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Men acknowledge their role in preventing violence against womxn

At 9am on 9 September, men around South Africa stood together in silence for nine minutes as part of the #99949 campaign. “We are standing in solidarity with our wives, our mothers, our daughters, our girlfriends, our lovers, our friends, our colleagues, our country, in grief, sadness, shame and anger at the current state of our nation.” said Kholekile Dlakiya from the Mankind Project, an international community of men representing all walks of life across society.

“We are fathers and sons, brothers and husbands, and along with all womxn, we are role models for our families and our communities. And we need to take responsibility for the roles we play, whether actively or passively, both by our actions and our inaction” said Aron Halevi, who launched #99949 at the beginning of September.

Mankind Project and #99949 challenge ALL men in South Africa, regardless of age, race, sexuality or income to stand together at this critical moment. “We must all do whatever we can to keep our families, our streets, our communities and our country safe from the legacy of violence and abuse that still plagues our society.”



For more on gender-based violence see pages 41 and 46

Living Maths brings STEM to life with NASA astronaut and country-wide tour



'Astronaut' Ariel Jehoshaphat, who won best costume on the night, with Dr Don Thomas at the Living Maths Space Tour event at Protea Heights Academy on 12 September. Dr Thomas, a former NASA astronaut and veteran of four shuttle missions has logged over 1000 hours in space.

See more on page 45

Limmud breaks attendance records in 2019

Limmud Cape Town celebrated its Bar Mitzvah year with a record-breaking celebration of Jewish learning and community.

From 23 — 25 August Limmud once again provided the opportunity for the broad tent that is Cape Town Jewry to connect with each other.

For people new to the concept of Limmud, the volunteer/participant model is out of the ordinary. Each volunteer pays for their ticket and all of our local presenters to do the same, in the spirit of being a volunteer *and* a participant. This is central to Limmud's commitment to quality community building.

This year Limmud was held at the V&A Waterfront, where they introduced a hybrid model of residential and non-residential attendance. Over 130 sessions, featuring a blend of international and local presenters, as well as a family-orientated learning model, including a Young Limmud programme for children of all ages, were on offer.

Irwin Manoim, co-founder, editor and publisher of *The Weekly Mail* (now the *Mail & Guardian*) remarked that Limmud “has managed under a single umbrella to unite for the first time people who otherwise never speak to one another. Progressive and Orthodox, right-wing and left wing, Chabadniks, atheists, Likudniks, Habonimniks, women in sheitels and women with rings in their noses, Trump fans and Trump foes, one-staters and two-staters, Zionists and anti-Zionists. It is the only safe space in the Jewish community. Indeed, it is the only organisation we have that is capable of fulfilling the Hillel dictum of debate for the sake of heaven.”



The Limmud 2019 team: Gavi Ziegler, Raymond Schkolne, Victor Boyd, Karen Kallman, Bev May, Maxine Boyd, Sarit Swisa, Nancy Krisch, Gabi Saven, Steven Casper, Bev Shrand and Gill Sacks. Absent from photo: Daphne Miller, Toby Shenker, Leaza Cowan, Emma Gottlieb, Sheryl Schkolne, Kim Fisher, Anita Shapiro, Peta Feldman, Daniel Goldstuck, DanBrotman, Beryl Eichenberger, Simone Kleinman, Michele Stein and Aviva Philips

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Lindy with a why

Why we need more 'difficult' females

By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



Boy, my girls can be difficult.

I have often said to them (read: shouted at them) when my blood pressure is near boiling point and my coffee has worn off, "why can't we just run on the novel assumption that in this house, I am the boss, and when I say things you do them first time around?!" Repeating myself and being ignored can be such triggers for me. Noncompliant, disobedient children? Oy. Little girls being sullen and pouty? Double oy.

And yet, what is my job here? Sure, I am aiming for 'respecting your parents'. That's a value we hold dear. But the best way to learn to respect your parents is not through parents shouting that they deserve respect.

By showing your children how much you respect *your* parents, their *grandparents*, you not only teach them that that respecting parents is important, but you model *how* to do it at the same time. Being an example is much harder, but more effective.

My job here, besides the feeding, hugging, reading to, laughing with and learning from, is to carve independent resilient women who aren't afraid to say how they feel. We aim to operate within the model of 'is it true, is it necessary, is it kind?' when expressing ourselves, but if our self feels uncomfortable, that must be expressed too.

Many women can say that while they haven't been assaulted they have been put into very uncomfortable situations where they pretended they weren't uncomfortable because they 'didn't want to make a scene' or they 'didn't want to hurt feelings'. I want my children to be non-compliant. (This will come back to haunt me in the short-run, but I'll sleep way better in the long-run)

I want them to know that it's OK not to smile and be pleasant when they don't feel that way. They don't owe

the world a smile or a hug. I need them to know that if someone makes them feel uncomfortable, they can acknowledge that feeling and decide on an immediate course of action and that I will back them 100%. Trusting their guts will serve them better in the long run than aiming not to offend.

An important lesson can be learned from the words of author and strong woman Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "What I want to say to the young girls is forget about likeability — if you start off thinking about being likeable you're not going to tell your story honestly because you're going to be so concerned with not offending. The world is such a wonderful, diverse, multi-faceted place that there's somebody that's going to like you — you don't need to twist yourself into shapes."

Girls and women who feel like they 'owe' something to the person they are interacting with often minimise their own discomfort so that they don't offend, squash their opinion so that they don't aggravate and 'twist themselves into shapes', because that's what good girls do.

My young girls have been born into a time of extraordinary challenge and extraordinary opportunity. They will need to be extraordinary, not compliant, to navigate through this complex world. And when they do choose to smile or hug or do something for someone, I will know they are doing it because they really want to do it and not because they are doing as they were told.

We may feel overwhelmed with all the hashtags and movements, protests and horrific news reports, but actually this is a time of great potential. Through all this discomfort and discourse we can be a part of a shift that will make this a safer world for *all* our children, girls *and* boys.

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Community Noticeboard

CHALLAH BAKE

See page 10 for details of how to get your *Challah Date Box*

SHABBOS PROJECT

15 -16 November See page 33

MENSCH MITZVAH DAY

A day of volunteering to improve the lives of people and care for the planet.

17 November See page 17 for details

CAPE TOWN TORAH HIGH

Parenting your ADHD Child – from surviving to thriving.
27 October See page 7 for details.

SAZF FILM CLUB

Shelter

Sun 27 October 6.30 pm See page 12

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

Matric Exhibition

7 October See page 34

CT HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTRE

BOOK LAUNCH: *Epitaph Of No Words* Thurs 3 Oct 10 am

PUBLIC LECTURE by Leora Raikin *Documenting History Through Art*
Thursday 16 October 6 pm

See page 21 for details of events

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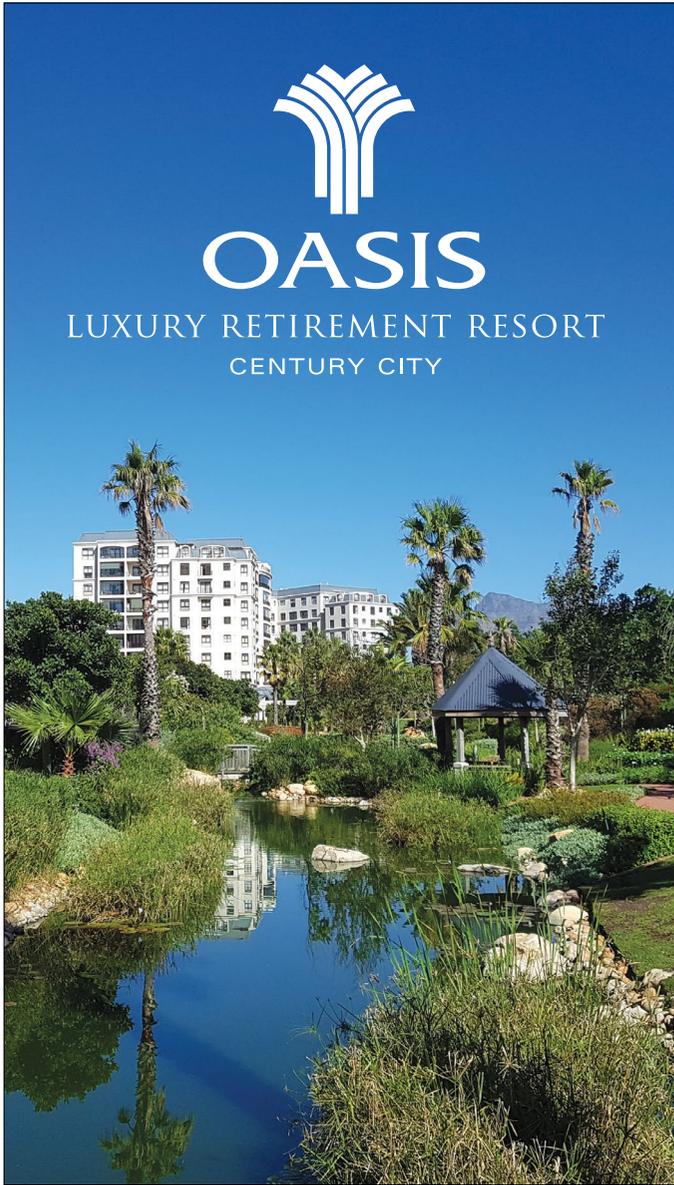
MACHANEH DATES

Bnei Akiva	4 - 23 December	
Netzer	13 - 15 December	Grades 1 - 3
	6 - 15 December	Grade 4 - 11
Habonim	16 - 18 December	Grades 3 - 4
	6 - 24 December	Grades 5 - 11

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		earliest	latest	
4 Oct/5 Tishrei	Vayeilech/Shuvah	6.15pm	6.33pm	7.25pm
8 Oct/9 Tishrei	Yom Kippur	6.15pm	6.36pm	7.33pm
11 Oct/12 Tishrei	Ha'azinu	6.15pm	6.38pm	7.31pm
13 Oct/14 Tishrei	1st day Sukkot	6.15pm	6.40pm	
14 Oct/15 Tishrei	2nd day Sukkot	7.32pm	7.32pm	*7.34pm
18 Oct/19 Tishrei	Chol Hamoed Sukkot	6.15pm	6.44pm	7.37pm
20 Oct/21 Tishrei	Shemini Atzeret	6.15pm	6.45pm	
21 Oct/22 Tishrei	Simchat Torah	7.38pm	7.38pm*	7.40pm
25 Oct/26 Tishrei	Bereshit	6.15pm	6.50pm	7.44pm

*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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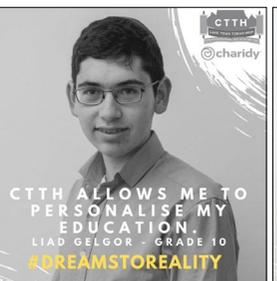
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Israel Story: How Mishy Harman co-created Israel's biggest podcast

By Jaime Uranovsky

At Limmud Cape Town 2019, Mishy Harman, a Jerusalemite who is also an alumnus of Harvard, Cambridge and the Hebrew University, shared some of the stories that have come out of his seven years abroad.

One of those stories is about the creation of another story: *Israel Story*, Israel's most popular podcast, with hundreds of thousands of listeners in 192 countries.

Before moving back to Israel after seven years, Mishy decided to mark the end of his journey abroad by completing another journey: a road-trip across America, spanning 33 states and 20 000km.

Together with his dog, Naomi, Mishy drove from Massachusetts to San Francisco. It was while spending hours at a time in the car that Mishy began listening to a podcast recommended by his best friend, titled *This American Life*.

The latter podcast in essence popularised the podcast and, a good eight years ago when Mishy was listening to it, few people around the world, including Mishy, had heard of the term. Today, there are over

700 000 active podcasts in the US alone.

This American Life tells the stories of thousands of ordinary people living in America.

Mishy recounts, "Though I was sitting in my car and these stories and these voices were coming out of my earbuds into my ears, I was being transported magically to all these lives of all these other Americans who I would never meet and would never encounter... it was dizzying and invigorating and so exciting and I thought, I really need to do something similar to this in Israel."

On returning to Jerusalem, Mishy teamed up with three childhood friends and contacted *This American Life*. Subsequently, the group travelled to New York to observe how the podcast was made and then returned to Israel ready to create their own version titled *Israel Story*.

Mishy notes, "Israel is a particularly

fragmented society. Jerusalem has about 900 000 people; about a third are Arabs, a third are Haredim. I grew up not having a single Arab or Haredi friend and I wasn't unique in that — we surround ourselves with people who are very similar to us. This was something that was pretty prevalent around Israel but the truth of the matter is that this isn't unique to Israel at all."

It took the team almost a year to record the first episode and they initially had 11 listeners (comprising each of their immediate families). At this stage, Israel had never had a podcast and it was unlikely that anyone knew what one was...

The team hoped that a podcast would "tell human interest stories of the rich human tapestry of Israel" by showcasing how rarely people conform to the stereotypes placed upon them.

"We thought that we might allow people to suspend their judgement just a little bit longer and actually listen to the words and the voices and the stories of people who they otherwise wouldn't interact with in their normal lives. Maybe if we could get someone to listen to a story and for the first 30 seconds or three minutes they can't totally place the person who's telling the story in terms of the demographic map of Israel, maybe they can exercise something which we don't get that many opportunities to exercise in Israel, our muscle of empathy."

It took the team almost a year to record the first episode and they initially had 11 listeners (comprising each of their immediate families). At this stage, Israel had never had a podcast and it was unlikely that anyone knew what one was; *Israel Story* was very much a hobby.

Mishy explains, "We said that if we continue with this for many, many years maybe something would happen

years down the line and a local radio station would pick up our show and air it in the middle of the night. We all had other jobs. This was something we did between 10pm and 4am."

This changed when Mishy fortuitously spotted the head of Israel's army radio station at an event.

Since Israel has only two national radio stations (one owned by the army and the other by the state), Mishy realised the enormity of the opportunity before him. Suffice to say that during Channukah of that year, four episodes were played by this very radio station and *Israel Story* became an immediate success.

"Thousands and thousands of people started writing in to the radio station and to us saying, 'This is the first time that I listened to a story of a Haredi woman from Tzvat or a Bedouin girl from Hura or an Eritrean refugee in south Tel Aviv or a Russian immigrant from Ashdod.' This was a huge validation of what we were trying to do."

Today, *Israel Story* is Israel's biggest podcast, currently in its fourth season in both English and Hebrew.

To Mishy, the podcast has allowed him to "step outside of my own limited and restricted bubble in Jerusalem and to go out and get to know my own country which is a gift that I feel most Israelis don't even get to have. I've come to think of my microphone as a magical wand because it gets me access into strangers' living rooms and bedrooms and kitchens and, suddenly, I can talk to Haredim and Ethiopians and Palestinians; it's a real gift."



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KEEPING IT REAL

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

In his book *The Dignity of Difference*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes, "Creation has its own dignity as God's masterpiece, and though we have the mandate to use it, we have none to destroy or despoil it."

It is with these words that as we head out of the period of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we are presented with a fragile and fractured world in which the festival of Sukkot can teach us so much.

Sukkot commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions. The sukkah reminds us of the type of fragile dwellings in which the Israelites dwelt during their 40 years of travel in the desert after the Exodus from slavery in Egypt.

This holiday offers Cape Town

Jews a reminder of the fragility of the world in which we live. How our actions and words we use can play a role in building homes where all are welcome and

accepted. It is a time to show God how we also can protect others in and out of our community by our daily actions. It is a reminder that we need to open our tents both physically and metaphorically so that we start to understand how we can play a positive role in rebuilding and reshaping our nation.

During the intermediate days of Chol HaMoed the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies will be using the sukkah as an opportunity to welcome in new faces and start positive discussions. May this be a time for our community to start to open their tents just that little bit wider.



Heritage month at the Board

The Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies wishes all the members of our Western Cape Jewish community best wishes for the new year and well over the fast.

This month we shall also be celebrating Sukkot and may we all enjoy sharing rainless meals and friendly companionship among the exalted visitors inside beautifully decorated sukkahs.

After that comes the day the children look forward to — Simchat Torah and the rejoicing of the law with dancing, flags and chocolates.

In the Board's heritage collection there is a beautiful convex copper mirror framed in Burmese teak, donated by the Lippy Lipshitz, who is regarded as one of the most important South African sculptors, and who was the Associate Professor of Fine Art at UCT, and awarded a Medal of Honour for Sculpture by the SA Akademie.

Later he made Aliyah to Israel where he died in 1980. Lippy was born in Plungian, Lithuania to a Chassidic family where his grandfather had built a synagogue. On the mirror frame Lippy carved his memories of Simchat Torah in his shtetl, with ecstatic figures holding the Sefer Torahs. This is not the only item the Board has that is related to Simchat Torah. Mendel Rieback of Johannesburg had donated to the old Jewish Museum, now in the possession of the Board, the yellow box in which he had kept his exam papers from Hope Lodge and CT High School. The box, has a photograph of his synagogue, with Simchas Torah 5694 – 1934 with compliments from the Maitland Hebrew Congregation printed on it.



In August this year, Gwynne Robins found a matching chocolate box in Bargains Galore, the Jewish Community Service's gift shop. This one contained a collection of cigarette cards and came from the Woodstock & Salt River Hebrew Congregation. This too has a photo of the synagogue on the lid and the inscription Simchas Torah 5701-1940 with compliments from the Woodstock & Salt River Hebrew Congregation. Written in pencil is the child's name — Jackie Lipotkin.

These boxes are unique souvenirs, indicating how our traditions have been passed down, and are probably the only ones of their kind to have survived.

Unfortunately, neither of the original owners had sufficient self-control or interest in future heritage to leave intact the chocolates that were contained in the box! So although we now know what the containers of the Simchat Torah chocolates distributed to the children in 1934 and 1940 looked like, we shall never know what 85-year old chocolate would have tasted like.

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One to One – an extraordinary event and unique experience

For the twelfth year running, the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies participated in the One to One event on Sunday 18 August at the iconic Cape Town Stadium.

One to One is a unique communal initiative in which organisations and individuals are given the opportunity to interact with some 3000 mentally and physically challenged people, who pour into the centre for a day of fun activities and give-away prizes. Organisations across the spectrum participate and set up stalls, each aimed at bringing joy and laughter into the lives of the visitors.

We handed out iced fruit lollies and balls, and along with our festively decorated stall, this proved an outright hit. The Cape Board is so appreciative and grateful to its generous donors who helped make this event a success. Our appreciation too, to the indefatigable convenor, Albert Glass – Kol HaKavod Albert!

One to One is a truly heart-breaking, but deeply humbling and uplifting day and we are proud to be associated with this event.



Li Boiskin, Stuart Diamond and Jodi Goldberg manning the Board stand



Stuart with a participant and volunteer

CALL-TO-ACTION

A call to our affiliates and community members!
The Board is here to take up your issues.

Contact us: sajbd2@ctjc.co.za

Advocating for a shared and abundant future

Down the road at Parliament, protesters were calling for action against gender violence and xenophobia.

Up the road at the South African Jewish Museum, the Cape Council's Advocacy sub-committee had arranged a more positive panel discussion on *Advocating for a Shared and Abundant Future* with speakers Hlumelo Biko, son of Steve Biko and Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Sihle Ngobese and Associate Professor Kosheek Sewchurran from UCT's Graduate School of Business.

Introduced by Cape Council chairperson Rael Kaimowitz, the thought-provoking event was shared with a packed audience that included community members, politicians and representatives of NGOs.

Recently Biko had published a book called *Africa Reimagined: Reclaiming a sense of abundance and prosperity*. This had been triggered by the shallow conversations around him on race, politics, and economics and whether the country was worth saving.

Many people did not understand the constitution. It was a paper freedom and courses in civic education were needed in our schools.

Biko spoke about our level of shared history and the Jewish community's close-knit families, their reverence for empowerment, education and the value of institutions and the obligations on Jewish families to create a nurturing environment for their children to achieve academically with the power of high expectations.

Because there was a failure of law and order in South Africa, communities were creating a different type of order through gang violence. This could lead to an ungovernable society that would force many people to question whether they should stay or leave. Jews had been displaced so many times, they did not want to be displaced again.

"The Jewish community is an activist community. This is a national crisis and I want to engage your help", said Biko.

Ngobese thought decisions were being made out of self-interest, not on the family level. He believed the biggest problem was the chasm between the political elite and the ordinary person with politics being stoked up by segmenting people by race or class. The rhetoric should be ignored. Reparation would take the country down a slippery slope. A prosperous country was a property-owning country.

Dr Sewchurran found technology a double-edged weapon. He felt students should listen more carefully and care more.

The topics brought up by the three challenging, highly articulate speakers, will resonate with the audience long after the fact and the Board was to be complimented for putting the evening together.



The Old Shul was a beautiful setting for this event.



Cassandra Mayekiso, SAUJS Western Cape coordinator and Chaya Singer, SAJBD National Parliamentary Liaison



Allan Leas and Tim Murithi, community members



Clinton Beinart, community member and Gavin Morris, Director SA Jewish Museum



Kholekile Dlakiya, Aron Halevi, Thembani Hina, Sabelo Xulu



Sihle Ngobese, Talk show host and facilitator; Rael Koping, SAJBD; Alderman Marian Nieuwoudt; Hlumelo Biko, speaker and Glen Heneck, SAJBD



Stuart Diamond, Executive Director Cape SAJBD; Rael Kaimowitz, Chairman Cape SAJBD and Councillor Zondani, City of Cape Town



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SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



Isaac Herzog, chairman of the Jewish Agency, congratulates Rowan Polovin on his appointment as the incoming National Chairman of the SA Zionist Federation

SAZF CC

Changing of The Guard

By Julie Berman, Executive Director, SAZF Cape Council

At the recent SA Zionist Federation National Conference held on the 28 July 2019, Rowan Polovin was elected as the incoming National Chairman for a four-year term of office.

The SA Zionist Federation Cape Council wish him B'Hatzlacha Raba in his new position. Rowan will remain on the Cape Town executive as the Immediate Past Chairman.



Ben Swartz, Chief Rabbi Goldstein, Isaac Herzog, Rowan Polovin, Amb. Lior Keinan, Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman, Shai Felber, Ron Brummer and Daniel Limor



Esta Levitas, Acting Chairman



Adv. Jonathan Silke, Hon. Life President



Rodney Mazinter, Vice Chairman



Cindy Moritz, Vice Chairman



Victor Boyd, Treasurer



Ben Levitas, Executive Committee Co-Optee



Julie Berman, Executive Director

FILM CLUB

SHELTER

A Film by Eran Riklis. A subtle thriller set in Germany involving Mona, a Lebanese woman (Golshifteh Farahani), and Naomi, an Israeli Mossad agent (Neta Riskin) sent to protect their informant while recovering from plastic surgery for her new identity. Mona and Naomi - together for two weeks in a quiet apartment in Hamburg. A safe house. A shelter. No one saw what was coming, no one knew that this supposedly quiet fortnight would turn into an abyss and that shelter would need to be found elsewhere. The intimacy of the relationship that develops between the two women is exposed to the threat of terror that is engulfing the world today. In this game of deception, beliefs are questioned and choices are made that are not their own. And yet their fate takes a surprising turn in this suspense-laden, elegant neo-noir.

MOVIE DATE Shelter Sunday 27 October 2019
TIME 18h30
VENUE Nelson Mandela Auditorium - Gardens

Bookings: Contact Yvette 021 464 6714 or sazfevents@ctjc.co.za

Light refreshments will be served. NO CHARGE, donations welcome.

SHELLEY FRIEDMAN-TROPE OF THE **The George Elkin** CHARITY TRUSTS

SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL

SA FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

SAFI Pastors Camp

In the Onrus countryside, a time of great understanding, learning and friendship were forged under the auspices of SAFI and Bridges for Peace, together with 40 prominent Christian pastors and their wives from many areas of the Western Cape.

A great time of personal introspection and exploring the connection of their Covenant to the land of Israel. Unravelling the Middle East and The Peace Process were just a few of the important topics addressed. We thank everyone involved who made this incredible weekend possible.

By Julie Berman, Executive Director, SAZF Cape Council



The group of pastors and their wives at the SAFI camp



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



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SAUJS

A Cuppa - SAUJS

By Cassandra Mayekiso, SAUJS
Western Cape Coordinator

On August 22, SAUJS had an incredible introduction to the world of coffee at Truth Coffee Roasting on Buitenkant Street.

Dressed in their iconic steampunk clothing, Innocent took us through the process of roasting a bean. We then tasted different types of incredible and exotic coffee from all over the world. We even tried our hand at latte art, after watching the pros. At the end of it all, we had the opportunity to get a free cup of coffee with beans of our liking. However, for those that discovered they don't really have the taste buds for coffee, there was also hot chocolate.



SAUJS Western Cape members and friends enjoying their coffee after their Short and Sweet tour

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THE ISRAEL
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Israeli teachers visit South Africa

By Michal Ilan,
Community and Aliyah Shlichah

What is the best way to teach South African Jewish children about real life in Israel? What is the best way to teach Israeli Jewish children about the greater Jewish Community around the world and what does it mean to be Jewish outside of Israel? We try to answer both those questions with the incredible Partnership2Gether tool, called School Twinning.

Each of the three Herzlia primary schools and the Herzlia Middle School have twin schools in Mateh Yehudah, our partnership region in Israel.

Each of the schools chose a team of teachers who

are in constant communication with their peers on the other side of the globe. Together they plan educational programmes to engage the pupils of their schools and educate them.

This August, in the middle of the Israeli summer school holidays, a group of ten teachers from four different schools came to Cape Town for an intense week. During that week, they had a chance to teach at their twin school, experience the school's culture and structure and spend time with their South African peers.

The theme of the seminar was "Community" and during the week, we had workshops for the teachers where they explored their communities and learned about each other. They looked at each of their school communities and discussed the concept of Peoplehood and how to create a greater Twinning community.

The teachers had time to work together and write a work plan for the next nine months. They came up with new and creative ideas, which they will implement throughout the school year. Some of the projects they planned make direct contact between the children in both countries, using technological tools. Other projects involve sharing information, discussion, knowledge and questions and using them to open the minds and expand the knowledge of what Israelis and South Africans know about each other.



Esta Levitas giving an introduction to the delegation



Twinning teachers from SA and Israel on the last day of the seminar

Find us SA Zionist Federation - Cape Council @SAZF_Cape

www.sazfcape.co.za

From *The Pianist* to the pulpit: Jessica Kate Meyer

By Jaime Uranovsky

Many have seen Roman Polanski's *The Pianist* (2002), which tells the true story of the Szpilman family in Warsaw during the Holocaust.

For actress-turned-rabbi/chazzan, Jessica Kate Meyer, who played Halina Szpilman opposite Adrien Brody in the film, the experience on which she embarked during the making of this blockbuster was exceptionally meaningful. Indeed, it catalysed her journey *From the Pianist to the Pulpit*, as one of her talks was titled at Limmud in Cape Town this year.

The American-born rabbi recounts, "I had a much more Jewish experience than a cinematic experience. There were very few Jews working on this film but Maureen Lipman who plays the mother, a tremendous British actress, and another actor — we'd have Shabbat, and Pesach fell right in the middle of filming, so we had Seder together." Jessica also spent time with young Jews in Warsaw who, at the time of filming in the early 2000s, were rebuilding the vibrant Jewish community that existed before the Holocaust. For Jessica, being in the film came with a great responsibility to honour and to pay tribute: to the Jews depicted

in the true story of *The Pianist* and to Polanski himself as a Holocaust survivor.

Jessica's Jewish identity was strong from a young age but it was through *The Pianist* that her trajectory changed. She notes that, "I was a yearner, a seeker, very pulled-in Jewishly but I didn't have the context and I was from a fairly secular family. From a very young age I was very pulled-in to the prayer service."

While filming, an ethnomusicologist created a compilation of songs for each of the lead actors to assist with their character building. The Szpilman family being portrayed was exceptionally musical and each playlist contained carefully selected songs to which the characters would actually have listened at the time. This was a life-changing venture for Jessica: "The first piece on there was a cantorial piece. Hearing that brought me back to my own background. This was my music and this, to me, was the sound of prayer."

This process of reconnecting with prayer was important for Jessica as a self-described 'Hebrew school dropout.' For her, Hebrew school took the soul out of Jewish learning but her batmitzvah gave her the opportunity to find "how I wanted to use my own

voice in prayer: to lead and chant Torah. I was very resentful of everyone standing on the bimah — they had a secret language that I didn't have access to. They had Hebrew."

As a result, Jessica studied Hebrew at college and became fluent. She then worked briefly in the Tel Aviv theatre scene before attending drama school in London. It was at this point, while still studying drama, that she landed the role in *The Pianist*.

After the film, Jessica started praying both by herself and at shul. Now that she had access to Hebrew, she felt that she could properly connect with tefillah. She moved to LA, worked in TV and film and simultaneously taught weekly 'music of prayer' classes at a Hebrew school in a community called Ikar. "So, the Hebrew school dropout wanted to be the Hebrew school teacher," she jokes.

It was at this time that Jessica realised that the acting industry no longer spoke to her. "I didn't want to surround myself with the values of Hollywood when the values of my own family and tradition were pointing me away from this. I also realised that, being



in *The Pianist*, I would never make anything or be part of anything as meaningful ever again. I had a problem because I'd spent all this time preparing for a film career and I didn't want it anymore... I was ready to shut the door."

So, after learning with different rabbis in LA, Jessica plucked up the courage to apply for cantorial school in Boston. She soon found herself wanting to spend more and more time in the beit midrash and, before she knew it, she was on the way to becoming a rabbi. After being ordained in 2014, she spent time in Jerusalem, served a community in New York and is now the rabbi-chazzan in a community called the Kitchen in San Francisco.

For Jessica, Judaism and music are intertwined: "Music and song is, first, the entry point and also the place where there is a language beyond language. We are people of the word and of the book but also people of niggun: the melody. There's so much beyond that you can only point toward but that you can actually touch with song."

The incredible life of Freddy Hirsch z"l

Freddy Hirsch, who passed away in Cape Town on 27 May at the age of 90, left an inspiring legacy for his family, friends and business associates.

From a penniless and bereft refugee to a successful family man, businessman and upstanding member of the Jewish community, Freddy made a valuable contribution across many areas of society.

Freddy was born on 30 March 1929 in Bad Wildungen, Germany, 1.5 hours north-east of Frankfurt. With the ascendancy of the Nazis, the family made plans to exit. The tipping point came on Freddy's birthday in 1935 when his father Emil, and other Jews were rounded up and marched through the town. Emil, a fine athlete, was made to carry a sign around his neck stating "I was the dirty Jew who won the 100 and 200 dash from a fine Aryan."



Freddy with his first cousin Ruth, and his mother, on the way to Bad Wildungen Station en route to Cape Town. According to Freddy, his father was crying when he took the picture.

Early on a freezing November morning in 1936 Freddy and his family left their small home town in Germany and with freshly printed exit permits fled by train via Frankfurt to Genoa, Italy.

From Genoa they boarded the ship Dulio, arriving in Cape Town Harbour in December 1936. Freddy was 7 years old. The family were desperately poor and father Emil soon found work at Ackermans in Castle Street as a warehouse packer, while mother Johanna managed to convert 3 Woodside Road, Tamboerskloof into a boarding house, renting out rooms in order to pay the rent.

There were no rooms for Freddy and his first cousin Ruth, so they slept outside in the fowl-run during the summer months and in winter sought shelter under the kitchen table. The family integrated easily into the local Jewish community and had a wide circle of friends, especially amongst the German refugees who escaped before the Nazis forbade emigration and borders were shut.

Freddy had his Bar Mitzvah in Cape Town in 1942 and had an idyllic upbringing in his new country. There were adventures up Table Mountain, many visits to Muizenberg beach and 'Young Israel' youth camps. The sport-mad Emil and Freddy often walked to Hartleyvale Stadium for a soccer game, sold programmes outside the grounds to pay the entrance fee, then walked home to Tamboerskloof thereafter.

On leaving Ackermans, Emil worked at a butcher

supply company and was soon joined by Freddy. After a short period, Freddy convinced his father to join him in their own butcher supply company and the Freddy Hirsch Group was founded on 2 July 1956 with minimal means.

The business was a success from the get-go. Freddy had a warm personality, authentic and inspiring persona and a strong work ethic. Staff and customers felt his energy, passion and his total commitment. He believed focus and resilience were essential in business, together with the four basic principles that he espoused daily.

Freddy felt that as long as all of these things were framed within sound ethical practice, success was a strong possibility. The business grew nationally and across Africa after the fall of apartheid. Today it is a global enterprise selling its' unique food ingredient technologies on every continent. Freddy lived to see the Group pass its' 63-year mark and generations to come will have to pass the 100-year mark, which is only achieved by 45 out of every one million family businesses.

He never forgot his roots and remained humble and approachable to the end. As a waiter at a local restaurant said at his funeral: "To Mr Hirsch, nobody was invisible." He served on the Board of the United Jewish Appeal and was a regular at the Marais Road Shul on Friday nights and yomteivim. A beloved husband, father and grandfather, he leaves his wife Aggie, four children and nine grandchildren. Love, admiration and gratitude were their watchwords for Freddy.

Although a workaholic, he always quoted the comedian Sid Caesar, "In between goals is a thing called life, that has to be lived and enjoyed."



FREDDY'S BUSINESS 'MUST-HAVES' FOR GROWTH

"Those who don't set the pace of change become the victims of change"
(Innovate for a competitive advantage)

There is no bad business but there's a lot of bad management"
(Business equals people. Always seek out the best talent)

"Communicate, Communicate, Communicate"
(Keep asserting your culture, your message, your strategy)

"Follow-up, Follow-up, Follow-up"
(Execute obsessively to get projects over the line)



In November 1936 Freddy and his family left their small home town in Germany and fled by train via Frankfurt to Genoa. From Genoa they boarded the ship Dulio, arriving in Cape Town Harbour in December 1936. Freddy (front in cap) was seven years old.

The UJC Board of Trustees will sorely miss Freddy Hirsch's carefully considered opinion and gentle manner. He was the perfect gentleman, who always had the Cape Town community's wellbeing at the forefront of his deliberations. Freddy dedicated many years to the Board and his absence will be felt tremendously.



News from the South African community in Israel

Following a busy summer of welcoming new Southern African and Australian Olim to Israel, Telfed staff and volunteers are in the process of assessing over 2000 applications for Telfed scholarships, the highest number of requests yet.

Telfed offers three scholarship tracks; PRAS (a community scholarship programme, where students volunteer with Olim, the elderly and children with special needs), a financial needs-based scholarship and SASI (support for Southern Africans Studying in Israel). With growing interest to study in Israel, the SASI programme is fully subscribed for the upcoming academic year. Telfed hosted a summer Aliyah information evening (with representatives from Garin Tzabar), where the vast majority of SASI graduates indicated their interest to make Aliyah. We are excited to announce that former Telfed Director and ex-Capetonian, Sid Shapiro, has been elected as volunteer Chairman of the SASI Committee.



Telfed's first beach clean-up took place over the summer at Poleg beach, south of Netanya.

In other news, the Telfed rental apartments in Tel Aviv and Ra'anana are at maximum capacity and we currently have 50 families on the waiting lists for subsidised rental apartments. Two thirds of income generated from our rental apartments is invested back to the

community, mainly providing social welfare assistance for SA families in need. On this note, Telfed's Assistance Committee also held their biannual meeting this summer. In the first half of 2019, over NIS 1.73 million (approximately R 7.5 million) was distributed to Olim in dire need,

in the form of food cards, emergency assistance and rescue projects (which provide financial education and guidance for individuals capable of returning to financial independence).

Each year, Telfed arranges over 80 events across Israel for our community, attracting Olim of all ages with a diverse range of interests. Sunset on the Mediterranean shoreline provided the perfect backdrop to Telfed's first beach clean-up. SA Olah, Judith Turiel, has become actively involved in environmental awareness and was eager to share her knowledge and passion with the community. "Armed with reusable gloves and bin bags, kindly provided by the Environmental Protection Office of the Netanya Municipality, we tackled the beach. Participants were astounded by the range of litter we picked up. It was an eye opener for all," said Judith. Inquisitive beachgoers cheered on the participants and were motivated to lend a hand.

Over Sukkot, Telfed will hold its annual family picnic at Kibbutz Nir Elyahu. If you are visiting Israel then, please join in the fun on 17 October!



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YOU CHOSE Limmud

Limmud Cape Town was a thoroughly wonderful, inspiring, and engaging experience. The ethos of shared learning and the spirit of community were palpable throughout, and the only equal to the feast of knowledge, insight, and conversation on offer was the feast of food on the tables. I enjoyed the in-between schmoozing just as much as the sessions themselves. The organisation was flawless, from the very clear signage, to the punctuality, to the catering, to the warmth and competence of the volunteers. As a speaker, I greatly appreciated the help of the technical support team as well. Limmud is a model of how to get people learning, talking, and sharing across a broad diversity of topics and interests, and CT Limmud was a model of 'how to Limmud'! - *Gus Silber (Presenter)*

In terms of logistics, signage, parking, accommodation etc, hosting Limmud at the beautiful Graduate School of Business was probably the boldest and most ambitious undertaking by any local Limmud committee to date, but given the phenomenal feedback, it was a gamble that paid off in abundance. - *Toby Shenker*

I can't imagine how much thought went into compiling such a diverse and stimulating programme. Thank you for bringing out top international speakers like Edwin Shuker, Jessica Montell, Sonja Vilicic and Haroon Moghul, whose presentations were so engaging that the halls were full to capacity. - *Beryl Eichenberger*



Kol HaKavod to your team for a great job! All seemed to run smoothly, though it must have been hard work for you all. Congratulations and every good wish for the energy to do it all again. - *Ann Harris*

I am starting to process what an amazingly enriching experience the last ten days have been. I wanted to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all your hard work, kindness and generosity. - *Mishy Harman (Presenter)*

Everything was superb from the venue; to the choice of presenters; variety of topics; even the signposting and of course the delicious food. - *Sybil Castle*

The feedback I have had from literally dozens of people is that they loved the event, they enjoyed the variety, the venue was great, presentations superb and the organisation absolutely perfect. - *Michael Bagraim*

The food was at the next level - from the abundant vegan options, to the biodegradable paper plates. All in all, this was Limmud and all its concomitant values at its finest. - *Simone Scherzer*

As a vegetarian, I thought I was in heaven! - *Leslie Swartz*

Limmud was an opportunity to interact with a whole range of Cape Town Jewish people that one simply does not see or interact with anywhere else! - *Alan Bearman*

The best Cape Town conference I've ever attended! - *Brett Wilks*



Save the date - 7th to 9th August 2020

www.limmud.org.za



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BURNING BRIGHTLY

Refreshing Renewal for our Cape Town Mikveh

Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein

It is so exciting that the renovation of our Cape Town Mikveh has finally begun! After many years of preparation the process is under way and it is a blessing and joy for our community.

It is long overdue. The state of the current mikveh is not befitting the respect and dignity due to the women of our community. A better mikveh is about a functional and effective mikveh that is user-friendly, dignified, hygienic and welcoming. It is also about its aesthetics and beauty. Our sages learn that we must do *mitzvot* in a beautiful way. We try to acquire a beautiful *tallit*, build a beautiful *succah*, and wear beautiful clothes on *Shabbat*. When something is really important, we put in the effort and do it beautifully, and this enhances the spiritual experience. A city with such magnificent mountains and ocean, such beautiful views, a city which is a sparkling jewel in South Africa and a cosmopolitan hub of people throughout the globe, needs a magnificent, beautiful mikveh – one which reflects the beauty of the city in which it is contained.

At the heart of the mikveh is the blessing of spiritual purification, the power of re-inspiration, the power of rejuvenation. The *mitzvah* of family purity is about the rebirth and renewal of a marriage. And in the same way that water rejuvenates, replenishes and revives physical life on earth, so too do the waters of the mikveh revive and replenish and re-inspire the relationship between husband and wife, which in turn revives and replenishes the positive energy in a family. And this, in turn, revives and replenishes the positive energy in the Jewish community.

This is not only a project about the bricks and the mortar, the cement and the artwork – it is about reviving the *mitzvah* of mikveh for our community. The vision to renew, rejuvenate and uplift the Cape Town mikveh is also about the vision of including more people in this very special *mitzvah*. The more inviting and pleasant and inspiring the experience of going to the mikveh is, the more people will want to use it. What can be a more precious outcome of this initiative than more people using the mikveh?

The renovation has begun. There are still costs to cover but the work must begin so that we can welcome a brand new mikveh into our city. And the best way we can welcome it is to use it and rededicate ourselves to the *mitzvah* which is the heart of the Jewish family. May God bless the holy work ahead with excellence and success!

Each one of us can still make a contribution to this great *mitzvah*. Together then we can create something truly magnificent and something that brings an energy of inspiration and vitality into the centre of our community. It is so wonderful as a community to have a project that unifies us, that brings us together across all of our different backgrounds, in a spirit of unity, so we can truly strive together to achieve something great.

For more information about The Mikveh Renovation Project please contact Eric Berger at the UOS office on 021 461 6310 or email exec@uoscape.co.za

"A city with such magnificent mountains and ocean, such beautiful views, a city which is a sparkling jewel in South Africa and a cosmopolitan hub of people throughout the globe, needs a magnificent, beautiful mikveh – one which reflects the beauty of the city in which it is contained."



Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein.

THE MIKVEH PROJECT מקווה פרויקט



The Mikveh fundraising team at the site handover to RLP Projects.



Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and Joel Merris (Chairman UOS Cape Council).



Rabbi Mendel Popack photographs the professional team.



The Mikveh Aharon.



Rosie and Levi Popack, grandson of Aharon ben Avraham Ha'Levi Popack zt'l.



When a plan comes together.



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Consider This

Zman Simchatenu

By Rabbi Tamara Schagas



"After the ingathering from your threshing floor and your vat, you shall hold the Feast of Booths for seven days. You shall rejoice in your festival, with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow in your communities. You shall hold a festival for the Eternal your God seven days, in the place that the Eternal will choose; for the Eternal your God will bless all your crops and all your undertakings, and you shall have nothing but joy" (Deut 16:13-15)

As soon as Yom Kippur is over, we fulfill the mitzvah of starting to build our sukkah in order to dwell in it for 7 days with nothing but joy. Sukkot is called in our liturgy zman simchatenu — the time of our joy. Are we able to make ourselves feel joyful, be happy? Can we let go of the deep sorrow, the fear so many of us immerse in during the days of repentance?

Rabbi Alan Lew z'l wrote that at the moment that transition starts, he feels, "It began as a kind of lightness. I felt it as soon as the shofar sounded to signal the end of Yom Kippur. There were three stars in the sky then. I felt all the weight, all the heaviness of the day — all the death and the judgment and the yearning, all the soulful thrashing and the beating of breasts — falling away all at once, suddenly gone. I felt light and clean"

For a month and ten days, we are asked to visit and dwell in the darkest sides of our being. The month of Elul and the 10 days of repentance are a journey into our souls. We judge ourselves and we are judged by God. We have been asking for forgiveness, crying and praying for our names to be written in the book

of life. We recognise our finitude; we even considered the possibility of our own death. Are we capable, after listening to the sound of the shofar that one last time to let go of everything we have felt so deeply? Can we end Yom Kippur and feel clean, light and joyful?

If we learned what the High Holy Days came to teach us about ourselves, we did our job. If we took ourselves seriously and we repented and committed to become a better version of ourselves, this new year, we can be proud of having started the work. "God will bless all your crops and all your undertakings, and you shall have nothing but joy." We can sit in the Sukkah under a sky full of stars and count our blessings. We can rejoice. The verdict has been sealed and everyone and each of us must move on, feeling lighter and clean, believing we will live another year. Life goes on, in these booths, close to nature, connected to creation, with the fruits of our hard work. It is now time, "You shall rejoice in your festival..."

You can choose to be happy, for what you have been given and who you have become.

Introducing an exciting new addition to the Temple family

Hannah Taylor is Temple Israel's newest Youth and Music Fellow, for the 2019-2020 year. The Youth and Music Fellow works with the rabbinic team, youth movement, and religion school, and is in charge of adding ruach, Jewish content and energy to services, youth events, school, and camps.

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I'm from Boston in the United States, I just graduated from University in May where I double majored in Judaic studies and Education studies. My second semester junior year I studied abroad at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was a part of the Nachshon Project, a program for people interested in Jewish professional work. I grew up at Eisner Camp, which is one of the camps associated with the Reform movement in North America. I was a camper there for six summers and then a counselor, song leader, and unit head for five summers. At home I lived with my parents, two younger brothers, and our labradoodle. Besides Jewish music I am very passionate about musical theatre and my favorite book is The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett.



excited about for this year at Temple Israel and in Cape Town?

Since I am from Boston, and have gone to University and camp also near there, I have spent a lot of time with Reform Jews from the Northeast. I'm excited for the opportunity to pray with a community from another part of the world, as well as learn more about what it means to be a Progressive Jew.

What are you hoping to learn from this coming year?

I'm hoping to learn a lot of new music and Temple Israel traditions. I feel really lucky that I am here for the whole year so I can see the entire cycle of the Jewish calendar.

What is your favourite Jewish teaching or prayer?

Every time I am in a new place I find a new prayer that I connect with. My community at university did not typically do Shabbat morning services, so I'm excited to now be in a community that does. Nisim B'chol Yom, the prayer for Daily Miracles is one that I've always enjoyed and I'm happy I get to be back in a community that sings it.

Any final thoughts for us?

I'm super excited to be here and would love to meet more community members.

What interested you in the Youth & Music Fellowship at Temple Israel?

When I started thinking about what I wanted to do after I graduated I knew that I wanted to work somewhere outside the United States. My parents, who are both American, met in Israel where they both lived the year after college, so I've always thought about living outside the US when I graduated. I knew that I wanted to work in the Jewish community, and I love Jewish music, and working with children. When I saw this job, I knew it was the perfect opportunity.

What experience are you bringing to the position?

In addition to my studies, I worked at a Jewish summer camp for five years as a counselor and song leader, and most recently a unit head, working with community members from age three to seventeen as well as leading prayer and musical moments. During the school years I taught Hebrew school for first, second, and third grade and incorporated music into those lessons as well. This past year I interned at a non-denominational mikveh, *Mayyim Hayyim*, where I did administrative and organisational work.

What are you most

Sukkot @ Temple Israel

- 13 October – Picnic in the Sukkah
Temple Israel Green Point 6pm
- 16 October – Shakshuka in the Sukkah
Temple Israel Wynberg 9am

Simchat Torah @ Temple Israel

- 20 October – Simchat Torah Magic -
Temple Israel Green Point 6pm
- 21 October – Simchat Torah at Glendale 10am

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



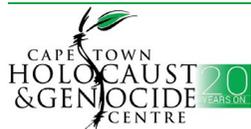
Gabriel Amato
14 September



Daniella Cohen
14 September



Liam Smollan
21 September



CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTRE

Finding traces of German Jewish refugees in South African archives

By Dmitri Abrahams, Archivist, South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation (SAHGF)

Confronting the global threat of Nazism

Jews were especially targeted under vicious Aryan antisemitic doctrines which conceived 'the Jew' as the ultimate racial and ideological threat to the Reich.

By 1938, European war was imminent, as Hitler had presided over the takeover ('anschluss') of Austria and the invasion of Czechoslovakia, and soon threatened to invade Poland. The Allied powers, including Great Britain and France, issued an ultimatum of war. German armed forces invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, and soon the world was at war.

The Second World War continued for six years, with battles taking place across Europe, North Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. This deadly war resulted in untold destruction, millions of deaths through battle and genocide, and ultimately created one of the largest refugee crises in history.

This article will explore efforts by Cape Town's small Jewish community to respond to the plight of German Jews seeking refuge in South Africa, using the lens of the archive of papers and ephemera collected by the South African Holocaust and



Passengers on the SS Stuttgart to Cape Town, October 1936

Genocide Foundation (SAHGF), and preserved in the holdings of UCT Libraries, Special Collections.

South African Jewry responds to the rise of Nazism

In response to the state sanctioned discrimination and violence being perpetrated in Germany, the South African Jewish community founded the South Africa Fund for German Jewry in May 1933.

At the time South Africa's immigration policy

towards Western European Jews was very lenient. All they had to do was produce a passport and a guarantee signed by 'a South African citizen and deposited with the immigration authorities on their behalf to enter the country.' Aided by this open door policy, the Fund set out to assist refugees with financial aid, help them find employment and accommodation. Furthermore it assisted them with any other difficulties they may encounter. The Fund also purchased a house, Rosecourt which functioned as its headquarters and as a meeting and educational space for the refugees.

The SS Stuttgart

In September 1936 the South African immigration authorities announced that from 1 November, each immigrant had to make a cash deposit of £100 pounds (about £17 000 in 2019) instead of producing a guarantee. At the time Jews were only allowed to take RM10 (about R15 in 2019) each out of Germany, thus the new law was a disaster for those who had sold all their possessions and obtained the necessary exit visas from the Nazi authorities.

continues on page 28

Join us for a public lecture by **Leora Raikin**



Documenting History Through Art:

Jewish life in Eastern Europe before, during and after the Holocaust through the eyes of Lithuanian Israeli artist **David Labkovski**.



Leora Raikin is an international speaker, educator, author and is the founder and executive director of the David Labkovski Project, an organisation that teaches students about the Holocaust and Jewish life in Eastern Europe through the Labkovski's art.



Wednesday 16 October, 6:00 p.m.

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre

Light refreshments will be served. Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za Donations R30

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For info and to book: danielle@holocaust.org.za or 021 462 5553
visit www.ctholocaust.co.za | www.facebook.com/CTHGCentre



Family Announcements

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

NILLY BARUCH

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Rabbi Feldman, family, friends, organisations and the community for the love, kindness and support shown to us on the sudden passing of our beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother.

Nilly touched the lives of so many people, and she leaves a legacy of selflessness and service to community.

Zvi, Arik and Candice, Michal and Jonathan and grandchildren

SOLLY GOLDBERG

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Rabbi Bernstein, Rabbi Feldman, family, friends and the community for their love, kindness and support shown to us on the passing of our beloved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather.

Solly touched the lives of so many. His guidance, legacy and precious memories will remain with us forever.

Lois, Philip, Marc, Jodi and their families

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

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www.safisa.co.za/academic-freedom or call 021 464 6726



A tribute to South Africa's 'Mr Chess'

By Jill Rabinowitz (daughter of Leonard Reitstein)

August saw the passing of Leonard Reitstein, aged 91, much admired and respected member of the Cape Town Jewish community, particularly Temple Israel, and as South Africa's 'Mr Chess'.



Leonard's father Julian was a founder member of the Progressive Judaism movement in Cape Town in the 1940s and brought in his son, where he rose to be President of Temple Israel. Leonard's admiration and enthusiasm for the Reform movement and his high regard for Rabbi David Sherman, saw him fully committed, and even more so when he and his wife Ruth moved next door to the Temple in Wynberg! Besides presidential and general duties, his contribution included his role as editor of the annual magazine, and leader of many shiurim and lay services.

Leonard was a man of great intellect, blessed with a sharp mind, quick wit and erudition. His general knowledge was wide and often obscure, his interests ranging from music (he hosted classical soirées), maths (he calculated without a calculator), history, religion, literature, cricket and cryptic crosswords (he called himself a cruciverbalist). He delighted nothing more than to encourage his grandchildren to discuss with and question or challenge him on all topics.

In the words of Rabbi Richard Newman, "He made me think, made me see things from a different perspective, made me realise that here was a man to whom I could turn, for advice and counsel. Here was a man whose knowledge was only superseded by his wisdom. There was a wealth of life, welling forth, a font of meaningful words backed up by well-tempered thought. Here was a saint-like mortal, stretching out his hands to those around him."

Leonard is regarded as the person who has made the greatest and longest impact on South African chess. Former SA champion David Friedgood describes him as

"truly South Africa's Mr Chess", with a background as player and correspondence player, captain of the SA team to various internationals and Olympiads, and organiser of major chess events, as well as a stint as President of the SA Chess Federation. Leonard was a chess resource, buying and selling books and publications, and at one stage his home library was regarded as the largest in the southern hemisphere! He single-handedly compiled *The South African Chess Player* magazine, publishing it for over thirty years, and wrote several *Test Your Chess* books and other works. His magnum opus, *A History of Chess in South Africa*, was a labour of love for the game and sold internationally.

Dr Lyndon Bouah, Director of Sport and Recreation, Western Cape Government, has been appointed as the custodian of Leonard's 'chess world'. He says, "As I have known Mr Reitstein for over twenty years I was honoured and privileged to be requested to be the custodian. The chess material consists of books, magazines and particularly hundreds of copies of *The South African Chess Player*, documents, minute books, photographs and memorabilia." These are being collated and digitised for a future public display in Leonard's honour.



Leonard attended Sea Point Boys and Oudtshoorn School, and graduated as a bookkeeper accountant. Most of his working life was at Blumberg & Kleinman and for the Jewish Board of Deputies. He married Ruth Saevitzon of Wynberg in 1953; a long, happy and devoted partnership that lasted over sixty-five years. They lived in Newlands and Wynberg, and moved into Highlands House two years ago. Leonard is survived by his wife Ruth and his children Jillian, Anthony and Michelle. He has five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, living as far afield as Cape Town, Ra'anana, Sydney, Perth and London!



Living your best life

CJSA is almost ready to host its biennial seminar.

This is a day on our calendar that we always plan with thought and care with a view of engaging a variety of speakers who will be able to add value to the working day of all professionals. Those working at our JCC agencies, as well as the wider community. Our presenters also offer tips and sage advice to the general public and we encourage anyone wishing to live their best life, making informed choices to do so, to sign up for the seminar on 6 November and attend this special day.

We have also just completed our annual three day *Ot Azey Yiddish Workshop*. We were privileged to have had a high calibre of teachers; Rochele Winer who hails from Umhlanga, Veronica Belling and Sybil Castle, who engaged with passion and held our participants attention as they passed on their knowledge. Added to this, for the first time we hosted a *glatt* beginner's day with Jason Toay and Shulamit Rozowsky engaging on a fun level with 20 eager members. The highlight of the course was the attendance of Shane Baker who performs in Yiddish on Broadway in New York. He hosted an evening at the Labia, and gave two outstanding presentations at *Ot Azey* to the delight of the participants, What a privilege to hear him perform!

Lifecycle Choices

We always encourage our clients and CJSA members to make important lifestyle decisions whilst they are still able to make these choices themselves. One of the most important decisions is around downscaling. Viv Gottlieb and Peter Simmons of Tyson Properties shared their knowledge and experience to make this task as seamless as

possible.

This huge decision is usually daunting and put on the back burner for as long as possible. Many of us leave it until it is almost a necessity to move. Children are long gone and the continual upkeep and maintenance of the home is becoming a real burden. Concerns surrounding the state of the property market are also worrying. Selling one's home is a huge step. It is so important that this decision is taken with care and one of the essential steps to take is the choice of agent. A good agent will guide you without being pushy and will have your best interests in mind while advising you of the steps to take to get your home into the best condition to realise the best price you are able to get.

It is also essential to know which locations to look at, and your price range so that both you and the agent can be on the same page. They will be able to advise you on various important issues such as bonds, utilities, electricity and beetle clearance certificates and who to inform every step of the way. With Capital Gains Tax, you also needs to know the implications and exemptions.

Once the home is sold and the deposit has been received, the bond approved and you are ready to move, it is essential to notify the alarm company, Telkom and the City Council so that your service is not discontinued when you reach your new destination. You also need to book the moving company, who tend to be busy at certain times of the month.

As the next part of one's life journey begins, you can move on with wonderful memories of your family and the home you shared together.

Diana Sochen Executive Director

Out and about with members



Phoebe Chernotsky displaying her beautiful beadwork at the Craft Day



Zola Shuman and Rochele Winer



Teachers Shulamit Rozowsky and Jason Toay with international guest Shane Baker



Ina Paarman with Seymour Stoch at the Southern Suburbs Twilight supper



Ot Azey participants Maureen and Jackie Sachar



Henia Bryer and Zola Shuman



Janene Currie and Social Worker Stacey Melmed in West Coast

Special events for October

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR ALL FUNCTIONS

OUTINGS OCTOBER

Southern Suburbs
7 October Fairview Goat Farm R40
28 October Mariners Wharf, Hout Bay R30

MEN'S SCHMOOZE

Milnerton Fri 4 October Rael Kaimowitz, Chair SAJBD R10
Wynberg Wed 10 October Chris Eden of Bridges for Peace R10
Sea Point Fri 25 October Rael Kaimowitz SAJBD R10

SUKKOT LUNCH

17 October Marais Road Shul R20. Booking essential

SIMCHAT TORAH TEA

31 October Temple Israel Green Point 14h00. Booking essential.

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER BRUNCH (By invitation only)

30th October Temple Israel Green Point.

Save the Date

New Pathways for Ageing
CJSA Biennial Seminar Wednesday 6 November
R350 includes teas and lunch

Social and Personal

We extend a hearty mazeltov on the following joyous occasions:

Birth

Edie Busch — Great Granddaughter

Birthday

Harry Myers — 100
Yamina Oliver — 90

Marriage

Ralph Bub — Grandson

We welcome New Members to the CJSA family:

Evelyn Katz, Maureen and Jackie

Sachar, Issy Silbowitz
Hearty Congratulations to our members who recently received recognition and Rebecca Sieff Awards.

40 years: Alma Buchinsky, Eda Gawronsky, Ruth Goldman, Sue Lipschitz and Rhona Neimann.

50 years: Sybil Castle, Deborah Herman (Oudtshoorn), Sorrel Kahn, Irma Kesler, Doreen Seidel, Ida Surovsky and Muriel Levin (57 years). 65 years: Barbara San



Cape Jewish Seniors

Each month we come across members who have not paid their annual subscriptions. CJSA does not send out annual accounts, but we do mention that subs are due from the first edition of our newsletter each year. If you have not paid your R130 for membership to CJSA for 2019, please do so.



Monday 4

Sea Point 10.00. A morning with storyteller and author Leo Turvey R10
2.00 Bridge R10
2.00 Reminiscing afternoon R10
2.30 Yoga with Leina Sank R10

Milnerton 10.00 Pop In with Irving Friedman on the Jewish Influence on Broadway R10
2.00 Milnerton Jazz Club R10

S/Suburbs 9.30 Outing to Parliament to enjoy the Heritage Walkabout R30 NB Bring Identification. Tea for own account
2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10

Tuesday 5

Sea Point 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10
11.15 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25
2.00 Beginners' Bridge class R10

Milnerton 9.15 Outing to the SPCA with a tour of the venue R30 includes tea
1.30 Mosaic with Sonia R30
1.45 Line Dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
09.30 Kalooki R10
2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10



Monday 11

Sea Point 10.00 Pop In with Len Anstey speaking on the other side of pathology R10
2.00 Bridge R10
2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10
2.30 Yoga with Leina Sank R10

Milnerton 10.00 A morning with Sheryl Ozinsky R10
12.15 Milnerton Committee Meeting R10

S/Suburbs 9.15 Outing to the NSRI R30 Tea for own account.

Tuesday 12

Sea Point 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10
10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25
2.00 Beginners' Bridge class R10
18.30 Twilight Supper Joanne Jewell on her latest novel *Zephyr* R60 Booking Essential

Milnerton 10.00. Birthday Pop In with Karen Kallman on the family's recent adventure to Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia R10
1.30 Mosaic with Sonia R30
1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
9.30 Kalooki R10
2.00 Knitting Group R10

Muizenberg 10.30 Pop In with Irving Friedman on the Jewish Influence on Broadway R10

West Coast 9.30 Outing to the Helderberg Nature Reserve R50. Tea for own account.

Sunday 17

Milnerton 12.30 Sunday Summer lunch, entertainment with Hymie Kaplan and the *Shades of the Shadows* band R80 Booking essential

Monday 18

Sea Point 10.00 Debbie Norrie on her recent trip to Poland R10
2.00 Bridge R10
2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10
2.30 Yoga with Leina Sank R10

Milnerton 10.00 DVD Morning *The Green Book* R10
3.00 Shiur with Rabbi Bernstein R10
9.30 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R10
9.30 Outing to the Helderberg Nature Reserve R50. Tea for own account
2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10

Tuesday 19

Sea Point 10.00 Talking Point with Roni R10.00
11.15 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25
2.00 Beginners' Bridge class R10
2.00 Mosaics with Yvette R30.00

Milnerton 9.30 Outing to Parliament to enjoy the Heritage Walkabout R30 NB Bring Identification Tea own account.
1.00 Kalooki R10
1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
9.30 Kalooki R10
2.00 Knitting Group R10



Monday 25

Sea Point 10.00 Bingo morning with prizes R10.00
2.00 Bridge R10
2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10
2.30 Yoga with Leina Sank R10

Milnerton 10.00 A morning with CT Holocaust & Genocide Centre Director Heather Blumenthal R10
9.30 Outing to Intaka Island with guided tour R85. Tea for own account

Tuesday 26

Sea Point 10.00 Talking Point with Marcia R10
10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R20.
2.00 Beginners' Bridge class R10

Milnerton 9.30 Outing to the Helderberg Nature Reserve R50. Tea for own account.
1.30 Mosaic with Sonia R30
1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik R10
9.30 Kalooki R10
2.00 Knitting Group 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 NOVEMBER 2019



		<p align="right">Friday 1</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p> <p>Milnerton 10.30 Men's Schmooze with Bochrin from Chabad Shul talking about their outreach R10</p> <p>S/Suburbs Shabbat supper at Clarewyn Shul R80 members R160 Non-Members. Booking essential</p>
<p align="center">Wednesday 6</p> <p align="center">CJSA Seminar Biennial Seminar <i>Pathways for Ageing making the right choices for the life you want to live</i></p> <p>Venue: Pola Pasvolsky Conference Centre, Hatfield Street Cape Town Registration: R350 including teas, lunch and conference Booking essential</p>	<p align="right">Thursday 7</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 Alon Ashel JOY programme 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 9.30 Kalooki R10 10.30 Birthday Pop in with storyteller and author Leo Turvey R10 1.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 10.30 Debbie Norrie speaks on her recent trip to Poland R10</p>	<p align="right">Friday 8</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p> <p>Milnerton Shabbat Members: R60 Non-Members: R100 Booking essential</p>
<p align="right">Wednesday 13</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Craft with Yvette and Jeanette R20 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Art with Karen Cohen R25</p> <p>S/Suburbs 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 10.00 Bnoth Geshher group 10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 5.30 Twilight Supper with Harold Berman: Two Oceans Marathon Movie and talk R60</p>	<p align="right">Thursday 14</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 Alon Ashel JOY programme 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 9.30 Kalooki R10 10.00 Pop in with storyteller and author Helen Pam 1.00 Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 10.30 A morning with Bernadine Bacher from the Saartjie Baartman Centre R10</p>	<p align="right">Friday 15</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
<p align="right">Wednesday 20</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Outing to Parliament to enjoy the Heritage Walkabout R30 NB Bring Identification. Tea for own account. 12.00 Visit friends at Highlands House R20 Enjoy a snack at their coffee shop too. 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10.00</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Art with Karen Cohen R25</p> <p>S/Suburbs 9.30 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10.00 Men's Schmooze with Bochrin from Chabad Shul talking about outreach work R10 10.30 Movie morning R10</p>	<p align="right">Thursday 21</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 Alon Ashel JOY programme 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 9.30 Kalooki R10 10.30 A morning with theatre person Megan Furniss R10 1.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 10.30 Pop In with Karen Kallman on the family's recent adventure to Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia R10</p>	<p align="right">Friday 22</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p> <p>Sea Point Shabbat Evening hosted at Marais Road Shul Members: R70 Non Members: R180 Booking Essential</p>
<p align="right">Wednesday 27</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Outing to Helderberg Nature Reserve R50. Tea own account. 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10 10.30 Men's Schmooze with Bochrin from Chabad Shul talking about outreach work R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Kalooki R10 9.30 Art with Karen Cohen R25</p> <p>S/Suburbs 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 9.30 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 12.00 Light Lunch and Movie (to be announced) R30</p>	<p align="right">Thursday 28</p> <p>Sea Point 9.15 Alon Ashel JOY programme 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 11.15 Exercises with Mariamne R10 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 9.30 Kalooki R10 18.30 Twilight Supper Joanne Jowell on her latest novel <i>Zephany</i> R60. Booking Essential</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10.30 Pop In with Karen Kallman on the family's recent adventure to Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia R10</p> <p>West Coast 10.00 Art with Sharon Lopis R35</p>	<p align="right">Friday 29</p> <p>Sea Point 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: **Sea Point:** 021 434 9691; **Milnerton:** Hajiera Safidien-Maloon 021 555 1736; **S/Suburbs:** Monique Nieuwenhuys 021 761 7960; **W/Coast:** Stacey Melmed 074 405 5186

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In the Orchestra - Jolie Resnick and Sienna Wilensky.



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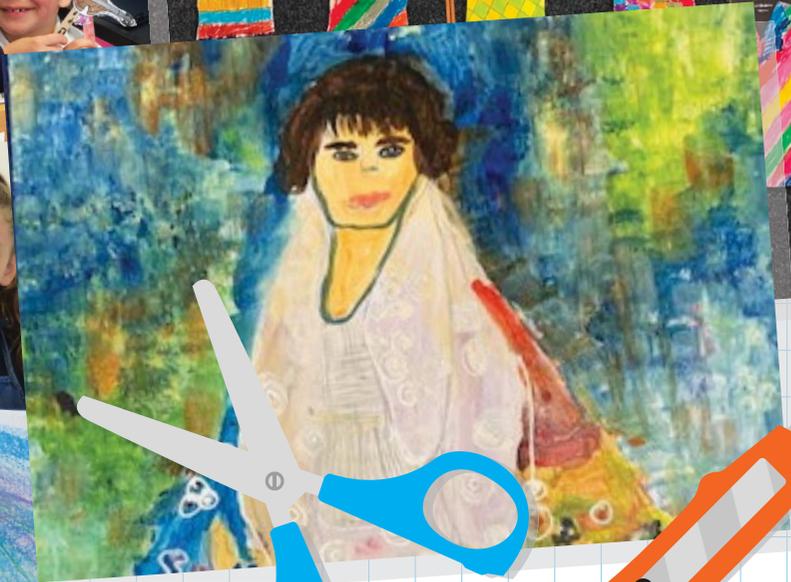
At Herzlia all our campuses offer art, drama and music, taught by professionals. Our formal and informal productions, choirs and exhibitions play an integral part of school life on our campuses. Pupils are taught a variety of musical instruments, music, drama, art and design.



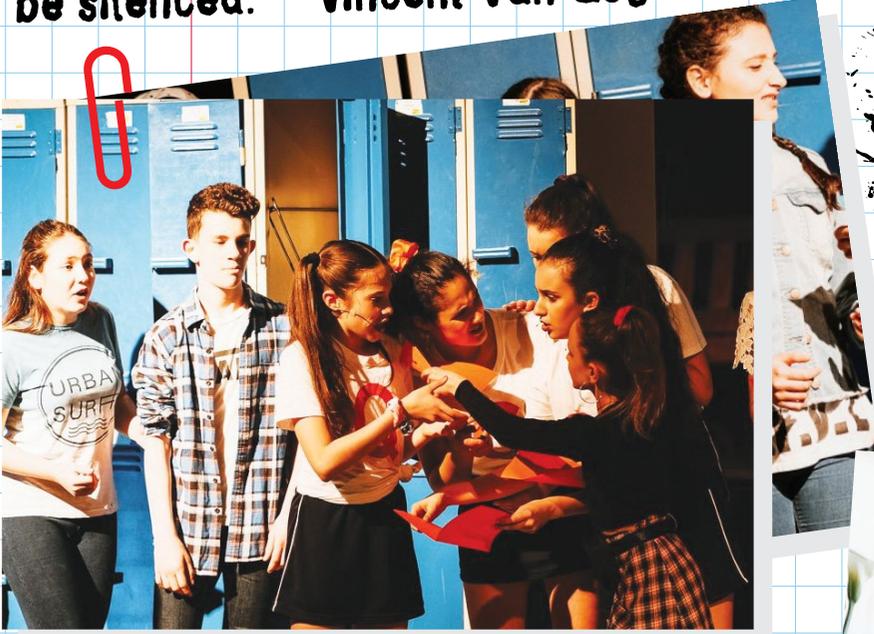
Weizmann Grade 1A pupils: Aaron Jowell, Olivia Brenner, Lexi Murcia, Jadyne Weiner and Levi Katz.



Our Art - Emma Rothgiesser, Rebecca Cross and Alyssa De Jager.



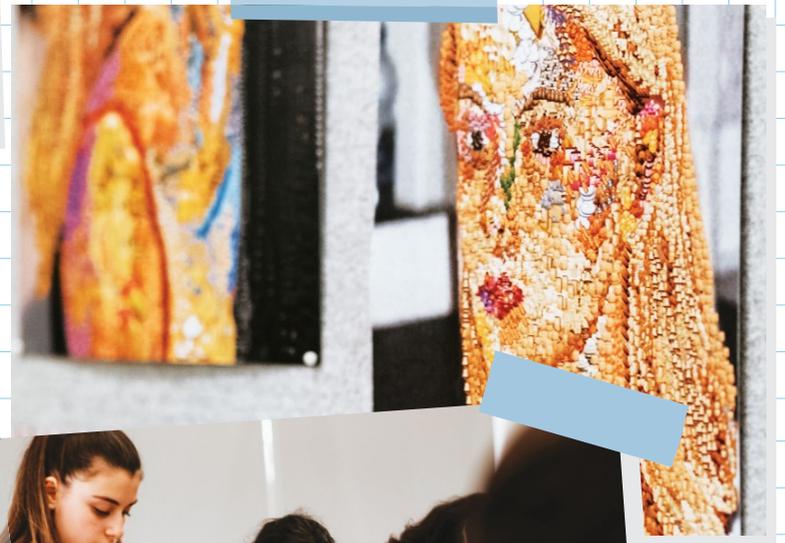
"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced." - Vincent Van Gogh



The Herzlia Middle School Play - 13 The Musical.



Art Class - Adam Merris and Aaron Lustig.



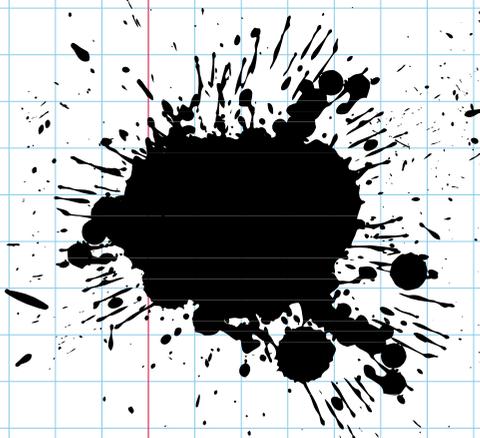
Creating Art with Ink - Ariella Cohn.



Getting Creative - Kayla Hammerson and Shani Lagan.



"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." - Maya Angelou



We are here! — In Novogrudok and Forest Jerusalem

By Eli Rabinowitz

I have visited Belarus on two previous occasions, the first in 2012 when I travelled by bus from Warsaw to Brest, Novogrudok, Grodno, Mir and Minsk, and in 2018 to Novogrudak, Slonim, Zhelva, Mir and Naliboki.

My zaida, Nachum Mendel Rabinowitz, was born in Orla in 1887, at that time, in the Grodno gubernia, but today, Orla is part of Poland. The Grodno archives remain in Belarus, but difficult to access.

My zaida studied under the famous Rabbi Chaim Halevi Soloveitchik at the Brisk Yeshiva. Nachum Mendel married Chana Herison of Jerusalem, before going to Volksrust in South Africa, and then to Cape Town, where he was the reverend of the Vredehoek Shul for 30 years from 1920 to 1950.

My wife's large Bloch family were from Slonim and Mir in Belarus.

On my previous visits to Belarus, I was hosted by Tamara Vershitskaya, the curator of the Jewish Resistance Museum in Novogrudok. I met Tamara through Benny Kaplinski of Sydney. Tamara appeared in an exceptional episode of Who Do You

Think You Are featuring Natasha Kaplinsky, then a BBC personality. Benny movingly sang the Mourner's Kaddish in the ruins of Slonim synagogue!

I have no direct connection to the Bielskis, but several factors brought me to this 2019 reunion in Novogrudok and Naliboki:

- I knew about the inspiring story from the movie *Defiance* in 2008;
- I had seen the excellent work Tamara had done under the patronage of the late Jack Kagan, and later with Sergei Koval;
- I manage eighty-six Jewishgen websites including nine in Belarus;
- and Tamara and I went to Naliboki in 2018, where I met Alexander Pilinkievich. I was sold on the idea of attending this unique reunion!

In the interim I built my connections to the Bielskis, via Solly Kaplinski in Israel and through Benny Kaplinski and Eric Borecki in Sydney.

Arriving in Novogrudok on 7 July 2019, we were warmly welcomed at our accommodation at the Catholic Church, where several of us stayed. This included Aron Bell, the last surviving Bielski, with his wife Henryka, Bella Rubin, her two sons,



The Naliboki Forest July 2019, 75 years on: American-Israeli Maty Belsky, the grandson of Zus Bielski, one of the founders of the Bielski Partisans group, and South African born Australian, Eli Rabinowitz, donning tefillin and praying inside the remains of the camp. Photo by Reem Neri

Uriyah and Shachar, and Bella's sister and family. Nance Adler from Seattle was also in our group. The Catholic priest and staff looked after us, and interesting discussions took place at breakfast time! We attended the full program on the first day in Novogrudok, where the highlights included the inauguration ceremony

at the Memorial Wall and the Tunnel Exhibition. We also attended a concert with the participation of descendants of the Bielski partisans.

On the second day, we travelled by minivans to the Naliboki Forest via the village of Naliboki. After an address by Alexander Pilinikievich, we had a tour of the Bielski Camp in the Naliboki Forest. Bella and Shachar Rubin engaged the group in story telling. There was much ruach and lots of dancing.

I fired up the crowd of over a hundred, by playing a recording of the Partisans' Song, *Zog Nit Keyn mol*, on my iPhone, which they spontaneously joined in, singing in Hebrew!

But for the handful who were in the right spot at the right time, the performance that took our breath away was that of Sevil Ulucan-Weinstein, the daughter-in-law of Asaela, daughter of Asael Bielski, who was born on the day her father was killed!

Sevil's violin playing provided the powerful message that the Bielskis, the Partisans, and their legacy, have survived.

continued from page 21

Finding Traces of German Jewish Refugees in South African Archives

To circumvent the new regulations, several German and overseas relief organisation came together to charter a special boat to transport 540 refugees with the necessary guarantees before the implementation of the new law. Thus the historic Stuttgart set sail on 8 October 1936 with five hundred and thirty seven passengers on board.

The leaders of the South African Jewish community had no idea that the boat was being chartered until all the arrangements were completed. Setting aside fears that the large influx of refugees may endanger future Jewish immigration, the community rallied to provide the new arrivals with assistance. The ship arrived three days before the new law took effect.

When the new immigrants arrived they were met by demonstrations by the Greyshirts, a South African

far-right movement with Nazi sympathies. The passengers disembarked without incident. The local Jewish community provided some 200 refugees who remained in Cape Town with free board and lodging. The rest of the refugees moved to other parts of the country. As the Jewish-German refugees settled into their new home, they created several organisations to take care of the physical, cultural and spiritual needs of their fellow refugees.

The Jewish Community's response to the War

Following the outbreak of war, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) immediately pledged that the 'Jewish community would do everything in its power to assist the Union and its allies in the fight for victory.' (1) Along with the South African Jewish Ex-Service League and Jewish members of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats started conducting recruitment drives locally

and nationally to encourage young Jewish men and women to join the Union Defense Forces. Their efforts were soon rewarded as scores of young Jewish men and women joined the UDF.

The Board also created the Executive Council which consisted of three special war committees: the War Service Council, The War Emergency Council and the Soldiers Assistance Council. These committees were tasked with caring for the spiritual, physical and cultural needs of the Jewish members of the Force as well as fundraising for war related costs. (2) By January 1943 about 8,366 Jewish men and 542 Jewish women



Members of the Sixth South African Armed Division, Cadenabbia, Lake Como, Italy, 12-16 June 1945. (Julian Schragenheim Collection, SAHGF Archive, UCT Libraries, Special Collections)

had enlisted, of whom 2 200 had already seen active service outside the Union. By the end of the war 10 000 Jews had enlisted in the Union Defense Force and other Allied Forces.

Of these 357 South African Jews were killed in action, 327 were wounded, 143 were mentioned in dispatches and 94 received awards.



A ticket for the Italia steamship from Genova, Italy to Cape Town, South Africa, 23 July 1936

References

- (1) For more information on the German Jewish organisation please see: F. H. Sichel, From Refugee to Citizen: A sociological study of the immigrants from Hitler-Europe who settled in South Africa, A.A. Balkema, Cape Town, 1966
 - (2) South African Jewish Board of Deputies, ed., South African Jewish in World War II, South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg, 1950.
- The SAHGF Archive contains archival material related to both World Wars, Jewish life in Europe before the war, the Holocaust, and its aftermath. The collection is available to researchers and students at the JW Jagger Library and itemized listings, with digital objects, can be viewed online.



I have always claimed that Herzlia played a pivotal role in shaping the person that I am today. **It offered me the opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that reinforced the strong Jewish value system that was instilled in me from home.** An environment that was competitive, yet nurturing, that favoured success and hard work, that imbued us with a strong sense of identity, a pride in knowing who we are and also, an acute awareness of the responsibilities that come with that privilege.

I left Herzlia with my tank full – a superb education, a strong identity, the passion to dream big and the belief that with all the values and lessons I had learnt, I could succeed!

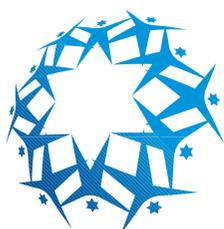
Haley (Toube) Rogoff – Matric 1992



Share YOUR story.

The number 80 corresponds with the letter *Pei*. The letter *Pei* or, more accurately, the word *peh* actually means mouth. A mouth is something we use to speak, and the entire purpose of speaking is to communicate with another individual. That ability to speak is the essential aspect of 80's special strength. Communication and how we communicate and speak is the basis for the Herzlia Anniversary logo concept, as well as the Celebrating 80 Years of Excellence campaign.

It's about telling stories, sharing stories, creating stories – about Herzlia Yesterday, Herzlia Today and Herzlia Tomorrow. **If you would like to share YOUR story, contact Amanda Zar on 021 286 3472 or email your story to azar@herzlia.com**



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The Freedom of Belonging

By Bryan Opert

I hate having to start an article about Limmud with the following, because it is really not relevant to any intelligent discussion about attending Limmud on religious grounds or not. But here goes, I have both attended every single Limmud since arriving in Cape Town over ten years ago (my wife has missed one) and have presented at almost every one. I know Limmud.

Craig Nudelman mentioned in his August *Using my Nudel* column, titled *Celebrating Diversity in our Community*, that the Orthodox Rabbi's 'boycotted' Limmud, I think this is a very unfortunate word.

We all know what boycott implies within our community. The Rabbis have made a Halachic decision using rigorous Torah principles, not to attend Limmud, and scores of rabbis around the world agree with them. Other Orthodox Rabbis might reach different conclusions, that is their right. Suggesting however that the South African Orthodox Rabbinate are boycotting Limmud is like suggesting that they boycott KFC or Steers. The Chief Rabbi wrote an article explaining what the Halachik

p'sak (decision) is based on, it was respectful, clear, articulate and cogent. It is based on opinions that traverse sources from the Talmud through 2000 years to Sages of this century. The Beit Din and Chief Rabbi are world renowned experts in their field and just like research in any discipline it takes years to understand the language, development of ideas and philosophical underpinnings of opinion to reach conclusions. In courts when a judge gives a final judgement it is unreasonable to

'Part of diplomacy is to open different definitions of self-interest'. If values are so broad any number of definitions can plop right into them — it is pure diplomacy.

assume that anyone not trained and with years of experience in the field will understand the judgement to its full depth with all its nuance. Furthermore, other judges may dispute it without diminishing the character of the original judge, like in the Pistorius case when we all learnt the words 'dolus eventualis' without being invited to sit on the bench of

future murder cases!

It gives me enormous pleasure that the Beit Din, however, partner with Limmud in ensuring all the food is Kosher. That is tolerance and love. Even when they disagree with the programme they will still give every Jew the opportunity to eat Kosher food. And the Beit Din is consistent, as one other example, kosher restaurants may serve meat during the nine days before Tisha B'Av when according to Orthodox law one is to refrain as a sign of increased mourning. That, my friends is tolerance and loving your fellow as yourself. Even though not agreeing with their opinion supporting their right to eat Kosher.

Hillary Clinton once said 'Part of diplomacy is to open different definitions of self-interest'. If values are so broad any number of definitions can plop right into them — it is pure diplomacy. The article mentions the core values of Limmud which I think are superb and noble and thank G-d are exactly the same at every interfaith learning space I have attended. These are not exceptional to Limmud making it a Jewish/Torah environment, they are principles that every open liberal society adheres to. The only Limmud principle I find fascinating is the one: 'argument for the sake of Heaven'. I am wondering how on earth anyone on Limmud's board could define what (or where) 'Heaven' is. A number of years ago I attended a captivating talk at Limmud on Humanistic/Atheistic Judaism. If Heaven is a place on earth then that is correct, if not, I am completely befuddled about what it could possibly mean. I suggest a good number of speakers at Limmud do not have Heaven in their minds when they construct their presentations. And that is their right!

Another of Limmud's values is 'religious observance'. As Rabbi Alexander, also in the Cape Jewish Chronicle, cogently pointed out in his article on Limmud, the keeping of Shabbos and Kashrut in public spaces is only in accordance with Orthodox Judaism, so who defines 'religious observance'? The atheistic

presented mentioned above has quite a different understanding of religious observance to both Rabbi Alexander and myself or perhaps rejects it altogether.

I find it astounding how many Limmudniks quote only certain statements by only certain Sages. Hillel, who appears throughout the entire Torah did not define community as including all communities, when warning against separating from the community. To make a clear value statement and sit in judgement of the SA Beit Din that they have contradicted Hillel and separated themselves from the community, in my opinion is bad form.

Hillel also had some very different opinions to what one might expect, including the principle of applying the death penalty for contravention of a number of ritual laws. One statement by a Rabbi is as indicative of his value system as a single swallow is of summer.

I am most fond of the statement oft quoted by Limmudniks that there are 70 facets of the Torah. Have you ever wondered why there are only 70 perspectives of the Torah and not 71, or 75 or the rabbis just saying it is multi-faceted? I suggest because not every opinion is acceptable. There are only a limited number and then — it is no longer Torah. Every person may decide for themselves what is in and what's out, the Orthodox Rabbinate have that right as well.

One of the values of Limmud is respect and I think that Limmud should come out with a strongly worded statement making it clear that it distances itself from all of the disrespectful and disdainful remarks made about the Chief Rabbi and Beit Din. I suggest they call it #notinmyname.

See you all at Limmud 2020.



The Beit Din and Chief Rabbi are world renowned experts in their field and just like research in any discipline it takes years to understand the language, development of ideas and philosophical underpinnings of opinion to reach conclusions.

MENSCH

Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof - Justice, justice, shall you pursue!
— Deuteronomy 16



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THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO EXPLAINED

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Celebrating Eighty Years of Excellence at Herzlia.

POMEGRANATE

Represents prosperity, continuity and oneness or unity.



EIGHTY

In Gematria the number 80 corresponds with the Hebrew letter *Pei* or word *peh*, meaning mouth.

POMEGRANATE SEEDS

Eight seeds, each representing one decade of Herzlia.

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Sharing stories about Herzlia yesterday, Herzlia today and Herzlia tomorrow.

THE COLOURS

Five colours, each representing one of Herzlia's five pillars.



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"Torah Im Derech Eretz"

Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School Implements an International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

It is the duty of any educational institution to be innovative and keep abreast with the educational trends both nationally and internationally. Education is forever changing and at Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School we are passionate about improving our learning and enhancing the educational journey of our pupils.

Imparting knowledge and crucial 21st Century skills are pivotal in today's curriculum. These skills in essence are the 13 abilities that today's students need in order to succeed in their careers during the Information Age. These are critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, information, literacy, media literacy, technology literacy, flexibility, leadership, innovative, productivity, and social skills. These skills are intended to help students keep up with the lightning-fast pace of today's modern world. Each skill is unique in how it helps the students.

Previously Phyllis Jowell School has been teaching according to the current national curriculum known as CAPS and incorporating cross curricular themes focusing a lot on group work. However, over the years, we have found CAPS to be too content-heavy which has often led to teachers struggling to complete the large amount of content in class. This has resulted in work being set as homework leaving the children with less free time, being over-assessed, stressed out and becoming more and more demotivated about education. There was no time for thorough consolidation. The content-heavy curricula also did not allow for the development of vital 21st century skills.

The International curriculum (IPC), however is designed to specifically improve learning. It is content-rich and has multiple opportunities that are offered to children in order to develop their understanding. The learning goals encourage holistic development of internationally-minded learners. Three categories of learning goals are defined: personal, international and subject learning goals.

The personal goals include: Enquiry, Resilience, Morality, Communication, Thoughtfulness, Cooperation, Respect and Adaptability. The focus is on meeting all the learning goals. Assessments and evaluation are considered tools for improving learning as opposed to CAPS where pupils are over-assessed. The IPC's learning programme is centred around the assessment of skills, not just content.

Teachers teaching the IPC curriculum aim to reach subject goals organized around themes that reflect the interest of children and motivates them to find out more. Each theme contains aspects of different subjects integrated to create a bigger picture.

The thematic approach of the IPC lends itself to be integrated smoothly with the values of the Phyllis Jowell School. Our core value of "Torah with the way of the world" infuses all aspects of the school, and the new curriculum is no exception. Our Kodesh and General Studies teachers collaborate in order to ensure our students receive an authentically Jewish world class education.

This International curriculum believes that Knowledge, Skills and Understanding each need to be learned, taught and assessed. Since implementing this new curriculum, we have seen a renewed interest and motivation from our pupils. They are keen to engage and play a more active role in the learning journey at school.





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The story of a beautiful friendship

At the SAJM on Monday 9 September, a captivated audience was treated to a delightful talk by actor and comedian Shane Baker, who has been described by the *New York Times* as “one of the most prominent proponents of Yiddish theater, language and culture in New York.”

The subject of his talk was the life and times of Mina Bern, who was the last working star of the Interwar European Yiddish stage when she passed away in New York 2010. An indomitable spirit, she played on stages from the kleynkunst revue and cabaret stages of Lodz to the Soviet field hospitals of World War II. Later, she performed in the fledgling state of Israel, then branched out to Broadway and Woody Allen films. Thanks to her performing talent and larger than life personality, Mina served as mentor to many young theatre professionals, including Shane, leaving a legacy still to be felt in the Yiddish theatre today.

Seeing Mina perform inspired Shane to learn the Yiddish language, leading him to enter the world of Yiddish culture and theatre. His friendship with Mina flourished over many years and brought them



Shane Baker captivated the audience with his talk on the life and times of Mina Bern

both much joy. Through a series of engaging anecdotes, Shane shared the story of this unique friendship against the backdrop of Yiddish theatre in New York in the late 20th century.

His laugh-out-loud sense of humour and impressive command of the Yiddish language utterly charmed the audience, bringing alive a culture and time that many fear will soon be lost.



Union of Jewish Women spread some sweetness at One to One

Once again the Union of Jewish Women Cape Town experienced the magic of One to One.

One to One is a community initiative arranged to focus on creating a wonderful day out for the intellectually and physically disabled in our communities, and the UJW Cape has been lovingly involved with this event for many years.

A magnificent assortment of cupcakes was collected, donated by our loyal and generous schools, St Cyprian's Girls School, Herzlia Weizmann, Constantia and Highlands Primary Schools and Gan Aviv, Alon Ashel and Daphna Pre Primary Schools, all of whom really pulled out all the stops.



Helene Rabinowitz, Peta Feldman and Adele Serman engaging with a One to One guest

The UJW resident baker also baked cupcakes for the event. Our Chairman, together with Keshet and Simcha Group ran with the programme and set up a colourful stall. To experience the joy and excitement on the day was truly special.

One to One was a massively successful and rewarding day and we are especially proud to be part of this ever-growing event.

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“A creative life is driven more strongly by curiosity than by fear.”

- Elizabeth Gilbert

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[hay-mish] *adjective*

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see; home away from home'

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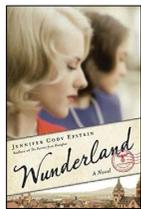




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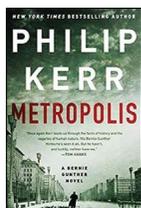
FICTION



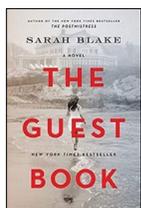
WUNDERLAND by JENNIFER CODY EPSTEIN. In 1989, Ava Fischer received unsent letters written by her deceased mother Ilse to someone named Renate. The novel goes back to Ilse and Renate's lives in Germany before 1939 when they were best friends until Renate discovered by chance that she was a Mischling. Ava had always wondered why she had been left for years as a young child in a German orphanage but now she learns her mother's secrets.



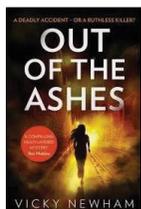
FLIGHT PORTFOLIO by JULIE ORRINGER. Varian Fry, a Harvard educated journalist went to Marseilles in 1941 on a mission to fund endangered intellectuals and artists and smuggle them out of Europe to safety. Orringer brings Fry's history to life while adding dimension to his exquisite narrative with fictionalised characters. Fry rescued Marc Chagall, Hannah Arendt, Andre Breton and others while facing ethical complexities in deciding whom to save.



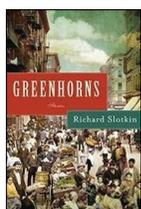
METROPOLIS by PHILIP KERR. In 1928, Bernie Gunther is promoted to the murder squad of the Kriminalpolizei and investigates the brutal death of four suspected prostitutes. One of them is a young Jewish factory worker. When the daughter of a crime boss and disabled wartime veterans are murdered, the stakes are raised. Someone wants to purge Berlin in a universe spiralling towards chaos. A bittersweet ending to his superb series with a wonderful plot.



THE GUEST BOOK by SARAH BLAKE. A sweeping saga of three generations of the wealthy American Milton family of Crockett Island, beginning in 1935. Ogden presided over his firm, which was involved with the Nazis. Kitty, the matriarch spent her life suppressing her tragedies and ignoring her conscience of the past. The granddaughter Evie married a Jewish man and finally understood the silences that hovered below the surface of her seemingly 'perfect' family.

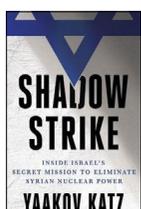


OUT OF THE ASHES by VICKY NEWHAM. DI Maya Rahman faces a complex investigation. A sudden explosion interrupts a flash mob dancing in a street in the east end of London. A subsequent fire rages through a modernised shop killing two people inside. This changes the case from arson to murder — the mob may have been a diversion to cover up a crime involving antisemitism. The relationship between the old Jewish community and newcomers is evoked.

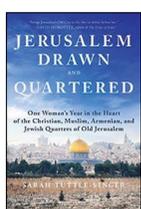


GREENHORNS by RICHARD SLOTKIN. These six stories are based on the greenhorn experience in the context of Jewish immigration to America. Slotkin uses interviews held with family members. He explores the challenges they faced; why some were able to assimilate more easily; the emotional cost of leaving one's homeland no matter how inhospitable it became. Each is a riveting, often humorous gem with narratives peppered with Yiddish.

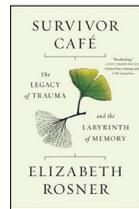
ISRAEL



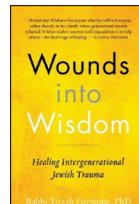
SHADOW STRIKE by YAAKOV KATZ. In 2007, Israel flew into Syria to destroy a nuclear reactor built in secrecy by North Korea. Katz takes readers into the discussions at the White House between President Bush and Olmert, the Israeli National Security Council and the IDF. This covert attack had profound implications for nuclear non-proliferation policy, the ongoing Syrian civil war and the relationship between Israel and America. A valuable exploration.



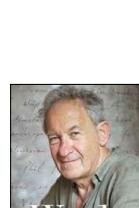
JERUSALEM DRAWN AND QUARTERED by SARAH TUTTLE-SINGER. After Sarah experienced an attack by Palestinian kids outside the Old City, she lived in fear. She decided to spend a year living within the Christian, Muslim, Armenian and Jewish quarters. Sarah chronicles her experiences there sharing holidays, buying bread from the same bread seller and making friends with people who were her enemies. A celebration of this beautiful and broken city.



SURVIVOR CAFÉ by ELIZABETH ROSNER. The author, daughter of survivor parents, eloquently shares her insight into the inhumane conditions of the Holocaust and connects it to other genocides. She examines the ways survivors and post-war generations talk about traumatic experiences including intergenerational inheritance. Rosner uses current research about remembrance in the aftermath of atrocity. An intimate, powerful book.



WOUNDS INTO WISDOM by TIRZAH FIRESTONE. Fusing contemporary neuroscience, psychology and ancient Jewish wisdom, Sarah provides a roadmap for Jews and others with trauma history to change their lives. Firestone uses profound interviews with Israeli terror victims, Holocaust survivors and those marred by racial persecution and displacement. She lays an empowering foundation for recovery and healing for those who have suffered.



WORDY by SIMON SCHAMA. With his remarkable use of language as an art critic, historian, journalist and broadcaster, Schama has presented us with a collection of essays spanning four decades. The book highlights some of his wittiest and wisest writing on everything from Falstaff to Leonard Cohen, pomegranates to populism. Wordy is for those who have a passion for the arts, politics, food and life. This is a testament to his literary flexibility and interests.



EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE by OLIVER SACKS. This profound collection details the joy and experience Sacks experienced in his life. He divides it into three sections. First Loves provides a glimpse into the childhood passions that fuelled his lifelong achievements. Clinical Tales draws on his experiences as a neurological specialist and Life Continues moves into the final stages of his mortality. Sacks concludes with a chapter on the future of our species.

ESSAYS

NEW FILMS



Zephyry — the astonishing true story

By Moira Schneider

A newborn baby is kidnapped from her mother's bedside and through a remarkable coincidence is reunited with her biological parents 17 years later. And they all lived happily ever after, right?

Wrong. Real life is seldom the stuff of fairy tales, rather a series of twists and sometimes excruciating turns and knock-out blows that leave the players reeling. It is such a story that is told in *Zephyry* by Joanne Jowell, the true tale of Zephyry Nurse that made the headlines in 1997 and again during the trial of the woman who raised her, Lavona Solomon, who is serving a 10-year sentence for kidnapping her as a three-day-old baby from Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. At one point in the book, Miché Solomon (born Zephyry Nurse) states bluntly of her biological parents: "Celeste and Morné don't feel like family to me."

"It was very hard to write," Jowell acknowledges, mentioning "the sense of pressure and expectation that Miché and by extension I have experienced with regard to how she should feel towards her biological family or the family who raised her." Jowell feels that despite the fact that Miché has been found, the story is still developing. "Relationships are a many-layered and complicated thing and they certainly don't have a clear end — I don't think that Miché's

situation with the Nurses is by any means over. "I think that the sense that there should have been a certain outcome is thwarting them and getting in the way of building a realistic and reasonable relationship, which was always going to be a tough one to create, especially in the glare of the media spotlight."

One of the things that strikes one forcibly in the book is that Miché seems to be so 'together', almost an impartial observer as her world is turned upside down. Could one attribute this to her being incredibly strong or incredibly detached? Jowell feels it is probably a combination of the two, adding that at the beginning the feeling of shock was driving her. "There was a lurching from crisis to crisis," she says, referring to Miché's subsequent two unplanned pregnancies, "but clearly her coping mechanisms for dealing with crisis are very evolved."

Another incredible feature of the book is Lavona's husband Michael's blind faith in her, his refusal to believe in her guilt, and his determination to wait for her. "She wouldn't do things like that," he says simply. He even goes as far as blaming himself, saying that if she did do it, it was possible that she



feared he would leave her if she couldn't bear him a child. "Michael is famously reserved and has said he won't be giving interviews until Lavona is released," Jowell comments. "That has been his stance all along — to batten down the hatches and keep to himself. Miché has also battled with this aspect. "He's incredibly warm and devoted to Miché, (the discovery that she's not his flesh and blood has not altered their close relationship one iota) but he's not a sharer in terms of the emotional response to this trauma."

Jowell says she likes to write stories that can impact the 'greater good'. "It was so strong in this case," she says, referring to the "huge" ongoing case at the Constitutional Court on identity protection for over-18s brought by the Centre for Child Law. The idea is that the lifting of an identity protection order would be at the behest of the child, now adult, (as happened with Miché), instead of the automatic lifting at age 18 as provided for in the current law. Two months before Miché turned 18, the Centre for Child Law had made an urgent application to the High Court asking for her identity protection to be extended, which it was until the publication

of this book. "Without the identity protection order, for sure we would have seen the worst case scenario for Miché and an absolute obliteration of her best interests. Because she had the relatively quiet space to deal with the situation, her interests were protected to a degree," says Jowell. Though the media knew who she was, they were prohibited from publishing Miché's or the Solomons' name. "The issue of missing children, traumatised children, reconciliation, bridge-building, single parenting — all the social and emotional elements that come into play in the Zephyry story are ongoing and universal," Jowell continues of the book's potential impact. "I have this very strong feeling that Miché telling her story in the way she has, has a part to play in the broader picture."

The feeling one is left with after reading the book — completed in February - is that Miché would prefer not to have been found and to have carried on with life as she knew it before The Truth emerged. "In the last six months, I think her feeling around that has been resolved a bit further," says Jowell. "She is learning to embrace the Zephyry identity because she realises it will never leave her. Zephyry is a part of her and it's best she learns to live with her otherwise she's likely to tear her apart."

Zephyry by Joanne Jowell is published by Tafelberg.

DID YOU RECENTLY HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT?

Did you recently have a great experience with a small Jewish business or entrepreneur? Like you got a plumber come to your place, and they were on time. Or you ordered a sugar-free chocolate cake and it had less calories than you expected. If you did, please join JAM on Facebook and tell us about them. We are creating a Jewish Directory where the Jewish community can be a support to Jewish businesses through recommendations, advice and networking. And if you own a SME, join JAM and tell us about yourself. Because there are a lot of great Jewish entrepreneurs out there, and if they can please the people in our community, they deserve all the success they can get.



WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER.



Jewish Care Cape: Yes we can – because you care

The theme for the 2019 Jewish Care Cape AGM was vividly illustrated in keynote speaker Lauren Gillis' inspiring film *NO Limits*.

The Annual General Meeting of Jewish Care Cape (JCC) provides a window to showcase the range of services provided by Astra Centre, Cape Jewish Seniors Association, Glendale Home, Highlands House, Jewish Community Services, Nechama and Oranjia. Significantly, the AGM also focuses on people who truly care and contribute significantly to the welfare of our community in the spirit of tikkun olam.

The theme was highlighted by dynamic keynote speaker Lauren Gillis, the Director of the documentary *NO Limits*. This documentary is about 30-year-old Donna Chait, who is mentally challenged, and with incredible spirit and long hours of training that Lauren Gillis facilitated, completed the New York Marathon, accompanied by Lauren and her team. After the showing of *NO Limits*, which received a standing ovation, Lauren spoke about what an inspirational individual Donna is, and how she has taught people to break out of their comfort zones. "My goal is to go forward and inspire as many people as possible to reach their potential, locally and globally as a result of Donna's story. 'Yes, we can' if each one of us accepts that you can make a difference and contribute to the community."

The Eliot Osrin Awards, initiated to honour Eliot Osrin's significant role as a change-maker, are awarded annually to recognise people who make outstanding contributions to the welfare of the Jewish and broader community locally, nationally and even internationally. The awards this year reflect the broad range of services that individually, and together, make that significant difference.



Lauren Gillis presents *NO Limits* to the audience



JCC Chairperson Philip Todres addresses a packed AGM



Gina Flash with her award for professional service with Diana Sochen and Lauren Gillis



Diana Yach receiving the Chairman's Choice award on behalf of her mother, Estelle Yach, with Philip Todres



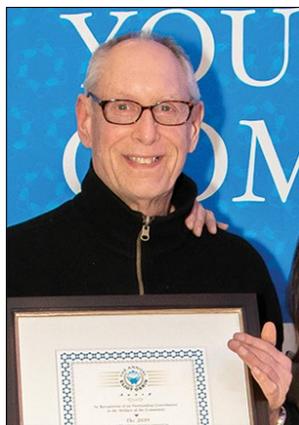
The contribution of Herzlia grade 11 learners was also recognised, with Hannah Miller and Leanne Berman winning the Herzlia-JCC Video Project. Their video about Cape Jewish Seniors was a brilliant example on how these creative and insightful videos are perceptive 'windows into our caring community'



Donna Chait, Howard Chait and Lauren Gillis



Golda Lowenstein receives her award for community service, with Ivan Katzenellenbogen



Michael Ipp with his award for community service



Shana Isserow with her award for professional service



Motti Lewis receives his award for community leadership from Rodney Stein



Paul Berman and Lauren Gillis receiving an award for community service, on behalf of Jonathan Bloch

Twitter, Facebook and the law

By Anton Katz

The law regulates human behaviour.

Law has two main purposes. First, to ensure the smooth operation of society. A classic example is which side of the road cars must travel. There is nothing moral about this type of law. It makes no principled difference whether cars drive on the left or the right. But people need to be uniform on which side cars are to drive; otherwise chaos would occur.

The other key purpose of the law is to protect humans from each other. If there was no law, some individuals, leaders or groups would do bad things to others. And the perpetrators would go free and the victims/targets would have no recourse against the wrong doer. In this regard the law deals with morality and strives to make a better society.

Justice and peace are meant to be its goals. The law chooses to make certain conduct criminal. The law determines who may and may not get married. Who may enter into sexual relations, and who may not. Speech is regulated. What kind of speech should be prohibited as constituting hatred?

Another emerging example is the regulation of activities leading to climate change. The law in this second sense concerns itself with choices. Choices which attempt to advance justice. The neutral (regulatory) and the moral (justice choices) aspects are not completely separate, and there are often significant intersections between the two.

But in this latter justice sense the question arises: must the law lead society or should it follow and develop rules according to the wishes of the people. These are complex and difficult issues, and every society deals with them differently as circumstances change.

What is interesting is the law concerning social media. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and other recent internet phenomena obviously require some legal regulation from a neutral perspective of the law. Thus, just like the requirement that cars drive either on the left or the right hand side of the road, so the internet needs some regulatory guidelines.

Without any regulation at all chaos would result. But that regulation cuts deep into the moral choices aspect of the law. Licensing decisions results in government control of who may publish and what they may publish. Technological issues drive certain legal developments. But not all.

Thus what may be allowed to remain on Twitter, or taken down after a complaint are choices made by the

techies at Twitter headquarters, wherever in the word that may be. Any person can easily open an anonymous or fake Facebook or Twitter account, and post the vilest content about another person. What they say may be true or it may not be. Yet the target's entire life can be ruined.



So, a fake person could tweet that Mrs Y, a successful high profile business woman, who is a happily married mother of three young children is having a violent and abusive affair with Ms T, who is a notorious porn star. And that Mrs Y is a corrupt thief, who beats her kids. What can Mrs Y do? What rights and possible remedies does the law give her? If she complains to Twitter will it 'take down' the post?

What if Twitter responds by relying on freedom of expression and declines to remove the offending, false and defamatory post? Could Mrs Y obtain an interdict from a South African court compelling removal? Bearing in mind that Twitter is based in San Francisco, California how would enforcement of any order made by a South African court be implemented?

These are all tough questions with no easy answers. So, in a world where global society is developing at supersonic speeds the law has to follow. It has to take into account so many different and newly developed facets of human interaction. In doing so, it has to cater for demanding and challenging issues.

So, while the law is (slowly) catching up with the new internet realities, some, if not many, will be caught up in this legally unprotected space.

This unfairness is obviously ugly and so unfortunate. But it is sad reality. Just think of the notorious laws (which still exist in many countries) relating to who could sleep with whom, and the terrible consequences for those affected.

During apartheid a person classified white could be criminally prosecuted and convicted (have a criminal record) for kissing a person classified as not white.

It took many years and a social revolution for that to change. There are obviously differences between the (criminal) apartheid laws and the new internet reality. But the parallel between those caught up in a developing society cannot be ignored.

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

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Home is where the heart is

By Zia Adler

“A man who lives everywhere lives nowhere”
– Marcus Valerius Martial.

Homelessness may be defined as living in housing that is below minimum standard or lacks secure tenure. The semantics stretch to include unhoused persons occupying places not designed for sleeping and living accommodation for human beings and where the unsheltered refers to that portion of the homeless community who do not have legal access to buildings in which to sleep and who are the unsheltered homeless.

Desolate and weathered by the elements the homeless are further thrust into this prickly stigma and stereotype where they are often hurled with the vernacular of derogatory connotations such as squatter, hobo, beggar and thief. Difficulties then compound exponentially into a downward spiral of risk. This includes an internalised prejudice that feeds depression, hopelessness and fear and a vulnerability that invites barriers to access resources and accumulates abuse, rejection, discrimination, violence, isolation and voicelessness. Thus further blemishing the footprint of a compromised identity and sense of self.

The causes of homelessness are multiple and largely associated with mental illness, substance abuse, poverty and include lack of affordable housing, lack of employment and appropriate support services.

Mental illness is often cited as a major cause of homelessness illustrating a causative link that extends beyond mere correlation. Mental illness can sever attachments, disrupt capability and interrupt occupation all of which are factorial in the path to homelessness. In turn the homelessness can precipitate mental illness where neglect of self-care and barriers to resource access can wound physical health. Mental health programmes should provide both treatment and housing in tandem. This textbook of hardships and struggle is rewritten by Jewish Community services in the language of inordinate generosity of the community, commitment, perseverance, dedication and creativity in order to tackle the issue of homelessness and lack of accommodation.

One of the ways that JCS orchestrates this need within the Jewish Community is through various housing innovations and initiatives which includes both transitional and supportive housing. The organisation vigorously endeavors to provide the homeless with safe and secure shelter/accommodation in a climate of spiraling rental and property costs and shrinking availability which remains a stubborn edifice in the pursuit of solutions. Despite all these challenges the organisation perseveres in order to ensure clients

are sheltered from the real and emotional storm they suffer.

Additional armature includes the magnanimous and philanthropic gestures of benefactors within the Jewish and wider community through financial aid, and/ or provision of housing in different forms and wavering of rental commitments as well as the mobilisation of external housing resources within the state and NGO sector.

Exposure to substandard shelter is minimised and accelerated in the quest for comfort, safety and permanency. Housing solutions include but are not limited to:

- Transitional housing provides emergency accommodation with specific criteria to aid transition towards self-sufficiency.
- Within a framework of continuum of care JCS provides accommodation for persons living with a chronic psychiatric condition both at privately owned facilities and at the organisation's Community Cottages (group home). Within the least restrictive environment 12 residents are provided with a full house of a solid and comprehensive infrastructure of support that includes, social work case management, supportive counselling layered with occupational, recreational and spiritual

activities and opportunities, 24 hour crisis response and short term community project initiatives. All designed to normalise and channel reintegration into society. Providing a psychological film of safety and security that tears at stigma and provides for an improved and healthier quality of life.

- Organisation owned accommodation portfolio.
- Proposed residential communal living home to accommodate the needs of the elderly and persons with psychiatric conditions.

Through these actions the invisibility of the homeless can then unmiraculously take form to provide not only shelter and physical safety and comfort but the feeling of home. A sense of belonging, worthiness, hope and dignity that are rebuilt into the psyche. A solid foundation to build a new reality through access to services that can rehabilitate or cancel the ravages of adverse experiences of living in a car, on the street, under a tree, in a cave or on a bench, in an alcove of a deserted building with the fear of illegal occupation, oftentimes a temporary and fleeting habitation at an unwelcome address.

Should you wish to become involved please contact Hazel Levin, Executive Director at Jewish Community Services, on 021 462 5520.



Photo by Matt Collamer on Unsplash

“Desolate and weathered by the elements the homeless are further thrust into this prickly stigma and stereotype where they are often hurled with the vernacular of derogatory connotations such as squatter, hobo, beggar and thief. Difficulties then compound exponentially into a downward spiral of risk.”

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What are we going to do?

By Craig Nudelman



In the wake of the murders of 19-year old UCT student Uyinene Mrwetyana and countless others in August (which is ironically Women's Month) I feel the need to write about the state of women in South Africa.

It has been a few days of intense national grief, as well as personal existential questions. The one question that I keep coming back to is 'what are we going to do?'. But first let's unpack some things.

Stats SA defines femicide as "The intentional killing of females (women or girls) because they are females." I think we can agree that femicide is rife in South Africa — and the statistics which prove it are beyond appalling. Tom Head makes a comparison between Italy and France, and South Africa to illustrate the crisis we are currently in. He says that Italy, where 106 women were killed in 2018, has launched a Code Red emergency to tackle femicide. Their femicide is 0.11 victims per 100 000 women. France, similarly, has begun a massive audit of its police stations and put millions of Euros into the fight against their rate of 0.18 female victims per 100 000.

South Africa's rate is staggering compared to this. Stats SA and the South African Police Service estimate

that our rate 15.2 in 2017/18. It puts South Africa in the top 5 countries for most murders of women; our femicide rate is five times the global average. Head states that our rate is so severe, one can calculate that a woman is murdered every three hours. That means that during an average school day, from 08:00 to 15:00, 2 women are murdered, just for being women. This does not take into account rape or violence against women. South Africa has been labelled 'the rape capital of the world' with Stats SA stating that 250 per 100 000 women are raped, based on 2016/17 statistics.

Where is our Code Red? The government did respond the day after the death of Uyinene was confirmed. It tweeted the following: "Violence and abuse against women have no place in our society. Govt is calling on women to speak out, and not allow themselves to become victims by keeping quiet. Women who speak out are able to act, effect change and help others." I was flabbergasted when I read this. This government statement implies that it is a woman's responsibility to change. That they have to shout louder and stop being quiet about the issue? Why is it a woman's job to make sure she isn't raped or murdered? Someone tweeted a corrected version that the government should have said, "Violence and abuse by men have

no place in our society. Government is calling on men to speak out, and not allow themselves to create victims. Men who speak out are able to act, effect change and help others." The onus is not on women. It is on men to speak out and act conscientiously.

Why is South Africa such a violent place, filled with anger towards the other, not just women? As I write this, Zambia has just cancelled their friendly football match against South Africa, and Nigeria is asking for sanctions against South African companies. In the Daily Maverick, Professor Loren B Landau from the African Centre for Migration and Society at Wits spoke about xenophobia and why it is so prevalent in post-apartheid South Africa. She stated, "Xenophobia is a manifestation of South Africa's real and enduring problems: inequality, insecurity, and institutional incapacity. Perhaps more importantly, it reveals a political class willing to adopt or endorse the language and modalities of street-level gangsters. It shows that our main political parties, the ANC and the DA, are out of ideas and seeking to deflect blame rather than deliver."

We live in an angry country. Kgauelo Masweneng wrote last year that some of the reasons for femicide relate back to issues affecting men in our country. Where one has easy

access to guns and a society where lawlessness is rife, violence against women is more likely to occur. Put that together with high unemployment and an inferiority complex in men because of it, there's no wonder that women are at such a high risk at being targeted because they are women.

I hope that society continues to take this issue seriously. People have the tendency to forget issues affecting them in the short term. Uyinene's death will become a thing of the past, as will so many others. Our politicians will make statements and say they are going to enforce more penalties to people who commit acts of gender-based violence. But will it last? I hope that by writing this column and people, hopefully, reading this at the beginning of October, this issue will not go unnoticed. I want my wife, daughters, and all the amazing women I know to grow up in a world where crime against women, because they are women, is not tolerated.

I hope that this Yom Kippur we atone on behalf of society and we commit not to let this issue drift away, but to continue thinking about the right thing to do, the right thing to say, and the right way to behave.

G'mar Chatima Tova and may you have a truly meaningful fast.

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Megan Kope and Justin Zar

Photo: Katya Kim Photography

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SIMCHA SNAPS

A beautiful Batmitzvah ceremony at Gardens Shul



Rabbi and Sarah Feldman with the Gardens Shul Batmitzvah Class of 2019 in front of the Old Shul at the Gardens Community Centre in September.

Rosalie turns 110 years old in style



Rosalie Wolpe turned 110 on Sunday, 25 August. Gideon Kaufmann, the chazan of Claremont Shul, came to perform for the residents of Highlands House in celebration of Rosalie's birthday. Rosalie's son David attended the function and said a few words, expressing his gratitude to all the staff who have taken such good care of his mom over all the years that she has been living at the home.

Celebrating fifty years of service to the Ceres Community and Lions Clubs International

Jos Khan has spent most of his life living in Prince Alfred Hamlet.

He was schooled at Wynberg Boys High but always returned to the Warm Bokkeveld where the family ran the Prince Alfred Hotel. Fifty years ago, he married Gwen and together they set up home in the town where, together they have always been involved in the community. Shortly after their marriage, the Lions Club of Ceres was chartered and Jos was invited to become a charter member of the club. Jos has served two terms as president, and as a zone and region chairman representing Lions Clubs International and the district.

His love is serving his community, and Ceres Lions are well known in the area for the work they do with the less fortunate. One of the most successful projects undertaken, together with the optometrists in Ceres, ensures that every school child has their eyes tested and those needing spectacles are provided with them. Jos is also very involved in the local aged home in Prince Alfred Hamlet which is housed in the old railway station. This project has uplifted many homeless elderly who



were living in the street and under the guidance and untiring input of Jos and Lions members, they now have a roof over their head, nourishing meals, companionship and can live comfortably.

Fifty years of service to the Ceres Community and Lions Clubs International was celebrated recently where Ceres Lions and former members, together with members of the community came together for the Induction of their Charter member, Lion Jos who is serving as President for the 50th Anniversary. The privilege of performing his induction was given to Past District Governor, Lion Diana Sochen.

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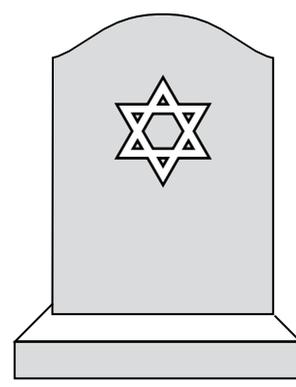
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STEM subjects open doors to a world of possibility

By Steve Sherman

It is abundantly clear that the world around us is changing at a rapid pace.

Technology is advancing exponentially and the tools that we use, namely computers, cellphones, cars, electricity, etc. are evolving and new models and designs are being released quicker than ever before. As a parent, I want my daughters to play a meaningful role in the world around them. In order to achieve this, I need to ensure that they have all the tools they need to thrive in the 21st century.

What are these tools? They need to be mathematically and scientifically literate and they need to be able to solve problems in creative ways. I run a STEM based NGO, Living Maths and we promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths support to about 4500 students a week in Cape Town and around the world over the internet.

Yes, I am aware that maths is not everyone's favourite subject. My response? If you say that you like music but not maths then you are a hypocrite! Why would I state something like this? Simply

put, just because you don't enjoy hiphop music or Yodelling, it does not mean that you stop liking music altogether.

In the same way, just because you don't like doing sums or fractions, you cannot say you don't like maths — you can only say that you don't like that part of maths. There are many other parts and this is what we enjoy revealing to students. I will admit, that we need to think outside of the box to win people over and one of those ideas is annual Living Maths Space Tour. I had a dream to bring an astronaut to South Africa and take them to a few cities for public talks and school visits. I wanted to show the glamorous side of STEM by showing the possibilities!

At the start of November of 2017, I hosted former NASA Astronaut, Dr Don Thomas, a veteran of four shuttle missions and an extraordinary speaker. I have worked with Dr Thomas for about 10 years and he is unbelievable with kids and he has a knack for inspiring young people. We spent a few days in Cape Town then we moved up to Johannesburg and then finally ended our space tour in Durban.

During this time we received incredible coverage on all the major radio stations, TV shows, newspapers and social media. We hosted seven Public talks in two weeks, which were all full and we had about 10 School visits in total. I estimate that we reached over two million people if you take into account the Media and school visits! In 2018 we then travelled up the Garden Route, stopping in all the major towns, and some that were off the beaten track. This year we travelled to Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban and Lesotho. The public talks were packed with children who were fired up about STEM.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing. This was a major scientific achievement and is still considered impressive when we look at the technology that was used to get astronauts onto the moon! Problem solving, maths and science were the real heroes. The women computers that were portrayed in the Hidden Figures movie were some of the examples of human intellect that made the landing possible.

Israel recently attempted to land a rover on the moon. Despite all the latest technology, software

and tools, they were not able to land the craft successfully, but I am confident that for them failure will not be an obstacle, rather it will spur them on even further.

Dr Thomas's message about not giving up on your dreams is important. He only flew his first shuttle mission at 39 years old. What most people do not know is that he took many years and rejection to make it that far.

Despite orbiting the Earth almost 700 times, meeting his hero, Neil Armstrong and having him attend one of his launches was a definite highlight for Dr Thomas.

Many students bemoan the fact that they find the STEM subjects tough. Sometimes they can be challenging, however, if everything we did was easy and there were no challenges, we would never celebrate the victories. Climbing out of your comfort zone allows you to grow as a person!

The 2019 Space tour took place from 11 - 20 Sept 2019. For more details and future events visit livingmaths.com.



'Astronauts' Kayla and Benjamin Balkin with Dr Thomas at the Sweet Valley Primary talk



Heading to the moon in their shiny rockets, Aerin, Ava and Ariella Diamond with Dr Don Thomas at the Protea Heights Academy talk on 12 September



Thumbs up for STEM! Hannah Shapiro at Sweet Valley Primary School on 13 September



Future space whiz Rael Murray with Dr Don Thomas at the Protea Heights Academy talk on 12 September



Matthew Shapiro with Dr Thomas at Sweet Valley Primary School on 13 September

MENSCH CHANGE-MAKER OF THE MONTH

By David Kossew

Be A MENSch — a call-out to men

'The #MeToo movement', 'Rape Culture', 'Toxic Masculinity', '#MenAreTrash', '#AmINext'.

If you are a man feeling confused, fearful or even unsafe around what these terms embody and what's happening right now in South Africa, and you want to know what you can do — then great, this is for you!

If you don't know these terms, then I urge you to look them up. It only takes a few clicks and internet searches to find out. You can also read the current South African news about men raping and murdering women (femicide) to learn more. But this comes with a trigger warning. Be prepared to be horrified and outraged. I know I was.

Even though it may seem like it, these atrocities are not committed by some 'creature' who crawls out of the swamp, does his deed and then disappears never to be seen again. It is men from all walks of life, across all cultural and racial groups and across all classes that sadistically abuse their power for sexual gratification, control and dominance. Yet behind the mask of the 'hero' these men have deep-seated insecurities about being 'man enough'.

"I haven't done anything". "This is about those other men". "What about man-on-man violence?" "Why do I feel like any words that come out my mouth could now get me labelled as sexist or a misogynist?" "But what about the falsely accused?" These are examples of things you may say or ask. The problem is this doesn't help, it misses the point and only fuels women's justified anger. When President Ramaphosa addressed the march outside parliament on 5 September, he opened his address with "I know what you are all going through". Women in the crowd were furious at hearing this, and felt cheated. It is not possible for a man to truly know what it's like to experience this as a woman.

As a man, you are part of the problem even if you aren't the problem — but you are very much the problem if you choose to do nothing. So, what could you be doing? Here are 5 things:

1. Work on yourself, educate yourself, develop emotional intelligence, grow your self-awareness, be responsible, and hold yourself to account for your own behaviour and actions.
2. When women talk to you about this listen to them with interest,

empathy, compassion and without judgment, and learn how to hold space. Don't explain or justify or argue or rescue or fix. Just listen. Say thank you. Then think about what you can do differently.



3. Show some leadership. Find yourself a mentor and take a stand when needed. Use your power to protect, not to persecute. This means courageously confronting other men who act inappropriately towards women, one-on-one, and often when in groups. This can be a daunting task. I know, I've been there. Talking from experience, expect to have your credibility undermined, to be mocked and ridiculed, possibly even exiled from the clan. Men will stop with their sexist remarks, jokes and behavior, when instead of getting laughs and increased status every time this goes unchallenged, their status in the group gets lowered every time.
4. Be a present, conscious father and/or a role-model for boys and young men. This means modeling solid boundaries, especially around consent and around relationships. Teach boys about feelings, that it is okay to cry, to ask for help when they need it. That vulnerability is really strength, that they can go through life feeling they belong. Tell them that you love them and that you are proud of them. When these boys grow up into men the world will be a safer place.
5. Join or form a men's group with like-minded individuals and skillfully support each other to be better fathers, husbands, sons and brothers; to bring about the changes you want to see in the world. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

If you're already doing some, or all of these things, then consider volunteering your time to organisations that are making a difference in this space to help other men, and to help mentor boys who would otherwise have no powerful, authentic, positive male role-models in their lives.

David Kossew has worked with hundreds of men around living their lives authentically, with purpose, powerfully. He is an ICF certified coach, and works with teams and individuals to develop their leadership. Since 2013, he has been a facilitator with The ManKind Project SA, an organisation whose purpose is to create a safer world by growing 'better' men. David is affiliated with The Mensch Network. Visit www.mensch.org.za for more information.

Gender-based violence is a men's issue

By Jaime Uranovsky

South Africa has a long history of gender-based and sexual violence.

The brutal rape and murder of Uyinene Mrwetyana, while particularly heinous, is not the first or second or thousandth time that a woman has been dehumanised and it will not be the last. Read the latest headlines: the alleged condemnation of the masses was not enough to stop the murders and the rapists from adding more women's names to the victim pile on the very day that we swarmed the streets around parliament. The crux is that these crimes are not trends, though it is tempting for men in particular to view them that way.

I'm not prepared to blame Cyril Ramaphosa. Realistically, how is one man supposed to announce a solution for years of systemic violence against women? And the answer does not lie in the death penalty or in castration. The death penalty has been shown not to be a deterrent for such crime. Moreover, to regift the state with the power to extinguish a human life given this country's history would be regressive to say the least, and castration would not strip any man of the ability to violate a woman.

It is not only the government's problem to stop violence against women. (Granted, the fact that our previous president was a rapist did not help matters) Contrary to popular belief, it is not women's problem either. Rape and femicide cannot be curbed by giving women free self-defence classes or free pepper-spray, or by policing how women dress or where they go or how they speak, or by inventing a nail polish that changes colour when your finger is dipped in your drink to check if your beverage has been spiked.

What I am about to say is not novel and it is not mine, but it is a fact: society places the onus on women to protect themselves and it has been happening for too long. Women in the passive voice. Women being preyed upon by some nefarious, amorphous entity. The sentence structure needs to be rearranged: we need to talk in the active voice with a subject and the subject is men. Men rape women and men murder women. There is no other way to look at it. And if a man takes offense at this, we (because, again, I am not the first to think this) suggest that this offense be redirected to the rape rates and the murder rates in this country. Take offense at those.

Many have felt powerless and helpless, not just over the past week but over decades, over lifespans. As women, we are taught to fear, to

calculate our every move, to predict the unpredictable. So, when men scroll through e n d l e s s social media posts about women's pain and anger, they need to understand that they are able to scroll past the content and that will be the end of it.



We cannot keep scrolling past, what men read for a few seconds encompasses our continuous lived realities. In a few weeks when the newspapers start reporting on something else what is going to have changed? Women will continue to carry what we felt long before Nene's tragic death and the deaths and violations of millions of other women and children before her. We are told that we are not safe in our homes, with our male friends, with our partners, outside, in clubs, alone, in cars, on the street, in post offices, in bathrooms, at school, at tertiary-education institutions, at work. Where are we safe?

Too often, men use a distancing effect. Women should fear the male intruder: we must lock down our campuses so that 'strange men' cannot come in; we must construct fortresses so that thieves and criminals and rapists do not gain entry. But it is not just the intruder. It is not just the potential predator in the post office or the van driving by filled with men ready to abduct.

Men who catcall, shut down, disrespect, mock, objectify, interrupt, grope, who inappropriately touch, molest, violate, rape and murder walk among us. They are not a sinister shadow in an alleyway. They are that as well, but overwhelmingly they are what we thought we could label as friend, partner, family member or colleague. They are you and your sons unless you teach them to respect women: not because they exist in relation to men as sisters, mothers, wives, girlfriends, nieces, granddaughters and aunts. But because women, like men, are people.

Gender-based violence is a men's issue. Take offence, call out your friends and your family members. The solution is not through women talking to each other, although this unity is beautiful and healing. The solution lies with men: to take a stand and to hold each other accountable. It is a shift in the way many men conceptualise women.

And it is the only way that anything is ever going to change.

SPORT

Kiki Kicks her way across the English Channel

By Jaime Uranovsky



Kiki Marx (second from the right) pictured with (from left to right) her sister, Maxine Marx; her mother, Dorothy Marcus; her niece, Isabelle Marx; and her partner, Hedley Isserow - together in Dover after the swim.

On 25 August this year, Karon 'Kiki' Marx became the first Jewish South African woman and the fifteenth South African woman to complete the English Channel swim. Kiki, a Johannesburg-based anaesthetist, covered the distance in an impressive 16.5 hours.

For Kiki, this goal has been a long time coming. She recounts, "When I was a little girl of six or seven, I told my folks that I was going to do the Channel. But the seed was planted again on 24 November 2013 when I swam my first Robben Island. There was another swimmer next to me and I asked her why she's doing the Robben Island swim and she said it's a training swim for the English Channel and that kind of just replanted the seed of mine from when I was a little kid."

From a young age, Kiki swam both for her school and for a private club until her first year of varsity. Then, in 2013, after a 20-year hiatus from swimming, Kiki set the goal of completing the Robben Island swim. She trained for just ten weeks and successfully finished the swim.

Over the last two years, Kiki's training routine comprised waking up at 3:20 every morning and swimming for two to three hours in the gym before the start of her work day. She also trained a few times a week with her trainer at an outdoor pool. Kiki adds, "I'd go down to Cape Town once a month to do a swim camp with Big Bay Events run by Derrick and Debbie Frazer. That would be at Langebaan and we would swim Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday morning. I did that for ten months."

The Channel swim was especially auspicious for Kiki, as it was scheduled for the day after her fiftieth birthday. She says, "It was a birthday present to myself."

While Kiki never doubted that she would complete the swim, the final two hours proved difficult as the current was very strong. She was also disorientated at the end of the route, which Kiki attributes to mild hyperthermia and shock. "I was very proud but very emotional."

Kiki's Judaism is central to her life and accompanied her on her swim: "I davened during the swim for people who are ill and thanked Hashem for giving me a strong body and mind." She also credits her strong support structure: "I'm just grateful for the love and support I've received from the entire community... because you can never do these challenges alone."

On being asked what's next, Kiki says, "I'm going to give myself a bit of time to rest and then I'll look at what else there is. I think it's important to have challenges and goals in one's life and it's something to work toward. This was a big one. ...so, I'm very grateful that I accomplished it.... I want to continue swimming and we'll see what lies ahead."

Into the Badlands

By Maiyan Karidi

We live in a tiny village on a small island. A spec in the vast Indian Ocean.

In this tiny village is our little house, at the end of a long, narrow drive covered in red, orange and pink Bougainvillea, and yellow Allemanda. The driveway leads to an overgrown garden filled with banana, papaya and mango trees. Our haven is quiet and hidden. We live in a bubble of art and dreams.

A ten minute drive away is a small town called Goodlands. We call it 'little Bombay'. It is a hub of chaos. Crowded, jammed, squashed, busy, messy, noisy, smelly and packed with things you don't want. When we really have no choice, we go there for one of two things. One, our dentist, Dr Joy, and two, to get cables for our music room.

Most other towns we call the "badlands". This is where we need to do all the mundane and annoying tasks of 'modern life'. The bills, the banking, the bureaucracy. Our island is a maze. If you're not on the coast, you're swallowed by traffic, people and potholes.

I leave home at 9am as business here only begins at 10am. I try to do the most pressing task first so I start at the bank by taking a number and waiting. Lets leave the details, they're too boring. I survive it.

Next I need to find a travel agent to bring my son home. I resist the online booking option. I google. There are 4 agents within a radius of 1 km. I begin my search. The first one is closed. The second one is elusive. I ask someone for directions. "Bonjour, do you....."

"No".

"I didn't ask the question yet....lets start again...." "Bonjour, do you know where....."

"No".

Ok, so lets find someone else. The man with the tinted eyelashes tries to help. I find myself in a narrow, broken street with abandoned houses. Google maps swears its on my right. It isn't.

The third one I find but they are out to lunch. The fourth, are closed.

I have no choice than to return to the only one I know, where Preeti has a way of giving me blank stares in response to my questions and her bright red lipstick is always smudged as if there are no boundaries. We conclude our meeting with 'let's wait and see if anything better comes along'.

Now, I must collect three things in three different places in another jam packed, messy road with no parking. I succeed with grace. I'm feeling good as there is only one more stop. I drive through more traffic and reach my target. I enter the store and realize my list is in my diary in the car. I run to the car and....."Oh no.....my diary isn't there!" Where did I leave it? I retrace my missions. Now I am back in the jam packed, messy road without parking. In the art supply store? Nope. At the hardware store? Nope. At the little kiosk? I turn the corner and almost walk smack into the glass

door. The kiosk is closed. I peep through the glass and see my life in the little blue book, lying innocently on the counter. I enter the shop next door. "Why are they closed?" I ask. "It's 3.30 in the afternoon?"

"I think she's gone home, she may be back at 7 in the evening."

I panic. My life is in that book. All the gory details. I need to pee.

I leave my number with the little girl next door and drive away in distress.

As I get to the roundabout (what they call a traffic circle), my phone rings.

"She's back" the voice says. "She's open".

"Oh great!, thanks you so much, I'm coming".

I turn around where you're not allowed to turn around. Hooters blasting, angry faces, I don't care.

I drive back down the jam packed, messy road. There is no parking.

I slow down in front of the shop, the door is open with no one inside.

Hooters blast, angry faces, I have to move. I turn into a tiny, narrow side road thinking I can turn around there. I continue past the chaos and oops, a dead end. It's filled with cars and junk and I cannot turn around. I'm sweating. I really need to pee.

I have to maneuver. I feel like a pie-graph. Back and forth, back and forth in a tight circle.

I enter the dreaded street once again, slow down and shout "Please! Pass me the diary!" It works. I grab it, thank her for saving my life and continue on my way. By now I have given up on the last mission and just want to get home. I take the shorter route.

But wait, I must still get a few things from the supermarket near home. I reach my almost final destination, enter with 'the list'. My 4kg dog food is under a pile of numerous 10kg dog foods. I need assistance. Then I have great idea.....a bottle of rum, that's what I need. I reach for the rum, grab the eggs, the mosquito repellent and go to the cashier. I jump in my car and drive home realizing I've forgotten the dog food. No, I'm not going back. Leo will eat sardines.

I arrive home. Tovi is working in the studio. I grab him, "My love, please, I have to pee, get the stuff from the car and pour me a rum". Tovi complies.

As I grab the glass of rum and coke, feeling relieved, he looks at me with an innocent smile and says "Do you want to come with me to Goodlands?"

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



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