We’re all about faith, family and community, and we don’t do small. That’s why The Shabbos Project is inviting all the big Jewish hubs to open their doors and welcome all the country communities into their homes, shuls and neighbourhoods to share one complete Shabbos together.

JUST A SMALL SHABBOS DINNER... SAID NO JEW. EVER!

We’re all about faith, family and community, and we don’t do small.

That’s why The Shabbos Project is inviting all the big Jewish hubs to open their doors and welcome all the country communities into their homes, shuls and neighbourhoods to share one complete Shabbos together.

15/16 NOVEMBER

If you’re keen to host a person, couple or family for The Shabbos Project visit onecountryonetable.co.za to sign up.
This year, we’re bringing the magic of the GREAT BIG CHALLAH BAKE home.

Invite your best friend, your book club members, a stranger you met at the store or your mother and her friends... and get baking.

Your Challah Date Box comes with ingredients* for you and a friend.

* The box excludes water, eggs, a bowl and a spoon.

Reserve your Challah Date Box at challahdates.co.za
The Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MSCA) formally adopted Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) principles against Israel at its annual conference in September 2019, closely following the Anglican Church of South Africa’s decision to do so in September.

The Methodist Church has more than 66,000 members across southern Africa and 40 million followers globally, while the Anglican Church has about three million members across southern Africa and 80 million followers around the world.

“It’s no coincidence that the Methodist resolution comes so soon after the Anglican Church’s recent synod resolution. Taken together, they are clearly evidence of a BDS campaign to infiltrate churches and use them as pawns in their anti-Semitic political campaign to undermine Israel through a deliberate campaign of distortion and misinformation,” says Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein.

“The Methodist Church’s stance on this is immoral. The church has been brought into disrepute by supporting BDS, which is acknowledged globally as an anti-Semitic organisation. It’s disgraceful behaviour.”

MSCA’s formal statement directs its members to boycott, divest from, and sanction all businesses that benefit the Israeli economy; that all future holy land tours organised by Methodist clergy or persons affiliated to the MSCA [are] to boycott all Israeli operators and tours and deliberately seek out tours that offer an alternative Palestinian perspective.

The South African Friends of Israel (SAFI), which engages with thousands of Christian supporters of the Jewish State, also condemned the decision, calling it an “unholy resolution of hate against the Jewish state of Israel.”

Says SAFI National Chairperson Rowan Polovin: “It appears that the MSCA has been willfully blinded by the medieval doctrine of ‘replacement theology.’ This anti-Semitic doctrine attempts to deny the Jewish covenant with G-d and the Jewish people’s unbreakable connection with the Bible. The modern manifestation of replacement theology is to use the weapons of BDS against Israel in the knowledge that this could undermine the Jewish state and speed up the manifestation of this theology: Those who engage in such nefarious antics, however, ought to re-read the Bible, particularly Genesis 12:3, which warns against cursing the Jewish nation. We call upon all Methodist Church members who wish to see genuine peace in the Middle East to voice their opposition to this resolution which has politicised the church,” says Polovin.

“It is important to note that there is consternation and disagreement within the churches (both Anglican and Methodist) on this BDS resolution,” he says. “We are engaging both churches at all levels and there is likely to be pushback from church leaders and members on this issue.”

The Methodist statement goes on to say that the decision to support BDS was made after “noting Israel’s ongoing ill-treatment and oppression of the Palestinian people; the historic prophetic role played by the church and international community in fighting apartheid and any form of discrimination and injustice, and as an act of solidarity with the people of Palestine.”

When the Anglican Church also formally adopted BDS some weeks ago, the chief rabbi said it was “morally offensive and based on a complete distortion of history”. He said BDS had been declared anti-Semitic by the United Nations, and therefore support for BDS is anti-Semitic in terms of international law.

The official leadership of the South African Muslim community welcomed the move, saying it “extends its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the churches…”

A member of the interfaith movement in South Africa, who spoke on condition of anonymity, continued:...
Ronaldinho takes flak for Israel visit

The Comfort in the Cocoon of Sports or Constellation: Have We Lost Our Way?

TALI FEINBERG

“When my girlfriend is out in public, she carries a letter from her psychologist with her describing how she was raped. Then, if people ask her how her trip to South Africa was, she can just show them the letter. It's too hard to finish reading it,” says David*, whose girlfriend Sarah* was raped in a horrific assault in Graskop, Mpumalanga, in September while the couple was on holiday.

The SA Jewish Report is raising funds to help pay for this young woman’s counselling, which David expects will continue for at least another year or two. Orit Sulitzeanu, the executive director of the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel, says one year of intensive therapy twice a week would cost about $11 000 (R160 259).

The money raised by the South African community will also go towards providing psychological support for South African rape survivors.

The couple are still struggling to get back on their feet.

“We both really needed support. Before the trip to South Africa we lived together, but now we live with our parents. However, her mother has her own problems, and there is often not enough food and so on,” says David. He is in Jerusalem and she is in Haifa. He finds himself rushing between the two, trying to support his girlfriend and create stability for their family.

“I have started working again, but Sarah is in no position to get a job. She stays at home, and lives from one moment to the next, doing odd jobs. She is progressing, but she is often very down. Her energy is low, and her life is on hold – we don’t think about the future. She is on her own, waiting for people to call and check on her. Sarah’s family drives her to her treatment at a psychiatric hospital near Netanya twice a week. ‘It’s the best in the country, the kind of facility where they treat Holocaust survivors and people with post-traumatic-stress disorder (PTSD). It’s a place no one wants to go,” says David.

“David*, who was recommended that we try to get Sarah a government subsidy as someone who is ‘handicapped’, as she is now not capable of living on her own, he says, saying that financial donations will go a long way towards assisting them.

“Please don’t forget about us,” he says, saying that financial support will go towards providing psychological support for South African rape survivors.”

Israel rape survivor still struggling

Israel has tremendous potential, countless talent, and a great love of the game.”

Continued from page 1

VeHICLES WANTED

TATZ who was influenced by these books

Available at Kollel Bookshop in Johannesburg, and online at https://www.glazerson.com/apps/webstore/products/category/539773.

Royal Linksfield

FLAT TO LET – Cyrildene

“Recommended very much, by Rabbi Akiva

with the game. “When my girlfriend is out in public, she carries a letter from her psychologist with her describing how she was raped. Then, if people ask her how her trip to South Africa was, she can just show them the letter. It’s too hard to finish reading it,” says David*, whose girlfriend Sarah* was raped in a horrific assault in Graskop, Mpumalanga, in September while the couple was on holiday.

The SA Jewish Report is raising funds to help pay for this young woman’s counselling, which David expects will continue for at least another year or two. Orit Sulitzeanu, the executive director of the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel, says one year of intensive therapy twice a week would cost about $11 000 (R160 259).

The money raised by the South African community will also go towards providing psychological support for South African rape survivors.

The couple are still struggling to get back on their feet.

“We both really needed support. Before the trip to South Africa we lived together, but now we live with our parents. However, her mother has her own problems, and there is often not enough food and so on,” says David. He is in Jerusalem and she is in Haifa. He finds himself rushing between the two, trying to support his girlfriend and create stability for their family.

“I have started working again, but Sarah is in no position to get a job. She stays at home, and lives from one moment to the next, doing odd jobs. She is progressing, but she is often very down. Her energy is low, and her life is on hold – we don’t think about the future. She is on her own, waiting for people to call and check on her. Sarah’s family drives her to her treatment at a psychiatric hospital near Netanya twice a week. ‘It’s the best in the country, the kind of facility where they treat Holocaust survivors and people with post-traumatic-stress disorder (PTSD). It’s a place no one wants to go,” says David.

“David*, who was recommended that we try to get Sarah a government subsidy as someone who is ‘handicapped’, as she is now not capable of living on her own, he says, saying that financial donations will go a long way towards assisting them.

“Please don’t forget about us,” he says, saying that financial support will go towards providing psychological support for South African rape survivors.”

Ronaldinho’s visit to South Africa has been met with criticism, with some arguing that the Brazilian striker has visited Israel.

In the words of Captain Siya Kolisi this year: “I see the school as a first-class educational tool that helps in acquiring skills, tools for life, discipline, teamwork and more. Israel has tremendous potential, countless talent, and a great love of the game.”

The school’s principal,/carrier of these ends of the country. The principal port of Israel, the city is situated on the northern slopes of Mount Carmel and lies along the Bay of Haifa.

Several thousand have seen the Bobbi brocha

Israel's third largest city, the commercial and administrative centre of the north of the country.

Rabbi Mattiyahu Glazerson’s books which explore the wondrous world of hidden meanings in the letters and words of the holy tongue, are available at Kollat Bookshop in Johannesburg, and online at www.glazersonbooks.com.

https://www.oouze.com/apps/ webstore/products/category/539773

“Recommended very much, by Rabbi Rivka Tatza uwa ihius by these books.”

Torah Thought

The bokke brocha

Israel's third largest city, the commercial and administrative centre of the north of the country.

Correspondence: Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • Editorial@sajewishreport.co.za • Peta Krost Maunder – editor@sajewishreport.co.za • Sandy Furman • Dani Kedar • Kim Hatchuel • Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benjy Porter.

Jewish Report

The SA Jewish Report subscribes to the Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media that prescribe moral norms that are inclusive, fair and balanced. If you object to an article in the Weekly, please complete the Public Advertisements at 011 494 3072. To make a complaint on our website: www.presscouncil.org.za

1 – 8 November 2019

2 SA JEWISH REPORT

Any make, any model, any condition
Accident damaged vehicles and non-runners also wanted

Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826

African	AUTO
Daniel the Musical cast mourns actor’s sudden death

Nicolia Miltz

The cast and crew of Daniel the Musical are heartbroken and battling to come to terms with the sudden, untimely passing of lead actor Andile Gumbi who died last week in Israel during the show’s premiere run.

“We are in shock,” said a distraught Joe Niemand, the show’s director.

Niemand, a committed Christian, met the SA Jewish Report a few hours after receiving the devastating news last Friday that the talented actor had passed away.

Visibly shaken and bleary eyed, he said he was lost for words.

“One moment Andile was there, skipping like a boxer during warm-ups at rehearsals, and the next moment he was gone. We are heartbroken. It’s going to take a long time to make sense of this,” he said.

An internationally acclaimed performer, Gumbi, 36, best known for his role in lndaba and for playing Simba right across the region, ended his life at the tender age of 36.

Niemand said that apart from having the talent and the gravitas to handle the challenging role, Gumbi had to answer one question:

“I wanted to know how Andile felt about the state of Israel,” said Niemand, who met Gumbi one week before rehearsals started.

“I invited him to my house because I wanted to know how he felt about Israel and I believe G-d sent Andile to the South African Jewish community,” he said.

Niemand, a committed Christian, lost a remarkable young talent.”

Gumbi played the lead role of King Nebuchadnezzar (King Nebu) in the Broadway-scale Daniel the Musical, which tells the Hebrew Old Testament story of Daniel with an African spin.

Niemand said that apart from having the talent and the gravitas to handle the challenging role, Gumbi had to answer one question:

“I wanted to know how Andile felt about the state of Israel,” said Niemand, who met Gumbi one week before rehearsals started.

“I invited him to my house because I wanted to know how he felt about Israel and I believe G-d sent Andile to the South African Jewish community,” he said.

Niemand said that apart from having the talent and the gravitas to handle the challenging role, Gumbi had to answer one question:

“I wanted to know how Andile felt about the state of Israel,” said Niemand, who met Gumbi one week before rehearsals started.

“I invited him to my house because I wanted to know how he felt about Israel and I believe G-d sent Andile to the South African Jewish community,” he said.

Niemand said that apart from having the talent and the gravitas to handle the challenging role, Gumbi had to answer one question:

“I wanted to know how Andile felt about the state of Israel,” said Niemand, who met Gumbi one week before rehearsals started.

“I invited him to my house because I wanted to know how he felt about Israel and I believe G-d sent Andile to the South African Jewish community,” he said.

Niemand said that apart from having the talent and the gravitas to handle the challenging role, Gumbi had to answer one question:

“I wanted to know how Andile felt about the state of Israel,” said Niemand, who met Gumbi one week before rehearsals started.

“I invited him to my house because I wanted to know how he felt about Israel and I believe G-d sent Andile to the South African Jewish community,” he said.
Darren Bergman, the shadow minister of international relations and co-operation, says 2018 was an "annus horribilis" for the DA. "The 2019 election results were a failure, and things needed to change." He rejected the recommendations, and that’s what happened.

He says the media are creating the perception of chaos in the party, where the federal council meeting was calmly and maturely handled without any screaming and shouting.

Breytenbach also batted Zille’s election, believing it will return the party to its liberal roots. He believes the party can recapture the votes lost to the Freedom Front Plus in the elections, but is worried that the current instability could jeopardise the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) support for the DA’s control of Johannesburg.

Jewish voters are right to be disappointed with the DA over the past two years, he says, but the party is "in the process of self-correcting. They should be patient, and continue to support the DA as they have previously done so.

"The review recommended that leadership takes responsibility for the poor election results," says Breytenbach.

"It’s not a disaster. It’s an opportunity. It’s in the process of self-correcting.

South Africa has never needed every single one of us as much as it does today. Jewish people lead, excel, and stand out. We need to harness the tallest trees to reach the most, positions and have a country with distinction.

"If you asked me if there are four MPs who are ‘Zilleites’. Political analyst Ebrahim Fakir says, however, the problems in the DA are structural, and go beyond the leaders who have stayed or departed. "The DA’s problem is that everything it can do for either is only that what it is, can’t be done right now. It’s actually the ANC, which is a disaster," he says.

Fakir also believes the media is far too sensationalist about a natural realignment that happens in all parties. "The DA might have more problems but more effective after the 2021 local-government elections. The Johannesburg community will, no doubt, closely be watching developments.

"It’s something all political groups need to understand what’s going on inside the DA. "This is not the death of the DA. If the DA fails, South Africa fails. We want to govern well for all South Africans,” Breytenbach says those who received "contributed enormously to the project of the DA, and served the infrastructure committee, says she is a "big fan" of Maimane, whom she described as "charismatic. "Leaders come and leaders go," she says. We will get stronger if we stick to our principles, our guiding lights. This too shall pass.

"So many lies have been written about him, about the case, and about the conditions under which he has been held. It is only true that we exist and with fresh eyes. Yes, this has given us the chance to examine our policies and debate what needs changing.

The DA will choose new leaders at an elective congress in December, the shadow minister believes. It is the only party that can deliver a country all will like to live in the DA. A few people resented, but the party has stayed intact.

Darren Bergman, the shadow minister of international relations and co-operation, says 2018 was an "annus horribilis" for the DA. "The 2019 election results were a failure, and things needed to change." He rejected the recommendations, and that’s what happened.

He says the media are creating the perception of chaos in the party, where the federal council meeting was calmly and maturely handled without any screaming and shouting.

Breytenbach also batted Zille’s election, believing it will return the party to its liberal roots. He believes the party can recapture the votes lost to the Freedom Front Plus in the elections, but is worried that the current instability could jeopardise the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) support for the DA’s control of Johannesburg.

Jewish voters are right to be disappointed with the DA over the past two years, he says, but the party is "in the process of self-correcting. They should be patient, and continue to support the DA as they have previously done so.

"The review recommended that leadership takes responsibility for the poor election results," says Breytenbach.

"It’s not a disaster. It’s an opportunity. It’s in the process of self-correcting.

South Africa has never needed every single one of us as much as it does today. Jewish people lead, excel, and stand out. We need to harness the tallest trees to reach the most, positions and have a country with distinction.

"If you asked me if there are four MPs who are ‘Zilleites’. Political analyst Ebrahim Fakir says, however, the problems in the DA are structural, and go beyond the leaders who have stayed or departed. "The DA’s problem is that everything it can do for either is only that what it is, can’t be done right now. It’s actually the ANC, which is a disaster," he says.

Fakir also believes the media is far too sensationalist about a natural realignment that happens in all parties. "The DA might have more problems but more effective after the 2021 local-government elections. The Johannesburg community will, no doubt, closely be watching developments.

"It’s something all political groups need to understand what’s going on inside the DA. "This is not the death of the DA. If the DA fails, South Africa fails. We want to govern well for all South Africans,” Breytenbach says those who received "contributed enormously to the project of the DA, and served the infrastructure committee, says she is a "big fan" of Maimane, whom she described as "charismatic. "Leaders come and leaders go," she says. We will get stronger if we stick to our principles, our guiding lights. This too shall pass.

"So many lies have been written about him, about the case, and about the conditions under which he has been held. It is only true that we exist and with fresh eyes. Yes, this has given us the chance to examine our policies and debate what needs changing.

The DA will choose new leaders at an elective congress in December, the shadow minister believes. It is the only party that can deliver a country all will like to live in the DA. A few people resented, but the party has stayed intact.

Darren Bergman, the shadow minister of international relations and co-operation, says 2018 was an "annus horribilis" for the DA. "The 2019 election results were a failure, and things needed to change." He rejected the recommendations, and that’s what happened.

He says the media are creating the perception of chaos in the party, where the federal council meeting was calmly and maturely handled without any screaming and shouting.

Breytenbach also batted Zille’s election, believing it will return the party to its liberal roots. He believes the party can recapture the votes lost to the Freedom Front Plus in the elections, but is worried that the current instability could jeopardise the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) support for the DA’s control of Johannesburg.

Jewish voters are right to be disappointed with the DA over the past two years, he says, but the party is "in the process of self-correcting. They should be patient, and continue to support the DA as they have previously done so.

"The review recommended that leadership takes responsibility for the poor election results," says Breytenbach.

"It’s not a disaster. It’s an opportunity. It’s in the process of self-correcting.

South Africa has never needed every single one of us as much as it does today. Jewish people lead, excel, and stand out. We need to harness the tallest trees to reach the most, positions and have a country with distinction.

"If you asked me if there are four MPs who are ‘Zilleites’. Political analyst Ebrahim Fakir says, however, the problems in the DA are structural, and go beyond the leaders who have stayed or departed. "The DA’s problem is that everything it can do for either is only that what it is, can’t be done right now. It’s actually the ANC, which is a disaster," he says.

Fakir also believes the media is far too sensationalist about a natural realignment that happens in all parties. "The DA might have more problems but more effective after the 2021 local-government elections. The Johannesburg community will, no doubt, closely be watching developments.

"It’s something all political groups need to understand what’s going on inside the DA. "This is not the death of the DA. If the DA fails, South Africa fails. We want to govern well for all South Africans,” Breytenbach says those who received "contributed enormously to the project of the DA, and served the infrastructure committee, says she is a "big fan" of Maimane, whom she described as "charismatic. "Leaders come and leaders go," she says. We will get stronger if we stick to our principles, our guiding lights. This too shall pass.

"So many lies have been written about him, about the case, and about the conditions under which he has been held. It is only true that we exist and with fresh eyes. Yes, this has given us the chance to examine our policies and debate what needs changing.

The DA will choose new leaders at an elective congress in December, the shadow minister believes. It is the only party that can deliver a country all will like to live in the DA. A few people resented, but the party has stayed intact.
I have been the rabbi of the New Light Congregation in Pittsburgh for nine years. This year, at Kol Nidre services on Yom Kippur, I preached calm. Our congregation is part of a global maelstrom of anger and extremism. Last year, we and our fellow Jews at the Tree of Life congregation were the targets of one man’s anger. Now, it’s time for us to calm down.

Trauma is a wound you carry with you forever. Unlike grief, which can go through a repeating curse that Jews see in their own “lachrymose history”, scholar Salo Baron thought it could happen in America, yet it did.

I’m heartened by the overwhelming amount of positive sentiment coming our way – donations, letters, art, tokens of love and hope arrive daily from all over the world. In our city, whose citizens registered the largest number of members at New Light. I have persuaded many of our members and their children to begin psychotherapy. A large number of members have sought out the services of Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) and the Center for Victims, even those who have never needed the services of a trained therapist before. I wonder how many Pittsburgers are still talking in the rooms of sensitive therapists to mitigate their own trauma and cope with their own worries.

The fear that something frightening could happen is a repeating curse that Jews see in their own “lachrymose history”, scholar Salo Baron put it in the early 20th century. We never thought it could happen in America, yet it did.

But there is still more work to be done. The United States justice department-funded Center for Victims in Pittsburgh has flubbered twice in the past month. It rejected a guilty plea from the shooter who started this horror, insisting on a trial planned a year from now. And it has scheduled the trial four days before Rosh Hashanah, one of the holiest days in the Jewish year.

This trial will certainly re-traumatise therapists to mitigate their own trauma and cope with their own worries.

The fear that something frightening could happen is a repeating curse that Jews see in their own “lachrymose history”, scholar Salo Baron thought it could happen in America, yet it did.

There is something about living in the moment and tuning out the noise, the honking, the cursing, the finger pointing and drama that descended on our brave little city. We are not a metropolis that thrives on that kind of caustic energy. Pittsburgh is different. We discover mindfulness in our daily prayers, marking Shabbat and finding inspiration in our Torah.
Paralysed Israeli politics makes third election increasingly likely

A

Bert Einstein defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results. Unless something dramatic happens, the political scene in Israel seems unlikely to change, at least for the next year, one Israeli could be headed for the polls.

Previous elections in April and September saw neither incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor his main rival, the former military chief and leader of the centre-left Blue and White party, Benny Gantz, able to form a majority coalition. Nothing significant has changed since then. Should a third election be held at the beginning of next year, the results are expected to be much the same, give or take one or two extra seats for the main parties, which is not what most people want.

Israelis are increasingly fed up with the situation. Each time an election is held, it costs the country between 3 billion to 4 billion shekels (R3.2 billion).

Last week, Gantz was tasked with trying to form a government after Netanyahu failed and returned the mandate to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin. Gantz would have six months to do so by 20 November – and as the days pass, it seems increasingly unlikely he’ll be able to form a majority coalition – Israeli law dictates a three-week period during which Israeli parliamentarians can ask the prime minister to task someone else. Once this period has passed, and presumably it will end unsuccessfully too – the Kadima party (headed by Tzipi Livni) will dissolve, and new elections will be called for.

Netanyahu currently has a coalition of 55 Knesset seats compared to Gantz’s 54. Each needs a minimum of 61 (out of 120) to form a majority. The right-wing parties have signed a commitment paper declaring they will join only a government headed by Netanyahu and will never sign up to one established by Gantz. To date, they’ve refused even to meet with the Blue and White party leader as he tries to cobble together support.

This leaves Gantz with two options. Both go against his election pledges of “just not Netanyahu,” and the promise that there will not be a partnership with the Arab parties. First would be to form a national unity government with Likud that would result in a rotation between him and Netanyahu in the position of prime minister. The latest polls show that most Israelis – 56% – like this option best. But for it to happen, either Gantz or Netanyahu would have to agree to serve second in the rotation, and both refuse. It would also mean he was to pledge to keep the coalition together.

If he was to form a national unity government with Likud that would result in a rotation between him and Netanyahu in the position of prime minister, the latest polls show that most Israelis – 56% – like this option best. But for it to happen, either Gantz or Netanyahu would have to agree to serve second in the rotation, and both refuse. It would also mean he was to pledge to keep the coalition together.

Israelis are increasingly fed up with the situation. Each time an election is held, it costs the country between 3 billion to 4 billion shekels (R3.2 billion).

This leaves Gantz with two options. Both go against his election pledges of “just not Netanyahu,” and the promise that there will not be a partnership with the Arab parties. First would be to form a national unity government with Likud that would result in a rotation between him and Netanyahu in the position of prime minister. The latest polls show that most Israelis – 56% – like this option best. But for it to happen, either Gantz or Netanyahu would have to agree to serve second in the rotation, and both refuse. It would also mean he was to pledge to keep the coalition together.

The other option would be to form a government with the Arab parties, which would need a minimum of 61 (out of 120) to form a majority. The right-wing parties have signed a commitment paper declaring they will join only a government headed by Netanyahu and will never sign up to one established by Gantz. To date, they’ve refused even to meet with the Blue and White party leader as he tries to cobble together support.

But, at no point has Gantz expressed any intention to form a minority coalition. Such a government would be very shaky as it would not have an absolute majority and thus constantly have to bargain for the support of other factions in order to pass laws and decisions. The Israeli public is unlikely to regard such a government with much confidence.

However, the very real threat of a third election could make politicians and parties desperate. With his back against the wall, Gantz might be more willing to compromise his government or some of Netanyahu’s right-wing coalition partners might break rank and join the former army general.

Israelis might not want another election, and as insane as it might seem to hold one, there might be no other option.

\-----

\[Image 199x836 to 332x1021\]

\[Image 669x1013 to 756x1105\]
EXCLUSIVE BOOKS

WED 6 NOV

TIME: 18:00 FOR 18:30
VENUE: EXCLUSIVE BOOKS HYDE PARK
RSVP: 087 365 4648
EVENTS@EXCLUSIVEBOOKS.CO.ZA

*ALL PROCEEDS FROM SALES OF THE BOOK TO GO TO CHARITY

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the launch of African Outliers: The Story of the Bacher and Kirsh families by Mushe Kirsh and David Saks.

Emcee: Dr Ali Bacher

Renowned radio talk show host Jenny Crwys-Williams will be in conversation with the authors.

Beautifully produced and copiously illustrated, African Outliers tells the story of two remarkable South African Jewish families and the diverse, path-blazing roles its members played in the saga both of South Africa and of its Jewish community, from Chabad to Cricket, MDA to Madiba, Torah to Talk Radio and in multiple other areas. The book traces the history of the Bacher and Kirsh families, from their origins in Lithuania and other parts of Eastern Europe through to their arrival in South Africa and the new lives they built for themselves there. These stories are told against the greater backdrop of the dramatic historical events of these times, in South Africa and further afield.

PORCUPINE RIDGE
THE PREFERRED BOOK CLUB WINE
Proposed changes to SAJBD constitution questioned

TALI FEINBERG

Proposed changes to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies’ (SAJBD’s) constitution ahead of its national conference on 10 November are being queried by some members of the community who say these alterations could potentially “threaten the democratic nature of the SAJBD.”

The proposed changes appear to have been tabled at the SAJBD’s national executive committee (NEC) the ability to remove the membership of constituent bodies if they “cease to further the objects of the board”, and could allow the NEC to allocate any number of delegates to a constituent body unrelated to the number of its members. A third change proposes that if the NEC members are “inadvertently not notified about a meeting”, it can go ahead.

All Jewish communal bodies in South Africa are affiliated to the SAJBD, including schools, shuls (orthodox and progressive), women and youth groups, and the main welfare organisations and Zionist bodies, amongst others.

SAJBD National Chairperson Shaun Zagnoev said the proposed changes were in the interest of improved governance, efficiency, transparency, and would address certain deficiencies in the constitution.

The NEC of the board mandated a sub-committee including three lawyers, each of whom sit on the NEC and comes from different regions, to review the constitution and recommend amendments. The amendments haven’t been subject to the scrutiny of the NEC or the conference. They may be completed rejected or amended by the NEC and/or the conference. At the moment, they are merely the views of a few people, and don’t carry any authority or represent any official policy.

“It’s intended that these amendments be debated and adopted or rejected at the NEC meeting which precedes the conference,” Zagnoev said. “If adopted, they would then be taken to the conference for ratification. We are comfortable that this is a fully democratic, fair, and transparent process. If the conference does not agree with the suggestions, we will continue with the current constitution.”

Advocate Mark Oppenheim points out that the changes could cause unforeseen issues in future. “One such objective of the board is to promote harmonious relations between the Jewish community and all sections of the population in the republic. While the aim is noble, it’s ambiguous. A constituent body [for example, a shul] could be accused of creating some form of disharmony. For example, if a praetorius was taking of accusing the Anglican Church of adopting an unfairly anti- Ashkenazi stance, the constituent body might then be viewed as acting in a manner that is ‘disharmonious’ and be removed as a constituent member. Ironically, the above concern about the Anglican Church was recently expressed by South African Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldenstein. Zagnoev said the requirement that an organisation further the objects of the board had been included as an amendment, “as it would be incomprehensible for an organisation with antithetical views to the board to be a member of it. The converse is that if an organisation ceases to satisfy these requirements, the NEC should be entitled to terminate its membership. The right to revoke membership is, in any event, in the current constitution and not a new concept.

“The second proposed change is that ‘the national executive in its sole and absolute discretion has the right to allocate a number of delegates to a constituent body which is unrelated to the number of its members’. Said Oppenheim. “This means that a very small constituent organisation could be granted an inordinate number of members in order to rig a vote. So, because each delegate enjoys one vote, and the constitution could be changed with the assent of two thirds of the delegates present, this would entitle the national executive to ‘stack’ the congress in a manner that suits its preferences.”

“The reason for the insertion of this clause is to cater for situations where extremely important organisations such as the Chevrah Kaddisha in Johannesburg - do not, for technical reasons, satisfy membership criteria,” Zagnoev said. “In such an event, the NEC will be capable of exercising its judgement and whether such organisations be accepted and represented in the extent thereof.”

Another change proposes, “An inadvertent omission to give notice referred to any person entitled to such notice or the non-reception of such notice by any such person shall not invalidate any proceedings at any such meeting.”

Zagnoev points out that this would enhance governance at the NEC. “The operative clause is that the omission needs to be inadvertent. In today’s electroniccommunication environment, it’s possible that an invitation to a meeting isn’t delivered. Technically, were that to happen, the NEC meeting could not proceed. This clause has been inserted to ensure the validity of a meeting that proceeds in such a scenario. A stated omission needs to be inadvertent, and needs to be proven to be inadvertent if challenged. An intentional omission would not be acceptable. This, in my view, supports good governance.”

“Though Oppenheim doesn’t believe this is problematic, he warned about the dangers of changing a constitution.

“What it might be the case that those who are currently in power happen to be in a just manner, it’s possible that future generations of leaders may abuse the power that they have been granted and may run a pernicious agenda in a manner that would not be approved of by the current leadership. Any changes to the constitution ought to be thoroughly considered and debated to avoid an undemocratic and unfavourable outcome.”

Said Zagnoev, “The power to make these types of decisions rests in the hands of the NEC, a large body representing a diversity of interest groups and views, and fully represents the regions. It’s voted in democratically, and is mandated with safeguarding the interests of the Jewish community.”

Turning to the democratic nature of the board as a whole, Zagnoev said that the SAJBD had various regions, and each of the councils in these regions is subject to be debated and adopted or rejected at the NEC meeting which precedes the conference, “If they “cease to further the objects of the SAJBD”.”

The converse is that if an organisation ceases to satisfy these requirements, the NEC should be entitled to terminate its membership. The right to revoke membership is, in any event, in the current constitution and not a new concept.”

“Shhe hid her Jewish identity, though it seems to be a private detail from her biography and not something connected to any policy-making aspect,” he said.

Wilmes’ father, Philippe, was a lecturer at the Catholic University of Lourain, and isn’t Jewish. Markiewicz described Wilmes, who has attended Holocaust commemoration events and highlighted them on her personal website, as “an industrious and committed politician.”

A source from the Jewish community, a member of Wilmes’ party who spoke to JTA on condition of anonymity, said that Judaism had only recently become “a more important factor than before” in Wilmes’ life. Michael Freilich, a Belgian legislator for the NVA (New Flemish Alliance) party and the former editor in chief of the Antwerp-based Jewish newspaper, said Wilmes’ appointment was an “historic event that makes me feel proud”.

Notable in her background is her role as a Flemish politician, having represented the region’s interests at both the national and European levels. She has also served as a member of the European Parliament, where she has been a vocal advocate for Jewish affairs and the recognition of Holocaust survivors.

Wilmes’ appointment has generated widespread interest and admiration, particularly among the Jewish community, who celebrate the inclusion of a prominent figure with a strong commitment to human rights and social justice. Her representation of Jewish interests on the national and international stages is seen as a significant step toward enhanced recognition and inclusion for the Jewish population in Belgium and beyond.

The selection of Wilmes for this role is a testament to the growing visibility and influence of Jewish leaders in public life, and highlights the importance of diversity and inclusion in modern politics. Wilmes’ appointment not only underscores the ongoing struggle for equal representation but also serves as a reminder of the continued importance of advocating for minority rights and ensuring that all voices are heard in the political process.
The Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
advises that the laying of the cornerstone of The David Lopate Institute
Of Comparative Medicine
will be held on Monday, November 11th 2019
in the presence of David Lopatie.

Please contact
sabinaro@weizmann.ac.il
should you wish to attend this Festive Occasion.
Brexit or not to Brexit, that’s the problem

PAULA SLIER

If you think you’re confused by Brexit, you’re not alone. At this stage, both the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) are preparing for all outcomes.

After British Prime Minister Boris Johnson requested an extension to the UK’s exit from the EU, the bloc agreed to a “Brexit extension” (flexible extension) until 31 January. On Tuesday night, the UK parliament voted overwhelmingly to seek that delay as it was due to take place on 12 December. Campaigning has already begun, with it being billed as the Brexit election.

“Whatever happens, we’re going to be part of this,” said Pauline Mabuza, a chairperson for the Jewish Voice for Labour, the party headed by Jeremy Corbyn, isn’t surprised by how events have unfolded. Like so many British Jews who arrived in the UK after World War I or the 1930s before fleeing Nazi Europe, Mabuza’s family was immigrants. It was this background that motivated her – and she believes the majority of Jewish Brits are in favour of remaining in the EU.

“It’s a certainly a universal view of the world and connection with Europe,” she says. “For me, the language of Brexit is extremely uncomfortable, especially the language of anti-immigration. People naturally move more there is work and they’re able to practice their religion.”

Lance Forman, a Jewish Brexit party politician, couldn’t disagree more. He was elected in May to the European Parliament on behalf of this anti EU party, having jumped ship after being a Conservative party supporter for almost 40 years.

“Why would you want to part of Europe today?” he asks. “There’s the idea of preserving your unemployment, Germany’s going into a recession, Italy hasn’t grown for the past 10 years. The single currency is killing Europe, and is causing a great dependency culture that breeds resentment and extremism.”

Agreeing with Manning on what he believes British Jews favour remaining in the EU, he believes they’ve read the situation superficially.

“Instead of approaching Brexit from an economic perspective, they’re considering it from the standpoint of wanting peace in Europe and avoiding anti-Semitism. My analysis is, the Jews are afraid of nationalism and that it leads to anti-Semitism, but I can’t find any evidence of nationalism, then why do you believe in Israel? If Israel had existed in the 1930s, there wouldn’t have been any Jewish presence and Jews would have had somewhere to go. There is nothing wrong with a nation state so long as it is a liberal democracy. Nazi Europe was a failure. Jews are the only survivors.”

The SA Jewish Report covered with two former South Africans living in the UK to gauge their opinions.

Beauty therapist Dallia Beifus, 43, left South Africa in 1996 as a 20-year-old backpacker looking for travel and adventure. She returned to Cape Town twenty years later with a husband and three children.

Last year, she moved to the UK after her husband, who has a British passport, was offered a job there.

“I can’t believe people voted to leave. It goes against everything I believe in - the idea of collaboration, and creating more co-operation in the world,” she said.

“What we can’t believe is that there wasn’t the requirement for at least a 60% majority to make such incredible changes to the country. All this shouldn’t have happened and even then the people voted only for a concept, and did not know what a messy process it would be. What about all the people that leave everything to try and make a future for themselves and their families? How can people work harder than anyone else to earn their new life? Having lived in so many countries myself, I’m extremely uncomfortable of being an expat or the ‘right kind of foreigner’ in these countries.”

Johannesburg-born journalist Hayley Bentley (not her real name) moved to the UK 16 years ago after being biassed and feeling “very uneasy about the high levels of crime and lack of job opportunities” in South Africa. Married with a toddler, she was fortunate to have a British passport and a job waiting for her in the UK.

Bentley voted for Brexit “because I believe that the European parliament – which consists of people who are not voted into their positions and certainly not voted in by me – has so much sway over decisions and not in the UK. For example, if someone commits a crime in the UK and the courts have found him guilty, that person can go to the European courts of appeal and more often than not they don’t have their verdict overturned.”

Bentley was also worried about the prospect of Turkey joining the EU. “There was always the possibility that Turkey would join the EU after [German Chancellor Angela] Merkel decided to let everyone into Germany. I know that sounds racist and I can’t believe that I’m saying this, but I was concerned by what this would mean for the UK.”

“While I have a lot of sympathy for refugees, I can’t believe that letting them in, I was unhappy with the way it was being handled.”

I believe that a lot of the people who were let in as refugees weren’t actually refugees. They were running away from economic or political hardship. Enough of these people. I can see that from what’s happening in Germany today, with a lot of criminal behaviour being carried out by refugees.”

“Even if they weren’t criminals, I was concerned that a lot of refugees would come into the UK and that we would be creating a society where they would end up living on the fringes of society and turn to crime.”

“In retrospect, I think Brexit was probably a bad idea, not because the idea was bad, but because of the way it’s been handled by the government.”

Bentley is mostly worried that another election will bring Labour to power “which would be the worst thing ever, with Jeremy Corbyn as leader. I don’t think he would have another referendum because I don’t think he should keep having referendums until you get a clear winner, because you are criminalising your own voters. You should have voted, and that has been decided.”

Another election will bring Labour to power “which would be the worst thing ever, with Jeremy Corbyn as leader. I don’t think he would have another referendum because I don’t think he should keep having referendums until you get a clear winner, because you are criminalising your own voters. You should have voted, and that has been decided.”

Stepping into a Holocaust painting via virtual reality

TALI FEINBERG

H ave you ever wondered what daily Jewish life was like in Europe before the Holocaust Soon? You will be able to experience the closest thing to time travel using virtual reality.

“To improve the impact of Holocaust education, we need to understand the vast Jewish life that existed beforehand, and how Jews have lived for centuries,” said Leora Raikin, the director of the David Labkovski Project, in a presentation to the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre. A native of Cape Town, Raikin lives in Los Angeles and uses her great aunt’s vast body of artworks to educate people around the world about the Shoah.

“You will see special glasses to step into the art and become part of the painting. We utilised the skills of a gaming designer to bring these pictures to life. The script comes from testimonies of Jews who lived in Vilna and survived the Shoah. You will be able to walk around the house, light candles, pour water, pick up the challah … even pet the goat! You’ll be able to go into the Vilna marketplace and experience everyday life. Studies show that 20 minutes of virtual reality is equal to a three-hour lecture in german.”

She said her great uncle’s vivid paintings were up on the walls of her grandparents’ home in Sea Point, so her art has always been part of her life. When Labkovski died in 1936 and raised in Vilna, which at that time was the centre of the Jewish world. He all wanted to do was paint and draw, and he went on to work at the present-day art Jewish Theatre in Moscow before being accepted as one of 500 applicants at the Art Academy of Leningrad.

It was there that he learnt everything about being a painter from mining paintings to anatomy and architecture. But it all came crashing down when Stalin rose to power, arresting anyone suspected of anti-Soviet activity. Labkovski was arrested and impressing in solitary confinement for 12 months and then sent to Siberia. His future wife, Rivka Spektor, was also sent there. “The fact that many Jews survived the Holocaust because they were sent to Siberia is one of the greatest untold stories of this era,” says Raikin.

But Labkovski told the story through his art. His paintings depict the horrors of life in the gulag – sub-zero temperatures, starvation, slave labour, and a brutal existence. They form part of the small archive of documentation by those who were there. Labkovski survived because he became a tattoo artist for rival gangs and painted portraits.

But that wasn’t the end of the story. When he returned to Vilna after the war, the world he knew it had vanished. Ninety five percent of the Jews in the city had been murdered, including Raikin’s great grandparents, great aunt, and her five-year-old twins. Most had been shot in cold blood. The family were immigrants. It was this background that motivated her – and she believes the majority of Jewish Brits are in favour of remaining in the EU.

“In retrospect, I think Brexit was probably a bad idea, not because the idea was bad, but because of the way it’s been handled by the government.”

The couple were not able to have children, so they kept the paintings as a complete collection, almost like their own ‘children’. When they passed away in the 1950s, much of the art was looted and stolen. It turned into a 22-year-long court case that eventually reached Israel’s Supreme Court. Eventually, some of the art was recovered and divided up amongst the family. Although they appreciated the art, it was mostly stored away from the public eye.

One day, upon telling friends about her great uncle, Raikin had to use this art to educate others about the Holocaust. She founded the David Labkovski Project, which now travels the world educating schoolchildren, adults, and professionals. The project is unusual in that it allows participants to make their own decisions of the work, therefore becoming curators and docents of these exhibits. “In turn, they teach their own communities,” she said.

Raikin said that as soon as this responsibility is given to pupils, they absorb knowledge and lessons that might otherwise pass them by in traditional classrooms. “It’s multi-disciplinary and non-judgemental. Art is universal – anyone can access it,” said Raikin. She hopes to eventually travel the world with the project.

“The original art has also been exhibited in Lithuania – taking it “home” to the place it originated from. The virtual reality aspect of the project is time consuming – it’s a 15-minute experience and can be experienced by only one person at a time. But whenever Raikin has presented it, there have been lines of people waiting to experience it. When they do access it, they believe, because “art is universal, it is multi-disciplinary, it appeals to kids and adults, and it explores life before, during and after the Holocaust. Ultimately, this is the future of learning.”

One day, upon telling friends about her great uncle, Raikin had to use this art to educate others about the Holocaust. She founded the David Labkovski Project, which now travels the world educating schoolchildren, adults, and professionals. The project is unusual in that it allows participants to make their own decisions of the work, therefore becoming curators and docents of these exhibits. “In turn, they teach their own communities,” she said.

Raikin said that as soon as this responsibility is given to pupils, they absorb knowledge and lessons that might otherwise pass them by in traditional classrooms. “It’s multi-disciplinary and non-judgemental. Art is universal – anyone can access it,” said Raikin. She hopes to eventually travel the world with the project.

“One day, upon telling friends about her great uncle, Raikin had to use this art to educate others about the Holocaust. She founded the David Labkovski Project, which now travels the world educating schoolchildren, adults, and professionals. The project is unusual in that it allows participants to make their own decisions of the work, therefore becoming curators and docents of these exhibits. “In turn, they teach their own communities,” she said.

Raikin said that as soon as this responsibility is given to pupils, they absorb knowledge and lessons that might otherwise pass them by in traditional classrooms. “It’s multi-disciplinary and non-judgemental. Art is universal – anyone can access it,” said Raikin. She hopes to eventually travel the world with the project.

“One day, upon telling friends about her great uncle, Raikin had to use this art to educate others about the Holocaust. She founded the David Labkovski Project, which now travels the world educating schoolchildren, adults, and professionals. The project is unusual in that it allows participants to make their own decisions of the work, therefore becoming curators and docents of these exhibits. “In turn, they teach their own communities,” she said.
When King David High School Linksfield Principal Lorraine Srage blew out 60 candles on her birthday cake on 21 October, most celebrated her achievements as a principal, but few knew of her achievements in sport.

This four-time Comrades Marathon medallist is what she calls a "sports junkie". She is also an accomplished swimmer who represented her province (then Transvaal) in the pool, and still swims and runs when she is not running the school.

In 1991, Srage and three times Comrades Marathon champion Frith van der Merwe were part of the women's team for Rockies who won the Gunga Din trophy (awarded to the winning team at Comrades). And as a member of staff at King David, she coached the hockey, swimming, and tennis teams.

Srage, who became principal in 2015 after being a history and physical education teacher for thirty years, has always loved sport. "The real influence for my love of sport was my dad. I became the son he never had because I was one of three daughters, so he schlepped me to rugby. I was always just part of his love of sport," her father, Fred, was part of the group that formed Rocky Road Runners (one of the oldest and most established running clubs in South Africa).

Srage started playing sport in primary school. "I got involved in swimming and that was my real love," she says. "Then, at Waverley Girls High School, I played hockey and tennis, but swimming remained my main sport. I was fortunate to swim at provincial and national level."

It required considerable commitment. "I don’t think I ever went away in the December holidays because that was the height of training since the championships were always in February."

Srage, however, was never able to swim at the Maccabi Games as South Africa was excluded due to apartheid. But in 1975, when she was 16, she went on a goodwill tour to Israel with a group of Jewish and some non-Jewish scholars. "We stayed at the Maccabi Village, swam a little bit. It was probably one of my fondest memories."

She swam through her time at the University of Witwatersrand. "I was lucky enough to be given half-blues for swimming at university, and my love for sport got me to major not only in history, but in physical education."

Srage made use of the latter qualification. "I coached a whole lot of sport such as swimming and hockey at King David, but I always had one foot in the academic classroom."

Srage was already teaching when she started running. During her first Comrades Marathon in 1987, she ran with her father on a scorching hot day. "He couldn’t believe that he had to put up with all my moaning and groaning," she says. "I had run a lot of road races, I had run Two Oceans Marathons and I was placed a few times, but I don’t think I ever really understood the enormity of the Comrades. From then on, the Comrades and road running just became part of who we were as a family."

In her fourth Comrades in 1991, Stage demonstrated her true running ability with a time of seven hours, 48 minutes, 32 seconds, which was just less than 49 minutes slower than the time recorded by that year’s fourth-place finisher, Diana Terreblanche.

Because Srage ran into her shoes, she often took them off to find her nails "absolutely exploding" and needed to have the nails cut in order to release the blood.

"After one Comrades, I remember somebody said to me, 'I have never seen a worse pair of feet. You shouldn’t run to a medical complex!'" But Srage's real love is school sport, "which when played well, is fantastic."

"If I look at the students who are involved in sport in this school, they are balanced kids who have time for everything. They understand what it means to work in a team and play fair."

At 60, she looks forward to more balance between sport and academia.
The future is going to be weird

**HOWARD SACKSTEIN**

When Shanye and Mic Mann brought Singularity University to South Africa, the journey took the two brothers to Singularity summits around the globe. Listening to some of the world’s leading experts in disruptive technology has turned the Manns into experts in the technology world.

Mic relates the story of Julius Vego, the Kenyan field and track athlete who won the Commonwealth Games gold medal in javelin after teaching himself to throw the shaft by watching YouTube videos. Kyle Giersdorf, the 16-year-old world Fortnite champion, won a title prize of $3 million (R43.7 million), earning more than the winners of Wimbledon. Clearly your kids should get to the gym and start playing computer games!

More than 40 million people competed for the championship, where the title was crowned before a capacity crowd in the Arthur Ashe stadium in Flushing Meadows, New York.

The world is clearly changing.

Traditional tertiary institutions like universities are fast being replaced by online courses from MIT, Stanford, Coursera and websites such as Udacity. Education is becoming democratised and accessible. Education is no longer the exclusive province of the elite. Today, all we need is a cell phone and an internet connection. And that is why cheap data is a fundamental prerequisite for growth in the developing world. Once you allow mass access to information, you will take it beyond the flabby ivory towers of dated institutions, you can move from scarcity to abundance. Udacity now enrols more than 50,000 students a year, registered in its online nanodegree paid programmes, a far cry from the days when people approached the few monies of the Catholic Church to write letters home to their families.

How we earn our money is also changing. Tyler Blevins is a professional gamer with more than 14 million followers, people who pay to watch him play computer games. Last year, his earnings topped $10 million (R145.7 million) . But all of that fades into insignificance next to Ryan Kaji, the eight-year-old toy reviewer who brought in a whopping $25 million on just 5 minutes from his YouTube channel. Nice work if you can get it on an eight-year-old! Eat your heart out Shirley Temple! The Chinese love their "Live Streamers", people who live low content about crucial life-saving topics like make-up and clothes. Some of them make more than $5 million (R72.8 million) a year. The Chinese have become voyeuristic — and not in a good way.

The new 14-second music video sharing app, TikTok, is now valued at more than $75 billion. And even older — an app that’s only two years old, and more than twice the value of South Africa’s biggest company, Anglo American.

Taddy Bheltshi’s Maharishi Institute in South Africa is training a new breed of job seekers to be “data labelers”. The neat future intelligences to recognise objects. A small child might automatically understand what a cat looks like, but an artificial intelligence computer might take ten million images of a cat and never understand what those furry, sulky things are. We have to see millions of images of a cat before it understands what those furry, sulky things are. We just hope that the AI computers pay their slaves what they are worth.

Mic concludes "The world is changing and the changes are much greater. Sometimes the source of the problem is the solution. It took people many years to create panels to a place where there was no sun, and I took them where they were needed. They merely used the water that already existed, it was simple."

"It doesn’t take much to help others. Sometimes the technology already exists. You don’t need to invent when you can work with what is already around and usable. The result is that the impact is so much greater."

"We are committed to bring water where there is drought, to bring light where there is darkness, to bring hope and dignity where there is despair." And with that, the diminutive Israeli, carried on a glowing audience and left the stage. More than a thousand business executives at SingularityU finally understood the teachings of the Manns. Whoever saves a single life is considered to have saved the whole world."
Proud to be LGBT and Jewish

JOEL KATZEW

The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) branch of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) was recently awarded the best society of the year at the Wits Law Society’s empowerment workshop with the chair financial office of Peregrine Holdings; a partnership with the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre focusing on the dangers of “othering”; and various cash or cans campaigns to raise money for the Wits Food Bank.

“Blessing being in school and feeling terrible shame, sadness, confusion, and isolation was a reality not only for me, but many little boys and girls like me. It means to live openly as your true self with pride and without fear or shame.”

On 26 October, thousands of members of the LGBTI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and more) community as well as straight allies gathered on a specially closed-off section of Rivonia Road outside Sandton City, and it was made possible in part through generous donations by major corporations which occupy the office buildings in the area.

The fact that some of the largest and most powerful companies in the country are happy to donate to and actively support Pride is in itself an incredible testament not only to their social responsibility, but also to the progress South African society has made in changing its views of LGBT people.

“Growing up as a gay boy in the Jewish community was difficult. Being bullied in school and feeling terrible shame, sadness, confusion, and isolation was a reality not only for me, but many little boys and girls like me. It means to live openly as your true self with pride and without fear or shame.”

Being a part of both the Israeli and the rainbow Pride communities is a wonderful experience. The two actually have some things in common such as treating others as you wish to be treated yourself; welcoming and including everybody like Avraham did into his tent; giving back to and helping others especially those less fortunate; and using one’s unique gifts and talents to be a good person, lead the best life possible, and make the world a better place. As a young, gay Jewish man I confidently wear the Israeli and the rainbow Pride flags with pride.

SCHLOSBERG studied finance and moved to New York where he worked at an investment bank. He left finance to pursue a career as an artist.

SAUJS wins best society award

JORDAN MOSHE

Before the awards were conferred, a litany of SAUJS’ achievements were shared. These included an event at Constitution Hill on reconciliation which involved the Wits Law society and Amnesty International; a Women’s Empowerment workshop with the chief financial officer of Peregrine Holdings; a partnership with the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre focusing on the dangers of “othering”; and various cash or cans campaigns to raise money for the Wits Food Bank.

“Blessing being in school and feeling terrible shame, sadness, confusion, and isolation was a reality not only for me, but many little boys and girls like me. It means to live openly as your true self with pride and without fear or shame.”

On 26 October, thousands of members of the LGBTI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and more) community as well as straight allies gathered on a specially closed-off section of Rivonia Road outside Sandton City, and it was made possible in part through generous donations by major corporations which occupy the office buildings in the area.

The fact that some of the largest and most powerful companies in the country are happy to donate to and actively support Pride is in itself an incredible testament not only to their social responsibility, but also to the progress South African society has made in changing its views of LGBT people.

“Growing up as a gay boy in the Jewish community was difficult. Being bullied in school and feeling terrible shame, sadness, confusion, and isolation was a reality not only for me, but many little boys and girls like me. It means to live openly as your true self with pride and without fear or shame.”

Being a part of both the Israeli and the rainbow Pride communities is a wonderful experience. The two actually have some things in common such as treating others as you wish to be treated yourself; welcoming and including everybody like Avraham did into his tent; giving back to and helping others especially those less fortunate; and using one’s unique gifts and talents to be a good person, lead the best life possible, and make the world a better place. As a young, gay Jewish man I confidently wear the Israeli and the rainbow Pride flags with pride.

SCHLOSBERG studied finance and moved to New York where he worked at an investment bank. He left finance to pursue a career as an artist.

Most Jews of Polish and Lithuanian origin are entitled to EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP and ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that South African Jews of Ashkenazi heritage are of Lithuanian descent, and that only those who are able to prove their eligibility for Lithuanian citizenship are able to obtain an EU passport. The fact is that most South African Jews do qualify for European citizenship, whether they can prove their Lithuanian lineage or not, and most South African Jews of Sephardic heritage are also eligible for transport passports. Adv. Avi Horosh has in-depth knowledge of the applicable legislation and in his experience, the majority of South African Jews have ancestors who were illegally deprived of citizenship. As their descendants, these Jews are eligible for European citizenship which will result in them obtaining an EU passport.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Horosh resides in Israel, but has spent seven years in Poland, and is recognised as leading lawyer in the field of European citizenship, with a full understanding of local immigration laws.

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

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

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

I will be in Johannesburg from 14 to 20 November and then in Cape Town until 28 November. Please contact me for an appointment. My South African phone number is +27 84 745 5273 • Email me on adv.wl.horosh@gmail.com
GILLIAN KLAWANSKY

It is estimated that one in 40 people of Jewish Ashkenazi descent test positive for the mutated BRCA 1 and 2 cancer gene. Men with these genes risk mostly breast, prostate, colon and pancreatic cancer.

Both genders also face increased risk of gall bladder and bile duct cancer, stomach cancer, and malignant melanoma. BRCA1 and 2 gene mutations are not restricted to women, and they’re not restricted to breast cancer,” says Professor Bernardo Leon Rapoport, a specialist physician and medical oncologist in charge of the Medical Oncology Centre of Rosherbank and extraordinary head of the department of immunology, faculty of health sciences, University of Pretoria.

In a study conducted at the Rabins Medical Center in Israel, a centre dedicated to men with BRCA mutations, it was found that men with BRCA gene mutations develop eight times as many cancers as would have been expected in the general population.

“There is a misconception that men can’t get breast cancer,” says Johannesburg-based genetic counsellor, Kara Stoler, who also works at the Malka Ella Fertility Fund. “But they’re also at risk. Men should do breast examinations, and any concerns need to be investigated.”

BRCA2 cancers are more commonly associated with men, says Professor Carol Ann Benn, a South African expert on breast cancer.

“It’s also important for men to test, because if they are carriers of a cancer gene, their children will be at risk,” says Stoler. The same BRCA gene test — done via blood or saliva — is used for men and women. The test is now more accessible as costs have decreased over the past few years, says Rapoport. “You test once in your lifetime. Only Ashkenazi Jews with a history of cancer in their families are advised to be tested for the gene.”

As a medical doctor in the community, who wishes to remain anonymous, tested positive for the BRCA gene a few years ago. “Virtually from childhood, I’d known about it. I’m positive, and both my daughters are carriers. I was tested because I needed to know for them, I didn’t want to know for myself. If not for you, you’ve got to do it for your children and your children’s children.”

The doctor stresses the importance of proper counselling before being tested, and before and after receiving your results. “We need to counsel people properly throughout by a professor of genetics who I know well. It was quite a shock that all three of us were carriers.”

There’s a lack of awareness when it comes to testing men, he says. “When I tell people with a family history to check their children, they say ‘but not my boys’. You have to check boys and girls — but only once they’re old enough to get tested — in their late teens or 20s.”

“Male breast cancer in the family is highly indicative of the BRCA 1 or 2 gene mutation,” says the doctor. “With prostate cancer, even if it affected only previous generations, you need to be checked.”

According to the World Journal of Oncology, prostate cancer is the second most frequent cancer diagnosis in men globally after lung cancer. In 2018, it caused 3.8% of all cancer deaths in men. Prostate cancer is also the fifth leading cause of death worldwide.

The emotional toll that a positive BRCA gene mutation test takes is undeniable. “It’s difficult to explain to you what you feel, even though as a carrier you’ve done nothing wrong,” says the doctor. “But I feel a great sense of guilt. It’s caused a lot of heartaches, and I’m afraid it’ll cause heartache in the future. But you can do something about it. Treatment is much better than it was ten or even five years ago. You just need to consult the right medical professionals.”

Joburg Jewish artists jam on Sukkot

A midst soulful music, the spirits of biblical ancestors were summoned to a sukkah on the pool deck of the Genesis Centre on a warm Johannesburg night.

The Sukkot tradition of ustripitin, an Aramic word roughly translated as "guests" or "hospitality" follows a Kabbalistic tradition in which various biblical figures are invited symbolically into the sukkah each night to dine with the family. The fourth night's guest is Moshe, and on this occasion, the matrarch, Leah, joined him. The evening of musical performance was a collaboration between two relatively new organisations in the city’s art scene — 9th Street and Creative Gatherings.

Singer and artist Leigh Nudelman said that the seeds for 9th Street were planted when she attended the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship in Saldanha Bay in May 2018. There, she had some profound discussions about what it means to be a young Jew in South Africa today. "I thought I could start something to support young Jewish artists. I also felt a desire to do something political in our time, says Nudelman. "I was interested in the idea of a space that could support young artists and their work."

"Art and culture play a huge role in finding ways of belonging, and narrating Jewish identity in Johannesburg today," Nudelman said. "We want to nurture high-quality Jewish artists and their art. 9th Street provides a vehicle to present their work, get feedback, and provide support." Nudelman says it has about 70 members, with roughly 20 attending monthly meetings. Ustripitin was its first major public performance.

She and guitarist and singer, Farry Roth, presented a reinterpretation of the story of Leah, the sad sister that Jacob was duped into marrying. The Azrieli Street Orchestra summoned its African ancestors into the rooftop sukkah with its mesmerising melodies.

STEVEN GRUZD

Joburg Jewish artists jam on Sukkot

Roth, whose day job is in physiotherapy, said, "Joburg lacks cultural centres for lots of mediums. We want to create a cultural hub for Jewish artists to collaborate. We all feel isolated as artists in the city. I think we’ve found a home in 9th Street. It’s important that artists use Joburg as a creative local space."

We want to walk in the city, reclaim its spaces. We want to explore and rejuvenate old Jewish buildings, interesting shuls. Some are deserted, unused. We want to use them again, reignite them through music and art. In future, they hope to do "curated" walks in Johannesburg, where participants will encounter performance and exhibitions on their journey. For the ustripitin performance, 9th Street partnered with Creative Gatherings, a network that gives ideas and support to artists, inside and outside the Jewish community. One of its founders, the aptly named Moshe Singer, describes Creative Gatherings as "a community-building group that started two years ago by Singer (a drama teacher), music therapist Yael Shapir, and Alon Cohen, who handles the technical aspects."

"Creative Gatherings has a simple philosophy of bringing people from all backgrounds together through collaboration to build community. Its goals include professional development and forming a social and support network," says Singer.

This was its first joint gig with 9th Street, and all agreed it was a tremendous success, showcasing amazing artists deep into the night. "Everything we do is an experiment," said Nudelman, "and from each ceiling we do together, we learn and develop as individuals and as a group."
Many of our children are writing exams. It’s a tough time for them and a tricky time for parents who aren’t always sure how best to support them.

Should we hover and help, or stay away? Should we cancel all outings and extra-murals, or encourage breaks and exercise? How do we know that our children are studying enough, and how can we tell if the pressure is getting to them?

Cape Town based parenting coach Laura Markovitz says that at the outset, it’s important for parents to manage their own association with exams so that they don’t project it onto their children.

“Exams may have been incredibly stressful or really easy for them, but they need to remember that their children need to find their own away around exams. Parents, as much as they want to, can’t control their children’s study habits,” says Markovitz.

“Different children study differently, and each child may require varying levels of support from parents. It’s important for parents to try to do the difficult dance of helping to motivate kids but not completely stress them out. There are such high levels of anxiety in children and teenagers today, so it’s important to keep things in perspective” she says.

“Our role can be facilitative rather than controlling and interfering. “Help children plan how they are going to study – when, where, and how long. Let them be part of working this out, so that parents are not dictating the plan. Make sure that it’s not all about studying during exam time.

“Most importantly, ensure that they get enough sleep, that they are exercising and eating well. Stay connected to them; remember to emphasise when they are having a tough time,” she says.

“If exams go well or badly, make time to reflect on what worked and what didn’t so that they can learn for next time. This can give them space to self-evaluate, and learn how they are learning. If we come down hard and criticise them, they are more likely to shut us off or get defensive,” says Markovitz.

Maintaining a positive relationship with your child so that you can access support is the most important factor during exam time, says clinical psychologist Renske Esterhuyse. She advises following the Dialectic Behaviour Therapy acronym of “GIVE” to maintain a positive relationship with your child.

“G” is to give encouragement. “I” is to stay interested. Listen without giving advice, maintain eye-contact, don’t interrupt, and seek to understand.

“V” is for validation, which doesn’t mean that you agree or approve of your child’s behaviour – it means that you are able to recognise that their behaviour might be a way to try and communicate their feelings.

“E” is to have an easy manner. Know when to agree to disagree, and try to be “the calm you want to see”.

In addition, she recommends that you have realistic academic expectations. "Keep in mind their abilities. If you find that your child is consistently not meeting your academic expectations, it may be a good idea to have the child formally assessed by an educational psychologist.”

Esterhuyse says that creating a positive environment for your child is key. “Keep the emotional temperature of the home as cool as possible. Conflicts can easily erupt due to parent’s worries that a child is not spending enough hours studying. It could be helpful to set concrete goals or expectations with your child before the exams and decide on rewards for meeting study goals or consequences for under-performance.”

She emphasises that consequences should be positive and might, for example, involve extra classes during school term. However, under-performance should be effort and not performance (grades) based.

"For example, agree beforehand the amount of hours needed to study for a particular paper, and work towards success in that way. Avoid emotional stress may cause.

Another practical tool is to create enjoyable sensory experiences for your child during this stressful time. “Cook healthy, enjoyable meals, encourage them to engage in self-care such as taking a hot bath or shower, use lavender oil for its relaxing properties, and create a calming sleep space [dark, cool room, limit screen time to an hour before bed-time, use bed only for sleeping] to promote good sleep hygiene.”

Esterhuyse says that a quick way of dealing with anxiety is to use this grounding exercise: “Help your child to identify five things they can see, four things they can hear, three things they can touch, two things they can smell, and one thing they can taste. Repeat the exercise until the child is feeling calm. This exercise can be done anywhere and anytime. Creating a grounding box with meaningful items that can be used during the exercise can also be helpful.”

She concludes, “If parents can implement the aforementioned for their children, not only will children learn to trust that their bodies are exercising and eating well. Stay connected to them; remember to emphasise when they are having a tough time,” she says.

”Our role can be facilitative rather than controlling and interfering. “Help children plan how they are going to study – when, where, and how long. Let them be part of working this out, so that parents are not dictating the plan. Make sure that it’s not all about studying during exam time.

“Most importantly, ensure that they get enough sleep, that they are exercising and eating well. Stay connected to them; remember to emphasise when they are having a tough time,” she says.

“If exams go well or badly, make time to reflect on what worked and what didn’t so that they can learn for next time. This can give them space to self-evaluate, and learn how they are learning. If we come down hard and criticise them, they are more likely to shut us off or get defensive,” says Markovitz.

Maintaining a positive relationship with your child so that you can access support is the most important factor during exam time, says clinical psychologist Renske Esterhuyse. She advises following the Dialectic Behaviour Therapy acronym of “GIVE” to maintain a positive relationship with your child.

“G” is to give encouragement. “I” is to stay interested. Listen without giving advice, maintain eye-contact, don’t interrupt, and seek to understand.

“V” is for validation, which doesn’t mean that you agree or approve of your child’s behaviour – it means that you are able to recognise that their behaviour might be a way to try and communicate their feelings.

“E” is to have an easy manner. Know when to agree to disagree, and try to be “the calm you want to see”.

In addition, she recommends that you have realistic academic expectations. “Keep in mind their abilities. If you find that your child is consistently not meeting your academic expectations, it may be a good idea to have the child formally assessed by an educational psychologist.”

Esterhuyse says that creating a positive environment for your child is key. “Keep the emotional temperature of the home as cool as possible. Conflicts can easily erupt due to parent’s worries that a child is not spending enough hours studying. It could be helpful to set concrete goals or expectations with your child before the exams and decide on rewards for meeting study goals or consequences for under-performance.”

She emphasises that consequences should be positive and might, for example, involve extra classes during school term. However, under-performance should be effort and not performance (grades) based.

“For example, agree beforehand the amount of hours needed to study for a particular paper, and work towards success in that way. Avoid emotional stress may cause.

Another practical tool is to create enjoyable sensory experiences for your child during this stressful time. “Cook healthy, enjoyable meals, encourage them to engage in self-care such as taking a hot bath or shower, use lavender oil for its relaxing properties, and create a calming sleep space [dark, cool room, limit screen time to an hour before bed-time, use bed only for sleeping] to promote good sleep hygiene.”

Esterhuyse says that a quick way of dealing with anxiety is to use this grounding exercise: “Help your child to identify five things they can see, four things they can hear, three things they can touch, two things they can smell, and one thing they can taste. Repeat the exercise until the child is feeling calm. This exercise can be done anywhere and anytime. Creating a grounding box with meaningful items that can be used during the exercise can also be helpful.”

She concludes, “If parents can implement the aforementioned for their children, not only will children learn to trust that their bodies are exercising and eating well. Stay connected to them; remember to emphasise when they are having a tough time,” she says.

“TALI FEINBERG

How to help not hinder your children during exams

1 – 8 November 2019

How to help not hinder your children during exams

1 – 8 November 2019

How to help not hinder your children during exams

1 – 8 November 2019

How to help not hinder your children during exams

1 – 8 November 2019
ROBYN SASSEN

Friend to all the chief rabbis

Isaac Reznik had close relationships with all the chief rabbis of his time. Here are personal tributes from Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein and Ann Harris, wife of the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris:

Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein

Isaac Reznik served with four chief rabbis and generations of dayanim (judges) at the Beth Din. He was someone who could draw on his remarkable memory, and tell you the traditions and decisions of Chief Rabbi Louis Rabinowitz, Chief Rabbi Bernard Harris and, Chief Rabbi Lord Casper, and Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris. He would always pop into my office with interesting pieces of information and new clippings. If ever I wanted to know what the precedent was for something and how my predecessors had handled similar situations, Isaac was always there to provide the information with a smile and a sparkle. History excited him. The traditions of our community excited him.

With everyone else it was a quick dopp ceremony. He was fascinated by life and by the community, and totally dedicated to preserving its ethos and vision. He knew what generations of dayanim used to do, how they handled cases, and what the policies were of generations of Beth Din. He was always so animated and excited in these discussions, and always had something invaluable to share. He was a real bridge to previous generations of South African Jewish life. I feel sad at this passing because as a community, we have lost his connection to our past. Isaac was a real compass and he will leave a huge hole in the community and in Hashem. He served with humility, dedication, and real passion to serve. May his memory be a blessing.

Ann Harris

Isaac Reznik was director of the chief rabbi’s office when Rabbi Harris took office in 1988. He was the first link between the new chief rabbi and the community. Isaac knew everyone, and had an encyclopedic knowledge of South African Jewish history, both of which were invaluable to the new incumbent. Rabbi Harris was not the easiest of taskmasters. He was a perfectionist, and Isaac was his first target for grumbles. But Isaac’s good humour, patience, and loyalty over the years allowed him to become a real bridge between the community and the chief rabbi.

Isaac was our family’s first friend in a new and challenging life. We will never cease to remember and appreciate his kindness to us all.

TALI FEINBERG

Table Mountain is the emblem of Cape Town, and October marks the 90th anniversary of its aerial cableway (colloquially known as “the cable car”). Those who have visited from near and far have fascinating memories of this iconic adventure up the mountain. In its nine decades of existence, there have been only a few mishaps, but no accidents or injuries.

Table Mountain itself is about 1,086-metres tall and is about 9,000 years old. The Table Mountain National Park, which looks at the life of this mountain or on the cable car, even though they lived in Cape Town. He got to bring a music band to the top of the mountain for the first time ever. Hot Water, a well-known South African band, played their song “Wamkelekile” which means “welcome” in Xhosa, and it was absolutely spectacular.

Eden Saban, who is from Israel but has lived in Johannesburg for 20 years, was a rare harrowing story to share from February 2012.

She and her husband had gone up Table Mountain as a last activity with their young children before they headed for the airport. But, as the cable car went down, there was an issue with the alignment, and it was forced to stop. The car was suspended in the air while mechanics worked urgently to fix it.

“We were stuck dangling in the middle of the cables for about half an hour, with a toddler and an infant. They couldn’t get the cables aligned, so the car didn’t dock. The cable car was jammed, so we had to stand all that time, and the kids around us were crying – probably in addition to our two babies! The windows were opened to get some air. As the sun started to set, my husband prayed the Amidah, and right afterwards, the technicians got the cable car to work. When we got down, we rushed straight to the apartment to catch our flight home, and caught it just in time!”

She says this experience is rare, and people should enjoy the cableway as a unique Cape Town experience. However, she plans to hike up the mountain if she visits again!
Sydenham Preschool helps Cause 4 Paws

The staff of Sydenham Pre-Primary School visited Eikenhof in the south of Johannesburg last week to help Rene Parker of Cause 4 Paws to improve the well-being of dogs and cats in Jacksons Drift squatter camp by sterilising, vaccinating, and conducting outreach programmes.

The Sydenham team helped rescue a litter of puppies as well as bath, feed, and entertain the resident dogs. A sizeable donation of dog food, collars, leashes, blankets, plastic bowls, and cash was handed to Parker. We salute her and the Paw Rangers for their tireless efforts in spreading kindness to our voiceless furry friends.

King David Victory Park Grade 12 student Michael Rubin came first in the practical category at the 2019 Information Technology Showcase held at Redhill in September. The competition features the Grade 11 IT projects of top students, and the judges included faculty members from three universities and industries such as Microsoft South Africa. Rubin’s software, written in Java, is designed to teach physical science students about vectors and projectile motion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Honesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven years in Poland, and is considered a leading lawyer in the field of European citizenship, with a full understanding of local immigration laws.

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

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

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

I will be in Johannesburg from 14 to 20 November and then in Cape Town until 28 November. Please contact me for an appointment. My South African phone number is +27 64 745 5273. Email me on adv.wn.honesh@gmail.com.
I watch it on Betamax. The plan was ridiculously was also on Shabbat. I recall it so clearly. We were immensely powerful. In the past few months, many Africa-England game, I smiled at him sweetly and sound down so that we wouldn’t disturb the peace transgressing any rules, and could even leave the might even have been that weekend when we final declared the honeymoon phase over. and all because I suggested to my bride that perhaps, given the gravitas of the event, we might consider leaving the television on. We wouldn’t be transgressing any rules, and could even leave the sound down so that we wouldn’t disturb the peace of the day. It didn’t go well. Not at all. I would have thought that the given that the conversation was all about sanctity, she would have avoided the type of language that followed. Which is why when my one son wondered if there would be anything wrong with leaving the television on this Shabbat to watch the South Africa-England game, I smiled at him sweetly and said, “why don’t you go and ask mom?”

There is something 1995 about this Rugby World Cup final. The camaraderie and togetherness is immensely powerful. In the past few months, many South Africans have made a deliberate choice to see no intention of leaving the television on or watching the game. I have no intention of finding a “halachic” way to do so, and I am more comfortable than I have ever been about this.

For years, I allowed the negative anxiety of the outside world to infiltrate and pollute the day (even in my mind) and it’s only with maturity that I realise that we can’t have one without the other. If I allow myself the joy of this game this Shabbat, there will be something else to tempt me from keeping Shabbos next week, and so it goes on. It doesn’t mean that I won’t be thinking about it and that it will be easy. But should I find myself wavering at any time, all I’ll do is ask my wife what she thinks.

Go Bokke and Shabbat shalom!

———

INN

NER VOICE

Howard Feldman

without knowing the score, we would be informed. Nevertheless, that was the plan. That was until some-time in the afternoon when I could take it no longer. And so, while everyone was sleeping, I snuck quietly down the stairs to our housekeeper, Jane’s room, where I knew that she and her friends would be watching the game. I found it full of people. Jane and her friends, a few of my friends, and some of my brothers’ friends had packed themselves into what was not a large room. Together, we all watched the end of the finals.

But it was an unforgettable experience. The day became a symbol for me. It was 1995, we were just post-apartheid and indeed, bridges could be built. As much as I’m excited about the finals and as much as I care about the outcome, I have no intention of finding a “halachic” way to do so, and I am more comfortable than I have ever been about this.

For years, I allowed the negative anxiety of the outside world to infiltrate and pollute the day (even in my mind) and it’s only with maturity that I realise that we can’t have one without the other. If I allow myself the joy of this game this Shabbat, there will be something else to tempt me from keeping Shabbos next week, and so it goes on.

It doesn’t mean that I won’t be thinking about it and that it will be easy. But should I find myself wavering at any time, all I’ll do is ask my wife what she thinks.

Go Bokke and Shabbat shalom!

———

SAJBd conference debates critical issues

Preparations for the South African Jewish Board of Deputies’ (SAJBd) biennial national conference, to take place at the Houghton Hotel on 10 November, have entered their final stretch. As suggested by the title of this year’s event, “Unpacking Reality”, the aim is to explore honestly and rigorously various questions relating to the situation in which our country finds itself.

The main part of the conference will take the form of a panel debate, moderated by acclaimed journalist and author Mandy Wiener, focusing on critical issues such as the economy, education, social upliftment, and human rights. We have put together a distinguished panel of experts in their fields comprising business leaders Dr Reuel Khoza (also renowned as an author, academic, and thought leader) and Robbie Brozin; Wits Vice-Chancellor Adam Habib; Judge David Unterhalter; and SAJBd president and World Jewish Congress executive member Mary Kikl.

National conference is also an occasion to honour some of the community’s most outstanding, and to formally present the 2019 SAJBd Service Award to the following:

1. The late Rabbi Cyril and Ann Harris Human Rights Award, which recognises those who have advanced the cause of democracy and social justice, and who in doing so have been a voice of what our community remembers. John Clegg, an iconic figure whose path-blazing music did so much to bring South Africans together during the tumultuous final years of apartheid, and who sadly passed away earlier this year shortly after the decision made by the board to honour him.

2. The Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Charitable Community Service Award was introduced at the board’s

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

SAJBd talks to...

Clarity. Order. Direction.

Our team of over 1,400 professionals, operating from over 7 offices in South Africa, offers a unique combination of local market knowledge coupled with an international network, personal service and a professional approach. We strive to balance our clients’ business and personal objectives and to create a unique link to our clients’ businesses to see the people beyond the numbers and establish where they are going.

www.bdo.co.za

Preparations for the South African Jewish Board of Deputies’ (SAJBd) biennial national conference, to take place at the Houghton Hotel on 10 November, have entered their final stretch. As suggested by the title of this year’s event, “Unpacking Reality”, the aim is to explore honestly and rigorously various questions relating to the situation in which our country finds itself.

The main part of the conference will take the form of a panel debate, moderated by acclaimed journalist and author Mandy Wiener, focusing on critical issues such as the economy, education, social upliftment, and human rights. We have put together a distinguished panel of experts in their fields comprising business leaders Dr Reuel Khoza (also renowned as an author, academic, and thought leader) and Robbie Brozin; Wits Vice-Chancellor Adam Habib; Judge David Unterhalter; and SAJBd president and World Jewish Congress executive member Mary Kikl.

National conference is also an occasion to honour some of the community’s most outstanding, and to formally present the 2019 SAJBd Service Award to the following:

1. The late Rabbi Cyril and Ann Harris Human Rights Award, which recognises those who have advanced the cause of democracy and social justice, and who in doing so have been a voice of what our community remembers. John Clegg, an iconic figure whose path-blazing music did so much to bring South Africans together during the tumultuous final years of apartheid, and who sadly passed away earlier this year shortly after the decision made by the board to honour him.

2. The Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Charitable Community Service Award was introduced at the board’s

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

SAJBd talks to...
Join cannabis researchers and entrepreneurs from across Africa, Israel and the world
canna-tech.com/capetown
to register
Info: 063 601 4480

SA Methodist Church formally adopts BDS

said the MCSA's adoption of BDS came as no surprise as some of its leaders have been outspokenly anti-Israel and have hosted pro-Palestinian events at their churches. However, on social media, some Christian South Africans expressed their disappointment. Kevin M Joubert wrote on the MCSA Facebook page, "Disgusted in my heart, by the Bible too because the Bible was made in Israel too. Let them keep their BDS while we keep our Bible with all its prophecy about Israel, yesterday, now, and in the future," wrote Tumelo Them.

"The church has been brought into disgrace by supporting BDS, which is acknowledged globally as an anti-Semitic organisation. It's disgraceful behaviour."

Peer de Jager agreed, “The Bible is our highest authority and not the politicians or the so-called churches. The Bible commands us to stand with Israel. The Israel-haters in the church brought the curse of G-d on our country, and we can see it every day.”

A member of the Anglican Church and a respected policy fellow at the Institute for Race Relations, John Kane-Berman, wrote on politico.co.za that he rejected his church's embracing of the global BDS movement, "which is dedicated to the stigmatisation, isolation, and ultimate destruction of the state of Israel."

"To this end, it has embarked on a campaign to capture governments, international agencies, newspapers, non-governmental organisations, and academic institutions around the world,” Kane-Berman wrote. “One thing is certain, the BDS campaign, whether or not endorsed by the Anglican Communion, will not bring peace between Palestinians and Israelis.”

PEOPLE OF COLOUR SHOULD BE MORE SENSITIVE ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM too, have suffered through colonialism, slavery, and apartheid, which discriminated against their race. They must be held to account for the anti-Semitic sentiment that some of them express. We have a lot more in common than most people in either of these two groups would think. Perhaps we could help each other if we tried. On another note, there was a letter commending the SA Jewish Report for raising funds for rape survivors. I have said it before, and I’ll say it again: women should take self-defence classes. Take them before a life-threatening situation arises. Then take them so that you learn how to prevent becoming a victim of rape and other crimes. Be proactive. Don’t wait until something horrible happens, and then react by taking a self-defence class. Because if you survive the assault, you will need therapy as well as self-defence skills.”

Michele Engelberg, Johannesburg

Letters

SA JEWISH REPORT A RIVETING READ

As the former assistant editor of The Johannesburg Jewish Herald (1956-1961), I feel compelled to compliment the editor of the SA Jewish Report, Peta Kritz Maunor, on the outstanding quality and relevance of the current weekly SA Jewish Report.

It is surely no exaggeration to describe the content and the style of the publication as a “riveting read”, covering the broad spectrum of South African, Israel, and world Jewish socio-economic and political issues from a Jewish/Zionist perspective. Aspects that stand out include the following:

• The magazine-like, highly informative, in-depth reporting.
• An excellent standard of professional journalism from the likes of Tal Feinberg, Jordan Moore, and Nicola Mittz;
• Superb editorials and opinion pieces (as well as my favourite columnists Paula Slier, Howard Feldman, and Geoff Sifriti); and
• A great contemporary design/layout and effective editorial co-ordination.

Wishing you all the best at the commencement of another year of good work. – David Abel, Somerset West

R2,200 Savings for SAJR readers!

@code: SAJR150
Tickets R12,350
canna-tech.com/capetown to register
Info: 063 601 4480

Advancing Sacred goal of unity and tolerance

Progressive Rabbi Julia Margolis, the chairperson of Sacred (the South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity), was recently invited by the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Johannesburg to participate in an interfaith peace symposium and give an address on the topic “unity in diversity.”

“It was beautiful to see representatives of so many communities and religions come together to discuss the importance of the interfaith work in Johannesburg,” she said.

“An religious leader, has to encourage interfaith communication. It’s important not to marginalise people of other faiths, including those who don’t identify with faith at all,” Margolis says. “We understand that we won’t be able to resolve all our faith-based differences, but we can learn to appreciate others’ faiths. In spite of having different beliefs, we should still be able to work together for the betterment of our society to address issues such as homelessness, hunger, job opportunities, and projects in the community of Johannesburg.

“SACRED’s aim is to provide a progressive Jewish voice on relevant social, moral, ethical, and religious issues in South Africa, to counteract religious discrimination in all its forms, to advance freedom of religion, and to promote fundamental rights and freedoms through advocacy, activism, scholarly contributions to public discourse and public interest litigation.”

Sunday (3 November)

• UJW presents an Innate Health therapy class. Time: 10:00. Venue: 44 Central Street, corner 10th Avenue, Houghton. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW office 011 532 9701.

Monday (4 November)

• The Union of Jewish Women hosts Rabbi Kathy Blumen, the chairperson of the Johannesburg Heritage Fund, as she launches the book “The Newville Women’s Diary on Unknown Port of our History” Tzv 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Contact: UJW office 011 648 1053.

Tuesday (5 November)

• ORT SA CareerHub presents an Innate Health resilience workshop with Lars Rikard. Time: 10:00. Venue: ORT SA Academy, 44 Central Street, corner 10th Avenue, Houghton. RSVP: nelly@ortsa.org.za

• ORF Truth presents: The Ahmadiyya Muslim community, Professor at the school of architecture and planning, University of the Witwatersrand, on The Newville Women’s Diary on Unknown Port of our History. Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Contact: UJW office 011 648 1053.

What’s On

Sukkah party celebrates community service

Sukkah party celebrates community service

As the former assistant editor of The Johannesburg Jewish Herald (1956-1961), I feel compelled to compliment the editor of the SA Jewish Report, Peta Kritz Maunor, on the outstanding quality and relevance of the current weekly SA Jewish Report.

It is surely no exaggeration to describe the content and the style of the publication as a “riveting read”, covering the broad spectrum of South African, Israel, and world Jewish socio-economic and political issues from a Jewish/Zionist perspective. Aspects that stand out include the following:

• The magazine-like, highly informative, in-depth reporting.
• An excellent standard of professional journalism from the likes of Tal Feinberg, Jordan Moore, and Nicola Mittz;
• Superb editorials and opinion pieces (as well as my favourite columnists Paula Slier, Howard Feldman, and Geoff Sifriti); and
• A great contemporary design/layout and effective editorial co-ordination.

Wishing you all the best at the commencement of another year of good work. – David Abel, Somerset West

R2,200 Savings for SAJR readers!

@code: SAJR150
Tickets R12,350
canna-tech.com/capetown to register
Info: 063 601 4480

Advancing Sacred goal of unity and tolerance

Progressive Rabbi Julia Margolis, the chairperson of Sacred (the South African Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity), was recently invited by the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Johannesburg to participate in an interfaith peace symposium and give an address on the topic “unity in diversity.”

“It was beautiful to see representatives of so many communities and religions come together to discuss the importance of the interfaith work in Johannesburg,” she said.

“An religious leader, has to encourage interfaith communication. It’s important not to marginalise people of other faiths, including those who don’t identify with faith at all,” Margolis says. “We understand that we won’t be able to resolve all our faith-based differences, but we can learn to appreciate others’ faiths. In spite of having different beliefs, we should still be able to work together for the betterment of our society to address issues such as homelessness, hunger, job opportunities, and projects in the community of Johannesburg.

“SACRED’s aim is to provide a progressive Jewish voice on relevant social, moral, ethical, and religious issues in South Africa, to counteract religious discrimination in all its forms, to advance freedom of religion, and to promote fundamental rights and freedoms through advocacy, activism, scholarly contributions to public discourse and public interest litigation.”

Sunday (3 November)

• UJW presents an Innate Health therapy class. Time: 10:00. Venue: 44 Central Street, corner 10th Avenue, Houghton. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW office 011 532 9701.

Monday (4 November)

• The Union of Jewish Women hosts Rabbi Kathy Blumen, the chairperson of the Johannesburg Heritage Fund, as she launches the book “The Newville Women’s Diary on Unknown Port of our History” Tzv 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Contact: UJW office 011 648 1053.

Tuesday (5 November)

• ORT SA CareerHub presents an Innate Health resilience workshop with Lars Rikard. Time: 10:00. Venue: ORT SA Academy, 44 Central Street, corner 10th Avenue, Houghton. RSVP: nelly@ortsa.org.za

• ORF Truth presents: The Ahmadiyya Muslim community, Professor at the school of architecture and planning, University of the Witwatersrand, on The Newville Women’s Diary on Unknown Port of our History. Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Contact: UJW office 011 648 1053.
The gees is unbelievable" says rugby coach

Kevin Musikanth, the coach of the Israeli national side and the UCT (University of Cape Town) Ikeys, the winner of the Varsity Cup in 2014, is upbeat about South Africa's chances in Saturday's Rugby World Cup final against England.

"We can win it," he says, noting that Bok coach Rassie Erasmus has built on traditional South African rugby strengths of superb conditioning and unswerving physicality.

"He's backed his captain, Siya Kolisi, in a similar way to the way that Jake White backed John Smit when Jake first started out as coach, and he's taken the template of White and Kitch Christie and focused on traditional South African rugby strengths."

That said, Musikanth believes that the final against Eddie Jones' England in Yokohama on Saturday won't be everyone's cup of tea. It will be rugby for the die-hard and attritional. "This is a rugby purists' cup of tea. It will be rugby for the die-hard rugby doesn't have more opportunity for smaller nations. "There was a plan for a promotion-relegation system through what was called the Nations Cup which gave a team like Georgia the opportunity to get into the Six Nations, but it was shelved. I never really found out the reasons why."

Such dynamism would have been good for all the smaller rugby-playing nations, including Israel, because it would have given them something to build for. Israel's next fixture is against Malta in March. Rest assured, they'll be preparing for it.

"It means that we've played 20% more rugby than England have, because we played all our pool games," he says. "Eddie realises that what it boils down to is a marathon runner who runs 5km before the start of the main race. That's going to be huge."

While not discounting England, Musikanth remains an evangelist for all that is green and gold. Having showed steady improvement under Erasmus, he's not surprised that the Boks have reached the final, and thinks they can go all the way.

"We really are looking incredibly strong. It's an extremely well-drilled squad and just the gees [spirit], as we say, is looking unbelievable in that side."

Should Kolisi be lifting The Webb Ellis Cup aloft in Yokohama on Saturday, it will be an incredible journey for the youngster from the Port Elizabeth township of Zwike. A boarder at Grey High in Port Elizabeth, Kolisi lost both his mother and grandmother when he was a boy, his path being littered with obstacles that would have hobbled the more faint-hearted.

If Musikanth tends to see things through green-tinted spectacles, he's also Israel's national coach, and bemoans the fact that rugby doesn't have more opportunity for smaller nations. "There was a plan for a promotion-relegation system through what was called the Nations Cup which gave a team like Georgia the opportunity to get into the Six Nations, but it was shelved. I never really found out the reasons why."

Such dynamism would have been good for all the smaller rugby-playing nations, including Israel, because it would have given them something to build for. Israel's next fixture is against Malta in March. Rest assured, they'll be preparing for it.

"It means that we've played 20% more rugby than England have, because we played all our pool games," he says. "Eddie realises that what it boils down to is a marathon runner who runs 5km before the start of the main race. That's going to be huge."

While not discounting England, Musikanth remains an evangelist for all that is green and gold. Having showed steady improvement under Erasmus, he's not surprised that the Boks have reached the final, and thinks they can go all the way.

"We really are looking incredibly strong. It's an extremely well-drilled squad and just the gees [spirit], as we say, is looking unbelievable in that side."

Should Kolisi be lifting The Webb Ellis Cup aloft in Yokohama on Saturday, it will be an incredible journey for the youngster from the Port Elizabeth township of Zwike. A boarder at Grey High in Port Elizabeth, Kolisi lost both his mother and grandmother when he was a boy, his path being littered with obstacles that would have hobbled the more faint-hearted.

If Musikanth tends to see things through green-tinted spectacles, he's also Israel's national coach, and bemoans the fact that rugby doesn't have more opportunity for smaller nations. "There was a plan for a promotion-relegation system through what was called the Nations Cup which gave a team like Georgia the opportunity to get into the Six Nations, but it was shelved. I never really found out the reasons why."

Such dynamism would have been good for all the smaller rugby-playing nations, including Israel, because it would have given them something to build for. Israel's next fixture is against Malta in March. Rest assured, they'll be preparing for it.

"It means that we've played 20% more rugby than England have, because we played all our pool games," he says. "Eddie realises that what it boils down to is a marathon runner who runs 5km before the start of the main race. That's going to be huge."

While not discounting England, Musikanth remains an evangelist for all that is green and gold. Having showed steady improvement under Erasmus, he's not surprised that the Boks have reached the final, and thinks they can go all the way.

"We really are looking incredibly strong. It's an extremely well-drilled squad and just the gees [spirit], as we say, is looking unbelievable in that side."
Cook up hearty, healthy Shabbos meals with renowned Israeli chef, Tali Friedman.

Join one of Jerusalem’s finest, Tali Friedman, as she turns our Vitality HealthyFood Studio into her very own shuk. She’ll be serving up some healthy Shabbos cooking classes, teaching you how to bring all the flavours, aromas and spices from Jerusalem’s colourful Mahane Yehuda Market right into the heart of your home.

4-7 NOVEMBER
DISCOVERY VITALITY HEALTHYFOOD STUDIO

Book your spot now at
theshabbosproject.org/en/discovery

SHABBOS WITHOUT THE SCHMALTZ
ONE KABBALAT SHABBAT. ONE PEOPLE. ONE PARK.

A Kabbalat Shabbat like it should be, like it once was – away from our closed doors and into the open fields. You, me, men, women, children, every Jew from every shul, beneath the open sky, in all-out unity, welcoming in Shabbat together.

Join Zusha and friends

**JOBURG**
15 Nov
Terminal Cres Park
15:30-17:45

**CAPE TOWN**
14 Nov
The Company’s Garden
Doors open: 17:30
Zusha concert: 19:00

Join Zusha for a concert & family day

IT’S ONE SHABBOS. ONE PEOPLE. ONE CITY.

It’s something for the whole family. Come picnic on the grass, make Havdallah candles, taste craft beers and sample some cheese and wine... to the sweet soulful sound of international band Zusha. It’s the first of its kind in Cape Town.