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Farewell to a memorable 2019



Regular contributors

Page 3	Lindy with a why
Page 4	Community Noticeboard Shabbat times Mikvah notice
Page 6	ORTJET
Page 7	CSO Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute
Page 8	Kaplan Centre
Page 10-11	Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies
Page 12-14	SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council)
Page 15	The Academy
Page 16	Telfed Melton
Page 17	Mensch
Page 18	Union of Orthodox Synagogues
Page 19	Chabad on Campus
Page 20-24	Cape Jewish Seniors Association
Page 25	Jewish Community Services
Page 26	Family Announcements
Page 27	United Herzlia Schools
Page 28	The Jacob Gitlin Library
Page 29	The Herzlia Foundation
Page 30	Anton Katz on getting arrested
Page 31	Emunah Cape Town
Page 32	BZA WIZO Nechama Union of Jewish Women
Page 33	Temple Israel
Page 34	CT Holocaust and Genocide Centre SA Jewish Museum
Page 38	Chronic Ads
Page 39	Astra Centre
Page 41	Simcha Page
Page 43	Craig Nudelman on being a teacher Sport

Features

Pages 4 & 26	Your guides to Kosher eating in Cape Town
Page 6	The Neshama Music Project
Page 8	A Few Good Men making minyanim
Page 31	Snapshot of Jewish Cape Town in a new book
Page 32	Merle Rubin acknowledged for service to community
Page 35	Jewish Magical Realism: new exhibition at SAJM
Page 36	Holocaust remembrance in the digital age
Page 37	A literary feast at JLF 2020
Page 39	Mark Blumberg in concert
Page 40	Cape Town gets baking for Shabbos
Page 42	New York museum lights up for Chanukah



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Lindy with a why

Why I travelled 10 500 kms away from home to meet Herzlia moms



By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

I recently returned from an amazing experience in Israel.

The trip, organised for Herzlia moms through Momentum (formally known as the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP)), saw us spend a jam-packed week touring Tel Aviv, Tiberius, Tsfat and Jerusalem.

The coordination and planning alone were breath-taking. On the dates we were there, 600 women from around the world were learning, crying, laughing and bonding in a whirlwind of tightly scheduled programming. As we arrived in Israel, a men's group was leaving, as we left a new one was coming in. Momentum is a well-oiled machine, empowering Jews through fostering a love of Jewishness and Israel and developing skills to better our relationships back home. The speakers were on top form and the guides were knowledgeable.

But what made this trip exceptional was not the women we met in Israel, but the women we had brought with us. Our group leaders asked me to speak at our Shabbat dinner in Jerusalem and when I sat down to formulate my opinions on the trip up to that point, I was struck by the realisation that everything magical about the programme had been with us all along. The next Shabbat, back home in Cape Town after a few days of being able to reflect, I was asked to speak at another Shabbat dinner. This was *still* the part that had struck me the most.

When people ask me how Momentum was, I answer that it was incredible, and it really was, but the true magic of Momentum was the women from my hometown who I was privileged to get to know in this spiritually heightened,

emotionally charged brave space, free from the usual commitments, and pre-judgements of home.

I recommend that, if possible, every Herzlia mom in Cape Town travel all the way to Israel so that they can appreciate the incredible woman living next door.

I made memories on that trip that stay with me today, and will for years to come. Being taken by two fellow moms on a 'quick trip to the kotel' that became a never-ending-this-is-how-I-am-going-to-die shopping spree on Ben Yehuda, with agonising deliberation over each item, and being asked "OMG, Linds, is this going in your column?!" Yes. Yes, it is. I loved every minute and would join you again in a heartbeat.

Lying in twin beds with my one-of-a-kind, exceptional roommate really connecting, our conversations getting slower as we fell asleep at the end of another insane day.

Watching a friend reconnect to a part of herself that she had separated from for a time.

Learning that just as I had made incorrect snap judgements about other people, they had done the same about me. (We *all* do this. The most wonderful gift you can give yourself is to be aware of it and try to stop)

It was a long way to travel to discover the women who live in my community, but it could not have happened any other way. We were taken from the familiar, shook up, shaken out and then given this incredible space in which to sew ourselves back together. I'm so glad I could weave these women into the fabric of my life, In Israel, and especially now that I am back home.

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Community Noticeboard

CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

Opening of photographic exhibition by Richard Wiesel *Objects from the Concentration Camps* Keynote speaker Andrew Lamprecht. 9 December 6 pm See page 34

MARC BLUMBERG: SINGER, PIANIST

Direct from Israel * Golden Oldies * One show in Cape Town * Tuesday 31 Dec at Highlands House 2.30 pm info@blumberg.ad.com See page 39

NECHAMA

Personal Growth Group Provide support, gain self-awareness and develop through other peoples experiences 6 February over 8 sessions. See page 32 for details.

COFFEE TIME @ ASTRA

Open December holidays. See page 39 for details

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

Zvi Suchet's *The Radiant Portal*. Suchet's art explores Talmudic symbolism through his unique photographic illustration. December 2019 – February 2020 See page 34

JEWISH LITERARY FESTIVAL

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GUIDE TO EATING OUT KOSHER IN CAPE TOWN

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THIS GUIDE DOES NOT INCLUDE SUPERMARKETS WITH KOSHER FACILITIES. ACCURATE AS OF NOVEMBER 2019. KOCOSA DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS.

See page 26 for more from Kocosa



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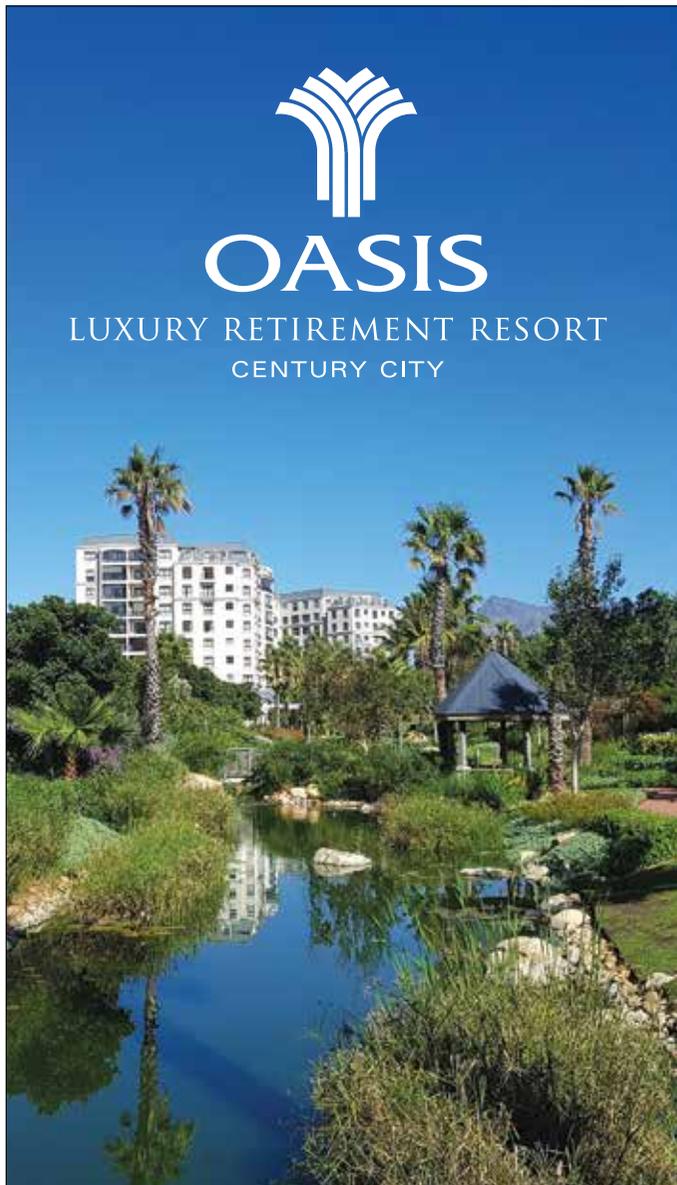
Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		earliest	latest	
DECEMBER				
6 Dec/8 Kislev	Vayetzei	6.30pm	7.28pm	8.26pm
13 Dec/15 Kislev	Vayishlach	6.30pm	7.34pm	8.31pm
20 Dec/22 Kislev	Vayeshev	6.30pm	7.38pm	9.35pm
27 Dec/29 Kislev	Mikketz	*6.30pm	7.41pm	8.38pm
JANUARY				
3 Jan/6 Tevet	Vayiggash	6.45pm	7.43pm	8.40pm
10 Jan/13 Tevet	Vayhi	6.45pm	7.43pm	8.39pm
17 Jan/20 Tevet	Shemot	6.45pm	7.41pm	8.37pm
24 Jan/27 Tevet	Vaera	6.45pm	7.39pm	8.33pm
31 Jan/5 Shevat	Bo	6.30pm	7.34pm	8.28pm

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

Please consult your Rabbi.

*Light the Channukah candles before you light Shabbat candles




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Neshama Music Project: connecting to Judaism through music

By Jaime Uranovsky

The Neshama Music Project consists of part-time, volunteer musicians who lead the Temple Israel Shabbat Chesed Services in Wynberg and the Shabbat Rina Services in Green Point, and who perform for Cape Town Jewish Seniors.

The leader of the group, Fabio Diliberto, talks a bit about how the group got started. "About three years ago I started going to Temple Israel. They'd already started setting [the group] up and had something happening. I went to Shul for one of those services and thought it was really great, so I joined and learnt everything with them and thought, let's try and grow this thing and make it as good as it can be. Without meaning it to happen, I kind of took it on as a project."

They chose their name (*neshama* meaning soul) because most of the band members have found that music has allowed them to rediscover their Judaism. Fabio says that "we were like Jews in the wilderness spiritually and we found that music really brought us back together and connected us to our Judaism and our souls. Most of us have the same story that music connects us to our roots. And music is a big part of Jewish life and now we want to take it out and hopefully connect other people."

This is what led them to start performing at Jewish senior associations and homes, such as Highlands House. Around two years ago, the group began playing Sunday afternoon concerts for seniors because "whenever they would come as visitors, they always loved it, so we thought it would be nice

to take it to them. We perform a repertoire of Kabbalat Shabbat and explain it all and just spend a really nice Sunday afternoon with them." The group aims to host these kinds of shows every six to eight weeks and, in the future, once the members have expanded their repertoire, they hope to play at weddings and bar mitzvahs.

While the group is fairly fluid in number and changes depending on availability. The core group comprises Fabio Diliberto (band leader) on guitar and vocals; Hedi Lampert on guitar, keyboard and vocals; Henry Shields on double bass; Marianne Winter on the violin (Marianne has emigrated but whenever she visits she plays with the band); Samantha Horwitz on the flute; Roy Fine, Nidhi Chaitow and Warren Wilenski on percussion; Greg Lyons, Bev Lyons and Andi Kuti Alexander on vocals; and special appearances by Rabbi Greg Alexander on guitar, vocals and for spiritual inspiration.

Since their performances are based on prayer, the group has tried to change the songs up and make the experience more like a concert by adding a few extra verses or some instrumental sections. They started off practising for the services but, after performing together for such a long time, are able to just go in and play.

The group says that the message of Neshama is summed up perfectly through a song they sing called 'Olam Chesed Yibaneh' written by Rabbi



Menachem Creditor. The piece is "a song of resistance, a song of hope, a song that declares, 'I won't stand for hatred but instead I stand for love.' Creditor recognised that to build a whole world of love, it starts with an individual, and what better medium to spread love and kindness than through music?"

UNFORTUNATELY WHEN YOU'RE JEWISH, YOU TEND TO OVERTHINK THINGS.

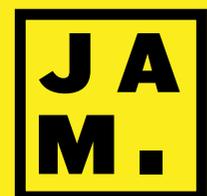
FORTUNATELY, YOU CAN NETWORK ON THE JAM FACEBOOK PAGE

The tendency to overthink things is exactly what made many Jews successful. Einstein thought about gravity, Freud thought a lot about his mom. Woody Allen thinks about a lot of things most of us would be ashamed to say we think about. But the other thing that has made so many Jewish people successful is that they were tapped into a community network with other successful people who supported their success.

That's why we have launched a new initiative to help give Jewish SMEs and entrepreneurs in Cape Town a platform where they can have the support of the Jewish community. The Jam Facebook page is a business directory where you can recommend and source Jewish businesses, ask advice, shamelessly promote yourself or network with other Jewish entrepreneurs who face similar challenges to you.



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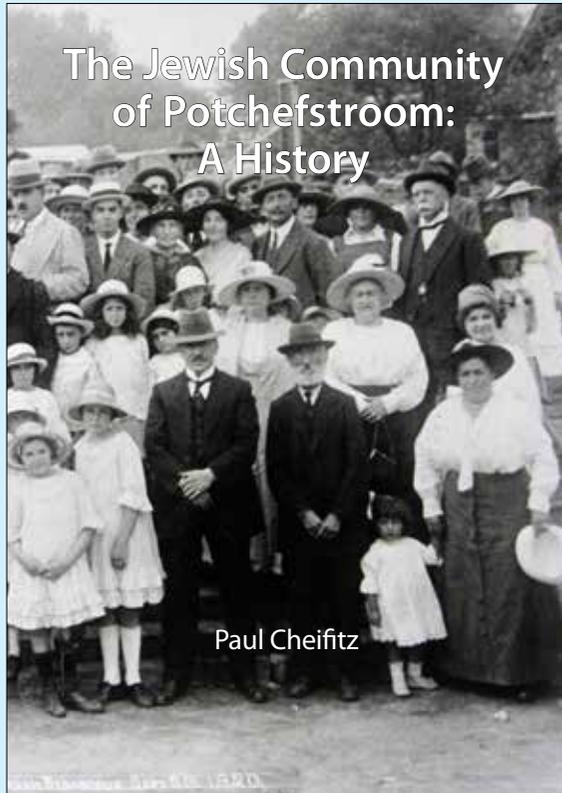
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A few good men are ensuring a minyan at every Jewish funeral

By Jaime Uranovsky

Unfortunately, there are around 20 funerals per year in Cape Town at which there are no mourners or friends of the deceased present.

Without a minyan, Kaddish cannot be recited, so Stanley Brick and Arthur Gillis started a WhatsApp group to source volunteers in order to ensure that all Jewish funerals have enough men present to make a minyan.

Arthur recounts how the group started: "It came to my attention that there were a number of people being buried in the community who didn't have a minyan. Their children have emigrated, or they no longer have anything to do with anybody in the Cape Town community and I would go [to the funeral] and find literally one or two mourners and that would break my heart."

Stanley originally started the initiative by word of mouth but struggled to find volunteers. Arthur then had the idea of using WhatsApp and that is how the group came into being. The project formally started just after Yom Kippur last year and, since then, every single funeral has had enough attendees for a minyan to be made.

Arthur notes, "It just took some people to stand up and say that we're not allowing, on our watch while we're around, for people to be buried without a minyan. There's a lot of need for this and a lot of people in their day were

pillars of the community. You hear the eulogy, but over time unfortunately they've lost all their friends and family and so on. The response has been overwhelming and instant, and I'm hugely humbled and gratified that people are prepared to do this and give of their time."

The initiative was named *A Few Good Men* and endorsed by Rabbi Wineberg at Marais Road Shul over the High Holidays together with other volunteering groups, such as *Spreading the Love for Jaime Rose*. The group attends funerals for both the Orthodox and Conservative/Progressive communities and aims to provide the dead with the dignity that they deserve.

"We would really appreciate more people because, initially, it was just to get a minyan but then we decided it doesn't matter how many people come. The more people that we get the better it actually is and the bigger the mitzvah is, so, if we can get 20 or 30 or 40 people it's such a huge thing.

Very often we will say Kaddish for the person and we will be the pallbearers. I've been to funerals where there hasn't been one single mourner, one single friend, one person who knows the bereaved. We want to give them a dignified send-off and the only way we can do that is by having people put their hands up to volunteer."

To join the WhatsApp group call Jeff Musikanth, the group administrator, on (079) 038-7489 or Arthur Gillis on (082) 905-1000



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KEEPING IT REAL

Stuart Diamond,
Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

Lighting our personal candles

On arriving in the Boroughs of New York in mid-November, I found myself in Chabad Manhattan davening in thanks not only for my safe arrival, but for all the warmth and positivity that I see on a daily basis in Cape Town. Sometimes you have to zoom out to see the finer details and appreciate what you have.



One would be forgiven for wondering how I could even be thinking of light and warmth as I sat there on a cold, fog-filled New York morning, ready to attend a series of meetings and a conference with the US-based Anti-Defamation League. But it was the message of Chanukah; a small bit of oil making a difference, the courage to fight for what you believe in, dedication to what is important, that filled my mind as I reflected on one complete year as the Executive Director of the Cape Board and my strengthened connection to my faith and community.

This past year has gone by so quickly. While life for Cape Town Jewry is still generally comfortable, we exist in a world of identity politics and fundamentalism on both the right and left. The work carried out by the professional staff sees us track, reflect and act, to ensure the continued safety of our community. My team has a strategic focus on building meaningful relationships so that we have allies in a sometimes dark world, where each friend becomes a positive light in our fight. To them I say thank you.

This year I have also had the privilege of meeting Jews who identify with their religion in many different ways. In Cape Town we are really lucky to have plenty of opportunities to find a space — where each of us is right now in our lives — to opt in to our Jewish community.

When we continue to choose to light up our daily lives with positivity, inclusivity, Tikkun Olam and caring for each other we ensure that Cape Town Jewry can prosper and be a community that continues to shine bright.

Chag Chanukah Sameach

Facilitating conversations around transformation in South Africa

The Cape Board held another well-attended transformation conversation around the theme of *Unlocking Shared Wealth and Prosperity* on 24 October, asking how the community could share its expertise with others.

Among the guests were Alderman Belinda Walker, Councillor Anda Ntsodo chairperson of the Economic Opportunities and Asset Management Portfolio Committee, and Mark Rountree, head of Policy Development for the Good party.

To set the scene, former ANC MP and CEO of Hosken Consolidated Investments Jonny Copelyn outlined the development issues in South Africa as he saw them. The world today was richer and healthier than it was forty years ago, yet South Africa, since Zuma, had fallen behind. He contrasted South Africa with Israel, a smaller country without our mineral wealth, yet which had increased its growth and decreased its deficit. On the brighter side, he noted that there was much mobility and nothing was cast in stone. Israel's success was due to the educational and high tech opportunities provided.

South Africa needed more employment opportunities and small businesses were best placed to create jobs. Zuma has shaken the foundation of trust in the country. Investors need to have trust in the future of the country. This trust will be restored under the new president who had instituted the Commission of Inquiry into allegations of State Capture, had been removing corrupt people from power, and the possibility that NPA would soon be embarking on arrests.

Marianne Merten, Daily Maverick's parliamentary correspondent, saw little good news and had many concerns. She agreed that we were the most unequal country in the world with a broken education system and huge unemployment and racially entrenched inequality.

The white community should admit that they had benefitted from white privilege and the intergenerational wealth, which had given them access to networks lacking



Stuart Diamond (Executive Director Cape SAJBD), Tim Harris, Marianne Merten, Johnny Copelyn, Rael Kaimowitz (Chairman Cape SAJBD)

to the new larger black middle class. The structural inequality built into the society was still there although the life expectancy had increased since President Mbeki's day and 90% now had access to running water. Despite the Zondo Commission, few people had been arrested, but it was important because it had told the story. She encouraged the Jewish community to give back to the country, to be engaged citizens, to write to the newspapers, to members of parliament and to councillors and to take action when they had concerns.

Tim Harris, the CEO of Wesgro, the Tourism, Trade and Investment Agency of Cape Town and the Western Cape, had a far more positive outlook. The Western Cape did not represent the country and it had opportunities the rest of the country lacked. It was an international economic and tourist destination with visits from investors, tourists, filmmakers and conference participants spending six billion rands each year.

Three quarters of the jobs created in South Africa were created in the Western Cape, and half of the country's agricultural exports came from here. Investors from USA, UK and Germany came here because Cape Town was on the doorstep of the rest of Africa, regarded as an untapped market. More than ten thousand students from the rest of Africa attended Western Cape universities. The secret to growth, said Tim, was in attracting knowhow — not through education, but from people who understood how to do the job and the Cape, with a liberal immigration policy for knowledge, was open to getting talent from across the world. Cape Town had lowered its unemployment rate because it was open to immigrants, many coming from Gauteng.

Questions were asked from the floor about drought, desalination, and the living reality of gang violence. Guests went away with Copelyn's message that within five years' time they would see a better South Africa.

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Welcoming interfaith guests to our sukkah

It has been said that the only true joy is shared joy.

On Sukkot we are told to rejoice in the festival and we do so by inviting not only our friends to share our meal, but also unseen Ushpizin — Aramaic for guests — Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David.

This year the Board decided to share the festival with other exalted guests, people from other faith communities who would have been unlikely to have had the opportunity of being

in a sukkah or knowing about the festival.

On a beautiful spring day, curious and most appreciative Muslim and Christian ushpizim, including an archbishop, an imam, a dominee and an interfaith minister, sat down to a meal hosted by the Board inside the Gardens Shul sukkah.

After a welcome by SAJBD Cape Chairperson Rael Kaimowitz, Rabbi Feldman told them about the festival. He explained how living in a temporary dwelling for a week makes



Jews realise how dependent we are for our welfare on Hashem and how very many people have to live all the year round, not just for one week, inside a temporary draughty shelter.

Rabbi Feldman also showed the guests the Lulav and the Etrog, explaining that palm, myrtle and willow branches bound together form the Lulav. "Each plant is different and could represent a different type of person. One person could have both learning and good deeds; one

could have the one without the other; and another could have neither, yet when bound together they form a community. So too our society is made up of different people from different faiths with different interests," he said.

The event created an opportunity for people from different religious backgrounds to be joined together as one community in the sukkah, enjoying the meal and chatting together.

Remembering the past and being a 'light unto the nations'

In Cape Town this year we will celebrate Chanukah by lighting candles and enjoying potato latkes.

However, back in 164 BCE when the Maccabees cleansed the temple, there were neither candles nor potatoes. Candles came into use in Europe in the 17th Century and potatoes first arrived from America in 1588. The Books of the Maccabees don't mention lighting chanukiyot either. Josephus did not call it 'Chanukah' but the 'Festival of Lights', explaining that the right to serve Hashem had come like a sudden light. It was only in a discussion between Hillel and Shammai that lighting a Chanukiah is mentioned.

Today the Cape Board has 12 chanukiyot in its collection on display in the Samson Centre, coming from Jerusalem, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Holland, North Africa, Poland and Russia. The oldest is a limestone oil Chanukiah from Jerusalem dated to the 10th or 12th century. We have a brass North African one from the 17-19th century and another given to Morris Alexander, the founder of the Board, by Rev Hechler, Herzl's most famous Christian disciple, whom Alexander had met at the 1907 World Zionist Conference.

Seven came from the US Army as part of the Jewish Reconstruction Programme, having been looted by the Nazis from synagogues and private homes. None are complete as they were only valued for their silver content and were thrown by the Nazis higgledy-piggledy into boxes to be shipped to 'neutral' Switzerland to be melted down into coins for the



Limestone Chanukiyah from Jerusalem, 10th or 12th century, brass Chanukiyah given to Morris Alexander by Rev Hechler at the 1907 World Zionist Conference and 19th century Russian silver bench-type Chanukiyah looted by the Nazis and given to the Board by the JCR (Jewish Cultural Reconstruction).

Reich. One, the top of a monumental Chanukiah, has been matched to a single large candlestick — its mate is lost, as is the base of the Chanukiah. This is borrowed each year by Beit Midrash Morasha where Auschwitz survivor Ella Blumenthal lights it — using it for the purpose for which it was intended.

As for the festival of lights, let us recall that the role of the Jews is to be an Or l'Goyim, a light unto the nations. In a world filled with hate for the other, the Cape Council will continue to raise our communities' voice to defend the rights of those facing hate and oppression.

We will continue to speak out against antisemitism, homophobia, xenophobia and Islamophobia when this scourge is voiced. This year as you light your Chanukiah remember to celebrate with gladness, but remember also those who have no light or gladness, no money or food and spread your light to others where you can.

**This Chanukah ...
may your
candles burn
long and your
celebrations
be joyous—**



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Anti-Semitism in Europe

By Ben and Esta Levitas,
Executive Committee,
SAZF Cape Council

The Halle synagogue shooting by a far-right attacker that occurred on 9 October 2019 in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, was yet another reminder of the precariousness of Jewish life in Europe. After unsuccessfully

trying to enter the synagogue in Halle during the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, the attacker killed two people nearby and later injured two others.

What happened in Germany did not occur in a vacuum. The resurgence of far-right parties in Europe particularly in France, Germany and Hungary have provided fertile ground for anti-Semitism to grow and become mainstream. Elsewhere like in Poland, the leaders are still in denial about the complicity of ordinary Polish citizens in the Nazi atrocities. In Latvia, the local authorities want to name streets and squares after Nazi collaborators. In the United Kingdom, Jeremy Corbyn is unrepentantly anti-Semitic and openly supports Hezbollah and other terrorist groups bent on the destruction of Israel. In Belgium,

orthodox Jews are caricatured on posters with hooked noses and gold teeth. In all these countries, Jews are increasingly feeling unsafe and need to hide their identities. The 'tragedy of it all', as Amos Elon details in his brilliant book, is that Jews have been victimised in Europe for nearly 2,000 years.

Now Spain's current Foreign Minister Joseph Borrell's promotion to become the European Union's Foreign policy Czar, replacing Federica Mogherini, spells more troubles for Israel. Mogherini had very close ties with the Palestinian Authority and was very critical of Israeli policies, while the EU has been the largest provider of aid to the Palestinian Authority, over 300 million Euro per annum. It was therefore rather nauseating for Borrell to recently state that the EU is

not anti-Semitic because it supports the Palestinians. What is of course unpalatable is the support the EU gives to Hezbollah by not declaring it a terrorist organisation and by not insisting that its aid not be paid over to support the families of terrorists. Moreover, the role that Europe and particularly France have played in trying to undermine American efforts to isolate Iran, and the failure of any European leaders to condemn Iran's threats to wipe out Israel, reveal an inherent inability to recognise their own anti-Semitism.

Why, if Europe cares so much about the Palestinians, does it care so little, or not at all about the Kurds, who are a larger ethnic group that seeks its own identity on its own land, and is under genocidal attack by a NATO ally?



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SA FRIENDS OF ISRAEL



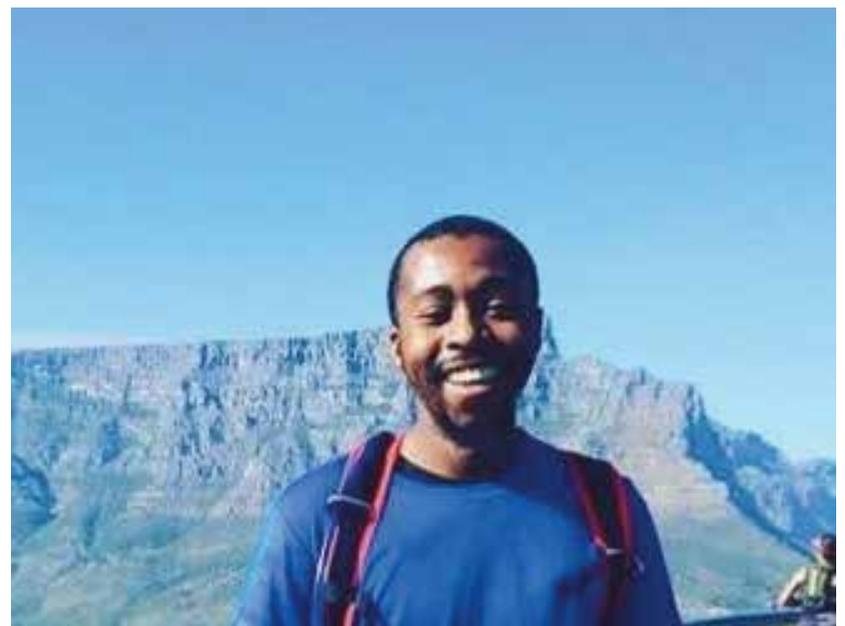
SA Friends of Israel (SAFI) welcome Mmamalema Molepo

recently been employed as the SA Friends of Israel co-ordinator for Cape Town and will also be heading up the SAFI on Campus society at UCT.

He is a University of Cape Town student who will be graduating with a Bachelor of Social Science in Politics & Governance and English Literature. Mmamalema has worked with non-profits over the past five years and formed part of a team that wrote and delivered an educational curriculum at Indoni Arts, Youth and Leadership Academy. Mmamalema's main interests are politics, social innovation, literature and education. He is a keen participant in sport, as a casual runner (road and trail), with great interest in motorsport and the odd ball-game.

Mmamalema Molepo, a keen supporter of Israel, through his Judeah Christian beliefs, has

We are very confident that Mmamalema will be a great asset to our team.



Mmamalema Molepo



SA FRIENDS OF ISRAEL



SAFI annual Friendship Celebration / Feast of the Tabernacles

By David Lazarus,
SAFI Portfolio Chair

In a twist to the usual annual Friendship Celebration, this year's event, showing our appreciation, love and commitment of our Christian Zionist friends, took the theme of Sukkot.

Held in the Gardens Shul Sukkah Hall, creatively decorated in the spirit of Sukkot, the event was exceptionally well attended by our chaverim as well as new guests from Turquoise.

After a short welcome by Executive Director Julie Berman, which included a moving tribute to the late Nilly Baruch z'l for her dedication and hard work over many years of SAFI and prior to its establishment. Rabbi Sam Thurgood explained the meaning of Sukkot. He invited members of the audience to participate by reading portions from the beautifully written and illustrated booklet handed to attendees.

African Christian Democratic Party MP, Steve Swart delivered a humorous, but impressive report back on his recent visit to Israel to attend the premiere of Daniel the Musical, the South African show which opened the newly renovated Jerusalem Theatre.

Guests were treated to a typical and delicious Sukkot dinner; and Israeli music was provided by Gabriel Shai. The evening ended with enthusiastic singing and dancing on the piazza!



Andrew Arendse performing the sukkot traditions with the lulav and etrog after explanations by Rabbi Sam Thurgood



Tamar Lazarus, past Chairperson of WIZO and David Lazarus, SAFI portfolio chairman dancing with our guests



Esta Levitas, chairperson, SAZF (Cape Council); Vivienne Myburgh, ICEJ national chairperson and Desiree Phillips, Desiree for all Nations Church

THE ISRAEL CENTRE



P2G youth movement seminar in Israel

By Michal Ilan,
Community and Aliyah Shlichah

“The seminar helped to begin building a strong relationship and connection with fellow Jews,”; “We have a lot to learn from each other,” and “Once we learn about each other from a personal perspective, we learn how similar we actually are,” were just some of the comment's participants made after the seminar was completed.

This programme has been happening for the last three years which has been organised by the Partnership2Gether team with the amazing leadership of P2G chair in Johannesburg, Anthony Rosmarin. Anthony challenges the South African youth to think about their future role in their movements and in South African society.

The seminar provided an opportunity for youth movement gap year participants from South Africa to share with each other on what they have been doing for the past year, what movements they come from and what their ideology is. Many of them commented that this was very important. “It helped me solidify my belief system and work on understanding and accepting different people,” was a comment made on a post seminar questionnaire.

Many participants wished for more of these opportunities, and we hope to allow for those conversations to happen both in Israel and in South Africa and more often during the duration of the gap year programmes in Israel.



Nothing lightens the mood like a good drumming session



Seminar participants during a bonding Outdoor Training (ODT) session

Are youth movements in Israel and South Africa similar or different? Do they have the same approach to leadership? Do the youth in both countries have more in common or more that differentiates them? All these questions and more were explored in the last week of October at a peoplehood seminar held in Israel for gap year participants from South Africa and Israel.

The seminar was attended by local members of Habonim and Bnei Akiva who are on their gap year, as well as Israeli participants from the Jewish Agency's Kol Ami Mechina programme. In addition to the planned activities and discussions, participants had time to get to know each other and bond.



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



BNEI AKIVA



Home at last!

By Chanan Suiza,
Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town

Yes, we will soon finally be at our most favourite place to spend December, the Bnei Akiva campsite.

With the highest amount of Capetonians in seven years, we are hitting Hartenbos hard. We are looking forward to a care free three weeks of fun, laughter, community and friends.

DILLER TEEN FELLOWS



Welcome Diller Teens cohort 5!

By Martine Kawalsky,
Programme Co-ordinator

These teenagers will have the opportunity to explore leadership skills in practice while developing ideas in our six core experiences: leadership, Jewish identity, Jewish peoplehood, pluralism, Israel and tikkun olam.

The one-year program consists of evening workshops, weekend shabbatons, an opportunity to host Israeli teens in Cape Town as well as a 3-week-long educational program in Israel in July 2020. The program is led by coordinator Martine Kawalsky, along with two incredible junior counsellors – Jethro Klitzner and Eva Maraney.

Mazel tov to those who have been selected and chosen to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity!

Diller Teen Fellows is proud to introduce their fifth Cape Town cohort. After a comprehensive interview process, 20 dynamic and vibrant Grade 10's from around Cape Town have been selected to join the Diller Teen family.



Diller cohort 5 at their first workshop



Bnei Akiva Has Been Busy This Year!

- More than 10 Big Bnei Shabbatonim
- Over 25 Event
- Constant school visits
- Visitors from Bnei Akiva Olami
- Israel Programs
- Our Biggest Mini Mach and Winter Camp in 4 years

NETZER



A year in review

By Jason Bourne,
Mazkir Netzer SA

2019 has been an all-round fantastic year for Netzer South Africa, as we saw growth in all three of our regions.

With a renewed focus on community involvement and engagement within

Cape Town, we are super proud of what we have accomplished. Some of our highlights include our April Mini-Machaneh, Netzer Shabbat services within the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Community, our leadership-focused Winter Machaneh in Durban and our first ever Winter Holiday Day Camps. We would like to say a huge thank you to those who have supported us as the Progressive Jewish youth in all of our endeavours throughout the year. Wishing everyone a restful December break and Chag Urim Sameach over Hanukkah.

Nilmad v'na'aseh! - We will learn and we will do!



Winter Camp in Durban, July 2019



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Be a part of the global education movement

Telfed staff writer

While waiting in line at the South African Consulate in Ramat Gan, I overheard two bright and bubbly Chinese girls request visas for travel to South Africa.

They explained that their South African classmate had told them that Cape Town is the most beautiful city in the world (no argument there), and they were eager to visit before the new school year began. My first thoughts were 'remarkable — this is globalisation at its best! And kol hakavod to the student, both for choosing to study in Israel and for promoting South Africa as a tourist destination.'

This brief encounter reflects what we already know: Israel is a melting pot, a cosmopolitan country enriched by the contributions of Olim from around the world. Nowadays, Israel is becoming an increasingly appealing destination for international students. And, through the SASI programme (Southern Africans Studying in Israel), Telfed is proud to be a part of this movement to promote tertiary education in Israel.

Recent news headlines have revealed that over 12 000 international students



SASI Chairman, Sidney Shapiro, welcomes the new SASI students to Israel

are currently enrolled at Israeli academic institutions. With world class universities, an outstanding reputation for entrepreneurship and innovation, and the introduction of tens of international programmes it is no wonder that these students are choosing Israel. Many of the new degrees on offer are in line with Israeli expertise, including science and engineering, agriculture and sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship and Jewish studies.

South African students who make the decision to study in Israel and apply for a Telfed SASI scholarship don't

only enjoy an outstanding education, they also benefit from a housing grant and a supportive framework. Social support is an integral part of SASI. A dedicated student coordinator, a social programme that promotes 'seeing and experiencing' Israel, opportunities to volunteer and a network of like-minded students from a similar South African background make the SASI programme unique.

SASI caters to South African international students only. Within this programme, students can choose to study in either English or in Hebrew at private or public universities. Initiated and sponsored

by the Eric and Sheila Samson Foundation, the SASI programme was created to give South African students an opportunity to study in Israel. SASI is fully subscribed for the upcoming academic year, which underscores the demand for this initiative.

For students who wish to make Aliyah, Telfed offers two additional scholarship programmes for Israeli students (with priority given to those of South African origin): the PRAS volunteering scholarship and Financial Need-based scholarship. In November, Telfed launches the 2019/2020 PRAS programme. 180 scholarship recipients will be volunteering with the elderly, children with special needs or new Olim families. Telfed scholarships reflect our ethos of educating the youth so that they will have the ability to be self-sufficient, while simultaneously instilling the values of Zionism and volunteerism. This year over 500 students will be recipients of Telfed scholarships. For more information on Telfed's scholarship programmes, contact Simone at admin.esp@telfed.org.il. To this year's matriculants, we look forward to welcoming you to Israel!

Melton Celebrates its 14th Graduation

with Acknowledgement, Awards & Learning, our annual graduation ceremonies bring passion and people together for the sake of Jewish learning.



**Michelle Boiskin's journal extract:
Holocaust as Reflected in Diaries & Memoirs:**

"Week after week, reading and listening to the thoughts of those who were able to put theirs down on paper, my sense of anguish and helplessness pervades my being as I identify with the writings. It reconfirms our deepest desire to honour those who fell before us by living the best lives we are able to muster; to see obstacles in our lives as challenges, to overcome by choosing to find meaning and keep rewriting the script of our lives into one of gratitude..... It is the only way we can honour their lives — by being fully alive until we too are no more."

Graduate Roxanne Mayhew, Herzlia Primary School Educator: Year One & Two

"Melton gave me an understanding of Jewish life, Jewish thought, past and present and how it relates to our lives today; to rethink issues we had opinions on, with ongoing discussions, engagement and reflection we learned to appreciate the Jewish way of life... "that they become a link in the chain across time and across faith." Melton's aim is to transmit cultural knowledge from one generation to the next. And It has truly lived up to its expectations and leaves you wanting more. Course topics stimulated much debate and discussions in class, with my fellow peers, in the staffroom and in the car on the way home with our spouses.



Barbara Flax: Year One & Beyond Borders Graduate:

"Melton's great strength is that students are given the forum that is comfortable to engage and the freedom to explore topics that seem to be confusing, even in conflict with one's own personal view, while becoming more equipped to understand the 'why'. Thank you Melton for providing the framework for building knowledge."

Melton's textual learning curricula boasts 2300 graduates in Cape Town – Recruitment opens soon for February 2020 Melton courses

Viv Anstey, Director: vivanst@iafrica.com 082 809 5414
Lauren Snitcher: lsnitcher@iafrica.com 082 880 2257

Empowering courses across a range of subjects



We are so proud of these amazing Mensches winning awards and creating real impact in our society. Here's to 2019 and all the new opportunities 2020 will hold!

MENSCH MANDY MYERSON (below) is co-founder of an urban, greening initiative called **CO-CREATE** which aims to inspire suburbs to collectively step out of their front doors and start greening open, public spaces.

The first pilot plant will take place in May 2020. To learn more about this or to get involved contact mandy@humanwaking.com. Check out www.co-create.co.za



MENSCH LAUREN GILLIS of Relate (above) met the Duchess of Sussex on the recent royal visit and shares the Relate story. Check out her interview with Pippa Hudson on CapeTalk.

MENSCH HELEN LIEBERMAN's organisation **iKamva Labantu** (below) won the Changemaker in Health Award for The Umelwane Project from at the Community Chest Impumelelo Social Innovations Awards.



MENSCHES KERRY HOFFMAN, CARYN GOOTKIN & DAVID KING of Souper Troopers have created a year-round homeless football team that practice and play games regularly. Initiated as a project of Mensch Mitzvah Day in 2018, we are so pleased to see this project growing roots!

MENSCH JED KAGAN of Jedi Tedi (below) won in the Philanthropy category at the African Child of the Year awards in JHB. The awards recognise the amount of impact that children have created in their communities as a result on the individual achievements.



MENSCH OLIVIA KROK, pictured left with **MENSCH HELEN LIEBERMAN**, at the launch of the Masibulele Educare Centre. Olivia met Principal Nwabisa Xaba 3 years ago and began a journey which resulted in her partnering with Uthando Social Development Projects, a non-profit organisation based in Cape Town and raising R1.3 million to re-build the shack ECD as a formal double-storey building pictured here.



MENSCH ROMI KAPLAN co-founded **The Counselling Hub**. Pictured above with team members Shifra Jacobson and Kentse Radebe. The Counselling Hub is a low-cost counselling service that supports individuals in facing their life challenges. The Counselling Hub aims to address issues of access and affordability, through the delivery of low-cost basic mental health services in a community setting.

The Counselling Hub, Woodstock is a project of the SACAP Foundation in partnership with the Kaplan Kushlik Educational Trust.

Are you, or someone you know, doing amazing things in South Africa too? **Join the Mensch Network!**

Register on our site at: www.mensch.org.za/register



UNION OF
ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES
OF SOUTH AFRICA
איחוד בתי הכנסת האורתודוקסים
בדרום אפריקה
CAPE COUNCIL

BURNING BRIGHTLY

LOTS TO LEARN

RABBI SAM THURGOOD (UOS Conversion Course – Educational Director)

“That course was the most difficult thing my husband and I have ever done. But it was also the best thing that we have ever done.”

A UOS programme that is very close to my heart is Conversion to Judaism. Perhaps my own journey of coming close to Torah observance plays a role, and certainly the fact that my father converted. But there is something magical about being able to introduce, support and guide someone in meeting Hashem and the Jewish people, in becoming a part of Am Yisrael and accepting the Mitzvot. I am privileged to have many people in my life who have undertaken the journey of Avraham and Sarah – some on the process and some having completed it, and when someone has become Jewish, I love to be able to count them in a minyan, eat a Shabbat meal in their home, or learn Torah from them. But the process is a challenging one.

There is so much Torah to learn, and a relatively short amount of time in which to do so. Many of us had 12 years or more of formal Jewish education, but I am still very accustomed to hearing from a Jewish student, joining their partner on the conversion course, “Oh, I never knew this at all!” One of the main reasons for this is that conversion is essentially a comprehensive adult education course on Judaism, and when we learn as adults we are able to learn in far more sophistication and depth than we did as children.

The move towards observance can also be very challenging. Often it means moving home, sometimes downsizing, koshering the kitchen and rethinking dinner menus, new weekly schedules to take Shabbat observance and preparation into account and new daily schedules to be able to attend daily prayer. We know that religious Jewish life is very full. But what we gain from it is proportional to what we invest in it. As someone who converted told me: “That course was the most difficult thing my husband and I have ever done. But it was also the best thing that we have ever done.”

I had an idea around a year ago to bring some of the tools and methods of modern educational practice into the conversion course in a

systematic way. My idea was that through organising and categorising all that candidates had to learn, together with helpful notes and professional course material, it could make the process that much smoother and that much more enriching. I am very grateful for the way in which the UOS embraced this idea. I was appointed Educational Director for the conversion course, and earlier this year we were able to present every person in the process of converting with a file covering every aspect of Jewish thought and Jewish life that they would need to know to live as Jews. I am still working on improving the offering, filling gaps and creating more material, but it means a lot to me to be able to smooth a sometimes-bumpy road and make a special process even more meaningful.

In conclusion – I urge you to keep an eye out for people in your own community who are converting or recently converted. Check in with them to see if you can help them to integrate into the community further, and make time to learn Torah with and from them – you will both gain a great deal!

ACCREDITED BY THE CHIEF RABBINATE OF ISRAEL

RABBI KALMAN GREEN
UOS Conversion Coordinator

The South African conversion process is one of the few in the world recognised and accredited by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

It begins with a phone call to the offices of the UOS, usually followed thereafter with an informal chat with the programme convener, at which point the expectations on both sides are made as clear as possible. Potential candidates are advised to read certain general overviews of Judaism, get their Hebrew reading to a level functional enough to be able to read from the siddur and other sacred texts; and establish a domicile that is within walking distance of a Shul with a Rabbi and an ‘active’ Jewish community. The application proceeds with a letter of motivation (which is subject to handwriting analysis), a formal meeting at which the previously discussed skills and other factors are hopefully satisfactorily demonstrated, and then the filling out of an application to join the programme.

For more information please call our Beth Din office at the UOS on 021 461 6310.





Starting the new year on a new foot

As we move into the new year we need to do so on the right foot with a good attitude and good intentions, so that this year will be the best year ever for us all.

CJSA proudly hosts a seminar every second year and the one that we have just held was a stimulating and thought provoking day for all participants. From the Keynote speaker, Dr Anastasia Tomson's moving and extremely brave address on diversity, to Dr Leon Geffen's sage advice on how to live and age well, to Adv. Joy Wilkin's presentation on Curatorship and finally Prof JP van Niekerk's presentation on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, seminars like these give us tools to make the right choices so that we can all live our best lives as we age.

The seminar was geared for all — the man in the street who wants to stay abreast by hearing topics of interest that will allow our minds to stretch, as well as professionals who work in the community enabling them to use best practices when dealing and interacting with their clients.

VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteering is one of the most satisfying activities that anyone can participate in. We are always looking for new volunteers to give of their time and expertise to our members. As we begin a new year it would be wonderful to recruit some new volunteers to provide services. Should you have any skill or talent you are willing to share, please contact our office to offer your services — the bonus being that you become part of a caring and special group of people and you get a special invitation to attend our annual volunteer's thank you day.

GOUDINI

Bookings are now open for our annual 3-night breakaway to Goudini Spa. Please book your place early so that we can organise a special time away for everyone. The dates are March 9 - 12 next year. There are individual rooms as well as double rooms for sharing. Apart from the wonderful therapeutic mineral baths, we also organise a special outing and lunch. All meals are included and the fellowship is really great. We urge you to book and join us for this special get away.

JOY PROGRAMME

The weekly interaction with the learners of Alon Ashel pre-primary school has been a unique experience for both our Seniors as well as the learners and their outstanding educators. Each week our seniors visit a different class and it has been wonderful to see how the members who attend really love the interaction and experience with each different age group. We rotate to new classes each week where the different age groups interact in different ways. It has been wonderful to watch the special way in which the children welcome our group and more importantly how our seniors look forward to the special Thursday mornings. There is always space for expansion so we would welcome new participants in the JOY programme which operates during term time only.

CARE FOR THE CARER

One of the single most debilitating functions for an individual is when you have to care for a loved one. Short term care is obviously far easier to endure, but when the care is unending and getting more demanding as the patient becomes progressively debilitated, it is of utmost importance for the carer to care for themselves. Burnout, as well as other problems, can and do occur if one does not care for one's self. We host a Care for the Carer group every second Thursday morning where carers (often spouses) meet in a safe and confidential environment to spend time in reflection and expression. All are welcome.

TWILIGHT SUPPERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Twilight suppers take place at three of our centres each month. This year we have enjoyed speakers of the highest calibre who have drawn large crowds at each event. Our special events, fundraisers and other once-off functions are really enjoyed and we are so happy that each function has been supported so well. In fact, there is usually a waiting list for events which highlights the need for CJSA in the community.

As we look to 2020, a leap year, I urge each one to look at engaging more, sharing your expertise and time as well as getting out of your comfort zone to experience new activities. Enjoy the festive time with family and friends and we hope that we our branches will be oversubscribed with waiting lists for each function on our calendar of events in 2020.

Diana Sochen Executive Director

Social and Personal

BIRTHS

Shirley Elvey — great grandson
Janice Bloch — great grandson

ENGAGEMENT

June Benjamin — grandson

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Ettie Buch 99th
Ella Blumenthal
Polly Sacks 90th
Doreen Seidle 90th

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

Shirley Greenstein

We extend our sincere condolences to members who have lost family members:

Henny Bernstein — brother
Ros Krawitz — sister

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

Gayle Burnett — Mother Sarah Burnett
Family Marcus — Toonie

We welcome new members to the CJSA family:

Ann Ger, Bernice Kaplan, Marcia Orlin, Inge Williers, Leonia Kurgan

Special events for December, January & February

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR ALL FUNCTIONS OUTINGS NOVEMBER

Southern Suburbs	2 Dec Big Wheel at the Waterfront 8 Dec Visit the sculptures of Jean Doyle 6 Jan SA Jewish Museum Photograph Exhibition 13 Jan Polkadraai Strawberry Farm 20 Jan Hillcrest Berry Farm 27 Jan Hotel Verde 3 Feb Soet Emporium, Durbanville 10 Feb Babylonstoren 17 Feb Chart Farm 24 Feb Kalk Bay
Sea Point	11 Dec Stellenbosch Botanical Garden 18 Dec Clay Café, Hout Bay 8 Jan Chart Farm 15 Jan Polkadraai Strawberry Farm 22 Jan Photo Exhibition SA Jewish Museum 29 Jan Hotel Verde 12 Feb Soet Emporium, Durbanville 19 Feb Babylonstoren 26 Feb Little Stream
Milnerton	10 Dec Stellenbosch Botanical Garden 14 Jan Photo Exhibition SA Jewish Museum 28 Jan Polkadraai Strawberry Farm 11 Feb Hotel Verde 25 Feb Babylonstoren
West Coast	3 Dec Parliament 17 Dec SPCA 7 Jan Polkadraai Strawberry Farm 21 Jan SA Jewish Museum Photo Exhibition 4 Feb Hotel Verde 18 Feb Babylonstoren
	MEN'S SCHMOOZE
Milnerton	7 Feb Chabad Bochrin
Southern Suburbs	11 Dec John Scott 22 Feb Rabbi Bryan Opert
Sea Point	10 Dec Con Travers 29 Jan Rael Kaimowitz 26 Feb Bryan Opert
	SHABBAT SUPPERS
Southern Suburbs	31 January Clarewyn Shul
	TWILIGHT SUPPERS
Southern Suburbs	11 Dec Joanne Jowell 15 Jan Daniel Silke 12 Feb Michael Bagraim
Sea Point	10 Dec Two Oceans Marathon 14 Jan Ant Katz 1 Feb Dave Stewart
Milnerton	19 Dec Social Dinner 30 Jan Nick Kairinos 27 Feb Dave Stewart



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JCS@WORK TEEN SUICIDE

By Rhita Russon

So much has been written and spoken about the recent tragic death by suicide of a Johannesburg teen in Israel. What can we, as a community, do to prevent further such tragedies???

We need to educate and create awareness of what the causes, risk factors and protective factors of teen suicide are.

Firstly, the language 'committed suicide' is stigmatizing in a lot of outdated, insensitive ways. It is laden with blame and stigma. It evokes associations with 'committed a crime' or 'committed a sin' and makes us think about something morally reprehensible or illegal. It implies that the person who died was a perpetrator rather than a victim. It also ignores the fact that suicide is often the consequence of an unaddressed illness, like depression, trauma or another mental health issue. It should be regarded in the same way as any physical health condition. You don't commit a heart attack, instead you might hear someone say they 'died from a heart attack'. Dying by suicide is the same – when attaching the word 'committed' it further discriminates against those who lost their battle against a disease.

The best phrase to use is 'died by suicide' since it sends the message that the death was caused by the mental health condition. Using sensitive mental health language is crucial to eliminating negative stereotypes attached to mental illness now and in the future. Research shows that when stigma is present, people avoid seeking help – help that could be life-saving.

In South Africa 9% of all teen deaths are due to suicide. In the 15-24 year age group, suicide is the second leading and growing cause of death. Risk indicators/warning signs include the following:

- Talking or posting on social media about suicide or wanting to die.
- Speaking about feeling hopeless or trapped – having nothing to live for.

- Increasing use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Changes in weight, physical appearance or sleeping habits.
- Isolating or withdrawing from friends.
- Searching online for methods of dying by suicide.
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye and/or giving away prized possessions.
- Trouble concentrating and/or drop in academic performance.
- Migraines, frequent stomach aches, or other physical complaints.
- Risk-taking or self-destructive behaviour.
- Suddenly becoming calm and cheerful after a long period of depression.
- Self-harm behaviour, for example, cutting.
- Extremist attitudes or sudden changes in religious and cultural beliefs.

What are possible precipitating factors?

- Recent or serious loss – death of a family member, friend, pet – separation/divorce of parents or a break-up with a girl/boyfriend,

- a parent losing a job or losing their home.
- Psychiatric disorder.
- Alcohol or substance abuse.
- Struggling with sexual orientation in an environment that is not respectful or accepting of that orientation. The issue is not whether the adolescent is gay but whether the adolescent is struggling to come out in an unsupportive environment.
- A family history of suicide.
- Lack of social support.
- Bullying.
- Adolescent developmental changes, the quest to make sense of their identity is a key developmental task in adolescence.
- Increased academic competition.
- Parental pressure.
- Stigma associated with asking for help.
- Barriers to accessing services.

If any of the above resonates with you, please contact **Rhita Russon**, Social Worker, Jewish Community Services on **021 461-5520** or rhita@jcs.org.za for advice or assistance.



Photo by Fernando Gdearferdo on Unsplash.

“In South Africa 9% of all teen deaths are due to suicide. In the 15-24 year age group, suicide is the second leading and growing cause of death.”

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Family Announcements

80TH BIRTHDAY — THANK YOU

HARRY GURWITZ

I would like to thank all friends and family for their thoughtful gifts and donations to charities on my 80th birthday.

BEREAVEMENT

HAROLD GORVY 1927-2019

Harold Gorvy z'l passed away recently in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

He had a long and influential professional career as a respected accountant and trusted advisor to many businesses in South Africa, the United Kingdom, where he immigrated in 1989, and the United States, where he had lived for the past 9 years.

Harold displayed exceptional generosity to his family and friends, especially those in need, and was a major supporter of Israel and Jewish causes.

He will be sadly missed by his wife of almost 69 years, Annette, his son, Ken and daughter, Jill (Diamond), daughter-in-law Judith and son-in-law, Ivan — and his pride and joy — his grandchildren.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

SELWYN SOFFER

Our heartfelt thanks and innermost appreciation to family, all my wonderful friends and communal organisations for their visits, letters and extreme kindness and support shown to us after the very untimely passing of my dear son Selwyn, in Israel, on 1 November.

He was a wonderful father, husband, son, brother, uncle and friend. His legacy of extreme kindness, generosity, his courage and memory will live on forever in our hearts.

Special thanks to Rabbi Wineberg, Rabbi Hecht and Rabbi Maizels.

Very deeply mourned by Hannah, Ivan, Linda, Ora, Yonathan, Tali and their families.

MARK BRAJTMAN

We, the family of the late Mark Brajtmán, thank all our relatives and friends most sincerely for their kindness, visits and friendship shown to us and our families during his illness, and on the passing of our darling husband (of Sarah), brother (of Henny and Ike), and father (of Searle, Nadine, Michelle and Nathan).

CONSECRATION

MAURICE SILBERT

The consecration of the tombstone in loving memory of Maurice Silbert will take place at Pinelands 2 Cemetery on Sunday 15 December at 10 am

SEEKING FAMILY

AIZIK JOSEL SCHWARZ

Lisa Nicholls from Griffith University Brisbane Australia has been researching her family and is trying to find her cousins.

Does anyone know the children or grandchildren of Aizik Josel Schwarz who arrived in Cape Town from Libau, Latvia, in 1938 aged 35, settling at first at 470 Albert Rd. Salt River, Cape Town? Lisa plans to visit South Africa and would like to connect with her family and to share the results of her research, having traced the family to 1700 having recently visited Latvia, Lithuania, and Russia.

She can be contacted at lisanicholls@live.com

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

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For more information: www.uos.co.za Cape Town Kosher
Information accurate as of November 2019. KOCOSA does not take responsibility for errors or omissions

See page 4 for more from Kocosa

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SAVE THE DATE

01.03.20 KOLHAKOLOT CARNIVAL

03.08.20 HERZLIA CAMPUS PARTIES

07.08.20 SHABBAT CELEBRATIONS

09.08.20 CELEBRATE 80: THE MUSICAL

10.08.20 ALUMNI REUNION

   **#HERZLIA80**

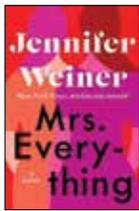




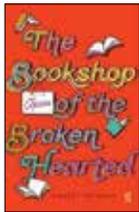
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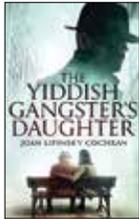
MRS EVERYTHING by JENNIFER WEINER. Two sisters growing up in the 1950s do not have much in common. Jo Kaufman is a tomboy with a passion to make the world a better place and Bethie is the feminine one who dreams of a traditional life. Weiner follows their lives from childhood to old age. The sisters experience the civil rights movement, Woodstock, sex and marriage while dealing with their personal demons. Neither one finds authentic happiness.



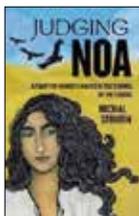
THE BOOKSHOP OF THE BROKEN HEARTED by ROBERT HILLMAN. Set in a small Australian town in 1968, Tom meets Hannah, an Auschwitz survivor. Hannah has hired Tom to help her on opening her bookstore. These two anguished individuals find common ground and marry. However when Peter, the son of Tom's first wife reappears Tom has to choose between his marriage and the boy he once treated as a son. The endurance of love in the face of evil.



THE FIRST MRS ROTHSCHILD by SARA AHARONI. Israeli prize winner Aharoni has written this historical novel based on the lives of Meyer, founding father of a financial dynasty and his devoted wife. Gutle is the narrator and through her diaries, she bares her emotions, thoughts and secret desires. Despite their wealth, they never left the ghetto and their ten children established a financial network in Europe. She illuminates their lives, tragedies and moments of joy.



THE YIDDISH GANGSTER'S DAUGHTER by JOAN LIPINSKY COCHRAN. Becky Ruchinsky is shocked to learn that her elderly father was a member of the Jewish mafia and may have murdered his best friend fifty years earlier. Becky starts to piece together the fragments and secrets of his life. He ran numbers for the Cuban lottery, beat up Nazi sympathisers and smuggled arms to Israeli independence fighters. The book explores the limits of familial love.

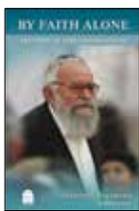


JUDGING NOA by MICHAL STRUTIN. Noa and her four sisters set out with their parents to follow Moses and reach the Promised Land. When fanatics kill her father, Noa and her sisters risk being sold into bondage. Noa is determined to seek justice and heroically tries to convince judges to protect her family. Based on a few Biblical verses and through these obscure characters Strutin spins an account of the intrigues and hardships facing women in ancient times.

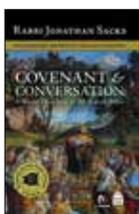


WE NEVER TOLD by DIANA ALTMAN. In the 1950s, Sonya lives with her glamorous mother Violet and her movie producer father until they separate. A few years later, Violet leaves her children telling them she needs treatment for a stomach illness. They are left for a long period in the care of the maid and instructed not to tell anyone. Sonya remains haunted by her past and only after her mother's death does she learn the secret behind her disappearance.

RELIGIOUS INTEREST



BY FAITH ALONE by ELYASHIV REICHNER. The biography of Israeli political and religious leader, Yehuda Amital. Having survived the Holocaust, he immigrated to Israel and became a pioneering modern Orthodox rabbi. He began the Hesder movement, which combines Torah learning with military service. This well researched book contains interviews and paints a portrait of a unique rabbi who lived a life of deep faith and spiritual commitment.



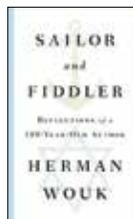
DEUTERONOMY: Renewal of the Sinai Covenant by RABBI JONATHAN SACKS. Rabbi Sacks fuses Jewish tradition, Western philosophy and literature to explore the biblical narrative. Rabbi Sacks examines the text of Deuteronomy as it reaches its culmination as the last act of the Jewish people before reaching the Promised Land. The reader will experience one of the world's leading modern thinkers', sophisticated approach to life.



OPENING THE DRAWER: The Hidden identities of Polish Jews by BARRY COHEN. Impressive first-hand accounts of three generations of Poles who discovered their identity in surprising ways. He draws on interviews with child survivors of the Holocaust; second generation and post-Communist third generation survivors. Cohen shares their buried family histories in their own words. Veteran portrait photographer Witold Krassowski reveals their images.



MADAME FOURCADE'S SECRET WAR by LYNNE OLSON. The courageous story of a glamorous Frenchwoman who became the leader of Alliance, a resistance organisation in 1941. Fourcade organised, recruited and raised funds from MI6 as often as she changed identities. She risked everything and suffered arrest and torture by the Nazis. Olson weaves Fourcade's diary into her own writing as she narrates Fourcade's endurance, which changed the course of history.



SAILOR AND FIDDLER by HERMAN WOUK. In the same year he reached his 100th birthday, Herman Wouk wrote the long awaited story of his life. He began his career as a professional comedy writer and the first half of the memoir Sailor refers to his Navy experience and his writing career. The second part Fiddler deals with his concern for Israel and his faith. Central to his books is the tragic loss of his son who drowned and the overpowering guilt he felt.



VASILY GROSSMAN and the SOVIET CENTURY by ALEXANDRA POPOFF. This biography is arranged in a readable narrative in which we follow Grossman's harrowing experience of the famine in the 1920s, the Terror of the 1930s and the carnage of World War 11. He traces his passion for the rights of the individual and his need to share what he witnessed in both war and peace. Vasily Grossman paid the cost, as little remains known of him in Russia today.

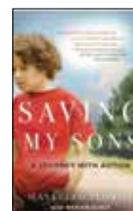


HOWARD STERN COMES AGAIN by HOWARD STERN. An extraordinary and diverse collection of the radio interviews of Howard Stern. Between the lines, Stern offers his definitive autobiography. Amongst the interviewees are Lady Gaga, Bill Murray, Jerry Seinfeld, Joan Rivers and Michael J Fox. Stern introduces each revealing, intimate conversation with his own impression of the individual.



THE BOOK OF SARAH by SARAH LIGHTMAN. In this memoir, Sarah uses charcoal, pencil and oil drawings. Since the book of Sarah is missing from the Bible, she creates her own visual autobiography. Genesis tells of her childhood, Exodus of her leaving London for New York, Bamidbar deals with her return after a failed marriage. The book ends on a positive note as she prepares to give up autobiographical drawings for painting.

FAMILY LIFE



SAVING MY SONS by ILANA GERSCHLOWITZ. An inspiring story of a mother's fight for the most promising future for her sons who suffer from autism. When their first son David is diagnosed at 10 months, they felt helpless. However, Ilana and Martin search for ways to help him and in so doing help to treat her other two sons who have this disorder. They open a treatment centre for autistic children and an outreach program for underprivileged families.



DON'T WAIT UP by LIZ ASTROF. In this candid collection of essays, comedy writer Astrof embraces the realities of motherhood often not spoken about. She vividly discusses her love for her career, her difficult childhood living with verbally abusive parents, her weight and self-esteem issues. While she adores her children, she prefers to let her husband raise them. A hilarious look at parenting for moms who realise that motherhood need not be your entire life.



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A VIEW FROM THE BAR

What do you do if you are arrested?

By Anton Katz

Other than outright crooks, every person prefers to live in a society in which they can feel safe and secure. But a safe society comes at a healthy price.

It means that some rights will be limited. So, the right to be free could be violated from time to time. The question each time will be: is the violation reasonable and justifiable in the circumstances?

So, when we get stopped at road blocks or pass through security checks before boarding an aircraft we should accept that our rights are limited for the greater and our good. But what if we get arrested? Two examples close to home come to mind.

Recently, a mother shopping with her small baby was stopped and arrested at an up market supermarket as she triggered the alarm for shop lifters. Some baby food had somehow ended up in the baby's pram. The baby food hadn't been paid for, and as the mom left the super market she was arrested for shop lifting.

And how many friends do we know

who have been arrested (and handcuffed) for unpaid traffic fines, and failure to appear in traffic court? Quite a number. And the husband and wives who, in going through the trauma of a divorce accuse each other (often unfairly) of unimaginable criminal conduct, and sometimes seek protection orders against the other spouse. Immigration and health laws all over the world allow for the arrest and detention of individuals who are deemed undesirable and/or mentally a danger to themselves or others.

So, if you get arrested what are you to do?

The Constitutional Court has loftily held that every arrest and detention is presumed to be unlawful. The onus is then on the arresting party, usually the police, to justify the lawfulness of the arrest and detention. The Constitutional Court stated: "The Constitution enshrines the right to freedom and security of the person, including the right not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily or without just cause, as well as the founding value of freedom.

Accordingly, it was sufficient in this case for the applicant simply to plead that he was unlawfully detained. This he did. The respondents then bore the burden to justify the deprivation of liberty, whatever form it may have taken."

Now an arrest can take place with or without a warrant (a warrantless arrest). Under apartheid legislation warrantless arrests were permitted in many instances.

But the Constitution's guarantee of the right to freedom has effectively meant that only in special limited cases may an arrest occur in the absence of a warrant. Those special rare warrantless cases are when it would defeat the very objects of the arrest to require the arresting person/officer to first have to obtain a warrant of arrest.

So, if a policeman sees a serious crime, say robbery, being committed, he should be able to arrest the perpetrator immediately. For the officer to leave the scene, approach a magistrate to obtain a warrant in order to make an arrest would be absurd and indeed counter-productive. The robber would have long fled by the time the warrant has been obtained. So, the law allows for warrantless arrests in those limited circumstances. If the arrested person thereafter challenges the validity of the warrantless arrest the police would have to demonstrate that it would not been appropriate in the particular circumstances to have first obtained a warrant. Perhaps like the shop lifting case, but not the traffic fine violator.

And when the police do apply for an arrest warrant they must satisfy the magistrate that it is necessary for the person to be arrested. What happens in practice, I suppose, busy magistrates, like all of us tired of crime and particularly serious crime, merely glance at a policeman's application for an arrest warrant and simply grant it (issue the warrant of arrest) without properly applying his or her mind to the application.

Most of the time no harm will come of such an approach. But history teaches us that no one, including the police, can always be trusted. Police may receive false/fake information, rely on it to arrest a target. Or the policeman may be corrupt and for ulterior purposes, such as a bribe of money or political rivalry, apply for a warrant.

Once arrested the person must be brought before a court within 24 hours. At that first appearance he or she may apply for bail. And if it later turns out that the arrest warrant was, for whatever reason, issued

and obtained unlawfully the person could sue the Minister of Police for damages. Damages that may be obtained for unlawful arrest in South Africa are not high. But in any event I suppose it is cold comfort to be unfairly locked up and be deprived of freedom and then obtain compensation for the wrong done. Prison conditions and police cell facilities are notoriously horrible in South Africa. Rape, robbery and assaults are common place.



So, what advice would I give?

First, make sure that in your speed dial contacts are a couple of experienced attorneys who specialise in the world of arrests and the magistrates' courts. It is stressful enough being arrested, and it is only made worse if family and friends have to then run around searching for an appropriate lawyer to assist.

It is of little use to know that a cousin is a lawyer, when the cousin is a top tax or shipping lawyer who has never been to a police station or police cell. Secondly, it must be worth knowing exactly what one's rights are.

For example, on being arrested may one insist on receipt of an arrest warrant? In looking at and analysing the arrest warrant there are many items that can be of significance. A simple example is that the issuing magistrate may have limited time for permission to arrest to between say 9am to 5pm. And if the arresting officer arrives after 5pm in the evening, it may be that the target of the arrest could insist the police come back the following morning, or come back with a different warrant. But these are all issues that must be considered on case by case basis. It should always be remembered how important freedom is.

A founding value of the Constitution is freedom; it is something to be cherished and protected. Perhaps it is understandable that only after being arrested and detained is the value of freedom appreciated. But the trauma and post traumatic effects of an arrest and detention should never be underestimated.

The right to freedom really deserves its place as a founding value, and a guiding principle under the Constitution and the law.

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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Snapshot of Jewish Cape Town offered in new book

In this celebration of Jewish life at the tip of the African continent, businessman and philanthropist Tony Raphaely has curated stunning individual and group portraits that collectively represent a snapshot in time of Cape Town's vibrant Jewish community.

When asked if the result of the project had met his expectations, Tony said "Yes, and in fact exceeded! Not only were the 17 photographers who took over 3000 pictures from which just under 300 were selected, able to capture members of the Cape Town Jewish community at work and at play in a manner that 'tells a story' which was my aim, but the resulting book is also a really classy publication as good as any coffee table book one finds in London and New York booksellers."

The book is a unique compendium of photographs, taken this year, to showcase and record for posterity some of the people whose professions and services have enriched not only the community from which they come, but also the greater society in which they live. "Two things pleasantly surprised me during this project: How many members of Cape Town's Jewish community are involved in working to help the underprivileged

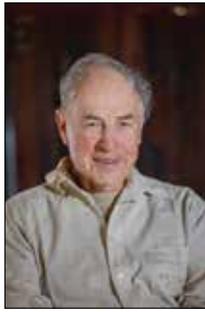
people living in the peninsula, and the spontaneous reaction of most of the photo-subjects who said they would be honoured to be in the book," said Tony.

As in many other cities outside Europe, Cape Town's Jewry has been forged in the Diaspora. *A Handful of Sand* distils this past into an enduring testament of hope and resilience — it is a record not only of generations current and past, but also for generations to come.

The book will be on sale (R360) from mid-December from the Jewish Museum Shop next to Café Riteve, as well as from Astra and the kosher counter at Checkers in Sea Point, and leading book stores.

Judge Dennis Davis will launch the book at the SA Jewish Museum in February, and proceeds of the book's sales will go to Jewish education in the Western Cape.

Clockwise from top left: Tony Raphaely; Adam Kleiman (book cover); Roy Aronson (photo - Guy Lerner) and Jacqui Rodgers (photo - Guy Lerner)



בס"ד

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בית הילדים אחוזת שרה

Local doyenne awarded national communal service award



Merle Rubin receives her award from Rael Kaimowitz

Merle Rubin was awarded the Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award at the SA Jewish Board of Deputies National Conference in Johannesburg in November.

National Vice Chairman of SA Jewish Board of Deputies, Rael Kaimowitz had the following to say on the occasion "...the true measure of any society can be seen in how it treats its most vulnerable members, those identified by the Torah as the widow and the orphan, the stranger, the sick and the indigent. The defining characteristic of your life has been in how — quietly, unobtrusively and without the slightest desire for recognition — you have gone about realising these ideals.

"One of the reasons why tending to the earthly remains of the deceased and conveying them to their final rest is considered so great a mitzvah in

Jewish tradition is because those benefiting from such acts of kindness are unable to reciprocate. In view of who you are, the especially prominent role you have played in overseeing the ladies' tahara services at the cemetery can therefore be readily understood. Truly, you epitomise what it is to be an Eishet Chayil, that lofty ideal of Jewish womanhood as described in our sacred Scriptures."

As one of Cape Town's foremost kosher caterers, Merle Rubin has displayed unstinting generosity in making kosher functions affordable for both individuals and organisations in need of such assistance.

Beyond this, those who know her will readily attest not just to the innumerable kindnesses she has given to those in need over the decades, but to her unequivocal wish that such acts be carried out as privately and anonymously as possible.



The passing of an Eishet Chayil

Ida Broll z"l passed away on 11 October in Israel.

An Eishet Chayil in the true sense of the word, Ida fulfilled her role as wife, mother, grandmother, sister, family member and friend with love, compassion, generosity, wisdom, commitment and dedication. Giving of herself wholeheartedly was just who Ida was.

As a precious WIZO sister, friend and dedicated member, her readiness and willingness to give in words, in action, and in kind knew no boundaries.

As a past Chairman of BNOTH ZION WIZO, a Patron of WIZO Campaign, a lifetime member, Honorary Chairman of Orit Branch, a Rebecca Sieff award recipient in recognition of 40 years of service to WIZO and Israel, Ida's leadership qualities, her attention to detail and professionalism led WIZO to ever greater heights. Making Aliyah was a given.

Right to the very end, even in the depths of her suffering, Ida continued to contribute to the WIZO Executive and Honorary Members' WhatsApp group. Her messages spoke of her love for WIZO, how much she missed her WIZO sisters, and always carried words of encouragement and praise.

Ida leaves a void in the lives of her beloved husband, Jonathan, her children, and grandchildren, her sisters, as well as in the lives of all who knew her, loved her and were embraced by her.



Freda Davis' legacy lives on

By Sheryl Schkolne



Sheryl Schkolne (UJW Cape Town), Nomthandazo Mbe, Mrs Mbe, Marilyn Davis-Shulman and Aspasia Solomon

When Freda Davis z"l turned 90 she decided to do something different.

She requested that her family and friends celebrate her milestone by donating money to a worthy cause. Freda decided she wanted a deserving matriculant from her Alma Mater, Good Hope Seminary High School to receive an annual financial contribution towards ongoing education. This fund has been administered by the Union of Jewish Women Cape Town in close consultation with the school to choose the best candidates.

When Freda was alive and healthy the ceremonial tea was held at the school. Later when Freda became more frail, a tea was held at her home in Sea Point. There Freda would sing the school anthem and

charm the recipient (and usually her parent) with memories of her experiences at GHSHS.

Since Freda's passing the UJW Cape branch had to make a decision on how to go forward with the presentation of the UJW Freda Davis Award. Last month Freda's daughter Marilyn Davis-Shulman flew down from Johannesburg for the ceremonial tea. The school requested that two outstanding recipients share the money towards their ongoing education.

The demographics at Good Hope have changed over the years. Now there are very few ex-pupils who are able to contribute towards the growth and development of the school. With the foresight of a woman like Freda Davis, more young women who graduate are able to get financial assistance towards their education.



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Time : 17H00 - 18H30
Charge : R650-00

For further details, contact 021-465 9390 /
021-462 5520 during office hours (08h30 - 12h30)

Consider This

By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb

I recently learned about an app you can download on your phone that shares words of wisdom from 155 different world religions.

The app, Vennly, aims to share 'audio insights' through the voices of spiritual leaders of all faiths. It is described as an audio library that offers users 'spiritual support' by covering issues that affect people's everyday lives, such as parenting, marriage, grief and more. Vennly purports to be useful to people in moments of intense joy or immense challenge in their lives.

The co-creator and CEO of Vennly, Brian Laundau, grew up outside of organised religion and found that his spiritual life was not getting the "work that it needed" (as compared

to his physical health, which could be addressed in the gym). The internet, where so many go to find answers these days, also was not providing the answers he was looking for, and he found that many of his friends and colleagues were experiencing the same challenge — lacking spiritual direction yet, resistant to seeking it from overtly religious spaces.

Brian wanted to bring together those who were seeking spiritual guidance with those who know how to provide it, but through a "spiritual, not religious" approach. While this seems like a lovely idea, and though the app is likely to be successful in attracting users, Brian and the creators of Vennly are missing a crucial piece of the puzzle. Spiritual support doesn't just come from listening to wise men and women sharing their truths in

universal language. Though surely, much can be learned and gained through such an approach, the missing ingredient is relationship.

I can share with you a teaching from Jewish tradition in a recording, and you might find it interesting or useful, but if we are not sitting together face to face, if we don't know one another, then I cannot help you to apply the message to your own life. I can't connect you to other resources that might make sense for your own unique challenge, experience and context, and I can't introduce you to other people who may be resources and supports to you in and of themselves. I can't invite you to a Shabbes dinner and I can't welcome you into community. In Jewish tradition we are encouraged not to study Jewish text on our own, but

rather in chevrutah, in partnership, because there is only so much you can learn through your own perspective. Without the experience, questions, ideas and suggestions of another, we can only take ourselves, our learning and our growth so far.

It's lovely to be able to carry around the wisdom of world religions in your pocket, but nothing can replace the sacred relationships proscribed by Pirkei Avot (1:6): *Aseh lecha rav, uk'nei lecha chaver* – "Find for yourself a teacher and acquire for yourself a (study) partner." Only in true relationship with other can we grow.



Creating meaningful opportunities to connect in Cape Town



Rabbi Emma Gottlieb and student Rabbis Sofia Zway and Brett Kopin lead a spiritual hike to the Woodstock Caves



Kiddush in the Sukkah with Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani and Rabbi Emma Gottlieb



Shofar Tour with Rabbi Tamara Schagas at Fairmead Retirement Home



Delivery of our sanitary pad collection to The Healing Heart Foundation



Gabriel Jacobson chanting from the Torah on Simchat Torah



Rabbi Tamara Schagas reading Torah with the residents of Glendale on Simchat Torah

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



Micha Ellman
9 November



Samuel Rothschild
16 November



Jack Weiner
23 November



Aaron Ellman
30 November

OPENING OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION BY RICHARD WIESEL

OBJECTS FROM THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS



The exhibition features photographs by Richard Wiesel of personal objects left behind by Holocaust victims in the concentration camps of Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen, Germany.

The stark and poignant imagery and text, researched by Dr. Robert Sommer, shares both stories of horror and hope during the years of the camps' existence.



The keynote address will be given by Andrew Lamprecht

Andrew Lamprecht is a senior lecturer at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town. He has curated over a dozen major shows at local institutions and galleries. Lamprecht has published numerous academic publications on topics including the Holocaust, contemporary art and curatorship.

9 December, 6pm

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens

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



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Zvi Suchet's The Radiant Portal

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The Radiant Portal: Jewish Magical Realism

Zvi Suchet's debut solo exhibition

By Jaime Uranovsky

Cape Town born Zvi Suchet, aka Marc Hoberman, has excelled as a photographer, author and publisher since he was a young boy.

In fact, his first book, which was published when he was only 12-years-old and which centred around collectible stamps showing pictures of ancient Jewish coins, was inducted into one of the Smithsonian's collections. Since then, over the last 25 years, his exploits include starting his own publishing company with his late father, Gerald Hoberman, under which Zvi has published more than 40 coffee-table photography books on a plethora of topics; becoming proficient in just about every form of photography be it aerial, wildlife, portraiture, fashion, street photography and more; being appointed the position of official photographer for the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) for eight years, which led him to relocate to London for five of those; and moving to Colorado for two years experiencing life as what he calls "probably the world's only Jewish cowboy."

This hardly constitutes a boring existence but, for Zvi, the most exciting thing is yet to come: his first-ever solo exhibition, titled *The Radiant Portal: Jewish Magical Realism*, will be opening on 1 December at the South African Jewish Museum in Cape Town where it will run for three months. This will be the world premiere of the collection which will later travel

to Johannesburg and London and which Zvi then hopes to take to other international destinations such as Jerusalem.

The collection of images has been described as completely unique and explores themes of Jewish mysticism through the use of visual photography and physical illustration with Photoshop. Zvi Suchet selects images which he has photographed in the past from his online image library (comprising 30 000+ images) and uses Photoshop to create a new scene. He adds, "There's a magical feel that happens when you actually take separate elements and put them together because they don't 100% exist in the same place but then they're real so it kind of makes you go, 'this feels interesting.'"

The story of how Zvi first envisioned the creation of these pieces is as interesting as the works themselves. From around the age of ten, Zvi found his mind concocting Jewish-themed scenes during morning prayers at Herzlia. "I used to zone out and think of visuals during prayers, but I really enjoyed it and I would find that the prayers had a soundtrack. When I was a young teenager I started journaling the things I saw in my mind. I started sketching."

He knew then that he would like to translate these pieces into art but was wise enough to know that he did not yet possess the skills to execute the project properly. He continues, "So I've waited all these years with it in the back of my mind that one day

I'll have the skills to put this together. And it was very special how this happened because it was literally like 2:00am or 3:00am in the morning on a week night in February this year. I just woke up in the middle of the night and I went to my laptop and I took out all my journals and I started making them. I stopped doing my other work I've just been doing this since then. I work every night."

Zvi works from the journals he kept as a teenager but also envisions new scenes while listening to a playlist of cantorial pieces which he has compiled, and which inspire him. He simply closes his eyes and imagines. Interestingly, it was when he had his bar mitzvah that he first started taking his mythical imaginings seriously. It was here when, despite never having been told about Zvi's mental images, Rabbi Lerner told a story about an illiterate boy who attends Shul and yearns to pray but cannot access the language, so he recites the aleph-bet over and over again. Rabbi Lerner called this the most sincere form of prayer because the boy was praying with what he had in the way that he could, and said that in heaven the angels would turn the letters of the alphabet into prayers. This story had an immense effect on Zvi because he realised that this was his own genuine way of praying and connecting — through visuals. This is when he began journaling what he saw.

Perhaps most fascinating realisation for Zvi has been that what he sees is



often already captured in the writings of Jewish mysticism. He explains, "when I started doing this work I had these ideas from my journals but I had to make actual sense of them with the Talmud because they were just scenes in my mind and I didn't know whether they made sense — whether they connected to something, so I started doing a lot of research and I was really shocked that so many of my ideas fitted with what I read and that made me feel like I was on the right path. That was the universe or Hashem saying, 'You're doing good; carry on.'"

For him, this process stemmed from his love of visuals coupled with his strong Jewish identity. The latter deepened over the last two years during his time in Colorado because, for the first time, he was not surrounded by other Jewish people. He says, "I realised how much a part of my identity it was. So, I came back feeling much closer to Judaism." Indeed, these pieces are special to him because they "come from a place of reverence and it's a personal thing. Everything you create is personal in some way but this is genuinely personal. This is a lifelong thing. It's part of a spiritual journey."

Zvi hopes that this exhibition will ignite a love for and an emergence of new Jewish art and artists. The artist has identified the lack of Jewish art both in history and in contemporary society and seeks to contribute some strokes to the metaphorical canvas. Indeed, for him, religious symbolism is beautiful in that one creates something out of reverence. It emanates from the soul and it is for a higher purpose; through this, the work becomes elevated. He hopes that younger audiences will also be drawn to the work as he believes, "a lot of younger people identify very strongly with being Jewish and would love to have Jewish art in their home but there aren't really options. It can be young and modern."

For more visit www.zvisuchet.com.



German journalists are using Snapchat to teach teens about the Holocaust

Tim Osing, Sebastian Gubernator and Lukas Dombrowski were in Cape Town in November as part of the Sachor Jetzt project, a collaboration of young German journalists who are bringing Holocaust remembrance and education into the 21st century, to ensure that #neverforget remains accessible in a time of ever-changing technology.

These journalists use Snapchat to teach the younger generation about what happened during the Holocaust by bringing survivors' stories to a platform native to young Germans. To reach broader audiences, they also republish some Snapchat stories on YouTube and promote the project on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Lindy Diamond was lucky to catch them between interviews to ask them a bit about their work.



Lukas Dombrowski chats to Ella Blumenthal about her experiences during the Holocaust



Tim, Lukas and Sebastian in Cape Town with Ella

What does 'Sachor Jetzt' mean? And what does the project mean to you?

TIM OSING: 'Sachor Jetzt' is a combination of a Hebrew and a German word. It means 'remember now', and that's the exact idea of our project: we meet Holocaust survivors all around the world and tell their stories on Snapchat. As we noticed that antisemitism is on the rise again in many countries, among others in Germany, we realised how important it is to spread the experiences of those survivors. We all know they soon won't be able to tell their stories anymore.

Why Snapchat?

SEBASTIAN GUBERNATOR: We're aware that Snapchat is primarily used for fun and light-hearted conversations — nothing that you would usually link to the Holocaust. However, we find that it's actually the perfect platform for us because we want to reach out to teenagers. If you're 14 or 16 years old, you don't read newspapers, you probably don't even watch TV documentaries, but it's very likely that you use your mobile phone a lot and can be reached via social media. Also, Snapchat offers quite an authentic and direct way of communicating. We basically interview Holocaust survivors the same way a 15-year-old would talk to his best friend.

How has this project changed the way you look at the Holocaust and Holocaust remembrance?

LUKAS DOMBROWSKI: It had quite an impact on the way we look at the Holocaust. The project was originally inspired by Margot Friedländer, a Jewish woman who grew up in Berlin and survived Theresienstadt. We invited her to our journalism

school three years ago. For most of us it was the first time that we ever met a Holocaust survivor. Talking to her was saddening and heartwarming at the same time. Of course, we all knew about the atrocities of the Third Reich before, but meeting a survivor in person made us aware of the responsibility that we have: to share her story and make sure that something like the Holocaust never happens again. Since then, we interviewed many survivors, and every single meeting was extremely impressive and motivated us to continue our project.

Are there any Jewish journalists in the team?

SEBASTIAN GUBERNATOR: None of us is Jewish. However, having grown up in Germany, a country in which Holocaust remembrance plays a key role in education and culture, we've always been aware of how important it is never to forget the past. Also, we received a lot of feedback from Jewish communities around the world, and since we're keen to make our project even better, we're very thankful for their input.

How have you been received by Jewish communities on your travels around the world to document Survivor stories?

TIM OSING: We're glad to have met representatives of many important Jewish organisations. For instance, we've been invited by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the World Jewish Congress in New York and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles to discuss our work, and we got positive feedback from all of them. They supported us in many ways, for instance by endorsing our project and getting us in touch with more survivors. Many of these organisations try to find a way of reaching the young generation, and we just found one.

Tell me about the "Best Web Project of the Year" statement on the home page of your website.

LUKAS DOMBROWSKI: In 2017, 'Sachor Jetzt' was awarded the so-called Nannen-Preis which is one of the most important awards for German-speaking journalists. The jury called our project "brave" and "innovative". They highlighted that we use Snapchat to get teenagers in touch with Holocaust survivors whom they would normally not have the chance to meet. To us, receiving that important award was an honour but also an incentive: to continue meeting survivors and spread their stories.

Is there anything you wish the Cape Town Jewish Community knew that you could share with us?

SEBASTIAN GUBERNATOR: We met the most fascinating people



Henry Donovan standing at the site of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin (2016)



Katja Belousova standing in front of a synagogue in Berlin (2016)

here in Cape Town. For one of our stories, we interviewed Ella Blumenthal who told us how she survived the Holocaust, how the memories haunted her after the war and how she finally was able to talk about it. I think it's a blessing for the Cape Town Jewish Community that there are witnesses to the Holocaust in the area who openly share their experiences. These people are incredibly strong, and their stories should be heard as often as possible.

What is the next step in your project?

LUKAS DOMBROWSKI: We constantly discuss how to make 'Sachor Jetzt' better and how to get even more people interested in what we do. So far, our main audience is German, but we try to reach international viewers as well. When we were in the United States earlier this year we covered our very first story entirely in English. We experiment a lot. And we're glad that our publishing company gives us the opportunity to do so. When we started three years ago, we were journalism students at the Axel Springer Akademie in Berlin. Meanwhile, we're full-time reporters working for newspapers. The project, however, is still funded by the journalism school, and we are grateful that Marc Thomas Spahl and Rudolf Porsch, the school's directors, support us. Without them, we wouldn't be able to meet so many survivors and tell their stories.

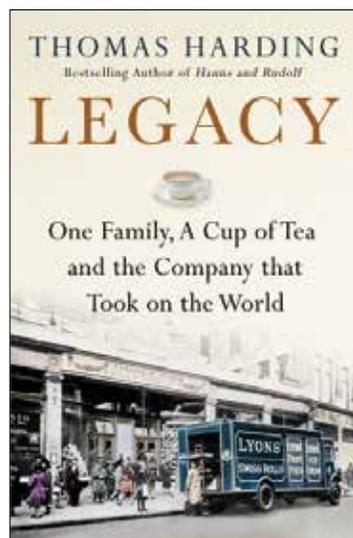
A literary feast awaits at JLF 2020



Jewish Literary Festival visitors can look forward to another abundant line-up of authors at the upcoming 15 March 2020 event.

In an effort to bring you fresh and diverse voices, the team has pulled together new and exciting as well as longstanding favourites.

Just one very welcome guest will be Thomas Harding, British author of award winning bestsellers *Hanns and Rudolph* and *The House by the Lake*, and most recently *Legacy: One Family, a Cup of Tea*



and the Company that took on the World. The latter is described as “a panoramic new history of modern Britain, as told through the story of one extraordinary family, and one ground-breaking company: Lyons & Co.” It has universal as well as specific value for the greater Jewish story, it being Harding’s own immigrant family journey, a ‘rags to riches’ story of the British Dream to which many will relate.

It has become somewhat urgent to document our histories, and to share our stories, so that we may never forget from where we came. As Harding inscribed on his grandparents’ headstones, after much deliberation and consultation with family far and wide:

“Here lie Helena and Lehmann Gluckstein. Matriarch and patriarch of the family who founded the catering firm J Lyons and the tobacco retailer Salmon and Gluckstein. Whose legacy was: Find a safe place. Love your family and friends. Give back to society. Savour the good things. Tell your story. Pass it on”.



Author Thomas Harding will join us at JLF 2020 in Cape Town

We are delighted to have Harding join us in telling his story, that of a family who could have been any of ours, a sliver of the intertwined history of the Jews.

Don’t miss him and other exciting and insightful authors at JLF 2020. Bookings will be open soon so watch this space, visit www.jewishliteraryfestival.co.za or like our Facebook page.

OTHER AUTHORS YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AT JLF 2020

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Chanukah lamps on view at the Jewish Museum, NY

Located on New York City's Museum Mile, the Jewish Museum is a museum at the intersection of art and Jewish culture for people of all backgrounds. Founded in 1904, the Museum was the first institution of its kind in the United States and one of the oldest Jewish museums in the world.

The Museum maintains a unique collection of nearly 30 000 works of art, ceremonial objects, and media reflecting the global Jewish experience over more than 4 000 years.

The Jewish Museum is presenting *Accumulations: Hanukkah Lamps*, featuring over 80 Chanukah lamps from North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, ranging in date from the Renaissance to the present.

The Jewish Museum's collection of Chanukah lamps is the largest and finest in the world at nearly 1 050 pieces, and was amassed over the 115 years of the museum's existence.

The chanukiah are made of such materials as silver, copper, steel, tin, pewter, lead, glass, wood, clay, aluminum, concrete, and silicone. Differences in their materials and styles reveal rich details of the lives of Jews throughout the world over the course of six hundred years.

One of seven sections that make up the Jewish Museum's third floor collection exhibition, *Scenes from the Collection, Accumulations* spotlights an aspect of museum collecting: the accumulation of multiple examples of a given work or similar works.

Chanukah is observed this year beginning at sundown on Sunday, December 22, concluding at sundown on Monday, December 30.



Chanukah lamp with tower, nineteenth or twentieth century, coastal North Africa, cast copper alloy The Jewish Museum, NY, Gift of Dr. Harry G. Friedman



Chanukah lamp with stamped designs, nineteenth or twentieth century, probably north of the Atlas Mountains, Morocco, traced and punched silver The Jewish Museum, NY, Gift of Miriam Schloessinger through Dr. Harry G. Friedman



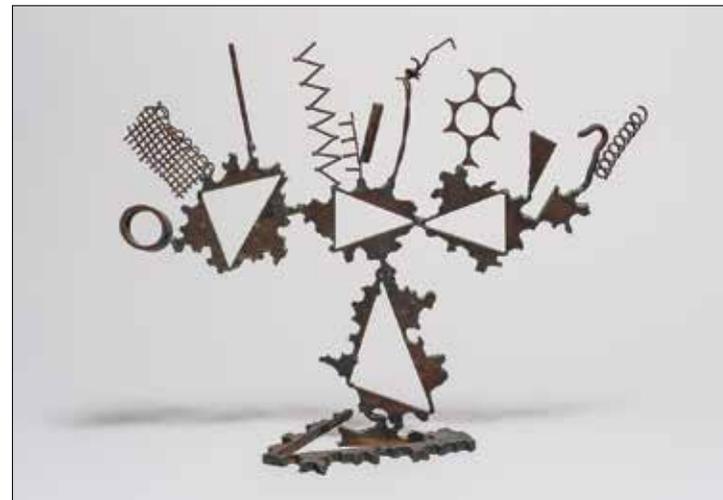
Joel A. Smith, American, born in 1960, Chanukah lamp, 1992 (design), Corning, NY, glass and rhodium-plated brass The Jewish Museum, N Y, Gift of Steuben and the artist, 1995-62



Chanukah lamp, mid-nineteenth century, probably Russian Empire, cast lead The Jewish Museum, NY



Chanukah lamp with palmette, nineteenth century, probably Ottoman Empire, pierced, engraved, punched, cast, and rolled appliqué silver. The Jewish Museum, NY, Gift of Dr. Harry G. Friedman



Larry Kagan, American, b. Germany, 1946, Menorah Memories, Troy, New York, 1981-82, welded steel scraps, 15 5/8 x 20 1/4 x 7 1/2 in. (39.7 x 51.4 x 19.1 cm) The Jewish Museum, NY, Purchase: Contemporary Judaica Acquisitions Committee Fund, 2016-51



Ze'ev Raban, Israeli, born in Poland, 1890, died in 1970, and unknown, probably from the Sharar Cooperative (affiliated with the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts), founded in Jerusalem in 1913 Chanukah lamp with high priest, early 1920s, Jerusalem, die-stamped copper alloy The Jewish Museum, NY, Gift of Dr. Harry G. Friedman



Installation view of Accumulations: Hanukkah Lamps at the Jewish Museum. Photo by: Jason Mandella



Karim Rashid, American, born in Egypt, 1960, Menorahmorph, 2004, New York, silicone and stainless steel. The Jewish Museum, NY, Jewish Museum Centennial Commission; Purchase: Tobe Pascher Workshop Commission Program Fund, 2004-48

SPORT

Israel's team shows true sportsmanship

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller for Aish.com



Israel's Women's Lacrosse Team recently gave the world an inspiring lesson in sportsmanship.

The team competed in the 2019 Women's Lacrosse U19 World Championship in Peterborough, Canada. In the playoffs against Kenya's national team, Israel won handily, 13-4. But instead of rejoicing in their victory, the Israeli players left the game disturbed. They realised that they'd enjoyed an unfair advantage: while the Israeli players wore state of the art sports shoes with cleats, their Kenyan opponents wore plain old gym shoes.

After the game, three of the young Israeli players called their parents asking if they could help pay for new shoes for the Kenyan players. Without proper cleats, the Kenyan players found themselves sliding in the muddy parts of the field. One Israeli player, Ella Duvdevani, in particular was in a position to help. Her father Michael owns a pedorthic clinic in the US. He was concerned about long-lasting damage the Kenyan players might be doing to their feet by playing in improper shoes.

That night, Michael Duvdevani called the team's coaches, committee members and some other parents, and soon the parents of the Israeli players were all pitching in to buy new shoes for the Kenyan team. They asked the Kenyan coach for a list of each player's shoe size and asked them to keep the gesture secret overnight.

It wasn't easy to find so many specialty shoes at such short notice. The Israeli team turned to a specialty store which stayed open much of the night in order to source the shoes and fill the order quickly. By the following morning, the Israelis had bought shoes for each member of the Kenyan team. The next day, the Israeli team surprised their Kenyan friends on the field; each team member gave a bag containing a brand new pair of shoes to their Kenyan counterparts. It was an emotional moment, with the Israeli and Kenyan players hugging and crying together.

The bond they formed was lasting. Lielle Assayag, Israel's goalie, said, "This is what I'll remember in 20 years: my friends. My old ones and my new ones."

The athletes didn't seek publicity but Kenya Lacrosse posted a video on Twitter of the Israeli women delivering the new shoes to the Kenyan team on the field the day after they played. "Yesterday we played @Israel_Lacrosse and had no cleats... after supporting their game today, Israel surprised the whole team on the sideline with brand new cleats!" Kenya's team announced.

Even though Kenya's Women's Lacrosse Team only has a few hundred followers, the moving video went viral. Within days, hundreds of thousands of people had watched it.

After donning their new cleats, Kenya went on to win their second game in the championship, beating Belgium 16-9. "1 came in cleats today = 1 win!" they Tweeted, adding "You can't help everyone but everyone can help someone."

That comment resonates with Hillel's statement in Ethics of the Fathers, "In a place where there are no leaders, strive to be a leader" (Pirkei Avot 2:6). We each have to make a difference wherever we find ourselves. As the Israeli Women's Lacrosse Team showed, sometimes even a small gesture can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

USING MY NUDEL

The joys — and oys — of being a teacher



By Craig Nudelman

I really enjoy being a teacher.

It's a wonderful feeling when children 'see the light' and understand the concept you want them to understand.

However, what I really do not like is the stigma that being a teacher carries. The thanks we get as teachers is sometimes lacking and I hope by the end of this you can really appreciate what we, as teachers go through on a day-to-day basis.

Some of my colleagues have said that they get these questions or comments levelled at them for being a teacher. Here are some particular gems:

"Oh, you work half days and you get all those holidays. Why complain?"

"Teachers are too opinionated. Why should they steer things in a certain direction outside of the classroom?"

"You listen to that kind of music?!"

"You have a tattoo?!"

"You are a failed actor desperate for attention standing in front of a class".

"Do you actually have parents?"

Some other things that teachers experience is that they are always at the beck-and-call of students and parents. People send texts or phone day and night, regardless of the day (even on Shabbat), to ask questions. And G-d forbid a teacher is sick and has to miss a day of work! It seems a teacher should be more patient, available and healthy than the average person.

It is ironic that teachers are seen as superheroes and aliens at the same time. It always makes me laugh when students 'spot' me whilst out at the shops with their friends or family; they have a sudden revelation that I do I have a life outside of school.

So, what does it mean to be a teacher? And how can you help a teacher out?

Number one: Teachers are humans. We have feelings and emotions, just like you. We have wants, needs and desires. We want to be respected and loved. Outside of school we experience things which we try not to bring to the classroom, but sometimes we have a bad day.

Number two: Teaching is a real job! The phrase 'those who can't do, teach', must be one of the most

disrespectful and hurtful things a person can say. We have taught those who 'do'. From lawyers to accountants, doctors and CEOs, artists and sport stars, we have tried to channel their multiple intelligences and see how they can be the best person they can be.

Number three: Teachers make mistakes. We cannot always be present all the time, even though we try our best. We want to be as close to

perfect as possible, but sometimes even the best teacher can slip-up.

Number four: Teachers have lives outside of school. Our world does not revolve around teaching. For instance, I sing in a choir, do Jewish

tours of Cape Town and perform in amateur theatre productions (look out for the Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert and Sullivan from 11-26 July 2020). Our hobbies take us away from the insane lives we lead.

Number five (related slightly to number four): Teachers have families. We have (or have had) mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, spouses, children, and pets.

Number six: We are not punching bags. If you are having a bad day (just as we have bad days), we are not the people to take your anger out on.

However, the one thing I have to reiterate is respect, especially from parents. The Parent Charter on the Herzlia website goes into this in great depth and is worth a read.

I enjoy being a teacher. There are difficult times, especially when the end of the term comes and we have to write reports and put in marks and write comments and speak to parents, among other things. But I love the space in which I teach, the people I interact with, and the children who I teach. I love when a child sees him or herself improving because of hard work and dedication.

I hope you can see the challenges and stigmas that we have to face. Let's try and get society to change the way we look at teachers. This way we can appreciate and acknowledge where we can change our behavior for the coming school year.

Have a wonderful December break and Chag Chanukah Sameach!

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