

★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 36 No 3

Pesach Edition

APRIL 2019

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Community Directory
to find links to the
websites of Cape Town's
Jewish organisations all
in one place.

A life of service acknowledged at Top Contributor's launch



Barry Levitt and Marco van Embden present Nina Kovensky with the Gerald Kleinman Award for Outstanding Service to the United Jewish Campaign.

See page 8 for more

Premier candidate meets with community leadership

Alan Winde, the Democratic Alliance's Premier candidate, met with the Cape Board as part of its pre-election initiative to engage with all political parties in the lead up to the

Great Cape Debate to be held on 14 April.

This evening will be an opportunity to hear Western Cape political party leaders face-off ahead of the upcoming elections.



As part of the meeting, Mr Winde was given a tour of the SA Jewish Museum by museum director, Gavin Morris

See page 11 for more

The cherry on top for Morasha



Cape SAJBD Chairman Rael Kaimowitz, with Rabbi Sam Thurgood, placing rimonim onto Bet Midrash Morasha's Sefer Torah

After the fire in December that damaged Beit Midrash Morasha and burned the contents of the ark, the Cape SAJBD donated very special silver rimonim to the shul to replace those that were destroyed.

These rimonim, made in 1860 Vienna, had been looted by the Nazis and given to the Board by the US Army as part of the 'Jewish Reconstruction'

programme, on the understanding that they would one day be given to a community who needed them.

Seventy years after these rimonim were stolen from a synagogue, they are once again adorning a Sefer Torah, fulfilling the reason for which they were so lovingly made nearly 160 years ago.

See next month's Chronicle for the full story

Chabad on a catamaran

This year's Chabad on Campus launch brought together over 120 students on the *Mirage* catamaran to celebrate the start of the academic year.



Jake Deats, Avi Lurie, Adam Gorin and Joseph Marcus

See page 58-59 for more

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Standard Bank — Branch: Thibault Square; Branch code: 020 909; Account no: 070 703 493; Acc name: The Cape Jewish Chronicle Trust; Acc type: Current

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Lindy with a why

Why Judaism (and Pesach) is about the journey



By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

“Why can’t we just keep Pesach for two days? All my friends do!”

This question was posed to me by my eldest the other night at bedtime.

I immediately started to answer that we keep all eight days because we are commanded to, and those are the rules of Pesach, and I may have mentioned excommunication... but really. There are so many rules we don't follow, why am I such a stickler for *this* one?

The answer is that I'm not sure. It seems I've drawn a line in the sand somewhere along the path of our Jewish practice. Some Jews eat milk and meat, but would never eat pork. Some eat pork but wouldn't dream of not having a bris for their son, some keep kosher but don't keep Shabbat. Although we keep a kosher kitchen, we don't keep kosher out, but on Pesach we keep kosher everywhere.

We've all drawn our lines in the sand somewhere, and these arbitrary lines we draw are deep. “How could you possibly *do* that!?” we think, judging someone else's infringement, while merrily continuing with our own. And yet, as a lovely friend of mine told me once, if we aren't somewhat hypocritical, we end up doing nothing.

I then reminded myself that each mitzvah I do stands on its own merit, regardless of the other mitzvot I choose to do or not. Isn't that wonderful? Any small bit we do counts and we don't have to be perfect, we just have to continue on the journey, trying to improve as we go.

And isn't that how it is with parenting too? We love our children, and we even like them most of the time. We look for good things they've done, even when it feels like a stretch. “You didn't bite anyone today, well done!” or “You licked the corner of that piece of broccoli, yay for healthy choices!”

I think Gd might be the same. Every little thing we do right is noticed and applauded. Every time we choose not to gossip, or chose to see things with a good eye, it's a star on our charts.

So I formulated an answer for my eldest child (and myself): “Hashem gives us free will, but really hopes that we will do something to follow His commandments. Any little mitzvah is a connection to Him. Keeping Pesach is a mitzvah that you can do relatively easily, as all the logistics of kashrut during Pesach are handled by your parents. All you have to do is eat the food I make you. The fact that some of your friends keep two days is wonderful! Everyone does as much as they can. And in our house, we can do the full chag, and so we do.”

I reminded her about the Seders, and the fun to be had, and the week of no school, and how I looked forward to her beautiful singing and how this year her birthday *doesn't* fall on Pesach, so a ‘real’ cake can be had on the day.

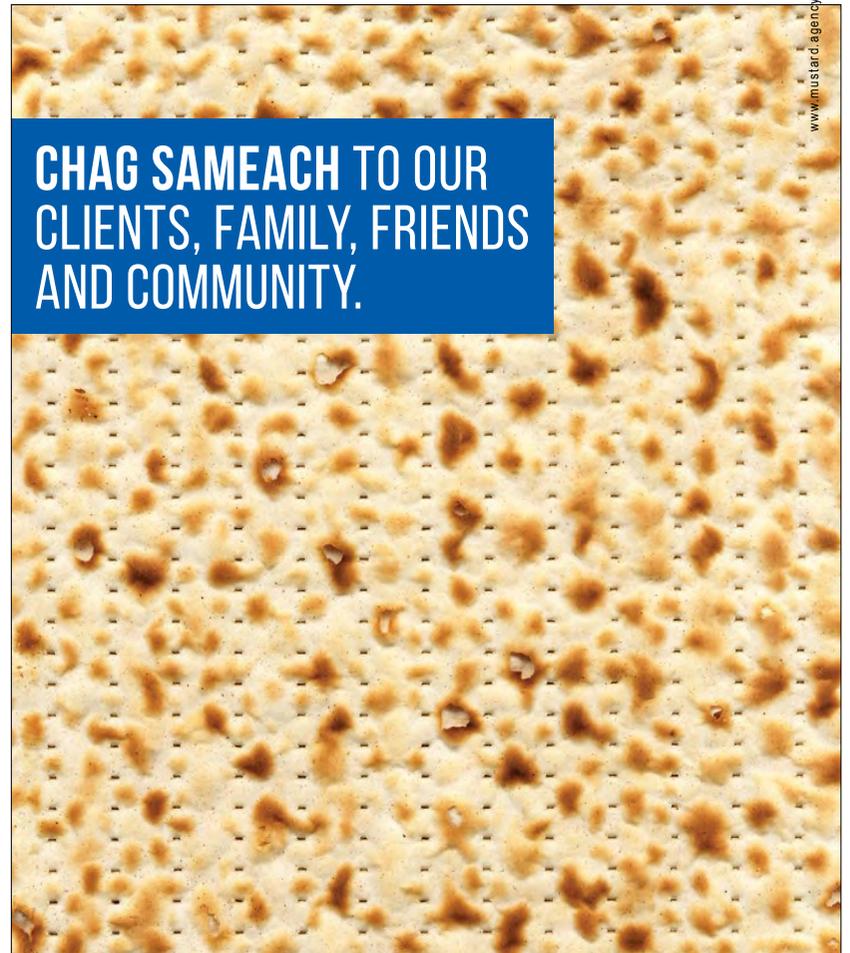
I conjured up images of Mitzraim, and slavery, and having to rush to escape into the wilderness (another Jewish journey). I was one step short of bursting into songs from the soundtrack of *Prince of Egypt*.

She nodded sagely. “No, I know all that, Mom. I get why we keep Pesach and I'm really looking forward to it... I just hate eating matza!”

Sometimes I should ask for the reason before launching into what I think is the explanation.

No matter where you draw your lines in the sand, I hope it's a special time for you. I find Pesach to be an opportunity to think about gratitude, and the theme of this issue's contributions from readers reflects this. And remember, we don't have to be perfect, we just have to continue on the journey, trying to improve as we go.

Chag Kasher v'Sameach.



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Community Noticeboard

YOM HASHOAH VEHAGEVURAH

Ceremony will take place on Thursday 2 May at Pinelands No 2 from 12.45 – 2.00 pm

CT HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

South African premiere and launch of the International Genocide Screening Campaign.
First They Killed My Father
Wednesday 17 April 6 pm CT Holocaust and Genocide Centre.
To book see page 47

Memorial Ceremony:
25th Commemoration of Genocide against Tutsis in Rwanda.
Sunday 7 April 2.00 pm
See page 47

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Coming soon to a circus tent near you
Zip Zap Circus Thurs 9 May 2019
See page 17

SAVE THE DATE!! UJW AGM

86th Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 30 May, 10.00 am, Hellenic Community Centre, Mouille Point.
See page 43 for details

CAPE SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

The Great Cape Debate
WC political party leaders face-off ahead of the upcoming election.
14 April 6.30 – 8.00 pm
See page 11 for booking details

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

Operation Moses 30 Years After
Operation Moses was the secret airlift of around 7 000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1984 and 1985.
#YALLAYEBO. South Africa and Israel through the lens of four instagrammers.



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)
www.jewishcare.org.za

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Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
5 April/29 Adar 2	Tazria/Hachodesh	6.15pm	6.18pm	7.09pm
12 April/7 Nissan	Metzarah/Hagadol		6.09pm	7.00pm
19 April/14 Nissan	1st day Pesach		6.01pm	
20 April/15 Nissan	2nd day Pesach		6.53pm*	6.51pm
25 April/20 Nissan	7th day Pesach		5.54pm	
26 April/21 Nissan	8th day Pesach		6.46pm*	6.44pm

*To light candles from an existing flame

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

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Executive Director: UHS

If you will it, It is no dream. - Theodor Herzl

Entering its 80th year, United Herzlia Schools (UHS) is one of Cape Town's most prominent academic institutions and a leading light in Jewish education. With over 2000 pupils from pre-school through to Grade 12, and 400 staff working across 9 campuses, the school is looking to recruit an Executive Director to work with its directors and senior management as part of its long-term succession strategy. Reporting to the Board of Governors, the incumbent will be responsible for:

- Driving the development and implementation of a world class education strategy, in conjunction with all stakeholders.
- Ensuring the medium and long term financial sustainability of the institution.
- Developing a culture of excellence and accountability.
- Ensuring the preservation of the Jewish ethos of the School.

With at least 8 years of executive experience, preferably within the educational industry; the ideal candidate should have a relevant post graduate degree in education and/or management as well as a proven track record of managing change.

- **Location:** Highlands Estate, Cape Town
- **Nature of contract:** Full-time, Permanent
- **Salary range:** Market-related CTC Package
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Deadline for applications: 18th April 2019

If you have not been contacted within 2 weeks of submitting your application, kindly consider your application to have been unsuccessful



Western Province Priorities Board & Planning Board

Notice is hereby given that all Jewish organisations in the Western Cape contemplating Capital Expenditure in excess of R1 million for major fundraising activities must give preliminary notice of such planned projects and activities.

The same requirements apply to the sale of communal assets, including immovable property in excess of R1 million.

All communications must be addressed to:

The Chairman or The Director
W P Priorities and Planning Board
P O Box 4176, Cape Town 8000
E-mail: priv@ctjc.co.za

The Priorities and Planning Board draws the attention of the Jewish public to the necessity for proper financial planning so as to avoid excessive and inappropriate use of communal funding.

All Jewish organisations and institutions in Cape Town unanimously supported the establishment of the Priorities Board, which it viewed as being of major importance. The community empowered the Board to take steps to prevent Jewish organisations from spending funds on alterations or acquiring new buildings in excess of R1 million without the Board's authority. Similarly, this applies to the sale of communal assets of all immovable property. All such expenditure or planned disposal should be referred to the Board accompanied by the relevant information.

The Priorities and Planning Board is also required to monitor, regulate and control contemplated major fundraising. All relevant information in regard to such proposed activities must also be brought to the Board.

Whilst the Cape Jewish Chronicle can be used to publicise proposed fundraising and/or community functions, under no circumstances may it be used with wording that can be construed as directly soliciting funds from the community.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that no fundraising by any beneficiary organisation of the United Jewish Campaign (W. Cape) or other recognized organisation may take place during the first 6 (six) months of the year, ie January – June.

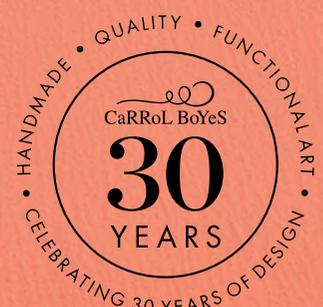
The Board was given the power, in the event of a transgression, to advertise through the general and Jewish press calling upon the Jewish public to refrain from supporting any unauthorised project.

All Jewish organisations are requested, in the interests of orderly communal funding, to co-operate with the Priorities and Planning Board, in terms of this notice.



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DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

A reflection on this year's theme

By Lindy Diamond



Moshe Silberhaft
page 25



Joel Merris
page 31

When we wish goodness on ourselves and others, it is rarely with limitations. We want an abundance of the good stuff; health, wealth and happiness. Pesach reminds us that even some small part of the happiness we hoped for is worthy of our gratitude.

Whether we sing every stanza loud and proud or mumble through them, the chorus of "Da, Dayeinu" is unapologetically clear in its gratitude for every tiny bit of good that came to us and by singing this song we define each act that we believe we should be grateful for. This is no generic Thank You note. Dayeinu is an interconnected list of all the good stuff, punctuated by reminders of how we would have been grateful if the list had ended there, or there, or there. And perhaps we could be more grateful in our everyday lives if we sang our blessings out loud, one by one.

This month, I asked community

members to write a piece on what *Dayeinu*; a template for gratitude meant to them.

I like to keep these themes quite broad, as getting people to write content is, at the best of times, a lot like herding cats. But they have all sent in something personal and interesting to read and in the spirit of everything I have said above, I thank each of you who made this possible.

Thank you Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, for making me laugh with the crazy anecdote. Thank you Jamie Kawalsky, for the trip down memory lane. Thank you Adam Zartz, for your heimish reflection. Thank you Simon Apfel, for the one-line bio I had to read four times. Thank you Elan Lohman, for telling us about your journey. Thank you Rabbi Emma Gottlieb, for being a trailblazer. Thank you Joel Merris, for your important reminder. Thank you Adam Selikowitz, for the beautiful reflection. How lucky I am that I get to curate these precious pieces of writing.



Emma Gottlieb
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Adam Zartz
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Jamie Kawalsky
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Adam Selikowitz
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Elan Lohman
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Simon Apfel
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USING MY NUDEL

Slaves to the System

By Craig Nudelman

I love TV. It's an amazing resource for just about anything.

When I was growing up I learnt a lot from that wondrous big black box in the lounge. I wasn't just raised on *Gummy Bears*, *Biker Mice from Mars*, and *TaleSpin*. We also had educational shows which contributed to my curious mind.

Today there are more amazing TV shows on offer than we could watch in a lifetime. So many conversations with friends and family end up on the subject of a new TV show that "you have to watch, it will change your life!". And now, Netflix is the word on everyone's lips. The new *Wonder of the Modern World*, a modern Lighthouse of Alexandria, is constantly adding something new to its programming, creating content for viewership from 18-months-old and up. What's truly remarkable about this revolution is that this is just the beginning.

A study done in 2018 by the University of Leicester said that, taking into account eating, sleeping and other normal functions during the day, and average person can watch

a total of nearly 14 hours of Netflix per day. That said, how long would it take to watch everything on Netflix? Automated Insights looked up everything you can watch on Netflix and approximated that it would take 34739 hours to watch everything. That is three years, 202 days, 12 hours and 14 minutes. So, going back to the original study, taking everything into account, it would take you six years, 10 months and 15 days to watch Netflix as, essentially, a full-time job.

Now Netflix has by no means become a full-time job, but I can sometimes sit for hours deciding what to watch. When I'm using multiple streaming platforms, this can take up more time than an actual show! The question is whether all these options, this enormous array of small screen shows is adding to our quality of life or making us lose our way? Is our lack of control of our TV screen making our TV control us?

As Jews, we know a thing or two about being controlled, the best example being Pesach. We all know the story of Pesach and how we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. G-d heard our cries and sent Moses

to deliver us out of our bondage. We celebrate and commemorate our freedom each year during our Seder. Our chag, which is the origin story of the Jews, is told to us and our children. It is the most joyous of our festivals, the most interactive, the most exciting. The songs we sing and the stories we act out give meaning to how we now have a much more luxurious lifestyle.

Perhaps we can see this as leading away from the technologically saturated world in which we live. During our Seder we don't watch Stephen Spielberg's *The Prince of Egypt* or Cecil B. DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* (although both are excellent films). We rely on ourselves to tell our stories which have been passed down for generations and will hopefully be passed down by our children for many more to come. However, one of the things we can wish to be free from is our slavery to our TVs and technology.

I certainly am a slave to my different devices. My cell phone, iPad, Kindle, laptop — I rely on them for almost everything. I have to check my emails, Whatsapps, and Facebook messages not just for pleasure, but also because I need them for work. As a teacher, all my exams, marks, comments, and more are stored on one or more of my devices. Every important event that I have to get to, be it a class, a lecture or a show (or the deadline for writing this column) is stored on my calendar in the cloud. Even my fitness is monitored on a mobile device, My Fitbit manages

to make me feel as though I've failed every day I don't reach 10000 steps! This virtual iSlavery has also been passed down onto our children. It blows my mind to see my three-year-old navigate our phones to YouTube for her daily dose of My Little Pony.

I think we need to reclaim our freedom, as does Sherry Turkle, a sociologist and clinical psychologist at MIT. Her most recent book, *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*, warns us of how our face-to-face interactions are becoming less frequent. In an article on Vox.com, she speaks about communication and conversation, and how technology has made it difficult for people to be empathetic. She states, "(...) Empathy is about diving into other people's sadness, and there's just not much space for that on social media."

At Pesach we have the opportunity to regain our empathy. We can reconnect with our past and our present, finding opportunities to connect with family, friends and strangers. We can also see how slavery has not ended and understand that we continuously need to look at the world through our Pesach-coloured lenses, appreciating the fact that we are free in a world where other people are not. Perhaps this is the time to break away from the technology that has been enslaving us so we never lose our empathy.

Chag Pesach v'Kasher Sameach



MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

A communal organisation is looking to recruit an experienced media and communication professional who is confident, outgoing and has the ability to network in communal, political and media spheres.

DETAILS:

- **Location:** Gardens, Cape Town
- **Hours of work:** Full time
- **Salary:** Competitive / market related / CTC
- **Nature of contract:** Permanent
- **Benefits:** Pension and medical aid, performance-based bonus and Jewish holidays off.

REQUIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- A relevant tertiary qualification (Journalism, Communication, PR) is essential as well as at least 3 years' experience in the media and communication fields.
- A communally-minded individual who has demonstrated passion for advocacy work and Israel.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with advanced networking and relationship building capabilities.
- A self-starter.
- A proactive team-player.
- A confident and outgoing individual.
- Online and social media savvy as well as experience of managing websites and email campaigns is essential.
- Comfortable working across all spectrums of political opinions and religious affiliations.

If interested, please contact:

sazfl@ctjc.co.za / wpzc@ctjc.co.za with your CV and a photograph of yourself.

A life of service acknowledged at Top Contributor's launch

From page 1

Nina Kovensky is the deserving recipient of the 2019 Gerald Kleinman Award for Outstanding Service to the United Jewish Campaign.

The award, which was given on 25 February at the UJC Top Contributor Campaign Launch, is named after legendary fundraiser and community diplomat, Gerald Kleinman.

It is given annually to individuals who have shown extraordinary service and commitment to the United Jewish Campaign and the Cape Town Jewish community.

Nina Kovensky has played a vital role in the Cape Town Jewish community for more than three decades. Nina and her husband Michael were the first South African representatives of

the Israel Museum. They have been longstanding supporters of Keren Hayesod, throwing themselves into fundraising missions as far afield as Moscow and Morocco. Nina founded the local chapter of the Lion of Judah and Keren Hayesod's Cape Town chapter of the International Women's Division, has supported the Cape Town Holocaust Museum from its inception, serves on the Friends of the UJC Committee and many other Committees at the United Jewish Campaign.

Those who have worked with Nina know her generosity and passions are far reaching. Nina is someone who reports water leaks, broken streetlights in an outlying suburb, who is acutely aware of the plight of street children, and who always thinks of others.

What mark will we the Jewish community leave in the sands of time in South Africa?

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Lithuanian citizenship - breaking the myths

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DAINIUS AMBRAZAITIS
Advocate/Partner
Head of the citizenship division at
IN JURE Law Firm, Vilnius, Lithuania

In the March's issue of the paper, I mentioned two typical myths about the process of obtaining ancestral Lithuanian citizenship. These are:

- You have to renounce your existing citizenship to take up your ancestral citizenship; and
- The time it takes for reinstatement is unpredictable, and it usually takes a long time.

None of the above is true.

Another popular myth is that if you apply for reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship, your children will automatically obtain it.

There are two different scenarios in which your children can acquire

Lithuanian citizenship:

Scenario 1. A child born before at least one of the parents becomes a LTU citizen.

In this scenario, the parent and the child follow the same procedure for application for LTU citizenship reinstatement. The duration of the procedure will essentially be the same. Please note that an application for a child will need to comply with additional conditions (i.e. proving blood lines and proximity in terms of generations).

To summarise, there is no guarantee that the child will be eligible to apply, and/or that this additional application will be as prompt as an automatic concession.

Scenario 2. A child born after at least one of the parents has already become a LTU citizen.

In this case, the child automatically becomes a LTU citizen. This wonderful civic right (introduced with the amendment of Law on Citizenship in 2015) is not limited to the number of generations (this is on condition that the citizenship law is not altered).

To summarise, if the parent is already a LTU citizen at the time of the child's birth, the child is guaranteed LTU citizenship.

The child does not need to go through the lengthy application process of the parent. They can apply for their passport through the LTU embassy, and the process is quick and simple.

At this point, I would also like to emphasise that childhood eligibility for the reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship is dependent on the specific time of application, and the legal requirements in force at that time. This means that from time-to-time, changing laws sometimes lead to situations in which some family members are successfully in having their Lithuanian citizenship restored, but others who apply later (e.g. children, brothers, or sisters), are rejected due to changing legal requirements.

Another common misconception is that you have to apply (or your parents have to apply) for reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship for your children. There is no such requirement. Each application is assessed individually according to whether one of the parents, grandparents, or great grandparents of that person was a Lithuanian citizen until 1940, and there is no requirement that one of the applicant's parents or grandparents (i.e. the direct descendants of a person who had a Lithuanian nationality before 1940) has applied for the restoration of Lithuanian citizenship.

These articles summarize the most FAQs and answers that I have encountered in years of consultations. My individual legal consultations are free of charge.

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KEEPING IT REAL

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

Since joining the Cape Board I have been undergoing a process of growth and part of this growth has been completing a Melton course called 'The Star and the Crescent'.



Each week as we went through the texts I asked myself the question, "Am I really free?" If the definition of freedom is the right to act, speak, or think as one wants to, and the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved, are any of us really free?

Our constitution allows everyone freedom of religion, belief and opinion. Those who developed our constitution built in clauses to help us to live together as citizens. This is also the basic message of all our scriptures, which are designed to teach humanity to live together on our one earth with respect and dignity. As the Koran says: "We have made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another". And the Talmud says "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man". As Buddha taught: "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful". As Jesus preached: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

In the heat of a council debate in 2018 the penny dropped for me. I had just given a speech on the scourge of corruption and waste in government, yet my words were met not by topical critique, but by an attack on my faith. What shook me the most was the silence of so many in council who should have come to my defense. This made me wonder; am I really free? Or is there always something lurking just around the corner to remind me that I am not.

This year, Pesach coincides with Freedom Month. Instead of only enjoying our freedom by leaning at our dinner tables, let's reflect on our responsibilities going forward. This is a time to reflect on years of tradition, when I hope to nurture a love of Judaism in my children that they will pass on to their own children one day. It is a time to educate them about human rights, freedom and responsibility. What can we do to build a South Africa where all our citizens can be free? Can freedom be true if it is at another's expense? Can we laugh while others are crying?

This Pesach the words of Madiba mixed into the song by Stargate should resonate with us as we try to bring true constitutional freedom in our beloved land.

"Sometimes It falls upon a generation to be great. I ask all humanity now to rise up. Then we can all stand with our heads held high. You have a limited time to stay on earth. You must try and use that period for the purpose of transforming your country into what you desire it to be, a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist country and that is a great task"

It's time to rise up.

Report on antisemitism in South Africa

By David Sacks, Deputy Director (SAJBD)

South Africa has recorded a fair rise in antisemitic incidents in 2018 compared with the previous two years. While naturally a cause for concern, it nevertheless remains true that even with the increased figure, antisemitism in this country continues to manifest at a strikingly lower level than in other major Diaspora centres.

Annual incidents continue to be numbered in the few dozens, as opposed to in the hundreds and sometimes even in the thousands elsewhere in the Diaspora. The nature of the incidents taking place on the local front is also significant. Overwhelmingly, such acts take the form of verbal or written rather than physical abuse, with serious cases of assault, as well as of vandalism, occurring very rarely (in 2018, only one case of each was reported, compared with UK figures for the same period of 123 and 78).

In February, thousands of protestors across

France demonstrated against the continued rise of antisemitism in the country. The immediate cause of the protests was the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in eastern France, where Nazi symbols and other graffiti were daubed on some 80 gravestones.

According to French authorities, the country saw a 74% increase in antisemitic incidents last year. At least 11 people have been killed in antisemitic violence in France since 2016.

Elsewhere in Europe, the situation is also deteriorating at an alarming rate. In the UK, a very bitter and divisive controversy over antisemitism in the opposition Labour Party played a significant role in the resignation last month of eight Labour MPs. The number of antisemitic incidents recorded in the country in 2018 rose to 1652, the highest on record. 123 of the incidents involved physical violence.



Continues on Page 42

Strategic Partnerships for Greater Impact

By Liza-Jane Saban, Head of Communications (Cape SAJBD)

In our fight against antisemitism, the Cape Board believes that positive pro-active training is important for young Jewish students.

Those who are on campus or those who choose to take a gap year should be empowered to respond strategically and confidently to any form of antisemitism they may encounter. Be it graffiti sprayed across a dorm door or on social media, stereotyping in a conversation or Anti-Israel incidents, they need to gain skills to find their voices to respond.

As antisemitism has become a complex issue in the 21st century, the Board decided to collaborate with a global authority with expertise in the field to develop a relevant programme.

We reached out to the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) in the USA to collaborate in a workshop that would have maximum impact for our students. Together with the ADL strategists and our professional team, the Campus Impact Network programme has been successfully piloted and will run once again this year. It is a practical, experiential day-long workshop run by the Cape Board to empower our students.



Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of ADL speaking at the Never is Now conference

The ADL are an invaluable partner to the Cape Board in its battle against antisemitism. They have made their resources and experienced team of professionals available to us for collaborations, next-generation strategies, best practices, and innovations to advance the way we tackle antisemitism and biases.

Western Cape 2019 — What is bound to happen?

Guest Columnist: Wayne Sussman



The readers of the Cape Jewish Chronicle can count themselves lucky. They live in one of the two provinces in the 2019 elections that will be hotly contested. The Western Cape is the only province not run by the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC hopes that under President Cyril Ramaphosa’s leadership, it will regain the ground it lost in 2009 and 2014.

As we march towards the 2019 national and provincial elections, the DA, after narrowly getting over 50% in 2009, won just under 60% of the vote in the 2014 Western Cape provincial elections under Helen Zille’s leadership, but now finds itself in a vulnerable position. Since 2016 it has not been smooth sailing for the DA. Its image as the party of good governance become one of a party of internal ineptness as a result of the perception of the way the city and the province handled the drought as well as the drawn-out imbroglio with former Cape Town Mayor Patricia De Lille, during which the party was on the whole incapable of explaining why she had to face the axe.

This time round De Lille’s GOOD party is the new kid on the block. While few would deny that her provincial (and national profile) is higher today than it was when she formed the Independent Democrats (ID) before the 2004 elections, she will battle to replicate her showing in 2004 when the ID won 3 seats in the legislature. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) laboured in the Western Cape in 2014, ending up with one seat in the legislature. They continue to struggle to shake the province the way they have done in Limpopo and the North West. The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) came fourth in 2014, also getting a seat in the legislature. It has been taking DA votes in by-elections and hopes to end up with a second seat. The Freedom Front Plus (VF+) also hopes to pick up a seat – it has been attracting more conservative voters from the DA and picking up votes in traditionally coloured areas.

There are three possible outcomes in the Western Cape in 2019

Scenario 1: DA has an outright victory

Not even the most blue-dyed in wool DA supporter would think that the party would match their 2014 performance. Alan Winde, the premier candidate, does not have the name recognition of Zille or De Lille, and the party’s fortunes have waned. Having said that, it would be very hard for the DA to fall under 50% and it would have to lose 17-18% of their current support in the province for that to occur. If one analysed the 2018 by-elections one might think it possible, but the recent by-election returns show that these losses have been stemmed and the party is on track to govern without coalition partners albeit with a reduced majority.

Scenario 2: DA governs with conservative parties

While the by-elections in 2018 showed a shift away from the DA to the ANC in parts of the West Coast district, yet in one by-election in Oudtshoorn, a traditional DA stronghold, the DA lost very little ground to the ANC, and precious little of its support to the ANC in ANC heartland areas. In a key by-election on the Cape Flats, the DA did not lose ground to the ANC but lost to the smaller, ACDP. The ACDP and the Freedom Front Plus (VF+) appear to be the more likely beneficiaries of disgruntled DA voters in Western Cape by-elections and if the DA were to fall under 50%, it is plausible that they would turn to these parties to hold onto power.

Scenario 3: De Lille becomes Premier with the support of the ANC and the EFF

The ANC will at the very least be the second biggest party in the Western Cape after the 2019 provincial elections. They will finish way ahead of Patricia De Lille’s GOOD party, and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). Having said that, it is unclear whether the ANC will announce a premier candidate for the Western Cape, and whether Ebrahim Rasool will get a second chance or whether provincial secretary Faiez Jacobs will be their preferred choice. Even if the ANC were to work with GOOD, it is unlikely that they will have the numbers to get over 21 seats in the province. Both parties would need to turn to the EFF. The ANC has been generous to junior coalition partners in

municipalities like Nelson Mandela Bay (Port Elizabeth), Metsimaholo (Sasolburg) and Bitou (Plettenberg Bay) by agreeing to give the mayoral chains to parties significantly smaller than it. I would suspect that the ANC would agree to offer Patricia De Lille the premiership in a multi-party coalition.

My prediction is that Scenario 1 will come true.

Western Cape Provincial Legislature Seats

DA	22 (26) *
ANC	15 (14)
GOOD	2 (0)
EFF	1 (1)
ACDP	1 (1)
VF+	1 (0)
Total	42

* Brackets indicate showing in 2014 elections

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Cape SAJBD.



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#CountryCommunitiesVisits

By David King, Country Communities Sub Committee Chairperson

As the elected leadership of the Cape Jewish Board of Deputies we have a duty to ensure the well-being of our entire constituency, not just Cape Town.

As times become tougher economically, Jews are moving out of the more expensive metropolitan areas to places like Muizenberg and beyond. This

could lead to a growth in these communities.

March 2019 was a busy month for us, as we visited some small but vibrant Jewish communities in the country, enjoying their hospitality and learning about their issues. We enjoyed a delicious braai with the 60+ Paarl community members and a spiritually uplifting Kabbalat Shabbat in Hermanus.

The Cape Board is committed to caring for the needs of all our country communities in the Western Cape. If any country community would like to contact us or any interested community members would like to join us on such visits, please contact sajbd2@ctjc.co.za, or follow us on Facebook, for more details.

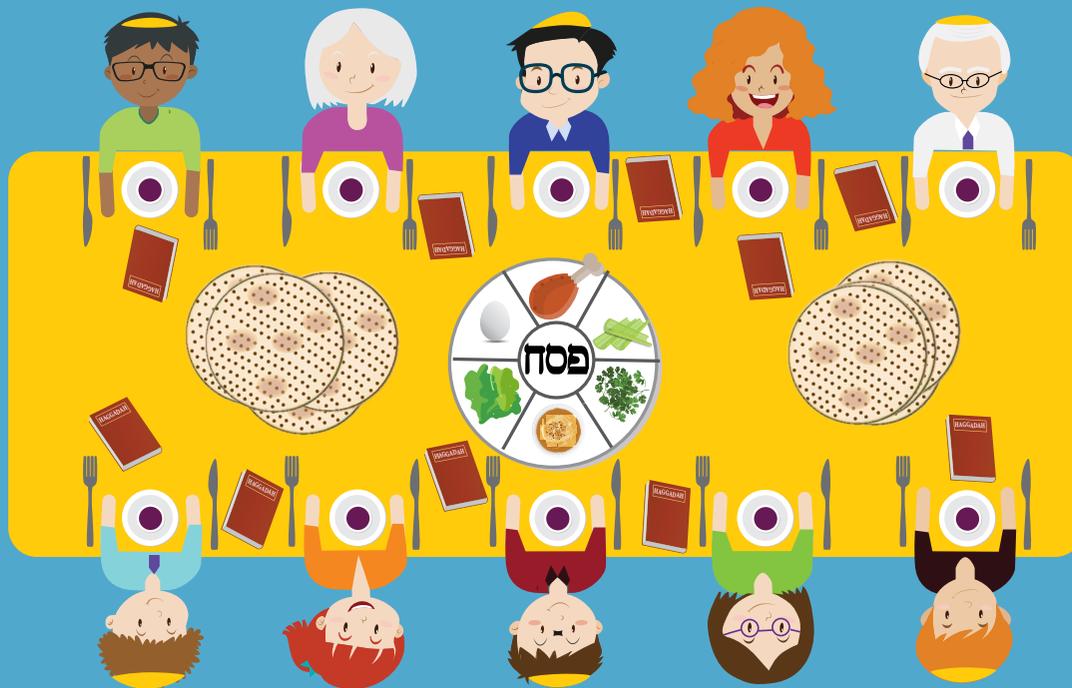


Paarl gathering: David King, Mark Kaufman, Fischel Kaufman and Stuart Diamond



David King in the Plett shul

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SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION
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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



To The Moon

By Rowan Polovin,
Chairman, SAZF Cape Council

**“Ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp,
Or what’s a heaven for?”
Robert Browning**

It takes unbelievable chutzpah to believe that you are going to the moon. Not ‘to the moon’ in the metaphorical sense, but in the literal, lunar sense. In fact some may consider those who want to go to the moon a bit loony, which is indeed where the word ‘lunatic’ comes from - a sense that one’s unsound behaviour and actions are being influenced by the moon.

Yet those individuals who decided one evening to go to the moon, and then spent years putting their mission into practice, were highly rational and of sound mind. Their idea to launch a private spaceship that would land on the moon was entirely logical, and in

this instance their sound behaviour was influenced by the moon. They are from a nation birthed in risk-taking, audacity, brilliance, ingenuity, tenacity and chutzpah mixed with a fair dose of prayer and miracles. It is an Israeli mission and thus it makes perfect sense. If it works out, then Israel will be the fourth country (think United States, Russia and China) and the first private mission to land successfully on the moon. If it doesn’t, then there’s next time and chicken soup.

The fridge-sized spacecraft was launched on 22 February 2019 and plans to land on the moon on 11 April 2019 (74 years since the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp and exactly 110 years after the establishment of Tel Aviv). “Beresheet”, the spacecraft’s name,

brings with it on its journey a ‘digital time capsule’ containing the Bible, the Israeli flag, Hatikvah, a copy of Israel’s Declaration of Independence, memories of a Holocaust survivor, children’s drawings, and the entire English language version of Wikipedia (at the point of launch).

No doubt some looneys will claim that the Zionists are trying to colonise the moon and rewrite history, but the rest of humanity will rightly see this as a tremendous and extraordinary achievement that can only benefit science, space and humankind. That our Jewish nation, small in number but large in reach, has managed to shoot for the stars and hopefully land on the moon is something to be proud of. Or what’s our heaven for?

SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



Israeli Film Club

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

On Sunday 17th February, the SAZF Cape Council launched its Israeli Film Club with a viewing of ‘Footnote’ by director Joseph Cedar.

This movie nominated for an Oscar for ‘Best Foreign Language Film of the Year’ is a gripping story which describes the intense relationship between father and son as being rival professors in Talmudic Studies. The cinematography captured the force of emotions through little wording. We are excited to show our next movie ‘The Band’s Visit’, a comedy that is bound to get the audience laughing!

SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



Cape Town Zionist Youth Council 2019

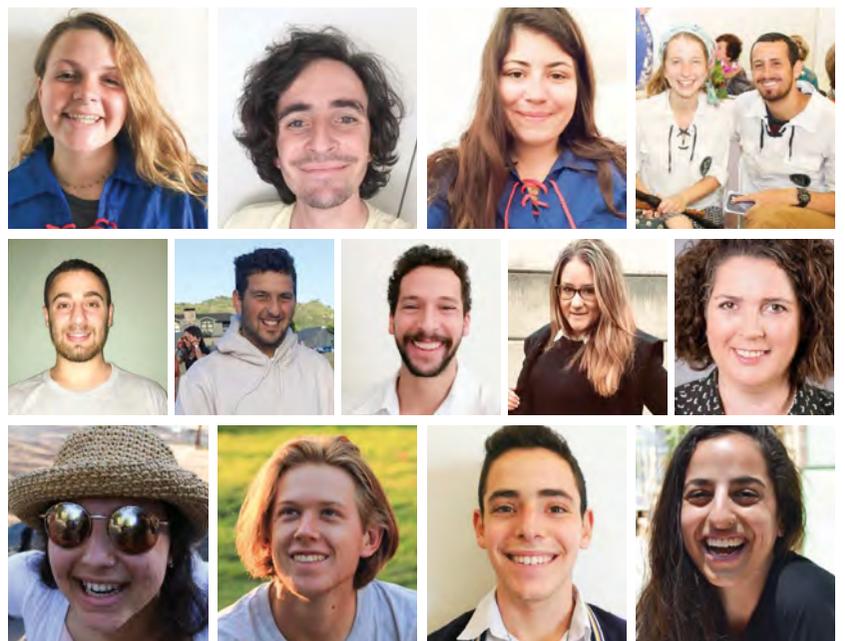
By Lee Lobel,
Head of the Zionist Youth Council

The Zionist Youth Council is a body of representatives from each youth movement organisation. Our main goal is to bring the voice of the Jewish youth to our community. This year we aim to collaborate and work together, running events and programmes for all Jewish youth in Cape Town.

From Bnei Akiva we have Chanan Suiza, Hayden Norrie and shlichim Avia and Lavi Wolff. From Habonim Dror we have Jordan Harris, Kayla Bagg and their shlichah Dashi Juisd. From Netzer we have Rachael Bootcov and Jason Bourne. SAUJS is represented by director Nicole Lee and chairman Nathan Esra. From the Diller Teen Fellows we have Eytan Labe. Michal Ilan, from the Israel Centre, and I run it together.



Sold out audience for the launch of our Film Club ‘Footnote’



Top Row: Kayla Bagg, Jordan Harris, Dashi Juisd, Avia and Lavi Wolff
Middle Row: Nathan Esra, Hayden Norrie, Chanan Suiza, Nicole Lee, Michal Ilan
Bottom Row: Rachael Bootcov, Jason Bourne, Eytan Labe, Lee Lobel



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



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BNEI AKIVA

Busy busy busy!

By Chanan Suiza,
Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town

year! Our goal this year is to create a fun and social environment for our madrichim and to pave the way for our first maddies. Our shabbaton was magical with a great vibe, delicious food and 45 madrichim including those from Johannesburg. Mishloach mannot are in the making, we hope you all will enjoy these delicious treats. Hadracha is officially on its way to being one of the most successful ones yet, while being followed up by our amazing sayeret programme.

As the year continues to progress, many great projects have happened and we look forward to more exciting ones for this coming

We look forward to the craziness that is still to come!

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SAUJS

A Good Start for SAUJS WC in 2019!

By Nicole Lee, Director

Following a successful sign up week, SAUJS WC hosted, for the first time ever, a Hadracha weekend, the purpose of which was to enrich our leadership with skills that will enhance their strengths and talents for their roles in SAUJS and for their futures.

We then hosted two successful opening events, one for our Cape Town members and the other, which we co-hosted with Chabad on Campus, for our Stellenbosch members. We are looking forward to the year ahead, so watch this space for exciting new events and initiatives!

NETZER

La'asok Betzorchei Tzibur!

By Racael Sara,
Head of Netzer Cape Town

I attended a Netzer Olami Veidah in Israel this January where we made important decisions about the world movement and had amazing workshops run for us on the theme of diversity. It is always amazing to see all the branches bringing their uniqueness together, blending into one Netzer Olami family, capturing the theme of the conference (Diversity) completely.

Netzer hit the ground running at the start of the year and we have been busy ever since.

Here's to a year filled with engagement in the needs of the community.



Back Row: Carly Soicher, Jesse Soicher, Claudia Harrison, Tao Klitzner, Nathan Esra, Catherine Heron, Nicole Lee. Middle Row: William Van Wyk, Daniel Barlin, Adam Osrin, Jordan Seligmann, Grant Norrie. Front Row: Brendan Weaver



Netzer branches from around the world gathering in Israel for their veidah conference in January



THE ISRAEL CENTRE



Aliyah Information Evening

By Michal Ilan,
Community and Aliyah Shlichah

“What are the tax implications of moving my business to Israel?”, “Can I apply to an Israeli university before receiving my Matric marks?” and “Will I get assistance in Israel to start my own business?”

These were some of the questions asked at our Aliyah information evening on 20 February. The answers to these questions were given by Dorron Kline, CEO of Telfed – South African Zionist Federation (Israel) who also gave a wonderful presentation about the services Telfed offer to Olim. Dorron's talk helped people understand what to expect when making Aliyah. He referred to the experience of Aliyah as a rose garden, it is beautiful and offers an amazing quality of life, but has many thorns. “Some people”, Dorron said, “will enjoy the rose garden, but some are destined to look at it from afar”.

In his talk, Dorron stressed the importance of learning Hebrew before leaving South Africa and reaching a

level which will enable finding good employment. He also mentioned the importance of doing serious research and having a concrete plan before making this life-changing move. Twenty-five Capetonians came to listen and engage with Dorron and we hope to have more evenings like this one with different speakers who can shed a light on Aliyah.

Since the beginning of 2019, the Israel Centre has seen lots of interest in moving to Israel. Many families are making enquiries but we also have

a growing number of teens who are thinking of studying in Israel. Israeli Universities are constantly opening new and exciting programmes in English for both B.A and M.A students. Thanks to the Masa grants and SASI programme, it is affordable for students to get their education in Israel. Students who wish to make Aliyah have even more options and at no cost.

At his talk, Dorron emphasised how important it is for students who plan to stay in Israel, to study their

degree in Hebrew. He explained how studying at university creates not only a support system but also a network which becomes important when building a life in Israel.

If you would like to participate in one of our next information evenings or would like to get more information about Aliyah / Studying in Israel / Gap year in Israel / Hebrew Ulpan, please contact the Israel Centre at israelcentre@ctjc.co.za or 021 286 2130.



Dorron Kline speaking at the Aliyah information evening

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BURNING BRIGHTLY

Pesach in the Pits

RABBI MATTHEW LIEBENBERG [CLAREMONT WYNBERG HEBREW CONGREGATION]

Before consuming chametz, recite with proper intent: Our Father in Heaven, it is revealed and known to You that our will is to do Your will and to celebrate the festival of Pesach by eating matzo and refraining from chametz. But about this our hearts are distressed, because the oppression (we are suffering) prevents us (from fulfilling these commandments), and we find ourselves in mortal danger. We are ready and willing to fulfill Your mandate that 'we shall live by Your commandments' (and not die by them). And we are observing Your warning, 'protect yourself and sustain your soul greatly.' We therefore beseech You to keep us alive, sustain us, and redeem us speedily, so that we may observe Your statutes, carry out Your will and serve You wholeheartedly. Amen

This prayer was compiled by Rabbi Yissachar-Bernard Davids (passed away 22 February 1945) who, prior to World War II, served as Chief Rabbi in Rotterdam, Holland, from 1930-1943. During the war, he and his family were transferred to the Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camp. On Pesach, in Bergen-Belsen, Rabbi Davids instructed his fellow prisoners to eat chametz due to the Jewish principle of *pikuach nefesh* – the paramount rule that preserving life takes precedence above all other commandments. During the clandestine Pesach Seder held at Bergen-Belsen, the rabbi recited the regular blessings for *matzo*, but then added the above prayer for the specific situation.

Marilyn Wechsler, writing for the Jewish Link of New Jersey (3 April 2014) comments: "I always wondered what God was doing during this Seder at Bergen-Belsen. I imagine that *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* was crying at the tragedy and simultaneously smiling at the holiness of this moment. Even in the most horrid of locations and in the most challenging of experiences, when everything was taken away from these Jews, this group of Pesach commemorators showed themselves to be truly free people, contributing a sense of eternity to the genetic makeup of our people."

She continues: "In every generation we are, as a community and as individuals, confronted with pressures and experiences that enslave us. Some are most challenging, like those in Bergen-Belsen, and some are not filled with as much

darkness but are perplexing nonetheless. The Pesach agenda is to remove the *chametz*, the obstacles, the barriers – the stagnation that hinders our engagement with a purposeful lifestyle. *Bedikat chametz* (searching one's home for leaven prior to Pesach) is about recognising that the darkness that clouds the crevices of our existence can be minimized or even fully dissipated. That process begins with the realization that a search is required and the leavening process that occurs in our lives can be reversed. Rabbi Davids showed us that no condition can forcibly deter us from celebrating the true Pesach experience – the opportunity to lead lives as free people."

Just four years after Rabbi Davids composed his heart-wrenching prayer, David Ben Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel.

We will soon celebrate the 71st anniversary of that proclamation and the founding of the State of Israel. Let us use the opportunity presented by Pesach to thank God for the miracles we have seen in our generation: the ingathering of the Jewish people from the four corners of the globe; the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the establishment of a country that all Jews can call home!

"Even in the most horrid of locations and in the most challenging of experiences, when everything was taken away from these Jews, this group of Pesach commemorators showed themselves to be truly free people, contributing a sense of eternity to the genetic makeup of our people."



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The Pesach Haggadah — A window into the Jewish struggle both past and present

By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani



The week-long festival of Pesach celebrates the liberation of our biblical ancestors from Egyptian bondage and their deliverance at the Sea of Reeds.

After the destruction of the Second Temple the ancient Pascal lamb or goat that was roasted over an open flame and consumed with matzah and maror, was replaced with the Pesach Seder. The emphasis of the rabbinic celebration of Pesach is to relate the story of the Exodus from Egypt. While vestiges of the ancient Pesach sacrifice remain on the Seder table (the bitter herbs, three matzot and the shank bone), the modern post-Temple celebration of the liberation of the Israelites is indicative of rabbinic Judaism that places importance on the spoken and written word. The tannaim (rabbis of the Mishnah) replaced the animal and meal offerings mandated by Torah with formalised prayer and the study of biblical and rabbinic texts as ways of worshipping God (as well as the performance of ritual and ethical mitzvot).

Thus, while we are reminded of the biblical celebration of Pesach through the utilisation of the symbolic foods that are placed prominently on the Seder plate, our commemoration of the Exodus is observed by reciting the Haggadah. It is noteworthy that the text of the Haggadah is a testimony to rabbinic Judaism that was formulated by the tannaim and amoraim (rabbis of the Talmud) and evolved by the rabbis and learned Jews of subsequent generations. The Haggadah incorporates the Torah account of the Liberation of the Israelites from Egypt into a labyrinth of midrash, aggadah, songs and children's rhymes celebrating God's beneficence, the notion of human freedom and dignity, the destruction of human tyranny and the valiant stand of the Israelites against the Egyptians, the Jews of the first century CE against the Romans and the Jews of Europe against the evil that engulfed the continent from 1933 – 1945.

The Haggadah is a living document which allows for additions of texts and rituals making it open to the inclusion of 21st century issues. Thus at many Progressive sedarim each person drinks a glass of water in addition to the traditional four cups of wine, to celebrate the mythical Miriam's well. According to rabbinic tradition a water bearing rock followed the Israelites during their wanderings in the wilderness due to the merit of Miriam whom the Torah (Exodus 15:20) describes as a prophetess. The well dried up the day Miriam died. This midrash is one of many that illustrate the importance of Miriam in the Exodus and wilderness sojourn narrative. By toasting Miriam with a glass of water towards the end of the Seder, liberal Jews attest to the significant role women have played and currently play in Jewish history and communal life.

Many Jews of all streams introduced the innovation of leaving an empty place at the table to highlight the plight of Jews who were not free to practise Judaism. This custom began as a protest against the appalling treatment of Jews by the Soviet authorities who imprisoned anyone who wished to make a new life for themselves in Israel.

The orange has made an appearance at many Progressive sedarim to remind us of the ongoing struggle for the unconditional acceptance of members of our community that are often excluded because of their sexuality, gender or ethnicity.

The theme of human freedom that pervades the festival of Pesach leaves the door open for more creative texts and rituals that address the social ills of disease, poverty, climate change and many other issues that adversely affect human freedom and dignity. Thus the Haggadah is not just a collection of midrashim, aggadot, songs and children's rhymes from the past but a vibrant and essential piece of Jewish liturgy that inspires us to strive for a true and complete tikkun olam.

Pride Shabbat



Kiddush together at Pride Shabbat

Every year the Cape Town Pride March walks right past our Green Point synagogue, and on the Friday night before, Temple Israel Proudly and Progressively throws open its doors to welcome anyone who wants to celebrate diversity and inclusivity in our community.

This also reminds us that LGBTQI inclusivity is an issue for everyone. Just as Apartheid was not just about blacks, or feminism about women or the Holocaust about Jews. They are all about Prejudice, and prejudice is most often less about the object of the prejudice and more about the communities that allow it to take place. Through active endorsement or silent consent. And we will not be silent.

The Progressive Movement has fought for equality in terms of who a Cohen can marry, who can be called to Torah, on conversion, on gender egalitarianism and

creative liturgy for nearly two centuries, and in this city we can be PROUD of our 75 Years of Progressive innovation. But it's only in the last decade that we have put same-sex marriage on the agenda. We are a people that understands PREJUDICE and we are a people that understands PRIDE. And Pride Shabbat was a reason to be PROUD.

The shul was packed, literally overflowing. Starting with a powerful Kabbalat Shabbat service with meaningful poetry and readings by members of our shul and building up to Ross Levin who dominated the bimah masterfully speaking about his own journey. What most moved him was how the community has welcomed him and his family and made them feel at home. The whole shul resonated strongly with his message and burst into spontaneous applause. And that energy continued through aleinu and on to the fabulous brochah and l'chaims next door. An evening to remember and be proud of.

Pop-up Shabbat

A lovely group came together at Saunders' Rocks beach last month for Temple Israel's first Pop-Up Shabbat event, a Havdallah ceremony on the beach.

Together they watched a beautiful sunset and joined in singing the brachot that separate Shabbat from the rest of the week. Afterwards, many remained to gaze at the stars and share food and fellowship. Introduced by Rabbi Emma Gottlieb, Pop-Up Shabbat

is an effort to take Shabbat experiences outside of the shul walls in order to connect with those for whom Shabbat is a time to experience local nature and/or culture with family, friends and community. Pop-up Shabbat locations change each month and are kept secret until 24 hours before the event. Interested parties can email their details to marketing@templeisrael.co.za in order to be notified of where and when Temple Israel will be 'popping up' each month.

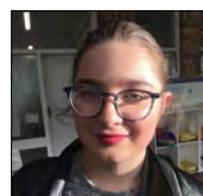
Mazaltov to those who celebrated Bnei Mitzvah with us last month:



Luke Gottlieb
2 March



Nina Markovitz
9 March



Zara Tonkil
16 March



Levi Datnow
23 March

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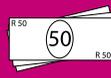
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Embracing the Next Generation

There is something special about the month of Adar in Israel, and with the leap year, we have been able to extend the euphoria.

The joyous spirit engulfs the country and in the days leading up to Purim, the streets are filled with children who are giddy with excitement as they walk to school in pyjamas or funky hats, dressed as regal princesses or courageous superheroes. Telfed events and activities have added to this festive atmosphere.

Looking up

As Israel proudly launched Beresheet — a spacecraft that will place Israel in an exclusive group of countries to have launched and landed on the moon — Telfed partnered with STEM media company StellarNova to share their delightful book 'The Little Spacecraft' with our young olim.

Story-time, in English, gave young children an opportunity to understand the significance of Israel's achievement through the story of Berrie, who was told that "a tiny little spacecraft like (her) could never reach the moon".

A lesson about pioneers and perseverance, with an Israeli flag



Ahead of the space launch, Dr. Mom introduces young South African olim in Tel Mond to Beresheet.

flying proudly, our young audiences were captivated as they learned about Beresheet's star trackers and space travel.

Looking in

In coordination with volunteers in communities spanning the length and breadth of the country, Telfed has arranged for the delivery of mishloach manot to over 100 of

our lone soldiers — both olim (new immigrants) and Machalnikim (overseas volunteers).

Southern African olim signed up to donate to this drive and to assist with packaging and distributing these baskets of treats for our soldiers. Connecting with lone soldiers has been a priority for Telfed and, to make this easier, we are excited to have a new 'Lone Soldier Whatsapp

Group' with our staff and our soldiers.

Looking forward

From space to soldiers to students... As we look to the future, Telfed continues to emphasise education.

At the end of March, Telfed's annual scholarship ceremony takes place. Once again, we are proud to allocate over 500 scholarships to students at tertiary institutions in Israel through our three scholarship programmes. Financial needs scholarships are awarded to students who need assistance in covering tuition costs. The 5500 Shekel PRAS Scholarship focuses on volunteering in the community, whereby students partner with olim families, the elderly or those with special needs and commit to 90 hours of community service.

Finally, SASI (Southern Africans Studying in Israel) offers a housing subsidy to students who are studying in Israel on a tourist visa.

As we look to the future, a focus on our youth has been a fitting end to our 70th birthday celebrations at Telfed.



Wishing all our clients, families and friends a Blessed Passover

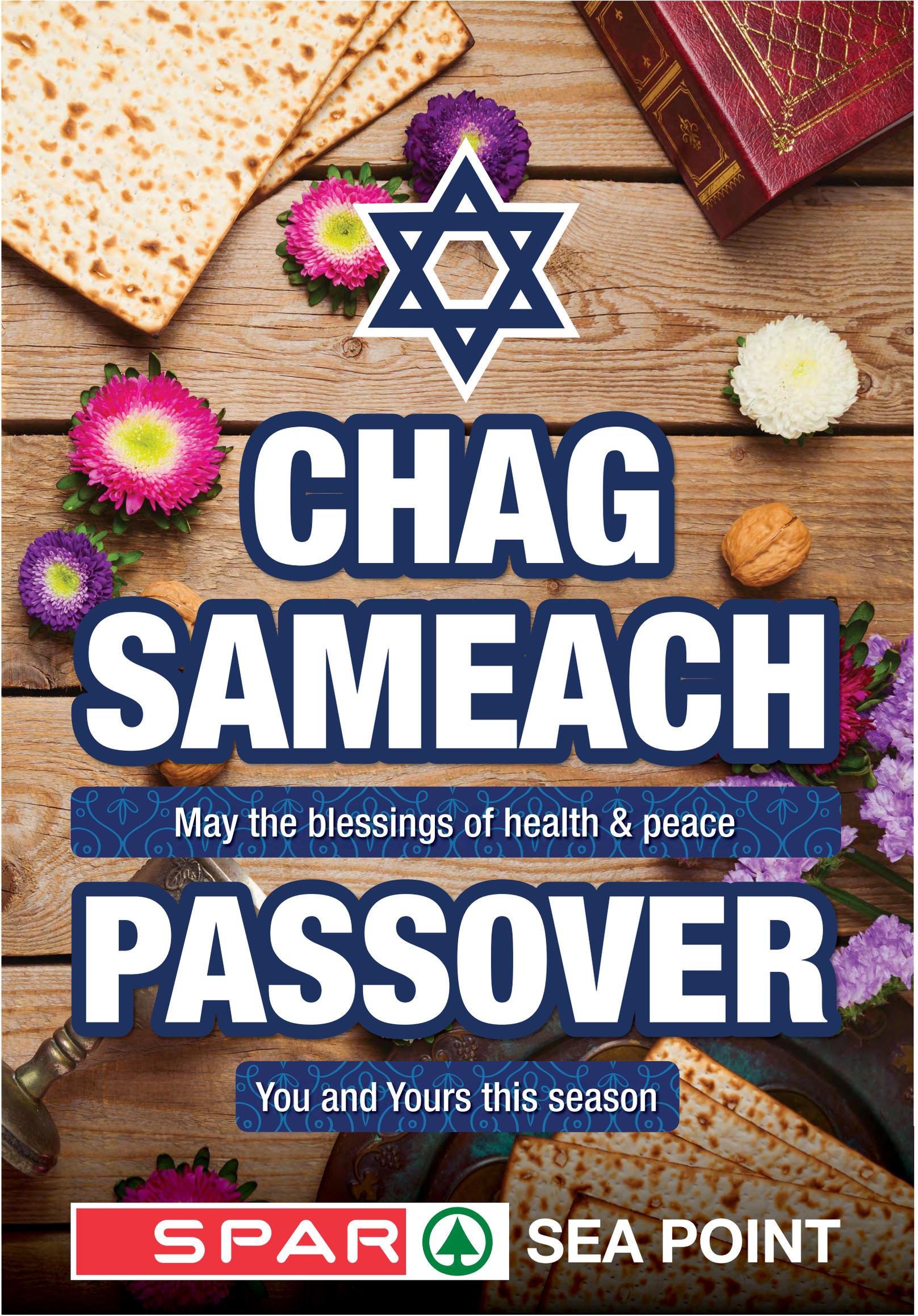


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SEA POINT



Operation Moses: 30 years after

The doors to the SAJM's latest exhibition opened at 5pm on Thursday 7 March, earlier than usual so that first-comers could have a look around before hearing the speakers.

Operation Moses: 30 Years Later is presented in collaboration with the South African Zionist Federation and Israel's Beit Hatfutsot — the Museum of the Jewish People. The exhibition tells the story of the Israeli government's rescue of thousands of Ethiopian Jews

from war and famine in the 1980s, and the relocation of these Jews to Israel. Ten families reflect on their lives in Israel over the past 30 years. Each story is accompanied by photographs and a short film which examines the struggles they faced with displacement, emigration and absorption, as well as their reception by Israeli society.

By 6.30pm the museum was packed with people ready to listen to Danny Adeno Abebe in relaxed conversation with Michal Ilan of the Israel Centre. Danny is an Ethiopian/Israeli Jew who was

a child when Operation Moses brought him from rural Ethiopia to a very different life in Israel.

Danny's words were in turn humorous and moving as he spoke of his family's ordeal getting to Israel via Sudan, the challenges, joys and disappointments they experienced and how far away it all seems to his own Israeli-born children.

The emotions of his story are echoed in the films and photographs of the exhibition, which will be showing until the end of May.



Danny Abebe with Gavin Morris, Director SAJM



Michal Ilan in conversation with Danny Abebe



The exhibition tells the moving story of Operation Moses

OPERATION MOSES
30 Years After

EXHIBITION MARCH 2019

Operation Moses was the secret airlift of around 7 000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1984 and 1985



A large crowd attended opening night

DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

I'm thankful for all the appreciation

By Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft

Hakoros hatov — the obligation we have to be grateful to those who have done us a good turn — is a core value in Judaism.

Amongst its many other qualities the Pesach Haggadah constitutes one great paean of gratitude to the Almighty for the miracles He wrought on behalf of our ancestors, and perhaps no section better epitomises this than Dayeinu, whose verses continually how each and every individual miracle is in itself sufficient reason for us to be eternally grateful, even if nothing else had been done for us.

In my more than 25 years as Spiritual Leader to both the SA Country Communities and to countries affiliated to the African Jewish Congress, I have on innumerable occasions been greatly moved by the whole-hearted appreciation shown to me by members of my far-flung congregation. Indeed, this has been one of my main motivating factors in staying in my position. And yet, as I look back on all the years in which I have been able to assist my fellow Jews in remaining connected to their heritage, the friendships I have made and how much I have learned in my travels not only about other people, but of our beautiful and historically fascinating country, I am conscious

of my own profound sense of *Hakoros Hatov*.

Returning to the theme of Pesach, my pastoral work frequently includes bringing Matzah and Pesachdike wine to those in areas where such products are unobtainable. Here, I am inevitably reminded of what must be among the best-known anecdotes of country Jewish life. It concerns the gentile wife of a Jewish resident of Swakopmund in the then South West Africa, who on her husband's passing wished his tombstone to reflect in some way that he had been Jewish and accordingly gave instructions for some Hebrew lettering she had found on a wine bottle to be engraved on it. The result was that the late Walter Galler became surely the first-ever member of our tribe whose tombstone features the legend 'Kosher l'Pesach'. Since it would not be fitting for the grave to become the occasion for perpetual hilarity, the offending words were subsequently removed, but not before a photograph had been taken to record this bizarre episode for posterity.

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft is Spiritual Leader to the SA County Communities and African Jewish Congress since 1993.



Barry's second barmitzvah

By Brian Joss

Family and friends shed a tear or two when they helped Barry Geffen, a long-time member of Marais Road Shul, celebrate his second barmitzvah on 16 March, 70 years to the day he recited his maftir, Nachor, at the shul in Springs on the East Rand, where he was born.

All those years ago Barry gave a sterling performance under the guidance of Reverend Altshuler who taught him the trope symbols.

As long as he can remember Barry has been a regular shul goer and been involved in communal affairs helping to raise funds for the JNF and the IUA.

After he qualified as an optician he moved to Roodepoort where he had his practice and he met teacher Sandra (nee Queit) also from the West Rand and they have been married for 49 years and have two daughters, Rene and Lisa.

It didn't take long before Barry joined the Roodepoort shul where he immersed himself in Jewish life. He was elected treasurer and then chairman of the now defunct Roodepoort Florida Hebrew Congregation as it was then called. Barry, who was one of the few members who could, recited the maftir almost every Shabbos. He was chairman when the shul celebrated its 70th anniversary. Chief Rabbi

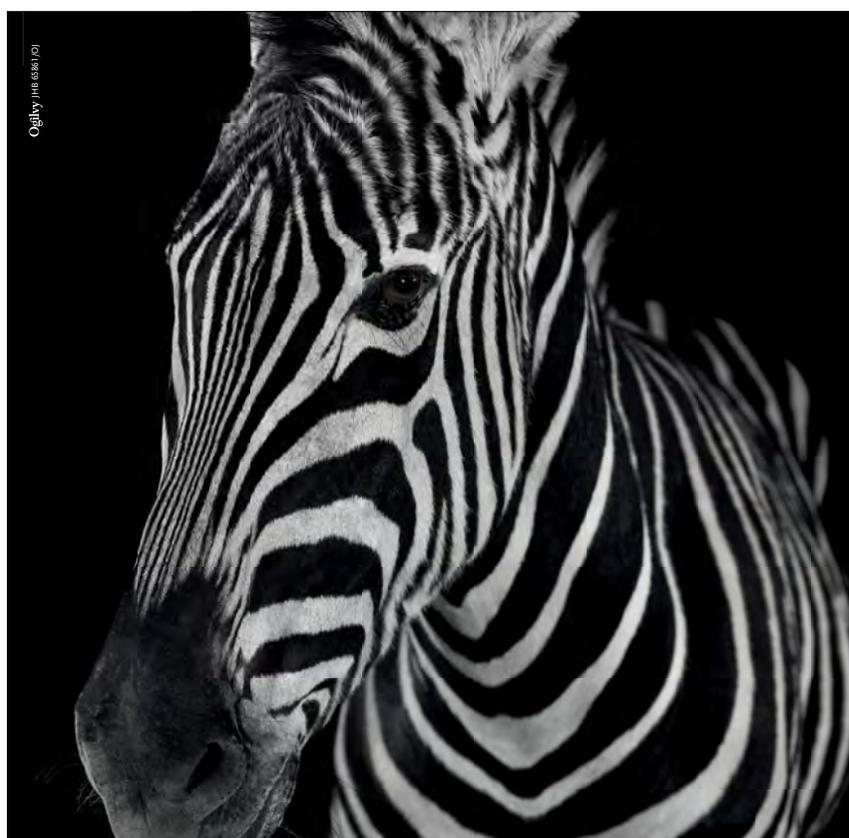


Barry and Sandra Geffen at their Oasis apartment. Picture: Rene Gluckman

BM Casper was the guest of honour and 30 years later, Barry, according to Sandra, single-handedly, with the help of the then Chief Rabbi, organised the shul's centenary celebrations.

The Geffens moved to Victory Park when their daughters started at King David. They now live at the Oasis, Century City.

Arnold Bloch, chairman of Marais Road Shul, said they wanted to make it a special day for Barry. As he has difficulty walking up the stairs of the Bimah they set up a table and brought the Sefer Torah to him where he recited the brachot for his aliya and maftir which Cantor Ivor Joffe chanted and helped to make the occasion even more memorable.



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Howard Feldman lights up WIZO AGM

To a packed audience of over 130 people at BZA WIZO's AGM in February, Howard Feldman enthused and amused members and guests with his 'Shining a light in the darkness' talk on how to remain positive with so much negativity around us.

Remarkably, this was the 118th Annual General Meeting of BZA WIZO, an organisation which through the passion and dedication of its volunteer members, sponsors and donors, has managed to stay strong, relevant and

responsible for well over 100 years.

Outgoing Chairman, Adrienne Judes reported on the highlights of 2018, outlining the many interesting gatherings, functions and fundraising events held by the branches last year.

Naming the 2019 Executive team, Adrienne welcomed new Chairman, Janene Currie.

Janene thanked Adrienne for the formidable contribution that she has made during her two-year tenure, presenting her with WIZO's Blue Award for her exemplary leadership, saying that her passion for WIZO projects and local beneficiaries alike have resulted in a noticeable shift in energy in the organisation.



Guest speaker, Morning Mayhem host on Chai FM, Howard Feldman with Adrienne Judes



Beryl Verblun, Moira Frank, Martine Israele, Ashna Diamond, Sheila Wagenheim, Pat Hodenberg. Seated: Pat Herman



Tessa Scher, Patricia Arbel, Louise Swart and Tamar Lazarus



Suzanne Luck and Felicity Isserow



Patsy Fivelman, Dominique Gamsu, Shelly Friedman, Louise Swart and Patricia Arbel

Janene Currie named new Chairman of BZA WIZO

BZA WIZO is thrilled to name Janene Currie as the organisation's newly elected Chairman. Janene is a Herzlia graduate, and has a Bachelor of Social Sciences in English and Psychology from UCT.

In 2012, she attended WIZO's Aviv Seminar, visiting many of WIZO's amazing projects in Israel that provide and care for disadvantaged women, teens and children of all races and religions.

Janene is a passionate member of the Cape Town Jewish community, being a past committee member of the Milnerton Hebrew Congregation, a past member of the UHS Governing Body, and one of a select group of community members to graduate from the Elliot Osrin Leadership Institute last year.

Speaking at the AGM in February for the first time as Chairman, Janene said: "As I take on my tenure as the



Outgoing chair Adrienne Judes hands over to incoming chair Janene Currie

chairperson of WIZO Cape Town, I stand on the shoulders of those giants that have come before me — whether past portfolio holders, or past members, or past Olim — and I have big shoes to fill.

"I take on this role with gusto and determination, that I too may pass on the legacy that is WIZO today and WIZO tomorrow", she added.

Janene works with her husband Gareth at Pure Vision Properties, and they have two children, Jayden and Layla.

WIZO opens new branch in Cape Town

BZA WIZO is delighted to announce that a new branch known as Century City branch, has officially opened at the Oasis Retirement Resort.

Over 60 people attended the inaugural meeting last month, where Professor Leonard Suransky gave a fascinating talk on 'The Enduring Human Quest for Happiness'.

Chairman of the new branch, Sue Lipschitz, said Prof. Suransky's talk is a first taste of the type of good speakers, excellent movies and 'chavershaft' that can be enjoyed at the branch's monthly



Sue Lipschitz, Jeanne Futeran and Rochelle Bloomberg

meetings. Meetings will take place in the Functions Room at Oasis on the second Wednesday of every month, at noon. To join in, contact sue@southafricanart.co.za.



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Creating spaces for celebration and touchpoints for donors



Tanya Golan, Suzanne Berman and Marion Bloch



Leonard and Dorothy Sank, Mendy and Gabbi Vogel



Darren and Caryn Rabin and Caroline and Rael Kaimowitz



Bella and Alan Silverman



Ross and Dina Kudo



Samuel Seeff and Stephen Koseff during Q&A



Henry and Ella Blumenthal and Stephen Koseff



Simone, Paul, Nina and Michael Kovensky



Claudia Palmer, Michael Barr and Gary Palmer

Committed philanthropists — both new and longstanding — filled The Lookout on Monday 25th February for the launch of the United Jewish Campaign's (UJC) 2019 community fundraising campaign. The donors re-energised and committed their support to ensure the well-being of our precious community and its 35 beneficiaries.

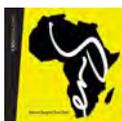
With Stephen Koseff as the keynote speaker and new musical act Jubuntu featuring Khayelitsha Black Mambazo entertaining the crowds, an electric atmosphere of community pride and generosity was palpable throughout the room. Creating spaces for celebration and touch points for donors is critical for the UJC. The 2019 campaign launch focused on the importance of community pride and collaboration.

Stephen Koseff, co-founder and former CEO of Investec captured the attention of the crowd with his talk From Success to Significance, my Personal Journey, where he described how he founded and grew Investec from humble beginnings to an internationally recognised financial institution and a leading player in the South African market. He described his future plans to re-build South Africa, assisting our President in growing our economy. Stephen shared his ups and downs building Investec, as well as his astute observations of the trends and patterns of the South African economic landscape. His journey left the crowd with much to think about and a feeling of hope in these tumultuous times.

At the UJC, we are grateful to our community of donors who keep our beneficiaries thriving and able to offer incredible services to those in our community who need it the most. We would like to thank our generous sponsors: The Eric & Sheila Samson Foundation, Investec, Dischem, ENS Africa, Mazars, Pick n Pay, Berman Bros and Chivas. Merle Rubin, once again, outdid herself with the delicious food she provided. Veronica and Flower at Petals — thank you for your unbelievable support and creation of the event!

We look forward to a successful 2019 where we will hopefully get to connect with each and every one of you. Make sure you continue to #FollowTheSeed throughout the year; this community education campaign will continue to feature every one of our 35 beneficiaries. Join us on the journey!

Thank you to our generous sponsors



UJC hosts an electric event to start the year



Josy and Gill Cohen, Roy Fine and Ian Lessem



Jubuntu performers



Viv Anstey, Kim and Lance Katz, Warren Kaimowitz, Amanda Zar, Caroline and Rael Kaimowitz, Caryn and Darren Rabin, Leora and Michael Sternberg



Stephen Koseff



Malcolm Fried and Marco van Embden



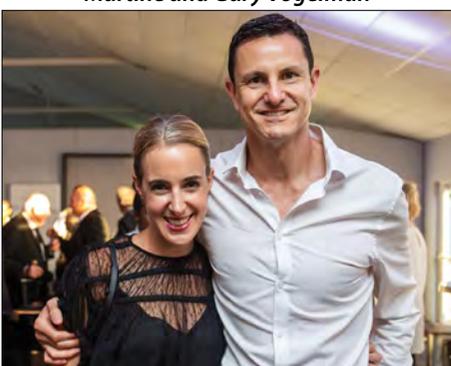
Samantha and Jodi Sher



Leonard and Dorothy Sank, Ambassador Lior Keinan, Philip Krawitz, Stephen Koseff, Alison Berk Katzeff and Marco van Embden



Martine and Gary Vogelman



Amanda and Marc Herson



Top Contributor Launch at The Lookout

Photos by Guy Lerner

Educating the next generation about Isaac Ochberg

By Tali Feinberg

Advocate Hartzel Katz comes from South Africa and lives in Israel, but for most of his life he had never heard of Isaac Ochberg. That is, until he met Bennie Penzik, whose parents had both been 'Ochberg orphans' rescued from Russia and brought to South Africa by Ochberg.

Ochberg was a very successful businessman in South Africa who undertook the hazardous journey to Eastern Europe in 1921 to rescue 173 orphans from the pogroms after the First World War.

He travelled by truck and a horse-drawn cart for two months, visiting orphanages, small Jewish towns and villages in eastern Europe while making the difficult decision of who will he take and who will be left behind.

By early August, Ochberg had gathered the children in Warsaw and set out on the long journey - first to London and then on to South

Africa. They arrived in Cape Town in September 1921. Half of the orphans were settled at Oranjia, the Cape Jewish orphanage, and half at Arcadia, the Jewish orphanage in Johannesburg.

Ochberg continued to visit the children and took a great interest in their well-being. One of the orphans, Becky Greenberg, recalled, "He was like a father to us. There was no difference from one child to another. He was just wonderful."

He was an ardent Zionist and donated to the Jewish National Fund even before the Jewish State was created.

He died at the young

age of 59. He remains the largest single donor to the JNF. Today there are more than 4000 descendants of the 'Ochberg Orphans'.

Hartzel Katz was so astonished by the story that he began to investigate how Ochberg was being remembered in South Africa and Israel. He discovered that although Ochberg's monetary donations had been used to purchase large tracts of land in the north of Israel, there was no memorial there commemorating him

By early August, Ochberg had gathered the children in Warsaw and set out on the long journey - first to London and then on to South Africa.



(a small memorial stone had been removed during the building of roads in the area). Essentially Ochberg, had been forgotten. So "I set out to right a wrong," says Hartzel.

Together with the Isaac Ochberg Heritage Committee, he played a key role the creation of the Ochberg Memorial Park in 2016. "It's a beautiful memorial near Megiddo, with all the names of the rescued orphans. We hope that people will visit in when they go to Israel."

But what about the next generation? Hartzel realised that both younger and older Israelis had no idea who Ochberg was, and that this had to be corrected fast. Hartzel volunteers as an English tutor with Israel's English-Speaking Residents Association (ESRA) at the Alon High School in Ramat Hasharon. He proposed that a creative writing competition be held at the school, where learners could uncover the fascinating story of Isaac Ochberg and then write essays, poems and stories about his life.

At first the suggestion was not taken up, but when a new principal at the school took over, she immediately backed the idea. "I was on a cloud when she gave us the go-ahead!" remembers Hartzel. Led by English teacher Denise Cohen, the Isaac Ochberg Creative Writing Competition came into being.

English teachers invited pupils from Grades 10 to 12 to submit a piece of creative writing explaining the meaning of the Talmudic saying, "Whoever saves a single life is considered to have saved the whole world," and illustrate how it can be applied to Ochberg.

About 150 pupils working either individually or in teams, voluntarily researched or submitted more than 70 contributions, either as a poem, essay, letter, piece of prose or interview. The entries were

submitted by, 27 January 2019, which marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The competition was judged by *The Jerusalem Report* editor Steve Linde, and all pupils who participated in the project will be recognized. The winning entries will be published in *The Jerusalem Report*.

Now that the creative writing competition has been so successfully implemented, Hartzel hopes it will be replicated across Israel. ESRA is planning to take this initiative to a much higher level with the support of the Education Ministry, and introduce it into other Israeli schools.

"Israel is emerging as an international power house in school and university English debating, notably winning a major international debate at the University of Cape Town in South Africa," says David Kaplan of Telfed and a member of the Ochberg Committee.

"We must do something to recognise this Cape Town hero. It would be great if this initiative can spread to other Jewish communities but Cape Town should be number one, and leading the way."

"This creative writing competition and its publication in *The Jerusalem Report* augur well for the future. May other schools follow Alon's lead. The Ochberg saga is about children, and maybe Alon's children will take the message into

the future."

Hartzel hopes that if anyone takes the lead, it will be Jewish day schools, shuls and youth groups in South Africa, and most importantly in Cape Town. After all, this is where Ochberg came from, and if our younger generation does not know his story, it will be lost.

He proposes that community leaders in South Africa take up the call and establish formal opportunities for young people to learn about Isaac Ochberg. "We must do something to recognise this Cape Town hero. It would be great if this initiative can spread to other Jewish communities but Cape Town should be number one, and leading the way."

Chag Pesach Kasher Vsameach

Ronnie Gotkin: Why I love teaching Melton: "Our story unites countless generations; present, past and future merge into one great experience." (Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik)

Studying the Melton curriculum enables students to delve deeply and to connect with the incredible and unique 4000 year old story that has shaped who we are as Jews today, as a collective and as individuals. It is my privilege to help guide students through this remarkable tale of discovery and self-discovery, as it unfolds through the Melton curriculum.



Aviva Laskov: I have enjoyed teaching the Melton course on Israeli Literature As A Window To Israeli Society for many reasons: To use Amos Oz's words in an interview: "...When you read a novel from another country, you are invited into other peoples' lounges, their nurseries, studios and even their bedrooms. You are invited into other peoples' most intimate suffering, into their family celebrations and into their dreams..." The Melton Israeli literature course helps do just that. I have been privileged to guide interested, engaging Melton students

into the literature and culture of modern Israel, domesticate the foreignness of novels and poems written by so many excellent authors and poets.

Richard Mendelsohn: Teaching at Melton through challenging texts to an engaged class is a constant reminder of the joys of teaching. Contextualising the readings and mining their meaning through extensive group discussion is the very best form of learning, beating top-down lecturing any day, deeply rewarding and enjoyable for both teacher and class.



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DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

I'm thankful for my freedom

By Joel Merris



Every year on Pesach we read the following statement in the Haggadah: "In every generation one is obligated to look at himself as if he left Egypt".

This poses another question; How can we possibly understand the reality of living in Egypt? What it felt like to be a slave, of being subjected to the challenges and difficulties that faced the Jews living in Egypt under Pharaoh. After all, we are free. Or are we?!

We live in the Information Age (also known as the Digital Age or New Media Age) characterised by the rapid shift from traditional industry to an economy based on information technology. Emails, WhatsApps, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter all dominate our lives, every day, every hour, every minute.

We are visually bombarded with digital messaging, consumerism has consumed our lives — we have become used to being told what we need, when we need it and where to get it. We have literally become slaves to technology and digital media. Throw in business commitments and

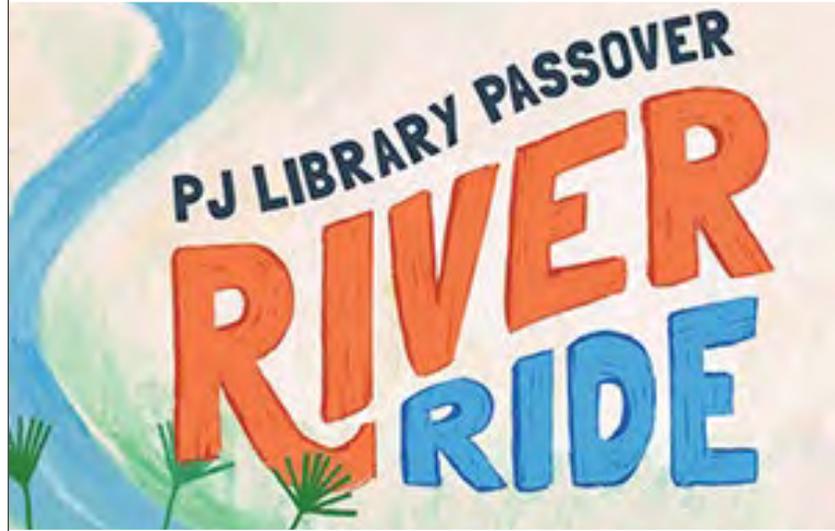
the complex job of raising children and we're talking about all-consuming back-breaking work, with very little or no time for rest.

I am always fascinated when people tell me that the Torah is old and antiquated, outdated and irrelevant. In truth the Torah has become more relevant today than ever before. It provides us with the very tools to deal with the complex issues that face us today in the Digital Age. In fact, it gives us the very tool we need to acquire true freedom and liberation from the enslavement of our hectic lives — Shabbat.

Once a week our family gets to experience true freedom, from sunset to sunset. No emails, no Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, no TV, no smartphones and no computers. We get to spend time together, to talk, to play games to communicate and even sleep! For me Shabbat has become an island in time, an opportunity to unplug, recharge and reconnect. It's what I look forward to every week — try it, you may find real freedom!

Joel is a frustrated creative, husband to Jackie and father to two sons

חג פסח כשר ושמח
Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach from



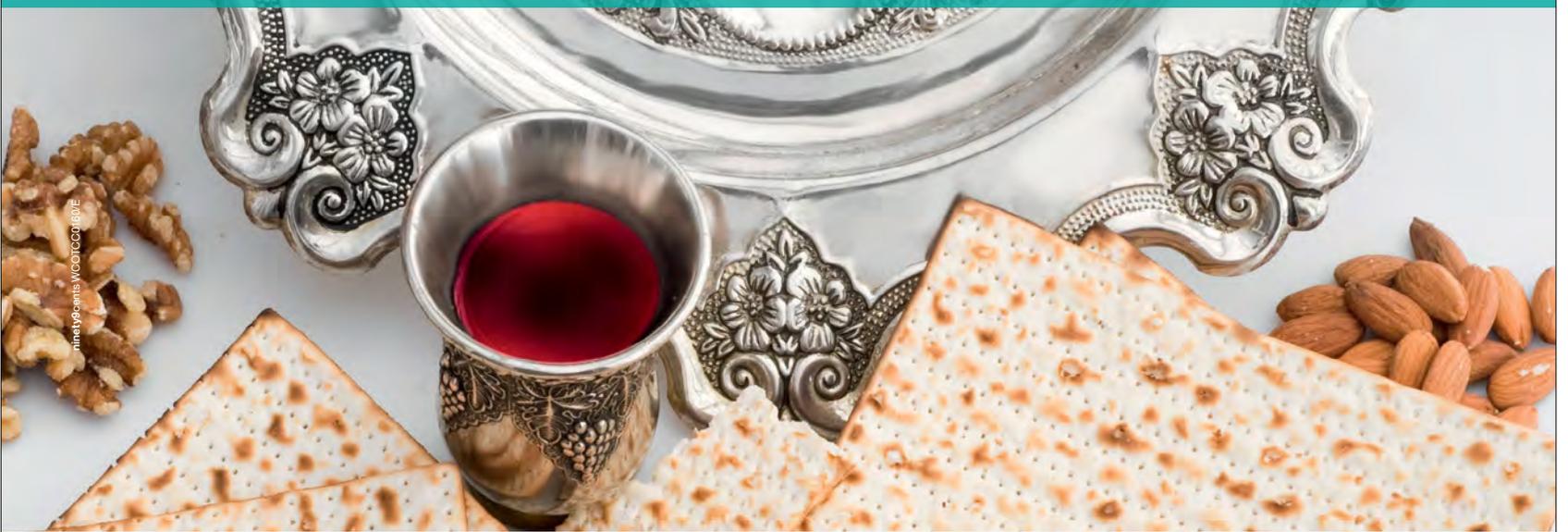
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Fire!

By Rabbi Steinhouse

Fire, fire — burning fire
Fire of devastation — the shul and six
holy Torahs!

Fire!

And again —

Fire!

Hermanus — fire threatening
threatening the Shul
threatening to destroy

yet saved by the Guiding Hand of
Hashem

Came the fire — metres from the Shul
Came the rain and put it out!

And again —

Fire!

The same day — in Betty's Bay!

Fire — relentlessly approaching the
holiday house

of a Cape Jewish couple
ignites and burns behind —

ignites and burns in front

and the house — in the middle
miraculously spared!

And then again

Fire!

A raging fire on Lion's Head
overlooking Sea Point

A few short days before the remains
of the Torahs are buried!

A message from Hashem — written
in fire!

And the message?

See I control all

I control the fire!

When I choose — there is protection

And when I choose — devastation
and destruction!

Devastation,

Fire!

But with a message —

Return to Me, My children

See My Hand

See My Torahs —

My Torahs are crying

Why?

Because — they show us honour —
they kiss us reverently as we pass

and they dance with us joyously on
Simchat Torah

but *do* they?

Do they honour our words

the Words of Hashem

by carefully following them?

or do they marry — all too often —
out of the faith?!

And the words: written in Stone

and expressed out of Fire —

"Remember the Shabat — to make it
holy"

Do they?

Jerusalem, the holy Bet Hamikdash

with fire set alight —

with fire to be rebuilt!

The powerful transforming fire of
Hashem's

Warmth, light and energy

May we hear the message, born out
of fire,

And merit the return of Hashem's

full Brocha

speedily in our days.

**With grateful acknowledgement to the Chief Rabbi*

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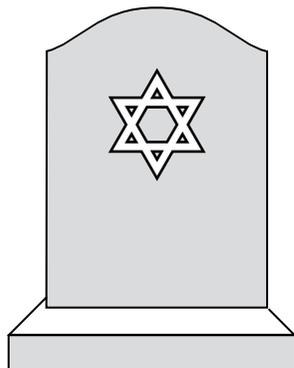
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Family Announcements

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such a success.

Thanks to everyone for your
good wishes and generous
donations to charities made
on our behalf.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

ESME ISAACS (ROSENBERG)

Esme passed away peacefully
in Johannesburg
on 11 February after a long
illness borne with courage
and dignity.

She is deeply mourned
by her husband Aubrey,
daughter Tracey and
son-in-law Gavin Hamburger
and grandsons Stefan,
Wesley and Kian

Mervyn and Jackie Rosenberg
and family wish to express
their heartfelt appreciation
to family and friends
for their love support and
condolences on the passing
of Mervyn's sister.

Her kindness and wisdom was
an inspiration to us all and her
legacy of fun, love and laughter
will live on forever.

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

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

JEFFREY KLEINMAN

We would like to express
our heartfelt thanks to our
dear family, friends, near
and far and the community,
for their love, kindness
and support shown to us
during the illness and passing of
our beloved husband,
father, son, brother and Pa.

A very special thank you
to Rabbi and Rebbetzin
Wineberg for their support
and guidance during such a
trying time. Jeff's bravery
and positivity was an inspiration
to us all.

His legacy and our wonderful
memories will remain with us
forever.

Bev, Rene, Lara, David, Karen,
Barry, Stacey, Grant, Mandy,
Daniel, Zach and family

LORRAINE LOCKETZ-SHER

We would like to express our
heartfelt thanks
for all the comfort, support
and condolences shown to us
on the passing of our beloved
mother, sister
and grandmother.

Our sincere gratitude
to our family and friends,
Rabbi Feldman and
The Gardens Shul, and
a very special thanks to
Dr Saville Furman for his
continued support during
Lorraine's illness.

Alan and Terry, Lynne and
Jonathan, Gary and Kara-Lee,
Carol, Rosemary and families

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The age-old problem — Is there an answer?

In our increasingly youth orientated society, old people are all too often ignored, forgotten and in many cases alone for most of their days.

Almost all families experience the situation and everyone dreads it — the day the phone rings to tell us our elderly parent has had a fall or a 'funny turn' and is in hospital. The circumstances can vary. It may not be our parent, but an elderly relative, the problem may come out of the blue like a fall or stroke, or it might be something more gradual, such as arthritis, blindness or growing mental confusion.

Whatever the cause, the consequences can be far-reaching. We have to face the fact that a parent or a favourite aunt or uncle is no longer capable of leading a fully independent life. That too, in turn, raises the agonising question: where should they be cared for? This is by no means a hypothetical dilemma. The number of aged is increasing rapidly and is projected to rise in the next 40 years. The number of over-80s will increase by 60 percent. At the same time the working population — those who care for the elderly is expected to shrink.

In some cultures, the family automatically look after their own, but this is far from the case in the West, where not only extended family, but even the nuclear family is becoming a thing of the past. So how can the dilemma be resolved? Few people actually plan to end their days in a home, but no one wants to become a burden on their family either. For some, the choices can be discussed, for others, sadly it is already too late.

There can also be a sense of guilt as an elderly parent becomes more immobile, or forgets to turn off the stove once too often or starts wandering out of the house. Sometimes there are huge emotional dilemmas. Often the family have lived in their home for years and in the past they have expressed the fact that they never want to move. But, is it feasible and practical to follow their wishes?

There are no easy answers. Especially if relationships have not been great in the past. There is no way that having your elderly parent or in-law living in your home is going to improve that. People do not get nicer when they are ill. Caring is an intensely personal thing and a lot of hard work.

There are other options. Home care services are available to individuals to remain in their own home, if that is what they want. These can range from simple aids such as wheel ramps and bath grab rails to facilities such as home helps and meals on wheels. There are also a number of professional services that can be accessed to assist in preparing to host an elderly person at home, such as occupational therapist who will be able to advise on safety features and how to ensure that the living is easy for the aged. Social work services can also enhance the well-being of the person living at home. Most important is to ensure that there is good supervision of the carer and that there is back-up in the event that the carer is unavailable for any reason.

In some instances sheltered housing is an opportunity. This is a halfway house between home and residential care which may fit the bill for active older people who wish to retain their independence with added security and companionship of other residents. Unfortunately they are few and far between, but, in reality, are a good alternative to living alone.

Residential care offers the kind of care that would be given by a caring relative. This includes help with washing, dressing, toilet needs and eating and can also offer nursing in times of illness.

Nursing homes offer 24-hour care by qualified nursing and auxiliary staff. Someone who requires this type of care would often have mild to severe mental confusion, poor or non-existent mobility and most probably be incontinent.

It is important not to be dogmatic about which type of care is best for a particular individual, although clearly the greater the disability, the more likely they are to require residential or home care. The overriding principle is that the wishes of the individual should be paramount wherever possible.

Clearly most people would prefer to stay in their own homes. It is important that one does not put their heads in the sand. Families should start planning well in advance. In many cases, the role of the carer creeps up slowly, starting perhaps, with shopping for an elderly relative who lives nearby and then, if they have a fall, for example, going in three or four times a day to check that all is well. To the young and even the middle-aged, old age is something we never quite believe will happen to us — whether we like it or not, it comes to us all and ignoring the needs and rights of senior citizens is foolishly short sighted

So, before any of this happens, it is a good idea to discuss the options with the person and other family members and it is important to remember that you don't have to be the carer — look for the best options for those you love.

Diana Sochen Executive Director

Out and about with members



Pop-In Eve Alperstein and Nancy Krisch



Author Maxine Case with Alison Feldman at West Coast



Twilight Supper with Roy Gillespie



The group at Goudini Spa

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Hearty mazeltov is extended on the following happy occasions:

Births

Denise Bernstein — great grandson
Sadie Graziani — great granddaughter

David and Diana Sochen — grandson

Barmitzvahs

Liz and Selwyn Kantor — grandson
Yvette Zive — grandson

Marriages

Dody Davis — grandson
Randall Sher — daughter

Birthdays

Paula Goldblatt — 90
Denise Lipschitz — 80
Carol Schonberg — 85

We extend our sincere

condolences to our members who have lost family members:

Rosebeth and Hymie Becker — Brother
Herbert Hirsch — Wife

We extend condolences to the family of members who have recently passed away

Hannah Goetz

We welcome new members to the CJSA family:

Michael and Gayle Blumenthal, Diana Head, Noreen Goetz, Deborah Hayes, Eldred and Eva Polikoff, Tina Phillips, David and Elaine Scher, Angela Troward, Lynne Van Der Merwe, Lynne Voges, Lillian Wasserson, Trienie Weymar, Joan Workington.



Cape Jewish Seniors

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.

R130



CJSA wishes all our members a Chag Kasher v'Semeach

PESACH WINE
CJSA Pesach wine now available. Kosher under the Beth Din. Support our fundraising endeavour and enjoy our special wine. Don't be disappointed, order early. They make lovely gifts too R80 per bottle

Monday 6
Sea Point 10:00 Pop In with the Jubilee Dancers R10
Milnerton 10:00 Pop In NSRI representative speaks on protecting our coasts R10
2:00 Music appreciation with Doreen Kantor R10
S/Suburbs 9:15 Outing to the Cheetah outreach in Somerset West R70 Tea for own account

Sea Point 10:00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25
10:00 Talking Point with Colin R10
12:00 Bridge classes R10
2:00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10
Milnerton 10:00 Pop In with Nadia Thorn on cultural heritage preservation and rehabilitation of Monasteries in Nepal R10
1:30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30
1:45 Line Dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
S/Suburbs 9:30 Social Bridge R10. New members welcome
10:00 Kalooki R10
2:00 Knitting Group All welcome R10
West Coast 9:30 Outing to Hillcrest Berry Farm R40 Tea for own account

Monday 13
Sea Point 10:00 Pop In with Nadia Thorn on cultural heritage preservation and rehabilitation of Monasteries in Nepal R10
2:00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10
2:00 Bridge R10
Milnerton 10:00 Craft with Sonia Norrie R25
12:15 Milnerton Committee Meeting
S/Suburbs 9:30 Outing to the District 6 Museum R30 Tea for own account:
2:00 Yiddish mit Rita R10

Sea Point 10:00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25
10:00 Talking Point with Colin R10
12:00 Bridge classes R10
2:00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10
17:30 Twilight Supper Stephanie Schultzer of The Two Oceans
Milnerton 10:00 Birthday Pop In with the Jubilee Dancers R10
1:30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30
1:45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
S/Suburbs 9:30 Social Bridge R10. New members welcome
10:00 Kalooki R10
2:00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10
Muizenberg 10:30 Pop In with Boerejood Gerald Potash R10
West Coast 9:30 Outing to the Cheetah Outreach in Somerset West R70 T

Monday 20
Sea Point 10:30 Birthday Pop In with Clare Dudley from the Helen Keller Society on solutions for those with low vision
2:00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10
Milnerton 10:00 Craft with Sonia Norrie R25
S/Suburbs 9:30 Outing to Hillcrest Berry Farm R40 Tea for own account
9:30 DVD series R10

Sea Point 10:00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25
10:00 Talking Point with Roni R10
12:00 Bridge classes R10
2:00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10
Milnerton 9:30 Outing to the Spice Route R40 Tea for own account
1:30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30
1:45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
S/Suburbs 9:30 Social Bridge R10. New members welcome
9:30 Kalooki R10
2:00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10

Monday 27
Sea Point 10:00 Pop in Enjoy a reality TV morning with Hymie Liebman R10
2:00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10
Milnerton 10:00 Pop In: Suzanne Miller speaks on her stroke-struck husband, life before and after R10
S/Suburbs 9:30 Outing to the Spice Route R40 Tea for own account:
2:00 Yiddish mit Rita R10

Sea Point 10:00 Talking Point with Marcia R10
2:00 Beginners Bridge R10
2:00 Yoga Classes R10
Milnerton 9:30 Outing to Hillcrest Berry Farm R40 Tea for own account
1:30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30
1:45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
S/Suburbs 9:30 Social Bridge R10. New members welcome
9:30 Kalooki R10
2:00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10

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 MAY 2019



	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3
	<p>Office Closed Worker's Day</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:15 JOY Programme with Alon Ashel Learners 10:15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 9:30 Kalooki R10 10:30 Pop In with James Mc Donald on the complimentary health technique programme Stress Release R10 1:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 11:30 Pop In with Sarah Davies on managing pain with body stress release R10</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p> <p>Milnerton 10:30 Men's Schmooze Group with Director of the Jewish Board of Deputies Stuart Diamond R10 6:00 Milnerton Shabbat at our centre Enjoy a warm family evening with members at 106A Pringle Road R70 for members R80 for non-members Booking essential by Tuesday 30 April</p>
Tuesday 7	<p>Office Closed Elections</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:15 JOY Programme with Alon Ashel Learners 10:15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 9:30 Kalooki R10 10:30 Pop In with Anton De Beer on Telecare products R10 1:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 11:30 Pop In: Suzanne Miller speaks on her stroke-struck husband, life before and after R10</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
Tuesday 14	<p>Sea Point 10:00 Craft with Yvette and Jeannette R20 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 12:00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 10:00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 17:30 Twilight Supper Beryl Eichenberger and Ryland Fisher, former editor of the Cape Times, on <i>One City Many Cultures</i> R60</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:15 JOY Programme with Alon Ashel Learners 10:15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 9:30 Kalooki R10 10:30 Pop In Dr David Gotlieb, rheumatologist, speaks on arthritis and pain control R10</p> <p>West Coast 11:30 Pop In NSRI representative speaks on protecting our coasts R10</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
Tuesday 21	<p>Sea Point 9:30 Outing to the Cheetah Outreach in Somerset West R70 Tea for own account 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 12:00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 10:00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:00 Men's Schmooze Group with the Director of the Jewish Board of Deputies Stuart Diamond R10 10:15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:15 JOY Programme with Alon Ashel Learners and Seniors 10:15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9:30 Kalooki R10 18:30 Twilight Supper Beryl Eichenberger and Ryland Fisher, former editor of the Cape Times, on <i>One City Many Cultures</i> R60</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:3 Pop In with Nancy Krisch R10</p> <p>West Coast 10:30 Pop In Nadia Thorn on the cultural heritage preservation and rehabilitation of Monasteries in Nepal</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
Tuesday 28	<p>Sea Point 9:30 Outing to Hillcrest Berry Farm R40 Tea for own account 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9:30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9:30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 11:00 DVD series R10</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:15 JOY Programme with Alon Ashel Learners 10:15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 11:30 Exercises with Mariamne 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 9:30 Kalooki R10 10:30 Pop In with Nadia Thorn on cultural heritage preservation and rehabilitation of Monasteries in Nepal 1:00 Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 10:00 Art with Sharon Lopis R35</p>	<p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20 10:30 Men's Schmooze Group with the Director of the Jewish Board of Deputies Stuart Diamond R10 6:00 Southern Suburbs Shabbat Claremont Shul R60 for members R180 for non-members Booking Essential</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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Taking the road less travelled

By Tali Feinberg

“Wherever there is a Jewish story, that is where you will find me,” says Julian Resnick.

An experienced tour guide, he leads groups of adults on what he calls ‘Journeys Making Meaning’ — intense explorations of Jewish history around the globe. He was in the Mother City to lead one of these Journeys, and it was especially meaningful because he is from Cape Town — he grew up in Somerset West and made Aliyah with Habonim in 1976, eventually settling on Kibbutz Tzora in the 80s. He is a well-known educator, was the former head of World Habonim Dror, and has been a shaliach to San Francisco, London and New York.

Julian started Journeys Making Meaning (JMM) as a way to share his expertise and passion with groups who want to go beyond a holiday and explore the deeper Jewish story of a place. Each of his tours is unique because they deal with the complexities of the day. In South Africa, he was looking at issues around refugees, immigration and who is indigenous — all questions that are at the forefront of global politics today, and which go to the root of the South African Jewish community’s history and place in

South Africa.

“Each and every one of my Journeys is different, as the conversations surrounding us change. Nothing stands still. No site is ever the same. We have new conversations with different people and with different stories,” he says. These trips are built in partnership with the group, and no issue or question is out of bounds. However, Julian does not work with BDS-affiliated groups or any group that does not believe in Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish State. “You name it, I’ve dealt with it. People committed to Israel, people ambivalent towards Israel, people angry with Israel. Committed Jews, devout Christians and Muslims, secular folks, social progressives and fiscal conservatives,” he says.

While his tour to South Africa did include time on the beach, up the mountain, visiting the wine route, enjoying good food and going to a game lodge, it went way beyond that. “We explore the ‘big story’ and Jewish history of the city, from District Six to Ikamva Labantu to Robben Island. We go to the Holocaust Centre and reflect on its role in educating South Africans learners about the Holocaust. We even go to the cemetery in Pinelands, where I tell

the story of my own family — because I believe every family has a story to tell that is part of our history here,” he says. “When people travel, it mustn’t be to escape their lives, but to make them ask the most difficult questions about life back home,” says Julian. “I want them to return and see their own society with new eyes. For example, if we are in Germany and we learn about the book burnings before the Holocaust, I want it to make people question the extent of press freedom in America — and if it is being limited, to try change it,” he adds.

Julian often brings in local guides at specific sites, as he knows they tell the story more genuinely than he can. For example, last year he took a group to Greece, and on their first evening in Saloniki they met with Aliko Arouh, a Jewish woman, archivist, and second generation child of Salonikin Jews who survived the Shoah. “It was such a powerful conversation. The next day we visited the sites which illustrated the stories she shared,” he wrote at the time.

For him, the people who are in each group are as much a part of the tour as the places themselves. At the same time, knows these tours aren’t for everyone, and he is up front with people about what to expect. “If they

just want to relax on the beach or see the big game, then I tell them they are on the wrong tour,” says Julian. But despite this he is in huge demand, as people want to engage with the places they visit beyond the tourist attractions.

Julian once toured Israel with two Syrians who had escaped the civil war. “The two sites they insisted on visiting were the Al Aqsa Mosque, and Tel Aviv — this incredibly progressive city in the Middle East, which sounded like a dream to them,” he recalls. “At Al Aqsa, they saw how an Israeli policeman let them in to pray but I was held back. It was an encounter that really demonstrated the complexities of the Middle East.”

Where to next for him? After his trip to South Africa, he is guiding groups in Poland, Germany, Israel, America, France and Morocco, and will also be travelling to east Africa to explore the possibility of trips to Kenya and Rwanda.

To South African Jews wanting to explore their own history, he suggests that we “be honest with ourselves about our complex past. We mustn’t demonise each other but we can still talk about things that are uncomfortable. That will help find a way to an exciting future.”



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DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

I'm thankful for the opportunity to remember



By Jamie Kawalsky

There are very few feelings as nostalgic as walking in my grandparents' house.

The smells, the dog barking and the sound of the blaring radio. But this day was different, although everything was physically so familiar, there was something different about this particular visit. Maybe it was because for the first time in my life time, I got the opportunity to understand a more serious part of my history; where I come from and what makes my story.

I was desperate to uncover all that I could about my great-grandfather, Maurice Sirin. I wanted to squeeze all the information out of my grandfather that I could but his response was, "we weren't allowed to discuss that type of thing." I don't think he wanted to recall those memories.

All I have is testimonies from his family and some archival stuff; an old suit, his old passports, maybe a couch or two; but nothing of immense significance. One rainy afternoon, I

sat in the kitchen with my grandpa, with a good cup of tea of course, and discussed what it was like growing up, and the experience of having an emigrant father. All he clearly remembers is the one particular mantra "It isn't nice sleeping on a park bench." He recalls that this life was bound and guided by this mantra, "Jamie, he came from nothing, I tell you, nothing."

As we approach Pesach and we recall the exodus; I find myself grateful that I am able to retell and recall my great-grandfather's story; for he wasn't able to face telling his own. I am grateful that he sacrificed and endured the hardships on my behalf for I am proud and indebted to be a South African Jew.

Jamie Kawalsky is a Multimedia and English Graduate from the University of Cape Town. Currently completing her honours in Media, Jamie has a real passion for her Judaism and her heritage and is currently working towards a career in marketing and branding.



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Cross cultural harmony in Fiji – the invisibles

By Maiyan Karidi

Tavakubu village has an invisible 'm' and is pronounced Tavakumbu in the Fijian language. Quite the opposite of the silent 'k' in English which is there, but which is not pronounced.

After being invited to join a traditional Kava ceremony in this small village on the main island of Viti Levu, Fiji, I discover a most mystifying legend which also seems to be invisible to the outside world.

I enter a colorfully painted wooden house, raised on poles, a simple, typical local dwelling. Surrounding the cluster of modest shacks, are immaculate lawns, banana, coconut and breadfruit trees. It is early Saturday evening and there is a flurry of activity as most villagers are preparing for the Sunday 'lovo', a Fijian earth oven, used to cook vegetables and on special occasions, a pig.

Being an avid vegetarian as well as a Hebrew, I offer to help cut up the vegetables rather than deal with the pig and am handed a small wooden chopping board and a blunt knife without a handle. I feel comfortable and warm, sharing the task with my Fijian friends, sitting in a circle on the woven mat in a sunlit room.

We peel, cut, slice and laugh as more tribe members amble in to join the festivities. Beside us is another wide circle of people already passing around the mixed kava in individual bilo's (coconut shell cups). I am offered my first cup and I welcome the taste of the powdered root and water mix and feel privileged to be part of such an ancient ritual.

The first cup numbs my tongue as usual and I prefer to listen rather than to talk. I am introduced to so many tribe members I cannot possibly remember all the names, so I don't even try.

A few names stick in my mind though,



Keshet with the Fijian village kids

like Samsoni, Reuven, Elijah and Joseph. We complete our task and join the big circle as the sun set glows through the open windows.

I settle in for the Kava session and I am in no hurry as I am to stay until after tomorrow's festive lunch. I am enjoying myself and am absorbing the sights, sounds and smells like a sponge, thirsty for new experiences.

Samsoni, a well-built man in his fifties, sits near me, dressed in a casual sulu (skirt) and a flowery shirt. He catches my eyes and asks "so Maiyan, I have heard that you

come from Israel, the Holy land, is this true?"

"Yes", I answer, "It's true." I notice that he has drawn the attention of everyone in the circle and they all lean forward to hear the discussion.

"So, Maiyan, do you know where the Ark is?" This takes me by surprise and I let out a little giggle for lack of words. Silence hangs in the air and I am pushed for an explanation. I feel a bit disappointed to let them down. "Well, nobody really knows I guess, although there are a few theories."

I am passed another bilo and I drink

saying 'Bula' and clap three times as is the custom. "You see," he continues, "the Fijian people look different to the other Pacific island nations, yes?" "Yes", I answer, "to me you look more of African descent, which is a bit of a puzzle."

"Well, there is a legend amongst us Fijians, about King Solomon and Sheeva." He has got my undivided attention and I am fascinated. "You mean that the Ark is buried in Ethiopia?" "No, it is buried on Mana island", he says with confidence. "Where is Mana island?" I ask "Not far from the mainland, not far from here." "Wow," I manage to utter, "how did it get there?"

He continues to explain that one of the sons of Sheeva and King Solomon had visited his father in Ethiopia and requested that he be given the Ark, to take on a journey. His father refused but his son tricked him and with the help of his mother acquired the Ark and proceeded on a long and treacherous journey by boat to the Pacific.

Solomon islands were also named after this legend, where he passed before arriving to Mana where the treasure is believed to have been buried or lost in a storm. The son who brought the 'box of blessings' to Mana island is believed to be the Fijian connection to Africa and where its ancestry lies hidden.

"So you see, we are family" Samsoni said again. "There are things we

have kept, like the practice of circumcision."

Well, that really got me thinking. "Ok," I said, "so, where did you get your names from, the missionaries?" Everyone laughed at my ignorance. "We got these names long before the missionaries" he said.

"We got these names long before my ancestors ate Thomas Baker!" "Ok," I said, taking my turn with the bilo.

"And they ate Thomas Baker because he tried to change you?" "No, no, because he touched the high chief's head, a sign of disrespect punishable by death." Till today, it is taboo in Fiji to touch someone else's head, especially someone with higher social standing.

Lucky for outsiders, today if someone makes this mistake, the most likely reaction is a nervous laugh and a patient explanation as to why one should rather not insult the Fijian by touching his head.

Reuven and Joseph had joined in with the storytelling and then Elijah asked "Maiyan, what are the names of your children?" I answered "Keshet, my son, means rainbow in Hebrew, the rainbow after the flood. Mistorin, means mystery in Hebrew, for all the mysteries in the universe and all the things we cannot know." Elijah

leaned over showing me his hand. "Do you see the tattoo?" "No, pass the candle."

He held his tattoo under the light.

On the side of his hand was a clear, black tattoo which looked like it had been there a long time. MYSTIC. Well, that did it. My hair stood on end and I felt like the room was filled with ancient secrets, lost connections and past meetings all rolled into one very surreal evening.

The ancestors were hanging around and laughing because we have lost our memory.

I felt like the Kava root was a catalyst for the past to meet the future and all that is in between. The root, the source, mixed with water, the nurturer, shared between friends and that ultimately we are all connected in ways we cannot see or remember.

Everyone laughed at my ignorance. "We got these names long before the missionaries" he said. We got these names long before my ancestors ate Thomas Baker!"

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The Karidis are an Israeli/South African artist family who have lived and worked in South Africa, Israel, Mauritius and Fiji. They have initiated and participated in art projects in 4 countries and continue to do so. Their children, Mistorin and Keshet, experienced living in different cultures for most of their lives. They always celebrate Chagim wherever they are and spend Shabbat as a family.

Record number of tourists entered Israel in 2018

By Gilad Zwick JNS.org



Tel Aviv beach and promenade, July 30, 2012. Credit- Israel Tourism Bureau via Wikimedia Commons

Incoming tourism reached an all-time high in 2018, the Central Bureau of Statistics said in a new report on Thursday.

Some 4.1 million tourists visited Israel last year, marking a 14 percent increase compared to 2017, which was also a record year.

Likewise, the number of foreign tourists who stayed overnight at a hotel increased by 10 percent compared to the previous year.

“We can say that 2018 was a record-breaking year, with an unprecedented level of incoming tourists,” Tourism Minister Yariv Levin said in statement. “This accomplishment is a direct result of the laborious effort undertaken by my ministry, as well as the revolutionary way in which we have presented Israel abroad, the inauguration of new flights to Israel and the collaboration with the biggest tourist agencies around the world.”

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Jewish Community Services Cape is an accredited Child Protection Organisation and as such in all matters pertaining to minor children, it is imperative to consider what factors determine the child's best interest. We carefully deliberate and consider the following factors with regard to the child's best interest in our intervention in all matters pertaining to minor children:

- The wishes expressed by the child, providing that the child has the maturity and capacity in this regard. The views of the child in terms of Section 10 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 are taken into consideration.
- The mental and physical health of the parents. A psychiatric assessment can be indicated to determine whether the parent/s suffers with a psychiatric condition and if so the treatment that is required.
- The need for a stable and secure home environment to provide the child with adequate care; continuity of care; nurturance; stability and security.
- Support and opportunities for interaction with members of both parents' extended families.
- Adjustments to school and the community and to ensure that the child is provided with the necessary professional intervention and skills.
- Whether there is a pattern of domestic violence and/or other forms of abuse in the family home. To ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to address the domestic violence and/or abuse, and should this fail, to encourage the parent subjected to abuse to approach the Family Court to apply for an Interim Protection Order.
- The parental use of excessive or inappropriate forms of discipline. It is incumbent on the social worker to educate the parent/s on appropriate methods of disciplining a child and to consider a referral to a Parenting Group dealing with such issues.
- Any factors indicating any form of neglect or abuse (physical, sexual or emotional). Evidence of substance abuse by the parents and referring the parent/s to an out-patient facility or in-patient rehabilitation if so indicated.

A holistic approach in determining the child's best interest must be adopted at all times. The best interest determinations are usually made after careful consideration to numerous factors related to the child's and parents' circumstances and the parental capacity. The child's safety, security and happiness is paramount.

Please contact Jewish Community Services on 021 4625520 should you require further information and we will gladly assist.

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DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

I'm thankful for my friends and family



By Adam Selikowitz

There is so much in my life for which I am grateful. Most importantly the people around me. Both my friends and my family. They are the people I can turn to when I need help or advice.

I can laugh with them and cry with them without any fear of judgement. I consider myself one of the most privileged people in the world because of those who I interact with on a daily basis. They play such a major role in my life and through that I've realised not to sweat the small stuff because of how wonderful the big picture of my life looks. I am always excited to see them every day at school and I don't think I would be able to cope without them.

Pesach is a perfect time to connect with friends and family. Whilst you probably won't find me in shul, I

appreciate the time I can spend with my family at our annual Seder. Aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents all come together in one place and enjoy each other's company and bond with each other. Nobody sticks together more than family.

However, my favourite part of Pesach is, of course, the days we get off school. Not only does this provide some time to relax, but it provides me with time to spend with my friends. When I am with them I appreciate my life so much more, it is a wonderful feeling to know that there are people who truly enjoy your company and who will always be there for you. Without all these people I would be truly lost in life and I am grateful for every second I spend with them.

Adam Selikowitz is in Grade 9 at Herzlia Middle School and member of the media portfolio.

NASA to include Israeli-manufactured radiation suit

By JNS.org

NASA will include a radiation suit produced by the Israeli firm StemRad Ltd. for its Orion Exploration-Mission 1, scheduled for June 2020, according to a blog post published last week on the European Space Agency's website.



"The crewless mission is set to carry out radiation testing as part of the Matroshka AstroRad Radiation Experiment (MARE), a collaboration between NASA, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the Israeli Space Agency (ISA), Lockheed Martin and StemRad, according to the blog," reported the Israeli financial news site Calcalist.

"Two dummies designed to record radiation levels, one donning StemRad's radiation suit, will be used to assess and compare the levels astronauts may be exposed to during a lunar mission."

StemRad, founded in 2011 and headquartered in Tel Aviv with other offices in Tampa Bay, develops and makes suitable anti-radiation materials for scientific, military and medical purposes.

Most Jews of Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian origin are entitled to EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that South African Jews of Ashkenazi heritage are of Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian descent, and that only those who are able to prove their eligibility for Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian citizenship are able to obtain a European passport. The fact is that most South African Jews do qualify for European

European citizenship which will result in them obtaining a EU passport. **Ashkenazi:** It is important to understand that until 1918, all of Eastern Europe was divided between three empires: Russia, Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian empire. Neither Poland nor Lithuania and Latvia existed until 1918.

changed, resulting in cities changing nationality. The resultant effect for descendants of Jews who were born in Vilnius, for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined, but an application for a Polish passport may very well be successful.

Sephardi: the descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are most likely eligible for a Portuguese passport. If applicable, Horesh is able to obtain an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which an application for European citizenship can be made and will most likely be successful. Portuguese citizenship enables one to enter the United States without the need to apply for a visa.

In addition, Horesh is filing many applications for descendants of Sephardi origin who arrived in South Africa from Greece, Turkey, and North Africa. Descendants from other countries in the Middle East – even Holland – are also potentially eligible.

Horesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven



years in Poland, and is recognised as a leading lawyer in the field of European citizenship, with a full understanding of local immigration laws.

Living in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – offers him quick and easy access to Poland, Latvian and Lithuania. Accordingly, he is able to work closely with local professionals who assist him in tracing the documentation required for successful applications for European citizenship.

In addition, and as a result of his close ties with Portuguese authorities, to date he has had a 100% success rate with applications for Portuguese citizenship.

Horesh is available to discuss your specific details. He is often in South Africa, and can meet you in person to discuss your specific needs.



Avi Horesh

Destroyed Warsaw, January 1945

At the end of the WWI, the territory was divided, and countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and others were born/reborn. Only then did residents become citizens of these countries. As a result, people who, for example, were born in Riga (nowadays Latvia) could actually be Polish, Lithuanian or Latvian.

Horesh advises that eligibility for a Lithuanian

Latvian or Polish passport depends on the city from which your grandparents (or their parents) hailed.

Horesh says many South African Ashkenazi Jews of Lithuanian origin have been refused Lithuanian citizenship because their heritage is actually Polish. They would, accordingly, be entitled to Polish citizenship and a EU passport.

After World War II, the borders in Europe

citizenship, whether they can prove their Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian lineage or not, and most South African Jews of Sephardic heritage are also eligible for European passports.

Adv. Avi Horesh has in-depth knowledge of the applicable legislation and in his experience, the majority of South African Jews have ancestors who were illegally deprived of citizenship. As their descendants, these Jews are eligible for

I will be in Johannesburg at the second half of June

My South African phone number is +27 64 745 5273 • Email me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com

Continues from Page 10

Antisemitism in South Africa

By David Sacks, Deputy Director (SAJBD)

A survey of Dutch Jews conducted towards the end of 2018 showed almost half of respondents saying that they took steps to hide their ethnic heritage. One in three reported having experienced antisemitic remarks directed against them and one in ten said they had personally been the victims of antisemitic violence.

Surveys have shown very similar responses by Jews in Scandinavian countries, for all the latter's well-established credentials as ultra-liberal democracies and the relatively few numbers of Jews living there. Indeed, a curious feature of the new wave of antisemitism that has emerged in Europe since the beginning of the century is that its most serious manifestations have been in the Western democratic states rather than in Central and Eastern European countries, which tend to be more authoritarian and right-leaning.

Further afield, incidents in Canada once more exceeded the 1500-mark, and while the total for Australia in 2018 remained in the low hundreds, it nevertheless marked an unprecedented 60% rise from the previous year. Attacks against the Jewish community of Buenos Aires, Argentina, made up 24% of the 215 complaints in 2017, up from 22% the previous year.

At the start of the new millennium, many influential commentators considered antisemitism to be a diminishing problem, one that was likely to diminish further as the world proceeded further into a hopeful new era of burgeoning democracy.

Two key factors in this general mood of positivity was the collapse of the Soviet Union, prior to that one of the foremost propagators of antisemitism on the international stage, and the apparent progress being made in the Oslo peace process.

All of this changed abruptly in September 2000, when the then Palestinian leadership jettisoned negotiations in favour of a sustained

campaign of terrorist violence that continues, if at a lower level, to this day. One of the results of this has been an alarming resurgence of antisemitism worldwide. Throughout the Diaspora, anti-Jewish attacks, including multiple acts of violence and damage and desecration to property have risen steadily. The revolution in electronic communications has further facilitated the spread of anti-Jewish hatred.

Dealing with this new threat has become perhaps the most urgent issue that global Jewry, with the growing participation of the international community, today has to deal with.

We need to take this seriously, but we must nevertheless be careful not to overstate the problem, such as by invoking comparisons with earlier eras where Jews were vulnerable to serious persecution.

A century ago, a large majority of Jews lived in authoritarian states where the laws of their very society discriminated against them. Today, nearly all Jews live in democratic countries where they enjoy full equality and legal protection. Antisemitic manifestations within the broader population, while widespread, at least are strongly condemned by the governments of the day.

The lesson we should take from all of this is that while antisemitism exists in South Africa and needs constant vigilance, the extent to which it poses a threat to our community remains thankfully fairly limited.

Our community needs to be able to deal with it as it arises while at the same time keeping the problem in perspective.

South Africa today is struggling to deal with many critical problems, and its people are gripped by a pervasive mood of pessimism and despondency. At such times, we can and should take heart over how it nevertheless remains far in advance of most developed countries in terms of the position of its Jewish citizens.

South Africa today is struggling to deal with many critical problems, and its people are gripped by a pervasive mood of pessimism and despondency

DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

I'm thankful for the challenges



By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb

Recently, for Temple Israel's Sisterhood Shabbat, I was asked to speak about myself, my journey to the rabbinate, being the first full-time female rabbi in Cape Town, and about the theme of giving thanks for what we have.

As this article is also meant to be about gratitude, I'd like to share some excerpts from my sermon that evening:

I find it easy to feel gratitude these days, having found myself here, in this beautiful if complicated city; in this progressive, accepting and warm community — forging a new life in a new place, surrounding myself with new friends who are quickly becoming family.

It is often easy to feel gratitude at the beginning of a new journey, and I appreciate the opportunity to name my blessings, take stock of what I have.

As a female rabbi, I have learned that my experience differs in some (but not all) ways, from the experiences of my male colleagues. I experience, as most women in male-dominated professions do, subtle yet noticeable examples of discrimination and dismissal. I have experienced being asked for my thoughts or opinions after a male colleague has already been asked, or worse perhaps, answering a question posed by someone only to have them turn to a

male colleague for confirmation that I have answered correctly!

I have experienced microaggressions, and belittlement in the form of compliment. I have been told that I look too-young or too-pretty to be a rabbi — all by people who then expressed surprise or even annoyance when I didn't say 'thank you.' While I know that the way a rabbi presents him or herself is an important reflection of both themselves and their community, I also know that my male colleagues are rarely asked what they're planning to wear to a synagogue service or event, and that the Jewish women of the world rarely spend their time debating the hemlines of my male-colleagues' pants or the length of their shirts-sleeves. Whereas what I wear, wore, or am thinking of wearing — both on and off the bimah — is a subject of ongoing discussion — now a worldwide phenomenon!

At the same time, I am grateful for these additional challenges to my rabbinate. My experiences make me uniquely attuned to the struggles of other women, and to minorities who share many of these experiences of women. I am grateful to have had these experiences motivate me to become a passionate advocate for awareness and change.

Rabbi Emma is the newest member of the rabbinic team at Temple Israel. She is the first full-time female rabbi to be employed in Cape Town

Please note that

Coffee Time & *astra*

will be closed for Pesach from Friday 19th April to Sunday 28th April and will re-open Monday 29th April

We wish the community a pesach kasher v'sameach Thank you for your wonderful support and encouragement!



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Lead As Nachshon ben Aminadav did — by example

Pesach recounts the Exodus and liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. They encounter the Re(e)d Sea while Pharaoh's army pursues them from behind. Crossing the Re(e)d Sea becomes a test of the Jewish people's faith and resolve.

The Torah says little about Nachshon ben Aminadav, only that he was the leader of the tribe of Yehudah and brother in law of Aharon and we thus assume he was someone of outstanding moral character. He was the first to enter the sea and show the rest of the Jewish people what needed to be done. He took a risk.

Leading by example must be visible, to inspire imitation. It is the very public nature of his act that made it so courageous and, even more importantly, so effective. The waters split, carving the path for freedom of the Jewish people. They needed someone to go first, but Nachshon needed a community behind him, to walk with him towards the promised land.

Qualities of leadership include:

- Bold leadership to step up
- Emotional intelligence to understand the needs and hopes of one's community
- Setting a personal example
- Embracing change
- Willing to take risks and act decisively
- Inspiring others
- Looking to the future

True leaders are agents of change who dedicate themselves to effect change. Join us in investing in leadership development for positive growth, ensuring that our leaders always walk beside strong communities both now and for the next generations.

Contact us for more information on the various workshops and programmes that we have planned for 2019.

Wishing you and your family a Chag Pesach Kasher Ve'sameach.

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DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

I'm thankful for the lessons my father taught me

By Adam Zartz

My wife, Aura, and I have been blessed with a home filled with Yiddishkeit.

We so appreciate being surrounded by the stable Cape Town Jewish community, who provide such an important and strong Jewish foundation to our lives.

We can show our gratitude, or thanks, in many ways and it is important to recognise that the deepest gratitude is often demonstrated in the least 'expensive' ways.

Taking the time to talk to someone, or volunteering, for example, at Highlands House.

These simple acts can make a big difference — giving back and contributing whether it be inside of our community or outside of it.

For me, Pesach is a very special holiday and a time when I especially remember my late father, Theo Zartz.

He would conduct the Seder with so much enthusiasm and we would sing every song with joy, taking care not to miss a single note.

One of the greatest things my father taught me was to be proud of who I am and where I have come from.

Not a day passes when I don't draw on his legacy and appreciate that it's the lessons he taught me that have made me to be proud of the way that I deal with challenging issues.

I could not be more grateful to him for teaching me, even in the face of adversity, to be proud to be a Jew.

Adam is married to Aura and they have a seven-month-old daughter named Allegra.



Most South African Jews of Sephardi origin are entitled to EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that South African Jews of Ashkenazi heritage are of Lithuanian descent, and that only those who are able to prove their eligibility for Lithuanian citizenship are able to obtain a European passport. The fact is that most South African Jews do qualify for European citizenship, whether they can prove their Lithuanian lineage or not, and most South African Jews of Sephardic heritage are also eligible for European passports.

empires: Russia, Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian empire. Neither Poland nor Lithuania existed until 1918.

At the end of the WWI, the territory was divided, and countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and others were born/reborn. Only then did residents become citizens of these countries. As a result, people who, for example, were born in Riga (nowadays Latvia) could actually be Lithuanian or Polish.

Horesh advises that eligibility for a Lithuanian or Polish passport depends on the city from which your grandparents (or their parents) hailed.

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After World War II, the borders in Europe changed, resulting in cities changing nationality. The resultant effect for descendants of Jews who were born in Vilnius, for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined, but an application for a Polish passport may very well be successful.

Sephardi: the descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago)



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Adv. Avi Horesh has in-depth knowledge of the applicable legislation and in his experience, the majority of South African Jews have ancestors who were illegally deprived of citizenship. As their descendants, these Jews are eligible for European citizenship which will result in them obtaining a EU passport.

Ashkenazi: It is important to understand that until 1918, all of Eastern Europe was divided between three

I will be in Johannesburg at the second half of June

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An update on Jewish African communities

By Dave Bloom

An email popped into my inbox in early January inviting me to attend a conference in New York entitled Jewish African Communities — Past, Present and Future asking me to present the story of the Zimbabwe and Zambian Communities.

As someone born in Zimbabwe who has lived most of my life in Israel, my Jewish African experience was always framed by the traditional Southern African Jewish community culture, strongly influenced by the original immigrants from Lithuania, Germany, Britain, Poland and Rhodes. I have been recording the story of the Zimbabwean and Zambian Jewish communities for nearly twenty years and hence the request to share my expertise.

Without further hesitation I accepted the invitation and spent three days in a very different and interesting world immersed in literally a 'Cape to Cairo' tour of Judaism being expressed in many ways across the continent.

I learned that there are many people doing serious research and producing amazing material on the Jewish world across Africa. Of course, the starting point in attending, what was slated as the first such conference on Jewish African Communities is to hear from the numerous speakers that there are many flavours, interpretations and histories of what it means to be Jewish in Africa.

Lecturers covered the Beta Israel of Ethiopia and their identity until 1991 with fascinating insights by Dr Shalva Weil from the Hebrew University into the first 'Falashmura' who trekked by foot from Ethiopia to Jerusalem in the early 1900s. We also heard from a young student Abere Endeshaw Kerehu who lives in Ethiopia today and seeks to enhance the lives of the Jews still living there whilst struggling with Israel's slow response to bringing the remaining 8000 members of the community home. Ethiopian-born Rabbi Dr Sharon Shalom spoke with great insight and conviction about the challenges facing Ethiopian Jews in Israel in the context of preserving their culture, traditions and identify.

Dr Jay Waronker, an architect by profession, displayed and spoke about his unique drawings of synagogues throughout Africa. You can see the attention to detail in his work at www.africansynagogues.org

Well known photographer Jono David presented a humorous and yet very impressively serious expose of his journeys throughout Africa to visually record disparate Jewish communities – from Madagascar to the Cameroon and from the Cape to Morocco. He spoke about his visits and showed



Reyda Ayadi (Association Mimouna), Chaya Singer (Parliamentary and Diplomatic Liaison, SAJBD), Ambassador Adama Dieng (United Nations Under-Secretary-General & Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide), Elmehti Boudra (Co-Founder and President, Association Mimouna), Jason Guberman-P. (Executive Director, American Sephardi Federation), Professor Ephraim Isaac (Institute of Semitic Studies), Houda Ougaddoum (General Secretary, Association Mimouna). Photo courtesy Chrystie Sherman

photographs of the Lemba of South Africa and Zimbabwe and the Djerba community on the island off the coast of North Africa where Jews have lived for over 2,500 years. He visited and photographed the Igbo Jews of Nigeria near Aubja. Visit Jono's site at www.jewishphotolibary.com.

Ilona Remy gave an ardent speech expressing his frustrations of how the Igbos Jews with some 26 synagogues in Nigeria and approximately 30 000 members are ignored by mainstream Jewish institutions, the Rabbinate and by Israel.

Maguy Kakon spoke eloquently of her experiences and challenges as the first Jewish woman to run for a seat in Moroccan parliamentary elections. Former journalist Carol Castiel gave a fascinating presentation on her work in preserving the story of the Jews of Cape Verde — a tiny island off the west coast of Africa. It became clear from various presentations that the Spanish inquisition caused Jews to escape to far flung reaches in sub-Saharan Africa — not just the well-known communities of Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt where today hardly any Jews at all exist — but also lesser known communities existed in Cameroon, Guinea and Gambia.

Staff from the American Sephardi Federation, led by Executive Director Jason Guberman and Eddie Ashkenazie presented their amazing project called "Atlas of Jewish History and Diarna Geo-Museum of North African and Middle Eastern Jewish life". The project is working to digitally

preserve the physical remnants of Jewish history throughout the region. It is in a "race against time" to capture site data and record place-based oral histories before even the memories of these communities are lost. They are now extending their work to sub-Saharan Africa.

What was equally intriguing about the conference was the partnership of its two key sponsors — the American Sephardi Federation and Mimouna — a Muslim organisation from Morocco that seeks to preserve Jewish Heritage in that country.

Dr Tudor Parfitt from Oxford University gave a spell-binding lecture on his research into the Lemba of South Africa and Zimbabwe who claim Jewish heritage. His work involved actually tracking the possible route the Lemba may have taken down the East Coast of Africa based on the oral history from the tribal elders. He reached the town of Sena in Yemen where the Lemba believe they came from. His studies involved various DNA tests which showed the male Lemba displayed a high proportion of paternal Semitic ancestry, DNA (called Cohen Modal Haplotype) that is common to both Arabs and Jews from the Middle East. Dr Parfitt was cautious in his words, entitling his talk 'The Jews of Sub-Saharan Africa: Myth and Reality' but it seems clear that the Lemba themselves take their, so called, Jewish linkage very seriously.

There is an active Lemba synagogue in Harare, supported by the international Kulanu organisation and the community members follow strict Jewish rituals from circumcision and Kashrut to Shabbat, and there is strictly no-intermarriage with other communities.

What was equally intriguing about the conference was the partnership

of its two key sponsors — the American Sephardi Federation and Mimouna — a Muslim organisation from Morocco that seeks to preserve Jewish Heritage in that country. Their cooperation created a warm atmosphere at the conference and an included an exotic evening of music and colourful Moroccan dance groups.

In the short time allocated to each speaker (15 mins) I did my best to tell conference the story of the Zimbabwean and Zambian Jewish Communities and how the first white settlers in those two territories included Jews seeking to improve their economic well-being whilst escaping the pogroms and the rise of Nazism in Europe and Rhodes. I told of how communities quickly and effectively established Synagogues and community institutions including fine Jewish Day Schools, Zionist Youth Movements, WIZO, Jewish Sports Clubs in Harare, Bulawayo and smaller towns like Kadoma and Kwe Kwe. In Livingstone, Lusaka and Ndola there were active Synagogues. I showed conference participants the extensive website I have built over the years www.zjc.org.il with records of all the Jewish cemeteries, many written and audio-visual biographies of community members, digitised books and now the extremely active Facebook group, Zimbabwe Jewish Community.

From South Africa's Jewish Board of Deputies, Chaya Singer spoke eloquently about the challenges facing the SA Jewish Community but also how the Jewish life continues to thrive in the main centres of Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. Chaya accepted a special award given to the SAJBOD by the conference organisers for its work in promoting civil rights, the safety and welfare of South African Jewry, including combating antisemitism in all its forms, and building bridges of friendship and understanding between Jews and the broader South African population.

I came away from the conference with a whole new perspective on Jewish Africa and a realisation that across this huge continent Jewish life has had its ebbs and flows but there is a relatively new, growing trend of Jewish identity which requires a respectful and better understanding to establish its credibility and place in history.

Dave Bloom is a personal, family and community historian and has been recording the history of the Zimbabwe and Zambian Jewish Communities of nearly twenty years. He lives in Israel and is also a partner in a software company and a former chairman of Telfed — the South African Zionist Federation (Israel).

Cape Jewish Board of Deputies Special Feature: Yom HaShoah 2019

From 'Here There Is No Why' by Rachel Chencinski Roth

This year represents the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the war in Poland, and the beginning of the Holocaust. The extract below comes from the memoirs of Rachel Chencinsky Roth, niece of Ella Blumenthal.

September first is upon us. We are contemplating the return to Warsaw and the beginning of a new

school year, when like a lightning bolt from nowhere, we hear that the German army has attacked the Polish border... Chaos and confusion take over... People are rushing to get back to Warsaw... When we finally make it back it is night. We are surprised that the streets are deserted... The terrifying sound of wailing sirens pierces the air and the sound of enemy planes is heard coming closer and closer... Waves

of German bombers drop their lethal cargo mercilessly on the civilian population. Buildings on fire rage in a storm that envelopes the entire neighborhood. The burned and wounded victims cry out in plain.

"Schema Yisrael!" Mother calls on God to help us... A young boy runs into our courtyard in a fury. His blonde hair covered with gray soot, tears flow down his cheeks and his eyes are like hollow sockets. A scarlet stream of blood is flowing out of a rip in his blue shirt...

When my mother awakens me, it is still dark.

"Get up! Hurry! It's an air raid" ... She drags me down to the basement, we sit in a dark cellar that reeks of the stench of rotting potatoes. Crowded with the other inhabitants of the building, the dank basement soon turns hot and stuffy. The noise of the bombers gets louder and instinctively we cling to each other... Survivors of the bombing start emerging from bunkers and basements... We find our apartment in ruins...

We must endure a series of hellish decrees from the German government that follow one another with lightning speech. All radios are to be confiscated. All bank accounts must be closed... The government requisitions all Jewish enterprises as well as all Jewish owned land and houses... All public gatherings are forbidden and all synagogues are shut down so the men conduct prayers in private homes... The mood of the populace is now very somber. There is fear of the unknown and uncertainty of what tomorrow will bring under the murderous German occupation.

Rachel and Ella were together throughout the war, enduring the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Maidanek, Auschwitz, and Bergen Belsen. Apart from Rachel's father who had escaped to Palestine, they were the only survivors from their large extended family.

The Yom Hashoah Vehagevurah ceremony will be taking place on Thursday 2 May 2019 at Pinelands No 2 from 12:45 – 14:00



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Poland's Capital Warsaw under bombing by the German Luftwaffe, ca. Sept. 8-15, 1939 (Picture credit: Shutterstock)



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Theme: Remember - Unite - Renew

The keynote speaker is Zohra Dawood She will give an address entitled 'How do young people remember'. Zohra Dawood is the Director of the Centre for Unity in Diversity, she is an advocate of human rights, international justice and the promotion of free press.

The memorial Ceremony will include a lighting of candles and a message from the High Commissioner of Rwanda in South Africa.

Sunday 7 April, 2:00 p.m.	Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens
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Light refreshments will be served. Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za

Baby clothes made for hidden Jewish child during WWII donated to Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem's *Gathering the Fragments* campaign aims to collect Holocaust-era artefacts in order to preserve and share them in various ways with the world in order that the Holocaust is never forgotten.

Recently, Arie Reinhold donated baby clothes made for and worn by him during the Holocaust. Included in this mini-collection are a series of letters written by the Dutch women who hid and cared for him during the Holocaust — to Yad Vashem.

Arie was born in 1942 to Mosche and Fanny Reinhold, German Jews who fled to the Netherlands in 1939 following the Kristallnacht Pogrom. There they joined a Zionist training program of the Chalutz (Pioneer) movement. In 1942, as Fanny was about to give birth, she was transferred to a hospital in the city of Deventer near the Zionist training camp. In April 1943, Mosche and Fanny went into hiding assisted by a Dutchman named Piet Wildschut.

Their eight-month-old son Arie was transferred with the help of members of the Westerweil underground to the care of Thea Klein-Stopper who raised him until the end of the war. On occasion, Thea brought the baby to the Wildschut house where his parents could see him.

As the risk of raids and deportations increased, Mosche and Fanny Reinhold hid with the assistance of Wildschut in the area of an

abandoned brick factory. During the day the couple hid on the cover of the air system in the chimney and at night they left the hiding place. During this time Mosche and Fanny would spin wool for the underground. Whenever possible, they would send some wool to Thea so she could knit clothes for their baby. Yad Vashem recognised Piet Wildschut as Righteous Among the Nations in 1964.

Dr. Haim Gertner, Director of Yad Vashem's Archives Division and Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation, spoke about the importance of the *Gathering the Fragments* rescue campaign which aims to collect Holocaust-era artefacts for posterity.

"Yad Vashem is in a race against time because many of these priceless artefacts are still kept in private homes and are under threat of disintegration," said Dr. Gertner. "Our goal is to conserve and catalogue all the artefacts we receive and make them accessible to enable the wider public to learn, through them, what happened to the Jews before, during and after the Holocaust.

To date the 'Gathering the Fragments' project has seen over 250 000 items entrusted into Yad Vashem's hands. All the information is archived and uploaded online so the public can access the stories and share them with others. All the objects donated by Arie Reinhold are stored in Yad Vashem's Artefacts Collection.



Arie Reinhold and Thea Stopper



Baby clothes knitted by Thea Stopper for baby Arie



Arie Reinhold and his parents, Fanny and Moshe, after the war

All images courtesy Yad Vashem Artefacts Collection

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PO Box 4176 Cape Town 8000 or e-mail: chron@ctjc.co.za

The African Jewish Congress — survival or extinction?

By Ann Harris, President AJC

In the past three months, the South African Jewish Community has been almost submerged by the avalanche of words, both spoken and written, about the so-called restructuring of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies' Country Communities Department.

The Board seems unwilling to explain coherently how it has fallen into the financial position which has given rise to this manoeuvre for which it seems unwilling to provide a proper plan or to acknowledge its legal and moral obligations to the communities affected. The Board has also contrived to ignore the African Jewish Congress which is affiliated to it.

When prizes are awarded for public relations and communications, it will get 0% for transparency and a gold medal for insensitivity.

How does the African Jewish Congress come to be involved in this drama at all?

In 1994, the late revered Mervyn

Smith z"l, former President of the SAJBOD motivated the creation of the AJC for several reasons. His aim was to unite isolated communities spread throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. He was a firm believer in promoting the Jewish identity of our coreligionists all over Central Africa; many formed part of small to medium communities in ten countries and some were simply 'lone rangers'.

Mervyn wanted to place African Jewry firmly on the map of the World Jewish Congress for the benefit to both of mutual support. The new organisation quickly became one of the warmly recognised members of the 100 strong family of the World Jewish Congress and brought valuable ideas and votes to the table.

He was also passionate about the preservation of African Jewish history, the very bedrock of traditional European communities forced to settle far from their countries of origin. The passing years have proved that their descendants have spread their warmth and traditions throughout the Jewish communities of the world.

Two years after the inception of the

African Jewish Congress in Harare, Zimbabwe, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, the South African Rabbi already employed by the SAJBOD to minister to the country communities within South Africa, was appointed CEO and spiritual leader of the Jewish communities in the ten Sub-Saharan countries. It appears to have been arranged that the AJC should be affiliated to the SAJBOD and that Rabbi Silberhaft would use its premises in Johannesburg as a base. His time was, and still is, divided two thirds/one third between the country communities of SA and the AJC.

The countries he guides are Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya and Uganda. And so Rav Moshe has become the much admired 'Travelling Rabbi'.

This article does not need to chronicle his sterling work over the past twenty-five years. The sheer outpouring of indignation and distress at the notion that his position might not survive the restructuring is testimony to how his widely scattered congregants regard him. There is no doubt that in Sub-Saharan Africa he has cared for every soul of Jewish origin with pastoral work stretching from the cradle to the grave; from Chaggim to Fast Days; from support for Israel and for local charities; and for outstanding efforts to preserve heritage and traditions stretching back more than 100 years.

The writer, as current President of the AJC has been privileged during her term of office to visit every member community and confirms the depth and breadth of the AJC's positive effect on these small outposts.

Every country has its own highlights and challenges: the twinning of the medical schools of Tel Aviv University and the Copperbelt University in Ndola, Zambia; the moving story told by the Holocaust Detainees Exhibition and Cemetery in Mauritius; the history of Central African Jewry chronicled in the Museum in Livingstone, Zambia; the rebirth of the Maputo community in Mozambique with its rebuilt synagogue including facilities for a new generation of children: and the superhuman efforts

of the communities in Harare and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe to continue to run viable shuls despite the many difficulties which surround them.

And not to be ignored, the sterling efforts of all the communities, even the smallest, to befriend and assist their fellow citizens, to fight antisemitism and to speak out fearlessly for the survival of the State of Israel — their courage and love for their roots is admirable and outstanding.

Despite all this successful endeavour, it is now quite obvious that the AJC is to be disowned and ignored by the Board and allowed to slip away into the annals of history. If there is a future for the African Jewish Congress, what is to be done to help it continue its sterling work?

The passing years have proved that their descendants have spread their warmth and traditions throughout the Jewish communities of the world.

Should it sever its connection with the SAJBOD? Should it cultivate independence or join whatever association of country communities emerges from this debacle?

Should it continue in its attempt to strengthen its ties with the World Jewish Congress, an alliance which itself has challenges, largely born of distance and economics?

Will it be possible for Rabbi Silberhaft to continue his pastoral and organisational work for the AJC adequately supported financially and administratively?

None of these questions can be satisfactorily answered without strong lay leadership sadly lacking in these organisations.

If the African Jewish Congress is to survive, there has to be an attempt to harness the enormous goodwill and sympathy the current situation has exposed.

All over the Jewish world, there are Jews, formally affiliated or not, whose Jewish roots came from Sub-Saharan African communities. The way forward can only succeed with the support and cooperation of all who can look back to their earlier years and to the memories of their parents and grandparents.

We ask them to acknowledge their very special history.

Opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or its sponsoring bodies. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed. However, by agreement, the name may be withheld in the publication. Letters are published subject to space being available.



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Local company a game-changer for actuarial consulting

By Jaime Uranovsky

Cape Town based Adi Kaimowitz, founder of Virtual Actuary, is making waves both locally and internationally, with his innovative approach to actuarial consulting.

After launching the company a year ago, it already has over thirty-five large clients and a revenue that far exceeds that of typical start-ups at this stage, but Adi says that this is only the beginning. 'We are building a very complex business of actuaries and we are now moving into year two, and so, exactly how the business shifts and moulds... well, I don't want to say too much about it and give away the game plan, but what we are doing right now is just 5% of where we will be in 10 years' time.'

Adi, who started Virtual Actuary together with his wife, explains that the company sources actuaries from various sectors (such as life insurance, general insurance, healthcare, pensions, investments and banking) and matches them with clients in a new and more efficient way. 'Right now, the actuaries work as employees; it is a job. Our goal

is to make the actuaries interact with the world in a more immersive experience.

Before founding the company, Adi worked as an actuary recruiter for ten years and, in that time, got a grasp on how the profession operates and what does and does not work. 'I got to know most of the actuaries in South Africa personally and, so, in looking to the next chapter of how I was going to interact with [them]...I felt that the current consulting model for actuaries could potentially be improved upon. And so... I was able to, with the help of some actuaries, nurture the idea of [the company].

We are, ultimately, an organised collaborative of business-astute actuaries, who are serving a global market

An exciting development is that the company has just opened an office in the US. Virtual Actuary and its partner-company, InsurTech Global, 'have developed an actuarial modelling software that is thousands of times faster and more efficient than the current actuarial modelling software that is available.

Adi, who cites Adrian Gore as one of his key South African role models, sums up his company in the following words: 'We are, ultimately, an



organised collaborative of business-astute actuaries, who are serving a global market in the InsurTech and FinTech space and in the traditional insurance and banking space.'

On being asked what his advice is for emerging start-ups, Adi believes that '[you should] stop worrying about what other people are going to say about what you do or don't do. Do it anyway. If you have an idea, stop procrastinating and just do it.

Whether some people think it's successful or not doesn't matter. What matters is we're doing what we want to do, and we believe we're heading in the right direction and we're doing it anyway. I think that real success is having a family which lives with Torah. That's real success.'

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MENSCH CHANGE-MAKER OF THE MONTH

Dr Baz Dreisinger

As the founder of the Prison-to-College Pipeline global movement — a higher education program inside prisons that began in New York and launched in South Africa on Mandela Day, 2018 — as well as the Executive Director of the Incarceration Nations Network, I have dedicated my life to one Biblical verse: “Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue!”



And for nearly two decades now I have been privileged to see what flowers when those whom society has brutally discarded are afforded genuine opportunities—especially educational opportunities. So I am honored to share this piece of writing by one of South Africa’s first Prison-to-College Pipeline students, still incarcerated at Pollsmoor Prison. He can speak to the power of this work far more cogently than I can.

Education not incarceration By J.N.C.

It is often said that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

In 2002 I was sentenced to life imprisonment, and it seemed as if there were no more steps in my life’s journey. Upon entering prison, it soon became apparent to me that the vast majority of people incarcerated here were completely illiterate. Some of the most feared prison gangsters, who could command the death of anyone, were in large unable to even write their own names. I had always been at the top of my class whilst at school, yet now I was at the mercy of masses of uneducated people. Even the majority of the prison staff were at best merely partially educated. Faced with rampant, violent gangsterism, drug addiction and almost every type of vileness all around me, I felt as if I was on the brink of abandoning all hope—as if I was about to fall headlong into an abyss from which there would be no return. The odds were just way too heavily stacked against me. To say that I was utterly confused by this dark world would be the understatement of the century. I was, at best, completely lost.

On the 21st March 2002, however, whilst in prison, the unthinkable happened: I was fortunate to meet the former President Nelson Mandela, who was visiting the facility. He said to me, “Never let prison define who you are. It’s never too late to follow your dreams.” It was a lightbulb moment for me. I personalised those words; I held onto them and they became a beacon of hope to me and a complete centering. I had renewed hope. I was determined to “rise from the ashes” — and I knew that education was the vehicle with which I would do so.

After being shipped out from Pollsmoor Maximum-Security Prison, I decided to throw myself into any opportunity that would enhance my education. Over the years I have completed four diplomas; at present, as I prepare for my release from prison this year, I am busy doing my final three LLB subjects. But what gave me even more satisfaction than my own education was seeing just how education can change the hearts and minds of my fellow incarcerated individuals — even the most hardened ones.

I began teaching English and Mathematics to other incarcerated students, and I was able to explain things quite well to them. Suddenly my classes were bursting at the seams with individuals who were highly interested in learning. Their assignments were timeously completed, and during their break-times they were now discussing mathematical formulas and boasting about things such as writing poetry and reading fiction instead of engaging in gangster lingo. It was as if they had metamorphosed into completely new beings. They loved coming to school, actively participating in class and striving to be the best, and their marks reflected an average of seventy-five percent. Many of them even managed to turn their backs on gangsterism. That is what education can do—and what it did for me.

But why did it have to take place inside a correctional facility? The vast majority of my students who have already left prison will never come back, thanks to the skills they acquired through education. They became new men. But what if these men had received education instead of incarnation in the first place? Surely our jurists have the skill-set to impose more creative “sentences” on people who cause harm to communities. Based on what I have seen and experienced during my imprisonment over the past 16 years, I can affirm that the way forward is this: Education, not Incarceration. Schools, not Prisons.

Dr Baz Dreisinger is a professional change-maker member of MENSCH: A Network of Jewish people engaged in positive social change in South Africa.

DAYEINU; A TEMPLATE FOR GRATITUDE

I'm thankful for my journey to health



By Elan Lohmann

Since Pesach is about our liberation from slavery I wanted to share my gratitude for my liberation from unhealthy living and hopefully inspire you with my story.

Seven year ago I discovered on my personal journey that everything is better in life when you are healthy. I believe passionately that you are a better parent, partner, worker and human in general.

It took me until late in my life to learn this lesson. For 12 years of my working life I was a corporate chain-smoking workaholic who lived on junk food, hardly slept and got no exercise at all.

My career as an executive and climbing the corporate ladder was my only focus. At age 35 I realised that I was on a miserable path and not living the life I dreamed of as a sporty kid.

I was on a one-way ticket to diabetes, heart disease, impotence and more.

Something had to give and so I began

my journey to change my health. I started a Facebook Group called the ‘Sleekgeek Health Revolution’ for me and 10 friends to help each other and accidentally created a movement of people which now totals 85 000.

When we had just 600 community members I gave up my salary and quit the security of my career to pursue the dream of helping people live a better life through health.

I express my gratitude to the universe by sharing that message with others. Nothing beats knowing you helped someone to live a better life and 99% of what we offer we offer people for free. Having my own venture has been tough but extremely rewarding and worth it with no regrets.

I challenge you to find your purpose in life and pursue it with passion.

Elan is the founder of The Sleekgeek Health Revolution, a community of support that aims to change the lives of 1million people through health and fitness.



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HERZLIA IN FOCUS

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Camps and Outings

GEOFF COHEN
Director of Education, UHS

At HERZLIA we are committed to giving our pupils a holistic education that places emphasis on both the indoor and outdoor classroom. We are of the firm belief that exposing our pupils to activities and events outside of the classroom gives them a broader perspective and adds to the enrichment of their education.

During the course of the year we arrange a very large number of camps from Life Sciences to Student Leadership, Klitah to Bootcamp. Camps are fundamental in bringing groups of pupils together to engage and bond and to develop a wide range of both interpersonal and lifestyle skills. Great opportunities exist to develop a wide range of social skills that strengthen established relationships and develop new ones. Furthermore, camps develop important life skills such as conflict management, problem solving and group work skills. A great example of this is the Grade 6 Interhouse Camp run by the Jewish Life & Learning (JLL) Department which creates an opportunity for the three campuses to come together in their different houses for a bonding, team building sleepover experience. We had over 100 Grade 6s and 30 High school madrichim that joined the programme.

Educational outings are remarkable opportunities that transform learning for our children. Living in Cape Town, our pupils have a huge range of opportunities to experience education outside of the classroom and one such event is the Grade 6 outing to Parliament. Our Highlands Grade 6 class were fortunate to have a small group of pupils from Hawston Secondary School (near Hermanus) join their group for the tour. Their guide was an ex-teacher and handled the mixed group with such ease and a great sense of humour.

The Herzlia Constantia Grade Five class went out on the Pirate Ship at the Waterfront to begin the school year, to bond and have fun together. This incredible outing gave our children a wonderful experience. They saw jellyfish, whales, large sea/marine birds, but the most exciting was the dolphin spotting extravaganza.

As part of our diverse educational offering, HERZLIA invests time and resources into arranging interesting and informative outings and camps for all our schools. We are successful educators when we provide our children with memorable opportunities to explore the world.



Grade 6 Interhouse Camp: We've got the spirit, yes we do!

As part of our diverse educational offering, HERZLIA invests time and resources into arranging interesting and informative outings and camps for all our schools. We are successful educators when we provide our children with memorable opportunities to explore the world.



Weizmann Primary: Grade 5 Relationship Building Camp – Cape Times Fresh Air Camp, Simonstown.



High School Life Sciences Camp: On the sand dunes.



Grade 6 Interhouse Camp: Going green with Gideon.



Middle School Marine Day Outing: On the rocks.



Middle School Marine Day Outing: In the sea.



Highlands Primary Grade 6 outing to Parliament: On the steps of our South African Democracy.



Ahoy There: Herzlia Constantia Grade 5 outing on the Pirate Ship.



Weizmann Primary: Grade 5 Relationship Building Camp.



THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST

SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION



The new Leila and Stanley Bloch Playground opens on the Gan Aviv campus

AMANDA ZAR
The Herzlia Foundation Trust

The Leila and Stanley Bloch Playground on the Gan Aviv campus was officially opened on 14 February this year. Sarah Bloch merged with the existing Gan Aviv Pre-Primary campus in Vredehoek and the playground required an extensive renovation to maximise the existing space and provide adequate after care facilities for the pupils, whose ages range from 18 months to 3 years.

Through the incredibly generous support of Rene (nee Bloch, MY 1975) and Bob Drake of The Robben Foundation, The Abe Barron Charitable Trust and other donors we were thrilled to officially open this worldclass playground at a very special donor event.

All our young children gathered on the astro turf to entertain guests from around the world. Thereafter our visitors were treated to a delightful tea in the magnificent Leila and Stanley Bloch Playground.

HERZLIA is so fortunate to have such incredibly generous donors who have given a gift for all our small children to enjoy for decades to come. The Herzlia Foundation Trust together with our generous and committed donors are making Jewish children's dreams at HERZLIA come true.

For more information about the work that we do at The Herzlia Foundation Trust, contact **Amanda Zar** on +27 21 286 3472 or email azar@herzlia.com



Enjoying their new playground at Gan Aviv.



Amanda Zar welcomes donors and guests.

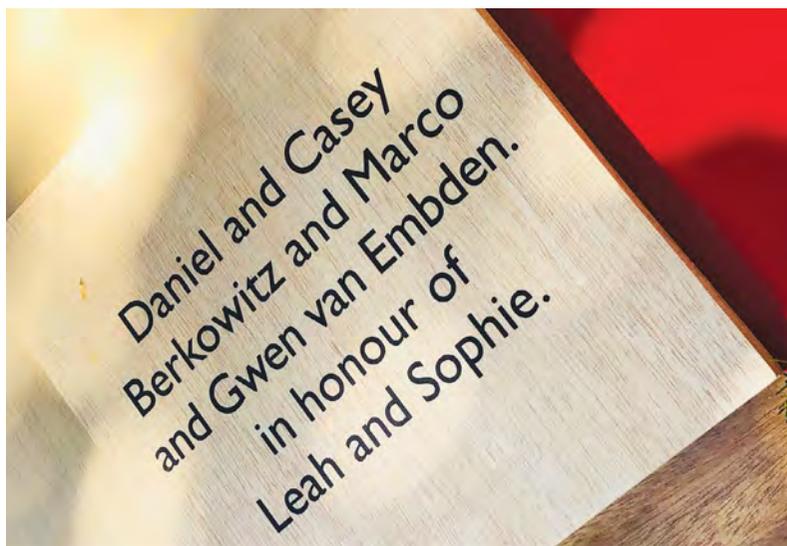
"HERZLIA is so fortunate to have such incredibly generous donors who have given a gift for all our small children to enjoy for decades to come. The Herzlia Foundation Trust together with our generous and committed donors are making Jewish children's dreams at HERZLIA come true."



Special guests of The Herzlia Foundation Trust.



Jonathan Bloch and David Ginsberg.



Acknowledging our generous donors.



The Gan Aviv Playground Project Team.



Exploring our new playground.



The Gan Aviv donor board honours Leila and Stanley Bloch.



Thanking our Lucky Stars...and generous donors.



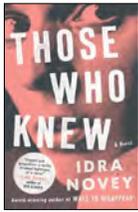
Bob and Renée Drake.



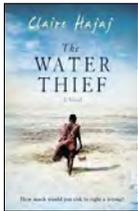
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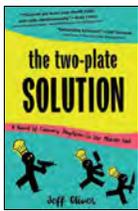
FICTION



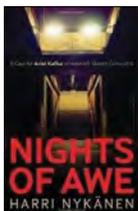
THOSE WHO KNEW by IDRA NOVEY. Lena, a young professor, suspects the powerful senator she was involved with in her student activist days to be responsible for the death of a young woman. Lena revisits her own history with him on an island after the collapse of a U.S. supported regime and the violent episode that ended their relationship. A riveting exploration of the cost of staying silent. A provocative, topical novel written by a skilful wordsmith.



THE WATER THIEF by CLAIRE HAJAJ. Nick, an architect, abandons his wedding preparations to travel to an unnamed African village to help build a hospital. He finds himself unexpectedly attracted to his host's wife who converted to Islam. When the village faces a deadly drought, he realises that a well is also a necessity. We learn how his troubled relationship with his Jewish father and the tragic loss of his best friend weigh heavily on him. A vividly written book.



THE TWO-PLATE SOLUTION by JEFF OLIVER. A novel of culinary mayhem written by reality chef Jeff Oliver. The TV show Natural Dish-aster is shooting in Israel, when a Palestinian bereavement group is falsely pursued by the police and crashes onto the set. The talented producer decides to use them as actors playing terrorists competing against a united chef team. Among ludicrous challenges, there is the shared humanity of Jews and Arabs cooking with joy.



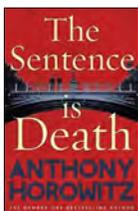
NIGHTS OF AWE by HARRI NYKANEN. An intriguing thriller in which Ariel Kafka, a Jewish detective in Helsinki's Crime unit, is called upon to investigate a series of murders. They began with two Arabic-looking men shouting Jewish obscenities as they died. Set during the days leading to Yom Kippur, Ariel attempts to uncover everything before this holy day. A combination of Jewish themes with the traditions of Nordic crime makes this a refreshing book.



NOT OUR KIND by KITTY ZELDIS. Jewish Eleanor Moskowitz and WASP Patricia Bellamy meet by chance leading to Eleanor tutoring Patricia's polio-stricken daughter. They live different lives — Eleanor lives on working class Second Avenue and Patricia lives the ideal privileged Park Avenue existence. Despite this, they form a friendship until a complication arises when Eleanor meets Patricia's sophisticated brother Tom. A story of love, friendship and choice.

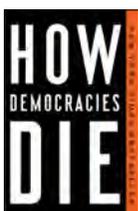


STRANGERS WITH THE SAME DREAM by ALISON PICK. Three overlapping narratives showing the mental and physical hardships, which punctuate the utopian dream of the halutzim on an early kibbutz. The novel follows vastly different pioneers — Ida, a young unmarried woman escaping peril in Russia, the ideological leader David and his pragmatic wife Hannah. At every turn, the resident Arab population peer in from the fringes of the story



THE SENTENCE IS DEATH by ANTHONY HOROWITZ. Celebrity divorce lawyer Richard Pryce is found bludgeoned to death with a bottle of vintage wine. In addition, the killer has painted a mysterious three-digit number on the wall. Horowitz is embroiled in the case alongside Detective Daniel Hawthorne and they begin to unravel many secrets behind the murder. Horowitz skilfully intermingles real-life characters and family members into the investigation.

POLITICAL HISTORY



HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE by STEVEN LEVITSKY & DANIEL ZIBLATT. These two renowned Harvard professors have studied democratic governments that succumbed to authoritarianism due to elections, a coup d'état or repression of opposition. Insightful lessons from Pinochet in Chile to President Erdogan and then today with the election of Donald Trump. A look at the demise of liberal democracies including a road map to ensure that history does not repeat itself.



REPORTER by SEYMOUR HERSH. Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Hersh has been America's premier investigative journalist. Seymour grew up the son of Jewish immigrants with an enduring thirst for knowledge. The stories that he has broken over several decades have influenced public opinion, affected U.S. policy and helped bring down a President. His memoir raises issues of ethics and is filled with memories of friendships and avenues of joy and pain.



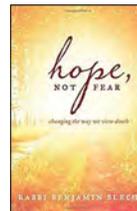
THE IMPOSTER by JAVIER CERCAS. At Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005, Enric Marco delivered a speech on behalf of Spanish survivors. Unbeknown to his admirers, Marco was a con man. He was not Jewish, did not fight against Franco nor spend time in the camps. Cercas has written an account of this imposter uncovering how and why he did this and how he succeeded. This is the story of both Cercas and Marco interweaving the effects each had on the other.



THE UNSTOPPABLE RUTH BADER GINSBURG by ANTONIO FELIX. This retrospective honours the achievements of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. A gorgeously illustrated book with inspiring quotes; notable speeches and insightful commentary. From her formative years in Brooklyn, her professorship at Columbia, her marriage, her landmark cases and the prejudice she overcame to become the second woman to be appointed a Supreme Court judge.

MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY

RELIGIOUS INTEREST



HOPE, NOT FEAR by BENJAMIN BLECH. Rabbi Blech, professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University shares the wisdom we all need to view death in an entirely new light. When faced with his own mortality it inspired him to look for proof of the soul's existence after death. After consulting the Torah, Jewish rituals, near death experiences and the Kabbalah, Blech leaves readers with key issues learnt including the importance of holding on to faith, prayer and optimism.



MY JEWISH YEAR by ABIGAIL POGREBIN. New York journalist Pogrebin decided to embark on a year's journey to better understand Judaism through 18 holidays. She immerses herself into the history of each examining cultural traditions including foods, rites, and duties. The narrative is interspersed with musings from renowned scholars while at the same time entertaining. She discovers that "Judaism is a train that circles back to pick you up."

HOLOCAUST



THEN THEY CAME FOR ME by MATTHEW D. HOCKENOS. The author has written about German pastor Niemöller's individual resistance and courage in the face of evil. He turned against Hitler and the Nazis when they wanted to change the Protestant church into an extension of the State. Niemöller was imprisoned in Dachau as a political prisoner but his activism began after the war when he condemned the church and their silence during the Holocaust.



HITLER'S BRITISH ISLES by DUNCAN BARRETT. True-life recollections from the Channel Island's British subjects of Guernsey, Jersey and Sark who lived under Nazi rule in 1940. The occupation was to be a prototype of how the Fuhrer planned to run Britain. This turned sour when homes were requisitioned, wirellesses confiscated and food strictly rationed. The small Jewish population were deported and disobedient islanders faced internment.

From all of us at the Gitlin Library
Chag Kasher v'Sameach

I'm thankful for critical reasoning

By Simon Apfel



We live in a post-truth generation. A world of alternative facts. Fake news is ubiquitous. Soon, we might be unable to believe our own ears.

A Montreal startup, Lyrebird, has released a product allowing users to create an audio clip of *anyone saying anything*. Adobe, meanwhile, is in the early stages of developing Photoshop for audio.

This has serious repercussions for politics: influencers creating fake clips of politicians to undermine them — or politicians denying they said things they were really recorded saying, calling it fake audio.

But it's not only fake news leading people astray. Away from the Macedonian troll farms and Russian Twitter bots, *slanted* news exerts an influence more subtle — and, for that reason, more insidious. Every newspaper report these days is an opinion piece, the grammar and sentence structure and word choice all finely calibrated to elicit a specific emotional response.

Op-eds and actual opinion pieces

meanwhile are seized on by the party faithful, by the favourably predisposed, as proof of whatever position they happen to be heralding, regardless of how spurious the logic or shaky the premises.

Left and right are equally complicit, and while the likes of *Fox News* and *Breitbart* are often more overtly and transparently partisan, the *Guardians* and *Slates* of the world are often equally, though more subtly, tendentious.

So what am I grateful for? Being critically minded. Having the critical faculties to discern and differentiate in fine detail. To smoke out intentionality. Everyone has a superpower. This is mine.

I'm not sure critical reasoning is something you're born with. My own faculties were awakened in high school English classes. I was blessed with a succession of teachers who pushed us hard to tease out meaning in the stories we studied. Reading between and within and through the lines. Diving deep into the quanta of

language.

These critical skills were then developed and formalised through an undergrad degree in philosophy and then sent into hyper-drive during a six-month immersion in intense Talmudic study at a yeshiva in Jerusalem.

Like any superpower, critical reasoning comes at a cost. Crippling indecision. An unsteady, often elusive, sense of self. Wherever I look, I find other people's non-sequiturs and fractured reasoning popping out at me. Sometimes I feel like that kid in *The Sixth Sense* who sees dead people. It's a gift, but it makes my life a misery. It's no way to live. It's disconcerting and disconcerting as hell.

But when *Breitbart* bullshits and *Fox* fabricates. When *Slate* slants and *Slant* slates. When Conway is conning you and Trump tramples truth with every Tweet from his toilet. When Ben Shapiro cares less whether his "facts" are facts than he does about your feelings, and stand-up

comedians are political spokesmen. When what we see and hear is confined to algorithmically assembled echo chambers. ...Is there any *other* way to live?

Tips for developing critical reasoning:

Read deeply and widely; don't accept superficial analysis; discard catchphrases and sloganeering.

Read anything that accords with your pre-existing worldview with a double dose of skepticism and critical faculties turned up to ten.

Pick a tractate of the Talmud to study; it's resistance training for critical reasoning, an exercise in holding two (and often three or four or five or ten) conflicting arguments in your head at any one time and impassionately evaluating their relative merits. No preconceptions, no taking sides, just a battle for truth.

Simon Apfel was born into obscurity, the son of a frozen peas importer and a washing machine. His love of writing has always outshone his ability by a humiliating margin.



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2019 Chabad on Campus Launch

A special day on every Jewish student's calendar is the annual Chabad on Campus launch event. This year's launch event brought together over 120 Jewish students from universities around the Western Cape on the *Mirage* catamaran, to celebrate the start of a new academic year. The annual event also serves as a welcome for first years to their new Jewish student family and is an opportunity to learn about the various programmes on offer through their varsity career.



Dean Mayer, Michael Cohen and Rabbi Nissen Goldman



Aaron Fleishman, Gina Kopping and Bengi Goldberg



Max August, Chad Piha, Brett Meyer and Saul Levin



Jake Deats, Avi Lurie, Adam Gorin and Joseph Marcus



Mia Osrin, Jess Loeb, Tali Kadish and Jade Kaplan



Alexa Ginsberg, Bianca Codron and Kira Miller



Kevin Pogrund, Ariel Baron, Jess Pamensky, Gary Isaacs and Ryan Roup



Isabella Peerutin and Lara Levetan



Gabi Lipshitz and Jessica Berkman



Jesse Harrisberg and Gabi Rawraway



Jodi Slot and Demi Rosen



Bella Miller and Gideon Mendelowitz



Samson Student House
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JEWISH LIFE ON ^{& off} CAMPUS!



CHaBaking a Difference

CHaBaking a difference is a social bake night for students at the Samson Student House that raises awareness for the different charitable causes in our community. It is a fun and meaningful way for students to learn about our Jewish community. This #PurimEdition students baked Hamantashen and learned all about the vital work of Jewish Community Services.



Grant Norrie, Seth Jacobs, Kevin Pogrund



Kevin Pogrund and Rachel Goldberg



Gary Isaacs, Jamie Sundelson, Leora Hodes and Seth Jacobs



Yankel Goldman



Grant Norrie, Jordyn Fitzpatrick



Carly Soicher and Franki Silverman Launching the Chesed Club and Rosh Chodesh Society



Rebbetzin Ashleigh Goldman, Hazel Levine, Lauren Cohn and Rabbi Nissen Goldman



Gabi Lipshitz, Franki Silverman, Jessica Berkman, Jess Loeb, Alex Cohen, Maxine Norrie and Micaela Dirmeik

All images courtesy Levi Uranovsky

Alex Clare: living-room sessions

Chabad on Campus hosted Alex Clare for a Living Room Sessions and Farbrengen (yiddish: get together). Alex is an international artist whose hit song 'Too Close' has over 52 million views on YouTube and was featured in a Microsoft advert and in a FIFA video game. Alex is also a proud and principled Jew who has turned down millions of Rands worth of record deals as well as an invitation to sing with Adele due to his Shabbos observance.



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Corporal punishment v freedom from violence in independent and private schools

By Anton Katz

When a group within society wishes to offer special religion or language education, it should be allowed to do so and so there are many private or independent schools operating in South Africa.

In offering education, can private schools offer whatever they choose? Or are there limits to what may be taught and what disciplinary measures are available to the school?

In analysing this issue, the significance of education cannot be over-emphasised. As the Constitutional Court has stated: "Education is primordial and integral to the human condition. The indigenous and ancient African wisdom teaches that "thuto ke lesedi la sechaba"; imfundo yisibani" (education is the light of the nation) and recognises that education is a collective enterprise by observing that it takes a village to bring up a child." The following quotes were added: "Education is an ornament in

prosperity and a refuge in adversity." Aristotle; "How then is perfection to be sought? Wherein lies our hope? In education, and in nothing else." Immanuel Kant; "If we want to reach real peace in this world, we should start educating children." Mahatma Gandhi; "Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of a farmworker can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another." Nelson Mandela; "Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development." Kofi Annan; "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." – The Holy Bible: Hosea 4:6; "To have much learning, to be skilful in handicraft, well-trained in discipline, and to be of good speech – this is the greatest blessing." Buddha.

But access to teaching and learning has not been freely and widely accessible to all people at all times. All forms of human oppression and exclusion are premised, in varying degrees, on a denial of access to education and training. The uneven power relations that marked slavery, colonialism, the industrial age and the information economy are girded, in great part, by inadequate access to quality teaching and learning. Understandably private groups within society establish private or independent schools. French, German, Christian, Jewish and Muslim schools are South African examples. But when Christians, Jews or Muslims establish private schools may they rely on passages from religious texts, such as the Bible to conduct the education it offers?

South African law bans corporal punishment. Christian Education South Africa, an umbrella body of 196 independent Christian schools in South Africa with approximately 14500 pupils maintain an active Christian faith and provide learners an environment that is in keeping with their Christian faith. Corporal punishment (in the form of five strokes given by the principal, or a person delegated by him, with a cane, ruler, strap or paddle) is a vital aspect of Christian religion.

Christian Education challenged the ban on corporal punishment. Its claim was that the parents' constitutional right to freedom of religion was violated by the absolute ban. Christian Education relied, in part, on passages from the Bible, such as, Proverbs 23:13 and 14: "Do not withhold discipline from a child, if you punish with a rod he will not die. Punish him with a rod and save his soul from death," and Proverbs 19:18 "Chasten thy son while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

The government opposed the challenge. It defended the ban on the basis that children have a right to be free from violence. And corporal punishment is a violent infliction of physical harm. It is a violation of the dignity of targeted child.

In considering the challenge the Constitutional Court accepted that: "Certain religious sects do turn their back on the world, but many major religions regard it as part of their spiritual vocation to be active in the broader society. They cannot be altogether parted in law more than in life. Not only do they proselytise through the media and in the public

square, religious bodies play a large part in public life, through schools, hospitals and poverty relief. They command ethical behaviour from their members and bear witness to the exercise of power by state and private agencies; they promote music, art and theatre; they provide halls for community activities, and conduct a great variety of social activities for their members and the general public. They are part of the fabric of public life, and constitute active elements of the diverse and pluralistic nation contemplated by the Constitution. Religion is not just a question of belief or doctrine. It is part of a way of life, of a people's temper and culture. "



In balancing the competing rights at stake the Court rejected Christian Education's challenge to the ban. A Christian exemption from the ban on corporal punishment could not be granted. The conclusion was that: "Yet their schools of necessity function in the public domain so as to prepare their learners for life in the broader society. Just as it is not unduly burdensome to oblige them to accommodate themselves as schools to secular norms regarding health and safety, payment of rates and taxes, planning permissions and fair labour practices, and just as they are obliged to respect national examination standards, so is it not unreasonable to expect them to make suitable adaptations to non-discriminatory laws that impact on their codes of discipline. The parents are not being obliged to make an absolute and strenuous choice between obeying a law of the land or following their conscience. They can do both simultaneously."

The corporal punishment example is a sharp example of the potential clash between rights. But there are so many other potential conflicts. Divided political loyalties, the content of history and evolution v creation theology are some of the other interesting issues possibly arising. Over time the contours of what is, and what is not constitutionally acceptable in South Africa's diverse and religiously plural society will be calibrated.

It is and will be interesting.

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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Lindsay Sher to Antony Maltz

Photo: Ian Junor



Megan Gouws to Daren Fuchs

Photo: Justin @ Simone Photography

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SIMCHA SNAPS



Romy Schneider married Andrew Whiley

Photo: Catherine Mac



MAZELTOV to Demi Katz on the occasion of her Batmitzvah celebrated at the Claremont-Wynberg Hebrew Congregation on 26 January.

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10 of the best Israeli TV shows to binge watch

By Jessica Halfin for Israel21c

It's not a coincidence that over the last 10 years, it's been Israel of all places that has sold the rights for many an American television remake such as the wildly successful *Homeland* (Showtime), *Traffic Light* (Fox), and *In Treatment* (HBO).

Rumour has it that many more deals are in the works for series from Israel's top TV echelon to get picked up by US networks — for example, *Euphoria* set to premier on HBO later this year produced by rap superstar Drake.

Plus, popular streaming sites have begun including original Israeli series on their platforms, blessing audiences with the gift of Israeli entertainment in spoken Hebrew with English subtitles. Ladies and gentlemen, we are now in an era where Israeli shows can be enjoyed in their entirety (a rare treat from a country where second seasons can take years to follow the first) in their original form, any time of the day or night, from virtually anywhere.

While there are many more shows that we wish could be uploaded to these platforms like, yesterday — *Malkot* (Queens), a mafia thriller starring a predominantly female cast, and *Autonomies*, Israel's answer to *The Handmaid's Tale*, to name two — this modern setup is already a godsend for all those addicted to thrillers like the ever-popular *Fauda*, and also lighthearted rom-com Hebrew shows like *Srugim*.



Image from *Srugim*. Photo: courtesy

This is a list of Israeli original series, in Hebrew with English subtitles, that you've got to settle in and binge watch ASAP, if only to see how the same Israeli A-listers manage to morph into the different characters they play across series. Welcome to Israel.

When Heroes Fly

A new realistic and gripping thriller series released in May 2018, *When Heroes Fly* is the story of IDF comrades who fought together in the 2006 Second Lebanon War as they reunite to travel to Colombia in search of Yaeli (played by pop singer and actress Ninet Tayeb), the sister of one friend, and the past lover of another, who was thought to have died there in a mysterious manner nine years prior. Familiar faces in this Netflix featured series that won 'best international series' at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival are Michael Aloni of *Shtisel* (see #4), and Tomer Capon of *Fauda* (see #2).

Fauda

Fauda shines a different light on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A fast-paced and cigarette-laden look in the world of Israeli Shin Bet agents entrenched in a cat-and-mouse game of West Bank terror operatives. Often times finding themselves enmeshed a little too deeply, the wildly popular *Fauda* ('chaos' in Arabic) shines a light for better or for worse on lesser-seen elements of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, from both sides, and in a most gripping way.

With a testosterone-emblazoned cast that's a who's who of Israel's most popular players of recent years, this high-action thriller, now on Netflix, contains just as much Arabic as Hebrew, and thankfully the English subtitles you'll need to follow along.

Shtisel

Starring Michael Aloni as Akiva Shtisel, the artist misfit son of a prominent ultra-Orthodox family, and rising star Neta Riskin as his sister Giti who is stuck in a difficult marriage raising six children, *Shtisel* is a window into the world of ultra-Orthodox Jewry in Israel, examining the feelings, thoughts and everyday realities of those who have been born into world of profound spirituality, rules and roles that they are meant to dutifully fulfill.

A fascinating and thought-provoking fictitious tale of a real-life closed off community, this series — which has now had its two seasons picked up by Netflix — is thoroughly interesting and poignant to watch.

Avoda Aravit (Arab Labor)

With a title meaning a job that is not done properly, the mainly Arab-Israeli cast is in on the joke in *Avoda Aravit*. The critically acclaimed comedy series about a prominent Arab family who moves to a predominantly Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem, and the struggle between fitting in and maintaining their identity that follows, bridges a gap between Jews and Arabs by creating dialogue on uncomfortable (and most often hilarious) subject matter à la *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

On the air since 2008, it is currently in its fourth season and still going strong following the success of the show's precious multiple wins from the Israeli Television Academy, including awards for best director, best comedy series, and best script in 2012 and 2013.

Srugim

A series about friendships and that illusive search for love, with the little caveat of navigating the strict world of modern Orthodox Jerusalemites, *Srugim* (the word for crocheted yarmulkes) follows a group of best friends who also happen to be misfits, each in their own respect, and inadequate at finding their match in a world where marriage is the most important thing. Like an Israeli version of *Friends*, but without the cheesy laugh-track, this series is a reminder of how important pals (and venting, and coffee dates) can be.

Mossad 101 (HaMidrasha)

Featuring a superstar ensemble cast of Israeli actors, *Mossad 101* is a fictional story showing the process of recruitment and training of Mossad operatives, as well as the recruits' personal entanglements with each other and their loved ones, in a way that shows the humanity behind the covert institution's stern reputation. Dramatic, but not taking itself too seriously, this two-season series is currently available in 40-minute episodes on Netflix.

Mekimi (Founders)

A mini-series brought to the small screen by writer-director Tamar Marom, available for streaming on Amazon Prime, *Mekimi* brings Noa Yaron-Dayana's bestselling book of the same name to life, through well-known Israeli actress Yael Poliakov

(nominated for best actress in a drama series in 2014), and Danny Niv, otherwise known as the musical performer 'Muki.'

It is the autobiographical story of a young couple living in 1990s Tel Aviv — one a successful radio and TV star, and one a film student — who get turned on to Hasidic Judaism during a trip to the Sinai Peninsula. The ensuing journey shows them sharing the twists and turns that only such a dramatic life change can provide.

The Baker and the Beauty (L'hiot Ita)

A 2013 Israeli comedy-drama remade in Russia, Holland, and currently being developed in an American version for ABC, *The Baker and the Beauty's* two Israeli seasons are now available to watch on Amazon Prime. A story of an unlikely couple — one a simple man working in his family's pita bakery, and one an attractive celebrity — their chance meeting and subsequent relationship faces many challenges, including the many people who'd like to see them apart. Hilariously funny and light-hearted, with high-quality cinematography and talented acting, *The Baker and the Beauty* is an easy watch.

False Flag (Kfulim)

The relentless twists, turns and surfacing secrets of *False Flag* — a series about five seemingly normal Israeli citizens thought responsible for the kidnapping of a high-profile member of the Iranian government — will keep you on the edge of the seat, and make turning off your Hulu nearly impossible. The 2015 eight-episode series based on a similar real-life incident was created by Maria Feldman and Amit Cohen, and stars an ensemble cast including well-known actor Ishai Golan (who also stars in *Hostages* (see #10) and stunning model, actress and singer Ania Bukstein.

Hostages

The Israeli show behind the award-winning *Homeland* series, *Hostages* aired in Israeli in 2010, not long before Claire Danes stepped up to play a CIA agent in the American version (winning multiple Golden Globes and Emmys in the process). Available on Netflix and Hulu, the original *Hostages* struck a chord with Israeli viewers as it first aired when kidnapped IDF soldier Gilad Shalit was still being held captive.

SPORT

Young Jewish stars shine in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

By Ilan Herrmann

Brazilian jiu-jitsu (BJJ) is a sport on the rise. Internationally and here in South Africa BJJ is taking hold among many, especially youth, including those within our Jewish community.

Stellenbosch was the host venue for the recent Africa Continental Pro, a Jiu Jitsu tournament which is part of the World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Qualifying Series. Participants of all ages from across Africa competed, including two Jewish boys from Johannesburg, each of whom reached the finals in their respective category.

Nine-year-old Dov Drishner who studies at Torah Academy school in Johannesburg entered in the 30-34kg category. He fought through to the finals where he narrowly lost on points and claimed the Silver medal.

In the three tournaments Dov has competed in he has won Bronze, Gold and now Silver. Due to his observance of Shabbos, Dov has missed out on many other tournaments but this is hopefully changing. "There has been an effort by the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu association to accommodate Jewish kids, of which there are many, by having tournaments held on public holidays and occasionally on Sundays," says James Saks former General Secretary for 'Sport Jiu-Jitsu South African Federation' (SJJIF). Saks who himself is Jewish, was Jiu Jitsu World Champion runner-up in both 2016 and 2017.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu was originally derived from Judo and shares many similarities to it. It does not allow striking. It uses throws, joint locks and chokes and focuses on grappling on the floor. Though a contact sport, the rules as well as guided supervision offers the combatants protection. "In BJJ a strong focus is on fighting off your back from a vulnerable position. The sport teaches fighters that are smaller to be able to defend themselves against much bigger opponents," explains Saks.

Jack Stillerman, a nine year old studying at King David Linksfield in Johannesburg, competed in his 3rd tournament when he squared up in Stellenbosch at the African Continental Pro. Like Dov, Jack had won a Gold and Bronze in his previous tournaments and, after reaching the finals, he came out second best against a highly skilled and experienced opponent, taking home a Silver.



Jack fights in the under 42kg division and has a natural affinity for contact sport. "I also do Judo and boxing, but Jiu Jitsu is a favourite for me." Jack fought through to the finals where he lost out to an experienced fighter. Jack explains his intrigue with the sport. "I like that you don't know what will happen in a fight. That builds up my eagerness, anticipation and excitement."

One of the brightest and most promising stars of tomorrow coming out of the SA Jewish community in BJJ is Mila ben David. A Grade 2 student at King David Linksfield, Mila represented SA in the Pan American Kids IBJJF Jiu Jitsu Championship last year which was held in Long Beach, California. After winning through the early rounds, Mila defeated the 2017 Brazilian champion in the quarter finals, the American champion in the semi finals and went on to win Gold in the finals against the Japanese champion. She was crowned World Champion and brought the Gold medal and trophy back home to South Africa.

Dov Drishner says he will remember his Cape Town sports excursion not only for the tournament and medal he brought home, but for the wonderful shabbos that preceded Sundays event where he, his father and zeide were warmly welcomed at the Ohr Sameyach shul in Sea Point. A determined Dov said, "PG I'll be back and next time will go for Gold."

Ilan Herrmann is the publisher of Soul Sport magazine, the worlds only Jewish sports magazine. He is the son of legendary soccer player Jorge Santoro Herrmann.

One giant leap for Demi

Demi Katz won the WP girls u12 Long Jump Championship in February, and has qualified to compete at the SA Nationals in Gauteng on 15 March.

To reach this level, she won interschools, competing against 19 other schools, zonal championships, Western Province and then Western Cape Champs.



Jack Stillerman takes silver



Dov Drishner takes silver



Mila ben David takes gold



Dov and his medals



World champion Mila

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