

CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE

VOLUME 36 No 1

FEBRUARY 2019

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Friends of UJC 10th anniversary celebration



Beverley, Sol and Andrea Kerzner enjoy the event

See pages 6 — 7 for more

Fire threatens Hermanus Shul

On the afternoon of Friday 11 January the Overstrand Municipality was faced with three breakaway fires in Betty's Bay, Gansbaai and Karwyderskraal.

The Hermanus Shul and Jewish cemetery were in danger of being damaged. David Rade and his fantastic team at the Shul reacted quickly to ensure that all the Sifrei Torah and holy books were removed.

As Jews around the Cape entered into Shabbat, prayers were recited in our synagogues for those communities affected by the fires.

Our prayers were answered when rain subdued the fire and a change of wind averted it from the shul's path.



Mitzvah Day 2018 brings communities together



Temple Israel and the farmers at Fezeka in Gugulethu

See pages 20 — 21 for more

Nationwide study of SA's Jewish population set for 2019

'Religion' is no longer asked in the South African Census and so communal surveys have become highly valued sources of information about the Jewish population.

The most recent national survey on the Jewish population of South Africa was conducted 14 years ago in 2005 and the figures are increasingly outdated.

A new survey of the South African Jewish community will be conducted in early 2019 by the Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town (KC) and the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) in London.

This is truly a once-in-a-decade opportunity to gather data on a wide range of topics of major interest to Jewish community groups, organisations, and leaders to help them better plan for the future.

Continues on page 13

Where is Kovno?



Artists Cheryl Rumbak and Yda Walt with SAJM director Gavin Morris

See page 41 for more



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Lindy with a why

Why I'm now so grateful for my Hebrew name

By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



My Hebrew name and I have not always had a good relationship.

It was only bestowed upon me around the time of my Bat Mitzvah. It refers in no way to my English names and the only time I would ever hear it referred to (repeatedly) was in our shul's list of prayers for people who are not well. In my meshuggeneh mind it had many strikes against it, and I battled to find meaning in why it was mine.

I was named after my grandmother, who had been alive when I was born, but was not by the time a name had to be chosen and so the whole thing seemed like an ill-fitting winter coat. Not something I had to deal with in everyday sunny life, but not comfortable when I did need it. I didn't want to feel this way about something so important. I needed some small sign, some pattern, something to attach meaning to, so I could love it like I should.

Then last year whilst on a Jewish mindfulness and meditation course one of the course facilitator's said something that ultimately started the ball rolling for me and my name. She was speaking about people who had been born into Judaism and those who hadn't, but had chosen it for themselves. It switched on a light of gratitude in my mind. Without my grandmother's forethought, my mother and I would not be Jews. And my *bashert* and I would not have been married by the shul that had married so many of my ancestors.

You see, my maternal grandmother had not been born Jewish, and had converted Orthodox and received her Hebrew name when she and my grandfather were going to be married. When I saw having *her* name as the ultimate way to show gratitude for her forethought and effort, I saw *my* name in a better light. I needed to absorb that it's an honour for her that

I carry her name, because her soul is elevated based on my behaviour. Meanwhile, it's good for *me*, because having her name inspires me to follow her good examples, of which there are many.

While in Israel this past December, a few people asked me my Hebrew name and more than once I was told what a beautiful name I had. Here I was comparing my name to all the ones I thought were more 'Jewish', or more 'Israeli', and it turns out (as it usually is) that it was all in my mind. I even met a knowledgeable guide around my age at Yad Vashem with her name badge bearing our shared name, and all these experiences came together to start a positive familiarity between my name and I.

While on Masada I watched a Rabbi writing Torah scrolls in a little room designed especially for this purpose. He heard my accent and guessed I was South African, and with a little more conversation, realised I was Jewish. His face lit up. "What's your Hebrew name?" he asked, taking out a little piece of pearly-white paper. I told him, and there on the top of Masada, my name was written for me in beautiful script. How magnificent it looked.

I then returned home to the news of a baby girl born into our community. Her second name? My name! Seeing a tiny, perfect human (with very cool parents) using the name I had for so long felt unsure of gave me such a sense of relevance and pride and yiddishkeit. How incredible it is to ask for patterns and signs and receive them in spades.

But last of all and most importantly, in shul the other day my mother mentioned a poetic Hebrew love song she adores, which has my name in the title. I saw my name through her eyes — the name she gave me to honour her late mother — and finally my name found a home in me.

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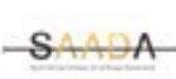
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Community Noticeboard

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

'Where is Kovno?' exhibition will be on display until the end of February.

Operation Moses: 30 Years After. Operation Moses was the secret airlift of around 7 000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Exhibition opens in March.

See page 41.

BZA WIZO AGM

Keynote speaker: Howard Feldman, morning show host on Chai FM, author, columnist and business strategist.

Wed 20 Feb Sephardi Shul 10 am See page 34 for RSVP details.

ORTJET

How advertising can be used as a force for good

Mike Abel is recognised as one of Africa's leading advertising and communications experts.

Wednesday 20 February 6 pm. See page 7 for details.

CAPE SAJBD

Campus Impact Network. Join this high impact training programme for Jewish students.

7 February. See page 9 for further details.

ECHAD ONENESS

Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation workshops for women with Zeesy Deren and Debbie Grusd.

See page 24 for programme

CT HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

Mirror of Memory, lecture by Mina Miller who is the child of Jewish Lithuanian refugees. She has made two trips to Lithuania to research her family's history.

Deadly Medicine returns to the Holocaust and Genocide Centre until 6 March.

See page 40 for details of these events.



The following organisations are affiliated to Jewish Care Cape
Cape Jewish Seniors Association • Glendale • Highlands House •
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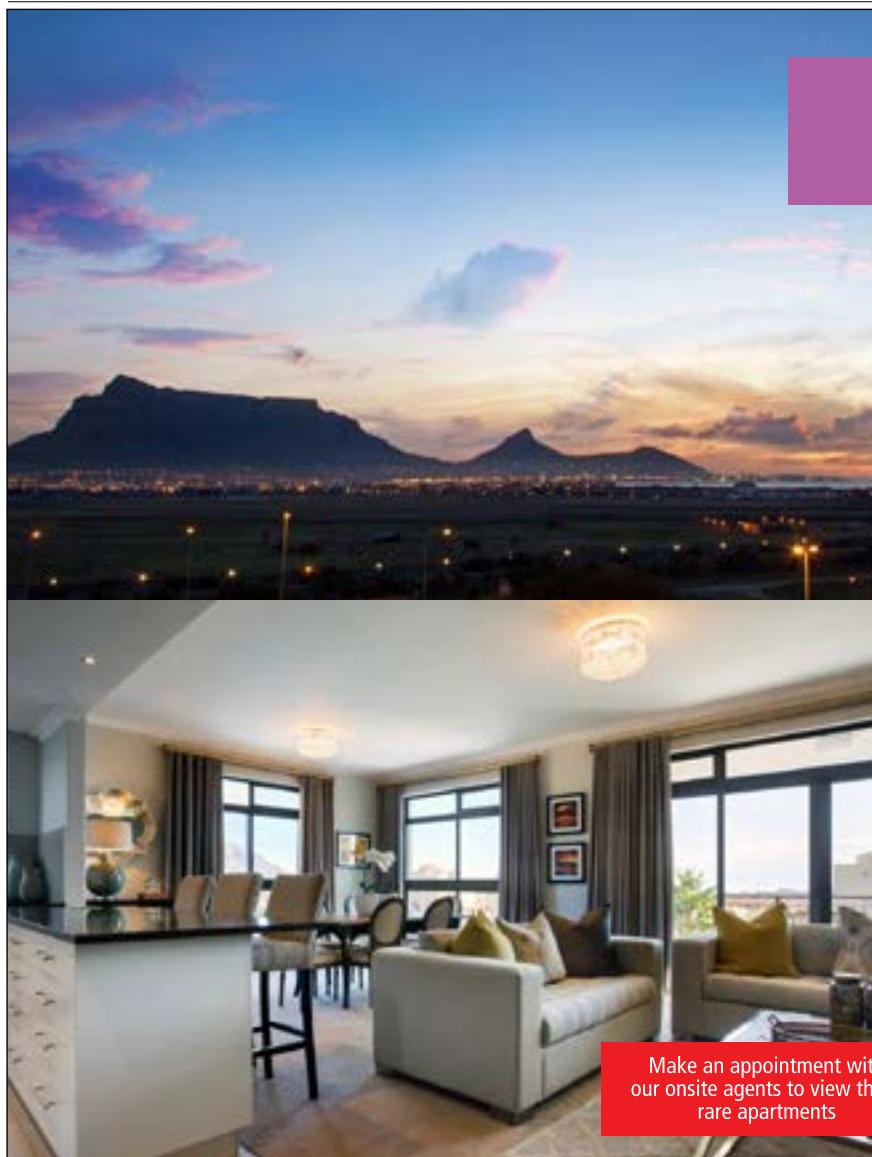
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Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting	Ends
1 Feb/26 Shevat	Mishpatim	Earliest 6.30pm	Latest 7.34pm
8 Feb/3 Adar 1	Terumah	6.30pm	7.28pm
15 Feb/10 Adar 1	Tetzaveh	6.30pm	7.21pm
22 Feb/17 Adar 1	Ki Tissa	6.30pm	7.13pm
			8.05pm

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



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The Friends of the UJC Cape Town



FRIENDS OF THE UJC CAPE TOWN
10th Anniversary
sustaining our community forever



Bradley Fried and 'Boogie Boy'

Guests gathered from around the globe on Thursday 27 December for the 10th anniversary celebration dinner of the Friends of the UJC Cape Town (Friends). Overseas and Johannesburg-based Patrons and Friends attended this wonderful evening.

The event, which has become a highlight of the summer season in Cape Town, was held at the magnificent Norval Foundation, a centre for art and cultural expression. This art museum combines the experience of art with an appreciation for nature, which is depicted by the unique architecture of the building and the outdoor sculpture garden enveloped by the

Constantia mountain range.

On arrival, pre-arranged private tours of the galleries were conducted. Guests mingled with others from far and wide and enjoyed the ambience at this unique location. Russ Nerwic's band provided background music during dinner and guests were entertained with music by 'Boogie Boy' aka Paul Ambach, a Flemish Blues singer and pianist who created a wonderful after-dinner atmosphere.

Guests were treated to gourmet food of the highest calibre, catered by Avron Almeleh of Avron's and Jacques Erasmus of Hemelhuijs.

Louis Norval, founder of the Norval Foundation, welcomed the guests to Cape



Laurence Bridot and Tony Segal



Vanessa Jossel, Sue and Raymond Miller



Zelda and Gerald Schneider



Rose Stein and Ivan Hammerschlag



Louis and Rose Abrams



Sacha and David Jowell



Andrea Dennis, Marla Sacher and Bridget Heneck



Ciaran Whelan speaks on behalf of Investec Bank

10th anniversary celebration dinner

Town and Ciaran Whelan, Executive Director and Global Head of Investec Private Bank spoke on behalf of Investec.

Marco Van Embden, Chairman of the Friends and the David Susman Community Foundation (DSCF) addressed the guests and shared with them the successful 10 year journey. The main focus of the annual Friends event is to ensure support for the sustainable future of the Cape Town Jewish community and to celebrate Jewish Life in the Mother City. The proceeds of the Friends support the David Susman Community Foundation. These funds, ably managed by Investec, have grown significantly since inception, with dedicated oversight by a Board of Trustees. A number of important bequests and legacies have added to

the financial strength of the Foundation. The Foundation is crucial to the Cape Town Jewish community, as it serves as a protection mechanism against any future adversity which may befall it.

We thank our Patrons, Friends, Donors and loyal supporters, and believe that the Friends as well as the DSCF will continue to grow from strength to strength.

We would like to make special mention of and thank our generous annual sponsor Investec, who have supported every event since inception 10 years ago.

For more information on the Friends of the UJC Cape Town contact Robyn Slot on friends@ctjc.co.za or call +27 21 464 6700



Natie Kirsh, Wendy Fisher and Dennis Goodman

Photographs:
Guy Lerner



Louis Norval and Adrian Gore



Guests enjoying the evening's entertainment



Margo and Robert Rosenberg

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"How Advertising can be used as a force for good"

Mike Abel explores powerful examples of advertising that has had a positive impact on both business and nation building.



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Time
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Mike Abel

Mike Abel is recognised as one of Africa's leading advertising and communications leaders. He co-led the largest communications group in Africa, Ogilvy South Africa. He ran the giant M&C SAATCHI Group, Australia. In February 2010, he founded M&C SAATCHI ABEL which is credited with being the fastest growing advertising agency in the history of South Africa.

The agency, from start-up, exceeded R100m in gross profit per annum within three years of opening. In 2015, M&C SAATCHI ABEL was named Agency of the year by Financial Mail. In 2018, Mike was named ABSA Jewish Business Achiever in South Africa.

Mike is a key force in driving Diversity and Transformation in South Africa.



ORT JET plays an indispensable role in creating successful entrepreneurs in the Jewish community by supporting, facilitating and enhancing the progress of each entrepreneur to become the best version of themselves. Visit us online - www.ortjetcapetown.org.za



SA community in Israel — 2018 highlights

2018 was an eventful year, both for our 'Israeli' South Africans and for Telfed.

We celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, which coincided with Telfed's 70th birthday. The South African commitment to Israel was lauded by President Rivlin himself, who invited Telfed representatives to meet with him at his Jerusalem residence. He praised 'the true Zionists' who both contribute to strengthening Israel or take the ultimate step of making Aliyah.

From the early days assisting South Africans who came to volunteer in the War of Independence, Telfed has evolved to meet the diverse and changing needs of our olim. What has remained consistent is the affection for Israel, with an 89% increase in Aliyah numbers (over the last four years alone). In addition to being greeted at

the airport by a Telfed representative who walks them through the initial steps and bureaucracy, these new olim received ongoing, tailor-made guidance from Telfed on all aspects of life affecting their absorption (including accommodation and employment). In addition to 350 Southern African olim, we also welcomed 150 new immigrants from Australia (many of whom are former South Africans, who took the long route home).

We also oversee some 100 lone soldiers, who

maintain the tradition today of the brave SA voluntary recruits who trod the same path in 1948, leaving family and familiarity in order to defend our lone Jewish State.

Weapons aside, we realise that tomorrow's future depends on today's education. Our Samson SASI Programme (Southern Africans Studying in Israel) not only offers a needs-based accommodation subsidy to foreign South African Jewish students at world-class Israeli universities, but also a social program that fosters their connection to Israel and a community spirit of volunteerism. This is one of three scholarship tracks offered by Telfed, where we processed over 1300 applications. In March 2018, 531 scholarships were awarded at a prestigious ceremony held at the Knesset and hosted by Member of Parliament Dr. Avraham Neguise, Chairman of the Committee for Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs.

70th anniversary celebrations took place throughout the country: we took a trip down memory lane with the Herzlia Vocal Ensemble and Khayelitsha Mambazo Choir; we were entertained by international baritone and SA import Colin Schachat and his son, Gabi, who performed with the Ra'anana Symphonette in a charity concert; South Africans reconnected with their 175 year old heritage at the 'Goldene Medina' Exhibition; and a multigenerational community birthday picnic took place at Kibbutz Nir Eliyahu. The 'Solidarity with the South' trip provided an opportunity to encourage Gaza border communities affected by incendiary terrorism and rocket attacks.

On a monthly basis, Telfed continued to provide food cards for close to 400 South Africans. Although the average rate of poverty for O.E.C.D. countries is 11%, Israel clocks in at almost double (21%) and olim appear to have it hardest, with a



President Reuven Rivlin welcomes Telfed representatives to his residence in August 2018.



Donating a sandwich wrapping machine to SA Oleh, Joe Isaacson of Sde Nitzan, who runs a volunteer centre that provides free sandwiches to soldiers in the area.

whopping 39% poverty rate (up from 36.6% last year).

Regardless of the cost of living in Israel, what makes our international community unique is the people in it, who give of themselves. Close to 300



Machalnik Smoky Simon addresses a group of soldiers at a memorial ceremony on Yom Hazikaron in April 2018.

volunteers throughout the country welcome olim to their neighbourhoods, mentor new arrivals, manage communal programs, visit lone soldiers and assist our elderly, inter alia. Our donors ensure that our community is cared for and our voluntary communal lay-leaders oversee that Telfed runs to the highest standard, so that South Africans can establish themselves and proudly make Israel their home, marking these milestones with us.

That's what we call a team effort!



Celebrating Telfed's 70th at a community picnic at Kibbutz Nir Eliyahu in October 2018.



Over 500 scholarships were awarded at Telfed's annual scholarship ceremony held at the Knesset, Jerusalem in March 2018.



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**Presented by the Advocate and Partner,
Dainius Ambrazaitis,
IN JURE Law Firm, Vilnius, Lithuania**

I am Dainius Ambrazaitis, Advocate, Partner and the Head of Citizenship Division at IN JURE Law Firm, based in Vilnius, Lithuania. My involvement in Lithuanian citizenship reinstatement cases started 9 years ago. For the last 4 years, I have been intensively assisting applicants from South Africa, where the number of successfully approved cases is now approaching 300.

In a last few years, when meeting with my clients in South Africa and other countries, I have perceived variety range of false beliefs – or as I call them ‘myths’ – regarding the qualifications for ancestral Lithuanian citizenship. The common and misguided notion among my clients is that

Lithuanian Citizenship - Breaking the ‘Myths’

obtaining their ancestral Lithuanian citizenship will be extremely difficult, or even impossible, despite the fact that their ancestors came from Lithuania. With this in mind, most of my potential clients do not even attempt a legal consultation.

The intention of publishing this series of articles aimed at breaking the ancestral Lithuanian citizenship ‘myths’ is to achieve a few things. Firstly, the intention is to pull into the daylight the most common false beliefs that may be restricting you from achieving what you are naturally entitled to. Secondly and most importantly, the aim is to encourage you to reconsider your ability to apply for Lithuanian ancestral citizenship in a way that is client-friendly, straightforward and professional.

Please note that this series of articles provides summaries of the most frequently asked questions and answers that occur during my legal consultations.

Consequently, this information should not be considered as the individual legal advice offered in a particular personal case. My individual legal consultations are absolutely free of charge and can be arranged in a convenient way. Please see my contact information below.

‘Myth’ 1: I have too little information about my Lithuanian ancestry, so my application is most likely impossible.



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This is one of the most typical ‘myths’ that is commonly spread among the younger generation. Young people are often somewhat embarrassed that they are not fully aware of their ancestral roots – where their ancestors came from and when.

Generally, their knowledge is limited to the information that someone, such as a grandparent or great-grandparent, was from Lithuania. Typically, they are persuaded that this amount of information is not enough to effectively start the process of reinstating their Lithuanian citizenship – but this is absolutely wrong.

The prevailing reaction of those clients who dared to attend a consultation in such situations is sincere and pleasant surprise, as they start to see how effectively and rapidly, even with such a small amount of information, their Lithuanian ancestral family picture can be restored.

‘Myth’ 2: I have no documentation pertaining to my Lithuanian ancestry, so it is not worth even starting the process.

Another grievous misconception is that you should have documents proving your ancestor was from Lithuania. I want to assure you that in 9 out of 10 cases, my clients do not have such documents and this is completely normal and is definitely not a problem.

Knowing that at least one of your parents, grandparents or great-grandparents was from Lithuania – this is the only and the essential condition to successfully initiate the process.

‘Myth’ 3: Some sort of cut-off dates are applied to the candidates, so I most likely will not qualify.

This frequently-encountered false belief is determined by a straightforward and unprofessional evaluation of the Lithuanian legal regulations. It is true that the most convenient legal situation occurs when one’s ancestor arrived in South Africa during the period between 1919 and 1940 (the later the better). However, I can confirm responsibly that in many situations, even without meeting this standard criterion with regard to the most convenient arrival time, after individually and thoroughly assessing their other circumstances, my clients have been able to successfully apply for the reinstatement of their Lithuanian citizenship.

If these or similar hesitations have been holding you back from actually starting the process of reinstatement, I personally encourage you to contact me for an individual free-of-charge consultation to discuss your eligibility.

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KEEPING IT REAL

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

So 2019 has arrived and with it come many potholes that our young democracy, transitioning into adolescence, will have to navigate.



The first quarter of 2019 will see fierce electioneering and for us as a community some trepidation for what our future holds. Over the next couple of months, my team and I will ensure the roll-out of election information ending with a premier Town Hall debate.

The Wellington Cemetery desecration and response is testament to our ongoing commitment and our *No Place for Hate* campaign will see us holding those in public office to account, and they will be called on to be champions against hate, racism and antisemitism. One of our roles in the Board office is to ensure that our community has a space to report, and be educated, on how to deal with antisemitism.

In February the Board will also start a series of engagements with Jewish varsity students via our Campus Impact Network programme to ensure that during their campus lives, as well as weeks like Israel Apartheid Week, they have the tools to face the challenges of a modern, democratic South Africa.

As we head into 2019, I hope that this quote by Jonathan Sacks can be carried in the heart of all our Cape Town community members as they join with us in being a bridge-builder between Jews and all people that make up our beautiful city:

"Jews should have enough faith not to fear, enough strength of mind to fight for the rights of oppressed minorities wherever we happen to be. They should be at the forefront of fighting poverty and disease in Africa, and among the leading campaigners for environmental responsibility, they should do so, not to win friends or the admiration of others, but because that is what a people of God is supposed to do."

District Six Reconciliation Day event

The film Black Panther ends with the hero saying, "In times of crisis, the wise build bridges, but the foolish build barriers." This is a message that the Cape Council takes seriously, even without a crisis.

As our community represents 0.32% of Cape Town's estimated population of 4.5 million, few are likely to have ever met a Jew outside the TV screen. This means that every opportunity for us to build bridges by participating in an outside event will help break barriers and let the other participants see that we are just like everyone else. No horns. No tails.

One such event took place on Reconciliation Day when Stuart Diamond and Gwynne Robins participated in an interfaith Reconciliation event in District Six focusing on reconciliation and restitution. For the past 20 years the Government has stalled on arranging restitution for the 30000 people who had been forcibly removed from their houses during the 1970s by the apartheid regime. After years of delay the Western Cape High Court in November gave the Government's Department of Rural Development and Land Reform three months to bring back to court a layout plan for the redevelopment of the area

When Gwynne was invited to a planning meeting for the event, it was as a Jewish representative, as the organisers did not think Jews had ever lived in District Six. She soon put them right, producing a photograph from the Jewish Museum's District Six Exhibition of her great grandparents' family with her 12-year old grandfather having a meal in their District Six home c.1902.

On Reconciliation Day, about 300 people gathered in the recently restored Moravian Church, filling the benches and sitting on the floor. After a spirited and noisy introduction by the Moravian brass band, followed by a meditation by a member of the African Traditional religions, a panel consisting of Sheikh Ismail Keraan, Lettice Joemath, wife of the Moravian Bishop and Gwynne spoke on living in District Six. The congregation then set out to walk to the Anglican St Marks Church where they were encouraged to share memories with the people sitting next to them.

Stuart and Gwynne were moved at the depth of pain they were exposed to as people poured out their bitter memories of being forcibly evicted from their homes and moved to the bleak windswept Cape Flats. Then onto the Al Azhar Mosque where Stuart spoke and delivered a prayer on behalf of the Jewish community.

We ended up at the Holy Cross Catholic Church for koeksisters and cool drinks where we were welcomed by the priest, nursing a broken ankle, having fallen after



Sheikh Ismail Keraan, Gwynne Robins and Lettice Joemath in conversation in the restored Moravian Church



Sheikh Ismail Keraan and Stuart Diamond in the Al Azhar mosque

chasing a mugger who had attacked a teacher from the nearby Holy Cross Primary School. Dominee Deon Snyman of the Restitution Foundation led us in reciting a Litany of Restitution and a Muslim lawyer updated us on the slow restitution process and the recent successful court case after so many years.

The revelation that Stuart and Gwynne had had connections with District Six amazed the audience.

Both Gwynne and Stuart had family connections to District Six. Gwynne's great grandfather had been the shochet and ran a butcher shop and boarding house. Stuart's grandmother had a fish and chips shop while another relative had the shop that sold school uniforms.

The revelation that Stuart and Gwynne had had connections with District Six amazed the audience. How soon people forget.

Apartheid has erased memories along with houses, leaving a wounded people and, sixty years later, all that remains are empty derelict desolate land full of nostalgia, broken glass, rusty nails and drugged gangsters.



NO TO HATE IN OUR COUNTRY.





800 people volunteer on Mitzvah Day

The global initiative 'Mitzvah Day' was held on Sunday, 18 November 2018 across Southern Africa.

Mitzvah Day is an international movement bringing thousands of people together, to give their time, not their money to make a difference in the communities around them. Local Jewish NGO, Mensch, was invited by the events UK founders to host this day locally. It was a day of social action that saw families, friends, faith leaders, politicians and community groups come together to volunteer in local projects and unite behind worthy causes that support the most vulnerable in our society. Underpinned by the principle of a mitzvah, there were over 29 mitzvah projects activated with 850 volunteers giving of their time to serve 2500 people.

Projects ranged from a group of friends donating blood at the Western Cape Blood Transfusion blood bank to a youth interfaith group, together with Alderman Deputy Mayor Ian Neilson cooking nourishing vegetable soup for a homeless shelter in Elsies River, to beautification project at the Cape Jewish Services homes in Buitenkant Street.

The SAJBD (Cape Council) arranged the Sunshine for Seniors project



Community Members taking a part in the neighbourhood beautification project, seen here painting the garden walls of JSC cottages.

that saw 'gogos' from Icamva Labantu spend the afternoon having fun decorating cupcakes with the 'bobbas' from Highlands House.

"Next year we would like even more members of our community and outside communities to get involved. The goal is that through Mensch Mitzvah Day people realise it takes very little to be a 'change-maker', and that you get back so much more when you 'do' for others, rather than just 'give'." Mensch Director Gina Flash remarked.

It is important for the Board to get involved in and promote projects that builds stronger, more integrated communities, like Mitzvah Day, where people of all backgrounds and beliefs have a stake and pride in the place that they live. This was an opportunity to connect our Jewish identity to activities that have a positive impact on local Western Cape communities.

Wellington: no Jew forgotten

The Country Communities subcommittee Chairperson David King and Cape Board Director Stuart Diamond met the leadership of the Paarl and Wellington community to inspect the vandalism of the Wellington cemetery. It is of deep concern that 39 out of 50 Jewish graves were targeted.

Unfortunately, despite the generous offer of a R10 000 reward for any information, no witnesses have come forward yet.

In the meantime, the Cape Board will be working with these farming communities to:

- Replace the Vibracrete wall with clear fencing to ensure that the site is always visible to the public
- Restore and repair of the damaged graves
- Further engage with local SAPS and Drakenstein Local Council on antisemitism education.

Thank you to David King, Eric Berger and



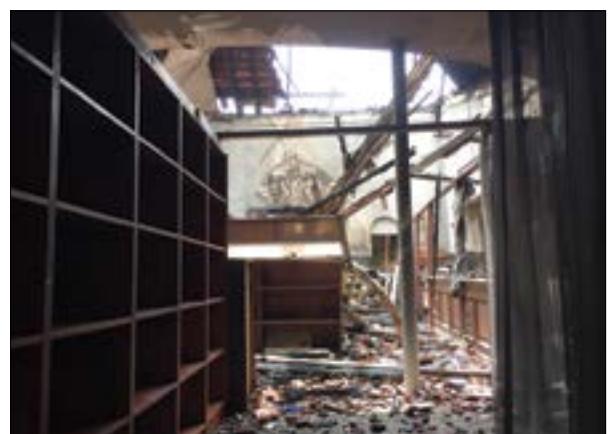
Eric Berger examines his father's damaged gravestone

Stuart Diamond for making the trip up country, and our special appreciation is extended to Mark Kaufman who continues to work tirelessly on the ground to oversee these repairs and upgrades.

We will post updates on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cape.jewish.board.of.deputies

Arthur's Road Shul fire

The fire that destroyed the Beit Midrash Morasha synagogue late on Tuesday night 4 December 2018, brought about heightened sense of community amongst the Cape Jewry.



With love and support, members of the community came out in the late hours of the night to wipe down Siddurim rescued from the blaze by firemen, and were on site again at 6.30am, in the rain, for Shacharit morning prayers.

Moved by the haunting image of the Morasha shul destroyed, our national office and its Country Communities Department wanted to find a way to assist the community at this difficult time. And so, on Friday 7 December, a Sefer Torah left their offices in Johannesburg and was carefully transported on a flight to Cape Town. It was delivered safely to Rabbi Thurgood before Shabbat.

Over the decades the SAJBD Country Communities Department has overseen the loan or donation to congregations of numerous items from former small town Jewish communities around the country. A Sefer Torah from the Lichtenburg

Community in the North West Province, which was entrusted to the SAJBD for safekeeping when the community closed down many years ago, has been on loan to the Ohr Sameach community in Sandton. We approached Rabbi Kraines who told us that the shul no longer needed the Torah and was delighted that it be sent to Beit Midrash Morasha. We were particularly moved by a comment he made, 'The Torah is from 'Licht'enburg (light).

After we delivered the good news to the Thurgoods, Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft went to collect the Torah from the Ohr Sameach Shul and carefully wrapped it and prepared it for its journey to Sea Point. A representative of the SAJBD flew with it to Cape Town and delivered it to the community in time for Shabbat.

Our hope is that the 'Licht'enburg Torah brings a flicker of hope and chizuk to a community that has braved real challenges in the past two months.

Wupperthal fire relief



Stuart Diamond activates community donations for the victims of Wupperthal fire. Stor-age kindly offered to be a drop off point for all donations.

Cape Town launch of South African Friends of Sheba Medical Center

Israel's largest and most comprehensive medical facility, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, unveiled its new South African Friends of Sheba Medical Center branch during the recent Chanukah holiday.

A festive event was hosted to highlight the launch in Cape Town's contemporary art gallery, "WHATIFTHEWORLD"

Cape Town's Nilly Baruch had an instrumental hand in organizing this special event, which included participants from the local Jewish community, South African Parliament members and medical doctors both from South Africa and Sheba.

The gathering featured guests from Sheba, including Professor Mordechai Shani, Chancellor of the Sheba Fund for Health Services and Research (and former Director General Emeritus of Sheba Medical Center), Yoel Har-Even, Sheba Medical Centre's Chief of Staff and Dr. Talia Golan (nee Feinberg) – originally from Pretoria, South Africa and currently the head of Sheba's Early Phase Clinical Trials Program and Medical Oncologist at



Nilly Baruch, Professor Shani, Dr Golan, Mrs Louise Swart and Naomi Hadar

Gastrointestinal Unit.

"I'm extremely proud of my Jewish South African roots. Africa is in my soul and it's an honour to represent Sheba Medical Center, where we work to bring cutting edge care to patients, from IDF soldiers to people of all walks of life in Israel and around the world," said Dr. Golan.

Professor Shani spoke as well, sharing the stories and unique history behind Sheba Medical Center. Both

Professor Shani and Dr. Golan left the audience in awe with many participants seeking ways to be part of the South Africa Friends of Sheba initiative.

Yoel Har-Even, Sheba Medical Centre's Chief of Staff added, "We are looking forward to strengthening the relationship between the South African community and Sheba Medical Center in Israel. Our goals include formulating programs that will

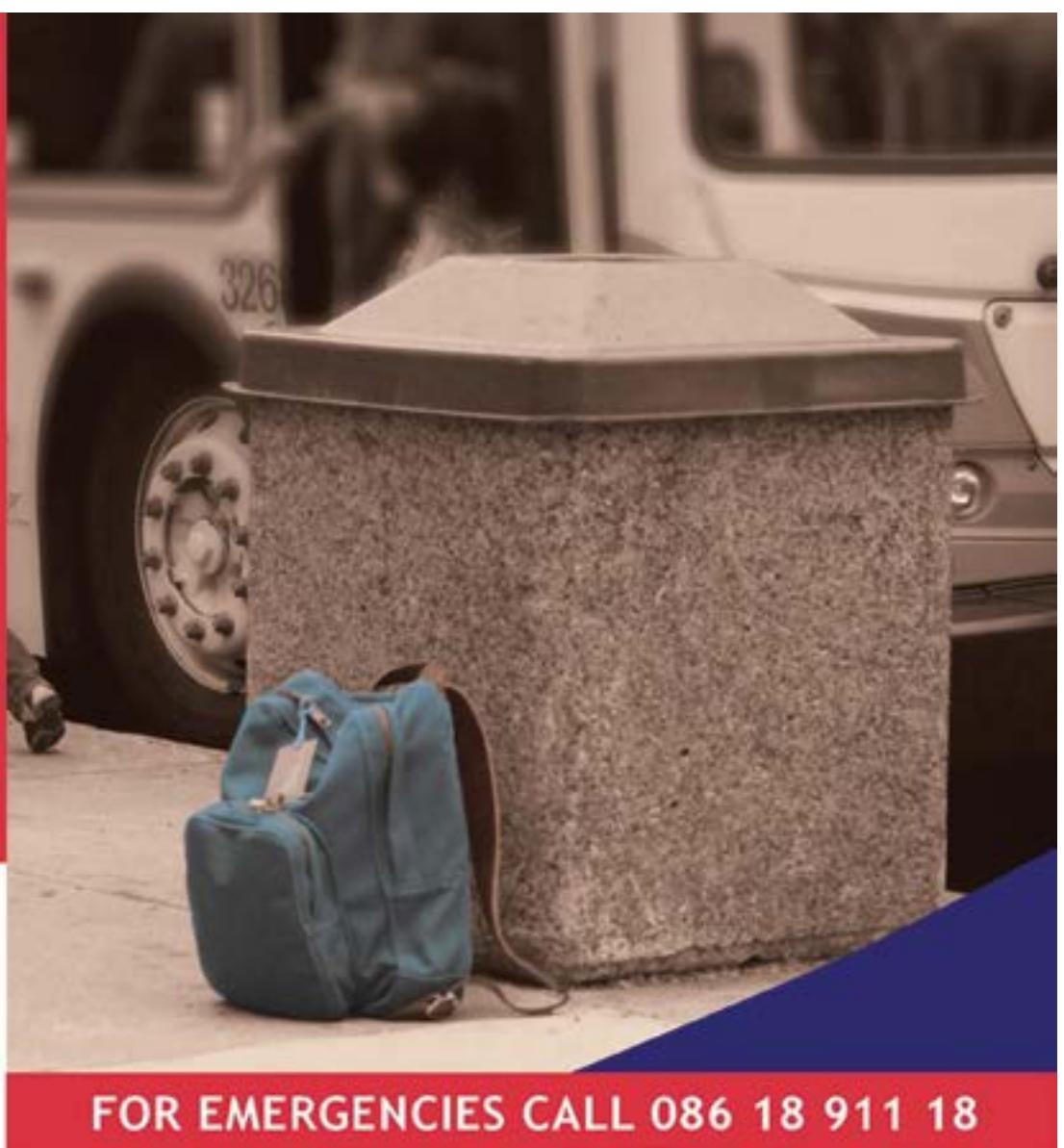
allow South African students from different spheres of the medical sector to intern and to specialize at Sheba Medical Center, assist disadvantaged communities in South Africa and the rest of the African continent by building bridges with us and ongoing support for Sheba's highest standards of medicine, research, innovation and technology, transforming medicine in Israel and worldwide."

Naomi Hadar, who spent the past 17 years as one of the most influential Jewish organizational community leaders in South Africa (IUA-UCF), was recently named as the new Executive Director of the South African Friends of Sheba Medical Center.

"It is a privilege to be a part of Sheba's innovative medical centre, which provides global outreach to communities around the world, including the South African community. As our event in Cape Town took place during Chanukah, we hope to bring light to the South African Jewish community and the African continent as a whole. I am looking forward to helping Sheba make a difference in many people's lives," pronounced Hadar.

REPORT!

ANYONE or ANYTHING that is UNUSUAL in APPEARANCE & BEHAVIOUR & STANDS OUT from your immediate ENVIRONMENT



FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 086 18 911 18

Continues from page 1

Nationwide study of South Africa's Jewish population set for 2019

"Investment in Jewish communal life in South Africa significantly benefits from being based on reliable and timely data."

The data from the study will assist with community planning, service provision, care needs, Jewish schooling and other communal programmes that strengthen the vibrancy of Jewish life in the country for the South African community to look forward to a

sustainable, vibrant and secure future we must understand who we are today: How do we express our Jewish identity? How do we give? What are our core Jewish values? How is life in South Africa?" says Associate Professor Adam Mendelsohn, Director of the Kaplan Centre.

The study will examine religious beliefs, intermarriage, communal affiliations, social attitudes, Jewish education, charitable giving, connection to Israel, experience of antisemitism, socioeconomics,

international and national migration, health and care needs.

The questionnaire is being compiled by JPR and KC and these organisations will also carry out the initial data analyses. The survey will be administered online by a major global polling company.

**How do we express our Jewish identity? What are our core Jewish values?
How is life in South Africa?**

Mendelsohn says the survey team is taking an innovative approach to sampling the Jewish population and will draw on existing Jewish community databases but will

also utilise the power of social media and online communal networks to reach far and wide into the Jewish population. The survey will be completely anonymous and no personally identifying information (like names, addresses or contact details) will be collected.

See the survey website and Facebook page for updates and information about how to get involved www.jcsssa2019.co.za and www.facebook.com/jcsssa2019

Are you an heir?

Thousands of Jews across Europe invested in pre-state Israel before WW2. They opened bank accounts and bought stocks and real estate.

Many tragically perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Their investments did not. 60 000 of these assets have been located.

Rightful heirs are being sought, many of whom live in North America.

To find out if any of your family members made investments and to submit a request for restitution of an asset to its rightful heirs visit the following website:

<http://www.hashava.info/assetList/#.XDPZ--mQxjp>

For more information, contact:

The Department of Holocaust Victims' Assets
The National Unit for Location and Management of Property
The Administrator General and Official Receiver

The Ministry of Justice

Tel: +972-72-3729940
Email: Pniyot-hashava@justice.gov.il
2 HaShlosha St.
P.O. Box 9040
Tel Aviv, 6109001
Israel

**Antisemitism?
Emigration?
Jewish Education?
Identity?**

Coming in 2019...
a once-in-a-decade opportunity to have your say

The **Jewish Community Survey of South Africa**
will help community planners and
service providers ensure a vibrant
Jewish future in South Africa

HAVE YOUR SAY

W www.jcsssa2019.co.za

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Kaplan Centre JEWISH STUDIES

jpr / Institute for Jewish Policy Research

JCSSA
JEWISH COMMUNITY SURVEY OF SOUTH AFRICA



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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Israel in 2018

By Rowan Polovin,
Chairman, SAZF Cape Council

2018 was a wonderful year for the Jewish State, with 185,000 births and population growth of 2%, the highest per capita rate in the developed world.

The total population reached 8,972,000, of which 74.3% comprised Jews and 20.9% Arabs. Israel now enjoys the largest Jewish population in the world with one million more Jews living in Israel than the United States and is home to almost half of the world's Jews. Israel's birth rate also leads the developed world with 3.1 children per family, significantly

higher than the average of 1.7. Last year, 29,600 Jews from around the world made Aliyah and chose to make their future in Israel, a 5% increase on 2017 according to the Jewish Agency. For comparative purposes, this is about double the entire Cape Town Jewish population making Aliyah in a single year, or alternatively, the entire Jewish population in all Muslim and Arab countries combined.

Israel's economy is also doing exceptionally well. Her economic growth is expected to be around 3.7% for the year. In 2018, tech firms raised \$6.47 billion (almost R90 billion) in 623 venture capital deals, the highest dollar amount since 2013. Israel still leads the globe in the highest venture capital investment per capita, as well as maintaining the second highest number of foreign companies listed on the Nasdaq (second only to China). There was a 77% increase in mergers and acquisitions in 2018, amounting to a staggering \$21.6 billion (almost R300 billion). Exports rose 8% to over \$110 billion. The unemployment

rate in 2018 was a low 3.7%. In 2018, the rating agency Standard & Poors raised Israel's credit rating to AA-, the highest rating in her history, and placing the country in the club of 30 best-rated economies on the globe. Figures from the International Monetary Fund show that in 2018, Israel surpassed Japan in per capita income, and that gaps between rich and poor were narrowing due to Ultra-Orthodox and Arab citizens joining the workforce for the first time.

Israel ranks within the Top 20 nations in the world on the UN's Human Development Index and ranks as the 10th most innovative country in the world on the Bloomberg Innovation Index. Israel's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at \$350 billion has edged past South Africa, which sits at \$349 billion, according to figures from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This is staggering considering her small size, population and lack of natural resources compared to South Africa.

Tourism to Israel in 2018 was an all-time record, with 4.1 million tourists visiting the country, marking a 14% increase on the previous year. Jerusalem, Israel's capital city, became the fastest growing tourist destination in the world in 2018, according to London-based market research company Euromonitor International. Diplomatically, Israel improved diplomatic relations with several Arab and Muslim-majority countries, including many African states and has achieved unprecedented levels of diplomatic support around the world. South Africa is still an outlier in this regard.

It is clear that Israel is doing exceptionally well, and is open for business, tourism and diplomatic relations. This is an ongoing miracle worthy of joyous celebrations. Remember these facts the next time the anti-Semitic boycott movement claims some petty 'victory' against Israel.

SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



Israeli teens from Gaza border visit Cape Town

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

On the 11th of December, thirteen 10th graders visited Cape Town from kibbutzim located on the border between Gaza and Israel.

These teenagers are constantly exposed to burning tyres and

rocket attacks, sometimes up to sixteen rockets per day. Arriving in South Africa to attend the Habonim machaneh and see the beauty of our city, was a break from living under the constant threat of terrorism.

The initiative to bring these teenagers to Cape Town was taken by both Habonim Dror and the South African Zionist Federation with the aim of demonstrating that all Zionist communities can come together and show solidarity during difficult circumstances. "Young people have the power to talk to each other, and strengthen that bond," explains one of the Israeli teenagers.

The initiative is all about realising the true Zionist ideals of bonding, youth resilience and being able to support each other like "brothers".



Israeli teens from the Gaza border experience a safari ride at Aquila Game Reserve.



Israeli teens living on the Gaza border enjoy a day at the Waterfront, Cape Town.



Members of national and provincial SA Zionist Federation on a visit to the Habonim machaneh are joined by the Va'ad Poel: Daniel Sussman, Julie Berman, Nicci Raz, Jess Levitt, Adam Edelstein, Eden Plein, Melissa Goldberg, Dean Goldin, Zac Fleishman and Habonim Shaliach Danny Abebe.



SOUTH
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SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



Israeli debating teams score again!

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

The World Universities Debating Championships (WUDC) tournament took place in Cape Town for the first time in 16 years.



Israeli teams win both the ESL Final and Masters Final at the The World Universities Debating Championships.

SA FRIENDS OF ISRAEL



SA Friends of Israel Friendship (SAFI) Celebration

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

The annual SAFI Friendship event took place on Thursday 6th December and not even the rain could dampen the spirits of our special Friends of Israel. The

event was filled with laughter, fun and dancing to the music of Gabriel Shai. David Lazarus, the Master of Ceremony, introduced our speakers with enthusiasm and charisma.

Rowan Polovin, Chairman of the SAZF Cape Council, spoke about the strong bond and relationship between both communities and how together we can fight hate speech and antisemitism.

Bishop Paul Saralina also explained how unique and special Israel and the Jewish people are to Christianity and his people.

A wonderful night was had by all.



Fantastic atmosphere as members of the SA Zionist Federation and SA Friends of Israel dance together at the SAFI Friendship Celebration. Clockwise: Chris Eden, Victor Belo, Kevin Sebotker, Patrick Rolleston, Eddie Johnson, Ben Levitas, David Lazarus.

CALLING ALL JEWISH YOUTH EDUCATORS!
THE DILLER TEEN FELLOWS PROGRAMME
IS LOOKING FOR THE NEXT COORDINATOR

in Cape Town



The Diller Teen Fellows programme is a 12 month immersive experiential education programme for grade 10s designed to inspire and promote leadership among Jewish teens, social activism, Tikkun Olam, creating active agents of change for Israel and the Jewish people. This global programme operates in 32 communities all around the world.

Requirements:

- Experience in experiential education, group facilitation, and programme development/management addressing Jewish Identity development, leadership, community service & Israel education.
- Strong facilitation, education, organization, and communication skills required to effectively interact with, lead and inspire a diverse body of teens, parents and local community leaders and staff.
- Ability to collaborate with a partner overseas and to work with and contribute to a global peer network of Diller Teen Fellow Coordinators
- Availability to works nights and weekends; including travel to Israel for 3 weeks during the summer as well as additional travel during the year to a variety of conferences and trainings.

CVs together with covering motivational letters email to diller@ctjc.co.za

Closing date for applications: 28 February 2019
Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.



SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



Zionist Youth Council Le'Chaim

By Lee Lobel,
Head of the Zionist Youth Council

three youth movements to wish them luck for their machanot.

Members from Habonim Dror, Netzer, Bnei Akiva, SAUJS and Diller Teen Fellows all attended the dinner. We had a chance to share our wishes with each other and members of the Habonim Dror mishlachat performed a song for us. It has been years since all youth organisations came together to simply spend time with each other and have the chance to wish each other luck for upcoming machaneh. It was a great night spent together and we look forward to more events like this in the New Year.

At the end of November, before all three machanot began, the Zionist Youth Council held a dinner for all



Listening to the mishlachat members perform.



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SAUJS

SOUTH AFRICAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS

ORIENTATION DAY 2019

WELCOME!

SUNDAY, 3 FEBRUARY
10H00-15H00
SUCCA HALL
(88 HATFIELD ST.
GARDENS)

PROGRAMME*

10h00: Registration	12h30: SAUJS Mentorship Programme Launch
10h20: SAUJS Welcome	12h45: Lunch, Sign Ups & Mentorship Pairing
10h30: Activity	13h30: ADL Session
11h00: Your SAUJS Experience	15h00: End

*RSVP by 30.1.2019
RSVP by snapping the QR code or visiting the link*

<https://bit.ly/2SN3eH2>

**Programme might be subject to change*

f [@SAUJSWC](#)
✉ saujsdirectorct@outlook.com
📞 021-464-6700 (ext. 185)

HABONIM DROR

Habonim in 2019

By Eden Plein,
Sganit Mazkir for 2019

With over 900 people on our beautiful campsite this past December; Habonim Machaneh '18 HaCholim was an astounding success.

We are proud of what we achieved in making the campsite a uniquely comfortable, homely, educational environment for each and every attendee. When one steps onto the Habonim campsite, one cannot help but feel a surreal sense of what the Jewish people are capable of when united. We do not take that responsibility lightly and accordingly spent the month educating on a variety of topics relevant to South African Jewish Youth. Each age group was led through a process of enriching their love of Judaism. They explored the various aspects involved in modern day Zionism and they delved into our responsibility as South Africans to our home communities. In each age group, we fostered an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion and mutual respect as it is only in such environments that real learning is possible. Both old faces and new, from here and from far, were able to experience the Habonim magic.

What made Machaneh extra special was the foreign contingent of 50 of our most loyal friends from all over the world. We had British and Australian madrichim and a team of 14 Israeli

Mishlachat leading the children to explore a love of Israel and Zionism as well as to engage with being part of a global Jewish community. Beyond this, we had 14 Israeli teens from Kibbutzim along the Gaza border join us for a holiday from their home environments. These teens engaged with the content presented at camp and gave great insight and input. It was phenomenal to see Jewish youth from such different backgrounds formulating ideas and sharing experiences. We are particularly appreciative for spending Shabbatot with Rabbi Silman, Rabbi Greg and Rabbi Raanan from Johannesburg.

Looking ahead, we intend to continue providing prestige experiences and opportunities to Jewish youth in our country and in Israel. Testimony to this is the passion and excitement shown by the new chairs, leading the movement this year: Daniel Sussman, Eden Plein, Erin Gordon and Dean Goldin; as well as the jam-packed calendar for 2019:

- **January:** Veida and Hanhaggah (steering conferences)
- **February:** Shnat Hachshara participants leave for Israel and the Kennim open
- **March:** Mini Machanot in both cities
- **April:** Pesach Leadership seminar
- **May:** Habonim visits Durban
- **June:** Second Hanhaggah
- **July:** Shorashim in Israel, Taglit in Israel, Winter day camps in South Africa, Bogrim Seminar in South Africa
- **August:** Machaneh 2019 Launch
- **September:** Poland Tour for senior madrichim
- **October:** Habonim visits Durban
- **November:** preparation for Machaneh
- **December:** CAMP!

BNEI AKIVA

And we are back!

By Chanan Suiza,
Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town

Riding off the high of what was the biggest Bnei Akiva camp in the last two years, we are ready to take on Cape Town! Machaneh Ivri Anochi was a massive success; filled to the brim with learning, growth, love, fun and achdut.

We are looking forward to an incredible first Shabbat back with a massive Bnei Akiva lunch at the bayit. Watch this space for the incredible things we have planned for the year ahead :D



Cape Town at camp.

NETZER

2019 is here and we are ready

By Jason Bourne,
Rosh Cape Town



Machaneh Adama V'Shamayim on tiyul.

Machaneh Adama V'Shamayim!
We learnt how to take our thoughts and ideas and actualise them into the physical world, from the heavens to the earth.

It was one of our best camps yet and we cannot wait for this year. We know you are probably missing all your camp friends' loads but you'll be able to see them soon at our 2019 kick-off event, so keep your eyes peeled for details.

SA FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

SAZF & Broth Zion WIZO members meet high-ranking delegation from the ICEJ

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



Back Row: Tamar Lazarus, Liz Campbell, Jehu Chan, Wee Tiong Howe, Moonyeen Castle, Ian Jones, Julie Berman, James Campbell, Robert Mawire.
Front Row: Felicity Isserow, Christina Chan, Janet Mawire, Martez Saporta-Rothuysen.

SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council) and Broth Zion WIZO members met a high-ranking delegation from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem to discuss the incredible work being

done in their countries.

Jeu and Christine Chan are National Directors for ICEJ in Singapore and Elder Pastors of the City Mission Church in Singapore. Both are

highly respected businesspersons in their country. Wee Tiong Howe, founding President of the Society of Financial Service Professionals in Singapore and Inaugural Chairman First Asia-Pacific Life Insurance

Congress President, is also Apostolic Elder/Pastor City Missions Church. He is also the Missions leader and coordinator in Russia, Middle East and Asian nations.

www.sazfcape.co.za

Find us SA Zionist Federation - Cape Council @SAzionfed

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

BURNING BRIGHTLY

What the Eyes Behold

RABBI MATTHEW LIEBENBERG [CLAREMONT WYNBERG HEBREW CONGREGATION]

Several years ago a 28-year-old South Korean man collapsed and died at an Internet café after playing a computer game for fifty hours with few breaks. The man had not slept properly and had eaten little during his marathon session. He only paused to go to the toilet and take short naps. Police presumed that his death was caused by heart failure stemming from exhaustion.

The Torah contains a litany of terrible curses that will come upon the Jewish people if they forsake God's Law. Among the awful descriptions of famine, exile, siege and deprivations, the Torah states "you will go mad from the sight of your eyes that you will see." Rabbi Naphtali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin suggests that people will go mad when they try to understand how it is possible for such a small number of the enemy to cause such terrible suffering. Why could the Jews, who were so many, not defeat their foes? His words are a chilling prophecy of what occurred in the Holocaust when a relatively small number of concentration camp guards were able to persecute many thousands of Jews. During the Eichmann trial one of the lawyers asked a Holocaust survivor why the inmates, who were so numerous, did not attempt to attack the guards. Upon deep reflection the witness was not able to give a satisfactory answer.

Perhaps a more imaginative explanation of the verse is that the Torah, which speaks to every generation, is hinting to our times. We are confronted with so much visual stimulation on a daily basis that it will eventually drive us insane, as it did the South Korean man. Every day our eyes are made to stare at an excessive number of emails, You-Tube videos, Tweets, WhatsApp messages, Facebook posts, Instagram images, websites and blogs. We are bombarded by shelves and shelves of magazines, newspapers and periodicals wherever we go to shop. It seems as if every empty spot on a building or a tree next to the road has a billboard or poster plastered to it. Then there are television, video games and motion pictures, all of which are crammed with images of gratuitous violence, explicit sex and harsh language.

Here are some chilling statistics: In 1950, only 10% of American homes had a television. Today 99% of homes have a television. Children spend more time learning about life through media than in any other manner. The average American child will witness over 200 000 acts of violence on television including 16 000 murders before age 18. Watching TV has been linked to obesity in children. Studies suggest that higher rates of television viewing are correlated with increased tobacco usage, increased alcohol intake and younger onset of sexual activity. In one Canadian town in which TV was introduced in 1973,

there was a 160% increase in shoving, pushing, biting and hitting among young children. Children come to associate violence with entertainment. They eat and drink while watching; so that violence becomes part of a pleasing routine. Fully half of the video games that a typical seventh-grader plays are violent. The boundary between fantasy and reality that adults can distinguish is much more difficult for children. Add to that the desensitisation and conditioning that goes on daily from the media and it's clear that violent programs do have a negative impact.

I have begun to think very seriously about whether I have been conditioned and desensitised to violence. As a young boy I enjoyed the Star Wars films and I was fan of the Lord Of The Rings trilogy. I acknowledged that they did contain a degree of violence but I always reasoned that they were just fantasy or science fiction and had no bearing on reality. Whilst I had the ability to distinguish between fiction and reality, the two young men who killed many of their classmates in the infamous Columbine mass-shooting viewed America as the 'evil empire' of the Star Wars films and set out to topple it. The problem with these images is that they are pervasive and virtually inescapable. You no longer need to sit at home to watch a video but can view it on your Smartphone wherever you may be.

Clearly we need to look at other forms of entertainment and we need to emphasise outdoor

activities such as sports, hiking, swimming, cycling and kicking a ball. This is how I spent most of my afternoons during my teenage years. We also need to reintroduce the concept of reading. Shabbat can play a major role in addressing this imbalance because it offers a break from all electronic visual media. The Talmud queries whether it is permissible to run or take big steps on Shabbat. Rabbi Yose responded that even during the week one should not run around like a maniac and if he does, he stands to lose 1/500th of his eyesight every time. However, when he recites Kiddush on Friday night his 'lost' eyesight is returned to him. On Shabbat there is an aura of calm that surrounds the home. We can focus on more spiritual matters instead of dedicating our eyes to physical pursuits. We reclaim our senses and our bodies.

We have gone mad from what our eyes behold but it's not too late to stem the tide. All we need do is watch a little bit less television, play a little bit less video games and set aside that one day of the week to regain our senses.

"On Shabbat there is an aura of calm that surrounds the home. We can focus on more spiritual matters instead of dedicating our eyes to physical pursuits. We reclaim our senses and our bodies."



Screenshot of computer game - Homefront: The Revolution.

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Consider This

Open most siddurim or chumashim and you would be forgiven for seeing G-d as a male character in a dramatic novel. Besides the anthropomorphic descriptions of G*d having an outstretched arm or an eye or a nose, you will also see G!d translated as 'He'. 'He did this' and 'He heard that' and 'we pray to Him'. Hold on, how did G-d become a man?

The first problem is translation. Hebrew to English in this case. When you translate you have to make choices given the language you are translating from and the one you are translating to. No two languages are identical and every translation is interpretation, requiring the translator to make choices in how best to render a word or phrase. The Hebrew descriptions of G*d are masculine and so most translators would render G!d as male in the translation. Let's look at how that works in English.

The word G-d itself has no gender in English, because in English most nouns do not automatically have a gender. There are some that do, like 'boy' or 'girl', but, compared to other languages out there, English is pretty gender-neutral.

As Philologos writes in the online magazine *Mosaic*, "On a scale of 1-to-5, with 1 denoting languages that make no gender distinctions at all and 5 denoting those that make a maximum of them, English might be ranked as a 2. The only thing that keeps it from being a 1 (as are,

for example, Turkish, Hungarian, Indonesian, and Vietnamese) is its pronouns. A flight attendant must be either he or she. You can't say, "I tried getting the flight attendant's attention, but it didn't see me," as you can in Turkish. In fact, that's all you can say in Turkish, in which the pronoun o means 'he', 'she', or 'it' and is the only one applicable to such situations." Incidentally, Philologos doesn't know it, but Xhosa and Zulu also only have gender-neutral pronouns, and as my wife is Hungarian, I know that Hungarian works the same way.

In the 60s and 70s the Western World started to become attuned to gender in language and English solved some of the gender bias problems through changing terms like policeman into police officer and chairman became chairperson. But it's a bit harder when it comes to pronouns. You don't want to speak about a person as an 'it'. It reduces them to an object. How much more so would you not want to refer to the Creator of the Universe as 'It', even with a capital 'I'. Those who are gender-sensitive in English resort to 'they', as in 'The rabbi lowered the Talmud with a smile — they had found the answer at last.' Was the rabbi a man or a woman? In fact, 'They' might be a better option for G!d as the most generic biblical term for Him/Her is Elohim, which does happen to be plural! But it would still be confusing to render (for example) Gen 2.2 as, "And on the seventh day God finished Their work which They had made; and They rested on the seventh day from all Their work which They had made."

By Rabbi Greg Alexander

So is the answer to continue to default to masculine then? Well, if you pay attention to the first verse that addresses gender in the Torah, you might be shocked to read that it says, [my translation] "And G*d created the human in G-d's own image, G!d created it in G-d's image; male and female G*d created them." (Gen. 1:27) Besides my awkward attempts to dodge the pronouns, the most striking conclusion from this verse is that human beings were created in G!d's image and they were both male and female. In other words, the first creature was not male or female but contained both, or as Rabbi Shmuel bar Nachman in B'reishit Rabbah 8.1 put it, "At the time that the Holy One of Blessing created Adam, G-d created Adam as an Androgynos." That's the words of a 2000 year-old midrashic text!

And if humans were created in the Divine Image, and contained (at least) both genders, then surely their Creator can't be male! In fact, it is somewhat idolatrous to even think of G-d as an Old Man with a beard up on a cloud somewhere, and yet that is the perception that remains today, whether Jewish, Christian or Muslim. Rather than G*d creating us in Her image, we have created G-d in ours. Because of course, those scribes, rabbis and priests who wrote our formative texts were all men.

So what do we do about it? We can point the finger at Hebrew as the problem. You see in Hebrew everything has a gender. A table is masculine but a sofa is feminine. And any adjectives or verbs related to those nouns have to agree in gender too. So there really is no way

to get around it. Recent attempts to introduce non-binary language into Hebrew have really only been adopted in tiny niches in liberal university communities, and it will take a long time, if ever, before it becomes normal.



But here's a thought — maybe the genderedness of Hebrew is actually not the problem but part of the solution. You see, if tables and sofas have gender (and they clearly don't — is a table a man?), then perhaps we can understand Hebrew gender not as a signal of anything except language and how it functions. In fact, to return to the examples given in the Philologos article, and take things to their extreme, Shad, a breast is masculine and Beitzim, testicles are feminine! That leaves us to conclude either that Hebrew is gender queer, or that gender in Hebrew is completely arbitrary and to be ignored when translating.

What is clear is that a masculine noun doesn't make G@d into a man any more than it makes a table into a man. So why does the world continue to do so? The answer is that it will until we change it. And the change starts with you. So when you next find yourself referring to G*d — whether you are davening, translating or talking about the deity you believe in or don't believe in — can you stretch yourself to take out the old man with the beard and talk about the One and Only Creator of the Universe without reducing G@d to a male-constructed idol.

Is G*d a Man?

Chanukah lights, we love you so ...

More than sixty adults and children congregated at our Wynberg Campus to celebrate the last night of Chanukah.

While some brought their own chanukiyot from home, provision was made to paint and decorate pieces of wood to transform them into Chanukah menorot. Although meant for the children a few adults also tried their hand at this arts and crafts activity. Dinner consisted of beef and vegetarian patties that were assembled into burgers by the attendees. Sufganiyot and ices were served for dessert. The Chanukah lights were lit as soon as it got dark and Chanukah songs were sung.

The sight of so many chanukiyot glowing in the dark was beautiful to behold.



8th Night of Chanukah

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



Brooklyn Danelowitz
1 December



Rocky Schlesinger
8 December



Nathan Beswick
12 January



David French
19 January



Mitzvah Day

This year Temple Israel spent Mitzvah Day at Fezeka Community Garden in Gugulethu assisting the farmers by planting seedlings, digging vegetable beds and mixing compost in the nutrition deficient sand.

The community garden is one of many urban farms that fall under the auspices of Umthunzi Farming Community, an organisation that assists independent urban farmers sell their organic, seasonal produce to the public. Fifty congregants enthusiastically dug, planted and turned soil. At the end of the morning we gathered together and listened to the farmers introduce themselves and tell us their personal stories.

Many of them turned to farming after having lost their jobs. We were all inspired by their enthusiasm, strength of will and resilience.



The Umthunzi Farmers



Our gardening youth



Manelisi, from Manelisi's Urban Farm with Ruby Saks and Nathan Beswick

Moldova endorses accepted definition of antisemitism

JNS.org



Moldovan Parliament Building. Credit: Serhiodudnic/Wikimedia Commons

Moldova endorsed the widely accepted definition of antisemitism from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on Friday, in addition to committing the country's authorities to fight hatred against Jews and others.

According to the IHRA, “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

“Moldova has taken a laudable step in recognising clearly the resurgent cancer of antisemitism and mobilising to effectively combat it,” said American Jewish Committee CEO David Harris, who has visited the country several times. “We commend the Jewish Community of Moldova, an AJC international partner, for working with their government to achieve this important policy decision.”

Fewer than 4000 Jews reside in Moldova (as of 2012), which was party to pogroms and other persecution against Jews during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Last month, the European Union adopted the IHRA definition.



Yasmin Kuti-Alexander, Daniella Beswick, Bev May, Zahid Badroodien and Glen Heneck



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Wednesday evenings - 7 March, 3, 10 April 2019
7:30pm- 9:30pm
Blouberg

Echad 201

Monday evenings - 6, 13, 20 May 2019
7:30pm- 9:30pm
Venue: TBA



About Debbie
A mom of three, Debbie runs a holistic aquatic physio practice in Sea Point. She is a watsu practitioner trauma release therapist and facilitates mindfulness based interventions and programmes.



About Zeesy
A mom of six, Zeesy is the director of Sinai Academy Jewish International school and Cape Town Torah High. She is the spiritual feminine leader of Blouberg Jewish Community Centre and is passionate about bringing people closer to their soul source.

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Family Announcements

BIRTH

RAFAEL JOSEPH VAN EMBDEN

Jacques and Lior are overjoyed to announce the arrival of baby Rafael on 24 November 2018.

Grandson for Marco and Gwen, Yossi and Zahava.

Mom, Rafael and Dad are all healthy and happy, thank you to all our friends and family for your kind and loving wishes.

RECUPERATION — THANK YOU

JACKIE SACHAR

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my family and friends for their unfailing and wonderful support and kindness during my recent illness and for their ongoing encouragement as I continue to recover.

Special mention must be made of the incredible support I received from Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg and my shul friends, not only at Claremont/Wynberg, but all over the world, who davened for my refuah sheleimah.

My heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes to Hashem who heard and answered our prayers.

The care and concern from all, not only for me, but also for Maureen, Michael, Jonathan and their families is greatly appreciated.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

NEVILLE RAOUL CODRON

We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of community love and comfort, support and condolences shown to us on the passing of our dear husband, father and sabah.

We wish to offer our deepest gratitude and appreciation to family and friends, Rabbi Kalman Green and the Constantia Shul community, and the Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital team.

Neville's bravery, fortitude and positivity was an inspiration to us.

"May we celebrate in each other's joy and happiness and always be available in each other's sorrow in order to lighten the burden."

Sophie, Marc, Natalie, Rael, Aviva, Scott and grandchildren.

PETER SHIFFER

We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support on the passing of our beloved husband, father, brother and grandfather.

Our gratitude to Rabbis Liebenberg and Hecht. The abundance of meals, visits and warmth shown is a tribute to his wonderful legacy.

Peter will be in our hearts forever.

Bridget, Greg and Brad, Tracy, Romy and Kim, Linda and Steven and the grandchildren.

MAURICE SILBERT

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Rabbi Wineberg, family, friends and patients, for their warmth, love and support after our beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away. You have all been a great source of comfort.

Marlene, Jo, Beth, Patti and family.

ALAN TUCKER

We, the family of the late Alan Tucker, wish to thank Rabbi and Zeesy Deren of Chabad of the West Coast, Rabbi Bernstein of Milnerton Hebrew Congregation and all our family, friends and organisations for the tremendous support when we lost our beloved husband, father, son and brother

Ilana, Talia and Jordan.
Freda, Helene and Barbara

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



Secrets of ageing well

We experience ageing not as a slow, steady process, but in moments of shocking awareness — at the death of a parent, the birth of a grandchild, or the arrival of our first grey hairs.

Although the physical signs of ageing are only part of the story, our reaction to them is often the strongest evidence of our denial. Whatever our age, we need to consider why we're afraid of getting older, and learn to embrace each milestone along the way. One needs to find wisdom, inspiration and ideas about how to proceed to the next stage of life with optimism, energy and confidence.

Sharon Stone was seen on the cover of a magazine, aged 50 — bare breasted and wearing a leather corset with high heels declaring "I'm 50 — so what!" In real life, what woman of her age really has such a perfect face and body?

In our society everyone wants to live longer, but can't stand their bodies showing signs of aging but it isn't easy to get away from the fantasy of growing old youthfully. Aside from offending our vanity, our slightly rounder middle and silvering hair serve as painful reminders that we're not as useful in society's exacting terms as we once used to be. It's a rare woman who does nothing to hide, or at least to soften, the ravages of time, whether to avoid being sidelined at work, to hold on to her powers of seduction, or simply to feel more comfortable in her skin.

Often, the insidious and unrealistic notion that it's possible to preserve youth indefinitely — if only we try hard enough — clashes cruelly with our experience, both of growing older and of watching our parents and partners age. Those of us watching loved ones growing old whilst suffering from diseases such as Alzheimer's no longer recognising people while physically being fine knows that growing old like that isn't really living.

Ageing means different things to men and women and indeed, it can also mean different things from one generation to the next. If menopause is a key stage in a woman's life, career has traditionally been the main benchmark by which men measure their lives — ageing can be a difficult experience for them, particularly if it stops them being able to work. It is extremely difficult to let go of a career even if one suggests that the person might enjoy free time.

Never say never — don't limit yourself and never give up on dreams. Don't compare yourself to anyone and be gentle on yourself. Nowadays later life increasingly is seen as a time of reinvention, rather than only of rest and relaxation. All over the world more people want flexibility as they age; periods of work alternating with periods of education and leisure. People want to take control of their lives and continue to be active and productive in their own unique ways.

In a world where everything, including the way we age — is changing increasingly quickly, the desire for a greater sense of control is stronger than ever. It is difficult to imagine what sort of person we will be when we are old, but it is worth considering what this process has to offer; a better understanding of ourselves, the permission to 'let go' (whether emotional baggage or impossible standards) and the opportunity to focus our energy on projects that we really care about. Rather than fighting a losing battle to stop the passage of time, or withdrawing and becoming bitter, we need to seek an active acceptance and fresh awareness of ourselves.

At about 40. Our perception of our bodies, our image and our sexuality changes. It is the age where we start to think about the way our parents were when we were adolescents, and the ideas our mothers passed on to us about what it means to be a woman. This process allows us to question our fears and desires — do we want to age the same way our parents did? Can we allow ourselves to live differently, to be ourselves rather than becoming the projection of what our parents wanted us to be? This focus on ourselves offers an important opportunity to resolve inner conflicts.

And so, an inability to look within, or to accept our changing bodies, to become a missed opportunity to rewrite the terms of our lives. Ultimately, fixating on the physical can have a detrimental effect on our mental and emotional wellbeing. Clinging to an illusion of physical youth often leads to reliance on the approval of others to validate that illusion. Women's sense of beauty is then too dependent on external sources, rather than on an internal experience.

Difficult as it may be, learning to depend less on external sources can be an exhilarating and liberating experience. Rather than viewing age merely as a loss to be mourned or an obstacle to be overcome, it is possible to see it as a journey of discovery. The key to optimum ageing lies in managing the dynamics between gains and losses. In ageing — our spiritual forces expand. A life of the heart and mind takes over as the physical force ebbs away — the bonus being is that we gain as we lose.

Diana Sochen Executive Director

Out and about with members



West Coast Members enjoying a birthday morning

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

We extend a hearty mazal tov on the following happy occasions:

Births

Phyllis Friedlander — Great granddaughter

Solly Gutman — Grandson

Mavis Horwitz — Great grandson

Charlotte Schachat — Great Grandson

Lilian Sheldon — Great grandson

Bat Mitzvah

Eunice and Harold Mofsowitz — Grandson

Engagement

Victor and Maxine Boyd — Daughter

Thelma and Alec Cohen — Granddaughter

Marriage

Ronnie and Rose Stein — son

Ellen Sternberg — Grandson

Anniversary

Selwyn and Liz Kantor 54 years

Michael and Averil Myers 50 years

Birthdays

Jeanette East 90

Bess Kawalsky

Ruth Mink 87

Shirley Elvey 80

Sarah Daitsch 80
Ralph Sher 80

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

Arthur Joffe — Brother

Motti Lewis — Mother

Henry Nieuwenhuizen — Wife

Neville Sher — Wife

Malcolm Stuppel — Daughter

Freda Tucker — Son

Charles Myers — Brother

We welcome New Members to the CJSA family:

Mary Brandon, Maxleigh Derman, Dale Mathews, Cynthia Sack, Angela Tward

We congratulate the following CJSA members who belong to Bnai Zion on their years of selfless service:-

70 years Miriam Licherman, Ettie Buch

65 years Bella Silverman

60 years Lily Kesler, Polly Sacks, Charlotte Schachat, Doreen Wingerin

50 years Riva Mersky

40 years Ethne Abromowitz, Berenice Katz, Gail Kirsch

Special Events and Outings — booking essential

Twilight Suppers: Bookings essential

Sea Point 12 February 17:30 Adv Steven Powell on anticorruption efforts in South Africa R60

Milnerton 14 February 18:30 Charl Viljoen, City of Cape Town Liaison Officer R70

Outings:

Southern Suburbs 11 February Water Taxi in the docks. Booking essential R75

Milnerton 5 February Outing to De Fayebosch Olive and Lavender Farm in Melkbos R40

Sea Point 6 February Glenelly Glass Museum R40

West Coast 19 February Water Taxi in the docks R75 including transport when booking online

Men's Schmooze

Milnerton 8 February 10:30 Rodney Mazinter *The Lie That Won't Die*.

Wynberg 20 February 10:00 Richard Mendelsohn Jews and Muslims

Sea Point 22 February 10:30 Rabbi Richard Newman



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R130

	Monday 4	Tuesday 5
Sea Point	10:00 A morning with <i>Reach for a Dream</i> R10 2:00 Bridge R10 2:00 Reminiscing afternoon R10	Sea Point 10:00 Talking Point with Colin R10 10:00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 2:00 Yoga with Leina Sank R10
Milnerton	10:00 David Slingsby on the construction of the <i>Boomslang Canopy</i> at Kirstenbosch R10 2:00 Music Appreciation with Doreen Kantor R10	Milnerton 10:00 Movie <i>In Between</i> : Three young Palestinian women, sharing a flat in Tel Aviv, are torn between tradition and modernity R10 1:30 Mosaics with Sonia Norrie R30
S/Suburbs	9:30 Outing Tour of the CTICC building R20 Tea for own account 9:30 DVD Series <i>A place to call Home</i> R10 10:00 Scrabble R10 2:00 Yiddish mit Rita R10	S/Suburbs 1:45 Line Dancing with Cathy Hudson R10 9:30 Social Bridge R5 New members welcome 10:00 Kalooki R10 2:00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10
	Monday 11	Tuesday 12
Sea Point	10:00 Irving Freeman speaks on the reappearance of Jewish culture in music R10 2:00 Bridge R10 2:00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10	Sea Point 10:00 Talking Point with Colin R10 10:00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R20 2:00 Yoga with Leina R10
Milnerton	10:00 Craft with Sonia Norrie R20 12:15 Milnerton Committee Meeting R10	10:00 Birthday Pop In: Rlene Miller speaking on the book <i>Woman Power</i> 1:30 Mosaics with Sonia Norrie R30
S/Suburbs	9:15 Outing to Big Bay R40 Tea for own account 9:30 DVD Series <i>A place to call Home</i> R10	1:45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik 5:30 Twilight Supper <i>Broken Windows</i> An excellent presentation by City of Cape Town Community Safety Liaison Officer Charl Viljoen R70 9:30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 10:00 Kalooki R10 2:00 Knitting Group All welcome R10
	Monday 18	Tuesday 19
Sea Point	10:00 Birthday Pop in Rochelle Maisels speaks on her book R10 2:00 Bridge R10 2:00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10	Sea Point 10:00 Talking Point with Roni R10 10:00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 2:00 Yoga Classes R10
Milnerton	10:00 Irving Freeman speaks on the reappearance of Jewish culture in music R10 3:00 Shiur with Rabbi Bernstein R10:00	Milnerton 2:00 Mosaics with Yvette R30 9:15 Movie <i>In Between</i> : Three young Palestinian women, sharing a flat in Tel Aviv, are torn between tradition and modernity R10 1:30 Mosaics with Sonia Norrie R30
S/Suburbs	9:30 DVD Series <i>A place to call Home</i> R10 9:30 Outing to Casa Labia Cultural Centre and Café Tea for own account R30	S/Suburbs 1:45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik 9:30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 10:00 Kalooki R10 2:00 Knitting Group All welcome R10
	Monday 25	Tuesday 26
Sea Point	10:00 Pop in: Enjoy a reality TV morning with Hymie Liebman R10 2:00 Bridge R10 2:00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10	Sea Point 10:00 Talking Point with Marcia R10 10:00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 2:00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10
Milnerton	10:00 Pop In A morning with Helen Pam, children's author R10	Milnerton 10:00 Outing to Suikerbossie Restaurant Tea for own account R30 1:00 Kalooki R10 1:45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinik
S/Suburbs	9:30 Outing to Bishopsford Bonsai Nursery R50 Tea for own account	S/Suburbs 9:30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 10:00 Kalooki R10 2:00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10
	Sunday 24	Sunday 25

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

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Events Calendar MARCH 2019



	<p>We are looking for audiobooks in CD format for those who can no longer read printed books.</p> <p>If you have any to donate to CJSA, it would really be appreciated.</p>		Friday 1 Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20 Milnerton 10:30 Men's Schmooze Rabbi Richard Newman R10
5	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 6</p> <p>GOUDINI</p> <p>Sea Point 9:30 Craft morning with Yvette and Jeannette R20 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 10:00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 2:00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10:00 Bnouth Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 7</p> <p>GOUDINI</p> <p>Sea Point 10:00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 9:30 Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 10:30 Birthday Pop In Pop In with Rolene Miller speaking on the book Womandla Woman Power Confirmed R10 1:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 11:30 Irving Freeman speaks on the reappearance of Jewish culture in music including popular modern music R10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 8</p> <p>GOUDINI</p> <p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 13</p> <p>Sea Point 9:30 Outing to Big Bay R40 Tea for own account 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 10:00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 12:00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 17:30 Twilight supper with Judith Cohen, human rights consultant speaking on Jewish Women's Renaissance Topic R60</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 14</p> <p>Sea Point 10:00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2:00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 9:30 Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton S/Suburbs 10:30 Irving Freeman speaks on the reappearance of Jewish culture in music including popular modern music R10 1:00 Kalooki R10</p> <p>West Coast 10:30 Broken Windows An excellent presentation by City of Cape Town Community Safety Liaison Officer Charl Viljoen R10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 15</p> <p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20 Shabbat supper at Marais Rd Shul. Booking essential. Members R60 Non-members R180</p>
9	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 20</p> <p>Sea Point 9:15 An outing to Suikerbossie R30 Tea for own account 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 10:00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 12:00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 21</p> <p>PUBLIC HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 22</p> <p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 27</p> <p>Sea Point 10:00 Craft with Judi R30 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 10:00 Ageless Grace with Cathy R10 12:00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10:00 Men's Schmooze Group A morning with Rodney Mazinter speaking on <i>The Lie That Will Not Die</i> R10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 28</p> <p>Sea Point 10:00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 11:15 Exercises with Mariamne R10 1:45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p>Milnerton 18:30 Twilight Supper An evening with Dr Tzili Reisenberger R60</p> <p>S/Suburbs 10:30 Broken Windows An excellent presentation by City of Cape Town Community Safety Liaison Officer Charl Viljoen R10 10:00 Art with Sharon Lopis R35</p> <p>West Coast</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 29</p> <p>Sea Point 9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20 10:30 Men's Schmooze Tiny Jones R10</p>

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

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Food is my life — the story of Thelma Koorland Mitchell

By Vivienne Koorland and Tamar Garb.

Thelma Koorland was a household name in Cape Town and beyond.

There are few Jewish families whose lives and simchas were untouched by her. She was Thelma Koorland Caterers, and she facilitated and celebrated family milestones with thousands of people over four decades. Hers was a dramatic and unusual life: in 1943 she was smuggled out of the Warsaw ghetto and shipped to South Africa for adoption, where she lived at Oranjestad Jewish Orphanage. She was a quintessential Capetonian, as well as a Polish Jewish orphaned survivor.

For many, her legendary reputation preceded her. The generally accepted story of how Talmy became a caterer is that when she made lavish birthday parties for her children, word spread. Soon she was teaching cooking and catering for other children and their parents. But the real genesis of her 45-year catering career was at boarding school where she did a thriving trade feeding her peers their uneaten food, transmogrified into delicious egg mayonnaise and delectable grated cheese sandwiches toasted between two irons.

into delicious egg mayonnaise and delectable grated cheese sandwiches toasted between two irons. In 1963, the mother of three launched her business from 43 De Villiers Street in District Six.

Growing up in Jewish Cape Town it was impossible not to have heard of her. Of the rivalry between Robert Krafchick and Thelma Koorland Caterers, who between them had carved up all the barmitzvahs and weddings in the city. "Are you having Krafchick or Koorland for your 'affair'" was the routine question before any function of note. If you chose Koorland, fortune smiled upon you, for along with her famed Danish herring and chopped liver, her Spanish chicken and her sweet-glazed-pineapple-cherry-and-clove hot brisket, came a person of such intensity and talent, such elegance and energy, that you were inevitably swept away and enthralled.

Talmy was born in Łódź, Poland, on February 8, 1936, only child of Dr. Asia Rudzka Szymsonova, a paediatrician, and Dr. Salomon Szymson, a medical doctor and engineer. Both perished in the Warsaw ghetto in 1943. She was saved by her uncle Henryk Rudzki, remaining hidden in Poland until 1946 before he sent her to Paris to her uncle Bernard Simson, Aunt Riva and cousin Monique.

Talmy knew little of her life before Paris. A chance encounter there 67 years later between Monique and a Polish Jewish woman who, astonishingly, had been hidden for three years with Talmy, revealed these facts: Natalia Lerska-Kowalski was 19 when Henryk delivered seven-year-old Talmy, transported in a cart, emaciated and covered in lice and coal, on the day Asia was killed in the ghetto. Talmy got out under the coat of a labourer. In hiding, Talmy Szymson was called Zosia Szkatulska, masking a world of pain, and the first of six name changes marking the trajectory of Talmy's life. She'd known starvation and rickets, and with each displacement spoke less, or not at all. In her 18 months with the Simsons, even her Polish mother-tongue was forbidden. Her cousin recalled that she came alive only in front of a plate of food, often throwing her arms around it for fear of it being taken away. Because they couldn't keep her, Talmy was shipped to South Africa on 1 May 1948, to be adopted by her great-aunt Rachel Gilinsky.

In Cape Town, her life as we knew it began. Now Thelma Gilinsky, Talmy was sent to the Huguenot Girls High School in Wellington. There she demonstrated that fabled energy, brilliance and resourcefulness, knitting rapid-fire for her classmates to supplement her meagre pocket money, tackling English and winning the History prize each year. Not expected to matriculate in Afrikaans, she left at Standard 8, avoiding burdening her adoptive family. In 1955, she married Victor Koorland, an

But the real genesis of her 45-year catering career was at boarding school where she did a thriving trade feeding her peers their uneaten food, transmogrified into delicious egg mayonnaise and delectable grated cheese sandwiches toasted between two irons.



Talmy in May 2000, in the Warsaw market, with tiny bagels and her beloved 'real' cornflowers and favourite lily of the valley, upon her arrival there for the first time since leaving Poland in 1948.

industrial chemist.

With Thelma Koorland Caterers, Talmy created an empire, a charismatic general staffed with an array of waitresses, waiters, drivers and kitchen staff, whom she cajoled, yelled at, praised and fed, but most of all laughed with and loved. Exhausted, after parties with sore feet and red hands, all felt the relief of a mission accomplished and the warm glow of a job well done. But Talmy would be exhilarated at the end of it, diamonds sparkling, gold chains clinking, rouged lips and beautiful eyes intact, basking in the admiration and achievement of the night.

Although she experienced irreparable loss, having had everything taken from her as a child, she made up for what was stolen from her – a childhood, a family, a language, a home.

But in 1977, her catering premises surrounded by rubble after the destruction of District Six, Talmy took Thelma Koorland Caterers to London. For 25 years, her home in North London became command centre for Thelma Koorland Exclusive Catering. She and Victor divorced in 1981; he died in 1995. In 1985 Talmy married Alex Mitchell, a buyer in the East End rag trade. He died in September 2018.

She threw into all her activities extraordinary commitment and creativity, loving and giving without holding back. Who could ever forget her cooking for family and friends, her stuffed monkey, her cheese blintzes, or just her sheer energy and ability to love life and seize it with both hands. Her capacity for friendship was enormous, her kindness and generosity were boundless. Although she experienced irreparable loss, having had everything taken from her as a child, she made up for what was stolen from her – a childhood, a family, a language, a home. Her capacious warmth and luminous intensity made the world a better place.



Talmy with her mother Asia and uncle Henryk at their summer dacha in Gdansk, Poland, 1937



Talmy (left) in a redacted copy from Reconstruction, May, 1948, taken in the Paris office of O.S.E. (Oeuvre Secours aux Enfants), a relief organisation that placed European Jewish wartime orphans with living relatives all over the world. It shows the first two Jewish orphans receiving their air tickets to South Africa.

Thelma Koorland Mitchell was born in Łódź on 8 February 1936 and died in London on 16 October 2018

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A Q&A with Nechama

We at Nechama have been asked some very interesting questions, many of which we'd like to share with you.

What is the Nechama Organisation?

We are a volunteer-based community organisation providing comfort and support to members of the Cape Town Jewish community who have experienced a bereavement. We assist them in adjusting to their changed circumstances, the 'new norm'.

Why special bereavement counselling?

Although bereavement is a sorrowful and sometimes tragic experience, receiving counselling with specific emphasis on the emotion of grief and the dynamics around it assists us to accept our loss and realise that the future does await us.

Why Jewish bereavement counselling?

Judaism holds time-honoured practices that prepare us to receive consolation, (burial, shiva, shloshim, kaddish). Trained counsellors of similar backgrounds to the bereaved can often relate to these and other Jewish milestones, like Yom Tovim or Yahrtzeits. In this way the counsellor can assist the client through the grief. However, the counsellors do not provide spiritual counselling.

What kind of training is involved?

Extensive training of each individual is involved.

- A personal growth group
- A communication and counselling skills course
- A bereavement training counselling skills course
- Aside from this we have a Jewish bereavement module

Although this process is a very enriching one for the individual it does not automatically make them a counsellor. A candidate would then have to be approved by a selection committee. The process could take a period of up to two years.

- Additional monthly supervision groups facilitated by a psychologist
- Attending in-service-training and workshops on various topics.

What exactly do we offer the public?

The range of services include:

- A telephone outreach service to the recently bereaved families
- Individual one-on-one counselling by trained, skilled and supervised counsellors
- Palliative Care Counselling
- Support Groups
 - General Monthly Loss Group
 - Bereaved Widow/Widower Support Group
 - Seminars

- Workshops

- Public Lectures and Group Lectures, i.e. Workshops for Organisations, Jewish and non-Jewish
- Training Groups:
 - Personal Growth and Self Development Courses
 - Communication and Counselling Skills Courses
 - Bereavement Counselling Skills Course
 - Outreach and training for other organisations, e.g. St Lukes Hospice
 - Rabbis and Rebbetzins Course

How is Nechama different from Lifeline?

Lifeline is a generic organisation dealing with a broad variety of life issues. Nechama specialises in Jewish bereavement and palliative care counselling only.

What's the procedure for getting help?

We receive a monthly list of Jewish bereavements in Cape Town from the Chevra Kadisha, (UOS) and the Progressive Hebrew Congregation. Each bereaved person then receives a call of condolence with an offer to receive counselling. If there are additional family members who require an outreach call or counselling they can receive this on request.

After a bereavement, we respect the Shiva week. There are usually families around the bereaved to support them at this time. Also, there are practicalities to deal with. This can be when a well-meaning friend and family member call Nechama, but it is still too early for the bereaved to accept counselling, as the loss is too overwhelming.

The bereaved who accept our services are counselled for an average of six sessions with additional sessions to be negotiated between counsellor and client.

What guarantee do I have for privacy and confidentiality?

Confidentiality is a priority. By necessity our counsellors receive ongoing supervision for the nature of the work they do, but names are never used in these sessions. Everyone who works for Nechama is bound by a confidentiality agreement.

What is the cost involved?

There is no cost for the client, however, being a volunteer organisation we are very dependant on donations from both the family and the broader community. We are a registered PBO.



During November 2018 Erica Duzzy O'Riordon visited Coffee Time with her friend, Molly Kretzmar.

When introduced to Director Merle Furman, Erica told Merle that her late parents, Mr and Mrs Duzzy, had worked as houseparents at Oranjia Children's Home in the 1960s, and she lived there with her parents.

She remembered some of the children and asked Merle if, by any chance, she knew Neville Wolpert. Indeed, Merle knows him very well! Merle has been involved with the centre for the past 43 years and Neville was a worker at Astra during the 70s and 80s.

He is also a resident at Rosecourt, one of Astra's Group Homes and currently works on the open labour market. Erica then asked about siblings Charles and Jeanie Brand. Charles, who works at the Centre, came from his workroom to Coffee Time to meet Erica.

The reunion was an event of a lifetime. Erica sobbed when she saw and met Charles, now 64 years old, having last seen him as a little boy! He has worked at the Centre

A meeting of old acquaintances from 60 years ago



Charles Brand, Erica Duzzy O'Riordon, Jean Brand and Neville Wolpert

in the stamp room for 46 years. Erica remembers trying to teach him to read as a little boy. On seeing Erica, he (understandably) did not recognise her but when he heard her name, he immediately remembered her, her parents and her brother and asked after all of them.

The following week Erica and Molly returned to Coffee Time to meet up with Neville Wolpert. Nola Gerdis (from Glendale) brought Jean Brand to see her as well. The interaction between Erica and Neville was remarkable, with memories, good and not so good, being recalled with absolute clarity and accuracy.

Erica recalled how, as a little girl living in Oranjia, she used to rush home from school to play with little Neville, who she loved SO much.

A 'cool' art studio

The art studio/dining room at Astra received a much-needed air conditioning unit, kindly donated by Corevest. The donation was initiated by artist Pam Wertheim, who gives the weekly art classes to the workers.



The art group with their Succot project



Pam Wertheim

Chanukah

The annual Chanukah Party, kindly sponsored by Saville and Shelly Furman, was one of the highlights of the year. Ivor Joffe's marvellous music contributed to the joyful atmosphere and Greg Gelb's magical moves had everyone enthralled. The party ended with Ivor lighting the chanukiah.



Ivor Joffe



JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPE TOWN

www.jcs.org.za



A NEW LOOK. A NEW VISION.

A new JCS logo has been designed, in keeping with the brand positioning and service offering. The logo consists of six abstract figures which represent the various services offered by JCS. The colours of the logo correspond with the colour palette of the various initiatives that make up Jewish Community Services. All six figures are facing inwards in a demonstration of community and unity. The tone is welcoming, warm, inclusive and is free of judgment. There is a focus on a personal and collective connection through a shared experience.



OUR VISION

The vision of Jewish Community Services is to be recognised as the leading provider of innovative services and programs that address existing and emerging social service needs.

To provide a full spectrum of services that promotes quality of life within the context of Jewish ethics and values. Together we can build a caring, self-sufficient community with dignity, harmony and happiness.

OUR MISSION

To develop, implement and coordinate social protection and poverty reduction solutions for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Cape Town Jewish community. To provide quality social welfare services to enable them to meet life's challenges.

OUR VALUES

Respect for Human Dignity, Integrity, Service Excellence and Community Participation.



HAZEL LEVIN
Executive Director, JCS Cape Town

It was a privilege to be appointed as the Executive Director of Jewish Community Services Cape Town (JCS) six months ago, serving a community that I am passionate about, ensuring that the more vulnerable members of our community are assisted to the best of our ability. The biggest eye opener for me has been to see how JCS's Social Workers work so tirelessly with our clients behind the scenes, ensuring they are dealt with in accordance with our values, of respect for human dignity, integrity, service excellence and community participation.

The most distressing part of my job has been witnessing the increase of individuals and families within our community requiring assistance. This is evident from our intake statistics; the caseloads are high, with our Social Workers working approximately 500 cases, of referrals of clients, and at least 12 new cases a month. These clients are in desperate need of material relief (food and accommodation) as well as counseling and support in circumstances of mental illness, substance dependency, domestic violence and the aged, where people are not coping financially, emotionally, physically or psychologically. I found these statistics very disturbing, as I became more aware of the needs of those in our community. Basic needs such as food and accommodation are a priority, this being limited by the amount of shelter we can provide. Accommodation is the biggest problem, with some clients having to reside in backpackers and night shelters. Each client is assessed by the Relief Coordinator, which requires full disclosure and transparency of information from financials to proof of Jewish identity, ensuring that they

meet Relief's criteria and qualify for assistance. JCS tries to assist every client, however we are limited by funding, so we need to ensure that all the necessary criteria are met.

With all of this in mind we embarked on a rebrand, new brand positioning and strategy at the end of last year. This has enabled us to formulate a very clear vision and mission, as well as solidify the values for which JCS stands. Along with a new striking and colourful JCS logo, our new brand positioning and strategy will ensure that we continue to service the community in an efficient manner; creating a greater awareness of the needs of the vulnerable in our community and raising funds to sustain the existing initiatives as well as new initiatives we plan to implement.

My team and I are looking forward to a successful 2019 working together with you, our community!

Unity in the face of adversity: how a fire brought the community together

By Tali Feinberg

It was a year that began with a drought and ended with a fire. Flames filled the night sky, roof beams collapsed in on themselves, and seven Sifrei Torah scrolls burned in the inferno when a devastating blaze ripped through Beit Midrash Morasha (Arthurs Road Shul) on 4 December.

If anything, 2018 demonstrated that we are at the mercy of the elements, but also that our community is strong and unified enough to work together to rebuild in the face of disaster.

The response to Morasha fire was the ultimate example of the Cape Town Jewish community's cohesion that is renowned the world over. Even that night, it was the community who came out in the dark, helping in any way they could.

Cape Board Chairman Rael Kaimowitz describes arriving at the scene as traumatic. "There was a sense of disbelief and helplessness as community members gathered outside. The spontaneous prayers, tehilim and communal singing together with a deep sense of mourning was incredibly powerful. It highlighted, in such a real and tangible way what a special community we have," he said.

"It is so essential, as has been demonstrated, that all South Africans stand together to overcome challenges when they arise," he added. "The appropriate response by Jews throughout the ages is to shine a light during times of darkness. How much more so during the eight days of Channukah? The fact that the shul did not skip a beat and conducted its Shacharit service in the courtyard the very next morning is testament to the resilience and power of our community."

As dawn broke, community members from across the spectrum converged in the Beit Midrash Morasha courtyard, with Torah scrolls brought in from the Shul of the West Coast across the peninsula. While they prayed, they were drenched with a strange summer rain — a belated gift after the devastating drought.

It was there that Morasha committed to writing a new Torah — "a shul should not be without a Torah for one minute," said its rabbi, Sam

Thurgood. In the space of a month, over R5 million was raised towards this goal and other costs.

Morasha was assisted in every way by many Cape Town congregations, especially the Sephardi Hebrew Congregation, and it was hosted in the Herzlia Weizmann School Hall. They never missed a service, there was always a minyan, children's programmes ran on track and the Channukah carnival went off without a hitch.

Volunteers cleaned and catalogued books that had been saved from the flames, food and funds flooded in, videos and messages of support filled Facebook and circulated around the city. The firefighters who battled the blaze were warmly hosted over Shabbat, and many people fasted in mourning for the lost Sifrei Torah.

Indeed, replacing of the precious Torah scrolls was the top priority. The Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation (Marais Road Shul) loaned the Ichikowitz Family Tefillin Bank Torah, known as 'Kevin's Torah', indefinitely for Morasha's use.

A Sefer Torah from the Lichtenburg community in the North West Province was also delivered to Cape Town in time for Shabbat. This Torah was entrusted to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) for safekeeping when the community closed down many years ago, has been on loan to the Ohr Sameach community in Sandton. United Herzlia Schools started the process of writing a new Sefer Torah as a gift from the Jewish children of Cape Town. Less than a week after the fire it hosted a 'unity assembly' for all learners from Herzlia, Phyllis Jowell Pre-Primary, Cape Town Torah High and the Sinai Academy.

A thousand children came together to watch sofer Rabbi Avi Shlomo inscribe the first pasuk, and each child was able to contribute R18 towards a letter of the new Torah. Those who could not be there joined the emotional event via a live video link up. This Torah will be completed in Israel over the coming year.

"It is a tribute to our Cape Town community that in times of adversity, we rally together to assist and offer whatever help can be given," said UHS Director of Education Geoff

Cohen at the event.

He added that he knew Rabbi Sam Thurgood has been deeply touched by the incredible letters of support and solidarity that he received from Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities — demonstrating that the unity that emerged from this tragedy extended to all the people of Cape Town.

Indeed, it was Rabbi Sam Thurgood and his wife, Rebbetzin Aviva, who remained the calm in the centre



Rabbi Sam and Rebbetzin Aviva Thurgood with their daughter Shalva, looking on as Rabbi Avi Shlomo writes a new Torah scroll — a gift from the Jewish children of Cape Town
Photo by Greg Gelb



Shacharit service in the courtyard of the shul, the morning after the fire

of the storm. Their quiet and stoic strength was the leadership that the community needed at such a time of crisis. From video updates to taking the time to talk to the media, they ensured that everyone was always informed and involved.

There were many miracles — no one was in the shul at the time of the fire, there were no injuries or loss of life, and many parts of the shul complex remained untouched, including Cape Town's only mikveh.

What caused the fire? Rabbi Thurgood assured that although it

was the third night of Chanukah, the candles are never left out. Assessors have found that it was most probably caused by an electrical fault in the roof of the building, which is over 100 years old.

"The reason they say this, was that if you look at the epicentre of the fire, it was in the roof, and the Aron Kodesh," he explains. "We can rule out anything like foul play, but we still remain in this sad situation of spiritually homeless. And yet as I have said, our community is blessed with strength and courage, and we are moving forward."

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A fresh new start for Glendale

The New Year began at Glendale with three new team members, a new Board, freshly painted workshops, and a renewed passionate approach to trailblazing in the somewhat difficult field of intellectual challenges.

We are seeking outing ideas, volunteers and support with a constant list of needs.



We continue with monthly open birthday parties and ask that you watch this space for more exciting news and events to come!



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WIZO members acknowledged in meaningful ceremony

In a truly heartwarming ceremony, Cape Town community leaders and members, family and guests gathered in late November last year to honour a group of extraordinary women, some of whom have given up to seven decades of unbroken service to the BZA WIZO organisation.

The WIZO Rebecca Sieff Awards were held at the Sephardi Shul hall in Sea Point, with Israeli Ambassador Lior Keinan as the keynote speaker. Lior gave an interesting and informative address, highlighting Israel's many groundbreaking accomplishments in the fields of medicine, technology, water conservation and farming.

Adrienne Judes, Chairman of WIZO Cape Town said it was an honour to recognise those members who have walked in the footsteps of Rebecca Sieff, and

devoted 40 years and more to the empowerment and upliftment of thousands of women and children through fundraising events here in South Africa.

Rabbi Benschlouch of Sephardi Hebrew Congregation gave an inspiring and thoughtful Dvah Torah address, and a wonderful musical interlude was presented by young Israeli shlichim — Dashi Chusid (Habonim), Avia and Lavi Woolf (Bnei Akiva) and Batia Ashkenazi (Sephardi Shul).

Also honoured at the ceremony was the late Ada Kahn, who until last year held the positions of Vice Chairman, then Chairman of Gesher branch for over 24 years. A loving tribute to Ada was delivered by Yda Tollman.

Roslyn Novos was given her 40-year Rebecca Sieff award posthumously, which was received by her son David.



Ambassador Lior Keinan, Moonyeen Castle, with Bella Silverman (65 years' service)



Ambassador Lior Keinan, Naomi Rose, Judy Nurek, Bernice Maron, Gail Kirsch, Moonyeen Castle, Adrienne Judes with Berenice Katz, Ida Jacobson, Arina Bach and Ethne Abramowitz (40 years' service)



Ambassador Lior Keinan, Moonyeen Castle, Issa Werb, Ada Sher, Linda Saban, Adrienne Judes with Riva Merskey, Isa Herring, Irene Gootkin, Marcelle Almeleh (50 years' service)



Ambassador Lior Keinan, Moonyeen Castle, Adrienne Judes with Bertha Barenblatt, Rene Kleinman, Miriam Licherman and Ettie Buch (70 years' service)



Ambassador Lior Keinan, Moonyeen Castle, Adrienne Judes with Doreen Wingerin, Polly Sacks, Lily Kessler, Ada Fuchs, Charlotte Schachat (60 years' service)



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The inspiring life of a Cape Town GP

By Solly Benatar and Milton Shain

Maurice Silbert graduated in Medicine at UCT in 1954.

After internship at Grey's Hospital and some locums he entered family practice and had a long and productive partnership with Sid Kiel. Mossie, or Mo was one of the doyens of family practice in Cape Town. He featured prominently in the lives and health of thousands of people and his death leaves a void for all who knew and loved him.

His life as an outstanding doctor could be recounted as a complex series of overlapping and intersecting narratives spanning a 60-year unique era of medicine. Unprecedented

advances in our knowledge of health and disease and in the diagnostic and therapeutic modalities available for application in all fields of medicine, radically changed health care. These advances posed the greatest challenges to family doctors who, in addition to caring for their patients directly, also had to be capable of engaging in thoughtful and sensitive bridging relationships with an expanding number of specialist and

super-specialist colleagues.

Mo was well known for his astute diagnostic skills and for his warm humanistic approach to caring for patients. Prof Frank Forman, an uncle, was one of his heroes whose exemplary clinical acumen inspired and motivated him. He was also clinically and morally inspired by the examples set by the late Golda Selzer, Bill Hoffenberg and Frances Ames. His special interests were in the doctor-patient relationship, medical and psycho-social problems in the elderly, the family doctor's role in caring for the terminally ill, and the need to recognise

the manifestations of 'masked depression,' on which topics he wrote thoughtful articles. He was a founding member of St Luke's Hospice and the Cape Jewish Seniors' Association.

The intertwining of his intellectual commitment to keeping up with advances in medicine and maintaining high standards, combined with long hours of work and dedication to excellent interpersonal relationships,

as medicine rapidly evolved and became more sophisticated, was very demanding. His stamina to cope inspired his colleagues and students, and he sustained strong links with his patients and the community which he served so well for many decades. Mo's interest in, and dedication to his patients included paying his final respects to them by attending their funerals.

A characteristic feature of medical practice in Cape Town from the 1960s to the 1990s was the close interaction between doctors in the academic hospitals associated with UCT and those in private practice. Mo was one of a cadre of about a dozen dedicated family doctors, who willingly took on part-time teaching and clinical work in the UCT medical school. He was also actively involved in the promotion of General Practice as a discipline within the undergraduate curriculum and he played a significant role in developing Family Practice as a specialty, within what was then the College of Medicine of South Africa. Many UCT medical students had the pleasure and privilege of rotating through his practice where they witnessed and were inspired by care very different from what they were exposed to in the hospital environment.

The values and qualities that he brought to bear in his work and to his life in general included, sincerity, integrity, humility, compassion, empathy, courage and fortitude, all combined with dedication to excellence and a passion for developing and understanding human relationships and their role in health and disease. He often quoted Sir William Osler saying, 'The good physician treats the disease: the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.'

If one had to define the ideal General Practitioner, it would be Dr Mossie Silbert. He cared for his patients in a legendary way. Always ready to listen; he would do unsolicited follow-ups and visits — even, I might add, to non-patients. Mo was able to speak from the experience of a patient who showed much courage and acceptance of his own illnesses. The example he set and his impact on the lives of the many patients for whom he cared, will long be remembered with respect, admiration and affection. Who can forget the 7am call to ask how one was feeling? House calls only stopped when Mossie was no longer safe at the wheel. Yet, even then, he planned to take advantage

of Uber to visit his patients — this despite his declining physical prowess.

Mo's awards included the 1968 Louis Leopoldt Medal from the South African Medical Journal, for his work on a research project entitled 'The Cape Morbidity Survey and its Significance in Training for General Practice', the 1983

Hans Snyckers Memorial Medal for 'Dedicated and Distinguished Service in Medicine in South Africa' and a 'Distinguished Family Practitioner Medal,' established in 1998 within the University of Cape Town and Groote Schur Hospital Department of Medicine, for consistent long-standing commitment to family practice teaching.

Maurice Silbert the man, was a living example of the best of Jewish values: He walked humbly with his God. He loved his family and was devoted to Marlene, Jo, Patti and Beth — to his sons-in-laws and grandchildren, and to his late brother Frank. He was proud of them all.

He was also an intrepid letter writer to the press and a regular correspondent to the 'Word of Mouth' programme on SABC on Sunday mornings.

Never one to dwell on his own achievements, Mossie relished the success of those around him. But success was not always measured by conventional yardsticks. Success for Mossie meant living a decent life; success was helping and caring for others. His values radiated from his angelic features. Mossie taught us all. He taught us humility; he taught us honesty and he taught us to respect. Common decency - underlined by care for all - and I mean all.

He was proud of his family and the wonderful work they did. Their efforts will continue with the younger generations. He was happy to know this. It was his job to begin the task, not to complete it.

As a student cheerleader at UCT Mossie revealed a zest for life that never left him. He had the finest sense of humour on the Atlantic Sea Board where he lived for so many decades.

He was a great practical joker. His antics were unsurpassable. Once, during a house call, he stood on his head next to the patient's bed before asking her how she felt. 'Not so well, Doctor', she replied. 'Everything is upside down'.

Maurice Silbert was born on 21 October 1930 and passed away on 5 December 2018.



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Investing in Your Child's Future

By Jos Horwitz
(Director Early Childhood Development,
United Herzlia Schools)



As Director of Early Childhood Education at HERZLIA, I am excited to begin your child's school journey working alongside you, guiding you, our parents, and learning together as we place your child central to the journey from pre-school through the phases of Primary, Middle and High School for 16 spectacular years in the United Herzlia Schools system.

Your child's school going experiences from the age of 18 months shape their future. As Jewish parents we invest in our children's educational journey. Herzlia Pre-Schools are seen as so much more than merely a space to play away from home, it is a vital life shaping educational space. We provide the essential values, skills and knowledge to build your child's identity, linking your family values in a developmentally appropriate way.

At HERZLIA, we frame our educational philosophy around the methodology of 'play'. Decades of expertise, knowledge and research have shown that children learn best through exploratory play using their five senses, engaging in physical movement and relating deeply and authentically to others. Our campuses place a strong focus on developing self-esteem and nurturing each child's potential all the while encouraging an open-door policy to establish a sound partnership with our parents.

We offer a dedicated team of teachers, psychologists, learning support coordinators and teacher assistants. We know that at a young age children learn the fastest and so early identification and intervention through onsite occupational, physio, speech and

language therapists provide a safety net to enhance sound development. The professional team meet weekly to plan and support children, parents and families. Our weekly professional staff development ensures we're up-to-date with the latest in trends in the field of early childhood development, with educators attending staff development regularly.

As part of our foundational educational pillars of learning, we integrate our Jewish festivals and daily practices into our programme, planning learning around relevant themes in our children's lives. Educational outings, parent events and exciting learning experiences offer our children a great beginning in start on their journey through school.

Our pre-schools are the entry point into United Herzlia Schools where we guarantee your child will discover that school is a happy, exciting and successful lifelong venture.

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Join us for a Lecture by Mina Miller entitled



Since 1998, Music of Remembrance (MOR) has remembered the Holocaust through music. Founder and artistic director Mina Miller will share how this unique organization has honored the memory of Europe's murdered Jews, and also told stories of others targeted by Nazi persecution: homosexuals, Roma, political dissidents, free-thinking artists, intellectuals, and others. In addition to performing music from that period, the organization has commissioned over 30 new Holocaust-inspired works by some of today's leading composers, exploring the lives of people who experienced the Holocaust in different ways and in different places. In her presentation, Miller will share some of the highlights as examples of how music can help keep memory fresh and relevant for people of all generations.

MINA MILLER

Mina is the child of Jewish Lithuanian refugees from Kovno and Rietavas. She has made two trips to Lithuania to research her family's history, and has an amazing story to share from that experience.



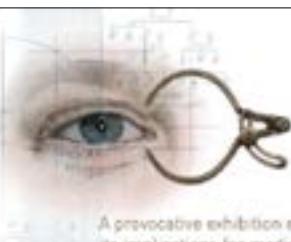
Sunday 17 February, 3pm

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

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5pm Guided walkabout of exhibition
6pm Panel discussion:
Chair: Professor Leslie Swarts
Panellists:
Bongani Mapumalo
Dr Xanthe Hunt
Cleone Jordan
Jenna-Lee Proctor

Prof Leslie London (Public Health, University of Cape Town)
Prof Keymanthri Moodley (Medical Ethics, University of Stellenbosch)

12 February 2019 6pm
Book launch & presentation

6 March 2019 6pm
Disability & Citizenship: Panel Discussion

Dr Tammy Bottner (Pediatrician from Massachusetts, USA, writer on trans-generational trauma transmission).
The impact of the Holocaust did not end in 1945.
Epigenetics: one family's story
In conjunction with Jacob Gillin Library

Introduction: Dr Brian Watermeyer
Chair: Professor Judith Mackenzie
Panellists:
Dr Christine Pata
Tristan Görings
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Two related photographic exhibitions will be mounted at the same time in a nearby smaller room:
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YAD VASHEM
JERUSALEM

A writer who defined the essence of Israel

By Tali Feinberg

To many people, Amos Oz was the father of contemporary Israeli literature, and an integral part of the story of the Jewish State. An iconic writer, novelist, educator and activist he passed away suddenly on 28 December at the age of 79.



Born Amos Klausner in 1939, he was the only child of a couple who fled Europe and settled in Jerusalem. He wrote that his parents "dreamed in Yiddish, conversed in Russian and Polish, read books in German and English but taught him only one language: Hebrew."

It was this language that would define his life's work, for it was from Hebrew that his characters, stories and seminal essays would emerge. He even invented new Hebrew words, and when his work was translated, it maintained an essential Hebrew character.

Oz witnessed the birth of the Jewish State in 1948, when he was just 8 years old, which he describes in his memoir *A Tale of Love and Darkness*: "My father said to me on the night of 29th November 1947, me riding on his shoulders among the rings of dancers and merrymakers... Just you look my boy, take a very good look son, take it all in, because you won't forget this night til your dying day."

Oz endured the suicide of his mother at the age of 12. Two years later he rebelled against his conservative family and went to live on Kibbutz Hulda, where he worked the land and began to write.

It was there that he changed his surname from Klausner to Oz, meaning 'strength' in Hebrew. And it was there that he was buried last month, demonstrating how profoundly the kibbutz had impacted his life. His first book, *When the Jackals Howl*, is set in this space, and it brings the tiny details and despairs of kibbutz life out into the light.

Dozens of novels followed — each one mesmerising, luminescent and Israeli in its essence. Over the next five decades, his books would be translated into 45 languages, and he received dozens of awards and accolades.

A Tale of Love and Darkness was Oz's greatest work, said fellow Israeli novelist David Grossman. "It's not only his autobiography, but in a way the biography of Israel even before it was created."

As a witness to the life, development and growth of the Jewish State, Oz was both one of its strongest supporters, and critics. Like a parent raising an unruly toddler or a teenager testing the boundaries, Oz critiqued Israel from a place of love, wanting his homeland become the best version of itself, and hoping that it would reach its full potential.

While cynics and doomsayers cried the 'death-knell' of the two-state solution, Oz held on even firmer to that vision. Until the end, he always believed Israel should live up to its mandate as 'a light unto the nations.' And as the conflict grew ever more complex, Oz explained it in the simplest of terms, providing a glimmer of hope to even the most jaded observers.

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not a Wild West movie," he wrote in 2003. "It is not a struggle between good and evil, rather it is a tragedy in the ancient and most precise sense of the word: a clash between right and right, a clash between one very powerful, deep and convincing claim and another no less convincing, no less powerful, no less humane claim."

He added that this could end like a Shakespearean tragedy, when the stage is littered with dead bodies but some kind of justice prevails, or with everyone unhappy, and making compromises — but alive. He always advocated for the latter.

Israeli president Reuven Rivlin, called Oz 'our greatest writer' and 'a giant of the spirit', while others have described him as a prophet, a king and a saint. But in the end he was an ordinary man capturing the lives of everyday Israelis.

He saw this as sacred work, because he explained that putting yourself in the shoes of 'the other' means you are forced to understand him. He believed that writing and literature were a vital way of bringing people together and healing societies.

It is tragic that this man of peace never saw an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but at the same time, his wise words, distilled on the page, are a guide that can be followed. Throughout his life, he implored the leadership on both sides to make courageous decisions. As he wrote, "the patient is ready for the operation — it is the doctors that are too afraid to do the surgery." To honour his legacy, we should ensure that Israel is truly at peace, and use words to find our way there.

Opening of *Where is Kovno?* exhibition



Guests engaging with the various aspects of the Where is Kovno? exhibition

On 5 December the SAJM's Old Synagogue filled up with a crowd attending the opening of our current temporary exhibition *Where is Kovno?* Created by artists Cheryl Rumbak and Yda Walt with a soundscape by composer Philip Miller, this interactive exhibition memorialises the genocide of the Jews from the once-thriving Lithuanian city of Kaunas/Kovno.

A large percentage of the museum floor space has been utilised for this multi-media exhibition. Based on historical evidence, it includes a gallery space completely clad in the 1940 Lithuanian phone book, textile maps, suspended linocut

buildings, and an audio interview with the late David Goldblatt and his wife Lily.

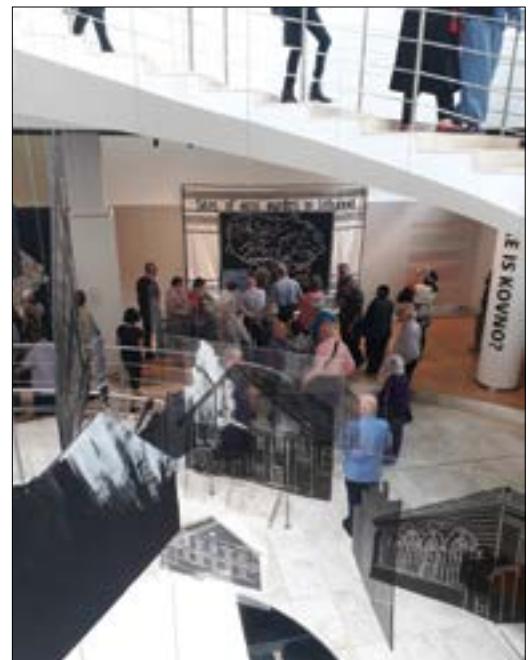
The two artists spoke at the opening in moving terms about their journey back to Lithuania to research and create the installation that tells the story of the genocide of Lithuanian Jewry, and heightens awareness of continued genocides in the world today.

The audience listened as the artists related their discovery of the sheer enormity of the population loss from towns and villages and the present-day desolation of buildings used by Jewish communities. "What happened in Lithuania can and does happen anywhere. We constantly need to challenge antisemitism, racism and xenophobia wherever they occur, and not allow these forces to strip away our intrinsic humanity."

Where is Kovno? uses objects, textiles, linocuts, photographs, audio and movies to give viewers an interactive experience, which is extended by an

invitation to write their own thoughts for display on a hanging board. The exhibition will be on display at the SAJM until the end of February 2018.

On Sunday 10 February at 10am there will be a walkabout of the exhibition, led by the artists. Please email events@sajewishmuseum.co.za if you would like to attend this walkabout.



The exhibition includes a unique 'mobile' of remaining Jewish communal buildings in Kovno



Yid Dish performance in the Old Shul

On 23 December the band Yid Dish, fronted by singer Caely-Jo Levy, gave a rousing performance of old and new songs with a Yiddish flavour.

The concert-goers were treated to a delicious buffet dinner at Café Riteve followed by the performance by Yid Dish in the historical Old Shul. The theme of the evening was bringing the old world into the new and this was exactly what they did! Songs such as 'Rumania' and 'Ofyn Pripetshik' were interspersed with contemporary hits such as Leonard Cohen's 'Dance Me to the End of Love'. The audience responded to the show with thunderous applause, ending the evening on a high note.

'Like' the SA Jewish Museum Facebook page to make sure you do not miss out on other exciting events taking place at the SAJM.



OPERATION MOSES 30 Years After



EXHIBITION MARCH 2019

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

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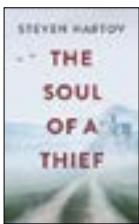
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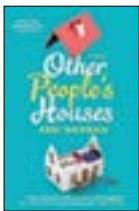
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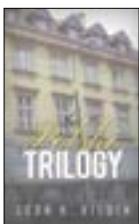
FICTION



THE SOUL OF A THIEF by STEVEN HARTOV. Shtefan Brandt, an adjutant to a Nazi colonel, harbours two secrets. One is that he is a mischling, of mixed-blood, hiding in the German army and the other that he is secretly in love with Gabrielle, his colonel Himmel's French mistress. On hearing Himmel's plan to steal a fortune from the Allies and abscond to South America, Shtefan decides to take matters into his own hands. One false step could spell death.



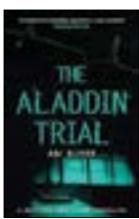
OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES by ABBI WAXMAN. A hilarious novel about four families and the domestic drama that changed everything. Francis Bloom, a harassed stay-at-home mom, drives a carpool of children and is privy to all personal information. However, things change when she enters the house of her neighbour and discovers her infidelity. Francis keeps Anne's secret but when the husband finds out it has a ripple effect on all their marriages.



THE POLSKI TRILOGY by LEON H. GILDIN. A work of historical fiction, inspired by the true story of a hotel in Warsaw, used by the Gestapo in 1943 to house Jews bearing citizenship papers of neutral countries. The trilogy chronicles the lives of two couples, which were changed forever at the Hotel Polski and explores how their secrets affected their children and grandchildren. A reminder of the struggles survivors face as they live with past memories.



THE ICE CREAM QUEEN OF ORCHARD STREET by SUSAN JANE GILMAN. After Malka's family flee Russia for New York in 1913, she is crippled in an accident caused by an ice cream cart. The Italian family responsible look after her. On meeting her husband Alfred Dunkle, she sets off across America selling ice creams in a truck. Later she becomes Lillian the Ice Cream Queen and doyenne of franchises. Gilman weaves her rise fraught with tragedies and triumphs.



THE ALADDIN TRIAL by ABI SILVER. When an elderly private patient, an artist, plunges from a window to her death at an overcrowded London hospital the police suspect foul play. A Syrian refugee is arrested for her murder as he worked as a cleaner on her ward and gave her a copy of The Thousand and One Nights. He becomes an easy target for an unsympathetic media and it is up to solicitor Constance Lamb and barrister Judith Barton to defend him.



THEO AND FLORA by MARK WINKLER. Failed writer Wasserman's wife Sasha has divorced him and left behind a box of original letters. These spark an idea for Wasserman to write a novel about her grandfather Theo and his affair with a young journalist, Flora. Each chapter is either about Wasserman piecing together the letters and telegrams or about Theo and Flora. A skilful witty and entertaining read unfolding against the background of 1940's Cape Town.



THE GIRL FROM BERLIN by RONALD BALSON. Investigator Liam together with his wife Catherine, an attorney investigate a case in Tuscany for a friend's elderly aunt who is being evicted from her vineyard. Gabi is fighting a large corporation as she has deeds to the land. The only clue is the hand written memoir in German of Ada Baumgartner, a Jewish violinist. The reader gets a vivid description of the fate of Italy's Jewish community during World War II.

MEMOIR

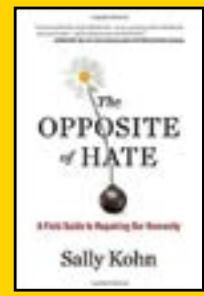


BLACK SUNSET by CLANCY SIGAL. A memoir of the late Sigal's time as a talent agent in 1950s Hollywood. He worked for one of the top agencies amongst whose clients were Bogart, Barbara Stanwyck and Rod Steiger. The memoir is filled with gossip, sex and scandal about the studio greats during the time of the Blacklists. Yiddish permeates the pages as Sigal puts the Jewish into Hollywood. An intimate, revealing book during the time of cinematic legends.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Opposite of Hate

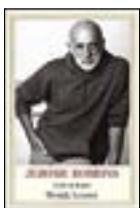
by Sally Kohn



CNN commentator Kohn questions whether it is possible for society to overcome the epidemic of hate all around us. She travels to Rwanda, the Middle East and across the United States to interview former terrorists, white supremists and others trying to gain an understanding of how hate is fostered. Kohn provides an uplifting and inspiring plea to promote peace, kindness and humanitarianism in the face of hate.



THE GIRL THEY LEFT BEHIND by ROXANNE VELETZOS. Inspired by the story of her grandparents, Veletzos's memoir centres on the devastation of Romania during World War II and the country's struggle under Soviet rule. Natalia is left by her Jewish parents and adopted by a Christian couple. Later she has to make the agonising decision of remaining in Bucharest with her family and the man she loves or live a different life confronting the painful enigma of her past.



JEROME ROBBINS by WENDY LESSER. A carefully researched biography of Jerome Robbins' career as a leading choreographer who explored the overlap between ballet and modern dance. Lesser uses original sources, including Robbins' journals, to create a portrait of this famously difficult perfectionist described by Sondheim as "the only genius I ever met." Includes his working relationship with Leonard Bernstein and his mentor George Balanchine.

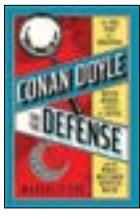
HOLOCAUST



THE AUSCHWITZ VOLUNTEER: Beyond Bravery by WITOLD PILECKI. In a shining example of heroism, Polish officer Witold Pilecki deliberately walked into a Nazi round up and became Auschwitz Prisoner No.4859. He was on a secret underground mission to smuggle out intelligence about this camp and build resistance among prisoners. Surviving starvation, disease and brutality, he escaped in 1943 revealing the earliest horrors of daily life in the camp.



THE CUT OUT GIRL by BART VAN ES. A 'hidden child' account of Lien de Jong, a Dutch Jew hidden from the Nazis by Van Es's grandparents. The author sought to find Lien to understand why she was estranged from his family. A friendship developed between the author and Lien, now in her eighties. The book includes photographs, excerpts from Lien's diary revealing her terrifying time in hiding and the poignant letter written by her mother to her protectors.



CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENCE by MARGALIT FOX. In this book, Doyle author of Sherlock Holmes is at the centre of a criminal episode. Fox details the investigation of the murder of a wealthy Glasgow woman in 1908. The lead suspect is a German Jewish gambler, William Slater, who was wrongly imprisoned for twenty years. After a letter was smuggled to Doyle from Slater in a fake tooth, Conan used his forensic skills to prove his innocence.



THE WOMAN WHO SMASHED CODES by JASON FAGONE. The gripping history of Elizabeth Smith who used cryptology to confront the evils of her time through her code-breaking skills. Together with her husband William Friedman, they exposed smuggling rings during Prohibition and decoded messages sent between Nazi spies thereby cracking their Enigma machine. Through the prism of Smith's life, Fagone unveils how they helped shape modern intelligence.

Nowhere to run, somewhere to hide – The status of embassies as places of refuge

By Anton Katz and Sarah Pudifin Jones

What does international law say about the status of embassies as places of refuge? Are they part of the territory of the receiving state or rather part of the sending state? And what are the consequences of the conclusion?

Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance, and possible torture and murder took place in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on 2 October 2018. Julian Assange has since 2012 been resident in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, United Kingdom.

In December 2015 the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention opined that Mr Assange's deprivation of liberty was arbitrary and a violation of international law. Most recently Mr Assange has instructed his legal team to sue the government of Ecuador for violating his fundamental rights by threatening to remove his protection (and his pet cat) and summarily cut off his interaction with the outside world through limited internet access.

The principles of diplomatic immunity are among the oldest in international law. All states have an interest in the exchange and protection of diplomats, and the rules of diplomatic protection are well settled and strictly observed.

To enable a diplomatic mission to carry out its functions freely, Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1963) states:

1. The premises of the mission shall be inviolable. The agents of the receiving state may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission.
2. The receiving state is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity.

Mr Khashoggi's alleged murder in the Saudi consulate in Turkey raises questions over the extent to which Turkish authorities enjoy jurisdiction to investigate.

3. The premises of the mission, their furnishings and other property thereon and the means of transport of the mission shall be immune from search, requisition, attachment or execution.

This Vienna Convention does not entrench a principle of extraterritoriality regarding embassy premises. Diplomatic premises are not regarded as part of the sending state's territory.

Thus the Saudi consulate in Turkey is part of the territory of the Turkish State., and Ecuador's embassy in London is not part of the territory of Ecuador, but part of the United Kingdom. Acts occurring within those diplomatic premises take place on the territory of the receiving state (i.e. the

state within whose geographic borders the embassy is situated), not on that of the sending state.

But embassy premises are 'inviolable'. They may not be entered by authorities of the receiving state, except with requisite consent. Persons within embassies are protected. Thus, six years later, Mr Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, remains in the Ecuadorian embassy, unable to leave without being arrested by the British police (since international law does not recognise a right of safe passage out of a country of refuge to an asylum seeker).

Mr Assange's safety arises not from the fact that the Embassy is an extraterritorial extension of the territory of Ecuador, but because of the principle of inviolability.

Mr Khashoggi's alleged murder in the Saudi consulate in Turkey raises questions over the extent to which Turkish authorities enjoy jurisdiction to investigate.

Despite the principle of inviolability,

Turkish authorities have actively investigated the disappearance of Mr Khashoggi and claim to have audio and video evidence which shows that Mr Khashoggi was killed by a team of Saudi agents in the consulate. How Turkey came into possession of such footage is of interest.

Both the consulate and the residence of the Saudi consul have been searched, and Turkish prosecutors have taken statements from the consulate's locally employed staff. Indications are that Turkey does not consider Article 22 a complete bar to its investigation, and Turkey is intent on establishing the truth of what happened within the Saudi consulate on 2 October 2018. And If Turkey determines that a crime occurred on its territory what could it do? Would an extradition request be viable? And if a court agrees with Mr Assange's complaint how could it enforce any order?

These developing situations continue to test understanding of the principle of 'inviolability' and the notion that embassies



and consulates are sacrosanct and immune from scrutiny by or interest to the receiving state.

In a world of increasing tensions and distrust between nations, we foresee less willingness by the international community to turn a blind eye to what occurs on diplomatic premises and increasing challenges to the boundaries of the principle of inviolability.

Mr Anton Katz SC and Ms Sarah Pudifin Jones are practising advocates in Cape Town and Durban. Mr Katz was a member of the United Nations Working Group on mercenaries (2011 -2018).

This article first appeared on The Daily Maverick on 9 November 2018 and is republished with permission.

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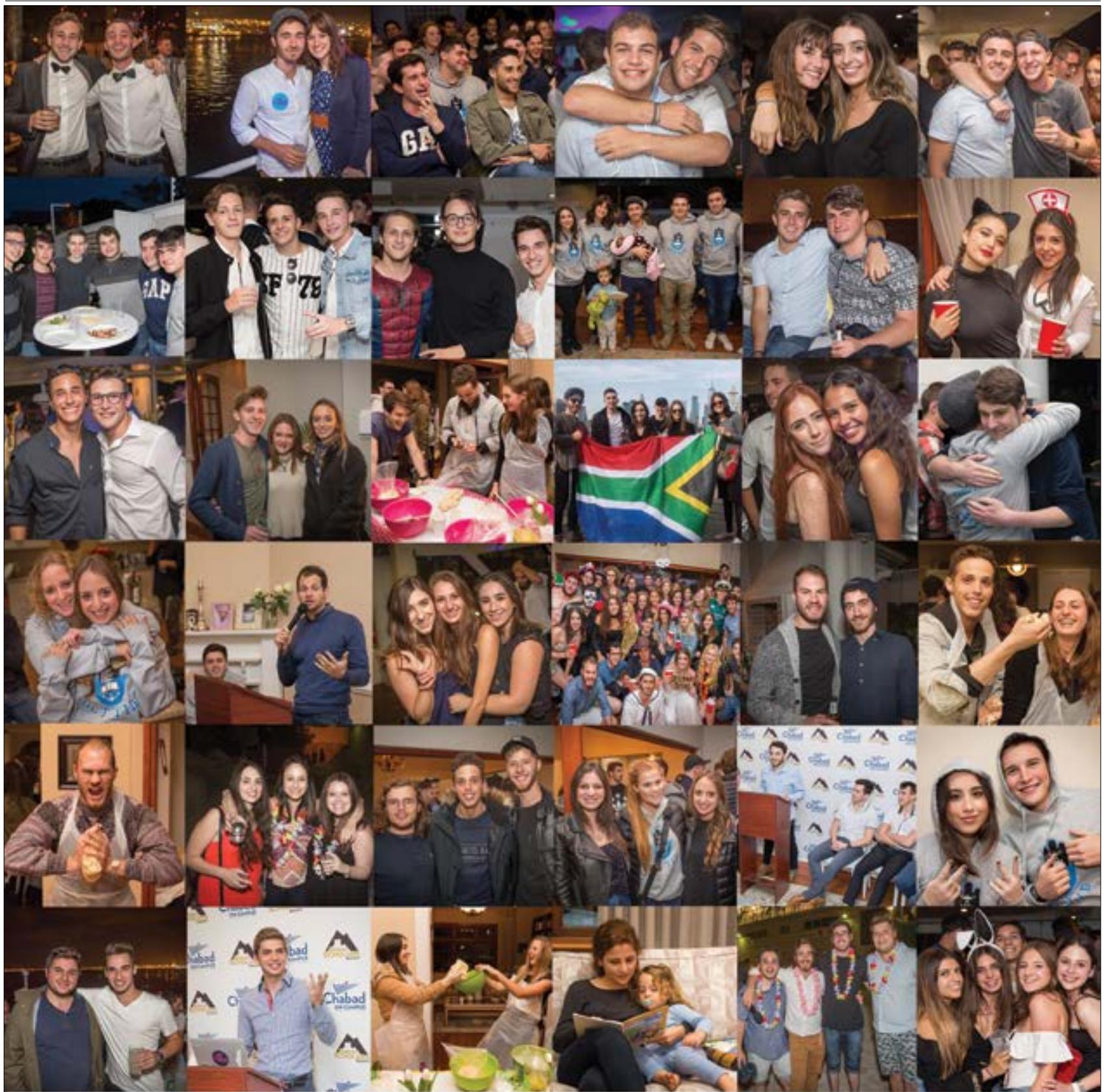


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What is the name 'Purim' all about?

By Binyamin Kagedan for JNS

Pesach refers to the ancient lamb offering, the korban pesach; Shavuot, meaning 'weeks,' points to the careful counting of seven weeks that precede it; Sukkot are the booths that Jews inhabit during the celebration of that name. But just what is the name 'Purim' all about?

Purim is a plural noun, but incidentally, not a Hebrew one. Pur is an Assyrian word meaning 'lot,' some object involved in a game or ritual of chance. The Megillah (or 'Scroll') of Esther, whose reading is the highlight of the Purim liturgy, uses the word pur to describe the method employed by Haman to choose the day on which the Jews of Susa (or Shushan) were to be massacred. For the benefit of its Hebrew speaking audience, the megillah offers an on-the-spot translation: *hipil pur hu hagoral*, meaning 'he cast pur, that is, lots,' goral being the common biblical term for a lottery. We can infer from this quick annotation that even ancient readers of the megillah would have been unfamiliar with the word pur.

That's not to say that ancient Hebrews were strangers to methods of chance. The most famous use of



A painting by Rembrandt of King Ahasuerus and Haman at the Feast of Esther. Credit: Pushkin Museum via Wikimedia Commons

goral in the Hebrew bible was the so-called scapegoat ritual of the Yom Kippur liturgy. Two goats were placed on either side of the high priest; one would be sacrificed upon the altar, the other would be pushed off a cliff on the edge of Jerusalem. The choice of which goat was to be used for which purpose was decided by lottery. The high priest would reach his hands into an urn containing two slips of paper, one reading 'for the Lord' and the other reading 'for Azazel' (the precise meaning of which is another biblical linguistic mystery). The slip that ended up in his right hand would designate the fate of the goat on his right, and the same for the left. The element of randomness in this practice put the outcome squarely into the hand of fate, or the will of

heaven.

What then do we know about Haman's pur? In a fascinating 1983 article for The Biblical Archaeologist titled 'The First Purim,' William Hallo explains that the pur was nothing less than the oldest game in human history: dice. As the curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection, Hallo had under his care a clay cube dating back to the 9th century BCE, which belonged to a minister of the Assyrian king Salmaneser III. A portion of the cuneiform text inscribed on the cube reads, 'lahali the grand vizier... in his year assigned to him by lot (pur) may the harvest of the land of Assyria prosper and thrive, in front of the gods Assur and Adad may his lot (pur) fall.' Here we see two striking similarities to the megilla text. Firstly, in both places the pur is used to make a decision about calendar time;

secondly, both sport the verb 'fall,' as in 'Haman caused the pur to fall (hipil pur).' So how did it work? Hallo suggests that the ancient dice were dropped or thrown (that is, made to fall) from a specialised bowl toward statues of the gods, in this case Ashur and Adad. With each minister casting their own dice, the hope was that one's own cube would end up in some desirable position, perhaps closest to the idol. The prize was extremely valuable — the winner of the game had an entire year of the king's reign named after him (e.g. the 'year of lahali'), resulting in wide scale publicity and immortalisation in the official chronicles.

Exactly how similar Haman's use of the pur would have been to lahali's is still not clear. Scholars assume that the Scroll of Esther was written in the late Second Temple period, centuries later than Salmaneser III's reign, and the practice of pur may have evolved and changed over time. There is still much more for archaeologists and biblical historians to uncover. In the meantime, novel insights like this one continue to de-mystify and animate our ancient texts.

The image of Haman rolling his dice enhances the colour and drama of this most distinguished Jewish tale about the twists and turns of fate.

Binyamin Kagedan has an MA in Jewish Thought from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.



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Micaela Bendix to Daniel Tadmor

Photo: Chelsea Cara Wilson

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All Monumental Requirements

How to teach the Holocaust going forward

By Ben Cohen for JNS.org

Imagine that you are a Jewish doctor in a Nazi concentration camp.

About 100 of your fellow inmates suffer from diabetes, and you only have a limited supply of insulin, with no guarantee of more on the way. Do you give each patient the same amount regardless of individual need, knowing that all of them will likely die within a month? Or do you reserve your supply for those with a greater chance of survival, meaning that those with severe diabetes will die much sooner as a result?

Or imagine that you are the Greek Jewish teenager from Salonika who's picked up enough German from polishing the boots of the Nazi officers occupying your city that when you are eventually deported to Auschwitz, your linguistic abilities land you a low-level clerical job, instead of a spot in the gas chamber. In the camp administrative office, you have access to the index-card system that assigns each prisoner to a different slave-labor brigade

— most of which involves punishing physical work in the freezing outdoors, with the risk of frostbite, pneumonia, beatings or even execution for those deemed by the guards to be slacking off.

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One of your fellow prisoners, who is near death, begs you to sneak his card into the box of a different brigade, one with lighter duties. As long as your Nazi overlords don't catch you, it's in your power to do that. But if you decide to help your friend, then you have to switch his card out with that of another person from the same brigade, and then that person spends his or her days facing snow, ice and death from starvation. What do you do? And, come to think of it, how on earth did you end up in this position?

The above documented examples are what many Holocaust scholars and educators like to describe as 'choiceless choices' — appalling moral dilemmas faced by a people that were systematically dehumanised by the Nazi regime, and who knew that they faced death at any second. They formed part of an intense, enriching four days that I spent with a small group of other writers and journalists at Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust commemoration museum, memorial and institute that was established in 1953 through a law passed by the Knesset.

We were there to study and discuss many aspects of the Holocaust — from 'choiceless choices' to archive management to Holocaust art — but we did so from a starting point that the way we teach younger generations about the Nazi attempt to destroy the Jews of Europe and North Africa is changing radically.

Holocaust survivors have all reached advanced ages, meaning that there won't be any in-person testimonies to listen to within a few years (even if we are left with their accounts captured on video, holograms or other forms of visual reproduction.) Since 1945, countless other genocides have wreaked havoc in the Balkans, much of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, while a few of those that occurred before — the Herero nation slaughtered by German colonists in southern Africa, the Armenians annihilated by Turkey — to this day remain under-recognised. Is the Holocaust, it is often asked, any more important than these other demonstrations of inhumanity in the world?

And there's more, much more. In countries like Lithuania and Ukraine, wartime collaborators with the Nazis are now being lionised as anti-Communist heroes. The Israeli government walks along an undignified diplomatic tightrope

with these states, having to balance present-day bilateral relations with guardianship of the Holocaust's truths. Elsewhere, some Holocaust-commemoration activities are so fixated with a universalist approach that basic facts about the Jewish character of the genocide — like the young diarist Anne Frank having been Jewish, and being deported because she was Jewish — are buried in a bid to be 'meaningful' to "everyone."

Meanwhile, in Western Europe and the United States, social protest movements, like the 'Yellow Vests' in France and the Women's March in America, have been penetrated by Holocaust-deniers, antisemitic conspiracy-mongers and advocates of Israel's elimination. And that's not to mention those who don't deny the Holocaust, but who do delight in invoking the Nazis as a metaphor for Israeli policies towards the Palestinians or go the whole hog by — check out the French 'comedian' Dieudonné M'bala M'bala — making fun of it in front of receptive crowds in theaters.

In the recent past, perhaps the key Holocaust debate was why the Allied

powers did so little to stop it. During our group's exchange with Avner Shalev, the chair of Yad Vashem who pioneered its renewal over the last two decades, he related the story of guiding President George W. Bush around the institute's impressive museum. When they reached the exhibit about President Franklin D. Roosevelt's response to the Holocaust, Bush turned to his then national security advisor, Condoleezza Rice, and asked: "Why didn't FDR bomb the camps? He should have."

But that burning question has been superseded by an even more vexing one: Why should we seek to educate about the Holocaust in a world where the phrase 'Never Again' sounds farcical to many people? There are many answers, and to my mind, there are three key ones.

First, there are still some survivors of the Holocaust. I think specifically of a man named Albert de Leeuw and 150 other former child laborers in the Amsterdam ghetto, who have still not received proper compensation from the German government, and who continue fighting for that recognition in the twilight of their lives. To abandon them now would be shameful.

Second, however much people believe politics has changed with the rise of populism on left and right in the last several years, the Holocaust

remains a truly foundational moment of our era and the source of many of the international institutions that, for good or ill, manage international relations today. Look back and you will see that the Holocaust changed a good deal more than we realise — for example, how we look at art and music, or our relationship with technology and our agonizing about inclusiveness in our society. As we prepare in 2019 to mark the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, expect much more reflection on all that.

Thirdly, if we are to teach our children the basic facts of the Holocaust, they can be boiled down like this: Six million Jews died because they were dehumanised for being Jews. Many of them resisted, in a variety of ways. And far too many were faced with the 'choiceless choices' that symbolise the reality of the Holocaust.

Ben Cohen writes a weekly column for JNS on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics. His writings have been published in Commentary, the New York Post, Haaretz, The Wall Street Journal and many other publications.

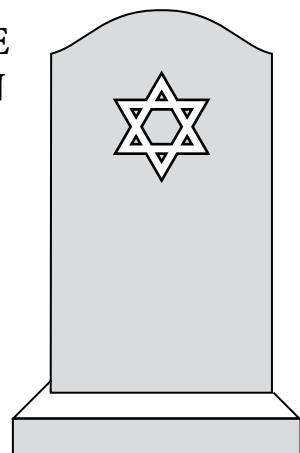


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By Craig Nudelman

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So we've created a star chart for her. At first it was just for the potty, but it later developed into things like for waking up at an appropriate time so that her mommy and daddy could get enough sleep. When she does something that may cross certain lines, we can take a star away. Now Jessie knows that when she does something that is good, she gets praised via her star chart.

Validity and motivation are key in facilitating our reasons to do something. We all have goals, and often the motivation comes from within. Self-motivation is an amazing quality which is extremely beneficial, whether you're a toddler or a more mature individual. However, when we continue to do something positive without any recognition, apathy and demotivation can occur.

Victor Lipman, writing for Psychology Today, states that the powerful yet effortless task of praise is underutilised. He explains that there are four reasons why praise, which is so effortless, can be so rewarding for an organisation. The first is that it costs practically nothing. The second is that it requires very little effort. The most simple words, "Good job", "nice work", "well done on that project you've completed", take very little time and require no managerial energy and time. The third and fourth are as clear cut: Praise makes employers feel good, and when they feel good, they are more productive.

Tom Rath and David O. Clifton, in *How Full is your Bucket?*, discuss productivity and engagement in the workplace. They use stats from the US Department of Labour, to show that the number-one reason people leave their jobs is because they "do not feel appreciated". Not only that, but there are also physical implications for employees who are not happy at work. They use a study by British psychologist and psychotherapist George Fieldman, who states that "(p)eople who work with bosses they've really hated constantly for years would probably be quite vulnerable to heart disease because of the elevation of blood pressure in the long-term."

However, I don't only want praise from those in positions senior to mine. As a teacher, I also crave validation from my students. It's a really interesting phenomenon. I am, ostensibly, the dominant individual in

the student/teacher relationship, with the power to mete out praise for good work and behavior. Yet, I want my students to acknowledge the time and effort that I put into my lesson plans, my marking and my teaching style.

Last year one of my students came up to me after every lesson and thanked me. It was, in a way, like a drug. I needed that fix of a student's approval and couldn't wait to have her thank me for that day's class.

Tim Hodges, who wrote an article in Gallup titled, *Why Appreciating Teachers is More Important Than You Think*, agrees that we need to be valued for what we do. In a survey he cites, only 29% of people responded positively to the statement: "In the last seven days, I have received recognition or praise for doing good work." He suggests that the positive effects of regular recognition and praise for teachers results in: higher productivity; better engagement; they are more likely to stay at that particular school; and more likely to receive higher satisfaction scores from students and parents".

However, some people are reluctant to use the word 'praise', especially with regards to children. On the website positivediscipline.com, the writer suggests that praise only allows external feedback, which makes the student or child become dependent on that. Receiving an overdose of superficial positive feedback can foster inertia in children and decrease their motivation to achieve their best. Instead, we should encourage students, since this teaches internal validation. Here the student can be stirred into being motivated to achieve to their fullest potential. However, the article does acknowledge that children desire praise, and much like being addicted to sugar, they need that rush of validation.

There are so many questions we have to ask ourselves. How can we work to our optimal level without our employers, teachers or parents saying that we're amazing? How do we ensure that our peers or employees feel happy and stimulated? And how do we teach the youth of today to be self-motivated?

There's clearly a delicate balance between positive validation and shallow praise, the maintenance of which can have major effects on productivity, personal development and levels of happiness. I hope that in 2019 you can find that balance.

Wishing you all a productive and positive new year.



SPORT

Maccabi SA Futsal players represent South Africa at u20 World Cup

Maccabi SA Futsal players Aaron Isserow (17 yrs) and Jordan Arelisky (16 yrs) recently represented South Africa at the AMF Futsal u20 World Cup which took place in Valledupar, Colombia from 17-27 November 2018.

The Herzlia pupils who play in the Cape Town Metropolitan Futsal League, both successfully captained the Maccabi SA u16 team that won the bronze medal at the 2017 Maccabiah in Israel. They have also been selected for the Maccabi SA U18 squad taking part in the European Maccabi Games (EMG) in Budapest in July 2019.

The South African Futsal Federation (SAFF) announced the u20 team following trials which were held in Durban and Cape Town. Aaron and Jordan's hard work and many hours of training paid off with their call-up to the national side, where they were a few years younger than their u20 team mates. Ronen Cohen, Maccabi SA Futsal Convenor and the boys' coach, along with coach Reon Siyaya, is very proud of their selection. "These two young boys have been playing futsal for the past eight years with Maccabi SA, putting in a tremendous amount of work both on and off the court, showing us all what you put in, is what you get out, resulting in being selected for the national u20 Futsal

team. I am extremely proud of their accomplishment", said Cohen.

In the group stage of the u20 World Cup, South Africa were drawn in Group B, along with hosts Colombia, India and Australia. Group A featured Argentina, Spain, Morocco and Bolivia, while Group C included Paraguay, Brazil, Italy and USA.

South Africa convincingly beat Australia (5-2) and India 7-2 (including a goal by Isserow), losing to hosts Colombia (1-4). SA progressed to the Quarter Finals as runners up of Group B, where they faced Spain. The match was tightly contested, with SA coming back from 1-4 down with five minutes left on the clock, to draw 4-4. SA went ahead 5-4, then conceded a goal for 5-5. After four more goals, the full time score was 7-7. In some further nail biting action in extra time, Spain scored in the final minute, winning the game 8-7. The u20 World Cup final between (Argentina) was won by (Spain). Congratulations!

On their return to South Africa, Arelisky and Isserow were very proud of how well South Africa performed overall.

Aaron: "I felt so proud to be able to represent my country in the recent u20 Futsal World Cup in Columbia. We learnt so much over there and loved the entire experience."

Jordan: "Unforgettable experience

learnt a lot. Glad to have been given the opportunity to represent my country at such a high level event"

Maccabi SA Chairman Cliff Garrun commented: "Mazeltov to Aaron and Jordan on being selected for the national team and performing well at the u20 World Cup. It is an outstanding achievement and we are very proud of them. Futsal has grown from strength to strength in both Cape Town and Johannesburg under Ronen's leadership, and we look forward to a very competitive EMG 2019 where we are entering four teams".

For ongoing information on EMG 2019, follow Maccabi SA on Facebook, Twitter and maccabi.co.za



Jordan Arelisky and Aaron Isserow



u20 Futsal World Cup team

Down the tunnel at Cape Town Stadium

On 16 January eleven excited youngsters in their tenth season at Grass Boots FC got the opportunity to be player escorts for Cape Town City FC in their ABSA Premiership game against Free State Stars at Cape Town Stadium.

Player escorts, also called match mascots or child mascots, are children who accompany football players entering the pitch. Player escorts hold hands with the footballers while they walk in, and stay with the player during the playing of the national anthem or the league

anthem. Children have appeared with football players since the 1990s, either as one mascot for each team or one for each player.

The Grass Boots FC members who accompanied Cape Town City FC were Ben Sachar, Caiden Meadon, Caleb Chin, Ruby Snaid, Sebastian Shewan, Alessandro Rosolen, Max Blaszkiewicz, Raees Mohammed, Thomas Boshoff, Oliver Crocker-Hall and Daniel Welgemoed. Darul Islam Primary students also took part as player escorts.



Grass Boots chairman Thurston Lomberg with CTCFC's Benni McCarthy and Shukri Jones and the Grass Boots escorts



Thurston Lomberg and Benni McCarthy chat with Grass Boots members



Cape Town City and Free State Stars shake hands before the game



Siphelele Mthembu walks out the tunnel escorted by Ben Sachar

We care about our community!

Seeff have launched their Camps Bay Clean-Up Initiative together with Straatwerk!

We care about our communities we live and work in and strive to make them a cleaner and safer place for all our residences, which is why we have recently partnered with Straatwerk, bringing you our Camps Bay Clean-Up Initiative.

We have a team of three dedicated workers who are taking care of our beaches, collecting the rubbish and making sure Camps Bay is left in the pristine state it should be in. Look out for them every Saturday and Sunday!



For further information or if you're interested in assisting us with expanding this amazing initiative, please contact us today!

