

★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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Channukah edition



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Cape Board on immigration debate



Prof. Brian Kantor, Chris Whelan, Cape Board Chair Gary Eisenberg, Dr Mamphela Ramphele and Rapaleng Rabana. Absent from photo: Minister of Home Affairs Naledi Pandor

The Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies hosted an important debate on immigration policy for the community and general public as part of its 'Transformation Conversation' series. The panel of speakers hosted key players in this discussion including Minister of Home Affairs Naledi Pandor.

[See more on page 10](#)

The Shabbos Project shines bright!



The Shabbos Project was a resounding success in Cape Town. It came to an uplifting conclusion with a communal Havdallah and Kiddush Levanah ceremony under the stars, led by Israeli music sensation Yonatan Razel and South Africa's very own Choni G. Hundreds participated in the festivities.

[See more on pages 28 and 29](#)

Prestigious awards



Helene Joffe with Consul of France Mr Xavier d'Argoeuves



Estelle Yach with her son Jonathan Yach.

Two community members recently received prestigious awards. Mrs Helene Joffe was awarded the Knight of the French National Order of Merit by French Ambassador Mrs Elizabeth Barbier; and Mrs Estelle Yach received an Honorary Fellowship Award from the Hebrew University, conferred by Hebrew University Vice President Prof. Ronnie Friedman.

[See more on pages 6 and 20](#)

Cape Jewish Chronicle prize



Tamsin Kantor, Mrs Sarah Morris, Joshua Stein and Aviva Lerer

The Cape Jewish Chronicle 25th Anniversary Cup was awarded to Tamsin Kantor, Joshua Stein and Aviva Lerer at the Herzlia Matric Valediction 2013.

It is awarded to pupils who have displayed outstanding skills in journalism.

The CJC was honoured that Mrs Sarah Morris handed out the prize, as she has worked with the Chronicle for 18 years in coordinating the Herzlia pages, and is retiring at the end of 2013.

[See more on page 40](#)

Coexistence delegation: Peace is possible



The Coexistence delegation from Israel with Nilly Baruch (Chair of P2G) and the St Cyprian's and Langa teams after a soccer game.

The Israel Centre and Partnership2Gether, in conjunction with The Peres Peace Centre, brought a delegation to South Africa in October, which included both Jewish and Arab Israelis. They played soccer games and interacted with girls from St Cyprian's and Langa; participated in a Yom Rabin ceremony and visited schools — all demonstrating that peace is possible.

[See more on page 13](#)

A concert for the community



Chabad of the West Coast hosted music superstars Yonatan Razel and Danny K who performed at an incredible concert.

[See more on page 17](#)

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See pages 26 and 27

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4 Dec Julian Kinderlerer — 'Is an ethical analysis necessary as we introduce new science and technologies into our lives?'

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TaliVision

A light unto the nations

Welcome to this very special Channukah 5774 edition of the Cape Jewish Chronicle.

We have come to the end of another secular year, and as I look back on all that has been featured on the pages of the Chronicle in 2013, I feel proud to be part of such a dynamic, energised community; shining brightly in all that it has achieved.

Indeed, Channukah is all about the opposite of darkness, and for me, this always comes back to an essential part of Judaism — being a 'light unto the nations'. That phrase embodies so much — not only being an example and beacon to others, but also reaching these aspirations within our own community. Like the Channukah flickering in the window, the light must shine both outwards and inwards.

The Cape Jewish Chronicle is a place to celebrate that 'light', as we bask in the joy of achievements and successes; and also bring our challenges out into the open, so that we can confront them without fear; and with integrity and purpose.

This issue of the Chronicle brings so much of this to the fore. One example is the article by newly-elected Cape Board member Beverley May on page 4, where she weighs in on the discussion around Limmud in the UK. "It is not part of our culture to avoid debate or to stay away from ideological positions with which we disagree," she writes.

Other events highlighted in this issue include a report on the Shabbas Project, which shone as brightly as the Shabbat candles, demonstrating how the South African Jewish community is an example

to others around the world of what can be achieved if we unite around an incredible idea. Read more on pages 1, 28 and 29.

Another example of a 'leading light' both in South Africa and internationally is the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF), which is garnering international attention for its model of Holocaust education that may be adapted for other countries. Read our special report about this on page 42.

We also cast light onto our past, introducing a new series that will run in the Chronicle for the next few months, entitled 'There was once a home' (pg. 47). Each month, Veronica Belling will share photographs and information about the places she visited on a trip to Lithuania.

You can also read about how the Israeli Embassy will be offering its consular services in Cape Town in February next year — see pages 26 and 27.

On behalf of the Cape Jewish Chronicle Chairman, Editorial Board and staff, I would like to wish you a Chag Sameach! As we gather around the Channukah candles, may we all be inspired to play our part in being a 'light unto the nations.'

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Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting	Ends
6 Dec/3 Tevet	Vayiggash	6.17	8.26
13 Dec/10 Tevet	Veychi	6.22	8.31
20 Dec/17 Tevet	Shemot	6.26	8.35
27 Dec/24 Tevet	Vaera	6.29	8.38
3 Jan/2 Shevat	Bo	6.32	8.40
10 Jan/9 Shevat	Beshalach Shira	6.32	8.39
17 Jan/16 Shevat	Yitro	6.32	8.37
24 Jan/23 Shevat	Mishpatim	6.30	8.33
31 Jan/30 Shevat	Terumah	6.27	8.28

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



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Who owns 'Brand Jewish'?

By Beverley May



South African-born new Chief Rabbi of the UK, Rabbi Ephraim Mervin, recently announced that he would attend the next Limmud Conference in that country, breaking tradition with his predecessor and many Orthodox rabbis in the UK and around the world, including South Africa.

In response to his announcement, seven Orthodox rabbis published a letter condemning this move. This in turn led to British community leaders and Rabbi Dr. Nathan Lopes Cardozo reproaching the seven rabbis.

This debate is extremely relevant to Jewish communities around the world, and I would like to use the opportunity presented by the London Limmud incident to draw attention to the way that our community uses words.

The statement issued by the group of rabbis opposing the Chief Rabbi's Limmud attendance included the following sentence: "Participating in their conferences, events and educational endeavours blurs the distinction between authentic Judaism and pseudo-Judaism and would bring about tragic consequences for Anglo-Jewry."

In an article written by Dr Chaya Herman on the South African Jewish community (2006), she writes that "the perceived unity of the community has been maintained by advancing exclusion and seclusion" and that "the Jewish community's highest value has been its unity and conformity, which resulted in intolerant behaviour towards those with different or liberal ideas." This recent incident in the UK is an example of this. In my opinion, it would have been more accurate for the statement quoted above to say, "blurs the distinction between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Judaism".

The term 'pseudo-Judaism' is puzzling. Does this signal a move from current nomenclature; Orthodox Jew to Authentic Jew and Non-Orthodox to Pseudo-Jew? If a person does not subscribe to the interpretation of a particular stream of Judaism, are they a Pseudo-Jew? And, is this new appellation worse than the current approach, which is to label someone in this position as a non-Jew?

Is being a Pseudo-Jew the same as being half-pregnant? If you are a 'false' (pseudo) Jew, then it must follow that you are not a Jew. And, in addition, since you are feigning your Jewishness, deception is also encapsulated by this description.

So who owns 'brand Jewish' and which stream of Judaism can lay sole claim to authentic Judaism, and who can say with authority who is Jewish and who is not?

The Orthodox definition of a Jew is one who is born from a Jewish mother (as defined in the Shulchan Aruch) or one who has converted to Judaism according to the guidelines set out in the Shulchan Aruch. So with respect to the Orthodox definition, it is not belief or agreement that defines Jewishness but rather legality.

The Progressive definition of Jewishness is different, and if this discussion is extended into the subsets of these broad streams then even more views about what defines Judaism would be apparent eg. Egalitarian Orthodoxy, Conservative Judaism, Reconstructionist Judaism etc.

In the case of a Progressive Jew, for example, it would be entirely correct to say that person is not an Orthodox Jew.

It would not, however, be correct to say that they are not Jewish.

A dynamic tradition

Attempts at ownership of our 'brand' by virtue of being close to the source of 'original' Judaism is problematic, as the vast span of time lays waste to a contention of this kind. All streams of Judaism have proved to be dynamic, adaptable movements that have changed over time; Rav Eitan Bendavid wrote an article in the Cape Jewish Chronicle (Nov 2011) in which he reminds us, with reference to Orthodoxy, that "Judaism has always been a dynamic tradition that responds to and addresses the changing realities of the world. It is anything but static."

Antisemitism has never made the discriminations between Jewish streams; in Nazi Europe it did not matter if you were Orthodox, Reform or converted.

The mention of 'pluralism' in the UK Limmud incident is also worth noting. In the letter from the group of rabbis, one of the reasons for dissuading participation in Limmud UK, includes the assertion that it "espouses the ethos of pluralism... The upshot of this is no one is deemed to be wrong." I think that the word 'pluralism' in our South African context is sometimes used as a 'euphemism' for non-Orthodox Judaism. So instead of using the word Progressive, Reform or Egalitarian, for example, the word 'pluralism' is inserted and perhaps taken to mean non-Orthodox or even pseudo-Judaism?

Pluralism and non-Orthodox streams of Judaism are not the same thing. Progressive Judaism, for example, does not espouse 'anything goes'. It is incorrect to say that it does and this kind of rhetoric results from a lack of knowledge. This, of course, is pertinent to the debate about Limmud attendance.

In fact, pluralism, defined as accommodating a whole range of opinions or choices, is empirically evident in all streams. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews make choices about the extent of their observance, Kashrut adherence or the degree of Shomrei Shabbat, for example.

In addition to thinking about labels, let's also be open to learning without fear. We should be certain of our beliefs without the need for protection. Our views can only be made stronger by holding them up for debate or placing them next to other perspectives to test their veracity.

My experience of Limmud SA is that diversity is respected, and that's not the same as saying 'anything goes'. Rather, it's saying that we have the ability to think for ourselves and measure our experiences against religious or cultural teachings. It is not part of our culture to avoid debate or to stay away from ideological positions with which we disagree. Since when do Jews need to have their intellectual environment sanitised and since when do we need to be protected from ideas different from our own?

If we use our words correctly to define who is Jewish, we can seek to unite rather than divide our community, and by attending Limmud we can learn about what makes all of us authentically Jewish.

Beverley May is a newly-elected member of the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies

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NEWS

Memories of Muizenberg going 'Down Under'

The *Memories of Muizenberg* exhibition was exhibited in Melbourne in November, and will be travelling to Sydney and Perth in 2014.

"In its heyday, something like 20 000 visitors migrated annually to the hotels and boarding houses of this seaside resort," wrote Sorrel Kerbel in *Jewish Renaissance* magazine. "In the 1930s — 1950s more than half of the local population of Muizenberg was Jewish — like the population of many shtetlach in Lithuania whence their forebearers had mostly come.

"The exhibition was a wonderful remembrance of times past," he wrote. "I left with a profound sense of nostalgia for the legacy of those hard-working emigrants from all over Europe who found a safe haven in a foreign land and paved the way for generations."



The Weinreich, Trapler and Goldberg families with the Gronitzki grandparents.

Memories of Muizenberg will be displayed at the B'nai B'rith Centre and North Kehillat Masada in Sydney and the Chabad Centre in Perth.

Helene Joffe honoured with prestigious award

French Holocaust survivor Helene Joffe was awarded the Knight of the French National Order of Merit by Elizabeth Barbier (Ambassador of France to South Africa) on 29 October.



Helene Joffe with Mrs Elizabeth Barbier, Ambassador of France to South Africa.

Helene Joffe was born in Marseilles, France in 1934. She was still a child when the Nazis invaded and she went into hiding. She came to South Africa in 1954.

Helene received the award in recognition of her experience during the Holocaust in France; her contribution to French culture through her many years of teaching French both at Herzlia and the German School of Cape Town and also her volunteer work at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre for many years. She has spoken to numerous groups about her experiences, including at the Yom Hashoah commemorations. Helene dedicated the award in memory of her brother, who fought valiantly in the French resistance.

"Your life is not only exceptional: you are the vivid testimony of

our past. That is why you have spent so many years speaking on behalf of those who suffered racial discrimination. Thanks to people like you, we have to make sure that the darkest pages of our history are not forgotten," said the ambassador in presenting the award.

"We honour you not only a survivor, but also as a person who has made it a duty to testify and to show that forgiveness is essential. We also want to thank you for the role you have played in the promotion of the French language and for your contribution to the friendship between France and South Africa," said the ambassador.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Mother and daughter should be able to enjoy batmitzvah moment together in Orthodox shuls

It is always extra-pleasant to be in shul on a Shabbat when there is a batmitzvah taking place. The father and son share special moments together during the service. The boy is called up to the Bimah to become a young man and the congregation waits to hear his voice that will chant out a part of an age-old story. He is confident within himself and he has his father beside him for encouragement. Then the singing begins and there is a hush in the shul as all sit back to listen and perhaps to follow in the Chumash. When the young man has now completed his role, there are many smiles and laughter and sweets raining down upon him. Father and son now share a different and stronger togetherness as they hug each other. What a new beginning in his life with his father draping his arm around his shoulder and shaking hands with so many around him.

Now, what of the batmitzvah girl? On a Shabbat morning she arrives at shul with her mother to celebrate her batmitzvah. There she sits upstairs, which is the norm for ladies. The Saturday service draws to a close with the singing of Adon Olam. Now — the girl enters the shul ALONE, downstairs, slowly and with confidence

walking to the front and stands behind a podium. She looks around and begins her part of becoming a young lady within the community. This girl, with determination and on her own, also brings a hush to the community and the father, who is nearby, is very proud. Her mother is sitting proudly UPSTAIRS with perhaps a tear of joy running down her cheek. Then the celebrations begin for this young lady.

After all this, I ask why is it not possible for the mother to walk into an Orthodox shul with her daughter and either stand beside her or sit on a chair just to the side so that mother and daughter may also enjoy the closeness of sharing this moment? After all, the shul service is complete. Yes I know the answer is that it is an Orthodox Shul. But we sit together at a simcha of a wedding and is this also not a wonderful simcha? I am sure that parents of girls who have celebrated their batmitzvahs as well as those who still have to celebrate would have some interesting points to make. This is no disrespect to the rabbis who I am sure could have some positive remarks to make.

Myron Belonsky

Opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or its sponsoring bodies. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed. However, by agreement, the name may be withheld in the publication. Letters are published subject to space being available.

No need for guilt about the past

To my amazement I read in the November issue of the Chronicle that members of the Jewish community, particularly the younger generation, are still agonising about the role of South African Jews during apartheid: "Young white South Africans inherit the privilege and guilt of this past by virtue of being white ..." being the quote by Lauren Kessler. I hope she is also including young members of the respective Greek, Portuguese, German et al communities.

But if she is talking only about Jewish members, as a past, now older, member of the South African Jewish community, I would like to inform her, most respectfully of course, that like Ronnie Kasrils and his ilk, I was no radical, but I tramped the streets in all sorts of Cape Town weather, enduring insults along the way, while canvassing for opposition political parties. While doing this, I came across dozens of other Jews,

younger and older, doing the same. And this was only in Cape Town, let alone the rest of South Africa. What's more, I did the same while living and running a business in a very conservative platteland town that was strongly Nat. At the same time I was strongly Zionist and played my part in the Jewish community (unlike Ronnie Kasrils et al.) and also in the broader South African community. So I can say with the utmost conviction that thousands of South African Jews did the same. So I for one have no feelings of 'guilt' and I think its about time this guilt debate comes to an end.

My answer to Kenneth Bandler ('There is no alternative to the two-state solution'): He has spelt it out himself that "Palestinian state won't bring peace" as set out by Morton A. Klein.

Bennie Katzman
Israel

Creating 'safe spaces' for LGBTI community members

I spoke at the recent Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies Conference entitled 'Safe Spaces' on the topic of LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) inclusivity in our community.

I was asked to share my experiences of being part of the community as an openly gay woman, and to ask whether 'safe spaces' do exist.

I made the point that by having LGBTI inclusivity in the community on the agenda, the SAJBD in particular and community itself can be proud to have created a 'safe space' for conversation.

However, as I thought about the conference in the days afterwards, I realised I glossed over addressing how 'unsafe' the space has been and continues to be at times, and I am wanting to redress this here with you now. My intention is simply to create awareness and perhaps a new consciousness. To illustrate what I'm referring to, I again have to go to my own personal experiences.

For example, I was invited to a community function where I was asked to speak as a gay woman, and when I asked if I could bring my partner, I was asked what his name is.

Or there was the time I heard someone in our community refer to 'the gays exhibition' when talking about the exhibition about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals put on at the Holocaust Centre earlier in the year. The comment was directed to some visitors who like me are gay, and I certainly was uncomfortable. Replace 'the gays' with 'the Jews' and you may have an inkling of what I am referring to. Whilst it may have sounded perfectly innocent, and was likely to be made from ignorance, it shows a lack of sensitivity, which contributes to an unsafe space.

Coming back to the speakers at the conference, a teacher brought the view that Herzlia is a safe space for gay and lesbian pupils, citing an example of a pupil who asked if she could bring her same-sex partner as her date to the Matric Dance, and the request was accepted. But why the need to have to ask in the first place? None of the straight kids had to ask.

Herzlia also employs many gay and lesbian teachers. It's also operating in one of the most constitutionally progressive countries in the world — something the school prides itself on. Aren't those also

reasons enough to ensure that inclusivity is available for all?

Perhaps no one ever thought of it before and so asking the first time is critical. Fair enough. But it sounds like the request may have to be made time and again, and that is what I would take issue with. If we really are committed to creating a 'safe space' and not simply paying lip service to a notion of it, we have to do some serious thinking about what that would be like and what would be required.

Role models are needed. I'd also like to suggest that if the gay and lesbian teachers at Herzlia brought their partners to the dance, the same way the heterosexual teachers bring theirs to school functions (openly and with no questions asked), there would be no need for the pupils to have to ask. They would see role models who they could identify with, and just be allowed to be themselves.

A man asked to give me a hug at the tea break of the conference because he was so moved by what I had shared. He said how it was not the usual from a gay person, who (and these are my words) are on the offensive when it comes to speaking about their sexual orientation or gender identity. From that conversation I can see why so many gay people who are 'out', tend to be 'in one's face' about their orientation. If you are constantly having to explain yourself, request permission and having to redress everyone else's assumptions, wouldn't you also become defensive?

Fundamentally we have to recognise that we have been brought up with gender biases and assumptions about sexual orientation. If we stand any chance of creating a safe space, we'd have to be courageous enough to acknowledge this and be willing to enquire how we should speak and listen to the person in front of us — someone who may not be like us.

And to those of you who sit in the queer camp, like me, I have an appeal to you too. It's time to air that closet! Please make more of an effort to make yourselves known. The only way heterosexual people will learn how to address all of us, is if we show them. That way, we can all be responsible for creating a safe space for us.

Thank you for your listening. I hope you can consider what I have offered as a contribution.

Jacqui Benson

SUCCESS STORIES

Head Boy of Bishops

Jordan Flax has been elected Head Boy of Bishops College for 2014.

He is the son of Mike Flax and Lauren Wilder and the grandson of Ettie Flax.

Jordan is 17 years old, and is a former pupil of Herzlia School (he attended Weizmann Primary and then Herzlia Middle School).

He is also a keen cricketer, having played for the South Africa Junior team at the Maccabiah in Israel in 2013, and also plays for Western Province juniors.

"I feel honoured to have been appointed as Head Boy of such an esteemed institution," says Jordan.



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CAPE SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

A BOARD'S EYE VIEW

By Gary Eisenberg, Chairman of the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies

As of 15 October, I am the new Chairman of the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

My Board consists of 16 elected individuals representing the gamut of community perspectives. We are, coupled with our professional support team, an ideas and solutions-driven organisation.

Our principal mandate is to safeguard the religious and civil rights, status and welfare of the Jewish community, who our constituency, and we are poised to serve its best interests.

Within our constitutional framework, our goals are four-fold: (1) to foment internal cohesion by remaining relevant to all members of our community to enhance our community's quality of Jewish life and to promote its creative content; (2) to strengthen ties with government at all levels in the representation of our community; (3) to promote the participation of our community in the development of our country; and (4) to strengthen our ties with other communities through dialogue.

We do not represent the State of Israel nor do we pretend to espouse any particular ideology. Our agenda is transparent and its formulation and implementation are products of Board decisions. However, we are not all things to all people. Our meetings are limited in time, our resources constrained by strict budgets, and our effectiveness a creature of our creativity, tenacity and luck.

The Board's ethos is the promotion of

transformation, not only within the society in which we live, but also within each and every one of us. In our discussions around the Board table, individual voices reach out to deal with complex issues with all the intellectual capital they can muster.

Around our Board table are transformative spirits; resolving these complexities with existential vigour. This disposition is not new. It has evolved over many years, but picked up steam under the leadership of our previous chair, Li Boiskin.

Over the past 4 years, the Board has become an industry in its own right, having facilitated and participated in over 15 major conferences, almost 40 community outreach and youth development events and hosted at least 50 speakers.

This momentum feeds the Board's march forward. Our most important challenges this year, beyond our existing programmes, are to enfranchise Jewish youth and to embrace members of our community who feel marginalised for myriad reasons.

The Board determines what is in the best interests of our community, and this means that a number of community members will feel that their needs and aspirations are not being addressed. While this is natural within any democratic system, we shall listen to every voice we hear and respond appropriately.



Immigration debate cuts to the core of community and country

"The subject of immigration policy is very close to the heart of the Jewish community because all of us are descendants of immigrants to South Africa," said Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies Executive Director, David Jacobson, in opening his organisation's 'Transformation Conversation' on 'What type of immigration policy should South Africa adopt?'

The Cape Board's 'Transformation Conversation' series is a platform for the Jewish community to engage in civil society issues that concern all South Africans. The 'Big Immigration Debate' panel hosted key players in this discussion: Minister of Home Affairs Naledi Pandor; Economist Professor Emeritus Brian Kantor; Dr Mamphela Ramphele (Leader of Agang SA), Chris Whelan (CEO, Accelerate Cape Town), immigrant and entrepreneur Rapaleng Rabana; and immigration attorney, newly-elected Cape Board Chairman and debate moderator Gary Eisenberg.

While community members and others may see the topic of immigration as somewhat peripheral compared to more pressing problems, the variety and number of audience members demonstrated that this was not the case. In addition, the breadth and depth of the ideas covered in the debate showed that immigration does indeed impact the lives of ordinary South Africans and the Jewish community. Whether it be about economic policy, the African continent, education, identity, entrepreneurship or upward mobility; the discussion brought together essential aspects of succeeding in South Africa, both as individuals and as part of society.

"As a department, we regard immigration as a complex challenge and opportunity," said Minister Pandor. She said that in the past, immigration had been thought of in a negative light, instead of as a strategy for growth. "We need to rethink our policies so that we can attract skills, jobs and investment," she said.

The Minister added that South Africa should start positioning itself as a competitive global player in attracting skilled immigrants. "Our existing visa regime already addresses these needs, but we need to refine our policy and implementation to ensure we achieve the desired objectives," she said.

In terms of unskilled immigrants, Minister Pandor discussed how South Africa needs to differentiate between asylum seekers and 'economic immigrants'; so that people wanting to emigrate from other African countries can do so without illegal asylum permits, and that attracting such immigrants will benefit the region as a whole.

Other challenges include security; how South Africa is an 'epicentre of human



Minister of Home Affairs Naledi Pandor

trafficking'; and how South Africa has to send illegal immigrants back to their home countries, which in turn do not let them in. "We need to work with the region to share our responsibility," said Minister Pandor.

"We are also working hard to improve the calibre of our staff so that we manage the immigration functions competently," she emphasised. "It is a complex area of work but we are convinced that it has immense opportunities for development."

Professor Brian Kantor also stressed how crucial it is that South Africa attracts skilled immigrants. "If you want to help the poor, encourage immigration of skilled labour!" he summarised. He discussed a variety of fascinating contemporary realities, such as how immigrants from Zimbabwe are an excellent contribution to the labour force, but that they in turn keep wages at a low rate, which can lead to clashes. At the same time he emphasised that entrepreneurial immigrants will primarily benefit the poorer classes through enterprise and jobs.

In addition, he told how 370 000 South Africans have migrated home since 2009 in the wake of the financial crisis, which has benefitted South Africa. However, the country needs to find more 'pull factors' to continue bringing ex-South Africans and skilled immigrants to the country, he said.

A human issue

Dr Mamphela Ramphele delved into the complexities of immigration, highlighting how "It is to South Africa's economic and social detriment that we have not been able to strike the balance between our moral obligations, the contribution of skilled people to our economy and the challenge of overwhelming economic migration."

"As Africa's leading economy, we should have anticipated that our country would become an extremely desirable destination for many of the continent's migrant workers," she continued. "South Africa has been unable to manage migration to respond to its own political and economic needs, nor have we fulfilled our obligations to our neighbours and African allies in this regard. We need to adopt a global moral framework that embraces humanism, inspired by what in Africa we call 'the spirit of Ubuntu' — the interconnectedness of all human beings," she said.

Continued on page 38

Meet the newly-elected Cape Board

At the 2013 'Safe Spaces' Conference, a new Cape Board was elected, with three new members coming in via the Ballot Election and two new members being elected at the conference itself.

The Ballot Election, with its innovative e-voting platform, drew record numbers of votes and the conference itself also had a record number attending, showing there is great interest in

safeguarding the democracy of the Cape Board.

At the conference, as there was a tie for 12th place, the delegates unanimously agreed to accept 13 members onto the Cape Board.

The conference also confirmed the appointment of Joe Fintz as an 'Honorary Life Vice-President' in recognition of his long service to the Cape Board and indeed to the Jewish community of Cape Town.

The Cape Board for the period October 2013 – October 2015 is:

EXECUTIVE

Gary Eisenberg – Chairman, Adv. Michael Donen – Vice Chairman, Eric Marx – Vice Chairman, Lester Hoffman – Treasurer, Viv Anstey – Executive Member, Li Boiskin – Ex Officio (immediate past chairman)

CAPE BOARD

Rabbi Jonathan Altman (new member), Peter Berry (Ballot Election), Tzvi Brivik, Greg Flash, Glen Heneck, Rael Kaimowitz, David King, Beverley May (Ballot Election), Craig Nudelman (new member), Joel Serman (Ballot Election), Adv. Jonathan Silke, Ben Levitas – Ex Officio (Chairman of SAZF, Cape Council), Leaza Cowan – Ex Officio (Chairman of UJW Cape Town), Lauren Kessler – Ex Officio (Chairman of SAUJS Cape Town), Michael Bagraim – Ex Officio (Past President SAJBD), Joe Fintz – Honorary Life Vice-President, Gerald Kleinman – Honorary Life Vice-President, Mervyn Smith – Honorary Life Vice-President

CAPE JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

Cape Board launches biennial community awards

Although other Jewish communal organisations award members of our community for various services, the Cape Board felt that as the umbrella body of the Cape Town Jewish community, it was timely and appropriate for a unique set of awards to be created on behalf the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

These would be given to members of the community at the Cape Board's Biennial Conference in two specific categories. In recognition of Eliot and Myra Osrin's life-long commitment to both the Cape Town Jewish community and nation-building in South Africa, the decision was taken to establish the awards in their name. Their son Bernard Osrin presented the first-ever awards on behalf of his parents at the Cape Board's recent 'Safe Spaces' conference.

Owen Futeran received the Elliot & Myra Osrin Jewish Vision Award for his outstanding impact over the past 30 years on the Jewish community of Cape Town. Marlene Silbert was presented with the Elliot & Myra Osrin Transformation Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nation-building and

A photograph of three people standing together and smiling. On the left is a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue button-down shirt. In the center is a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a black top and a necklace with a small pendant. On the right is a woman with short dark hair, wearing a black blazer over a dark top and a necklace. They are all holding a large, circular, silver-colored award trophy in front of them. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

A photograph of three people standing together. On the left is a man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt under a dark suit jacket. In the center is a man with glasses, wearing a blue shirt, a red tie, and a dark suit jacket; he is holding a circular silver award plaque. On the right is a woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark blazer over a black top and a pearl necklace. They are all smiling. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

transformation in the broader South African community, particularly through her work at the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation and interfaith exchanges between South Africa and the UK

Cape Board engages with PPF

Just hours before its 21 October Western Cape launch, the Cape Board hosted a 'Drink 'n Think' with Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF) President Jimmy Manyi and Deputy-President Kashif Wicomb.

Up until last year, Gauteng-based Manyi served as Cabinet Spokesman and CEO of Government Communication and Information System, as well as President of the Black Management Forum (BMF).

Kashif Wicomb is a green energy entrepreneur, advisor to ANC Western Cape Chairman Marius Fransman and

previous Western Cape Chairman of the BMF Western Cape, which he represented at the Cape Board's 2012 Employment Equity debate.

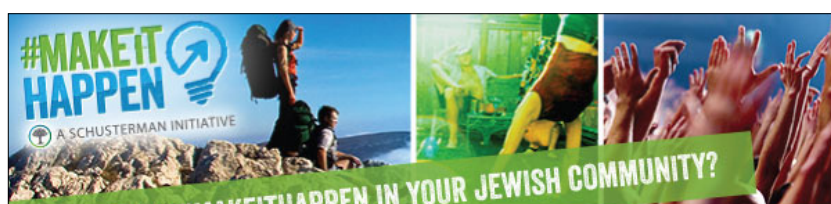
Manyi and Wicomb described the PPF as a 'non-racial platform to mobilise all professionals who align themselves with progressive movements and who aspire to progressive ideas, such as those enshrined in the Freedom Charter and the Preamble of the Constitution.'

As a non-partisan organisation, the Cape Board looks forward to continuing to engage with South Africa's various political players.



Members of the Cape Board with President Jimmy Manyi and Deputy-President Kashif Wicomb

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#MakeItHappen is an initiative of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Philanthropic Network (SPN). SPN is a global enterprise that supports and creates innovative initiatives for the purpose of igniting the passion and unleashing the power in young people to create positive change for themselves, the Jewish community and the broader world.



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We encourage groups of potential residents to apply together. For more details about Moishe House Cape Town, please contact: Joel Stanley, Director of International Programming, at joel@moishehouse.

ABOUT MOISHE HOUSE



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION (CAPE COUNCIL)



View from the Chair

By Ben Levitas, Chairman, SAZF Cape Council

There are several well-financed local organisations dedicated to denigrating and defaming Israel.

One of these bears an innocuous name and belies its true agenda — the Media Review Network. One of its rather vocal members in the Cape Town media is Iqbal Jassat. Reading his articles that are so replete with fanciful conspiracy theories, you could comfortably conclude that the Mossad actually carried out the dastardly attack on the Westgate Mall in Kenya.

These pseudo-academics invent bogus versions of the truth to deflect blame from Islamist terrorists and try to shift it onto Jews and Israel. Their strategy is to tell the 'big lie', often enough and to discredit Israel so thoroughly, that the seemingly outrageous becomes believable.

Contorting this senseless tragedy in suit their political agendas reveals a 'sick mind'. It is all too clear what Iqbal's intentions are, and blaming 'journalists for their sympathetic views of Israel', when all they do is to try to report the news objectively, is cynical and mendacious.

It is clear that Israel had nothing to do with the crimes committed at the mall.

All the blame must be laid at the feet of the radical Islamist group Al-Shabaab. They even admitted to carrying out the atrocity and have threatened more such attacks. Al Shabaab's callousness knows no bounds and the deeds perpetrated against innocent civilians that found themselves in the wrong place speaks of unbelievable levels of depravity.

Thank heaven for the intelligence-gathering of Mossad and other intelligence agencies, because unlike Al-Shabaab and other fanatical Islamist groups, they are trying to prevent acts of terrorism and save lives.

It is because Jassat and his ilk are in denial that they will always try to deflect blame and not face up to the real issue of extremist Islamist terrorism. Surely Jassat should realise that Islamists are also targeting and killing Muslims, and that by repudiating the banality and accountability for these inexcusable deeds, he is merely encouraging more extremism.



How Netzer is 'healing the world'

Netzer South Africa's ideology comprises of five 'pillars', one of which is 'Tikkun Olam' — repairing the world.

Netzer has three branches, in Cape Town, Joburg and Durban. Each branch is involved in its own outreach programmes, doing different things at different times and aiming towards Tikkun Olam.

Netzer CT has been involved with Mothers Unite, an amazing organisation working in Lavender Hill. This organisation provides a safe place for the children in the community, keeping them off the streets and out of abusive homes. Netzer went to run some programmes there on our Tikkun Day at machaneh last year. We made pencil cases for their school stationery programme during our mini-camp in May, and included them in our 'Netzer Night' fundraiser in August.

One of the auction items was allocated to raise funds for their school bags and shoes drive, and we managed to raise a significant amount for this amazing initiative. We have a close working relationship with Mothers Unite, specifically with Gerry, the amazing woman who runs the organisation. We will definitely be continuing our relationship with Mothers Unite in the future. We encourage anybody interested to find out more about the wonderful work these women do for the youth of Lavender Hill.

Netzer Joburg also has a busy 'Tikkun' life: They recently had an amazing Tikkun Day at the Joburg zoo, and are currently maintaining their own vegetable garden.



Maddies and channies working together at Mothers Unite.



Some of the Cape Town mazkirut show their handmade pencil cases donated to Mothers Unite

Netzer Durban is involved in running activities for the youth at the Mavela Creche, which is always a valuable experience for both the Netzeriks as well as the children at Mavela. They also help the local Sisterhood with their various food and toy drives, contributing wherever they can!

All three branches continue to strive towards the ideal of Tikkun Olam. Our love for the world, and our commitment to making it better, are what make us proud to be part of Netzer South Africa.

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The Israel Centre and Partnership2Gether, in conjunction with The Peres Peace Centre, brought a delegation to South Africa in October.

Partnership2Gether aims to connect Israelis and those in the Diaspora 'on a person to person' basis; and The Peres Peace Centre encourages cooperation and interaction between Jews and Muslims and Israelis and Palestinians. These aims were more than exceeded during the visit to South Africa.

The delegation consisted of eight teenage girls — four Jewish and four Muslim who live in neighbouring villages in the Partnership2Gether Beit Shemesh-Mateh Yehuda region, but who might never have met nor become friends without The Peres Peace Centre projects. The girls play soccer at The Peres Peace Centre and through this interaction they have built bonds and friendships across otherwise significant divides.

This trip to South Africa was a chance for the girls, in the company of representatives from Partnership2Gether and The Peres Peace Centre, to meet other young women in South Africa and enjoy travelling together as young Israelis, without being burdened by their backgrounds.

The delegation presented at the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council Youth Council Yom Rabin ceremony, with The Peres Peace Centre representative and a Muslim and Jewish girl speaking about peace and embodying Yitzhak Rabin's dream of peaceful coexistence.

The first Rabin Memorial Peace Tournament was kindly sponsored by Fives Futbol and was held at their Century City venue, where the Coexistence team played against teams from Herzlia Middle School, St. Cyprian's School and the 'African Passions' team from Langa. The day was immensely exciting for all the girls and gave them a chance to interact with others from diverse backgrounds.

The team from St. Cyprian's beat the team from Langa in the final, with Emelia Aggouras of St. Cyprian's being named the best player and Besan Gaber of the Coexistence team named best goalkeeper. However competition was the secondary aim of the tournament, with interaction being the priority. Team members from different religious and ethnic backgrounds danced together to diverse music and enjoyed a delicious braai, with energy drinks provided by 32 GI. This showed all the girls that in the end they are all just young women who fundamentally care about the same things.

The delegation also visited classes at Herzlia Middle School where they interacted with local pupils, and showed the Herzlia pupils how Muslims and Jews can be friends.

During their time here the delegation also toured Cape Town. Sharing these wonderful experiences together further enhanced friendships.

The entire Coexistence Delegation was privileged to be taken on a personalised tour of Parliament by Steve Swart of the African Christian Democratic Party. His personal explanations of South African history were both interesting and deeply moving and inspiring.

Ultimately one of the Jewish girls summed up the aims of the Partnership2Gether Coexistence Soccer Delegation and The Peres Peace Centre: "It's not 'them' and 'us', it's 'we' together!"

Partnership2Gether Coexistence Soccer Delegation



All the teams with a sign saying 'Happy Eid!'



Besan Gaber of the Coexistence team presented with her prize for being best goalkeeper



The Coexistence team with Nilly Baruch, Chairperson of P2G



Coexistence team members on Table Mountain



Herzlia and the Coexistence teams



Hatzav Nechustan and Leah Blumenthal



The Coexistence team versus the Langa African Passions team



The St Cyprians team



The African Passions team from Langa



Friendship in the Company's Garden



Celebrating success on the field



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION (CAPE COUNCIL)



JOINT ISRAELI AND ARAB/PALESTINIAN PROJECTS

The Middle East is a troubled region, but in the midst of conflicts, individuals and organisations committed to cooperation and shared goals do exist. Unfortunately, such projects are rarely commented on by the international media. In an attempt to highlight the remarkable work being done by joint Israeli and Arab/Palestinian groups, this article will explore just a few of the many initiatives that are in the region today.

In medicine there is tremendous cooperation between Israeli medical experts and their Arab and Palestinian counterparts. These include:

- **Joint research into genetic origins of deafness**

Bethlehem University and Tel-Aviv University have teams working together to examine the genetic causes of deafness. Further, both sets of professors worked to launch a graduate research programme at Tel-Aviv University that has made it possible for Palestinian students to embark on post-graduate research. Israeli Professor Karen Avraham said: "Something clicked between me and [my Palestinian counterpart] Prof. Moien Kanaan, our common scientific interests, the fact that we both believe in peace, and in building a future together...." (Health – Israel 21c)

- **Gene research to help Arab children**

Israeli researchers at Ben-Gurion University and researchers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have worked in parallel by liaising with third parties. They have pooled resources to detect a specific and flawed gene that causes a rare and often fatal disease in Arab children.

- **Israeli team uses revolutionary surgical procedure to save Arab girl**

A ground-breaking procedure, involving the use of stem cells, was used by an Israeli team working out of Hadassah-Hebrew University medical centre in Jerusalem to save the life of a 2 year old Arab girl who was born without an immune system.

Joint Israeli and Palestinian Health Committees are in existence and serve to ensure continued dialogue and cooperation. Examples include:

- **Joint committee on public health:**

Deals with public health issues that are common to both Israelis and Palestinians, including:

1. Exchange of medical information and statistical reports
2. Disease prevention and early detection projects
3. Coordination of common policy on immunisation

- **Joint committee on training programmes for health and medical personnel**

Responsible for assessing needs for different types of training programmes and planning courses, workshops and post-graduate studies.

- **Joint committee on food control:**

Ensures that both Israelis and Palestinians employ good manufacturing practices for both manufactured and imported food.

Additional domains of Israeli/Palestinian cooperation exist, and two further examples include:

- **Referring Palestinian patients to Israeli hospitals:**

Each year, thousands of Palestinian patients are referred to Israel for hospitalisation, ambulatory procedures and therapeutic care.

- **Cooperation between Magen David Adom of Israel and the Palestinian Red Crescent:**

Magen David Adom instructors provide training in first aid and emergency medicine to Palestinian ambulance drivers.

Save a Child's Heart (SACH), an Israeli-based international humanitarian project, is another example of Israelis and Palestinians working together. SACH provides life-saving cardiac surgery and other procedures for children from developing countries. Further, it provides training for medical personnel and runs multiple teaching missions. SACH is committed to bringing Israelis and Palestinians together and has achieved this in the following ways:

- **Heart of the Matter Project:**

Reaches out to the Palestinians by providing cardiac care to Palestinian children; and training programmes for physicians from the Palestinian Authority areas. Nearly half of the total children treated by SACH come from the PA areas, and over 1,500 Palestinian children have undergone surgery since SACH's founding.

Campaigns aiming to end the Israeli/Palestinian conflict are prevalent today. Examples of some such campaigns are:

- **The Peres Peace Centre for Peace**

This was founded in 1996 by Israeli President Shimon Peres and is a leading organisation in Israel that works to promote peace, particularly between Israelis and Palestinians and also between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel. The Peres Centre runs programmes that focus on common interests in fields such as technology, agriculture, sport and the arts, and uses these to empower participants to be actively involved in peace building. The Peres Peace Centre works tirelessly to form lasting partnerships by breaking down barriers, overcoming fears and encouraging dialogue and friendship.

OneVoice

OneVoice is a non-profit organisation formed in 2002. It is an international grassroots movement that has offices in Tel Aviv, Ramallah, New York and London. OneVoice works to augment the voices of mainstream Israelis and Palestinians and to form a consensus for conflict resolution. It seeks a permanent and comprehensive agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians that ensures security and peace for both sides.

OneVoice actively works by partnering with local and national officials; hosting regular town hall meetings that stimulate political discussion among moderates; leading advocacy efforts; participating in international conferences and meetings; running programmes that equip activists; and hosting leadership development workshops that train young Israelis and Palestinians in public speaking, conflict resolution, leadership and community mobilisation.

Israel's National Agency for International Cooperation (MASHAV) in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, views cooperation with the Palestinian Authority as crucial for the peace process. Its activities reflect both Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs goals as well as the development strategies of the Palestinians.

- **MASHAV**

Mashav emphasises economic development; strengthening ties between the Palestinian Authority and Israeli business sectors; reconciliation in the education system; and developing dialogue between the civil societies in the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

A few of the Mashav activities in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority have included:

- Programme on the 'Establishment and Management of Small Enterprises' – improving living standards and empowering women.
- Chain Supply Workshop' in cooperation with the Palestinian Shippers' Council and the Peres Centre for Peace – this programme saw Israeli and Palestinian businesspeople come together to learn about international trade.
- Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation in the Rehabilitation of Handicapped Children – this programme was developed between the Bethlehem Arab Rehabilitation Society and the Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem, to create specialised programmes for handicapped Palestinian children receiving treatment in Jerusalem before being moved to Bethlehem for long-term rehabilitation.

All of the above expressions of cooperation and vision to work together are of paramount significance in a region so often defined by division. This an important and powerful way to create trust, mutual respect and tolerance between Israelis and Palestinians, and also strengthens the peace process.

Resources: Stand With Us, Jewish Virtual Library, Beyond Images, Israel21c, Save a Child's Heart, OneVoice, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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BURNING BRIGHTLY

BLUE LIGHTS

RABBI DOVID WINEBERG (Green & Sea Point Hebrew Congregation)



Harry's having a midlife crises and goes out to buy the fastest sports car that money could buy. Zooming down the N2, a police car pulls out and waves him over. Harry's having none of this: he puts the pedal to the metal and before he knows it the police car is a little dot in the distance with faint lights flashing. Finally the police officer pulls him over and sees a respectable looking gentleman behind the wheel. So he says to him: "If you give me a good reason why you were fleeing a police officer, I'll let you off." So Harry says, "Last week my wife ran off with a police officer – and I thought you were bringing her back!"

A few years ago, I had my own incident with the police, having spent a morning in the Sandton police station, in Northern Johannesburg. I know what you're thinking: they finally caught the Rabbi! In fact this wasn't even crime related – I was invited to the station to attend the police parade and address the SAPS on the festival of Chanukah.

Chanukah commemorates the miracle that enabled the Jews to once again light the Menorah in the Temple. Considering that the Menorah was lit during the day, and indoors, one has to wonder at the centrality of an act with no purpose. How are you supposed to illuminate the world if no one sees the light?

So there I was addressing 100 cops who were fighting a losing battle. Even their chief of

police was on trial for corruption! Whatever they do is a drop in the bucket. I saw proud people but tired uniforms. And I could imagine that's how the Maccabees felt: they weren't only fighting the enemy outside – the enemy was sometimes within! The Hellenists betrayed their people and their faith for progressive thinking and embracing the modern ideals of the times. I imagine that Yehuda the Maccabee was simply overwhelmed. And if you're a Jew today and you look at the globally rising Jew hatred; you look at Israel's futile attempts to forge peace; you wonder about your kid's future when even the United States was recently on the verge of default – and you get overwhelmed.

Along comes the Temple and teaches us that if you wish to illuminate the world, you don't start by lighting up the universe – you first light inside of yourself. Each individual is a *mikdashme'at*, a mini sanctuary, and the same lesson applies. You want to make a difference? Light your own candle. "Maccabee" stands for *mi kamochoba-elim Hashem*, no force measures up to G-d. This wasn't just a motto or a slogan – a warrior's cry – it was their candle burning within. And when the Maccabees were victorious and reached the Temple, there could be nothing more important than rekindling the Light Within.

And that's what I told these police men and women: be that candle. Burn brightly with your motto to "serve and protect". And if enough of us are walking talking candles, then we eventually reach the Festival of Chanukah where we light a Menorah specifically at night and facing the street. We begin to illuminate the world around us – and that is the greatest miracle of all.

Photo (Right): Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein (left) recently addressed the Paarl Hebrew Congregation at a function in Paarl. Fischel (Kaufie) Kaufman was honoured for his many years of dedicated service within the Paarl Hebrew community. Pictured with Kaufie is his wife, Zelda.



THE 10 BIGGEST MISCONCEPTIONS SURROUNDING THE UOS



MISCONCEPTION #4

The end consumer must land up paying for the kosher logo on each and every food product, while the UOS pockets off all the loaves of bread and all the cans of coldrink sold.

THE REALITY

Manufacturing brands are charged an annual licensing fee. Fees are calculated so as to recover costs and are based on inter alia; the variety of products made, number of ingredients used, source of ingredients, complexity of the manufacturing process, number of manufacturing facilities and their physical location and annual inspection frequencies.

These may seem like large sums in some cases but this is where the bulk of our income is derived from. However, this does not affect the customer or the end product price, as this fee generally forms part of the manufacturer's marketing budget.

Kosher products compete with non-kosher products on store shelves without any discrepancy in price attributable to kashrut license fees. Compare for instance Woolworths non-kosher yoghurt and Woolworths kosher yoghurt – both are priced identically. There is no additional cost for the kosher product on the shelf.

Our relationship with the manufacturing brands is one that we need to treat with sensitivity, because the South African kosher market is relatively small and to a certain extent we need the major manufacturers more than they need our community's business. Attempts to raise fees may result in the loss of the hechsher altogether.



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COMMUNITY
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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RABBI



'Just south of Windhoek' is how some Capetonians like to think of Blouberg's West Coast, but one night a year, Cape Town Jewry comes out in its masses to show it isn't so.

The 'Night at The... (Stadium, Newlands, Shwekey) Fundraising Evenings benefitting The Shul of Blouberg — West Coast and the Sinai Academy since 2010 have become a highlight of the Jewish community social scene's calendar, putting us front and centre of our community's priorities.

But this year's combination of musical talent, celebrity star power and the atomic energy of Jewish children singing and celebrating together took things to a whole new level.

The soaring glass lobby of the CTICC hosted the Corporate Reception guests where Merle Rubin's magnificent cocktail dinner provided a delicious entree to a night of fine entertainment and support of a truly worthy cause.

Chairman Brian Singer and his wife Lee-Anne welcomed guests with a short report on the growth and work of the West Coast Jewish community, as well as the success thus far in our Capital Campaign to eliminate all of the outstanding debt; and then introduced Rabbi Mendel Popack who brought greetings and words of inspiration.

Premier Helen Zille, a close friend of our community, brought warm greetings from Government and shared details about her personal admiration of and friendship with Rebbetzin Zeesy Deren and the Goldman family. Zeesy and Rabbi Asher Deren then joined her on stage with a L'chaim and thank you to all of the guests, inviting them to continue to the incredible evening waiting for them upstairs.

As the lights dimmed and the band slowly struck up the music, the applause for Yonatan Razel was the perfect welcome for his first ever full concert in Cape Town. And what a concert it was...

Without missing a beat he went straight to base guitar, keyboard, electric guitar, percussion, and of course through it all an

incredible depth of vocal synergy that had everyone clapping and dancing to the spirited music, and harmonising to the soulful tunes.

From old-time favourites to new melodies bringing spice and spirit to both ancient lyrics and original compositions; Yonatan's unparalleled status in the world of Jewish music today captured Cape Town's heart and soul in a matter of minutes and wouldn't let go till the night ended — or the weekend for that matter!

When he introduced South Africa's 'heartthrob' Danny K on to the stage, the crowd went wild! Danny's respect and love for Yonatan's musical talents only reaffirmed what by now we all knew.

After a few duets of Yonatan and Danny together we were in for a real treat — a first ever public rendition of their upcoming jointly produced single *From the Corner of the Sky*, which brought the thunderous applause.

A magical concert

Cape Town's favourite Choni G was then invited by Yonatan on stage, and his golden voice and cool stage presence instantly reconnected us with one of the up and coming stars of the Jewish music scene.

At the interval of the concert a powerful video presentation, 'Atomic Goodness', brought five powerful stories of people who capture the potential to transform their lives and the world around them. To see the video, visit SinaiAcademy.co.za/atomic.

The concert then continued with more of Yonatan's uplifting musical energy that brought us back to the spirit of great entertainment and celebration.

In perhaps the most moving moment of the night, as Yonatan with Danny and Choni closed the evening with their performance of Yonatan's *Vehi She'omdo* (sung today by every performer in the Jewish world...). They

were joined on stage by a throng of children and teens, arm in arm, swaying and singing along 'viHaKadosh Baruch Hu Matzleinu...'

Yonatan, Choni and Danny's visit to Cape Town didn't end there. They joined the community at various Shuls over the weekend, enhancing the spirit of the Shabbos Project and culminating with a first-ever Musical Havdalah Concert under the stars, which brought hundreds of people to the Gardens Shul Piazza, celebrating Jewish unity and the Shabbat spirit.

Were you there? We can always do things better, and your feedback is what helps us reach that goal. Visit SinaiAcademy.co.za/CTICCFedback or email feedback@sinaiacademy.co.za to share your thoughts. The full report and video of the night can be viewed at SinaiAcademy.co.za/CTICC.



Convener **Lee-Anne Singer** welcomes guests



Director of Herzlia Schools **Geoff Cohen** and **Eddy Oblovitz**



Old friends...



Chairman **Brian Singer** is assisted by **Rabbi Asher Deren** in bringing down some 'Atomic divine energy' for the success of the evening.



Zeesy Deren and **Sarah Feldman** with **Premier Helen Zille**

Photographs: Guy Lerner



Choni G, Danny K and Yonatan Razel joined on stage by a 'new talent!'



The children lead the spirit

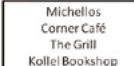
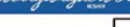
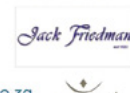
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Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation

Consider This

At the end of October, we had a break-in at our home.

It was just a week before we were to move, so half the house was chaos and in boxes, we were exhausted and the whole family slept through the entire event. The thieves got in, got the laptops, cellphones, wallets and bags and slipped out again without anyone knowing a thing. In the morning we woke up and discovered what had happened.

Looking back, it wasn't just the stuff they stole — it was our sense of *bitachon*, that elusive sense of trust and faith in our security that they took. We were thankful that we were unharmed and aware that with people in the house, far worse might have happened. But there was still that feeling of having been intruded upon — of having someone uninvited walking around in your home. And of course, there were the practical problems of having to go through the police reports and investigations, the insurance claims, the replacement of lost data and (not backed up) diaries and emails. All this days before an already

hectic move. Why now? Why us?

You might quote stats and say that crime is an everyday part of living in South Africa. You might tell us to check our mezuzot and see if one was defective. You might say that things just happen, there is no reason or explanation and we happened to be the house that was chosen that night.

I can't tell you why us or why now. Over that, we have no control. I can say that we have control over how we respond.

When we are confronted with crime, with challenges, with stress; we can respond with fear and anger, with depression and helplessness — and all of those are valid and understandable emotions. To expect ourselves to 'just get on with it' is neither realistic nor helpful. Allowing the emotions that well up is important to do.

We can also turn to our own toolbox for resources for coping. Judaism has several. One is prayer, *t'filah*. The *hashkiveinu*, a nightly blessing from the *Sh'ma* speaks

A path of healing

By Rabbi Greg Alexander

"Communities are powerful structures for healing."

perfectly to such a situation, asking God that when we feel most fragile to please spread over us a Sukkah of Peace. It begins, "God, let me lie down in peace, and let me wake up to life" and is meant to be said at bedtime, the time of night that we are most in need of trust and a feeling of safety. Just before we close our eyes and really put our faith in The Holy One of Blessing to guard us, we ask for shelter, protection.

Judaism also does not want us to live alone. Taking on a criminal by yourself is impossibly scary; taking one on with a whole community behind you suddenly

makes the odds different. That means using the resources that communities offer for prevention — such as police, your Neighbourhood Watch and good eyes and ears; and also when crime does happen to look to the community for support. We so appreciated all those who dropped off food, who shared phones and laptops until we could replace ours and who took our kids for playdates so that we could pack. Communities are powerful structures for healing.

There are many stories in the Talmud about Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai, famed for, among other things, his power to heal. When he heard of another rabbi who was sick, he would visit and speak with him about his suffering. After

speaking, Yochanan ben Zakkai would hold out his hand, and the other rabbi would rise. One day Yochanan ben Zakkai fell ill. He was visited by Rabbi Chanina, who, after speaking to the stricken sage, held out his hand, and Yochanan ben Zakkai stood up. "Why couldn't Yochanan ben Zakkai raise himself?" the disciples asked, as he was known to be a great healer. The answer: "Because the prisoner cannot free himself from prison." (Berachot 5b)

Another tool is study and meditation. Just reflecting on a verse for a few minutes can help us see great perspective. For example, just reading the words from *Adon Olam*, "*B'yado afkid ruchi, b'eit ishan, v'aira, v'im ruchi geviyati, Adonai li v'lo ira*; into God's hands I entrust my spirit, when I sleep and when I wake; and with my spirit and my body also, God is with me, I will not fear," might help to build a sense of trust or security. Or to enhance a sense of daily gratitude, a line from *Hallel*: "*Zeh ha 'yom asah Adonai, nagila v'nismecha vo* — This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

However we cope, we need to be extremely gentle with ourselves and not expect us to be someone that we are not. Allowing time to process what has happened, to use professional counselling and support if needed, and to ask friends, family and community for help are all powerful ways to be able to do something constructive, within our control, to begin to heal after a dangerous event. May we all find a path of healing.



Mazel tov to those who celebrated their B'nei Mitzvah with us in the last month:



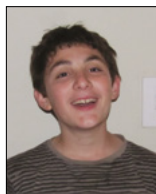
Jaydin Pina
2 November



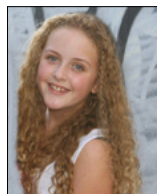
Gabriel Wulfsohn
9 November



Gabriel Lipshitz
16 November



Joseph Sweijd
23 November



Jemma Bagg
30 November



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Special care at Highlands House

This month, we tell you more about our Special Care Unit and Occupational Therapy, especially regarding its use for dementia patients.

The Pasvolsky Special Care Unit is a separate, specialist unit at Highlands House that offers a holistic approach to individuals who require care and/or monitoring over a 24 hour period and who have demonstrated specific cognitive and/

or behavioural problems.

Our belief, based on reverence for and affirmation of all life, is that even with the condition of dementia, a person remains whole and that an optimum level of wellness must be attained for each individual.

Our goal is to maximise residents' safety, comfort and function and to minimise complications associated with dementia, and to improve quality of life.

Geriatric Focus: Occupational Therapy at Highlands House

Highlands House has a dynamic Occupational Therapy (OT) department consisting of two Occupational Therapists and an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA).

OT services in the Home range from individual or group assessments and treatment to the issuing of wheelchairs and assistive devices, home visits and programme development, to name a few. Among the most popular services are the activity programmes that provide opportunity for residents to engage in meaningful therapeutic and social activities.

Occupational Therapists work in a range of different contexts, one of which is geriatrics. OTs in this field are concerned with promoting independence and meaningful engagement of the elderly in self-care activities, leisure and productive pursuits. The elderly are assisted to continue socialising and taking part in hobbies and favourite past times.

Occupational Therapists working in Geriatrics understand the importance of promoting independence. This may necessitate the issuing of mobility aids or assistive devices, adapting the environment or teaching of new adaptive ways in completing self-care tasks.

When working with clients with Alzheimer's and Dementia, OT has a vital role to play. In the Special Care Unit (SCU) for residents with cognitive difficulties, the OT-based activity programme is central. It consists of daily activities that provide cognitive, social, and physical stimulation. This in turn allows residents to feel contained and

secure. The programme includes activities like crafts, reminiscing, cards, quizzes, musical groups, current affairs group, skittles, bingo, talks, baking, exercises and the Shabbat circle. Residents are assisted by dedicated carers to participate in groups suitable to their level of functioning.

Towards the later stages of dementia, participation in activities becomes increasingly difficult for residents. At this stage, sensory stimulation is vital. Carers in the SCU are taught how to engage the senses. Hand massage becomes an opportunity to feel the deep pressure and touch of the carers' hands, enjoy the cream and oils in the water, and listen to calming music. The programme becomes less structured and instead more responsive to the needs of the residents themselves.

Highlands House is in the process of setting up a Multi-Sensory Room to use with residents in the SCU. It will become a stimulating or calming sensory environment according to the needs of the resident and incorporate sounds, lights and movement that the OT can adjust. This therapy has been used mainly with children but has shown applications to the elderly. Our staff awaits the delivery of specialised equipment and are eager to begin using the room.

The Occupational Therapy programme is dynamic and an exciting part of what is on offer at the SCU, and keeps up with the changing needs of residents in the Home. Therapists enjoy the challenges and variety that each day brings at Highlands House..

By Naomi Meyer (Senior Occupational Therapist, Highlands House)

Resident Focus: Mrs Olga Fuchs

Olga Fuchs is a lovely soft-spoken woman with brilliant blue eyes. She is a new resident in the Pasvolsky Special Care Unit.

When speaking to her about her move to Highlands House, she beamed and mentioned that it has been a wonderful four months.

Having lived with her sister, it was a change to be surrounded by so many people but she has taken to the environment and enjoys it. She finds it a friendly, caring and safe



space for her to be in.

When she came to the Home she didn't know anyone but after meeting people at her dinner table she has made firm friends.

Olga enjoys taking part in activities and has especially taken to knitting and crocheting with the help of Riva Kauffmann and her group of knitters.

Further, she has found a group of bridge players and this she enjoys immensely.

Welcome to Highlands House Olga!

Special Focus: Former Highlands House Trustee awarded Honorary Fellowship from Hebrew University



Estelle Yach receiving the Honorary Fellowship Award

On 6 October, surrounded by family, friends and colleagues, Mrs Estelle Yach received an Honorary Fellowship Award from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

It was conferred by Professor Ronnie Friedman, Vice President of the Hebrew University, who acknowledged her significant contribution to the university over many years and her personal dedication to the ongoing research and development of many faculties at the university.

Estelle Yach had been the Chairperson of the Mauerberger Foundation Fund for over 20 years. The event was attended by a range of organisations and associates with whom she had worked.

In receiving the award, Estelle expressed that it was humbling to receive an award for something that had given her so much pleasure over the years, especially the Fund's involvement in the University's School of Agriculture international

programme.

A highlight of this was the planting of a South African shrub, the *Salvia Africana*, in memory of her husband, Solm Yach. This was planted in the University of Jerusalem's Botanical Gardens and for her this symbolised the Mauerberger Foundation Fund having put down roots in Israel more than forty years earlier.

She added that, "Like the *Salvia Africana*, my hope is that the Mauerberger Foundation Fund is firmly rooted, ably tended and suitably nourished will continue to flourish now and in the future".

Diana Yach, Chairperson of the Mauerberger Foundation Fund, expressed the hope that "Apart from celebrating Estelle's fellowship, the event would provide opportunities to renew friendships and make new friends — facilitating networking to make greater impact on the wellbeing and prosperity of our communities both here and in Israel". Highlands House congratulates Mrs Estelle Yach on her award.

Staff Focus: Ms Naomi Meyer – Senior Occupational Therapist

Naomi Meyer is the Senior Occupational Therapist at Highlands House. She joined the interdisciplinary team in 2009 and discovered a passion for working with the elderly.

Naomi Meyer graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelors Degree of Science in Occupational Therapy in 2007. After completing her studies, her community service year was spent at Alexander Hospital in Maitland working with individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

Naomi manages the Highlands House Occupational Therapy Department, which consists of two Occupational Therapists, an Occupational Therapy Assistant, as well as the Lifestyle Centre.

She has a special interest in Dementia



and Psychogeriatrics and works largely on the Special Care Unit that houses residents with cognitive difficulties.

In addition, she assists the Senior Social Worker with pre-admission home visits to members of the community who are seeking placement at Highlands House. Naomi is currently assisting management in setting up a Multi-Sensory Room that will service residents from the Special Care Unit.

She is also pursuing her Masters in Gerontology through the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom via distance learning.

Naomi finds working with the elderly extremely rewarding and thoroughly enjoys hearing the interesting stories of times gone by that the residents are always happy to share with her.



In and about Highlands House: Grandparents Day, interesting talks and 'giving back'

Recently elected Cape Board member, Dr Peter Berry spoke to the residents and explained that his election manifesto stressed his interest in creating additional accommodation for the aged in the Cape Jewish population.

He told of how the Jewish Cape Town he left behind in 1985 is different to what he found on his return from America in 2010. He lamented the closure of so many beautiful shuls, particularly in the Gardens area. He also missed the intense and obvious sense of community.

But what had not changed from 1985 was the absolute amazing sense of giving. "Cape Town Jews must rank as amongst the most generous Jews in the world," he said.



Peter Berry meets some of the residents

On 6 October we celebrated Grandparents Day and our Susman Lifestyle Centre was filled with children, grannies and grandpas and crafts galore.

Thank you to all those who took part in making this day lots of fun.

Celebrating a special day with the children of our community



The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) was invited to spend some time with our residents. What a wonderful afternoon in the sun — our residents enjoyed it immensely and could not get enough of the animals. A further visit will happen in the near future. Thank you PDSA for the visit.



Residents enjoying time with the animals from PDSA

Moonyeen Castle, President of the Highlands House Committee, spoke to residents about what she plans for the Home. It was also an opportunity for residents to meet her personally and ask questions. We look forward to seeing Moonyeen around the Home.



Highlands House responded to a call of need from the Clanwilliam Sederville Tehuis vir Bejaardes. This old age home in Clanwilliam desperately needed linen, old clothes and more. In October we started providing them with bedding. This is an ongoing project and we will be providing them with more in the future.



Residents of the Clanwilliam old age home receiving the linen.



Moonyeen Castle speaking to residents of Highlands House



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"Afrika Tikkun gives me the chance to learn the computer skills that I need in order to get a job."
Luyanda Bukwana, Age 19



"Afrika Tikkun lets me express myself through drum and dance."
Asenathi Pama, Age 13



"Afrika Tikkun helps me learn and gives me nice food."
Glihle May, Age 6



"I am given a chance to go overseas for the first time in my life for sport."
Sakhe Sitsha, Age 16



"I come to Afrika Tikkun to do sports training and for food."
Ayanda Jali, Age 10



"I come to Afrika Tikkun for sports training after school, I love running!"
Hlela Xameni, Age 11

We asked some of the children and youth who participate in our programmes, to share, in their own words what being part of Afrika Tikkun means to them.



"Afrika Tikkun guides me in difficult times."
Akheka Nomfulana, Age 13



"I am helped with my school work and I can do research in the library."
Zikhona Tsholoba, Age 17



"Afrika Tikkun teaches me and gives me nice toys."
Mondriano Kammies, Age 6



"Afrika Tikkun helps me with my homework after school."
Sivuyile Heyns, Age 15



"Afrika Tikkun is my second home, it makes me feel safe from all the gangsters on the streets."
Loyiso Jugu, Age 17



"I am grateful to be able to play soccer after school and then I get some food and then I go home."
Caswell Mthini, Age 13

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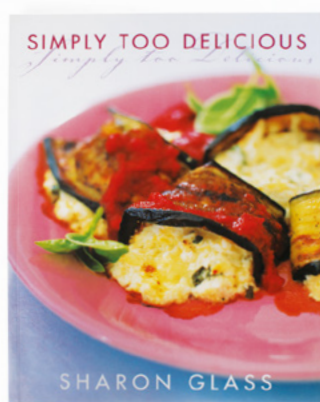
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PARKING AVAILABLE

Israeli Embassy Consular Services coming to Cape Town

The Embassy of Israel in South Africa will offer its Consular Services in Cape Town during the month of February 2014. The Cape Jewish Chronicle spoke to new Deputy Head of Mission Michael Freeman and Head of Administration and Consular Services Aviad Hefetz to tell us more.

Tell us about the Consular Services that you will be setting up in Cape Town in February?

We will be offering most of our Consular Services from Cape Town. People will be able to bring in their applications for passports, ID, etcetera and then we will process them and send them in the mail. We will provide Power of Attorney, identify citizens (for passports, ID documents etc) and more.

What motivated this and what do you hope to achieve from it?

Our motivation is to improve the services that we provide. If we can aid Israeli citizens and members of the Jewish community who would otherwise have to travel to Pretoria, then that is what we want to achieve.

For those readers who do not know, tell us about the work of the Israeli Embassy and the Israeli Ambassador in South Africa.

As we say to many of our friends, there's what you may think we do (cocktail

evenings and dinners?) and what we actually do! The reality is vastly different from what you may imagine, including a lot of administration work in running an embassy. Much of our work also includes getting out and understanding the country, meeting people and learning where it is that South Africa and Israel can connect and link through 'crossover points.' This includes getting to know various industries, such as agriculture, and meeting with a variety of people. We also work with Jewish community members.

What are some of the goals and visions that the Embassy wants to work towards in the months and years ahead?

We want to improve the bilateral relationship between South Africa and Israel. We see huge potential here for

working together, from increasing business contacts to learning from one another. Chapter 6 of the National Development Plan talks about water use and creating jobs in agriculture — two areas that Israel is an expert in. While we don't have all of the answers, we do want to contribute to the discussion. Chapter 9 speaks about Innovation — and Israel is the 'Start-Up Nation', so we feel we can contribute here as well.

We also have things to learn from South Africa. One example is Mandela's legacy of negotiated reconciliation and compromise as a way to solve conflicts, which resonates

with us.

What are the biggest challenges the Embassy faces?

Our challenge is to put Israel front and centre in South Africa and to be proud of what we have to offer, who we are and what we have achieved.

We are sure that if we challenge the conventional wisdom we will find that the vast majority of South Africans will embrace us, will want to partner with us and utilise some



Deputy Head of Mission
Michael Freeman



H.E. Ambassador Arthur
Lenk

"We want to improve the bilateral relationship between South Africa and Israel. We see huge potential here for working together."

of the amazing technology from Israel.

What are some of the Embassy's recent achievements?

Since being here, we have found a willingness to engage with Israel. South Africans want to talk about how it is that whilst our population has quadrupled since 1964 our water consumption has stayed almost constant; they want to know how we succeed in agriculture and how we became the 'Start-Up Nation.' Over the next number of years, we are looking forward to having those discussions and seeing where we can work with South

Africa.

Anything else you would like to add?

We are very excited to be in South Africa — it was a place that both the Ambassador and the Deputy asked to be sent to. So far it has exceeded expectations!

Anyone who wishes to set up an appointment for Consular Services in February should send an email to consular@pretoria.mfa.gov.il and include their full name and Israeli ID number (Israeli citizens) or passport number (non-Israeli citizens). In the email they should explain what services they require. Unfortunately, telephone appointments will not be accepted. See the advert on the opposite page for more information.



Head of
Administration and
Consular Services
Aviad Hefetz

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TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2013, 7:00PM
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www.thelast survivor.com



To mark International Human Rights Day
The Cape Town Holocaust Centre presents

MEDICINE DURING THE THIRD REICH

The Implications for Creating Awareness of Professional Responsibility Today

An illustrated lecture by Dr Tessa Chelouche, a physician and medical ethicist with a particular interest in the connection between medicine and the Holocaust. In May 2013 she published "a Casebook on Bioethics and the Holocaust" as part of a programme for UNESCO Chair in Bioethics that publishes casebooks on bioethical topics which are used worldwide in medical and nursing schools.

CAPE TOWN
HOLOCAUST
CENTRE

December 10, 8pm
88 Hatfield Street, Gardens
RSVP to admin@holocaust.org.za or 021 462 5553

Image: Dr. Otmar von Verschuer, head of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute's Department for Human Heredity, examined hundreds of pairs of twins to study whether criminality, feeble-mindedness, tuberculosis, and cancer were inheritable.
Credit: Archiv zur Geschichte der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin-Dahlem



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IN CAPE TOWN
IN THE SECOND WEEK
OF FEBRUARY 2014**

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(for Passports, ID, etc)
- Dropping off all
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(for passports, ID, etc)

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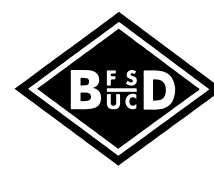
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A RESTING DEVELOPMENT

Countrywide Shabbat campaign led by South Africa's Chief Rabbi catches fire.

Simon Apfel

As published in
The Jerusalem Post

Last month in South Africa, in defiance of almost everybody's expectations, against all sober-minded forecasts, something extraordinary happened. Tens of thousands of South African Jews of all backgrounds and levels of Jewish observance joined together to keep a Shabbat.

Streets thronged with families walking together to shul. The night air was filled with the sweet songs of Shabbat and the smells of Shabbat cooking. Synagogues overflowed. Homes were filled with family life.

This was "The Shabbos Project" – an astonishingly ambitious initiative introduced this year by South Africa's Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, and whose motto, "Keeping it together", touched a Z within the diverse South African Jewish community. Numbers do not tell the full story. They don't capture the enchanted, slightly surreal atmosphere, the emotional charge, the unbridled sense of triumph.

But they are staggering enough. Early estimations are that more than 30,000 South African Jews, almost half of the community, kept the Shabbat of 11/12 October in its entirety, or as the eight-point manifesto at the hub of The Shabbos Project puts it, "...from sundown to stars out, in all of its halachic details and splendour".

Many of South Africa's arena-sized synagogues reported capacity turnouts – crowds exceeding those of Kol Nidrei and first night Rosh Hashana – and almost eerily empty parking lots. Immediately after Shabbat, more than 6,000 gathered at free open-air "havdalah concerts" in Johannesburg and Cape Town, and on the Thursday evening before Shabbat, almost 3,000 women participated in the "Great Street Challah Bake", flooding the streets of Johannesburg to prepare challah dough. This latter event had passersby

gawking in disbelief, the owner of a local bakery remarking that it was "the most beautiful thing she had ever seen". Robyn Smookler, one of the organisers of the Great Street Challah Bake, took to Facebook, awe-struck at just how big her little event had become.

"Today I witnessed two tons of flour being sifted and packaged into one-kilogram bags...the packaging of thousands of containers of oil, sugar and other ingredients... the arrival of thousands of bowls, thousands of spoons and hundreds of jugs. I witnessed brothers and sisters of Africa working together in complete joy and unity to make magic happen, and I witnessed the kindness and unity that our South African Jewish community is famous for! Each day I sense G-d's presence in the world. Today it felt extra powerful."

Perhaps just as remarkably, hundreds of residents of Oaklands, Johannesburg, gathered together in the streets of the suburb for a massive Friday night "dinner under the stars".

The idea was put forward by Clive Blechman, chairman of the local synagogue. "I told people I wanted to have a Shabbat dinner in my front yard, and the idea caught fire...except the front yard became the entire street, and a handful of families from the shul quickly became 600 people from the wider area." In the end, Blechman was forced to turn away around 200 people.

"It looked like a protest march, as what seemed like the entire suburb converged on my house after shul. Non-Jewish residents seemed confused, but intrigued. It was a strange, beautiful experience. People phoned afterwards to say how they had been touched by the atmosphere of togetherness, and how thrilling it was to have had dinner with their families while sitting in the street!"

The "Ohr Somayach" shul in Cape Town hosted 200 extra people in addition to the "regular" Shabbat crowd, among them a local celebrity pop star. Another popular performer, Israeli singer/songwriter, Yonatan Razel, led the Kabbalat Shabbat service, and a back room had to be opened up to accommodate the spillover. Those unaccustomed to Shabbat observance were set up for meals with host families from the community.

"I was personally moved in a way that I have not been for a long time," said Rabbi Dani Brett, educational

director at Ohr Somayach Cape Town. "I was quite surprised at how different my own Shabbat was. I have heard the same from many others – colleagues, family members, friends and congregants. And although all the people who expressed this to me are of varying Jewish observance, and their emotional and spiritual spaces are not the same at all, across the board there was a sense of sharing and of emotional depth that is uncanny in its similarity."

The shared experiences and the spirit of unity were palpable and pervasive throughout the Shabbat. Unsurprisingly though, it is the smaller, more personal stories that have really captured the imagination.

In the affluent beach-side suburb of Camps Bay in Cape Town, one family had 30 guests around their Shabbos lunch table who were new

once, she says the thought of doing it again is not as daunting – made even less daunting by what, for her, was an overwhelmingly joyous experience.

"On our walk to shul on Friday night we were met by our neighbours, and it was so wonderful to shout out "Shabbat Shalom!" in the streets of Johannesburg. It was an especially beautiful sight to see so many families walking together to shul. It amazed me how the shul kept filling up yet there was somehow room for us all."

Monique Shlagman had a similar experience at her own synagogue. "Many people go to shul on the high holy days because that is what you have to do. This, however, was just an ordinary Shabbat. It wasn't something we had to do, or were even expected to do. It was something we wanted to do. People I would never expect took part – my mother-in-law, for instance, who hasn't been



to keeping Shabbat. They went around the table each sharing their Shabbat experiences. It took an hour and a half. Another Johannesburg family hosted a high school reunion with a difference, as around 50 former classmates gathered as guests in their home to keep Shabbat together. A group of South African students studying at the IDC college in Herzlia (Israel) heard about The Shabbos Project, and decided to keep Shabbat together. A Grade 9 pupil at King David Linksfield, South Africa's largest Jewish Day School, said he couldn't think of a single one of his peers who wasn't keeping that Shabbat.

"My children were so enthusiastic and I must commend the organisers for actively involving the Jewish Day schools – I think this was the key to families buying into the initiative," says Gayle Landau, whose own family was keeping Shabbat for the first time. Now that she has kept Shabbat

to shul on Shabbat for nearly eight years..." Brett, who also runs a number of city-wide Jewish literacy programmes in Cape Town, bears this out.

"In the week leading up to that Shabbat, I had conversations with the most unlikely people concerning intricacies and minutiae of practical Shabbat observance. I had to ask myself a number of times that week, 'Did I really just have that conversation?', 'Did that really just happen?'"

So how did it happen?

Initially, most people were understandably sceptical about The Shabbos Project. Reflecting on the conference held in August to get the country's rabbinical leaders on the same page and co-ordinate launch activities, many rabbis have admitted they were only

humouring Goldstein. Right up until around mid-September, it looked as if the skeptics had been right. People seemed either disinterested in The Shabbos Project or unaware of it. Then, says Goldstein, almost overnight, “a vast and energetic social movement suddenly sprung up, as people spontaneously came forward to take ownership of the The Shabbos Project and bring it to life.” It prompted a mystified Dan Ariely – the Israeli-American professor of psychology and behavioural economics, whose conversation with Goldstein back in 2012 sparked the idea for The Shabbos Project – to send out a survey last Friday, to find out just what was on people’s minds – where they were coming from, what was motivating them. Ariely, the author of The New York Times best-seller, *Predictably Irrational*, remains intrigued and is intent on getting to the bottom of it.

Goldstein has his own thoughts on the phenomenon. In addition to citing the mystical and historical connection between Shabbat and the Jewish people, he maintains that Shabbat observance brings communal spirit, family togetherness, and inner calm, to the alienation, fragmentation and gadget saturation of our twenty-first-century lives.

There is no doubt that an effective media campaign also played a significant role in the success of the Shabbos Project.

A popular Facebook page posted hundreds of video endorsements

from South African Jews across the spectrum – among them, South Africa’s former opposition leader in parliament, a well-known local celebrity, and one of the country’s most beloved comedians. Billboards and banners adorned the streets of suburbs and highways in South Africa’s four main cities. An “Unofficial guide to keeping Shabbos”, authored by the Chief Rabbi’s wife, Gina Goldstein, escorted first-time Shabbat observers through all the various halachic details, while a “Shabbos toolkit” gave people an enriched understanding of Shabbat practices. There are also, undoubtedly, important sociological factors. The South African Jewish community is a fiercely and famously traditional one, of which, around ninety percent are affiliated with Orthodoxy. Even those who are not observant attend Orthodox synagogues and send their children to Orthodox schools. These institutions became actively involved in The Shabbos Project, and were vocal in encouraging people to participate.

“Our schools and shuls have been amazing partners in The Shabbos Project,” says Goldstein, “supporting their students and congregants by arranging activities, meals and educational programs to make the Shabbos experience enjoyable and inspiring.” Brett echoes these sentiments. He believes that while the steady increase in Jewish observance, education and awareness brought the

South African Jewish community to a place from which it was ready for this step-change, the success of The Shabbos Project had a lot to do with a community that has learnt to work together for the greater good of all. “The Chief Rabbi did what was necessary as a leader,” says Brett. “He envisioned the possibility out of what many others saw as a non-possibility, he communicated that vision to the public as well as to other leaders – lay, professional and rabbinic – and he worked extremely hard to the very end to create communication channels and structural platforms for others to take ownership of the project within the shuls, schools and other community spaces. So the historical window opened, the Chief jumped through it, everyone followed, and the momentum of the community swept all of us along.”

David Shaw is the community rabbi of Sandton Shul, one of South Africa’s largest congregations. He was one of the few who foresaw the success of The Shabbos Project from the start, which he attributes in no small part to Goldstein’s single-mindedness.

“We have a Chief Rabbi who is not only wise and sagacious but is also an inspiring leader. He understands the community who, in turn, respect him, trust him and are therefore willing to support his many excellent initiatives. Perhaps most importantly, because the Chief Rabbi does what he does Leshaim Shamayim, “for the sake of heaven”, I believe that G-d will continue to bless all of his community endeavours and ensure they prosper as The Shabbos Project has.”

The question remains, however – was this just a once-off, or have people made real, sustainable changes to their lives? South African Jews have bottled lightning, but can anything be done with it?

Can an entire community change in a day?

“The fact that people kept Shabbat just once will profoundly change who they are, and for now, in my opinion, we should leave it at that.”

says Brett. “And yes, that way, there will be subtle but substantial chang-

es, such that the Shabbat of Parshat Lech Lecha, 5774, will become a historical before-and-after story for South African Jewry. I’m sure that many are considering their ‘what-now’ step, and many others who are simply cherishing the gift of the experience, owning it, celebrating it. All have been touched.”

Perhaps the most touching aspect of The Shabbos Project is the way it brought observant and non-observant Jews together in a world in which they are drifting further apart.

Of course, national or communal unity is most often a social construct. It feels flat, forced, artificial; something political leaders or sententious television adverts tell us we have.

But the unity felt this past Shabbat was real, perhaps because it was anchored in a more personal harmony experienced within homes, within families, and within people’s own inner beings.

As Goldstein puts it, “There is a harmony to Shabbat that allows people to appreciate what they have in their lives; that helps them ‘Keep it together’ in every sense. From all the stories that have been pouring in over the past two weeks, it is clear that those who took part in The Shabbos Project experienced not simply a day of rest, but a day of true Jewish unity.”

Right now, the Jewish World is probably more fragmented than it has ever been.

Those in positions of influence are scratching their heads over the largely discouraging Pew Report findings in the US and the ever-growing religious/secular divide in Israel, and many have simply resigned themselves to these “realities”.

There is no doubt the issues are complex and varied – but who knows, perhaps something as simple as an international “Shabbos project” can help unearth common ground.

South Africa has showed that it’s not as far-fetched as it seems.

www.theshabbosproject.org
facebook.com/theshabbosproject



- 1 The Shabbos Project manifesto
- 2 Yonatan Razel and Choni G
- 3 Rachel Musikanth & Talia Krisi baking challah
- 4 Havdallah at Gardens Shul
- 5 Havdallah Concert
- 6 The Shabbos Project Tool Kit



Family Announcements

100TH BIRTHDAY — THANK YOU

MARY ATLAS

I would like to thank my family, friends and all at Highlands House for their kind messages, gifts and donations to various charities on the occasion of my 100th birthday.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

JULIUS BLACK

We are sincerely grateful to family and friends for their support after the passing of Julie on the 24th October.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Delores, children Fred, David and Sharon, grandchildren, and great grandchild.

A special thank you to Dr Mossie Silbert for his dedication, care and kindness, Rabbi Hecht and the Marais Rd Congregation.

STANLEY BLOCH

Our sincere thanks to Rabbi Liebenberg, family, friends and organisations for the warmth, kindness, visits, emails, calls and meals on the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother.

We will cherish his memory forever.

Janice, Jenni, Anthony, David and their families and Shirley Levitt.

ZELDA GOSSCHALK

We are most grateful to our family and friends for their kindness and love during the long illness and loss of our beloved mother and grandmother Zelda.

Our sincere thanks to Rabbi Liebenberg and members of the Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation for their considerate and generous support.

Hilary and Simon Brodovcky, Janice Hurwitz, Philip and Linda Fish, Gill and Barnet Kitay and their families.

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

MIRIAM KRUSS

We would like to thank all our wonderful family and friends for the continuous love and support shown to Miriam during her battle with cancer. We are deeply touched by the many glowing tributes, fond memories, warm messages and meals received during our shiva.

Glenda, Cheryl, Jacqui and families

MICHAEL SAREMBOCK

We would like to express our sincere thanks for all the messages, visits and comfort shown to us by family, friends, colleagues, communal organisations and congregations on the passing of Michael.

He was a much loved and respected father, brother, grandfather and friend and is greatly missed.

A special thank you to all Rabbonim, especially Rabbi Wineberg, who were of great support to him.

Shaun, Peta, Steven, Gerald, Anita, Santi and families

LENNIE STERN

We wish to express our appreciation to all who sent condolences and were supportive during this difficult time.

A special thanks to Rabbi Feldman, the Gardens Shul, Chevra Kadisha and those who attended the funeral.

Lennie is sorely missed by his family
Monica, Quinton and Tamsin.

STELLA STERNBERG

Our sincerest thanks to family, friends and colleagues for the warm and loving support on the sad loss of our beloved mother and grandmother, Stella.

A very special thanks to Dr Leon Geffen and the staff at Highlands House for their outstanding care.

Adrienne, Paul and Gordon Frumer David Sternberg and family.

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

Speaking for themselves

Impressions of Melton from students of the graduating class of 2013



Melton Class of 2013: Back: Moonyeen Castle (Board Member), Simone Sulcas, Craig Nudelman, Gabi Sulcas, Barbi Hanan, Ronnie Gotkin (faculty), Lynda Loubser, Ncedi Mayekiso, Esther Maizels (faculty), Luba Mayekiso, Kim Fisher, Annette Roup, Leaza Cowan, Socky Cohen, Annette Taljaard and Debbie Weinstein. Front: Saul Kaplan and Bryan Opert (faculty), Viv Anstey (Director), Lauren Snitcher (Recruitment), Jill Lazard, Rosa Kolevsohn and Ady Mann. Absent: Greg Alexander (faculty), Hillel Goodman, Tammy Glanger and Patsy Bagraim

The Melton graduation ceremony on 7 November was a milestone moment that marked endings and new beginnings — the cycle of acquiring Jewish knowledge.

Feedback on the course included the following:

The Melton learning experience has been remarkable. Studying fascinating original texts gives authenticity and allows one to achieve clarity in a short time. It enables one to appreciate sources from antiquity to today and across the entire spectrum; by discussing, comparing and contrasting the different voices, the learning becomes (almost!) effortless. Above all, the group environment not only bonds the participants as friends but also adds immeasurably to the depth of experience. I wish I had been exposed to this incredibly powerful learning method through my years of Jewish Studies at school!

Debbie Weinstein

My 2-year Melton course, based on a topical and non-judgemental curriculum, provided me with a well-rounded perspective of Judaism that filled many gaps in my knowledge of Judaism and Yiddishkeit. It gave me a better understanding, from ancient texts to contemporary ethical issues. What a privilege to have the opportunity to indulge myself in academic study once a week and be exposed to thinking about and questioning pertinent Jewish issues. Melton fills a unique role in being able to educate those people interested in in-depth sophisticated text-based learning and discussion. It has been a most enriching and thought-provoking journey of discovery.

Simone Sulcas

I was initially encouraged to attend the Melton course to assist members of the Jacob Gittin Library in finding relevant material in its 'treasure chest' of a collection. I came out with far more than I could have imagined.

Through reading and discussing Jewish texts with groups of inspiring people and incredibly knowledgeable facilitators I was introduced to many Jewish voices, grappling with many Jewish issues from many angles, through the vast and varied contexts of the Jewish existence.

This experience has taught me to enjoy the process of formulating my own answers to questions and to accept that this can change over time as the world and my view of it changes. It has taught me that questioning the very foundation of my Jewish identity can help clarify and strengthen my identity in my life today.

The Melton course has truly given me the tools to continue 'wondering', whilst maintaining and developing my Jewish identity through changing times and contexts.

Tammy Glanger

Melton is recruiting for February 2014: Come and learn the Melton way. Dare yourself to delve deep and empower yourself with Jewish knowledge, within a text based curriculum, at this project of Hebrew University.

You will be in good company.

Register NOW and KNOW JUDAISM

For more details contact: Viv Anstey, 0828095414, vivanst@iafrica.com OR Lauren Snitcher, 0828802257, lsnitcher@iafrica.com. Visit www.meltonschool.org

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Hunger, learning and sacrificial giving — A talk by Jonathan Jansen

The Union of Jewish Women (UJW) hosted a talk by Professor Jonathan Jansen on 4 November.

Jansen is Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State, and an internationally acclaimed educator.

When the highly-respected social commentator walked into the room, his presence was palpable. Jansen's larger-than-life personality had an instantaneous effect on the expectant audience. As a renowned professor, Jansen's reputation

does not prepare us for his captivating charm, his personality and his sense of humour.

Jansen's talk, entitled *Hunger, Learning and Sacrificial Giving*, began with a computer glitch. But as an experienced speaker this did not faze him, and with humility, he acknowledged his lack of IT skills — praising the young gentleman (Dean Horwitz) who managed to sort it out!

Jansen's insight and generosity together with his understanding of where

we as a nation have come from, and where we are currently, is refreshing, reassuring and disarming.

Transformation and integration are two of his motivators. He puts into practise real solutions that enable recipients to maintain dignity and pride, allowing them to retain their humility and humanity.

This is extremely inspiring for the UJW, as we try to emulate these principles in our work.

Jansen credits his wife, Grace, for instituting the No Hungry Student

(NHS) Programme at his university. This ensures that students who cannot afford food receive a small daily amount of money in exchange for a fixed number of community service hours. The results of this programme have far-reaching effects, including improved grades, lower dropout levels and increased student social awareness.

We are proud and honoured to have hosted this amazing man and feel privileged to have heard his inspiring speech.



Prof. Jonathan Jansen delivering his lecture.



Top: Phyllis Friedlander, Vanessa Arelisky, Shelley Jocum and Sheryl Schkolne at the welcome desk.

Above: The Shine Centre staff — Sarah Scarth, Nosipho Mabato, Nomawethu Nika, Bea Volbrecht, Julie Fischer, Kerry White, Madalitsa Chimphango and Beth Silbert

Left: Jonathan Jansen surprising Sheila Aronstam by thanking her for her contribution to his university before she could thank him for talking at the event!

The UJW is looking for a VOLUNTEER with a financial background to act as our HONORARY TREASURER
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Bat Mitzvah Club graduation ceremony

For the past year, the Green & Sea Point Hebrew Congregation's Bat Mitzvah Club has shown its girls why a Bat Mitzvah is so much more than a party.

It has taught them what it really means to be a Bat Mitzvah in the modern world. The girls have got to know their Jewish identities through art, creative writing and community outreach. They have discussed important topics and shared their interests, goals, dreams and hopes. The programme culminated in the Marais Road Shul's Bat Mitzvah Club graduation ceremony.

On Sunday 20 October, 28 young Jewish girls marked the start of their adult Jewish life with knowledge and pride. Up until their 12th birthdays, it has all been a practice run!

In a brilliant musical and verse presentation, the graduates, together with Cantor Ivor Joffe, David Gordon and the Marais Road Shul choir, presented this year's theme of 'Ani Maamin — I believe.'

Rabbonim of the participating shuls presented their congregants with graduate certificates in addition to certificates from Yad Vashem, where the girls twinned with a victim of the Holocaust who never had a Bat Mitzvah.

Warm thanks were offered by Shul President Selwyn Greenhill, and indeed a huge 'shkayach' to Rebbetzin Sara Wineberg for creating and growing the Bat Mitzvah Club and to Rebbetzin Chani Hecht for amazing support and preparing our members for their Dvar Torahs in shul.

And finally, a big mazel tov to all 28 graduates of 2013: Michaela Codron, Erin Deats, Jemma Diamond, Michaela Diamond, Erin Duveen, Gia Fanaroff, Batya Hepple, Leah Hepple, Tannah Israel, Isabella Jackson, Lara Kassel, Carla Kassel, Giorgia Katz, Sarah Katz, Chiara Levin, Rebecca Nathan, Eve Pywell, Rachel Rawray, Ariella Resnick, Lexi Sank, Lara Seeff, Yetta Shell, Rozanne Sherman, Cayla Shmaryahu, Saskia Todes, Hannah Wells, Ruby Wilder and Talia Woolfson.



The BMC 2013 girls



'I Believe' — Lexi Sank



Isabella Jackson



Hannah Wells addressing the crowd.



Ruby Wilder



Tannah Israel and Rebbetzin Sarah Wineberg



Carla Kassel receiving her certificate.



Chiara Levin and Leah Hepple share a happy moment.



Rabbi Wineberg addressing the BMC girls



Pure joy as the girls reach for the sweet platter!



Rebbetzins Chani Hecht and Sarah Wineberg — a powerful duo



Eve Pywell and her family



'Ani Ma'amin'



Michaela Codron and Rebecca Nathan after receiving their certificates.

בע"ה

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Cans will be donated to charities incl. Tikvah & Kensington crèche



YAD Golf Day 2013

YAD's 12th Annual Golf Day took place on 31 October at the King David Golf Club.

The rain in Cape Town created a fair amount of doubt as to the day's event going ahead, but true to form the King David Golf Club experienced only a drizzle whilst Cape Town enjoyed a downpour of note.

YAD understands that golfers are a determined bunch and there is little that can deter them from playing. Besides, there were attractive prizes at stake and aromatic Origin Coffee warmed everyone up for the big competition! We thank them for turning out in their numbers, making this a great day for all and supporting such an important cause.

Every 'brandable' hole was sold and every four ball too — a great indication that this remains a highly sought-after event that has a loyal following. Vitamin Water, Energade, soft drinks, espresso, strawberries, alcohol, waters and massages were just some of what was on offer at the various holes. There were opportunities to win amazing prizes simply by providing details to the sponsor of the hole. A braai, Blue Label whisky, branded golf gear and getaways were all up for grabs.

YAD remains humbled and grateful to key sponsors Stenham and Macsteel without whom the YAD Golf Day would not be the standout success that it is.

YAD was also blessed to have the valued support of sponsors on each of the holes, numerous donors of fabulous prizes as well as products and services — all of which made the day an enjoyable value added one for our golfers.

Larry Soffer amazed everyone with his display of mentalism and Merle Rubin's delicious fare was excellent as always.

In acknowledging the efforts of so many in producing this terrific event, we invite you to please note the sponsors listed opposite, and we encourage you to support them in turn where possible.



Investec 1's Robert Franco, David Schneider, Trevor Morris and Laurence Kaplan



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Granite Asset Management staff

Photography by Stu Shapiro and Jason Paul Hermann.
More photos can be seen on www.facebook.com/yadcapetown

A great day despite the drizzle



PKF's Bradley Jackson, Mickey Giles, Julian Radowsky and Barry Loedwyk



Brent Shapiro, Michael Bracale, Warren Joffe and Corder Tilney



Stenham's Marina Pienaar and Monique Bock



Granite Asset Management's Ryan Goodman, Riaan Gerber, David Lewis and Rentzke Smook



Stenham 1's Alasdair Neilson, Dennis Fabian, Larry Sive and Bernard Osrin



Larry Soffer bending Leora Hessen's fork!



Stenham 1's Morris Munitz, Barry Friedman, Mark Sacks and Jonathan Osrin



PKF staffers



Mobelli Lotus Grill demo



Bidvest Bank's Salligha Fataar and Lindie Le Roux

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E. & O.E.



Early Childhood Development course with ORT SA CAPE

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The course is ideal for:

- School leavers or students choosing to teach pre-schoolers.
- Caregivers attaining more knowledge of how to stimulate the children in their care.
- Early Childhood Development Teacher assistants gaining a qualification.

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ORT SA CAPE has a track record of excellence in teacher training. There is a tremendous need for trained people to care for and educate younger children from birth to 4 years old. Starting an intervention at such a critical stage in a child's development will vastly improve their success in the future.

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For this exciting opportunity please contact Bev Da Costa at 021-448 8516 or info@ortsacape.org.za.



The ORT SA CAPE staff: Back: Debbie Staniland, Nomfazi Xametshata, Siwaphiwe Tshona, Simone Hendricks, Lisa Sandler, Zozo Steven, Bongive Sihuba, Cindy Bacher, Ronel Nel, Bonga Maphongwana, Bev Da Costa and Brenna Frankel. Front: Susan Meyer, Lydia Abel and Pam Ncapai

ORT SA CAPE and ORT JET wish you and your families a Channukah Sameach! May the light of this Channukah be an inspiration to South Africans to improve the quality of education for all in 2014.

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YOUR BEST IDEAS
STAY ON
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Two journeys provide inspiration

The Orit branch of Bnoth Zion WIZO hosted an event entitled 'Two Journeys' on 30 October, where two women shared their experiences in overcoming challenges.

Esther Miller told of her difficult but fulfilling journey from conservative Christianity to Orthodox Judaism; and Carol Musikanth spoke about the heartbreaking but ultimately triumphant journey she travelled on when her daughter became her son.



Tamar Lazarus and Esther Miller



A packed audience



Carol Musikanth (centre) surrounded by the audience.



ORT JET networking breakfast

ORT JET hosted a successful networking breakfast at Coffee Time on 24 October.



Back: Shelley Maree and Kerry Hoffman. Front: Lynne Saven and Hazel Levin



From left: Stuart Kantor, Robbie Cohen, Saville Saharin and Hazel Levin

astra**New Products at Astra**

On left: Embroidered Brit Milah cushion and baby-sized yarmulka (not shown).

Above: Embroidery available in blue, silver or gold.
Yarmulkas available plain or trimmed with silver or gold.

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Continued from page 10

Immigration debate

Delving into the facts and figures, Chris Whelan noted that by 2050, Africa will constitute around 20% of the world's population, while Europe will be around 7-8%. "This massively impacts on migration thinking globally, as countries and regions seek to take advantage of skilled migration but limit the social implications of uncontrolled migration," he explained.

"In terms of migration policy, the ideal is an open policy, which actively encourages skills acquisition across a range of levels. This is not just 'white collar' and tertiary skills," emphasised Whelan. "Take the example of Saldanha. It needs petrochemical engineers, but equally it needs artisans and less-skilled labour. A possible solution lies in encouraging use of unskilled labour to build productive infrastructure.

"Skills are mobile and should not be seen as geographically bound," he added. "In a post global financial crisis (GFC) world, South Africa is well positioned to take advantage of relatively poor conditions in other parts of the world. We have the advantage of being a proverbial 'soft landing' in Africa, in the same way places like Singapore and Hong Kong are for Asia," continued Whelan.

"The reality of globalisation — financially and economically, but perhaps more in terms of geopolitical factors — presents us with clear and fairly stark choices: live together, embrace a common destiny

and prosper, or travel an isolationist, protectionist path and face decline and failure. This is not an ideological issue. It is not a political matter, not a business versus labour matter. It is a human matter," he concluded.

Rapaleng Rabana shared her own experiences as an immigrant to South Africa from Botswana, bringing home the reality of the challenges faced by immigrants but also the opportunities for success (she was recently listed by Forbes as one of 30 under 30 Best Young African Entrepreneurs). "Entrepreneurial immigrants are 'lower risk' in that they are not averse to the idea of radical change, and this mindset is extremely valuable," she said.

Audience members enthusiastically posed complex questions to the panellists, and many took to Twitter to share their thoughts. Summarising much of the positive points that were put forward, Vasilli Sofiadellis tweeted, "New skills, new ideas — Our migration policy should speak to these!" Indeed, the event demonstrated the need for discussion around immigration, and the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies certainly brought a relevant topic to the fore by initiating this debate.

For more information on the 'Transformation Conversation' series, contact David Jacobson at davidj@ctjc.co.za

Young leaders ignited for the future



Rael Kaimowitz, Aron Turest-Swartz, Dina Segal, Jared Kahn, David Cohen, Kirsty Turest-Swartz, Jacqui Russon, Lauren Kessler, Talya Ressel, Luigi Bonfig, Ryan Berkowitz, Steven Berkowitz, Ross Kudo, Ryan Stein and Gerald Kleinman. Front: Dean Horwitz.

Participants in the first Ignite! leadership course graduated after completing an intensive programme of 8 sessions.

Ignite! is a project of the United Jewish Campaign of Cape Town (UJC) and the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

The course motivates young Jewish adults to be involved and trained in communal work and activities.

Ignite! offers an opportunity to give back to the community, network with other young professionals and gain new skills.

A full report will follow in the next issue of the Chronicle.

A breakfast and a dinner

By Gwynne Robins

I recently received an invitation to attend a breakfast at the Vineyard Hotel with Prof Taj Hargey.

He was visiting from Oxford where he lectures and runs the Muslim Educational Centre and an interfaith organisation. Delia Scott, who had met him, wanted to introduce us.

Taj told us that if we wanted to break down interfaith barriers, we could not do it by expecting people to sit and listen to a panel discussion or a lecture. They must share a meal together and talk! "If you arrange a family braai at the beach and little Mohammed, Christopher and David play together in the pools while the parents talk, that is how you get interfaith going," he said.

Delia was inspired and wanted to try to get people of different communities together over a meal. She found a caterer and a large free venue — UCT's Kolbe House Catholic Chaplaincy, a huge Victorian mansion — and put together a four-person interfaith committee. They started planning an event for 21 September.

It was an amazing evening. There were Ahmadi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Sufis, Baha'i, Rwandan Christians, Anglicans, Catholics, Methodists, Unitarians, Quakers, Hindus and Jews. Here were over a hundred people getting to know each other, enjoying themselves and learning in what was, for most of them, was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The poor musician was drowned out by the din!

Marlene Silbert brought interfaith learners and teachers from her interfaith intercultural school group that she runs through the CT Interfaith Initiative. After preparatory lessons, they go to Blackburn UK each year to be an example to the English learners on the acceptance of diversity. One learner was placed at each table to demonstrate interfaith friendship. I helped compile brochures including a description of Marlene's interfaith school project and the Charter for Compassion.

After starters, the learners went to a communal youth table and the adults seated there had to take their places. After the main course (halaal — fish and veg, no wine) people were once again encouraged to swap tables

Former Cape Times editor and M.C. John Scott kept the evening together; insisting



Imam Rashied Omar making introductory remarks



Rabbi Greg Alexander led the group in bensching after the meal



John Scott talks to the group.

that people were to get to know one another and network, and that all speeches be brief. An introductory message was given by Imam Rashied Omar; grace was said by Anglican Rev. Harry Wiggett, and Catholic Father Chris Clohessy spoke before dessert — all on interfaith acceptance. Rabbi Greg Alexander giving an inspired bensching — teaching the audience a one-line Aramaic grace from the Talmud, with everyone singing along with him happily.

There was the most amazing atmosphere of friendship; a happy, warm, enthusiastic buzz all around with people talking to each other as equals — colour, race, place of origin, religion irrelevant, with outsiders connecting with insiders as friends.

Warm gratitude goes to Bagraims Attorneys and a few other generous donors who helped to fund the evening. The innumerable compliments and thanks afterwards were heart-warming and it was a privilege to have helped to put it together.

RECONCILIATION DAY INTERFAITH WALK

**MONDAY
16 DEC
9-11AM**

*The role of reconciliation
in overcoming violence
in South Africa*

Meeting at St George's Cathedral Labyrinth, **Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Patricia de Lille** will open the event. We will walk thoughtfully together from there, up the Company's Garden to the Gardens Synagogue and on to the Auwal Mosque in Dorp Street, with addresses at each venue:

Melanie Judge
Gender activist and social commentator

Lynette Maart
National Director, Black Sash

Sheikh Igsaan Taliep
Principal Islamic Peace University S.Africa

Light refreshments at the Bokaap Museum opposite the Mosque.

ALL WELCOME!

Please wear comfortable shoes, a sun hat and bring water!

Organised by: The Gardens Synagogue, The Auwal Mosque & St George's Cathedral.

Supported by:



For more info contact Di on 083 232 2349 or doliver@global.co.za



In the article about the Heritage Day bus tour on page 24 of the November issue, it was incorrectly stated that the bus tour participants had lunch at the Tanu Baru burial ground. They in fact had lunch at the Boorhaanol Nursery School. The Cape Jewish Chronicle regrets the error.



Finding windows for Channukiot
for almost 50 Years.

Wishing you all Chag Sameach.



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HERZLIA IN FOCUS

HIGH SCHOOL

Matric Valediction

Principal's Address

Matric valediction is one of the highlights of the year, celebrating the huge contribution you have made to this unique school.

I was leafing through a copy of the publication *Jewish Affairs* and came upon an article by Charlotte Cohen, titled 'The ten questions'. It struck me that this list could be useful to you matrics, as you leave school and travel out into the world. So with acknowledgement, apologies and thanks to Charlotte Cohen, I offer my version to you:

The ten questions

- What 'good and kind things' do you do — without being asked?
- What 'good and kind things' do you do for the planet?
- Do you use the talents you have been given?
- Do you listen to your 'inner voice' — your intuition, your conscience — or is it drowned out by what other people tell you to do?
- Do you show courage? Do you stand up for what is right?
- Do you try your best?
- Do you take responsibility for making a mistake and, if you make a mistake and you hurt someone by it, what do you do to put it right?
- Do you make the most of opportunities?
- Do you use your imagination?
- Do you remember to say 'thank you'? Are you grateful? Do you count your blessings?

Clearly, this list is not exhaustive: there is so much more to living a life with *menschlikheit*. There is nothing here of the importance of integrity, of generosity of spirit, of relationships with family, friends and one's community, of having a strong sense of identity — all vital in living what Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks calls 'a life of meaning and principle'.

It is a life of meaning and principle that I wish for each of you, matrics. I hope you recognise that at Herzlia you have not only learned life lessons and Jewish values, but have also had superb role models to emulate. I hope you will take all of this with you on your journey through life.

We will follow that journey and bask in the reflected glory of your achievements, so keep in touch and let us know what you are doing. Don't hesitate to visit — you are always welcome here. Know that you will always be a Herzlian — connected to your school and each other by the invisible web that binds the Herzlia family.

Continue reaching out to each other, as well as to the Jewish and wider community, as you have been doing so effectively during your years at school. Use the immortal words of Rabbi Hillel as your guiding light: "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? If I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" Strive always to be a person of substance and integrity: a mensch!

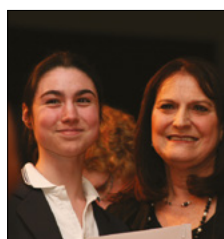
— Mrs Marianne Marks



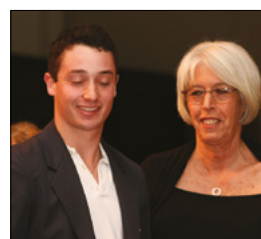
Top Academic Student in Gr. 12: Tamsin Kantor with Mrs Avril Roy



The Zalman Avin Memorial Award for Best All Rounder in Gr. 12: Joint winners: Tao Klitzner and Saul Bloch



The Late Joseph Abitz Memorial Award for the best piece of Hebrew writing: Georgia Saacks with Mrs Maureen Derman



United Synagogues Award: For significant contribution to the Judaic life of Herzlia High School over the past 3 years: Ben Rubin



The Achvah Trophy presented to the Gr. 12 pupil who best exemplifies the menschlikheit for which Herzlia stands: Chanan Suiza and Tao Klitzner



The Hebrew Order of David International Cup for Sportsman of the Year: Lauri Burke and Talia Anstey with Mrs Sarah Morris



The Hebrew Order of David International Cup for Sportsman Of The Year: Joshua Luck

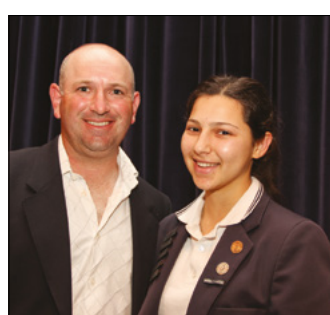
Grade 10 and 11 Prize Giving



The Max and Margaret Rabie Cup for the Best All-Rounder in Gr. 11: Ashley Fischhoff and Zena Kruss van der Heever with Mrs Marianne Marks



The Nasko Alexandrov Memorial Award: For the pupil in Gr. 11 who best exemplifies menschlikheit: Rachel Bootcov and Nathan Eisen with Mrs Marianne Marks



The Maccabi Sportswoman's Award in Gr. 11: Rachel Bootcov with Chairman of Maccabi Wayne Myers



The Maccabi Sportsman's Award in Gr. 11: Grant Scherzer with Chairman of Maccabi Wayne Myers



The Maccabi Award for the Best All-Rounder in Gr. 10: Romy Bloch



The Maccabi Sportswoman's Award in Gr. 10: Sherryn Berkovitz



The Schaffer Trophy presented to the Grade 10 pupil who best exemplifies menschlikheit: Adina Zieff, Daniel Sherman, Zachary Meltzer and Michaela Franco



The Maccabi Sportsman's Award in Gr. 10: Benjamin Sack, Michael Cohen and Benjamin Schaffer



The Ashley Kaimowitz Award presented to a Gr. 10 pupil in recognition of outstanding achievement and contribution to the Judaic life of the school: Levi Uranovsky

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Israel Exchange Programme

Fourteen Middle School pupils went on the Israel Exchange Programme, which saw them visiting Israel for ten days. They attended lessons with the Grade 9 students of Carmel Zvulun School and visited places like the River Kol-Kibbutzim, Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa, Kibbutz Yagur, the Rabin Museum in Tel Aviv and the Holocaust Museum.



The exchange pupils from Herzlia Middle School and Carmel Zvulun School at the Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa.

Showcase 2013

The annual Showcase event was an evening of absolute entertainment with pupils displaying their talents with musical items like vocal, guitar and piano solos. There was even a drum solo, a rock band and a ukulele duet. Dance performances ranged from duets to techno and contortion routines.



Jaime Joffe, Storme Eberlin, Gina Kempen, Daniel Zuckerman, Brendan Weaver, Alexa Jackson make up a splendid chorus line at the Middle School annual showcase.

WEIZMANN

The 3D Kosher Poster Programme

The Grade 5s recently visited Pick n Pay as part of the '3D Kosher Poster Programme' organised by JIPSY and KOCOSA (The Kosher Consumers Organisation).



Mia Briner Emma Jardine Eva Pazaitis Sammy-Leigh Levetan and Anna Miller

The Incredible Dog Show

The whole school was recently entertained by The Incredible Dog Show, presented by Lloyd Bristow, whose dogs have frequently represented South Africa at the Agility World Championships. Besides the amazing interaction and agility of the dogs, the show was also filled with humour and some powerful positive messages.



Climbing Kilimanjaro



Alon and Aviv Sachs who spoke to the Foundation Phase about their experience climbing Kilimanjaro, with Ben and Oz Sachs

CONSTANTIA

Student of Excellence Award



Avital Devir (pictured with Ms Dani Gordon and Mrs Rautenbach), received the new prestigious Student of Excellence Award for a term of outstanding effort and achievement.

The Danziger Award



Rose Zelezniak and Cieran Holmes, (Gr. 6) received the Danziger Award from Mrs Rautenbach for excellent progress for the third term

Musical maestros

The Foundation Phase children entertained the 2014 Grade 1 parents at Orientation Day.



Ryan Isserow, Ben Levitt, Josh Baar, Darren Greenspan and Aiyen Shevelew lead the Grade 3 recorder group.

HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

Star cricket players

At a match against Kronendal, the U11 boys scored 148; with Joshua Lewitton scoring 52 not out. Highlands then skittled Kronendal out for just 28 runs — the chief destroyer being Jacob Osrin, who claimed 8 wickets in just 3 overs for 3 runs, and this also included a superb hat trick.

The U12 boys continued their form against a strong Pinehurst team. Pinehurst batted first and scored 112. Highlands responded with 116, led by a fine innings from Kyle Zacks who batted through the innings scoring 59 not out. The boys won by 7 wickets.



Joshua Lewitton, Jacob Osrin and Kyle Zacks

Maya makes history

Maya Kovarsky represented Herzlia in the SANESA Western Province Horse Riding Championships where she gathered the most points. Maya has made Herzlia history as she is the very first Horse Riding Representative.



An internationally-recognised model for Holocaust education

The South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF) is increasingly being called upon to provide a model for how Holocaust history and its contemporary relevance can be taught around the world.

After the end of apartheid, the South African Department of Education drafted a new school curriculum with a strong human rights focus. Thus, since 2007, the national History curricula for Grades 9 and 11 have included the study of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

Supporting the national curriculum, the SAHGF has carefully developed educational materials and resources for the South African context, which are utilised in the foundation's education programmes for adult groups, high school educators and learners at its centres in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and throughout the country.

It is this model that is drawing increasing attention from international organisations, educators and academics, who are interested in incorporating Holocaust education into school curricula, especially in countries that do not have direct ties to Holocaust history.

In a recent feature article in *The Economist* on the expanding interest in Holocaust education worldwide, SAHGF Director Richard Freedman explained aspects of how this has been done in South Africa:

"There are very close parallels between Germany's establishment of a racial state in 1933-39 and South Africa's apartheid state — the separation of communities, the ban on mixed marriages — it's a powerful link."

Lessons for humanity

Now, the SAHGF's work and context is being called upon to provide a possible model for Holocaust education. In 2012, the SAHGF was part of a UNESCO consultation on Holocaust and genocide education in sub-Saharan Africa, which was held at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre (CTHC) with representatives from 14 African countries. CTHC Education Director Tracey Petersen took part in a similar consultation in South America.

In September, Freedman was invited to present at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and Salzburg Global Seminar International Educator Institute on Global Practices in Holocaust Education in Washington, DC. "Participants, particularly from countries where Holocaust education is not available, found his presentation 'South African Perspectives: A Case Study' very inspiring and motivating," reported the *Weekly Press Pakistan* newspaper. "It brought into focus how a motion passed by the South African parliament introduced Holocaust education into its school curriculum."

Freedman also presented on the SAHGF's work at the Aladdin Project's international seminar on Holocaust education, in conjunction with the USHMM and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, which took place in Istanbul in October 2013. Launched in 2009, the Aladdin Project encourages Jewish-Muslim dialogue and promotes greater awareness of the Holocaust in the Middle East.

The seminar gathered more than 40 scholars, senior officials and educators from North America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and representatives of UNESCO and the Council of Europe for an exchange of views and sharing of ideas and experiences on how the history of the Nazi genocide can be taught in South-East Europe, the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa.

"It was very gratifying to hear from the former Iraqi minister of Human Rights, Bakhtiar Amin, that the model of Holocaust education developed in South Africa could be used throughout the Middle East region and South East Europe," said Freedman following the seminar. "Comments from participants showed that the successful introduction

of Holocaust education in South Africa was an inspiration to those countries who were grappling with the rationale for, and manner in which, Holocaust education could be adapted to their regional contexts."

Learners, educators and members of the public who have attended the SAHGF's programmes demonstrate the impact of Holocaust education. "It is fantastic how the centre relates the events and lessons of the past to our lives today," said a learner from Rustenburg Girls High School; while one policeman wrote after a workshop: "A life changing experience — I'm so much more



Dr Abe Radkin, the Chief Rabbi of Turkey Isak Haleva, Richard Freedman and Prof. Steven Katz at the Aladdin Project's seminar on Holocaust education in Istanbul



Richard Freedman at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and Salzburg Global Seminar International Educator Institute on Global Practices in Holocaust Education in Washington, DC (Photo: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

aware of issues of prejudice and racism. From now on I'll be able to deliver a more professional service."

The SAHGF's work includes daily learner workshops and diversity training programmes for a variety of adult groups, ranging from Correctional Services to corporates; students to NGOs. In addition, a SAHGF team travels across the country — including many rural areas — offering in-service training for educators; supported by a generous grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany. This includes providing educators with teaching materials and resources. Since 2008, the SAHGF has reached 2588 educators and, in turn, over 350 000 high school learners per annum have been taught Holocaust history and its

lessons for humanity.

This kind of reach demonstrates what is possible when introducing similar models of Holocaust education in other countries, and the SAHGF is continually involved in sharing its insights and expertise with organisations ranging from UNESCO to universities, museums and institutes. In the context of these impressive numbers, it is often the words of individuals that demonstrate the greatest impact. As a learner commented after an education programme at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, "Learning about the Holocaust can open people's eyes and show them what racism can lead to."

For more information visit www.holocaust.org.za or contact Richard Freedman on rfreedman@holocaust.org.za



Learners from The Leadership College viewing the permanent exhibition at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre



Tracey Petersen (Education Director, Cape Town Holocaust Centre) working with educators from the Vryburg District, North West Province.



Correctional Services at a SAHGF diversity training workshop

Nechama
COUNSELLING FOR THE BEREAVED



עִם אֲנֹכִי בְּדֵרָה
I AM WITH HIM IN HIS SORROW

The Nechama Compassion Pack

Over the past five years, Nechama has provided the Cape Town Jewish community with Compassion Packs.

Put together by volunteers at Astra and distributed by the Chevra Kadisha and rabbis, the Compassion Pack has been positively accepted as a source of comfort at a time of great distress.

The packs comprise:

- One Yahrzeit candle and two Shabbat candles from Glendale
- A Tzedakah Box that people can donate to the charity of their choice in the name of the departed.
- A box of matches
- A handbook for mourners supplied by the UOS
- A Nechama pamphlet entitled *When comfort is needed*
- A Nechama Shiva pamphlet detailing what Shiva is about and conduct in a shiva home
- Tehillim booklet to use at the cemetery



If you would like to honour the memory of your loved one, you can make Compassion Packs available to those who need them, and a dedication label will be placed on the container. Please contact Shana on 021 465 9390/021 462 5520 for more information.

Please take this opportunity to do a mitzvah in the name of your loved ones.

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PHYLLIS JOWELL JEWISH DAY SCHOOL



בס"ד

'Torah with the way of the world': Expanding the Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School

The Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School launched its expansion programme fundraising campaign with a splash on 22 October. It was a night to remember, filled with mystery, intrigue and a taste of the Orient.

Members of the Cape Town Jewish community, including many not previously associated with the school, packed the Rotunda ballroom in Camps Bay to take part in an unusual and enthralling 'murder mystery' dinner.

As always, Merle Rubin's catering was 'to die for'. The spectacular black and red decor provided a dramatic backdrop for the event and the attention to detail was immaculate. It was an exciting and inspiring evening.



Stunning setting



Cecil Jowell Family Table
& Guests



Graham & Rhona Beck Foundation
Corporate Table & Guests

Juxtaposed against the escapism and folly, the very real and serious needs of the school's expansion programme were revealed.

The Phyllis Jowell School's bespoke, values-based approach to teaching Torah brings alive our heritage, imbuing its students with the modern-day relevance of our ancient teachings, and a deep connection with and pride in their Jewish identity.

Equal emphasis on the secular curriculum ensures that students receive a world-class education in accordance with the school's motto of 'Torah im derech erez' – 'Torah with the way of the world'.

This, combined with its nurturing environment and exquisite facilities, has captured the attention of the full spectrum of the Jewish continuum; including locals, immigrants, and returnees of varying degrees of Jewish observance and practice.



Karen & Barry Friedman



Lara, Gabriella & Brett Osrin



Dick Groeneweg & Ariella Kuper



Richard & Joanne Goldstein



Peggy & Mark Shnaps



Tzruya & Michael Albeldas





Lisa Heilbron, Shelley Jocum & Franki Cohen



PJJDS Choir



Steven & Franki Cohen Table & Guests

The phenomenal growth that the school has experienced since opening its doors just seven years ago is testament to the community's need for such an institution. The Phyllis Jowell School has become an integral part of the Jewish community in Cape Town, and an essential element of the future growth and sustainability of a committed, thriving community.

The Phyllis Jowell School's expansion plans include extending the school building to include more classrooms; improving and facilitating traffic flow and access; upgrading security; supplementing the outdoor play space; and embracing more progressive educational methodologies through greater utilisation of technology.

The Phyllis Jowell School is most grateful for the generosity of its sponsors, donors and suppliers who include the Samson, Cohen, & Sank families, Robert Kaplan, The Graham and Rhona Beck Foundation, Investec, ENS Africa, the Lou Singer Foundation, Mooiberge Farmstall, ICA Laboratory, Lance and Kim Katz and family, Amnon and Illana Melzer, Merle Rubin, Event Interiors and Kilowatt.



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PJJDS Students' Art

Suzanne Ackerman-Berman
& Paul Berman

Gabriella Osrin

Leonard, Dorothy & Gabbi
Sank

Lesley & Hilton Greenbaum, Sarah Reynolds



Hayley & Barry Pogrund



David & Lisa Schneider

Photographs: By Gerald Aronson

event interiors



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PHYLLIS JOWELL JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Natalie Altman (Principal)

(021) 438 45 45

pj@pj.org.za

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The community-wide campaign aiming to combat gender-based violence and abuse is extending awareness to include dating violence.

Dating violence occurs when one partner tries to maintain power and control over the other through sexual, physical, verbal and emotional abuse. It affects both females and males, and does not discriminate by racial, social or economic background.

Teenagers generally do not tell people when they are involved in a violent relationship, so it is important for adults to be alert for signs that a teen may be involved in a relationship, that is, or has the potential to become, abusive. Some of the following signs are just part of being a teenager. But when these changes happen suddenly, or without an explanation, there may be cause for concern:

- Does the individual have unexplained bruises, scratches, or injuries?
- Do you see signs that the individual is afraid of his/her boyfriend or girlfriend?
- Does the boy/girlfriend seem to try to control the individual's behaviour,

making all the decisions, checking up on his/her behaviour, demanding to know who the individual has been with, and acting jealous and possessive?

- Does the boy/girlfriend lash out, criticise or insult the individual?
- Does the individual apologise for the boy/girlfriend's behaviour to you and others? Has the individual casually mentioned the boy/girlfriend's temper or violent behaviour, but then laughed it off as a joke?
- Have you seen the boy/girlfriend be abusive towards other people or things?
- Does the individual seem to have lost interest or to be giving up things that were once important? Has he/she lost interest in school or other activities?
- Has the individual's appearance or behaviour suddenly changed?

"Encourage the individual to talk with a counselor who specialises in teen dating violence, and continue to support them."

- Has the individual stopped spending time with friends or family?
- Have you seen sudden changes in the individual's mood or personality? Is the individual becoming anxious or depressed, acting out, or being secretive?

Responding to teens involved in dating violence

• Response to the victim:

If you suspect an individual is in a violent relationship, ask him/her about the relationship. Be specific about why you are concerned. If the individual chooses to talk with you, listen quietly, without judging. If the individual does not want to discuss it with you, encourage him/her to talk with another trusted adult and provide the names of people and

organisations that can help. This could be a parent, other relative, family friend, rabbi, teacher, school counselor or social worker.

If the individual does open up to you, focus your response on his/her needs and feelings and your concern for his/her wellbeing. Do not criticise or attack the abusive partner. The individual will need to make the actual decision to end the abusive relationship, not you. Ask "What can I do to help?"

Encourage the individual to talk with a counselor who specialises in teen dating violence, and continue to support them by being caring, open and non-judgmental. Whether the individual is ready to leave the abusive partner or not, it is important to encourage him or her to think about ways to stay safe - for example, by making sure friends are around so that he/she is not alone with the partner.

• Response to the abuser:

If you suspect that an individual is hurting someone in a dating relationship, it is important to talk with them about your concerns. Before you talk, have specific examples in mind. Listen to what the individual has to say, but make it clear that the behavior is unacceptable and must stop.

Do not let the individual deny or minimise the violence or to make excuses. Help him/her to recognise that violence is not an acceptable way to solve problems. Offer to help him/her to locate community resources that can provide counseling. If the individual's behavior is truly dangerous, you may have to make the difficult decision to report the violence to the police.

Help is available to teens who are involved in an abusive relationship, and no one deserves to be hurt or threatened. Every individual should, and has a right to be respected, be happy, and feel safe.

- Do you feel safe and comfortable in your relationship?
- Do you spend time with friends and family outside of your relationship?
- Is your privacy respected and can you spend time alone?
- Can you express your feelings without fearing your partner's reactions?
- Do you laugh, play and have fun with your partner?
- Do you each take responsibility for your own actions and happiness?
- Do you feel comfortable refusing affection, date, or other activities?

If you answer 'no' to any of the questions above, consider discussing your relationship with someone you trust, such as a parent, friend, school counselor/teacher or call Rhita Russon at Jewish Community Services on 021 462-5520.

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OR

Visit our website:

www.Hermanushebrewcongregation.co.za



There was once a home...

Text and photographs by Veronica Belling

In August this year I visited Lithuania together with my cousin from Israel, on a private tour organised by guide and Director of the Sugihara Museum in Kovno, Simon Davidovich.

I was following in the footsteps of a series of articles written about 25 Lithuanian shtetls that appeared in the Yiddish newspaper, the *Afrikaner Idishe Tsaytung* by one A. Sarid, which I had translated into English for the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, for the purposes of a book of the same name.

Published in 1953, the articles contain poignant memories of Jews who lived in these communities and who were brutally murdered by the Nazis and their local collaborators. Lithuania had the highest proportion of Jewish victims. It is estimated that out of a population of 210,000, 195,000 Jews were killed.

We also wanted to visit Birzh in northeastern Lithuania, the hometown of our mutual grandparents, who came to South Africa in 1903.

For the next few months, we will share a photograph in the Chronicle of each town that we visited. This series will follow our journey from Vilna, to Ponar, Saltonishkiu Jewish cemetery, Vilkomir-Ukmerge, Pivonija forest, Keidan, Krakinova, Pushelat, Ponevezh, Kupishok, Skopishok, Rakishok, Birzh, Posval, Vashki, Zheimel, Shavli, Kuziai forest, Yanishok, Zhager, Telz, Plungian, Kovno and the Ninth Fort. The articles will focus on the Jewish

memorial sites, old graveyards, former Yeshivas, schools, ghettos, and killing sites, and any other traces of Jewish life that remain. The articles are intended to be descriptive and brief, to give readers a taste but not to be exhaustive.

□ □ □

We started our journey in Vilna, 'Yerushalayim de'Lita', once home to the richest Jewish culture in the world, which today has a community of some 5000 Jews. Only one pre-Holocaust synagogue remains, where a minyan is conducted mornings and evenings.



A statue of Dr Zemach Shabad (1864-1935)

Since 1991 when the Soviets left Lithuania, there has been quite extensive memorialisation of Jewish sites both from the Holocaust era and before. Our hotel was situated by the old Jewish quarter.

Although old Jewish Vilna is no longer visible, memorial plaques on the walls in Lithuanian and Yiddish indicate the sites of both ghettos, the former Judenrat building, and others.

Memorial plaques are not confined to Holocaust sites but also include cultural sites such as the house where the Vilna Gaon, Rabbi Eliyahu ben Shlomo Zalman

(1720-1797) once lived, the apartments where famous Yiddish literary figures such as the poets, Avraham Sutzkever (1913-2010) and Moshe Kulbak (1896-1937), once lived, as well as the lifelike statue of Dr Zemach Shabad, (1864-1935), popular Jewish doctor, the founder of Oze, the Society for the Protection of the Health of the Jews, in Vilna, co-founder of the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, and Senator in the Polish Diet. The city also has two Holocaust museums, the older Green Museum and the much more modern, Museum of Tolerance.



In this place stood the tower of the small Vilna ghetto. From this place, from 6 September to 29 October 1941, more than 11 000 Jews were sent to their deaths.

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The Holocaust and humanity

By Joanna M. Roberts

In May 2013 the Department of Criminology at the University of Leicester, in the United Kingdom, launched an interdisciplinary network that seeks to explore the human capacity for evil. In this context, Dr Sarah Hodgkinson, Associate Member of the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, is currently undertaking research critically exploring the area of 'Holocaust tourism'.

The Extremes of Human Cruelty Network, created and led by Dr Hodgkinson, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, brings together academics, practitioners and other interested parties from a range of disciplines who seek to explore the human capacity to commit cruelties and atrocities towards other humans. The Network aims to showcase the existing work and research of contributors, provide a forum to develop collaborative projects, generate debate and discussion, and attract further scholars, practitioners and researchers with an interest in human evil and cruelty.

Exploring why people seek to harm others at an interpersonal level and why people tolerate, encourage or perpetrate atrocities at a mass/collective level is a central focus of the research of the Network. In direct reference to this, Dr Hodgkinson, Associate Member of the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide studies, is currently undertaking research critically exploring the contentious area of 'Holocaust Tourism'.

For this research she is analysing the significant role of former concentration camps in remembering the victims of the Holocaust and educating future generations about Nazi atrocities. Research shows that visiting former concentration camps is becoming a more and more mainstream tourist experience, with record numbers visiting these sites across Europe. Dr Hodgkinson notes that there is varied opinion regarding the morality and ethics of providing public access to such sites.

Whilst there has been the recognition that some sites should be retained to memorialise the millions that were murdered under the Nazi regime, where and how to remember has raised numerous contentions. Despite this, the former concentration camps have become important sites for the purpose of memorialisation and historical

instruction — memorialisation both in terms of personal remembrance of those who were interred and/ or lost their lives in these places, and more widely in terms of national remembrance for the victims of National Socialism as a whole.

Share your experiences of visiting memorial sites

Dr Hodgkinson recognises that most people do not have 'dark' motivations for their visits to memorials and therefore her research seeks to better understand people's motivations for visiting such sites and how the visits make them feel, therefore other terminology that can be applied to the research would include 'memory tourism', 'remembrance tourism' or 'heritage tourism.' As a result, of particular interest, within the research, is the role of such experiences in understanding history and humanity, and in the formation of collective memories and cultural identities.

To date, little research has explored people's motivations for visiting sites of former concentration camps or Holocaust memorial sites and their experiences there, and this is what Dr Hodgkinson seeks to explore.

As part of her research for this project Dr Hodgkinson has conducted her own fieldwork, visiting sites in Germany and Austria and has blogged about her experiences: <http://staffblogs.le.ac.uk/humancruelty/>. During her time in Germany and Austria Dr Hodgkinson visited numerous Holocaust memorial sites and former concentration camps including Dachau, Hartheim and Mauthausen. She also explored her own motivations, reactions and how the experiences affected her.

Dr Hodgkinson is now undertaking a survey of visitors' experiences of Holocaust memorial sites, Holocaust memorial centres/museums and sites of former concentration camps, seeking to answer questions



The central courtyard of Mauthausen memorial site. Photo: Matt Keyworth

including: What draws us to visit sites of atrocities such as the Holocaust? What affect does visiting these sites have? What do we hope to gain from these experiences? Is it important to preserve such places and make them accessible to the public, and what impact does visiting such sites have on our understanding of the Holocaust, history and humanity itself?

If you have visited the site of a former concentration camp, a Holocaust memorial site or Holocaust Memorial Centre or Museum and would like to share your thoughts and experiences, please fill out our online survey here:

www.le.ac.uk/extremes-human-cruelty/online-survey

For further information about Dr Hodgkinson's research, the network or to enquire about becoming a network member please email: humancruelty@le.ac.uk

To find out more about Dr Hodgkinson please visit her staff page:

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/criminology/people/sf101/sf101>

If you wish to read more of Dr Hodgkinson's work you can find her most recent publication here:

Hodgkinson, S. (In press/2013) 'The concentration camp as a site of dark tourism', *Témoigner: L'Entre Histoire et Mémoire*.

Joanna M. Roberts is a PhD Research Fellow for the Extremes of Human Cruelty Network at the Department of Criminology at the University of Leicester.

"To date, little research has explored people's motivations for visiting sites of former concentration camps or Holocaust memorial sites and their experiences there."

Sukkot Tea at Palm Gardens

The Chabad Shul (Sea Point) was delighted to join in hosting the first Sukkot Tea at Palm Gardens.

Two young Bochurim brought a Lulav and Etrog and discussed the importance of this special Sukkot symbolism. They then went round to the Jewish residents who could do the mitzvah of holding the Lulav and Etrog and saying the blessing.

The delicious Yom Tov eats were organised by Denise Bremridge, Ruth Bernstein and Irene Lampart. The tea was arranged by the staff at Palm Gardens.



The Bochurim with Lulu Rabinowitz, who is the oldest active resident — he is 99 and will be 100 on 1 January 2014!



Denise Bremridge, who arranged the Sukkot Tea afternoon, shaking the lulav.



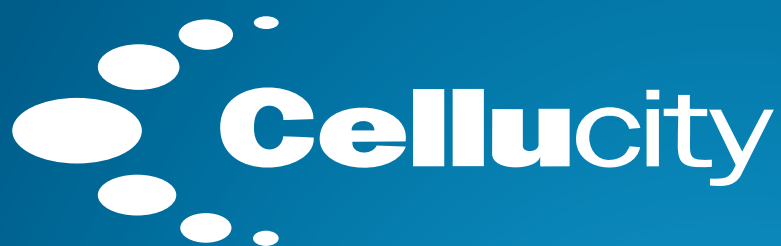
Mary Borok, Elizabeth Harding, Daphne Gelb, Denise Bremridge and Alta, the General Manager.



Holocaust survivor Elspeth Harding with Denise Bremridge and the Bochurim



Sheila Stern and Becky Joffe



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ARTS AND CULTURE

Polarities and personal identity

"Colour is the keyboard, the eyes are the harmonies, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another, to cause vibrations in the soul," says local artist Claire Greenspan, quoting the artist Wassily Kandinsky. She tells us about her own work and upcoming exhibition.

Tell us about your art:

Art and life are inextricably linked. Frequently this plays out onto the surface and occurs without an end product in mind. I would therefore describe my art as expressive both in terms of style and content. I use colour both fearlessly and boldly and enjoy layering my work. Art has an enormous healing capacity. I strongly believe that by engaging in this creative outlet, my sense of wellbeing is most definitely enhanced.

What motivates and inspires you to create this work?

Emotive responses to life experiences, music, dance and movement, nature and journaling. Photography as a medium is also significant — there is a link between observing the world through the lens of a camera and how this reflects back into my art.

I find that art materials and colours can be inspirational in and of themselves. I regularly attend art exhibitions and engage with other artists.

What is the essential message or theme emerging from your work?

I focus on polarities such as growth and decay; restriction and freedom; internal and external landscapes. I have also explored the impact of certain colours, especially the utilisation of complimentary colours. Certain symbols and metaphors have emerged as a representation of this exploration. Furthermore, I am interested in the theme of personal identity and what lies behind the masks and layers.

What methodologies and materials do you use, and why?

I enjoy the freedom that comes with rapidly-drying paint, so acrylics are well-suited to me. I tend to play and experiment a lot using mixed media such as sand, pigments, collage and other unsuspecting materials.

I am an ASTAR (Awakening Spirit through Art) trained facilitator and the methodologies utilised within this approach are conducive to the manner in which I paint. Fundamentally, the art process is emphasised rather than the end product. I utilise several techniques to bypass my inner critic!

Does your South African identity influence your work?

I'm influenced by both the negative (crime, instability and a state of limbo) and the positive (the richness of the earth, colours, the

people, the rhythm and beat of Africa).

What advice would you give to others who are hoping to succeed as artists?

Never give up! It's certainly not an easy journey, but one worth pursuing if it is so closely linked to who you are.

Who is your international or South African favourite artist, and why?

Cecil Skotnes for his phenomenal technical skill and I relate well to how he abstracted figures, and his use of colour and simplification of form is superb; and Robert Slingsby — he explores pertinent issues and is also highly and uniquely skilled.

In terms of international artists, in Georgia O'Keeffe's work I enjoy the essential abstraction of natural forms and the way in which size, scale and vivid colours are used. Her art has a surreal quality.

I am fascinated and can appreciate Kandinsky's lifelong quest to explore the link between music/sound/

vibration and abstract pictorial imagery. Chagall's art echoed his life experiences and his work is imaginative, fantastical and rich in colours.

You are having your first solo exhibition on 30 November.

Why do you think Chronicle readers would enjoy the exhibition?

My work has varied content with soul and energy, and has emerged from a place of authenticity. I haven't painted to please anybody in particular. I have been true to myself and am hoping that others will relate, be inspired and enjoy the experience.

Claire Greenspan's exhibition 'Bridging Polarities' runs from Sat 30 November (opening at 6pm) until Sat 7 December at the Avital Lang Gallery in Mouille Point (next door to Newport Deli).



Claire Greenspan



'Shadow Spaces'



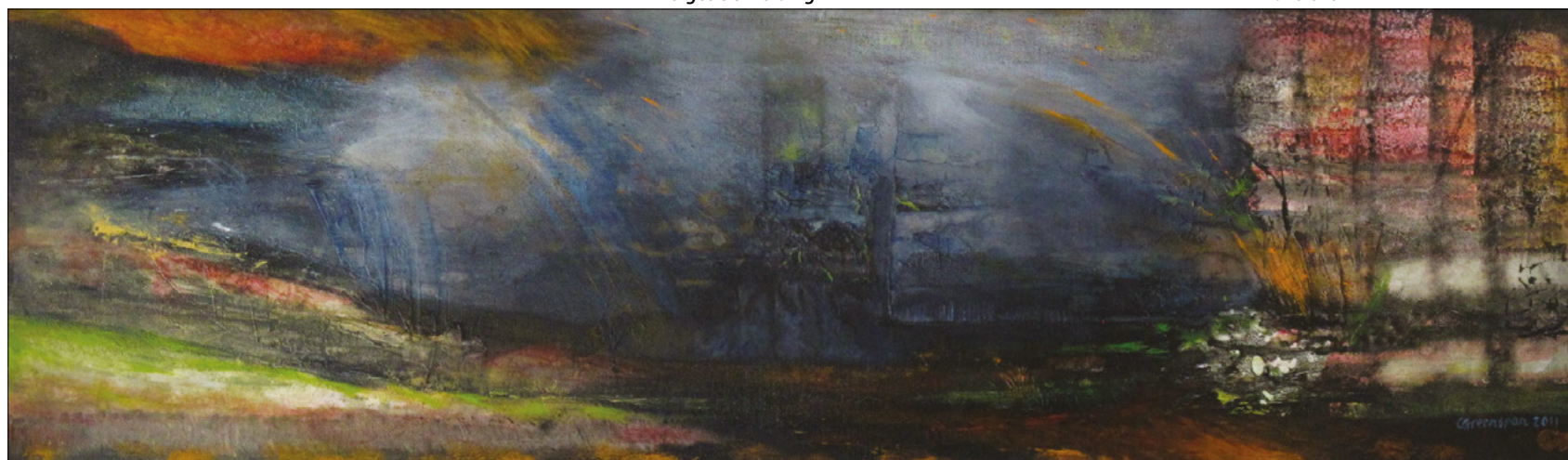
'A Clean Slate' (work in progress)



'Energetic Unfolding'



'Transient Twirl'



'Growth and Decay'



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FICTION

FAULK, Sebastian. **A POSSIBLE LIFE.** A collection of novellas that deal with the power of the subconscious. An opportunist joins the British Intelligence, lands up in a Nazi death camp and suffers mysterious break-downs for the rest of his life; a boy is sent to the poor house because of extreme poverty. These are unsettling tales defying everyday norms.

GAINHAM, Sarah. **NIGHT FALLS ON THE CITY. THE LOST MASTERPIECE OF WARTIME VIENNA.** The story unfolds in the Burg Theatre, with its glittering chandeliers, in the Vienna of 1938 on the eve of the Anschluss. The story ends in a full circle, where nothing is as it was.

HARRIS, Eve. **THE MARRYING OF CHANI KAUFMAN.** A tragi-comic tale dealing with the role of women in Charedi life within the contemporary world.

SOLOMONS, Natasha. **THE GALLERY OF VANISHED HUSBANDS.** A lyrical tale about a young woman turned *agunah*. She bravely deals with her fate with a questioning, yet quietly accepting courage.

BIOGRAPHY

ALBRIGHT, Madeleine. **PRAGUE WINTER: A PERSONAL STORY OF REMEMBRANCE AND WAR, 1937-1948.** The former US Secretary of State grew up thinking that she knew everything about her past, but discovered in 1997 that her family had died in the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia. She writes about her family history and the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia.

SIMMONS, Sylvie. **I'M YOUR MAN: THE LIFE OF LEONARD COHEN.** This beautifully written biography of the great musician, songwriter and poet may double as a history of the Jews of Canada.

WIESEL, Elie. **OPEN HEART.** A personal memoir of the famous Nobel Peace Prize author aged 82, after receiving the medical diagnosis 'It's your heart'. He shares the need to search his soul: did he do enough to counteract collective amnesia of the Holocaust?

NON-FICTION

DICK, Archie. **THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BOOK AND READING CULTURES.** This is astonishing research. The most fascinating part is a chapter about the highly-respected Belgian Professor H.J. de Vleeschauwer, the founder of Library Science in South Africa. As a former Nazi collaborator, he assisted in the plunder of libraries of Jewish homes. In Apartheid South Africa he held highly-influential positions in the academic world. He has bequeathed his book collection to the Library of a South African academic institution.

SEGRE, Gino. **FAUST IN COPENHAGEN: A Struggle for the Soul of Physics.** In 1932, seven prominent physicists attended an annual gathering in Copenhagen. They had shaped the great scientific revolution of quantum mechanics. In the atmosphere of creative parody, they performed a skit of Goethe's *Faust*, who sold his soul to the devil – which inadvertently prefigured the evil times that lay ahead. This exceptional book dwells on the human side of their personalities and fates.

WISSE, Ruth R. **NO JOKE: MAKING JEWISH HUMOUR.** A beautifully written, deeply erudite — and of course humorous — search into the cultural history of Jewish self-ridicule, from its origins in European countries; born out of fright, anger, grief and paradox; its contagiousness in repressive societies and its enrichment of the popular culture of the United States and the contemporary world.

JOUBERT, Ora. **10 YEARS AND 100 BUILDINGS: ARCHITECTURE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA.** Richly illustrated, this book reveals the innovations of the new South African architecture. It represents styles and concepts that are characteristic only to this country. Visually uplifting, the local space-time continuum of the new architecture mirrors

a country in its state of renewal, with a wonderfully positive message.

DVDs

FIRE OVER ISRAEL. (Based on actual events). An American businessman travels to Israel for the funeral of his father who was killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber. He joins the Israeli Secret Service and becomes involved in the conflict. His only chance of survival is the choice to trust his sworn enemies.

JAMES' JOURNEY. A young, naïve man makes a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. However, he is a Black South African, and when he arrives in Israel, the authorities put him in prison. As a 'true believer', he sees it as a test of his faith.

JERUSALEM, THE MAKING OF A HOLY CITY, introduced by Simon Sebag Montefiore. The book explains how Jerusalem was fought for and shaped by kings and emperors and how its holiness was intensified by myths and religions, becoming the site of an intractable conflict.

1941. A classic war movie directed by Uri Barbash. A Jewish couple takes refuge on the farm of a local Polish woman, Emilia, to escape Nazi persecution. Amidst the horrors of the war around, a love triangle erupts as Emilia falls in love with the husband she is hiding.

THE PRODUCERS. A Mel Brooks release. A producer and his accountant, down on their luck, plot a get rich-quick-scheme. If they raise money to invest in a play that is a guaranteed flop, they will be raking money in. But the faultless plan works out in a completely unexpected way.

YOSSI AND JAGGER. Directed by Eytan Fox. Based on a true story, the drama unfolds around two soldiers in the IDF who are secretly in love. Their clandestine affair is also kept from a female fellow soldier. When an attack draws close, the tensions mount and a crisis of conscience ensues.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Ruth First And Joe Slovo In The War Against Apartheid

By Alan Wieder

A superbly written biography of the two activists. It looks at their roots in the Eastern European shtetl, from where they transferred their socialist leanings to this country, lifting the shrouds of myth and hagiography around them.

The deeply human angle of their personalities, their turbulent relationship and passionate disagreements are lovingly unearthed, whilst due justice is done to their intense courage, honesty, integrity and intellect, underscored by their passionate zest for life.

Their intimate connection with the other giants of the movement turns this book into a compulsory history of the South African struggle.



CJSA Art and Craft Fair

The Cape Jewish Seniors Association hosted its biennial Art and Craft Fair in October — the month internationally recognised to honour Seniors.

Unbelievably talented people proudly displayed their work and showed the

passion they have for their art or craft. There was such a happy atmosphere and members of CJSA and the general public enjoyed the various items that were professionally displayed.

The tea room was a lovely meeting place where one could enjoy delicious snacks

and tea. We were also delighted when Alderman Belinda Walker took the time to walk around and chat to each person participating in the event before she officially opened it and delivered a powerful address, commending each contributor for the marvellous goods on display. She

also encouraged us to look further to show other communities what we are doing.

Apart from CJSA members participating, we were happy that there were wider community entrants including from Highlands House, Glendale and Jewish Community Services.



Phoebe Chernotsky



Hymie Liebmann



Shirley Rabin



Mr and Mrs Polonsky



SAZF YOUTH COUNCIL

Yom Rabin and machanot

In October, the Youth Council hosted the communal Yom Rabin ceremony and also launched the youth movement machanot at the Herzlia Schools.

On 15 October, the Youth Council commemorated the 18th anniversary of Yitzchak Rabin's death. The ceremony, held at the Nelson Mandela Auditorium, comprised speakers from each movement, as well as an address by Dvir Zivan, who is a project manager at the Peres Peace Centre.

The evening focused on articulating the values espoused by Rabin — those of peace, tolerance and conflict resolution. It was therefore most appropriate that we had a touring soccer team, which was made up of both Israeli and Arab players, attending the ceremony. The team was here on an initiative arranged by the Israel Centre, and their presence serves as a testament to relevance of Rabin's values 18 years after his passing.

With machaneh right around the corner, youth movements have been extremely busy. Part of the preparation is launching the various camps during the assemblies of Herzlia Schools. The learners cheered and clapped as their favourite madrichim took to the stage, who performed skits



The Yom Rabin Ceremony

and showed promotion videos for this December's camps. I would like to wish all the movements all the best for their machanot!

As the academic year and my term as Youth Council Chair come to a close, I would like to thank Julie Berman, Yaniv Nachmias, Yvette Rosenberg and Leah Mann at the SAZF Cape Council. Working with them this year has been an absolute pleasure, and under their guidance I was able to manage and run the Youth Council. Chairing this council has been an amazing experience, from which I take many lessons and values.

*Toda raba,
Eshed Cohen*

Youth Council Chairman 2013



NETZER

Peace is possible!

As you are reading this, we have begun either our intensive preparation week prior to machaneh, or our actual machaneh itself.

Either way, I can guarantee that we are hard at work, making Machaneh Nettivim the best summer camp Netzer has ever had! I could talk about camp forever, because it is such an amazing experience, but I won't.

I would like to talk instead about some of the events that we ran or took part in over the past few months. We hosted an incredibly successful Movie Night, which was a great evening with entertainment for everyone in true Netzer style. We then ran a Netzer Shabbat service at shul, which gave the community a chance to share in the Netzer magic no matter their age. It was an inspiring and beautiful service, as Netzer services always are. There is something so special about the community created during those experiences.

We then attended a very meaningful 'Yom Rabin' ceremony, organised by the Youth Council. It was a moving 'tekkes', which truly communicated Rabin's hopes for peace.

The following day we supported the soccer tournament organised by the



Some of the Cape Town mazkirut with two of our channies who participated in the tournament

Israel Centre, held in honour of Rabin Day. The event brought girls from around the city to play together in a friendly soccer tournament. Apart from Cape Town teams, there was one very exciting group of girls who came to play: the team from the Peres Centre for Peace, in Israel. The team, made up of both Arab and Jewish girls, is a true symbol for peace, tolerance and co-existence.

It was an honour to witness such an amazing initiative taking place, and we had so much fun being there! It made us realise just how peace is attainable, and that if we all work together, it will become a reality in our lifetimes. So, as we move into a new year, let's bring peace today and make this the world we dream about. Hariu rak shalom!

Nina Hoffman



HABONIM DROR

Machaneh is here!

After almost a year of preparation, Machaneh Dor Chadash is finally upon us!

For the first week of December, the movement's Bogrim body has a chance to prepare for when hoards of excited and (some) nervous channichim jump off the buses at our magnificent Onrus campsite, where their fellow campers and madrichim from Joburg, Cape Town, the Eastern Cape, Durban and overseas will be waiting.

We spend the week setting up the campsite and getting everything ready for the start of a magical three weeks. This year, we are expecting a machaneh like no other. After three successful mini-machanot, sleepovers, day events, Hadracha seminars and Shorashim, Habonim's year culminates in the ultimate experience; three weeks of forming new friendships and rekindling old ones, living in a tent beside a beautiful beach, engaging in daily peulot (activities) focused on Judaism, Zionism and Service to Humanity; having the opportunity to, as a shichvah, create an Israeli shuk, a peace tekkes, a carnival or a talent show for the rest of the machaneh and participate in the multitude of activities that we have to offer in free time.

Machaneh is about all of this and so much more. It's an opportunity that every single South African Jewish child should have the privilege of experiencing. Habonim machaneh allows channichim to enjoy an environment where they are



A ruach session at machaneh

free to express their ideas and formulate their own opinions, with the guidance of dedicated and knowledgeable madrichim.

In the words of a Shomrim (grade 11) channicha, Habonim machaneh provides our chaverim with "many different ways to express our 'Jewishness' — and that being an individual thinker and being a Jew are not mutually exclusive. At Habonim, I participate in vigorous debates and discussions about Israel, religion, and our role in society — things that I had previously never known about. I realised that no matter how many different opinions were expressed, each individual was respected and felt part of the larger group."

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, parents and our own chaverim for all of your support this past year and look forward to an outstanding machaneh!

*Aleh Ve'Hagshem (Go Up and Fulfil)
Roxanne Joseph
Mazkira Klalit 2013*



BNEI AKIVA

Machaneh is in the air

Camp is only a few days away and things have been pumping as we get ready for it. We can feel the excitement in the air!

We cannot wait to stay up all night watching the volleyball or singing together at the ruach sessions. We cannot wait to catch up with all of our friends from all over South Africa that we have not seen the whole year. We cannot wait to go on amazing Tiylum with the most exciting activities; and spend Shabbat on the campsite.

We are looking forward to all of these things that are just around the corner and it's a good thing that they are, because with all of this excitement we are sure we wouldn't be able to wait much longer!

This year we have introduced two very exciting new things at camp. Firstly, we have added to our Bnei Akiva clothing range. Secondly we have built two brand new swimming pools on the campsite. I cannot wait for those hot days on camp when we can all go and dive in!

In the past few months we have run great events, with the Gurim kids doing an Amazing Race, and an Israeli Movie Night for the Middle School, to name just two. The Amazing Race was brilliant — we ran all over the Glen in Camps Bay! At the Israeli Movie Night we had homemade



falafels and hummus, and watched an Israeli comedy movie called 'Project Grandma.'

We were also privileged to host the Rabbi of Bnei Akiva South Africa, Rav Daniel Kaplan, and Shua Solomon from Israel. Shua's trip was to promote 'Shabbat Aliyah'. We had a big dinner at our Bayit, as well as an inspiring talk about Israel.

We also recently had a Ktan Tanim baking morning where we made cupcakes that we gave out to underprivileged children as part of a Chessed (outreach) activity.

This year has been fantastic for Bnei Akiva Cape Town and there are lots of us Capetonians going to camp to show the Joburgers what we are made of! We can't wait to see you at Machaneh Am Echad!!

We have pictures of all of our events on our Facebook page that is updated regularly. Stay tuned for many more exciting events.

Wishing everyone a Channukah Sameach and happy holidays!

If you want to be added to the Bnei Akiva Cape Town e-mail list to hear about all our events, please e-mail our office capetown@bnei.co.za. For any queries, or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact the office via e-mail or phone (021-4392740) or Josh Todes at ctp@bnei.co.za.

*B'vrikat Torah V'Avodah
Josh Todes (Rosh CT PR 2013)*



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Freda Davis recently celebrated her 90th birthday. "I would like to express my sincere thanks to my family and friends for their good wishes and donations to charities on the occasion of my 90th birthday," she says. "Special thanks to those who travelled from afar to celebrate this special occasion with me!"



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SA Maccabi took a large team to the 19th Maccabiah Games in Israel, including sportsmen and women, coaches and supporters. Western Province Maccabi spoke to Quinton Allies, Maccabi's FUTSAL coach, about his experiences in Israel at the Maccabiah Games in July.

Tell us about your background:

My name is Quinton Allies and for the past 16 years I have been involved in the beautiful game of FUTSAL (a format of five-a-side football that is played throughout the world). I'm the founder and custodian of FUTSAL in South Africa. I'm currently the coach of the South African national FUTSAL team and I'm also the owner of a franchise called Cape Town Titans.

How did you get involved in South Africa's participation at the Maccabiah Games?

In 2011, Ronen Cohen (SA Maccabi Futsal Convenor) asked me to be a selector and trainer for their FUTSAL team that is going to Brazil; and the following year I was approached to be the coach of the SA FUTSAL team for the Maccabiah Games.

What was the most rewarding aspect of the Maccabiah Games?

The opportunity of going to Israel and learning about the culture.

What was the most challenging aspect?

Things were very expensive as our currency is very weak.

What are some of your most memorable experiences at the Games?

The opening ceremony was an experience of a life time. It was amazing how so many people came together from the same faith and the amount of people that participated in the games and the different sport codes.

How much did you know about the Israel prior to Games?



Besides for knowing that it's the Holy Land, I knew nothing else about Israel.

How has your time in Israel changed these views?

I know more of the culture now and I understand why they are protecting the country.

What was your favorite place or experience in Israel and why?

The Dead Sea because of the floating aspect. The Opening Ceremony — it was as if I was at the Olympics. Safety — the

fact that we could walk late at night and travel by train at night was awesome.

What would you say to others who haven't visited Israel and whose political views may be different from what you experienced?

I would tell them to go and experience Israel for themselves and not believe everything that's in the media.

Why would you advise visiting Israel as a holiday or for a tournament/work?

It's a beautiful country, there is a lot to explore and the Games were the perfect place to meet new people from other countries.

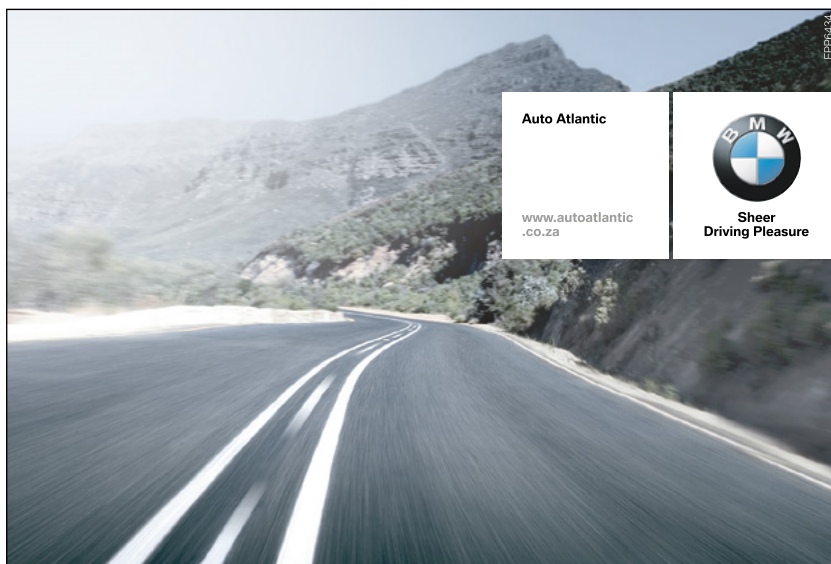
Why would you encourage others to get involved in Maccabi?

Because it's an awesome experience and it only comes every four years; and to mix with other people and making friends.

Anything else you would like to add?

My recommendation is that we develop FUTSAL in school so that there can be a feeding system for the senior teams and you can develop better players for the 11a side.

Find out more about SA Maccabi Futsal, by visiting our Facebook page — www.facebook.com/groups/129558300584267/ or contact Ronen — samaccabi.futsal@gmail.com



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Third in Africa!

Olivia Bernstein (Grade 10 at Herzlia High School) was selected to represent South Africa at the All Africa Youth Chess Championships (AAYCC) held in Port Elizabeth in October.

The top two players from each youth division from 41 African countries play against one another in this tournament. It was scheduled to take place in Cairo, but due to the unrest there, South Africa offered to host it in PE.

Olivia's first of 9 games was against the Egyptian Grand master (WGM) Wafa Shrook, who she battled for over 3 hours. In her last game, Olivia put pressure on Algeria's (WIM) Dina Abdi Zineb, with rating 1913 to draw the game.

At the award ceremony, Olivia took 3rd place/Bronze Cup in the U16 female section, which means that she is ranked 3rd in Africa in her section! For this she was also awarded the chess title 'WCM'. Mazeltov Olivia!



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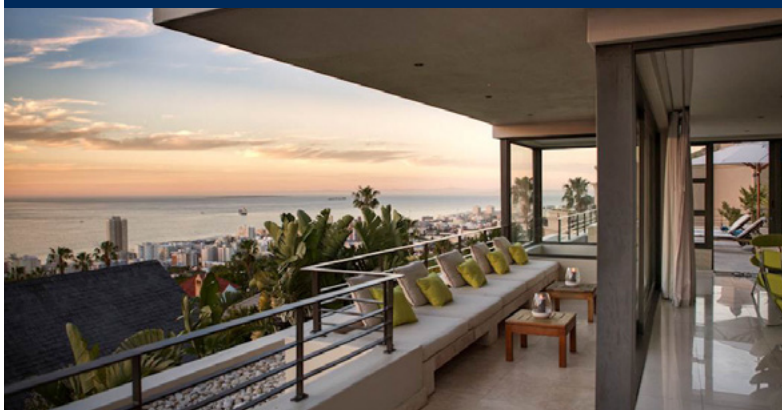
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