

10 December 2019

13 Tevet 5780

The Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies is the umbrella organisation of South African Jewry and our stated mission is to work for the betterment of human relations between Jews and all other peoples of South Africa, based on mutual respect, understanding and goodwill. We are committed to a South Africa where everyone will enjoy freedom from the evils of prejudice, intolerance and discrimination.

As such, World Interfaith Harmony Week is a cause close to our heart and we were the first organisation to bring the event to South Africa. The Cape Town Interfaith Initiative and the Cape Town Ahmadi community have since followed our example.

We held our first event in 2013 with Dr Imtiaz Sooliman Founder of Gift of the Givers, the world's largest African disaster relief group, on *the Role of Faith-Based Communities in Social Development* and at present, we are busy planning our 2020 event

We have held events every years since then, attracting prominent speakers who are role models for interfaith harmony like anti-apartheid activist Judge Albie Sachs, former Premier of the Western Cape and SA Ambassador to America, and founder of the World for All Foundation Ebrahim Rasool, Catholic Archbishop Brislin, ministers, rabbis and imams as well as representatives from interfaith organisations like United Religions Initiative, the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative and the Turquoise Harmony Institute (the Hizmet movement).

Last year our event took place in the City Hall with Cape Town's Mayor Dan Plato as one of the speakers with members of the diplomatic corps and overseas visitors in the audience. The evening started with a Khoisan prayer by Chief Autshumao Mackie representing the first people.



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The Cape Board fully supports World Interfaith Harmony Week as an occasion to bring together people from different faith communities in spirit of harmony and dialogue. We thank the Parliament of the World Religions for drawing attention to this important annual event initiated by King Abdullah 11 of Jordan.

This is an excellent way to reinforce our common humanity and develop a society in which all its members are treated with respect and dignity no matter where or if they pray.

Kind regards



Stuart Diamond
Director



Rael Kaimowitz
Chairman



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