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## Mathilda actresses honoured with prestigious Naledi Theatre Award

**Kitty Harris and Lilla Fleischmann have a few things in common.**

They both attend or attended Herzlia Weizmann, they both have a penchant for musical theatre and they both happen to have casually won, at the young ages of 10 and 15 respectively, a Naledi Theatre Award along with Morgan Santo for their shared role of Mathilda in the musical of the same name.

The annual ceremony, which aims to promote excellence in the performing arts in South Africa, took place on 20 May in Johannesburg.



Continues on page 20

## Komati Foods wins Nedbank Business Ignite Competition

**Local and kosher-certified business, Komati Foods bagged first place in this year's Nedbank Business Ignite Competition.**

The coveted prize includes an intensive incubation programme from Kaello Business Hub to the value of R100 000 tailor-made to the business's needs as well as media booking to the value of R200 000 on 702 or Cape Talk.

When asked what made co-owner Leanne Sabbath enter the competition, she says, "I always listen to Kieno [Kammies] on the radio when I'm getting ready for work and we're really in a phase right now where we're growing. We've always supplied health shops and a few pharmacies, and we've got our own store in Observatory. We've



started supplying more and more Spars, and with growth comes so many challenges that you didn't have when you were very small. I heard Kieno's ad on his show and I thought that business coaching would be so helpful for me."

Continues on page 20

## Jacques Weber awarded Paul Harris Fellowship

**Involved community member and former councillor for the City of Cape Town, Jacques Weber can now add 'Paul Harris Fellow' to his list of achievements.**

Jacques was recognised by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International on 19 June this year "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world."

To Jacques, making a difference to the community goes hand-in-hand with his Jewish identity:

"I have gone through the Herzlia system where, from a very young age, they teach you to always have that open heart and to give charity, be it through *gemilut chasadim* projects or getting involved in community.

Then from the age of 17 I started

volunteering on a number of different boards, so I think that's also just become part of who I am, and volunteering is very much a part of Judaism.

During my time working with the Jewish community, predominantly in CSO as director, I got to help our community too, and Rotary creates a space for me to help the broader Sea Point community. Community initiatives and community-based charities are very important to me."



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## Guided tours for adults at the CTHGC



**Just one of the many groups that the Holocaust Centre hosted in the June/July holidays**

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# Lindy with a why

## Why you should thank your teachers while you can

By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



It's been a strange and sad time of goodbyes.

My grandfather passed away in June and my colleague Anita Shenker passed away in July. There was a time (not so long ago) when I could remark on how blessed I was that no-one close to me had passed away yet. That time is over now.

At first night prayers for my grandfather I was asked to say a few words about him. I was glad I had no time to prepare, as I didn't overthink it, and what bubbled to the surface of my mind in the 120 seconds I had before speaking has been a great source of comfort to me.

My grandfather was a man of few words. I couldn't tell everyone about talks we had had that had changed my life, or his sayings that had become pearls of wisdom. Instead, I recalled the lessons my grandfather had taught me through his actions.

My very first memories of *hachnasat orchim* (honouring guests) are of my grandfather welcoming friends and family into his home. I remember when my husband and I were first married, I asked him to watch my grandfather, the perfect host in my eyes, so that our home could be imbued with the same feeling of warmth and welcome.

I have childhood memories of being ill from school and my grandfather coming to visit me, always with a little gift, to cheer me up. Silly comments, my special nickname and his light-up-the-room smile; *bikur cholim* (visiting the sick) in action before I even understood the term.

The final lesson and honour I got from my grandfather was being able to assist with his funeral. He wasn't here to teach me in person, but I could hear his voice, and especially his dry sense of humour when it came to the paperwork, all through the process.

He was very proud.

And then Anita; a connection who went from working a few metres away from me every day to medical updates on my phone to gone, in a cruelly short space of time.

I remember the last time I saw her. We stood apart — we were concerned about spreading germs so close to her procedure. But a hug felt like the natural thing to do, so we rocked slightly back and forth in the absence of physical contact and said, "See you soon." firmly and kindly. But then we didn't.

She had been my teacher too. From small things like how to make the best egg mayonnaise (you have to grate the egg) and easy baked salmon (the secret is basting overnight in sweet chilli sauce) to more important things, like being the biggest catalyst for me honing my managerial skills.

She was also a fount of knowledge, both institutional and communal and I am grateful for the time I knew her.

My Pesach preparation will now be missing her phone call on erev chag, to check how I am getting on, (is my fish marinating? is my table finally set?) and it seems fitting that the fish shop we would always order from together has closed its doors in Sea Point, it wouldn't have been the same to order from there anymore. The High Holidays approach with a bittersweet taste.

I wish I had told them both all the things I have written here.

I have not deleted either of their Whatsapp threads from my phone yet, and it seems almost surreal that they are right there to talk to, and yet gone forever.

Thank your teachers, while you can. A conversation is so much more meaningful than a eulogy.



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## Community Noticeboard

### JACOB GITLIN LIBRARY

Book Launch: *Through the Window: How I Beat PND*  
Monday 19 August 5.30pm See page 30

### BNOTH ZION WIZO

Save the date!

Rebecca Sieff Awards  
Sunday 15 September 10am RSVP

Yom Tov Market  
Sunday 22 September  
Book your stall now!

See page 29 for details

### SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

Exhibition: *One Century of Seven*  
A unique look at the life and destiny of Jews of Lithuania

Exhibition: *Imi Lichtenfeld, Krav Maga and its Creator*  
June – August  
See page 36

### JEWISH CARE CAPE

AGM Wednesday 28 August  
5.00 for 5.30pm Gardens Community Centre  
See page 6

### CT HOLCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

See page 31 for the full programme of events.

### LIMMUD

23 – 25 AUGUST  
UCT Graduate School of Business, Waterfront.  
For programme of speakers see page 32/33

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Date	Portion	Candle lighting	Ends
2 Aug/1 Av	Matot/Massei	5.49pm	6.43pm
9 Aug/8 Av	Devarim/Chazon	5.54pm	6.47pm
16 Aug/15 Av	Va'etchanan/Nachamu	5.59pm	6.52pm
23 Aug/22 Av	Eikev	6.04pm	6.56pm
30 Aug/29 Av	Re'eh	6.08pm	7.01pm

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

# YOM TOV GREETING SERVICES



**Rosh Hashana Greetings**

CJSA will be happy to send Rosh Hashana Greetings on your behalf for a donation to Seniors in lieu of a gift.

Please send a list of names and addresses timeously so that your wishes can be received before Yomtov.

The list can be emailed to [admin@cjsa.org.za](mailto:admin@cjsa.org.za)



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Shanah Tovah Umetukah from all at the Union of Jewish Women!



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Your recipients will receive an email informing them of your donation.

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Need help to find a meaningful gift for Yom Tov? Donate to ORT JET Cape Town.

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**Rosh Hashana Greetings**

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## It's giving time

Let WIZO send your Rosh Hashanah Greetings this year and bring some sweetness into the lives of the teens, women and children in our care.

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## Do you care?

The Jewish Care Cape Annual General Meeting of the seven welfare organisations on Wednesday 28 August will show just how much this community does care!

The JCC Annual General Meeting is billed as 'Your Window to a Caring Community'. This year, their 11th AGM provides a very visual way to engage with Astra Centre, Cape Jewish Seniors Association, Glendale Home, Highlands House, Jewish Community Services, Nechama and Oranjia.

Included with this edition of the Chronicle is the Annual Jewish Care Cape Handbook, providing useful and pertinent information about each organisation. We encourage you use this publication to keep updated with what these organisations are doing.

One window to a caring community will be opened by keynote speaker, Lauren Gillis, who will screen *Limits*, the inspirational 18-minute documentary film, showing how she and intellectually-challenged Donna Chait participated in the New York Marathon together. Lauren will share behind-the-scenes reflections from their attempt to achieve their goal.

Other windows will be opened courtesy of grade 11s from Herzlia, who will be presenting the 2-minute videos they produced, showcasing the organisations. As in the past two years, this year's insights reveal fresh perspectives on our community and have been captured with impressive creativity.

Show that you care and attend the Jewish Care Cape AGM, which provides a unique opportunity to engage with all seven welfare organisations and to be informed about the challenges and realities facing us today.

### Jewish Care Cape AGM Invitation

11th Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday**

**28th August**

**17h00 for 17h30 sharp**

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with the leadership of the  
organisations.*

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Continues from page 1

## Jacques Weber awarded Paul Harris Fellowship

By Jaime Uranovsky

This is not the first time Jacques has been honoured by the Rotary Foundation for his work in public organisations.

He relays, "I've received other certificates over the last four or five years for different roles. During my time as a councillor, Rotary was always one thing that I fully supported in terms of dealing with any issues. There's a number of projects they run and I've always tried to assist them where I can, so I've always just been involved in it."

Over the years, the now 'Paul Harris Fellow' has worked on a plethora of ventures aimed at aiding the community, such as the license plate recognition camera system, which has been installed across the Atlantic Seaboard, as well as relief for victims following some of the devastating

fires in informal settlements.

Jacques says, "At Rotary they practise being good to your fellow man and I think that's exactly what I believe. One of the reasons why I still keep my Facebook active even though I'm not on Council is that often, I put up information that can help another individual. If everyone did something good for someone every day the world would be a better place." These values align with those of the Rotary Foundation.

Jacques continues, "Listening to the amount of good work that Rotary does was mind-blowing. There were so many different projects, and I just want to reiterate that if everyone wakes up and does one good thing in the morning, just imagine what powerful change can be made where we live."

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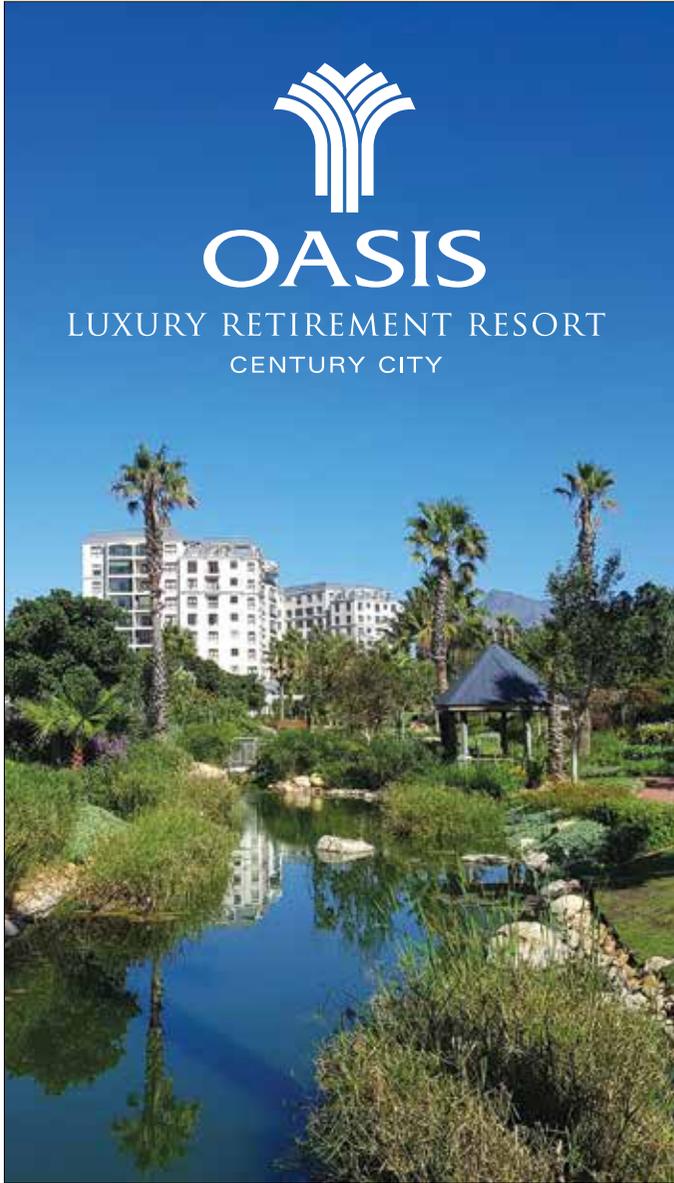
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## KEEPING IT REAL

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

**"If Jewish survival is problematic, it is because Jewish identity itself is problematic." Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**



In June I boarded an El Al flight for my second-ever trip to Israel where I was to join a group of 37 diverse international Jews at the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship.

The focus of the fellowship was to engage over the topic of Jewish Identity in the Twenty First Century. I recall sitting down on the first morning full of confidence that I knew who I was and that my lens on the world would not be shifted by a week of conversations around this topic.

The truth about life is there are moments that come so unexpectedly that when they arrive we often miss them. NGF 31 was not going to be that moment and so I surrendered into the uncomfortable, into the unknown and opened myself to new ideas and new acceptance, new learnings.

I learnt that our identities are fluid and have the ability to be reshaped or at least slightly moulded. The challenge we face is this belief that we are part of some normative, homogenous grouping that we all need to conform to. I believe the role as Jews in the 21st Century is to explore our identity and to open ourselves up to listening and respecting other Jewish identities.

Today more than ever our children need to understand that just like a mosaic the beauty and strength of the Jewish world comes from all those unique Jewish identities. It is when we find each other with love and light, that we can say "Am Yisrael Chai".

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## Nahum Goldmann Fellowship in Israel

**Confronting 'Jewish Identity' today is challenging, to say the least.**

With all its multi-faceted dimensions, with increasing denominational contestation, and in a 21st century reality that is shattering our preconceived ideas of identity with regards to gender, sexuality and race, it is often wiser to steer clear of the topic altogether. But it is precisely for that reason that the theme chosen for the 31st International Nahum Goldmann Fellowship was: Who am I? Constructing Jewish Identity in the 21st Century, which was held on the banks of the Kinneret from 17-23 June.

For a week, 33 current and emerging Jewish leaders from 18 Jewish communities around the world spent time delving into issues of Contemporary Jewish Identity including: rising global antisemitism, the place of Israel in their individual Jewish identities, developing an understanding of secular Jewish identity and the 'Ashkenormalisation' of Jewish life; gender and more. The carefully constructed programme gave both faculty and fellows the spaces to contribute and reflect on their experiences and learnings.

David Jacobson, Associate Director of the MFJC (Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture), said "The make-up of this Fellowship was particularly diverse, as we intentionally sought to bring together the widest possible spectrum of geography, ideology and theology, including

greater gender equity and Mizrachi participation amongst both Fellows and faculty." One of the differentiating aspects of any NGF is that Fellows get the opportunity to spend real time, formally and informally, with an esteemed and very diverse, global faculty. This year, faculty included: Prof. Galeet Dardashti from JTS (Jewish Theological Seminary) in New York, Prof. Shaul Magid, from Indiana State University, Prof. Channa Pinchasi, from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Israel and Rabbi Dr. Sam Lebens, from Haifa University.



*Neebashnee Krstnasamy, Emma Daitz, Stuart Diamond and Gavi Ziegler*

that the NGF helped them feel that despite the differences among the Fellows, we are all 'Very Much', one people.

The NGF is a project of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (MFJC) in New York. This year four Capetonians namely Neebashnee Krstnasamy, Gavi Ziegler, Emma Daitz and Stuart Diamond proudly represented South Africa. Today South Africa has a network of 89 fellows and is the third largest network after Israel and the United States.

The MFJC was the brainchild of Dr. Nahum Goldmann Z"l, who also created the Claims Conference, the World Jewish Congress and the World Zionist Organisation. Initially the MFJC was set up to replenish Jewish culture that was lost in the Shoah. But in the early 1980s, Dr. Goldmann presciently saw that the increasing friction and fraction within the Jewish world was beginning to present a real danger to global Jewish unity.

The Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, is designed for young Jews, ages 25-40, from all around the world, working as Jewish professionals and lay leaders, and representing the broadest possible spectrum of political and religious ideologies.

Next year NGF 32 will take place in Paris and we urge all Cape Town Jews aged 25-40 to allow themselves the opportunity for growth and learning by applying.

In the words of Prof. Steven Windmueller, Professor Emeritus of Contemporary Political Issues & American Jewish Affairs, Hebrew Union College, California "One cannot recreate an NGF, with its distinctive mix of cultures and characters, with its diversity of ideas and identities, and with the extraordinary quality of both its scholars and its students!"

**Next year NGF 32 will take place in Paris and we urge all Cape Town Jews aged 25-40 to allow themselves the opportunity for growth and learning by applying.**

The aim of the NGF is to allow young Jewish leaders to immerse themselves in global Jewish issues through the lens of serious Jewish scholarship and with exposure to the multiplicity of Jewish identification that exist in the world today. Based on the recent 20-year research, over 81% of all alumni of the NGF felt that the Fellowship connected them powerfully with global Jewry and over 70% stated

You may apply if you:

- Are a Jewish undergraduate or postgraduate student
- Are in need of financial assistance to study in 2020
- Live in the Western Cape
- Wish to attend a registered university, technical college or similar educational institution in the Western Cape

Applications open on 1 July 2019 and close on 30 September 2019.

For further enquiries, contact  
Jodi Goldberg  
T: 021 464-6724  
E: sajbd2@ctjc.co.za

### Cape SAJBD Bursary Programme

Apply now for financial assistance for your 2020 tertiary education!





## What does the board do?

Some of those questioned in the Communal Survey being conducted by the Kaplan Centre have said that they do not know what the Board does. Since its establishment 115 years ago, the Board's communal roles expanded to confront new challenges. Here we try to answer the question chronologically by explaining the Board's role in establishing projects that now run independently.

### The history of the Cape Board

**Sheltered Employment:** After the Second World War demobbed soldiers had difficulties finding work so the Board set up an employment office as well as sheltered employment for disabled soldiers or community members with learning disabilities or mental problems. This moved into a room in the Astra hostel run by the Union of Jewish Women for young women from country communities. When times changed the need for such a hostel diminished and the UJW rented more rooms to the workshop. This became Glendale, and the world-renowned Jewish Sheltered Employment Agency, now called Astra.

**Holocaust compensation:** Through DR Erwin Spiro, the Board successfully took on the struggle to obtain compensation for its Holocaust survivors.

**Education:** In 1949 Board Chairman MH Goldschmidt expressed the Board's strong views on the necessity of having a Jewish High School, and he turned the first sods for the Herzlia School.

**Cultural pursuits:** The Board set up a library sub-committee under the formidable Minna Levitas to establish a Jewish library and joined forces with the SAZF that was looking for a way to honour its long time secretary, hence the Jacob Gitlin Library. In 1958, the Board helped set up the Jewish Museum with a grant of £250 and a loan of

£250 — now it is incorporated into the SA Jewish Museum.

**Fundraising:** The Board, along with the UCF persuaded 64 organisations to agree to form a Priorities Board, and also developed a Communal Register. It also put together a committee to pool Bursary Funds and distribute them, and appointed a full time officer to their employment department.

**Employment:** In 1979 when a depression resulted in a spate of retrenchments, that department was resuscitated and today Staff Wise is professionally recognised for its outstanding results.

**Social Services:** Under Board leadership, welfare organisations like the Jewish Board of Guardians and Jewish Sick Relief that had overlapping functions and clients united as Jewish Community Services.

**Security:** Confronted by increasing concerns about security, the Jewish Self Protection Association JASPA came under the aegis of the Board. This developed in 1997 with a full time head into Community Security Organisation to protect Jewish life and the Jewish way of life.

**Civil society:** The Board has not only assisted in filling gaps within our community, it has also assisted in developing outreach organisations. Afrika Tikun started out, like Astra, in the Board's offices. Another recent success is the Mensch Network.

### The Cape Board now

**Antisemitism:** Monitoring antisemitism in the media and society and taking appropriate action.

**Cultural:** Enriching and maintaining Jewish life through cultural and educational programmes, including the Yom HaShoah commemoration, publications, exhibitions and academic seminars.

**Information Resource:** Providing information on Jewish life and history, locally and internationally.

**Interfaith:** Working on interfaith by building connections with other faith communities.

**Political:** Networking with government at every level in order to maintain open lines of communication between local and provincial government and our community.

**Outreach:** Coordinating social welfare projects on behalf of the wider society, particularly in times of national emergency.

**Holocaust compensation:** Keeping abreast of Holocaust-based claims and litigation and making this information available to Holocaust survivors and heirs in the community.

**Bursaries:** Administering bursaries for tertiary education to students living in the Western Cape in need of financial assistance

## Winter Readiness Campaign

On behalf of our beneficiaries Souper Troopers, Jewish Community Services (JCS) and Cape Town Central Improvement District (CCID), the Board would like to thank those who contributed to the Winter Readiness Campaign.

Your assistance means so much to so many people, and your generosity will directly benefit the needy recipients of various NGO/PBO organisations, as well as providing support for Jewish community members who need it.

Your support plays a key role in our organisations' success in securing, promoting, protecting and empowering communities in the Western Cape.

## Conversation with the Chai Coffee Club



Chairman Harry Buchinsky, Stuart Diamond and members of the Chai Coffee Club

On Monday 1 July the Director of the Cape Board Stuart Diamond spoke to members of the Chai Coffee Club.

The group consists of 18 retired Jewish gentlemen (excluding when they have visitors) hence the name 'Chai'. They meet weekly over refreshments and have

informal discussions mainly on Jewish affairs in relation to Israel, South Africa and the global village.

"It is through these opportunities to engage that we start the process of coming together and building a community built on respect and recognition of our different Jewish identities", said Stuart Diamond.



Stuart Diamond and Jodi Goldberg, Cape SAJBD with Tony Shapiro board member, Souper Troopers and Kerry Hoffman, Founder, Souper Troopers

**Communal continuity and resilience do not happen by accident. The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute is filling a long-recognised need to identify and cultivate the leaders of the future and to train, equip, and support those who already play essential roles in communal life.**

**Adam Mendelsohn**

*(EOLI Advisory Board and Faculty Member, Director: Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies, UCT)*

## EMPOWERING **TOMORROW'S** JEWISH COMMUNITY **LEADERS** TODAY

The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (EOLI) was established as a legacy to the visionary leadership and strategic foresight of Eliot Osrin (z'l), for the benefit of the Cape Town Jewish Community.

EOLI offers a leadership development programme that is uniquely designed for current and future leaders, forward thinkers and change makers who are prepared to take up the challenge of strengthening the Cape Town Jewish Community. EOLI aims to create a culture of bold, visionary and ethical leadership to ensure that the next generation of leadership is shaped by our shared Jewish values, the challenges of community, our context and global trends. The learning journeys include theory, best practice and Jewish perspective.

**Applications for the 2020 EOLI modular based leadership development programme are now open.** Participants will have the opportunity to grow personally and communally, expand their leadership networks, gain knowledge and expertise, and embark on a transformative leadership journey. For more information contact Melissa Zolty on **021 461 0776** or email [applications@osrinleadership.org](mailto:applications@osrinleadership.org)

**Apply online:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EOLILDP2020>

**Application Deadline: 26 August 2019**

(Spaces are limited to 25 participants)



**INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY**

[info@osrinleadership.org](mailto:info@osrinleadership.org) [www.osrinleadership.org](http://www.osrinleadership.org)

**Advisory Board:** Ronnie Stein (Chairman), Natalie Barnett, Alison Berk Katzeff, Philip Krawitz, Tamar Lazarus, Adam Mendelsohn, Bernard Osrin, Myra Osrin, Marco van Embden, Viv Anstey (Director).

In association with The David Susman Community Foundation

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# JUST FOR YOU.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH WITH A TEST DRIVE AT AUTO ATLANTIC.

Auto Atlantic would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all South African women for the role you play in society.

To show our appreciation, and as a measure of our regard for everything you manage to accomplish on a daily basis, we invite you for a complimentary coffee and vehicle evaluation while you take a new BMW for a test drive during the month of August.

Find some time to spend on yourself, just as you deserve.

**To book a test drive, contact us on the details below.**

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



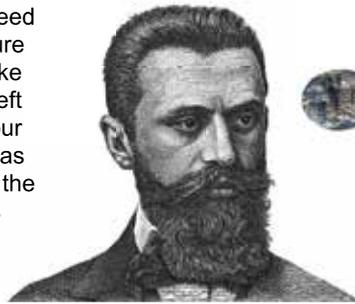
## Old New Land

By Rowan Polovin,  
Chairman, SAZF Cape Council

Theodor Herzl, the visionary of modern Zionism, prophetically coined the term Altneuland - Old New Land, also known in Hebrew as 'Tel Aviv', as his vision for Israel - a place both looking back at the proud history of the Jewish People and their unbreakable connection to Eretz Yisrael, as well as looking forward towards building their own future as a modern Jewish Nation.

Indeed, Israel's remarkable success is due to the Jewish People's ability to both remember their past, while at the same time working brightly towards a better future, one in which they have full agency and self-determination, and play an active role in creating. This future is what Israel now represents, and Israel actively pulls the rest of the globe forward through world-leading innovation, technology, tikkun olam and outreach.

As a result, more countries, including many in the Middle East and Africa, are starting to recognise the importance of not only accepting but also embracing Israel on the world stage. We need to work hard to ensure that countries like South Africa are not left behind. This will be our greatest challenge as South African Jews in the diaspora in the years ahead.



FILM CLUB

**JELLYFISH**

Jellyfish (Hebrew: תודוזת; Meduzot) is a 2007 Israeli film based on a story by Shira Geffen and directed by her husband, Etgar Keret. The film tells the story of three women in Tel Aviv whose intersecting lives paint a pessimistic portrait of Israeli secular life. Batya, a waitress at weddings, comes across a mute child who seemingly emerges from the sea. Keren, a bride whose wedding Batya worked at, breaks her leg climbing out of bathroom stall and ruins her dream honeymoon in the process. And Joy, a Filipino domestic, attends to her employer with whom she struggles to communicate. Poetic imagery draws connections between the lives of these women, all of whom find solace in the sea.

Jellyfish was the winner of the 2007 Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, the Official Selection at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival, and the Official Selection at the 2008 Telluride Film Festival.

**MOVIE** JELLYFISH

**DATE** Sunday 18 August 2019

**TIME** 18h30

**VENUE** Nelson Mandela Auditorium - Gardens

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

Soup & rolls to be served prior to the screening. NO CHARGE, donations welcome.

**The George Elkin**

SHELLY FRIEDMAN TROPE (OF THE)

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אני לומדת עברית.

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**BNEI AKIVA**



**A Winter Camp to remember**

By Chanan Suiza,  
Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town

Bnei Akiva recently hosted a Winter Camp to remember, it was bigger, louder and packed full of fun. Watch out, there is more craziness on the way.

This camp was power, with 40 beautiful chanichim and 25 incredible madrichim, there is no better recipe for a fun filled winter camp. Games, pizza making, a giant pool table and so much more, this cracked up to be our best winter camp yet!

**NETZER MACHANEH KAYITZ**  
SAVE THE DATE!!

6-15 DECEMBER 2019



**NETZER SHABBAT SERVICE**  
TEMPLE ISRAEL WEST COAST

16 AUGUST 6:15PM



**VEIDAH GRADE 10+ SEPTEMBER 22ND-26TH**



Bnei Akiva Winter camp 2019

**SAUJS**



**Welcome to the new SAUJS Co-ordinator**

and Strategy. Cassandra is the new SAUJS Western Cape Co-ordinator and seeks to work with the committee to create a vibrant and safe space for Jewish students on campus as well as expand the organisations reach.



New SAUJS co-ordinator, Cassandra Mayekiso

Cassandra Mayekiso matriculated from Herschel Girls' School in 2012 and went on to pursue a gap year in Israel volunteering for Bridges for Peace.

Upon her return she enrolled at AFDA studying a BA in Motion Picture and joined the South African Union of Jewish Students as the Zionist Officer in Cape Town, later elected as the National Zionist Officer. Upon completing her degree, she set off back to Israel for an exciting internship opportunity at Highlight Films. She has experience in Israel Advocacy, Media



**GRADE 2-9 IN HERMANUS**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR HABONIM MINI MACH**

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## THE ISRAEL CENTRE



### בואו נדבר בעברית Bo'u Nedaber Ivrit! (Let's speak Hebrew!)

By Cindy Moritz

**Whether you're spending more time visiting Israel, have children or family there, or are considering making Aliyah, you're absolutely going to need to know how to speak Hebrew. First prize is speaking like an Israeli, fast and furious, but we all have to start somewhere.**

And so it happened that the Israel Centre in Cape Town initiated the exciting interactive Ulpan Or programme earlier this year for adults who want to become fluent in the often baffling Hebrew language.

Ulpan Or promises "Hebrew at the speed of light", and indeed classes are high energy and intensive, providing ample opportunity for quick and easy learning of the language as it's spoken among Israelis.

After applicants were screened via an online assessment and placed in the relevant level – students range from beginners to mid-intermediate at this stage – classes kicked off at Herzlia Middle School two evenings a week, where we have the use of smartboard-equipped classrooms and three qualified teachers who were trained to teach the programme. Students need to bring a device to log in to the Ulpan Or site and then, guided by a teacher, watch videos, learn new words, practice those words and ultimately perform "Showtime" in which those same conversations on video are simulated in real life. Pop quizzes keep students on their toes and ensure that vocabulary lists keep growing.

Cape Town Ulpan Or students are in good company. The programme, sometimes dubbed the "Harvard of Ulpanim", is the official exclusive provider of Hebrew programs to the American Embassy in Israel, and just recently was selected, qualified and certified by the Israeli Ministry of Absorption to provide Hebrew programs to new immigrants (olim).

Ulpan Or's revolutionary methodology for learning Hebrew, Rapid Language Acquisition, allows students to learn



Ulpan student, Nathan Esra, getting his Aliyah visa and getting ready to speak Hebrew in Israel

Hebrew quickly, while making the ancient language come alive today in a fun and welcoming environment that takes into consideration cultural immersion and the ease of self-learning via technology when outside the classroom.

Registration is open for new and returning students for next term, starting July 16 to 19 September (ten weeks). Call Sharon Greenblatt at the Israel Centre on (021) 286-2130 to arrange payment for the term, which

secures your access via login and password, and for all other details. The course is open to anyone ready and willing to learn.

Engagement with Israel needn't only be via shouty politics. Cultural immersion through acquiring Hebrew provides a rich and rewarding way to create and maintain a strong bond, whether you're staying in the diaspora or planning Aliyah. B'hatzlacha!

Find us SA Zionist Federation - Cape Council @SAzionfed

[www.sazfcape.co.za](http://www.sazfcape.co.za)



## SASI – my perspective, as a South African student in Israel

By Joshua Sher

**I am a second-year university student at the Inter Disciplinary Centre (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel.**

I attended United Herzlia Schools and am completing the second year of my BA in Sustainability and Government Studies. I study at the IDC in English. Studying here has really been an amazing opportunity, the friends I have made here come from near and far and from all spheres of life, from Sudan to the United States and even South America. Our lecturers are experts in their respective fields and it's a privilege to gain innovative knowledge on topics such as 'Advanced Water Resource Management and Energy Systems, Climate Change and our society'.

The degree I study is focused on sustainability — a future-orientated degree — which looks at how we use our natural surroundings (oceans, forests, oxygen, sunlight etc.) in a sustainable manner for our benefit, and that of future generations. I chose to study in Israel, following seven months of a BA in History and Politics at UCT. I soon realised that my passion was in learning about our natural world and how we use and

misuse it.

I aspire to use the skills and education that I have gained in South Africa, and Africa at large, where I believe there is tremendous potential given the continent's natural resources. I hope to be able to play my part in effecting real positive change.

This amazing opportunity would not have been possible without the financial and comprehensive support of Telfed. In addition to the IDC scholarship, Telfed's scholarship helps offset the costs of living in Israel. Telfed and in particular the SASI (South Africans Studying in Israel) group have become a home away from home. Our group of students attend different universities and study different degrees but we come together every couple of months.

This year with SASI we volunteered at a home for lone soldiers, participated in a Shabbaton in the spiritual city of Tzfat and have been on tours of Tel Aviv's underground art scene. I encourage all those considering studying in Israel to go for it! These two years have changed me as a person. I have had to grow up and



SASI students celebrate the end of the academic year in Tel Aviv in June 2019

fend for myself and the lessons I have learned are priceless. Telfed and the SASI team have been there for me whenever I have needed assistance or just someone close to home to talk to, and the friends I have made within the group have become like family.

Telfed makes the transition to Israel

a lot easier — I encourage all those thinking of coming to Israel to contact them. I conclude with a quote which resonates deeply with me: "The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively." — Robert Nesta Marley.

## Jaime's legacy continues to inspire, with book club for children

By Jaime Uranovsky

**After Jaime Rose Whitesman tragically passed away from medulloblastoma in January last year, her mother, Martine Volks, knew that her daughter's legacy would live on.**

One of the ways in which Martine is ensuring that Jaime's flame burns bright is through *Spreading the Love for Jaime Rose: Jaime's Book Club*, which Martine started in September last year. But what is Jaime's Book Club and how did it come about?

Martine shares, "[Jaime Rose] was an avid reader. She absolutely loved her books and kept them in the most impeccable condition. Her shelves were filled with books and I kind of walked in there and thought 'Wow, what am I going to do with all of these?' That was the initial thought process. And then obviously [we were] spending a lot of time in the hospitals and hospital lounges and there was a lack of books."

Martine began by donating Jaime's own books and then reached out to the community when it came time to source more: "From people dropping off, I've collected at least 4000 books. People have been quite incredible.

The community's response has been amazing."

For Martine, this project is very much about paying it forward. She explains, "When we were raising money for treatment for [Jaime] and for the Red Cross, [our campaign] was called *For the Love of Jaime*. This is about giving back. That's why it's called *Spreading the Love for Jaime Rose*. Now it's going outwards. Now we're spreading the love and giving back. So, every book that I've received is sitting in my lounge and I'm single-handedly doing it. I've put her pink logo sticker, which says *Spreading the Love for Jaime Rose* onto every single book. I've then divided the books [by age]. I've taken some bookshelves, painted them pink and added her little poster that says *For the love of Jaime* on canvas, and then filled them with books for the appropriate age. So, if the kids go and sit, at least they'll be inspired, and they can say, 'Oh, who's Jaime?' or 'What's that about?' And I named it *Jaime's Book Club* because clubs bring people together."



Martine then donates the shelves of books to organisations and institutions in need: "I've given to the Jewish edu-care centre in Maitland and to Nazareth House. I'm going to give to an old age home near Greyton. I've given to the Red Cross [and] to the Oncology Lounge in Rondebosch Clinic where we [received treatment] and I'm going to ask at Vincent Pallotti next.

"I'm doing it slightly slower because I'm doing it by myself, step-by-step, but people can continue to drop off and if it gets to a point where it's too much for me to manage, then I will ask kids to come and help me. And then, maybe what we'll do is go read to people. So, it's hopefully the start of something bigger."

Martine says, "Some places seem to have had a shelf or two already but I was like, 'No, it must be pretty; it must be pink. It must be Jaime.' I can already even hear her going, 'Uh. No. you can't put the books like that!' She was very particular about her books on her shelf being in the right order. But the bigger picture is that kids have something to read. I've



received everything from 'scratch 'n sniff' books to recipe books, so the variety is large."

The beautiful thing about words in books is that, once written and read, they exist eternally for each reader.

What could be a more perfect way to keep the memory of Jaime Rose alive than by sharing immortal words with each person who is lucky enough to be part of her ever-growing book club?

For more information visit *For the Love of Jaime* on Facebook.

Contact Martine Volks directly on 072 627 9656 regarding drop-off arrangements at either her shop, *Martine's on the Bay Boutique*, in Sea Point, or at her home which is also located in the area.



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



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Mensch is launching a new housing project, called **Project Bayit**. Giving us power to assist someone by vastly improving the conditions in which they and their families live. A beautiful way to fulfil the *mitzvah of Tikkun Olam*, contributing to providing the human right of shelter for the people caring for our families, homes or businesses.



Mensch provides access to support, credit assessment and financing to co-finance, with your employee, the purchase of a durable, fire and flood resistant upgraded shack designed and built by Ikayalami.

**JOIN US FOR THE FIRST PRESENTATION AT LIMMUD CT TO LEARN MORE OR CONTACT [GINA@MENSCH.ORG.ZA](mailto:GINA@MENSCH.ORG.ZA) NOW!**

## A tribute to community stalwart Nilly Baruch 1944-2019



"Nilly Baruch always demonstrated compassion, generosity and determination, leading from the front as an invested team player. This is

Nilly's legacy and the community is in gratitude to her."



"It was impossible not to admire or even emulate Nilly in the example she set for those around her, and those who were recipients of her largesse. She was the archetypal hospitable hostess; a fervent believer

in the importance of giving back to the community from which she derived so much pleasure and stimulation; devoted to the principles she held so dear; and dynamic in thought and action. She influenced those around her and by so doing, made the world a better place."



"Nilly Baruch gave of herself unconditionally to the welfare of the Jewish Community. Assisting and supporting those in need, and always offering her services. She had

total focus on any project that she worked with, she lived a life of courage, beauty and integrity."



"Nilly was a true Eyshet Chayil; She was an incredible host and was generous to a fault, always immaculately dressed with her signature red lipstick."

Nilly Baruch z'l was born in Romania in 1944 but grew up in Israel and had made South Africa her home for the past 33 years.

She was married to Zvi, with three children (Arik, Michal and Nir — who passed away in a car accident in 2001) and six grandchildren.

Nilly was a well-known and respected figure in the Cape Town Jewish Community.

She passed away suddenly on 13 June and will be missed by all who knew her.

The organisations that Nilly was involved in wanted to pay tribute and acknowledge the work she did for the betterment of the Cape Town Jewish Community and beyond.

On this page we have taken quotes from their tributes, the full versions of which can be read on our website: [www.cjc.org.za](http://www.cjc.org.za)



"Nilly brought people together from disparate communities and different backgrounds

and often unified them to support projects in need. She has left a legacy for all in the social and non-profit sector — with a positive attitude, integrity and perseverance, anything can be achieved."



"Nilly was a pioneer in the field of building support for Israel in the Christian community and she undertook this vital task with sincerity and dedication. One of the results of her efforts in Cape Town was the establishment of the South African Friends of Israel. She was a woman of exceptional warmth, generosity and kindness and endeared herself to so many in our community and beyond."



"Nilly Baruch was a proud supporter of CSO and played an integral role in the establishment of the CSO Control Room."



"Nilly's care for all in need, her devotion to WIZO South Africa's specific projects in Israel, and passionate support for WIZO projects dealing with the status of women as well as combatting gender abuse and violence proved a driving force."

### MENSCH CHANGE-MAKER OF THE MONTH

Dr Leah Mundell

## Your opportunity to mentor an entrepreneur

Five years ago, our family moved to Cape Town for a year.

My husband, an astronomer, had a sabbatical year and collaborators at the South African National Observatory. I am an applied anthropologist and had been working as a community organiser in Arizona, USA, where my primary focus had been immigration advocacy. I hoped that I could use this opportunity to learn about migration issues in another part of the world. Little did I know that the year would also open up the chance to build longstanding relationships with migrants to South Africa and those working to further migrant integration. An even happier surprise was that this work would often intersect with the welcoming Jewish community that we found in Cape Town, as I discovered the work of Mensch and the energy for social change that it cultivates.

My research took me to the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, where the staff were considering launching a new initiative, a Women's Platform that could serve as a network for migrant women often facing isolation

and discrimination. The goal was to create a structure through which women could build connections with one another, strengthen their leadership potential, develop job skills, and move toward financial self-sufficiency. The emphasis on integration, leadership, and advocacy fit well with my experience in grassroots organising, and I signed on to help build the Women's Platform and research its impacts.

The Women's Platform is now a comprehensive programme of personal development, English language support, skills training, small business development, and mentorship. Many of the facilitators are alumni of the Women's Platform themselves, migrants who understand first-hand the daily challenges of integration into South African society. My recent research with participants in the Women's Platform has shown how impactful the opportunity for personal growth has been. In focus groups and interviews, participants' eyes lit up and faces shone as they described the ways their confidence

had grown, their communication skills had improved, and they had learned to resolve conflict in their homes and communities.

The challenges of financial stability, however, are still formidable. Many migrant women are not eligible for refugee status or have not been able to make the journey to Pretoria or Musina to apply. Those who do have asylum-seeker or refugee status are still often passed over for employment, because of their lack of a South African ID. So, for many migrant women, their only option is to create their own jobs by developing a small business. The Women's Platform offers skills training in hospitality, childcare, craft, and beauty, and many participants go on to develop their skills further in these areas. But they need mentors to help them gain experience,



Dr Leah Mundell, with alumni of the Scalabrini Centre Women's Platform and leaders of the partner organisation Kweso, which offers sewing skills training at their centre in Parow

develop business plans, and build professional networks. These are wonderful opportunities for members of the Jewish community to get involved. My own involvement in migrant advocacy has always been connected with my own family's migration story, and my sense of Jewish history and values. The experiences of fleeing danger and seeking opportunity are so familiar to us as Jews, and the mitzvah of welcoming the stranger is so central to our worldview. I encourage you to consider ways that you, your business, or your community might offer support.

If you are interested in providing mentoring or other support for the Women's Platform, please contact Mensch who will connect you with opportunities. If you would like to learn more about the Scalabrini Centre and the Women's Platform, please go to their website at [www.scalabrini.org.za](http://www.scalabrini.org.za).



**JEWISH  
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[www.jcs.org.za](http://www.jcs.org.za)



## JCS @ WORK

### Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

By Jetara Ross

**Did you know that it could be a criminal offence for you, as a citizen of South Africa not to report suspected child abuse?**

In South Africa, child abuse and neglect remains largely under-reported. This can be attributed to young children's lack of capacity and ability to report abuse to the appropriate authorities, their fear of being harmed by people close to them if they tell about the abuse, and the social acceptance of practices like corporal punishment and sexual harassment.

The Children's Act (38 of 2005) and the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act (32 of 2007) both establish compulsory reporting on incidents of abuse and deliberate neglect, and failure to report is considered a criminal offence. There is a legal obligation to report cases of abuse and neglect to the appropriate authorities, even where the child doesn't want to pursue the case further. More importantly, failure to report could result in an increased risk of harm to the child concerned.

Section 110 of the Children's Act compels the following people to report incidents or reasonable suspicions of physical abuse causing injury, sexual abuse or deliberate neglect: Any correctional official, dentist, homeopath, immigration official, labour inspector, legal practitioner, medical practitioner, midwife, minister of religion, nurse, occupational therapist, physio-therapist, psychologist, religious leader, social service professional, social worker, speech therapist, teacher, traditional health practitioner, traditional leader or member of staff or volunteer worker at a partial care facility, drop-in or child and youth care centre.

Ordinary citizens are given the discretion to report abuse but are not compelled to do so in terms of section 110 of the Children's Act. The Sexual Offences Act however, compels all South African citizens who are aware of any sexual abuse or exploitation of children to report the offence. There are, however,



**“In South Africa, child abuse and neglect remains largely under-reported. This can be attributed to young children's lack of capacity and ability to report abuse to the appropriate authorities, their fear of being harmed by people close to them if they tell about the abuse, and the social acceptance of practices like corporal punishment and sexual harassment.”**

many other circumstances that may leave a child in need of care and protection. In these cases anyone can make a voluntary report. Section 150 (1) of the Act provides that a child is considered to be in need of care and protection if the child:

- has been abandoned or orphaned and is without any visible means of support;
- displays behaviour which cannot be controlled by the parent or care-giver;
- lives or works on the streets or begs for a living;
- is addicted to a dependence-producing substance and is without any support to obtain treatment for such dependency;
- has been exploited or lives in circumstances that expose the child to exploitation;
- lives in or is exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm that child's physical, mental or social well-being;
- may be at risk if returned to the custody of the parent, guardian or caregiver of the child as there is reason to believe that he or she will live in or be exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm the physical, mental or social well-being of the child;
- is in a state of physical or mental neglect;

- is being maltreated, abused, deliberately neglected or degraded by a parent, a care-giver, a person who has parental responsibilities and rights or a family member of the child or by a person under whose control the child is.
  - is a victim of child labour;
  - or is a child in a child-headed household
- Once a conclusion is reached that there was/is physical/sexual abuse or deliberate neglect, or there is reasonable suspicion, it must be reported to one of three authorities:
- the provincial Department of Social Development;
  - a police official;
  - a designated child protection organization.

Jewish Community Services is one of the designated child protection organizations, and according to section 107 of the Children's Act, has the responsibility and authority to render child protection services. This involves investigating the allegation of abuse and taking appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the child. **Should you want assistance or further information regarding the above information, please contact Jewish Community Services on 021 462 5520.**



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

# BURNING BRIGHTLY

## ALERTS ON SHABBAT

Eric Berger

### Halacha and Solutions in The Modern World

#### Question:

When I checked my email after Shabbat, I saw an email from the UOS regarding a funeral notice. The notice had arrived on Shabbat. I assume that this was an automated message, but why is it set to go out on Shabbos? Surely that's not appropriate on a number of levels?

#### Answer:

The Cemetery Maintenance Board website ([www.jewishcemetery.co.za](http://www.jewishcemetery.co.za)) has evolved quite a lot since its initial inception and creation. The site will send out yahrzeit reminders to those who subscribe, as well as notifications for upcoming funerals, informing of date, time and cemetery. Both of these features have become increasingly popular. Funeral notices, in particular, have become a necessity, as one cannot depend on these notifications being published in the local newspaper any longer.

We have made arrangements with the web technicians that no notifications be sent from the site after noon on Friday (Erev Shabbat) or on the afternoon before a festival (Erev Yom Tov). We have had numerous complaints and queries from subscribers questioning why these notifications often come into their email inboxes over Shabbat or Yom Tov.

But with the best will in the world we cannot control the back-end workings of the internet and on many occasions these notifications – although scheduled to go out sooner – are only released on Shabbat or Yom Tov (or for those living in Australia they will even receive the pre-noon Erev Shabbat notifications on Shabbat or Yom Tov as well.)

We thank the community for the valued feedback, and will continue to pursue ways to circumvent this glitch. But, for now, enjoy the tranquillity of Shabbat and rest assured that your inbox will wait.

*Eric Berger is the Executive Director of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, responsible for the smooth running of all departments of the UOS, ensuring the provision of world-class facilities (such as Kashrut, Beth Din, Cemetery and much more) for its constituent congregations and the community at large.*

## WELCOME TO KOSHER CAPE TOWN

Rebbetzin Esther Maizels

**My kids want to go out for ice cream – is there any Kosher ice cream place in Cape Town?**

**We're having people over for tea – where can I get some kosher cakes?**

**I'm staying at a B&B with no Kosher facilities, where can I get ready-made food for Shabbat?**

These are some questions from the KOCOSA (Cape Kosher Consumers) Facebook page, where Kosher consumers exchange information and help each other source Kosher products.

KOCOSA's aim is to promote Kashrut observance, education and awareness in Cape Town and beyond. We work in close conjunction with the Kashrut Department of the UOS Cape Council. Our members receive regular email updates about local and overseas products and tips on keeping Kosher. Keeping Kosher courses are offered on a regular basis.

KOCOSA is also active in promoting Kashrut among the youth. Our Kosher Art Competition at schools creates a positive buzz around keeping Kosher. Books and educational materials about Kashrut have been donated to the Gitlin Library, childrens' services at shuls and school libraries throughout Cape Town. KOCOSA offers Going Kosher Sponsorships to help cover the costs of kashering your kitchen. All information is strictly confidential.

Visitors are often amazed by the extensive range of Kosher facilities in Cape Town – restaurants, delis, supermarkets, bakeries, fisheries, coffee shops and more – what a credit to the Cape Town Jewish community and particularly to the Kashrut Department of the UOS Cape Council.

KOCOSA puts together a detailed list of these facilities, which is sent to our members and is on the UOS website. Partnering with Rabbi Dani Brett of Torah City Wide (a UOS affiliate), KOCOSA has developed an easy-to-forward WhatsApp image with this information. Initially this will be sent out via the Rabbis, Rebbetzins and shuls – so you should be getting it on your

smart phone soon! Keep it, refer to it – and forward Welcome to Kosher Cape Town to all friends and visitors!

*Rebbetzin Esther Maizels is an educator and community leader, having held numerous teaching and other posts in Cape Town, including chair of KOCOSA, an organisation which strives to promote kashrut in Cape Town and beyond.*

**Thinking of going Kosher? KOCOSA can help you. We offer advice on how to kasher your kitchen, confidential Going Kosher sponsorships and information and support in keeping Kosher. For more information or to become a member of Kocosa contact Vonny on 021 551 5036 or email [kocosa@uoscape.co.za](mailto:kocosa@uoscape.co.za)**



## A tribute to our colleague Anita Shenker

**Anita Shenker z"l worked for the Cape Jewish Chronicle for 27 years as our commercial advertising salesperson. She was a colleague, friend, office-mom and source of knowledge, both institutional and communal. She will be missed.**

So much has been said about Anita in the past week but the overwhelming sentiment speaks to her generosity, her broad knowledge base and her tenacious spirit. Even when Anita and I would vehemently disagree on something, five minutes later we would be sharing a recipe or planning a Shabbat menu and forging a path of compromise through the mire. She wasn't easy, but she was definitely worth it.

We are richer for having known her and poorer for having lost her so soon.

*Lindy Diamond*

Anita Shenker was a truly special woman.

My association with her goes back some 27 years, during which time she was my fellow worker and a faithful, caring friend.

Anita was strong — a strength very much tested over the years. She suffered so many sad and tragic losses and endured so many health problems. All of this she handled with her inner strength. And always she was there, offering sympathy and support to others, whenever needed.

Over the years we witnessed what a deeply caring mother Anita was to her children, a wonderful, supportive daughter to her mother, Sadie, and for Maurice, a beloved wife... a rock.

At the Chronicle, Anita was a vital member of our team. Driven, conscientious and organised. Really great at her job. For us a terrific team member and, most times, great fun to work with. Really good years.

Anita and I never had an argument. Just one problem. While laying out the paper's pages, particularly for the major 'Chag' issues. She fought for the right-hand, up front pages for clients, while I needed them for the community. Actually it was fun. No blows. We always compromised. Tessa, our faithful secretary, was never required to umpire!

She was also a 'mine of information', a rock... sometimes a boulder... ever bold! She loved life, loved to dance

and to cheer. All things bright.

Anita's passing is so very hard to come to terms with and an enormous loss to us all. We will remember her always with a smile.

*Irma Chait*

When I arrived as the new editor of the Cape Jewish Chronicle, a generation younger than my new colleagues who had worked together for decades, we could have struggled to get along. But they all welcomed me with 'Jewish mommy' warmth, encouragement and support, and we never looked back. Anita wasn't shy to show me the ropes, and as the long-term advertising consultant of the paper, she knew the community and the Chronicle inside out.

As we worked together over the next four years, our friendship blossomed. One of my favourite memories was a gift from her and the rest of the Chronicle ladies of a Pesach recipe book when I told her I was hosting the Seder. Family, community, tradition and her Jewish identity were so important to her and she delighted in sharing those values with me.

Anita faced unthinkable challenges in her life, but with every knock she emerged stronger — the ultimate survivor. Not only that, but every challenge made her embrace life even more, with optimism, passion and strength. For example, when she stood up and danced at my wedding, it was a feat unmatched by any other guest there. Two years earlier, Anita had fallen and broken both her knees, which was followed by multiple medical procedures. Yet she always said she would be dancing at my wedding, and so she did. That was Anita — getting up and being the life of the party no matter what life threw at her. Over the last few years since I left the Chronicle we were less in touch, but I always felt close to her.

Her passing has rattled me because after all that she endured, she should have been given a miracle. It will never make sense, and shows just how fragile, unpredictable and unstable life can be. She knew this too well but I don't think that is what

she would want to be her legacy. Rather, I think she would want you to hold onto everything that is dear to you — be it family, friends, community or Judaism — celebrate every day, and dance — even if life has literally brought you to your knees.

Anita, the Cape Jewish Chronicle will never be the same without you. I hope you are at peace and with the many loved ones you lost, especially your beloved son. I will miss you and will never forget you.

*Tali Feinberg*

Anita Shenker was my friend and colleague at the Chronicle for nineteen years. A mere hour after our initial meeting, we had our first argument; and the path was set for a working relationship that was stimulating, challenging and never dull.

While our personalities and values did not always align, I came to appreciate and care deeply for her for as I experienced her strength, generosity, loyalty, and sheer enthusiasm for life.

A traditionalist to the core, Anita's life revolved around family, friends and community.

Over the years I witnessed the absolute devotion with which she conducted her close relationships — as mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend and colleague. While she suffered more tragedies than most, she faced these with a courage that was inspiring to behold, as she supported those close to her, and never lost hope.

Anita was also the go-to person for any practical advice. She knew how to GET THINGS DONE — whether it was a building renovation, an insurance claim, where to buy the best chopped herring or where to get your car repaired. The list goes on...

I miss her strong and outspoken presence in our office, her reassuring confidence and her unwavering optimism. Her passing has left a void in our lives.

*Desrae Saacks*



Anita was a very special person — a colleague, companion and confidante.

We worked together for 27 years and grew very close to one another

We supported each other, not only at work — when begging for that spot on the right hand page — but in every aspect of our lives and were always there for each other. Anita and Maurice even came to Joburg for our children's weddings.

Our day didn't only start when we parked our cars next to each other in the parking area, but most days we spoke on the phone before leaving home for work.

Anita was very passionate about her work and was always thrilled when she got a new advertiser.

The Chronicles over the past 26 years are testimony to her hard work and dedication.

I will always remember the happy and fun times we shared including dinners, quiz nights, and our lovely lunches with Irma, and of course the 'hacking' on the phone. She was so vibrant and chatty and always kept me up to date with the latest bits of news.

Anita had a heart of gold, always helping those around her, especially the less fortunate.

What I will miss most are Anita's final words every single day. "what's for supper tonight?"

*Tessa Epstein*

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Continues from page 1

## Mathilda actresses honoured with prestigious Naledi Theatre Award

By Jaime Uranovsky

Lilla recounts, "The Naledi Awards was an amazing evening and it was such an honour that the three Mathildas were asked to perform. At the beginning we performed, and then we came and sat inside the award ceremony. There were other performances and I got to see lots of really talented people in the industry."

Kitty notes, "First they were mentioning all the categories and we didn't win our category [for which they were nominated] — we won a special award: 'Most Outstanding Performance by an Actress.'" Kitty, Lilla and Morgan jointly received the prestigious award.

While the curtain has closed on *Mathilda's* South African run, both

Lilla and Kitty have been part of its international tour. Kitty explains, "Well, we're in China for four months and we're going to a few different cities and then we go to Hong Kong for a month. But we've already been in Singapore and Joburg."

Lilla delves into her experience, "I was part of the leg of the tour where we went around South Africa and where we went to Singapore. It was a very, very exciting experience to travel overseas with the show. I got to experience what it's like performing and working in a foreign country."

With such accolades under their belts, there is no doubt that we will be hearing from these talented actresses again soon.

Continues from page 20

## Komati Foods wins Nedbank Business Ignite Competition

By Jaime Uranovsky

Less than a month after hearing about Nedbank Business Ignite, Leanne had already won the competition. "I entered around the 10th of June and on the 13th I got an email to say I'd been selected as one of the finalists. Then, on the 18th of June, they said to me that they're going to phone me and I'm going to talk on the radio with Kieno about the business. I hate public speaking! It makes me so anxious and I asked if we could pre-record the thing and he said no. Then, when they announced the winners, I had to speak again!"

The winning business was announced at an event on 2 July, with the ten shortlisted companies present. The first part of the evening involved speed-networking "with a representative from Nedbank, Primemedia or Kaello Business Hub, so you had to talk about your business to these people. Then, in the last boardroom, you had to present your business to two judges,

Kieno Kammies and Tshepo Phakathi from the Kaello Business Hub, and a representative from Nedbank.

"After a deliberation period of about an hour, Africa Melane said that the winner was going to be announced shortly, and that [the winner was] going to speak on Cape Talk and 702, and I turned to my friend and I said, "I hope I don't win!"

Despite Leanne's discomfort with public speaking, she succeeded in securing Komati Foods' win and aced the subsequent radio interview.

*Komati Foods is a family-owned and operated business. They supply superior quality dried fruit, nuts grains and healthy snacks. Leanne's parents bought the business fifteen years ago and she joined them about five years ago.*

*For more information about Komati Foods, as well as its free deliveries for orders over R500 within Cape Town, visit [www.komatifoods.co.za](http://www.komatifoods.co.za)*

## Family Announcements

### CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

HAROLD SANDAK-LEWIN

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who extended their condolences, kindness and generosity to us on the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and uncle.

Helga, Jonathan, Linda and Mark and Alison, and grandchildren Simone, Leo, Hayley, Carlo, Kayla, Georgina, Isabella, Olivia and Luke and great grandchildren Alexander, Luca and Ava.

Sisters Gloria and Hilda, nieces and nephews.

They do not die who live on in the hearts of those who love them.

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

### Book your Rosh Hashana Greeting here!

*"Our warmest wishes to family and friends for a happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast"*

Book your place on the Rosh Hashana greetings pages in our New Year edition — Deadline for submissions: Wednesday 14 August.

Pay with SnapScan or Zapper and use your name and email as reference and we will get hold of you for your wording.

Zapper



SnapScan



OR

Pay via EFT and send proof of payment to [chron@ctjc.co.za](mailto:chron@ctjc.co.za)

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Fill in the form below and send it in with payment of R150

Surname: .....

Family names: .....

Examples: COHEN Elana, Brett, Grant, Mia and Kim

BLOCH Mike, Rachel and family

Email: ..... Phone: .....

(Not for publication)



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## Turning what we have into enough

**Happiness is wanting what you've got, not getting what you want and turning what you have into enough.**

We have recently celebrated Shavout and one of the major themes of this holiday is the expression of gratitude. The theme going right back to the time of the Temple where each person, upon bringing their first fruits to the temple would recite passages to express their gratitude for a successful harvest.

Modern-day gratitude and thankfulness research, in an area of study known as 'positive psychology', has identified gratitude as the 'forgotten factor' in happiness research.

### Gratitude Interventions — Psychological and Physical wellbeing

In an experimental comparison it was found that those who kept gratitude journals on a weekly basis and exercised more regularly, reported fewer physical symptoms and felt better about their lives as a whole. They were also more optimistic about the coming week compared to those who recorded hassles or neutral life events. Persons who keep gratitude lists are more likely to make progress toward important personal goals whether they are academic, interpersonal or health based.

### Measuring the grateful disposition with well-being and spirituality

Grateful people report higher levels of positive emotions, life satisfaction, vitality, optimism and lower levels of depression and stress. Disposition towards gratitude appears to enhance pleasant feeling status more than it diminishes unpleasant emotions.

Grateful people don't deny or ignore the negative aspects of life, they rather build on what issues materialise to enhance the situations.

It has been found that those who regularly attend religious services and engage in religious activities such as prayer and reading religious materials, are more likely to be grateful as they are more likely to acknowledge a belief in the interconnectedness of all life and a commitment to and responsibility to others. Gratitude does not require religious faith, but faith enhances the ability to be grateful. The Hebrew term for gratitude is *hakarat hatov*, which literally means 'recognising the good' and one tool for practicing gratitude is the ability to recognise the good that is already ours.

When one opens up to the trait of gratitude we are able to see clearly how much good there is in our lives. One can become grateful when we consciously engage in the practice of gratitude and when we practice being grateful it is easy to transform into

someone who easily finds the positive in life. There is an understanding that to be grateful takes practice and effort. This practice by no means ignores that we still live with pain or that we lack for important things in our lives. It does, however, provide us with a tool to help us balance our focus between the things we lack and the good we have.

There are many ways in which we can express gratitude and one of the tools given to us in Judaism is by the blessings (Brachot) that we say. Brachot can help us to slow down our busy lives by creating stopping points as we move through our daily routine.

There is a story — probably urban legend, but full of truth nonetheless — concerning the famous violinist Itzhak Perlman.

One evening, Perlman was in New York to give a concert. No sooner had he finished the first few bars than one of the strings on his violin snapped with a gunshot like force. At that point he was close enough to the beginning of the piece that it would have been reasonable to have brought the concert to a halt while he replaced the string, to begin again. But that is not what he did. He waited a moment and then signalled the conductor to pick up just where they had left off. He now only had three strings with which to play his soloist part. He was able to find some of the missing notes on adjoining strings, but where that wasn't possible, he had to rearrange the music on the

spot in his head so that it all still held together.

He played with passion and artistry, spontaneously rearranging the symphony right through to the end. When he finally rested his bow, the audience sat for a moment in stunned silence and then they rose to their feet and cheered wildly. They knew that they had been witness to an extraordinary display of human skill and ingenuity.

Pelmain raised his bow to signal for quiet. "You know" he said, "it is the artist's task to make beautiful music with what you have left".

We have to wonder if he was speaking of his violin strings or his crippled body? Is it true only for artists? We are all lacking something and so we are challenged to answer the question: Do we have the attitude of making something of beauty out of what we have, incomplete as it may be?

How about thinking about your last 24-hours beginning with where you were this time yesterday and going all the way through waking up today and to this moment making a list of what you are grateful for to recount all the details in our lives that are worthy of our gratitude.

May the month ahead be one filled with gratitude and joy as we prepare for the upcoming holidays and the changing of seasons.

*Diana Sochen Executive Director*

## Special Events August

### Twilight Suppers Booking Essential for all evenings

- Sea Point 13th Dr Anastasia Tomson explores diversity with empathy R70  
 Milnerton 22nd Deborah Two Oceans Marathon Organisation R70  
 Wynberg 21st An evening with food entrepreneur Ina Paarman R70

### OUTINGS

- S/Suburbs 5th Stephen Rautenbach Sculpture Gallery, Stellenbosch  
 19th Dunes Restaurant, Hout Bay  
 19th Saartjie Baartman Centre  
 29th Spice Route, Paarl  
 Milnerton 27th Stephen Rautenbach Gallery, Stellenbosch.  
 Sea Point 7th Stephen Rautenbach Gallery, Stellenbosch  
 21st Craft Exhibition in Milnerton  
 21st Kalk Bay to Save our Sea Exhibition  
 28th Hillcrest Berry Farm, Stellenbosch

### MEN'S SCHMOOZE

- Milnerton 2nd David Hersch R10  
 Wynberg 14th David Hersch R10  
 Sea Point 28th David Hersch R10

### OT AZEY

Sea Point 2 - 4 September with guest presenter, Shane Baker from New York. Booking Essential.

### SAVE THE DATE

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

**booking essential for all functions**

## Social and Personal

### Births

Woolfie and Glickie Bloom — great granddaughter  
 Ida Surovsky — great granddaughter  
 Sadie Graziani — great grandson

### Birthdays

Bennie Katzenberg 96, Barry Lipshitz 80, Charles Sacks 80, Bernard Saven 70, Ethel Stein 80, Ida Surovsky 85

### Engagements

Sadie Graziani — granddaughter  
 Becky Joffe — grandson  
 Ruth Katzeff — granddaughter  
 Alan and Silvana Silverman — granddaughter  
 Bella Silverman — great granddaughter

### Marriage

Anita Stoch — grandson

### Anniversary

Selwyn and Leah Borkowf 50, Nat and Ettie Yamey 60

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

Brenda Madiesky

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

Deborah Hayes — brother in law  
 Janice Ospovat-Burman — husband  
 Amanda Summerfield — father  
 Maureen Summerfield — husband

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

Brenda Morris, Herbert Hirsch

### We welcome new members to the CJSA family:

Alyson Franco, Felicity Krowitz-Osorio, Michelle and Godfrey Shev, David Whitelaw



# Cape Jewish Seniors

<p><b>Ot Azey</b></p> <p>10am - 3pm Mon - Wed Price R450</p> <p>Early bird before 12 Aug R420</p>	<p align="center"><b>Monday 2</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Ot Azey</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 <b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Pop In: Karin Pasche of the Cart Horse Protection Association R10 2.00 Musical Appreciation with Doreen R10 <b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Movie Morning <i>The Green Book</i> R10</p>	<p align="center"><b>Tuesday 3</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Ot Azey</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.15 Outing: Enjoy a morning at the Cape Quarter R30. Tea for own account <b>Milnerton</b> 1.30 Mosaic with Sonia Norrie R30 2.00 Line Dancing with Cathy Hudson R20 <b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Social Bridge R10 10.00 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group R10</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Monday 9</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10. 30 Irving Freeman Jewish Music Series Episode 5: Yiddish Music R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina Sank R10 <b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Audiologist Kylie Lee speaks on latest developments with hearing aids and ways to improve lifestyle. All questions answered R10 12.15 Milnerton Committee Meeting R10 9.30 Outing to the Pyjamas and Jam Restaurant at the Strand R30 <b>S/Suburbs</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Tuesday 10</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R100 per month 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 2.00 Mosaic with Yvette R30 17.30 Twilight Supper: Debra Barnes Two Oceans Marathon Organisation R60 <b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Birthday Pop In: Lindsey Cracknell of the Budgerigar Society of South Africa R10 1.30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30 2.00 Line Dancing with Hannah Seinik <b>S/Suburbs</b> 09.30 Social Bridge R10 10.00 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group R10 <b>West Coast Muizenberg</b> 9.30 Outing to Cape Quarter R30. Tea for own account 10.30 Pop In: Shannon Pam on bringing energy to your life R10</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Monday 16</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In: Shannon Pam on bringing energy to your life R10 2.00 Bridge R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina Sank R10 <b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Irving Freeman Jewish Music Series Episode 5: Yiddish Music R10 12.15 Milnerton Committee Meeting R10 3.00 Shiur with Rabbi Bernstein R10 <b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing to Grand West Casino R20. Tea for own account 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p align="center"><b>Tuesday 17</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R100 per month 11.00 Talking Point with Roni R10 2.00 Beginners Bridge with Irving R10 <b>Milnerton</b> 09.15 Outing 1.30 Mosaic Classes with Sonia Norrie R30 2.00 Line Dancing with Hannah Seinik <b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing to the Saartjie Baartman Centre R20 9.30 Social Bridge R10 10.00 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group R10</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Monday 23</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In: Janene Currie Chairman of Bnoth with Rosh Hashanah Tea R20 2.00 Bridge R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina Sank R10 <b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Craft Beading with Sonia Norrie R25 2.30 Rosh Hashanah tea R20 <b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing Enjoy a morning at the Cape Quarter R30. Tea for own account 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p align="center"><b>Tuesday 24</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R100 per month 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 2.00 Beginners Bridge classes with Irving R10 <b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Outing R30 to Kirstenbosch Gardens. R30. Tea for own account. 1.00 Kalooki R10 13.30 Mosaics with Sonia Norrie R20 1.45 Line dancing with Cathy Hudson <b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Social Bridge R10 10.00 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group R10</p>
	<p align="center"><b>Monday 30</b></p> <p align="center"><b>1st Day Rosh Hashanah Office Closed</b></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 SEPTEMBER 2019



<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wednesday 4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ot Azey</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b></p> <p>9.30 Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 10.00 Bnoth Zion 10.15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 12.00 DVD Series R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Thursday 5</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b> <b>West Coast</b></p> <p>9.15 JOY Programme at Alon Ashel 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 9.30 Kalooki R10 10.30 Pop In: Janene Currie, Chairman of Bnoth Zion WIZO R10 1.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 11.30 A morning with Lindsey Cracknell of the Budgerigar Society of South Africa R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Friday 6</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b></p> <p>9:30 Shopping with Malcolm R20 10:30 Men's Schmooze: Hessel Meilach speaks on the Six Day War R10</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wednesday 11</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b></p> <p>10.00 Craft with Yvette R15.00 9.30 Outing to the Saartjie Baartman Centre R20 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10 09.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 10.15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R15 10.00 Men's Schmooze: Stuart Diamond, Director of the Cape SAJBD R10 12.00 DVD Series R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Thursday 12</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b> <b>West Coast</b></p> <p>9.15 JOY Programme at Alon Ashel 10.00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 18.30 Twilight Supper: Stuart Diamond Director of the Cape SAJBD R60 10.30 Irving Freeman <i>Jewish Music Series</i> Episode 5 Yiddish Music 1.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 10.30 Pop In: Karin Pasche of the Cart Horse Protection Association R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Friday 13</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b></p> <p>9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wednesday 18</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b></p> <p>9.00. Outing to Pyjamas and Jam restaurant in Strand R50. Tea for own account 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10 9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 9.30 Kalooki R10 12.00 Visit Friends at Highlands House R20 Enjoy tea at their coffee shop 10.15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 12.00 DVD Series R10 17.30 Twilight Supper with Debra Barnes of the Two Oceans Marathon Organisation R60</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Thursday 19</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b> <b>West Coast</b></p> <p>9.15 JOY Programme at Alon Ashel 10.00 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10 09.30 Kalooki R10 10.30 A morning with Lindsey Cracknell of the Budgerigar Society of South Africa R10 11.30 Irving Freeman <i>Jewish Music Series</i> Episode 5 Yiddish Music and special tea for Rosh Hashanah R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Friday 20</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b></p> <p>9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wednesday 25</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b></p> <p>9.30 Outing to Company Gardens R30. Tea for own account. 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10 9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 10.15 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 12.00 DVD Series R10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Thursday 26</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> <b>Milnerton</b> <b>S/Suburbs</b> <b>West Coast</b></p> <p>9.15 JOY programme with Alon Ashel Learners 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10 09.30 Kalooki R10 10.30 Rosh Hashanah tea R20 10.00 Art with Sharon Lopis R35</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Friday 27</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b></p> <p>9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20 10.30 Men's Schmooze: Stuart Diamond, Director of the Cape SAJBD</p>



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

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Years

Consider This

## Who is not going to Limmud?

By Rabbi Greg Alexander

**By the time you read this, I hope you will have booked your place for Limmud Cape Town 2019.**

You will find some of the best speakers, educators and thinkers in the Jewish world offering three days of dynamic programming with panels, lectures, debates, culture, comedy, Talmud, history, Israel and general Jewish interest. You will eat delicious kosher food and make your choice from the array of different Shabbat services ranging from secular to Progressive, traditional egalitarian to Orthodox. You will find a mix of the diverse Jewish community of Cape Town attending, from all the shuls and those who attend none, elders and kids and everyone in between.

What you won't find is an Orthodox rabbi or rebbetzin who serves a South African shul. And that is because for the past 10 years the Orthodox Beit Din has forbidden their rabbis from attending. This was taken on review this year and not only was the ban upheld, but was now extended to rebbetzins as well. It should be noted that every year international Orthodox rabbis and rebbetzins attend Limmud in this country, and in other countries they are free to do so. South Africa is the only place worldwide where there is a ban on local Orthodox rabbis attending. In fact, the Orthodox Chief Rabbi of the UK, South African-born Ephraim Mirvis, attends every UK Limmud, explaining that, "One of my primary functions is as teacher of the community. I see Limmud as an opportunity to teach Torah to large numbers of people who want to learn." (London Jewish Chronicle)

Why are our local Orthodox Beth Din doing this? Because Limmud offers those who attend the chance to hear not just Orthodox-sanctioned views, but those from other streams of Judaism. These views, according to the Beth Din, "do not promote Torah philosophy and principles".

When asked what they meant, the organisation responded, "The Beth Din's mandate is to uphold halacha and Torah values within the community. Underpinning everything we do is the fundamental belief in G-d and the divine origin of the Torah. On questioning the Limmud team, we were told that these core beliefs are not a prerequisite for educators, nor is it a prerequisite for content that is delivered at the conference. As a

result of this Limmud policy decision, the Beth Din is unable to approve or verify this conference."

Let's pause for a moment and see what question the Beth Din is actually answering — they feel unable to 'approve or verify' Limmud, because Limmud by definition offers a marketplace of opinions, some of which they cannot agree with. Well, hold on, that is actually not what is being asked for at all. To 'approve and verify' an event is different to allowing rabbis who wish to go. I don't approve or verify every product on sale in Pick n Pay when I go shop there — some I put in my trolley and some I would rather not. The point is that I am grateful for the opportunity to find the products I need, and just because I don't load up on sugary breakfast cereals or think that non-free range eggs should even be sold, does not stop me from choosing the free-range ones that I 'approve of'.

You see, if the Progressive Bet Din was to take the same approach as the Orthodox one, we would forbid our rabbis to go to Limmud too. Alongside Progressive services, Limmud offers services where only men lead and only men are called to Torah. Kiddush is led by men. Presentations are offered that do not include Progressive views. The public spaces of Limmud are 'Shomrei shabbat' which of course means according to Orthodox interpretation. They serve food that is not eco-kosher often in disposable containers and the urns are left on over the whole of shabbat to provide hot water throughout, using a huge amount of unnecessary electricity. Presenters cannot use music or electronics to enhance their presentations over Shabbat, and participants are asked not to take notes during sessions. None of these do we 'approve of' and if asked to verify that these are indeed Progressive Jewish practises we would say "no, they are not".

However, we are also part of the greater Jewish community and we realise that to be part of klal Yisrael involves making compromises that will sometimes make us uncomfortable. It will stretch us beyond

our comfort zone, but in doing so it also gives us time to speak with those who hold different, but deeply held and thoughtful opinions, and in the interaction, we too learn and grow.

What are the Orthodox Beth Din afraid of? That their rabbis will listen to a Progressive rabbi and be persuaded? That in going to Limmud they would be 'endorsing' Progressive thinking? Give the Jews of South Africa and your own rabbis a little more credit please. Do not fear the marketplace of ideas — perhaps you will be pleasantly surprised by what you find there, and even if not, you will lose nothing for attending. You will lose much by not attending. One prominent British Orthodox rabbi likened the South African Beth Din ruling to banning Jews from attending the local library.

I remember attending my first Limmud in the UK in 1998. At the first Shabbat dinner, sitting at a table with a mix of Orthodox and Progressive friends, I burst into tears — I had never experienced anything like Limmud before. When I described it to friends and colleagues in South Africa, they said that this could never happen here. Well, it did and it does — it has been for a decade and PG will for decades to come, and everyone should experience it.

When you read this, we will already be on a sabbatical learning programme in New York City (more about that next month), which means that this will be the first Limmud Cape Town that Andi and I will miss since its inception 10 years ago. Please take up the tickets that we and our family cannot and make this the best Limmud yet.



## Israeli Rabbi to spend time in Cape Town



**Rabbi Tamara Schagas will be joining the rabbinic team while Rabbi Greg Alexander is on sabbatical in America.**

Rabbi Tamara was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina and made Aliyah in 2003. She was ordained in 2015 at HUC-JIR Jerusalem and serves as deputy director of the education department at Rabbis for Human Rights.

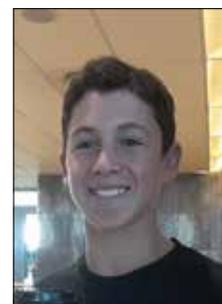
She is very passionate about world Jewry and has served in the Board of the World Union for progressive Judaism and represented the movement as a delegate in the World Zionist Organisation for over a decade. Her student pulpit was at Comunitat Jueva Atid in Barcelona and she has worked closely with communities in Europe, Latin America and North America.

Rabbi Tamara is a social activist and is involved in different organisations on issues of religion and state, asylum seekers and human rights in Israel.

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



Joshua Dobrinsky  
1 July



Giyan Sulcas  
6 July



Zac Ashberg  
20 July



Adam Groll  
27 July

## Their memory inspires us to serve our community

By Rabbi Greg Alexander



Bertha Sherman

**When a Jewish leader dies, the community mourns but also celebrates the life and work of those who gave of their skills and time to uplift the Jewish people.**

Temple Israel recently marked the passing of four senior leaders who made a lasting impact in the Progressive and larger Jewish community as well as in greater Cape Town too. Founding Rebbetzin, Bertha Sherman, past presidents Harold Sandak-Lewin and N'tanya Gordon-Davis and former vice-president and Cape Town City Councillor Herbert Hirsch.

Just before Pesach, the remarkable Bertha Sherman passed away at 96 years strong. She together with her husband, the late Rabbi Dr David Sherman helped to build the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation from an idea to a bustling reality of a shul which in just over a decade grew from zero to 2500 members and kept on growing over the decades of their



Harold Sandak-Lewin

involvement. Bertha was a large personality who worked hard in the areas of Jewish education and community development to bring many people from the margins closer to Torah and the Jewish people. She ran the cheder which at its peak had 400 children enrolled and also the religious instruction programme in the government schools, and helped the Sisterhood become the force they were. Nothing Rabbi Sherman did was done alone — Bertha was next to him every step of the way. At 96-years-old she did not miss a chance to come to shul, even coming the shabbat before she died.

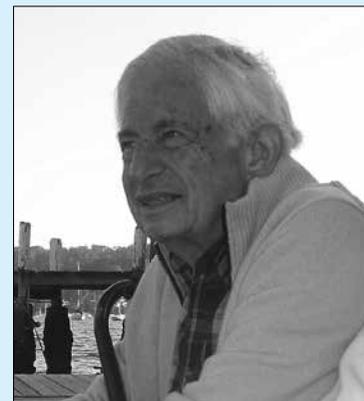
After Pesach we heard of the sudden and unexpected passing of Harold Sandak-Lewin who together with his wife Helga have held between them any and all positions a lay-leader in our community can. Not only a former President of the shul, Harold became the President of the South African Union for Progressive Judaism (SAPUJ) and then the Vice President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), representing more than 1.8 million



N'tanya Gordon-Davis

Jews worldwide. It was through the WUPJ that he began his plans to start the first rabbinical school in Cape Town and founded Beit Limmudim with support from the late Rabbis Jack Steinhorn and Rabbi David Hoffman and Professor Gitai, which later transferred to the Abraham Geiger Kolleg in Germany. Two of their graduates, Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani and Rabbi Richard Newman serve on the rabbinic team at Temple Israel still today. Harold was a layreader and shofar blower and took on positions at the Zionist Federation, the Jewish Board of Deputies and the UJC.

Two more deaths followed in quick succession in June. Herbert Hirsch was a humble and quietly effective leader, working tirelessly behind the scenes to contribute to all the committees that he involved himself in. Not only a Board member and Vice President of Temple Israel, he had been active in politics all of his life, holding positions of Cape Town City Councillor and Cape Town Provincial Councillor between 1972 and 1986. He led the opposition



Herbert Hirsch

Progressive Federal Party in the City Council and Provincial Council from 1977-1986 and became the president of Cape Town Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1992. He was a former chairman of Green and Sea Point Ratepayers Association, and a member of the Jewish Board of Deputies.

N'tanya Gordon-Davis was the first female president of Temple Israel and led the community with dignity from 2005 to 2008. She herself was an expert in Torah leyning, having been taught by the late Rabbi David Hoffman and Norman Sandler. She went on to teach the bnei mitzvah students and many adults at the shul for over a decade. Her rendition of the 10 commandments every Shavuot was a feature of that chag. She served the Sisterhood, Zionist Federation and the Jewish Board of Deputies and her energy will sorely be missed.

May the memory of these communal leaders inspire us all to share our own gifts with the community.

## A wonderful night (and morning) of davening and study

**In recent years Shavuot has become a signature of all that is wonderful about praying and learning in a Progressive Jewish way, and Shavuot 5779 was no different.**

With a beautiful, musical service starting things off followed by an entertaining and light-hearted discussion with Glynis Breytenbach and Nik Rabinowitz, a fabulous dinner and cheesecake competition,

the panel discussion on favourite Jewish sayings and a Jewish General Knowledge Quiz led by Craig Nudelman, a discussion on Jewish sporting heroes and many other interesting shiurim taking us

through to a magnificent shacharit service, the feeling at the end was that this had been our best Shavuot ever.

Thank you to all who contributed to making it such an excellent night.



The discussion panel



Glynis Breytenbach and Nik Rabinowitz



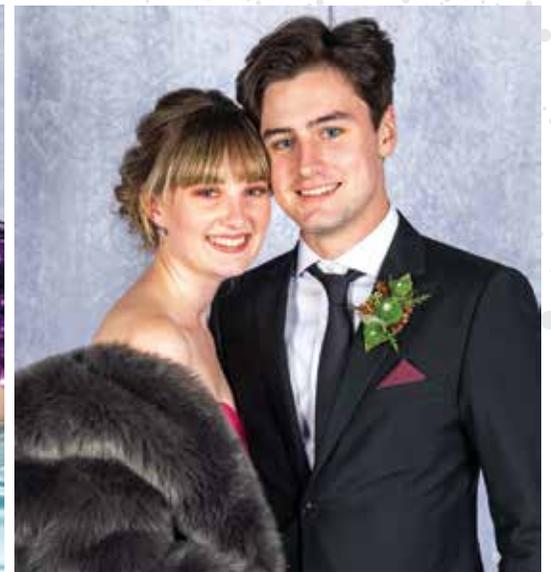
Our cheesecake competition winners, Tim Bourne and Liesl Goldstein

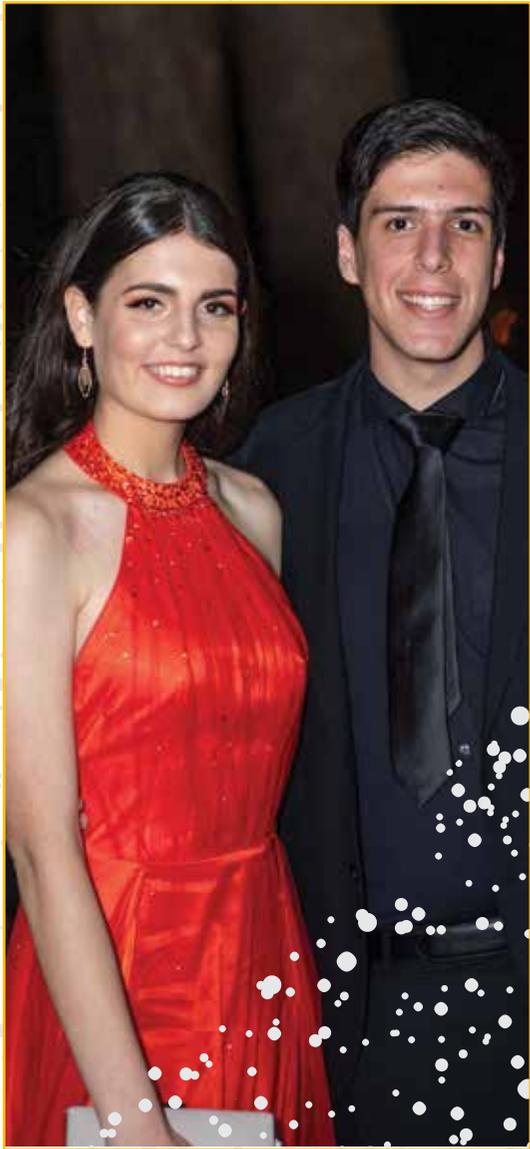


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# Rebecca Sieff AWARDS 2019



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**Date:**

Sunday 15th September 2019

**Time:**

10.00am

**Venue:**

Sephardi Synagogue Hall, Sea Point

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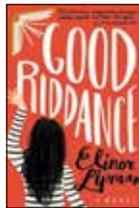




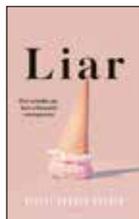
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## FICTION



**GOOD RIDDANCE** by ELINOR LIPMAN. In this smart, witty novel Lipman shows that nothing is private in today's world of social media and podcasts. Daphne Maritch discards her mother's cherished and heavily annotated yearbook from the Pickering High School class of 1968. Her neighbour, a self-proclaimed filmmaker, seizes it to turn into a documentary. When the two attend a reunion, Daphne learns a family secret that will change her life forever.



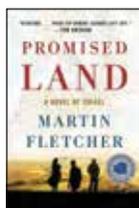
**LIAR** by AYELET GUNDAR GOSHEN. This award-winning novelist explores how far a lie can travel before the truth seeps out. Nofar, a teenage girl is verbally humiliated by an embittered past celebrity in an ice cream parlour. After making false accusations about him, she finds herself the centre of attention in her community as well as the media. The lie that slipped so easily from her tongue traps her in a moral dilemma with devastating consequences.



**THE THINGS WE CANNOT SAY** by KELLY RIMMER. A narrative of survival and heartbreak set both in the present and Poland during the Second World War. Alice experiences difficulties as she has to tend to her seven-year-old autistic son. When her beloved grandmother becomes ill, she faces more challenges when shown a picture from her grandmother Babcia's past. She travels to Poland to search for the secret truth that her grandmother is trying to share.



**KADDISH.COM** by NATHAN ENGLANDER. When Larry, secular son of an Orthodox family, needs to say Kaddish for his father, he hires a stranger through a website to recite this. Thereafter his suppressed grief for his father begins to pour forth. He becomes Shuli moves to Brooklyn and teaches Hebrew Studies. With the help of a computer whiz, he leaves his close-knit family and travels to Israel to find Chemi from the yeshiva and save his father's soul.

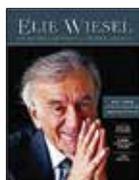


**PROMISED LAND** by MARTIN FLETCHER. Two German Jewish brothers lost their family during the Holocaust. Arie lands up in Auschwitz and Peter is sent to America before the war. They reunite in Israel after the war — Arie became a successful businessman and Peter a top Mossad agent. When both fall in love with Tamara, a beautiful refugee from Cairo, their relationship becomes strained. The brother's intrigues mirror the young nation's struggle to survive.



**PEARL THIEF** by FIONA MCKINTOSH. Severine Kassel is sent by the Louvre to help the British Museum curate antique jewellery. Nobody imagines that under her chic exterior lies a damaged woman. When some Byzantine pearls are loaned to the Museum, her life and identity are compromised. So begins her frenzied hunt with a retired Mossad agent to find the Nazi, Ruda Mayek, who murdered her beloved family and got away with it all, including the pearls.

## HOLOCAUST



**ELIE WIESEL** by NADINE EPSTEIN. This illustrated gem by the editor of Moment magazine brings together interviews with those who knew Wiesel including his son Elisha, Wolf Blitzer, Natan Sharansky, Bernard Henri-Levi and Itzhak Perlman. The foreword is by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and afterword by Ted Koppel. Epstein presents a visual history of this humanitarian, examining the influence of his seminal Night including speeches, writings and photographs.

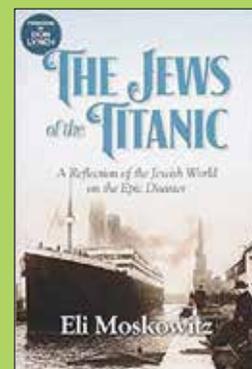


**BY CHANCE ALONE** by MAX EISEN. Tibor 'Max' Eisen was born into a Hungarian Jewish family. In 1944 after the family Seder, his family found themselves on cattle cars bound for Auschwitz-Birkenau. At 15, after surviving the selection process he became a slave labourer. When he receives a severe blow from an SS guard, Polish Doctor Orzeszko saves his life. After liberation, he found a new life in Canada and his memoir offers a message of hope.

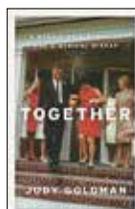
## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### THE JEWS OF THE TITANIC by ELI MOSKOWITZ

This book focuses on the lives and deaths of the Jewish passengers and crew on board the Titanic. Moskowitz provides a unique list of the Jews including those previously unknown. He covers keeping kosher on the voyage and the heroism shown by many on the fateful night especially Isidor and Ida Straus. The book continues after the sinking with issues of burial and Jewish involvement in the recovery of bodies.



## BIOGRAPHY



**TOGETHER** by JUDY GOLDMAN. A moving view of the Goldman's marriage and account of her husband Henry's struggle to gain mobility after a routine procedure left him partially paralysed. This loving tribute to her previously athletic husband is a moving portrait of their life together. They had to assume new roles but for all their unexpected challenges, they made their marriage work. Together is the story of the life we imagine versus the life we lead.



**MY MOTHER'S SPICE CUPBOARD** by ELANA BENJAMIN. A true story of a Sephardic Jewish family's migration from Baghdad to Bombay to Sydney. Elana's parents were born in Bombay and her upbringing was influenced by the food, language and culture of India and Iraq. It is about a community that no longer exists and shows how things have changed in four generations — family versus individuality; choice versus obligation and tradition versus modernity.

## FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS



**INHERITANCE** by DANI SHAPIRO. In 2016, Dani Shapiro whimsically submitted her DNA to a genealogy website for analysis. She received the devastating news that the father who raised her was not her biological father. Through investigative journalism and genetic sleuthing, she comes to terms with the difficult decisions made by her deceased parents. Shapiro enriches the reader with her thoughts on and struggle with her newfound identity and family.



**WHY DON'T YOU WRITE MY EULOGY NOW SO I CAN CORRECT IT?** by PATRICIA MARX & ROS CHAST. This book is a hilarious collaboration between New Yorker writer Patty Marx and cartoonist Roz Chast. The bon mots of Patricia's mother have been collected and accompanied by full colour illustrations. Her mother never hesitates to say what other mothers would not even think and in this book, Patricia provides the truth as her mother sees it!

**DATE:**  
Monday  
19 August 2019

**TIME:**  
5:30 for 6pm

**PLACE:**  
88 Hatfield Street  
Gardens

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Light refreshments served



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**BOOK LAUNCH**



Author Lauren  
Shapiro will be  
in conversation  
with Clinical  
Psychologist  
Linda Lewis

**THROUGH THE WINDOW: HOW I BEAT PND**



# CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTRE

## Guided tours for adults an unprecedented success!



For the first time since its inception, the CTHGC ran guided tours for adults during the school holidays.

With no more than 15 people per group, participants were able to engage in a personal and intimate guided tour through our award winning exhibition.

People from all walks of life participated in the tours; many from outside of the Jewish community, with a genuine interest in developing and enhancing their knowledge of this history. Some of those within the Jewish community who had never been part of a guided tour through our exhibition, commented on how inspired and moved they were to

hear individual stories of victims, of survivors and of rescuers.

Because our guided tours have been so successful, the staff at the CTHGC has unanimously decided to make this a feature of our calendar and we look forward to meeting many more people through this forum.

Here is some feedback from the participants:

*"A very well- and knowledgably-presented tour – a must see and do!"*

*"The world then and the world now still have voices who say no to hate."*

*"I am glad that there is education about such topics and one can reflect and be able to hope."*

*"Thank you so much for today. It was BRILLIANT!"*



**DON'T MISS OUT**

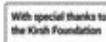
BOOK YOUR TICKETS FOR  
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IN THE  
**CHILDREN OF WILLESDEN LANE**

Tuesday 13 August, 7:30 p.m.

Cape Town City Hall, Darling Street, Cape Town.

Bookings: [www.webtickets.co.za/ctholocaust](http://www.webtickets.co.za/ctholocaust) or Pick 'n Pay stores

Secure parking on the Grand Parade available



**SEVENTY YEARS AFTER WWII, THE 'ACCOUNTANT OF AUSCHWITZ' GOES ON TRIAL AS AN ACCESSORY TO THE MURDER OF 300,000 PEOPLE.**

Join us for a screening of this incredible documentary,

**6PM**

Wednesday 21 August 2019

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre

Running Time: 1hr20min

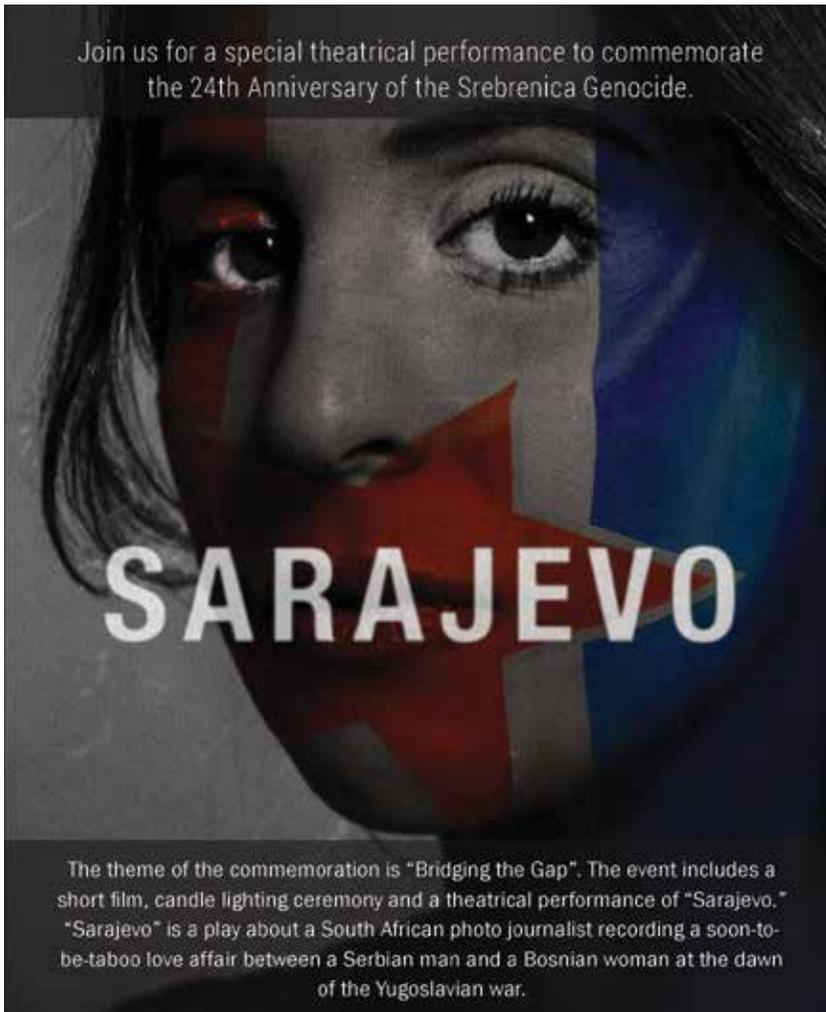
Language : English and German

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Please contact [admin@holocaust.org.za](mailto:admin@holocaust.org.za) or 021 462 5553

Light refreshment will be served.

Suggested Donation R30



Join us for a special theatrical performance to commemorate the 24th Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide.

**SARAJEVO**

The theme of the commemoration is "Bridging the Gap". The event includes a short film, candle lighting ceremony and a theatrical performance of "Sarajevo." "Sarajevo" is a play about a South African photo journalist recording a soon-to-be-taboo love affair between a Serbian man and a Bosnian woman at the dawn of the Yugoslavian war.

Thursday 29 August, 7:00 p.m.

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre

Light refreshments will be served.  
Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or  
[admin@holocaust.org.za](mailto:admin@holocaust.org.za)  
Suggested donation R30.



**REMEMBERING SREBRENICA**



# Choose Limmud

## CAPE TOWN

### Sunday 25th August Programme

#### SESSION 1

How Politics in the West Balkans Influences Jewish Communities of this Region  
**SONJA VILICIC**  
(Jewish Life, Current Affairs)

Banking on housing - a pathway out of poverty  
**ILANA MELZER**  
(Tikkun Olam & Social Justice)

The Three Battles for Israel's Survival: Security, Legitimacy, Identity  
**DANIEL TAUB** (Israel)

Boerejodin: Intersectionality in the Poetry of Olga Kirsch  
**CLAUDIA HARRISON**  
(Arts, Culture & Performance)

Israel & Anti-Semitism: Existential Danger or Historical Anachronism?  
**RODNEY MAZINTER**  
(Jewish Life)

Israel & Israeli Innovation Meets Tikkun Olam  
**AYELET TAUB**  
(Tikkun Olam & Social Justice)

#### SESSION 2

The SA economy – what future does it hold for Jewish South Africans?  
**BRIAN KANTOR**  
(Business & New Trends)

Making Sense of the Auschwitz Site Today  
**JONATHAN WEBBER**  
(History, Holocaust)

The Shape of Torah Past, Present & Future  
**BRETT LOCKSPEISER**  
(Torah, Emunah & Philosophy)

Why Call it Occupation? A Political & Legal Analysis of the West Bank Map  
**JESSICA MONTELL**  
(Israel)

Who counts as a person? Disability after Esidimani  
**LESLIE SCHWARTZ**  
(Tikkun Olam & Social Justice)

PANEL Follow Me: How to Build an Online Following  
Arthur Goldstuck, Dean Horwitz  
Vanessa Rafaely & Glen Stein  
(New Trends & Business)

An Infinity of Hallelujahs: Unlocking the Secret Chords of Leonard Cohen's Masterpiece  
**GUS SILBER**  
(Culture)

Healing Through Writing Your Story  
**LAUREN SHAPIRO**  
(Mind, Body, Soul)

#### SESSION 3

Sarajevo  
**AIMEE NTULI-GOLDSMITH**  
(Arts, Performance & Culture)  
session 3 & session 4

Ritual Playground  
**JESSICA KATE MEYER**  
(Mind, Body, Soul)

Space Odyssey  
**ILAN GADOT**  
(New Trends)

#metoo - What Vashti & Esther Can Teach Us about Responding to Abuses of Power  
**WENDY AMSELLEM**  
(Torah, Emunah & Philosophy)

PANEL The Business of Entertainment  
Glen Biderman, Pam & Danny K, Ari Kruger, Julia Anastopolous  
(Arts, Culture & Performance)

A Data Driven Snapshot of Cape Town's Jews  
**ADAM MENDELSON**  
(Jewish Life)

Breaking Bones, Fracturing Faith  
**MICKIE JACOBS**  
(Mind, Body, Soul)

Jedi Tedi: a Story of Hope & Healing  
**SHANA AND JED KAGAN**  
(Tikkun Olam & Social Justice)

Register now at [quicket.com](http://quicket.com)

Full weekend programme available online soon: [www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)

## SESSION 4

Sarajevo  
AIMEE NTULI-GOLDSMITH  
(Arts, Performance & Culture)  
session 3 & session 4

Salmon Tank  
EITAN STERN, ROY FINE  
(Entrepreneurship)

Yearnings: Embracing the  
Sacred Messiness of Life  
IRWIN KULA  
(Mind, Body, Soul)

PANEL Topic TBC  
Jessica Montell, Calev Ben Dor  
Gloria Greenfield &  
Wayne Sussman

South Africa 2021:  
Pressure & Promise  
DANIEL SILKE  
(Politics and Current Affairs)

Torah Wisdom in 2019  
RABBI BRIAN OPERT  
(Torah, Emunah & Philosophy)

PROJECT BAYIT LAUNCH:  
How you can restore dignity  
through housing!  
GINA FLASH  
(Tikkun Olam)

## SESSION 5

HELEN ZILLE &  
MICHAEL BAGRAIM  
in conversation.

Stories from the Show  
MISHY HARMON  
(Arts, Performance & Culture)

Urban Planning & Environmental  
Protection- Lessons from the  
Jerusalem District  
AVI BEN TZUR  
(Tikken Olam, Israel)

The Heretic's Disciple  
WENDY AMSELLEM  
(Torah, Emunah & Philosophy)

Jews & Anxiety: Is Our People  
More Anxious than Most?  
MARION ROM  
(Mind, Body, Soul) (Workshop)

Co-existence of Jews & Muslims  
in Iran  
ARASH ABAIE  
(Jewish Life)

Agudas Achim - Band of  
Brothers: Rural Jewry in the  
Town of Stellenbosch  
DAVID BENJAMIN GROSS  
(Jewish Life)

Gustav Mahler The Isiah of the  
20th Century  
DENNIS DAVIS  
(History/holocaust/arts & culture)

## SESSION 6

My Journey into Jewish -  
Muslim Dialogue  
HAROON MOGUL  
(Jewish Life)

Trump's Deal of the Century:  
Dead on Arrival or Opportunity  
for Two State Break-Through?  
CALEV BEN DOR  
(Israel)

Remember Baghdad  
EDWIN SHUKER  
(History)

Understanding What Relationship  
Difficulties are About & What  
One Can Do About Them  
RUTH LEVIN-FORSTER  
(Mind, Body, Soul)

"Hack me a Tshaynik"  
ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK  
(Business & New Trends)

My Dear Children  
Judy Favish, Veronica Belling,  
Richard Mendelsohn & Lisa Chait  
(Jewish Life) FILM SCREENING  
75mins & discussion

Pride & Prejudice in Our  
Interpretations of Text  
ELIE HOLZER  
(Torah, Emunah & Philosophy)  
2 hours ends at 16h40

Screening of "The Fight Of Our  
Lives - Defeating The Ideological  
War Against The West"  
Gloria Greenfield (Jewish Life)  
81mins ends at 16h00

## SESSION 7

From the Pianist to the Pulpit  
JESSICA KATE MEYER  
(Jewish Life)

Orthodoxy, Romantic Love &  
Relationships.  
ARI ENGELBERG  
(Jewish Life)

Bacons Law, Barbara Streisand &  
The Blue Oyster Cult  
BENJI BLUMENTHAL  
(Arts, Culture & Performance)

Hands on with Sefaria: Making  
Source Sheets  
BRETT LOCKSPEISER  
(Torah, Emunah & Philosophy)

Israel & Us:  
A Community Dialogue  
IRWIN KULA  
(Israel)

Screening: My Dear Children  
Judy Favish, Veronica Belling,  
Richard Mendelsohn & Lisa Chait  
(Jewish Life)  
75mins & discussion

Pride & Prejudice in Our  
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Screening: "The Fight Of Our  
Lives - Defeating The Ideological  
War Against The West"  
GLORIA GREENFIELD (Jewish Life)  
81mins ends at 16h00

23rd to 25th August 2019

UCT Graduate School of Business  
V & A Waterfront



## War and the Constitution

By Anton Katz

**The United States, Iran, North Korea and Russia are just a sample of countries that raise interesting and difficult issues of inter-state conflict or war.**

Yemen, Syria and DRC raise the spectre of civil war. Israel, and the states surrounding it have not been entirely isolated from serious violence involving war like conditions. Fortunately, South Africa has been relatively immune from the horrors of war over the last 25 years of its constitutional life. Of course, that has not always been the case. Over the past couple of centuries South Africa has had its fair share of war involvement. The Mfecane Wars in the early part of the 19th century through the Anglo Boer war, the involvement in World War II and the international crime of apartheid are mere examples of participation or connection to war.

But, what does the Constitution, the supreme law, say about war. Who has the power to declare war? And in what circumstances would the exercise of the war power be lawful? The Constitution establishes a defence force, which is the only lawful military force in South Africa. In other words, private military institutions or organisations are wholly prohibited.

### The SANDF

The primary object of the defence force is to defend and protect South Africa, its territorial integrity and its people in accordance with the Constitution and international law regulating the use of force. The President is Commander-in-Chief of the defence force, and must appoint the Military Command. Only the President may authorise the employment of the defence force in defence of South Africa or in fulfilment of an international obligation, such as

peace keeping operations in foreign States.

But if the President declares a state of national defence, that is declares war then he must inform Parliament promptly. And he must give appropriate detail of the reason for the declaration, any place where the defence force is being employed and the number of people involved. If Parliament does not approve the President's declaration of war within seven days it lapses. After seven days the war would become unlawful and unconstitutional with the requisite approval.

Although a trigger happy President could cause widespread and massive chaos with huge and necessary loss of life by waging war without timeous oversight, it is appreciated that foreign affairs, and the exercise of war powers usually require split second decision making. Another factor to be considered is the possible interests a particular President may have in the use of force. He may wish to divert the population from his own political failures and/or illegal conduct. Or he may have a financial interest in the war machine. Or he may have personal animosity against those in power in a foreign state. The possible different situations are many and varied. Let's hope the seven day window is enough, and that it never becomes necessary for Parliamentary approval of a Presidential declaration of war.

In twenty five years of democracy the only recorded occasion on which the war power has been utilised was in 1998 when President Mandela and

Deputy President Mbeki were out of the country. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Minister of Home Affairs at the time, was sworn in as the Acting President. The Acting President was informed that Lesotho was on the brink of a violent coup, and that the South African national defence force was needed to prevent 'anarchy' and restore 'a stable environment for law and order.' In the first three days of the intervention 113 people were killed.

This solitary event demonstrates the immense power, and indeed responsibility, the President enjoys. Was South Africa's intervention an attempt to prop up an illegitimate regime or was it a genuine move to protect democracy and the rule of law. Similar considerations have applied in Venezuela recently. The US and Russia have taken different views as to who is the proper and legal ruler is in that South American State.

Two other interesting legal aspects arise in the war setting:

### Arms exports

The National Conventional Arms Control Act establishes a Control Committee to apply and ensure a legitimate, effective and transparent process regarding trade in conventional arms. The Committee has wide ranging powers to approve applications for permits to trade in conventional arms. Each application must be determined on a case-by-case basis; taking the following into account:

Safeguarding the national security interests of the Republic and those of its allies.

Avoiding contributing to internal repression, including the systematic violation or suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Avoiding transfers of conventional arms to governments that systematically violate or suppress human rights and fundamental freedoms and to those that are likely to contribute to the escalation of regional military conflicts, endanger peace by introducing destabilising military capabilities into a region or otherwise contribute to regional instability;

Adhering to international law, norms and practices and the international obligations and commitments of the Republic, including United Nations Security Council arms embargoes;

Taking into account calls for reduced military expenditure in the interests of development and human security;



Avoiding contributing to terrorism and crime;

Taking into consideration the conventional arms control system of the recipient country and its record of compliance with end-user certificate undertakings, and avoid the export of conventional arms to a government that has violated an end-user certificate undertaking;

Taking into account the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence of all sovereign countries in terms of the United Nations Charter;

Avoiding the export of conventional arms that may be used for purposes other than the legitimate defence and security needs of the government of the country of import.

### Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act

This regulates the rendering of foreign military assistance by South African citizens and permanent residents. The Regulation Act has its origin in the unlawful use of mercenaries throughout Africa to destabilise States and assist in coup d'états. But the law goes far wider than mercenaries. It applies to all foreign military assistance. It prohibits South Africans from taking part or assisting in foreign military assistance, which is widely defined, without authorisation from a Control Committee. The only excluded activities are humanitarian or civilian activities aimed at relieving the plight of civilians in an area of armed conflict.

Thus all South Africans intending to take part military activities outside South Africa, whether as part of the armed forces of a foreign state or dissident armed forces or other armed groups are well advised to obtain legal advice, and if necessary to apply for and obtain the necessary authority before the rendering of assistance as set out in the Regulation Act.

There are rumours that the Control Committee has been dysfunctional for some years; but it is not clear whether if the rumours are true whether that would excuse failure to obtain authorisation.

*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*



### LITHUANIAN CITIZENSHIP

Free legal consultations on Lithuanian citizenship issues;  
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## From Thought to Form — dynamic international council held in Jerusalem

### Nestled on the hilltops of Jerusalem stands the extraordinary Israel Museum.

Steeped in history and rich with cultural treasures assembled around their vast indoor and outdoor galleries, it is one of the world's leading encyclopaedic Museums. Weaving stories, narratives and traditions spanning over 5000 years, the Museum has built a far-ranging collection of over 500 000 objects.

Every year during the first week of June, the Museum's international Friends from across the globe meet in Jerusalem for a four-day International Council. This art and cultural experience provides an opportunity for participants to enjoy new exhibitions and events, mingle with Museum curators and professional staff, and connect with others from around the world.

The 2019 Council, titled *From Thought to Form*, focused on the creative process behind the curation and production of the exhibitions — from concept to completion. Over 100 patrons from 12 countries enjoyed a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the inner workings of the Museum through a programme of activities, workshops, lectures and events.

The South African Friends of the Israel Museum (SAFIM) is one of 16 international Friends associations promoting and supporting the programming, exhibitions, publications, and special events that have become the hallmark of the Israel Museum. SAFIM is the sole sponsor of the Museum's Youth Wing Outreach Programme for children of Ethiopian Immigrants. For many of these children, this is their first exposure to various forms of art and craft, and particularly to the Museum.

At this year's Council Marco van Embden, SAFIM Co-chairperson, was a recipient of the prestigious Honorary Fellowship Award given during a ceremony at the council. The award recognised Marco's significant role in founding SAFIM and his on-going commitment to its cause. Participants also delighted in sharing the unveiling of SAFIM's recent acquisition to the Museum's collection, Zanele Muholi's Zibuyile Parktown, which has pride of place in the African Art Gallery. SAFIM's two interns were on-hand to welcome guests and share their knowledge and experiences gained.

Karen Fisher, SAFIM Member and first-time participant, reflects on

her time at the council:

I went with a completely open mind, without pre-conceived ideas or expectations. I can honestly say I was not prepared for the exceptional and profound experience of the last three days.

We were able to choose from a number of curator-led exhibition tours. Highlights included: *Veiled Women of the Holy Land, Through Time and Space: the Diary of Astronaut Ilan Ramon and a Scroll from the Dead Sea, Peter and Pan: from Ancient Greece to Neverland, Maimonides — a legacy in Script, Victory over the Sun, Russian Avant-Garde and Beyond*, and *Julia Rosefeldt's Manifesto*.

We also participated in workshops led by curators, experts and artists. These dynamic presentations represented a broad cross section of the arts in Israel. What they had in common was the way each artist represented some of the core values of the Israel Museum, namely innovation, inclusivity and tolerance. It was inspiring to see how the arts can be used to preserve cultural identity and also to synthesise the old with the new. The artists, all working in different mediums, demonstrated how art can be used as a vehicle for building bridges, bringing people together and instigating positive social change.

This account would be incomplete without mentioning the social components which were great fun and facilitated the forging of new friendships. The various lunches, dinners and receptions were carefully designed so that every gathering was elevated to a multi-sensory experience, which offered equal elements of surprise and delight.

The council culminated in a spectacular final dinner in an illuminated forest grove. Harpists, movement artists and aerialists entertained us under the crescent moon. Personally, what I valued most was the range and high calibre of all the content and the opportunity to meet and get to know people from around the world. This experience seemed to parallel the Council theme *From Thought to Form* — the spark of creativity: new ideas and friendships, and finding the form: the pathways to sustain meaningful engagement with others, the arts and Israel.

*To become a member of SAFIM, participate in unique art events or for more information please contact Sarin Goott: sarin@safim.co.za*



## Be the change

The Holocaust can be a difficult topic to teach and learn about. It can be even harder to assess, especially in a Jewish classroom.

How do we assess young Jews on a subject that is not just horrific, but also tends to be deeply personal? One of the main focuses in the Holocaust module is inspiring students to stand up against even the smallest injustice, so as to make sure such horrific events do not take place again. This can be summed up by the famous quotation by Edmund Burke, 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing'.



Chana van Zyl said Tehillim with Highlands House residents



Sam Gawronsky collected for Tikvah

From this notion, the *Be the Change* project was conceived. In answer to the atrocities of the Holocaust, learners are urged to bring a positive change to society. The project has to be systematically planned, with the entire process documented in a final visual presentation. The learner must also write a paragraph at the end reflecting on the experience. This includes what they have learned, as well as evaluating what worked and what didn't work in their project.

Some examples of the fantastic changes CTTH students have made over the years are: opening a street soup kitchen to feed the homeless, collecting clothing to send to victims of the cyclone in Mozambique, collecting books and toys for underprivileged children, raising money for extra murals for orphans, fundraising to support local charities, spending time with the elderly at Highlands House, and more.

This project teaches compassion, kindness and how small acts can make a difference to the lives of others. The reflections students have made stand testament to this. One student said she had learned that there are always others that have less than us in life. Not only does this mean we should be grateful for what we have, but also that we are in a position to help others however we can. Another reflected that in helping others, we can also grow and improve ourselves. More student feedback was the realisation that it is possible for anybody to make a change, and even the tiniest act of kindness matters. There are also other valuable life skills that are learned through the process: taking initiative, time management, communication, planning, and organisation. It was even said that every school should run this project.



Torah High girls clean up the beach

All in all, *Be the Change* is an invaluable project, encouraging both kindness to others and personal growth. CTTH is excited to see the positive changes its students will bring in years to come.



Sasha Katz collected for Hope Haven



SAJM

South African Jewish Museum

## The story of Krav Maga and its creator

**On 27 June the SAJM opened its latest exhibition; *Imi Lichtenfeld, Krav Maga and its Creator*.**

The exhibition chronicles the life story of Imi Lichtenfeld, the man who developed the 'Israeli martial art' Krav Maga. Lichtenfeld's fascinating life story encompasses the rise of Nazism in his home town of Bratislava, Slovakia, Aliya to Palestine, the development of Krav Maga as a self-defense technique for the IDF. A truly fascinating story, particularly given the global rise in popularity of Krav Maga as a self-defense discipline.

Loren Raize, the new executive director at CSO spoke at the opening to a crowd that included CSO volunteers, SAJM guests and Krav Maga enthusiasts. She talked about the importance of Jewish communities worldwide taking personal responsibility for their safety and security, a philosophy shared by Lichtenfeld, and evident from his life's work.

*Imi Lichtenfeld, Krav Maga and its Creator* will be on exhibition at the SAJM until the end of August 2019.



Top left: Loren Raize, the new executive director at CSO addresses the crowd.

*Imi Lichtenfeld, Krav Maga and its Creator* will be on exhibition at the SAJM until the end of August

### ADVERTORIAL

## Leveraging your family history for European citizenship

By Rose Lerer Cohen PhD

**For the past decade I, together with my Lithuanian partners, have been facilitating Lithuanian Citizenship Reinstatement.**

We have successful applicants in South Africa, Australia, the UK, the US and Israel. As an ex-South African I speak your language, I understand the requirements of the South African applicant, and am familiar with the supporting documents required to augment your application.

Your ancestors who immigrated to improve their future, and thus have gifted you EU citizenship and the opportunity to spread your wings, did not live in a void. They left behind a culture, friends and extended family. As an historian, genealogist and passport facilitator specialising in Lithuania, I want to share the significance of the documents located in the Lithuanian archives. The documents that prove your eligibility, lead to additional documents and all these together unearth a treasure trove of your history. These documents give you the opportunity to learn of your past while serving as leverage for your

European Citizenship.

On February 16, 1918 Lithuania became an Independent country, with Kaunas/Kovno serving as the capital. At the Paris Peace conference in 1919, the Lithuanian Jewish community was granted broad autonomy in internal affairs, including matters of religion, social welfare, education and culture. Their languages Hebrew and Yiddish were publicly recognised, and Jewish primary education was made compulsory and free of charge. Thus, began Golden Age of Lithuanian Jewry with unparalleled development of Jewish religion, thought and culture.

Lithuania remained independent until it was occupied by the Soviet Union in June 1940 following the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. On June 22, 1941 — Operation Barbarossa — the German army invaded the Soviet Union, setting in motion the Holocaust in Lithuania. Ninety-four percent of the Jewish population of Lithuania was decimated, including many relatives of the immigrants to South Africa.

If your ancestor immigrated to South Africa during the years of Lithuanian

Independence between 1918-1940, you may be eligible for Lithuanian Citizenship. South African's are generally granted Lithuanian Citizenship in the simplified manner; by descent. You can go back three generations. Therefore, if you have a great-grandparent who held Lithuanian citizenship, you should be able to qualify to become Lithuanian Citizen yourself. You will have to prove the family connection through an unbroken chain of documentation all the way up the family tree until you reach your ancestor with Lithuanian ties. Citizenship is not granted if your ancestor lost or forfeited his or her Lithuanian Citizenship for any reason.

Following my first conversation with a potential client, they complete an eligibility questionnaire. This enables me to gain an understanding of the ancestry and the framework for assessing eligibility. As a genealogist and family researcher and citizenship facilitator, I review this questionnaire in a different light, not only as a tool to prove eligibility but also as the basis of a family tree and the means to glean additional information.

A marriage document may reveal a

maiden name that was unknown or the names of grandparents and great grandparents. Birth documents may reveal names of siblings that were born after your ancestor immigrated. Death documents often state the reason for death. Information of this kind is vital when seeking information for hereditary diseases. School reports, documents of membership of youth movements, of political affiliation, of religious affiliation and conversion documents sometimes come to light. Holocaust information may reveal the fate of family members.

Your quest for EU citizenship is of prime importance and proving eligibility is the main aim of archival research but there is a bonus, you can learn about ancestors that remained behind.

*I will be pleased to assist you with your application for Lithuanian Citizenship. Please contact me at rlerercohen@gmail.com. Your free consultation will include assessing your eligibility, reviewing your documents, discussing supporting documents and answering questions. View my website [www.kin-search.com](http://www.kin-search.com)*

# Perpetuating the memory of the Jews of Birzh

By Veronica Belling

**On 16 June, the 2400 Jews of Birzai who were murdered in August 1941 during the massacre at Astravas in the Pakamponys Forest four kilometres outside the town, were honoured with a new memorial bearing the names of 525 of the victims.**

This memorial had an incredibly long gestation period of four and a half years during which it had to overcome several seemingly insurmountable obstacles along the way. The memorial owes its creation to Cape Town businessman, Benny Rabinowitz, who wanted to do something for his ancestral town of Birzh the home of his father, Faivl

or Philip Rabinowitz. His idea was taken up by Glenda and Abel Levitt, former South Africans living in Kfar Saba, who received the Lithuanian Medal of Diplomacy on its behalf that was featured in last month's Chronicle. Their efforts would never have succeeded without the cooperation of their Lithuanian partners, Merunas Jukonis and his father Vidmantas, and the support of the Israeli ambassador to Lithuania, Amir Maimon.

A party of fifty descendants of the town accompanied Benny and Glenda and Abel to take part in the unveiling of the memorial. The largest component of the group were former Capetonians living in Israel, a slightly smaller number (including non-South Africans) came from the United States with six from Cape Town, two from the UK and three from France. The designer of the monument was Dr Joe Rabie, a former Capetonian, living in Paris with his family. The unveiling was preceded by a tree planting ceremony in the town to honour the



*The unveiling of the monument at Pakamponys Forest*

righteous gentiles who had sheltered Jews, after which the crowd walked the same four kilometres to the forest that the Jews had taken on the way to their deaths.

What was unique about this tour was the interaction with local inhabitants of the town that preceded the unveiling. The first was hosted by the Birzai Museum located in the old Castle, where in the morning five members of the group spoke to five different groups of high school students.

In the afternoon a conference was held where two young Lithuanian doctoral candidates from the University of Vilnius, spoke about the history of the Jews of Lithuania between the two World Wars and on Jewish death records, respectively, together with presentations from the group by Yael Laraby from Israel who spoke about Jewish traditions and customs and my own presentation on our Litvak heritage. All the presentations were in English. The following day the group visited the Saules Gimnasija where the principal, Dainius Korsakas, teachers and students presented a history of the school including their research into the students of the school who were murdered during the Holocaust. So far fifty of some two hundred have been identified. They also introduced their Tolerance Education

Centre, one of about 135 that exist in Lithuania today, where their latest project is 'Our Neighbour Jew.' After the presentation eleven members of the group went to speak to senior students in different classrooms.

Also inspiring was meeting local Lithuanian Jews, such as Assia Gutterman from Kaunas (Kovno) and Shmuel Kerbelis from Siauliai (Shavli), the children of Holocaust survivors who have never left Lithuania, and who besides their Lithuanian home tongue, speak an authentic Litvish Yiddish!



*The ceremony*



*Memorial walkway with names of victims inscribed*



*The group entering the Birzu Saules Gimnasija*

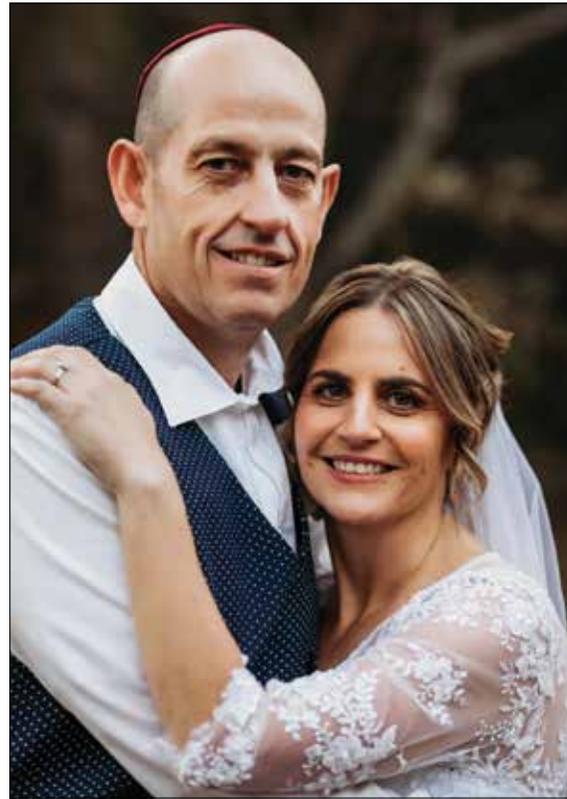


*Benny Rabinowitz next to the marble stone listing the donors*



*The crowd following the path to the forest of the Jewish victims*

# SIMCHA SNAPS



Amanda Solomon to George Mac Pherson  
Photo: Coba Photography

Jacqui Boyd to David Shevil  
Photo: Lynn Shapiro Photography

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# SIMCHA SNAPS



Shira Tollman to Gavin Symons Photo: Sammy Lee Japan of Little Black Box



85-year-old Jack Susman and 77-year-old Shira Susman (neé Naude), married at Highlands House. This is the second-ever wedding to take place at Highlands House, the first having taken place 25 years ago.



Claire Sweiden to Matthew Donen Photo: John Armstrong

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# The European Elections, the rise of the Far Right and effect on minorities in Europe

By Bonnie Berkowitz

**On 26 May 2019, Felix Klein, the German government's Commissioner on Anti-Semitism suggested that Jews should not always wear the traditional Kippah cap in public, due to the increase in anti-Jewish attacks by far-right extremists.**

The Israeli President Reuven Rivlin expressed his "shock" at Klein's remarks, accusing the "German government of bowing to those targeting Jews". This marks a dangerous departure for the escalating phenomenon of antisemitism, with the first official statement targeting Jewish appearance and using physical identification, which is reminiscent of the targeting of Jews, with the Yellow Star of David, prior to and during the Holocaust. Consequently, we have to interrogate if this targeting is isolated to Jews and question whether the rise of far-right extremism being taken seriously.

On 22 July 2011, the far-right extremist, Anders Breivik, killed 77 young people on the Island of Utoya in Norway, where a multicultural youth camp was being convened. Europeans were 'surprised' at what had happened, and initially attempts were made to prosecute Breivik as an 'insane' man undertaking a 'once-off' massacre. However, on appeal Breivik was deemed sane and convicted. In his own defence, Breivik spoke of belonging to a collective "we" when referring to his links with other far-right groups, like the English Defence League.

Breivik stated that his acts were a declaration of war against "multiculturalism" and the protection of European "culture". On 27 July 2011, the BBC reported that the Italian Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Francesco Speroni, of the right wing Lega Nord, said that: "Breivik's ideas are in defence of western civilisation." Europe was already changing and incidences like these were not being taken seriously enough. Similarly, sentiments and acts of anti-Semitism were increasing, fuelled by extremists. The mainstream downplayed this phenomenon and believed that the institutions of liberal democracy would contain the spread of far-right extremism.

Continental Europe was dealing with the violence of radical Islamic extremist groups like, ISIS/ISIL, which distracted decisions-makers, Interpol, security agencies, and observers from the expansion of the far right in Europe. In addition, the 2008/9 economic crisis damaged the economies of many European countries.

Meanwhile, an influx of economic immigrants traversed from the Eastern Europe to Western Europe. Refugees facing the devastation of war, like Jewish refugees in the Second World War, came from the Middle East, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Africa.

Cas Mudde, of the Centre for the Radical Right (CARR), suggests that "the far right's "mythological" Aryan Europe was now being fragmented by the influx of these refugees who created a multi-cultural society and who took jobs away from "real Europeans". Mudde notes that those "other" rather than "real Europeans" were being identified, thus as a result, the far right and far right populist culture started to slowly seep into everyday politics, growing steadily over the years, some of which has been disguised by being "euro-sceptics" and "nationalist politics". In Hannah Arendt's important book, *Banality of Evil*, she warns of how easily evil can become normalised in ordinary society.

**...an influx of economic immigrants traversed from the Eastern Europe to Western Europe. Refugees facing the devastation of war, like Jewish refugees in the Second World War, came from the Middle East, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Africa.**

Following the last EU Parliamentary elections, held from 26 to 28 May 2019, the general sentiment was that far-right and Eurosceptic parties had not gained that much, however this was contradicted by the analysis.

The EU Parliamentary elections were a mixed bag for far-right parties, with some gaining and other losing votes. The largest percentage increases were in Italy, with a 33% of the total vote for the Far Rights, followed by Sweden (15%), Finland (13%), Slovakia (12%), Belgium (11%), Germany (10%) and Spain (6%), according to the European Parliament.

However, a number of countries also saw a decrease or a retention of their previous percentage of the overall votes for the far-right parties including: France with a 23%, Austria (17%), and Denmark (10%). Consequently, it is important

to acknowledge that while the trend towards an increase in votes for far-right parties might show a variation among individual nation-states, the net effect across Europe amounts to a significant increase of the far-right's political representation within the European Union's Parliament.

On 8 April 2019, the leader of the Italian Lega Nord, Salvini, declared the launch of a new right-wing populist alliance to be known as the European Alliance for Peoples and Nations (EAPN), and composed of 10 parties from a cross-section of nations, whose objectives are to push-back against immigration and multiculturalism, ideas espoused by Breivik in 2011. The coalescing of this far-right formation, would make it the fourth largest political formation in the EU Parliament. The EAPN may not yet be in a position to alter the decision-making power, but it demonstrates the increasing and significant shift towards far-right populism among 'ordinary' European voters. While democracy should always be considered a moral good, when it unleashes the forces of intolerance and promotes policies that go against the central

principles of fairness and inclusivity, then it is time for citizens to wake up and question who, and what they are voting for!

Far-right political ideology gives license to those who are prepared to commit acts of aggression and violence against innocent people wearing Kippot, or those who have brown skin. Concretely, we all need to contribute to raising awareness, before it becomes too late - whether it is in the work-place, places of worship, schools, universities and in our communities. We also need to conduct research and training, to equip ourselves with knowledge of the origin and effects of the forces of intolerance on the lives of innocent people.

As citizens of the world, we need to stand up and be counted, and recognise the warnings from history. As the eminent philosopher, George Santayana warned us, "those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it."

*Bonnie Berkowitz is an Independent Researcher and a former Lecturer at the University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa*

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## Celebrating diversity in our community

By Craig Nudelman



**At the end of the second term, two colleagues and I accompanied 24 pupils on an excursion to Gauteng on a history tour. It was fantastic!**

We went to Maropeng and the Cradle of Humankind; to the Hector Pieterse Museum and Mandela House (the day after Youth Day, which was especially poignant); to Pretoria, seeing the juxtaposition of the Voortrekker Monument and Freedom Park (a road links the two, although it isn't very well-known); Liliesleaf Farm (where the Rivonia Trialists were captured) and the Apartheid Museum; and finally Constitutional Hill. I think the kids were museumed out by the end of it, but it was well worth it. Taking in everything we saw, from the beginning of our history to our current times, I realised that although we humans come from common ancestors, we do not acknowledge this. We tend to focus on our individual and collective identities, not our original origins. We see 'us' and 'the other', and that was

very evident throughout the tour.

The educational value of the tour was not lost on our pupils. They could see the intricacies of our past and our future, and the questions that they posed were of such a higher order, showing that Herzlia really does imbue in many of their pupils excellent critical thinking skills. However, I feel that the 'differences' they were taught about at our various stops may have further entrenched the idea of the distance between them and 'the other'. It's useful to remember that difference is not always a negative concept though, as it leads to debate, discussion and openness. One place where this occurs in our own community is Limmud.

As some of you might know, I was actively engaged in Limmud for many years, co-chairing the Conference in Cape Town in 2014 and 2015. I was also co-chair of programming in Jo'burg in 2012 and in Cape Town in 2013. It was a rollercoaster ride of emotions, but through it all it was an

incredible experience, working with people who, although I may have had differences of opinions on nearly everything, worked together for the common good of the community. Limmud really takes you one step further on your Jewish journey, wherever you may be. But Limmud is not without its controversies.

Since its inception in South Africa 13 years ago, Limmud has had a tenuous relationship with the Orthodox Rabbinate. Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein and the Rabbinic Association of South Africa have boycotted the conference, on many different grounds. However, recently the Beth Din once again publicly stated that attendance at Limmud by rabbis and rebbetzins will continue to be prohibited. According to the Beth Din's statement, reported on 20 June 2019 in the South African Jewish Report, they cannot endorse attendance at Limmud due to the fact that it promotes values which are contrary to "the Torah's philosophy and principles". They further stated that "these core beliefs are not a prerequisite for educators (at Limmud), nor is it a prerequisite for content that is delivered at the conference". However, what are these core beliefs and how have they come to the conclusion that Limmud does not follow them?

These core values of Limmud are as follows: learning; expanding Jewish horizons; enabling connections; participation; empowerment; diversity; community and mutual responsibility; respect; arguments for the sake of heaven; and religious observance. These values are ones which we hold dear as Jews — we believe in diversity as a nation; we acknowledge the importance of arguments; and we always seek out respect for all.

The week following the publication of the Beth Din's statement, the South African Jewish Report was inundated with letters in support of Limmud, as well as from past presenters who are leaders in their communities. Rabbis Samuel Lebens and Nathan Lopes Cardozo, both Orthodox rabbis from overseas who have presented at Limmud South Africa, objected to the Beth Din's prohibition. Rabbi Cardozo challenged the rabbinate to be courageous and not be seen as 'afraid' of other religious

denominations. Rabbi Lebens stated that to disengage with Limmud is to allow members of the community to fall through the cracks and discourage that platform from which people can 'argue for the sake of heaven'.

In the Ethics of our Fathers, we learn that one cannot judge another before understanding exactly what one is judging:

Hillel said: Do not separate yourself from the community; and do not trust in yourself until the day of your death. Do not judge your fellow until you are in his place. Do not say something that cannot be understood (now) but will be understood in the end. Say not: "When I have time, I will study", because you may never have the time (Pirkei Avot 3:5).

The Dayanim who have cast their judgement against Limmud have separated themselves from the community. We are a community which is multifaceted; a community who should celebrate difference. They have judged Limmud according to a one-off meeting with the leadership, instead of attending the Conference to fully understand the complexities. As for their argument, they have not fully explained how they came to that conclusion. It is imperative that they be there, even if this means witnessing the values which may be contrary to the Torah and its principles.

We see 'the other' all the time. We are a diverse community and should celebrate our otherness. We should accept that we are different, and our views may not always be in synch. This value is critical to pass down to the generations to come. If we can't accept each other's differences, we are creating an intolerant and narrow-minded community. I do not want my daughters to grow up in a community that is heterogenous in its views, where opinions are shut down because they do not conform to some grand narrative. So, to the rabbis who may read this, go to Limmud and do not separate yourself from the community. May we see a strong and robust South African Jewry in the very near future.

*Craig is a teacher, father and Jewish observer*

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## Gary Sandler completes fourth Comrades Marathon

By Jaime Uranovsky



Malcolm Freedman, Rael Salkinder, Craig Price and Gary Sandler

**This year's Comrades Marathon was held on 9 June. One of 2019's participants was Gary Sandler. This was his fourth time completing the ultramarathon, which he has been running since 2016.**

Gary estimates that fewer than twenty runners from the Cape Town Jewish community run the Comrades. He notes, "I run with at least three guys regularly, Jewish guys: Craig Price, Malcolm Freedman and Rael Salkinder... We trained together and we ran the Comrades together... We kind of split up according to our ability towards the end of the race but we all started together as a group and we trained together all the time. So, there's a big social element to it as well."



Malcolm Freedman, Gary Sandler, Rael Salkinder and Craig Price

Gary began long-distance running in 2013: "Once I overcame my first challenge of completing a marathon... the bug had bitten and I realised that if I could do [the Cape Town Marathon], then I could do the Two Oceans. If I could do Two Oceans, I could do Comrades. So, it gained momentum from that point — from ticking off that first bucket-list item which was [completing] a marathon."

Today, the Comrades Marathon is Gary's favourite race: "It's the ultimate experience for a long distance road runner... Every year the Comrades is different. One year is an up-run and the next year it's a down-run. So, this year was an up-run from Durban to Pietermaritzburg, which, in some people's opinion, is significantly harder than the down-run. Just in terms of the sheer up-hills you have to navigate

from the start of the race all the way through to about 60kms; it's pretty much uphill the whole way. So, the highlight for me isn't really a highlight in that I was looking forward to it, but it was the challenge of the up-run. The last time I did the up-run I really struggled, and I came in very close to the end, so I was quite nervous about it but that was pretty much the highlight: the challenge of the up-run; to try to improve on my effort from the last time, which was about a 45-minute improvement. I was quite happy with that."

For Gary, running provides both physical and mental benefits. "It's about keeping fit and healthy but it's also a good way to energise your mind. To reinvigorate the spirit and just detox — to keep your mind clear... But

also, the pains and the niggles that you get from running and the injuries that linger even after a hard run in the morning... it's pain that I don't see as negative. It's almost a reminder of the effort you put in to get yourself in the best space physically and mentally to continue on."

For those considering running the Comrades, Gary says, "It's possible if you put your mind to it... It sounds cheesy but 90kms is something you can work towards and most of it is mental... You get what you deserve when you put the training in but most of the race is mental and anyone can do it. I started doing park runs in 2013 and I built up from there, not expecting I'd ever do it. It's possible if you put your mind to it and you've got that goal to motivate you."

## Herzlia's Motocross Champion represents SA

By Ilan Herrmann

**I sat riveted as I watched Ethan Williamson scream around the bend, balancing his bike at an acute angle, then straightening and accelerating hard on the thick soil surface, after which he approaches the hill and lifts into the air before hitting the dirt gravel and racing through to the finish line.**

It's not often you see an eight-year-old displaying an array of qualities such as control, stealth, mental focus, and determination with such natural finesse but Ethan does and it's for this reason that he is currently well at the top of the leader board of the SA Motocross Championship Series.

Ethan, a Grade 3 pupil at Herzlia Constantia Cape Town began Motocross at age five after watching the sport on television and persistently asking his parents to get him a bike and get involved in the sport. His talent immediately emerged as he came 3rd in the very first race he competed in. This, while racing against older kids aged seven and eight.

Ethan trained hard, fine-tuning his skill through many hours of riding and attended regular races. Dividends paid off and he has already ignited the 2019 Championship with multiple wins and has a 15-point lead at the top of the standing board as at the time of writing.

The lead has qualified him along with three other riders to represent South Africa at the FIM Africa Championship on 31 August in Zimbabwe where he will compete against Africa's best. He is the youngest qualifier.

Ethan's sterling run so far this season in the SA's has been consistent and impressive. Results from the different regions: Western Cape — won two races and came 2nd in the third race. Port Elizabeth — won both heats. Bloemfontein 2nd in race 1 and won race 2. Johannesburg - 2nd overall.

Ethan is encouraged in the pursuit of his passion by his parents and siblings who travel with him to his races. Ethan's dad and mom, Warren and Cali, ensure it's a progression that is coming from Ethan. "We make it clear that it is his choice and it is not something we put any pressure on him to do. We will support him in whichever direction he chooses to take,"



explains Warren.

"Herzlia have been unbelievable!" says Warren. "At assemblies Ethan is presented with the medals and trophies he's won. When he is forced to miss school days due to race events, the school helps in every way to ensure he doesn't fall behind and he has been given a lot of positive attention and encouragement by pupils, staff and teachers."

The sport is quite expensive as you ideally need two bikes in case one falters and travelling expenses for families can be costly. Cali however explains that it has been an investment in that the sport and its outings with its family trips have been great bonding experiences for the family for which she is grateful

Ethan has many passions. He loves Soccer, Mathematics, Drumming, Choir, and Cricket, but Motocross trumps them all at this point. His coach says he has the makings of a great rider, particularly because of his mental toughness. He has an uncanny ability to rally from a disappointment and turn it around.

Although it is a while away, Ethan's eventual aim is to reach the FIM Junior Motocross World Champs in 2022 where he would compete against the World's best.

Ethan was recently interviewed by Good Hope FM. His parents express how proud they are of his character and the person he is being a humble gentle and well-rounded person. In an interview with FIM Africa, Ethan described the two rules the family holds by when it comes to racing: Rule 1. Win or lose we always have FUN. Rule 2. We win or we learn.



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