The smash Broadway musical opened in 1954 and ran for over 1,000 performances. Awarded the 1955 Tony for Best Musical, *The Pajama Game* has garnered many awards in revivals over

the years, proving the story is truly timeless, and great fun. The show features hit songs including “Hey There,” “Hernando’s Hideaway” and “Steam Heat” which became pop standards.

The production is in English with Hebrew surtitles.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please note that HOB assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the job opportunities offered or the availability of any position. Interested parties must contact the prospective employers via the links given and not via HOB.

If you have applied or been offered any of the postings in the job opportunities section, we would appreciate your feedback.

Kitchen & Floor Staff

Company

Sinta Bar Group

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/kitchen-floor-staff-W1mXAmxUgOmtkfi>

DMO Engineer (Digital Manufacturing Operations) – Bamba Factory

Company

Osem-Nestlé

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/dmo-engineer-digital-manufacturing-operations---bamba-factory-9rX9a0q7Rlkxglm>

Human Resources Coordinator

Company

Osem-Nestlé

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/human-resources-coordinator-CQL8W2J1jY7ZhSO>

Operational Excellence Coordinator

Company

Osem-Nestlé

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/operational-excellence-coordinator-3i9VI1PL4HJjOku>

Maintenance Manager – Bamba Factory

Company

Osem-Nestlé

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/maintenance-manager---bamba-factory-f4QNbAvK6o4zyAU>

Upholsterer – Home Furniture

Company

R.A. Furniture Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/upholsterer---home-furniture-tbmEGwdX4VQ3GRL>

Pre-Production Worker

Company

R.A. Furniture Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/pre-production-worker-Ft3a2tYndPDj7E0>

Production Worker / Machine Operator

Company

R.A. Furniture Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/production-worker-machine-operator-v1qYAJYXHEiEjNp>

Demurrage Department Analyst

Company

ZIM

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/demurrage-department-analyst-SUPiLcbCizsKbar>

Budget & Control Analyst

Company

ZIM

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/budget-control-analyst-Ay2AtVUhapWTTeq>

Insurance Claims Attorney

Company

ZIM

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/insurance-claims-attorney-yFkpcOTirLxqOkV>

Payroll Accountant

Company

ZIM

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/payroll-accountant-psqLc1TF9OXvkV3>

Student Compensation & Benefits Analyst

Company

ZIM

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/student-compensation-benefits-analyst-sGHqgJfWPN5AtiM>

Performance Analyst Student

Company

ZIM

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/performance-analyst-student-ETYCn5yuhIEm8lu>

Customer Service Representative – Import & Export

Company

ZIM

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/customer-service-representative---import-export-iNlr4wzCVGLxBX6>

Recruitment Coordinator

Company
IKEA Israel

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/recruitment-coordinator-yBIsIRaw3qAs8jZ>

Human Resources Coordinator

Company
IKEA Israel

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/human-resources-coordinator-85gY84bDRKUrmI8>

Structural Assembler

Company
Kanfit Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/structural-assembler-HfBHfLg3kZNMyc2>

Cleanroom Operator

Company
Kanfit Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/cleanroom-operator-sq0CdOrFI2DDszO>

Aerospace Painter

Company
Kanfit Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/aerospace-painter-gvvdVsosfbG3K0D>

Aerospace Parts Processing Operator

Company
Kanfit Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/aerospace-parts-processing-operator-vFEwbZhGrDBUGxY>

CNC Setter / Operator

Company
Kanfit Ltd.

<https://www.aliyapp.org/Jobs-Board/post/cnc-setter-operator-a6OYLHddzRDIBmn>

WHAT IS “HOB”?

“HOB” is the acronym which stands for “Hitachdut Olei Britannia” the official Hebrew name of our organisation, and in translation, the “Association of British Immigrants”.

HOB is a voluntary organisation which was established in the early 1950's by Mr. Sol Temkin, the then director in Israel of the British Zionist Federation in order to provide immigrants from the UK and Ireland with social integration services.

HOB is a registered Amuta (friendly society) and a “Malcar” (not-for-profit association).

HOB is a voluntary, "grass roots" organisation, run solely by volunteers. It is entirely self-funded and has no employees or permanent premises. Its officers are elected biennially at its Annual General Meeting.

How to become a member of HOB

If you are not already a member of HOB and wish to join please contact your local branch or Head Office as listed below:-

Head Office membership form: <https://form.jotform.com/243173164998468>

Rehovot Branch membership form: <https://form.jotform.com/243172112121438>

Netanya Branch, please contact Ed Pearlman at: edpearlman277@gmail.com

Tel Aviv Branch, please contact Colin Green at: greenseer@me.com

The Annual subscription per person is: NIS 100 (or NIS 80 for seniors)

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