

**21**  
DAYS

Countdown  
to Jewish  
Achiever  
Awards!  
(see inside)

# South african Jewish Report

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## MEET SIMJA AND CELEBRATE AT LIMMUD SA

Based in Buenos Aires Simja Dujov's music brings joy to the world. As one of 18 international presenters at Limmud 2013 he's going to turn the conference into a festival.



**Simja Dujov** is a well-known musician and DJ from Buenos Aires. He combines Old World Jewish music like klezmer with contemporary Latin flavours. He is one of more than 170 presenters taking part in Limmud across South Africa this August. Limmud combines the best of both local and international talent to bring you a festival of Jewish culture and learning from arts to Torah, from politics to dance. The organisation is renowned for offering multiple concurrent hard-to-choose presentations as well as a hard-to-beat atmosphere, top venues and top catering with many diverse Jews who truly encompass the entire range of our community.

Limmud happens in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban this August and targets Jews of every age and interest. Find out more at [www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)

*Based in Buenos Aires, Simja Dujov's music brings joy to the world. As one of 18 international presenters at Limmud 2013 he's going to turn the conference into a festival. Meet Simja and celebrate at Limmud.*



### Cardozo on the opportunities of Limmud

**Rabbi Dr Nathan Lopes Cardozo** loves to go to Limmud, to listen and to teach and to be challenged. Find out why he presents at Limmud events worldwide.

### Middle East and Israel expert clarifies issues

If you are confused about what's happening in Israel, Egypt, Turkey and the wider Middle East, New York's **Dov Waxman** makes sense of all the disarray.

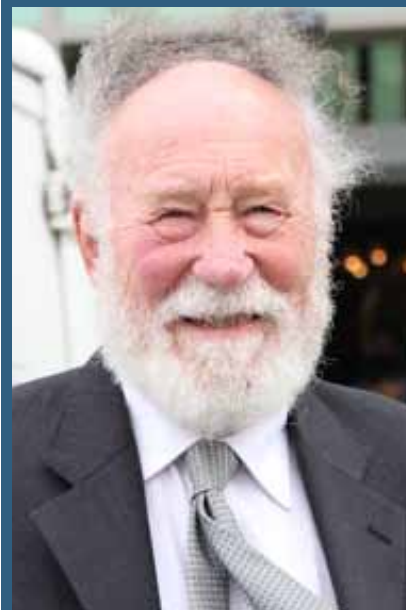
### Whistleblower on child sexual abuse in the Jewish community

Australian, **Manny Waks** is a survivor of child sexual abuse within the Jewish community and has campaigned bravely to bring its perpetrators to justice, often at a huge personal cost.

### Jewish TEDx to launch at Limmud

**Shoshana Boyd-Gelfand** launched the Jewish TEDx in the UK and for the first time, South Africa will hear top presenters give the 18 minute "talk of their life".

## Cyril Karabus shares his UAE ordeal



Dr Cyril Karabus is joined by his lawyer, Michael Bagraim and medical colleague, Dr Theo Kopenhagen to share the trials and tribulations of a Cape Town doctor.

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# All you need to know about Limmud SA

	LIMMUD CAPE TOWN	LIMMUD JOHANNESBURG	LIMMUD DURBAN
Dates	August 2 - 4 Friday 14:00 - Sunday 17:30	August 9 - 11 Friday 08:30 - Sunday 16:30	August 5 & 6 15:30 – 22:00
Caterers	Norrie Caterers	Gary Friedman and Kosher Nando's	Leemor Berchowitz
Venues	Protea Hotel Techno Park, Stellenbosch	Indaba Hotel, Fourways	Durban Jewish Club
Options	Residential option or Sunday day visitor	Residential option of Friday and/or Sunday day visitor	Single day or both days

## Programme Highlights

Colourful People, Colourful Ideas, is our 2013 theme and it is truly exhibited at this year's Limmud Cape Town Conference. With over 140 sessions and 80 presenters, it will be a challenge to pick just one session per hour!

Whether you want to expand your Torah knowledge, take a course in resolving conflicts, do a writing workshop, engage with the future of the Middle East or get a taste of kosher Thai cooking, our programme will be sure to stimulate your desire.

We also have a great Young Limmud programme to ensure there is something for the whole family!

Limmud Joburg brings over 100 presenters, including 18 international presenters and over 150 sessions in one weekend programme.

It will be a celebration of Jewish culture and learning. You will have up to 8 agonising choices to make every hour between 08:00 and midnight.

Highlights include panel discussions on the future of Israel, the future Jewish community and four inspiring presenters sharing their Jewish dreams, observations and vision.

Saturday night will have Johannesburg's first Yidstock with a live performance by Simja Dujov, top DJs and an extract from Malcolm Purkey's From The Mouth of Babies.

A warm, intimate atmosphere; a variety of world-class international presenters and with more local and national talent than ever before; Limmud Durban is set to inspire and engage.

Ever wondered what it would be like to cross Limmud with TED (where inspiring speakers give "the talk of their life" in 18 minutes or less)? Here is your chance to find out! Be sure not to miss Limmud Durban's first JDOV style panel discussion with panelists Mary Kluk, Nathan Lopes Cardozo, Dov Waxman and creator Shoshana Boyd Gelfand.

*With all these diverse and dynamic sessions, and so much more, Limmud Durban 2013 is the best yet!*



Register now

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## Bring your kids to Limmud

Young Limmud 2013 offers a weekend jam-packed with Jewish themed activities and engaging learning opportunities. The focus is on creating spaces that look after, stimulate and engage Jewish youth - from a crèche run by qualified teachers, all the way up to teenagers working with madrichim from the youth movements. Ages 0 to 18 are catered for at reduced rates. Limmud is also bringing out two, top-class international

facilitators who will be involved in making sure that Young Limmud will be the best ever. The programme across the age groups centres on the theme, Jewish Journeys. This will take off from South Africa and will include weaving and colouring and other engaging activities.

From there, many activities will be on offer, including time for free play and connection

as well as drama, presenters, prizes and workshops. Sunday includes a "trip" to the Old City of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Limmud is an inclusive family-centric experience. You will be able to spend time with your kids, reading a book, singing along, playing games and you can help out with the arts and crafts if you would like to. There are several family-orientated activities over the

weekend, such as challah baking on Friday morning and a special family seuda shlishit. There is even special catering for children.

There are also teen-friendly sessions which will be indicated on the main programme. The Young Limmud programme has been co-ordinated by mothers of younger children, youth movement madrichim and two members of the Israeli Scout movement.

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(page 5)

# South african Jewish Report

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Photo: Ilan Ossendryver



## Mandela's legacy: Activists ask questions at Liliesleaf hideout 50 years later

It is 50 years since the raid at Liliesleaf Farm, which led to the Rivonia Trial and Mandela's imprisonment. Pictured in his room are Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre; AnnMarie Wolpe widow of struggle veteran Harold Wolpe; Albie Sachs struggle veteran and former Constitutional Court judge; struggle veteran Denis Goldberg and Zev Krengel, SAJBD President. They appear alongside a famous photograph of Mandela with Moses Kotane outside the Old Synagogue, Pretoria, on the day the last of the accused were finally acquitted and the state withdrew charges in the Treason Trial of 1956. They spoke at a commemorative evening this week about the disproportionate number of the white people involved in the struggle being Jews, and why the broader Jewish community did not support them.

### Farewell message by Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg

"I find myself finally departing with decidedly mixed feelings, happy to return to my home, family and friends, but knowing that removing the man from South Africa does not remove South Africa from the man."

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### The JR Interview: Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks returns to first love

"I became a rabbi in order to teach... I felt the time had come to get back to my primary love, teaching Torah to the next generation."

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### Eruv in Cape Town stirs opposition

Clifton resident, Soren Elvin-Jensen says: "The construction of the eruv goes against the Constitution... by the establishment of an eruv, one religious persuasion seeks to impose and establish a 'private domain in a public area'."

3

### JACK MILNER: First gold for SA Maccabiah team

It did not take long for Team SA to win their first gold medal, which was earned by the under-18 boys Rugby Sevens team who defeated Israel in a tight final last week Wednesday.

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### BRIDAL SUPPLEMENT



7 – 10



Denese Zaslansky and Chaim Bronstein had the honour of meeting Madiba a year ago at his Houghton residence.

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Shabbat Times

<b>July 26 / 19 Av</b>		
<b>July 27 / 20 Av</b>		
<b>Parshat Eikev</b>		
17:20	18:11	Johannesburg
17:44	18:38	Cape Town
17:02	17:54	Durban
17:22	18:15	Bloemfontein
17:16	18:10	Port Elizabeth
17:08	18:02	East London



Ambassador Segev-Steinberg says farewell

Shakespeare famously wrote: “Parting is such sweet sorrow”, a sentiment I have had many occasions to deal with throughout my diplomatic career.

Every posting leaves an indelible imprint; it is impossible to not be impressed by the experiences derived from a lengthy tenure in a foreign land.

No less so has been my unforgettable five years in SA, unique in more ways than I care to mention. The sights, smells and overwhelming colours of Africa must be experienced to be appreciated.

So, I find myself finally departing with mixed feelings, happy to return to my home, family and friends, but knowing that removing the man from SA does not remove SA from the man.

My period of service as Ambassador of Israel has not been without its challenges. From the word “go”, it exposed me to the reality that Israel could not expect a free ride on the rollercoaster of international politics. In this regard, it resulted in my task becoming a great deal more challenging and, ultimately, rewarding.

However, with the assistance of my local colleagues who so ably run the organisations committed to Jewish and Israeli interests in this country and many concerned and committed friends, I quickly learned that the best approach was to stand up and proudly uphold the principles Israel as a nation has defended and promoted for 65 years.

This is the task of the diplomat; I am honoured to have been chosen to perform it on behalf of Israel in this country.

I thank each and every one of you who have extended the personal hand of friendship, hospitality and love for the State of Israel. My tenure in SA has been unforgettable and an experience which would not have been as memorable without your support. May Hashem bless SA and its unique Jewish community. Lehitraot!

Opportunity - the greatest reward of all

Last week’s Torah portion contained the Shema; we were called upon to rededicate ourselves to the Kingship and Unity of G-d. This week, in the paragraph of Vehaya we are urged to recognise the system of reward and punishment that Hashem uses to motivate and manage our spiritual journeys.

The reward and punishment system, one of the most important concepts in Judaism, can be subtly - but profoundly - misunderstood. A better word to use might be consequence. Just as in all areas of life, our actions have consequences, so too in the world of religion and spirituality.

When we do mitzvoth, there are consequences, just as there are consequences when a student fails to study, a spouse, parent or sibling fails to invest time in a relationship, or a businessman fails to follow legal advice that he has sought. The same is true when we fail to live up to our mission as Jews.

What’s very interesting is that these consequences are not just in the spiritual realms, but manifest down here in the physical world too. Why would Hashem do that? Why would He create a system where, for example, mitzvoth bring rain in their time, and good crops, or a person is wealthy or healthy?

Reward can be given to an undeserving person



Parshat Eikev

Rabbi Dani Brett, Ohr Somayach Cape Town

in this world, rather than in the world to come, where it is infinitely more valuable. There are times when the positive consequences of an action experienced down here on earth as opposed to in the soul world of the Heavens, may look to us as privilege, but in fact quite the opposite is true.

Sometimes, though, reward can be given in this world - or in other terms, consequences can play themselves out - to a deserving and righteous person. Now that’s interesting. Why would it be beneficial to receive benefit in this temporary world of confused priorities, when eternal benefit in the world of essential bliss would far outweigh the physical experience of privilege down here on Earth below.

But we see that that’s not so. Every day - twice a day - in Shema we are reminded that mitzvoth can bring physical benefit. And that should inspire us. The righteous too. How so?

The answer re-orientates our approach to

physical blessing entirely. The rewards - or positive consequences - of mitzvoth when meted out in this world, are not intended as an end, but as a means and opportunity to receive even more benefit from our existence in this temporary world.

To do mitzvoth, we need resources. We need money to buy a lulav, we need health to put on tefillin and invite Shabbos guests. Wealth, health, wisdom and strength are to be valued and treasured - not as blessings in and of themselves, but as blessings of opportunity - to do more, and receive greater and richer reward in the world to come.

In fact, it’s all up to us. When we receive blessing, if we indulge in it as a temporary end in and of itself, we turn it into final reward, and deprive ourselves of the true eternal benefits that can be felt in the endless world of souls.

If, however, we recognise the opportunity to use these blessings to do more good, as means to an even further developed end, then those blessings simply become further resources in our journey towards eternal self-development.

Money, cars, the explosion of technology, and the delicious and healthy food available to our generation, like to none other before... reward or opportunity? Your call.

Educating beyond Mandela Day

STEVEN GRUZD

On Thursday July 18, International Mandela Day, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) participated in meaningful dedication ceremonies at two Alexandra township schools - Realogile and East Bank High School.

The events were held to honour former President Nelson Mandela on his 95th birthday and to launch an important new educational project that will be piloted at both schools, with a view to extending it to other Alexandra high schools.

The initiative was organised by the ANC’s Alexandra Parliamentary Constituency Office, and driven by Joan Fubbs MP, chairman of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry. Also attending was Deputy Minister in the Presidency Obed Bapela.

One component of the project is equipping and upgrading the library facilities in both schools. To this end, the German Embassy donated books, computers, funds and photocopy machines to the schools.

Andreas Künne, Minister: Economic and Global Issues at

the German Embassy, said in his remarks that a photocopier made information widely available for all, which was “a dangerous weapon against a dictatorship”. He noted that this equipment was hard to find in the former East Germany for this very reason.

Part of the proceedings at East Bank High School was stocking the library’s shelves with hundreds of brand new books.

One of the main needs identified by the schools, was weakness in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Here, the SAJBD facilitated the involvement of the development organisation, Afrika Tikkun and Top Dog, an online educational platform that caters for learners from grade 4 to matric, in all the major school subjects.

Top Dog provides summaries, tutorials, past question papers and animated lectures that are designed to enhance learning in an active and fun manner. Through Afrika Tikkun’s tutors, this platform will now be available to the learners at Realogile and East Bank High.

In her remarks, SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn, commented on how important education was in the Jewish

community, how Jews had used education to contribute to the countries they lived in, and how we wanted to now share these skills so that others could benefit.

She stressed that the pilot project was designed to augment and complement what is being taught in class rather than replace it. She was thrilled that the Board had the opportunity to partner with others, especially Afrika Tikkun with its 20 years of experience in community development.

The day also marked the launch of the Andrew “Small” Radebe Development Trust, named after an Alexandra resident who was passionate about education, but died tragically in 2000.

Several speakers noted how Nelson Mandela had valued learning, including taking responsibility for his own education. Deputy Minister Bapela emphasised that learners must take education seriously, and not go for shortcuts.

German Ambassador Horst Freitag said: “Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world,” and that German companies were looking for skilled South African labour.

Participants were also treated to singing and dancing by learners at both schools.

Honouring Mandela’s 67 minutes at the Great Park



In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared July 18 “Nelson Mandela Day”. In 2010 Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein suggested a national giving campaign rooted in Jewish communal life, doing good for the community for 67 minutes - commemorating 1942 to 2009, when Mandela was active in improving our society - on Mandela Day.

At the Great Park Synagogue in Oaklands, in 2010, Afrika Tikkun’s Marc Lubner recalls that “2 000 people came”. This year, the day was commemorated the Sunday after July 18; attendance was considerably smaller. Maybe 75 people filled close to 50 boxes, between 11:00 and 12:07.

“The donations go to Orange Farm, Diepsloot, Hillbrow and Alexandra township,” added Lubner. “There are about 10 000 beneficiaries in Gauteng; people living in crisis for economic or health reasons.”

Pictured with full boxes are Afrika Tikkun’s Lungile Thwala; Marc Lubner; Biza Tladi; and Jennifer Lever.

Jewish Report

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# Cape Town’s Atlantic seaboard eruv meets opposition

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Cape Town Jewish community are facing opposition to the proposal of a new eruv along the Atlantic seaboard.

The proposed eruv would encompass the communities of Clifton and possibly Camps Bay. There is already an eruv in Sea Point, which was erected in 2010.

The proposed seaboard eruv would allow Orthodox Jews to carry certain objects freely during Shabbat. This would be especially important during the summer holiday season, when many religious Jews visit the city’s seaboard.

A number of local residents have, however, written to Mayor Patricia de Lille, objecting to the proposal.

In a letter written on behalf of Clifton residents, Soren Elvin-Jensen said: “The construction of the eruv goes against the Constitution,” reported The Times newspaper on Monday.

“It would appear that by the establishment of an eruv, one religious persuasion seeks to impose and establish a ‘private domain in a public area’,” he wrote.

“We assume the construction of the eruv has been undertaken without council

permission or approval, which is a prerequisite,” he added. “If the eruv is permitted, it would be a precedent... in permitting religious, political and any other bodies permission and authority to impose their persuasion on others.”

The newspaper said that Elvin-Jensen also raised concerns about the eruv impacting the scenic views of the area.

Meanwhile, ward councillor for the area, Beverley Schafer, told The Times that at a recent sub-council meeting, she had proposed that guidelines be introduced for the erection of eruvim in Cape Town.

Rabbi Alan Levin, from the Sea Point Hebrew Congregation, said to The Times: “For 10 years we’ve tried to put up an eruv but the city tried to block it. The city puts up 16 000 Christmas lights, the least they can do is [allow us] to put up 16 poles [between Sea Point and Camps Bay].”

Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies Executive Director David Jacobson said: “One should differentiate between the principle and the process. In principle, we live in a multicultural society that protects the rights of all its minorities.

“As such, I would hope that all South Africans would support the Jewish community



The eruv in Sea Point, which was erected in 2010.

in its efforts to ensure it can live a full and meaningful Jewish life in South Africa, as long as we are not infringing on the rights of others.

“The creation of the eruv clearly does not infringe on the rights of others. In terms of process, it is equally clear that the correct procedures must be adopted in any expansion of the eruv and we trust that the city of Cape Town will work with our community to ensure that such procedures are put in place and are duly followed.”



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# Not easy being an ambassador

As the current Israeli ambassador, Dov Segev-Steinberg’s term ends, it is appropriate to reflect on what it means to hold that post here. Can an ambassador make a difference to the cold way South Africa relates to Israel? Or are entrenched negativity and distrust so severe that one’s hands are tied? Is the post largely tokenism?

Any ambassador faces two adverse perceptions about Israel: one is historical - that the Palestinians assisted the ANC during the Struggle, while Israel did not; and that today’s Palestinians mirror yesterday’s black population in South Africa under apartheid and only the overthrow of Israel will fix this.

Whether this is true is not the point - perceptions carry the day and this view exists, despite strong attempts by Israel and the Jewish community to counter it.

The attitude of the South African Department of International Relations and Co-operation, is not uniform. At the top, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane exhibits a consistently balanced approach towards Israel, yet her two hot-head deputies, Marius Fransman and Ebrahim Ebrahim, are given to making extremely negative remarks about it.

Former South African ambassador to Israel, Ahmed Coovadia, who has just completed his term, did not do the Israel-South Africa relationship any good either, particularly with his surly rejection of the goodwill gesture by the Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry to plant trees in his honour in a JNF forest. In hindsight, Coovadia’s was a cynical appointment.

The Cabinet does not censure its errant representatives like these, who contradict its formal policy of cordial relations with Israel, including endorsement of the two-state solution.

The link with Israel has grown distinctly colder since the days when Nelson Mandela was president. Mandela even visited Israel in a bold display of positive diplomacy and goodwill, strengthened by his extensive links to the South African Jewish community.

His warmth projected into the relationship between the two countries and there were hopes that this would grow beyond his presidency. Sadly the opposite has happened, although trade continues normally and Israeli technology is gratefully accepted here.

The support of the South African Jewish community is of fundamental importance to an Israeli ambassador. They must sing from the same sheet, recognising that radical anti-Israel organisations such as BDS, government-allied Cosatu and others, don’t want to see a solution - that would remove their *raison d’être*.

As with any diplomat, an element of the Israeli ambassador’s position is how public or “diplomatic” to be about contentious issues: when to work under the radar and when to go public in his pronouncements.

The diplomacy required in public does not always reflect the subtext. Do the public anti-Israel postures of some South Africans represent their true voices, or are warmer, more respectful views also present, too sensitive to be expressed in the current political climate?

During Segev-Steinberg’s tenure, the relationship between the two countries remained fairly stable, with no major improvement, nor obvious deterioration. Is this the best we can hope for? Could the “cordial” relations possibly become a friendship?

We have seen in the past that outlooks towards Israel are closely related to what is happening there with the “peace process” between Israelis and Palestinians.

When there is apparent progress and positivity, South African attitudes quickly become warmer - as they did during the Oslo accords - and radical anti-Israel groups become marginalised. This illustrates that there is not fundamentally entrenched negativity towards Israel.

When negotiations collapse and there seems little hope, however, radical groups have a field day painting Israel as the sole villain of the piece and Palestinians as the sole victims.

Now that peace talks are being renewed after US Secretary of State John Kerry’s visits to the Middle East, let us hope that the progress made will indeed marginalise the radical anti-Israel elements in South Africa.

The incoming Israeli ambassador will have his hands full facing all these complex issues.

# The Jewish Report Interview One-on-One

# Sacks returns to his first love - the teaching of Torah



SIMON APFEL

Furrow-browed, white-whiskered, impossibly eloquent, Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks’ (pictured) sentences emerge fully formed, as he shifts effortlessly from Rimbaud to The Rambam, the Tosafists to TS Eliot, Bertrand Russell to the Berditcher Rov.

One of the world’s pre-eminent theologians, the UK’s outgoing chief rabbi was a guest of South Africa’s Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein at this year’s Sinai Indaba, capturing the audience’s imagination with his oratory and sweeping spiritual vision.

In a wide-ranging interview, he s shared his experiences at Sinai Indaba III and his thoughts on the recently launched “Shabbos Project”, reflecting on his 22 years in office, and filling us in on some of his “retirement” plans.

**You spoke via a video link-up at the inaugural Sinai Indaba in 2011, and you returned this year as one of Sinai Indaba III’s headline speakers. What would you say is unique about this initiative, and what attracted you to speak at the conference?**

The Sinai indaba is uniquely successful in attracting thousands of people to learn Jewish texts and explore Jewish life. I’ve been exceptionally impressed at the way it brings together people of very different backgrounds and levels of knowledge. It is wonderful to see the range of participants, brought together in this way.

**What were your impressions of this year’s Indaba?**

The attendance was even higher than in previous years, both in Johannesburg and Cape Town. I was absolutely astonished at the size of the audience. It was impossible not to be moved at this vivid expression of Jewish togetherness.

This strong sense of communal unity seems characteristic of the South African Jewish community, and is certainly an example from which many other Jewish communities around the world can learn.

**Chief Rabbi Goldstein closed out the Indaba by launching the “Shabbos Project” - a countrywide campaign to keep one Shabbos as a community. In your view, how important is Shabbos to Judaism?**

Shabbos is the very beating heart of Judaism. It has been part of our tradition from the beginning, and was one of the first of the biblical commands. Looking back at the last 3 000 years, the world of work has been transformed from labour to industry to technology. But Shabbos has renewed its meaning in each generation.

For my grandparents it meant rest from sheer physical exhaustion. For my contemporaries it means release from

psychological fatigue, from stress and the pressures to compete and win.

Shabbat today is a world in which there are no phones or faxes, no urgent messages, no deadlines. It remains an oasis of serenity, the still centre at the heart of time.

**More generally, you’ve famously and quite compellingly framed the Torah as a polemic about the power of the powerless over the powerful - obviously music to the ears of our predominantly liberal democratic society. In terms of some of the more “difficult” or esoteric aspects of the Torah, how do you approach the task of making this same audience appreciate, or even understand, such notions?**

I have tried, in my ongoing commentaries to the Torah - Covenant and Conversation - to explain many of these details, although my work in this field has not finished, but only just begun.

I would do injustice to the depths of these issues by trying to provide easy answers to all of them, but the truth is that each one of them involves deep and complex ideas that remain relevant today.

The essence of Judaism as a living faith is the constant interaction between the written Torah and the oral Torah, the word of G-d for all time and the word of G-d for this time.

**You have been singularly successful in reaching the hearts and minds of non-Jewish audiences, especially in the UK. Why do you feel this is important?**

Judaism is too important to be confined to Jews alone. G-d told Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. Moses told the Israelites that the Torah and the commandments were their wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the nations.

G-d told Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations, and sent Jonah to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. Isaiah says that G-d calls on us to be His witnesses in the world. Being, as it were, ambassadors of faith to humanity as a whole is part of what we are called on to do and be as Jews.

**Perhaps on a similar note, your most recent work, A Judaism Engaged with the World, is currently generating a lot of discussion. What is the message here?**

As I mention in the book, the challenge of our time is to go out to Jews with a Judaism that relates to the world - their world - with intellectual integrity, ethical passion and spiritual power, a Judaism neither intimidated by the world nor dismissive of it, a Judaism fully expressive of the broad horizons and high ideals of our heritage.

There is no contradiction, not even a conflict, between contributing to humanity and affirming our distinctive identity. To the contrary: by being what only we are, we contribute to the world what only we can give.

**Lastly, after 22 years in office, what made you decide to call it a day as Chief Rabbi? And what’s next?**

The word rabbi literally means “my teacher.” I became a rabbi in order to teach. A chief rabbi is necessarily involved in all sorts of communal, political, representational and organisational issues that take up the majority of his time.

Having done this for 22 years, and having the privilege of a most distinguished successor - a product of the South African Jewish community, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis - I felt the time had come to get back to my primary love, namely teaching Torah to the next generation. I hope to do this throughout the world for as long as G-d gives me the strength to do so.

• *Simon Apfel is Creative Director at Bay Moon Communications. His writing can be found on The Daily Maverick, The Wry Republic and The Jerusalem Post.*

• *Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks’ latest booklet “A Judaism Engaged with the World” is available to download for free at [www.rabbisacks.org](http://www.rabbisacks.org)*

# NGF: A hidden gem of the Jewish world



Four South Africans attended the 25th International Nahum Goldmann Fellowship held in Israel from June 11 to 18: Lauren Kessler, David Jacobson; and Rabbi Bryan Opert attended from Cape Town and Heidi-Jane Esakov, from Johannesburg.

## LAUREN KESSLER

To experience the 25th International Nahum Goldmann Fellowship in Israel this June, was truly to discover a hidden gem of the Jewish world. Jews from across the Diaspora and Israel broke bread together on the banks of the Kinneret. They came as both individuals and community ambassadors, with the intention of studying, debating, arguing, engaging, socialising, listening and expressing themselves as Jews.

As with all Jewish communal events, the fellowship was both fascinating and frustrating. Fascinating because for the first time I became aware of Jews I never knew existed - Indian Jews, Cuban Jews and Bukharin Jews; Jews with families more diverse than South Africa’s 11 national languages, Jews who lived under communist regimes, Jews who constantly face anti-Semitism, Jews who knew no more than five other Jews in their city.

But I was also frustrated. As the youngest fellow there, I donned the hat of “upstart”, raising my youth-related cynicism and concerns about a Jewish world run by an older generation. I was uninspired and unimpressed by the level of academic discussion relating to the future of Zionism and the relationship between the Diaspora and Israel.

I could not shake the highly politicised and potent divisions evident in SA Jewry. I wanted convincing answers, for these learned thinkers and leaders to say confidently why the SA left should not simply throw the Jewish and Zionist baby out with the Israeli bathwater.

I wanted pressing reasons to open the South African right to the reality of Israel and Zionism today. In essence I went there wanting credible solutions to solve the mini-Middle East crisis within the South African Jewish community generally and the Cape Town Jewish community specifically.

But I soon realised that my obsession to find that elusive middle ground was ill-fitted for such an environment.

“Nahum” is about exposing these divisions. That is why it is agenda-less. It has no solutions, only open, safe spaces to respectfully engage and constructively articulate one’s own agenda without being polarised.

After many intense conversations, I realised the beauty of this hidden gem. There were more to these divisive labels and categorisations than I first had assumed. I came to realise that the “right” and the “left” were just as elusive as the middle ground.

I found Nahum provided a unique forum for people to articulate their highly different value systems to each other in a respectful and considerate manner, despite only being acquaintances for a few days and furthermore, to do so because they valued the perspectives of the other. This became that elusive middle ground for which I had been searching so desperately.

Suddenly I found myself agreeing with the perspectives of a Chabad rabbi despite being Reform; I found post-Zionists connecting to ardent Zionists; Orthodox rabbis espousing more liberal views than some of South Africa’s biggest humanitarians.

I found myself refreshingly dumbfounded and surprised. I found answers as a result, answers to questions I had not found a way to answer and answers that I didn’t think were possible or acceptable before.

These included that there was legitimately more to Israel than a conflict over national identity; that there is more to Jewish national identity than Zionism and that there is more to Zionism than the State of Israel.

I found out that changes in Judaism are far more nuanced and organic than the formal Reform-Orthodox divide and that essentialising one’s Jewish identity is even more difficult as an Israeli than it is as a secular, humanist-inspired Diaspora Jew; that Jewish continuity cannot simply be solved with aliyah, stopping assimilation or becoming post-Zionist, that Judaism is never a secure, stable centre but is constantly in crisis and chaos, criticising and conditioning itself to adapt and be relevant to the individual and the collective and the context.

I found out that Jews are always on the forefront of change, and that this change is Jewish continuity.

Thus I found the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship an experience of soul-searching conversations that sought not to provide textbook answers to demanding obsessions in which I am immersed back home, but rather to expose the complexities and hidden dualities of what it means to be a Jew today, devoid of labels, boxes and divisions.

NGF has the rare ability to sit diversity around the same table and get them all to eat the same meal. If this is possible on a global scale, it is testament to the crucial development of the Mini-Nahum Goldmann Fellowship in Cape Town Jewry as a hidden gem that needs to be uncovered as well.

## Cell C Competition offers Jewish Achievers banquet seats

Cell C in collaboration with the ABSA Jewish Achievers banquet has bought out a bank of ten double tickets – valued at R5 000 each, for this year’s event, which promises to be the social event of the year, celebrating the cream of South African achievers. They are hosting a competition for ten lucky winners and their partners to attend the Jewish Achievers banquet on August 15, at the Maroela Room, Sandton Sun. To enter, simply send an email with the heading “Jewish Achievers” to [nnell@cellc.co.za](mailto:nnell@cellc.co.za) with your name and cell phone number in the body of the email by midnight on July 31. Winners will be announced in the Jewish Report of August 9.



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# ‘Palestinians’ - it’s a Johnny-come-lately concept



BARBARIC YAWP  
David Saks

For my Tisha B’Av reading this year, I made a long-promised start on Josephus’s *The Jewish War*, the most detailed and authoritative extra-Biblical and extra-Talmudic account of 1st Century CE Israel and how a failed Jewish uprising against the Roman occupiers culminated in the destruction of the Second Beit Hamikdash.

I did not get very far - actually, all I read in the end were the opening sections describing events in the then sovereign Jewish state prior to the Roman take-over. However, this was depressing enough.

If Josephus is to be believed (a real question, given who he was), then even before being subjected to the Roman yoke, Jews were constantly at one another’s throats, with civil wars, assassinations, tyrannical oppression by a frankly psychotic leadership and general chaos being the order of the day.

Josephus was a Jewish general who notoriously switched sides during the war, and thereafter he was an unapologetic apologist for the Empire. Even allowing for the self-serving bias that characterised his obsequious pro-Roman hagiography, it is evident that the final decades of Jewish independence were nothing to be nostalgic about.

What, then, were Jews the world over exactly mourning for on this, the saddest day on the Jewish calendar?

The real story of pre-Churban Jewry in the Holy Land was obviously much more complex.

Division and confusion certainly reigned - Christianity, after all, was invented during these years by messianist Jewish fringe groups, and there were other competing sects - yet a determined core of Jewish sages and scholars remained committed to upholding the authentic tradition of Torah mi’Sinai,

and it was they who ultimately prevailed.

It is due to them, and not to the Essenes, Sadducees and other deviant sects that the Jews have endured to this day, while the legacy of the all-conquering Romans

has been reduced to tourist-friendly ruins and fragments of pottery in Israeli museums.

Depressing though Josephus’ take was on the people he so cynically abandoned, by writing his history of their downfall, he was doing their descendants a signal service.

Here, in great detail and largely written up from first-hand experience, was a contemporary account of how six centuries before the Arab-Islamic colonial conquest, the majority of the Land of Israel’s inhabitants were Jews, whose presence there stretched back many centuries more.

There are no “Palestinians” in Josephus’ account - the very name “Palestine” was only imposed later by the Roman conquerors to suppress any lingering feelings of Jewish nationalism. Those who nowadays impudently assert that the “Palestinians” - by which they mean the mainly Muslim Arab speakers who moved into the area long-afterwards - are the “indigenous” inhabitants of the land are brazenly denying the well-documented facts of history.

Because of the sneering tendency of modern academia to regard the Bible - both Testaments - as an unauthenticated collection of folk tales, it has been possible for those writings to be written off as a source of evidence, but the same can hardly be done with regard to Josephus.

Not only is his history written from an overtly pro-Roman, anti-Jewish point of view, but even the most determined super-sceptical revisionist would be unable to claim that he fabricated an account of events that innumerable others had been witness to and could contradict at first hand.

That Palestinian ideologues, including those accorded the status

of “academics”, now routinely deny that Jews had any pre-Arab connection to the land can only be regarded as a form of derangement.

Indeed, one wonders how they expect to ever get away with it in the long term.

In bygone times, it was possible in totalitarian regimes to keep the masses in ignorance, but given how easy it is to access information today through the ongoing communications revolution, how can any moderately curious Palestinian be prevented from eventually discovering the truth for himself?

Perhaps there are psychological factors at work that we, in the free-thinking democratic world, are unaware of.

It could be that the Palestinians, in common with large swathes of the Arab world, it would seem, have constructed for themselves a parallel reality, which has blurred the lines between what objectively is true and what they believe should be true.

My own reaction to Jewish history denialism has been to swing sharply rightwards in how I view any future Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

Practically speaking, I still recognise that the “two-state solution remains the only realistic solution to the conflict, but at the emotional level I hope to see as much of our usurped Holy Land as possible restored to Jewish sovereignty.

By their fanatical refuse to date to concede that even the smallest part of “Palestine” belongs to the Jews, the Palestinians have only ensured that the Jewish share has progressively grown over time while theirs has correspondingly shrunk.

Ironically, the most effective activists for the Zionist cause would seem to be in places like Gaza and Ramallah.

With yet another new round of peace talks about to get underway, it will be interesting to see if there have been any ideological shifts in the direction of realism on the part of the non-Islamist wing of the Palestinian leadership. History suggests that we not hold our breath.

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# Preparing for that big day

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# Wedding checklist - it's a definite must!

*The checklist is intended as a guide and it would be wise to remember that each item entails an entire checklist of its own.*

**As soon as possible:**

1. Choose a date - this might depend on when overseas friends and family are able to get tickets. It also depends on the availability of your wedding venue of choice.
2. Book the hall and secure booking shortly afterwards by paying the deposit.
3. Choose the rabbi (and shul) where you would like to have the chuppah.
4. Select someone who will do the invitations. You will also need to get quotes on thank you cards, table cards, and table lists.
5. Book a photographer.
6. Book someone to take a video.
7. Choose a florist. You will need flowers for the reception, the chuppah, the bridal bouquet, bridesmaids and possibly the male retinue.
8. Book the band, both for the chuppah and the reception.
9. Choose your retinue, eg maid of honour, best man, MC, drivers, pole-holders.

**2 - 3 months before**

10. Get UOS authorisation. They have a checklist of their own which includes copies of parents' ketubahs and unabridged birth certificates of bride and groom, which may take several weeks to get from Home Affairs. Contact the Beth Din.
11. Arrange Kallah classes
12. Arrange marriage prepare sessions.
13. Find a dress or a dressmaker. Get material for bridesmaids' dresses, find ties and kippot for the pole-holders. You'll need to look for comfortable shoes for the wedding and jewellery for the day.
14. Meet the caterer. Choose the menu and pay the Beth Din fee.
15. Order or buy wedding band(s). Many brides buy their groom a tallis, and depending on his custom he will need to get a kittel (white garment

- worn on wedding day and Yom Kippur).
16. Choose your make-up and hair artists and book beauty treatments and trial dates.
  17. Choose a sheitel, buy hats and scarves etc.
  18. Order your ketubah.
  19. The ANC - An attorney to draw up your ANC.
  20. Order benching cards.

**One month before**

21. Meet with your rabbi to go over the ceremony at the chuppah.
22. Allocate who will recite sheva brachot.
23. Start taking vitamins to ward of colds and flu.
24. Arrange seating plans with the caterer
25. Contact friends (who have already offered) who will host sheva brachot.
26. Delegate someone to get food for the Yichud room. It is customary to fast on the day of the wedding.
27. Honeymoon; make necessary arrangements.
28. Delegate your retinue to organise the bachelor party, kitchen tea or pamper party etc.

**The week before**

29. Assuming you've found somewhere to live, move in essential furniture, essential appliances etc. Toivel kitchen items you will be using immediately.
30. Plan Aufruf lunch - this is the Shabbos before the wedding.
31. Plan Shabbos Kallah. A women-only get-together on the Shabbos before the wedding.
32. Arrange bride's table - usually where the bride gets dressed and has photos.
33. Delegate friends to buy Shtick - fun gimmicky toys to add excitement to the wedding.
34. Ask someone to make you a Bircat kallah - a prayer sheet that you say shortly before the chuppah. Confirm that there will be a bedekin chair at the chuppah to receive guests etc.
35. Make arrangements to go to the mikvah.

# A visual history for your family to treasure

Mike Zidel created the concept of Root Tree after witnessing and experiencing the miracle birth of his daughter, Romi.

His mother Rosa had passed away 10 years prior and he was struck by the comforting thought that despite this, one day Romi could connect with her granny; Romi would get a feel about whom and what her granny was; she would be able to see and hear her talk about her feelings, joys, sorrow, life ordeals, family and aspirations for years to come.

In 1996, after filming Schindler's List, Steven Spielberg established Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation to document the experiences of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses.

Zidel worked on this project for four years as the principal cameraman in South Africa and his mother, Rosa, had been a survivor, a hidden child during the Second World War. She gave one of these testimonies.

Zidel set up Root Tree so that other families can have the opportunity to document their personal visual history and to pass this on to their future generations.

Root Tree was established in 2007 to collect and preserve the testimonies of South African families with the latest digital medium. It is engaged in a new and pre-emptive initiative to visually record one's family's history before it is too late and the stories are lost forever.



Photo restoration

In their testimonies, interviewees speak not only about their life story but also on those they loved, their childhood experiences and day-to-day lifestyle, their traditions, their friendships, their family and tragedy that befell them.

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- Rules:**  
1. Entries close at the end of November 2013. (The exact date will be announced later.) All brides married between January 2013 and November 2013, are eligible for entry.  
2. Brides must be present in South Africa at the time of judging.  
3. The only photographs permitted for entry, are those submitted by the bride herself, or by her photographer with her explicit permission. All entries MUST be signed by the bride herself.
4. Photographs will be printed within the time frame and discretion of the Jewish Report.  
5. Photographs for submission, must be in high resolution PDF or JPEG.  
6. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.  
7. Members of Jewish Report and competition sponsors, will not be allowed to vote on family member entries.
8. Very important: Please note that all photographs MUST be submitted to [brides@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:brides@sajewishreport.co.za) - a form is available on [www.sajewishreport.co.za](http://www.sajewishreport.co.za)  
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**TALYA JOSET**  
**Groom's name:** Lance Kier  
**Place of chuppah:** Urban Tree  
**Date of wedding:** March 21 2013  
**Photographer:** Splendid Productions



**GINA RICK**  
**Groom's name:** Shaun Woolf  
**Place of chuppah:** Sandton Shul  
**Date of wedding:** April 7, 2013  
**Photographer:** Splendid Productions



**AMY LEIA SALKINDER**  
**Groom's name:** Ryan Hilton Berkowitz  
**Place of chuppah:** Suikerbossie, Cape Town  
**Date of wedding:** March 3 2013  
**Photographer:** Clifford Alexander



**RONIT FOGEL**  
**Groom's name:** David Segal  
**Place of chuppah:** Midrand Conference Centre  
**Date of wedding:** April 7, 2013  
**Name of photographer:** Jason Crouse

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Groom's name \_\_\_\_\_

Place of chuppah \_\_\_\_\_

Date of wedding \_\_\_\_\_

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# A gem of a show devoid of any gimmicks

Show: “Love”, Downstairs Theatre, Wits Theatre (011) 717-1380  
Until: August 3

## REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

Gina Shmukler has done it again. Five years ago, she directed iNje, a musical revue that slipped between definitions. It had the polish and the acumen to be critically appraised, but it had a student cast. “Love” does this too. With Adele Strombeck on the piano stool and Niall Griffin’s handiwork making the stage come alive with red gym balls, a bit of a tree and a couple of stepladders, the show, featuring 13 performers really shifts perspectives - not only those perspectives the songs touch in their lyrics. It makes you look at the future of musical theatre in South Africa with optimism.

It’s a mélange of songs beautifully rendered with full voice, delicate harmonies and confidence pumping; its title is pushed and bruised and played with to yield not only

the mushy stuff of romantic love, but also the things that are difficult to express.

Shmukler goes beyond teaching these youngsters musical theatre - which she does three hours a week, extra-curricularly.

A bit of their true selves is in the work, as they grapple with what it means to be the child who was conceived to fix her parents’ marriage; what it’s like to know your father doesn’t love you; what it means to love the colour purple or high-heeled shoes; what happens when you fall in love with someone your parents hate.

The show is tough; each nascent performer rises to the occasion with frank magnificence. Plying songs from famous stage musicals, but also talking directly to the audience. Five years ago, we saw the stage debut of performers like Lesedi Job and Adam Pelkowitz in iNje. Today we see more: once again, you instinctively know names like Jacqlyne Titus, Catherine Isaacs, Emkay Khanyile,



Photo by Niall Griffin

The men in Love: Shalom Zamisa, Yamikani Mahaka-Phiri and Emkay Khanyile.

Yamikani Mahaka-Phiri will be headlining the industry.

They have the voices, the hunger, the talent, the stage presence. They’ve been honed and

disciplined and set free; the show ultimately is theirs and it’s a gem, up there with the finest on stage right now, soaring without cheap gimmicks.

This is just top direction, tuition, musical direction and staging at play, to say nothing of talent. Don’t miss this show. And bring tissues.

## Letters

### NO PLACE TO HIDE FOR THESE ‘SINNERS’

I refer to the Jewish Report editorial of July 19, on the question of “To publish bad news or not”.

Kol ha kavod to an editor who would publish the truth without fear or favour, and a

warning to those who would hide their sins behind power and anonymity.

**Don Krausz**  
**Johannesburg**

### ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DISPLAYS HATRED AGAINST THE HAREDIM

I am still extremely confused about the Mizrachi/Bnei Akiva movement’s ideology. The current Israeli government was voted in by these “religious-Zionists”, yet we are witnessing the most severe decrees being passed against fellow Jews.

The government is now arresting haredi Yeshiva bochrim who want to learn Torah, instead of going to the army. The “religious Zionist” government maintains that it is part of ensuring “equality” and “sharing of burden” - yet the army itself has repeated over and over that they do not need them, and certainly don’t want them.

And as for equality, well they certainly aren’t drafting any Israeli Arabs! The real reason for the draft is to secularise these people so that the Jewish State won’t have people who live a life bound by the Torah.

Another decree from this Mizrachi government is the removal of all financial benefits from the haredi community, claiming that they are a burden on the economy. Yet, when you investigate the latest statistics, you’ll find almost 70 per cent of haredi

people work - and the remainder are almost completely supported by their own, happy to live a very simple lifestyle.

Furthermore, according to Finance Minister Yair Lapid’s proposed budget, the entire saving by persecuting this haredi sect is going to be wasted on communities already fully catered for, such as Holocaust survivors and recent non-Jewish Russian immigrants, who number just a few thousand.

All this is nothing but hatred against haredi Jews, by the very people who continuously preach unity. I can almost predict that the next Jewish Observer magazine will have some article about “unity” and “loving all Jews” - yet these people are the ones issuing some of the harshest decrees against their own.

I have yet to hear a decent response from any of their lay and rabbinic leadership on this - probably because there is none.

**Jonathan Bloom**  
**Sunningdale,**  
**Johannesburg**

### THIS ANTI-ISRAEL SITE SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM FACEBOOK

The heading “F.k Israel” may be difficult to deal with, but that’s what it is. I should mention, in fairness, that there is a “F.k Palestine” site on Facebook also, but that is of no consequence, and in no way supports a ridiculous response from Vicki at Facebook.

There is a “F.k America” too, but from the little I have read (I wasn’t particularly interested in reading all this stuff in detail), it seems to me that the “F.k Israel” site is by far the most vitriolic and hatred expressed there is, in the main, a lot stronger.

Recently I looked again, and there are quite a few “F.k Israel” sites - some closed groups, others open. I believe that every “F.k” site should be removed.

I’d be very interested to know what the community feels about this issue.

After reading some of the comments on the “F.k Israel” site, I wrote to Facebook to lodge a complaint and much to my amazement received the following reply, from a “Viki”:

“Thanks for your recent report of a potential violation on Facebook. After reviewing your report, we were not able to confirm that the specific page you

reported, violates Facebook’s ‘Statement of Rights and Responsibilities’.

“Learn more about what we do and don’t allow, by reviewing the Facebook Community Standards: <https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards>.”

I then went to the Facebook Community Standards site and found the following (among others):

On hate speech it states: “Facebook does not permit hate speech, but distinguishes between serious and humorous speech. While we encourage you to challenge ideas, institutions, events, and practices, we do not permit individuals or groups to attack others based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition.”

I couldn’t think of a stronger reason than Facebook’s own definition by which to define the site as the most obvious hate speech.

I am absolutely stunned that Facebook considers the F.k Israel site to be acceptable.

**Jeff Sapire**  
**Johannesburg**



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# Benevolent celebrates an incredible 120 years

SHIRA DRUION

The Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society recently celebrated an incredible milestone of 120 years of service. The birthday celebration tea, with the society’s AGM, was held at Golden Acres on Mandela Day.

“The Benevolent plays an important role in our community, helping to provide accommodation, food, clothing and transport, as well as contributing towards the cost of education, thus enabling young people to take their rightful place in society,” said re-elected chairman, Maureen Disler at the AGM. Disler thanked her committee for their outstanding achievement and welcomed her new committee for 2013. Besides Disler as chairman, the vice chairman is Judy Wainer; honorary treasurer, Loraine Ware; honorary assistant treasurer, Jackie Feldman; honorary secretary, Leigh Brouze; and honorary assistant secretary, Doreen Zurel; and immediate past-chairman Linda Shneier.

Rabbi Jonathan Fox, addressing the gathering, congratulated Disler and her committee on their achievements. “The Benevolent is involved in so many areas of chesed and human care and they always display a genuine softness and concern for human dignity in all that they do and say.

“The Torah teaches that it is insufficient to perform acts of kindness if they are not performed with love. The Benevolent exemplifies this as their motto states: ‘The Welfare organisation that cares.’”

Michael Sieff, CEO of the Chevrah Kadisha, wished the Benevolent a huge mazeltov for reaching this very important anniversary date.

Awards were presented to Joan Charney for 40 years of service - and that at age 89! Awards also went to Kathy Kransdorf for 25 years of service, Dora Knight for 25 years of service and to Joseph Mafunise for 25 years of service.

The guest speaker for the morning was Emilia Potenza of the Apartheid Museum and official curator for The Nelson Mandela exhibit. She spoke on Mandela’s life and elaborated on the diverse roles he played as he fought passionately to end apartheid and then to rebuild, amidst the turmoil of a fragmented country.

“It is insufficient to perform acts of kindness if they are not performed with love”

“Mandela’s main personas can be classified into five main roles. His first role was as comrade, then leader, prisoner, negotiator and ultimately as statesman. But through all this it was his character which was so definitive and which made him so exceptional.

“He was and continues to be, an inspiration to millions of people around the globe. He was able to find a synthesis for his African and Western roots as he came into his own to take up his role as a leader of their people. In fact, there is unanimous agreement that he was a born leader and that without him the transition from apartheid to democracy would have looked vastly different to the one we experienced.”



**Above Board**  
**Mary Kluk**  
National Chairman

The July holidays have brought a number of Jewish holidaymakers from Johannesburg and elsewhere to Durban and the local community, as always, have welcomed their participation in its activities.

Many have visited the Durban Holocaust Centre (particularly on Tisha B’Av) and taken advantage of its adjoining kosher café. For this short time at least, our Jewish visitors make themselves a part of Durban’s comparatively small but very busy and vibrant Jewish community.

Having grown up in a city where Jews are numbered in the few thousands rather than tens of thousands, I can testify to the relatively greater impact an individual who involves him or herself in Jewish communal affairs can have.

This has always been the case in Durban and is of course even truer in smaller communities. Communal and interpersonal bonds are strong and individuals get an enhanced sense of the value of what they contribute.

At the time of writing, the Council for Kwa-Zulu-Natal Jewry is gearing up for its AGM, to be held as usual at the historic Durban Jewish Club. I congratulate Linda Nathan and her committee on completing a very successful first term of office.

**Out-of-towners share Durban hospitality**

It has been a pleasure working with them on the National Board, and we look forward to continuing this relationship during their second term of service. I am looking forward to once again listening to Tony Leon, who is the guest speaker for the occasion. Tony is one of the Durban community’s most distinguished sons, and indeed his father, Justice Ramon Leon (now retired) is a past president of the CKNJ.

Last week, I had a very interesting meeting with a visitor from Azerbaijan, a Muslim woman who has devoted much of her time to learning about the Jewish heritage (including devoting nearly a year of study on the subject at an institute in Stockholm) and is active on behalf of her country’s so-called “Mountain Jews”.

The latter, comprising some 4 000 souls, have lived in relative isolation in Azerbaijan’s mountainous areas, and have over time developed their own unique culture and approach to Judaism.

It brought home to me once more the sheer diversity of the Jewish people, particularly those smaller communities far from the mainstream Jewish world, and how important it is for us to establish a connection with them.

It was also very heartening to see how much interest in, and empathy with, the Jewish people exists beyond the boundaries of our own community. Building on, and reciprocating this goodwill, is something all Jewish leaders need to constantly engage in.

*This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies*

Youth

# Theodor Herzl does its 67 minutes for Mandela



Photo: Angela Kennedy

The girls are all from Theodor Herzl School, Grade 11, names (left to right): Sarah Morton, Khanya Mbikwana, Donna Herr and Sivashani Pather.

MARY JANE BOTHA

Theodor Herzl High School learners in Port Elizabeth, worked together with pupils from Walmer High to help feed the very poor and needy in Walmer township (Gqebera) in the city, as part of the 67 minutes for Nelson Mandela - a wonderful, meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Around 30 learners and a few staff members from both schools met at Walmer High’s library to spend about 40 minutes engaging in what they - the teenagers - thought of the importance of Mandela Day, of community service and the relevance of the term “Born Free”.

They interacted in small mixed groups,

exchanging perceptions and learning from each other’s points of view. Both groups had collected food items such as bread, potatoes, carrots, fruit and non-perishable canned goods.

They busied themselves organising the collected items into some 70 food parcels and then headed over to the nearby Gqebera Community Soup Kitchen in Walmer township, which is run by St John’s Church.

A queue of hungry Gqebera residents gratefully received the parcels of food from the pupils. It was a humbling, heart-warming experience and Madiba himself would have been pleased to see children connecting with each other to do good for those less fortunate.

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# JWBS - dedicated to noblest of Jewish values



I am honoured to be able to continue the long standing tradition going back to Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper and Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, both of blessed memory, of paying tribute to the important work of the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society in assisting the needy of our community.

They are dedicated to the noblest of our Jewish values, that of tzedakah and chesed - charity and loving-kindness. The importance of tzedakah is manifest in the reward promised for its fulfilment.

The Code of Jewish Law (YD 247: 2,3,4), based on the Talmud, has this to say:

“No one ever becomes poor from [giving] tzedakah, and no bad thing or damage comes as result of it, as it states that the product of tzedakah shall be peace.” (Isaiah 32:17).

“Whoever has compassion on the poor, the Holy One Blessed be He, has compassion on him. Note: A person should recognise that he requests sustenance from the Holy One Blessed be He, and in the same

way that he requests from the Holy One Blessed be He to take heed of his plea, so should he take heed of the pleas of the poor...

“Tzedakah sets aside all harsh decrees, and in a famine it saves from death... and it brings wealth. And it is forbidden to test G-d except in this matter [that is, that it brings wealth]...”

In the merit of our tzedakah, may Hashem bless us all with a good year.

**Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein**

## Message from Chairman Maureen Disler



The Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society has reached a great milestone in its history, celebrating 120 years of service and dedication to the needy in our community.

Since 1893, we have been assisting with shelter, food, clothing and education and offering friendship.

Over and above the maintenance that is paid monthly, we strive to give each client a monetary gift at Rosh Hashanah to sweeten the lives of those less fortunate.

I am appealing to you, our loyal Benevolent supporters, to be most generous this Yomtov, to enable us to face the challenges of the future.

“The fragrance of giving lingers forever on the fingers of the giver.”

L’Shanah Tova Umetukah.

## JWBS Rosh Hashanah Appeal

This organisation of selfless dedicated women, has worked tirelessly to raise funds for the support, education and well-being of hundreds of thousands of needy members of the community during the past 12 decades.

Sadly, and contrary to what one would expect, this need increases every year due to a combination of circumstances including an ageing community, adverse economic conditions, emigration of children and a general increase in the cost of living, which crushes those on interest rate-dependent fixed incomes.

Social welfare services in South Africa are virtually non-existent, and but for the efforts of the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society, many, many, elderly community members would suffer the pangs of hunger and loneliness, worthy students would be deprived of an education, and needy families and individuals would remain desolate and without hope.

The Torah emphasises the importance of tzedakah as a key element in meriting us a new year of life. By making as generous a donation as you can afford to the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society, you will be taking a major step towards fulfilling the requirement for meriting another year of life.

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# First gold medal for South African Maccabiah team



**ROCKING THE BOAT**  
*Jack Milner*

The 19th Maccabiah is in full swing and it did not take long for Team South Africa to win their first gold medal. The under-18 boys Rugby Sevens team defeated Israel in a tight final last week.

As far as I can ascertain just three countries participated in the Junior Sevens event - South Africa, Great Britain and Israel. In the opening event SA beat Great Britain 19 - 7, then Israel scored a 22 - 12 win over the British. The South Africans wrapped up the round robin section with a 19 - 0 victory over Israel.

That put South Africa and Israel into the final and this time it was a lot tighter, with South Africa winning the encounter 5 - 0.

The senior team was not as successful. This time there were four teams with the US also competing. South Africa drew their opening encounter with the Americans 12 - 12, but then lost 0 - 12 to Great Britain and 5 - 19 to

Israel. That put them into a playoff against Britain for the bronze medal and that went to the South Africans with a score of 19 - 12. The US won the final, beating Israel 17 - 14.

The 15-man game began last Friday and the juniors got off to a good start, beating Great Britain 26 - 3. At this stage that is the only match they seem to have played. The senior team drew 13 - 13 with Israel but did not do all that well against Australia in their second encounter, going down 6 - 12.

The South Africans have a proud tradition on the cricket field but the boys team did not get off to the best of starts, losing to Great Britain. The Brits scored 142 all out and South Africa were bowled out for a mere 94. Destroyer in chief for the Brits was Benjamin Lederman who took 6/23 in his 10 overs.

The SA youngsters bounced back Monday, giving Israel a hiding. After winning the toss and electing to bat, the South Africans amassed 330 all out in 38 overs, then bowled out Israel for 64 in 21 overs, winning by 266.

Top scorer for South Africa was Josh Gordon with 114 but his life was made easier by a good opening stand from Glen Godfrey (78) and Erin Berman-Levy (68).

Riley Freeman will have been delighted



The South African junior sevens rugby team show off their gold medals won at the 19th Maccabiah.

with his bowling figures of 6/23 in four overs but the SA bowlers were obviously spraying the ball about as top scorer for Israel was “extras” - with 23. The next best score was eight!

The senior team took out Australia, beating them by 90 runs. The SA team scored 242 for seven wickets in their allotted 50 overs with vice-captain Mark Ostrofsky top scoring with 56. They bowled out the Australians for 152 with Ryan Levy returning figures of 4/26 and Sean Crystal taking 3/23.

In soccer, the SA Men’s Open team top their log in Group B. They are on seven points along with Germany, but have a better goal difference. They started off with a 3 - 1 victory over Peru and then thumped Colombia 5 - 0 before having a goalless draw against the

Germans. South Africa’s final round robin match will be against Great Britain, who are third on six points, but the Germans will have a much easier battle against Colombia.

The boys under-16 team is currently bottom of their log, with Argentina, Brazil, Great Britain and Canada. They were beaten 2 - 0 by Argentina and 1 - 0 by Britain and then drew 0 - 0 against Canada.

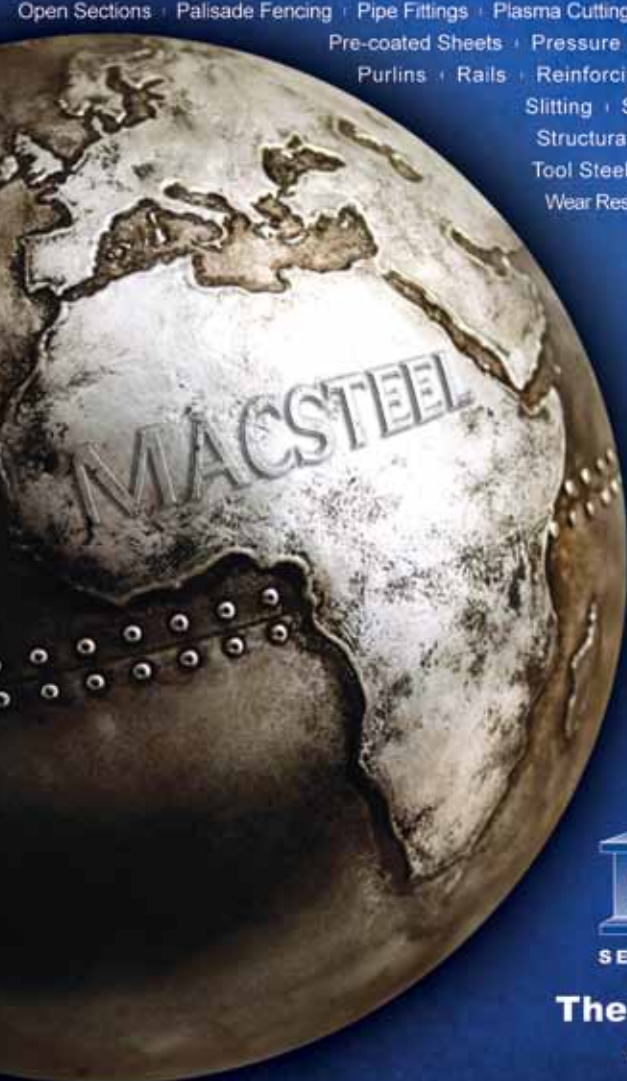
The under-18 team had a heart-breaking encounter against Argentina in which they went down 5 - 4 after having conceded an own goal. They are currently second last on their log.


The under-18 girls team have lost both their matches so far - to Australia and Brazil - but still have a way to go in the competition.

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### What's On

#### Today, Friday (July 26)

- UZLC hosts Ronnie Mink on “The Fate of the Hungarian Jews in the Holocaust”. Our Parents Home. 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

#### Sunday (July 28)

- JHGC in partnership with Constitution Hill and The French Institute of South Africa is screening, “A Love to Hide”, part of the ancillary programme around ”In Whom Can I Still Trust” exhibition about the persecution of homosexuals during the Nazi regime. Women’s Jail, Constitution Hill. 14:30. Booking essential: call (011) 640-3100
- RCHCC hosts Mike Golding on: “Should a Jew Listen to Wagner’s Music?” 19:30. R80. Booking: (011) 728-8088/8378.
- Jewish Genealogical Society SA hosts Ronnie Mink on “The Wanderings of the Jewish People”. HOD Centre. 19:30. R20. Mo: (011) 887-7764.

#### Monday (July 29)

- UJW adult education division hosts James Mitchell, literary editor at Independent Newspapers, on “An Editor Reviews Life and Literature”. 1 Oak Street, Houghton. 09:30. R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

#### Tuesday (July 30)

- Dor Yeshorim screening for Ashkenazi genetic diseases at Oxford Shul, Riviera. 19:00. (011) 646-6020.
- UJW hosts a “Domes-


#### Wednesday (July 31)

- UJW adult education division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson on the second of a series of five lectures on “Contemporary Poetry”. 1 Oak Street, Houghton. 09:30. R30. (011) 648-1053.
- Sydenham Highlands North Community Centre presents an Education Africa Project, “Sounds of Celebration”. Theatre of Marcellus, Emperors Palace. 20:00. Booking through Computicket. (011) 685-7300.

#### Friday (August 2)

- UZLC hosts Paula Slier on “Egypt and the Arab Spring”. Our Parents Home. 12:45 – 14:00. Gloria 072-127-9421.
- United Sisterhood holds monthly book sale, Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. (011) 646-2409.

#### Second Innings hosts Digby Ricci on “An Examination of Hitchcock”. The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. 10:00 for 10:30. R20 members; R40 visitors. Contact: Grecia (011) 532-9718



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# Dov Waxman – Making sense of the Middle East

The continuing instability and violence in the Middle East and Israel's unresolved conflict with the Palestinians, leaves many people confused and worried.

What is happening in the region and what impact is it having upon Israel? Why does peace between Israelis and Palestinians seem increasingly impossible? What is happening inside Israel? Are its Arab citizens becoming radicalised and, if so, why?

**Dov Waxman**, an expert on the Middle East, will be at Limmud South Africa to tackle these difficult, and often controversial, questions in his sessions. He is a regular commentator on Middle East affairs on television and radio. If you have an interest in Israel and its issues, don't miss these presentations.

Dov is an associate professor of political science at the City University of New York, and has been a visiting professor at universities in Israel and Turkey. He has a PhD in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University and a BA degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University. He is the author of a number of books.

# Klezmer gets a remix with Simja Dujov



Accordion in one hand and megaphone in the other, dreadlocks flowing and with a moustache that rivals Salvador Dali's, Simja Dujov reflects the authentic mix of his music.

Born in Buenos Aires, Dujov is a composer, producer and singer of a unique blend of klezmer, gypsy and world music intertwined with a strong Latin flavour. His music is an expression of his identity; a Jew from the land of tango with his roots in the shtetls of the Ukraine.

Dujov studied Sociology, Musical Composition and Visual Arts at universities in Argentina. His career as a performer began at the age of 18 when he joined Cordoba's Yiddish choir, Halevai. Dujov later went on to found a Klezmer Studel Band. The band was renowned for performing in garments replicating those

worn in the shtetl.

After regularly performing at Jewish weddings and barmitzvahs, Dujov began writing music for theatre productions and focusing on his career as a radio DJ. He recorded two albums based on Latin music and has performed at a number of international music festivals in Brazil, Germany, Belgium and Spain.

From reggae to gypsy-punk, Dujov has created an eclectic mix of contemporary sounds, infused with the spirit of the shtetl's traditional Yiddische melodies. After listening to his music you will forget you ever asked what the Yiddish tango was.

Simja will headline the live music events at Limmud Joburg, Cape Town and Durban.

# Shoshana Boyd-Gelfand pioneers 'Jewish TEDx'



If you're a die-hard fan of TED talks, you're in for a vanguard experience, as Limmud launches the first South Arican equivalent of JDOV, Jewish TEDx with several cutting-edge presenters.

First launched by at Limmud 2011, she explains: "Limmud was the perfect place to pilot JDOV, as we wanted to bring people together from across the Jewish world to hear speakers give the 18 minute 'talk of their life' - inspired by their Jewish dreams, observations or visions (DOV). Hundreds of people have since participated in these engaging sessions, all of which are now available on-line."

What motivated Shoshana? While Jews have long been referred to as "the Chosen People", what are we chosen for? Shoshana is founder of JHub, a dynamic UK based movement for social change, will give us cause to examine why this question is at the core of Jewish purpose and meaning. Ignited by her own passion to make a difference, Shoshana's unique combination of charisma, contagious energy and connectedness has been instrumental in inspiring people to explore how they too can creatively make a meaningful difference.

With a shared commitment to Jewish values as its cornerstone, JHub supports Jewish charities that are passionate about effecting social change by providing resources, running professional development seminars and offering a shared space for people to work, learn and network.

Previously, Shoshana headed the UK Movement for Reform Judaism and received her rabbinic ordination in 1993. Besides writing books and teaching, she writes a monthly column for the London Jewish Chronicle and presents regularly on BBC Radio 2. She is one of several dynamic international presenters who will grace our shores for Limmud SA 2013.

# Cyril Karabus shares his ordeal

En route home via Dubai after his son's wedding, Dr Cyril Karabus, (then 77), was detained for nine months and was released this May after a lengthy campaign which focused significant international media attention on his case.

He found he had been tried in absentia in connection with the death of a patient he had treated 10 years earlier during a stint in Abu Dhabi. Despite a global outcry, it would take months for Karabus to earn his freedom. At Limmud this year, he will tell the story of detention, despair and his eventual return.

In Johannesburg, he will be joined by medical colleague Dr Theo Kopenhager, who led the boycott of a Dubai-based medical event, in protest of the handling of Karabus.

In Cape Town, Michael Bagraim, Karabus' lawyer, will join him to share how the role of the Jewish community influence d the outcome of this travesty of justice. Karabus is the former professor of Paediatrics at the University of Cape Town and former head of the Oncology and Haematology Unit of the Red Cross Children's Hospital in the Mother City.

# Cardozo on the opportunities and challenges of Limmud

By Rabbi Dr Nathan Lopes Cardozo



Judaism is the most astonishing and daring religion the world has been blessed with. It defies definition, standing head and shoulders above anything else I know. It is not just a faith, a sentiment, or a ritual; it is an immense yet intricate exploration of what we might call "the holy dimension of existence".

What I love most about Judaism is its enormous courage. It dares. It avoids neither obstacle nor critique. It enjoys a good fight in order to enrich itself. It loves to confront and provoke. It is a protest movement against all sorts of "isms," but above all, against small-mindedness.

Its task is to disturb; to fight complacency and spiritual conceit. Judaism teaches that one cannot inherit religion. One needs to fight for it and earn it. To be religious is to live in a state of warfare: to be constantly wary of clichés while struggling for insight; to avoid obstinacy and remain flexible; and, perhaps most important, to refuse to let practice become mere habit, and to strive to maintain spiritual and moral alertness.

And so I love to go to Limmud, to listen and to teach. Limmud is a place where I am challenged, where I hear new things (including some utter nonsense), where I can fall in love with my fellow Jews, laugh and cry with them, and share my commitment to and struggles with Judaism.

I enjoy hearing lecturers specifically when I know I am likely to disagree with their conclusions. These lectures challenge me to re-examine my beliefs because they offer many profound critiques of Judaism. Sometimes I agree with these critiques, sometimes not. But one thing is surely true: Judaism today is far too dedicated to defensive self-preservation - to propping up sacred cows, which need to be slaughtered before it is able to re-discover itself.

# Manny Waks – Whistleblower on child sexual abuse in the Jewish community



Manny Waks wears many hats: as a Jewish communal leader, he has challenged the status quo and in so doing, has often raised the hackles of the organised Australian Jewish community.

As a "whistleblower" on child sexual abuse within the Jewish community, he has campaigned bravely to bring its perpetrators to justice, often at a huge personal cost.

His story is one of courage, fortitude and justice. He is the second oldest of 17 children raised in a family in Melbourne. After reading that a former teacher at Yeshiva College in Melbourne was convicted of paedophilia in the US, Manny went public for the first time with his own story in July 2011. In an explosive exposé in the Australian New Age, Manny disclosed that he had been sexually abused at the same school on multiple occasions by two teachers, "Someone needed to shatter the wall of silence, and I realised that it needed to be me."

He has since testified before the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse and the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex Abuse in Australia. Manny's courageous decision to share his own story has since led to dozens of other Jewish victims to come forward. In 2012, Manny established Tzedek, an advocacy group for Jewish victims of child sexual abuse.

A well-respected young leader in the Australian Jewish community, Manny's various communal positions include having served as the former vice-president of the Executive Council of Australian Jews, founder and president of the Capital Jewish Forum, and past president of the Canberra Jewish Community.





# Why Limmud increases volunteers every year

*Brett Wilks, National Co-Chairman of Limmud SA*

Limmud is a volunteer organisation; it simply would not exist without them. Every year a group of individuals come together and make a choice to volunteer to pull off a major and impactful event.

That may not sound that impressive, but when you analyse the sheer human effort that goes into making a Limmud event possible, the man-hours, the thousands of e-mails and calls, the energy, the focus and the dedication... one has to wonder why anyone bothers to volunteer in the first place. Rationally it would make far more sense to outsource the conference as others do with events of this magnitude.

Year-on-year, increasing numbers of volunteers are expanding their skill sets, building new networks, learning more about themselves and going one step further on their own journeys.

The volunteers come from different backgrounds, ages, religious affiliations and professions. They frequently give up extensive time for Limmud. Frankly, it is as ludicrous as it is nonsensical... yet every year more and more people jump on board to volunteer.

Across the Jewish world in over 60 communities, Limmud has thousands of volunteers - they are not paid, they do not get fat bonuses at the end of conference, there is no material gain from being part of the world's most exciting Jewish cultural and learning phenomenon.

You would be hard pressed to find a singular reason why people jeopardise their careers, relationships and health to make time for something which really does not make sense. You don't do this in any other sphere of your life so why do it for Limmud?

Limmudniks are empowered because there are no limits to what they can or can't do. They consciously donate their time, skills and in some cases finance - we continue to see growth in all of these three things.

Anything that happens at a Limmud event is due to an entrepreneurial character, a tenacious energy and a dedicated commitment to thinking through an idea and making sure it gets done. Nobody is forced to do this against their will. The reality is, if someone does not will it, it will not happen.

Thank you to all those who are currently involved in making sure the events in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban are the tremendous successes they always are. Attend a Limmud event first to see how much you love it and then make the choice for events like this to continue happening. Volunteer to make Limmud the way you want it to be - it will be one of the best things you've done all year.

# Seven questions about Limmud

**1. Where does Limmud come from?**  
Limmud, or “Learning”, started in the United Kingdom in 1980 and has since grown to become the largest communal event in UK Jewry, attracting over 2 500 people to its annual conference. Now it is a model and an inspiration for over 50 Limmud groups across the world - from Bulgaria to Brazil, from Cape Town to California, from Modiin to Moscow, from New Zealand to New York.

**2. What is Limmud South Africa? When did it arrive?**  
Limmud South Africa started here in 2007. It is a registered non-profit organisation. Limmud South Africa is the most exciting, innovative educational volunteer-based organisation in the country, committed to Jewish education across the entire South African Jewish community.

**3. What does Limmud South Africa do?**  
Through its annual events, or conferences, Limmud South Africa offers access to some of the world's most dynamic Jewish educators, performers and minds. Utilising all educational styles including lectures, workshops, text-study sessions, film, meditation, discussions, exhibits and performances ensures that Limmud South Africa maintains diversity and a broad appeal. Limmud South Africa provides learning opportunities relating to the full diversity of Jewish expression in the world, from philosophy, history, religion and the arts.

**4. Who works for Limmud South Africa?**  
Limmud South Africa is a volunteer organisation, benefiting from the expertise of over 300 volunteers of all ages. Our volunteers plan, organise and implement our three national conferences and one-day Limmud events. Each region's annual conference is organised by a local organ-

ising committee of volunteers, all overseen by Limmud South Africa's national committee.

**5. What is Limmud South Africa's goal?**  
Wherever you are going, whoever you are, Limmud South Africa will take you one step further on your Jewish journey.

**6. Who presents at Limmud South Africa conferences?**  
Limmud South Africa is committed to tapping into the breadth and richness of our own community. We believe every Jew has something to teach and learn. Anyone can be a presenter and everyone should be a learner. This year there are 18 international, expert presenters as well.

**7. What religious or political affiliation does Limmud have?**  
Limmud South Africa is not affiliated to any religious or political movement. We are focused on cross-communal education in the South African Jewish community. We are committed to the entire Jewish community as a whole and do not align ourselves to any particular practice of Judaism. All Jews, irrespective of their religious beliefs are invited and welcome to help us build Limmud South Africa.

Shabbat and kashrut are observed in all public areas. We recognise that in private areas, people will behave as they wish. Should participants wish to hold a prayer group, they may do so providing they supply all resources.

Find out more and book now at [www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)



# Eight reasons to be a part of Limmud

1. Limmud offers the opportunity for Jews from all backgrounds to engage with one another.
2. Limmud encourages exposure to the full ambit of Jewish culture and diversity of Jewish expression in the world, from philosophy, history, religion and the arts to spirituality, Torah and sociology.
3. Limmud exposes South Africans to world-class educators and experts in their field, as well as to hear individuals from closer by who would not generally be exposed to such an audience.
4. Limmud provides a wonderful opportunity to socialise and meet people.
5. Limmud ignites excitement and interest from many Jews by providing a diverse and exciting programme catering for all tastes.
6. Limmud offers a space in which people are able to mix with one another across generations. This provides opportunities for grandparents and parents to learn while at the same time offering programmes for children and younger people.
7. Limmud offers a dynamic model to encourage involvement from young adults in the Jewish community, combating the detachment that occurs so often when younger members of our community leave their youth movements or Jewish day schools.
8. Limmud has brought a cultural renaissance to Jewish communities, wherever it has existed. We proudly offer a model through which creativity and Jewish learning can flourish in South Africa.



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