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## Benjamin Pogrund honoured with the prestigious Order of Ikhamanga



Journalist Benjamin Pogrund receives the Order of Ikhamanga in silver from President Cyril Ramaphosa. (photo courtesy GCIS Government of South Africa)

Every year since 2003, the South African President bestows the National Orders upon individuals who “have played a momentous role towards building a free and peaceful democratic South Africa and improving the lives of South Africans in various ways”.

The Order of Ikhamanga is one of the six Orders (the highest and most prestigious awards granted in South Africa), and is bestowed upon those “who have excelled in the field of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport”. In April this year, the Order of Ikhamanga was presented to eight people, including South African born journalism legend and anti-apartheid activist, Benjamin Pogrund.

See page 29 for more

## Martin Margolius: 83-years-young



Not all 83-year-olds would choose to go paragliding off Signal Hill for their birthday celebration. Martin Margolius, however, is not your average 83-year-old.

“When you get to my age, people just think ‘well, this is it. You know, you must start taking it easy.’ But that’s not for me. I want to get back into things. I’m young at heart, so I decided [paragliding] will be the way I’ll start.”

Martin originally wanted to paraglide three years ago, on his 80th birthday, but was stalled by a knee injury and subsequent knee replacement. He did not let that hold him back though, and finally achieved his goal in April this year, just a few weeks after his 83rd birthday.

Continues on page 22

## Ex-Mayoress Di Berrill celebrates her 100th birthday

Di Berrill, singer, actress, businesswoman, philanthropist and a previous mayoress of Cape Town, celebrated her 100th birthday in May.

Di’s full and fascinating life in South Africa began when she and her family moved to Paarl from Russia in 1924. At the time, Di was six and spoke only Russian.

After studying singing at the UCT College of Music, Di dreamed of going to Hollywood “I was going to be an actress, so I was going to move to Hollywood... I was ready to get on a plane right

then but the day I went to buy my plane ticket, war broke out and nobody travelled then.” This did not stop Di from becoming a local singer and actress under her stage name, Dianna Lazar. She acted in many stage productions, often for charity, and had a radio programme titled *Dianna Lazar Presents* on which she sang in Yiddish, English, Afrikaans, German and Russian.

After enjoying a stage career for many years, Di began designing clothes and, together with her husband Issey, started Riviera Fashions, which became one of the bigger clothing companies in South Africa. During this time, Di

travelled extensively, picking up new designs and fabrics. She recounts, “I travelled the world by myself, which was very scary to begin with. I was still young.” She was also featured in the Cape Argus as one of its winners of ‘Businesswomen of the Week’. She says, “To keep yourself happy, I would advise that you not sit there like a queen. I was always involved with the staff. Then they’re part of the picture.”

It was after retiring that Di was approached to become the mayoress of Cape Town.



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# Lindy with a why

## Why I choose see everything as a miracle



By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

### Cape Town is the most beautiful city in the world.

There are cities that have left me in awe of their religious significance, those that inspire me with their history, those that are fun and full of sights to see and experiences to have. But Cape Town? Come on, best ever. How often do you *really* think about that?

I remember, in my childhood, my Mom would snap me out of whatever daydream I was dreaming to say, "Look, B, look!" and drag me back into present time to acknowledge some lovely thing that was happening in front of us.

I remember being exasperated by this most of the time. Yes, the sunset is lovely. Yes, that's a pretty flower, now please let me go back into my head! Forward 30 years, and I do exactly the same thing to my daughters.

I live in the foothills of one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature (how does that even happen?) and every morning the drive to school offers us a breathtaking view of Table Mountain in all her glory.

Every day is an artwork. The light hits the rock-faces in slightly different ways, the flora changes with the season, the sky is always showing off. And each morning I say "Look, girls, look!" and they dutifully come back into present time to acknowledge the lovely thing happening in front of us.

Acknowledging beauty in the world around us serves many purposes.

Firstly, it creates an opportunity to be mindful. Mindfulness helps us to reduce stress and increase our mental functioning, emotional regulation and self-control. It takes us out of our memories of the past and our worries for the future and into what is actually here and now.

Secondly, it brings Gd and goodness into our daily lives. I know a lovely

Muslim man who, in conversation once remarked how much he respects Judaism because it brings Gd into every aspect of day-to-day life, not just at prayer times, or in holy spaces.

Gd is acknowledged when we eat, when we show gratitude (Baruch Hashem!) and even when we experience something for the first time. His words made me relook at how much I was practicing his observation in my everyday life and I consciously tweaked where I could.

And thirdly, and perhaps a bit darkly, history has shown us time and time again that bad things can, and do, happen, sometimes very suddenly.

I want to make sure that if everything I love and enjoy is gone tomorrow I had appreciated it all as fiercely and with as much energy as I could have. With no regrets.

I try to look at items in my home with fresh eyes, to truly see them, hold them and enjoy them. I try to acknowledge Table Mountain each day as if it is the last time I will ever see her, (one day I will be right). And most importantly — and ironically the greatest challenge of all whilst in the trenches of parenthood — I try to see my children with fresh eyes too. There is a limited time that I have them in my home as a captive audience of three.

For me, parenthood often feels like a mixture of being an air traffic controller and a laundromat so it's easy to feel overwhelmed and forget to look at the wondrous moments created each day. Recognising the small, beautiful things in our lives is a kind of soul food, and I think for the most part we are hungry.

As Einstein may have once remarked: "there are two ways to live. You can live as if nothing is a miracle or you can live as if everything is a miracle."

You really do have the choice, which one do you choose?

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## Community Noticeboard

### SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

Exhibition: *One Century of Seven*  
A unique look at the life and destiny of Jews of Lithuania  
See page 6 for details

*Lichtenfeld Krav Maga and its Creator*  
Exhibition: June – August.  
See page 6

### CT HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

World Refugee Day with keynote speaker Professor Brian Williams  
Sunday 23 June 2 pm.  
For further details see page 26

An evening with Mona Golabek. Internationally acclaimed pianist and daughter of Lisa Jura, the Kindertransport child who grew up to be a concert pianist.  
13 August 7.30 pm. See page 26

Save the Date! Sunday 21 July

### MENSCH

Mandela Day — family and friends day of action

### TEMPLE ISRAEL

Shavuot. Saturday 8 June from 6 pm Temple Israel Green Point.  
See page 20

### SAZF FILM CLUB

June: *Women's Balcony*; July: *The Wedding Plan*  
For more info and to book, please see page 14

### LIMMUD 23 – 25 AUGUST

UCT Graduate School of Business, Waterfront.  
For registration, see page 21



The following organisations are affiliated to Jewish Care Cape Town: Cape Jewish Seniors Association • Glendale • Highlands House • Jewish Community Services • Nechama • Oranjia • ASTRA Centre (Jewish Sheltered Employment and Rosecourt Group Homes)

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### Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting	Ends
7 June/4 Sivan	Bamidbar	5.26pm	
8 June/5 Sivan	1st day Shavuot	6.20pm	
9 June/6 Sivan	2nd day Shavuot	6.20pm	6.20pm
14 June/11 Sivan	Naso	5.25pm	6.21pm
21 June/18 Sivan	Behaalotcha	5.26pm	6.22pm
28 June/25 Sivan	Shelach Lecha	5.28pm	6.24pm

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

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SAJM  
South African Jewish Museum

# Talks in May at the SAJM



On 6 May the SAJM in conjunction with the Jacob Gitlin Library hosted a talk by Richard Glasstone MBE. Glasstone, now well into his 80's was a world-renowned ballet dancer, teacher and author.

He spoke of his career and life, including his early years in the Belgian Congo, how he came to be aware and fall in love with ballet, and how it went on to influence his life's journey. This Journey included time as the principal teacher and choreographer at the Turkish State Ballet company, as well as time spent as a member of staff at the Royal Ballet School. Glasstone's is a life well lived, that he recounted with warmth and engaging anecdotes.

On 2 May the SAJM hosted artist and writer Terry Kurgan in conversation with Steven Robins, professor of sociology and social anthropology, best known for his work, *Letters of Stone*.

The Nelson Mandela auditorium filled up with an interested audience as the two discussed Kurgan's latest book of creative non-fiction, *Everyone is Present: Essays on Photography, Memory and Family*. Terry Kurgan's work has been exhibited and published broadly and has received numerous accolades.

*Everyone is Present* has just been long-listed for the 2019 Sunday Times Alan Paton Literary Award. Kurgan and Robins, whose own work has explored a wealth of archival material, provided an illuminating conversation on the ways in which we can discover the hidden narratives and perspectives found in family photographs.



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# What's in a changing name?

by Richard (Saevitzon) Shavei-Tzion

**I must admit that I was not giving my full attention to the Ketuba reading while attending a wedding a little while ago.**

After all, just how many times can one listen mindfully to the Aramaic formula for "...necessities of life and conjugal needs, according to the universal custom"? However my stupor was disturbed when out of the left field of my brain I heard the bride's name, "Daughter bat Father hamechuneh (known as) 'Ritchie!'" Yep, there it was, the father of the bride's nickname penned on this significant family document for posterity. It fascinates me how time and again, people's names bend and change as they pass through life.

The Midrash Tanchuma on Parashat Vayekel states, "A man is known by three names: The name by which his mother and father call him, the name by which others call him..." My two grandfathers are cases in point.

My father called himself Abba ben Moshe. Yet his father appears as Yechiel Moshe ben Abba Yisrael on his Ketuba. But hold on, Yechiel Moshe's father's name as per his tombstone was Abba Meir! Whether 'Yisrael' was meant to designate his rank in Jewish hierarchy or not, Meir had disappeared by the time his son got married. We called that

same grandfather, Grandpa Morris.

My maternal grandfather was married as Shachneh Velve ben Tzvi Lipman but on his daughter's Ketuba he appears as Shachneh Ze'ev. It is telling that the 'Velve' document is dated 1927, preceding the establishment of the State of Israel, while Ze'ev appears in 1953. Surprisingly the name 'Wolf' does not feature on any document. By the time he died, both Velve and Ze'ev had disappeared and my great-grandfather's name had morphed from Tzvi Lipman to Yehuda Leib Halevi! We knew that grandfather as Grandpa Sidney.

The above quoted Midrash continues "...and the name he earns for himself. The most important name is the one he earns for himself." Having a good name, a synonym for integrity, was such an elemental feature of my father's life that on his tombstone we inscribed that famous statement from Ecclesiastics, "A good name is better than good oil". That is the name which my father earned for himself.

So why does all this name changing occur? While there are records of censuses in the prominent empires of the ancient world, until recently, written records of ordinary people were sketchy if not non-existent.



The author's grandparents Lily/Leah and Sidney/Shachne Velve/Ze'ev Sloan (Shlomovsky)

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## Yom HaShoah V'Hagevurah 2019

**Over 1000 community members and special guests attended Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, at the Pinelands Jewish Cemetery on 2 May.**

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the start of the war in Poland. The Holocaust started at 6 am on 1 September 1939, when Warsaw was struck by the first of a succession of bombing raids by the Nazi Luftwaffe air forces.

This year's ceremony included extracts from the memoirs of Cape Town survivors describing the impact of the Nazi invasion of Poland. Zola Shulman, the daughter of two Lithuanian survivors performed a moving Yiddish song, *Ich Nemk Aheim*, written by her Uncle poet and song writer Leyb Rosenthal in the Vilna Ghetto and then sung there by her mother Chayela Rosenthal. Leyb died in a labour camp two days before liberation.

Our Special Guest was Miriam Lichterman, who spoke of the horrors she experienced in the six years she was held captive in the Warsaw Ghetto and concentration camps. She appealed to the youth to never forget the past and thanked the Jewish community for supporting her and her family in overcoming the horrors of their past.

Yom HaShoah is also a time to remember the Roma and Sinti, people with disabilities, Poles and Slavic ethnic groups, Soviet prisoners of war, Jehovah's Witnesses, and persons who were targeted based on their sexual orientation by the Nazis and their collaborators. Holocaust Remembrance Day is about more than just remembering. With the number of Holocaust survivors dwindling it has become more important than ever to say 'never again'

**Holocaust Remembrance Day is about more than just remembering. With the number of Holocaust survivors dwindling it has become more important than ever to say 'never again'**

### THE CHAIRMAN'S YOM HASHOAH ADDRESS

By Rael Kaimowitz

What are we here to do today?  
What are we attempting to achieve?  
Why over 70 years later, are we gathered together to remember a tragedy that many of us were not even born to witness?  
Is it to provide comfort to those remaining precious survivors?  
Is it in order that we can recite the communal kaddish in memory of our loved ones?  
Is it a fixture on the calendar that we reluctantly feel, G-d forbid, obliged to attend?  
Or is it to ensure that we remember, so the world never forgets?  
We shout with great vigour... Never Again!  
I fear this is mere lip service. The right thing to say.  
Never again? No longer a guarantee... Easy to talk.  
Easy for passionate rhetoric but actions speak louder than words.  
Since the horrors of the Shoah, world leaders have proclaimed loudly that the "Crime without a Name" as Winston Churchill referred to it must never be allowed to happen again.  
But these are just empty words.  
How else do we explain a world gone mad as hate explodes all around us?  
Although we know that there is a unique, horrific depth and scale to the Holocaust that is unprecedented, when you hear the names of Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur, Syria, you know full well that the world has failed dismally.  
Not only failed to act but essentially failed to give a damn.  
And therefore we are not foolish to think that any government or country or world body will come to our assistance should Never Again fail us, the Jewish people.  
How lucky we are to have a Jewish state. How different things could have been.  
Last year, 85-year-old Mireille Knoll, who survived the Holocaust, was murdered in her Paris flat.  
The figures documenting rising antisemitism across Europe are frightening, with almost every country affected. In a survey conducted by the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency it showed amongst those interviewed that:  
28% experienced some form of harassment for being Jewish in the past 12 months;  
Over 40% worry about antisemitic verbal insult, harassment or physical attack in the next 12 months  
34% have avoided Jewish events because of safety fears  
38% have considered emigrating in the past five years over safety fears.  
Sobering statistics just 70 short years later.  
In the last 6 months:  
Pittsburgh, Christchurch, Sri Lanka.  
And just this week Poway,

California.

So when we stand here today on the 2nd May 2019, there must be more to it.

After 70 years the world has not learned its lesson. World bodies are ineffectual in providing clear, strong, moral leadership. As the world turned its back on the Jews in the 1930's, and again in those genocidal massacres I mentioned, it is our job to shine a light into the darkness.

As the second, third and fourth generations after the holocaust we dare not turn our backs on the suffering of others.

There is No place for antisemitism in the world today. But let's also stand up and say there is no place for islamophobia, or for the senseless murder of over 300 Christian worshippers in Sri Lanka.

There is no place for the baseless hatred of Jews. But let's also stand up and say there is no place for hatred of the LGBTQI community or for the Bahá'í or for the Hindu community.

These hatreds arise from the same dark human impulse, from the fear and suspicion and ignorance of the other. So let's not only pay lip service when we say no place for hate. Let's call it out when we hear it, when we see it. Be it around our own Shabbat tables, in the staff canteen, on Clifton beach or in the gym. Let's take a personal stand.

Let us commit to telling our parents and grandparents, our friends and our colleagues that hate in any form is just not acceptable.

If we do this; then we ensure nobody has perished in vein.

Instead, we bring blessing and holiness and a continual upliftment to the 6 million holy souls of our brothers and sisters that were slaughtered at Kiddush Hashem.

And we take the first steps in saying with conviction that Never again means just that... Never Again... for anyone.

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# YOM HASHOAH 2019



*“ The Yom Hashoah Ceremony was powerful, moving and yet still hope filled. A remembrance of the atrocities of the past recounted by the incredibly brave and strong Miriam Lichterman. Yet at the same time telling of the strength of the human spirit to overcome. Let us remember and hold in our hearts. To ensure that future generations know of the suffering and destruction of the holocaust, to give power to the victims and to ensure that the horrors of the past are never repeated. ”*

*Nicola Jowell*





## What did the Yom Hashoah ceremony mean to you?

I had never felt such a sense of Jewish pride in Cape Town as I did on Thursday at the Yom Hashoah service. The sense of community warmed my heart and the excellent, smooth service was respectful, uniting and the perfect way to honour those who perished in the Holocaust! I am humbly honoured that I was able to take part in the service and am proud to be apart of such a supportive Jewish community. **Michaela Codron, Herzlia High School**



Having never attended the Cape Town Shoah ceremony I felt that in the week preceding my trip to Poland I had a responsibility to be there. What was initiated by a feeling of responsibility soon transformed into a feeling of absolute privilege. I will never forget sitting among those Holocaust survivors, hearing the beautiful voices of our Herzlia children's choir singing Yiddish songs and listening to the incredible words spoken by Miriam Lichterman. We will never forget. But more importantly, we must always remember. " **Martine Vogelman**



"Yom HaShoah is always a deeply moving and emotional day for me, but to hear survivor Miriam Lichterman speak about her gratitude to Hashem for saving her life, her deep faith, and her commitment to building community after the Holocaust was an experience to be treasured." **Rabbi Sam Thurgood**

"Interweaving presentations by the youth with those of our precious survivors created a moving and meaningful ceremony, further enhanced by so many of our wonderful and diverse community members united to respectfully honour those who perished, all under one tent. Am Yisrael Chai!" **Natalie Barnett, UHS Chair**

"Meaningful time to rededicate myself to Shoah education. I pledged to be slower to judge others and quicker to build communities that welcome and include all." **Rabbi Greg Alexander**



"The Yom Hashoah ceremony is becoming more and more important as the number of our honoured survivors diminishes. We cannot let the Shoah become just another piece of history. We need to ensure that our youth continue to understand the significance of the community commemoration that they will never forget what our people endured." **Geoff Cohen, Director of Education UHS**

"What was more inspiring was the fact that they picked themselves up and with dignity previously denied them, managed to live very full and well-adjusted lives. We owe these survivors, who lived to tell the world, a huge debt of gratitude. Without the truth we will allow the hate to continue and not have learned from the horrific experience the Jewish Nation endured in Europe. It is important for the youth to be exposed to this." **Felicity Purchase, Mayoral Committee Member: Transport**



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



## SA at odds with world powers and Brics nations about Israel

By Rowan Polovin,  
Chairman, SAZF Cape Council

### Hating the Middle Eastern country has never garnered the ANC votes or won it any international favour.

There is something foul about SA's foreign policy. It stands continuously with the anti-Western bloc of dictators, fascists and human rights abusers. It has a horrendous track record of voting at the UN general assembly and the UN human rights council that is diametrically opposite to post-apartheid's values of freedom and non-discrimination.

It votes against measures that sanction human rights abusers and praises the "diversity" of totalitarian dictatorships. It abstains on the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against the LGBTI community and on resolutions condemning human rights abuses in Syria.

It keeps consistently but deafeningly

silent about all the horrors and atrocities committed in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, as well as on the mistreatment of women, minorities and children. It sits Janus-faced on the international stage, facilitating the work of despots offshore while proclaiming the values of human rights back home.

There is but one country at which SA directs all its opprobrium and judgment. It is the most undeserving country of SA's hostility, but so targeted because the governing party irrationally believes this will win votes locally and power internationally.

The ANC is dangerously wrong on both accounts: hating Israel has never garnered it votes in any election, and targeting Israel internationally only isolates SA itself. It carries out an inverted foreign policy that bashes the Jew of nations and applauds the scoundrels. The ANC owes the public an explanation about why it does this. Last week, international relations and co-operation minister Lindiwe Sisulu recklessly steered into dangerous territory when asked about SA's relations with Israel. She spoke of removing the SA ambassador to Israel and of kicking out the Israeli ambassador to SA. She even declared that the ANC will dictate university policy on Israel. She forgot about SA's esteemed constitution and rule of law, and that the ANC sits below, not above it.

Our constitution was carefully written by wise people who recognised

that freedom of religion, speech, association and academia are fundamental values that ensure the longevity of a democratic state. Any unjust attempts to undermine those values, as Sisulu and her faction seem intent on doing, will unravel the very structures of the democratic state her predecessors fought for.

On the issue of cutting ties with Israel and allowing the antisemitic BDS fringe movement to capture foreign policy, Sisulu and the ANC should proceed with extreme caution. SA is focused on rebuilding its standing in the international community and to be taken seriously on international affairs.

While still a member of the Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China and SA) bloc, it parts company with every other member on Israel. Every Brics country besides SA is constantly improving ties and friendships with the Jewish state. SA stands at odds with these world powers, including many African and Arab countries that work more closely than ever with Israel.

Moreover, SA needs Israel's help to solve local problems such as water scarcity, access to electricity and

agricultural solutions that would take millions out of poverty and turn our deserts into fields of plenty. Millions of South Africans would not take kindly to their future being stolen by petty short-term interests. Nor will they appreciate the negative effect this will have on local job creation and our already struggling economy. Cutting out Israel only cuts out SA's future.

If SA attempts to throw out the Israeli ambassador, it will send a signal that it wishes to disconnect the proudly SA Jewish community from their spiritual, religious and historical homeland. The government should take heed that Jews will never allow their bond with the Jewish state to be broken. Nor will committed Christians, who make up the majority of SA's religious communities.

Anti-Semites may be pleased that their irrational hatred of Jews has resulted in a downgrade in relations with Israel, but the majority of South Africans will not be pleased with the uncertainty and instability it will bring. It is time for principled business people, government officials, political parties and civil society to stand up to the ANC's desperate and hypocritical obsession with the Jewish state. Our future depends upon it.

## SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



## Yom Hazikaron report back

By Michal Ilan,  
Community and Aliyah Shlichah

### On Erev Yom Hazikaron the Cape Town Jewish community got

### together to commemorate Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror.

The shlichim, together with the Zionist Youth Council, chose to focus on the diversity of Israel. The exhibition at the entrance to the Herzlia Hall presented the stories of eight different young Israelis from completely different backgrounds. In my speech, I highlighted the four victims of the last bloody round with Gaza. Lavi Wolff, Bnei Akiva shaliach, shared a personal story of losing his close friend, Aviv Levi, in the army. The choir of Israeli teens sang two songs, which made everyone very emotional.



Jeff Holzberg assists Machalnik Albert Shorkend light the Yartzheit candle for the ceremony.

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SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



NETZER



Machaneh Choref Chazak V'Nitchazek! Winter Camp Be Strong And We Will Be Strengthened!

By Rachael Sara, Head of Netzer Cape Town

This June/July holiday, Netzer will be having a winter camp at Pennington Beach Resort in Durban, for our older shichvot (age groups).

It is going to be an unbelievable week together, having fun by the sea at the most beautiful venue, with of course, interesting topics of discussion, engaging activities as well as building hadrachah skills. It is not to be missed!

Nilmad v'Na'aseh! We will learn and we will do!

BNEI AKIVA



Pesach Power!

By Chanan Suiza, Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town

Yes! Things continue onwards and upwards!

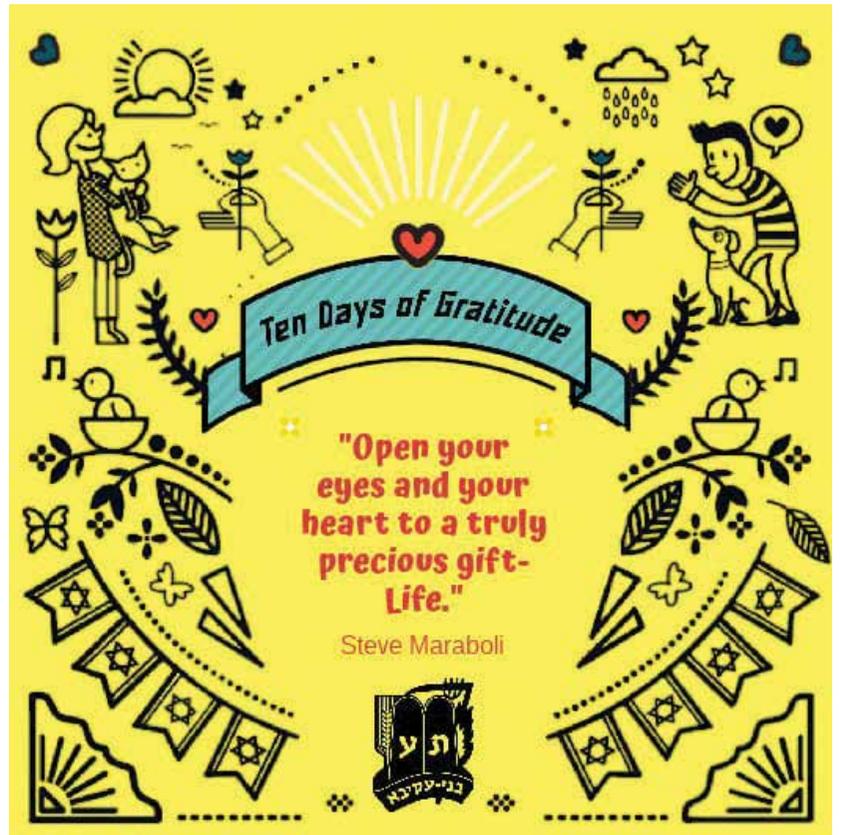
We continued our famous and incredible tradition of doing the post Pesach Mimunah party. Smiles, dancing, garlic bread and Mofletta, just what everyone needs after a long Pesach. Keep an eye out for our 10 Days of Gratitude campaign on social media and our boards of Thank You at all the Herzlia schools.

WINTER CAMP BE STRONG AND WE WILL BE STRENGTHENED!

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SAUJS



No hate, just hummus

By Nathan Esra, Chairman

an absolute hit during this year's IAW (Israel Apartheid Week).

What is usually a hateful and divisive week for Jewish students became a celebration of the one food that unites us all: hummus. Alongside the StandWithUs delegation, SAUJS handed out free shirts, pitot, and hummus to hundreds of UCT students. It was met with great enthusiasm with many students coming back for a second plate.

SAUJS Western Cape's "Spread Hummus Not Hate" campaign was



Brendan Weaver and Tao Klitzner sprinkling olive oil and paprika to give the hummus that extra Israeli zest

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THE ISRAEL CENTRE



Who wants to study in Israel?

By Michal Ilan, Community and Aliyah Shlichah

More and more South Africans realise that studying in Israel is a real viable option. In the last few years, a few developments have made studying in Israel more accessible and affordable for South African students.

Firstly, more Universities now offer full degrees in English. There are now six institutions that offer BA degrees and a few more that offer MA degrees in English.

In most institutions, the English degrees cost more than the Hebrew programmes but some Universities, like Bar Ilan University, have changed their prices to make it more affordable and the English degrees cost the same as the Hebrew ones, which is about the same as UCT tuition. To help those who decide to study in Israel, there is financial assistance.

MASA, an umbrella organisation for long-term programmes in Israel, is giving each South African student \$9,100 towards their first year's tuition. This grant can be used once and is significantly higher than other places in the world.

For further assistance, Telfed is offering a number of things. Their SASI (South Africans Studying in Israel) scholarship helps students to pay for their housing while they study in Israel. They also offer small scholarships for students who give of their time and volunteer.

Those who wish to study in Hebrew can enjoy much lower tuition and can use their MASA grant towards a 6 months' predatory course, which will enable them to learn Academic Hebrew and be better prepared to start their studies.

Oh, and did you know that if you choose to make Aliyah and make Israel your home, your studies are paid for by the State of Israel?

*For great education and an opportunity to experience Israel as a resident, studying in Israel is a great choice. If you want to learn more, feel free to contact us at the Israel Centre, or go to [www.studyabroad.masaisrael.org](http://www.studyabroad.masaisrael.org)*



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**JUNE**

**FILM CLUB**

**MOVIE** Women's Balcony  
**DATE** Sunday 30 June 2019  
**TIME** 18h30  
**VENUE** Nelson Mandela Auditorium - Gardens

NO CHARGE – donations welcome  
 Bookings: Contact Yvette 021 464 6714 or [wpzc1@ctjc.co.za](mailto:wpzc1@ctjc.co.za)

**JULY**

**FILM CLUB**

**MOVIE** The Wedding Plan  
**DATE** Sunday 14 July 2019  
**TIME** 18h30  
**VENUE** Nelson Mandela Auditorium - Gardens

NO CHARGE – donations welcome  
 Bookings: Contact Yvette 021 464 6714 or [wpzc1@ctjc.co.za](mailto:wpzc1@ctjc.co.za)



DILLER TEEN FELLOWS



Diller Jewish Community Mifgash 2019

By Lee Lobel, Programme Co-ordinator

Every year before Pesach, our partnership city, Shoham, comes to visit Cape Town. On the 8th of April this year, we welcomed our fourth cohort from Shoham. They spent 10 days exploring Cape Town, learning about its history and meeting our incredible Jewish community.

A few highlights included a historical tour around Cape Town, gaining a deep understanding about the history of South Africa and where we are today. Meeting with both the Progressive and Orthodox Jewish communities, as well as various organisations such as CSO, UJC, Cape Town Jewish Board of Deputies, the SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council) and the Israel Centre. The Shoham teens also spent a day at Herzlia, running workshops for the middle school and meeting with Geoff Cohen, Marc Falconer and Rabbi Cannon. They also spent a very meaningful and special morning at Astra, volunteering and learning about the incredible things that our Jewish community does.

Both the Shoham and Cape Town cohorts had an incredible 10 days, bringing the Diller partnership together for the fourth time. One of Cape Town's fellows, Ruby Epstein, writes, "Never did I think lifelong friendships could be formed in a time span of 10 days; however, JCM exceeded beyond all of my expectations in every way possible. Not only did I learn the true meaning of community, and what it truly means to be a part of the Jewish People; but the bonds and friendships formed, along with the memories, are forever remaining. Not only did I learn a lot about other people during this time, but I also discovered a lot about myself, as a person and as a leader, and I am grateful to Diller for allowing me this experience. I would repeat JCM in a heartbeat; however, I know the incredible effects the experience had on each one of us will never be forgotten or lost."

We are looking forward to seeing what the rest of this year brings for the Cape Town cohort.



Shoham teens spending time at Astra



Shoham Cohort 4



Shoham teens at Herzlia School



Cape Town and Shoham exploring Cape Town together



Cape Town and Shoham Cohorts

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SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL

# YOM HA'ATZMAUT 2019





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CAPE COUNCIL

# BURNING BRIGHTLY

## BRIT MILAH.

Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg

### Cape Town's Mohalim and the Brit Milah Regulatory Body

Have you ever wondered why there is a sumptuous meal at a Bris? Generally people do not associate surgical procedures with lavish buffets. The crying of the baby in the middle of the Bris and the shouts of Mazal Tov and L'chaim seem rather incongruous. Yet Jews have always celebrated Brit Milah with great joy and at great personal sacrifice. They have done so in times of peace and during periods of persecution.

**"Any mitzvah that the Jewish people initially accepted with joy, such as Brit Milah, they continue to celebrate with joy." (Talmud)**

Jews insisted on circumcising their sons even when the Romans forbade it on pain of death and when the Communists threatened parents with exile to Siberia. And even the most secular and unobservant Jews have consistently ensured that their sons would receive a Brit Milah. Jews celebrate at a Brit Milah because their first patriarch did so, more than 3700 years ago. Abraham was an old man and yet when God commanded him to circumcise himself and the males of his household, he did so with alacrity and love. Why would he not be overjoyed? God had selected him and made an eternal covenant with him and his descendants. Moreover, the sign of the covenant would forever be etched into the flesh of his body and would serve as a constant reminder that the Jewish people and God are bound together for all time. Although the basic format of the procedure has not changed much over the years, we are now able to enhance the experience of it with improved surgical instruments, state-of-the-art dressings and advanced medical knowledge. This makes Brit Milah one of the safest medical procedures. Consider that in 2017 there were 75 000 Britot in Israel, with a tiny reported complication rate!

In recent years, the practice of Brit Milah in South Africa has been governed by the Regulatory Board of Brit Milah, a body consisting of the finest rabbis, doctors and legal experts. The Board has done outstanding work in the formation and maintenance of high standards of accreditation, record-keeping and surgical excellence. For more information go directly to The Board's impressive website

*Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg, Rabbi of the Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation – in addition to also serving as the chairman of Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School and various other responsibilities – is a certified mohel. In this column Rabbi Liebenberg will unpack various aspects of the Brit Milah experience. In the coming editions he will share his story of how one actually goes about becoming a mohel.*

## MIKVEH.

Rebbetzin Sara Bayla Wineberg

### Our Race Isn't Over

What's the connection between a bicycle, a mikveh and the city of Cape Town? Surely the most beautiful city deserves a most magnificent mikveh? Especially when the mikveh is the only one in Cape Town. 40 Years ago, with great dedication and sacrifice, Rabbi and Rebbetzin Popack built the first mikveh in Cape Town, behind Arthur's Road Shul, knowing that a community cannot be considered viable unless it has a mikveh. Sadly, due to financial constraints, the mikveh has not been upgraded for many years. A major effort is now underway to revamp the mikveh. Wanting to make my contribution to the effort – knowing the tremendous importance, benefit and blessings that this mitzvah brings to the community and the Jewish family – I came up with the idea of challenging myself to complete the Argus Cycle Tour in the most beautiful city in the world. In addition to raising money for the most beautiful mikveh that our city deserves, we would also raise awareness about the importance of this special mitzvah.

**With support from three incredible ladies from the community, we headed out to tackle the spectacular mountains of Suikerbossie, Hout bay, Signal Hill and Chapman's Peak Drive. The support from the community has been beyond our wildest dreams. So far we have over R 122 000 towards the R 4 million needed for the project.**

Training was gruelling and all consuming; but it was so worthwhile seeing how the hard work paid off as we kept building up our distances. I realised that with

Hashem's help; having a dream and hard work combined can achieve incredible results. Climbing up those hills was often painful and difficult; but the reward of flying back down, and marvelling at the incredible views, was a great lesson for me to see how hard work pays off. When some friends suggested that using cleats would make the cycle much easier, I was hesitant, daunted at the idea of locking myself in. I plucked up the courage to try it, and after falling a couple of times, realised how much easier it is to go uphill while locked in. This taught me another powerful lesson. Often in life, we are afraid to commit, feeling that it will take away our independence and lock us in with no way out. When we take that leap of faith; initially it can be challenging, with some slips and falls along the way; but ultimately locking in makes us soar higher and higher.

On the morning of the race, my biggest fear was that it would be cancelled due to the harsh winds on the route. Hashem was with us all the way, and apart from a flat tyre on Chapman's Peak, all went well. On our cycling journey we really were encouraged by the fact that so many had supported, and would continue to support our project. This showed me how much we can accomplish as a collective force. In truth, the Cape Cycle Tour might be over, but our race is very much still on! We still have a few more hills to climb before we reach the goal of a new mikveh. What's my next step, together with my Rebbetzin colleagues? Watch this space.

*Rebbetzin Sara Bayla Wineberg serves with her husband as the senior rabbinic leaders of Marais Road Shul. Rebbetzin Sara, born in Jerusalem and brought up in London, has fully entrenched herself in the Cape Town community. She is always willing to reach out to any Jew, help with any project, or back any cause to promote Jewish learning and growth.*





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# CHOOSE Limmud CAPE TOWN

## EDWIN SHUKER

### REMEMBERING BAGHDAD

Edwin Shuker is an activist and international public speaker on Middle East issues, especially on Jews from Arab countries. Edwin is a protagonist of the documentary "Remember Baghdad". He is Vice President of the British Board of Deputies and a member of the Limmud International Advisory Council.



## WENDY AMSELLEM

### LIVING TORAH TEXTS

Wendy Amsellem is a rabba who teaches Talmud at Yeshivat Maharat and is the Editor of Yeshivat Maharat's Keren Journal. She is also a faculty member at Drisha Institute and Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, and is an editor at The Lehrhaus. Wendy brings Torah texts alive.



## JESSICA KATE MEYER

### SACRED SOUNDS

Jessica Kate Meyer strives to build community through song, and to lift song through community. She is rabbi-hazzan at The Kitchen in San Francisco, and served for 4 years as rabbi and musical leader at Romemu in New York City. Jessica studies sacred Jewish music with masters from Sephardic and Ashkenazi traditions, and has performed as a vocalist with ensembles in the US and Israel. Jessica also appeared in film, theatre, and television projects in Europe and the United States: most notably, as a principal role in Roman Polanski's The Pianist.



## DANIEL TAUB

### DIPLOMAT & TV WRITER

Daniel Taub is an Israeli diplomat and international lawyer who served as the Israeli Ambassador to the U.K. from 2011 until 2015. He is currently Director of Strategy and Planning of the Yad Hanadiv (Rothschild) foundation. Taub has held many positions in the Foreign Ministry and served as a member of negotiation teams in Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. He writes and lectures widely on international law and negotiations, has penned a book of diplomatic insights on biblical texts and was also the creator and chief scriptwriter of a popular Israeli drama series, HeChatzer, set in an ultra-orthodox Hasidic sect.



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Continued from page 1

## Martin Margolius: 83-years-young

By Jaime Uranovsky

‘I thought that you jump off Signal Hill. You don’t. You actually glide off. You glide off with your, let’s say, pilot because... I did the tandem... The view is incredible. I wasn’t scared. I was more excited, but I told my children, “you must wait on the beachfront and hopefully I land. If I don’t land properly, you’ll meet me in hospital or, at the worst thing, you’ll come to my funeral.”’

When asked about the landing, Martin recounts, ‘I was a bit scared because I’ve had a knee replacement and that was my problem. I warned them about [it] but, when I landed, the pilot took the so-called ‘running along’ so that was quite okay. That was the only thing I was worried about.’

For Martin, there are plans to spend more time with his head literally in the clouds: ‘They said to me, when I’m 90, they’ll do a paragliding for me for free.



So, we’ll see. I want to go skydiving. You know, that’s from a plane. That’s what I want to do next year.’

On the overall experience of paragliding, Martin had this to say: ‘My daughter, Hazel, came up to me and asked, “Did you enjoy it?” I said, “From what I can remember, it’s better than sex”’

## Jewish lender reaches outstanding milestone



Arnold Connack, Hugh Raichlin, Chief Rabbi, Mike Miller, Craig Sacks, Alec Levy and Barry Levitt

A special presentation of a symbolic cheque to the value of R150m was given to the Chief Rabbi in recognition of the Rambam Trust reaching the milestone of having lent out over R150m to the SA Jewish community.

The Rambam Trust is a lender of last resort and is available to any member of the SA Jewish community. Loans are provided interest free and maintaining the dignity of our borrowers is our top priority.

## Seeking family roots

Do you have family roots in Rudiskes or the Troki/Trakai area in Lithuania? I am researching a book in memory of the Rudiskes Jewish community, as my family, Radunski, lived there for three generations.

René Radunski Nathan  
rene@renenathan.com.au

## YOUR ANCESTRAL LINK TO LITHUANIA AND POLAND



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Contact me:  
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www.kin-search.com





## Honouring your ageing loved ones

**Jews have recently celebrated Pesach. As is the norm with any major Jewish Festival, families come together to enjoy a meaningful time together. As usual, afterwards, things get back to normal and families leave to carry on with their daily routines and our seniors are left to their own devices.**

In our community and many other towns in South Africa, it has become evident that the majority of the communities' residents are senior citizens. We also know that in many cases younger family members have either emigrated or are not living close to their parents, which in the long term can put a tremendous strain on families, especially when times of crisis occur.

Ageing isn't easy and as we often witness people becoming feisty and argumentative and often complaining about something that seems unnecessary. Honouring ageing parents or ageing community members can be hard. Time constraints of those caring for aged often interfere with outside commitments and often the caregiver really does have to make sacrifices in order to be able to provide the necessary services for their loved ones. This can be very difficult, especially when one cannot necessarily see an end in sight. It may mean carving extra time from one's own limited personal time and the stress and strain of dealing with their problems, as well as their own family time, can be really daunting.

What motivates a caregiver to keep on caring and what keeps the carer persevering? Love should go a long way towards energising and motivating one to care for elders, but the key word is honour — a genuine and sincere love in action. When sincerely honouring parents or other elders, caregiving becomes a more gratifying experience. Caregivers use the positive word 'rewarding', to describe feelings about caregiving responsibilities. Loving and honouring our seniors is worth the effort.

In order to honour the aged, respecting losses helps to remember that they have travelled a long pathway, facing a variety of obstacles. As one ages, your world does not look the same. Indignities are common and physical disabilities often result in a diminishing return of life's simple pleasures and the letting go of one privilege after another associated with independence and autonomy. As life changes and losses accumulate, personal identity of an elderly person also undergoes change.

Important losses that they might endure are:-

- Cherished active roles such as mother, father, provider, mentor and friend.
- A career or job that provided opportunities for interaction with others, stimulating interests and a sense of belonging and making a difference.
- Perceived usefulness, dependability and self-esteem or simply being needed, or being enjoyed by the people they love, is one of the worst losses.
- Siblings and lifelong friends pass on and their deaths or relocation occurring at a time when friendships are more important than ever to help your ageing loved one cope with all the changes.
- Perhaps the most stressful of losses, spouse loss, is associated with losing the role of husband/wife, confidant and lover. Sometimes this is also associated with having to move homes or communities.

The loss of independence, driving and the ability to get around without assistance, turns life upside down and will certainly increase the limitations of old age and each loss is a wound which can cause a person to become frustrated because they are hurting inside. As in any grieving process, one of the early stages of dealing with loss is anger which can manifest in many different ways.

Empathising with losses that come with age and including our seniors and their friends in our lives can help you to express honour, patience and love for the elderly as well as providing them with dignity.

Most older people measure their personal worth by gauging how well they meet three goals — dependability, ability to maintain close family ties and self-sufficiency. Most do not want to reach out for help and want to do things independently proving themselves dependable and responsible. The longer older people feel they can be counted on to take care of themselves, help their loved ones and stay connected to a family or community, the more likely they are to remain optimistic.

As a community we should recognise skills and successes. In order to honour our aged.

- Being part of the community, instead of being kept apart from the community is important and part of the mission of CJSA. We look out for opportunities to recognise the significant part they can play in one's life.
- Record your elder's stories capturing their history as well as interaction with children and grandchildren
- Reinvent memories by sending notes on special days as well as phone calls at any time is always so appreciated.
- We all benefit from spending time with old companions as well as making new friends — keeping in touch is a reason to get up and get out and ensuring that our seniors are able to do this is beneficial for all.
- Regular exercise improves circulation and keeps the endorphins (feel good hormones) coursing through the blood system to. Walking or even chair exercises are ideal.
- Latent talents such as baking, writing or any hobby or past time. Computer lessons or any way to get people involved is good too.
- CJSA programmes are all planned to enable our members to derive the most out of ageing. There are a variety of activities to sort the needs of all and there is no reason for anyone to be alone or lonely at any time during the week. An added bonus are our caring drivers who are available to transport anyone who no longer has their own transport. CJSA strives to honour and hold all our members at all time to ensure that while ageing is not an option, it is really possible to live a rich, full and significant life as one ages.

### Farewell

It is with great sadness that the CJSA family bids farewell to Social Worker Melanie van Emmeness and her husband William who are leaving South Africa to live with their son and his family in Connecticut, USA. Melanie has been instrumental in starting the West Coast Branch of CJSA and nurturing its maturing to a viable branch for the last 51/2 years. Special thanks and mention must also go to William who has always been there to support and assist Mel every step of the way. We will miss you both dearly and wish you all the happiness you deserve in your new home.

*Diana Sochen Executive Director*

## Out and about with members



*Harry and Debbie Epstein, visitor, Shirley Cohen, Truda Goldman and Sylvia Quin at OPEN 24 HOURS in Harrington Street*

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

### Births

Charlotte Berson — great granddaughter  
Wolfie and Glickie Bloom — great granddaughter  
Ettie Buch — great granddaughter  
Reina Hurwitz — great granddaughter  
Alan and Pauline Sevitz — granddaughter

### Engagements

Vivienne and Nigel Brooker — daughter  
Steven and Jos Horwitz — son

### Anniversary

Maureen and Roy Summerfield 60

### Birthdays

Sonja Keschner — 90

Judith Resnick — 92

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

Rabbi Malcolm Mattitiani — father  
Monique Nieuwenhys — grandmother  
Seymour and Jocelyn Stoch — mother

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

Rebbetzin Bertha Sherman

### We welcome New Members to the CJSA family:

Cecilia Rogut

### Special Events June

*booking essential for all functions*

#### TWILIGHT SUPPERS

Sea Point	18 June Rolene Miller, founder of Mosaic R60
Milnerton	27 Dr Anastasia Tomson on diversity and compassion R70
Wynberg	19 Stefanie Shulter of Two Oceans Marathon R60

#### OUTINGS JUNE

Southern Suburbs	3 Durbanville Ceramics Exhibition R40
	24 Boere Sjik R40
Milnerton	4 Wheel at the Waterfront R85
	25 Rupert Museum in Stellenbosch R40
Sea Point	19 Big Wheel at the Waterfront R85
West Coast	18 District 6 Museum R30

#### MEN'S SCHMOOZE

Milnerton	7 June Gilad Stern speaks on 'Is it racist to think the Jews are the chosen people?' R10
Wynberg	12 Gilad Stern (topic above) R10
Sea Point	28 Gilad Stern (topic above) R10

**SHABBAT SUPPER** 21 June Shabbat Supper in Sea Point at our Centre R80 for members R100 non-members. Booking Essential

**OT AZEY** Sea Point. 2-4 September with special guest presenter Shane Baker from New York. Booking Essential.



# Cape Jewish Seniors

<p><b>If you have not paid your annual subscription of R130 for membership to CJSA, please do so. We do not send out invoices so this note serves as your notification for 2019 and it is now overdue.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 1</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Irving Freeman <i>Jewish Music Series</i> Episode 3 R10 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Pop In with Janine Rogers of the Gitlin Library R10 2.00 Musical Appreciation with Doreen Kantor R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.15 Outing to the Norval Gallery and Sculpture Garden Entrance free on Monday Transport R30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesday 2</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R20</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Café Bio A Star is Born R10 13.30 Mosaics with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line Dancing with Cathy Hudson R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group All welcome R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 10.00 Outing to the Rupert Museum in Stellenbosch with guided tour. Tea for own account R40</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 8</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In with Su Miller on her stroke-struck husband, life before and after R10 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 R10 Irving Freeman <i>Jewish Music Series</i> Episode 3 R10 12.15 Milnerton Committee Meeting</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 10.00 DVD <i>A Place to Call Home</i> R10 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesday 9</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R20 2.00 Mosaic classes with Yvette R30</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.15 Outing to Boere Sjiem R40. Tea for own account 13.30 Mosaics with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line Dancing with Cathy Hudson R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 09.30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group All welcome R10</p> <p><b>Muizenberg</b> 10.30 A morning with Rabbi Kalman Green R10</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 15</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 A special morning with Adv Joy Wilkin R10 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Craft with Sonia Norrie R25 12.15 Milnerton Committee Meeting 15h00 Monthly Shiur with Rabbi Bernstein R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.15 Outing to Maritime Museum with self-guided tour R15 entrance. Transport R30. Tea for own account 1.30 Visit Highlands House R20</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesday 16</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R20 17.30 Twilight Supper with Michael Bagraim speaking on <i>After the elections</i> R60</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Spend a morning with Megan Furniss, theatre maker, actress, performer, director and writer R10 13.30 Mosaics with Sonia Norrie R30 1.45 Line Dancing with Cathy Hudson R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 09.30 Social Bridge R10 New members welcome 10.00 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group All welcome R10</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 22</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In with Janine Rogers of the Gitlin Library R10 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Pop In with Michelle Wridgway on Diabetes; new treatments and the day in the life of a type one diabetic R10.</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing to the V&amp;A Waterfront. Enjoy a ride on the Big Wheel R85. Tea for own account</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesday 23</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Roni R10 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R20 5.30 Twilight Supper with Martin Welz of <i>Noseweek</i> R60</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Outing to the Kaplan Centre to view the current exhibition R30. Tea at Jean's Kitchen for own account 1.30 Mosaic with Sonia R30 1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinek R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group All welcome R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 9.30 Outing to the V&amp;A Waterfront. Enjoy a ride on the Big Wheel R85. Tea for own account</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday 28</b> <b>Milnerton Fundraiser</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Monday 29</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop in Enjoy a reality TV morning with Hymie Liebman R10 2.00 Bridge R10 2.00 Yoga Classes with Leina R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Urs Huber R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 10.00 Outing to the Kaplan Centre to view the current exhibition R30. Tea at Jean's Kitchen for own account</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Tuesday 30</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Talking Point with Marcia R10 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R20</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.15 Outing to Maritime Museum with self-guided tour R15 entrance. Transport R30. Tea for own account 1.30 Mosaic with Sonia R30 1.45 Line dancing with Hannah Seinek R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p>

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 JULY 2019



Wednesday 3		Thursday 4		Friday 5	
<b>Sea Point</b>	10.00 Craft with Yvette and Jeanette R20 1.45 Social Bridge and Kalooki R10	<b>Sea Point</b>	10.00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 2.00 Exercises with Mariamne R10	<b>Sea Point</b>	9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20
<b>Milnerton</b>	10.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 12.00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25	<b>Milnerton</b>	9.30 Kalooki R10	<b>Milnerton</b>	10.30 Men's Schmooze Con Travers on life and war time experiences R10
<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10.00 Bridge Classes with Irving R10 10.15 Bnoth Zion meets 11.00 DVD series <i>Shtisel</i> R10	<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.30 Gillian Lourenco ASTAR collage presentation and workshop R10 1.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10		
		<b>West Coast</b>	11.30 Irving Freeman Jewish Music Series Episode 3 R10		
Wednesday 10		Thursday 11		Friday 12	
<b>Sea Point</b>	9.15 Outing to Boere Sjik Tea for own account R40 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10.	<b>Sea Point</b>	10.00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 2.00 Exercises with Mariamne R10	<b>Sea Point</b>	9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20
<b>Milnerton</b>	9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R10 9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25	<b>Milnerton</b>	9.30 Kalooki R10 18.30 Twilight Supper Beryl Eichenberger and Ryland Fisher, former editor of the Cape Times talks on 'One City Many Cultures' R60		
<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10.00 Men's Schmooze Con Travers on life and war time experiences 10.00 Bridge Classes with Irving R10 11.15 Outing to the Rupert Museum in Stellenbosch with guided tour. Tea for own account R40	<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.30 R10 Irving Freeman <i>Jewish Music Series</i> Episode 3 R10 1.00 Kalooki R10		
		<b>West Coast</b>	10.30 Pop In with Janine Rogers of the Gitlin Library R10		
Wednesday 17		Thursday 18		Friday 19	
<b>Sea Point</b>	9.30 Outing to Zeitz Mocaa R20 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10	<b>Sea Point</b>	9.15 JOY interactive, intergenerational programme at Alon Ashel 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Exercises with Mariamne R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10	<b>Sea Point</b>	9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20
<b>Milnerton</b>	9.30 Kalooki R10 10.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R10 12.00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25	<b>Milnerton</b>	10.00 Kalook R10		
<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.00 Bridge Classes with Irving R10 10.15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R 20 12.00 DVD series <i>Shtisel</i> R10 17.30 Twilight Supper Beryl Eichenberger and Ryland Fisher, former editor of the Cape Times talks on 'One City Many Cultures' R60	<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.30 Pop In with Su Miller on her stroke-struck husband; life before and after R10 1.00 Kalooki R10		
		<b>West Coast</b>	11.30 Pop In with Michelle Wridgway on Diabetes; new treatments and the day in the life of a type-one diabetic R10		
Wednesday 24		Thursday 25		Friday 26	
<b>Sea Point</b>	9.30 Outing to the Kaplan Centre to view the current exhibition R30. Tea at Jean's Kitchen for own account) 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10	<b>Sea Point</b>	9.15 JOY interactive, intergenerational programme at Alon Ashel 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Exercises with Mariamne R10 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10	<b>Sea Point</b>	9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20 10.30 Men's Schmooze Group: A morning with Tiny Jones R10
<b>Milnerton</b>	9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy R20	<b>Milnerton</b>	09.30 Kalooki R10		
<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10.00 Bridge Classes with Irving R10 11.00 DVD series <i>Shtisel</i> R10 5.30 Twilight Supper with Martin Welz of Noseweek R60	<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.30 Movie morning: <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i> 1.00 Kalooki R10		
		<b>West Coast</b>	10.00 Art with Sharon Lopis R35		
Wednesday 31					
<b>Sea Point</b>	9.00 Outing to Rust en Vrede Art Gallery in Durbanville R40 Tea for own account 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10				
<b>Milnerton</b>	9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy R20				
<b>S/Suburbs</b>	10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10.00 Bridge Classes with Irving R10 11.00 Outing to Zeitz Mocaa R30 11.00 DVD series <i>Shtisel</i> R10				

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

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The Internationally-acclaimed pianist & daughter of Lisa Jura,  
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**The Children of Willesden Lane**

An Inspiring Performance of Music, Love and Survival

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Join us in Recognition of **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

The keynote address entitled "Refugees...beyond simplicity" will be given by **Professor Brian Williams**.

Professor Williams is the Chief Executive Officer of a Mediation, Peace-building and Labour Law Consultancy. He will be introduced by **Michael Bagraim, MP**.

Sunday 23 June, 2:00 p.m. Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens

Light refreshments will be served. Booking essential.  
021 462 5553 or [admin@holocaust.org.za](mailto:admin@holocaust.org.za)

## Twilight Manta rays

Story by Maiyan Karidi – for Keshet

**On a small, remote island, sixty sea miles from the mainland of Fiji, we were living with a friendly Fijian tribe belonging to the weaving clan.**

My son Keshet at ten years old already had a history of living in Africa, Israel and Mauritius. His ability to blend with different cultures, pick up their language and participate naturally in their daily activities, was remarkable.

On a warm tropical evening, he disappeared from sight with the village children on a small canoe, on their way to throw fishing nets near a small islet, far in the distance. Together they threw the nets, and clambered back onto the overcrowded canoe, homeward bound. The twilight took them by surprise as they spent time playing games in the warm, turquoise lagoon. The boys showed him how to swirl a vortex with their hands in the water and call up luminescent creatures, shining in the looming darkness.

Laughing and splashing on their way, a few boys were swimming beside the overweight canoe.

Keshet was happy to swim and spent most of his time underwater. About half way home the kids in the canoe called to him "Be careful Keshet, we are in the home of the Manta rays, don't touch the sand!"

"What?"

"You are swimming over Manta rays, don't disturb them, don't put your foot on the sand, stay afloat!"

"Ok", Keshet called, continuing to stay cool and pretending not to be petrified.

He looked towards the beach and

it seemed a very long way. As he tried to concentrate on never putting his foot down, the lagoon became increasingly shallow. He wondered how to stay on the surface as the sand grew closer and closer to his body.

There was no choice but to put all his strength into swimming slowly on the surface, inch by inch. The darkness became more and more creepy with knowing that the Manta rays were watching him from below.



Photo credit: Andreea, Pexels

The laughing and splashing had abated and an eerie silence took its place. He could hear his own heart beat and felt desperate to relax his legs. He looked around him and saw two other boys, doing the same. The canoe stayed close and all the kids held their breath.

Time stood still and his arms and legs ached. He

had to continue, no matter what. He could feel the tension in the air and realized the darkness had taken over and he couldn't see the beach. He tried to focus on the canoe and follow it as closely as possible.

He reached the shore feeling as heavy as lead and walked up to his father with a lump in his throat, pushing back the tears. He had turned white. His father saw immediately that something had happened, put his arm around him and said "Come, let's sit under the tree and you can tell me everything."

This is the story of how my son Keshet, acquired his Fijian name which means 'swims with Manta rays'. The villagers sat in a circle, presented him with a special 'bilo' of Kava in honor of his strength and courage. He had earned his identity within the tribe.

*Bilo – coconut container*

*Kava – powdered root mixed with water.*

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

## MENSCH CHANGE-MAKER OF THE MONTH

Glenn Stein

### Not my mother-tongue

**Language is fundamental to human connection and communication. It can both bring us together and divide us, and is a lens through which we make sense of the world around us.**

As a privileged South African Jew, I had to the opportunity to spend my gap year in Argentina as a Rotary Exchange Student. Becoming fluent in Spanish opened a whole new universe of possibilities for me and continues to enrich my life to this day. But it wasn't the actual learning of Spanish that made me come to appreciate language, rather the extent to which I suffered in my first four months, before I had any meaningful grasp of the language. The constant day to day struggle, from the moment I woke up until I went to sleep, just to understand and be understood. That period was one of the most difficult of my entire life and I came extremely close to calling it quits and coming home to Cape Town on multiple occasions. But thanks to the strong support structure I had there (caring host families and a Rotary Councillor — who barely spoke English), as well as an incredibly supportive mother who made this whole experience possible for me, I found the personal resilience to push through. And I'm glad I did. Despite experiencing these struggles daily, I was still grounded in the context of privilege, safety, and security. The majority of those around the world and in South Africa who experience similar such struggles on a day to day basis are not.

Upon my return to South Africa in 2009, still fresh from this experience, I was for the first time incredibly aware of how the difficulties I faced as a foreigner in Argentina, were a daily reality for millions of South Africans who weren't meaningfully exposed to English growing up. Consider what it must be like as a high school student from the Eastern Cape coming to Cape Town in the hopes of receiving a better education. Regardless of how smart they are, the language barrier will more often than not be the reason that they struggle and in many cases fall behind or fail. Or consider



a pregnant woman visiting a clinic and not being able to understand the basic, but crucial, questions the healthcare practitioner is asking them. In such commonplace cases, misdiagnosis occurs far too often and in some cases a security guard (often a male) is brought in to act as an interpreter which is completely undignified for the patient, leading to them losing faith and trust in the public health system. Such issues plague our socio-economic development in South

Africa, yet not enough is done to resolve it.

In 2013, after years of obsessing over these realities, I decided that I would dedicate my life to language activism. I embarked on a journey to leverage my skills and experiences in the world of digital product engineering, to address these issues. This journey led me to found Aweza, a tech-based initiative that would go on to build a family of mobile apps and websites geared towards democratising access to education and healthcare services for those who don't speak English as a first language.

Most notably (and closest to my heart), I recently began the pilot of our flagship project in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, **A w e z a M e d**. AwezaMed is a mobile app which addresses communication and language barriers between medical professionals and patients in South Africa. The app allows medical professionals to speak to patients in their mother tongue, using speech recognition and text-to-speech synthesis. The current focus is on women's sexual and reproductive health, and is at the end of its first year of a 2.5 year pilot.

The feedback thus far has been incredibly encouraging. Doctors say that it allows them to feel like they can speak their patients' language and build stronger trust between them, as well as improving their ability to diagnosis more accurately. The journey to this point has been incredibly difficult to say the least, but the feedback has made it worthwhile and invigorated me to

**The app allows medical professionals to speak to patients in their mother tongue, using speech recognition and text-to-speech synthesis.**

## Theatre award for Kawalsky

**Martine Kawalsky won best actress in a musical at this year's Cape Amateur Theatre Awards (CATA) ceremony.**

Martine won the award for her role as Peppermint Patty in *Snoopy the Musical* which was staged at the Artscape Arena last year. She is no stranger to the stage, prior to her role as Peppermint Patty in *Snoopy*, she played the part of Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* at the Artscape Opera House. She was also involved in the choreography of *Ruddigore* staged at the Artscape Theatre and has been involved in many productions including *My Fair Lady*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie* and *The King & I*, to name but a few.



From page 1

## Di Berrill celebrates 100th birthday

By Jaime Uranovsky

During her term as Mayoress of Cape Town, Di made personal visits to the homes of many South Africans, particularly those living in poverty. Her fundraising efforts were very successful resulting in a large amount being raised. Di says, "Being mayoress made me feel very responsible." Her term also coincided with Nelson Mandela's release; indeed, Di had the honour of standing on the balcony of City Hall alongside him as he addressed thousands on the Grand Parade below. Di reminisces, "He inspired me to do the best we can for the country."

Di has also been highly involved in community societies such as Club 100, International Women's Club, Community Chest and Soroptimist International. Additionally, she was on the board of directors for Somerset

Hospital and was instrumental in saving the institution from being demolished in 1992. Regarding social responsibility, Di noted, "Whether it's a Jewish nation or a South African nation, we have to believe in ourselves and be strong. 'Yes, I can. Yes, I will. Yes, I do' is my philosophy. Those are my words. There's nothing you can't do if you make up your mind to do it. That's a very important part of one's daily life if you are interested in what is good for the nation and for the self because you're responsible for what you do."

When asked how she feels about turning 100, Di said, "It doesn't bother me. It's just part of living. I've got two wonderful sons and I'm very blessed. My life has been a very interesting experience."

keep going and explore gearing the app towards disaster relief. AwezaMed has been entirely self-funded up to this point, because I genuinely believe in the project and the impact it is already having and can have in future. I'm now hoping to find donors and collaborators to help with its expansion.

But here's the thing: we don't all have to dedicate years of our lives building a language startup, to be a language activist. In fact, all one needs to do is embrace learning a language as a way of better connecting with the people around us for whom English is not their mother-tongue. Unfortunately, I cannot yet claim to be fluent or even an intermediate

isiXhosa speaker. But equally I cannot understate the difference and impact that learning just a few key greetings and phrases has had for me. It's very obvious to me that if every white South African made the effort to learn a few phrases in an indigenous South African language, and got over the fear of sounding like a fool initially, South Africa would be a much better place.

*Mensch Network member Glenn Stein is the founder and creator of AwezaMed, a mobile app which addresses communication and language barriers between medical professionals and patients in South Africa.*

## The best golf day with the best prizes

Players at this year's WIZO Sponsor-a-Child Golf Day had a marvellous time and, as always, the prizes were out of this world thanks to the generous support of sponsors.

Held on 11 April at King David Mowbray Golf Club, the tournament was masterfully organised by WIZO's 'queen of the green', Donn  Querido. Play ended at around 5.30pm as the 28 four-ball teams came in from the course in time to be treated to a gin tasting and sushi, before being served a delicious dinner.

WIZO thanks both the players and sponsors, who make this day a highlight on the golfing calendar. Monies raised go to WIZO's 'Sponsor-a-Child' fund for disadvantaged youth, and the Saartjie Baartman Centre, a shelter in Manenberg that provides a refuge and place of safety for women and children escaping abusive relationships.



Lynton Cassel, Tate Eshelby, Hylton Segall and Donn  Querido



2nd place winners — Julian Ellison, Jack Levy, Stan Katz and Robert Feinblum



Overall winners! Glenda Muller, Rona Maskie, Sandy Swanson and Wei Mason



4th place winners — Coenraad Van Graan, Anton McElhone, Evan D'arcy-Jones and Steve Van Zyl



The WIZO team — Back: Helene Leeman, Cheryl Woolfson, Kim Daitsh, Janene Currie and Les Carson. Front: Gail Aronson, Lee Silke, Caryn Querido, Donn  Querido, Suzanne Luck, Laurie Singer and Martine Berman



Getting some refreshments before the tournament were: Jill Rabie, Barbara Schwarz, Tilley Hefer and Kate Tipper



3rd place winners — Adam Querido, Ivan Miller, David Schneider and Trevor Reich

### Please support the following businesses and sponsors, who gave so generously:

**Main Sponsors:** Freddy Hirsch

**Hole Sponsors:** Barry Friedman; Non Ferrous Metal Works; Spark ATM Systems

**Donations and Prizes:** A&A Furnishers; Solly Abrahams; Paul Abramowitz; African Spirit; All About U; Alligator; Alpas; Aquila Private Game Reserve; Aroma; AudioLens; Bags of Bites; Banks Kitchen Shop; Belmio Coffee; BidFood; Bonjour Bakery; Cindy's Health & Beauty; Coco Li Fashion; Cohesive Capital; Deluxe Laser & Spa; Evergreen Health & Skincare; Ego & Co Hairdressing; Hermanus Brewery; Heart to Art; Lynne Hirsch; Interbrand; Kanan Wealth; Katz Hair & Beauty Salon; King David Mowbray Golf Club; Ronald & Tamar Lazarus; Leisureturn; Lexus Cape Town City; Suzanne & Aubrey Luck; Made with Love & Passion; Adrienne & Jojo Malle; Mark Solomon Jewellers; Maxi's Jewellery; Ocean Blue Restaurant; Osrin Advisory; OnS Health Studio; Peer Family; Pick 'n Pay; Premier Shoes; Pure Vision Property; Jill Rabie; Raphaela Leah Jewellery; Sababa Foods; Schulman's Linen; Seelan Sundoo Restaurants; Shield's Indie Brewing Co.; Singer Group; Skin Tonic; Spar Paddocks; Stafford Shaw; Stenham; Terry & Ari Stevenson; Sugarbird Gin; Sunset Pharmacy; Ronnie & Dee Tanur; The Pro Shop; The Yard; Melanie Uranovsky; Les Sweidan High Road Wines; USA Brush Co.; Voyage Exclusive Fashion; Issa Werb; Willoughby & Co.

## Benjamin Pogrund honoured with the prestigious Order of Ikhamanga

By Jaime Uranovsky

**B**enjamin, who has lived in Israel for more than twenty years, is well known and highly respected for his prolific journalistic contribution both in South Africa and abroad, as well as for his dedication to human rights advocacy. While the list of his achievements and writing endeavours is difficult to summarise, his twenty-six years at the Rand Daily Mail during the height of apartheid speak for themselves of his courage and integrity.

He recounted, "We left [South Africa] in 1986. I was deputy-editor of the Rand Daily Mail, ...which was too fiercely anti-apartheid; we were closed down by our business owners under pressure from the government. I was simply unemployable at that time... So Britain gave me sanctuary ...and I was on Queen Street newspapers for eight years. Then we went to America where I was editing an international

paper... then we went to Israel at the invitation of the late Rabbi Mickey Rosen, who asked me to come start a dialogue centre called Yakar... and we simply stayed on there."

Despite living abroad, Benjamin feels deeply connected to South Africa and visits often to see his children and grandchildren. "I felt deeply honoured to be one of two dozen recipients of various orders... I stood there... totally honoured to be in the presence of these, mainly, South Africans who had done the most amazing things in their lives... Because, I'm from this country, I come

**...standing up there listening to the Soweto choir singing 'Nkosi Sikelel'iAfrika' was an intensely emotional experience.**

back a great deal, I write about this country, I comment on it all the time but I'm Israeli. And standing up there listening to the Soweto choir singing 'Nkosi Sikelel'iAfrika' was an intensely emotional experience."

On being asked which story or

event stood out to him during his career in South Africa, Benjamin explained, "The joke was that they closed the [Rand Daily Mail] to get rid of me because I was part of the furniture... I was hugely fortunate as a journalist because of the quality of the people I knew. And the important thing to a journalist... was that I had people whom I trusted to give me accurate information, even when they imperilled their own liberty. And they, in turn, trusted me to report accurately and that was it, when I think back, you know: the people I knew and whom I know. Nelson Mandela was a good friend. I was the first non-family person allowed to visit him in prison after about twenty years and I didn't do so as a journalist but as a friend. But I had to give the government a promise that I wouldn't



write a word about it. Just imagine that scene! I was deputy-editor of a leading newspaper and I had to go to my colleagues and say, 'I'm going to be seeing Nelson Mandela this weekend and I cannot write a word about it.'"

Benjamin's writing career is far from over and his new book, a collection of essays assessing Robert Sobukwe's legacy, will be released in South Africa this November. "I'm still totally steeped in South Africa even though I live in Israel and am occupied with Israeli affairs," Benjamin said.

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

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

European citizenship which will result in them obtaining a EU passport.

**Ashkenazi:** It is important to understand that until 1918, all of Eastern Europe was divided between three empires: Russia, Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian empire. Neither Poland nor Lithuania and Latvia existed until 1918.

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

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

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

Horesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven



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

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

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

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



Avi Horesh

Destroyed Warsaw, January 1945

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

Horesh advises that eligibility for a Lithuanian

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

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

After World War II, the borders in Europe

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

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

**I will be in Johannesburg from June 13th till June 19th, and then in Cape Town till June 24th  
My South African phone number is +27 64 745 5273 • Email me on [adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com](mailto:adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com)**

# HELP KEEP EVERYONE WARM THIS WINTER

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For Souper Troopers

**DONATE TINNED KOSHER FOOD**  
To the Jewish Community Services Food Bank

 means it's Kosher

**DROP OFF POINTS**  
• UJW, 7 Albany Road, Sea Point  
• Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies, 87 Hatfield Street, Gardens  
**Closing Date: 28 June 2019**



## Appreciation tea a success

Another successful Domestic Workers Tea was hosted by the UJW Cape in March.

The day was filled with fun and laughter, music and dancing as domestic workers enjoyed some pampering and a break from their day to day work. Lunch was served, full goodie bags were given and wonderful prizes handed out, leaving no-one without something to remember the day. The domestic workers were also given a professional talk about diabetes and the importance of following a balanced diet. It was a day thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Thank you so much to our sponsors for their incredible generosity, Spur Sea Point, African Spirit – Lara Lyness, @Home, Rocka Roller, Glen Heneck Snoekies, Ina Parma, Ethne B SA, Milbern Scarves, Will Gurwitz – A & A Furnishers, Indigo Brands, Associated Media and Kurgan Leather. Thanks to our wonderful entertainer, Erez Shaked and our fantastic speaker Heidi Bieber who made the event extra special.



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**MEET TAMARA SCHEUER**  
She became a resident in 1981 when she was 3 years old. She is a vibrant lady & loves to be around people



### The Union of Jewish Women Cape Town Branch



takes pleasure in inviting you to the **86<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** to take place on **Thursday 30 May 2019 at 10am**

Hellenic Greek Club  
24 Bay Road, Mouille Point

**Guest Speakers:**  
Kentse Radebe, Shifra Jacobson, and Romi Kaplan  
The Counselling Hub

A donation toward our baby bag project would be hugely appreciated – new born nappies, baby soap or wipes would be great!

*Women of Action*

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**RSVP: 021 434 9555**

In order to facilitate catering arrangements please **RSVP by 20 May 2019**

# JEWISH LIFE ON <sup>& off</sup> CAMPUS!



## Students moved by survivor's story

Chabad on Campus and the SA Union of Jewish Students hosted 97-year-old Ella Blumenthal at a Yom HaShoah event in May. Ella shared her personal story of pain, loss and survival and made an impact on all the students who had come to hear her speak.

The students, many of whom had never met a survivor before, had the opportunity to meet, interact and hear first-hand from Ella in an intimate setting. Ella is a powerful woman and a true matriarch of our community. We asked two students to tell us how they were moved by hearing Ella's story:

**L**istening to her speak about how her family managed to save the Sefer Torah from the Nazi's ghetto fire made me remember the vows I made to myself when I was in Poland last year — to live more Jewishly, to have a Jewish family and raise my kids Jewish. This year away from home has made it difficult to live as Jewishly as I would have liked to, so hearing how she risked her life to live as a Jew reminded me how important it is and how easy for me it is to upkeep. It renewed my resolve. It also put life in to perspective for me. I cried when I was listening to her talk about what she had to go through and I thought to myself, I was just crying last

**What stood out for me was her will to live and her drive to survive and push through all the suffering and the pain.**

week because I have so many exams and I don't know how to handle it. I mean I know suffering is relative but still, I felt silly. She really put life and the important things into perspective for me. What stood out for me was her will to live and her drive to survive and push through all the suffering and the pain. It really inspired me to be Jewish, if she and many of our people pushed so hard through all of that just to be here and exist, I need to carry this on and pass it down to my kids and them to theirs."

*Carli Borer, 20, UCT Business Science*

**W**hat stood out for me was when she spoke about during their time of hiding which so happened to be around the time of Pesach, her father was able to save morsels of Matzah for her and her family, because for me, keeping the tradition of the holy holidays plays a pivotal part of my Judaism... how Ella's father who faced such terror and risked destruction yet still stuck to fulfilling the mitzvah of Pesach by feasting on Matzah...

Another anecdote that moved

me greatly was how she told us that luck and good fortune aren't the reasons she's still here and speaking to us today.

**Another anecdote that moved me greatly was how she told us that luck and good fortune aren't the reasons she's still here and speaking to us today.**

The real reason why she's still strong and is fortunate enough to wake up every morning to see the sun rise is due to the fact that Hashem's

presence was, and continues to be, around her. That she still has faith after all she's been through inspired me greatly."

*Jade Spiro, 19, FEDISA Bachelors in Fashion Design*



Ella lit up the room



Ella with Jade Spiro



Ella gave time to answer each student's questions after her talk

## How to be happy and free

The Rebbe, of righteous memory, would periodically issue a pastoral letter in preparation for the Shavuot holiday. Below we bring you one such message addressed to youth.

Dear Friend,  
Following Pesach, the Festival of Our Liberation, comes Shavuot, the Festival of the Receiving of Our Torah.

The days of Sefirah (Counting of the Omer), beginning immediately on the morrow of the first day of Pesach and ending on the eve of Shavuot, connect these two great festivals.

Many significant lessons can be

learned from this, of which I will point out but one:

Our Sages tell us that when Moshe was about to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, he told them of G-d's promise to give the Torah to His beloved people following their liberation from bondage. At once they asked when would that happy day be, and Moshe replied that it would be fifty days later. Every day the children of Israel counted: One day is gone, two days, three, and so on, and eagerly looked forward to the fiftieth day. The children of Israel understood that there could

**We cannot be truly free people, nor would we be worthy of such freedom, unless we take upon ourselves to observe and do all that G-d commanded us in His holy Torah.**

be no real freedom — freedom from any fear of oppression by others, and freedom from one's own evil inclinations — except through laws of justice and righteousness, which only the Creator of all mankind could make, because He knows best what is good for them. It is not

surprising, therefore, that they were so eager to receive the Divine Torah, containing those wonderful laws to guide them and all the world.

Let us also remember that we cannot be truly free people, nor would we be worthy of such freedom, unless we take upon ourselves to observe

and do all that G-d commanded us in His holy Torah. Like our ancestors at Mount Sinai, we also must proclaim: Naaseh v'nishmah — we will do and learn; and only then will we have lasting freedom.

Indeed, it was their determination, while still in Egypt, to accept the Torah that merited them their liberation from enslavement. Likewise at this time, our return to the Torah and its observance, while awaiting for the Redemption, will hasten the coming of Mashiach and merit us the true and complete Redemption in our own day.

*Wishing you a happy Shavuot, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson*





# Cape Town Torah High observes Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Nothing has impacted Jewish life in the 20th century more than the decimation wrought by the Holocaust and the hope and haven created by the establishment of the State of Israel.

Today, we find ourselves in a world where Holocaust education has never been more necessary. It is hard to avoid the ever-present signs of prejudice and hate in the world around us and it is here where modern education must find its place.

Schools, above all else, must strive to be producers of hope. Educators need to equip the next generation to grow up to be change-makers and in turn, producers of hope themselves. At Cape Town Torah High, two of our founding principles are that students will be passionate about their Judaism, and possess a feeling of connection and love towards the land of Israel. These values are not just marked by observing two dates in our calendar, but in Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut we find a springboard for a multi-dimensional examination of the lessons that we are still learning in the wake of these moments in history.

We spent these weeks weaving together an awareness through both

the Kodesh and secular streams of our school. Throughout Holocaust week, after Shacharit, Rabbi Dani Brett began each day by sharing the stories of inspirational Torah personalities who survived the Shoah and defeated Hitler by rebuilding their lives, families, communities and institutions. Through these lessons of hope, each day began centred on the power of the human spirit. During this week Rabbi Kalman Green also presented lessons based on Holocaust survivors as they shared their testimonies.

On Yom HaShoah Ve'haGevurah itself, the school collaborated with the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre and Mrs. Linda Hackner ran a powerful visual workshop and discussion for the senior students that centred around a toddler's tragically abandoned shoe found at Auschwitz. This workshop led to exploring a valuable lesson in how and why we study history and how our own history as the Jewish



Mr Luba Myekiso, Director of the Israel advocacy group, Africa for Israel, speaks at a schoolwide assembly

people is one built on the survival of these stories. The younger grades reflected on the poem, *The Butterfly*, written in the Warsaw Ghetto. Examining this poem fed into student's personal introspection on their hopes and dreams for the world today. In the wings of butterflies, our junior students wrote their prayers for a peaceful world, now decorating the walls of our school. The day was then wrapped by senior students joining the community ceremony in Pinelands. Here students were empowered hearing the testimony of Holocaust survivor, Miriam Lichterman, and took home the inspiring lessons of how she built her family and community based on the values of hope and joy.

To mark Israel week, Rabbi Brett highlighted personalities who exemplified love for Eretz Yisrael in our ancient and modern history and by showcasing *Beneath the Helmet*, a powerful eye-opening documentary exploring the lives and minds of Israeli teenagers as they graduate High School and join the IDF. In light of the recent hail of rockets on Israel's south, students wrote letters of love and encouragement to residents affected by the terror, and joined an international campaign to take on pledges of Torah and mitzvot in honour of the Jews of Israel. Our Israel education was rounded off by a visit from Israel advocate, Mr. Luba Mayekiso, who runs an Israel Advocacy organisation, Africa for Israel and serves as a beacon of light in a national political landscape where Israel is routinely condemned and falsely vilified.

Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut would not be complete without enjoying some Israeli food and music and a visit to the community carnival at the Zip Zap Circus. Here CTTH teachers, students and parents joined together in a candle-making workshop celebrating the theme of spreading the light. CTTH also provided the opportunity for all children to put on tefillin and pledge a letter in the international children's Torah.

  
**MENSCH**

**BUILD CAPACITY NETWORK PEOPLE**      **LEAD BY EXAMPLE ACTIVATE COMMUNITY**

**NETWORK MEMBER VISIT: TO JANNA KRETZMAR & FAMILY**  
**Eco-living tour & tea**

Mensch spent a sunny morning in May visiting the home of Network Member Janna Kretzmar and family to learn about the 'off-grid eco-lifestyle' they are creating. Janna and husband Andrew Jamieson introduced concepts of permaculture and circular systems which they are implementing to reverse the trend of how homes have become places of consumption rather than production. We toured the 'food forest', the grey water wetland filtration bed, learnt about the biodigester and the eco-choices they have made in renovating the house. Followed by a hot drink made on the biogas stove! -->



**SAVE SUNDAY THE 21 JULY DATE 2019**

**MANDELA DAY**  
**FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY OF ACTION!**

**COOK**   **LEARN**   **MAKE**





# Telfed – the road ahead

By Harris Green

## Telfed's 70th anniversary year is drawing to an end.

Telfed staged a number of special events to celebrate this remarkable milestone. These included a meeting with President Reuven Rivlin, a well-attended community picnic and a chronological publication featuring the highlights of Telfed's illustrious history.

In addition, Telfed launched the ambitious Telfed History Project. This initiative culminated in the creation of an online digital archive of Telfed's records and history. This website enables former Southern Africans to share their personal Aliyah stories and their connections to Telfed. This impressive archive includes video interviews and digitised copies of all the Telfed magazines published since 1975.

And while celebrating these events, Telfed's leadership continued to ponder its future. Does an annual Aliyah rate of 350 olim from South Africa justify the existence of an organization dedicated to providing quality Klitah services?

Telfed was initially established to

cater to the needs of new immigrants from Southern Africa. In its first three decades, Telfed's focus was on immigrant absorption. Immigration can be expressed in numbers. Absorption is much more than that.

Absorption is about creating opportunities for new immigrants. It's about giving them a vision and making them an integral part in the fulfillment of their Zionist dreams. It's about developing and successfully utilising their skills. It's about facilitating their integration into society and making them useful citizens.

Helping olim find housing and employment in a new country is fundamental to the absorption process. Adapting to a new environment, learning a new language and providing new immigrants with functioning social and cultural infrastructures, are formidable challenges. Successful immigrant absorption has long been Israel's prime objective and Telfed's contribution to achieving this objective amongst olim from Southern African has been crucial.

Twenty-five thousand former

Southern Africans have made their homes in Israel. That's quite a community. Many of them have made and continue to make significant contributions to Israel's growing list of impressive successes.

Telfed's office is run by a small, dedicated group of professional staff members supported by more than 300 active volunteers.

In its earlier years, Telfed's financial requirements were financed by the Jewish Agency. Unfortunately, the Jewish Agency is no longer the financial powerhouse it once was. Its priorities have changed. Jewish identity has replaced Aliyah as its main focus. Absorption has been delegated to the government's Ministry of Absorption. Their focus is on providing generic services to olim from diaspora communities in distress. Assistance to olim from



President Reuven Rivlin greets Telfed representatives, including Harris Green, at the President's Residence in Jerusalem in August 2018

more affluent countries is basic, minimal and impersonal.

And that's where we come in. Telfed still has a vital role to play in servicing the needs of our community and those South Africans who have yet to make their homes in Israel. The demand for these services clearly exists. Telfed's volunteers argue that the organisation's best-kept secret is the work it does to enhance the communal quality of our lives.

Telfed's job is far from done. Our future is still way ahead of us. Somewhere over the rainbow.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Horesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven years in Poland, and is recognised as a leading lawyer in the

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## JCS @ WORK Partnership and Shared Responsibility

by Barbara Edelberg

Jewish Community Services (JCS) is dealing with a community in crisis. We are actively dealing with 500 cases. This figure is increasing daily with members of the community approaching JCS for some form of welfare assistance. The Financial Relief Department is constantly engaging in dilemmas regarding the majority of cases that come through the JCS doors. Financial circumstances have a profound effect on an individual's wellbeing and daily functioning and is a very emotional situation, as often JCS is a client's last resort for financial assistance, as family and friends' assistance has either been exhausted or is not available.

In order to assess an individual's needs for material assistance JCS have certain criteria which need to be met before a decision is made to disburse community funds.

It is the policy of Jewish Community Services to explore all resources – from family members, UIF, government grants etc. before any community funds are disbursed. JCS's material assistance is inextricably linked to the financial support of the family. Assistance is fundamentally based on a partnership, with the family of the recipient in order to assist the client with their shortfall, for a temporary period of time, during which long term financial security and independent functioning is facilitated through social work intervention services.

**“We welcome any input from members of our community who wish to become involved with any of our initiatives.”**

we need the partnership, to ensure a quality of life for these individuals. In light of this it is vital to know that more effort goes into the assessment and management of each case than is maybe perceived.

Every recipient is required to sign an acknowledgement of debt and when and if the client's circumstances improve, arrangements are made for them to reimburse the organisation. JCS also endeavors to claim from deceased estates on the demise of the client. We try and empower our clients and assist them to the best of our ability and insist that all beneficiaries attend a financial planning discussion, in order to assist them in managing their finances effectively. JCS is continually looking at ways to empower those members of our community who we are assisting, We are currently in the process of implementing an Employment Pilot Project, whereby we partner with other businesses to assist us in empowering the unemployed in our community. The project is reliant on businesses, within our community, allowing

# 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.**

It seems simple from an outside perspective; assess the status of JCS's available finances, create strict criteria based on decided variables, and assist clients accordingly. Each case is meticulously assessed on merit as there are countless unpredictable variables that arise – unemployment, family conflict, relatives being unable to assist due to their own financial pressures in this difficult socio-economic time, which lends a highly emotional content to the assessment process.

A Social Worker is involved with each and every matter in order to provide counselling support and often mediation to address family conflict throughout the assessment process and whilst assistance is provided. The assessment includes at least two office interviews, a home visit and telephonic contacts with sources of collateral before a recommendation is made and the case is presented to the Relief Committee.

Financial assistance is limited to provisions for basic needs – accommodation and food. The Foodbank Initiative, which distributes on average 270 parcels a month, Tikvah and Meals on Wheels has played a vital role in assisting indigent members of the community. These initiatives rely heavily on donors for monies and non-perishables being donated.

In addition, those recipients who have the capacity to obtain gainful employment are assisted at a lower level and for a temporary period of time. In this way we attempt to empower clients by mobilising all their resources to facilitate independent functioning and prevent dependency. Whereas those who don't have the capacity due to ill health, disability and the frail elderly, are of grave concern, as they rely on their families and grants to assist them. We often have to contact extended families/friends to assist us, as JCS cannot act on this alone,

an individual to work shadow in their business environment, with a stipend, for a short-term period. Assisting in upskilling the individuals, increasing their self-worth, dignity and eventually enabling them to become employable in the market place. We welcome any input from members of our community who wish to become involved with any of our initiatives.

**“JCS assures the community that we continue to ensure that the best interests of our clients are met.”**

We thank those family members and friends who do take responsibility and have formed positive partnerships with JCS, ensuring we can support those members of our community to the best of our ability.

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# Polish anti-Semitism is serious, but Yair Lapid is overreaching

By Ben Cohen for JNS.org

**Why are the Poles guiltier for witnessing Jewish victims arrive at concentration camps than are the Dutch or Greeks who watched them being dragged out of their homes to get there?**

Over the last year, Yair Lapid, the co-chair of Israel's opposition Blue and White Party, has made several outspoken statements about Poland, Polish anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Each time, his message has been the same: Poland is playing a deceitful game by denying the complicity of many ordinary Poles in the Nazi extermination of the Jews; contemporary anti-Semitism in Poland is reflective of a hatred of Jews going back centuries; any Israeli politician who refuses to recognise this reality is dishonoring the victims of the Holocaust.

All of this has taken place against the background of a government-led offensive in Poland aimed at establishing an unmovable doctrine: that the three million Polish Jews murdered during World War II are the responsibility of the Germans alone; Poles suffered as much as the Jews did from the German occupation; Poles tried to protect Jews whenever the opportunity allowed. Legislation approved by the Polish parliament in 2018 effectively makes it a crime to discuss the notion of Polish collusion with the Nazi regime.

Lapid's emergence as the loudest voice in Israel opposing Polish revisionism is based partly on his having grown up in a family that was scarred, like nearly everyone else's, by the Holocaust. Like most of us, he takes the Holocaust personally. But there is also a political calculation involved. Lapid's nemesis, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has looked vulnerable on the issue of Poland, having been criticised by, among others, the famed Holocaust historian Yehuda Bauer for allegedly compromising the integrity of the Shoah for the sake of a closer strategic and economic relationship with the nationalist government in Warsaw.

Lapid's point was inadvertently demonstrated by Netanyahu himself last February. In an off-handed attempt to prove that Poland wasn't really policing the discourse around

the Holocaust as zealously as some were suggesting, Netanyahu told reporters on a visit to Warsaw that no-one disputed that "Poles cooperated with Nazis." This comment resulted in a furious response from the Polish government, with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Marowiecki promptly announcing that he would boycott a summit in Jerusalem the following week involving Israel, Poland and three other central European countries.

Since then, the anti-Semitic atmosphere in Poland has worsened. A common theme in the media is the claim that the Jews are invoking the specter of Polish guilt as a prelude to forcing Poland into passing a law restituting the individual assets of Polish Jews that were stolen during the war—an act that Polish nationalists would regard as a treacherous abandonment of the principle that Germany, and Germany alone, was and remains responsible for the fate of the Jews.

Then there were the Easter celebrations of two weeks ago — an eerily disturbing reminder, as Jews around the world celebrated Passover, of how persistent the presence of anti-Semitism in Poland is, from ordinary rural folk all the way to the upper echelons of the Catholic Church. In the small town of Pruchnik, we were treated to the spectacle of a group of adults and young children dragging an anti-Semitic effigy of Judas through the streets, while Catholic Bishop Andrzej Jez dedicated his Holy Thursday sermon to blaming alleged Jewish control of the media for the myriad stories of sexual abuse in the Church.

So there is little for reason for Jews to feel positively about Poland at the moment, and doubtless there are many in our community who wholeheartedly endorse Lapid's latest attacks on Poland's war record last Friday.

In an interview with a Polish news outlet, Lapid made the following comments. "Poles cooperated in

creating and running extermination camps," he said. "Poles handed over Jews to the Germans and thus sent them to death."

Later on, he continued: "There were many Polish Righteous Among the Nations who saved Jews, and we are grateful to them for all time. But can you pretend that there were no Polish helpers in the extermination camps? Of course, they were!" And finally, there was this: "It is no coincidence that the Nazis created their center of extermination in Poland. They knew that the Polish population would help them."

Some of these statements are true and can be illustrated with historical documentation—for example, the betrayal of at least 60 000 Jews to the Gestapo by their Polish neighbors. But the more dramatic claims made by Lapid here have little basis in historical truth, and repeating them only damages the fight against Polish historical revisionism.

No one denies that there was a powerful anti-Semitic political movement in Poland between World War I and World War II, as was the case in many countries of Europe. But when the Nazis occupied Poland, they digressed from their practice elsewhere on the continent by directly administering the country. As a result, there was no Polish equivalent of Pétain in France or Quisling in Norway. Nor did you find Poles serving in the SS, as was the case with Ukrainians or Lithuanians. Nor was there a Polish pro-Nazi paramilitary, like the Ustaša in Croatia or the Arrow Cross in Hungary. Yet Lapid claims nonetheless that the Polish nation bears the lion's share of Holocaust guilt.

The idea that the Nazis situated the six main extermination camps in Poland solely because of the country's native tradition of anti-Semitism is also fanciful and needlessly insulting.

The reasoning in Berlin, if one can call it that, was based far more on strategic considerations. Poland had the largest single population of Jews



on the continent, 2.9 million — in other words, about half of the total number of Holocaust victims — most of whom died in the extermination camps built and managed by the Nazis in the same country where they lived. By Nazi standards, this was all very efficient.

Secondly, Poland's relatively advanced rail system and its central location in Europe influenced the Nazi extermination planners.

Finally, and this is something that Lapid should think about, the trains that carried Jews to the slaughter had to leave from somewhere else before arriving at one of those extermination camps in Poland. The trains came bearing Jews from Paris, Amsterdam, Budapest, Salonika and all other points of the compass; cities and towns where their neighbors saw their Jewish fellow citizens dragged from their homes and schools, to be herded to their deaths in Poland.

Why are the Poles guiltier for watching the victims arrive than are the Dutch or the Greeks who watched them leave?

The fact that it is Poland that has chosen to weaponise the Holocaust during its current nationalist resurgence doesn't license us to be cavalier with the truth, to make vague or inaccurate statements, or to repeat falsehoods that can be simply disproved.

The moral high ground is always where the truth can be found.

*Ben Cohen is a New York City-based journalist and author who writes a weekly column on Jewish and international affairs for JNS.*

**The idea that the Nazis situated the six main extermination camps in Poland solely because of the country's native tradition of anti-Semitism is also fanciful and needlessly insulting.**

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# HERZLIA IN FOCUS

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## Pesach Celebrations

**RABBI CANNON**  
Head of Jewish Life & Learning, UHS

Pesach celebrations at Herzlia form an exciting and essential part of our Jewish educational offering. Large amounts of energy and thought was dedicated to ensuring that each school participated in a unique and relevant Seder experience that was both engaging and age appropriate for all our students.

Notable additions this year included each student from Grade 9-12 receiving a personal seder box with *Pesedik* chocolate eggs, packet of chips and a print out of some fascinating new ideas around the festival. Pesach skits, magnificent décor with personalised place mats, professional musical accompaniment, fun filled quizzes and delicious food provided by the PTA went a long way to making this year's seders some of the best in recent memory. From the hyper-excitement on a Kerem child's face when spotting mommy in the crowd, to the pride of a Weizmann Primary Grade 6 student leading their seder, or the Grade 12's standing on their chairs and singing *Chad Gadya*, Pesach celebrations at Herzlia continue to capture the joy and value we gain from our rich heritage!

This was not the only fun filled and educational activity run in the system. The Primary Schools and Middle School also enjoyed a week long *Chametz Hunt*. This involved the students, and sometimes even teachers, taking to their playgrounds, quads and other areas to try and find the printed *chametz* cards hidden by our amazing *bachurim*. The lucky ones who managed to find them were rewarded with awesome prizes and all involved had a blast, at the same time learning about the age old tradition of searching for *chametz* in the build up to the Pesach festival. Thank you to the various PTAs, JLL teams, committees and all role players who ensured the implementation of all of these spectacular events.

At Herzlia we take pride in the JLL Pesach experiences and view it as a vital cog in our pupils' Jewish Toolkit. Alumni around the world have very fond memories of their Pesach seders. This was confirmed to us by a member of the Cape Town Jewish Community who approached Geoff Cohen in shul over *Yom Tov*. He told Geoff that he was so thrilled that Herzlia pupils past and present all know how to conduct a seder and make the Pesach experience more meaningful. *Bechol Dov Vador* is the mantra of the moment!



*Herzlia Constantia Primary: Colourful decor and balloons transformed the hall for their interactive Pesach seder.*

**“At Herzlia we take pride in the JLL Pesach experiences and view it as a vital cog in our pupils’ Jewish Tool kit.”**



*High School: The soup and kneidelach moms.*



Seder at the Pre-Primary Schools: What's on the Seder Plate?



Middle School: And then we 'vassed'.



High School: Soup and kneidlach is served.



Weizmann Primary Seder.



Shulchan Orech: Time to eat!



Mr Moch explains an idea relating to The Exodus at the Foundation Phase seder.

## A VIEW FROM THE BAR

## Space law

By Anton Katz

**Law regulates conduct between humans, between humans and institutional bodies, such as corporations and governments, and between these non-natural legal persons. But what about happens in space. Is there law concerning what occurs in outer space, the area beyond the earth's atmosphere?**

## Aviation law

Before turning to space law, it is worth recalling that during apartheid air travel to and from South Africa to Europe or the United States was somewhat prolonged. The airplane had to detour because it was not permitted to fly over many African territories, which were hostile to South African apartheid. The law relating to air travel generally is known as aviation law. Aviation law is the law that governs flight, air travel, and associated legal and business concerns. Some of its area of concern overlaps that of admiralty law and, in many cases, aviation law is considered a matter of international

law due to the nature of air travel. The business aspects of airlines and their regulation also fall under aviation law. Aviation law directly affects individuals on a daily basis. Flight routes, and in particular reciprocity of landing rights has a significant impact on how and where we travel. In the 1990s the South African government's decision to make the international airport in Johannesburg (now OR Tambo International airport) as the prime hub in South Africa, and develop it to be the African hub had major implications. It became difficult to fly from Cape Town directly to any destination outside South Africa. That is changing with daily direct flights to world hubs, such as Istanbul, Dubai and Addis Ababa, and a new direct flight to Newark in New York beginning in December 2019.

## Higher than the sky

Space law, governing matters in outer space beyond the Earth's

atmosphere, is a rather new area of law; much of space law is connected to aviation law. Space law is the body of law governing space-related activities. It includes both international and domestic agreements, rules, and principles. So, questions arise: does the United States own the moon because it managed to put a man on the moon first, and is the only country to have done so? Who decides? And what laws apply?

**The notion of space as the province of all humankind is key idea in United Nations space activities.**

There are only a fixed number of spots available for satellites that are in geostationary orbit. Many countries on the equator believe that they have the right to control the space above their countries. As more countries want to launch geostationary satellites, conflicts between countries will likely continue.

A number of fundamental principles guide the conduct of space activities. The notion of space as the province of all humankind is key idea in United Nations space activities. Nevertheless, developing nations are concerned that the spacefaring nations will monopolize space resources.

The origins of space law date back to 1919, with international law recognising each country's sovereignty over the airspace directly above their territory, later reinforced at the Chicago Convention in 1944. The onset of domestic space programs during the Cold War propelled the official creation of international space policy (i.e. the International Geophysical Year) initiated by the International Council of Scientific Unions. The Soviet Union's 1957 launch of the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, directly spurred the United States Congress to pass the Space Act, thus creating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Because space exploration required crossing transnational boundaries, it was during this era where space law became a field independent from traditional aerospace law.

## The Outer Space Treaty

Since the Cold War, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the "Outer Space Treaty") and the International Telecommunications Union have served as the foundational legal framework and set of principles and procedures constituting space law. Further, the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, along with its The

Office for Outer Space Affairs subcommittee, aid in governing international space law and policy.



Challenges that space law will continue to face in the future are fourfold — spanning across dimensions of domestic compliance, international cooperation, ethics, and the advent of scientific innovations.

Furthermore, specific guidelines on the definition of airspace have yet to be universally determined. Space law include space exploration, liability for damage, weapons use, rescue efforts, environmental preservation, information sharing, new technologies, and ethics, the preservation of the space and Earth environment, liability for damages caused by space objects, the settlement of disputes, the rescue of astronauts, the sharing of information about potential dangers in outer space, the use of space-related technologies, and international cooperation. Many fields of law, such as administrative law, intellectual property law, arms control law, insurance law, environmental law, criminal law, and commercial law, are also integrated within space law.

## Jewish thought on life on Mars

Rabbi Menachem Schneerson was asked by Dr Velvi Greene, a microbiologist working for NASA privately, if looking for life on Mars was something he should be doing. The Rebbe replied: "Dr. Greene, look for life on Mars! And if you don't find it there, look somewhere else in the universe for it. Because for you to sit here and say there is no life outside of planet Earth is to put limitations on the Creator, and that is not something any of His creatures can do!" So, hopefully by the time the little green alien arrives on earth and says: "Take me to your leader!" humans will have figured out a way, perhaps through space law, to respond in a meaningful and peaceful manner. In saying this, I obviously don't mean it literally. What is crucial is that issues of climate change, and all things, and that includes outer space, that affect all humans are regulated and managed in a manner that is sustainable and with respect to each human being's dignity. Indeed, so it is often said: "If humans could put a man on the moon, why can't we eliminate poverty?"

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

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## THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST

SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION



# Meet Tanya Golan

**Amanda Zar, Manager of The Herzlia Foundation Trust, interviewed Tanya Golan (1989) on her recent appointment as a Trustee to The Herzlia Foundation Trust. Tanya is a Herzlia Alumnus, current parent, UHS Board member, member of the Academic, Jewish Life and Learning and Investment sub-committees and a generous donor.**

### Who is Tanya Golan?

**In my professional capacity, I am a Financial Advisor, having grown a business with my husband Hagai (1987). I have a passionate interest in the well-being and growth of the Cape Town Jewish community.**

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Constantia as the youngest of four, all of whom are Herzlia Alumni, and moved to Sea Point when I got married at the age of 24.

### Tell me about your years at HERZLIA?

I enjoyed 12 incredible years at Herzlia from Herzlia Constantia, to Middle School and on to the High School. Herzlia provided me with an innate confidence and a love for Judaism and Israel. I embraced all opportunities afforded me and participated in each and every aspect of school life – from academics, to school plays, drama, choir, to netball and basketball. Through my involvement I learnt about team spirit and resilience even if we were not always the best team, we always arrived with a positive attitude and realised the fun and importance of being a part of team sports.

### Are you still in touch with any of your Herzlia friends?

My two closest friends are from my Herzlia school days. They live overseas and we make a point of trying to meet once a year somewhere in the world and we communicate weekly via WhatsApp. Those friendships can never be replaced and form an integral part of who I am. My husband is also an alumnus and our circle of friends today include many Herzlia Alumni.

### Do you have any advice/pearls of wisdom for the current Matric class of 2019?

Herzlia's five pillars can be utilised in every part of your life – use these to your advantage and make the most of the privileged education you have received. Academically you have been afforded an education of the highest level! Keep healthy through whatever sport or outdoor activity appeals to you and choose your individual passion in the arts and culture to truly immerse yourself in a full and rich Herzlia experience! Leave school with a love for your Judaism, because once you are part of a bigger and diverse society, people will respect your religion if you show respect for it. Promote Israel at every opportunity because if we as Jews don't stand behind our homeland – who will? Most importantly be a mensch!

### What are you reading at the moment?

I have four books next to my bed, one is the life story of Golda Meir, Red Notice, a Jodi Picoult book and another that slips my mind. Truth be told I am consumed by news channels and the information provided through social media platforms. I navigate between CNN, Sky, BBC, Russian TV and even Al Jazeera and use this information highway to improve my general knowledge and understanding of business and world politics.



### What inspires you to live your best life?

My husband who keeps me grounded and my two daughters, Sophia and Katya who inspire me to be the best role model that I can be.

### List three personal attributes you feel are most important for business and/or personal success.

Honesty – Be honest with yourself and with others, Integrity – you only have one chance to ensure you have a solid reputation and modesty is a key characteristic. Ambition – strive to be the very best you can be in whatever you choose to do.

### What do you do for leisure?

I used to run which was a bit of an obsession but due to numerous injuries, unfortunately my running career came to a grinding halt. I now enjoy yoga to give me my much needed adrenaline rush!

### What makes you so passionate about our community?

This is a unique and incredibly special community. The various organisations, often run by volunteers who devote themselves to the upliftment of those around them, is both inspiring and beneficial. I truly believe that as long as we continue to have an emerging youth who are dedicated and interested in giving of their time, their thought processes and their ingenuity – this community can grow from strength to strength

### What are your most important family values?

Be kind, be generous, and be modest.

### What is your greatest wish for your children?

To be mensches – generous of their time and themselves to others.

### How do you feel you can add value to The Board?

I hope to encourage others to give generously of their time and if possible financially to the growth of The Herzlia Foundation Trust. Education is key to the success of any individual, it is Herzlia's purpose and responsibility to educate every Jewish child and, in this way, we will ensure the continuity of a thriving Cape Town Jewish community.

### What is the greatest advice your parents gave you?

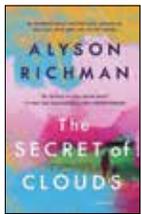
Without an education, opportunities diminish considerably. Grab every opportunity that life gives you and then use it to grow yourself and those around you.



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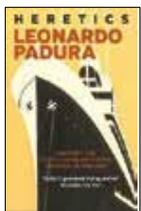
## FICTION



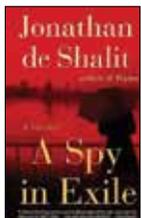
**THE SECRET OF CLOUDS** by ALYSON RICHMAN. A captivating novel revolving around a sixth grade teacher Maggi and her relationship with a sickly child Yuri who she tutors. Yuri was born with a congenital heart condition and has to live in seclusion at home. Alyson brings in the background story of his immigrant parents who lived in Kiev. Yuri is an exceptional child with a love of baseball. Maggi wants to give him the opportunity to grow and live a meaningful life.



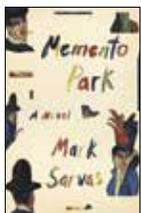
**BITTER** by FRANCESCA JAKOBI. Gilda Meyer from a wealthy German family was sent to an English boarding school prior to the Nazis coming to power. Gilda narrates the story, which is set in London in 1969 when she is middle-aged. She brings chaos into the life of her newly married son Reuben, resenting his wife Alice for stealing his love. This becomes her obsession bringing shocking truths about her past to life. The results of this needy mother are at times hilarious.



**HERETICS** by LEONARDO PADURA. Nine-year-old Daniel Kaminsky takes the decision to separate from his family and renounce his Judaism on hearing that the St Louis is being sent back from Havana to Hamburg in 1939. In present day Havana his son, American born Elias Kaminsky hires a detective to solve the mystery of his family's Rembrandt painting that went missing seventy years ago on that ship and was later sold at a London auction. A compelling read.



**A SPY IN EXILE** by JONATHAN DE SHALIT. Ya'ara, a former Mossad agent known for her aptitude and beauty, is called upon by the Prime minister for a classified job. She needs to set up a secret unit that will act independently of all organizations and recruit as well as train them. Their mission is to stop a militant Red Army faction, which has returned to terrorize Europe. In this fast-paced thriller, they soon find that the hunter may become the hunted.

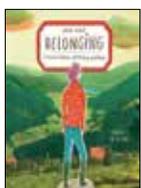


**MEMENTO PARK** by MARK SARVAS. Matt Santos receives an unexpected phone call from the Australian consulate about a painting Budapest Street Scene by Ervin Kalman which may have been looted from his family in Hungary during the Second World War. As he travels to Budapest to probe the painting's history, he revisits his own religious and family roots. A suspenseful novel with mediations on father and son dynamics, identity and the life of the artist.

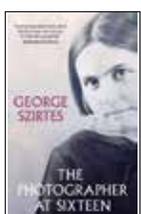
## BIOGRAPHY



**FEVERISH** by GIGI FENSTER. A memoir of Gigi who grew up in Apartheid South Africa and now lives in New Zealand with her husband and teenage daughters. She shares her relationship with a friend Simon, her father who was a psychiatrist, her mother and four siblings. An original work floating from one of her life experiences to another as she seeks to understand the creativity in these. A delightful, insightful and humorous recollection of childhood.



**BELONGING** by NORA KRUG. In this evocative graphic memoir, Krug wrestles with her family ties to Nazi Germany. For Nora, the simple fact of her German citizenship and that all four of her grandparents lived through the war bound her to the Holocaust and its atrocities. She returns to Germany to visit archives, conduct research and interview family members. Krug's format of scrapbook layering and colourful drawings create a synergy between form and content.

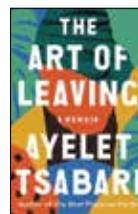
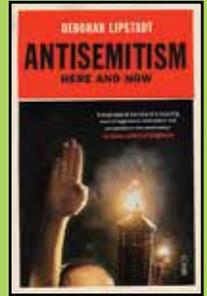


**THE PHOTOGRAPHER AT SIXTEEN** by GEORGE SZIRTES. A memoir flowing backward in time of his 'supposed' Lutheran mother. In 1975, Magda Szirtes died en route to hospital after attempting to take her own life. He delves into her past — her exile in England, her flight with her husband and children from Hungary in 1956, her time in two concentration camps, her girlhood ambition to be a photographer and the unknown fate of her Jewish family in Transylvania.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### *ANTISEMITISM HERE AND NOW* by Deborah Lipstadt

In a series of letters addressed to an imaginary Jewish student and non-Jewish colleague, Lipstadt provides the contemporary sources of antisemitism — white supremacists, Holocaust deniers and antisemitism enablers. She reflects on the threats to academic freedom in universities where critiques of Israel have led to bans, protests and boycotts of Israeli speakers. Lipstadt advises to 'combat' it by educating those who are delusional in their perception about Jews.

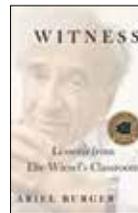


**THE ART OF LEAVING** by AYELET TSABARI. Award winning author Tsabari travelled the world from New York to India searching for love, belonging and an escape from grief following the death of her father. Having a complex identity as an Israeli of Yemeni descent, she married briefly; had affairs and periodically returned to her family home. A poignant meditation on her reconciliation to her past and coming to terms with her life and sense of home.

## JEWISH INTEREST

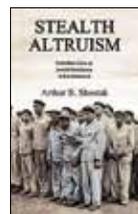


**ETROG** by DAVID Z. MOSTER. Through archaeology as well as biblical interpretation, Moster traces the fruit's roots from Yunnan in China, to India, Persia and eventually to Israel. He expands on how it became an integral part of the celebration of Sukkot during the Second Temple. He takes the reader on a journey from which one emerges with understanding of the Etrog as a symbol of all fruits of the land and beloved by the Jewish people as a whole.

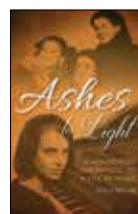


**WITNESS: LESSONS FROM ELIE WIESEL'S CLASSROOM** by ARIEL BURGER. In this book, Ariel takes us into the sacred space of Wiesel's classroom. They met when Burger was fifteen and he remained his devoted protégé and mentor. Wiesel challenged his students to explore moral complexity, resist absolutes and raise people's consciousness. He entreats us to follow Wiesel's example as a writer and teacher who powerfully shaped the thoughts of a generation.

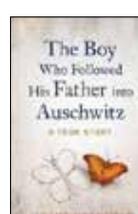
## HOLOCAUST



**STEALTH ALTRUISM** by ARTHUR B. SHOSTAK. An inspiring account of altruistic care provided at great peril by Jews for others in Nazi concentration and death camps. He calls them 'Carers', victims who tried to reduce the suffering of others by forbidden acts of kindness such as sharing clothing, food rations and replacing an ailing friend during work detail. Using more than two hundred survivor memoirs, he shares this testament to their courageous actions.



**ASHES TO LIGHT** by NELLY BEN-OR. Born in the 1930's in Lvov, Nelly's early life was overshadowed by the Shoah. She escaped with false identity papers to Warsaw but hiding her Jewish identity for a long period left her scarred. After the war, Nelly flourished in her musical career moving from Jerusalem to England becoming an internationally distinguished concert pianist. Her extraordinary story of resilience during and after the Holocaust is moving.



**THE BOY WHO FOLLOWED HIS FATHER INTO AUSCHWITZ** by JEREMY DRONFIELD. The author draws on the accounts from Gustav Kleinmann's camp diary and his young son of fourteen, Fritz's, post-war memoir. Dronfield covers their ordeal at Buchenwald working on the construction of the sub camp Monowitz. When Gustav was about to be sent to Auschwitz, Fritz refused to leave his side. Their love for each other helped them endure all their suffering.

# The need to balance the 'oy' with the 'joy'

## A review of Deborah Lipstadt's new book *Antisemitism Here And Now*

By Julian Richfield



I was lucky enough to meet Deborah Lipstadt at the 2017 Franschhoek Literary Festival and we had a chat for a couple of minutes. She mentioned then that she was busy with a book on antisemitism and I said that I looked forward to reading and reviewing it. I remember that she said I shouldn't be in a hurry, it was still a work in progress.

The wait was certainly rewarded, the book, *Antisemitism Here and Now*, is outstanding.

After I finished reading it, we chatted online about a few antisemitism-related things and I thought you might find Professor Lipstadt's views on a few of these useful and interesting:

I told her that I had heard from quite a few people in our community that they liked Donald Trump because he was good for Israel...

"I think Donald Trump has done some excellent things for Israel. Every candidate committed to moving the embassy and never did it. He did it.

However, I think he has done some dangerous things as well. He has emboldened white supremacists and white power groups who are inherently antisemitic. I am not suggesting that he is a white supremacist, but he has made them feel that he is, and he has never disavowed them."

I then asked her if we should be wary of Jeremy Corbin and the Labour Party?

"I think we should be very concerned. Since I wrote the book, things have only gotten worse. At the heart of things is the complete failure of Labour leadership to take antisemitism seriously. They look at Jews and see privileged white people who could not possibly be victims. Then, instead of taking it seriously, they turn around and blame Jews for using the false claim of antisemitism to their benefit."

And I ended our chat with a request for some advice. What advice can you give South African Jewish bodied regarding their public reactions to antisemitism?

"I think we must approach this fight in a strategic — not emotional — fashion. We must carefully decide when to cry 'gevalt' and when to take a more tempered approach. We must also carefully differentiate between true antisemitism and either anti-Israel or just plain obnoxious behavior. Not all criticism of Israel is antisemitic. If we cry antisemitism when it is not antisemitism, we become akin to 'chicken little'".

**There can be very few of us who are not concerned about the rise and spread of antisemitism around the world.**

Antisemitism is not a one-dimensional topic and in *Antisemitism Here And Now*, Deborah Lipstadt has given us a vital and timeous analysis of the issue.

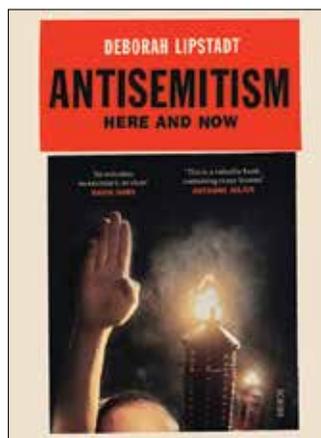
Lipstadt is Drot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is maybe best known for her book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving* and the film *Denial* (starring Rachael Weisz) which was based on it.

According to Professor Lipstadt, antisemitism is not the hatred of people who happen to be Jews. It is hatred of them because they are Jews. And like other forms of prejudice, this one occurs independently of any action by Jews.

The book, amongst other things, asks and answers these questions: What is antisemitism? Does it come from the right or the left? Is anti-Zionism the same as antisemitism? Are there different kinds of anti-Semites? and, What can be done to combat this extremely racist ideology?

"Given that I have already spent so much of my scholarly and personal time skulking in the sewers of antisemitism and genocide, why should this project have been any different from the many others that preceded it? As horrific as the Holocaust was, it is firmly in the past. When I write about it, I am writing about what was. Contemporary antisemitism is not. It is about the present. That gave this subject and immediacy that no historical act possesses."

The book's detailed look at the modern manifestation of antisemitism and its impact on Jewish society as a whole makes for very sobering reading. It would be quite understandable for its readers to become despondent and remain so. But as it says on the book's back cover: *Antisemitism* will calm the fearful, rouse the complacent and



demand a response from readers.

Professor Lipstadt ends the book with this entreaty: "You can participate in a vibrant Jewish future. You will encounter antisemitism along the way, but I entreat you to avoid letting this 'longest hatred' become the linchpin of your identity. Jewish tradition in all its manifestations — religious, secular, intellectual, communal, artistic, and so much more — is far too valuable to be tossed aside and replaced with a singular concentration on the fight against hatred. This need for Jews

to balance the 'oy' with the 'joy' is an exhortation that could well be shared with many other groups that have become the objects of discrimination and prejudice. In the words of the Hebrew Scriptures, 'be strong and of good courage.' Never stop fighting the good fight, even as you rejoice in who you are."

*Antisemitism Here and Now should I believe be essential reading to all of us who are concerned about prejudice, racism and the disturbing surge of anti-Jewish rhetoric. Deborah Lipstadt has cleverly pitched the tone of her book so that it and its many important messages will be clearly accessible to any level of reader.*

*This is not a weighty, intimidating tome, it is an important and topical read that will resonate loudly with all its readers.*

*Immediately after I'd finished reading it, I felt the need to go for a jog by myself in Newlands forest, to absorb and to reflect.*

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# 13-Year-old Josh Abrams a singing sensation

By Jaime Uranovsky



Josh Abrams of London (son of Caryn Abrams, and grandson of Cape Town locals, Stewart and Cynthia Cohen) is set to perform in Mussorgsky's opera, Boris Godunov, which opens on 19 June at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

Josh, aged thirteen, will play Fyodor, the son of the lead character in the opera, who in turn will be portrayed by Sir Bryn Terfel.

Josh is no stranger to the stage, having been performing for the past three years and singing since before he can remember. His mom, Caryn says, 'Josh was a born performer. You know how other kids would sing a song? Well, when he was about two-years-old he would do like a whole recital. He would hold his grandparents and parents captive for half an hour and it would be song after song after song. Then we started noticing at school. They did

a production of *Oliver!* and he was just one of the boys in the chorus but he just completely took over with his little voice.'

It was after Josh auditioned for a music scholarship that the musical director in charge urged him to apply for roles at London's opera houses. This is how Josh landed his first professional role at the Royal Opera House, in Thomas Adès' *Exterminating Angel*. Since then, he has joined a musical theatre company, performed in various concerts as a soloist and choir member and has sung for BBC Radio.

The young performer has his sights set on West End productions and is currently playing Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* at his school. His advice to other children who love musical theatre is, 'Just do it, and if anyone judges you or pokes fun at you for what you do, don't care.'



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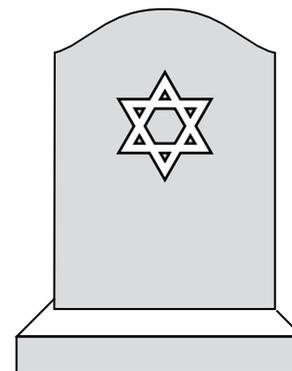
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continued from page 8

## What's in a changing name?

by Richard (Saevitzon) Shavei-Tzion

In some cultures names are so complex, how could they possibly be remembered? International cricketer Gampalage Shehan Naveendra De Fonseka Gunawarna Jayasuriya is a typical Sri Lankan name which may include the name of an ancestral village, rank in the village hierarchy, ancestors' profession and more.

The Torah expends hundreds of lines listing male lineage. Yet of the approximately two

million souls who left Egypt we know the names of just a few dozen. God changed our founding parents' names and Moses' father-in-law had seven different ones according to Midrash. Until the modern age the record of almost everyone who was not rich or famous, lived and died with their descendants. And not so long ago, most people did not even know their grandparents in their adult life. So their names disappeared or were remembered vaguely. Have we not all told family stories and then heard those same tales told by our siblings or cousins with a twist on our version? Meticulous digital recording of human identity, from name through blood-type to DNA, is a modern development.

Then there is the phenomenon of the wandering Jew. As our forefathers and mothers traversed continents and culture through the millennia, they chose or were forced to adapt to local custom and mold their identities, down to their names. (It is a testament to the power of tradition that they continued to give their children Jewish names throughout the dispersion.) My great-grandparents and grandparents were born in Europe and immigrated to Cape Town, South Africa. In their cases, Yiddish was dropped in favor of English. Siblings of my two grandfathers included Harry, Phillip and Louis, names of Western European kings rather than Latvian and Byelorussian locals. Our parents were born in Cape Town and made Aliya. Hence the mingling and morphing of Yiddish, European, English and Israeli titles. My father was known to his children as Albert and to his grandchildren as Sabba Abba. Our grandchildren will wonder how their Savta Cheryl whose Hebrew teacher re-named her Tziona was born as Chesnah.

Our kids and grandchildren have only Hebrew names. (I remember our parents' consternation having descendants named Mor, Bar, Hen and the like.) Hoping that our offspring will never leave this cherished land, perhaps their given names will travel with them down the length of their lives.

As for family names, you will note from mine that therein lies another story. I would guess that you have one too.

*The author was born in Cape Town and lives in Jerusalem*



*Fanny/Feigel and Charles Morris/Yechiel Moshe Saevitzon*

## USING MY NUDEL

### Let the games resume!

By Craig Nudelman



**And then it was over. Our thumbs were (mostly) purple, our blue and pink ballots were in the box and we had to wait patiently for the results of the most hotly contested election South Africa has ever seen.**

Our 6th democratic election was deemed 'free and fair' on 11 May. After three days of furious vote counting, the ANC had come out victorious. However, their grip over South African politics is clearly becoming looser than before, with 57% of the electorate deeming them worthy of running the country, a big change from the 62% they received in 2014. What can we take out from these elections, besides for the controversial indelible ink and double voting issues?

The first thing we can analyse is voter turnout. Now, just after voting day, I looked around the staffroom, some shops and other areas, and I noticed many thumbs with faded brown on the nail and skin surrounding it. But according to the statistics this wasn't the case in many areas around South Africa. Voter turnout was the lowest it's ever been, at nearly 67% of registered voters. This means that nearly nine million people did not vote at all, and it was predominantly the youth (18-25) who did not vote. This sends a message to the parties out there – nobody is speaking the language these people want to hear.

A lot of people say that this happened because there is little voter education. However, I beg to differ. I have been teaching Life Orientation at Herzlia for three years now. One of the biggest sections we cover in the High School is civic responsibility, which includes voting. We follow the national syllabus, which means that for nine years since the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) was introduced, voter education has been taking place at school level. This demonstrates that most voters between the ages of 18-25 have had education around the importance of voting. To blame the low turnout on inadequate education does not make sense. The political parties should take the blame for not communicating with the youth in the gobbledygook they call election manifestos.

We can then consider the winners and losers of the vote. The ANC did indeed win the election, but with a majority of 57%, a 5% decrease since 2014. This translates into 19 less seats in Parliament, and also has massive implications in provincial legislatures throughout the country. The DA also did not do particularly well, losing five seats in this election and not achieving their outcomes of getting the ANC below a 50% majority in Gauteng and winning the Northern Cape.

The real winners of this election were Malema's EFF and Pieter Groenewald's Freedom Front Plus (FF+). The EFF managed to attain 10% of the vote, translating into 44 seats in Parliament, while the FF+ grew by six seats to have 10. This shows a tremendous shift in South Africa, where identity politics seem to have played a big

role in the excellent results of these parties. And the main issue driving identity in South Africa for the past few years has been land.

The EFF is obviously the most well-known party with respect to the land question. They were the driving force behind the attempt to introduce land expropriation without compensation. This issue goes further than just legislation. It will see the amendment of the Constitution. And it's not just any part of the Constitution, but for all intents and purposes the most sacrosanct section of the Constitution: the Bill of Rights. Malema and the EFF have used discourse around land as a tool to take in disillusioned voters from the ANC, those who have not seen any change in the last 25 years. With nearly 50% unemployment for people aged between 16 to 35 in South Africa, it's understandable that there would be simmering resentment.

The land issue has also given traction to the FF+. Founded by Constand Viljoen as an alternative Afrikaner Nationalist party in 1994, they have gradually lost power throughout the years, as their voters were taken in by the open arms of the DA. However, it is once again being seen as the party for white Afrikaans South Africans who are fearful of their land being taken away. The DA has been rather wishy-washy on the land issue, thus losing a massive support base. The FF+ has said that, regarding land expropriation without compensation, "The Freedom Front Plus launched specific action, for instance, we already laid a charge at United Nations Human Rights Council. We have submitted partition in parliament." And although they won't have much say when it comes to a vote to amend the Bill of Rights (a two thirds majority is needed to amend it), they will fight tooth and nail — the modern bittereinders.

The DA has said it wants to build a South Africa for all, but how can they be the voice of all the people? They certainly did not get the votes to prove they are. How can the blue wave wash over the anger of the disenfranchised youth or the fear of the Afrikaner folk who fear being removed from their land? The ANC will also not be able to bear down on its evergreen support base, as was seen in Kwazulu-Natal, where Mangosuthu Buthelezi's IFP made an incredible resurgence and stole four seats back from the ANC.

It appears that we are not only heading down a road to a potential future of coalition government, but also that identity will inevitably play a massive role. We will potentially see a shift in all directions as parties try to convince the electorate that 'they' will fulfill everyone's needs. Who knows what will happen in the Local Government Elections in two years' time? It all depends on the fun and games that will take place in the legislature. I'm sure channel 408 on DSTV will never be dull again.

*Craig is a teacher, father and Jewish observer*

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## Sports and Religion came together



Stuart Diamond, Nazema Diedricks, Anroux Marais, Rev Bruce Nadin and David Brooke

**A chance meeting between Cape SAJBD Director, Stuart Diamond and the National Director of Sports Chaplaincy, Reverend Bruce Nadin, evolved into an intercommunity event held on 30 April.**

The breakfast meet-up brought the Cape Board and the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative communities together to explore the topic of religious diversity in sports in South Africa.

The Panel Chair, Stuart Diamond, with special guest Anroux Marais, WC Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, spoke to Nazema Diedricks, Chairperson SA Gymnastics, David Brooke, Brand and Sponsorship Manager, Cape Cobras and Rev Bruce Nadin, National Director Sports Chaplaincy SA.

Each of the panellists, representing the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths, shared stories of how their religion impacted their game. Nazema Diedricks spoke about the challenges Muslim women face with the limited range of modest sports clothing available for them to participate in gymnastics competitions. While David Brooke highlighted the fact that sports betting and alcohol brands can be problematic sponsors as they collide with the beliefs of most religious groups. High Holidays too, especially in the Jewish and Muslim communities also often clash with major match days, and sportsmen/women are placed in the difficult position of choosing between their faith and sport. Reverend Bruce Nadin shared his experiences of strength, power, and influence of religion and sport. He talked about the youth he counselled and helped off the streets onto the sports fields.

Anroux Marais expressed the importance of acceptance of our cultural differences and the important role that sports has on social integration and inclusion in society.

## Smooth Sailing for Jessica



Jessica Matchette aged 13 from Edgemoor High School has made the South African RS Tera World Sailing Team for 2019.

## Iran ends its sports boycott against Israeli judokas

By JNS.org



Israel's Sagi Muki raises his hands after winning in the men's under-81 kg weight category during the European Judo Championship in Tel Aviv on 27 April 2018. Photo by Roy Alima

**The International Judo Federation reportedly threatened to ban Iran from international competitions if the country continued to pull stunts to avoid its athletes having to face off against Israelis.**

In a letter to the International Judo Federation, Iran's Olympic Committee and local Judo Federation agreed to put an end to their boycott against Israeli athletes, allowing to play Israeli judokas in tournaments rather than refusing, forfeiting or feigning injury to avoid meeting them on the mat as has happened in the past. The IJF welcomed Saturday's letter, which came after talks pertaining to the "disturbing phenomenon, which involves the sudden 'injury' or failure of weigh-in of Iranian athletes."

Israel's Army Radio reported that the IJF threatened to ban Iran from international competitions, including the Olympics, if the country continued to pull stunts to avoid its athletes having to face off against Israelis.

Until now, the Iranian sports establishment has avoided

competition with Israel, due to the country's boycott of the Jewish state.

In February, Iranian judoka Saeid Mollaei threw a match at the Paris Grand Slam competition to avoid facing off against Israeli star judoka Sagi Muki, which meant he was no longer eligible to win a gold medal. Though he won the bronze, he again faked an injury to avoid standing on the winners' podium with Muki, and Iranian athletics head Davoud Azarnoush told Iran's Radio Farda that he hoped "Israel will be wiped out and annihilated before the next Olympic games, and all of us will breathe a sigh of relief."

In 2008, an Iranian swimmer at the Beijing Olympics refused to swim in the same pool as an Israeli, and an Iranian judoka was disqualified from the 2004 Athens Games for refusing to face an Israeli.

In 2018, the IJF punished the UAE and Tunisia for their refusal to admit Israelis to compete by stripping them of their right to host international competitions. The UAE subsequently withdrew its ban, and even played Israel's national anthem, "Hatikvah," when Muki won the gold medal in his category.



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