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Visit [www.cjc.org.za](http://www.cjc.org.za) to get your dose of what's going on in Jewish Cape Town.

## Board of Deputies walks the red carpet



Siobhan Swart, daughter of MP Steve Swart with Rael Kaimowitz, Chairman Cape SAJBD, Chaya Singer, Parliamentary Liaison SAJBD, Shaun Zagnoev, National Chairman SAJBD, Stuart Diamond, Director Cape SAJBD and Steve Swart, MP African Christian Democratic Party

Continues on page 12

## Bearing witness

In a poem titled *To Go Home?* Solly Kaplinski writes, "I owe it to you Mom & Dad/ even tho' you rest in the earth/to go home." Kaplinski, 70, a former headmaster of Herzlia High School in Cape Town, dedicates his anthology of poetry *Lost and Found: A second-generation response to the Holocaust*, to his late parents — "who were constantly in danger and on the run as Bielski Partisans in the forests of Russia for three traumatic years."

After his parents died in 1987 within six months of each other, Kaplinski paid what he calls a 'cathartic' visit to Poland in 1988 as part of the annual March of the Living.

"It released a gush of hitherto repressed and unabridged emotional responses," which are reflected in his poetry, he says.

Kaplinski's parents made their way in 1947 to South Africa, from where he and his wife, Arleen, moved in 2000 to Israel, where their three daughters and families live. Today, as Executive Director of the Overseas Joint Ventures at the Joint Distribution Committee in Jerusalem, his mandate is "to develop partnerships with federations, foundations, individuals and families outside the USA to support and invest in JDC projects in Israel and internationally."

Kaplinski has also written a novella entitled *A World of Pains: A Redemptive Parable?* as "a memorial to family members who perished in the Ponar forest in Vilnius during the Shoah."

Continues on page 19

## O-week action for Chabad on Campus

Every year Orientation Week for freshmen is a big buzz (and perhaps a blur too) as they throw themselves into varsity life and culture.

This year, Chabad on Campus was part of the O-Week action at UCT, with devoted veteran members welcoming new Jewish students who were shopping around for a club or society to join in the exciting world of campus life.

Campus Rabbi Nissen Goldman says, "Ash [Rebbetzin Ashleigh Goldman] and I are enjoying a lot of nachas from several of our Chabad on Campus members who have taken on the job of running SAUJS WC activities this year. They, together with SAUJS Director Nicole Lee, have done a fine job in making Jewish students feel safe on campus, and fighting for their religious rights."



Chabad on Campus welcomes new Jewish students to UCT during O-week

See more on page 42

## A day in the life of Cape Town Torah High



Yisroel and Yehuda Hecht celebrating Tu B'Shvat in the Company's Garden

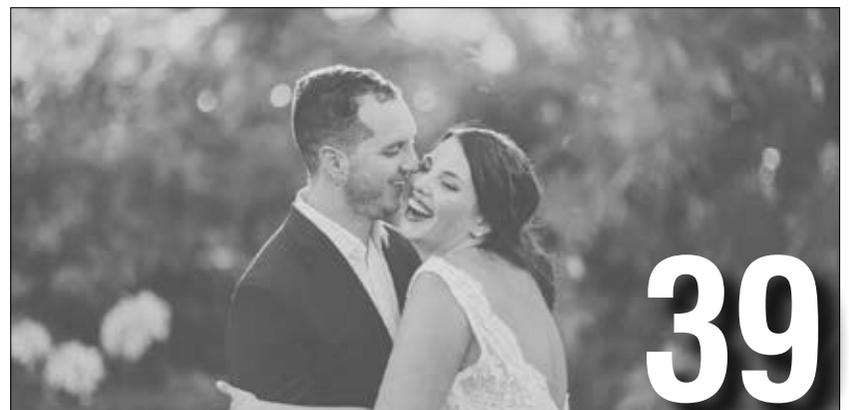
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# Lindy with a why

## Why the way we treat our leaders affects our children



By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

**Jewish Communal leaders spend a lot of time agonising over what we perceive to be a decreasing interest in 'the youth' identifying with the Jewish community.**

I think we need to step back and recognise that every generation laments what they see as the imminent death of communal involvement in 'the youth'. It's so prevalent that it's almost a rite of passage for communal leaders over 45. (see page 42 for inspirational Modern Maccabees)

I also feel uncomfortable with the term 'the youth', as if a descriptor as broad as the year you were born says anything meaningful about you. We certainly don't see ourselves as the same as every other person our age, so we should stop referring to other age groups in this way.

It's Adar, the month I was born in. (See page 18 for more on Adar) I was born 3253 years, to the day, after Moses stepped down as one of the greatest leaders of the Jewish people. But it was 3292 years, give or take a few days, after Moses stepped down that I had the pleasure of meeting Clive Lawton at a talk he gave through the Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute entitled "What makes a Jewish leader?". He spoke about leaders who are like Moses and leaders who are like Aaron, and the need to find out which you are, and use each other's strengths to really lead effectively.

Clive Lawton is an OBE as well as a founder of Limmud International and Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Jewish Council — just a few mentions amongst a dizzying array of leadership positions he holds, and has held in the past.

In his talk, he also told us that there is "no point spending all your time saying 'Oh, I wish we had a different

leader'. If you have a leader, that's who you must work with."

We need to remember that. The leaders we have must be the leaders we work with. Unless we are willing to replace them ourselves. And to clarify, when I say leaders I mean all leadership; political, communal, educational, religious, parental.

Lawton went on to explain why it is critical for us to change the way we treat our leadership. Firstly; people behave better when they are loved. "When they feel embattled, and attacked and denigrated, they behave less well. Therefore, if you stand around your [leaders] and say 'you're great, we are so lucky to have you' you will get better [leaders]."

The second thing, he explained, was this; "Jewish homes are full of communal leaders saying to their children 'I don't know why I do this, it's madness, don't get involved, whatever you do, I'm giving it up next year, I'm not doing this again.' Parents are saying this to their children continuously. As if this is called clever planning for the future."

Lawton concludes by pointing out that, "we ought to be saying to our children. 'You know why I do this, don't you? Because this is a fabulous thing to do. Not only is it necessary, but I get huge satisfaction out of it, and I believe I'm doing something important. And the community needs it, and if you grow up to be the right kind of person, maybe you'll do this stuff too, and I hope so, because I'll be very proud of you if you do.'"

One of the best ways to get the attention of *any* age group, through *any* medium, is through quality messages. And what better message than the one that says we should treat our leadership with respect and care? Not only to make them better leaders today, but also to ensure that positions of leadership look appealing to the next generation.

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# Community Noticeboard

## SAVE THE DATE!!! YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Coming soon to a circus tent near you  
Zip Zap Circus Thurs 9 May 2019  
Watch the Chronicle for details!

## SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

#YALLAYEBO. South Africa and Israel through the lens of four instagrammers.

Exhibition opens 17 March. For more details on the exhibition and upcoming events at the South African Jewish Museum, please see page 34

## BZA WIZO AVIV AND MACCABI SA

Texas Hold 'Em Poker 2019 Poker Tournament.  
Tuesday 2 April.  
Light supper will be served.

Please see page 31 for booking details.

## TEMPLE ISRAEL

Annual Purim Carnival

Wednesday 20 March from 5 pm Temple Israel Wynberg

## CT HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

Documentary: *My Dear Children*  
The quest to unravel a family mystery — the first in-depth scholarly documentary about the tragedy of pogroms.  
Tuesday 26 March 6 pm

*Images of Auschwitz*  
Public Lecture by Paul Salmons  
Thursday 12 March 6 pm

*Deadly Medicine*  
Guided walkabout of the exhibition.  
Wednesday 6 March at 6 pm

Film screening *Forgotten Soldier*  
Forty years after his death, Lady Irene Hatter retraces and uncovers the truth behind her father's wartime exploits.  
The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Lady Irene Hatter  
Monday 18 March 6pm  
see page 36 for details.



The following organisations are affiliated to Jewish Care Cape Town  
Cape Jewish Seniors Association • Glendale • Highlands House • Jewish Community Services • Nechama • Oranjia • ASTRA Centre (Jewish Sheltered Employment and Rosecourt Group Homes)  
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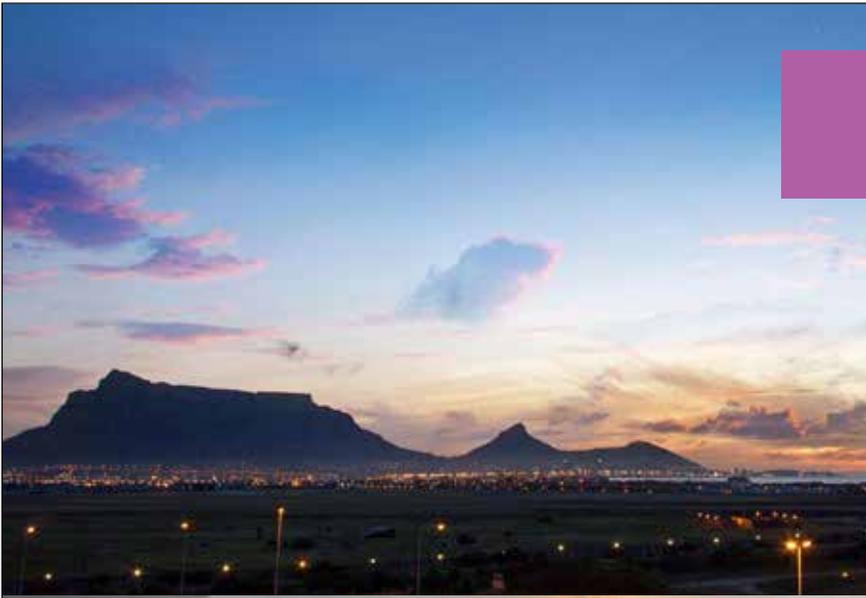


## Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
1 March/24 Adar	Vaykel Shekalim	6.15 pm	7.05 pm	7.56 pm
8 March/1 Adar II	Perkude	6.15 pm	6.56 pm	7.47 pm
15 March/8 Adar II	Vayikra Zachor	6.15 pm	6.47 pm	7.37 pm
22 March/15 Adar II	Tzav	6.15 pm	6.37 pm	7.27 pm
29 March/22 Adar II	Shemini Parah	6.15 pm	6.28 pm	7.18 pm

N.B. Please note that the times indicated are the earliest times for candle lighting. Please consult your Rabbi.

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# A day in the life of Cape Town Torah High

By Mrs Daniella Conibear, Vice Principal, Cape Town Torah High

**Walking into Cape Town Torah High each morning is a daily reminder that the dream of combining religious and secular education is certainly a reality.**

Based in the heart of Gardens, Cape Town Torah High has made its home in the historic Ponevez Shul and three adjacent Victorian houses that radiate a love for learning and a commitment to Yiddishkeit.

In 2019 Cape Town Torah High had its largest enrolment of students to date and with them, these students and families have brought about a renewal to the vision of providing a religious and ethical education to a new generation of Jewish leaders.



*The Boys Division in front of Ponevez Shul*



*First day of school in the new Girls Division house*

What makes a Cape Town Torah High education unique is the guiding principle of empowering the student both in Jewish and General Studies. The daily motivation is to provide a Torah-based educational environment that allows for children to grow into responsible, global citizens well-versed in Jewish thought. This ethos is entrenched by the lesson from King Solomon, found in the Book of Proverbs, that we must: 'Educate a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.'

## General Studies

At the core of Cape Town Torah High is the commitment to academic excellence. In line with this, resources and lessons are designed to both extend and support students academically while accommodating the needs of a dual-curriculum.



*Girls Division Grade 8 class*



*Tu B'Shvat in the Company's Garden*

## Mathematics

Integrated into the Middle School Mathematics curriculum is the Math-U-See resource, an interactive programme bringing maths to life and building student's confidence to take on challenging concepts.

## Economics

Exposure to Economics is essential to a modern education. Both Middle and High School Economics curricula are custom designed to engage students with relevant and challenging economic trends.

## Science

As the Cape Town Torah High curriculum is layered, pupils are able to work at their own speed allowing for both extension and academic enrichment.

## PSAT and SAT

In order to best prepare students for a global world, Cape Town Torah High incorporates PSAT and SAT training and assessment taking into its academic offering. This opportunity has been advantageous to many alumni now studying abroad.

## Chagim

Learning is by no means confined to the walls of a classroom. This year, the beginning of the school term coincided with the celebration of Tu B'Shvat. This occasion was marked by combining Kodesh and General Studies curricula through exploring the Company's Garden, uncovering some of Cape Town's natural gems and reflecting on the lesson that, 'Man is a tree of the field' (Devarim 20:19).



*Tu B'Shvat*

## Kodesh

The Cape Town Torah High Kodesh curriculum is delivered daily by committed Rabbis, Rebbetzins and community leaders. Kodesh lessons are built on Gemara, Mishna, Navi, Halacha, Chumash and Hashkafa.



*Kodesh lesson with Rabbi Shlomo*

## Mentoring

In order to maintain a close, interconnected educational environment, mentoring programmes are integrated into daily school life. Morning discussion groups and weekly care circles led by teachers and shlichot provide students with an opportunity to broaden and explore their ideas around their Yiddishkeit.



*Girls Division Care Circle*

## Ivrit

An integral part of Jewish education is language and through Ulpan-Or and dedicated Ivrit teachers, students are able to immerse themselves in their language in a pupil-centred academic environment.



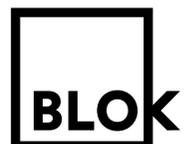
*Ivrit lesson*

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## FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER'S DESK

**RHITA RUSSON**  
Social Worker, JCS Cape Town

Is your adolescent child involved in a dating relationship that you may have reservations about? Well, dating abuse also known as 'dating violence', intimate partner violence or relationship abuse is real. Dating abuse is usually a series of abusive behaviours over a course of time. It is used to exert power and control over a dating partner. Every relationship is different, but the things that unhealthy and abusive relationships have in common are issues of power and control. Violent words and actions are tools an abusive partner uses to gain and maintain power and control over their partner. Any young person can experience dating abuse or unhealthy relationship behaviours, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic standing, ethnicity, religion or culture. It does not discriminate and can happen to anyone in any relationship, whether it's one that is casual or serious. Being able to tell the difference between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships can be more difficult than you think. No two relationships are the same, so what's unhealthy in one relationship may be abusive in another. Although there are many signs to pay attention to, look for these common warning signs of dating abuse:

- Checking mobile phones, emails or social networks without permission.
- Jealousy, possessiveness or insecurity.
- Constant belittling or put-downs.
- Explosive temper.
- Isolation from family and friends.
- Constant mood swings towards you.
- Physically inflicting pain or hurt in any way.
- Repeatedly pressuring someone to have sex.
- Tell someone what they can and cannot do.

The impact of such abuse on young people can lead to: Physical injury; Depression/ anxiety; Withdrawal; Loss of self-esteem and confidence; Self-harm; Unhealthy eating habits; Low attendance at school; Lower academic performance; Lack of concentration in class; Sleeping disorders; Difficulties in developing social relationships; Suicidal ideation and suicidal attempts.

Should any of the above resonate with you, please **contact Rhita Russon on 021 462-5520**

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## Lithuanian citizenship - breaking the myths

ADV. DAINIUS AMBRAZAITIS



I am Dainius Ambrazaitis, advocate, partner, and the head of the citizenship division at IN JURE law firm, based in Vilnius, Lithuania. I have been involved in Lithuanian-citizenship reinstatement cases for nine years. For the past four years, I have been intensively assisting applicants from South Africa, where the number of successfully approved cases is now approaching 300.

In the February's issue of the paper, I mentioned three typical false beliefs - or myths - about the process of obtaining ancestral Lithuanian citizenship. Those are:

- I have too little information about my Lithuanian ancestry, so it would be impossible to apply;
- I have no documentation pertaining to my Lithuanian ancestry, so it is not worth even starting the process; and
- Some sort of cut-off dates are applied to candidates, so I probably will not qualify.

**None of the above is true.**

**Another popular myth is that you would have to renounce your existing citizenship to take up your ancestral citizenship.** The Republic of Lithuania permits dual citizenship in exceptional cases. An ancestral Lithuanian citizenship is one of the exceptional cases in which the reinstatement of one's Lithuanian citizenship is possible without losing existing citizenship status.

It should be noted that from 15 July 2008 to 12 December 2010, this reservation on dual citizenship was considerably curtailed. At that time, regulations allowed people to reinstate (or according to the terminology used then "to implement the right to") their Lithuanian citizenship if their ancestors had emigrated from Lithuania between 15 June 1940 and 11 March 1991. The "no earlier than 15 June 1940" criterion narrowed the circle of South African Litvak and their descendants who could apply for reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship.

However, the new Citizenship Law of 2 December 2010 (with some changes in force now) has abolished the requirement for ancestors to have left Lithuania no earlier than 15 June 1940, thus giving legal grounds to a large amount of South African Litvak and their descendants to apply for the reinstatement of their Lithuanian citizenship.

**A further myth is that the timeline for the reinstatement procedure is unpredictable, and it usually takes a very long time.**

In most cases, the timeline is predictable, namely 10 to 14 months on average if the application is submitted correctly and in full.

The reinstatement procedure has two - or sometimes even three - stages: **Stage one** involves preparation for application, i.e. collecting all the legal documents required to justify the application. The most important part of this stage is to collect evidence confirming that the applicant's ancestor was actually a citizen of Lithuania (i.e. not only that she/he emigrated from Lithuania, but that she/he had citizen status). Here, we are meeting the legal requirement of "citizen" as it is determined by Lithuanian legislation and judicial practice.

Said evidences gathering isn't limited to consulting Lithuanian or broader archives. In the majority of cases, it requires legal procedures such as court applications. Therefore, if you attempt to do this without professional assistance, stage one can take as long as several years or even encounter irremediable stumbling blocks, instead of the normal six to eight weeks if done with professional legal assistance. I have had many clients contact me after several months - or even years - of unsuccessful attempts to solve shortcomings in their application for the reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship independently, or with non-professional help.

**Stage two** involves examination of the application by the migration department of the Republic of Lithuania. This is the longest and most patience-testing stage - with an unpleasant twist. The migration department is legally obliged to examine applications for reinstatement within six months from the date of submission, but in reality, it takes 12 months on average due to the staff shortages. Ongoing reorganization of Lithuanian migratory institutions will probably solve this problem in the future, but this is the current scenario.

In cases where there is a lack of documents (evidence) submitted to the migration department, **the third stage** - the collection of additional documents (evidence) - occurs.

These articles summarize the most frequently asked questions and answers that I have encountered in years of consultations. Consequently, this information should not be taken as individual legal advice in any particular case. My individual legal consultations are absolutely free of charge, and can be arranged at a time and place convenient to you.



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www.LithuanianJews.com

**KEEPING IT REAL**

Stuart Diamond, Executive Director of the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies

One of our objectives at the Cape SAJBD is to represent all Jews in the Western Cape, and so it is important that we visit our country communities — no matter how small — to engage with them in a meaningful way.



That's why we have started #countrycommunitiesvisits, a project that will see representatives of the board travelling to our country communities for Shabbat services, lunches, and other opportunities to connect and show support. In February we visited Stellenbosch, which is presently a community made up of eight families.

Our Shabbat experience in Stellenbosch was an evening of *chazonis*, of togetherness and warmth. Next month the Board will take #countrycommunitiesvisits to Hermanus and Paarl. We look forward to spending time in these communities.

This past month has been a busy one for us. The Board has promoted the *No Place for Hate* campaign through a variety of programmes and projects such as the United Nations Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition at the Cape Town Civic Centre. Using the stunning mosaic art created by Herzlia art students and the community at last year's Yom HaShoah memorial, the exhibition was an opportunity to educate councillors about the Holocaust. It showcased that discrimination on the basis of race, religion or ethnicity, is inconsistent with our country's constitution. The Cape Town Jewish community must be committed to building a city and province where everyone can enjoy freedom from the evils of prejudice, intolerance and discrimination.

Since 1904, one of the Board's key objectives is to ensure that our voices are heard at all spheres of government. And so we continue to act on behalf of the Cape Jewish community in all matters affecting its relationship with the Provincial and Local Governments. In February we engaged with the ACDP and Good in our build-up to the Great Cape Debate to be hosted at the Hatfield Street Campus in April. These parties also enjoyed an educational tour of the SA Jewish Museum.

There have been minor increases in the levels of antisemitism in our community, resulting from tensions unfolding in the run-up to elections. However, compared to the reported cases of antisemitic incidents in communities in the northern hemisphere and Australia, these numbers are insignificant.

Here in South Africa, we are fortunate to have a constitution that protects our religious and civil rights and prohibits hate speech. Notwithstanding, it is still the Board's role to be vigilant and to be there to support the civil and religious rights of all in our community.

**UN Interfaith Harmony Week**

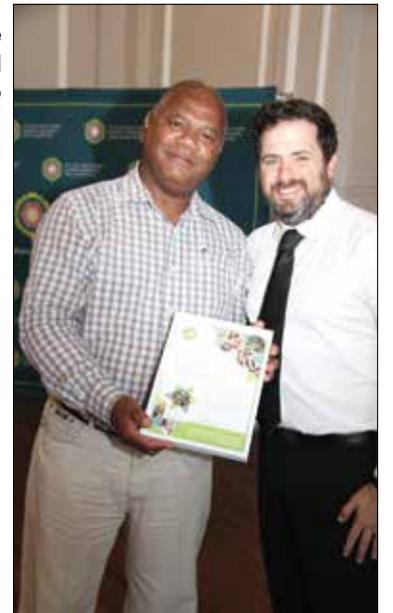
At the 65th UN General Assembly in 2010, King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed a World Interfaith Harmony Week which was passed unanimously and has been observed globally ever since.

The Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies has been celebrating the event with programmes to promote interfaith harmony in the Cape, since 2012.

This year the board hosted an impressive panel of Alderman Dan Plato, Judge Dennis Davis and Sheik Keraan in the gorgeous City Hall. The speakers impressed upon the guests that it is a day to celebrate our common humanity and foster peace, tolerance and mutual understanding. There is simply *No Place For Hate* in our region. #noplaceforhate



*Ann Harris, Clive Lawton and Marlene Silbert*



*Mayor Dan Plato and Stuart Diamond, Director Cape SAJBD*



*Members of the Khoisan Community with Chief Autshumato on the far right*



*Rael Kaimowitz with honorary guest speakers Sheikh Ismail Keraan, Chief Autshumato, Francisco Mackenzie, Executive Mayor Dan Plato and Justice Dennis Davis*



**NO TO HATE** IN OUR COUNTRY.

## UN Holocaust Memorial Day #WeRemember

**UN International Holocaust Remembrance Day (HRD) is an international memorial day held on 27 January, the day that the Soviet forces liberated Auschwitz and discovered the horrors inside.**



*Herzlia art student, Ruby Epstein*

**C**ape Town City Councillor Ronel Viljoen (Portfolio Chairperson Community and Health) and Cape Town city councillors commemorated the day with the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

An unveiling of a series of mosaics depicting the Neue Synagogue in Berlin destroyed on Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass) in 1937. The creation by the Herzlia High School art students — an artistic response to the trauma of their Holocaust history — was on display for a week at the Cape Town Civic Chambers to promote awareness of this

important day.

Guest of Honour, Jewish Holocaust survivor and refugee to South Africa, Miriam Kleineibst who described her family's relief at eventually finding refuge here when she was just thirteen years old, "We landed! I was so happy to be in South Africa, the sense of freedom, being able to participate in daily life like everyone else! It was unbelievable!" Miriam, a remarkable 96 years old, spoke about the horrors of living in Nazi Germany and spoke fondly of Bochum, the coal mining village in Western Germany she had come from.



*96-year-old Holocaust Refugee Miriam Kleineibst*

She said "Bochum had a community of 1152 Jews who had been living there since 1349. The first synagogue was built in 1594, and it too was destroyed on Kristallnacht along with other Jewish communal buildings and schools. The Jewish community was diminished to about 40 people after the war. The rest had all perished in the Riga, Auschwitz and Theresienstadt Death Camps." She went on to say how horrified her family was when ten years later, in South Africa, the Nationalist government brought in Apartheid, copying the Nazi laws. Once again park benches, pools and cinemas were reserved for particular groups. Miriam ended her speech with a loud and resounding message "On this, the United National International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we must acknowledge the past both in Germany and South Africa and say NEVER AGAIN!"



*City Councillor Ronel Viljoen*

## Tu BiShvat fun for Herzlia Highlands and Good Hope Seminary

**Although it's a lesser known holiday, observance of Tu BiShvat (the birthday of the trees) is growing due to the rising importance of environmental awareness and sustainable living.**

**R**ather than an ancient holiday long forgotten, Tu BiShvat is celebrated with a renewed sense of relevance. With this in mind, the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies observed the holiday by planting fruit trees in a recently developed community food garden in Vredehoek, farmed by NGO, Khulisa Social Solutions.

After a wonderful interactive lesson from Rabbi Emma Gottlieb, students from Good Hope Seminary and Herzlia Highlands dug in to plant orange and lemon trees. The students had great fun connecting to the environment and were amazed that the local garden provided fresh produce for residents and its workers. The garden, located at Rugley Road Park, produces a range of fresh vegetables from leeks to spinach to beetroot and all produce is fresh and organic.

The Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies believes that engagement with projects like the Khulisa Food garden is a good way to build a sense of community. The key to a successful food garden is buy-in from locals, and we encourage our community members to support initiatives such as this.



*Herzlia students celebrating Tu BiShvat*



## ACDP and Good meet Cape SAJBD

In the run up to the 2019 elections the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies hosted members of the African Christian Democratic Party and Good at the Hatfield Campus for a tour of the SA Jewish Museum and a round table discussion with committee members.

“The Cape Board was established in the early 20th century, to represent the Jewish community when speaking to government on issues affecting them. In the lead up to this year’s elections, it is as important as ever that we,

the Board of 2019, continue to do the same. We plan to meet with as many political parties as possible to understand their manifestos and explain the challenges of effecting our community and indeed other minority communities like ours. Our aim is to be active citizens while holding our politicians to account. In the quest to win votes, parties must not pit one community against another. Responsible politicians must seek to unite and not divide the people in the Western Cape” said Rael Kaimowitz, Chairman Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies in his address to the ACDP.



Good National Policy Officer Mark Rountree, Cape Board Members David King, Bev May and Li Boiskin with Cape Board Chairman Rael Kaimowitz, Good National Leader Patricia De Lille, Cape Board Vice-Chair Michael Donen, Cape Board Member Rael Koping and National Board Chairman Shaun Zagnoev

## Leadership attend SONA

Rael Kaimowitz and Stuart Diamond of the Cape SAJBD were joined by Shaun Zagnoev, National Chairman SAJBD and Chaya Singer, Parliamentary Liaison for SAJBD at the State of the Nation Address held on Thursday, 7 February.

President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the SONA address to a Joint Sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, at which our executives were guests. The President appealed to the better angels of our nature, our tolerance and unique South African resilience.



Rael Kaimowitz, Democratic Alliance National Leader Mmusi Maimane, with Chaya Singer and Stuart Diamond

## Making your vote count in 2019

Young voters notoriously neglect the importance of voting, but their voice is an important one.

In a country where 2/3rd of the 9 million unregistered voters are between 18 and 30, one can see the potential difference they can make. The youth vote has the potential to be

extremely influential in this country. With over 60% of our population, aged between 15-24 years old.

Make a difference in your community during this general election. Elections are decided by the people who go out and vote. If you don't vote, someone else will make the decision for you. Your power is in your vote.

## Board engages with SAUJS



Campus Impact Training with the SAUJS Committee took place in February.

Presented by Liza-Jane Saban, Head Communications Cape SAJBD, the programme up-skills Jewish students

to respond to antisemitism and anti-Israel bias on campus.

The next workshop is on the 27 March 2019 to be held at the Kaplan Centre, UCT. For further information, contact Jodi sajbd2@ctjc.co.za



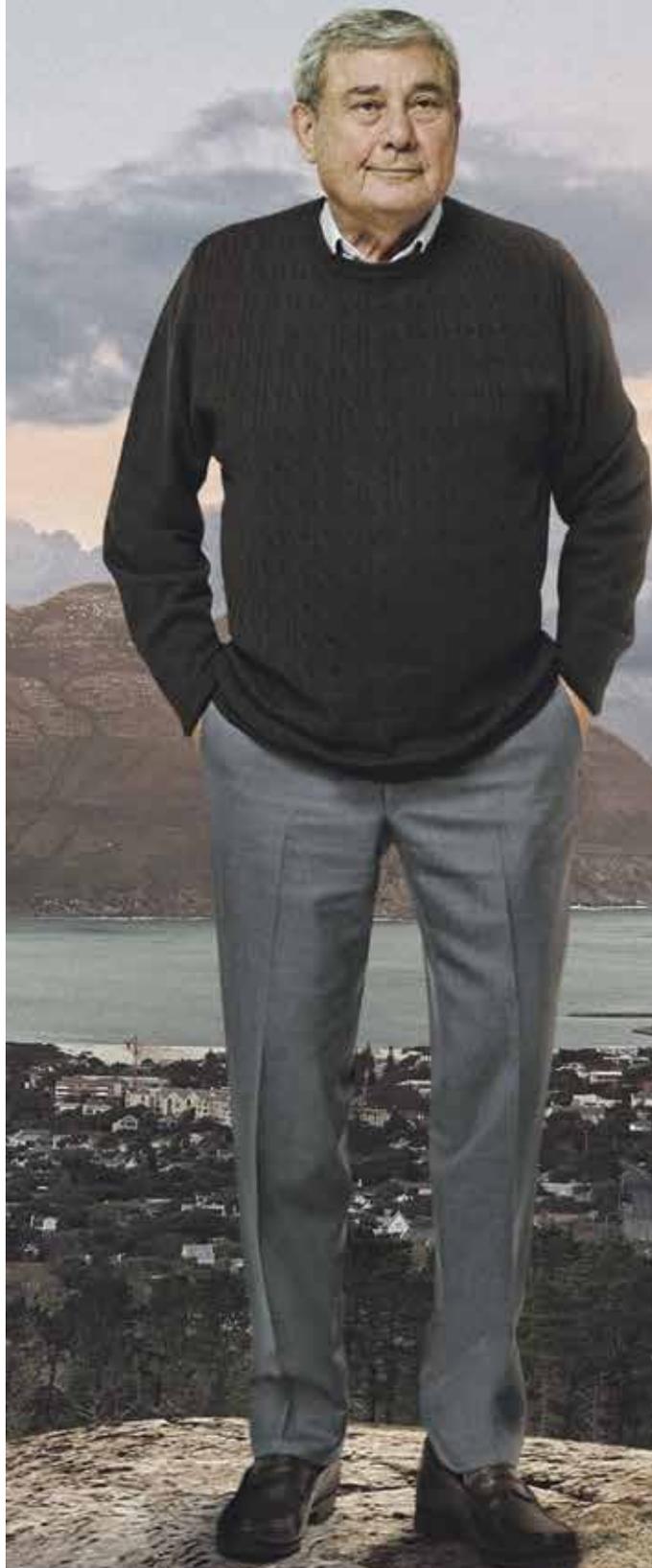
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**NO TO HATE** IN OUR COUNTRY.

I CALL THIS PLACE HOME. NOW YOU CAN TOO.

*Sol Kerzner*



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**SOUTH  
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CAPE COUNCIL**



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



**University of  
Cape Town  
upholds  
academic  
freedom**

By Rowan Polovin,  
Chairman, SAZF Cape Council

at the University, and done severe damage to UCT's reputation as the leading University of Africa. A boycott measure of any form against any country is by nature contrary to the ideals of the university as a space for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and is discriminatory towards academics and students who have a national, religious or spiritual connection to that country.

UCT's Senate voted overwhelmingly in November 2018 against the boycott measure and thereby affirmed the University's values of academic freedom as entrenched in the South African constitution. It is incumbent upon the UCT Council, Faculty and Management to uphold the Senate's position, and not support informal boycotts of Israeli academia at any department of the University.

There could be further efforts this year to push through revised measures against Israel and Israeli academia. UCT must reject any renewed attempts to divert the University's time and agenda on this issue. It is imperative that the University stands firm against these measures that violate academic freedom and discriminate against Jews and non-Jews on Campus who have an affinity with Israel. The University has far more pressing issues with which to engage, and it is high time to repudiate this campaign of hate and intimidation at the University.

**The SAZF Cape Council applauds the University of Cape Town's Senate for voting firmly against a proposal to implement a full academic and cultural boycott of Israel.**

This measure would have severely compromised academic freedom

**EXHIBITION OPENS 7 MARCH 2019**

**OPERATION MOSES  
30 Years  
After**

OPERATION MOSES WAS THE SECRET AIRLIFT OF ABOUT 7 000 ETHIOPIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL IN 1984 AND 1985

**SAJM**  
South African Jewish Museum

SAZF Cape Council logo and other partner logos at the bottom.

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Learn to speak, read and write like an Israeli through cultural and linguistic immersion in a fun, effective and high-energy way.

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# WELCOME BACK, STUDENTS!

Have you signed up for SAUJS WC yet?

If not, you can do so by visiting  
<http://bit.ly/SAUJSWC2019>

WE'VE PLANNED TONS OF EXCITING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR YOU THIS YEAR!

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HABONIM DROR

**The beginning of 2019 has been a whirlwind of activity for us!**

By Edén Plein,  
Sganit Mazkir for 2019

**Our Mazkira Klalit for 2018, Jess Levitt made Aliyah last month.**

Jess was sent off with blessings from all of us. We are so proud of her for embracing our movement's ultimate fulfilment by going to Israel to better the society of the Jewish people.

UP NEXT: As the year continues we are so excited at the launch of some of our most prestigious projects! We have Mini Mach on 22 - 24 March at our magnificent Onrus Campsite, April Seminar on 23 - 28 April for our Junior madrichim, and a jam packed July with our Taglit Tour to Israel on 29 June - 7 July, our Shorashim Tour to Israel for our grade 10's on 4 - 21 July, Bogrim Seminar for our madrichim on 7 - 13 July and most excitingly Winter Day Camps for our Grade 2-7's on 30 June - 6 July.

BNEI AKIVA

**Back at it, and stronger than ever!**

By Chanan Suiza,  
Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town

**After an unbelievable holiday we have hit this year pretty hard already!**

Our first event of the year was a massive success with 45 gurim channies and 10 madrichim all planting trees in our amazing Bnei Akiva bayit, and that was before we even had a mazkirut! Speaking of a mazkirut... They are out!

Let the craziness continue! Mishloach mannot, maddies shabbaton, Mini Mach are all coming soon!



Left to right: Dean Goldin, Sgan Mazkir 2019; Erin Gordon, Sganit Mazkira 2019; Jess Levitt, Mazkira Klalit 2018; Daniel Sussman, Mazkir Klali 2019

NETZER

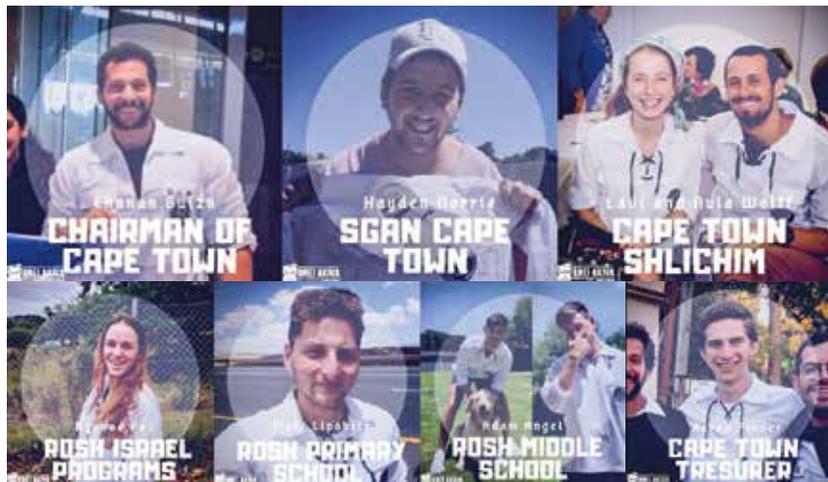
**What's Happening Next?**

By Jason Bourne,  
Rosh Cape Town

**After an awesome fun filled camp reunion we cannot wait to see our amazing chanichim throughout the rest of the year.**

Make sure to follow us on Instagram (@netzer\_southafrica) and Facebook as Netzer South Africa for all our updates on upcoming events.

We hope you are all getting excited for Mini machaneh so make sure to keep an eye out for details.



Cape Town Chairman: Chanan Suiza, Vice chair: Hayden Norrie, Bnei Akiva Shlichim: Lavi and Avia Wolff, Head of Israel Programs: Ryanne Fox, Head of Gurim: Marc Lipshitz, Head of Middle School: Adam Angel, Treasurer: Aaron Finder.



Get amped!



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



THE ISRAEL CENTRE



Aliyah is no longer just a dream but becoming a reality

By Sharon Greenblatt, Head of Aliyah Department, Israel Centre

It starts with a thought, an idea, of making a home in the Homeland. For many, it stays an unfulfilled dream, but for more and more Jews in Cape Town, Aliyah is becoming a reality.

Melanie and Martin Cane made Aliyah last September. They decided to go ahead with their move to be closer to their family and to spend more time with their children and grandchildren.

They both knew, they tell us, that it would not be easy, but believed it would be worth it.

Upon arrival in Israel, the Canes were pleasantly surprised at how smooth things were. They were processed at the airport and went directly to Haifa, where they got assistance from Smadar Stoller Porat, Haifa Project Director for immigration of Olim. She set them up in one of the city's flats for Olim and was very accommodating.

"We found the system to be so efficient and quick unlike many government departments in South Africa" say the Canes.

The Canes were surprised to see how big and modern Haifa and Tel Aviv are and are still amazed to see how many cars are on the roads day and night. Yet, they still think that Cape Town is cleaner and more beautiful than Haifa.

Soon after making Aliyah Martin was able to buy a van at a reasonable price and they found an apartment close to where their children are staying. They were able to furnish their whole flat with furniture that people had donated to them or that was placed outside on the streets. Martin, being a carpenter, restored all the furniture and they now have a fully furnished two bedroom flat.

Recently the Canes received their permanent Israeli IDs and passports. They are starting to feel integrated into Israeli society.

In the short time they have been in Israel, Melanie and Martin made many new friends, including some ex-South Africans who made Aliyah many years ago. They attend Ulpan regularly, where they learn Hebrew together with many other Olim and slowly but surely they build their life in Israel.

"We are quite confident that we made the right decision to make Aliyah" say the Canes. "And we urge Capetonians to look at making Aliyah so that they can have a brighter future".

We, at the Israel Centre, are so happy that we could assist Melanie and Martin on their journey to Israel. We are here for anyone who is considering moving to Israel or going on a programme to experience the country and all it has to offer.

Sometimes it just starts with a thought... and then a meeting.



Martin Cane with his newly purchased van

SA FRIENDS OF ISRAEL



Shalom Mozambique Cup

By Olivia K, Media and Political Liaison, SAZF Cape Council

The Shalom Mozambique Cup took place at the Zimpeto Stadium, Maputo, Mozambique over a series of several months.

The tournament hosted by Pastor Alberto Rui Chiculuveta honoured the people of Israel as he added, "Our objective is to influence Mozambicans, including our government to stand firm with the nation of Israel... Am Yisrael Chai, long live the people of Israel!" Pastor Alberto Rui Chiculuveta went on the SAFI (South African Friends of Israel) tour to Israel hosted by the SAFI, SAZF and Bridges for Peace.



Pastor Alberto Rui Chiculuveta and Dr. Edgar Antonio holding the Israeli and Mozambican flags



Mozambican team proudly holding the Israeli flag in honour of the people of Israel



## Toys from Telfed — a solidarity tiyul to the south

by Peter Bailey

Following a summer of rocket attacks and incendiary terrorism (fire kites and balloons), Telfed's Tiyul Club arranged a solidarity tiyul to communities in the Gaza border region.

Beginning in Sderot, we were met by South African veteran Olah Adele Rubin and her husband Mike (a volunteer in the War of Independence). With their assistance, Telfed purchased a large quantity of toys from local Sderot toy stores. Mike joined us on the bus for a brief tour highlighting the significant growth of Sderot over the past five years, despite the ongoing rocket attacks.

Kfar Aza was the next stop — literally a stone's throw away from the boundary between Gaza and Israel. We were given an enthusiastic welcome to the kibbutz by two longtime residents, SA olim Mervyn and Leah Poliak. Etty — the teacher at the local preschool — guided us through the complex that caters to sixty children and spoke, with great compassion, about the effects of the recurring



Delighted children on moshav Talmei Yosef receive toys from Telfed during the Solidarity Tiyul to the South in December

attacks on the children. Speechless but inspired, we departed for our next stop, Talmei Yosef.

We received a warm welcome from Uri Alon and Ivan Fleisch (an ex-Rhodesian). After a delicious potjiekos lunch, former South African

Peter Harris (an English guide at the 'Salad Trail') spoke of how a metal sculptor on the moshav is using the Qassam rockets fired on the kibbutz to make art and Judaica. We had an opportunity to purchase local products, doing our bit to help the economy of the moshav before

heading to the kindergarten complex to hand over more toys.

At our final destination, Sde Nitzan, we were invited to the home of ex-South Africans, Joe and Eve Isaacson. While enjoying delicious homegrown clementinas (naartjies), their son Elan (head of security for the Eshkol region) gave a detailed explanation about the volatile security situation. Joe and Eve are active members of a volunteer group that provides drinks and sandwiches for soldiers who are based in the Eshkol region. We presented them with a much-needed plastic wrapping machine (donated by ex-South African Eric Jacobson). The volunteers begin making the 150 sandwiches at 5:00am every day, providing a most welcome service to the soldiers who are tasked with protecting them. A drive past the kiosk gave us an opportunity to fully appreciate the wonderful work they do.

This was one of the most rewarding days that I have spent in a long time and my fellow olim echoed my sentiments.

**If you are interested in obtaining an EU passport,  
If you are of Lithuanian descent,  
If you have any questions related to Lithuanian laws on citizenship,  
A unique opportunity is coming your way!**

Top expert in this field, Lithuanian lawyer Nida Degutiene, GM of Next Steps consultancy company, a joint Israeli-Lithuanian venture, with exceptional experience in representing the South African Jewish Litvak community for more than 10 years, will be visiting Cape Town.

On **March 18-20**, Nida will be ready and eager to assess your eligibility to apply for EU passports according to all requirements set out by the legislation, to explain the process of applying for citizenship reinstatement, to provide information about the documents stored in Lithuanian State archives that might be relevant for your citizenship restoration, and to answer any other question you might have.

Call our representative of Next Steps **Ericka** on **078 886 1800** or send an email to **ericka@nandos.com** to book your private free-of-charge consultation.

Since its inception, Next Steps has become a leading provider of citizenship reinstatement services with 100% success rate for clients in South Africa, Australia, Israel, UK, Canada, America and others.

**N E X T  
S T E P S** | Heritage  
and  
Beyond



**Nida Degutiene** is a top expert in the field of citizenship reinstatement. Having lived in Israel for 5 years and frequently visiting South Africa for 10 years, Nida has acquired the highest level of credibility among the Jewish community. Besides an MA degree in law, Nida holds a Global MBA from IDC Herzliya in Israel. Nida is passionate about Jewish traditions, history and cuisine, she is the world-renowned author of the book: *A Taste of Israel*.



## Will the Real Adar Please Stand Up!?

RABBI DANI BRETT [UOS EDUCATION PROGRAMME]

Every 2 or 3 years – 7 every 19, to be exact – a Jewish leap year contains not just an extra day, as does the Gregorian calendar, but an entire extra month. It is Adar that has this special designation: Adar Aleph (I) and Adar Bet (II).

This Jewish year – 5779 (2018/2019) – is one of those 7 in the 19 year cycle.

By the way, this will help you understand why, as a general rule, every 19 years your Jewish and secular birthdays will coincide (although it's not always exactly that way.) But if you're 19, 38, 57, or more this year, check it out!

This presents many interesting scenarios regarding occasions such as *yartzeits* and *Bar Mitzvahs*. Famously, it is possible for a boy born after his friend to have his *Bar Mitzvah* first. Let's use Jack and Joe as examples. If the 2 fellows are born in a leap year – Jack on 20 *Adar Aleph* and Joe on 10 *Adar Bet* – and their *Bar Mitzvah* year is not a leap year, they will both celebrate their *Bar Mitzvahs* in *Adar*: However, Joe will have his *Bar Mitzvah* when he turns 13 on 10 *Adar* (just the regular *Adar*) and Jack on 20 *Adar* (the same regular *Adar*). Joe first, and then Jack!

Now, consider this: on 15 *Adar*, when Joe has celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* and Jack is still waiting with anticipation for his, who's older – Joe because he's now 13 on the calendar, or Jack because he was born first, even though he's technically still 12? I'll leave that for you to ponder, and while you are at it, will shift focus to another aspect of this dual *Adar* space that we now find ourselves in.

Each month has an inherent energy and latent power. We discover what that is through major historical events. It's not the event that invests that energy in the month, but the energy of the month that facilitates the event. The energy was built into that season at creation. We were only able to decipher it when history played it out for us.

The energy of *Adar* is happiness. Humanity craves that state. *Adar* is when we can unlock it. We look to the Purim story to do so.

The main thrust of the story is that G-d's imperceptible but – if you have your eyes half open – obvious orchestration. There are a number of key players who seem to – and in fact do – make a big difference. But when we observe carefully, we appreciate how *Hashem* is truly running the world. He's doing it behind the masks of nature and news stories and newsmakers, but He's doing it nonetheless.

It's that recognition that brings true happiness, because it allows a person to feel truly guided by *Hashem* in every way, and not disempowered, rather truly empowered, through it.

There are two worlds you can live in: One denies *Hashem's* powerful and benevolent hand in our lives; the other recognises it. We don't choose whether He's here. We only choose whether we live with conscious awareness of it.

*Adar* is the month to (re)make that choice, and with that, to find a happy world. This year we have two *Adars* in which to do so – which doesn't mean more time to procrastinate, but more time to entrench that state of mind. May you have a conscious *Adar*, a truly happy one. Two, in fact.

But when we observe carefully, we appreciate how *Hashem* is truly running the world. He's doing it behind the masks of nature and news stories and newsmakers, but He's doing it nonetheless.



## Don't know what your grandfather's military medal means?

By Haley Cohen

A Jewish accountant is offering his expertise on honours and medals to help Cape Town Jews identify their relative's awards. Anthony Pamm, 66, a resident of Sea Point, has produced what he describes as the most extensive reference book on military awards. The book, published in 1995, contains sections dedicated to Jewish accomplishments.



Anthony Pamm

In his first interview with a local newspaper, Pamm tells reporter Haley Cohen how he got started, and what he has up his sleeve next — including a generous offer to the community.

### Cape Jewish Chronicle: How did you first become interested in the topic of military awards? Did you serve in the military yourself?

I became interested in medals when I was a child, and from there I began studying the subject and have continued to do so for about 50 years.

I thought that the English coverage of immigrants from Great Britain was inadequate, so I wrote a large reference book called 'Honors and Awards in the Commonwealth' which took what is normally studied and put it in a wider context. Because I'm Jewish, I also developed an interest in Jewish history. In my reference book, there's a large chapter on Palestine during the British Mandate period and World War I. There were Jews from Palestine serving on the British side. So that's a very developmental stage in the history of the state of Israel. And then I studied Israeli wars after that. I was one of the first in that field.

### CJC: How common has it been over the course of history for Jews to receive medals?

Medals started coming into issue in the 1800s and as time went by, the awarding of medals in various countries progressed. Before that, it was more that nobility and upper classes had orders. This finally loosened up and the eligibility of Jews for medals would vary from country to country and by the degree of Jewish participation in armed forces.

In WWII there was a fairly large Jewish participation here in South Africa, and 10 000 Jews volunteered to serve and received medals. Medals came from this war, as well as from World War I. But before WWI Jews participated because they were in the armies and joined as soldiers of whichever country they were living in. There were Jews in the Civil War on both sides. And some of them won American medals.

### CJC: I'd like to know more about Israeli decorations. What makes them unique? Did you spend time in Israel for your research?

In Israel, when it was Palestine, the Jews who served were eligible for British awards according to their service. Starting in 1948, Israel had its own awards. In the Independence War, they only had one type of decoration, and it was only awarded to 12 people. The war lost 6 000 people out of a 650 000 population. In terms of rewarding service most countries issue a medal — Israel went the route of only issuing a small strip of ribbon. Sometimes they also issue certificates. So you have a series of ribbons carrying the various Israeli wars. They also issued some retrospective ribbons for pre-State service, such as World War I.

In the 1970s it was decided that medals should be instituted in addition to ribbons. The top one has a yellow ribbon with a star, which is reminiscent of the WWII star. The police service and fire service has followed by instituting their own medals which mimic the defense force medals.

### CJC: What are some of the challenges?

British medals are usually issued with the recipient's name stamped on them, which allows identification. With some American medals, as well as many other countries, names are not always included. Some may have a number which could be difficult to tie to the recipient's name. This results in the Jewish context getting lost.

With the massive destruction of World War II, a lot of medals probably went

Continues from page 1

## Bearing witness

by Steve Linde



Solly Kaplinski

The seeds for the story began to germinate on September 4, 2003, when Israeli pilots — the sons of Holocaust survivors — flew three jets over Auschwitz-Birkenau. Two years later, after chief pilot Avi Maor addressed an audience at the opening of the new Yad Vashem Museum, the son of a Nazi officer knelt down at the pilot's feet, and asked for forgiveness.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the room," Kaplinski recalls. His novella, told through the lens of a successful human rights lawyer dedicated to supporting vulnerable children, explores the theme of accountability for long-forgotten savage crimes he committed more than 50 years previously. The revelation breaks as he is announced as the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and is due to deliver his acceptance speech.

The narrative asks what the appropriate punishments for unimaginable crimes are. "Weaving back and forth from Shoah-torn Lithuania and New York in the late 1990s, the historical context of the Holocaust is the backdrop of the dastardly deeds and turbulent emotions of the protagonist when confronting his repressed memories," Kaplinski explains.

His words resonated as I put

together the last issue of The Jerusalem Report for International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January. I could not help but see a link with the cover story marking 16 years since the Columbia Space Shuttle tragedy on 1 February 2003 in which Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon was killed.

Ramon, whose wife, Rona, died of cancer on 17 December, 2018, and whose son, Asaf, was killed in an F-16 training accident in 2009, was the son of Holocaust survivors. He changed his name from Wolferman to Ramon when he joined the IAF as a fighter pilot, later taking part in the Israeli strike against Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981.

On his fateful journey into space, Ramon took several items connected to the Holocaust, including a tiny Torah scroll hidden during the Shoah given to him by Prof. Yehoyachin Yosef, a Bergen-Belsen survivor, and a copy of 'Moon Landscape,' a sketch drawn by Petr Ginz, 16, who perished in Auschwitz.

"So why go back you may ask," Kaplinski writes at the end of his poem on his trip to Poland, providing his own answer: "To remember/to bear witness/to be the link/to pay homage/to take care of the past."

into the death camps and were destroyed. Finding a medal from a Jew who served in World War II also represents all those whose medals did not make it out. That one medal could represent a piece of history and not just the individual.

### CJC: I understand you are offering a new service to help Cape Town Jewish families identify medals that they are in possession of from their relatives. Can you tell me more about this? Why did you decide to offer the service free of charge?

It's a new offer, so I have not actually done it yet, but I'm offering for families to come to me and say 'I've got this medal from my ancestor, what's it about?'

Because I have expertise in this area I thought I would offer a free identification service to the Cape Town Jewish community for any family medals that they may have. It's not an evaluation. My service is identifying, to the best of my ability, what they have. I can tell them where it came from. I can also recommend to them where they can go for further research. I have the expertise; I am interested in Jewish recipients. So, why not?

# HEBREW MONUMENTS

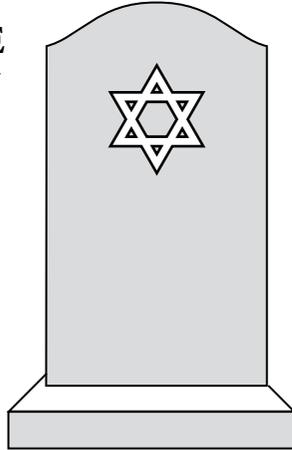
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## Family Announcements

### CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

**ELIAKIM COHEN**

Zmira (Zelma) Cohen and family would like to thank everyone who was so kind to us following Eliakim's passing last May.

Cape Town is a warm and special community.

The consecration of the tombstone will take place on Monday 11 March at Pinelands 2 at 11.30 am

To place a family announcement, email: [chron@ctjc.co.za](mailto:chron@ctjc.co.za)  
or phone Tessa 021 464 6736 (am)

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## Parenting our Parents

**Caring for our ageing parents is a role reversal for which we're never really prepared. It can also be a rare opportunity to come to terms with the most important relationships in our lives.**

Having our parents become dependent on us is one of life's big milestones. However long we can see it coming, we are never really ready take responsibility for the people who gave us life and brought us up. This role reversal is disorientating at any age, but especially so in our middle years when we're grappling with somewhat of an existential crisis.

Our forties and fifties are typically a time of instability, when we're coming to terms with the fact that our youth is behind us, and trying to decide how we want to spend the rest of our lives. This also happens to be the time when many of us become responsible for our ageing parents, which both limits our choices and makes us more acutely aware of our own mortality. The result is often an awkward mixture of nostalgia and resentment.

Of course, we want to do everything we can to make the rest of their lives as comfortable as possible, as our parents have always been there for us. But, it's also common to feel trapped and guiltily afraid that the situation will go on indefinitely and who are we supposed to turn to now. Ambivalent feelings are entirely normal and can also be amplified by the fact that we can no longer to our parents for emotional support like a safety bubble that has burst, particularly if we see our parents suffering, unable to walk or hold a conversation. Seeing our parents age also forces us to admit that we too are growing older, but at the same time we lose perhaps our most important guide or mentor, leaving an empty space.

One can expect to go through the entire spectrum of grieving emotions losing a symbolic kind of anchor even if you've never been particularly close and you must grieve for this loss. If, on top of these complex feelings of grief, we take on too much practical responsibility, our health, relationships and careers can suffer. International research has shown that more employees take time off to look after their ageing parents than to look after their sick children. Furthermore, over-committed caregivers often develop stress induced illnesses and burn out, leaving them incapable of tending to their parent's needs.

It is important to remember that in deciding between homebased care or an old-age home, there is no one-size-fits-all solution and that our sense of obligation needs to be balanced by an acknowledgment of our limitations, both practical and emotional.

In the midst of this upheaval, dormant family conflicts often reappear. During the years we create our own adult lives, our habitual gripes and failed expectations of our parents lose much of their intensity. But having them rely on us can catapult us back in time, straight into the patterns at play before we left our childhood home. Their best may have fallen short, but we quickly realise that in the same position, we, too, can only do the same. So, for all its rawness and turmoil, the role reversal offers a rare opportunity to come to terms with feelings of resentment, and relate on the basis of real compassion.

Watching your parents age means losing a symbolic kind of anchor too. Unresolved issues may surface when we care for our parents as well as complex feelings of nostalgia and resentment, but this phase of life, with awareness is also a rare opportunity for healing and growth. There is more time to talk and more opportunities to connect.

It is important to know that our CJSA professional staff and other organisations working with the aged are able to provide both practical and emotional support for carers and their families, assisting to make this journey a pleasurable experience and the last gift our parents can give us.

*Diana Sochen Executive Director*

## Out and about with members



Author Maxine Case with Eve Alperstein



Adv Joy Wilkin with West Coast Member Alison Feldman



Milnerton Birthday Celebration. Members enjoying radio announcer and author, Sarah Jayne King's presentation

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

### Births

Phylis Friedlander — granddaughter  
Charlotte Schachat — great grandson

### Barmitzvah

Eric and Mel Breswick — son  
Liz and Selwyn Kantor — grandson  
Asher and Linda Saban — grandson

### Engagements

Thelma and Alec Cohen — granddaughter  
Les and Mickie Vides — granddaughter

### Marriage

Ellen Sternberg — grandson

### Anniversary

Selwyn and Liz Kantor 54  
Lilian and Trevor Lomofsky 60  
Leon and Eunice Movsowitz 60

Michael and Averil Myers 50

### Birthdays 80th

Sarah Daitch, Shirley Elvey, Arthur Jacobson, Ralph Sher.

**We extend our sincere best wishes to our members who have not been well**

Hannah Goetz, Tania Jacobson,  
**We extend our sincere condolences those who have lost family members:**

Claire Greenspan — husband, Martin Henry Nieuwenhuizen — wife, Jean

**We welcome new members to the CJSA family:**

Maxleigh Derman, Shelley Farber, Dale Matthews, Norma Mendelowitz, Helen Nathan, Tina Phillips

## Special Events March '19 — booking essential for all functions

### TWILIGHT SUPPERS

Sea Point 12 March  
Milnerton 28 March  
Wynberg 13 March

Charl Viljoen Broken Windows R60  
Dr Tzilli Reisenberger R70  
Advocate Judith Cohen, Human Rights Lawyer speaking on the Jewish Renaissance Programme R60

### OUTINGS MARCH

Southern Suburbs

4 March Water taxi on the canals R75  
11 March Big Bay R40  
18 March Casa Labia Cultural Centre R30  
25 March Bishopsford Nursery R50  
27 March Outing to Suikerbossie R40  
13 March Big Bay R40  
19 March Bishopsford Nursery R50

Milnerton  
Sea Point  
West Coast

### MEN'S SCHMOOZE

Milnerton  
Wynberg  
Sea Point

1 March 10.30 Rabbi Richard Newman R10  
27 March 10.00 Rodney Mazinter R10  
29 March 10.30 Tiny Jones R10

### SHABBAT SUPPER

OT AZEY

15 March Sea Point Booking Essential  
20 - 22 March in Sea Point



# Cape Jewish Seniors

<p>"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 1</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Paul West compares Christmas and the Tabernacles R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 2.00 Musical Appreciation with Doreen Kantor R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30. Outing to Lourensford Wine Estate in Somerset West. Enjoy the garden, artworks and enjoy tea for own account R50 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tues</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking point with Colin R10 10.15 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 2.00 Beginners Bridge with Irving R10 2.00 Yoga with Leina Sank R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Outing to the Jewish Museum to view <i>Operation Moses</i> and #Yallaybo Tea for own account R30 1.00 Kalooki set tables R10 1.30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line Dancing with Hannah Seinik R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please note that the annual subscription for membership to CJSA is now due. We do not send out invoices so this serves as notification to pay your 2019 membership.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R130</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 8</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In: A morning with Helen Pam, children's author R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00. Paul West compares Christmas and the Tabernacles R10 2.00 Musical Appreciation with Doreen Kantor R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing to the Jewish Museum to view two exhibitions: <i>Operation Moses</i> and #Yallaybo Tea for own account 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tues</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 10.15 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 2.00 Mosaic classes with Yvette R30 2.00 Beginners Bridge with Irving R10 2.00 Yoga with Leina Sank R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 17.30 Twilight Supper with Beryl Eichenberger <i>One City Many Cultures</i> R10 10.00: <i>Call Me By Your Name</i> Coming-of-age drama set in 1980s Italy R10 1.00 Kalooki set tables R10 1.30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line Dancing with Hannah Seinik R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Social Bridge R10. New members welcome 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 10.00 Outing to Lucy G Teashop and Craft Centre R30. Tea for own acc</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 15</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 NSRI a representative speaks on the work done to protect our coasts R10 2.00 Bridge R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Craft with Sonia Norrie: Decoupage R25 3.00 Shiur with Rabbi Bernstein R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing to Volksmund Coffee Shop R40</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesd</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 10.15 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10 2.00 Beginner's bridge with Irving R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Outing to Lucy G Teashop and Craft Centre R30. Tea for own acc 1.00 Kalooki, set tables R10 1.30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Social Bridge R10. New members welcome 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p> <p><b>Muizenberg</b> 10.30 Paul West compares Christmas and the Tabernacles R10</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday 22</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Easter Monday Office Closed</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesd</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina Sank R10 2.00 Beginner's Bridge with Irving R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.15 Outing to Cheetah outreach in Somerset West. R60. Tea for own acc 9.30 Kalooki R10 1.30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 10.00 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 29</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In: Rolene Miller, founder Gender Based Violence Organisation Mosaic, speaking on her book R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Barbara Miller of Ikamva Labantu on the work they do R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 10.00 Outing to Lucy G Teashop and Craft Centre R30 Tea for own account</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesd</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Marcia R10 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina Sank R10 2.00 Beginner's bridge with Irving R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Outing to the District 6 Museum R30. Tea for own account. 9.30 Kalooki R10 1.30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 10.00 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p>

DIRECTOR: Diana Sochen 021 434 9691 director@cjsa.org.za ADMIN: Amanda 021 434 9691 admin@cjsa.org.za www.cjsa.org.za

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# Events Calendar APRIL 2019



<p>day 2</p> <p>Sea Point 10.00 Craft with Yvette and Jeanette R20 1.45 Social Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 10.00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 2.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.00 Broth Zion Meets 10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 1.00 DVD Series <i>A Place to Call Home</i> R10</p>	<p>Wednesday 3</p>	<p>Thursday 4</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 JOY programme — interactive with Alon Ashel learners 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Kalooki R10</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.30 Paul West compares Christmas and the Tabernacles R10 1.00 Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 11.30 Pop In: Prof Richard Mendelsohn R10</p>	<p>Friday 5</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p> <p>Milnerton 10.30 Men's Schmooze A special morning with Tiny Jones R10</p>
<p>day 9</p> <p>Sea Point 10.00 Outing to the Jewish Museum to view <i>Operation Moses</i> and #Yallayebo. Tea for own account 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 10.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10.00 Men's Schmooze group with NSRI a representative speaks on the work done to protect our coasts R10 11.00 DVD Series <i>A Place to call Home</i> R10 17.30 Twilight Supper: Enjoy radio personality Nancy Richards R60</p>	<p>Wednesday 10</p>	<p>Thursday 11</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 JOY programme — interactive with Alon Ashel learners 10.00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 18.30 Twilight Supper Judith Cohen, ICC Liaison Officer at South African Human Rights Commission, speaks on the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project R60 Booking Essential</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.30 Pop In: with the Jubilee Dancers R10 1.00 Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 10.30 Paul West compares Christmas and the Tabernacles R10</p>	<p>Friday 12</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
<p>day 16</p> <p>Sea Point 10.00 Outing to Lucy G Teashop and Craft Centre R30. Tea for own account. 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 10.00 Knitting Morning. Bring your own knitting R10</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 11.00 DVD Series <i>A Place to Call Home</i> R10</p>	<p>Wednesday 17</p>	<p>Thursday 18</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 JOY programme — interactive with Alon Ashel learners 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Kalooki R10</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.30 Pop In: Gillina Lourenco, a qualified ASTAR facilitator (Awakening Spirit through Art) will demonstrate this process R10 1.00 Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 11.30 Author and Radio Announcer Sara Jayne King R10</p>	<p>Friday 19</p> <p>Good Friday Office Closed Erev Pesach</p>
<p>day 23</p> <p>Office Closed Freedom Day</p>	<p>Wednesday 24</p>	<p>Thursday 25</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 JOY programme — interactive with Alon Ashel learners 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Kalooki R10</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.30 Pop In Barbara Miller of Ikamva Labantu on the work they do R10 1.00 Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 10.00 Art with Sharon R35</p>	<p>Friday 26</p> <p>7th day Pesach. Office closed</p>
<p>day 30</p> 			<p><b>PESACH WINE</b></p> <p>CJSA Pesach wine now available. Kosher under Beth Din. Support our fundraising endeavour and enjoy our special wine. Don't be disappointed order early. They make lovely gifts too.</p> <p>R80 per bottle</p>

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: **S/Point:** Lara Stein 021 434 9691; **Milnerton:** Hajjera Safidien-Maloon 021 555 1736; **S/Suburbs:** Monique Nieuwenhuys 021 761 7960; **W/Coast:** Melanie van Emmenes 074 405 5186

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### Consider This

#### Last month I had the pleasure of teaching our *Jews By Choice* (JBC) class about Jewish theology.

Together we explored Jewish thinking about God from the biblical, medieval, modern and postmodern eras. One of the reasons I love to teach on this topic is because it allows me to reexamine various Jewish approaches to thinking about God and to reflect on and update my own thinking. As a woman rabbi who is proud to be the first woman rabbi in Cape Town as part of the Rabbinic Team of Temple Israel, which has been at the forefront of empowering women to take leadership roles in the Jewish community, I find that I am drawn anew to the thinking and writing of feminist theologian Judith Plaskow.

Judith Plaskow was the first Jewish feminist to identify herself as a theologian. A professor of Religious Studies at Manhattan College, she is both deeply learned in classical and modern Christian theology and also deeply committed to her own Judaism. As such, Plaskow's theology (thinking about God) was groundbreaking and distinct, responding to the feminist theologies of other religions. In shaping this theology, rooted as much in academics as it is woman-centered, Plaskow has distinguished herself as one of the most significant theologians of the twentieth century.

Plaskow co-founded *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* and has written among other things, the first ever book of Jewish feminist theology, published in 1991. In what is sometimes called her 'masterwork', entitled *Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective*,

Plaskow lays out a new, egalitarian approach to Jewish thinking.

In *Standing Again at Sinai* Plaskow calls attention to, and then moves past all the previously difficult areas of struggle within Jewish theology, like the way in which Jewish leadership is traditionally male-dominated and rooted in the patriarchal examples from Torah, or how we traditionally understand our sacred texts and retell the narrative of Jewish history from a male/patriarchal perspective, rooted in patriarchal privilege that has defined the community of Israel and how power is distributed within it.

Using the theological formulation God, Torah and Israel first taught by the Jewish theologian Franz Rosenzweig, Plaskow considers these terms in new ways. In her chapter on Torah, Plaskow argues for the application of methods learned in other feminist studies to uncover the history and culture of Jewish women while also acknowledging that these same methodologies aren't enough without also creating and sharing feminist midrash and liturgy to reshape and renew Jewish memory.

Plaskow's theology is rooted in her sense that Jewish feminists needed to reclaim Torah as their own. "We must render visible the presence, experience, and deeds of women erased in traditional sources," Plaskow writes. "We must tell the stories of women's encounters with God and capture the texture of their religious experience. We must expand the notion of Torah to encompass not just the five books of Moses and traditional Jewish learning, but women's words, teachings, and actions (as yet) unseen. To expand Torah, we must reconstruct Jewish history to include

## A feminist approach to theology

By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb

the history of women, and in doing so alter the shape of Jewish memory."

Plaskow focuses much of her thinking on the words with which the Torah has been written — the language of male patriarchy that permits and even condones the marginalisation of women. I am particularly drawn to Plaskow's discussion of the language and metaphors we traditionally use to describe God. Ultimately, Plaskow comes to the conclusion that in the post-modern world, many of these metaphors are in need of an update that reflects contemporary and egalitarian values.

Specifically, Plaskow explains how the male-oriented, authoritative names for God, such as 'Ruler', 'King' and 'Father', which promote a gender-based hierarchical structure are no longer appropriate in communities and societies where women play a major and (theoretically) equal role in society. Plaskow invites us to use terms for God that eliminate the sense of hierarchy and dominance

and better reflect the egalitarian society in which we live, or hope to live. She suggests naming God as 'Source of All', 'Fountain of Life', 'Companion' and 'Lover', in addition to using the traditionally accepted name for the feminine aspect of the divine, Shechinah.

Since the terminology we apply to God often reflects our aspirations to become godly or like-god, Plaskow highlights the problem with the traditional language of dominance: If God is Ruler, we must rule others in order to reach our godly potential. However if God is 'Lover', we can reach our godly potential by loving others.

What an incredible difference this approach to relating to God and to others would make if applied by us all! By shifting the ways we think and talk about God, we not only reflect and exemplify egalitarian values, but we might even change the world.

Kein Yehi Ratzon.



KTA & KTA NEXT

## Kabbalat Torah Academy success

In 2017 Temple Israel launched its highly successful post-Bnei Mitzvah programme.

KTA (Kabbalat Torah Academy) designed to give Jewish teens a chance to explore ethics and topics relevant to their own lives through a Jewish lens, as well as to have opportunities to develop their hadracha (leadership) skills. The programme also tasks participants with completing a comprehensive list of community-based volunteering and mitzvot. KTA is led by experienced Jewish educators from the Progressive movement, working with experienced madrichim (leaders).

In its pilot year, KTA graduated seven outstanding young members of Temple Israel. Three of these students were also able to take advantage of an opportunity to attend a Jewish leadership summer camp for youth in America, called the URJ KUTZ Camp Leadership Academy.

On 3 February, Temple Israel welcomed a new KTA cohort for the 2018-2019 year and the first cohort will now move on to KTA NEXT, the 2nd level of this innovative program. KTA NEXT will be overseen by Temple Israel's newest addition to the rabbinic team, Rabbi Emma Gottlieb. KTA NEXT, will focus more deeply on challenging issues relating to being a young Jew in South Africa in a time of change both at home and abroad.

Students will have the opportunity to travel to local museums and organisations to deepen the learning about their own history and identities.



Mazaltov to those who celebrated Bnei Mitzvah with us last month:



Thomas Kantor  
2 February



Zach Berman  
16 February

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## Facilities at Herzlia

**“I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.” – Albert Einstein.**

At Herzlia we pride ourselves on providing the conditions that allow us to be a world-class school that offers a brilliant Jewish and secular curriculum with a generous choice of extra murals. To deliver on our promise, we have invested a large amount of time and resources keeping our facilities in tip-top shape.

Technology plays a vital and integral role in our delivery of education and to this end we have installed a new fibre optic network connecting all the Highlands campuses from the High School server room to Admin House, Middle School, Media Centre and Highlands Primary. This has dramatically improved network capacity and speeds. With all our pupils in the Middle School using digital devices, this robust network has enabled a fast and smooth process for all our pupils and teachers. Furthermore, we have upgraded the infrastructure at Weizmann, Constantia and the Highlands Campus with much larger CISCO routers to cater for increased data demand. Backup servers installed at main campus will ensure little downtime and increased resilience in case of disaster (upgraded from 1GBS to 10 GBS).

We embarked on an extensive facilities upgrade programme that includes the Kerem playground where we installed Astro Turf and state-of-the-art play equipment. Alon Ashel has a wonderful new bike track and playground equipment whilst Dafna has a new atrium which serves as a multi-functional educational space. At the start of 2019 Gan Aviv saw the opening of a magnificent new playground for the younger group.

Weizmann has new netting for their AstroTurf football court and extended playground seating under shading. We built a brand new futsal court in the Middle School and fenced off the car park to provide an extended play area. Highlands Primary received a substantial investment in their Learning Centre including a magnificent equipment OT Room. Investment in Constantia over the years has seen the opening of a wonderful new artroom and Astro Turf play area.



*The magnificently equipped OT Room in the Learning Centre at Highlands Primary .*

**“At Herzlia we pride ourselves on providing the conditions that allow us to be a world-class school that offers a brilliant Jewish and secular curriculum with a generous choice of extra murals.”**



*Technology has changed the way we teach and the way pupils learn.*



Enjoying the new bike track at Alon Ashel.



Gan Aviv's magnificent new playground for the younger group.



The brand new futsal court in the Middle School.



Weizmann has new netting for their Astro Turf football court.



The world-class sound studio in the The Avril Kurgan Music Department.



The refurbished Library at Highlands Primary.



High School - Fun times in the JLL Lounge.

## An extraordinary account of cross-cultural harmony

By Maiyan Karidi

**We are living in a small Hindu village on the lesser known tropical island of Mauritius. Every morning, we awake to the familiar sound of the Muslim call to prayer from the adjacent village.**

**A**t night, we fall asleep to the chanting of the Hindu devotees at the Sai Baba Temple just behind our house.

Between the mosque and the temple, we are building our Sukkah (Tabernacle) for our festival of Sukkot.

This is Mauritius. Within a space of one kilometer one can find a Catholic church, a People's church, a Tamil temple, a Hindu temple, a mosque and a Buddhist temple. You may ask, "How can this be?". Well, it is. It exists, and in harmony.

Our doctor and our carpenter are Muslim, we buy our groceries from the Chinese, vegetables from Hindu vendors at the Sunday village market and we play music with the Creole of African descent who practice a kind of Catholic voodoo. We are Jewish. I can see you laughing!

One afternoon, my twelve year old daughter was invited by her Hindu friend, Sakshi, to the Sai Baba temple.

"Sure you can go" I said, "go and enjoy". I made sure she was dressed appropriately, and she happily

pulled out her Hindu attire, which she loved to wear to the numerous Indian weddings in the village. I had taught her the importance of cultural sensitivity and respect and she was fully aware of its importance.

A few hours later she returned with a big smile and a twinkle in her eye. I was curious.

"So, how was it?" I asked.

"Oh it was great, very interesting".

"So, tell me, what was interesting?"

"Well, they had a Xmas tree."

"A what? Where? In the temple?"

"Yes, with lights and all, quite beautiful and right in the middle of the temple."

"You must be joking! And what did you do there?"

"Well, they chanted, and I watched and enjoyed all the colors of the Saris and the Xmas lights. And then a crazy thing happened but you won't believe me."

"Go on, try me."

"After the chanting, everyone turned to look at the entrance and in walked Santa Claus!"

"No! Now you are having me on, tell me honestly."

"Really, I promise, ask Sakshi, except she doesn't seem to think anything is strange, like it's normal!"



*Mistorin, Tovi, Maiyan and Keshet Karidi*

"But, who played Santa Claus?"

"Oh, just one of the guys in the village, you know, from Mahatma Gandhi Road, dressed in the classic suit with a white beard and red hat and all. Wow, he must have been sweating under all that, it's so hot!"

"You're kidding me!"

"He even had a sack of presents to give out to all the kids."

I was astonished. It reminded me of our Sukkah, full of Indian ladies in their Saris enjoying our 'strange' shelter and chatting and laughing while they ate our traditional meal under the coconut palms. (A good substitute for date palms).

I wonder if there is any other place in the world where so much cultural fusion could take place in absolute

peace, acceptance and curiosity about each other's traditions?

A few months later, Sakshi came to remind me that the following day all of Mauritius would be celebrating the Chinese new year. Another festive public holiday for all to enjoy!

*The Karidis are an Israeli/South African artist family who have lived and worked in South Africa, Israel, Mauritius and Fiji. Maiyan studied art, anthropology and linguistics and was trained in mosaic restoration in Israel. Tovi studied ceramic design at Betsalel Academy of Arts in Jerusalem. He is also a sound engineer. Their children, Mistorin and Keshet have lived amongst different cultures for most of their lives. These stories form part of a series of experiences of Jewish identity in extraordinary locations.*



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## New Beginnings

PHYLLIS JOWELL IN 2019

Most people do not like change because it is the unknown that they fear. However, it is only when we embrace change that we experience new things and thereby show growth and improvement. Positive change means getting out of one's comfort zone and being prepared to start a new year by not merely repeating what was done the previous year. This year I look forward to taking on the huge responsibility and the honour of leading the PJ team. I look forward to supporting our pupils in becoming the best that they can be, staying true to our school's motto "Torah Im Derech Eretz." - Mrs Lizbe Botes



### Tu B'shvat in the Glen

The yeladim were able to experience the taste of the Shivat Haminim, the 7 fruits of Israel, which included a presentation from each class about each of the fruit.

- Morah Leah Silman

In times of change the way we are able to guide ourselves is by holding on to ideas and values we cherish. At Phyllis Jowell we are guided by our motto "Torah Im Derech Eretz", Torah with the way of the world. Giving a strong Torah foundation as well as educating children with the necessary skills to flourish in the 21st century.

- Rabbi Gavriel Ziegler



**Contact Details:**  
Tel: 021 438 4545  
Email: [reception@pj.org.za](mailto:reception@pj.org.za)



## What to do when someone passes away in your presence

Often in our Nechama column, we share Jewish thoughts on the spiritual journey beyond grief. This month's column will deal with the practical steps to be taken when someone dies in your presence.

- Remain calm
- Close the eyes and mouth of the deceased and straighten the arms and legs
- Remove jewellery from the deceased
- If possible, lift the deceased onto the floor with feet facing the door
- Cover the whole body from head to toe with a sheet
- Light a candle near the head of the deceased
- Open the windows
- Do not talk unnecessarily in the room
- Do not eat, drink or smoke in the room
- Contact the Chevra Kadisha – Mr Urwyn Treger on 082 570 8833
- The Chevra Kadisha will return your call to make arrangements to pick up the body of the deceased
- If the deceased was a male, give the Tallis of the deceased to the Chevra Kadisha when they arrive
- Contact the family Rabbi and/or local Shul
- Contact the family doctor or the doctor treating the patient in hospital
- Contact the family members
- Where possible, have a copy of the deceased's Identity Book
- When the Chevra Kadisha arrive be sure that they give you the Compassion Pack containing, amongst other items, a Handbook for Mourners, which will guide you regarding funeral arrangements and mourning practices
- In case of a loved one passing away over Shabbat or Yom Tov, contact Doves on 081 755 6770

# Glendale



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email: [office@glendalehome.co.za](mailto:office@glendalehome.co.za)

Glendale activities now on YouTube — search 'Glendale Cape Town'

Nechama



עִסָּךְ אֲנִי בְּעִרְוָה  
I AM WITH HIM IN HIS SORROW

*"I am trying to remember you  
and  
let you go  
at  
the same time"*

(the mourn — Nayyirah Waheed)

*BUT HOW DO WE DO THIS?*

Nechama is offering a support group for those who have lost partners or spouses through death irrespective of when the loss occurred.

Together with Psychologist, Lisa Michalson, and Nechama counsellor, Peta Feldman, we will explore how to adjust to living after losing one's partner or spouse.

There are two elements to this group: Support and education, normalising the grieving process and providing support through 'significant milestones' in our lives.

If you know of anyone struggling or wanting to be part of a supportive group, please pass on this information or you are welcome to bring them along.

Please contact the Nechama offices for more details.

**021 465 9390** or [admin@nechama.org.za](mailto:admin@nechama.org.za)

## AJC and CJC Conference in Cape Town

The African Jewish Congress held its Biennial General Meeting in Cape Town and was joined by senior representatives of the Commonwealth Jewish Council.

The honoured guests from London were Lord Jon Mendelsohn, the President of the CJC and Clive Lawton, its Director. The AJC, represented by Ann Harris, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, its CEO, Mary Kluk, President SAJBOD, and Executive member of the World Jewish Congress, Li Boiskin, were delighted to welcome seven delegates from Sub Saharan African Jewish Communities; Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and Swaziland. Kenya and Mauritius were the only countries unable to attend.

Each community representative reported on various aspects of its current position. It was unanimously agreed that this small but valuable organisation must continue its work. The importance and value of Rabbi Silberhaft's position as spiritual leader was unanimously agreed upon and Mrs Harris received an equally unanimous mandate to explore various avenues required to ensure continuation of the AJC's work.

Jevon Greenblatt of the national CSO reported on the current security situation in all African countries.

Clive Lawton presented a comprehensive overview of the work of the CJC, its communication with governments and communities throughout the Commonwealth and its commitment to help strengthen small communities all over the world, particularly through its small development fund from which Kenya and Mozambique have already benefited.

A citation was presented to Geoff Ramoghade, the Swazi representative, for many years of commitment to Swaziland education, the small Jewish Community and to Israel.

The business of the conference was followed by a glittering reception in the Palm Court of the SA Parliament. Guests included several high commissioners and consuls, including those from the UK, Singapore, Swaziland and Namibia as well as Cape Town Jewish community leaders.

The guests were delightfully entertained by a group of twelve 5-year-old singers, dancers and drummers from the Afrika Tikkun centre in Mfuleni.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER

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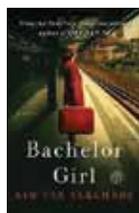
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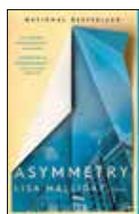
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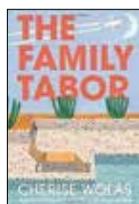
## FICTION



**BACHELOR GIRL** by KIM VAN ALKEMADE. A novel of an independent woman living in New York during the 20th Century Jazz Age is inspired by the true story of Jacob Ruppert and his mysterious bequest to an unknown actress Helen Winthrope. When Ruppert takes Helen under his wing, she forms a bond with his personal secretary Albert. Only after Ruppert's death are they able to confront the truth about their relationship to him and each other.



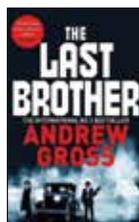
**ASYMMETRY** by LISA HALLIDAY. Told in three distinctive sections, Asymmetry explores the imbalances of human relations: inequities in age, power, fame and justice. 'Folly' details a romance between an editorial assistant and older writer, Ezra Blazer. 'Madness' is about Amar, an Iraqi-American economist detained at Heathrow and questioned about his brother in Iraq. In the final section, Ezra is interviewed about his life and the narrative fits together.



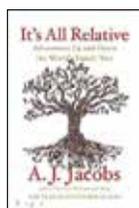
**THE FAMILY TABOR** by CHERISE WOLAS. Harry Tabor is to be named Man of the Decade for his philanthropic work in helping Jewish refugees find a better life in America. Gathered together in Palm Springs are his wife Roma, a child psychologist, his children Phoebe and Simon both lawyers and Camille, a social anthropologist. Set over a single weekend alternating between the five Tabors whose lives are built on lies and the price we pay for second chances.



**HAPPY LITTLE BLUEBIRDS** by LOUISE LEVENE. For Muriel Spark fans, a dazzling novel about a young woman thrust into the opulent world of 1940's Hollywood. Evelyn Murdoch is sent from England to help outwit the Los Angeles German delegation and boost the British propaganda war effort. Though initially bewildered by the glamorous excesses she soon finds it is a shocking place engulfed by antisemitism, bigotry and racism



**THE LAST BROTHER** by ANDREW GROSS. In this thriller, Gross dips into the garment business and organised crime in New York City in the 1930's. The Rabinowitz brothers had to fend for themselves after their father's death. With time, Morris became a factory owner helped by his accountant brother Sol. However, Harry was lured by the power of working for mobster Louis Buchalter. This story of family loyalty and crime puts brother against brother.



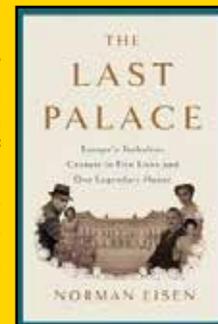
**IT'S ALL RELATIVE** by A.J. JACOBS. With his natural gift for humour, the author delves into his own genealogy and that of his wife as he chronicles his plan to have the largest 'family' reunion in history. Each of the short chapters is organised around a single topic such as the Mormons, the reliability of DNA testing, his Jewish heritage, how males dominate family trees and the reliance of the story of Adam and Eve. A hilarious look at the bonds that connect us all.

## GENEALOGY

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

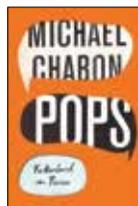
### *THE LAST PALACE* by Norman Eisen

Spanning a century, Eisen provides an engrossing account of powerful inhabitants of Petschek Villa in Prague. Otto Petschek built it in 1920; Rudolf Toussaint, a Nazi general put his life at risk for the house; Laurence Steinhardt, post war US ambassador struggled to save it from communist hands. Other ambassadors include Shirley Temple and Eisen himself. He weaves into narrative his history as the son of a Holocaust survivor.



**THE WEDDING PHOTO** by DAN A. OREN. Dan's journey began in 1993 when he visited a Polish cemetery and was unsure who was buried in his Grandmother Sarah's tomb. He continued researching his ancestry for over 25 years. The chapter bearing the title of the book focuses on a remarkable wedding photo taken in Vienna in 1926. A beautifully illustrated book addressing the mystery of what became of living individuals through the lens of genealogy.

## BIOGRAPHY



**POPS: FATHERLAND IN PIECES** by MICHAEL CHABON. A thoughtful meditation on the magic, mysteries and meaning of parenthood. He delivers a collection of insightful and wise essays on fatherhood as only Chabon can. He subtly demonstrates how his own relationship with his father, whom he clearly loved but found difficult and removed, influenced his own one with his children. He hopes his children will not be disillusioned about him in the future.

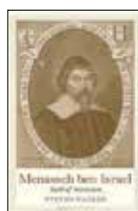


**UNACCOMPANIED MINOR** by ALEXANDER NEWLEY. A touching memoir of the son of stars Joan Collins and Anthony Newley. Beneath the glossy veneer of privilege and glamour is the story of Alexander's childhood and the disintegration of his parents' marriage. A portrait of London and Hollywood during the swinging 60s and 70s. Complementing his vivid prose are his artworks depicting the people who played a pivotal role in his early years.

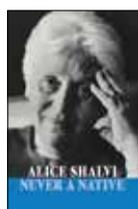


**ECHO OF A NOISE** by PIETER-DIRK UYS. A memoir, filled with photographs, of this South African satirist revealing the person behind the persona. From his forbidding musically driven Afrikaner father, his Berlin-born Jewish mother to his ma who raised him in Pinelands. Only after his mother's suicide did the family discover that she was Jewish. The book features his alter ego Evita Bezuidenhout as well as the joys and sorrows of his remarkable life.

## JEWISH INTEREST



**MENASSEH BEN ISRAEL** by STEVEN NADLER. An illuminating biography of this great-accomplished rabbi of the seventeenth century. Born in Lisbon he fled the Inquisition and was a successful preacher as well as book publisher. His life was filled with financial, personal and political woes. He also played a leading role in the campaign to readmit Jews back into England. His courageous efforts to educate Jews and gentiles within and beyond Amsterdam remain his legacy.



**NEVER A NATIVE** by ALICE SHALVI. Born a German Jew in 1926, her journey took her to exile in Britain and then to Israel in 1949. The book charts a life well-lived sustained in all things by her Jewish identity and love of home. She had a successful career whether at the Hebrew University, Pelech School for Charedi girls or as founder of the Israel Woman's Network. Her multiple honours include the Israel Prize for achievement and contribution to society.

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**1/7**

**ONE IN SEVEN JEWISH PUPILS** at HERZLIA received financial assistance with their fees in 2018.



**2 022**

**2 022 PUPILS** currently attend HERZLIA.



**THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST**

SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION

**A LOOK AT THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST BY THE NUMBERS**



**09**

There are **9 HERZLIA campuses** located in four suburbs around Cape Town.



**356**

The total number of teachers and support staff employed at HERZLIA.



**80**

**80%** of Jewish children living in Cape Town currently attend HERZLIA.



**120 000**

**R120 000** is the cost of one pupil's High School fees for 2019.



**13 000 000**

The total Rand value of bursaries and financial support provided in 2018.



**400 000 000**

Our goal is to increase the Endowment Fund to **R400 million** by 2020.



**7 000**

There are over **7000 Herzlia Alumni** living in 45 countries around the world.

**OUR VISION**



The Herzlia Foundation Trust vision is to future-proof UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS by building the Endowment Fund to ensure that no Jewish child is denied a Jewish education for genuine financial reasons; and that HERZLIA remains an affordable Jewish community school providing educational excellence with world-class facilities.

**THE MYTH**



There is a common misconception relating to bursaries and The Herzlia Foundation Trust: Full fee paying parents subsidise children who require a bursary and The Herzlia Foundation Trust is adequately funded. Not true.

**REALITY**



Bursaries are funded from the income received from The Herzlia Foundation Trust Endowment Fund, donations and from The United Jewish Campaign (UJC) – not from fees. Income from the Foundation's Endowment Fund only provides for a portion of the annual cost of bursaries. **The reality is that ONE IN SEVEN Jewish pupils at UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS currently receives financial assistance.**



[www.herzlia.com](http://www.herzlia.com)



For more information about The Herzlia Foundation Trust, contact **Amanda Zar** on **+27 21 286 3472** or **azar@herzlia.com**  
 South African, UK, USA and Canadian donors may be eligible for a tax deduction in respect of donations to The Herzlia Foundation Trust.  
**UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS IS THE SOLE BENEFICIARY OF THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST – PBO NO. 930038539.**

# Where is Kovno? exhibition still drawing crowds



**SAJM**  
South African Jewish Museum

The SAJM exhibition, *Where is Kovno?* has attracted a large number of visitors since December.

On Wednesday 6 February the Old Synagogue filled up with a crowd interested to hear artists Yda Walt and Cheryl Rumbak in conversation with author Mark Gevisser about the process of creating the exhibition.

The discussion centred around the artists' personal journeys back to Lithuania to uncover the history behind the extermination of the country's Jewish community. Their exhibition centred on the remnants that still remain, shrouded in silence, in the city of Kaunas (Kovno) and surrounding countryside. The informal conversation allowed for comments and questions from the audience, highlighting many of the emotions, issues and topics that the exhibition evokes in its viewers.

On the Sunday following the talk, 75 people attended the artists' walkabout, in which Cheryl and Yda presented each exhibit in detail and explained its inception. Participants had the rare opportunity to engage with an exhibition and its creators, resulting in a full and rewarding experience.



Museum visitors listen to the conversation between author Mark Gevisser and artists Yda Walt and Cheryl Rumbak



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18h00 - 20h30 *30 Years After*

**17 Mar** EXHIBITION OPENING  
**#YALLAYEBO**  
18h00 - 20h30 *A Photographic dialogue between South Africa and Israel*

**25 Mar** LEVERAGING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP  
18h00 - 20h00  
*Talk by Dr Rose Lerer Cohen*

**26 Mar** FILM SCREENING:  
**MY DEAR CHILDREN**  
18h00 - 20h30  
*The first in-depth, scholarly film about anti-Jewish massacres in Eastern Europe following WWI*



**SAJM**  
South African Jewish Museum

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# Cape Town's first children's palliative care hospice to open doors in 2020

By Jaime Uranovsky

## Rohan Bloom Foundation and Paedspal are set to open Cape Town's first children's palliative care hospice.

Palliative care is vital but is often a scarce and expensive luxury that is inaccessible to many South Africans.

While there are local palliative care hospices for adults, there are, shockingly, none in the city that cater towards children. The Rohan Bloom Foundation together with Paedspal, however, have dedicated themselves to opening and running Rohan House — the first specialised children's palliative hospice in Cape Town, which is set to start housing patients in early 2020.

Rod Bloom, whose son Rohan tragically passed away from Ewing's Sarcoma in 2016 at the age of 14, founded the Rohan Bloom foundation in the same year, as a way to honour his son's memory and to provide children in the Mother City with a sorely needed service — that of in-patient palliative care.

Rod shares, '[The hospice] has been our main goal from the very beginning.... This all came out of experience that I had while on the journey with Rohan: the lack of that facility.... There's no specialised children's hospice in Cape Town. Children are currently either passing away in hospital wards, where they are fighting for their lives, or they are passing away at home. Most of the kids come from underprivileged homes... so you've got situations in the Cape Flats and in the townships where families live in one room or they have ten people living in a house and the conditions aren't really conducive, because... the hospitals, like Red Cross, don't have the capacity to keep the kids if they're not treating them.'

The Rohan Bloom Foundation was established soon after Rohan's passing in 2016 and it was then that Rod teamed up with Doctor Michelle Meiring, the founder of Paedspal, an organisation that employs a holistic approach to palliative care for children. Rod adds, '[The decision to open Rohan House]

came about from my association with Michelle... We established a bond... during Rohan's terminal time and our many discussions were all about this lack of specialised facility hospice: palliative care to house children in their dying days. When Rohan passed away and the [Rohan Bloom] Foundation was put together,... [Michelle and I] decided we would join forces. Basically, [the Rohan Bloom Foundation] would find and build the house and [Paedspal] would operate the house... Paedspal consists of paediatricians, doctors, psychologists, healing therapists, physiotherapists... They are the professionals in palliative and hospice care, while [the Rohan Bloom Foundation] is doing the fundraising and putting the house together. So, it's all about... providing the comfort, love and care for patients and parents and siblings who are going through this traumatic time and journey.'

Like Paedspal, Rohan House aims to 'hold a whole family,' says Rod, as opposed to dealing solely with the patient. 'Paedspal provides therapy and help for the parents, the siblings and everybody involved with that child; they have a programme... We're going to take that system as well and put it into the hospice.' At Rohan House, accommodation and food will be provided for patients as well as for their parents or caregivers.

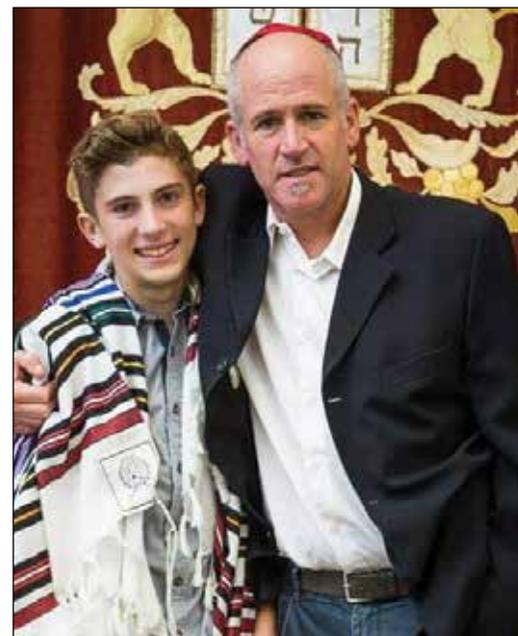
For Rod, 'It's about letting a child die in dignity and as pain free as possible and in comfort.' The facility will provide between eight to ten beds. Rod explains, 'Unfortunately, each bed is only taken for about one to two weeks... If the child is really deathly ill and terminal then they go to the hospice. It will be a nice little facility but there is going to be a greater demand and hopefully this will be the first of many — it's really desperately needed.' In South Africa, there are no public funds allocated to palliative care at all, let alone for children, so the Rohan Bloom Foundation's funding is all privately raised. Last year, the organisation officially launched the fundraising for Rohan House on the 24th of May — Rohan's birthday — and has organised various events since.

'We're looking at opening in about

a year's time; we've already purchased the house which we need to renovate. It's 1.2km from Red Cross, and [Paedspal's outpatient palliative care facility, which opened in 2016] is across the road from Red Cross, so we're all together.' While the Rohan Bloom Foundation is well on its way to opening Rohan House's doors next year, there is still a lot to be done.

Rohan House will have a profound impact on children with terminal illnesses, as well as on their families and communities. Indeed, Rod Reflects, 'When Rohan passed away, he suffered. He had a terrible... painful

ending... basically he lost his dignity... and I always said to myself afterwards [that] his sacrifice is going to allow other people to have that dignity and to die in peace. Another thing is that, because cancer is so rife, I made myself a promise that Rohan wasn't going to be another statistic: just another 'open and closed' child who dies from cancer and then is gone... That's another reason why I feel so strongly about keeping his



Rohan and Rod Bloom at Rohan's barmitzvah in 2014

legacy alive and that's the promise that I made, and I'm going to make sure that it does happen.'

You can follow the journey of the Rohan Bloom Foundation and Rohan House:

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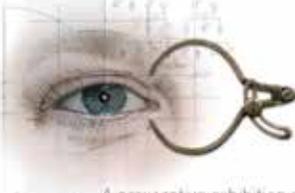
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**Tristan Gorgens** is the Acting Director for Human Development - the Policy and Strategy Unit, Department of the Premier, Western Cape Government. He has been involved with a number of NGOs working on community-driven development and disability rights.

**Chaeli Mycroft** is an internationally recognised ability activist. She is registered for a PhD in Human Rights Law at UCT. She was awarded the International Children's Peace Prize in 2011 and the Medal for Social Activism from the Nobel Peace Laureates in 2012.

**Dr Christine Peta** is a disability, public health and development care practitioner who was the first Zimbabwean to obtain a PhD in Disability Studies. She has made a significant contribution to furthering public health care and disability studies in Africa.

Introduction of recently published: *The Palgrave Handbook of Disability in the Global South*

**Dr Brian Watermeyer** is a Disability scholar and disabled (severely visually impaired) activist. He teaches postgraduate programmes in disability and clinical psychology, as well as a guest lecturer in medicine and rehabilitation science.

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## The high price of corruption

By Anton Katz

### Corruption has become a scourge in South Africa.

It poses a real danger to South Africa's developing democracy. The Government's ability to meet its commitment to fight poverty and to deliver on other social and economic needs is compromised. Corruption blatantly undermines the democratic ethos, the institutions of democracy, the rule of law and the foundational values of the constitutional project. It fuels maladministration and public fraudulence and imperils the capacity of the state to fulfil its obligations to respect, protect, promote and fulfil all the rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights. When corruption and organised crime flourish, sustainable development and economic growth are stunted. And in turn, the stability and security of society is put at risk.

In a statement preceding the text of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Kofi Annan observed: "This evil phenomenon is found in all countries big and small, rich and poor but it is in the developing world that its effects are most destructive. Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid. Corruption is a key element in economic under-performance, and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development."

South Africa, when it signed the UN Convention, stated: "Corruption is a common feature in all political systems, despite the differences that may exist in their governing philosophies or their geography. Nation-states are increasingly aware that corruption presents a serious threat to their core principles and values, and hinders social and economic development. As a result, there has been a growing acceptance of the need to address the problem in a coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable way."

In the famous Shaik trial, the Supreme Court of Appeal pointed out: "[the] seriousness of the offence of corruption cannot be overemphasised. It offends against the rule of law and the principles of good governance. It lowers the moral tone of a nation and negatively affects development and the promotion of human rights. As a country we have travelled a long and tortuous road to achieve democracy. Corruption threatens our constitutional order. We must make every effort to ensure that corruption with its putrefying

effects is halted. Courts must send out an unequivocal message that corruption will not be tolerated and that punishment will be appropriately severe." (Emphasis added.)

South Africa has for some time had strong laws dealing with corruption. And there are massive penalties for those convicted of corrupt activities. Yet South African society seems riddled with the cancer of corruption. Every level of government has been hit by the sickness.

Many different parts of the economic life of South Africa are affected. High level examples are in the mining industry, the catering at prisons, the collection of taxes, the roll out of social security, the allocation of fishing rights, and the provision of electricity. But even local issues, such as the issuing of driving licenses and the grant of zoning or building rights, have become corruption ridden.

So, why if such strong laws exist is there such a scourge? I suggest there are at least three answers: first, law enforcement agencies have been defanged. The investigating and forensic capacities of the police have been seriously weakened through the appointment of inexperienced, and sometimes captured officers and leaders. The same applies to the prosecuting services. They have had poor leadership for some years now. Internal politics at the National Prosecuting Authority have been intense and debilitating. There are serious suggestions of political interference in prosecution decisions. Many politically connected persons can conduct themselves with impunity. They are know they can literally get away with murder. Secondly, many government officials regard the public purse as their feeding trough. The taking of employment in the public service is not for altruistic reasons, but rather to self-enrich. The same with election to public office. A sense of entitlement has developed. Thirdly, over the years it became increasingly clear to private businesses that often the only way to obtain government contracts was through bribery and corruption. To be competitive in tendering for lucrative government tenders a backhand was necessary. So, a catering contract for prisons would be put out for tender.

The company that is successful puts in a far higher bid than the others. It paid the bid adjudicator millions in cash, and enjoyed the benefits of a ridiculously high priced catering tender. Who loses? The public, and particularly the poor directly. But when inequality is not addressed the whole society suffers.

How can this challenge be met? The past decade in South Africa has shown that constitutional institutions, such as the judiciary and the public protector which perform independently and without fear and favour, can at least identify the corruption to a degree. But the police

**The media are crucial in the fight against corruption. Without exposure, corruption will go on unabated.**

investigators and prosecutors also need to do their jobs.

What about civil society? The media are crucial in the fight against corruption. Without exposure, corruption will go on unabated. But, of course the media itself must be independent, and not be captured by particular criminal interests. Private business must also play its part in at least two ways: first, avoid the temptation to partake in corruption, and secondly fund those non-profit organisations which exist to advance

social justice. It was civil society that led the charge against State Capture. And civil society needs support. All those who care should be asking themselves:

how can I assist? There are so many ways. If funding a social justice organisation is not an option there are so many other possibilities. At schools learners can and should be taught about the issues. Accountants can give their time and skills to police or tax collecting investigators. Either by assisting in the work itself or helping up skill inexperienced government officials.

If we all work together to limit, if not eliminate, the corruption in society, then the wide spread poverty can start being addressed and social cohesion could become something of a reality.

*Anton Katz SC, a senior counsel practicing at the Cape Bar, was a member (2011 — 2018) of the United Nations Human Rights Council Working Group on mercenaries*



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**All Monumental Requirements**

# Israeli debating teams score big in South Africa

By David E. Kaplan

**While in November 2018, a Hamas delegation from Gaza visited Cape Town and called for Jihad against Israel, in January 2019, it was visiting Israelis doing the talking — but with a different message. Debating teams from Israeli universities won top honours at UCT (University of Cape Town) against the best universities in the world.**

Israel is full of surprises. Situated in one of the driest regions on the planet, Israel has far less of a water problem than Cape Town, which for Israel has an enviable supply. The answer to this anomaly might explain how a Hebrew-speaking country bested in debate, teams from the best universities in the world — notably Oxford and Cambridge.

The World University Debating Championships — the largest student-run event globally — was hosted by the University of Cape Town from 27 December 2018 to 4 January 2019 and included students from Malaysia, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States who descended on the city in hopes of becoming world champions. That honour went to Israel.

It was Israel's prestigious Hebrew University of Jerusalem debate team that won the World Universities Debate Championship in South Africa's 'Mother City', in the English Second-Language category, in other words, not in their 'mother' tongue.

Roy Shulmann and Elaye Karstadt competed against thousands of students from 20 countries winning the judges over "on stances on a multitude of current events."

In addition to Shulmann and Karstadt's defeat of the Russian, Malaysian and Japanese teams in the final round of the championships, the Tel Aviv University (TAU) team, made up of Israeli Debating League chairman Amichai Even-Chen and Ido Kotler, made it to the final rounds of the general Open competition, which included native English speakers from around the globe. They competed against some of the top universities in the world, including Oxford and Harvard.

"Debate is not only a sport, but rather a unique tool for the development of logical and rhetorical capabilities," said Shulmann. "It exposes students to a wide range of opinions, challenges their positions, and gets them to truly listen to the other side and answer



the heart of the issue instead of the heart of the person." Shulmann said he hoped to "encourage a different 'discussion culture', one that allows us as a society to hold a real dialogue regarding disputes."

This was a far cry from the Hamas spokespeople who in November proudly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Cape Town's parliament that stated South Africa "will work towards the full boycott of ALL Israeli products and the support of the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS) against Israel; and will ensure that ANC leaders and government officials do not visit Israel." And this MOU was signed only weeks after 500 missiles were fired in under 24 hours into Israel from Hamas-ruled Gaza — one of which struck a bus.

Hebrew University debate team chairman, Naama Weiss, said that the Israeli teams are "used to meeting students at the competitions from countries hostile towards Israel." They have to be.

Competing against the team from Malaysia in the finals, the Israeli debaters could not have put entirely out of their minds that the antisemitic Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, has banned entry to Israeli paraplegic swimmers to compete in his country that will be hosting the World Para Swimming Championships in July.

Mahathir has faced accusations of antisemitism for decades, frequently describing Jews as "hook nosed" and said that "Jews rule the world by proxy."

Despite this, there were only "good vibes" between the participants of the competing countries at UCT. "We never felt different," said Weiss. "We actually become friends with them. It is important that we hold discussions with those that disagree with us, as well."

Israeli debate teams achieved

multiple successes throughout 2018. The same team of Even-Chen and Kotler, won last August the European Universities Debating Championship in Serbia in the English Second Language category. In that same competition, Noam Dahan and Tom Manor, also of Tel Aviv University, won the Open competition.

However, the international competition in Novi Sad, Serbia was not all fun and 'debates'. The Qatar representatives repeatedly refused to participate in debates in which they were competing against Israel, stating on multiple occasions that they refuse to debate alongside an "apartheid state." This is the same Qatar that is spending billions to build hotels, subways, shopping centers and stadiums ahead of the World Cup in 2022 but those working on the projects are mostly foreigners who are poorly paid and poorly housed, hidden from the rest of Qatari society, like outcasts. These wretched and abused workers live on the edge of the dream that they help build but are precluded from experiencing.

Nevertheless, despite Qatari hypocrisy and attempts to politicise a major debate tournament by refusing to engage with students from Israel, the two Israeli teams topped the European Universities Debating Championship in Serbia.

Its efforts to boycott debating Israel, ended up by getting BDS banned from European debates.

The fact that Israeli university debating teams do so well internationally may be partly explained by Israeli schools being big on debating too.

Students are given topics — sometimes with just an hour or two to prepare — and told which side they represent. They often find themselves arguing the opposite of their personal beliefs. "That's the idea," said Maya Levi, 18, of Ohel Shem school in Ramat Gan. "In

debate, beyond learning rhetoric, you learn how to think and see an issue from both sides. The challenge is stepping into someone else's shoes when it's not your point of view."

The Israeli national high school debate team won the EurOpen debate competition in Stuttgart, Germany in November 2018, raising eyebrows for going undefeated for all 12 rounds of the competition.

The team beat 37 of the best debate teams in the world, including those of Germany, China and the USA.

Unbeaten throughout all twelve rounds was a rare achievement in debate, particularly for a team comprised of non-native English speakers.

Two of the members on the team, Maya Carmon and Omer Zilberberg, are students at the Atid High School for Arts and Sciences in Lod. The other students on the team, Tamir West and Tomer Zucker, study at the Israel Arts and Science Academy in Jerusalem and at Oleh Shem High School in Ramat Hasharon, respectively.

"It was a privilege to witness the team making history," said Elijah Kochin, the team's coach who accompanied them to Stuttgart.

"This generation of debaters is very talented," said Miriam Kalman, a coach assisting the team leading up to the world championships in Sri Lanka. "We are looking forward to more success at the World Schools Debating Championships in 2019."

Retired senior examiner for the English matriculation in Israel and who co-authored two English school textbooks, Stephen Schulman, expressed "hats off to our debaters" on hearing the results of the debating teams from Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University at his alma mater — UCT. Shulmann felt a particular pride that Israel debaters made their mark in Cape Town where he grew up and was a member of his school's debating society. "A true debater needs to be imbued with powers of eloquence, be a good listener, be sensitive to his or her audience and have a quick and ready wit to win over others. Our university teams showed that they possessed all these qualities to an outstanding degree and I feel a great pride by their showing South Africa and the world the fine intellectual standards of our students."

This all augurs well for Israeli spokespeople in the future.

**It was Israel's prestigious Hebrew University of Jerusalem debate team that won the World Universities Debate Championship in South Africa's 'Mother City'**

**They often find themselves arguing the opposite of their personal beliefs. "That's the idea," said Maya Levi, 18, of Ohel Shem school in Ramat Gan.**

# JEWISH LIFE ON <sup>& off</sup> CAMPUS!



## Modern Maccabees | Chabad on Campus Student Leadership



**MATAN TRAUBE —  
Creative Director**

I have always believed that the heart of the community lies in its youth. In order to sustain the Jewish community of the Western Cape, we must invest in the younger generation and create a space for them to grow, learn and explore their Judaism. I hope that through my own journey of Judaism I can assist others down their paths.



**DANI WILCK —  
Chesed Club**

I have chosen to be a Chabad student leader as I want to be a part of change within the world and within the Jewish community. I want to bring together the increasingly disconnected community. My vision is to have a more united community, where everyone is involved and is eager to participate.



**GABRIELLA LIPSHITZ —  
Events Coordinator**

I have a passion for contributing to the building of the Jewish community. I want to make sure that all Jewish students have a place where they are comfortable and welcomed. I want to be a part of creating a welcoming, fun and social environment where Jewish students can meet, interact and connect. I also want to grow the community to reach students that would not necessarily be involved in Jewish circles.



**FRANKI SILBERMANN —  
Rosh Chodesh Society**

I believe that Chabad on Campus is an amazing community with so much to give and so much potential. One of the areas that I will focus on is bringing Jewish girls together on a monthly basis. I am passionate about connecting girls from different walks of life through their Judaism. I want to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable and accepted.



**GIDEON MENDELOWITZ —  
Outreach**

I'm really excited to be a Chabad member as it allows me the opportunity to give of my self and have an impact on the Jewish community. I see my self as being creative and innovative and am excited for the journey. My vision is to try increase people's love of Judaism and make the Jewish community in Cape Town bigger and more welcoming.



**MAXINE NORRIE —  
Events Coordinator**

Chabad creates a Jewish feel and environment on campus. It perpetuates and upholds Jewish beliefs and traditions on campus. I think the fact that I align and identify with these beliefs enables me to assist in any way possible and ensure that Judaism remains prevalent post-school. Varsity students are the upcoming leaders of society and business people. Ensuring that religion, knowledge and tradition remain strong ensures people remain in touch with and gain further from their religion.



**MATTHEW ROSENTHAL —  
Campus Life**

I care for the community and believe that being a Chabad student leader allows me to give back to the community. I believe that I am capable of doing this through my skills as a leader and a semi-professional organiser. I want to create an environment where people feel 'at home' and cared for. I also envision a platform where it is easy for people to give back to the wider campus community through various charity platforms. I want our student community to be viewed as generous and caring.



**KEVIN POGRUND —  
Development Officer**

As a Jewish Capetonian, I have a vested interest in the continuation of the Cape Town Jewish community. A connection with their Judaism and participation in Jewish events like Shabbos and the Chaggim. I want to thank everyone who supports our community. Your funds provide a Jewish home away from home for many, including those from out of town who come from a range of levels in Yiddishkeit.



**CARLY SOICHER —  
Chesed Club**

I believe I achieve and succeed, and those qualities allow me to encourage others to do likewise. I've chosen to become a Chabad student leader because I feel I have the qualities of being kind, creative, responsible and organised — qualities that aid me in helping people, inspiring them to achieve their goals/missions in life — that truly gives me a 'kick' in life. Growing our community by enabling Jewish students to feel comfortable, at home and offering a safe haven to practise their religion. I would love more students to be proud of their religion and have a desire to attend more Jewish gatherings.



**AARON FLEISHMAN —  
UCT Chair**

I believe in what we are doing and will use my strengths as a leader, a motivator and a thinker to take Chabad from strength to strength. I want us to grow even more than we have already but for this year I would especially like to involve some of the Capetonian students who are not as involved. Without Chabad on Campus, I would not have had a Jewish home in Cape Town. I wouldn't have had the opportunity to grow as a Jew nor find the Jewish friends that I have. Chabad on Campus is bringing Jews together and I love that.



**AARON SHERMAN —  
Educational Programming**

I chose to be on the CHABoard because as a Jewish student I believe that we need to continue, nourish and grow Yiddishkeit in other Jewish students that wouldn't have the opportunity without Chabad on Campus. I want every Jewish student to feel that they are part of the Jewish community and feeling that Chabad on Campus can be a place where they can practice and explore their religion. Without Chabad on Campus, I would have lost a lot of love for my Yiddishkeit and essentially would be losing a part of myself. This is why I believe that Chabad on Campus has a vital role in the community.



**DANIEL LEVENSTEIN —  
Exchange Student Engagement**

I have recently come back from a semester abroad and I believe I have seen what exchange students studying abroad need from our local Chabad perspective. I am very well connected amongst the foreign exchange community and I can help integrate the local Jewish community with the Jewish exchange students. My vision is to keep this community growing from strength to strength and keep the light of Judaism alive and strong in Jewish students lives.



**JASON SMITH —  
Communications**

I have been a member of Chabad on Campus since I started UCT in 2016. I would like to translate this passion into positive leadership and be part of inspiring new members. I have the ability to get people energised to participate in projects that I believe in and I'm looking forward to doing this! Thank you to all our donors for allowing us to create our own Jewish fraternity, you give us students a sense of belonging and security.

## USING MY NUDEL

## So much to be grateful for

By Craig Nudelman



**After three and a half years, my daughter's worst nightmare became a reality. The 'Dummy Fairy' arrived on 2 February and took all Jessie's dummies away.**

Now, this wasn't easy for Jessie or my wife. Every half an hour Jessie came into our bedroom and asked Gabi to escort her to bed. This wasn't ideal, as our three-month-old, Livi, decided that her wake-up time was 4am. It was not a very happy Sunday morning in the Nudelplace. However, the Dummy Fairy didn't just come and take things away.

She gave gifts for the rest of the week, to thank Jessie for the new dummies which would grace Dummyland. Every night Jessie received a little present. The first was a great gift — a Rapunzel Lego set — a real winner. The next, a 'My Little Pony' toy from China Town, was also a success. But the third gift, some Disney princess stickers, was not well received. In fact, we heard the disappointing whine emanating from our threenager for most of the day. Not only that, but she was already contemplating her next gift.

How grateful are we for the things in our lives? I have a roof over my head, a wife who loves me (she says so, so I believe her #shalombayit) my two beautiful daughters to give me Yiddishe nachas (#blessed), and a great job which makes me wake up feeling good (albeit a bit exhausted) every morning #schooliscool. I also have an amazing network of family and friends. But there is always a part of me that wants more. The same day that Jessie was complaining about her stickers, I saw the coolest thing on OneDayOnly.com. It was an electric kettle which had Bluetooth connectivity and could connect to your phone — you could make the kettle turn on while you were still in bed! What a great invention! Although we had a perfect kettle, I really wanted it. My current kettle just doesn't meet the 'cool' criteria like the other. And so, I didn't get the amazing kettle of my dreams. I realised, through my very smart wife, that it didn't make sense to buy it (she used the term 'waste of money'...) and I should just be happy with the perfectly-adequate kettle that we own.

This idea of gratitude can be found in the Torah, for example in the description of Israelites wondering in the desert. *Hakarat ha-tov* was not one of their finest qualities. In fact, they were rather ungrateful. Britain's former Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks, speaks to this and their terrible behaviour in this time of incredible miracles. They complained

about the dangers they faced from the Egyptians, about the manna and the lack of meat and vegetables, and of the inhabitants of the land they were about to enter. Rabbi Sacks writes that "they lacked thankfulness in a difficult time." Moses expands, saying that this attitude could lead to a lack of gratitude in good times. He warned:

"...do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery ... Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' (Deut. 8:11-17)".

This is so true of the times in which we live. We always have to have the newest iPhone, the greatest car and the best job (which is often defined by the size of the paycheck!).

The Zondo Commission of Enquiry is exposing how rotten our government and its apparatus was, and still is. Internationally, President Donald Trump's campaign was all about Making America Great Again, trying to get more when there was plenty there. Brexit is a similar story. And in Israel, we are witnessing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption charges coming to a fore, with the Attorney General about to make the decision about whether he should indict him for accepting gifts, which could constitute bribery.

However, we are not all trying to keep on taking without being thankful. I learned about gratitude last year, notwithstanding the unpleasant form it took. My wife, from just a scratch on the nose, got a staphylococcus infection which quickly led to septicemia. I was very close to not being able to celebrate my 5th wedding anniversary in January. I will be forever thankful to my family, friends, and the most amazing community network we are fortunate to have in Cape Town. I am also very grateful for Sir Alexander Fleming's accidental discovery of antibiotics, which saved Gabi's life.

Today, we should be more thankful than ever. We have the most incredible medical advances. We have the technological advantage of unprecedented access to information, although whether this is a blessing or curse can be debated.

I hope that you find something to be grateful for, from the smallest of smiles by a passerby to thanking the universe for something extraordinary that occurred. As Aesop said, "Gratitude turns what we have into enough."



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*We look forward to meeting you on 25 March, 2019 at 18:00 at SAJM — South African Jewish Museum, 88 Hatfield Street Gardens.*

**Contact me: Rose Lerer Cohen PhD.**

[rlerercohen@kinsearch.com](mailto:rlerercohen@kinsearch.com)

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