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A day of remembrance

"We have a responsibility to combat racism and antisemitism wherever they manifest," Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin told an audience of 1100 who assembled on Yom Hashoah to mourn the murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust.



Survivor Henia Bryer lights a memorial flame assisted by her grandson Greg.

Among the audience were rabbis, representatives from the diplomatic corps, the armed forces, interfaith organisations, Tutsi survivors from Rwanda, Herzlians and their teachers, and community members.

Continued on page 11

Afrika Tikkun and BOD bring hope to Mfuleni

The Cape Board recently attended the opening of a new Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) in Mfuleni.

The opening was the culmination of a three-year project by Afrika Tikkun, and will provide an educational and social service centre for 250 underprivileged children.

See more on page 10



Mfuleni kids showing their excitement about their new ECD centre.

From Sinai to Shrek to Smurfs!



Sinai Indaba guest speaker and Hollywood screenwriter David N. Weiss and his family at the premier of his latest film, 'The Smurfs'.

'Youth are the peacemakers of the future'

By Jaime Uranovsky



The panel of guest speakers: Back: Jessie Zinn, Mohamed Kagee, Rabbi Greg Alexander, Jaime Uranovsky. Front: Reverend Natalie Simons, Saul Kaplan, Father Stephan Hippler, Viola Klein and Sonja Kruse.

Herzlia High School's Student Representative Council recently hosted an interfaith evening, with pupils from Herzlia, Westerford, Islamia, Al Azhar, St Cyprians and St George's Grammar Schools, as well as members of the Face to Face/Faith to Faith organisation attending.

The event aimed to promote and encourage peaceful relations and tolerance among different faiths, cultures and communities, and to show that despite different opinions and backgrounds, meaningful friendships can be formed.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Sonja Kruse, known 'The Ubuntu Girl', who delivered her personal and captivating story about walking around South Africa

with only a backpack, a camera and R100 so that she could explore the unity and spirit of *ubuntu* among South Africa's diverse peoples.

"How tolerant is your community and what can you do to make it more tolerant?" was the subject of the panel discussion that followed. This consisted of a diverse, dynamic, and interesting group of individuals who represented the three Abrahamic faiths: Mohamed Kagee (representing Islam), Rabbi Greg Alexander (representing Progressive Judaism), Reverend Natalie Simons (the Anglican representative), Saul Kaplan (representing Orthodox Judaism) and Father Stephan Hippler (the Catholic representative).

Many thought-provoking responses and topics were discussed. The concept most deliberated was the idea that tolerance

On 16 June the Sinai Indaba is returning to South Africa, after the roaring success of over 3,500 people participating in the inaugural 2011 conference in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The Sinai Indaba is an inspiring unity convention, bringing a dazzling array of Jewish leaders and thinkers to the community.

Sinai Indaba II, which promises to be even bigger and better this year, will feature twelve leading international speakers. These include David Weiss, who wrote hit movies like *Shrek* and *The Smurfs*. He will speak about his life as a top Hollywood screenwriter and Torah Jew.

Another guest is Professor William Kolbrenner, an Oxford and Columbia graduate and professor of English literature, who will discuss his highly acclaimed book, *Open Minded Torah*.

Visit www.Sinai-Indaba.co.za for more.

See pages 9, 16, 18 and 19 for more information.

should not be something to aim for but merely a stepping stone on the way to peace and acceptance between religions and cultures. The pupils attempted to tackle the real issues of conflict between religions in the questions they posed to the panel.

In addition, each pupil was asked to bring a religious or cultural object which was of personal significance. At each table, learners explained this religious or cultural object to their group, to help them understand other faiths on a more personal level.

Undoubtedly, the youth are the peacemakers of the future. Through interfaith dialogue and discussion, they can learn to understand each other and create a pathway to peace and acceptance among religions and cultures.

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BNOTH ZION WIZO

2012 – 2013 Campaign Launch
Thursday 7 and Friday 8 June
See page 19 for details.

UJC Biennial General Meeting

Monday 4 June
Guest Speaker: Dr David Klatzow
See page 14 for details

Union of Jewish Women

Cape Town Branch
79th Annual General Meeting
Monday 11 June
see page 32

SINAI INDABA

16 and 18 June
See pages 1, 13, 16, 17 and 18 for details.

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8 June/18 Sivan	Behaalot'cha	5.26	6.20
15 June/25 Sivan	Shelach Lecha	5.26	6.21
22 June/2 Tammuz	Korach	5.27	6.22
29 June/9 Tammuz	Chukkat	5.30	6.25

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

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TaliVision



The light of memory

April was a vital month in the community calendar, with the commemorations of Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron, and the celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

These moments of memory and meaning allow us to reflect on vital aspects of modern Jewish identity — Israel and remembering the Holocaust. Both of these anchor us and shape who we are, our actions and our future.

As keynote speaker Marlene Silbert said at the community's Yom Hashoah commemoration, "The shadow of the Holocaust will never fade. It is part of our national history, written in blood and tears."

In this context, "we have a responsibility to combat racism and antisemitism wherever they manifest," in the words of Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin. If we are to apply the lessons of the Shoah to our present reality, then this is relevant in South Africa, Israel and wherever we find ourselves in the world.

One facet that connects all of these three days is memory. The Shoah is ingrained in our community's consciousness, and that of the rest of the Jewish nation. This is why Israel has conscription — to protect itself from that memory ever becoming a reality again. But as Youth Shaliach Ido Shapira asks on page 27, "memory is specific to the individual — a private grouping of one person's recollections. So what memory are we taking about?"

He answers his own question by saying that Israel's memory is the collective one of the Jewish people, which is why we all commemorate Yom Hazikaron and mourn Israel's fallen soldiers. "On Yom Hazikaron, for one moment a whole country stands still, but it doesn't stand alone. The Jewish people share holidays and days of grief, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, like one big family," he writes.

Indeed, "In the light of memory and remembering, we find our way home," says Michal Singer, who shares her thoughts about the Cape Town Holocaust Centre's Heritage Project on page 4.

Around the world, communities are working to record the testimonies of Holocaust survivors, hoping to 'light the way home.' An important goal is for these stories to be shared in Europe, and you can read about one such survivor on page 20, whose story was shown on German TV.

The past led the Jewish people to our home in Israel and its independence, which we all celebrated on Yom Ha'atzmaut. But even after finding way home, the past still plays a role in shaping the Jewish people and the Jewish state.

If we are to absorb the messages of Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut together, then perhaps history reminds Israel to fulfil its role as 'a light among the nations.' If we are to honour those who have fallen, then we must ensure that 'never again' really does mean 'never again', anywhere in the world — and Israel can lead the global community in this.

These three days are such important aspects of our identities, and this edition of the Chronicle demonstrates that the community commemorated and celebrated these moments with deep feeling and commitment. Events and ceremonies were moving and memorable, as demonstrated throughout these pages.

As Netzer chavera Nina Hoffman writes on page 27, "Each day has its purpose and its place, and the Jewish people would not be who we are today if it weren't for our rich history, which is often tragic, but is just as often triumphant." We emerge from mourning into the light of celebration, and Yom Ha'atzmaut was certainly lit up with the joy of community members — made all the more meaningful as we remember how blessed we are to have a Jewish state.

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NEWS

Anton Krupenia appointed Principal of Herzlia Weizmann

Anton Krupenia, who matriculated from Herzlia in 1989, has been appointed as Principal of Herzlia Weizmann.

He has been serving as Acting Principal since January of this year and has been an educator at Weizmann for the past 12 years. During this time he has served in many capacities, including teacher, Intermediate Phase Head and Deputy Principal.

He is dedicated and committed to making Weizmann a school of excellence where children feel secure in a safe and nurturing environment. He is particularly passionate about building a cohesive and professional team of teachers.

"Herzlia is a family and you never lose your roots. The experience that you gained from it stays with you and models what you do, how you act and how you behave. It is home, and I have come back home", says Anton.

From the sacred to the secular

A new organisation, The South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity (SACRED), provides a progressive Jewish voice on relevant social, moral, ethical and religious issues in South Africa.

The organisation began in September 2011. It aims to counteract religious discrimination in all its forms, advance freedom of religion and promote fundamental rights through advocacy, activism, scholarly contributions to public discourse and public interest litigation.

Whilst the organisation is motivated by Jewish values, it also aims to work for civil rights and social justice throughout South African society. SACRED models its work on that of parent organisation the Religious Action Centre, based in Washington, in whose office the Civil Rights Act was drafted; and the Israel Religious Action Centre, based in Jerusalem.

South Africa recently celebrated Freedom Day, which marks 18 years since

democracy. To mark the day and its message; SACRED began a campaign for women's freedom. It launched a video with 11 prominent female members of the Cape Town and Johannesburg Jewish communities, explaining why they oppose the exclusion of women from singing in secular events. The video can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAJ3E-CKfq4>.

Says SACRED: "Treating women with respect and dignity, while offering them constitutionally guaranteed equality, is in the best interest of a democratic South Africa. Some within the Jewish community are free to choose to interpret Jewish law to mean that they should not hear women sing. They do not, however, have the right to impose such restrictions on the broader community."

Sign up on SACRED's website www.sacred.org.za or 'like' its Facebook page if you are interested in being part of its campaigns. "Justice, justice, you shall pursue" – Deuteronomy 16:20."

One great leap for womankind

Local media personality Lisa Chait is again leading the way with an exciting new TV series. *I Am Woman — Leap of Faith* explores defining moments in women's lives, and offers insight and inspiration.

The series looks at the life journeys and leaps of faith of 26 South African women, and investigates how they have dealt with challenges and overcome them. "It's a very moving exploration, with moments of great poignancy," says Lisa.

In the series Lisa discovers that by choice or force of circumstance, these courageous, inspirational and ordinary women have learnt profound lessons and radically changed their lives along the way. They share how they've made bold decisions and determined their futures based on shifts in their inner and outer worlds. The series bears witness to these transformations.

Shot documentary style, each 24-minute episode features one woman's story punctuated by a rich and layered leap of faith.

The 'stars' of the series are a broad and eclectic group of women with one shared characteristic: They have all experienced a profound moment when they knew for sure that things would never be the same again.

Says Lisa: "These are amazing, ordinary women from varying communities and cultures. They have taught me to dig deep into my own culture and faith for spiritual sustenance when times get tough. We hope that this show will inspire women in the Jewish community, and that we can also feature their stories."

The show is on SABC3 on Sundays at 09h00. Re-broadcasts are on Mondays at 09h00 on SABC3. Episodes will be loaded onto the shows website immediately after the re-broadcast. website: www.iamwomanseries.com.

The Living Newspaper Celebrating 25 years!

To kick off its 25th anniversary celebrations, the Living Newspaper invites you to a panel discussion on Jewish creativity, with Rabbi Dovid Wineberg, Hugh Herman, Philip Krawitz and Dr Stanley Ress.

Tuesday 12 June at 8pm, Marais Rd Shul

Look out for more 25th anniversary special sessions coming soon!

CAPE TOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY VISION: 2025

AN INITIATIVE OF THE NACHUM GOLDMANN FELLOWSHIP

OPINION

By Michal Singer

Revealing the hidden histories of the Holocaust



Michal Singer

A new Heritage Project has been introduced at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre. The purpose is to establish a full inventory of artifacts that have been donated to our institution of memory.

The project aims to ensure the longevity, availability and usability of this material for researchers, scholars, learners, educators and members of the public. The first step, currently underway, is to establish the contents of the collection. However, there is much more work to be done and dedicated members of staff and volunteers are involved in this undertaking.

The Heritage Project commenced when the Cape Town Holocaust Centre was established in 1999. Over the years, a range of artifacts was donated to the centre — including photographs, letters, passports, diaries, dolls, ghetto currency, drawings, and clothing. Some important items received were given to international institutional bodies that had more capacity to preserve such material, but the collection at the Centre has expanded as an increased number of artifacts have been donated. Some have been given by next-of-kin, others have been found in the dusty storerooms of old synagogues, bought on auction or donated anonymously. The development of the archive requires considerable investigative research, attention to detail and patience.

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre has attracted visitors from around the world since the establishment of the permanent exhibition thirteen years ago. Many continue to comment

on its universal relevance. Most images in the exhibition were originally sourced from major repositories such as Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, while others were obtained from numerous archives and libraries in Europe.

Numerous artifacts from South African sources are displayed in the exhibition. These include a well-preserved Dachau concentration camp prison jacket and documents of Alexander Michaux, a member of the Belgian political underground. The jacket features a red triangle marked 'B' for Belgium and the prison number: 28343.

Real stories of real people

This artifact has a marked impact on visitors. It is placed in a display case under a photograph of Buchenwald concentration camp inmates lined up for roll call. Expressions of fatigue and fear in the faces are distinctly visible. On our guided school tours, learners are taught about the harsh conditions in the camps and the value of displaying this jacket movingly demonstrates the story of the man who wore it.

The inclusion of historic artifacts helps to personalise the stories of victims of Nazism. The Centre's records reveal that

Alexander Michaux, who had lived in the Belgian Congo with his family, was trapped in Belgium at the outbreak of war while on a visit. He became a member of the Belgian underground resistance, was arrested and sent to Dachau, where he spent almost three years as a slave labourer. He was badly injured, but, aware of the doomed fate of prisoners who were unable to work, he did not reveal his injuries.

After being sent to clear the rubble from the Allied bombing raids in the towns near the camp, Alexander Michaux escaped. He was saved by US troops when he reached Arlon, near the Belgian border. Sixteen years later, he died of the injuries he had sustained. According to his daughter, who donated the jacket to the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, 'the beatings in Dachau didn't kill him but in the end the camp took his life'.

As one learns about each artifact, their stories begin to emerge. These provide insight into the lives that were lost and the communities that were shattered. The Heritage Project seeks to bring these narratives out of the archive and into the present, through connecting the living memory of oral histories with the artifacts, letters and documents that serve as indelible fragments of the past. Some stories are more accessible than others, as they are shared in comprehensive

collections. However, others remain elusive and inconclusive, omitting the details of their owners' personal experiences as survivors or refugees.

The collection of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre is not restricted to the surviving relics of the past, but also includes the record of how this history has been memorialised and recorded. This includes papers reflecting organisational material and research undertaken by the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, the Holocaust Memorial Council, *She'erit Hapletah* (survivors organisation), and other similar community structures. The records also reveal how the development of the educational programming conducted at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre had a powerful impact on educators from the Department of Education and resulted in the inclusion of Holocaust history in the South African high school syllabus.

South African born poet Malika Ndlovu has written that 'in the light of memory and remembering, we find our way home.' The archive of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre has become such a home, shedding light on these stories, submerged in the paper-thin annals of the archives.

Michal Singer is the Heritage Coordinator at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, where she also works as an Education Officer in the Education Department.



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SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION (CAPE COUNCIL)

A view from the Chair

By Chairman Ben Levitas



Today, we take for granted our rights to live our lives as Jews, to read from our holy texts, to study our history and be proud of our accomplishments.

Yet, throughout most of our history, particularly in Europe (where until the Holocaust the majority of Jews resided), this was not the case.

The association of Jews with 'evil', 'otherness' and inferiority is as old as any Christian tradition. Even in the late nineteenth century, mainstream writers like Houston Chamberlain considered Jews to be 'black'. Medieval iconography juxtaposed the 'darkness' of the synagogue with the 'lightness' of the church. Philosophers and social thinkers of the time and many others debated the merits of this classification. When Jews eventually responded to being treated as 'dark', by striving to deny this categorisation, their reaction was labelled as 'typically Jewish'.

European society demonised everything Jewish; Hebrew was perceived to be mythical and magical in the sense that Jews not only spoke differently but also thought differently to Christians. Jews were 'blind', 'deceptive' and 'depraved'. Yiddish was perceived as the language that allowed Jews to conceal their 'evils'

— it was a language of conspiracy.

When Jews were allowed to return to France in 1315, Louis X expressly forbade them from bringing the Talmud with them. It was commonplace to humiliate Jews in public by holding disputations, usually between 'self-hating Jews' (converts) and rabbis — the Paris disputation between Nicholas Donin and Rabbi Yehiel ben Joseph in 1240 being the oldest on record.

The increasing acceptance of racial profiling as a 'science' in the 20th century even denied Jews who wanted to escape their identities the possibility of converting. Jews could never rid themselves from these innate Jewish 'traits', no matter what they publicly professed.

After being considered sub-human and treated as such in most of the Diaspora for thousands of years, we today can look proudly to Israel as a refuge and as a protector of Jewish culture and values; and as our best safeguard of survival. Let us not for a moment believe that the freedoms we currently enjoy and take for granted would remain intact without the existence of Israel.

Further reading on this topic:

The City of it All by Amos Elon
Jewish Self-Hatred by Sander Gilman

Remembering the fallen

By Melissa Marcus and Jonathan Sapeika

Yom Hazikaron is always a deeply moving and meaningful time in Israel and the Jewish world, when we commemorate and honour Israel's brave fallen soldiers of war.



Melissa Marcus (Youth Council Chairman), Josh Todes (Bnei Akiva), Sofi Zway (Netzer) and Mikaela Kagan (Habonim) at Yom Hazikaron.

It is a time of reflection and gratitude as we pay tribute to those who serve steadfastly in the IDF in order to preserve the safety and security for all Israeli citizens.

This year's memorial service took place at the Albow Centre and was run by the South African Zionist Federation and the SAZF Youth Council. Guests were greeted by a visual walkway made up of biographies of soldiers who have fallen in battle, accompanied by audio visual projector displays showcasing documentaries on individuals KIA (killed in action).

Proceedings were coordinated by the head of the Youth Council, Melissa Marcus, and included deeply moving personal accounts of battle-hardened IDF soldiers Shavit Rissin, an Israeli; and Michael Snape, a South African. Their harrowing stories exemplified the values of brotherhood, unity and nationhood. These are all needed to preserve Jewish life in a never-ending struggle for security, both internally and externally, in the state of Israel.

Michael Snape discussed his experience of Yom Hazikaron in Israel. "I went to the official ceremony at the Kotel, and after that just walked around the city to gather my thoughts. I recalled the ceremonies that I had attended in South Africa, where a small group of people, a fraction of the community, would have been there. But in Israel this is the national day of mourning. How can life just carry on when you buried someone special to you?" he asked.

Continuing, Michael described how no shop or institution was open on Yom Hazikaron in Israel. "Not one shop, of any kind. The streets were deserted, eerily so. There was none of gaiety usually found in Jerusalem, but rather a pall of sadness that had descended upon the city. It was then that I realised that every Israeli has lost someone, or knows someone who has lost a loved one, in one of Israel's wars. A son, a father, a brother, or a best friend. There was pain behind people's eyes, but there was also a feeling of a shared burden and the collective suffering of a country united," he said.

Strong despite struggles

The Argentinian Jewish community, which numbers over 300 000, is the largest in South America. SAZF Chairman Ben Levitas recently visited the community.



Esta Levitas, Professor Benny Schneid (Executive Director); Ben Levitas, Manuel Junowicz (President) and Claudio Manaker (Jewish Agency).

Like us — the main Jewish community in Africa — they are the pre-eminent community in South America and play a continental role in Israel education and advocacy," says Ben. The community is well served by its Zionist organisation and the Association Mutual Israel Argentine (AMIA), representing all the major Jewish organisations.

But the community has struggled in the past. Between 1976 — 1983, the government was responsible for the incarceration and disappearance of about 30 000 people, with Jews comprising 1900 souls — a disproportionate amount as academics and liberals were targeted.

In 1992, Argentina's Israeli Embassy was bombed, killing 29 people and injured over 250. Among the victims were Israeli diplomats and children. In 1994 the AMIA Headquarters were bombed, with 87 fatalities and over 240 injuries.

Despite these attacks the community remains strong and plays an important role throughout South America.

Building bridges

A young leadership group visited in March as part of the Partnership Together programme, which connects Jewish communities with Israel.

The aim of the visit was to expose these young Israelis to the dynamics of the Jewish community in Cape Town. They met with various leaders and discussed current and future plans and activities.

The group went on a tour of the Jewish Museum and the Holocaust Centre, a trip around the Cape Peninsula, and a visit to Africa Tikun. They spent time at Herzlia

and Astra Centre; enjoyed a 'taste' of the Melton course; had an evening with Group 18; and were hosted at community members' houses. Grateful thanks to Tamar Lazarus, who organised the trip.

The interactions between the delegation and the local community were incredibly beneficial, and helped strengthen ties with young people in Israel. Further, the relationships formed between the delegation and our representatives will last for many years to come and, we hope to continue learning and communicating with each other. Kol Hakavod to all involved in an important and special experience!

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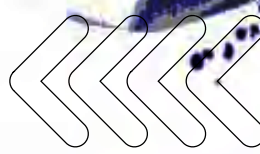
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We aspire to mould our channichim into committed Zionists with a strong Jewish identity and social conscience. Zionism is at the core of our ideology and we see Aliyah as the highest fulfilment of Zionism. We actively encourage our members to explore living in Israel. We also recognise the values of camaraderie and Kvutzah (group living) in attaining personal fulfilment.

HDSA envisions separate Jewish and Palestinian states co-existing peacefully alongside each other as a solution to the Middle East conflict, based on the pre-1967 borders. The movement also prioritises Zionist activism in the Diaspora, believing it to be a key tool in building a love of Israel. The multitude of HDSA's Zionist educational programmes is evidence of its continued passion and commitment to Israel. From as early as Grade 5, channichim at our December camp cultivate a love of Israel and a strong sense of community. In Grade 10, HDSA members can go on our Shorashim programme, a three-week tour of Israel that consolidates their connection to the country.

Our Zionist ideology is directly linked to a strong Jewish identity. Jewish education is an essential component of the HDSA experience. We aim to provide our members with a comprehensive grounding in Jewish history, culture and values through knowledge and appreciation of classic and modern Jewish texts and the Hebrew language. HDSA is a pluralist movement, in which Jews of all practices and backgrounds come together. We believe strongly in the Jewish values of Kehilla (community) and Tikkun Olam – improving the world through action, equality and tolerance.

Our educational programmes have a strong focus on Judaism, with peulot at weekly meetings, mini-machanot and December machaneh often focused on chaggim or Jewish texts. This year, we are also running a Judaism Seminar for our Bogrim. The movement's consistent presence in South Africa's Jewish schools and community events is testament to our strong Jewish identity and values. We encourage our members to take up positions of leadership in the community during and after their movement careers.

Our final pillar, Equality and Service to Humanity, is directly linked to our belief in the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, as well as our roots in the Socialist Zionist Movement. HDSA members from a young age are instilled with an unwavering belief in democratic values and the equality of all human beings. We aim to build an educational environment free of discrimination based on gender, religion, age or sexual orientation. We encourage our members to be critical thinkers and open-minded individuals, as well as active members of civil society in South Africa and Israel.

NETZER



Netzer South Africa's ideology is a dynamic one, and the key elements of it can be understood through our name.

The word Netzer itself literally means sapling, which represents the opportunities for development and fulfilment in a youth movement. The word 'Netzer', when spelt with Hebrew letters, is also an acronym for Noar Tzioni Reformi – Reform Zionist Youth in a South African context. It is from this, paired with a dedication to social justice and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) that our belief system grows. Our ideology consists of 5 main 'pillars':

- **Progressive Judaism:** Learning and praying together, making Judaism applicable and meaningful in a modern setting and incorporating gender equality and acceptance among all faiths.

- **Reform Zionism:** The belief in the right of the state of Israel to exist and the Jewish people to have a homeland; supporting the growth of Reform communities within and outside of Israel, and the belief in ongoing, critical support for Israel, in order to make it a better place and a better land for the Jewish people, and doing all this even after making Aliyah.

- **Tikkun Olam:** 'Repairing the world', beginning with oneself then the broader community, the country, and eventually the entire world. We believe it is our duty as Jews and as human beings to play a part in bringing about a better and more peaceful world. This makes us proud to be part of Netzer South Africa.

- **Youth empowerment:** We support the youth leading the youth. The leadership of Netzer is made up of committed and passionate young people, helping others grow and become stronger in themselves and in their communities.

- **South Africa:** We aim to help and improve South Africa wherever we can. By using our ideology to guide us, we empower Progressive Jewish youth and help them develop their Jewish identities and a connection with Israel, as well as become active members of South African society.

A bit more about Netzer's stance on Zionism: In line with our ideology pillar of 'Reform Zionism', Netzer prides itself on its Zionist principles. We are, however, not politically aligned, which often makes things complicated when issues surrounding Israel arise, as so many current issues are tied up in politics. However, we make sure that our channichim are always educated about Israel, especially about Israel's history. Netzer always has at least one, but usually two, Shaliach (shlichim) - Israel delegates - who are full-time movement workers and educators throughout the year.

BNEI AKIVA



Bnei Akiva means the 'children of Akiva', referring to Rabbi Akiva on whose teachings the movement is based. We are a religious Zionist movement. We always support the state of Israel, but are an apolitical movement. Our modern orthodox Zionist ideology is based on the idea of 'Eretz Yisrael, L'am Yisrael, Al Pi Torat Yisrael' (The land of Israel is for the people of Israel according to the Torah of Israel). Our highest goal is Aliyah, and within this we follow the two pillars of Torah V'Avodah (Torah and work). We keep to a middle path that does not place Torah or work higher than each other. Through our work we learn and practice Torah, and vice versa. Our leadership in Cape Town includes Daniel Winer (national chairman); Josh Sevitz (Cape Town chairman) Naomi Kahn (Sganit Cape Town); Rav Natan (national shaliach) and Avnet and Esther (Cape Town shlichot). We also have a Rosh Gurim (Gr. 1-6), Aviva Lazarus; a Rosh Middle School (Gr. 7-9), Elana Sanzul; and a Rosh Israel programme, Natasha Scher. Our movement is all about leading a way of life that is filled with a balance between Torah and Avodah.

Contributors:

Josh Todes (Bnei Akiva, Cape Town Chairman)
Raphael Chaskalson (HDSA Head of Publications)
Nina Hoffman (Rosh Cape Town, Rosh Chinnuch, Netzer)

CAPE TOWN CELEBRATES YOM HA'ATZMAUT 2012



Photographer: Antionette Pearce 072 597 0920 www.shevacreations.com



CAPE SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

TALKING TACHLIS by David Jacobson

Control. Alt. Or Delete? That is the question

The Cape Board now has a website. I can well imagine that a legitimate response to this could be, "Big deal...so does every hotdog vendor and their dog!"

Or even, "Oy Vey! Just what we need — another Jewish organisation peddling their own brand and own opinions. Pass me the chopped liver please!"

MySpace. YouTube. iPads. We live in an era of individualised power. Consumers decide for themselves whether to click on or switch off. Any communication that does not empower the individual is doomed to fail, or at the very least, to be relegated to reaching the same people over and over — regurgitating the same staid opinions, confirming stereotypes and affirming each other's views in a continuous loop of humdrum monotony.

Less ho hum. More Yum Yum.

I can assure you that www.capebod.org.za will be none of that. We see our website as a dynamic space in which our community can have a conversation with itself. We see this as a place for our community here, nationally, and indeed internationally; to engage in meaningful and respectful debate about events and issues. We see this as the space where you can come to be informed, engaged, and hopefully even inspired.

We will own some of the content, but the rest is up to you.

We encourage you to speak your mind, to comment on posts, to offer up articles of interest that we can post, to write for our blogs, and to give us suggestions for features you would like to see. Use our Facebook page, our Twitter account and our website to communicate with us, but much more importantly, to communicate with each other. Simply put, without your considered and considerable input, the Cape Board website will become a monumental waste of cyberspace.

If we do not speak amongst ourselves about the issues that concern us, how can we expect to grow as a community? We need a breeding ground for ideas — a fertile space where ideas can be planted and grow into possibilities, projects, and ultimately, into real progress. That is what our website aims to be.

We would like you to consider this website as your own personal 'doodling pad'. We hope you will not hit 'delete', but rather 'refresh' us with your thoughts, ideas and opinions.

Together, we can give our community a well-meaning 'reboot'.

TRANSFORMATION by Gina Flash

Transforming lives in Mfuleni



Mfuleni preschoolers meet donors at the school opening.

When we talk about 'upliftment projects,' we are generally referring to those for whom the projects are created – the so-called 'disadvantaged'.

On 2 April, David Jacobson, Dan Brotman and Gina Flash attended the opening of the Mfuleni Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre and it was we who were uplifted and inspired. As a key donor, the Cape Board joined the Lewis Group and other major contributors in celebrating the culmination of this three-year Afrika Tikkun project. The centre forms a part of Afrika Tikkun's development programme, which is dedicated to investing in education, health and social services for children and their families through a holistic developmental model.

Afrika Tikkun's CEO Marc Lubner described the journey to create the ECD Centre as a "rich interdependent experience" that engaged the community, the city council and all partners involved. The centre will serve 250 preschool-aged children who, after careful selection assessments carried out by Afrika Tikkun social workers, have been identified as being at severe risk due to their home environments.

Building blocks for a better future

Larger-than-life role model and Principal Remona Booï, an experienced educator and crèche manager from the Mfuleni community, explained that the centre is run in accordance with a specific early childhood development curriculum created by the Department of Education. Each day, children attending the ECD Centre are provided with two balanced meals and a snack — often the only food they will eat that day. The Cape Board is happy to have contributed financially to the installation of the fully equipped kitchen where meals are prepared.

Booï told how she and her practitioner teaching staff of eight were overcome with excitement when they were first shown the

classroom facilities where they would teach their classes. "It is such a pleasure to wake up in the morning and come here to face challenges. This place takes the cake!"

Booï spoke further, describing the difference a facility like this makes in the lives of not only learners and their families, but also in the lives of teachers. The quality of education and care provided by educators, who are motivated by a sense of pride in their workplace, is palpable.

Sometimes we pay lip service to development projects or simply sign the cheque and switch off. One simply has to spend a few hours with these remarkable community leaders and educators and see the beaming smiles of the children to realise that right there, in Mfuleni — amidst the poverty and social dysfunction — the building blocks for a better future are being built. By giving these children something as simple as a sense of self and dignity, Afrika Tikkun is preparing them for a future that will hopefully allow them to escape the ravages of their past. This is *tikkun olam* (healing the world) and *tikkun South Africa* in passionate and powerful action. Kol HaKavod to Afrika Tikkun.

REMEMBERING by Gwynne Robins

Remembering Rwanda's genocide

The Cape Board attended an event at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre (CTHC) commemorating the 18th anniversary of the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda.

The Cape Board's Gwynne Robins was one of three people who lit memorial candles. Here, she is pictured with Louise Kayitesi and Patrick Karangwa, who read message from Rwandan High Commissioner; as well as Ernest Kajabo (Rwandan community coordinator), Jurina Boyes (CTHC), Tracey Petersen (Education Director at CTHC) and Marie-Evelyn Petrus-Barry (Director of the United Nations Information Centre).



A story of survival

John Dobai, a Holocaust survivor, was recently hosted by the Cape Board and the Cape Town Holocaust Centre (CTHC).

Dobai's family was rescued by the actions of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. He delivered a moving public lecture about his experiences during and after World War II.

Holocaust survivors Miriam Lichterman and Ella Blumenthal, CTHC Director Richard Freedman, John Dobai and Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin.



The Cape Board has a **new look** and a **new website**. Visit us at:

YOM HA SHOAH VEHAGEVURA 2012

To ensure that "Never again" means "Never again"

Continued from page 1



Major Donovan Chetty of the South African Air Force



Auschwitz survivor Hela Blumenthal

"Instead of learning from the lessons of the Holocaust, we witness its growing trivialisation," said Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin.

"We see indiscriminate and insensitive use of Holocaust-related terms and the expropriation and cheapening of the indescribable suffering and murder of the Jewish people," she continued, urging the audience to speak out against all forms of racism and to guard against indifference.

A similar message was given by keynote speaker Marlene Silbert, founding Education Director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and the former National Education Director of the South African Holocaust Foundation. "The shadow of the Holocaust will never fade. It is part of our national history, written in blood and tears. How could anyone explain evil of such magnitude or understand the calculated cruelty of the killers or the passive complicity of the bystanders?" she asked.

Silbert added that we need to instil in our youth the "courage to care" and "the will to act", and quoted Elie Wiesel: "We must teach young people never to give up in the struggle against indifference. Indifference to evil is evil."

She described how through its courses, the Holocaust Centre was trying to ensure that future generations would not choose to be perpetrators of prejudice, discrimination or injustice, nor be passive bystanders to crimes against humanity. "What greater memorial can there be to those who perished than to ensure that 'never again' means 'never again,'" she concluded.

Survivors lit candles at the Holocaust memorial and French-born survivor Helene Joffe described her life as a child hidden in the Alps after the murder of her father.

The programme included a message from the State of Israel read by SAZF (Cape Council) Chairman Ben Levitas; poems read in Ladino by Isaac Habib, in Yiddish by Joy Wilkin and in Hebrew and English by Herzlia learners Eshed Cohen and Elisheva Sacks. Hazkarah, Kaddish and other prayers were movingly sung by the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation choir, led by Ivor Joffe, with a piece of her own composition played on her harp by Herzlia learner Rachel Serraf.

The commemoration service ended with wreaths laid at the war memorial by representatives of SAJEX, Machal/Nachal, the Jewish Maritime League, MOTHS and the Army, Navy and Air Force.



Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin



Keynote speaker Marlene Silbert



Joy Wilkin

"The shadow of the Holocaust will never fade. It is part of our national history, written in blood and tears."



Isaac Habib



Rachel Serraf



Miriam Lichterman



SAZF Chairman Ben Levitas



Helene Joffe



Part of the large audience



Airforce, army and navy: Major de Long, Major Chetty, Brig. Gen Fouche and Captain Morom



Herzlia learners



Communal kaddish is recited



Survivors and their families



Cantor Ivor Joffe and Miriam Lichterman



Elisheva Sacks

All Yom HaShoah photographs were provided as a service to the community by *Shawn Benjamin Photography* and *Ark Images*. Shawn is a Cape Town based professional photographer who specialises in aerial, architectural, documentary, industrial, commercial, sport and functions photography and has serviced the Jewish Cape Town community for over 20 years. Using the most up-to-date professional photographic equipment and software Ark Images offers a top of the range online searchable digital archiving system for all photographic storage needs. **Shawn Benjamin: 021 7943443 / 082 4910684 / shawn@arkimages.com / www.arkimages.com**



THE SILVER GENERATION

Senior citizens ('the silver generation') often cannot retire at the age of 65, as they need continual income.

At Staff Wise, we are seeing an increase in the number of these job applicants.

Often these candidates are incredibly loyal, hard-working, and experienced individuals who have given their time and energy to companies, only to be forced to retire when they reach their mid-60s.

The vast majority of these seniors are still mentally and emotionally capable of working. Seniors often have maturity, patience, life experience and valuable knowledge, which are incredibly beneficial to their employer. Seniors are generally more open to flexible working options than younger candidates, and are far more stable.

Employers should view seniors as an untapped resource. The current retirement age in South Africa needs to be reviewed, as people today are living longer and need to work beyond the age of 65. The job market continues to discriminate against seniors, yet aging is inevitable for all of us.

Contact Linda or Coty at:
021 464 6700 E-mail: staff@ctjc.co.za
www.staffwise.org.za www.facebook.com/staffwise



Business as usual for Staff Wise applicant Zelda Harris

Irma Stern and the politics of art

By Gwynne Robins

At her first Cape Town exhibition in 1922, two policemen inspected the paintings to check that they were not indecent, as reviewers described them as 'agonies in oil' and 'blatant incompetence'. Yet in March 2011, Bonhams sold Irma Stern's 1945 *Arab Priest* painting for R26.6 million.

When it was discovered that the painting had been purchased by a foreign buyer, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) refused permission for its export, claiming it is a cultural item more than 60 years old.

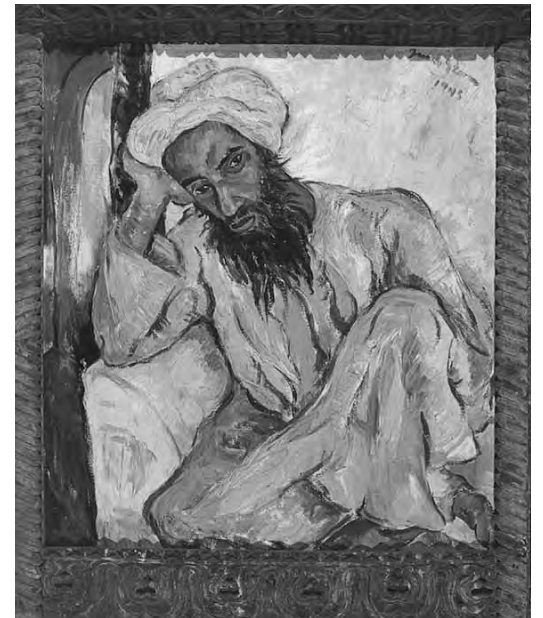
It was no longer an 'agony in oil', but a valuable commodity. SAHRA justified keeping the painting in South Africa as "Irma Stern's work, and this painting in particular, is a valuable artistic document by a much travelled South African artist whose activities and artistic journey transcended and crossed boundaries of religion and culture.

"As such, it serves as a valuable document for South Africans of mutual respect, between diverse cultures and religions... To allow such a work of quality to leave the shores of this country (would) diminish the national estate." They also added that as it pre-dated the creation of the state of Israel and "the polarisation between Jewish people of the Zionist persuasion and Muslims", and exemplified the mutual respect that had existed prior to 1948.

When the buyer of the painting turned out to be the Orientalist Museum of Qatar, it became a diplomatic 'hot potato' involving the Minister of Arts and Culture and the Department of International Relations and Co-operation.

Qatar appealed the decision, approaching Jewish researcher Claudia Braude from the Helen Suzman Foundation for her assistance. Together, they drafted a delicate agreement, whereas the painting would be displayed at the SA National Gallery (SANG) before being sent to Qatar, on condition that after twenty years in Qatar, it would return to South Africa every five years for temporary display.

The historic agreement was cemented at a ceremony at SANG attended by Cape Board Chairman Li Boiskin and Deputy Director Gwynne Robins. They were addressed by SAHRA Chairman Dr. Somadoda Fikeni, Director General of Arts and Culture Sibusiso Xaba (on behalf of Minister Paul Mashatile), and Qatari Ambassador Dr. Bashir Al-Shirawi.



Ambassador Al-Shirawi mentioned that Qatar had also signed a cultural agreement with South Africa in order to enhance reciprocal cultural and artistic ties with recognition of their "historical lifestyle and culture."

Ironies of art

There was much irony in the exhibition. Here was an international event cementing relations between two countries, brought about by an interfaith painting of a Muslim priest by a Jewish woman. It had been sold to an absolute monarchy ruling one of the world's richest countries, with a civilian population of less than 300 000 people, and where human trafficking is condoned. What would Irma Stern have thought?

Qatar is a country of contradictions. Although an Islamic monarchy, their women can vote, drive and hold leadership positions. Qatar also prides itself on its role as a mediator promoting peace in the region and beyond. It has trade relations with Israel and has hosted President Shimon Peres and Tzipi Livni.

No mention was made in the proceedings of Irma Stern's religion, yet looking around; the Jewish contribution to South African art was palpable. The function was held in the courtyard, with the speakers standing in front of the magnificent Mayor Hyman Liberman Memorial Doors carved by HV Meyerowitz, which show the migration and persecution of the Jews. This includes imagery of Jews from the pyramids of Egypt to the destruction of the Temple, from the rivers of Babylon to the expulsion from Spain, Holland, medieval Germany and Russia, until finding refuge in the Cape.

As Li Boiskin said, "The whole episode shows not only the economic value of art, but also the politics of art collection and the role that Jews have played in the cultural life of this city."

BURSARIES

Jewish undergraduate and postgraduate students who have been residents in the Western Cape for the past three years should note that the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape Council) is responsible for various estates and trusts.

These are not hand-outs, but bursaries for needy students. Those in need of financial assistance for study during the 2013 academic year at university, technical college or similar educational institution should apply to:

THE SECRETARY
BURSARY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 2009
CAPE TOWN 8000
Tel: 021 464-6724 E-mail: sajbd2@ctjc.co.za

CLOSING DATES:

Returning applicants – 3 October 2012
First-time applicants - 15 October 2012

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE



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Visiting London for the 2012 Olympic Games

If you are planning to attend the London 2012 Olympic or Paralympic Games, go to www.visitjewishlondon.com — your one stop site for all your Jewish requirements.

For a unique Jewish experience of the London 2012 Games, this impressive website offers Jewish visitors everything you might want to know — not just about

the capital but also an historical and demographic background of the UK and regional Jewish communal venues.

The site can signpost you to where you may wish to stay; where to eat; places of prayer; where to purchase kosher food; where to find Jewish books or gifts; sites of cultural interest; and exciting tours of Jewish London.

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Sinai Indaba is an unprecedented gathering of the foremost international Jewish thinkers ever assembled in South Africa.

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16 & 18 June | Gardens Shul Centre | www.sinai-indaba.co.za | [facebook.com/SinaiIndaba](https://www.facebook.com/SinaiIndaba) | [join the conversation @SinaiIndaba](https://twitter.com/SinaiIndaba)

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Oceans Edge is proud to announce that we've won the award for the best outlet in the 'South region' (Western and Southern Cape) at the annual "Eat-In DStv Food Network Produce Awards".

The criteria for this category were summarized by the following statement, "The winner uplifts and supports small South African producers, and focuses on consumer awareness and education regarding stocked produce, cleanliness, variety, merchandising and positioning, friendliness and staff product knowledge".

The Eat-In DStv Food Network Produce Awards aim to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding, independent South African producers for putting South Africa on the international food map with their integrity, passion and innovation

The recognition of our outlet in Seapoint by Eat-In and DSTV will inspire us to new heights in the coming years and ensure that we keep to our promise to serve our customers with just the best quality seafood available.



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www.oceansedge.co.za

Family Announcements

BIRTH

FREEDMAN / SHAGAM

To Malcolm and Nicola a beautiful baby girl born 3 May.

Thrilled grandparents, Marc and Susan, Peter and Maryan, and great grandmother, Hermione.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

FRANK BIEDERMAN

We would like to thank family, friends, Rabbi Feldman, the Gardens Shul and organisations for the overwhelming support received on the passing of our beloved Frankie.

He was an inspiration to us and all who knew and loved him.

Maureen, Renee, Doran, Aaron and Laura Jaffe, Gary, Michelle, Sasha and Cara.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

JEFF FAINSTEIN

No words can adequately express nor convey our thanks and appreciation to our beloved family and friends for all the support, love and wishes of sympathy shown to us on the passing of our beloved Jeff.

We will always love and remember him.

Thank you from our hearts. Allen, Fainstein and Isaacs families.

CECIL KITAY

Thank you to family and friends for your support, letters and phone calls on the passing of our beloved husband, father and Oupa who passed away on 25 February.

Stella, Marcel, Barnet, Vernon and their families.

QUEENIE ZUCKER SACKS

Sincere thanks to family and friends for their support on the passing of our beloved mother, mother-in-law and granny.

The Zucker family.

BEREAVEMENTS

MENDEL DAVIDOWITZ

Passed away Saturday 5 May, in Perth, Australia.

Will be sadly missed by his wife Judith, children and grandchildren.

To place a family announcement phone Tessa 021 464-6736 (mornings)

ERRORS, OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS

The Cape Jewish Chronicle regrets any errors or omissions that may occur in the paper and, where possible, will attempt to rectify these in a subsequent issue, should such a measure be deemed appropriate. No repeat advertisement or credits will be given for small typographical errors which do not appreciably lessen the value of the advertisement. The appearance of an advertisement does not necessarily indicate approval by the Editorial Board for the product or service advertised, and it takes no responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of the reliance upon the information contained therein.

New Head of Finance for CT Jewish Community Centre

The Cape Town Jewish Community Centre welcomes Tracey Ellman as its new Head of Finance.



Tracey Ellman (centre) with Barry Levitt (Executive Director of the UJC) and Dave Robins (Chairman of the UJC).

Tracey, who is no stranger to the community, has spent the past 10 years as Financial Manager of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce. She brings with her a solid financial background and much enthusiasm to serve the community.

After dedicating 12 exceptional years to the community and its organisations,

previous Director of Finance Simon Brodovcky retired to pursue personal business interests. The directors and chairmen of the communal organisations take this opportunity to thank Simon for everything he accomplished during this time.



All members of the Cape Town Jewish community and contributors to the United Jewish Campaign are invited to the:

BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING of the UJC Campaign

Monday 4 June at 18h00
Albow Centre, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens

Guest Speaker — Dr David Klatzow

Internationally recognised forensic scientist, expert in the field of pyroforensics and an authority on blood alcohol. Author of *Steeped in Blood*.

RSVP – Jackie on 021 4646765 or jackiel@ctjc.co.za for catering purposes. Light snacks and drinks will be served



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

ALL DONATIONS TO GLENDALE ARE NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Thank you most sincerely for your continued support. Our residents are most grateful

Our well known shabbat, miniature shabbat, yartzeit candles and shabbat glass candle holders are now available from all supermarkets and at our office. Bridge cloths available at R120.

Getting married overseas? Ask your guests to donate to Glendale Home in lieu of wedding gifts. An appropriate letter will be sent to the bride and groom advising them of your donation. No amount will be disclosed for further details contact the office.

NEW!! A yahrzeit light for life, beautifully designed, uses very little electricity. R180 Available from Glendale office.

GLENDALE GREETING SERVICE

Letters can be sent to your loved ones and friends for birthdays, wedding anniversaries and chaggim or any special occasion. Make use of this service which is available world wide.

TINS: If your tin needs collecting please phone the office
10 Galway Road Heathfield PO Box 40 Bergvliet 7864
www.glendalehome.co.za email: hazel@glendalehome.co.za
tel: (021) 712-0270 fax: (021) 712-0873

Glendale activities now on you-tube: www.youtube.com search Glendale Cape Town.



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Cape Jewish Seniors Association enjoy an inspirational life story

CJSA members and friends enjoyed an uplifting evening at our Sea Point branch, where actor Jonathan Nkala performed his one-man show, telling his life story.



Susan Sherman, Jonathan Nkala and Ginny Lazarus

Members were truly humbled by his humour and lack of anger at the misfortune and bad luck that has befallen him.

He showed us that with a positive attitude and perseverance, anyone can survive and triumph. This is what brought him to where he is today!



Zac and Moira Shapiro

After his performance, guests were privileged to purchase Jonathan's beautifully-made figurines depicting his journey and success story. The evening ended with everyone enjoying a delicious bowl of soup served with bagels.

Our monthly 'lifestyle events' offer a varied and interesting programme, and are advertised on our website: www.cjsa.org.za



Union of Jewish Women



Karen Tollman and Val Bernstein preparing a pasta dish for patients at St Luke's hospice. The UJW Constantia Group makes pasta meals and soup each month for the hospice, which are distributed to homebound patients mostly in the townships.



Rabbi Eitan Ben David addressing guests at the UJW Pesach lunch.



Na'arot members Ilana Shone, Vanessa Arelisky (Chairman), Karen Kaimowitz (Co-Chairman) and Leaza Cowan sold bulkes and doughnuts at Yom Ha'atzmaut.



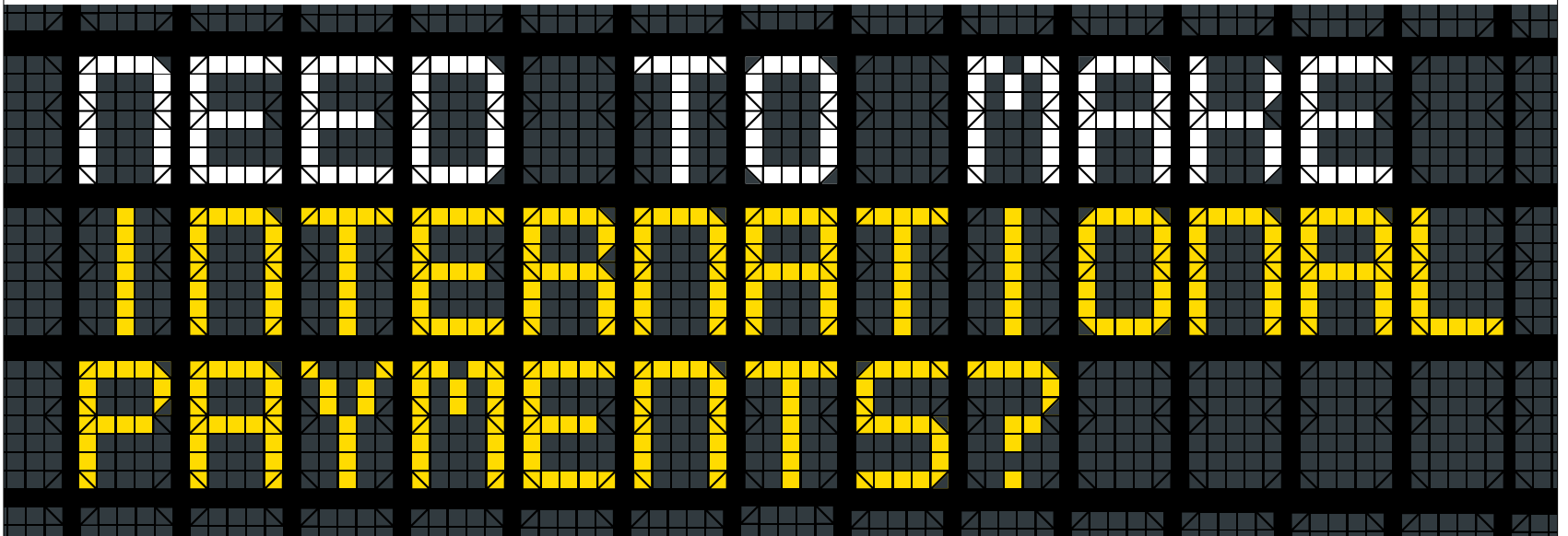
Jonathan Nkala, a refugee from Zimbabwe, gave a performance for the Constantia group at their 'Little Streams' breakfast morning.

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6 of 12 Leading International Speakers at Sinai II



Come hear about an Ogre, a Donkey and a Princess at Sinai.

David Weiss, the renowned screenwriter of some of Hollywood's biggest hits, including *Shrek 2* and *The Smurfs*, shares the story of his own religious journey and discovery of Judaism, and how he lives as a Torah Jew in Hollywood. Emmy and Academy Award nominated, Weiss has served two terms as vice-president of the *Writer's Guild of America*, and now travels around the world speaking about his experiences, and how to find meaning in today's competitive world.



Love is my Religion

Leading thinker on Jewish spirituality and kabbalah, **Rabbi David Aaron** is a best-selling author and compelling speaker. His books, including *The Secret Life of G-d*, *Inviting G-d In* and *Love is my Religion*, have attracted substantial media attention, from the likes of *Larry King Live*, and he has been praised by Kirk Douglas, Israeli Heads of State and Dr Deepak Chopra. He is the Rosh Yeshiva of Orayta in Jerusalem and is the Founder of Isralight International.

With 25 years of experience as a tenant Colonel, Dr... political and military... and explains the... Fluent in Arabic, he... is one of the leading... course of Arab c...
*He defends Israel on A



Permission to Believe

Harvard graduate **Rabbi Kelemen** is a world authority on comparative religions and the historical and philosophical arguments for the existence of G-d and the authenticity of the Torah. His books include *Permission to Believe* and *Permission to Receive*. Rabbi Kelemen is also an expert in the area of relationships and is the author of the widely acclaimed book on parenting *To Kindle a Soul*. He has worked as a downhill skiing instructor and a radio anchorman. As a lecturer at Neve Yerushalayim, Rabbi Kelemen taught over 8,000 students and he continues to lecture to university students on campuses around the world, including Oxford, Yale and Harvard.



Lori Live

Author and motivational speaker on women's issues, **Lori Palatnik**, appears weekly on her own video blog, *Lori Almost Live*, viewed by 50,000 people every month, addressing a wide range of topics including marriage, afterlife and the soul. Lori lectures on five continents, illuminating traditional practices and lifestyles for our contemporary world. As Executive Director of the *Jewish Women's Renaissance Project*, Lori has helped bring over 1,000 women to Israel since 2009, on subsidised tours and learning programs.

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experience in IDF Military Intelligence as a Lieut. **Mordechai Kedar** is a world expert on the geo-political situation in the Middle East. Kedar analyses the dynamics facing Israel: Syria, Iran, war and politics. He has made several appearances on Aljazeera and has addressed international authorities on the political dis-integration of the Middle East.

Arabic media, in Arabic.



Challenges and Limits in Parenting

Technology at Yeshiva University, **Dr David Pelcovitz** is an expert on marriage, parenting, and child and adolescent development. A trained Rabbi, Professor Pelcovitz intertwines his expertise with Torah values and insights, addressing how to keep your marriage strong, coping with troubled children of divorce. For over two decades he held positions at New York University's School of Medicine. He has published several books including *Balanced Parenting: Raising Children* (co-authored with his father) and *Parenting in a Pluralistic Society*, dealing with child abuse in the community.

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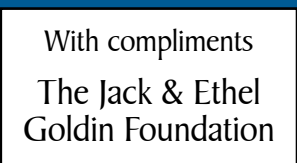
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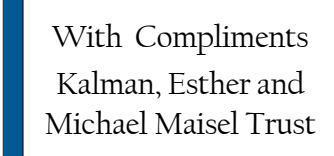
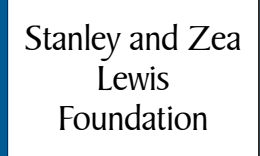
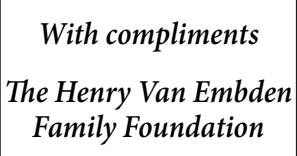
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UNION OF ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Sinai Indaba returns

The Sinai Indaba is in the words of Chief Rabbi Goldstein, "a spectacular, communal rallying point and convention that brings together Jews from across South Africa, from all backgrounds, across different levels of education, religious observance, geography, and all other barriers that divide us."

"It will unify and inspire the entire community around a shared vision for the future, which is uplifting and meaningful," he says.

This year, Sinai Indaba II will gather together twelve leading international thinkers and speakers. They come from a wide range of backgrounds — rabbinic as well as academia, the military, psychology and film — and they are being brought here in partnership with a variety of communal organisations.

They will address a diverse and fascinating array of subjects, including spirituality; marriage and parenting; Israel; creativity; and happiness, to name just a few.

"This demonstrates the wide-ranging, sweeping application of Torah — how Judaism is not only a religion in the conventional sense, but also an all-embracing system for how to think and how to live. The diversity of speakers and topics ensures that there is something for everybody; so that Sinai Indaba can fulfill its mandate of unifying South African Jews from all backgrounds.

"The Torah is the source of who we are as the Jewish people and it touches on every aspect of our lives. The Sinai Indaba, with its extraordinary scope, gives concrete and dramatic expression to this reality. It also provides a wonderful educational opportunity — to discover new insights for how to live our lives and to tap into the tremendous power of Torah wisdom," says the Chief Rabbi.

An electric atmosphere

People who attended the first Sinai Indaba spoke about the electric atmosphere and the incredible buzz that was in the air. The Sinai Indaba is far more than just an educational conference — it is a unique communal experience, a gathering and a rallying point that unleashes spirit and emotion.

In so doing, it seeks to not only affirm and reaffirm



Chief Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein with Chief Rabbi Yisrael M. Lau at the Sinai Indaba 2011.

our common values as South African Jews, but also to inspire us with a sense of our community's energy and dynamism.

The Sinai Indaba is also inspiring because it connects us to the international Jewish community. To have twelve top international Jewish speakers in Cape Town means that they have a chance to see the South African Jewish community, go back home and talk about us, which puts us on the map.

It also means that the community is connected to what is going on out there in the world and ensures that we break any potential effects of the geographical isolation of being far from centres of the Jewish world.

Chabad of Cape Town celebrates the 30th cycle of the study of Rambam at the Sephardi Shul



Rabbi Mendel Popack completes the 30th Cycle teaching the final Halacha of the fourteen volume Mishneh Torah.



Rabbi Asher Deren explains the 'Chayenu' booklet, with daily study available with subscription at Chabad.



Rabbi Reuben Suiza gives an animated description of Maimonides — the man and his time.



Dr Stan Ress discusses Maimonides' influence on the world of medicine today.



Rabbi Dovid Wineberg begins Cycle 31, teaching the first Halacha of Maimonides' Mishneh Torah.



Attorney John Zieff compares Maimonides' legal rulings with contemporary South African law.

IN AND AROUND CAPE TOWN ...



Movie night at Claremont Wynberg Shul.



Young adults having fun at the recent Venetian Mask Purim House Party in Camps Bay, organised by the Gardens Shul and ClareWyn Young Adults.



Rebbetzin Sarah Feldman with Gardens Shul batmitzvah girls on a visit to Highlands House.



'Daven e' — a chance to daven and have breakfast. This month Marais Road brought in record crowds with international guest speaker Kivi Bernhard.

Maot Chittim Appeal

Thank you to the Cape Town Jewish community for the amazingly generous support given to this appeal.

Letters are sent out to members of the Community every year requesting support for the Maot Chittim Appeal or 'Matzah Fund' as it is sometimes called.

The funds raised provide Pesach packs to needy members of the community and those in institutions.

Your kind generosity assisted those Jewish families less fortunate to celebrate a happy and Kosher Pesach.

Thank you,

Union of Orthodox Synagogues Cape (UOS) and Jewish Community Services (JCS)




Terry Locketz, Hazel Kosviner and Rebbetzin Sarah Feldman with former Miss SA Ilana Skolnik, at a talk at Gardens Shul about her journey to Judaism.




The opening of the Pick n Pay Canal Walk Kosher Section, with Rabbi Opert of the Milnerton Hebrew Congregation.



To get ready for Pesach, children made Elijah's cups at Marais Road.



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Her focus on the healing process has brought recognition from several international bodies.

She holds two Masters degrees — one from the Hebrew University and the other from Harvard.

Date:	Thursday 7 June	Friday 8 June
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Venue:	Albow Centre	Albow Centre
Cost:	R50	R50

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ARTS AND CULTURE

A survivor's story documented in Germany

By Maxine Dovere/JointMedia News Service

Leslie Schwartz, nicknamed 'Lazarus' at Auschwitz, has sparked the interest of students throughout Germany who have heard him speak of his teenage years under Nazi rule.

NEW YORK—In 2009, New York businessman Leslie Schwartz found a new vocation as teacher, educator, and role model. Now, the octogenarian is seeking a way of understanding the parts of the puzzle that is his personal history.

Schwartz has sparked the interest of students throughout Germany who have heard him speak of his teenage years under Nazi rule. On 30 April, *Bayerischer Rundfunk* (Bavarian Broadcasting), the broadcasting authority for the German Freistaat (Republic) of Bavaria, aired the story of Schwartz's personal journey as well as the path taken by six German high school students from the Franz-Marc School in Markt Schwaben, who are seeking to learn how the Nazis used the railway tracks which still pass through their city.

The documentary on Schwartz, whose title is *Lazarus*, uses a combination of interview and narrative sequences and contemporary videography style. A feature film, to be produced by German filmmaker Martin Otter, is in the works. 'Lazarus' (in Hebrew, 'Elazar', meaning 'God has helped') was Schwartz's 'nickname' in the Auschwitz concentration camp and reflects his own—and his biblical namesake's—ability to outwit death.

"I hope my parents are looking down and smiling about what their *yingele* (Yiddish for 'little one') has created," Schwartz told JointMedia News Service. "Sixty-seven years ago, even in the waning days of the war, [the Nazis] wanted to kill you. On 30 April, the German nation watched my story

on television."

Newspapers write up Schwartz's story everywhere he goes in America and Europe, and he quips that people ask him, "Who's your press agent?" His biographical book, originally written in German, has been translated into Danish and was on the best-seller list in Denmark for six weeks. The English translation is due later this year.

Searching for answers

Born in 1930 as Laszlo Schwartz, he grew up in the small Hungarian village of Baktalórántháza. In 1944, the community's Jews were sent to a ghetto and transported from there to Auschwitz, where his mother and sister were murdered soon after arrival.

Schwartz remained in Auschwitz for only 10 days. The 14-year-old, determined to stay alive, sneaked into the political prisoners' barracks and was soon transported to a sub-camp of Dachau. "When we arrived, it was heaven, like a summer camp," he says. "We had our own beds."

Initially, Schwartz's labour at the camp involved carrying 50-pound bags of cement — nearly three-fourths his own weight. Later, he says, "the commander gave me small jobs, and I was left alone much of the time."

One officer's interest probably saved Schwartz's life. "There was nobody my age [at the camp], and he called me 'Lazarus,'" Schwartz says. Another officer, known to be so cruel that other Nazis feared him, made Schwartz his manicurist.

"I used to say to myself, 'Here is this brutal man, and I am manicuring his nails,'" Schwartz says. "There were rumors that he was a homosexual, but he never touched me."

Schwartz came to New York in

1946, where he created a successful printing business. He has one son. In 2010, Schwartz returned to Germany to begin healing. He spent six months looking for the people and places that haunted his memory. He found that older Germans claimed no responsibility for the death of 6 million Jews. Some would simply walk away, others said what happened was "what Hitler did, not what I did."

To tell his story, Schwartz went to young people, particularly high school students. He was greeted as a hero in Germany. Pointing out to his audiences that he was a prisoner in Auschwitz and Dachau at their age, he says, "They identified with me as a 14-year-old kid... at one, a girls' Catholic high school, the students stood and for 10 minutes they were applauding me. My legs were shaking, it was so emotional."

Leaving a legacy

"My greatest fear was always that we would all simply disappear and that no one would ever know what happened to us," he says of Holocaust survivors. "Today, I know we have not been forgotten. After going through hell, I was blessed with so many beautiful things... It seems the younger Germans are eager to know history and are not afraid to face their ancestors' past."

Throughout the decades, Schwartz says he remembered three individuals who propelled his ability to believe in humanity and helped to "heal the wounded child within me." Amid the most unspeakable acts of cruelty, those three catalysts — all Germans — and their "small, yet powerful acts of defiance" enabled Schwartz's



Leslie Schwartz.
Credit: Maxine Dovere

survival, he says.

Agnes Riesch, a farmer's wife, gave him bread in Dachau. "I stepped out in front of her and asked if she could spare a small piece of bread," Schwartz recalls. "She looked at me with horror: I was emaciated, with bones protruding from all over my body."

Schwartz recalls that Riesch handed him a large piece of bread — "bigger than any slice I had seen in many

years — it was half of her ration of bread — a food coupon, and money... The fact that someone gave me anything was amazing... a simple miracle that forever changed me."

At Rothschaig, near Dachau, Schwartz worked at the Karlsfeld train station. Station gatekeeper Martin Fuss offered kindness, from sandwiches to conversation. Schwartz reunited with Fuss in 1972. Both men remembered.

Barbara Huber took Schwartz into her house, gave him bread with butter and what he calls "the most delicious glass of foamy milk." Though he did not learn her name for more than 60 years, he says she "never left my mind." In 2010, he found Huber's family. Through a series of newspaper stories in Germany, Schwartz met her daughter, Marianne Meier. It was the search for Huber that initiated his journey of personal discovery.

Schwartz says the "search for truth and wisdom" of the people of modern Germany is also his search for "wholeness." He tells his story "because of the brutality."

"I must leave a record of the horrible things that I witnessed," he says.

A rescuer despite himself

By Joel Rosenberg/JointMedia News Service

The Holocaust film genre has grown organically, each film developing from the one before it. The newest film in this category, *In Darkness*, departs from the traditional style by telling the story of a reluctant hero.

Although films about the Holocaust have long been well-established in popular culture (as early as 1946, Orson Welles' thriller, *The Stranger*, was among the first films to broach the subject of Nazi war crimes against Jews, and actually included striking documentary footage of concentration camps), some filmmakers have struggled over the decades to keep the subject innovative. In 1993, Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* seemed to establish a new genre of Holocaust movie, the tale of a rescuer of Jews — here, war profiteer Oskar Schindler, who undertook to shelter some 1,100 Jews as employees.

But one wonders if Spielberg's well-crafted and celebrated box office hit would have been possible without eminent Polish director Andrzej Wajda's superb 1990 film *Korczak*, which depicted Janusz Korczak (pen name of Henryk Goldszmit), renowned Polish-Jewish physician, educator, and

author, who had the opportunity to leave Poland but chose instead to accompany the children of his orphanage in their deportation to Treblinka, where he died with them in August 1942.

Clearly, 'rescuer' is a relative term, one that can include even those who fail to rescue, but the real-life events on which these films were based had a certain resonantly heroic dimension that have made Schindler and Korczak into historical icons. It is against such a background that Agnieszka Holland's film *In Darkness* can be said to break new ground. Holland, a half-Jewish Pole, is best known for her 1990 film *Europa, Europa*, the tale of a Jew who hid amongst Nazis. *In Darkness* is similarly a tale of hiding, but also the story of a real-life rescuer, Polish sewer worker and sometime burglar Leopold Socha (well-played by Polish stage actor Robert Wieckiewicz), who, in the final months of the war, hid eleven Jews in the sewers of Lvov, a city on the Polish-Ukrainian border (today the Ukrainian city of Lviv).

Rescuing himself

Of special interest about this film is precisely the unspectacular nature of the small-scale rescue it portrays, and the

improbable nature of the rescuer. Socha has no love of Jews, and initially plans to hide this group for whatever bribes he can extract from them before eventually handing them over to the Nazis. Unlike Schindler, who presumably became a rescuer after witnessing the horrific liquidation of the Kraków ghetto, Socha warms to his dangerous undertaking only gradually.

Some rescue exploits have a way of generating their own momentum and meaning, discovered one task at a time, day by day.

Each task slowly necessitates a deeper commitment to the chore, and eventually works a change in the rescuer. Socha begins to take a personal interest in his charges. When they run out of money, he continues to help them uncompensated, and when they finally emerge into the blinding daylight at the end of the war, he takes pride in what he has carried off.

It would almost seem irrelevant what



In a departure from Holocaust cinema tradition, Agnieszka Holland's film *In Darkness* paints a picture of a reluctant hero.
Credit: Slawek

sort of Jews are at the receiving end of Socha's help. They are quite ordinary — flawed, unsaintly folk whose predicaments engage our interest without occupying the core of the story. One becomes pregnant in an adulterous union, and eventually bears her offspring. Another is thrown into grief by the disappearance of her sister. Another manages to hold on to the remnant of a religious life. Two are children.

But all who survive the ordeal are remarkable for their ability to adapt to the nearly impossible realities of life in a sewer: Life underground forms a curious counterpoint to the more familiar hell above.

But the quietly metamorphosing soul of the middleman who, at his own peril, brings the Jews food is the story's real terrain. In rescuing 'his Jews,' he rescues himself. Filmmaker Holland carries this tale off without sentimentality or cliché, and thus honors the very best in cinema of the Holocaust.



Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation

CONSIDER THIS

The corners of the field — an indication of the morality of society

By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani

Twice the Torah commands the Israelite farmer to refrain from reaping the corners of his field or collect the fallen grain.

These were to be left for the poor and the stranger (Leviticus 19:9, 23:22). Leviticus 19:10 goes further and enjoins the farmer not to pick his vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes, so that the poor and the stranger may eat. Not only does this mitzvah form the basis of the story of Ruth the Moabitess that we read on Shavuot, but it also sets out the moral fibre of society.

The observance of the injunction to leave a substantial amount of produce for the indigent and disenfranchised members of society resulted in less profit for the farmer. In addition to leaving the corner crops and the gleanings for the poor, the farmer also had to feed his family and pay his workers on time (Leviticus 19:13), thus reducing his potential profit even further. Yet his moral obligations to the less fortunate and the disempowered were enshrined in *Halachah*, and to disobey would have grave consequences.

The modern farmer has no such legal obligations and I can confidently postulate that not all commercial farmers have any sense of moral obligation to sacrifice some of their profits to assist the needy of society. Indeed it is common practice, especially in Europe, for farmers to destroy any surplus yield in order to maintain the high price of food. While flooding the market with produce would lower the price of food, thereby reduce profits, the wanton destruction of excess fruit, vegetables and grain is morally abhorrent. Indeed, it contravenes the Talmudic concept of *bal tashchit* — not to destroy or waste anything that can be useful to us or others.

Healing society

If commercial farmers gave away surplus produce to millions of people world-wide who are in need of food because of poverty, war or natural disasters; they would still be able to ensure a high profit while giving the precious gift of life. Unfortunately it is far easier to simply dump excess crops into the sea or burn them. Transporting them

to those in need is far more costly and time-consuming. The mechanisation of farms and the use of scientific methods to produce higher yields should in theory put an end to hunger. But commercialisation and materialism has distanced many from the moral imperative to extend a helping hand to those who are struggling to feed and shelter themselves and their loved ones. This lack of empathy for the other applies to big business as well. The commandment *Lo te-chaleh pe-at sadecha liktzor ve-leket ke-tzircha lo telaket* (When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest) does not only apply to the farmer. One can extend this mitzvah to the corporate world and to the small shopkeeper. All companies should set aside a certain amount of profit for poor relief; and more wholesale and retail establishments should make monetary or material contributions to charitable organisations. Even individual households can fulfil the mitzvah of *Lo te-chaleh pe-at sadecha* by giving unwanted utensils, old clothes and left over food to those in need.

If commercial and corporate enterprises devoted time, money and resources to uplift the societies in which they operate, the benefits would be immense for all concerned. A healthy regard for the plight of others would raise the moral fibre of society. Every stomach that is filled, every family that is sheltered, every individual that is made to feel worthy leads us closer to a morally wholesome society. Fewer people would resort to crime from resentment or necessity, fewer violations of human dignity would take place, and society would value the preciousness of all human life.

I am not suggesting that active involvement to alleviate the plight of the poor and the disenfranchised by corporate and commercial business is a panacea for the ills of society, but the re-evaluation and re-interpretation of the mitzvah not to reap the corners of one's field would go a long way towards repairing society.



Super Shabbat a resounding success

Temple Israel launched its new Super Shabbat programme on 21 April.

Super Shabbat offered a choice of shiurim, followed by a choice of two Shacharit services — one in the main sanctuary and one for families.

Not many shuls can claim to have two full services on a Saturday morning! In addition, there was a fantastic kids' programme with cheder teachers and Netzer supplying the ruach.



Gabriel Jacobson and Micah Tanchel at the children's service.



Rabbi Greg leads the packed house in the Shabbat morning service.

Green Point launches Friday Night children's programme

It all started with a monthly Shabbat Magic. Now, Green Point parents can daven every Friday night with the knowledge that their children are being looked after by our madrichim.



Family fun at Lag Ba'Omer

Family and friends met on Wednesday 9 May for our annual bonfire to commemorate Lag Ba'Omer.

After stories from the rabbis and songs led by Netzer, the community enjoyed

a supper of hot dogs and potatoes. This was followed by a dessert of braided marshmallows.

Thanks to all who contributed to a wonderful evening!



SACRED launch YouTube video on women's rights

SACRED (the South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity) provides a progressive Jewish voice on relevant social, moral, ethical and religious issues in South Africa.

The organisation was initiated by the Progressive movement and aims to counteract religious discrimination in all its forms.

SACRED recently produced this clip on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAJ3E-CKtq4, which discusses the exclusion of women from secular

services such as Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom HaShoah. The issue has received extensive coverage in overseas publications such as *The Jerusalem Post* and *Ha'aretz*.

We congratulate SACRED on their excellent work and look forward to many more successful initiatives from them. Please sign up on their website www.sacred.org.za or 'like' their Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/SACRED/323350504398414 page if you are interested in being part of their campaigns.

See page 6 for more information.

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HERZLIA IN FOCUS

WEIZMANN

Smiles for South Africa

On a recent trip to Florida, Zoe Ashberg went to her old school and initiated a project called 'Smiles for South Africa', where she collected items for good dental care for those in need.

She went to dentist offices in Florida, and managed to accumulate about 900 toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss that she brought back to South Africa.

With the help of John Maytham of Cape Talk, Zoe approached an organisation called 'Home from Home', which provides foster care for orphaned, abused and neglected children, and donated the items to them.

Meanwhile, with her friends in America still collecting; Zoe hopes to have another 1000 toothbrushes later this year to give to another worthy charity. This is a wonderful project and we are very proud of you, Zoe!



Zoe with some of her 900 toothbrushes.

Grade 3 outing to Kirstenbosch

Last week the Grade 3s went to Kirstenbosch to learn about plants and flowers. We went on a Braille Trail with blind folds on and we learnt about all different kinds of flowers like Buchus, Proteas, Pelargoniums, Whitecarpets and Ericas. Later on we got into groups to draw the same flower and my group drew daisies. I also learnt that indigenous plants need less water." *Jessica Kaplan*



Benjamin Sulcas, Jarren Bacher, Carly Reznik and Julia Peters study the Protea.

Creating electrical circuits



Max Russak, Justin Lazarus and Ryan Kaplan.

The grade 6s have been learning about electricity, and created their own electrical circuits from batteries, globes and wire.

HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

Exploring the Olympics!



Ariel Katz, Michael Whistler and Josh Eisenstein with their projects.

The Grade 6 electricity project theme was the Olympics. Each pupil researched, designed and created a project that linked to the 2012 Olympic Games. The range of projects, from an Olympic stadium to a typical London bus, showed fantastic creativity and the technological process in action.

Celebrating Pesach



Ashley Harcombe and Jessica Bernstein enjoying the Upper Primary Seder.

Egyptian artifacts



The grade 5s made models of ancient Egyptian artifacts for their history lessons. Here, Jesse Hautman, Michelle Georgieva, Sarah Orkin and Rosa Kahanowitz exhibit their artifacts.

JIPSY ROAD TRIP



Byron Lowenstein, Stacy Mosselson, Deon de Jager (driver), Monique Maron, Kelsey Skop, Peter Joseph (driver), Devorah Salmonson, Samara Horwitz, Lee Gelb, Lara Osrin, Greg Gelb (JIPSY team), Josh Gavronsky (Head of JIPSY) and Yosef Vardakis (JIPSY team) with an elephant in Plettenberg Bay.

Seven high school pupils and the JIPSY team participated in the annual JIPSY Road Trip.

They travelled from Mossel Bay to Port Elizabeth to visit and learn about the different communities on the Garden Route. In PE they celebrated Shabbat with Rabbi Bloch and his community, where they taught the Parsha at the children's service and participated in discussions. On the Sunday they went to Oudtshoorn and attended a Mincha service. From learning about Judaism to the communities to animal conservation, this was a road trip to remember!

PESACH AT THE PRE-PRIMARIES

The Pre-Primaries all learnt about Pesach in different ways. Alon Ashel children made matza, pressed grapes for wine, made their own haggadot and dramatised the story of Pesach.

Special seders were enjoyed by all and at the end of the chag the teachers felt that their role of teaching the story of Pesach to the next generation was off to a good start.



Gabriel Durrant and Mia Sacks (Grade R) from Alon Ashel proudly display the Seder plate.



Sarah Bloch playgroup children learnt about Pesach through stories, songs, drama and art. Ava Varkel and Billie Gootkin found baby Moses in the bulrushes, with Zara Cohen looking on.



Kerem Grade R children with Raymond and Wendy Ackerman at the Chabad Matza bake.



Cousins Ryan McLea, Daniel Diamond-Rittas, Gabriela Kessler and Jayden Allen enjoying themselves at the Dafna seder.

HIGH SCHOOL

Interact mural painting at Ellerton



Interact members with teacher in-charge Haidee Johannes and Ellerton pupils in front of the mural.

The Herzlia Interact Club spent a glorious day at Ellerton Primary School in Sea Point, painting a garden mural on the wall of the school's library. Interact members were joined by Grade 7s from Ellerton.

The grand opening of the wall was in

April, when the Rotary Club of Sea Point donated books to the library.

We hope the magical mural will inspire Ellerton pupils to explore the world of books!

Miranda Kantor, Interact president

A hole-in-one at the Golf Tour 2012

Ten players and two teachers recently went on the annual golf tour of the Southern Cape. They played at Kingswood Country Club, Simola Country Estate, Oubaai Golf Estate and Pinnacle Point. The team exceeded expectations and played excellent golf. Our hosting golf clubs also praised their golf etiquette and the behaviour of the boys. The highlight of the tour was a hole-in-one by team captain, Brandon Joffe. He accomplished this rare feat at the picturesque 17th hole at Oubaai Golf Estate.



Back: Daniel Fine, Benjy Lewis and Levi Todes. Seated: Ignatius Herwells (teacher in-charge), Brandon Joffe, Adam Casper, Joshua Buchalter, Steven Fine and Ben Rubin. Front: Adam Alhadeff and Jess Spiro. Cindy Thomas, Head of Sport, also attended.

Sailing together 2012



Jasmine Waynik sailing in Table Bay under the watchful eye of Bertie Phillips.

The South African Jewish Maritime League invited Herzlia to participate in its sailing programme together with pupils from disadvantaged communities. At the end of the course five candidates will be selected to participate in a trip to Israel where they will go to Sea Scouts summer camp in July at Akko Nautical College.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Technology and entertainment at the Seders!

The Grade 7 and 8 Seder was run by JIPSY and had technology as its theme. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the morning and we thank JIPSY for their input and involvement.

The Grade 9s had a special picnic-themed Seder evening of entertainment organised by the Judaica Committee. The hall was filled with the



Gina Kempen, Storme Eberlin, Sidne Barnett, Jessica Miller, Liat Latinsky and Sara-Jo Bagg.

sounds of wonderful ruach and the aromas of a delicious traditional meal.

Mathematics news



St John Grimbley (gr. 8) and Joey Forman (gr. 7) have both qualified to represent Town at the 2012 International Mathematics Contests in Hong Kong and Taiwan respectively.

Breede River Camp

Take 1000kg of kids, 150kg of teachers, 5000kg of overland bus and 2000kg of luggage! Stir it in with some Breede River water. Leave on medium heat for 3 days. Enjoy whilst barefoot and carefree!

That was the recipe for the Grade 9 trip down the Breede River. Highlights included falling out of the 'crocs', splashing battles, the 'nappy run', soccer, the high ropes, spotting two puff adders, being with our friends, and no maths! Lowlights included sore arms, sore legs, sore shoulders, sore necks, no bites (whilst fishing), bites (whilst sleeping) and getting drenched within two minutes of paddling! All too soon it was over and we were headed back to school.

Student of the Term

The following pupils received Student of the Term Certificates at the end of term:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 7A – Aviva Phillips | 8A – Daniel Zuckerman | 9A – Adina Zieff |
| 7B – Dale Shargey | 8B – Jonathan Mayekiso | 9B – Josh Goldberg |
| 7C – Shaun Sagor | 8C – Teagan Levin | 9C – Kira Stone |
| 7D – Gregory Furman | 8D – David-Philip Dirks | 9D – Michaela Franco |
| 7E – Jaron Cohen | 8E – Storme Eberlin | 9E – James Russak |

CONSTANTIA

Yom Hashoah commemoration



Sam Pogrud, Dalya Zimmler, Adam Davimes, Zoe Amato, Simona Stone, Jaidon Sherman and Jamie Joffe (Gr. 6) ran our Yom Hashoah ceremony.

My Seder senses



Doron Sumeruk

The sight of the matzah being broken in two for the afikomen
The sound of the prayers being said by the rabbi

The taste of the maror burning the back of my mouth

The feel of the wine cup while you hold it in the air

The smell of the chicken soup cooking in the pot

THESE ARE MY SEDER SENSES
Doron Sumeruk, Grade 3A

Paul takes on Garry Kasparov



Paul Gluckman

The chess team went to Khayelitsha to watch the World Chess Grande Master Garry Kasparov play, and to support Paul Gluckman (gr. 4), who as one of 26 chess champions who played simultaneously against him!



Your essential guide to Limmud 2012

With just over two months to go till Limmud Cape Town's annual conference, here's the information that you need to know.

What is the Limmud Conference? A weekend carnival of Jewish learning. A festival of the mind and spirit. A chance to open your mind to new ideas, concepts, voices, community. An opportunity not to be missed.

Date: 10 — 12 August

Location: Protea Technopark, Stellenbosch

Prices: Take advantage of our early-bird specials!

Adults (sharing): May — R1590; June — R1690; July/August — R1790

Adult (single) — extremely limited: R3050

Kids: 0-5 years — FREE; 6-12 years — R510;

Scholars (13-18 years): May — R670; June — August — R775

In-conference volunteers (18-32 years): May — R670; June — Aug — R775 (To qualify for this price, you must commit to 6 hours of in-conference volunteering. More about this on application.)

Sunday (day visitor): R480

All prices include accommodation, food, and sessions from some of the best local, national and international presenters around. On the topic of presenters, these are just some of the exciting international presenters who'll be at the Cape Town Conference:

Vanessa Hidary: AKA 'The Hebrew Mamita'. A native New Yorker actress, performer, writer, director and Jewish slam poetess.

Barry Rubin: Acclaimed Israel analyst and professor at the Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC) in Israel.

Gabby Dagan: Progressive rabbi and musician, with a speciality in Sinaitic revelation in rabbinic literature, in the Middle Ages and modernity, as well as the use of music in congregational life.

Shmuel Klitsner: Scholar, educator and author of 'Wrestling Jacob', an acclaimed psychological literary analysis of Genesis.

Judy Klitsner: Popular international speaker, writer, scholar and teacher extraordinaire.

Amos Goldberg: Senior Holocaust scholar from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with research focuses on issues of trauma, testimony and memory, during and after the Holocaust, in Israel and globally.

We're constantly adding to our list of international and national presenters. Visit our website (www.limmud.org.za) regularly to get up-to-the-minute information.

How to book: Register through our website at:

www.limmud.org.za/limmud-cape-town/cape-town-registration

To present at Limmud email amanda@limmud.org.za; to get involved, email gabi@limmud.org.za

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LimmudSA and Twitter @LimmudSA.

Nechama



A Nechama counsellor's perspective

By Maureen Sacher

'No matter where I am or what my world looks like in the future, I know that my family is my power source, my spiritual life and the rudder that gives my life direction.'

Having quoted this, it is essential for me to say that my 19-year association with Nechama, has and continues to have a very important and gratifying impact on my life. This time has mainly been as a counsellor, but also as the office administrator for three years.

Sadly, the emigration of families from South Africa has provided Nechama with many clients, who, ordinarily, might have received the support they needed at the time of bereavements from their immediate families. Regrettably, these families arrive for the final days of the patient's life, are present for the funeral, the prayers and the hurried tombstone consecration.

They then have to return to Australia, Canada, Israel, the UK or America; so what happens to the bereaved relative left alone in Cape Town? And what happens to the other members of our community who have no one to whom they can turn in their grief and sorrow? This is Nechama's role.

Giving back to others

As an experienced counsellor, I have been privy to the most heartbreaking stories of

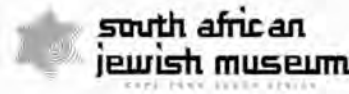
loss one could ever imagine; not only the loss of a beloved parent, spouse or sibling; but also loss through suicide and the utterly devastating loss of a child and on some occasions, the loss of an only child.

Many a time I have returned home after a session with a client, which, obviously, is totally confidential, and my husband has noticed that I am crying and extremely distressed. In an attempt to comfort me, his response is: If this

upsets you so much, why do you do it? My reply is always: The day I stop feeling for my clients, is the day I will stop doing this work.

Being part of the greater Nechama family has given me a wonderful sense of belonging. From the management committee, to the office administrators, the professionals, the supervisors and colleagues, I receive ongoing support, which helps me contribute what I consider to be something valuable to the Jewish community, which means so much to me.

For as long as I have the emotional strength to continue doing work of comforting the bereaved, I will give of my best. Despite the sadness I often feel, there is also a tremendous sense of gratification in knowing that I am able to 'give back' the best that I can.



Meeting the man behind the museum

Gavin Morris was recently appointed the new director of the South African Jewish Museum. We sat down with him to find out more about him and his vision for the museum.

Tell us a bit about your background:

I grew up in Bloemfontein, which at the time had a small but vibrant Jewish community. After a gap year in Israel with Habonim, I enrolled at UCT and graduated with a BA degree in History and Jewish Civilization. After graduating I worked as a producer in the film and advertising industry for 12 years including five years in the UK.

In 2007 I enrolled for an MBA at UCT, and thereafter worked in marketing. Immediately prior to my starting at the SAJM, I was working for Stellenbosch University marketing their business school. Being at the SAJM though has brought me full circle, back to my interests and personal roots. It's great to be here and to have an active role to play within the community.

For those who have not visited the museum before, why do you think they should visit, and what exciting features can they expect to see?

The SAJM is a fantastic resource and experience; and provides a narrative of the South African Jewish experience. In fact, the museum incorporates the very first shul established in South Africa. It tells our community's story — 'from Shtetl to Sandton' — and everything in between.

The museum is based on three main themes: Memory, Reality and Dreams. These are reflected in the journey visitors take as they pass through the exhibits. The museum has a rich variety of media, including interactive displays, archival film, scale models, memorabilia and the like. My personal favourite aspect is the to-scale replica of shtetl life.

The museum is also home to the Isaac Kaplan Collection of *netsuke* (miniature Japanese sculpture). This is one of the finest private collections of *netsuke* in the world. It's a real treat for those interested in Japanese art and history. We have visitors, local and foreign, who come specifically to see this collection.

The Museum building itself is as much an attraction as the contents inside. Finished in Jerusalem stone, the museum is a synthesis of the old and new, assimilating the historic Old Synagogue into a thoroughly modern building with its iconic circular staircase as the centrepiece. The museum won the Cape Institute of Architects Award in 2001.

Tell us about current and future exhibitions at the museum:

The museum also runs temporary exhibitions focussing on a particular person, place or time that resonates with the museum's themes. We're currently hosting an exhibition of the works of Herman Wald (www.hermanwaldexhibition.com). Many South African Jews will recognise some of his work, such as the *Monument to the Six Million*, which stands in West Park Cemetery. This is the first comprehensive



Gavin Morris

exhibition of Wald's work, a posthumous acknowledgement of a man who did not receive the recognition he rightfully deserved when alive.

I'm also very excited about our next exhibition, starting in November, which will be about the Jews of District Six. I think it is safe to assume that almost every Jew in South Africa can trace some part of their family history back to the District Six era. I am really looking forward to it as I expect each visitor will have some family anecdote and/or recollection relating to material covered by the exhibition.

What are your goals for the museum?

My immediate goal for the museum is to raise its profile in both the South African Jewish community and in wider society. I also plan to broaden the educational outreach of the museum to communities who have a very limited interaction and understanding of Jews and Judaism.

There is large amount of ignorance about our religion, about the Jews in South Africa and, of course, about Zionism. The museum must play an active role in addressing these shortcomings in our society.

Finally, I hope to make the museum accessible to all Jews with South African roots by expanding the footprint of the museum beyond its four walls via travelling exhibitions and a establishing a comprehensive online resource of South African Jewish history.

How can community members get more involved in the museum, or assist the museum?

I'm glad you asked that. We have a group of very dedicated volunteer guides who have been with the museum since its inception. It is an intensely rewarding experience to be sharing your culture and history with others. In fact I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested in becoming a guide, to contact the museum.

We also have the Friends of the Museum initiative that community members can join. This has a nominal annual charge, but allows for free entry to the museum, invitations to exhibition openings, special tours, and a variety of other offerings.

Community members wanting to be kept updated on the museum's activities can also register on our database by emailing Natacha@SAJewishmuseum.co.za.

South African Jewish Museum 88 Hatfield Street Cape Town
Telephone: +21-465-1546 Email: info@sajewishmuseum.co.za
The museum caters for group tours by prior arrangement

Museum hours: Sun to Thurs: 10:00am – 5:00pm Fri: 10:00am – 2:00pm
Closed on Jewish Holidays Open on Public Holidays

Admission Fee: Adults: R40 S.A. Pensioners: R25 Students: R25
Children under 16 years of age: Free

JACOB GITLIN LIBRARY

ALBOW CENTRE PHONE: 021 462-5088 FAX: 021 465-8670 EMAIL: GTILIB2@NETACTIVE.CO.ZA.

FICTION

LISPECTOR, Clarice. **The hour of the star.** The protagonist of this story is a typist who lives in the slums of Rio de Janeiro — sickly, underfed, unloved, ugly and anonymous. But there is a magic about her that becomes emblematic of her time and place.

BRAFF, Joshua. **The unthinkable thoughts of Jacob Green.** A hilarious yet wistful story of a boy who is unable to stand up to the world around him, captured with sensitivity in a contemporary style.

HOFFMAN Wayne **Sweet Like Sugar.** With eloquence and wit, Wayne Hoffman explores the unlikely camaraderie between a young Jewish man and an Orthodox rabbi, in this rich, insightful novel about love, honesty, faith, and belonging.

CARNER Talia, **Jerusalem Maiden.** In the waning days of the Ottoman Empire, a young Orthodox Jewish woman in Jerusalem is expected to marry and produce sons to help hasten the Messiah's arrival. While the feisty Esther Kaminsky understands her obligations, her artistic talent inspires her to secretly explore worlds outside her religion, to dream of studying in Paris — and to believe that God has a special destiny for her. When tragedy strikes her family, Esther views it as a warning from an angry God and suppresses her desires in order to become an obedient 'Jerusalem maiden'.

JlJl Jessica, **Sweet Dates in Basra.** In this Iraq of the 1940s, a time of rich traditions and converging worlds, Kathmiya meets Shafiq, a Jewish boy whose brotherhood with his Muslim neighbour Omar proves that religion is no barrier to friendship. But in a world where loss of honour is punishable by death, the closeness that grows between Kathmiya and Shafiq becomes dangerous as a doomed love takes root. When British warplanes begin bombing Iraq and the country's long-simmering tensions explode, the power of an unbreakable boyhood bond and a transcendent love must overcome the deepening fractures of a collapsing society.

ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

FUKSMAN, Sha'al Moshe. **The Camp David Accords.** A collection of scholarly articles analysing the significance of these talks, which represented a turning point in the history of the Middle East.

SPENCER, Robert (Ed.). **The Myth of Islamic Tolerance: How Islamic law treats non-Muslims.** Essays explaining how the legally mandated subjugation of non-Muslims under Islamic law stems from the concept of Jihad and spills over to the United Nations and academic discourse.

JUDAISM AND THE BIBLE

SACHS ZION, Noam and Shawn FIELDS-MEYER. **A Day Apart: Shabbat at Home.** A beautiful guide with blessings and songs, rituals and reflections; with exquisite pictures ranging from the old masters to contemporary photographs and drawings.

KIRSCH, Jonathan. **A history of the end of the world: How the most controversial book in the Bible changed the course of Western civilisation.** Written with authority and insight, this book examines the effect that the Book of Revelation had on the collective psyche of western civilisation.

THE HOLOCAUST AND HISTORY

LONGERICH, Peter. **Holocaust: The Nazi persecution and murder of the Jews.** Due to the opening of the Eastern European archives, this book is based on a vast amount of new documentation and historiography.

ROBBINS, Trina. **Lily Renée, escape artist: from Holocaust survivor to comic book pioneer.** This graphic biography tells the tale of an artist's happy childhood in Vienna to her flight from the Nazis to England; and her subsequent years in New York where she became a artist and pioneer of comic books.

BIOGRAPHY

RUBIN, Susan Goldman. **Music was It: Young Leonard Bernstein.** This engaging biography, enriched with visual material, follows Bernstein's life from child prodigy to conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and composer of the immortal *West Side Story* — conveying his genius, energy, passion and originality.

HELMAN, ETHEL. **An Autumn Life: How a surgeon faced his fatal illness.** A South African surgeon and cancer specialist is himself diagnosed with the dreaded disease. This book, lovingly written by his wife, recounts the recordings made during his illness, containing his insights and reflections, which have a positive, encouraging and enriching effect on the reader.

HEBREW FICTION

ESHKOL, Nevo. **Neuland** (publ. 2011).

GROSSMAN, David. **Sleeping on a Wire** (publ. 1992)

JONASSON, Jonas. **The centenarian who climbed out the window and disappeared** (2011).

SEDLER, Jan-Philipp. **The Artist of Hearing Heartbeats** ('Das Herzenhören') (publ. 2011)

WILLIAMS, John. **Stoner** (publ. 2011)

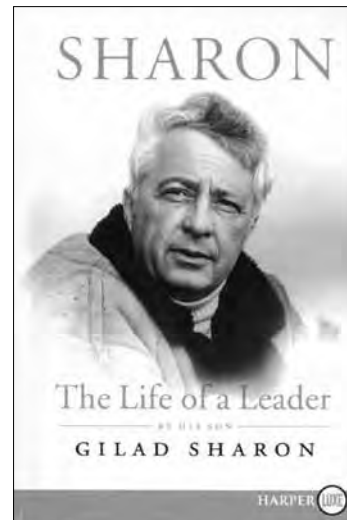
BOOK OF THE MONTH

Sharon, the Life of a Leader

By Gilad Sharon

This most special biography by the son and confidant of the revered soldier and statesman of Israel is based on a wealth of original documents.

Ariel Sharon's central role in major political events over sixty years unfolds with unique clarity, and his personal perceptions and insights mingle with the global political scene. Finely illustrated with new photographs, the lively text conveys the perception of meeting Ariel Sharon in person.



DVDs

Adolf Eichmann: The Secret Memoirs (Documentary, 2009).

For your Consideration (Comedy, 2006).

Swimming in Auschwitz (2007).

Wristcutters: A Love Story (Winner of the Philadelphia Film Festival 2006).

Kissing Jessica Stein (Romantic comedy, 2002).

Sarah's Key (Drama, 2010).

THANK YOU

A warm word of thanks to all who attended the Gitlin Library functions during the last month.

The documentary SWIMMING IN AUSCHWITZ on the eve of Yom Hashoah, introduced by Richard Freedman and Miriam Lichterman, was a memorable and very moving event. The DVD is available at the library.

The Machal film MY BROTHER'S KEEPER, watched prior to Yom Ha'atzmaut, recorded the 60 years' celebration of Israel's War of Independence. Thank you for enriching the experience with your participation.

We are most grateful for your generous support of our annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration book sale.

WISH LIST

Mueller Melissa, Reinhard Piechocki	Alice's Piano — The Life of Alice Herz-Sommer	R 249.00
Rashba, Gary L.	Holy Wars — 3000 Years of Battles in the Holy Land	R 249.00
Lister, David	Die Hard, Aby! — Abraham Bevistein — The Boy Soldier Shot to Encourage The Others	R 279.00
Sarna Jonathan D.	When General Grant Expelled the Jews	R 214.00
Keilson, Hans	The Death of the Adversary	R118.00

The Gitlin Goes 

FREE wireless connection to the internet is now available at the library



For more information and frequent updates, follow us on Facebook: Jacob Gitlin Library

STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN

Sunday 3 June and Sunday 1 July

STORIES, CRAFTS, GAMES, PRIZES

11:00am — 12:30pm Leon Wilder Boardroom, Albow Centre

Ages 3 — 9 Great family fun for free!

Kindly RSVP: Tel. 021 462 5088 e-mail: gitlib3@netactive.co.za



ORT SA Cape: Providing excellence in education

ORT is delighted to be given the opportunity to assist Western Cape educators, who in turn influence our youngest learners.

This process will give children the building blocks they so badly require to have a successful school career, which should result in an overall improvement of the quality of the education process in South Africa.

ORT SA Cape (incorporating ORT-Tech) would like to thank Protea Hotels and three private foundations that have generous donations that have enabled ORT SA Cape to launch our highly successful Grade R Teacher Training Programme.

This course is being run for 35 practitioners in the Mitchells Plain area and a further 20 educators in the rural Stellenbosch District. 140 educators completed the programme over the last two years, and with the additional 55 teachers this year, ORT SA Cape will annually reach 7800 children at the Grade R level — a remarkable achievement!

Excelling despite challenges

ORTSA Cape is proud to offer this wonderful opportunity to Grade R educators, who will receive critical training and support for technology and science, integrated in all the subjects of the Foundation Phase (ages 6 to 11 years).

In addition, a new numeracy programme in Stellenbosch will be rolled out. The



Perceptual skills in action: 6 year olds using Lego at an ORT holiday workshop.

training sessions will address the content and assessment standards through practical hands-on learning activities that can be implemented in the Grade R classroom. A new component on perceptual skills, so crucial for early learning, has been added to both courses. This has been made possible by kind donations of kits and materials by the Lego Foundation.

On completion, educators will be accredited through Boland College with 15 Seta Credits towards the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 5.

Please help ORT SA Cape to make a difference in the lives of children who have the ability to excel even with all the challenges they face on a day-to-day basis.

See our website for more info: www.orttech.org.za

Where are they now?

Members of the Cape Town Jewish community have been dispersed across the world, succeeding in numerous fields in various countries. In an effort to reconnect them to the community, and to track their many 'success stories', we have asked these expats to tell us about their lives, families and achievements. Each month, we will feature a different interview.

Name:

Ivor Kosowitz

Tell us about what you have been doing over the last 5 — 10 years:

I run an IT Software training and business application development company. We specialise in Microsoft Office and Project. This business, Fast Track Computer Solutions, has been going since 1987! I also sing in the Perth Jewish Male Voice Choir.

Where are you living, and why have you chosen to live there?

We live in Perth. The lifestyle here is very similar to Cape Town, only much hotter and with no mountain.

What are the best aspects about where you live?

It has a slower pace of life than most other capital cities. We have a strong and warm Jewish community, many from Cape Town and Joburg. So we have transposed living in Cape Town to Perth.

What are the most challenging aspects?

Distance. Perth is the most isolated capital city in the world.

What are some of your achievements?

My business has won 'Best Home-Based Business' Awards in 2004 and 2008. Our software solutions are used in



Ivor (far right) with his wife Paula (far left) and children Simon, Suzanne and Mark at Simon's wedding on Kibbutz Tzora in December 2010.

most Australian major cities, and in New Zealand.

Tell us about your family:

My wife Paula is originally from Nottingham, England. We have three kids — one son is married to an Israeli. He just graduated as a pharmacist. My other son has studied Drafting. Our daughter just graduated in Music Composition

What would you like to say to the Cape Town Jewish community?

I am truly grateful for the wonderful Jewish upbringing I had in Cape Town. I have such wonderful memories, including Herzlia School, Habonim, the Schoonder Street. Shul choir and more.

Anything else you would like to add?

Please read two articles that I wrote a few years ago about the Schoonder Street and Vredehoek Shuls. They can be found on the internet.

To take part in 'Where are they now?' please email the Chronicle at editor@ctjc.co.za to ask for a questionnaire.

astra Astra Centre's Annual Picnic

Staff, committee members, workers and their families enjoyed our traditional annual picnic and braai in May.

The weather was perfect, the food grilled to perfection and the entertainment was magical!



A perfect picnic day — sunshine, swimming, socialising and eating!



Master Braaiers: Back: Paul Kaplan, Harold Jossman and Ivan Katzenellenbogen. Front: Leonard Sank, Dale Barlin, Evan Samuels, Allan Groll and Raymond Klitzner.

Chaiyanu girls visit Astra

Chaiyanu/Chai Lifeline in Israel brought a group of children suffering from serious illnesses on holiday to Cape Town.

The children enjoyed time away from hospital and treatments, while their families back home had a much needed 'break'.

The group enjoyed lunch at Coffee Time and a tour of the Centre amongst other activities. Accompanied by their amazing, dedicated volunteers, the girls had a wonderful time, singing and dancing with the Astra workers — clearly one of the highlights of their trip.



Children from Chaiyanu.



An understanding of the Children's Act

Jewish Community Services Cape is a statutory agency and as such delivers services indicated in terms of the various Acts and regulations.

This article focuses on the Children's Act 38 of 2005, which guides our practice in caring for and protecting vulnerable children from the ages 0 — 18.

The objects of the Children's Act include:

1. To promote the preservation and strengthening of families.
2. To give effect to the full constitutional rights of children which include:
 - 2.1 Family care or parental care or appropriate alternative care if so indicated.
 - 2.2 Protection for maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.
 - 2.3 That the best interests of the child are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.
3. To make provision for structure and services for promoting and monitoring the sound physical, psychological, intellectual, emotional and social development of children.
4. To strengthen and develop structures that can assist in promoting the care and protection for children.
5. To provide care and protection for children.
6. To recognise the special needs that children with disabilities may have.

Jewish Community Services focuses on early intervention services to vulnerable

children and their parents, in an attempt to prevent statutory intervention and the removal of vulnerable children.

We always consider what serves the best interest of the children concerned. However, there are times, when after careful assessment of the child's circumstances, and risk factors that negatively impact on the child's wellbeing; that statutory intervention needs to be instituted.

Statutory intervention could involve the opening of a Children's Court Inquiry proceedings to enable the social worker to investigate the situation when the parents are uncooperative. This does not necessarily indicate the removal of the children concerned from parental care.

There are occasions when the risk to the child is so great, that the statutory removal to a place of safety is indicated pending further investigation and finalisation of the Children's Court Inquiry proceedings.

The Children's Act makes provision for any person concerned about a child's wellbeing to approach the Children's Court by completing the necessary documentation. The aim of the latter is for the Presiding Officer to provide guidance and direction and if so indicated, in the child's best interest refer the matter to our office to conduct the prescribed investigation.

It must be noted that in some incidences pressure is put on this organisation to remove children from their parental care. Jewish Community Services, at all times, aims to preserve family life.



The Hagshama Chilla Lounge

The Hagshama 'Chilla Lounge' was part of the community's Yom Ha'atzmaut event on 25 April.

Great entertainment was provided by magician and 'mentalist' Larry Soffer who had the crowd in awe. DJ Ma'or Harris played Middle Eastern Balkanology beats, which were enjoyed by the younger and older generations!

Delicious 'Chilla' drinks were served and enjoyed, and we want to thank Daniel Levitt for sponsoring the Chilla drinks and Illy for supplying the machine.

The hall was magnificently laid out with great décor perfectly for this celebratory day. Huge Magen Davids lit up in lights



Bright and beautiful décor at the Chilla Lounge.

provided a great atmosphere and paid tribute to Israel's independence. Thank you to all involved and for all that attended who made this event so special!



The crowd enjoying the Larry Soffer show.



NETZER

Celebrations and commemorations

In Jewish communities all over the world, April was incredibly busy, full of ceremonies and festivities — some joyful and others sombre.

Each event has its purpose and its place, and the Jewish people would not be who we are today if it weren't for our rich history, which is often tragic, but is just as often triumphant.

Yom Ha'atzmaut was a blast, as usual. With candyfloss from head to toe, we spent the night dancing, laughing, chatting, and generally celebrating Israel's Independence Day in true Netzer style.

Every Yom Ha'atzmaut there is a youth 'parade', where the different movements all march together to show their pride and love for Israel. Netzer was extremely proud to make up one of the larger contingents in this parade. All in all, I am sure I speak for everyone when I say that Yom Ha'atzmaut was a huge success, and we thank the organisers for throwing yet another fantastic celebration of the birth of the state of Israel.

Of course, we cannot look past the other two incredibly important days, Yom HaShoah and Yom Hazikaron. We would like to commend the SAZF Youth Council for hosting such beautiful, poignant and moving ceremony. It really made us think, and certainly made those present appreciate the true sacrifice of Israeli



Marni Riese, Nina Hoffman and Sofia Zway at the Netzer stall at Yom Ha'atzmaut.

soldiers, who fight to defend the land of Israel. It was a very stirring and thought-provoking ceremony, and once again, we thank the organisers for their efforts.

And last, but certainly not least, Yom Hashoah must be addressed. The message and lessons from the Holocaust were prominent on the day. From the community's ceremony to thoughts shared on Facebook, everyone was aware of the commemoration's significance.

At our Netzer meeting, we discussed the importance of Yom Hashoah, and spoke about what it means to each of us, on a personal and communal level. We do this in the hope that the lessons learnt will never be forgotten, and that history will never repeat itself.

We at Netzer hope you had a moving and meaningful month, and we look forward to an exciting and busy time ahead.

Nina Hoffman



BNEI AKIVA

Busy and buzzing at Bnei Akiva

There has been a lot happening in Bnei Akiva recently, with Friday night dinners, activities, events and a lot more.

The Cake Boss activity that Gurim had last month was a huge success with lots of delicious cakes! We were divided into teams and had to make cakes to do with the theme, which was cities. It was focused around Israel as the time was between Pesach (leaving Egypt) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (establishing our own state). There were cakes of Tel Aviv, Eilat, Jerusalem and the cake that won was of the splitting of the Red Sea.

On 4 May we had an awesome Shabbat with Rabbi Sam and Aviva Thurgood. Rav Sam and Aviva were both involved in the movement as madrichim. Rav Sam is currently the youth rabbi in Durban and the Jewish Studies teacher at Crawford there.

On Sunday the 6 May we had an ice skating event for grades 7 — 10. It was a lot of fun and everyone skated like champions. This is our fourth Middle School event of the year and we look forward to many more!

The Gurim group had an amazing Shabbaton, and Lehava and Hagvurah will have their Shabbaton on 16 June. We are

all looking forward to participating in the numerous amazing shiurim on offer at the Sinai Indaba.

We have even more exciting plans for the June — July holidays. Gurim are going to have the most amazing week of activities at their seminar, and we will be running a mini-macheneh for Middle School pupils!

One of our stalwart madrichim, Shane Lipman, made Aliyah and we wish him every success in living the dream of our movement! In the spirit of Israel interaction, we also had a visit from Dani Yemini, who is in charge of the shlichot programme at World Bnei Akiva.

We would like to wish good luck to all of our madrichim and chanichim who are writing exams or going to be writing them soon. We are sure that everyone will do very well!

If you wish to be added onto the Bnei e-mail list and to hear about all our holiday programmes, please e-mail capetown@bnei.co.za. For any queries, suggestions, or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact the office by either email or phone (021-4392740).

B'vrikat Torah V'Avodah
Josh Todes



HABONIM DROR

Yom Hazikaron: Between Israel and Judaism

With Yom Hazikaron being celebrated last month, a question has been on my mind: why do we celebrate this day?

How does Yom Hazikaron, which is a day of commemoration in Israel, connect the Jewish people around the world? The answer is simple, and lies in the meaning of the name of this day — Yom Hazikaron, meaning 'Day of Memory'. But memory is specific to the individual — a private grouping of one person's recollections. So what memory are we taking about? And how does this Israeli national commemoration connect to Jewish communities around the world?

In many ways, Israel is the centre of the Jewish world. Diaspora Jews are an integral part of that world, not only because of traditions and religion or because Israel is a melting pot of Jewish culture; but because most Jewish people care for Israel and support the state in many ways. I first truly understood this fact only after spending several months living with such a supportive and Zionist community.

I got my answer for the first question — the memory we are talking about is a collective memory — one that we share as a nation.

On 14 May 1948, the state of Israel was born: Not just a land anymore, but a state. From that day onwards it would no longer be just a dream, but an entity fighting to defend and maintain itself. The waves of Aliyah that followed over the next decades created and shaped Israeli culture. Israel grew and developed, but not without a cost: Tens of thousands lost their lives protecting the state and in terror attacks. There are many soldiers risking their life today in order to keep our country safe.

The existence of Israel is not just a matter of pride for the Jewish world but also a shield. Israel provides protection to the

entire Jewish nation — in times of need, by its military actions or just by being there. For me, Yom Hazikaron is one of the most important days on my calendar because there is a sense of unity when the siren sounds and the whole country stands still — but that is not the only reason.

For me, the day has personal meaning, where I relate to the names of my 'brothers in arms'. One of the things my commander said when I joined the army was "Welcome to your new family. It is a very special one. Here you don't have one father and one mother but many. Help and support is always in reach." I fully understood the meaning of this sentence on the first Yom Hazikaron with my unit. Standing there for one long minute with my new 'family', we all came together to pay our respects to our brothers who fell, and to remember.

I see Jewish people all over the world in the same way that my commander told me to see my unit — as a family that constantly supports each other. When writing this, I began to understand the answer to my question. The relationship between Israel and the Diaspora is not a one-way relationship, but a partnership. We share the good with the challenges, our holidays and days of grief, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, like one big family.

It is not a coincidence that Yom Hazikaron was set so closely to Yom Ha'atzmaut. There is a deep meaning behind it; to remind us that the independence that we celebrate on Yom Ha'atzmaut was achieved with the highest price — human lives. On Yom Hazikaron, for one moment a whole country stands still, but it doesn't stand alone — all its citizens share a common memory of the ultimate sacrifice, so that a Jewish state could be realised.

Ido Shapira, Habonim Dror
Southern Africa Youth Shaliach

SIMCHA SNAPS



Sarah-Kai Friedgood married Warren Minde

Photographer: Blaize Pascall



Katie Kluk married Robert Gottlieb

Photographer: Gavin Casey

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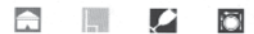


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SIMCHA SNAPS



Rachel Kaplan and Bryan Silke married in Israel

Photograph: Yosef



Danielle Henen married John Reinders

Photographers: Marcos & Bronwyn Cruz



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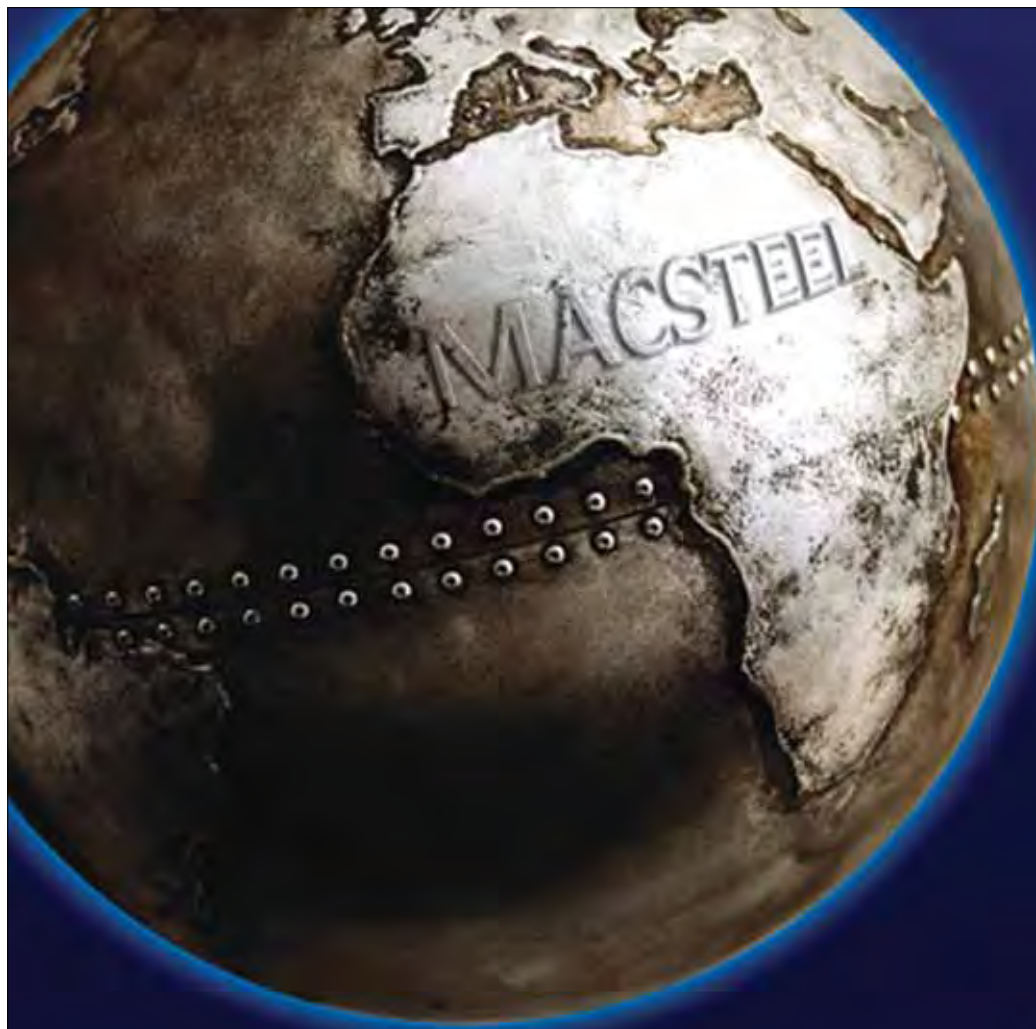
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