



Jewish Report

- July 1 2016 / 25 Sivan 5776
- Volume 20 Number 24



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Wipe away 'Spexit' - stand tall as 'Am Yisrael'



Parshat Shelach

Rabbi Ilan Raanan Yeshiva College **High School**

Brexit is an abbreviation of "British exit", which refers to the June 23 referendum by British voters to exit the European Union. The referendum roiled global markets, including currencies, causing the British pound to fall to its lowest level in decades.

Prime Minister David Cameron, who supported the UK remaining in the EU, announced he would step down.

Spexit is an abbreviation of "Spies exit", which refers to the Av 9, 2449 agitation by the Ten Spies to exit the journey to the Promised Land. The agitation roiled global leadership, causing the Nation of Israel to fall to its lowest levels in the millennia that followed.

G-d, who supported bringing the Nation of Israel to the Promised Land, intimated He would form a new nation from "Prime Minister" Moshe. Moshe intervenes and limits the damage of Spexit.

The "Spexit" of this week's Parshat Shelach doesn't simply coincide with similar media

headlines, but perhaps can be understood in light of a certain aspect of the "Brexit".

What is the meaning of "community"? Is it the collective that requires the independent free individual to give up basic aspects of his sovereignty to live within a certain framework? Or does the very framework of the collective bestow upon the individual born within that community certain rights? The answer: The community is a combination of both.

No doubt the complexities of Brexit are immense, but in a sense Brexit is the product of the clash of these two meanings of community. The centuries old Commonwealth of England bestowed upon individuals born within it certain rights.

Membership of the European Union, with all the advantages it has to offer, demands surrendering certain of these sovereign rights. To be or not to be part of the EU? Most Brits voted not to surrender their rights.

There are two words we find in our parsha that describe the notion of community. "Am", roughly translated as "nation", comes from the Hebrew root "amam" which means to "develop without outside interference" (M Clark, Etymological Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew).

"Eidah", roughly translated as "congregation", comes from the Hebrew root "Ya'ad", which

means to "arrange, set specifics" (ibid.).

It would seem that the "Am" draws its meanings from within, much like the Commonwealth, granting certain rights to those born within it. "Eidah" on the other hand is defined by external parameters, much like the Union, where membership requires conforming to certain norms.

A dramatic exchange unfolds in this week's parsha. The Ten Spies deliver their evil report describing to the Jewish "Eidah-Union" the fearsome might of the "Am-Commonwealth" that lives in the Promised Land.

Kalev, a righteous spy, in contrast to the Ten Spies, promotes the conquest of the Promised Land by addressing the Jewish People as an "Am"! The Ten Spies have the last say, and in keeping with their "Eidah" reference to the Jewish People using external frames of reference, describe themselves with the deprecating analogy to grasshoppers.

The tragic result: "The Eidah-Union raised their voices in despair and the Am-Commonwealth cried." The Eidah elects to return to Egyptian bondage and G-d threatens to destroy the Am with a greater "People of Moshe" to replace them.

Moshe heroically intervenes, significantly limiting the destructive impact of Spexit by preserving the contiguity of the Am.

In the wake of "Spexit", G-d ultimately doesn't reject the Nation of Israel but the recurring tragic day of Tishah B'Av came to be. We are an "Am", a proud Commonwealth endowed with certain Divine rights based on our Divine calling to be His moral ambassadors to the world.

Succumbing to "Eidah" type descriptions as a union, whether from modern "spies" within our nation or from governments, the media and religious groups outside, is a recipe for tragic outcomes. It would serve us well to wipe away the "Spexit" tears and stand tall in answering our calling as "Am Yisrael"!

Shabbat Times

July 1 / 25 Sivan July 2 / 26 Sivan **Parshat Shelach**

Starts	Ends	
17:10	18:01	Johannesburg
17:30	18:25	Cape Town
16:50	17:43	Durban
17:11	18:03	Bloemfontein
17:02	17:56	Port Elizabeth
16:55	17:49	East London

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Religious history made as CT Jews and Muslims pray and eat together

ANT KATZ

Members of Cape Town's Jewish and Muslim communities made history last Shabbos as some 30 Muslims performed Maghrib, their sunset prayer, inside a Wynberg Progressive shul on Friday evening - all in aid of furthering interfaith relations.

"More than ever, Jews and Muslims particularly need to talk together now," the shul's rabbi, Rabbi Greg Alexander, told Jewish Report afterwards.

"This world seems soaked with religious hatred and violence, and cries out for new direction and leadership," said Rabbi Alexander, who is also chairman of the SA Association of Progressive Rabbis

"The Progressive Movement seeks to partner with open-minded religious groups to sow the seeds of interfaith co-operation," he said.

Muslims are currently commemorating the month of Ramadan and every evening at sunset they break their day-long fast on dates, water and prayer. They then have a celebratory meal. (Ramadan this year started on June 6 and ends next Tuesday, July 5.)

This Ramadan, in a first of its kind in Cape Town, "Temple Israel invited a group of Muslims with



Dr Taj Hargay, leader of the Open Mosque in Wynberg, and his fellow-guests broke their fast on dates and tea and then said their evening Maghrib prayers in the shul on rugs.

Imam Dr Taj Hargey, leader of the Open Mosque in Wynberg, to break their fasts with us and to share our Friday night Shabbat service and dinner," said Rabbi Alexander.

The guests joined the congregation for the Friday night service and the congregation of Wynberg Shul responded in droves. More than 200 members welcomed the group of 30 Muslims along with interfaith friends and members of the media. The story was featured in Cape Town's Weekend Argus last Saturday and in Monday morning's Cape Times.

The guests then joined the Temple Israel congregants for Kabbalat Shabbat and then together broke bread and ate a Friday night

Rabbi Alexander and Dr Hargay addressed the gathering on topics such as building bridges instead of hatred and shared sources from the Qur'an and Torah that spoke about interfaith respect.

"Many people from fear or prejudice told us not to go ahead with this event," Rabbi Alexander told

Jewish Report after Shabbos.

However, he said, "we saw that coming together to share food and prayer was an appropriate response to the bitterness of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Jews and Muslims in Cape Town live together, work together and their children go to school together.

"Why should they not pray and eat together?" he asked.

The shul led Birkat Hamazon and the Muslims responded with a prayer of thankfulness.

"This (coming together of Jews

and Muslims) sends a powerful message of solidarity and mutual respect worldwide," said Hargey after the service. "Cape Town has made history."

One of the Muslim attendees, Naeem Ahmed, said he was "always interested in other religions". A colleague of his wife had invited her to the shul. "I'm not going against my religion by coming here," he told The Argus. "We need more interfaith efforts. This is how we can resolve issues, not by dropping bombs."

David Lipschitz, a member of Temple Israel, said Jews were meant to "welcome strangers" into their temples. "I'm from Cape Town and it's the first time I've prayed with Muslims," he said.

Temple Israel, says Rabbi Alexander, hopes that this is the first of many such events to come.

KASHRUT ALERT

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The kashrut division of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues advises that the cultures used in the manufacturing of Woolworths Soya Yoghurt, manufactured by Clover Milkyway, are now dairy based. "The yogurts are now considered milchik even when labelled parev. Woolworths is in the process of updating its packaging.

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 $\textbf{Design and layout} \ \textbf{Bryan Maron/Design Bandits-bryan@designbandits.co.za} \bullet \textbf{Website} \ \textbf{Anthony Katz}$ General Manager Roni Lea – roni@sajewishreport.co.za • Advertising Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520 - britt@sajewishreport.co.za • Classified sales Shereen Miller - shereen@sajewishreport.co.za Distribution manager Britt Landsman • Subscription enquiries Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-13-2652. Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairman), Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg, Herschel Jawitz, Dina Diamond.

Rabbi Berland expected to hear his fate on extradition this week

ANT KATZ

An urgent application was launched at the Johannesburg High Court last week Thursday in a bid to get bail for Rabbi Eliezer Berland, head of the Shuvu Banim Chasidic sect in Jerusalem, wanted in Israel to face sex-related charges brought against him by female congregants.

Rabbi Berland has been awaiting his fate in jail, pending extradition to Israel, since before Pesach. On June 3, Minister of Justice Michael Masutha signed the extradition order which had been issued in April - the final step required for extradition to take place.

However, before the Israeli authorities could react, Berland's new legal team filed an appeal to have the April extradition order reviewed.

This resulted in a long hearing as Justice Fayeeza Kathree-Setiloane had to first decide if there was any chance that a review could succeed, before addressing the issue of bail on special terms.

Berland will otherwise remain in detention in Johannesburg's "Sun City" prison under his fugitive status, waiting to hear if he will be granted a review, and its outcome.

Berland's new legal team includes attorneys Michael and Ellie Karp and Advocate Anton Katz SC.

In court last week, Katz argued the case that Rabbi Berland's imprisonment had been "unlawful" and that the proceedings at Berland's hearing in April were irregular.

Berland had been denied bail by Magistrate Pravina Raghunandan at the Randburg Circuit Court and, said Katz, on this basis was committed to prison which is not the correct procedure for an extradition case.

"Once he was found to be liable for extradition and that there is enough evidence against him to be prosecuted in Israel, the committal order (to prison) should have been made based on those two rulings," Katz said.

This had not been the case. "Following this, a bail application should have taken place," Katz told the judge, "but instead the committal was made only based on bail evidence and no other basis."

As had occurred at Berland's previous hearing in April, the National Prosecuting Authority brought out their big guns. Prosecutor Advocate Deon Barnard dismissed Katz's claims citing that Berland's detention had been lawfully decided upon. "Up until the committal order is made, the magistrate can entertain a bail application," he told the judge.

Legal teams for both Rabbi Berland and (alleged Israeli mobster) Shay Moslie, another Israeli extradition case pending, have told Jewish Report that there may be flaws in the South African laws governing extradition

Katz told the court last week that there was a need "to craft a remedy to deal with this; there's no such thing as a fool-proof plan, but at the end of the day this man has had his liberty taken from him unlawfully".

Berland's previous lawyer (Themba Langa) was criticised by his new defence for not understanding the whole extradition process.

But Prosecutor Barnard took the judge through the history of April's court proceedings in a bid to prove that procedures were adhered to in terms of the law.

Justice Kathree-Setiloane asked Barnard what the State would want to put in place if Berland was to be released on bail-like terms. "If a decision is made to release him, it won't be so that he's free to leave," said the judge.

Barnard asked for time to consult with the prison and present the court with an order that they "could live with".

Berland has been on the run since February 2013 and has flitted between a number of countries, evading Israel and Interpol arrest warrants for him to be brought back to Israel.

He has sought refuge in several countries, mostly in Switzerland, Morocco and Zimbabwe before arriving in South Africa in 2014. After the Hawks failed with two attempts to arrest him in South Africa, Berland fled to Holland where he was given bail awaiting the outcome of an Israeli extradition request.

But he escaped to a remote island once the order had been granted, forfeiting bail of R840 000 (at present exchange rates). He then returned to South Africa where he hid out until he was finally apprehended.

Justice Kathree-Setiloane said in court last week that a decision on Berland's release was expected early this week. Attorney Michael Karp, however, told Jewish Report on Tuesday that they had been informed on Monday that the judgment might be issued on Thursday - when Jewish Report is already on the streets.

- Catch the outcome on our website: www.sajr.co.za
- Related reads: See Surprise as Rabbi Berland seeks bail and read the BACKSTORY of almost 200 content items JR Online has published over the past three years.



Moslie's counsel believe he'll beat extradition challenge

ANT KATZ

Questions are being asked in the community about why suspected Israeli crime boss Shay Moslie has managed to get bail over the period that his extradition case is being fought, while "Rabbi on the run", Rabbi Eliezer Berland, has been in prison since April, battling to get bail.

The SA Police Services (SAPS) arrested Moslie at Montecasino in Sandton last October on an extradition warrant from Israel via Interpol. Moslie who is said to have been hiding in South Africa since 2013, is alleged to be the head of one of Israel's most powerful crime families. He is wanted in Israel on two charges of conspiracy to commit murder and three charges of murder. After failing to secure bail last year, Moslie appointed Ian Levitt in January of this year as his new legal representative. Advocate Laurance Hodes, SC, is the counsel representing him. The pair managed to secure bail for Moslie in March, pending the outcome of his extradition hearing.

Jewish Report put the question to attorney lan Levitt during an interview this week: "Why was Moslie's bail hearing textbook while Berland's was anything but?" The reason, says Levitt, is that the cases are very different.

In the first instance, says Levitt, "it was alleged by counsel for the state in court that Moslie had 'fled from Israel to avoid arrest'.

"That's nonsense," says Levitt. An Israeli police report clearly states that 'on June 19, 2013 while the investigation (into Moslie) was still covert...' Moslie had left the country. On the one hand the State suggests that Moslie 'fled' whereas in the papers they admit that he did not even know he was being investigated.

"He had not been aware of any charges against

him when he left Israel," adds Levitt, while Berland did, allegedly, flee and was very aware that he was a fugitive. These facts make Levitt upbeat about Moslie's prospects of success. He says Israel's documentation requesting Moslie's extradition is fatally flawed "on procedural grounds".

The second important difference Levitt raises is that the main charges against Moslie, namely two charges of conspiracy to commit murder and three of murder, are solely based upon the statement of one single star witness identified only as "AA" as appears from the Israeli charge sheet. In the case against Rabbi Berland, however, there are multiple complainants who would be deemed as credible witnesses.

Levitt' associate, Peter De Weerdt adds that the Israeli papers clearly indicate that "AA" - who currently is in witness protection in Israel - will "be paid 550 000 shekels to testify against Moslie.

Levitt maintains that the Israeli authorities have also offered "AA" protection from prosecution in respect of 39 other very serious criminal charges pending against him, which could result in him spending the rest of his life in jail.

"AA's" rap sheet includes multiple murders, various stabbing and shooting incidents, drug dealing charges, and multiple armed robberies. Levitt says he cannot believe that the Israeli justice system could be allowing "AA" such a free ride. This "would never happen in South Africa".

During Moslie's bail hearing in January, it was put to the court that he has support from the community; he is deeply integrated into the Sephardi religious community; his family are here and his children attend local schools.

The court duly granted him bail with strict conditions - which he has adhered to. Moslie is scheduled next to appear in court on September 26.

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World News in Brief

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Palestinian dentists arrested for carrying out pipe bomb terror attack

JERUSALEM - Five members of a Palestinian terrorist cell led by a dentist were apprehended by security forces last month, the Israeli Shin Bet security agency revealed on Monday. The terrorists - including three dentists - had carried out a pipe bomb attack in which an Israel Defence Forces (IDF) officer was seriously wounded.

Members of the IDF's Duvdevan special forces unit arrested the five terrorists in the Palestinian town of Hizme, north of Jerusalem, in the days following the May 10 attack.

The Shin Bet named Dr Samer Mahmoud al-Halabiyeh, 36, a dentist from the Palestinian town of Abu Dis, as the cell's leader. Halabiyeh reportedly implicated himself in the attack, citing "the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and harming Palestinian children" as the motive.

Shin Bet agents also arrested Halabiyeh's father, 64-year-old nurse Muhammed Halabiyeh; his brother Dawoud Alhabiya, 42, also a dentist; his cousin, Shadi Ahmed Muhsan, 32; and a third dentist identified as Daganeh Jamil Nabhan, 36.

The suspects led interrogators to an additional 56 pipe bombs they had planned to use in future attacks. The explosive devices were neutralised by military sappers. (JNS.org)

More news on our website www.sajr.co.za

Two other men come forward to sign gets amid community outrage

BRIAN JOSSELOWITZ

Two men - one in Cape Town and one in Johannesburg – finally succumbed to community pressure and came to the Beth Din to sign their gets last week after numerous reports appeared in the SA Jewish Report and on Facebook about men who had refused to sign the Jewish divorce decree - including Capetonian Anthony Sherman.

Rosh Beth Din Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag hoped that as a result of the campaign spearheaded by the Beth Din and Facebook group, Go-Getters, more get refusers would reconsider their intransigence.

Rabbi Kurtstag said the Beth Din uses cherem (most severe form of community excommunication) as a last resort. "We have to be very careful as it can affect the whole family, including the children, which is why it took so long to put Sherman in cherem. There was also a lot of consultation with his ex-wife, the agunah (woman who is 'chained' to her marriage), who finally gave us the go-ahead.

"Women who are contemplating divorce, must not think that we have all the answers to their problems. We are not a civil court. One woman was screaming at me because her former husband would not pay maintenance, which is really a matter for the civil courts.

"Not receiving a get is a form of abuse and women can get help from the Chevrah Kadisha," Rabbi Kurtstag said.

He insists that it was vitally important that women insist a get is made a part of the divorce settlement. "Without the get, according to the halacha, the woman is seen as an adulteress and cannot have a relationship with another man."

Rabbi Kurtstag said women should be more vociferous in their protests; they should get the community to

play a more active role and include the men. One way would be to demonstrate outside the get refusenik's place of business or work.

"In Israel the men are often jailed for withholding a get and some have been sitting for several years. This was not possible in South Africa but here the Beth Din can impose cherem," he said.

Israeli lawyer, Naama Safrig, who works at the Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) in Jerusalem, said get refusal was a big problem in Israel.

"CWJ is trying to use the civil law to prosecute for damages, but it doesn't always work. The Rabbinical Courts sometimes use cherem, but they have other ways, including imprisonment," she said.

The Israeli Rabbinical Courts' website showed six pictures of recalcitrant husbands who have refused to grant their former wives a get.

In England, the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (Jofa) is also fighting for women's rights. Esther Tager, a member of the Jofa UK Advisory Board and of the former Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks' "Review on Get and Agunah", said: "For those husbands, wives and children affected, get refusal is a huge problem, but the data which Batei Din have, may not reveal the true extent of the problem as it is unclear at what point the get process turns into 'get refusal' - is it a length of time or an outright refusal to co-operate?

There is more than one Beth Din in England and there is a perception they could be doing more to name and shame get refusers.

"Halachic solutions exist, but rabbinic will to implement is needed. All parties need to appreciate that there is no 'one size fits all' solution and for it to be effective, they have to fit in with national laws and the cases can take many years as the husband or the wife can frequently be unwilling to negotiate."



Dual Lithuanian-South African citizenship becomes easier

MICHAEL BELLING

South African descendants of Lithuanian Jews who left that country before 1990 now again qualify for dual Lithuanian-South African citizenship following an amendment to the law passed by the Lithuanian government last week.

According to Cape Town immigration lawyer Gary Eisenberg, the new law follows several years in which the Lithuanian authorities refused to grant dual citizenship applications on the grounds that there were no pogroms between 1918 and 1940 - when most Jews left Lithuania for South Africa. They claimed therefore that people were not forced to flee the country because of persecution and the law only made dual citizenship available to those who had fled.

"In order to qualify, it had to be proven that the ancestor fled Lithuania on the basis that exceptional circumstances existed which led to the forced departure, between 1918 and 1990, to reside permanently in another state," Eisenberg said.

"A strict approach taken by the Lithuanian Constitutional Court in 2013 [with its narrow interpretation of the word 'fled'] led to many dual citizenship applications being refused by the migration department."

"This in turn meant that South Africans had to renounce their South African citizenship to be eligible for Lithuanian citizenship by reinstatement," he said.

This is no longer the case. The amended law uses the term "left" instead of "fled".

Eisenberg added that obtaining dual Lithuanian citizenship did not endanger South African citizenship.

Under South African law, a citizen who acquires the citizenship of another country by a "voluntary and formal act" could lose

his or her South African citizenship, but this does not apply to the Lithuanian situation.

"Dual South African Lithuanian citizenship in this case does not fall into a 'voluntary and formal act', but is a restoration of rights - it is citizenship by reinstatement," Eisenberg said.

Some people hold the view that South African Jews should not apply for dual Lithuanian citizenship because of the often active role Lithuanians played in assisting the Nazis to persecute the Jews during the Second World War.

Eisenberg sees this differently. "Of course there was tremendous collaboration during the Second World War. But now Lithuania wants to do the right thing as part of the European Union and be seen to be doing so."

Today there is collaboration between Jews and non-Jews there to restore Jewish historical sites and recognise the role Jews played, for example, through the Litvak World Project.

Eisenberg encouraged eligible South Africans to apply for their dual citizenship.

"Lithuania, generally, prohibits dual nationality, but this provision is the exception to the general rule. Once Lithuanian citizenship has been reinstated to the former citizen, their immediate relatives become eligible to apply for Lithuanian citizenship by descent," he said.

Lithuania is part of the European Union making it extremely beneficial for South African passport holders to hold a Lithuanian dual citizenship.

"Citizens of the European Union are eligible for visa-free travel and have the right to live in the European Union and certain non-EU countries," Eisenberg said.

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Kirsty Sharman wins 'Start-Up Tel Aviv' competition

ANT KATZ AND VANESSA VALKIN

The Israeli Embassy's quest to find South Africa's next Mark Zuckerberg in female form ended on Tuesday evening when the winner of the best startup company run by a woman for 2016 was announced at a glamorous function in Sandton, Kirsty Sharman (pictured), founder of Internet company Webfluential, was announced the winner of "Start-Up Tel Aviv".

Sharman has won an all-expenses paid trip to Israel and Tel Aviv in particular, to see how the "Start-Up Nation" can help early stage South African technology companies.

Speaking at the event, Israel's Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk, said that while the UK was going through Brexit, Israel was experiencing record numbers of "exits".

In just the month of June in Israel, he said, there had been 38 exits - start-ups that had sold - for a total market value of \$561 million (R8,14 billion).

Sharman's Webfluential helps companies market their products and brands through "influencers", individuals with powerful and appropriate online reach. She faced some stiff competition. Other finalists included a woman whose company SMEasy helps small businesses with accounting services through a highly accessible digital platform.

One entrepreneur had started Liedjie which allows one to listen to popular Afrikaans soundtracks anytime though a smartphone

The evening's entertainer, well-known South Africa singer-songwriter Lira, apart from giving a great performance, spoke about her challenging path in the entertainment industry and how she first studied and practised accountancy before making a business of her music. Today she employs 12 people.

> "In this country, I have been one of the few women who are growing the entertainment industry in a way that is respected," she said.

Sharman is thrilled about her pending visit to Israel where she will interact with winners of the Start-Up Competition from 20 other countries. The participants will have the opportunity to meet with (early stage) "angel investors" and other innovators in the technology space.

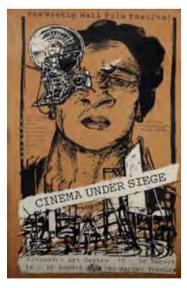
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What's in store for you this week

Welcome to another issue of the SA Jewish Report. Our cities are somewhat quieter as winter school holidays have begun and families are departing for the coastlines or even overseas-for the luckiest ones!

There is lots to read and talk about in this edition.

A very inspired project is the Israeli government's Start-Up Tel Aviv competition which, through its embassies in 20 countries, looked for the best technology start-ups founded by women. The SA winner is off to Israel to learn

from the best and brightest of the Start-Up Nation. Read about the glamourous awards event in Sandton this week (page 5).

Religious history was made last week when a group of Muslims joined the Wynberg, Cape Town congregation of Temple Israel for Friday evening services. More than 200 members welcomed the group of 30 Muslims who performed Maghrib - their sunset prayer - all in aid of furthering interfaith relation (page 2).

And finally succumbing to community pressure, two men who

had refused to sign gets, have now come forward amid the Beth Din's campaign to name and shame Jewish men who are refusing (page 4).

And from the world of Israelis on the "Most Wanted" lists, our two usual characters Rabbi Eliezer Berland and Shay Moslie continue to keep South African courts busy. They both have some hefty, Jewish legal brain power working on their extradition cases. (see page 3).

Writer and academic Shuki Friedman gives us food for thought in his piece on the Israeli public's irrational fears of a "religionisation" happening in Israel. "Fearmongering over the religious demon leads to exaggerated, hysterical descriptions that occur whenever an attempt is made to add a Jewish dimension to the Israeli public sphere, or to promote the expression of Jewish spiritual treasures," Friedman writes. (see page 11).

There is also the usual mix of noteworthy community events, plus some good books to read for the holidays (page 15) and a delicious winter recipe (page 14).

Enjoy.



Jewish Report

– Vanessa Valkin, editor

Valkin will be on leave for the next two issues till July 18.

Brexit splits UK from Europe and Labour from its party leader

CNAAN LIPHSHIZ LONDON

Only a week ago, Jeremy Corbyn seemed to have survived his biggest public relations debacle as the leader of Britain's Labour Party: the proliferation of anti-Semitic rhetoric among its members.

Yet this week, the British vote last week Thursday to leave the European Union, achieved what Corbyn's opponents failed to do in their attacks against him over anti-Semitism.

On Tuesday, 172 Labour lawmakers among the total 229 in the Parliament said they had no confidence in Corbyn, opening the door to a challenge that if co-signed by 51 lawmakers will lead to internal elections.

The previous day, the party's leadership abandoned Corbyn in a mass walkout over his perceived failure to effectively lobby against the Brexit, which a majority of voters supported in last week Thursday's referendum.

Relying on strong popular support in the Labour rank-and-file and ignoring calls to resign by former supporters who quit in protest of his leadership, Corbyn is holding on to his seat. Critics say he risks splitting and ruining a party that used to be a natural political home for British minority groups, including many from the Jewish community.

On Monday and Tuesday, 24 Labour shadow ministers - senior lawmakers who hold key portfolios within the opposition party - resigned their roles, citing Corbyn's handling of the Brexit vote. A former euro-sceptic, Corbyn led a "stay" campaign that was so lacklustre and low-key that he faced accusations within his party of deliberately sabotaging the party position.

Prime Minister David Cameron, a Conservative who campaigned vigorously for a stay vote, announced his resignation following the referendum's result, citing a need for leadership that reflects the will of the majority of British voters.

Corbyn, however, dug in his heels. After the walkout and no-confidence vote, he issued a defiant statement saying he would not betray those who voted for him by resigning.

"I was democratically elected leader of our party for a new kind of politics by 60 per cent of Labour members and supporters, and I will not betray them by resigning. Today's vote by MPs has no constitutional legitimacy," he said.

Among the Labourites bolting over the Brexit issue was Luciana Berger, a Jewish law-maker who had resisted repeated calls by Jews and non-Jews to distance herself from Corbyn over the anti-Semitism issue in the party.

"I have always served the Labour leader and our party with loyalty," Berger wrote in her resignation letter, in which she also noted Corbyn



Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn in London after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, last week Friday.

"always served with great principle" and has shown her "nothing but kindness".

Berger, the shadow minister on mental health, said she was resigning "with deep sadness" because "loyalty to the party must come first" and because "we need a Labour leader who can unite our party".

Like other senior Labour lawmakers, Berger stuck with Corbyn throughout the anti-Semitism controversy "because she wanted to make a difference in her field of political engagement," David Hirsh, a British Jewish columnist and prominent sociologist at the University of London, told JTA.

She was able to do so, added Hirsh, who is a Labour member and critic of Corbyn, because "while the anti-Semitism issue certainly hurt Corbyn, he had temporarily defused it" by setting up an internal inquiry. But the Brexit vote "has led to such a political and economic crisis in Britain that Corbyn's Labour opponents did not feel they could remain silent any longer."

With the Conservative Party in turmoil over Cameron's resignation, elections may be around the corner, possibly this year. Corbyn is widely seen as too radical to be voted into a position of power.

"Corbyn cannot win a general election, so Labour politicians no longer feel they have the luxury of waiting to see what happens. They feel they need to act now," Hirsh said.

The attempted coup against Corbyn comes amid a widening split within Labour between its moderate centre and the left-of-centre camp supporting Corbyn. A hard-core socialist that has major traction with anti-establishment voters, Corbyn used to vote left of Labour before he came to lead the party.

His rise within Labour coincided with an influx into the party of tens of thousands of his supporters - a process that many observers said also led to the proliferation of anti-Semitic speech and conspiracy theories.

Under fire by senior party members who accused him of either doing too little to curb the phenomenon or of contributing to it with his open endorsement of anti-Israel terrorists, Corbyn took a serious beating in the mainstream media. The pressure mounted after Ken Livingstone, a former mayor of London, said Adolf Hitler was a Zionist. Livingstone was suspended from the party.

Hirsh said the influx of left-of-centre supporters may mean that Corbyn is correct in asserting that he represents the majority of Labour members. But the growing gap between his supporters and a substantial part of Labour's leadership and establishment risks tearing apart Labour, splitting it into centrist and radical factions, he added.

The concern over a split in the Labour Party into a radical and moderate wing also exists for the Conservative Party, which is also divided on the Brexit issue.

If radical Conservatives prevail, it will be at the expense of Cameron's camp, which many British Jews credit with leading an essentially liberal democratic line and resolute opposition to racism. A right-of-centre victory could encourage xenophobia – a prospect the Board of Deputies of British Jews already warned about in the wake of the Brexit vote.

Corbyn himself has stressed that he rejects all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism. But like many British Jews and the community's leadership, Hirsh insists that "the Corbynite wing of the Labour Party carries anti-Semitic ways of thinking". To the extent that it is successful in mainstream politics, he added, "it will carry that with it into British political life". (JTA)



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

Many people are suffering Brexit fatigue under the deluge of commentary following the UK's vote to leave the European Union.

Economists reassure us the financial consequences for South Africa might be harsh, but are manageable, given our financial institutions' strength. The true devil, however, is the spirit of populist nationalism and hatred of the "other" growing worldwide - not just in Europe, but also in South Africa where Mandela's rainbow nation dream seems to be giving way to the opposite - racism and rage.

Europe still has sinister historical connotations in the Jewish psyche - including among South African Jews whose forebears derive mainly from Lithuania. Murky memories of pogroms, ghettos, blood libels and the Holocaust intermingle with Europe's brighter face - its cultural brilliance and achievements.

With the rise of rightwing nationalism, is Europe swinging back to its dark side?

One target of the British who voted for Brexit is the wave of Muslim immigrants and refugees from the Middle East, aside from Polish and other workers from the EU. The Twitterverse is booming with racist 140-character narratives telling people labelled as the "other" to "go back to your own country".

It is matched across the Atlantic by the bizarre phenomenon of loony US presidential hopeful Donald Trump with his "Take back America" sloganeering.

The sensitive Jewish hate-antennae developed over centuries, have begun to quiver. History shows that once loathing of the "other" takes over a society, Jew-hatred invariably becomes part of the tide.

For the European haters of today, the hijab and the kippah are not that different. The French example is indicative: The Jerusalem Post reported this month that according to a 2015 survey, over 40 per cent of French Jews are contemplating immigrating to Israel because of anti-Semitism in France.

Is there a South African parallel here? Racial antagonism is obviously writ large in our apartheid and colonial history, but it is also no secret that xenophobia is prevalent in the South Africa of today, two decades after apartheid.

Regularly during outbreaks of violence - as in Tshwane two weeks ago - foreign nationals from other African countries, or people from other tribal origins have been targeted and sometimes killed and their shops and homes looted. Deputy President Cyril Ramophosa warned after Tshwane about the dangerous rise of tribal tensions.

In political life, different ethnic groups - including Jews and other minorities - feel increasingly insecure in the face of verbal and sometimes physical attacks. Calls to "kill the whites", "decolonise" everything, and similar expressions are matched by racist remarks from whites like Penny Sparrow who calls blacks monkeys, adding to the poisonous mix.

Populist EFF leader Julius Malema's anti-white rhetoric is chilling. One of the cries of protesters against the ANC's mayoral candidates list in Tshwane was that they didn't want a Zulu mayor - the ANC candidate, Thoko Didiza, is Zulu.

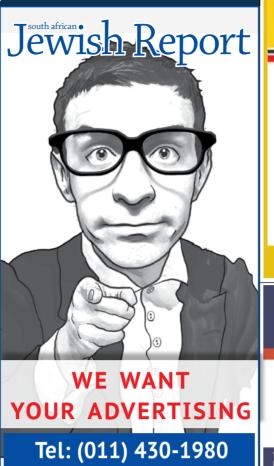
Who will stop South Africa exploding into the racial and ethnic war Mandela's generation tried so hard to avoid?

Leadership determines much of the course of history. The vacuum of leadership in South Africa cannot last, but President Jacob Zuma is not the man to lead the way. Contrast his behavior with that of British Prime Minister David Cameron who resigned immediately after the Brexit vote, saying the country needed "fresh leadership".

Zuma, despite the High Court ruling that he must face nearly 800 counts of corruption, and the Constitutional Court's finding that he violated the Constitution, simply carries on, lacking credibility or vision aside from seeking power and personal gain.

South Africa - the "miracle nation" - has bucked the trend before and defied negative expectations. Brexit is a victory of demagoguery, not democracy. Let's hope we can defy that option

• Read Geoff Sifrin's regular columns on his blog sifrintakingissue. wordpress.com





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Granny Smith apples R9,99 1.5 kg

English cucumbers R6,99 each

Checked Lettuce R14,99 per packet



Adi Altschuler inspires WIZO's campaign launch

OWN CORRESPONDENT

A capacity crowd packed the ENS Auditorium for the launch of the WIZO 2016/2017 Biennial campaign last week Wednesday night.

At the forefront of the launch was 29-year-old Israeli social entrepreneur, educator and activist, Adi Altschuler, who was voted in 2014 one of Time magazine's six future world leaders.

Today Altschuler heads up Google's Economic Platform in Israel and was formerly head of Google Education.

She spoke about the two prominent initiatives which she established in Israel, namely Krembo Wings, the first and only Israeli youth movement for special needs children which she set up at the age of 16. The second is Memories@Home, a project in which young people invite Holocaust survivors into their homes on Holocaust Remembrance Day and hold

discussions on the significance of keeping the Holocaust alive.

Her presentation was extremely well-received by the huge audience, captivated by her energy, her remarkable achievements and her passion for changing and improving lives. There are today at least 5 000 young Israelis who are part of her Krembo Wings movement.

As an extraordinary agent for change, Altschuler's talk reflected the embodiment of WIZO whose focus is to change and improve the lives of the vulnerable and less fortunate through a range of initiatives.

WIZO SA supports day-care centres, schools, shelters for abused women, foster homes, technical training colleges and after-school facilities in Israel

Helen Maisels, vice-president of WIZO SA, talked about WIZO's many programmes in Israel and their high standards of excellence and care

Expanding on WIZO's role and Altschuler's message, she said: "WIZO, through the efforts of its membership, seeks to make a positive change to the lives of the less fortunate. No one who heard you tonight, Adi, would be in any doubt that you are an extraordinary agent for change through your energy and initiatives. You have transformed the lives of thousands of young people in Israel. We salute you and we acknowledge that deep-seated sense of compassion that has driven you to do so much at such a young age."

Maisels spoke about her family's long involvement with WIZO - her grandmothers and her late mother Muriel who was an honorary life president of WIZO and her sister in Oxford who chairs WIZO there.

"This is a WIZO family and we are proud of it - because this is what Jews do - they help those

less fortunate than themselves."

But she stressed that she was not alone and that "there are many, many WIZO women who define their charitable work across the same generations".

"WIZO is a non-party political NGO with observer status at the United Nations. It is headquartered in Israel but operates throughout the Diaspora in over 50 countries.

"It promotes the empowerment of women and the pumping heart of its rank and file believe in equality for women in all spheres of life. Equally, its membership is marked by its inclusiveness and a shared Jewish spirit.

"In each of the countries where WIZO operates, the national federation supports a particular WIZO project in Israel. Apart from the obvious monetary benefits, this structure offers a large local and international network for WIZO members."

News

(((Jew))) - secret way anti-Semites have worked unnoticed

ANT KATZ

Have you received a text, e-mail, tweet or other media message in which the sender puts his or her name between three brackets, like (((name)))? If not, you may soon do because millions of Jews are embracing a previously secret practice of bracketing their own names in solidarity with their kin who were victims of a recently uncovered plot by Jew-haters of branding Jews with the untraceable three brackets around their surnames.

This bizarre episode came to light after Jonathan Weisman, deputy Washington editor of the New York Times, became the first known victim of this two-year-old, secret anti-Semitic venture by a group of Trump supporters.

This led two journalists to investigate and, earlier this month they published an exposé on news site Mic. com of Jew-haters who have been "hiding in plain sight".

Weisman was cyber-swiped on the first day by over 100 anti-Semitic trolls after he tweeted something Trump supporters didn't like. They told him in no uncertain terms what they felt about Jews.

This campaign may be akin to the

infamous yellow star the Nazis made Jews wear, except now Jews branded as targets for cyber-attacks don't even know they wear the badge - and maybe never will.

Neo-Nazis and other anti-Semites are working under the radar, building a network of perpetrators and victims and doing it so well that neither attacker nor attacked can be rooted out.

It's all about these brackets. After the exposé of branding Jews with untraceable brackets, more and more Jews have voluntarily branded themselves. Just as the French who last year carried banners proclaiming "Je suis Juif" (I am Jewish) - so have Jews over the past few weeks jumped in and bracketed themselves - cyberbranded themselves - proclaiming: "I am a Jew... and proud of it!"

Anti-Semites began using the brackets encasing Jewish surnames to identify and target Jews for harassment on blogs and social media.

Weisman's harassment began on May 26, after he tweeted an article on Trump titled "This Is How Fascism Comes to America". One reply began: "Hello (((Weisman))),"... The cat was out of the bag.

Weisman asked his harasser, @CyberTrump, to explain the symbol. "It's a dog whistle, fool," the user



responded. "Belling the cat for my fellow goyim."

By using the brackets, @Cyber-Trump had alerted an army of trolls. The attacks that followed were unremitting. "The anti-Semitic hate, much of it from self-identified Trump supporters, hasn't stopped since," Weisman later wrote.

Among the revelations in the investigative piece, written by Cooper Fleishman and Anthony Smith, were:

• Brackets being used for this purpose started with a hard-core, right-wing podcast called "The Daily Shoah" in 2014:

- The symbol is used to mock and put a target on all Jews; and
- The symbol is not easily noticeable, nor searchable. Search engines strip punctuation from search requests.

Among the trash Weisman had to endure was a tweet with a photo of the gates of Auschwitz with the "Arbeit Macht Frei" slogan replaced with "Machen Amerika Great" - a clumsy translation of Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again".

The Jew-hating trolls have "hidden in plain sight" for two years, say Fleishman and Smith in their exposé, due to difficulty, or impossibility, for ordinary users to search for the ((())) symbol.

Search engines like Twitter, Google, etc strip out all brackets. "Twitter needs better tools to curb hate speech," say Fleishman and Smith.

It seems the neo-Nazis discovered a brilliant loophole - a code that's difficult to filter, whose meaning incites waves of hate before the target realises what's happening.

Jewish writers can report those tweets all they want, but the damage ((())) sets into motion may only be beginning.

• Read more on <u>www.sajr.co.za</u>

Swastika found carved in Stamford Hill pavement

LONDON - Police have been alerted after a swastika was found carved into a pavement in Stamford Hill.

Shomrim, the Jewish neighbourhood watch group, contacted police after the Nazi symbol was discovered close to a synagogue. Witnesses have been urged to call the police with information.

Over the past week, a spate of swastikas printed on posters have appeared in a children's playground in Stamford Hill.

Shomrim said it was "the first co-ordinated and repetitive act of anti-Semitism the area has ever seen".

Shulem Stern, spokesman for the group, said: "There is a sense of anxiety and fear among parents...Normally it is isolated incidents, but this is no longer isolated. It is really unpleasant."

It is not known whether the playground swastikas and this latest incident are connected. - Jewish Chronicle, London

MP calls for apology for rejecting Jewish refugees in 1939

OTTAWA - An Alberta opposition MP is calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to formally apologise on behalf of the government of Canada for turning away Jewish refugees on board the ocean liner St Louis in 1939.

"This was a blight on Canada... one of the

worst incidents in Canadian history," said Deepak Obhrai, Conservative MP for Calgary

The government of Canada has formally apologised for a number of "dark chapters" in Canadian history, including the Chinese head tax, the residential schools scandal, and the treatment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War.

"We must not forget another terrible incident, in 1939, when Canada refused to accept 907 Jewish refugees on board the German transatlantic liner St Louis, who sought safe haven in Canada.

"As a result, the ship was forced to return to Europe, where 254 of its passengers later died in Nazi concentration camps," Obhrai

"An apology by the government of Canada to the survivors, relatives and the Jewish community would serve as an acknowledgment of Canada's harsh treatment of these refugees. It would enable us to reflect on, and learn from this past injustice and strengthen our resolve to be an inclusive nation that protects refugees fleeing persecution," Obhrai added.

Obhrai served as parliamentary secretary to the minister of foreign affairs and for international human rights in Stephen Harper's government. - Canadian Jewish News

Changes are proposed to improve antidiscrimination act

SYDNEY - A coalition of community leaders is coming together to push for changes to Section 20D of the New South Wales AntiDiscrimination Act.

NSW Attorney-General Gabrielle Upton said last year that the Act is "not work-

ing" and "must be changed". She told the community that she would in-

troduce legislation into Parliament by June this year, but The AJN understands that, unless there is vocal support from the broader NSW community, many parliamentarians will not back the changes. The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

(JBOD) has taken on the challenge because, according to its CEO Vic Alhadeff, this is a matter that impacts a vast number of communities in NSW.

"The law as it stands does not work and the time to act is now, before someone is incited to commit a violent act against an ethnic community," Alhadeff told The AJN.

"We should all be concerned that currently in NSW there are no effective protections to stop the promotion of violence against someone because of their race."

He added: "We are currently building a coalition comprising a broad range of communities to support the need for real change in the law. While we are concerned about the delay in reforming the law, we are confident that the NSW government will ultimately support this important change."

The AJN understands that several politicians are concerned with making changes to the Act because it is seen by many as a free speech issue.

The AJN also understands that if JBOD and other community groups approach Upton as a group, she is likely to back the proposal. - Australian Jewish News



Non-profit raises \$260 000 for arts education programmes

LOS ANGELES - Nonprofit arts organisation artworxLA's 24th annual gala at the Taglyan Cultural Complex honoured Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl; Hello Giggles CEO Sophia Rivka Rossi; and architect and artworxLA board member Grant Kirkpatrick.

The gala raised more than \$260 000 to support artworxLA programmes, according to the organisation's website.

Attendees included Cynthia Campoy Brophy, founder and executive director of artworxLA.

Founded in 1992, artworxLA serves 650 students annually at 26 alternative high school sites. The organisation, which aims to combat the epidemic of high school dropouts by engaging students with the arts, previously partnered with the Skirball Cultural Centre on the exhibition "Visions and Values: Jewish Life from Antiquity to America". - Jewish Journal, Los Angeles

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SPACES ARE LIMITED





Hatzolah ambulances outshine City medical services



MICHAEL BELLING

Hatzolah Medical Rescue has been among the Johannesburg Jewish community's crown jewels for the past 18 years.

Hatzolah - which means rescue in Hebrew - has a proud record of rapid response times, usually only a few minutes after receiving a call. With five ambulances in its fleet, it can cope with several calls at once.

The SA Jewish Report has learnt that on one Friday morning last month, all five ambulances were out on emergency calls at the same time. According to Hatzolah General Manager Darren Sevitz, this was not the only time this had been done.

Sevitz told Jewish Report that the organisation had a fulltime professional team, but "if necessary we extend it to the volunteer base during the day" - depending on the demand for services. At night, we only use volunteers," he said.

While not all five ambulances were always operational - some might be undergoing service - "we send out as many ambulances as required", he said.

"The number of calls varies, but on average there are seven to eight calls a day, but this can be above 10 calls. There are days when there are successive calls."

He added that Hatzolah also uses a number of cars with advanced life support paramedics, who accompany the ambulances to calls.

Launched in South Africa in 1998 to assist existing emergency medical services in the area, which are under enormous strain, the organisation is staffed by a group of Torah-observant, Jewish volunteers and is a free service to all Jewish people within its operating areas, covering large parts of the northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

The difficulties faced by the municipal services were highlighted recently in a letter to the Jewish Report from Gauteng provincial legislature member Jack Bloom, the shadow MEC for health.

He was outraged that a slow response time by a Johannesburg emergency ambulance reportedly led to the death of a Klipspruit West resident after the man's condition deteriorated following a three-day power failure that cut off his oxygen machine.

The ambulance arrived over four hours after being called. The patient had died by the time a friend took him to hospital, before the ambulance arrived.

"This highlights once again the very poor ambulance service by the Johannesburg City Council which repeatedly boasts about providing a world-class response time," Bloom wrote.

"The Council claims that more than 80 per cent of Priority 1 calls are responded to within 15 minutes. I have challenged this claim in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature as I receive many complaints about slow ambulance response times."

Bloom contrasted the Hatzolah responses to this.

"This is what can be done if you had an efficient service," he told the SA Jewish Report, referring to Hatzolah.

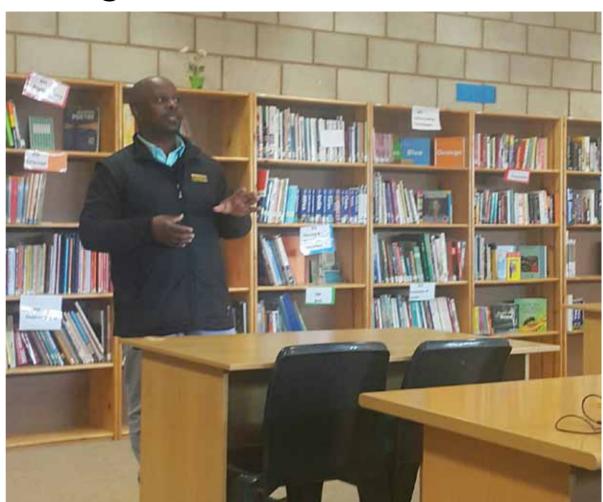
"The problem with Johannesburg Emergency Services is that at any one time up to half the ambulances would be out of action, under repair, because they are driven so badly.

"I get the figures at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature. Instead of fixing the ambulances, they fix the figures," he said.

"People know this and that's why the private services are needed, such as Netcare 911, ER 24 and Hatzolah."

Hatzolah itself believes that every moment that passes in a medical emergency could be the difference between life and death and tries to keep its response times as short as possible.

Afrika Tikkun aims to address a ticking time bomb



Xolani Sampies at Arekopaneng Centre in Orange Farm.

MARGOT COHEN

South Africa's high youth unemployment rate is a ticking time bomb which Marc Lubner, CEO of Afrika Tikkun, believes can be averted through the introduction of a well-structured approach - the Afrika Tikkun Cradle to Career programme.

Billions are being spent by both corporates and private individuals to find solutions, he says. "Yet we are not creating enough jobs to employ young school leavers". Lubner added that there are 150 000 nonprofit organisations whose aims are essentially the same.

"Our role at Afrika Tikkun is to infuse support and evolve competency so as to uplift our children. Our model seeks to address what is required for a child to be productive."

His ideas were showcased at the Arekopaneng Centre in Orange Farm south of Johannesburg last week as part of Youth Day celebrations. The Cradle to Career model offers a holistic set of educational skills development, and health and social services designed to propel young people toward opportunities that enable them to access the economy.

It starts with early childhood development programmes for two- to six-year-olds through pre-school facilities that cater for their educational and general cognitive and skills development. This programme also works with families where parents are involved in their child's development. According to Lubner: "If there is no social infrastructure, children are open to abuse."

He acknowledges that many township schools are of poor quality, but in the meantime, pending when government implements measures to improve the quality of education in those schools, Afrika Tikkun will continue to build after-school youth centres where children are provided with programmes that seek to support their education, leadership and life skills, career and sports and recreational development.

These centres, which also seek to ensure the nutrition and food security of targeted beneficiaries, operate on weekends too.

Lubner believes Afrika Tikkun has created a platform to make South Africa a different place. Government, he says, "has come to the party" and is the biggest stakeholder.

Afrika Tikkun's head of development and marketing, Onyi Nwaneri, says the focus is on the urgent need for poverty alleviation and economic empowerment of young people. Career development and design must match the jobs that are available and being sought by the learners, she says.

To this end, Afrika Tikkun develops work readiness skills and places young adults in work opportunities. This means there is a full life cycle intervention with real impact.

The model, she adds, is responsive to the particular set of circumstances young people in the township face. "Our integrated approach constantly questions whether what Afrika Tikkun does is aimed at achieving the goal of economic freedom for young people."

Errol Pillay, CEO of Afrika Tikkun Services, a sister company which focuses on specific skills development and placement, outlined how sustainable solutions work around transformation.

Although 40 per cent of youth are unemployed, "our youth remains our biggest asset. South Africa and Africa's biggest economic advantage is our young population who if properly skilled and well positioned could be a great economic leverage."

By offering appropriate training skills, more than 2 000 young people have already been skilled through this process and over 40 per cent of them have been placed in various employment/self-employment opportunities.

Vanessa Mentor, a subject matter expert at the early childhood centre - one of five run by Tikkun Afrika in South Africa, stressed the importance of investing in the development of children at the crucial ages of birth to six years. School readiness is an important feature of Afrika Tikkun's Cradle to Career model.

Xolani Sampies (pictured) who implements the child and youth development programme targeted at school-going children aged seven to 18 years at Arekopaneng, described how children in this age group use the facilities after school to get support programmes and extra lessons that aid their development.

A very interesting aspect of Afrika Tikkun's programmes is the focus on the child/youth in the context of family. They therefore run programmes that focus on family empowerment especially in the context of gender and disabilit-related issues.

There are currently five Afrika Tikkun Centres of Excellence in Diepsloot, Alexandra, Braampark, Orange Farm and Mfuleni in the Eastern Cape.

In 2015 Afrika Tikkun's services reached over 20 000 direct beneficiaries and 100 000 indirect beneficiaries. Afrika Tikkun currently employs around 560 permanent staff.

'Religionisation' of Israel troubling, but fears about it are hysterical

SHUKI FRIEDMAN **JERUSALEM**

Religionisation! Religionisation! To read the newspaper headlines in Israel, to view its documentary films and attend its expert panels with academics, a stranger might think that upon landing at Ben-Gurion Airport, he or she will have arrived at nothing less than a Hebrew-speaking version of

According to those who fear for Israel's Jewish and democratic future, religionisation ("ha'datah" in Hebrew) is everywhere.

Within Israel's educational system, right-wing and religious ministers are infusing class curricula with religious content. The justice system in the country increasingly includes judges and other senior level officials who are religious, and are threatening, so it appears, to implement "Hebrew" law.

Israel's communications sector is suddenly being overrun by men wearing skull caps, who are bringing their worldviews and values from home to the workplace. The chief of police is religious as well. And at what point will the people's army transform into G-d's army?

In such an atmosphere, the use of any Jewish content in official government statements; any attempt by a religious person to stand up for her rights; the celebration of any Jewish holiday at any secular school anywhere, and every mention of G-d within the context of the Israel Defence Forces is more proof that religion is taking over our lives - that we are in the throes of a terrible process of religionisation.

The reality, however, is clearly different from this perception. Tel Aviv is not Tehran. Neither is it Jerusalem. The IDF is fighting for the country and its people, not G-d. Israel's educational system is not rediscovering religion en masse. And while the Israeli public is most certainly changing, it's actually doing so in the direction of secularisation.

The status quo in the country between religion and state is long since dead. Commercial and leisure activities during the Sabbath are more widespread today than in the past and homosexual couples are receiving official recognition. All this in spite of the fact that for 30 years there has existed an ultra-religious veto, overtly or covertly, within the government.

Israel is a Jewish and democratic state. I, as well as many citizens, religious and secular, believe that these two characteristics are critical to the country's existence. Just as Israel's Jewish image and identity must be cultivated, so must its democratic character and liberal and humanistic values. And no, there is no contradiction between Jewish and democratic.

The exact balance between these values is not gospel. Neither is it the exclusive knowledge of the religious or secular. Even the Supreme Court, which has occasionally had to rule on these issues, has often done so mechanically.

How then can we determine the location of the golden mean? Only through public discussion that is serious and open to all. Only by listening to one another and be-



Shuki Friedman

ing willing to understand the value of creating a synthesis between these two values, and acknowledging the need to sometimes compromise. Only then will it be possible for the unique and valuable combination - a Jewish and democratic state - to thrive.

Nevertheless, critics of religionisation talk about it as if it is a demon uniquely threatening Israel's culture and society. This is the easy way out for politicians, activists, members of

the media and the academy. When there is a common

enemy that is as threatening as the religious demon it is much easier to close ranks, hiding together behind the issue.

Yet demonising religion comes with a price. And the price is high. The price is the suppression of all public debate on this and related issues. The price is the stifling of every serious attempt to address in an open and comprehensive manner the topic of religion and state, and the relationship between Judaism and democracy.

Fear-mongering over the religious demon leads to exaggerated, hysterical descriptions that occur whenever an attempt is made to add a Jewish dimension to the Israeli public sphere, or to promote the expression of Jewish spiritual treasures not only inside of synagogues but within Israeli life itself.

The hysteria over this issue is dragging us straight to the bottom. Instead of dialogue, we are being subjected to a cacophony of screaming from all sides.

This demon must be put back in the closet, which should then be buried deep in the ground. In place of this demon, the public sphere will be filled with serious and meaningful dialogue on the Jewish and democratic values of Israel.

• Shuki Friedman is the director of the Israel Democracy Institute's Centre for Religion, Nation and State and a law professor at Peres Academic Center.

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World News in Brief

Israel's Ben-Gurion University receives historic \$400 million donation

BEERSHEBA - Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) has received a \$400 million donation, the largest donation ever made to any Israeli educational institution. The donation comes from the estate of the late Dr Howard and Lottie Marcus of San Diego.

"The Marcuses first encountered BGU in 1997 and were captivated by its research, primarily in the fields of water, desalination, and desert studies. They supported research in those fields, including a laboratory and student scholarships.

"They believed that water solutions are the key to achieving peace in the Middle East. Shortly thereafter, they made the decision to leave the majority of their fortune to the university," said a statement by American Associates, BGU, the Israeli university's US-based fundraising arm.

The Marcuses fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s and lost most of their family members in the Holocaust. They immigrated to the US, where Howard Marcus worked as a dentist and where they amassed their fortune through investments. The Marcuses met Warren Buffett in his early days and joined his investment partnership. Howard Marcus died in 2014 at age 104, while Lottie Marcus died last December at age 99. (JNS.ORG)













Awarded to either a Jewish or non-Jewish person who has contributed substantially to the betterment of the lives of the people of South Africa. Members of the Board and Staff of the SA Jewish Report are not eligible for nomination.

Dr Yitzchak Yifat visits Yeshiva College campus

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Yeshiva College recently had the privilege of welcoming Dr Yitzchak Yifat to its campus. Dr Yifat is one of the three Israeli paratroopers photographed in the iconic image of the paratroopers against the Kotel after its recapture during the Six Day War. Dr Yifat was the paratrooper in the middle of the photograph.

Joseph Beer, principal of the primary school, is pictured with Dr Yifat and some of the school's learners.



TA Primary sports day full of fun and many achievements



OWN CORRESPONDENT

The annual Torah Academy Primary School sports day was held recently. Each child participated in a full track and field programme and scored points for his or her house.

The field events included javelin, shot put, sling throw, long jump, mini-hurdles, hoop throw, as well as the following track events: 800m, 400m (older grades), sprints and shuttle or ordinary relays. Sports co-ordinators were Nikki Sono, Tim Moyo, Brenda Roquette and Muzi Mazila.

Mitzvah was the winning house.

Pictured are the senior and junior Victrix Ludorum winners, Jordan de Villiers and Saige Woolf.

Rosabelle Klein tots get transported away

CARON LEVY, PRINCIPAL

The theme at Rosabelle Klein Hebrew Nursery School in Johannesburg this week has been transport - how we get to the places we want to go

The kids have drawn pictures of racing cars, unicycles, trains and buses and have learnt how each of these vehicles are

made and how they work. The school was fortunate that one of the parents who is a keen biker, brought his own motorbike to school. The tots had oodles of fun and were intrigued to see how a real motorbike works.

Pictured are some of the children with Dad Adam Thal and granddad Barry Thal.



More news on our website www.sajr.co.za

Play is fundamental to a child's development

LESLEY BLOCH

During free play at Sydenham Hebrew Pre-Primary School no external goals are set by adults; children choose what they want to do and how they want to do it.

There is much discussion about play in pre-schools today. Some countries emphasise academics, Scandinavian countries focus on play.

When children play, they express their feelings and they are engaging in a complex process that affects all aspects of their development. When play is fun and child-directed, children are motivated to engage in opportunities to learn.

Learning while they play are Alexa Riback; Ricky Cohen; Liat Starkowitz; and Tayla Goldberg.



Young Aaron Friedlein scoops three karate golds



NIRVANA ROGERS

Aaron Friedlein, a grade 6 learner from King David Victory Park Primary, has won three gold medals at the South African BKI - KWF (Budo Karate International - Karatenomichi World Federation) national championships.

The action-packed event took place at the Portugese Hall in June. Friedlein was there representing Dorfman Karate.

Aaron has also been placed in the Protea team where he will represent South Africa in the World Karate Championship in India next year.

Sandton Sinai Schools' bingo evening a huge success

AMY JAFFE

Sandton Sinai Schools held a highly successful bingo evening on June 21 at the Chabad of Strathaven Jewish Life Centre as their annual fundraiser.

The event attracted over 250 people who all enjoyed an evening of fun, unbelievable prizes, delicious food and great company.

There was an incredible atmosphere of unity between the parents and friends of the schools. The large turnout is testament to the fantastic growth the schools have experienced over the last two years.

The grade two class parents seemed to have the most luck, with three of the big games being won by parents of that class.



Talia Kruger with Jaye and Justin Jacks and Ari Kruger.

Guidelines for letters

The letters page is intended to provide an opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views

place of residence, and daytime phone number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report. Letters may be edited or shortened.

The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

RABBI MIRVIS SHOULD CLARIFY PHILOSOPHY BEHIND HIS HOMOPHOBIA STANCE

"Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis condemns Orlando shooting", in last week's Jewish Report, in which the Commonwealth Chief Rabbi decries "the scourge of homophobia... even in our own communities", is very welcome.

However, it would have been nice if the article had also reported the philosophy behind - and the timing of - his stance. Without this, a whole slew of important questions is raised and remains unanswered.

For example, how does the Rabbi justify his jettisoning of Leviticus and Hashem's command there that persons who perform homosexual acts "shall surely be put to death" because He finds that an "abomination"?

The Chief Rabbi's recommendation that "we must take a step beyond condemnation and open our hearts and synagogues so that no Jew feels persecuted or excluded from our communities" completely contradicts this - capital punishment has to be one of the final forms of exclusion.

Or does the Rabbi's definition of "Jew" as such exclude gays?

Michael Levy Johannesburg

HOLOCAUST: WHY JEWS WERE SLAUGHTERED PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE

There is a belief that during the Holocaust the Jews were led like sheep to the slaughter. This is a belief which some survivors find to be offensive. A slaughter like this was unprecedented and the victims had no way of knowing it would unfold.

The Nazis came to power in 1933 and only began the killings in the 1940s. During the '30s German Jewry was subjected to massive persecution largely designed to force them to emigrate. In fact, it was SS policy during much of this time to encourage the Jewish population to make aliyah, even if they later oversaw the Holocaust.

It was only in 1942 that the "Final Solution" became official policy, although the killings had already begun.

So as not to horrify the world and even segments of the German populace, the Holocaust was kept secret. This was also done to prevent the Jews from resisting and making the job of the killers more difficult to achieve. Code words were employed to disguise these atrocities.

The impression was created that the Jews were being resettled in the east and being put to work. In some cases they were made to write back home indicating that they were okay.

The death camps were positioned in remote locations and the slogan "Work Makes You Free" was placed over the entrances. The victims were given the impression that the gas chambers were in fact showers.

It was only late in 1943 that the Allies became aware of Auschwitz and knowledge of the mass murders was not yet known. This information began to leak out towards the end of the war.

Letters of up to 400 words get preference. Provide your full name,

While Hitler believed in the survival of the strongest and crushed any resistance with overwhelming brutality, there were situations where our people fought back.

Uprisings in the death camps of Treblinka, Sobibor and even Auschwitz took place. The Warsaw Uprising shocked the Nazis. Many Jews also fought with the Partisans and remained a thorn in the side of the Germans.

Spiritually, people repeatedly risked their lives by keeping the mitzvot and Chasidim were known to defy the Nazis by dancing in the concentration camps.

Finally, in any army, the officer in charge might scream at the troops, ordering them to drop and crawl through the mud. Although they are strong and fit, they do so without hesitating even though the commander is not allowed to harm them.

Yet we somehow expect civilians who were often starved and manhandled to disobey an armed SS officer who would beat or kill them if they refused.

Martin Zagnoev Sunningdale Ridge, Johannesburg

ABBAS MEETING: ZUMA'S 'BETTER UNDERSTANDING' OF MIDEAST PROBLEMS A FANTASY

Ant Katz's report on the Tuynhuys talks between President Jacob Zuma and his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas, was thought provoking in the sense that these meetings will always be ineffectual for a number of reasons.

Firstly, both Abbas and Zuma are reputedly corrupt and, as yet, neither Zuma nor anyone from his government has condemned the recent terrorist killings in Tel Aviv.

Tim Knight, a global journalist and Emmy award-winning writer, has this to say about Zuma: "Zuma ranks high up there in the lengthy, ignoble pantheon of Africa's notoriously corrupt and autocratic 'Big Men'"

To bolster his accusation, he adds: "You want evidence? Check the Internet and find some 4 000 references under the heading "Charges against Jacob Zuma".

Secondly, it is difficult to perceive any trade between the two, as the Palestinian Authority exports little or nothing (other than terrorism).

Thirdly, neither Zuma, nor (former Deputy Minister) Aziz Pahad have any idea of the underlying difficulties afflicting potential dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. In

any event, because South Africa hosted and indeed feted Hamas on several occasions, it is unlikely that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (or any Israeli official), would entertain a discussion with any envoys from South Africa.

The "better understanding of the Israel-Palestinian situation" that Zuma claims he gained, is a fantasy of the mind.

In addition, the French initiative, for some unfathomable reason, excluded Israel and the Palestinians. Nor did the British, Germans, Japanese or Russians send their foreign ministers to France to attend. So much for the global inclination to resolve the impasse between Israel and the Palestinians

South Africa, typically, sent the quintessential ignoramus (Minister of International Relations and Co-operation) Maite Nkoana-Mashabane to France as a representative.

Optimism, or just a free ride to France, is what our govnment ministers cherish. You decide.

Nathan Cheiman Northcliff, Johannesburg

Austrian Arbitration Fund seeking family of Madeline Lewis

Madeline Lewis (February 28, 1925 - February 11,2005) and with a last known address in Sea Point, "has been awarded compensation from the General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism of the Republic of Austria. The award obviously came too late for her to benefit from it and the Arbitration Panel for in rem Restitution General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism, 1017 Parliament, e-mail: a.eisenberg@nationalfonds.org, tel: 0043 1 40812 630, is now looking for any heirs".

Lewis arrived in Bulawayo (in now Zimbabwe) as a refugee from Nazi-ruled Austria.

Annette Eisenberg, historian at the Arbitration Panel, writes that Lewis' husband died in 1990 "but she was formerly married and divorced from a Mr Kaplan. Her last known address was 104 Curzon Place, 229 Beach Road, Sea Point, Cape Town."

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The Sandton Shul Mikvah will be closed from 4th July 2016 until October.

Should you have any queries, please contact Lynda Romain on 083 266 8149



Mouth-watering roasted chicken with fresh pineapple

RONNIE FEIN

I make chicken so often that my kids once told me we were all going to grow feathers and start clucking. But they never complained that it was "the same old chicken" because it never was. There are few foods as versatile as this worthy bird, so it was always easy for me to prepare it in a multitude of ways.

Over the years I have learned that chicken dinner never has to be boring.

Chicken meat is so mild - certainly not as distinctive as, say, lamb or duck - that you can pair it with all sorts of seasonings, condiments, fruits and vegetables, and it will be flavourful and delicious. Spice it up with curry powder or ras el hanout (a spice mix from North Africa) or lemon juice and dried oregano.

Fresh herbs, tomato sauce, Ponzu (a citrus-based sauce used in Japanese cuisine), jarred duck sauce, teriyaki, black truffle oil - are all fine. Baste chicken with wine, orange juice or stock couldn't be better.

One of the ways I try to make the dinner interesting is to cook the meat with fruit. I've used all kinds - from apples to grapes to prunes - and found that pineapple and other acidic fruits are particularly well-suited because they add a refreshing tang, which is especially welcome in the heat of summer.

In addition, the fruit caramelises gorgeously in the pot, creating a dish that's mild plus piquant and sugary. You can stop there, but I add just a hint of heat for the back of the tongue (I used Sriracha, but you can also sprinkle the chicken with cayenne powder), which makes the entire dish come together in beautiful and

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups cut up fresh pineapple
- 1 cut up broiler-fryer chicken (or 4-6 whole legs or 2 large whole breasts)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- · Salt to taste
- · 2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh ginger
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon Sriracha*
- Pinch of ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- *Sriracha is a hot sauce made from a paste of chilli peppers and is available in South Africa.

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place the pineapple in a roasting pan. Place the chicken pieces in the pan, partly on top of the fruit.
- Mix the olive oil, ginger, garlic, Sriracha and cinnamon in a small bowl and brush the chicken with the mixture. Season to taste with salt. Roast for 10 minutes.
- Lower the oven heat to 350 degrees. Pour the pineapple juice over the chicken and fruit. Roast for about 25-30 minutes or until cooked through (a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the meat will register 160 degrees), basting once or twice with the pan juices.

· Let rest for 15 minutes before carving. (The Nosher via JTA)





This roasted chicken with fresh pineapple is a winner all over.

Jolly good reads for a cold night

STEVEN KRAWITZ

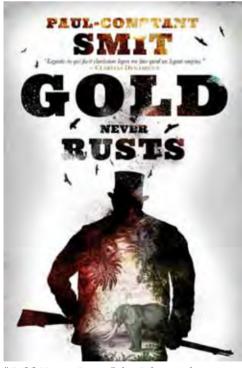
July is a month of school holidays and in Johannesburg, cold nights make for perfect reading conditions. Authors and publishers have not let their readers down of late: there are many new books to recommend.

THRILLERS

Noah Hawley created and ran the Emmy Award-winning TV series "Fargo". His new thriller is "**Before the Fall**" (Hodder & Stoughton). A media mogul's family is flying back to New York from their holiday house.

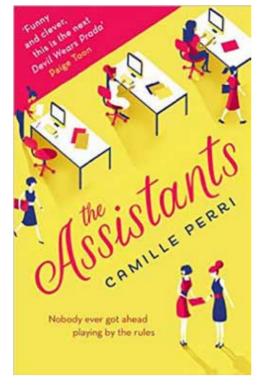


On a whim Scott Buroughs, a failed artist, is invited to join them. Sixteen minutes into the flight the plane crashes into the sea. Scott and the mogul's four-year-old son are the only survivors. Scott, a swimmer, swims with the boy to the coast. Government agencies investigate the crash and a populist TV personality smells the opportunity to make a big name for himself by bashing the elite. One of the most anticipated thrillers of the year.



"Gold Never Rusts", by Johannesburg based Paul-Constant Smit (Penguin), is an adventure in the tradition of Wilbur Smith, uniting the Queen of Sheba's search for gold in southern Africa in 998 BCE, a castaway from Vasco Da Gama's first rounding of the Cape, and Con Slaughter, an American prospector drawn to Barberton and Johannesburg in the gold rushes of the 19th century.

Imperial manoeuvrings between Britain and Germany, the build-up to the Anglo-Boer War and the Kruger gold legend all feature in this implausible but highly entertaining novel.



BOOK CLUB READS

Camille Perri's "**The Assistants**" (Bantam Press) reminds one of "The Devil Wears Prada" but for the Lena Durham generation. For years Tina has been a PA for a boss who spends more on one meal than she does on rent. And her debts are piling up.

When a blip in the expenses system offers her the opportunity to change her life, her moral compass malfunctions. But with wealth comes trouble. Her fellow assistants notice - and they want in. Even with an unlimited expense account, your luck can

"The Last Painting of Sara de Vos"

by Dominic Smith (Allen & Unwin) is a masterfully told story about a 17th century painting and how it changes the lives of three people: the women who painted it during the Dutch Golden Age, the lawyer whose family has owned it for 300 years and the art history student who forged it and whose career and reputation are about to be destroyed when both the original and the forgery arrive for an exhibition she has curated. The Goldfinch meets Girl with a Pearl Earring.

In "**The Outside Lands**" by Hannah Kohler (Picador), 19-year-old Jeannie and 14-year-old Kip's world is shattered when their mother dies in an accident, with only their father to guide them.

Jeannie escapes through work and marriage into an unfamiliar world of wealth and politics. Kip's descent into crime is only halted when he joins the Marines. By 1968, with the Vietnam War at its height, Jeannie and Kip are swept along by the forces of history and disillusionment to commit acts of betrayal. A powerful debut that announces Kohler as a remarkable new voice.



LITERARY READS

"The Sport of Kings" by CE Morgan (4th Estate), set in Kentucky and centred on the Forges, an old and proud family de-

scending from the first settlers in the state, is an epic novel about horses, breeding and racing them, and about racism and the long reach of history.

Henry Forge, motivated by naked ambition, changes the way the family farms. His daughter Henrietta goes even further and breeds horses. She then hires Allmon Shaughnessy, an African American former convict, to work in the stables and to be her lover. An astonishing achievement from start to finish.

"Zero K" (Picador) by Don DeLillo, one of the giants of American letters, asks the question: "We are born without choosing to be. Should we have to die in the same manner? Isn't it a human glory to refuse to accept a certain fate?"

Through Ross Lockhart, a billionaire investor in a remote and secret compound where death is exquisitely controlled and bodies are preserved until future technologies can return them to a life of transcendent promise, DeLillo explores philosophical issues challenging society today. Seductive, spectacularly observed and brilliant.

NON-FICTION

"Wish Lanterns" by Alec Ash (Picador) is a vibrant intimate book following the lives of six Chinese millennials, offspring of the one-child policy. They face fierce competi-

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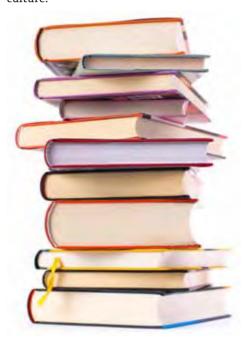
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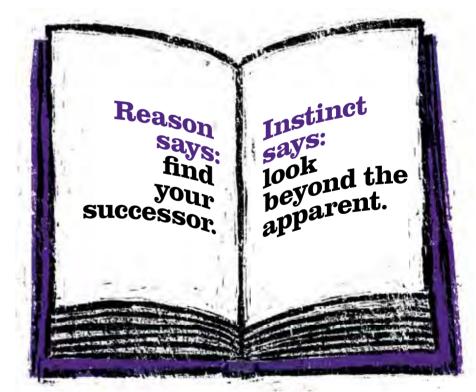
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tion and pressure to succeed, they are dislocated from China's past, caught between tradition and modernity.

Dahai is a military child and a rebel; "Fred" is a daughter of the Party; Lucifer is an aspiring superstar; Snail, a country migrant addicted to online gaming; Xiaoxiao, a hipster from the frozen north; and Mia a skinhead fashionista. Ash is a masterful guide into China's changing society and culture.





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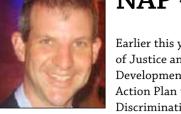
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------ A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies







NAP - grasping the racism nettle

Earlier this year, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development launched its National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (NAP).

The initiative aims at bringing government and civil society together in creating a greater awareness about the evils of racism and establishing and strengthening various bodies to combat it.

As the representative spokesbody and civil rights lobby of South African Jewry, the Board is a significant stakeholder in this process and we have been very active in it. It is the third major area of public policy aimed at countering racism that we have been involved in just this year, having been preceded by the input we made into the Film and Publications Bill and the 2016 Constitutional Review.

This week, we handed in our submission on the draft NAP document to the Justice Department. We made general recommendations as to how existing structures set up to

combat racism and related intolerance could be improved and noted some of the difficulties that the Board had experienced in carrying out our work.

There was also a specific section devoted to our unique concerns, in which anti-Semitism and the various forms it takes was explained together with an overview of how it has manifested in our country.

Last week, our diplomatic liaison officer, Chaya Singer, attended a Department of Justice conference on the NAP, in which she presented our submission in one of the breakaway sessions. Our input was much appreciated, particularly in how it identified practical ways in which the NAP's aims could be realised.

Our activities concerning the NAP have also extended beyond the confines of the Board. Alana Baranov represents us on the steering committee of the Hate Crimes Working Group, and in that capacity she was extensively involved in the drafting of its submission on the NAP.

In addition to participating in numerous drafting sessions, Alana also attended and participated in various national and provincial stakeholder consultations convened by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

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

In taking an active part in initiatives such as these, we demonstrate our strong commitment to being part of the national conversation over issues of common concern. We further are able to positively contribute to the creation of a society where all citizens feel safe from the evils of discrimination, whether based on racial, ethnic, religious or any other grounds.

Elections 2016

At the time of writing, arrangements are being finalised for Wednesday evening's election panel discussion at Beyachad. The event was organised as part of the SAJBD's "Make Us Count" election awareness campaign. Taking part will be ANC Johannesburg mayoral candidate, Parks Tau; DA mayoral candidate, Herman Mashaba; Cope president, Mosiuoa Lekota; and ACDP MP, Steven Swart. Well-known radio journalist and author Mandy Wiener will moderate the discussion and pose questions to the panelists.

I look forward to reporting back on what transpired

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

Community

Holidaying in the Holy Land





There are quite a few South African Jewish families spending their July holidays in the Holy Land.

Pictured here is Lisa Schewitz (who lives in East London) with her eldest daughter Leah in front of the Kotel. They are in Israel for her father, Les Mankowitz', 70th birthday.

Right - Lauren Haskel outside the Sarona market in Tel Aviv with her sons Troy (in front) and Jay (behind). The Haskels live in Cape Town.

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Israel and Turkey restore ties after six-year rift

JERUSALEM - Israel and Turkey have agreed to normalise ties after a six-year rift in their diplomatic relationship.

"Israel and Turkey are two major regional powers," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "The disconnect between us prevented necessary co-operation."

Turkish-Israeli relations broke down after the 2010 Gaza flotilla incident, in which nine Turkish militants were killed in clashes after they attacked Israeli commandos who boarded a ship that was trying to breach the blockade on Hamas-ruled Gaza.

According to reports citing Israeli and Turkish officials, the normalisation deal includes \$20 million in Israeli compensation for the families of those killed in the flotilla incident, an end to all Turkish legal claims against the Israeli military over the interception, and the mutual restoration of ambassadors.

Turkey will be allowed to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and to invest in infrastructure there, including the construction of residential buildings and a hospital.

"Israel and Turkey are natural allies in many ways... They share common threats and concerns. They have overlapping energy interests. They have complementary economies. Accordingly, cooperation is a far better alternative than conflict," said American Jewish Committee CEO David Harris.

While Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said the maritime blockade on Gaza was "largely lifted" as part of the agreement, Israel is disputing that

"I was not willing to compromise on [the blockade]. This interest is essential to prevent the force buildup by Hamas and it remains as has been and is," Netanyahu said. (JNS.org)

Lieberman and majority of Israelis oppose Turkey reconciliation deal

JERUSALEM - More than half of Israelis oppose the newly announced reconciliation deal with Turkey, according to one Israeli television poll.

In addition, Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman said he is against the deal, several Israeli media outlets reported on Monday.

The poll by Channel 10 found that 56 per cent of Israelis oppose the deal that ends a six-year break in diplomatic ties between the two countries, while another 11 per cent has no opinion, i24 news reported.

Under the deal, signed on Tuesday in Jerusalem and Ankara, Israel will pay \$20 million in compensation to the families of the nine Turkish citizens killed in a 2010 raid on the Mavi Marmara, attempting to break Israel's Gaza blockade, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said, according to i24news.

Critics of the deal include those who object that it does not demand that Turkey use its influence with Hamas to resolve the fate of two Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza and whose remains have never been repatriated. Others say Israel does not owe an apology or compensation to those killed on the Mavi Marmara because the activists attacked the Israeli soldiers.

Lieberman, who sees Turkey as an unrepentant antagonist of Israel, said he plans to vote against the deal when it comes before the security Cabinet later this week.

"We won't make a campaign out of it just as I didn't in my opposition to the Shalit deal at the time, but my position is known," he said.

Lieberman was referring to the 2011 deal in which hostage soldier Gilad Shalit was released by Hamas in exchange for Israel's release of 1 027 Palestinian prisoners. The Channel 10 poll, which interviewed 500 Jewish Israelis and 100 Arab Israelis, found that while Arabs mostly supported (72 per cent) the deal, Jews mostly opposed (65 per cent) it. The poll's margin of error was 4,2 per cent. (JTA)



Israel's unemployment rate hits all-time low of 4,8 per cent

JERUSALEM - The unemployment rates in Israel has hit an all-time low, a new report by the country's Central Bureau of Statistics said last Thursday.

The Jewish state's unemployment rate in May was 4,8 per cent, compared to the previous all-time low of 4,9 per cent in April and 5,3 per cent in March. According to the data, since 2012, the number of unemployed Israelis has decreased by 31,4 per cent, from 277 083 to 190 000. The unemployment rate among Israelis ages 25-64, hit an all-time low of 4,1 per cent in May, compared to 4,3 per cent in April. (JNS.org)

Israelis would get 6 Sundays off under bill to create 'Western' weekend

JERUSALEM - A Knesset committee has approved legislation that will mandate six long weekends each year - a step toward a possible Monday-to-Friday work week.

Providing the six Sundays off each year beginning in 2017 will start to transition the Israeli work week to that of most of the Western world, supporters argue. Kulanu lawmaker Eli Cohen, who proposed the legislation, argued that it would also increase work productivity in Israel, which lags other developed countries.

Israel has a Friday-and-Saturday weekend, though children in elementary school also attend school on Fridays. Many Israelis do not work on Friday, and Sunday is considered the start of the work week. The current weekend fits in with the Jewish Sabbath on Friday night and Saturday, and the Muslim day of prayer on Friday.

According to a 2016 report by the Taub Centre for Social Policy Studies, Israeli productivity is low and getting lower compared to most of the relatively wealthy countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, even though Israelis also work about four hours more per week than residents of other OECD countries.

"The transition to a long weekend will dramatically change the character of work and offers many benefits by reducing the burden on workers, improve the balance between work and family life, improve individuals' lives and contribute to business sectors like retail and tourism, and better synchronise work and school vacations," Cohen said, according to Haaretz.

The bill, which was approved last Sunday by the Ministerial Committee for Legislation, must still be approved by the full Knesset. The legislation is aimed at leading to all Sundays off in the future.

Two of the six proposed long weekends would take place during the summer, and the other four would come during the Passover and Chanukah vacations.

The first full Knesset vote is scheduled for this week, where it is expected to pass. (JTA)

Abbas vows an end to global terror if Israeli-Palestinian conflict is solved

BRUSSELS - In a speech to the European Parliament in Brussels last week Thursday, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas vowed that global terrorism will come to an end if the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is resolved.

Additionally, Abbas accused Israel of massacring Palestinians and even alleged that extremist rabbis are encouraging Israelis to poison Palestinian water supplies.

"In order to overcome terrorism, we also need to end Israeli occupation by creating a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with east Jerusalem as its capital," Abbas told the European Union (EU) legislative body's members.

"Once this occupation ends, those pretexts

will disappear and extremism will be over as will terrorism... There will be no more terrorism in the Middle East nor elsewhere in the world," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Abbas of spreading a "blood libel" against Israel in his speech.

"Someone who refuses to meet the president and prime minister for direct negotiations, and who spreads a blood libel in the European Parliament, is lying when he says his hand is outstretched in peace," the Prime Minister's Office said. (JNS.org)

ADL reports show sharp rise in violent anti-Semitic assaults in US

NEW YORK - Data released last week by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) shows that the number of violent anti-Semitic attacks in the United States rose significantly in 2015.

ADL's annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents recorded a total of 941 such incidents in the US in 2015 - a growth of three per cent from the 912 incidents recorded in 2014.

Among 2015's incidents, 56 were violent assaults, more than a 50 per cent increase from the 36 such reported assaults in 2014.

The ADL report also found that anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses nearly doubled in 2015. At least 90 anti-Semitic incidents were reported at 60 campuses, compared with 47 incidents on 43 campuses in 2014.

"We are disturbed that violent anti-Semitic incidents are rising," said ADL CEO Jonathan A Greenblatt. "And we know that for every incident reported, there's likely another that goes unreported." (JNS.org)

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Jonathan Miltz wins Soul Sport award



ILAN HERRMANN

The winner of the Soul Sport Youth Sports Achiever award chosen from the 2016 nominations is Jonathan Miltz.

It was at King David Sandton Primary this year that Jonathan's multiple

achievements earned him the Soul Sport trophy and certificate. Each Jewish day school nominates athletes and submits them to be featured in the Soul Sport magazine. Soul Sport then evaluates the nominations and selects a winner. Jonathan represented South Africa at the Indoor Cricket World Series in

2015 in Australia. The team he was a member of came second overall. He has achieved provincial colours and is also an A team tennis player at Sandton Primary. While his strength has been in the indoor arena, Jonathan who is both a very

good batsman as well as a talented left-arm, off-spin bowler, is focusing his game on the outer field and is doing well.

He says he tries to remain confident and positive, a key, he feels, to his success thus far. His dream is to one day play for the Proteas.

Around the Jewish World

Exhibit explores Jewish history on fabric row

PHILADELPHIA - It's hard to imagine now, but for a significant portion of the last century, the neighbourhoods of Queen Village and Society Hill were home to a thriving Jewish Quarter.

South Fourth Street, in particular, was a hub for Jewish life. In a 1914-15 annual report of a neighbourhood settlement house at Fourth and Bainbridge Streets, Fourth Street is described as "Philadelphia's closest approach to New York's Lower East Side, where we have its pushcarts, crowded streets and pavements, the open air display of calico, candy, pickles and fish for sale".

Harry Boonin, author of The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia, characterised Fourth Street in similarly vivid terms, as a land of "pickle barrels and union enforcers, dreamers and paupers, curbside bookies and curbside elections, saloons, pool halls and feed stores - and in the middle of all this excitement were the synagogues, dozens of them".

The garment industry - also known as the rag trade, or the schmatte trade - fed much of this

commercial activity. There were dozens of sweatshops, fabric stores and tailors, and the pushcart vendors who couldn't afford a brick-and-mortar shop sold remnants by the side of the road.

All of it is known now as Fabric Row, and it's the focus of an exhibit that opened last week called "Philadelphia's Fabric Row: The Pushcart Years, 1905-1955" at the Philadelphia History Museum on South Seventh Street. - Jewish Exponent, Philadelphia

New hi-tech weapon in the war on cervical cancer

RAMAT GAN - Biop Medical's device, due out in 2017, optically scans the cervix for early signs of cancer, analyses the images and indicates where to perform a biopsy.

In the 1940s, George Papanicolaou's Pap smear was introduced and became the standard cancer screening test for cervical cancer, then the number one killer of women and today the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide.

Incredibly, Pap remains the standard despite severe drawbacks. The smear must be sent to a lab

for analysis (which takes several days), has a high rate of inaccurate results, and samples only the outer surface of the cervix although cancer begins in the inner layers.

1 – 8 July 2016

Furthermore, the Pap test isn't readily available in third world countries where cervical cancer is still the leading cause of death among women.

The Israeli company Biop Medical is designing and testing a better alternative, namely a state-of-the-art colposcope, the instrument used to check women for gynaecological disease. Colposcopy is usually performed after a positive Pap smear and if it detects suspicious cells the woman must schedule a biopsy.

Biop's device does everything in one visit. It optically scans the inner layers of the cervix for early signs of cancer, analyses the images instantly and indicates where to perform a biopsy if necessary.

That takes away the anxiety of waiting for results or for a colposcopy and biopsy appointment, during which time cancer could spread. - Israel 21c

What's On

Friday (July 1)

- Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosts an exhibition, "Anne Frank: A History for Today". It will run until July 21. Opening times: 07:30 - 18:00 daily. Venue: Nelson Mandela Gateway, V&A Waterfront
- UZLC hosts broadcaster and TV presenter Paula Slier on "The Middle East Up To Date". Venue: Our Parents Home. Orchards. Time: 12:45 — 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851.

Saturday evening (July 2)

• Oxford Shul hosts its annual choir festival with choirs from Sydenham Shul, Pine Street Shul, Pretoria Shul, Linksfield Shul and Waverley Shul. Time: 19:45. Cost: R50 per ticket. Bookings: Oxford Shul office (011) 646-6020 or e-mail info@oxfordshul.com

Monday (July 4)

• UJW hosts journalist Anthony Katz on "A Misunderstood Court Case — SACRED vs the SAJBD. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Men and women welcome. No booking necessary.

 WIZO Forum hosts Prof Lucille Blumberg of the Virology Institute on an "Update of Epidemic Proportions" on Zika and other viral threats and Jonathan Klotnick of the Travel Clinic on "Important Travel Tips for South Africans". Venue: Beyachad, Raedene. Time: 09:30. Cost: R40 (incl tea). Bookings: Jenny (011) 645-2515 or wizojhb@ beyachad.co.za

Wednesday (July 6)

• UJW Adult Education Division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer dept. of English at Wits, on her seventh lecture on Hamlet. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Sunday (July 10)

• "Yiddish Nostalgia in Song" presented by Russel Lurie (soloist) and Evelyn Green (accompanist),

narrated by Helen Heldenmuth and Tamar Olswang. Venue: 34 Fifth Street, Orange Grove. Time: 15:00. Refreshments will be served. Donation to Yad Aharon. Bookings: Russel Lurie 082-331-3019 or Evelyn Green (011) 728-5570, or 082-704-2322.

- Big Band Music Appreciation society meets at St John's College auditorium in Houghton. This programme is compiled by Don Albert. A short DVD will be presented followed by an audiovisual presentation — on rare swing and big band music. Time: 14:15 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn at 072-243-7436 or Jack at 082-450-762.
- JJAC invites Jewish singles aged 27 49 to come and watch the Wimbledon Men's tennis final at Metzuyan. E-mail whatson@jjac.co.zafor details.
- Second Innings hosts Dr David Fig on "Will President Zuma Succeed in Going Ahead with Nuclear Procurement?" Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Tel (011) 532-9701.

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Some Jewish luck may see Samurai Blade in July triumph

JACK MILNER

The Vodacom Durban July has not been a lucky race for owner Larry Nestadt. In 1991 he had a share in Rakeen who was beaten two short heads into third place by Flaming Rock and Al Mufti respectively.

Nine years later Young Rake was handed second place by the judge after it took some eight minutes to separate him and El Picha. The race was given to El Picha in a very controversial decision. Most pundits felt it should have been declared a dead heat.

Then in 2010 they were again beaten into second place with Irish Flame, who went down one length to his stable companion Bold Silvano.

"We've had a lot good runners and we've gone close, but we just haven't been able to win one," said Nestadt

All of their runners have been top class and in the case of Rakeen went on to be a leading sire in South Africa. He was the father of Jet Master who was not only a great racehorse, but also the sire of Young Rake.

Irish Flame came into the Durban July having won the Grade 1 SA Derby at Turffontein by 9,50 lengths, the Grade 1 Daily News 2000 and the Grade 2 KZN Derby. In the Daily News he beat Bold Silvano who went on to reverse the form in the Durban July, courtesy of a shrewd ride from jockey Anthony Delpech.

This weekend Nestadt and Bernard Kantor will be relying on Samurai Blade to give them their first Durban July victory. They have been partners in most of the other runners but this one could be great value at 45-1, especially for a place.

"We bred the horse and I know he is only a one-time. However, he was beaten by less than a length by Abashiri in the SA Derby and is now 4,5kg better off. Abashiri is 14-1 and we're 45-1. He put up a really good gallop last week Thurs-



Co-owner Larry Nestadt; Larry Wainstain of the Racing Association; Bernard Kantor; and co-owner JJ van der Linde, in this file photo taken when Wainstein presented them with their trophy after Irish Flame came second in the SA Derby in 2011.

day with French Navy who is the 6-1 second favourite.

"He really stays, which is an advantage. I hope we're not there just to make up the numbers. I'm always happy to take it as it comes and I know Bernard feels the same."

A couple of years back Nestadt and the Durban July selection panel clashed over their decision to omit Rock Cocktail in favour of another KwaZulu-Natal runner who did not deserve a place in the final field.

"I had the support of most of the top owners. You can't have a selection panel basing their decisions on trainers they like or locally based horses, irrespective of their form.

"The Durban July has become a wonderful carnival, which is fine, but then the race shouldn't be allowed to carry Grade 1 status. You can't have a race where a panel has all the discretion with no guidelines."

He added that as a result, this year the field is not strong at all. "It's a weak field and that is why we are there."

There is a lot going for Samurai Blade. He is trained by Sean Tarry who is the current champion trainer and has already wrapped up this season's title. He will be ridden by Andrew Fortune, a former champion jockey who is riding at the top of his game and Samurai Blade is well drawn at No 6. Tarry has expressed his delight with the preparation of the Australian-bred colt who disappointed last time when finishing 14th behind Rabada in the Daily News 2000.

"Ignore that run," said Tarry. "He was in the wrong position after getting caught up in a slow-run race, he overraced, was cut into and pulled a shoe. That's not his form.

"I'd like him to be up there, not necessarily in

the lead, but much closer to the leaders than in his recent starts."

This race could also be a milestone for jockey Anton Marcus who, along with Anthony Delpech, is looking to become the first jockey to win the race five times. Marcus rides St Tropez who is quoted at 11-1.

St Tropez is trained by Joey Ramsden and owned by Markus Jooste, who is also looking for his first Durban July victory, and is drawn

Marcus said he would have preferred to be closer to the fence, especially as he feels he is on a horse who may not be good enough to win. However, he said his mount had been doing very well in his preparation.

The tote is paying out places for the first six past the post, so with 18 runners in the field, one has a 33,33 per cent chance of collecting!

World News in Brief

New Jersey passes anti-**BDS** legislation

NEW YORK - The New Jersey Legislature on Monday passed legislation that prohibits the state from investing pension and annuity funds in companies that boycott Israel or Israeli businesses.

The bipartisan bill in response to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, or BDS, movement against Israel passed the state's General Assembly by a vote of 69-3 with two abstentions. It unanimously passed the state Senate in May. Governor Chris Christie is expected to sign the bill into law.

The state's \$71 billion pension fund provides coverage for about 800 000 current and retired public employees. A state Treasury Department spokesman told the Philadelphia Inquirer that he was not aware of any companies that the pension fund is invested in that would violate the

Israel and New Jersey annually trade more than \$1,3 billion in goods, according to the legislation.

"It is important to the economic wellbeing of New Jersey that persons or entities conducting commercial trade and doing business in the State do not engage in boycotts of a legitimate and viable partner with whom New Jersey can enjoy open trade contracting," according to the legislation. "Therefore, it is in the best interest of this State that a statutory prohibition be enacted to prohibit the investment of public employee retirement funds in companies boycotting Israel."

The divestment from such funds must occur within two years of the passage of the legislation.

At least 12 states have passed anti-BDS legislation, including Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and South Carolina. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo recently signed an executive order banning state agencies from investing in companies that support BDS.

In total, 21 states have taken up anti-BDS legislation. (JTA)

Ex-Auschwitz guard, 94, appeals conviction as accessory to murder

DETMOLD - A former Nazi SS guard who was sentenced to five years in prison by a German court for his role as an accessory in the murder of at least 170 000 people in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp in Poland, has appealed his

Attorneys for Reinhold Hanning, 94, filed appeals of the verdict handed down earlier this month by the district court in Detmold, in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, The Associated Press reported. Hanning will remain free while he appeals.

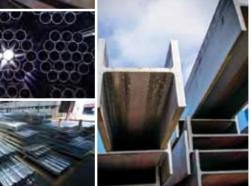
Lawyers representing nine Auschwitz survivors or their families as co-plaintiffs at the trial, also appealed the verdict, according to the AP, which could not provide further details.

Hanning joined the Waffen SS in 1942 and was posted that year to Auschwitz. He had joined Hitler Youth in 1934.

His is likely one of the last trials of Nazis in Germany. Clues leading to about 30 suspects in late 2013 came from the Central Office for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes in Ludwigsburg, which made a major push to identify former death camp guards after the conviction of John Demjanjuk in 2011 for his role in the murders of nearly 30 000 Jews at the Sobibor death camp in Poland. Demjanjuk died in a German nursing home in 2012 during his appeal. (JTA)

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