



A remarkable man: retrospective of Monty Sack at UJ (page 12)

# South african Jewish Report

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## Maputo's historic shul comes to life!

The Sefer Torah is carried into the Maputo Synagogue by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies. Holding the tallit above it are Alex Greenbaum, Uri Raich, Nuno Sociero and Rogério Levy. The historic Maputo Synagogue was rededicated on May 19 in a lavish ceremony attended by Mozambican officials, a delegation of the African Jewish Congress and representatives of other faiths. The day's events included the unveiling of the commemorative stone, followed by the Hachnasat Sefer Torah ceremony, the formal return of the community's Sefer Torah, from safekeeping in South Africa. See page 10.

### VOX POP: How do our kosher restaurants rate in world terms?

Former SA chef and food expert Sandy Sonnenfelt: "I do not understand why kosher food has been left behind in the 'food revolution'. Kosher should not mean overcooked, too sweet or using hydrogenated fats."

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### David Shapiro: Strikes and uncertainty stymie SA growth prospects

"Investors will not come into a country where property rights are not protected and proper business policies are not in place, and where they do not know from one month to the next what policy changes there will be."

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### MILNER: Israel tries to curb racism ahead of Euro U-21

Next week Israel will host the Euro Under-21 Soccer Championships, scheduled to run from June 5 - 8 and the country will need to demonstrate to the world that it will not tolerate any form of racist action.

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### ADL's Foxman looks at intersection of online hate and free speech

"In the last 10 years we've seen a communication revolution in terms of the Internet changing how we talk to each other. It had magnificent impact, but it also provided a super highway... for bigots, racists and anti-Semites."

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### Fundamentalists or exemplars of the purpose-driven life?

Forward columnist Jay Michaelson, in culling headlines from haredi-related scandals, argues that contemporary haredi Jewry looks less like the benign world of Tevye, and more like that of The Sopranos.

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17:07	17:59	Bloemfontein
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KASHRUT ALERT

“YOGOORUS” FROZEN YOGHURT  
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Their use and display of the letter which gives the impression that their store and/ or products is certified, is misleading.

# Religious satisfaction: path may lie in front of us

Religion is not easy. Answers do not usually come quickly, and the way to those answers can be long and demand of us great patience.

Yet, the path to religious satisfaction, one might even say to religious happiness, does not need to lead us to exotic places, strange ideas or unusual practices. The pathways often lie right in front of us, if only we would see them.

These paths are found in the Torah. In trying to follow these paths we are asked to take a leap of faith. That is to say, we need to try these ways before we can know if they will work for us. Perhaps we should call this taking a leap of action, since in the Jewish tradition the religiously-oriented act which functions as our path.

Among Jewish ways to G-d, an important path to spiritual fulfilment is the mitzvah. A mitzvah might be a ritual, such as wearing

tallit, which forms part of this week’s Torah reading. This is a mitzvah with no material outcome to it; it’s purely symbolic. It points us somewhere else. In the case of tallit, we could say that it identifies us as Jews, it makes us conscious that a certain type of conduct is demanded of us, and that we acknowledge such by wearing the garment.

There are many different types of mitzvot. Some are practices such as study or prayer, intended to inform us, to inspire us, to direct our attitudes and to shape our ways of looking at the world.

Other mitzvot are ritual and shape our perceptions of time, of place and of identity. There are ethical mitzvot, governing our relations with others.


Our ancestors saw mitzvot as a path to a state they described as “holiness”. A life directed in the

right way, in which our actions are governed by a particular thoughtful, conscious intent, and performed in a particular spirit, brings about an outcome.

Some recent psychological research has recognised the value of religious practices in showing ways to deal with contemporary problems such as stress and depression. Certain therapies use techniques similar to the intention and discipline of mitzvot.

Psychologists have shown that our feelings are often the result of forms of behaviour. Religious people have long known that if one performs a mitzvah with a positive intent, one generally feels good about it.

If you have a discipline of regular mitzvot performance, you have a regular path to spiritual satisfaction. Spiritual fulfilment can result from following patterns of



Parshat Shelach  
Rabbi Robert Ash  
Beit Emanuel,  
Johannesburg

religious practices and, therapists suggest, the achievement of general happiness works in a similar way, in that it flows in part from our behaviour.


Our conscious attention and intention in performing a mitzvah corresponds to what some cognitive therapists term “mindfulness”, an awareness of your thoughts as you act.

It is gratifying that modern psychology has identified the great benefits of such patterns of behaviour. A spiritual quest can be pursued using the well-established practices of our tradition. It just takes practice.

## Community Voices

### How do our kosher restaurants rate in world terms?

*The restaurant industry presents many challenges to its owners, from accessing of fresh raw material, to creating menu-based variety, to drawing in customers and ensuring they come back, to treating and training staff appropriately and functioning as a self-respecting and profitable business. Running a kosher establishment is beleaguered even more, with its own special challenges. Or is it? The SA Jewish Report approached some community members and experts to find out if people believe local kosher restaurants are up to world standards.*



Sandy Sonnenfelt (former South African, catering expert now living in Oaklands, California): “It’s been some years since I have eaten in SA kosher restaurants, but my opinion of kosher food in general and in SA in particular, is that it is mostly quite awful.

“I don’t understand why this should be the case, but there seems to be a total lack of consciousness about using best ingredients and skilled preparation. I do not understand why kosher food has been left behind in the ‘food revolution’. Kosher should not mean overcooked, too sweet or using hydrogenated fats.


“There is also a world of Sephardi cooking that is almost unrecognised in SA, which to my mind is far more exciting than our Ashkenazi roots. It seems as if Yotam Ottolenghi (an Israeli in partnership with a Palestinian, Sammi Tammini, who has written four cookbooks, the most recent of which is ‘Jerusalem’) is gaining recognition is SA. Maybe this will have some effect.”



Toni Amber, Johannesburg: “Absolutely not. I have eaten in kosher restaurants in Europe and America where on the average, the food is excellent,

prices compare favourably with prices in non-kosher restaurants, the décor is in keeping with the kind of establishment, and the service is good.

“This is not about the lack of competition. In Florence there is one kosher restaurant and the food is excellent. In my opinion, SA kosher restaurateurs don’t seem to take pride in their establishments and SA kosher restaurant patrons are too complacent.”



Janice Leibowitz, Johannesburg: “Going out for a meal at some of our local kosher establishments is very much a ‘hit or miss’ experience. There doesn’t seem to be any consistency in the quality of the food you receive on any given day, and in some places, items listed on the menu are often not available.

“Service is also questionable. The standard of service in local kosher restaurants is notoriously low, and if one dares to complain, the attitude one often receives (from managers and even owners) is that of ‘take it or leave it... we have a captive audience, so can do what we like’.

“This approach also seems to apply to the often excessively inflated prices that are charged. Comparably, non-kosher establishments, and even kosher ones in other countries, seem to make more of an effort with customer appreciation, competitive awareness and overall quality of one’s dining experience. Johannesburg is lucky to have quite a few kosher establishments, but one is often left feeling taken advantage of after eating in some of them.”



Devorah Nates, president, Kosher Consumer Organisation, Johannesburg: “I have had feedback and

comments from consumers and in my own experience I can endorse their negative criticism of service in many kosher restaurants, as well as the lack of cleanliness.

“While I do not have a problem with the quality of the food which is generally good, if the cleanliness is noticeably flawed in the public’s eye, I shudder to think what the kitchens must look like!”



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Flash 90

In a Facebook post on Monday, Lapid wrote: “We will not sit in a government not willing to move on the issue of an equal share of burden. There is a historic opportunity to right a historic wrong, a bleeding wound in the heart of Israeli society.

The Peri Committee was set up last year and charged with integrating the haredi Orthodox community into Israel's military after Israel's Supreme Court ruled in February 2012 that the Tal Law, which had allowed haredi men to defer army service, was unconstitutional.

The committee later approved restoring authority to the defence minister to make decisions regarding the sanctions. (JTA and Y-Net)

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# Strikes, uncertainty stymie SA growth

STAFF REPORTER

The South African economy was slowly starting to grind down with the rand at about R9 to the dollar, and it had dropped 20 per cent in the last year, said David Shapiro (pictured), financial analyst at Sasfin Bank, when he recently spoke at the Union of Jewish Women, on “America, the next Economy”. He, however, looked at a broader worldview.

What had changed? Why this downturn in South Africa? It was because the vision of South Africa - the beaches, the bushveld and game, was gone and had been replaced by the sights of the Marikana strikes (with 34 miners killed) and police dragging suspects behind their vans.

“This has put investors off, as our image gets tarnished. We need foreign investment coming in because we are spending more than we earn. In general, investors who come into Africa believe they always have to factor in civil war, which inevitably increases costs,” he pointed out.

Shapiro said he recently attended Warren Buffett’s annual finance conference in Ne-

braska where Buffett was asked if he would invest in Africa; he evaded the question, saying he did not know enough about it.

“Investors will not come into a country where property rights are not protected and proper business policies are not in place, and where they do not know from one month to the next what policy changes there will be,” he said.

Although the JSE was at an all-time high, it was not an indicator of the South African economy, said Shapiro, because 70 per cent of the market capital was made up of companies that traded off-shore.

“But, nonetheless, we should be proud of our companies which are doing well,” he said.

Africa as whole was tiny in the world market, he said. It contributed about two per cent to the global economy, with South Africa only contributing 0,6 per cent.

America was the next emerging world market with massive amounts of shale for fracking for gas and oil,

“This is going to cause a political revolution. America is going to be a very important player in the next decade, as it has uncovered massive reserves of gas and oil,

and could soon be exporting those reserves, even challenging Opec.

“This will have huge implications for the world, the American economy and the Middle East,” he said.

The threat of contamination of water as a result of fracking is being worked on by the Americans and will soon be resolved, he believed. They would soon be able to use their own energy and would become more productive, becoming a competitor for China and this would lead to it dominating the world economy again.

Although gas was not cheap, it was clean and good for the prevention of global warming, he said.

Fracking would also result in massive contributions to the construction of infrastructure around oil exploration, such as the installation of pipelines and oil rigs, and would create huge economic activity with a multiplier effect.

Japan too, would emerge “bigger” in next decade. That country had somewhat been humiliated by China and had shown little growth in the past 20 years.

“But there have been changes in govern-



ment and it is set to regain and recapture its greatness, economically and militarily.”

Another huge growth worldwide was in the mobile market. Shapiro said the advent of hand-held smart-phones would see the disappearance of PCs and desktop computers.

“With smart devices, people can trade quickly, anywhere in the world at the touch of a small phone,” he said. Data storage was also becoming easier with cloud computing.

## Market Theatre precinct development to change inner city



STAFF REPORTER

The historic Market Theatre precinct in Johannesburg is being redeveloped. Not only is a R1,2 billion retail, office and residential development being built next to the square, but the Market Theatre itself has purchased several historic buildings around the square, which are to be restored and used, among others, as rehearsal rooms, props warehouses, theatre workshop venues, etc.

The Jewish influence is strong in the area, as by 1890, Eastern European Jews held 50 of the 80 licences for eating houses around the square. According to a heritage report by Herbert Prins, there is great cultural significance in a 1914 building which was called the Shlom eating house, a good example of what those were. The photograph above shows it in its current state.

The Market Hall was built in 1913 and this eating house would have been built to service the needs of the traders and workers at the market and those who visited the square.

Eating houses such as Shlom House, says Prins, go back to the earliest days of min-

ing. (Johannesburg was founded in 1886). Important institutions in the lives of the working class of the city, they were rooted in 20th century segregationist policies and practices.

Eating house licences were required “by a person who carries on business by selling or supplying meals or refreshments to a person other than a white person”.

The initial draft bylaws for eating houses, forbade any white woman from entering the licenced premises and in 1907, this prohibition was extended to cover any white child under the age of 14.

By 1920 almost half of the licenced eating houses were clustered in the surrounds of Marshallstown, Ferreirastown, Johannesburg township, City and Suburban, Newtown, and Fordsburg.

Most of the eating houses were owned and run by Jews, as is the case with the Shlom eating house, and here the patterns of everyday working lives of Africans and Jewish immigrants in Johannesburg intersected.

The revamp of the entire area is set to change the face of Johannesburg’s inner city, bringing in about 5 000 additional people every day.

south african

# Jewish Report

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# ‘Happy ever-aftering’ must be worked at



**Glynne Zackon (Chevrah Social Services); Lara Noik (Chevrah Social Services); Brenda Lasersohn (speaker); Leonard Carr (speaker); Trevor Friedman (speaker); and Rabbi Yossy Goldman (CAJE).**  
**SHIRA DRUION**

The Chevrah Kadisha Social Services Department and Sydenham Shul’s CAJE have collaborated in an educational initiative to bring the very best professional advice to the community, with a series of lectures on a variety of interesting topics.

They recently hosted clinical psychologists Leonard Carr, Brenda Lasersohn and Trevor Friedman, on the topic: Is happily ever-after achievable in real life?

“The goal of marriage is to create the kind of environment that is conducive to growth, so that both partners may be allowed to reach their full potential and become whole,” said Carr.

“Relationships are not only about what the other needs to give to me, but more importantly, both partners have to realise that when they focus on the other and allow the other the chance to actualise and evolve within the sanctity of the marriage, then true shalom can be achieved. And, as we all know, shalom is the ultimate goal of marriage, because it pieces together the fragmented world that surrounds us.”

“Science has proven to us that relationships impact on our brains and will determine the level of happiness we merit to have in our lifetime,” said Lasersohn who is an expert in the neuroscience of the brain.

“With the advent of extraordinary technology, we are able to measure that the brain is firing between 20 and 100 billion neurons per minute. The dynamics in our relationships play an integral role in how active and ‘happy’ our brains are.

“Neurons that wire together, fire together. When you appreciate your partner, you create positive neuro-dynamics and when you criticise your partner you injure the brain and eventually can destroy the wiring system.

“The neurochemistry in our brains is moulded by how we are spoken to, how we are felt, and how we are heard. Human beings are not born with innate sensitivities and values; they are instilled in us through transmission, through modelling.

“When we experience love and nurturing, we in turn become loving and nurturing people who can become transmitters of healthy and fulfilling relationships.”

“Research has shown that the people who have been able to recover from trauma best, are not the ones with the best therapists, but rather the ones who have gone home to a partner or family member who has allowed them to feel heard and felt, because this is really what allows the brain to heal.”

“Today, unfortunately we are faced with a scenario where many are unable to put themselves aside and make space for the needs of the other in relationships,” said Friedman who is an expert in couples’ therapy.

“The issue with many relationships today, is that people want their spouses to make them feel good all the time. This however, becomes an issue when one’s partner is in pain and requires empathy, which can demand of a person to go into a space which may not be happy or make him feel good.

“This can then make a person feel angry that their partner is demanding something of them which makes them feel uncomfortable and can ultimately be the cause of both partners feeling resentful to one another about the ‘demands’ that the other is making on them.”

The Karabus family says ‘Thank you for being there for us’

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## Combating the ‘banana republic syndrome’

Recent Jewish festivals have been a time of introspection and study - as they should be. The lessons of our tradition need to be dwelt upon - otherwise what are they for?

After this time of looking inward, Jews must look again towards broader society - South Africa the country, and the world. We’re part of a greater whole, not only the Jewish one.

It is natural in times of anxiety and uncertainty to withdraw, seeking comfort from like-minded people who will give us reassurance. However, our place in the larger population must be understood and appreciated. All minorities and ethnic groups face the question of how they fit in, to what extent their perspectives mesh with greater society and what they can expect of it.

This is not simple. After 1994, when we were liberated from the strictures of a blatantly racist system which pigeonholed us into ethnic boxes and separated us from the majority of the population, myriad opportunities opened up. Numerous Jews, young and old, reached out with enthusiasm, embracing the freedom and creating new ventures it made possible.

They found partners who, only a few years previously, would never have qualified. But that entailed a new mindset. Trust must be earned from each side - it doesn’t just happen and you can’t buy it. We’re still in a transition process and truly getting to know people from across the historical divide, will take time.

There is anxiety among many about South Africa’s future - the discontent deriving from the unknown. Older members of our community, in particular, have a harder time adjusting to the new reality; younger people are better able to go with the flow.

To bring to the fore the question which is at the back of everyone’s mind, particularly after recent events involving 200 private guests from India arriving at Waterkloof Air Force Base for a wedding of the Gupta family: where is this country going? Does the disgraceful Guptagate saga and the cynicism surrounding it indicate an irreversible slide towards a banana republic? Or will the spontaneous outrage from the South African public help put a block in that path?

Can the “power of the people” influence government actions? How can we help shape and move things in the direction we want, when all the power seems to lie elsewhere?

Ironically, Guptagate might have served a good purpose - a wake-up call when people had become lethargic, interested only in looking after their own lives when the country was drowning in corruption.

People can be heard saying indignantly: “These interlopers [the Guptas] are not going to take our country by stealth!”

There is also fury among ANC supporters towards President Jacob Zuma, and the embarrassment this has caused to our country’s global image. Some prominent politicians want to distance themselves from the ANC, but can’t yet bring themselves to walk away from the feeding trough by being disloyal. Perhaps next year’s general election will show some effects from the saga.

It is time for the younger Jews, Afrikaners and other minorities who care, to display a sense of ownership of this country and make it clear to the government and Zuma that they will not put up with these shenanigans, which have become all too frequent. This is their country as much as anyone else’s.

But gloomy dinner party conversations about how South Africa is going to pot, with everybody vying to tell a more horrifying tale than the last, are self-defeating. They must translate into action to tackle the malaise.

Fortunately, the Jewish community already has much of the infrastructure in place for actively doing something practical - such as Afrika Tikken, the JNE, women’s organisations and others. Initiatives like these must become the new benchmark, rather than complaining.

# Foxman looks at online hate and free speech

ALINA DAIN SHARON  
JNS.ORG NEW YORK

Abraham H Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), on June 4 is releasing his new book *Viral Hate: Containing Its Spread on the Internet*, co-written with Christopher Wolf, a pioneer in Internet law.

The book discusses how racists and anti-Semites are using the Internet to disseminate their hateful information and poses tough questions about the responsibility of the public to fight against this phenomenon in the US, whose laws highly protect free speech.

Foxman gave the following exclusive interview to JNS.org about the book.

### JNS.org: Why did you decide to write about this topic now?

“In the last 10 years we’ve seen a communication revolution in terms of the Internet changing the way we talk to each other. It had magnificent impact, but it also provided a super highway for communicating hate. That’s why we decided to do a book to analyse this and to alert people out there that, yes, it’s a wonderful addition to the way we communicate, but be aware that it’s also a very serious, threatening vehicle for bigots, racists and anti-Semites.”

### Has hate speech online been identified and appropriately defined?

“We live in the United States, where the First Amendment and freedom of expression is of a high social, democratic and moral value. But now we’re finding a situation where this new freedom is destroying privacy, even destroying civility, so at what point does it cross the line?

“Look at the issue of bullying. Bullying is an expression of free speech, if you will, in the school yard, on the sports field, [but]... bullying is bigotry, [it is] ‘I don’t like you because you’re tall [or]... ‘I don’t like you because you’re Jewish.’ We’ve lived with it and almost tolerated it for many years.

“Now comes the Internet, and bullying becomes cyber-bullying, and now we’re seeing kids killing themselves. It’s one thing to manage bullying in a courtyard, and it’s quite another if you’re being projected globally in this manner.

“In the book we’re trying to say that first and foremost we need to better understand [Internet hate’s] impact and take responsibility for it. A lot of people have responsibility: parents, schools, and probably more so the providers, the people who disseminate this stuff. Hopefully the book will open up a vibrant debate as to where responsibility lies before we rush to legislation or litigation.”

### How does US treat hate speech differently than other countries?

“The US is unique in terms of our Constitution and First Amendment. I don’t think there’s any country in the world that has such a broad, encompassing protection of freedom of speech.

“In Europe there are laws all over the place, especially after the Second World War, against hate speech. There are laws against Holocaust denial, laws against racial epithets, etc. It creates a problem be-

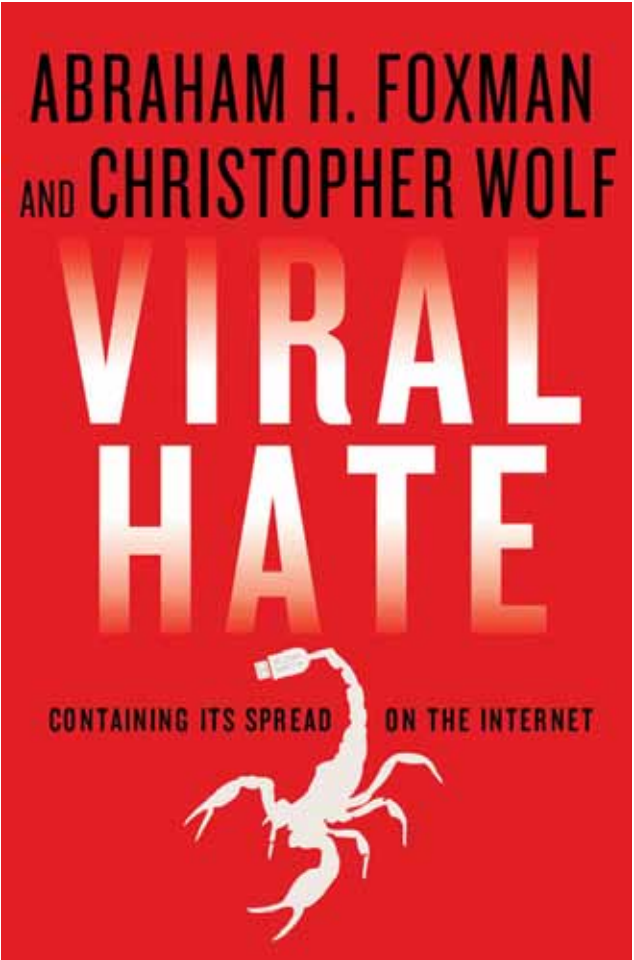


Photo: Justin Hoch.

ADL National Director Abraham Foxman.

cause if you cannot buy in Germany Mein Kampf, which is a hateful book, you can order it on the Internet from a US website.

“Ironically, while they have laws against hatred and we do not, the level of intolerance in Europe is much higher. Our constitution says: ‘You have a right to be a bigot.’ But also it says: ‘You need to take responsibility for bigotry.’

“Therefore, what happens in our country, more than what happens globally, is that there are consequences for being a bigot. Mel Gibson at one point in his life was the number one celebrity in this country. He was exposed to be a bigot and paid a price. It wasn’t the laws that were used against him; it was social ostracising. I think in terms of the Internet, that really is our first line of defence.”

### In the book you discuss the fact that websites run by extremists are often ranked among the leading search results for a topic on Google, such as Jewwatch.com for the search result “Jew”. Has ADL ever tried to take up this issue, and what has been the response or result?

“What we found is that bigots operate 24/7. They’re out there all the time sending their messages of hate or defamation, and due to this [search engine] algorithm process, when you press the [search] but-

ton on ‘Jew’, first you’re going to get anti-Jew [content] because the ‘Jew’ word is being bombarded by bigots rather than being embraced by friends and loving people.

“You have the same thing with Holocaust denial. There are more people out there propagating hate and denial than understanding, learning and being sympathetic to the lessons of the Holocaust.

“The Google and Yahoo people’s first answer [was]: ‘Why don’t you tell your community to bombard Google with good stuff?’ And in fact about two years we did that. The Jewish community sent out word to ‘go out there and bombard with ‘I love Jews’ and nice stuff about Jews.’

“It worked, but it’s crazy. You can’t expect to wake up in the morning and your job becomes to defend the Jewish people, the African-American people, the Hispanic people. So far what happens is that when there are egregious abuses, I would say seven out of 10 times, the ma-

jor companies that run these websites do respond and do remove ‘the content’. But there is another problem: That stuff never dies on the Internet. You can take it off but it finds its way back, and it always exists somewhere in the stratosphere.”

### What can regular Internet users do to mitigate the prevalence of anti-Jewish material?

“They should be alert to it, complain to us [at ADL], to the providers, share with the legislators. First of all it’s awareness.

“Number two is to use the [online] vehicle for good speech. We can also ask the providers to put disclaimers on some of the stuff out there. A couple of months ago a [Facebook page] appeared about the third Intifada.

The providers said: ‘This is like a conversation; it’s freedom of speech.’ And we said to them: ‘Intifada is not a conversation piece, it’s a call for violence and therefore you should not permit it.’

“We complained to Facebook, Facebook analysed it and came back to us saying: ‘You’re right.’ They removed it.”

### What are some unusual examples of online hate, or examples that people might easily recognise?

“There are some websites, one called Martin Luther King Jr that masquerades [as a harmless website]. Innocently, you may want to find out what Martin Luther King said, what he was about, you log on and all of a sudden you realise, or you may not realise, that it’s a white supremacist website. What many hate organisations did early on was purchase and protect website domains.

“Many people in the beginning of the Internet weren’t aware of the value of this. If you buy a domain for the Holocaust Institute, it could become anything, but it becomes Holocaust denial.

“You have to be aware. Every great invention in our history had two sides to it. There was also a dark side, and we need to understand it. That’s basically what [my new] book says.” (JNS.org)



# Haredim: Fundamentalists or exemplars of the purpose-driven life?

**BEN HARRIS**  
**NEW YORK**

Forward columnist Jay Michaelson this week penned an article intended to rally non-Orthodox troops against the creeping fundamentalism of haredi Orthodox Jews.

Culling headlines from a series of recent and not-so-recent scandals, Michaelson argued that contemporary haredi Jewry looks less like the benign world of Tevye, and more like “The Sopranos”. And if non-Orthodox Jewry doesn’t do something about it soon, it will be demographically overwhelmed, he posited and wrote:

*Fortunately, we don’t have to fight coercion with coercion. We don’t have to compel anyone to change his or her religious beliefs. We just have to stop artificially propping up a system that otherwise would not exist.*

*For example? We can demand an end to all federal and state subsidies to yeshivas that do not prepare students for contemporary economic and civic life. We can oppose all Jewish-fundamentalist efforts to take advantage of government or Jewish communal largesse.*

*We can support our allies in Israel who are fighting for religious pluralism, for equal conscription of all Israelis, for civil marriage and for the defunding of the rabbinate.*

*And perhaps most important, we can publicly and financially support those struggling to escape from the oppression of ultra-Orthodoxy. For example, the organisation Footsteps, does wonderful work to help former haredim transition to the modern world. But it is tiny in comparison with what we need.*

*We need a giant footsteps - a major federation initiative to support those who leave and communicate to those trapped outside, that there is vibrant Jewish life beyond the ghetto wall.*

The Forward also published a response from Jonathan Rosenblum, a Yale Law School graduate and a leading haredi columnist.

*It is a community of extraordinary generosity. In my neighbourhood alone, there are 200 or so free loan societies listed in our neighbourhood directory, for everything from medicines to bridal gowns to infant pillows for the bris.*

*Virtually every major volunteer organisation in Israel was founded by haredim: Yad Sarah, which dis-*



File photo

penses medical equipment for home use; Ezer M'Tzion, which has created the world’s largest Jewish blood marrow registry; Ezra L'Marpeh, which handles over 50 000 emergency medical referrals a year.

The late Jerusalem Post columnist Sam Orbaum, himself a sometime haredi critic, once wrote: “The charity, social consciousness, good deeds, communal welfare, and human kindness [of the haredim] may be unparalleled among the communities in this country.”

In both the United States and Israel, numerous haredi-founded organisations offer summer camps, travel, and weekly activities for Jewish children suffering from cancer or other debilitating diseases.

In the wake of the major aliyah from the former Soviet Union, haredim created an entire school system in Israel, SHUVU, offering the highest level secular studies, with an enhanced Jewish curriculum, for children from Russian-speaking homes cut off from any knowledge of their Jewish heritage for seventy years. (JTA)

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**Mike Ploos**  
**Sunningdale, Johannesburg**

**Arnold Levy**  
**Johannesburg**

*Bagraim was Prof Karabus' attorney in Cape Town, working for his release from the United Arab Emirates. - Editor*

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HORWITZ’S ATTACK ON JNF SMACKS OF A POLITICAL AGENDA

Allan Horwitz’s, letter of May 24, is unfortunately ignorant of the facts surrounding the work of the Jewish people’s oldest environmental organsiation, The Jewish National Fund.

The JNF has been instrumental in helping to green the deserts of Israel for over a century. For this it has been acclaimed around the world with the likes of Nobel Prizewinner Al Gore saying that it is a model that should be pursued by other countries to better their environment.

In continuing this endeavour JNF has never, contrary to Horwitz’s claims, harmed the Bedouin citizens of Israel. A quick survey of JNF’s history shows a long history of co-operation with the Bedouin community with as much as 65 per cent of Bedouin grazing land being located in JNF forests.

An extensive number of Bedouin are also employed in a variety of capacities by the organisation, including as senior forestry management officials. This spirit of co-operation stretches to many countries around the world and even to assisting the Palestinians with fire fighting training and forestry skills.

It needs to be stated clearly that the JNF never plants trees or does any kind of agricultural work in land that does not belong to it or to the State of Israel. Further, the JNF never removes anyone from their homes and doesn’t have the power to do so under Israeli law.

The JNF does sometimes encounter a small minority of political agitators, often themselves not Bedouin, who have attacked and injured JNF workers trying to carry on their environmental activities.

These groups claim to be representing specific Bedouin families in legal cases arguing that Israeli government lands are actually Bedouin villages. Where this situation occurs, the JNF follows the decisions of the Israel courts which have time and again judged that no such reality exists.

They have based these decisions on evidence such as aerial photographs taken from pre-state Israel as well as British and Ottoman-era surveys going back as far as the mid 1800s. These show conclusively that permanent settlement has never occurred in the areas under dispute.

It is interesting to note Horwitz’s apparent lack of concern for Bedouin suffering abuse in various Arab countries as well as his organisation’s long-time association with groups found guilty of anti-Israel hate speech.

This smacks of a much broader political agenda that indeed has the destruction of Israel at its heart by targeting one of its most venerable institutions.

**Isla Feldman**  
**Executive Director,**  
**Jewish National Fund of SA**

HORWITZ AND HIS PEACENIKS ARE DELUSIONAL IN THINKING PALESTINIANS WANT PEACE

I am not ashamed when Israel repulses an attack from Hamas or any other terrorist organisation.

I am also not ashamed when Israel rightfully claims land which was promised to them in terms of the covenant.

I refer to Allan Horwitz’s letter in SAJR of May 24. Conversely, Arabs and Muslims are not ashamed when they murder innocent civilians in Boston, or butcher innocent soldiers in Britain in the name of Allah.

Mr Horwitz purports to understand the needs of both Israelis and Palestinians as he boldly states: “We support the demand that Israel cease its armed occupation and annexation of the West Bank and its siege on Gaza and cease its current denial of basic human rights to those under occupation.”

Is that so? The Palestinians seem to have no ethic or empathy toward the human race. They are also shameless when they slaughter their own in Syria, Libya, Egypt and other Muslim countries.

They think nothing of sending their own children into Israel as suicide bombers, nor did

they care about their own Fatah allies, when Hamas threw their comrades off a roof in order to take control of Gaza. The Palestinians deny themselves basic human rights.

Horwitz and his peaceniks are delusional in thinking that the Palestinians or for that matter, any Arab or Muslim wants peace.

They cannot understand that amongst themselves.It is a foreign concept to them.

In Nehemiah (9:5 - 8) it is written: “You sealed the covenant with Him to give the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Jebusite and the Girschashite- to give it to his offspring.”

There cannot be peace with a people who do not recognise Israel’s right to exist, nor who understand the concept of peace.

Perhaps a little Torah study is required by you and your peaceniks.

**Nathan Cheiman**  
**Northcliff,**  
**Johannesburg**

VUYO MBULI: A MENSCH WHO PERSONIFIED BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA

Nineteen years ago I was pleasantly surprised when the late Vuyo Mbuli first included the word “shalom” among the many languages he employed in greeting viewers of SATV2’s popular “Morning Live” programme.

When, after a while, he left “shalom” out of his greetings, I e-mailed him expressing my disappointment. The very next day he included it once again.

Vuyo was a “mench” who personified the best of South Africa, and he reinforced my belief in the future of this country - knowing that there are many decent people like him spread throughout the diverse communities of our land.

**David Abel**  
**Chairman,**  
**Support Association for Zionism**

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# Mozambique’s historic shul rededicated

SAM LEVY

The historic Maputo Synagogue was rededicated on Sunday, May 19 in a lavish ceremony attended by Mozambican government officials, a delegation of the African Jewish Congress, representatives of other faiths, members of the diplomatic corps, international donors, and many friends of the Jewish community of Mozambique.

The day’s events included the unveiling of the commemorative stone, with the text reading: “This historic synagogue of Maputo, patrimony

of Honen Dalim - the Jewish community of Mozambique - was re-inaugurated in the presence of HE the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Mozambique, Dr Maria Benvinda Delfina Levi, on May 19, 2013 (10 Sivan 5773).”

The unveiling was followed by the Hachnasat Sefer Torah ceremony, the formal return of the community’s Sefer Torah by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, amid shofar blowing and joyful songs led by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft.

This Torah scroll had originally been given to the Maputo Jewish community by the late Chief



Larry Herman, Lay Leader and Treasurer of Honen Dalim addressed congregation and guests.

Rabbi Cyril Harris in 1994, and it was fitting that his wife, Ann, officially presented the same scroll that had been returned to South Africa for safe-keeping after the Maputo Synagogue had fallen into disrepair.

Ann Harris explained the history of this scroll and of its importance to the people who congregated there for the occasion.

In the course of the ceremony, the crowd of more than 100 guests entered the beautifully restored synagogue, passing in front of the newly-installed wall of commemoration with the community’s motto, “Spread Over Us Your Shelter of Peace” in three languages.

Welcoming addresses were offered by the president of Honen Dalim, Samuel Levy and Mervyn Smith, president of the African Jewish Congress.

Andrew Davey, community member and manager of the restoration project, explained the reconstruction process and thanked the many Mozambican firms that contributed time and materials.

Remarks were offered by the Ambassador of Israel to Mozambique, Irit Savion, Alex Greenbaum of Tel Aviv and Dvora Joseph Davey of Maputo, all praising the work of the small community, not only to restore the building to physical splendor, but also to create a warm and welcoming Jewish community within its doors and in the homes of the members.

The representative of the delegation of Corem, the Council of Religions in Mozambique, Sheik Aminuddin, gave a particularly warm and inspiring speech, emphasising what the major faiths had in common, crediting Judaism for its historic contributions to the development of the other faiths and calling for dialogue and understanding across all dimensions of Mozambican society.

Dr Larry Herman, lay leader of the community, offered a final reflection, in which he recounted some of the history of the community and the building, explaining the diverse and unique nature of the community, and leading the participants in the Shehechyanu prayer of thanksgiving.

The ceremony closed with prayers for Mozambique and for the State of Israel, and with the singing of the Mozambican national anthem, followed by Hatikvah.

Earlier in the day a memorial service was held at Maputo’s Jewish Cemetery.



Ann Harris and Li Boiskin visiting graves at Honen Dalim in Maputo.

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

# Israeli artists share stories at Wits



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

Last Tuesday, I joined various Board and Jewish community members in attending a talk at Wits University on the topic “Coexistence - finding the Middle Ground” by a Jewish and a Druze artist from Israel, David Wakstein and Asad Azi.

The event, hosted by Wits Professor of Comparative Religion Moruti Ledwaba, enjoyed the fullest support of the Wits leadership and went ahead without incident. I warmly commend Professor Ledwaba and Natalie Knight for putting this event together.

Taken in the wider context of what has transpired on Wits campus this year, it sent a forthright message that the Wits administration stands firm in its stance not to boycott Israeli (or any other) academics and was a heartening demonstration of the university’s commitment to providing a forum for free, constructive debate on its premises. We look forward to participating in similar such events in the future.

**African Jewry - tuned in and on board**

Since the early 1950s, an important aspect of the Board’s work has been to assist in maintaining Jewish religious and communal activities for those living outside the main urban centres. This function has been carried out by our Country Communities Department, headed by a rabbi whose job has been

to travel the length and breadth of the country to visit Jews in the outlying areas and minister to their spiritual needs.

For more than two decades, this role has been filled with great distinction by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, whose brief now comprises not only ministering to the South African country areas, but to the smaller communities in countries affiliated to the African Jewish Congress (AJC).

Beyond such hands-on services as officiating at weddings, funerals and other life-cycle events and overseeing the maintenance of over 220 cemeteries, he plays the role of envoy for the Jewish people as a whole, and over the years has met with an impressive range of heads of state, monarchs and religious leaders.

At the recent meeting of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, we had the opportunity of engaging with members of an AJC delegation representing Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Thanks to this body, which is run through the SAJBD’s offices, the Jewish communities of the various southern African countries can play an active part in world Jewish affairs, despite their small numbers.

Since then Rabbi Silberhaft has participated in two inspiring AJC events, the first being the rededication of the original cemetery gates in Bulawayo and the second a Hachnasat Sefer Torah ceremony in Maputo, Mozambique.

It is inspiring and heart-warming to see how busy and committed these small and isolated Jewish communities manage to be, and we are proud of the part we play in enabling them to do so.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00.

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

# JNF project to grow food in South Africa



**Yossi Schreiber; Mickey Kaplan; Rivka Offenbach of KKL-JNF; Quinton Naidoo; Anold Derembwe; and Lucky Xaba of Food and Trees for Africa**

A new project called Harvest of Peace, has been launched between the Jewish National Fund, Food & Trees for Africa and the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference.

The idea is to make use of land owned by the Catholic Church to create vibrant centres of agricultural education for disadvantaged young people.

The project would be backed up by technological expertise from JNF, the JNF said in a media release.

Jewish National Fund water and agricultural experts have already visited South Africa to assess a proposed site for the project and advise on necessary inputs. Recently a reciprocal trip took place with personnel involved in the project visiting key JNF agricultural research centres in the Arava. The delegation was very impressed with the work being done in the deserts of the country.

A wide range of topics was discussed including greenhouses and netting, seeds, efficient use of water, drainage, compost, crop rotation, soil, nitrates, monitoring and biological control.

Quentin Naidoo, a delegation member, said: “For us, this trip is very inspiring. It reignites the passion to do our work and brings our enthusiasm back. I wish we could bring our farmers here to see the challenges you have overcome. We are blessed with a very fertile country, and if you can make things grow here, we can certainly do so back home.”

Father Sammy Mabusela of the Southern African Catholic Bishop’s Conference, whose church has been selected as the pilot site, said: “I am delighted to be part of such an initiative where people from all backgrounds can come together to make a difference and learn to become self-reliant by using the land productively. I am sure it will be a real blessing for South Africa”.

Yossi Schreiber, a JNF expert, said: “Helping people to feed themselves is about as worthy a project as I can imagine for JNF to support.”

## STAFF WISE SUCCESS STORIES



Name: Lesley Carson

**Company:** Habonim Dror  
**Position:** Administrator  
**Placed:** July 2012  
**Comment:** Thank you Staff Wise for helping me find a job where I’m so happy! I found your considered advice helpful and relevant and I’m so pleased we connected.



Name: Steven Miller

**Company:** Coffee Time  
**Position:** Manager  
**Placed:** July 2012  
**Comment:** I have been blessed with this position, where I have been able to contribute to the wonderful work being done by Astra Center.



Name: Monique Gadd

**Company:** Cape Town Holocaust Centre  
**Position:** Administrator  
**Placed:** August 2012  
**Comment:** Sheer professionalism – two words that aptly describe Staff Wise, this dynamic team always made me feel that they had my best interests at heart.



Name: Debbie Halfon

**Company:** CJSA  
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Dirt is a not-to-be-missed heart-touching experience

Show: Dirt (Auto & General Theatre on the Square, Sandton (011) 883-8606) Until: June 7

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

Another astonishingly fine play penned by Nick Warren and directed by Jenine Collocott, *Dirt* brings you the unadulterated pleasure of witnessing something so inestimably well crafted, it will make your heart soar. It's an almost grubby tale about humanly flawed friends and an elderly staffie named Tom, told with such empathy for its characters, and such a developed sense of reality, it will knock you sideways. If you loved Warren and Collocott's *Sunday Morning*, you'll be smitten by *Dirt*. Jerry, Sam, Wayne and Grant each faces his own complex web of skewed ideals and broken dreams with a mix of bravado, weakness and strength. They're all played by the inimitable James Cairns, who cut his teeth in stand-up comedy, and whose evolved, nuanced understanding of character, body language and persona makes it clear he's one of the best performers on stage in South Africa right now. Deftly capable of making you cringe, laugh out loud, hate and love the same character at the same time, and cry real tears, all in the space of one hour, he knows the value of telling a story with humble clarity. Whatever you do, if you're in Johannesburg and not travelling to the Grahamstown Festival where *Dirt* performs daily in the Drill Hall, don't miss this!



Photo courtesy of The Framework

James Cairns.

Jersey Boys’ drummer Stephen Shapiro is Mr Nachas Machine

ROBYN SASSEN

“Call him Mr Nachas Machine,” says Jersey Boys musical supervisor Bryan Schimmel of the show’s drummer, Stephen Shapiro, 28, who landed the job: a case of being in the right place at the right time or simply having what it takes? “I fell in love with drums when I was 16,” says Shapiro. “There was no chance for me to study it at school; I didn’t want to have regrets, so I carried on and also studied piano and theory privately.” An alumnus of King David Victory Park, Shapiro completed his B Mus at Wits and his masters in music at the State University of Nevada in Las Vegas. “Bryan taught me at Wits. After the first lecture, I asked him how I could get involved in the industry. At the time, he was musical director of *Rent* at the Alexander Theatre, and graciously allowed me access to rehearsals there.” In America, Shapiro maintained contact with Schimmel. “I knew he’d lived in the States and respected his knowledge of the ‘ropes’. When first I arrived, I was shell-shocked. It’s all ‘hard sale’ there. I’d been raised to understand shameless self-promotion as seriously uncool.” What followed was a timeline not different from those propelling the musicals themselves. In January 2012, Jersey Boys’ international production team held auditions in South Africa. Ron Melrose, the show’s music supervisor, auditioned the musicians. Three months later, Schimmel arrived in Las Vegas for rehearsals and preview performances of *Jersey Boys*. The next day, Schimmel lunched with his former student, Shapiro. On the spur of the moment, he invited him to Jersey Boys’ final dress rehearsal later the next day. The day dawned, Melrose departed for New York; Schimmel woke up to an e-mail advising that the drummer selected in January was withdrawing. That evening Shapiro attended Jersey Boys’ final dress rehearsal. At the interval Schimmel “had a comic book light bulb moment” and said to Shapiro: “Would you be keen to play this



Photo courtesy Showtime Management

**Jersey Boys drummer Stephen Shapiro, with the show’s SA musical supervisor, Bryan Schimmel.** show?” A month later, Melrose auditioned Shapiro in Las Vegas. “Shapiro is terrific,” he told Schimmel. “You’ve full clearance to hire; thanks for knowing him and putting us together.” The rest is Jersey Boys history. “I was shocked,” Shapiro grins. “Those six weeks between lunch with Bryan and my coming on board as Jersey Boys’ South African drummer, are a blur. It’s fantastic to have Jersey Boys as my benchmark. The production level is unbelievable.” “With an even temperament and no attitude, Shap brings a mix of low maintenance, high delivery, musicianship and professionalism rare in this industry,” Schimmel is ebullient. “The drummer is essential to this show. He’s in the stage wings performing, beginning to end. “Jersey Boys is the most stressful show I’ve worked on, in 28 years. It’s like a house of cards; you miss a cue and it collapses; you don’t and the effect is flawless.”

• *Jersey Boys Johannesburg season ends at Teatro, Montecasino on June 9. It’s at Artscape, Cape Town June 19 - July 14.*

Balance between solemnity, playfulness

Show: “Monty Sack (1924 - 2009) Retrospective Exhibition: Architecture and Art”, Fine Art, Design and Architecture (FADA) Gallery, University of Johannesburg, Bunting Road Campus (011) 559-1098 Until: June 20

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

As sunlight filtering through the gallery’s corner window touches, disrupts and deepens the surface of the quirky maquettes for large-scale glass sculptures, so does the exhibition come alive. Blending an impressive array of paintings, prints, sculptures and architectural work by Sack, this exhibition achieves a balance between solemnity and playfulness. The downstairs space considers aspects of Sack’s architecture. Sadly, just three working days after the show’s opening, the video displays were not functional. However, in their absence, the architecture is examined and explored in student models and historical photographs. It’s assiduous, it’s keen and it’s a true manifestation of young people encouraged to sit at the master’s proverbial feet, to learn about his work. Here is Sack, responsible for the design of the Schlesinger Building in Johannesburg’s CBD, considered the quintessentially modernist building. Here he is, the man who introduced a design nuance quoting Brazilian modernism because of the similarity in climate between Brazil and SA. This is Sack, an architectural icon, the five decades his career spanned enabled him to test design proto-

types and watch Johannesburg architecture shift from being Edwardian in style to becoming modern. Upstairs, we see a no less committed and dignified Sack, but one occasionally given to flights of conjecture, challenging his medium with a fantastic energy. The veritable herd of glass sculptures in one corner of the space evokes reflections on the sculptures produced by European surrealist Joan Miró in his later years. Utterly unprecious in their forms and the shadows and images they cast, they embody a childlike curiosity as to what will happen when disparate parts meet. More than work, or experiments for work, these pieces are mindsets, monumental in their proportion and fantastic in their melding of fragility with strength. Similarly, in his giclée prints, mixing traditional printmaking principles with computer technology, Sack plays with colour: colour juxtaposed, colour photocopied, colour impressed upon more colour. But further, this exhibition is dotted with comments about Sack from people who knew and loved him. It’s done with elegance, preventing them from becoming smarmy or forcing a digression from the work under scrutiny. When Sheila Levinson refers to Sack as “soaring magic”, in your mind’s eye, you get to understand something of a truly remarkable man. Barring areas which speak a little too loudly of student presence and margins of error, this retrospective is fitting in its earnest intentions, and it’s certainly about time.

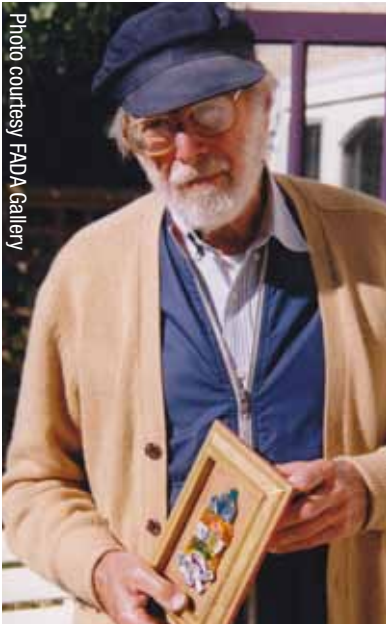


Photo courtesy FADA Gallery

The late Monty Sack with one of his works.

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# JIPSY inspires Herzlians across the school system



Back: Shani Yedidowich; Malka Solomont; Avishay Levine; Ido Lifshitz; and Dotan Franji. Front: Goldie Norris (administration); Daniel Levian; Joshua Gavrinsky (director); Dovi Knohl; and Yaniv Nachmias (Cape Town aliyah shaliach).

## JOSHUA GAVRONSKY, DIRECTOR OF JIPSY

The JIPSY and Mishlachat team have been working across the entire United Herzlia School system. JIPSY is the informal Jewish life and learning department responsible for all the informal programmes across the system. There is a fulltime bachur in each school, assisted by the Mishlachat to run the programmes. Every day pupils across the system have the opportunity to interact with and learn from, dynamic Israeli shlichim and local madrichim. The JIPSY team has devised and implemented programmes from Torah, Israel, Jewish identity, Holocaust and all aspects of character development across the 11 schools within the school system. JIPSY is involved and working with the different campuses, pupils and teachers, to create a truly unique informal and experiential Jewish education department. This structure is the first of its kind in South Africa.

# Special family time at KDVP’s Generation Sinai

## SANDRA HIRSCH

The getting together of parents and children for Generation Sinai earlier this month, was indeed a very special day for Jewish children around the world. Parents with their children gathered at King David Victory Park to learn together in an initiative started here in South Africa by Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein two years ago. It is wonderful to see how much this initiative has grown in such a short time. At King David VP Primary, it began with children and parents davening together and this was a very moving time. Afterwards they listened to Rabbi Goldstein’s inspiring words, as well seeing children all over the world who were participating in the programme. Then followed a very interesting learning session together with the children, with this year’s subject being the Shema. It ended with the children gathering on the field to collect food which had been contributed for those less fortunate. Pictured are the children standing with the food that had been collected, laid out in the shape of a Magen David.



Photo by Sandra Hirsch

# Generation Sinai: Preparing to receive the Torah in Umhlanga

## ROBERT SUSSMAN, HEAD OF JUDAIC STUDIES, UMHLANGA JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

The Generation Sinai program at Umhlanga Jewish Day School (UJDS), saw nearly a 100 per cent turnout from parents, who eagerly came to spend the morning learning with their children. This is the second year that UJDS - which offers classes from grade 000 (age 3) to grade 7, with grade 8 starting in 2014 - has participated in the annual learning and unity initiative created by the Office of the Chief Rabbi. To make the most of the parents’ morning, many of whom took off from work to be at the school, learners from grades 1 through to 7, also made short presentations on a Torah mitzvah that they had been learning about in class. Parents teaching children and children teaching parents. What a wonderful way to get ready for the holiday of Shavuot, which commemorates when Hashem gave us His Torah, and which took place only five days later.



Michelle, Daniela, and Aubrey Nathan.



Photos supplied

Rivkah, Eliana, Robert, and Chana Michla Sussman.

# Parents and children learn about the Shema at KD Sandton

## MORAH ZAHAVA

On May 10, Rosh Chodesh Sivan at the start of the school day, parents and children of all ages, from King David Sandton came together to learn about the Shema. Thousands and thousands of children and parents worldwide were united in this unique moment in time - a time of learning, a time of bonding and a time of connection. The KDS parents and children participated in this inspiring global event here at King David Sandton. We would like to thank warmly all of the parents who joined us in this special event and also those parents who were able to join the children in tefillah.



Photo by Arnoldo Mandel

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# Come on you brides, send in the photographs!

Entries are open for Jewish Report’s exciting and prestigious Bride of the Year 2013 competition. Enticing prizes await the winning bridal couple. Come on, share the glory and happiness of your great day with our readers.

- 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 timeframe 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 - a form is available on www.sajewishreport.co.za
- Send the photos to: Attention: Susan at brides@sajewishreport.co.za
- Sponsorships are still available for the competition. It carries a tremendous amount of positive exposure. If you’re interested, contact advertising@sajewishreport.co.za for more details.

Please send in your photograph with:

Bride's first and maiden names \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Name of photographer \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ (bride)

Contact telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ (groom)

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Email consent given for the printing of this photograph \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to get your photographs back? YES / NO

**Note:** No entries will be accepted unless all the fields (name, telephone number, e-mail address etc) are filled in correctly.

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# Gardens Golden Globes for 20 special couples

**IRMA CHAIT  
CAPE TOWN**

On May 24, congregants of the Gardens Shul were treated to a wonderful Academy Awards-style evening - “The Gardens Golden Globes” – featuring 20 “special guest star” couples.

The event was yet another first for the shul’s innovative Rabbi Oshy Feldman, who continues to set the bar for congregations throughout the country.

This latest of his brainchildren was to combine his “50th Friday Night Live” with a tribute to members of the congregation who had reached - and passed - their 50th golden anniversaries.

The late afternoon, pre-Shabbat build-up began with group photographs on the Albow steps, followed by a traditional Hollywood entrance by each of the 20 happily well-wed couples along the red carpet down the steps, with cameras flashing.

At the base of the steps the evening’s MC, Rabbi Feldman waited microphone in hand for a “televised” interview. The couples were asked to recall their first meeting, their views on marriage and shared recollections and comments that proved quite enlightening - some perhaps not intended for general airing!

By now the Shabbat service was beckoning and it was time to move on to the shul. The brides took their seats upstairs, while the grooms were afforded VIP seating below in the front row pews before the ark.

It was a beautiful service, with chazan, choir and Rabbi Oshy in top form.

Then it was time for the anniversary ceremonials to begin. The brides descended from their seats upstairs to join their



husbands, to the welcoming strains of the ritual choral Baruch Haba, which they had last enjoyed over 50 - and for four couples, over 60 years - previously.

But that was not all! As they stood (some hand-in-hand) the couples and congregation were touched - and amused too - when from the bimah, alternating verse-by-verse, Solly Berger (an awardee himself) and Cantor Ian Camissar sang Al Jolson’s well-loved Anniversary Song with flair and emotion.

Once the music had died down Rabbi Feldman blessed the “golden” couples with a prayer in Hebrew and English.

Rabbi Feldman had more in store. With a smile he announced his highlight surprise and amidst enthusiastic applause he presented each of the 20 couples with a specially inscribed “Golden Globe”!

What a moment it was! Smiles, laughter, and even a tear or two.

But the evening did not end there. Its culmination was the sumptuous array of smoked salmon and other eats.

It was an amazing evening, with praises ringing out for our very personable young Rabbi Oshy Feldman.

- For the record: Rabbi Feldman took over the pulpit in April 2007 at the age of 24. His first - and South Africa’s first - Friday Night Live - was in November 2009.



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Many South African Jews may be eligible for Polish citizenship based on ancestral lineage. Many areas of Greater Lithuania including Vilna, fell within the territorial borders of Poland. If you are interested in obtaining Polish citizenship, please contact me. I specialise in obtaining Polish citizenship for people with a Polish background. **Rael Cynkin CA (SA)**  
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What's On

Today, Friday (May 31)

• UZLC hosts Shirley Zar on “A Story of Two Nursery Schools - Yiddish Folk School and Sderot - Israel”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (June 2)

• The SA Jewish Museum in Cape Town is hosting Prof Cyril Karabus and the team who worked to secure his release, in a panel discussion at the Gardens Synagogue. Time: 18:00. Cost: R50 (at the door). All funds raised will go towards the legal costs of Prof Karabus’ defence. RSVP: [info@sajewishmuseum.co.za](mailto:info@sajewishmuseum.co.za) or call (021) 465-1546.

• UJW CT’s Keshet Group is hosting a workshop, “Beloved of the Soul”, accompanied by a talk by Yedid Nefesh. Venue: Old Shul at the Jewish Museum. Time: 10:00 - 13:30. Cost: R220. Contact: Shelley Levy, (021) 434-9555 (mornings only)

• Hospice Flea Boot Market held at the Checkers car park on Barry Hertzog Ave in Emmarentia, every first, and last Sunday of the month, from 08:00 until 13:00. An assortment of goods, ranging from hand-

made leather goods, toys, bric-a-brac, honey, plants, hardware, crafts, etc. Information: Madeline (011) 794-5464 or Amanda at Hospice (011) 728-1052.

• Second Innings hosts “Brian Buch and the Jewish Guild Orchestra”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

• The Jewish Genealogical Society South Africa (JGSSA) hosts Dr Ruth Naylor of the Mormon Church of Latter Day Saints, who will discuss genealogy in the light of the Mormon genealogy website “FamilySearch”. Venue: HOD Centre, Oaklands. Time: 19:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: Mo (011) 887-7764.

Tuesday (June 4)

• WIZO Women Inspired screens the film “Sarah’s Key”. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 10:00. Cost: R80. Contact: Joceline, 082-441-4375, Maureen 082-445-1515, Ilana 082-601-2519 or Leslie 083-456-3911.

• JHGC in partnership with Bet David, is screening the award-winning documentary about the rescue of

Jewish refugee children in France during the Second World War, “The Children of Chabannes”, by Lisa Gossels & Dean Wetherell. Venue: The Middleton, Bet David, Sandton. Time: 19:30. No admission charge. To book, contact Sharon (011) 783-7117 or [admin2@betdavid.org.za](mailto:admin2@betdavid.org.za).

Wednesday (June 5)

• UJW CT adult education programme hosts Adi Hartuv and Rolene Sher who will talk on “Intuitive Nourishment” Holistic healing with raw foods. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 (incl refreshments). Contact: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (June 6)

• WIZO hosts a “Lunch & Learn” shiur with Rabbi Michael Katz every Thursday at Beyachad. Time: 13:00. Contact: Joyce, 082-446-0480.

Friday (June 7)

• UZLC hosts Martin Brasg who will talk on “Behind the Scenes on How You Get International Sports on your TV”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

• JWBS Johannesburg, urgently requires secondhand clothing, kitchenware, household goods, books and bric-a-brac for its secondhand shop. Contact (011) 485-5232.

• Celebrating a bar-/batmitzvah? Why not give a donation to WIZO’s bar-/batmitzvah project in Israel? You get a beautiful certificate to give to the bar-/batmitzvah child here. Certificates are available from WIZO tel (011) 645-2548.

• Second Innings runs a series courses and activities including scrabble, bridge, discussion groups, play reading groups, women’s and men’s reading groups, symphony concert rehearsals, bowls, pilates, Yogic Pranayama, walking and aerobics, Golden Oldies Cine Club, weekly workshops (by arrangement) on “falls education for the elder adult”, and organises regular activities. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

• Benarc Gift Shop has gift presentations for all occasions, made to order. Call (011) 485-5232, JWBS. All kosher under the Beth Din. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community.

• Elise WIZO Gift Shop has an exciting range of gifts available. Contact (011) 640-2760 or call in at Genesis, bottom level of the Genesis Shopping Centre, 3 Bradfield Drive, Fairmount.

• Chabad Chai Seniors Club meets Monday to Friday every week, 09:00 to 13:00. Venue: Chabad House. Mondays: Brain exercises with occupational therapist and computers and Internet (16:15). Tuesdays: Exploring the myths and mysteries of Judaism. Ladies learning with Aviva Goldman. Wednesdays: Torah studies and computer and Internet training (16:30). Thursdays: Living with the times with Rabbi Shlomo Raitport and ladies shiur with Rebbetzen Chaya Haller. Fridays: Living Torah with Rabbi Shlomo Raitport. Distribution of take-home food. Call (011) 440-6600, e-mail [rak@chabad.org.za](mailto:rak@chabad.org.za) [www.ChabadJoburg.org/seniors](http://www.ChabadJoburg.org/seniors).

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