

south african Jewish Report

■ August 12 2016 / 9 Av 5776
■ Volume 20 – Number 30

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Celebrating Women's Day

Photo: Shelley Levy



Members of the Union of Jewish Women joined women of all faiths, colours and religions on Tuesday, Women's Day, for a Women's Humanity Walk in Cape Town. Organised by Woman Zone, a movement designed to "bring together all women from the Mother City's cultural kaleidoscope", the large crowd began their walk at the Iziko Slave Lodge and headed down Adderley Street to the Artscape Plaza, in celebration of 60 years since the Women's March of 1956 to the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Pictured are Ayelet Kallman, with her sisters Yael, Ma'ayan, her mother Karen and brother Eitan; Leaza Cowan, chairman of the UJW; and Pearl Gischen (at the back). Also see page 10.

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Faith kept Fraenkel going when faced with her son's death

STAFF REPORTER

"G-d will do what G-d feels fit to do." These were the poignant words that Rachelle Fraenkel, mother of slain schoolboy Naftali who was murdered by Hamas militants along with Gilad Shaer and Eyal Yifrah in 2014, said kept her going throughout the 18-day ordeal while she was waiting for him to be found.

She was speaking at a Women's Day function hosted by the SA Zionist Federation at the HOD in Orchards which was attended by over 600 people.

An emotional Fraenkel told of the day of the kidnapping in June 2014. "It was a Thursday evening and the last day of school. Naftali was returning from a field trip. He usually would have come on the Friday morning, but decided to return early.

"He was a big, responsible child so we happily went to sleep expecting him home later," she

said.

At 03:30, while they were still sleeping, the police came knocking at her door and told the family about the kidnapping.

"They informed us that it was an act of terror and said there were thousands of people looking for the three boys," she said.

The 18 days' wait for the boys to be found were filled with official delegations visiting the families - including high-ranking government officials and lots of media. Support streamed in from all over the world.

"This tragic event brought people together - all people - both within Israel and outside. Different Jewish religious factions, political parties and people of all religions were united in prayer and support for us. That is what gave us strength during those days," she said.

After the discovery of the bodies followed the period of mourning. This led to the establishment of Unity Day when Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat visited the grieving families and asked what could be done to preserve their memory.

Gesher, an organisation that works to close the gap between secular, religious and ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel, as well as former President Shimon Peres, helped endorse and support this initiative.



Photo: SAJF

Nicci Raz, Rachelle Fraenkel, Gina Goldstein and Heidi Feldman.

Fraenkel has been all over the world sharing her message of peace and unity. She was even invited to speak at the United Nations Human Rights Council. She has had numerous television interviews, met Israeli presidents and prime ministers and has become a public leader and a national heroine leading the Unity Day campaign.

Asked how she retained her faith in the light of the tragedy, Fraenkel said she was always aware of the possibility of crisis in faith under these circumstances.

"One feels abandoned, let down, vulnerable, fragile and dependent. It doesn't seem rational. Bad things happen to others - not to me, I thought. It is a lesson in humility and faith. For some people, faith never changes. For me, it is a

dynamic life - I did feel doubts and estranged at times, but G-d has been great enough to contain my doubts. It is okay to be angry; anger is part of the relationship with G-d," she said.

Fraenkel said throughout the ordeal, everyone in government was completely honest with her.

"They kept us informed every step of the way," she recounted.

The families were taken by the army to the site where the bodies were recovered, northwest of Hebron.

"We had to have closure. But it is a miracle that the bodies were recovered. There are literally millions of holes leading underground and rocks in the area. It is thanks to the human devotion of thousands of people who searched, and Divine grace, that they were found."

Parsha

Bringing full redemption soon in our days



Parshat Hazon
Rabbi Sa'ar Shaked
Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue

Our Shabbat is called Shabbat Hazon, "the vision", based on the opening words of the Haftorah, which also serves as the opening of the Book of Isaiah as well: "The vision of Isaiah, the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem."

It is the last one in a sequence of three Haftorah readings of harsh rebuke, and as such it contains harsh words on the spiritual and social conditions at the time: "The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, my people do not consider. Sinful nation. A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers. Children who are corrupters... Your ministers are rebellious and companions of thieves; everyone loves bribes and follows after rewards. They

do not defend the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow come before them." -Those were the iniquities which led to the exile.

Even though we don't usually grieve on Shabbat, there are a few bereavement traditions that may be observed, such as reading parts of the Torah and/or the Haftorah in the special "Eicha" scroll tunes or singing Lecha Dodi in one of the lamentations - Piyutim.

There is an Ashkenazi halacha, based on Rabbi Moses Isserles of Kraków" (1530 - 1572), stating that one should wear on this Shabbat an ordinary outfit, rather than those saved usually for Shabbat.

There are still some communities who keep that tradition, but it is not observed by Litvaks, as requested by the Vilna Gaon (1720 - 1797), nor by Chassidic Jews. Essentially, Chassidic rabbis had taken the notion of withdrawing from bereavement customs much further.

There are several Chassidic quotes expressing the idea that Shabbat Hazon demands extra happiness, more than ordinary Shabbats.

For example, the Aptur Rebbe (the original Abraham Joshua Heschel, known also by the name "Ohev Yishrael", 1825 - 1748) states that Shabbat Hazon has more merit in it than every other Shabbat.

The first Savarne Rebbe (Moishe Tzvi, 1775 - 1837) says that on this Shabbat one can have a clear vision of the world. During the Tsanz Chassidic dynasty it was considered to be the best Shabbat to travel to their Rebbe.

Due to many splits and divisions in that important Chassidic dynasty, there were tens of Tzanz Rebbes up until the Holocaust, so that tradition became rather widespread.

But no doubt the most touching Chassidic tradition belongs to the beloved Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev (1740 - 1809), who said that on this Shabbat each Jew gets to see a glimpse of the Beit HaMikdash, the Temple to be built. So each Jew is encouraged to get better in his/her attempts toward bringing Geula Shlema, full redemption, soon in our days to come.

Shabbat Times

Parshat Hazon Aug 12 / 8 Av – Aug 13 / 9 Av

Tisha B'Av Aug 13 / 9 Av – Aug 14 / 10 Av

	Candle-lighting	Fast begins Aug 13	Shabbat ends	Fast ends Aug 14
Johannesburg	17:29	17:44	18:19	18:12
Cape Town	17:57	18:13	18:50	18:42
Durban	17:12	17:28	18:04	17:55
Bloemfontein	17:32	17:48	18:24	18:16
Port Elizabeth	17:28	17:44	18:21	18:13
East London	17:20	17:36	18:13	18:05

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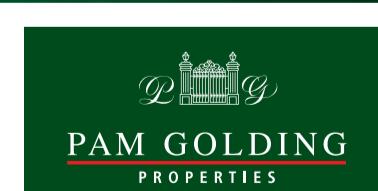
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Thulsies' counsel: arrest was 'unlawful'

ANT KATZ

The so-called "Terror Twins", Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee Thulsie (23), will remain behind bars for at least another week as their defence counsel tries to prove that their arrest in the first place wasn't lawful. The twins are charged with three counts of contravening the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist Activities Act.

The Hawks, the police's priority crimes investigating division, allege that the self-declared ISIS-affiliated twins planned to blow up US and Jewish installations in South Africa.

Magistrate Pieter du Plessis told the court at their last appearance that he did not want to make a hasty decision and that he would hand down his ruling on Monday August 15 as to whether the two had been unjustly arrested.

Going for the 'unjust arrest defence' strategy was a significant tactical manoeuvre by their defence team, legal pundits say, as a straightforward bail application would have had less chances of success.

This is because under the Terrorism Act, bail for awaiting trial prisoners is not a right, as is normal under SA law, and the onus would have been on the twins to prove exceptional circumstances existed to justify their bail. Without the knowledge of the State's evidence, it would have proven near impossible.

By following the "unlawful arrest" defence route, the two could put paid to their chance of bail because if their arrest is found to have been lawful, it will effectively ensure that they are not granted bail.

The unfolding saga is being watched closely by SA Jewry and communal organisations as, according to the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) provisional charge sheet, their intended targets included Jewish sites.

After the Thulsies were arrested at their Johannesburg homes on July 9, Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi, senior spokesman for the Hawks, told Jewish Report that a factor in the decision to arrest the brothers had been a list of potential targets that had been found at one of their homes. On the list were a "US diplomatic mission and Jewish institutions". The listed sites have not been disclosed.

The Hawks initially said the brothers, together with siblings Ibrahim, 20, and Fatima, 24, Patel, were arrested. The Patels, of Azaadville on the West Rand, were charged with a firearm contravention and secured bail.

They and the Thulsies had allegedly tried to go to Syria to join ISIS in April last year. The Hawks' statement did not mention at the time that a fifth suspect, Renaldo Smith (also known as Arashad Smith), had been picked up as well.

Smith had an ISIS flag as his social media profile picture and posts were read to the court in which Smith praised jihadists. He had agreed to turn state witness and told the Hawks of the Thulsies' plot.

The Thulsies' defence says Smith has since asked to recant his evidence, something that South African jurisprudence does not allow for, NPA Gauteng spokesman Phindi Louw told Jewish Report. Smith is believed to be in witness protection.

Defence attorney Annelene van den Heever has been doggedly trying to prove the arrest of the twins had been illegal.

The prosecution found themselves in a bind as they are unwilling - or unable - to divulge all their reasons for the arrests. A SAJR source close to the investigation said

off the record that multiple SA and foreign intelligence agencies refused to disclose information or evidence which could risk compromising relationships with, and other ongoing investigations with, foreign intelligence agencies from whence the tip-off emanated.

The source said that both the Hawks and NPA had admitted seeing certain crucial evidence, but "now do not have access or control of it".

Lead detective on the case, warrant officer Wynand Olivier, was grilled by Van den Heever on the stand. Van der Heever implied that there was no evidence (against the Thulsies) and called on the State to, in effect, "put up or shut up".

Magistrate Du Plessis ordered prosecutors to provide prima facie evidence to show that the arrests were legal. This shifted the burden of proof from the twins to the State's having to prove it was not an unlawful arrest.

Van Den Heever hammered the State for days but they did not offer more material evidence. Olivier would only say that information from Smith and "items" found at the home of one of the twins led to their arrests.

The Hawks had been trying for some time to identify a South African using the name "Simba" whom foreign agencies said was building a bomb and had been looking for a trigger mechanism on the dark web. Smith identified Tony-Lee Thulsie as "Simba".

Prosecutor Chris MacAdam argued the police had sufficient suspicion to arrest the two and argued that had police not made the arrests, it would have been a dereliction of duty in terms of the Terrorism Act.

In her closing arguments, the defence's Van den Heever insisted that the twins had been arrested "on far-fetched allegations" and that their right to be presumed innocent had been violated. She also said the investigators had given multiple accounts of why the decision was made to arrest them; and finally that a picture of the twins allegedly wearing vests with detonators and holding automatic rifles turned out to be paintball gear.

If the magistrate finds the arrests to have been unlawful, the twins will be free to go. Of course, the Hawks may be waiting for them outside the court with another arrest warrant...

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Get refusals: Only so much the Beth Din can do – and no more

SUZANNE BELLING

Michelle Blumenau Alge, a founder of Go Getters, a support group for chained women (agunot) who have not received a get (Jewish divorce) from their recalcitrant husbands, issued an impassioned plea to the Beth Din to find a way to free them from their "abusive captors".

She was speaking at a panel discussion on the subject arranged by Go Getters, the Union of Jewish Women, the Hebrew Order of David, Koleinu and Shalom Bayit at the HOD in Orchards, last week Tuesday.

Go Getters was set up after some women wanted to support a Cape Town woman who had been refused a get by her husband, Anthony Sherman. Halachically it means that the couple are still married. Halachically also, if a woman has a child before receiving her get, her new offspring is considered a mamzer (a bastard in Jewish law).

In spite of pressure socially and from the Beth Din over a long period, Sherman, the man in question, has persisted in his refusal, in spite of recently being "named and shamed" by the Beth Din. This has involved placing him in "cherem", meaning he cannot attend synagogue or be buried in a Jewish cemetery – and precludes him from attending his son's barmitzvah later this year.

Sherman has so far ignored all the pressure and requests from the head of Beth Din, Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag, that he meet with the Rabbi. Sherman is also now married civilly to a non-Jewish woman, with whom he has had children.

While Sherman threatened to go to a Reform temple instead, Rabbi Kurtstag said that after consultation with the Progressive Movement, they also agreed to honour the cherem and not accept him.

Speaking at the panel discussion, Rabbi Kurtstag said the ideal scenario would be to have no divorces, but they are permissible in halacha and do require the husband to give the get voluntarily and the wife to accept it.

South African divorce law was amended in the 1990s at the initiative of the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris zt"l and Rabbi Kurtstag. The law now allows a civil court to delay granting a divorce order until the parties have arranged a religious divorce, if one of them requests it.

Sherman's wife, however, had not requested this and the civil divorce was finalised, leaving her a "chained

woman".

Rabbi Kurtstag said under the circumstances, there was little the Beth Din could do, other than the naming and shaming, including publicity. In Israel, by contrast, the courts could and do jail get offenders.

There is also sometimes a problem when a wife refuses to accept a get. In this case, there is a possible solution - obtaining the consent of 100 rabbis, allowing

In spite of pressure socially and from the Beth Din over a long period, Sherman, the man in question, has persisted in his refusal, in spite of recently being "named and shamed" by the Beth Din.

the husband to marry again, as in early times, technically a husband could marry more than one wife, as in the case of Jacob and Leah and Rachel.

But polygamous marriages have been prohibited among Ashkenazi Jews for over 1 000 years by Rabbeinu Gershom and, under Israeli law, more recently for Sephardim.

Rabbi Kurtstag said the refusal to give and receive a get was "abuse".

Liza Segal, a divorce lawyer and mediator, gave the legal background to the situation in this country, saying the amendment to the Divorce Act did not solve the problem of a "lawless" husband who did not care whether a divorce order was granted or not.

Bev Goldman of the Union of Jewish Women, who chaired the panel, said a Jew in South Africa has two marriage ceremonies, civil and religious.

"But the very special binding one is the Jewish ceremony, during which the ketubah - the Jewish marriage contract - is signed." This includes all the obligations the husband has towards his wife.

Blumenau Alge reported that, although the naming and shaming had not yet worked in Sherman's case, it had resulted in at least five other husbands speedily approaching the Beth Din to arrange a get.



Bad 'get' publicity quickly 'unchained' Rachel

SUZANNE BELLING

At the panel discussion on the get, Bev Goldman of the UJW read the personal account of Rachel (not her real name), who had been invited to speak, but declined on the advice of her lawyer as her civil divorce was not yet final.

Rachel said: "I approached the Beth Din in 2012. I was asked whether I had done all that was possible to save my marriage - which I had.

"On leaving this meeting, I had a good sense of being understood. The 'other side', would be contacted."

She hoped - vainly - that swift progress would be made. She approached Rosh Beth Din Rabbi (Moshe) Kurtstag after three years to try to get her released from the chains that bound her, "not due to my being in a relationship or wanting to remarry".

Following a story in the SA Jewish Report and the "seriousness of the Beth Din" in imposing the cherem in the Sherman matter, she still decided not to pursue it further.

"I am of the opinion that the two events coinciding may have caused undue anxiety of public exposure to the other side. Lo and behold, the Beth Din received a phone call on the same day for him to make an appointment for early the following week to write the get.

"I got my get two weeks later."

Rachel added: "Without the ongoing determination of Rabbi Kurtstag and the Beth Din I would not have my get."

"We are not alone in this ordeal. The very important support system from my dear friends has been tremendous. In the words of Nelson Mandela, 'it always seems impossible until it is done'."

SAZF conference brings a message of hope and positivity

DARA KOMETZ

The South African Zionist Federation's biennial conference last weekend, titled "Israel: Nation of Creation", kicked into gear with an inspirational opening night, at Cape Town's Albow Centre.

Guest speakers were Jonathan Medved, a leading Israeli technology investor and founder and CEO of crowd funding platform, OurCrowd, as well as Steve Linde, former editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Post.

In the first official address of the evening, Rowan Polovin, acting chairman of the SAZF Cape Council, talked about the progress made by the SAZF over the past two years and his vision for its future, working to strengthen the SAZF's connection with youth across South Africa.

Israel's Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk offered a message of resounding hope. "There is a growing awareness that we (Israel) are not the problem. We are the solution. We are the opportunity."

For Lenk, the future lies in a strong relationship between Africa and Israel. "Africa is on the mind of Israel," he said and the work being done by Israel and the Zionist community of South Africa, are inspirations to the world and to each other.

Medved discussed the progress and presence of Israeli technology across the world and the battle against the BDS movement. He joked that it is physically impossible to boycott



SAZF's Ben Swartz, Julie Berman and Rowan Polovin.

Israeli products because Israeli technology has been bought by so many companies that it is in virtually everything.

He went on to discuss his latest venture OurCrowd, which aims to match smaller investors with start-up projects. OurCrowd, he said, now has the ability to partner Israeli technology with African investment, "to build projects together, to power economic growth".

Steve Linde, who grew up in South Africa before building a career as a radio journalist and then newspaper editor in Israel – he has recently retired from the Jerusalem Post - looked at the allegiance between South African Jewry and Israel and the power of communication between them. "If Israel is strong - which it is - then you as Jews in the Diaspora are strong and if you are strong then we are strong".

The presentation of awards brought the evening to an end. For her unwavering persistence and formidable presence as a voice for Israel, Olga Meshoe, COO of Deisi (Defend Embrace Invest Support Israel) received the world Zionist Organisation's prestigious Jerusalem Award, given to individuals whose devotion of time and effort have contributed to the support of Israel.

The Herzl Award was given to Rowan Polovin for his dedication to the Zionist community in South Africa and his work to foster a love for and pride in



Jon Medved with Vuyisa Qabaka.

Israel.

Showcasing local and international Zionist progress alike, the evening not only set the tone for a thought-inspiring conference, but made individuals very excited for the work ahead.

The audience was entertained by singers Barry Braun, Ifriky Tadadjeu Sokeng and Linda Kibido who performed between the guest speakers.

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Photos: Marc Berman Photography



Performers at the SAZF conference.



Ben Swartz, Olga Meshoe and Ambassador Arthur Lenk.



Miriam Lichterman and Aaron Ellman.



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Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein casts his ballot at Orchards Primary School.



Photos: Ilan Ossendryver

Rabbi Anthony Gerson of Pine Street Shul stands in line to vote.



Raymond Levy, of Glensan, said the IEC was "very efficient" and the officials were helpful.

"It is one of the best-run elections in which I have participated. The queues moved quickly and everybody was polite and well-spoken." The voting process ran smoothly, he said.



Wendy Handler, of Glenhazel, said: "My experience was that it was very well handled."

"I voted at Linksfield - and when I went to cast my vote, the place was empty. I was in and out. I am very happy with the process."

She said she did not even mind the numerous canvassing calls from the parties touting for votes. "They were all doing their jobs."

Community Voices

Looking back on an exciting Election 2016

SUZANNE BELLING

In spite of earlier worries that the election process might be disrupted by protestors and potential trouble makers, it went off relatively smoothly. Thousands of police were deployed across the country and millions exercised their democratic right to vote.

In Gauteng's northern suburbs Jewish voters were upbeat about the process and generally felt the elections were well run and that the Independent Electoral Commission had done a good job.

The Jewish Report spoke to some of the Jewish voters to get their feedback.



"Very well organised," is how **Sue Jacobson**, of Linksfield, described the voting.

"Our assistant rabbi at Linksfield Shul, Rabbi Levi Avtzon, had sent out an amazing message to congregants, telling them to go out and vote. Virtually the whole congregation turned up at the polls. It was very good to see this."



Danielle Brook, of Rouxville, who voted in Orange Grove, commented on the efficiency of the officials at her voting station.

"The queues moved quickly, people were very helpful and, in a sense, it was even better than the first democratic election."

"Spirits were high, people were eager to vote and felt they could really make a difference."



Gideon Mannie, a matric pupil, voted for the first time in what he described as "a new experience for me". He voted at Orange Grove Primary School, arriving 10 minutes before the doors to the polling station had opened.

"There was a mix up with the queues which were split into two lines and they were not initially organised with the voting registration."

Gideon, who was accompanied by his parents, said the polling station eventually got things right.

"It kind of felt empowering for me and I hope these elections bring about change." Gideon was monitoring the results on the IEC website the night and day after the elections. "So far the results have been impressive."

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TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

Two radically different responses have been seen recently in South Africa from citizens determined to denounce politicians abusing their power or filling their pockets with taxpayers' money - violence on the one hand, non-violent and silent protest on the other.

On Monday we saw an unforgettable example of the latter, when four brave young women rose to stand silently with handwritten posters decrying rape in front of President Jacob Zuma as he addressed a large gathering of dignitaries in Pretoria at the official announcement of the municipal election results. The nation owes these women a resounding "thank you".

Their action took place just two days prior to Women's Day, which commemorates the 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on August 9, 1956, objecting to the pass laws for blacks. The two events are in the same spirit.

Monday's four women protesters were highlighting South Africa's rape culture - a pandemic ranked as one of the highest in the world. One of the placards suggested that one in three women will be rape victims.

Their action took the gathering so totally by surprise that no-one stopped them - even Zuma's bodyguards - until his speech was over. The senior official of the electoral commission who apologised to the audience after Zuma had

finished talking and security personnel had hustled the women away sounded extremely embarrassed. But their protest had already had its effect, and it was profound. In a different political reality he might have actually praised them for truth-telling.

Their action took place 10 years after Zuma's own rape trial, in which he was ultimately found not guilty, but which left negative feelings about his approach to women's rights and his problematic sexual attitudes. The protesters were not only drawing attention to his own case, but the prevalence of gender-based violence in this country.

Zuma's legacy will forever be symbolised by Monday's dramatic visual image of a disgraced male president mouthing political platitudes behind four bright young women standing still and silent with their placards. He was oblivious to the potent words on their posters.

Their action was similar in impact to the white women of the non-violent Black Sash organisation, who for many years during apartheid stood silently with placards at the sides of the roads and in other public places, protesting apartheid laws and embarrassing the government at every opportunity. Their striking black sashes were worn as a mark of mourning and to protest against unjust racist legislation.

They broke no laws by their demonstration, however, and their "privileged" status as whites protected them - the government fumed but could do nothing to stop them. Many Jewish women participated in the Black Sash vigils, aside from others who acted directly to alleviate black suffering - like those in the Union of Jewish Women and Operation Hunger.

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One of the most famous historical examples of such "passive" action is Rosa Parks, the black woman in the United States who in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, defied a bus driver's order to give up her seat in the coloured section to a white passenger, after the white section was filled. Her non-violent resistance became a symbol of the Civil Rights Movement.

We have seen many examples recently of South Africans resorting to violence to make their voices heard - burning buildings, buses and schools, and killing people. The four women who stood silently in front of Zuma with their placards showed there is a more constructive way.

Perhaps the Black Sash needs to be revived in another, post-apartheid form - a non-violent people's movement which will say "no" to the shenanigans of this country's current leaders and demand a better way.

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

Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board Jeff Katz

National Chairman

Final preparations are underway for the Board's Gauteng Council conference taking place on Monday evening at the Sandton Shul hall. While attention will also be paid to some of the challenges faced by our community, including security and combating anti-Semitism, the theme of the conference will primarily be a celebratory one.

In 2016, South African Jewry marks the 175th anniversary of its formal birth as an organised Jewish community. Our Gauteng conference will in large part be devoted to looking back on what Jews have accomplished in this country, whether in the specifically Jewish or general spheres or whether as individuals or in the collective sense.

We are honoured to have Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of the UK and the Commonwealth, as our guest

speaker on this auspicious occasion. Rabbi Mirvis will also be speaking at the 175th anniversary celebration of the Gardens Shul in Cape Town, the Mother Congregation of SA Jewry.

It says much about how far our community has come since its modest beginnings that far from arriving as a stranger, Rabbi Mirvis is in fact returning to where he was born - Johannesburg - and where he grew up and was educated - Cape Town.

We hope to see as many of our community as possible joining us for the occasion.

• To book your place or for more information, contact Roseanne on (011) 645-2521 or sajbd@sajbd.org.

Window of opportunity in new political landscape

After so many months of negativity, bad news stories and general disillusionment over the direction our country appeared to be taking, last week's local government

elections were a welcome demonstration of the essential robustness of democracy in South Africa.

The results have created a new fluidity in our politics, which hopefully will in turn generate a renewed sense of urgency and creativity on the part of the incoming leadership. For our own part, we are extremely pleased with the success of our "Make Us Count" campaign which included voter registration drives, pre-election debates and the heading up of the largest multi-faith and multi-ethnic observer team to assist the IEC on polling day.

As a community, however, our participation in South African politics needs to go beyond merely participating at election time. We need to be constantly interested and become more involved in the political affairs of our country, just as many members of our community were in the not too distant past.

In this way, we empower ourselves while also following in the footsteps of the many South African Jews who have contributed to our political culture over the generations.

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

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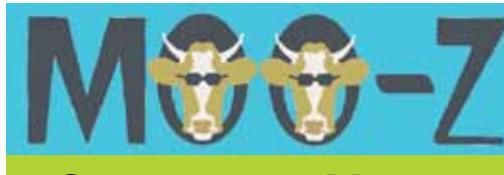
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Anger as Corbyn hands Chakrabarti a peerage

LONDON - Shami Chakrabarti, who led an investigation into allegations of anti-Semitism in the Labour Party, has accepted a peerage from Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

She was nominated by Corbyn and was elevated to the House of Lords just five weeks after completing her anti-Semitism inquiry.

The Community Security Trust, which monitors anti-Semitism in Britain, said the move was "a shameless kick in the teeth for all who put hope in her now wholly compromised inquiry into Labour anti-Semitism".

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said the credibility of Chakrabarti's report "lies in tatters".

Chakrabarti said: "I am honoured to accept Jeremy Corbyn's challenge and opportunity to help hold the government to account. This is a dangerous moment for our country and we share vital human rights values that need defending more than ever before in my lifetime."

A spokesman for Corbyn added: "Shami Chakrabarti shares Jeremy's ambition for reform of the House of Lords. Her career has been one of public service and human rights advocacy."

"Her legal and campaigning skills, and the trust that she has gained from many ordinary Britons, will be a considerable asset to the House of Lords. Brexit will put many hard-fought rights at risk, so it is crucial that those equipped with the right skills are given the opportunity to hold this government to account."

Asked by the Jewish Chronicle whether her appointment to the Lords undermined the credibility and independence of the anti-Semitism inquiry, Corbyn's spokesman said Chakrabarti was "an ideal appointment to the Lords". - Jewish Chronicle, London

Placebos by prescription may work like medicine

HAIFA - Positive expectations improve the effectiveness of the immune system. This is the conclusion of a study by Israeli researchers published in *Nature Medicine*.

Although the effect of one's mood and attitude on the immune system is well documented - including the "placebo effect" in which patients feel better after taking a sham medication - this study suggests a specific mechanism of action of the placebo effect.

The findings potentially could lead to the development of new drugs that utilise the brain's ability to cure through positive messages.

"Our findings indicate that activation of areas of the brain associated with positive expectations can affect how the body copes with diseases," explained lead author Asya Rolls, assistant professor of immunology at the medical school of the Technion-Israel Institute

of Technology in Haifa.

"Placebo is a complex phenomenon in which the patient's expectation of recovery affects his state of health," she added.

"Expectation of improvement and arousal of positive emotions are reflected in the activity of neurons in the brain."

"So we decided to understand, at the molecular level, how areas of the brain associated with positive expectations affect the functioning of the immune system - the body's main defence system."

"Understanding the mechanisms connecting the brain to the immune system could lead to significant medical applications that can potentially improve the prognosis of diseases."

The research, carried out by doctoral student Tamar Ben-Shaanan, examined the effect of the "reward system" - a brain region triggered in anticipation of a positive experience, and stimulated during the placebo effect. - Israel 21c

Beersheba to meet Glasgow Celtic in playoff for group stage

BEERSHEBA - Hapoel Beersheba's final obstacle on the way to the Champions League group stage will be Scottish powerhouse Celtic.

The Israeli champion team was drawn to face the former European champion in the playoffs, the final qualifying round.

The first leg is at Celtic Park on Wednesday, August 17, with Beersheba to host the return leg the following Tuesday.

Beersheba is looking to become the sixth Israeli team to play in the Champions League group stage.

Maccabi Tel Aviv qualified last season for the second time in club history (2004/05, 2015/16), with Hapoel Tel Aviv reaching the prestigious stage in 2010/11 and Maccabi Haifa doing so twice in the past (2002/03, 2009/10).

Beersheba, which won its first local championship in 40 years last season, registered a major upset to reach the playoffs, claiming a 1-0 win over Greek powerhouse Olympiacos at Turner Stadium last week Wednesday.

The first leg in Athens ended in a 0-0 deadlock.

Beersheba has already secured itself continental soccer deep into the winter, as even if it loses in the playoffs, it will receive a place in the Europa League group stage.

As a result, Beersheba is already guaranteed 5.4 million euro from UEFA prize money alone.

"At this stage of the competition every opponent is tough and that is certainly the case with Celtic, a team with a long tradition in Europe," said Beersheba coach Barak Bachar. "We will study Celtic, prepare and continue in our way." - Jerusalem Post

Placebos by prescription may work like medicine

ambassador to Israel. Rivlin congratulated her on her appointment and stressed that "the relationship between our two nations is very important to us".

He added that "despite any crises, we have maintained uninterrupted relations".

The President spoke of the important co-operation between the two countries, mainly in the fields of agriculture and water innovation. "We would like to see more of your students come to study through MASHAV especially here in Israel."

The President also asked Lesotho to assist Israel, pointing out "Israel would be pleased to return to its observer status at the African Union".

SA JEWISH REPORT

Around the Jewish World

12 – 19 August 2016

being presented and educated," LAMOTH executive director Samara Hutman said in a phone interview.

But like the rest of the country - the game has been downloaded more than 30 million times in the United States, according to SurveyMonkey Intelligence - Hutman said she's intrigued by the possibilities such technology presents.

"I think if I had to sum it up, I would say we like to think organisationally we retain a curiosity about emergent ways of connections," she said.

Elsewhere in the city, Pokémon are making their presence felt - from the purple, snake-like Ekans discovered at the Museum of Tolerance, a PokeStop, to the cute, yellow Pikachu who has made appearances at Pan Pacific Park outside LAMOTH, to the wild Mankey this reporter found in his Jewish Journal cubicle.

A number of local synagogues also serve as PokeStops. - Jewish Journal, Los Angeles



Hasbara Fellowships files complaint over pro-Israel group's exclusion

TORONTO - After Hasbara Fellowships was excluded in March from participating in a social justice-themed campus event because of the group's "ties to Israel", Robert Walker, the Canadian director of the organisation, decided he wasn't going to take the discrimination lying down.

On July 29, Hasbara Fellowships filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal (OHRT) against the Student Association at Durham College and University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) and the UOIT Faculty Association for its "blatant and remorseless discrimination... targeted at Jewish and Israeli people".

Last February, Walker acted on an invitation by the Oshawa-based UOIT's student association to apply for a table at a Social Justice Week event to promote the Hasbara Fellowships' "Israel Peace Week" programme.

Walker said he received a rejection e-mail from Denise Martins, executive assistant of UOIT's faculty association, that said since the student association passed a motion endorsing the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement in January, and because Hasbara Fellowships "seems closely tied to the State of Israel... it would be against the motion to provide any type of resources to your organisation".

UOIT's student association released a statement in defence of its decision to exclude Hasbara Fellowships from the event, which included anti-capitalist and Marxist-Leninist programming, as well as anti-Israel programming.

"The stated objectives of Hasbara Fellowships are in conflict with the objectives of Social Justice Week... Any organisation whose mandate is to promote policies that contributes [sic] to the colonisation of indigenous peoples, Palestinian or otherwise, does not align with the principles of social justice," the statement said. - Canadian Jewish News

'Pokémon Go' capturing Jewish hearts and sites around LA

LOS ANGELES - With "Pokémon Go" suddenly a craze across the world, it was only a matter of time before the augmented reality game's creatures started showing up at Jewish sites across Los Angeles.

The impact was felt almost immediately at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust (LAMOTH), much to the dismay of the museum's executive staff. The site was designated a PokeStop, a real-world location incorporated into the gameplay where players can collect items.

"We expressed to the folks at the game company we didn't think the... museum was an appropriate place for the game to be played out because of the sensitivity of the material

SYDNEY - Jewish Sydney Girls' High School learner Eden Blair has officially been named

the best young debater on the planet after being ranked number one in the World Schools Debating Championships (WSDC).

"It's so exciting and so hard to believe," the teenager who is in her final year of high school, said. "It's something I've been working on for a long time, since I did my first debate in year five."

The Australian team, captained by Blair, travelled to Stuttgart, Germany, last month to compete for the world title. They finished third overall, narrowly losing to the Canadian team by one vote in the finals, arguing that a school's history curriculum should be designed to promote national pride.

Adjudicators hailed Blair as the top individual performer in the contest.

"I was very lucky to be part of a great team," Blair said. "Our coach had previously won the World University Debating Championships, so we were in good hands."

"We went a week early and did debate training in Berlin. As we got closer and closer to the finals, I got more nervous. The audiences got bigger, and people started filming us. But I also go more confident as we went on."

The WSDC brings together 56 countries, each of which send their top five speakers to the finals. After eight rounds of debating, a panel of adjudicators select the finalists. This year, Australia qualified in first place, tying with the South African team.

This is the second time Blair has competed in the WSDC on the Australian team. She hopes to study a combination of law, English and history at university in 2017. - Australian Jewish News

Lesotho foresees closer relations with Israel in many fields

ANT KATZ

Israel's continuing drive to grow its sphere of influence and support in Africa was again evident last week when President Reuven Rivlin asked the new non-resident Lesotho ambassador to Israel to assist Israel in regaining its erstwhile observer status at the Organisation of African Unity.

President Rivlin received the diplomatic credentials of a number of new ambassadors to Israel at his residence last week Wednesday. They hailed from India, Chile, Myanmar, Estonia, and Lesotho.

Lesotho Ambassador Lineo Irene Molisa-Mabusela presented her credentials as non-resident

ambassador to Israel. Rivlin congratulated her on her appointment and stressed that "the relationship between our two nations is very important to us".

He added that "despite any crises, we have maintained uninterrupted relations".

The President spoke of the important co-operation between the two countries, mainly in the fields of agriculture and water innovation. "We would like to see more of your students come to study through MASHAV especially here in Israel."

The President also asked Lesotho to assist Israel, pointing out "Israel would be pleased to return to its observer status at the African Union".



Lesotho's new Ambassador to Israel Lineo Irene Molisa-Mabusela with Israel's President Reuven Rivlin.

Molisa-Mabusela thanked the President and said: "Allow me to pass the warmest wishes of His Majesty and the people of Lesotho." She told the president that her country was "appreciative of the wonderful relations between our two countries, and we would like to work to open new channels of communication including in the fields of health-care, agriculture, water and many others".

Israel's ministry of foreign affairs (MFA) website lists 17 full-time embassies in Africa. However, many of them are non-resident posts – such as the South African resident ambassador, Arthur Lenk, who also holds the non-resident brief for other countries such as Lesotho and Swaziland.

Julius - the love story

HOWARD FELDMAN

"Three-year-old political party seeks mature and experienced mate for a long term mutually beneficial 'friendship'."

If avoiding the potholes on a midnight stroll down Louis Botha Avenue is your idea of romance, if the roar of the Pikitup collection trucks revs your engine, if candle-lit cold dinners makes you shiver, then the ANC is your partner of choice.

Sunday August 7 and the political landscape has shifted in South Africa. It might not yet officially be Spring but the blossoms of hope, thought dead for some years, are starting to show signs that they might have just been dormant. The people of the country have voted and they have sent a very clear message to the ANC. They are not wanted, they are not to be trusted and the citizens of the country deserve better.

It is now up to the other parties to hear them.

With no clear leadership in Johannesburg or Tshwane, either the DA or the ANC will need to

form a coalition to take control of these cities. If the will of the people is to be respected this means that the ANC cannot be allowed to form a coalition that would award them control once again. They were thrown out of the front door and cannot be allowed in through the back. Even if they are most charming.

In all this, the EFF, with around 10 per cent of the votes, has become the kingmaker. This party in effect gets to choose who will govern these cities for the next five years. And its leader, Julius Malema, needs to very carefully weigh up how it will impact not only the people of the country, but also the effect on the party he has fought so hard to establish. His decision is not to be taken lightly and the responsibility that he holds is enormous.

He will also need to consider his prior relationship with the ANC and with President Jacob Zuma himself. There is lit-



tle doubt that the "charm offensive", the apologies, the promises of greatness and the assurance that the past is the past will become pressure in of itself, as will the hints and pledges of new leadership within the ANC.

There is little doubt that at this hour of desperation and of failure that the ANC will say whatever they have to in order to get back the metros that they have squandered.

Julius Malema would be making a grave error if he were to succumb to the advances of the ANC. His party will lose its identity, he will have let his supporters down and will no doubt be considered a "sell-out".

Contrast that with an alliance with the DA and his decision should be obvious. With little risk of an identity loss, the EFF, a young inexperienced party, will be able to gain much from the maturity of the DA. So different are the parties that Malema stands little chance of losing his

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supporters to them. He will have the opportunity to grow his distinctiveness, thus placing him in a much stronger position for the next election.

The DA would profit not only from the obvious seats it would gain and the ability to govern (with two seats still required) but would benefit also from the charisma of the EFF - something the DA has historically lacked.

An alliance with the EFF would also further endorse the assertion that the DA is not a "white" party.

The dating game is going to be an interesting one. Netflorist is

going to be busy and the whispers are going to be deafening. It's going to be a week of gossip and rumours and false speculation; of conjecture and intrigue. It's going to be riveting. And I intend enjoying every minute.

• Howard Feldman is the co-founder of iPartners Africa, an African venture capital firm and is the author of "Carry on Baggage". He is a speaker and writer, focusing on political, cultural and social issues. He is the former chairman of the SA Jewish Report and is a morning presenter on ChaiFM. 101.9.

World News in Brief

Sagi Muki lost to Lasha Shavdatuashvili of Georgia in the bronze medal match.

Shahar Tzuberi had won the last medal for Israel - a bronze in sailing. (JTA)

Olympic chiefs slam Lebanese team over clash with Israelis

RIO DE JANEIRO - The International Olympic Committee last Sunday issued a stern warning to the head of the Lebanese delegation to the Games over his refusal to share a bus to the opening ceremony in Rio de Janeiro with the Israeli team.

Last week Friday, Lebanese delegation head Salim al-Haj Nicola

physically prevented Israeli team members from boarding their designated bus. They were ultimately provided with alternative transportation to Maracana Stadium.

Nicola was summoned for a hearing by the IOC last Sunday, and was reprimanded for his behaviour.

IOC heads informed the Israeli delegation of the hearing and said they had made it clear that incidents of this nature "would not be tolerated".

Nicola reportedly told the IOC that the incident had simply been "a misunderstanding".

"I welcome the Olympic committee's treatment of the shameful behaviour and anti-Semitism demonstrated by the Lebanese delegation," said Israeli Culture and Sport Minister Miri Regev, who had expressed outrage over the incident. (Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)

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Three Jewish women leaders were part of the Women's Day march to Union Buildings.



Chaya Singer; Mary Kluk, Sophia Williams-De Bruyn; Faith Mazibuko; and Wendy Kahn.

STAFF REPORTER

Women's Day this year marked exactly 60 years since one of the iconic events of the anti-apartheid struggle, the march to the Union Buildings by 20 000 South African women of all races and creeds to protest against the iniquity of the apartheid system.

To mark the occasion this year, President Jacob Zuma, Cabinet ministers and various leaders from civil society gathered in Pretoria's Lilian Ngoyi Street for the official unveiling of both a new Women's Centre and of bronze statues depicting the four main leaders (including Ngoyi herself) of the original march. Afterwards, a symbolic walk to the Union Buildings took place.

One of those taking part in the Women's Day march was Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, the only survivor of those leaders. She was accompanied

by, among others, three representatives of the Jewish community, SAJBD National President Mary Kluk, National Director Wendy Kahn and Chaya Singer.

"In general, people see public holidays as being no more than a welcome day off work and an opportunity for recreation," said Kluk. While there is nothing wrong with this, Kluk stressed how important it was on such occasions to also reflect on why such days had been chosen as times of national remembrance.

"The essence of Women's Day is to remember the events of August 9, 1956, the context in which they took place, what impact they had on the subsequent history of the anti-apartheid

struggle and the lessons that could be learned from this in the here and now.

"Not only should the contribution made by those brave women be remembered," she said, "but the example they set should be perpetuated in our own circles today."

Kahn likewise felt that the heroic example set by their predecessors should inspire South African women in their confronting the challenges facing them in contemporary times. The issues might have changed, she said, but the voice of

the women needed to be as vociferous as ever.

Singer commented on how moving it had been to have been part of so powerfully symbolic an occasion.

"Sophia Williams-De Bruyn represented living history, someone who had been an intrinsic part of the events that were commemorated. Being able to walk alongside her, along the very route she and her fellow protesters followed 60 years ago, was an unforgettable experience."

A night with Jerusalem Post's Steve Linde

ANT KATZ

Last week Steve Linde, the recently retired South African-born editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Post, arrived in Johannesburg for the first time in 30 years. Linde was born in Zimbabwe and grew up in Durban.

The chairman of the SA Jewish Report's board of directors, Howard Sackstein, invited a group of Jewish people in media to an off-the-record discussion and dinner with Linde.

The group of writers and journalists included staff from Independent Media Group, Times Media, The Daily Maverick and the SA Jewish Report. There were also representatives from the SA Institute for Race Relations, the SA Zionist Federation as well as a few private publishers, authors and Jewish Report directors.

Everyone agreed that the discussion was extremely stimulating and, being off-the-record, Linde was able to share many "war stories" as only someone who has been so close to the leadership in Israel for so long, could do.

Linde, who has been a journalist for over 30 years, with a large portion of it in radio news, provided frank and honest answers to questions and some hilarious anecdotes too. Linde remains active at the Jerusalem Post. While he has handed over the reins of editor-in-chief, he remains features editor and continues to oversee a global battery of products - most of which he himself started and almost all of which provide income to keep the 50 000-daily circulation print edition of the newspaper alive. Their Friday

edition has sales of 80 000 and their international edition 40 000.

Originally regarded as a left-leaning newspaper, the Post underwent a noticeable shift to the right in the late 1980s. From 2004, under then editor-in-chief David Horovitz, the paper took a more centrist position, competing against the staunch left-liberal Ha'aretz.

When Linde took over the reins he immediately changed the newspaper's position to an across the board platform, with no particular political leaning. In April this year Linde was replaced by Yaakov Katz.

The newspaper is published in English and French and is a venerable old lady, having been founded in 1932 by Gershon Agron as "The Palestine Post". It changed its name to The Jerusalem Post in 1950.

Walty Brothers Fun Sports Day raises R150 000 for Arcadia

Emphasis was on fun at the fundraiser.



A brand-new Arcadia Children's Home is being built from the ground up on the corner of Long and George Avenues in Sandringham in Johannesburg.

A media release on the project says it has caught the attention of people all over the world "who have ever had a connection with Arcadia and in over 100 years, that includes innumerable families over several generations".

While the building costs have been taken care of "by an incredibly generous donor", the Chevrah Kadisha is responsible for interior decorating, furnishings, fittings and finishes. This has sparked numerous fundraising efforts across the world and especially here in South Africa.

One of these fundraisers was the fifth annual Walty Brothers Fun Sports Day which raised over R150 000 for the new Arcadia.

The event was organised by parents Ivan and Belinda Walt in loving memory of their sons Dean (13) and Dylan (19), both of whom passed away tragically - Dean in a car accident five years ago and Dylan, who took his life 18 months ago at age 19.

The event, held on Sunday July 31 at the Sandton Indoor Arena, was a tribute to the memory of the sports-loving Walt brothers, attracting over 500 people - 288 participating children, hundreds of parents and family members, 22 cricket teams and 16 netball teams.



Some of South Africa's Jewish media who sat down for an off-the-record evening with outgoing editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Post Steve Linde (centre back) last week. The evening was hosted by SAJR board chairman Howard Sackstein (front centre - with fellow-director Dina Diamond on his right and SAJR editor Vanessa Valkin).

Babka - deservedly - is having a major renaissance moment



MIRI ROTKOVITZ

Babka is having a major moment, and why not? There's lots to love about the loaves of twisted dough, generously interspersed with a filling that usually involves lots of chocolate. Many professional bakers behind babka's renaissance are working with laminated doughs - yeasted dairy doughs turned with lots of butter.

I thought about doing the same, but the challenge of creating a delicious pareve babka made without margarine won out. I couldn't shake thoughts of my grandmother's love of apricots, so I built the filling around them. I love the cheeky marriage of Sephardic flavours wrapped in a quintessentially Ashkenazi pastry.

APRICOT PISTACHIO BABKA

Ingredients

For the dough:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup soy milk, gently warmed
- $1\frac{1}{8}$ tsp ($\frac{1}{2}$ packet) active dry yeast
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour, plus 2 to 4 Tbsp if needed
- 1 cup white whole-wheat flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp fine sea salt
- 3 Tbsp virgin coconut oil
- 2 Tbsp neutral oil, such as canola or grapeseed
- 1 large egg

For the filling:

- 1 cup tart dried apricots
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup golden raisins
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup dry-roasted, unsalted, shelled pistachios
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
- 2 tsp virgin coconut oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ground ginger

For the topping:

- 4 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ Tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp neutral oil, such as canola or grapeseed

Directions

- Make the dough: In a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook, or a large bowl, combine the soy milk and yeast. Allow to stand until foamy - 5 to 10 minutes.
- In another bowl, whisk together the flours, sugar, and salt. Add to the yeast mixture, mixing with a wooden spoon or the mixer's dough hook on medium speed. Add the coconut oil and canola or grapeseed oil, and continue beating until incorporated. Add the egg and mix until the dough begins to pull into a ball.
- Knead with the dough hook for 5 minutes, or by hand on a lightly floured surface for 5 to 10 minutes, until the dough is slightly tacky but smooth. If the dough is very sticky, knead in the additional flour, 1 tablespoon at a time, just until the dough is no longer too sticky to handle. If you kneaded by hand, return the dough to the bowl. If you let the mixer knead, simply remove the bowl from the machine. Cover the bowl with a clean tea towel or plastic wrap and allow the dough to rise until doubled, about 1 to 1½ hours.

- Make the filling: While the dough is rising, place the apricots and raisins in separate bowls, add enough warm water to cover, and soak for about 10 minutes or until soft. Drain each separately, pat dry, and return to the bowls.
- Place the pistachios in the work bowl of a food processor, and pulse several times to grind to a fine flour. If you don't have a food processor, use a mortar and pestle. Or chop the pistachios finely with a knife, then crush with a rolling pin. Transfer the pulverised pistachios to a small dish and set aside.
- Next, place the apricots, sugar, coconut oil, cinnamon, and ginger into the work bowl of the food processor (it's fine if some pistachio residue remains). Pulse several times, until a smooth paste forms.
- To make the filling by hand, chop the apricots as finely as possible, place in a bowl with the other ingredients and use your hands to mix and knead the filling into a smooth a paste as you can.
- Grease a 9-by-5-by-2½-inch loaf pan. When the dough has risen, punch it down and divide it in half. Pat each piece of dough into a rectangle.
- On a lightly floured surface, roll one portion of dough into a 9-by-15-inch rectangle about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick. Spread with half the apricot filling, leaving a 1-inch border along one of the long sides. Sprinkle evenly with half the ground pistachios, then half the raisins. Starting on the long side without the border, roll the dough up tightly, jellyroll-style.
- Pinch the ends together gently to seal. Allow the roll to rest, seam side down, while you repeat the process with the other piece of dough and the remaining filling.
- Lay the rolls side by side, seam sides down. Starting in the middle, twist the rolls together by laying one over the other until you get to the ends. Gently compress the ends between your hands to shorten the loaf enough to fit it into the loaf pan. Cover the pan with a clean tea towel or plastic wrap and allow to rise in a warm place until the babka mostly fills the pan, about 1½ to 2 hours. (If you'd prefer, you can also cover the pan with plastic and refrigerate overnight. You will need to bring the babka to room temperature before baking.)

Make the topping

- First, preheat the oven to 180 °C as you'll want to place the babka in the oven immediately after putting on the topping. In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, and cinnamon. Stir in the oil until the flour mixture is moistened and small lumps form.
- Sprinkle the topping over the babka. Place the loaf pan on a piece of foil on the centre rack of the oven (the foil will catch any bits of crumb topping that may fall off). Bake in the preheated oven, turning the pan after 30 minutes, until the babka is golden and firm to the touch, about 45 to 50 minutes total. Remove from the oven and transfer to a wire rack to cool.

The babka will keep, well wrapped at room temperature, for 5 days. Or wrap well in foil, place in a plastic freezer bag, and freeze for up to 2 months. (The Nosh via JTA)

Miri Rotkovitz is a food writer, editor, and recipe developer. As About.com's Kosher Food Expert (<http://kosherfood.about.com>), she shares creative recipes, entertaining tips, and articles exploring kosher culture.

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'Catch the Cavity' at RKNS, a Mandela Day offering



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY CARON LEVY

The children at Rosabelle Klein Nursery School in Johannesburg were involved in collecting toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste for its outreach schools in conjunction with the Union of Jewish Women's Mandela Day "Catch the Cavity" initiative.

This was pertinent, not only to celebrate Madiba's legacy of giving, but also to give tzedakah to those who do not have. The kids are currently learning about their "5 Senses" and the collection of the toothbrushes and toothpaste coincided very well with their new knowledge about their sense of taste; mouth; teeth and tongue.

Pictured is the grade R class displaying some of the toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste that have been collected.

Sandton Sinai learners vote on some important issues

AMY JAFFE AND MELINDA CHAZEN

The primary school learners of Sandton Sinai cast their vote in the school's local playground equipment election last week, in line with the widely publicised local elections which were taking place.

Learners were asked to choose which additional playground equipment they would prefer. Their choice included: Gummi, skipping ropes, hula-hoops or soccer goals. The results - which are eagerly anticipated - will be counted and presented in graph format to the learners.

Pictured is Racheli Orkin casting her "vote".



Photo: Melinda Chazen

Minnie Bersohn tots get introduced to their own elections



Minnie Bersohn's grade Rs proudly wave their "ID cards" enabling them to "vote" in their own election.

MICHELLE VINOKUR

The children at Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School in Johannesburg last week experienced voting for the first time.

The grade Rs divided into parties and presented their

mission statement to the senior groups. A voting station was set up and the children went with their self-made ID cards to cast their ballots after they had been finger printed.

There was much delight among all the children after the "red party" won the election.

Hot Chocolate a runway winner at Sydenham PPS poll

JENNY MILLER

Sydenham Pre-Primary School kids had an introduction to the grown-up world last week Tuesday when they faced a "difficult decision" - who to vote for in their own election. Would it be hot chocolate, milkshakes, tea or soup?

They placed their voting papers in the ballot box and waited eagerly for the results. Hot chocolate won by an overwhelming majority!

The children were delighted with their choice when they enjoyed their hot chocolate on a freezing Thursday morning!

Pictured casting their votes are: Amber Saevitzon; Matthew Kadis; and Nicola Goldblatt.



Photo: Moira Berkowitz

'Tekia' - a reminder and symbol of reawakening

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Torah Academy Girls' High School is staging a production called "Tekia" - for women only.

It is a personal tale about returning to one's roots and is a much-needed fundraiser for the school.

"Tekia" is about rediscovery of Jewish identity. The producer is Yaela Orelowitz.

It follows the development of protagonist Yoram Amnon, a hot-headed Israeli lawyer who is disconnected from his Jewish and cultural identity.

Through drama, music and dance, the story

of Yoram, a man trying desperately and often humorously to escape from his roots and identity, becomes universal as it taps into themes of belonging, family, connection and forgiveness.

"Tekia" embraces the shofar as a symbol of reawakening throughout the play. In anticipation of the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), "Tekia" is a reminder, an awakening to all Jews.

The concert will be staged on the night of August 20, two performances on August 21 and one on Monday, August 22.

• For ticket bookings, log into www.joburgtheatre.com



Photo: Suzanne Bellini

Some of the cast in a dress-rehearsal for their upcoming school fundraising presentation at the Fringe Theatre, Johannesburg. Sarah Mannie; Elisheva Jacobson, Dina Kay; Chani Zlotnick; and Alexandra Rosendorff of Torah Academy Girls' High School.

Israel's new deputy ambassador - in Black and white

DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

Israel's new Deputy Ambassador to South Africa, Ayelet Black (pictured), is a tough career woman in a predominantly male world, and make no mistake, there is nothing grey about this diminutive, young and dynamic woman.

As the daughter of a career diplomat, she was born while her father was posted in the United States and she has lived in Canada, the UK and Australia.

From the age of nine till 13, she lived in the UK and that is where she met her future husband Elliot - and it is the country which has left the greatest impact on her.

Black then went to Australia to do her own shlichut during national service where she worked under Rabbi David Shaw who is now back in South Africa. She recalls that on arrival in Australia, she said she wanted to learn to speak with an Australian accent, only to be told that everyone there speaks with a South African accent! That was also where she had her first taste of biltong.

From the age of about four, Black remembers listening to her father giving speeches on Israel and thought that this was what she wanted to do when she grew up. She also knew that she wanted to share this experience with her own children one day.

"I thought it would be terrible if my children grew up without a diplomat parent," she says of a career that was so much part of her childhood.

With regard to being a woman in the diplomatic corps, Black says the Israeli Foreign Ministry has gone to great lengths to ensure that women can have fruitful careers. Previous cadet programmes had a 50:50 ratio of men to women with the last group being predominantly women.

"Israel has always been a very advanced country when it comes to women's rights, starting with being one of the first countries to have a woman prime minister (in Golda Meir). There are many laws in place to assist mothers to be able to juggle work and childcare."

Black is very excited about what the South African Jewish community does for Israel; it is uniquely involved with the State of Israel and has much historic support for Israel.

She was welcomed by WIZO a few hours after her arrival in South Africa and is looking forward to contributing where possible.

On BDS and its ilk, Black stresses that this area of public diplomacy is only one aspect they deal with. Additional budget has been approved for dealing with this issue as the embassy in Pretoria is recognised as being extremely active in these - and other - areas, such as agriculture, the economy and culture.

Waiting for any possible changes in the attitude of the South African government after the municipal elections, Black says that Israel is always looking for any channels of co-operation and hopes to increase existing channels. The embassy is ready for this.

As a typical Jewish mother, with a Polish father and Moroccan mother, her first impression on any country is through the food. Black finds the meals in South Africa diverse, spicy, strong and colourful and immediately sees this in the country itself.

Much like her own style, she is a great cook (but insists her husband is even better) and her favourite dishes are a series of Moroccan salads and side dishes, which take up a great deal of time and ingredients to prepare.



Black was previously an informal educator in an all-girls school and her classes, essentially aimed at young teenagers, were based on women empowerment mirrored in the Tanach.

This is still close to her heart and, if nothing else, she would like to know that she is remembered by her students and her children for instilling in them that they can do anything they really want and how to deal with any difficulties that come their way.

After a long hard day at work, and once the children are in bed, you will probably find Black picking up her guitar while her husband Eli sits at the piano, making music together.

Says Black in conclusion: "It is special to me to represent not only Israel but Israeli women. I want to express that the connection between Israel and the Jewish community is so important and I look forward to being a strong bridge connecting the two."

Abbas' Fatah Party on Facebook boasts of killing '11 000 Israelis'

JERUSALEM - Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's ruling Fatah Party claimed on its official Facebook page that it has "killed 11 000 Israelis".

"For the argumentative... the ignorant... and for those who do not know history," Fatah wrote on its Facebook page, continuing: "The Fatah movement killed 11 000 Israelis," according to a translation by Palestinian Media Watch.

Additionally, Fatah also claimed to have "offered 170 000 martyrs", and that hundreds of its followers were in "Israeli occupation jails".

Despite being seen by many world leaders as the "moderate" alternative to its rival Hamas, the Palestinian terror group which controls the Gaza Strip, Israeli leaders have long accused Abbas and his Fatah Party of inciting violence and terrorism.

The claims by Fatah may be an attempt to boost its anti-Israel credentials ahead of the Palestinian municipal elections scheduled for October 8. (JNS.org)



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Sholem Aleichem remembered on the South African stage

BRIAN JOSSELOWITZ

Shane Baker, an Episcopalian and an ardent proponent of Yiddish theatre, language and culture in New York, will be performing in a tribute to mark the 100th yahrzeit of iconic Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem in Cape Town and Johannesburg in aid of the Cape Seniors Association and the Union of Jewish Women respectively. Sharing the stage will be Caely-Jo Levy from Cape Town.

Baker grew up in Kansas City and has a BA in English from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and an MA in Germanic Studies from the University of Texas, Austin.

"I believe there are a large number of gentiles in the Kaminska Yiddish Theatre in Warsaw, as well as the Romanian State Jewish Theatre in Bucharest. In New York I have worked in shows where other gentiles are cast, although they learn their lines phonetically and don't speak the language; this is also unfortunately true of



Caely-Jo Levy.

too many Jewish actors as well," Baker said. "And in academia, there are countless non-Jews working in the field of Yiddish," Baker said.

"Yiddish is a world language spoken on every continent and its rich traditions have influenced many aspects of mainstream culture, from humour to high art.

"In America, we used to have

a bread called Levy's Rye with a slogan: 'You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy Levy's', and the same is true of Yiddish theatre: it's got vitamins you can't get anywhere else."

"When I came to New York I started studying Yiddish. I saw my first Yiddish play (*Mirele Efros*), I fell in love with my first Yiddish actress and had good teachers."

Mentors and friends included Mina Bern, a star of the Yiddish theatre in Interwar Poland, Israel, and on Second Avenue; the other was Luba Kadison Buloff, the last surviving member of the renowned Vilner Troupe.

"Luba and Mina were my Yidishe mamas. For a year, I spent several nights a week with one or the other, eating chicken soup and speaking Yiddish. They provided me with my earliest education in the culture and they gave me what I am told is quite nice Yiddish diction."

"The earliest works I studied with them were monologues and

scenes by Sholem Aleichem, who's more difficult to grasp than you might think the most popular Yiddish writer of all time would be.

"His language is rich and musical and incredibly fun to speak, but all that disappears like morning dew in the harsh light of translation. It's really best delivered in the original."

Levy is excited to share the stage with Baker. "I've watched his YouTube clips and I think it's wonderful what he's doing for Yiddish."

When Levy was invited to sing at the Cape Town Yiddish Song Festival, she noticed there was no-one her age in the audience. "Since then I have felt a deep need and a sense of responsibility as a young Jewish artist to help conserve these songs and share some of the history and culture that goes with this exquisite language, with my generation."

* Welcome to the World of Fiddler on the Roof: a celebration of the Wit & Wisdom of

Sholem Aleichem in Word and Song will be staged at the SABC Auditorium, Sea Point, on August 28. Tickets are available at www.quicket.co.za or phone (021) 434-9691. To book at the Theatre on the Square in Sandton for the September 4 shows, call Bev on (011) 6452591 or 082-574-4770 or Lynne on 083-378-1114. There will be two shows at each venue.



Shane Baker.

Letters

Disclaimer

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 of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report.

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

Guidelines for letters

Letters of up to 400 words get preference. Provide your full name, place of residence, and daytime phone number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

ELECTIONS 2016 - DEMOCRACY AT PLAY

The 2016 municipal elections have come and gone and it was one of the defining moments of South African history. Not since 1994 has there been such interest in an election, nor a belief that anyone else but the ANC could win.

Our democracy allows for everyone to vote, no matter what colour, gender or education level. However, before this election many rightly said that their votes in essence meant nothing because there was no possible way that they could vote out the ruling party.

This all changed in this election. Not only did the DA strongly campaign, believing they could indeed win the Nelson Mandela Bay metro, but they had polling evidence that they may in fact also be able to win the Tshwane and Johannesburg metros. Many of South Africa's Jews eligible to vote had become disillusioned over the years, believing that their vote could not mean anything and thus had given up on the whole institution of democracy and voting for political change. However, this election should put a stop to any such ideas.

In Nelson Mandela Bay metro and in Tshwane the DA got a higher percentage of votes than the ANC, while in Johannesburg the DA prevented the ANC from obtaining a majority.

Furthermore, the EFF took home enough votes so as to be able to make the DA the effective ruling party in all three metros. This shows how close the voting was and that every person's vote counts.

Democracy like many other things in life is an institution. Many institutions in modern life have been left to flounder. One only needs to look at the major sports and recreation clubs of yore, especially the Jewish ones, to see the disintegration of such institutions.

Institutions are run by people for people and thus it is only people that can save them.

Democracy can only be upheld when people believe in it and put the time and effort into it to make sure that it does not decay and disappear.

The Jewish community also happens to have quite vocal and well-to-do members who, together with the rest of Jewish society, need to take note of our democracy and start playing a more active role in politics.

Jews today - and especially in South Africa - have got equal access and thus we need to play our part in civil society and not disengage from it. No longer do we live in shtetls, shunned by society. The Jewish population should engage with a society that is receptive to the values and messages that we have.

I would like to encourage everyone to become actively involved in creating a better South Africa for all, because ultimately if the country does well we will be swept along with it.

Jews may vote for different parties, but the act of voting (in itself) is a vote for democracy.

THERE ARE MANY POSITIVE ASPECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

We are all the result of our earlier conditioning. Beliefs and assumptions accepted as children are hardly ever reconsidered as adults, even if they are incorrect. Sadly, many of these beliefs are negative and thus influence our lives negatively.

It is therefore not surprising that depression and anxiety are common in the Jewish population. After all, our people have been through so much.

Yet it has not all been as bad as we often assume. There have also been good times. And we have contributed so much. It would need an entire history book to describe what our tiny nation has contributed to the world. In spite of this we often get stuck in pessimism even if it is not the entire picture.

Following the Holocaust, a lot of our people came to believe in the worst and assumed that such a thing is commonplace, even if it was by far the biggest tragedy to befall us. Here in South Africa, many fled the country often citing what happened in Germany and imagining it would happen here.

However, it has been a generation since democracy was introduced here and we are still enjoying equality, religious freedom and a high standard of living. In fact, we are experiencing a massive religious revival not seen anywhere else in the world. Many say yes but what about all the crime?

Yes, Johannesburg did have the highest homicide rate but that was in 1994 and it has fallen dramatically since then. Nowadays there are

some North American cities with a higher proportion of murders.

Furthermore, GAP has reduced contact crime by about 90 per cent. "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." In the past, apartheid propaganda led us to believe that the ANC were terrorists and many were terrified by the armed struggle, leading some to seek greener pastures overseas.

Since then South Africa has surprised the world by achieving peace, while terrorism has reared its ugly head overseas, instead.

In 2013, Avigdor Lieberman, a leading member of the Israeli government, warned us of an imminent pogrom in South Africa and that we had better rush to Israel. Fortunately this and other negative expectations have not materialised.

For many Jews, to criticise Israel is to hit a nerve. After all, she is associated with our very survival. Yet this panic is often an overreaction.

It is true that members of the government have sided with the Palestinians who are their historical allies, but leading members of our community have always found them to be helpful and supportive.

Finally, Hitler and other anti-Semites should not be the ones to form our opinions and influence us towards depression, anxiety and panic.

Martin Zagnoev
Sunningdale Ridge, Johannesburg

MIDEAST PEACE: NEVER LEAVE OUT PALESTINIAN RELUCTANCE

I have been reading with interest the criticisms about the JVJP. I find that a very important point is always omitted. Most people say that Israel should be pressurised to make peace, but no-one ever mentions that the Palestinians should be pressurised to commit to making peace.

After all, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has publicly stated at the UN that he is prepared to meet PA President Mahmoud Abbas anywhere at any time to discuss making peace and solving the problem of a two-state solution.

It would be good if the powers-that-be that are so keen to see the dispute resolved, would pressure both sides to sit down together with both making concessions. I think then there would be a genuine chance of solving the problem.

The writer of the JVJP letter in last week's Jewish Report makes the point that Israel is "illegally occupying and stealing land belonging to people who they control under military occupation". It is time to realise the truth that this land, namely Judea and Samaria, was in 1948 stolen from Israel as it was part of the land allocated to Israel by the UN partition plan, among other international agreements. Five Arab armies attacked the newly-proclaimed State of Israel.

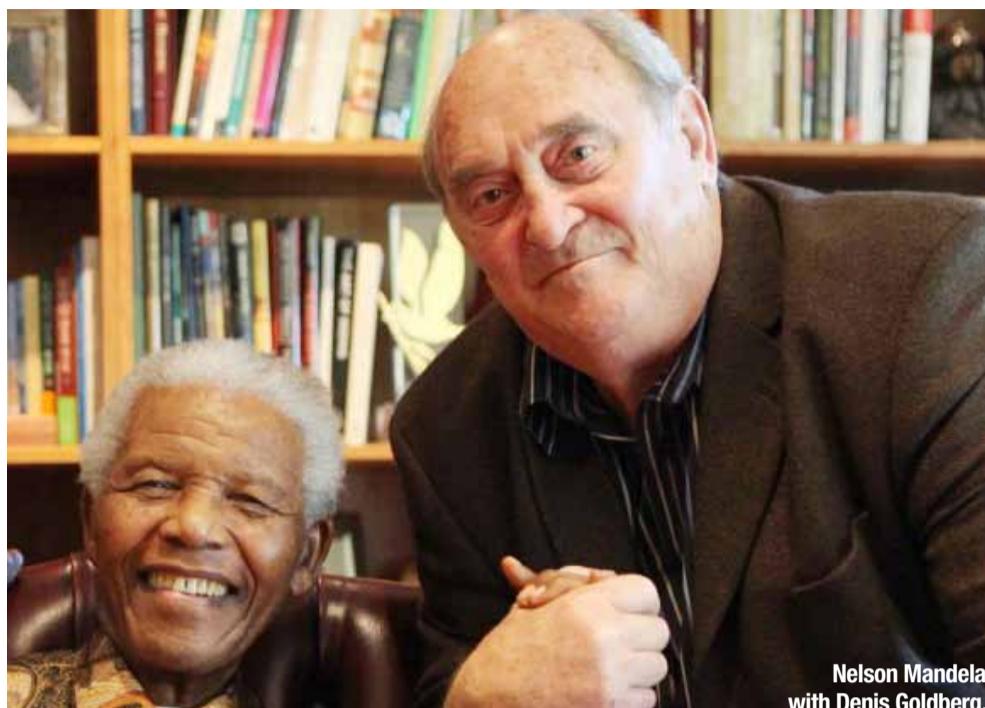
The partition allocated the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea to the Jews for a Jewish state and all the rest of the British mandated land west of the Jordan to the Arabs, which became Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

I would suggest that the people who think that Israel is occupying land illegally, should study the facts from the historical documents.

I would also suggest that Netanyahu put it to Abbas that he has two choices: peace or war. He has to choose which he wants for the "Palestinians". If he chooses peace, then they should sit down and talk to each other; if he chooses war, Israel does not have to assist its enemy in any way and should stop supplying water, electricity and money to the Palestinians.

Dennis Kahlberg
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

Limmud: Goldberg and Hamburger give credence to tikkun olam



Nelson Mandela
with Denis Goldberg.

ANT KATZ

Two of the speakers at this year's Limmud Jewish learning event taking place later this month are Struggle veteran Denis Goldberg and Tony Hamburger. Hamburger and his wife Hillary launched the Ububele Educational and Psychotherapy Trust in Kew on the north-eastern outskirts of Johannesburg in 2000 to assist with the mental health of children in Alexandra township.

Goldberg was the only white person among the eight Rivonia Trialists to be sentenced to life imprisonment with Nelson Mandela in 1964. He was also part of the brains trust, the patron and a financial backer of Ububele, giving and raising funds for its launch - both of which he still does to this day.

The Hamburgers are both psychologists living in Johannesburg. As the project's founders they ran Ububele for most of its existence. Hamburger handed over the position of executive director to Katherine Frost, although he remains an active participant.

Last year Hamburger was instrumental in making a five-minute film which readers can watch on the Jewish Report website, entitled "Umdlelane - the First 1 000 Days" which was filmed in Alexandra, and follows an Ububele home visitor into the home of a mother and

her new-born baby.

Says Hamburger: "The first 1 000 days of life, from conception to age two, is the most important time in a child's life." He illustrates this in the film and says that "the bond between the baby and primary caregiver, which usually is the mother, is so important for the healthy development of every little person."

Ububele offers a variety of training courses and therapeutic interventions for caregivers and children under the age of seven.

Goldberg will be talking at Limmud in all three centres - Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town - on "Chronicling a Life, Fighting for Freedom", while Hamburger will only be talking on Sunday August 28, at 15:30 at Limmud Johannesburg.

For the last 23 years Hamburger has practised as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist, also consulting to various mental health NGOs and training postgraduate psychotherapists as well as running Ububele with his wife Hillary.

Ububele's work, according to its website, is centred on the promotion of mental health and the development of low-cost models of preventative care and experiential training, which are suitable for low-resource environments.

The vision of Ububele is framed by a human

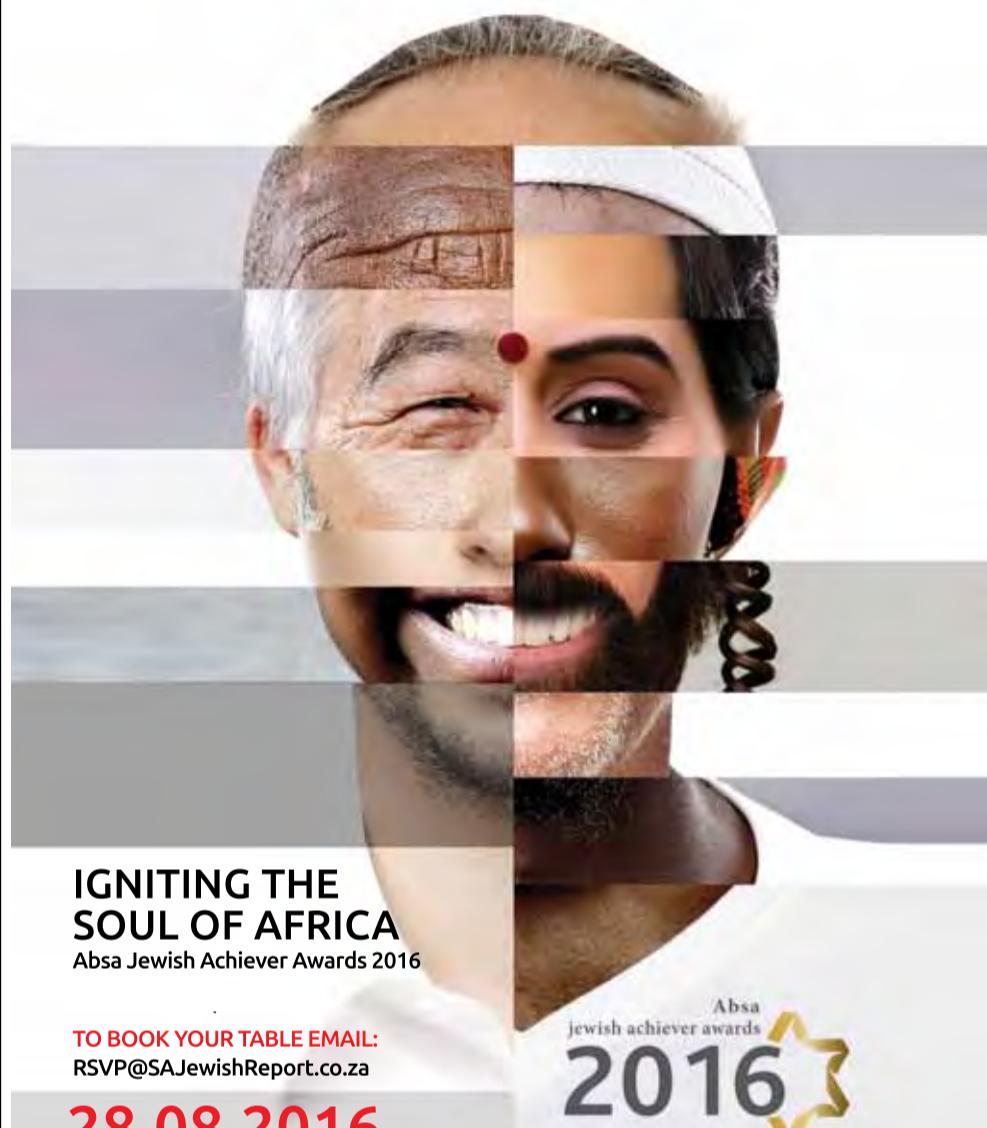
rights approach to mental health, particularly the rights of children to special protection, and to be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable them to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy way.

The then-fledgling United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution in 1959, which states that all nations should enact

laws for this purpose and that the "best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration".

The organisation's vision for South Africa is that of a nurturing society with secure, well-cared for children, who grow up to be emotionally healthy adults, competent parents and good citizens.

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Beyachad Library's about-turn widely welcomed

ANT KATZ

The SA Zionist Federation's Isie Maisels Library at Beyachad in Johannesburg has done an about-turn and, not too long after the heritage library was converted from a "lending" library to a "reference" library, the facility has once again started lending out books.

As of August 1, most of the books at the library will be able to be taken off the premises, librarian Maxine Fine told Jewish Report last week.

There is no change in respect of the policy of their very popular audio-visual material as DVDs were always loaned out to the community. These include both documentaries and films and in both English and in Hebrew with subtitles.

Fine took charge of the library in 2014 and has, ever since, been re-cataloguing the entire collection of unique material related to South African Zionism. It is especially well-used by academic researchers.

She is ably assisted by Eric Mathobo.



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Two Jewish faces prominent in Saturday Night Fever

PETER FELDMAN

Two members of the Jewish community, Johannesburg theatre producer Bernard Jay and dancer and actress Nurit Graff, are involved in the new disco musical Saturday Night Fever, which opens at the South African State Theatre in Pretoria next month.

Jay comes from a religious Jewish background in London. His father wanted him to be a banker. Jay, 70, left school at 16 to pursue a career in the theatre, a move his father frowned upon. He also told everyone that his son was in banking. It was only when a picture on the front page of the Jewish Chronicle showing the local rabbi attending one of Jay's produced plays, that his father finally recognised his son's talent.

"He was so proud," recalls Jay and from that day on things changed dramatically in the Jay household.

Today Jay is one of South Africa's foremost producers who staged some of the country's most successful productions when he was CEO of Joburg Theatre, a position he held for 14 years.

It's almost two years since Jay resigned from that position to explore new areas of creativity. His latest project is the mounting of the new, reworked production of the immensely popular disco musical, Saturday Night Fever. It opens on September 16.

Jay describes it as South Africa's first "non-replica" professional production, which, in theatre terminology, means one only has to stay faithful to the book and the score and one is permitted to

add one's own embellishments to the production.

Jay, who came to South Africa in the early '90s first to work at Percy Tucker's Computicket and then at Attie van Wyk's Big Concerts enterprise, always felt theatre was in his blood and he pursued his dream. Early on in his career he was told that the two key things about being a theatre producer are to never invest your own money in a production and to know when to pull a show when it's doing badly.

In conceiving this production, its American writers returned to the original screenplay and edited it to give it more emotional depth. The Bee Gees' famous music has also been rebooted.

Cape Town-based actress Nurit Graff is 'amazed' and excited at landing roles in the show. She plays two roles, Tony Monero's grandmother and a Puerto Rican salsa dancer, and both allow her to show different facets of her talent.

Fitness is key and Graff, a gym teacher, does rigorous workouts every day.

"I attend dance classes twice a week. The show is high energy from beginning to end. I focus on strength and cardio workouts because not only do we dance but we sing as well."

Graff has carved her niche in musicals and has already featured in classics such as Mama Mia, Dirty Dancing and West Side Story in which she won the Durban Mercury Award for best supporting actress. In Cape Town she was in The Sound of Music. She also joined Cape Town Opera for its UK tour with Showboat.

Graff has written two successful shows, a comedy, Brand Spanking Nu, and a revue called Dazzling Divas and also spends time doing choreography for corporate events and TV commercials. "I'm lucky because I've been kept fairly busy and these projects make a nice change from performing in musicals."

After Saturday Night Fever she skips straight into Janice Honeyman's pantomime, Robin Hood, and the Babes in the Wood at Joburg Theatre.

Gregg Homann, a Naledi Theatre Award winner, directs Saturday Night Fever which also features Daniel Buys as dancer Tony Manero (a role made famous by John Travolta) and Natasha van der Merwe as his love interest, Stephanie.



Daniel Buys (playing Tony Manero) with Kiruna Lind-Devar (playing Pauline).

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Jewish Report

Unravelling complexities of abuse

PETER FELDMAN

Philippa Sklaar, writer, motivational speaker and a fierce proponent for women's rights, is in South Africa to launch her second book, "The Affair". She left South Africa for Los Angeles 15 years ago, but still has family here.

Her debut literary offering, "When Loving Him Hurts", co-authored with her therapist Sue Hickey, proved a huge success when published last year. This book was borne out of Sklaar's experiences of three abusive marriages and is a subject close to her heart. In it she shares her painful journey by providing remarkable insight, guidance and hope for anyone trapped in an abusive relationship.

She told Jewish Report: "I was a very slow learner. I had not one or two but three abusive marriages. It was only after my third divorce that I got the message. I had to face the fact that the common denominator with my men was me."

"Until I understood how I participated in the dance of abuse, I was destined to repeat the pattern. My story exists as proof of this. I am committed to helping women unravel the complexities of abuse so that they too can break the cycle of abuse."

Her second book, "The Affair - Recovery from Illicit Sex, Lies and Betrayal", also co-authored with Hickey, was inspired by many people who suggested that "having an affair" was a natural extension of the first book.

She said: "Women have asked for this book. They do so almost apologetically, afraid of being seen to be making more of it than is necessary."

"They ask for it while saying that they understand that 'men are like that'. However, the statistics tell us that it is not just men. Women are also suffering from a crisis of monogamy. As more and more women enter the workplace, as more women have access to the Internet, they too are unable or unwilling to stay true to their marriage vows."

"Quite simply, women are being provided with the same opportunities that were previously only available to men and unmarried women. It seems that opportunity is directly linked to infidelity."



With Women's Month upon us, Sklaar said she is delighted with the growing status of women in world politics (Hillary Clinton, Theresa May, Angela Merkel).

"I love that America will (most likely) get its first female president. It's about time! I am so committed to making sure she wins. I am working with a Muslim woman who is the head of an interfaith group. We are planning a march in LA in October to remind Americans that America IS great and to make sure (Donald) Trump never sees the White House."

"The timing of our book, "The Affair", could not have come at a better time because this is one of the issues we deal with. Women so often feel ashamed for wanting to remain in the marriage after an affair and are blamed for being weak and stupid. This is not the case at all and the book offers comfort to both men and women who choose to stay or leave."

The book, she said, contains all that she has learnt in the many years of struggling to deal with domestic abuse. "Everything that worked for me, I condensed into a simple formula that can be applied in a practical way. I really believe that had I known differently, I would have done differently."

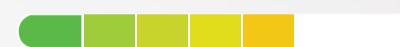
She adds: "One of the reasons I co-wrote the book was because the day I accepted I was an abused woman I ran into a bookstore to find answers to tell me what to do. I was desperate for comfort and direction. I couldn't find any."



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Humanitarian diplomacy in Syria

DR NIR BOMS

Boms, of the Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies, conducts research on the Syrian Opposition, and is involved with a number of Israeli-Syrian humanitarian initiatives. He will speak at the Limmud Cape Town conference on August 19 to 21. This will be one of his presentations.

Omar Abdul Aziz Hospital in Aleppo was the latest one to be greeted by a Syrian bomb in July of this year, courtesy of the Syrian air force and its Russian training and supplies. Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said those killed "included six children and eight women" in two government-controlled neighbourhoods. He said dozens of people were also wounded.

Just last April in nearby Zabadani, the last remaining doctor, Mohammed Khouss, was killed by a sniper as he left the hospital following an operation.

Doctors and medical supplies are hardly available to assist those injured in the midst of a ruthless Syrian tragedy that has taken over 500 000 lives and left many more injured, traumatised and defenceless. In a war-torn country where every second person has lost his home, some help however, is coming from an unexpected place.

A few hours after the hospital bombing, eight children were already in operating theatres in nearby Israel. They have joined close to 3 000 Syrian patients who have found themselves in what a few years ago would be an unthinkable and impossible place.

Syrians - some of them as young as four years of age - first crossed the common border

between the two countries in February 2013. The medical services available on the Israeli side of the Golan have become sufficiently well known that one of the recently injured, suffering from a bullet wound to the chest, arrived with a detailed doctor's note in Arabic pinned to his shirt and casually addressed to his Israeli colleague.

Lending a hand to the Syrians has not been limited to the military-medical channel. Israeli NGOs have been engaged in humanitarian work since the start of the Syrian civil war in March 2011, operating at times under the auspices of a non-Israeli organisation, in Jordan, Turkey and elsewhere.

Close to 9 000 tons of equipment (including medical aid, clothing, baby food, tents and sanitary provisions) has found its way to refugee communities inside and outside Syria.

This work, which has been kept under the radar for a number of good reasons, offers an interesting prism through which to view some of the events taking place in the region - and provides a glimmer of hope for a different future.

At the official level, of course, Israel faces a starker choice. While it has avoided taking a position in the Syrian conflict, the Israeli government finds itself on the horns of several strategic dilemmas.

On the one hand, it does not seek to play a role in what many see as a war between two evils: the Assad regime, Russia and Iran on the one hand and ISIS and assorted Islamist forces on the other.

Israel, however, cannot ignore the immediate dangers that loom across its northern border. Those include advanced or non-conventional weapons that may end up



Dr Nir Boms

in the wrong hands; the advance of ISIS and Hezbollah to new positions across the Israeli border and a further escalation in a conflict that has already spilled into Jordan and Lebanon.

So, how does investing millions in medical care for Syrians fit into the equation? It does in a very interesting way.

The first batch of injured Syrians arrived without planning. A local IDF commander spotted several bleeding Syrians and decided to act first and seek approval later. The approval was ultimately granted, and more wounded crossed the border as the battles intensified on the Syrian Golan at the beginning of 2013.

The military track was not taking place in a vacuum, however; already at the beginning of 2012 a number of groups in Israel had called publicly for a certain degree of humanitarian intervention.

Speaking at a public rally in Tel Aviv in March 2012, civic leaders said that as Israelis and human beings they could not sit idly by and watch these atrocities from afar. A collection of clothing and other items for the refugees emerged from that call to arms.

A number of Israeli NGOs have joined the cause since, saying that saving lives, a Jewish value, is sacred and lies beyond politics. These calls to action have taken shape in a number of ways: assistance in operating medical clinics inside and outside Syria; providing food, medicine and essential aid to refugees; training

of trauma workers building upon the sad experience of a terror struck country.

Israel also found itself in a good position to help: it had the facilities, the will and the people - Arab and Jews - who found a common cause to work together for their neighbours.

Therein lays the logic of this work. When a Syrian rebel, whether a mother or a father, encounters an "enemy" lending a hand, it is a confusing moment. I have personally seen the looks in the eyes of those Syrians who realised that help is coming from the least expected source.

This is not an easy encounter, but it is a unique one that enables a rare dialogue that has not taken place to date.

While Israelis and Palestinians have been speaking for over 30 years, Israelis and Syrians have never really "met". Paradoxically, Syria's tragedy has at long last afforded the chance to begin that conversation. Although the Israeli effort is significant in its own right, it still pales in comparison to the work being done by countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The Israeli dimension, however, is not just about the quantity of aid being provided. It is also a message of compassion and of hope, that perhaps one day, one of the young Syrians whose life was saved, might have a chance to shape this region differently.

World News in Brief

11 per cent rise in UK anti-Semitic incidents in first half of 2016

LONDON - The Community Security Trust (CST), a body advising the British Jewish community on security, reports that the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United Kingdom rose by 11 per cent in the first six months of 2016.

The organisation recorded 557 incidents from January through June, which is the highest number for the first period of the year since data on such incidents started to be collected in 1984. In addition, CST found that the average monthly number of anti-Semitic incidents has nearly doubled since the numbers recorded during the years 2011 to 2013.

"This rise in reported anti-Semitism comes at a time when division, intolerance and prejudice appear to be deepening within our society," said CST Chief Executive David Delew.

"Reversing this worrying trend requires real leadership from all political parties, and for the social media companies to take their share of the responsibility," he said, Reuters reported.

"The message should go out to everyone that we will not stand for anti-Semitism," said British MP John Mann (Labour), chairman of the All-Party Parliament Group Against Anti-Semitism. "Perpetrators of hate crimes against Jews will be caught and prosecuted, and the bystanders must be educated," he said. (JNS.org)

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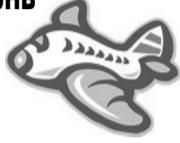
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Raisman parents give a ‘gold medal worthy’ show from sidelines

JACK MILNER

In many cases the reactions of parents watching their children play sport is more fascinating than the actions of the players themselves.

Any tennis fans will know about the antics of Judy Murray, mother of Andy and Jaimie, and her behaviour may have brought more members to the anti-Andy fan club than Murray's own on-course antics.

When Jennifer Capriati was still a teenager her mother and father, Denise and Stefano, would attend all of her media conferences and after Jennifer had come and gone, they were available for questions. They seemed to enjoy the tennis circuit more than their daughter did.

The same could also be said of Chad le Clos' dad, Bert, who was the toast of the media at the London Olympics.

Now it is the turn of Aly Raisman, US women's



Lynn and Rick Raisman, parents of US gymnast Aly, react nervously as they watch their daughter in action at the Rio Olympics.

en's gymnastic team member and her parents. The body language and facial expressions of Aly's mother prompted a storm on social media on Monday.

Videos and photos circulating on Twitter show Lynn Raisman hysterically reacting to her daughter competing at the Olympic Games in Rio. Father Rick is only marginally better.

The Raisman's reactions to their daughter were deemed “gold medal worthy” by a news station in Houston, Texas, and the UK's Daily Mail joked that the couple “make spectating its own event”.

One Twitter user said Lynn “makes most Jewish mothers look like the Buddha”. Another wrote: “Omg @Aly_Raisman's mom watching her perform is so cute!!!”

Other tweets included: “Aly Raisman's parents watching her uneven bars routine is my favourite Olympic sport” and “I love watching Aly Raisman's parents watch her compete”.

At several moments during Raisman's competition, Lynn and Rick can be seen leaning back in their seats, which inspired NBC to tweet: “@ Aly Raisman's parents are back at it again with the shoulder lean!” and “All aboard the Raisman Roller Coaster of Emotions”.

Their “shoulder leans” spurred one Twitter user to quip: “My stress level on the first day of school: aly raisman's parents during her uneven bar routine.”

Aly joined in the commentary by re-tweeting a post which asserted that the shoulder lean resembles something parents might do when meeting their son's girlfriend for the first time.

There is still more women's gymnastics to come, so keep an eye on the Raismans - they are fun to watch.

Of course that was not the case with Judy

Murray and one may have noticed she rarely gets filmed screaming for her sons these days and when they do focus on her she is either sitting still or clapping politely. Rumour has it that we all have Murray's coach, Ivan Lendl, to thank for that.

Mrs Murray even tried out Strictly Come Dancing in an attempt to improve her image. Her dancing was appalling but she came across well and apparently brought shortbread to all the rehearsals.

Many people wonder about Murray's dad. William and Judy Murray decided to separate when Andy was only 10 - a decision they have described as “difficult”. Andy still sees his father regularly and even once went with him to visit then Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street after his first Wimbledon win.

Many people also do not know that the two Murray children were pupils at Dunblane Primary School, Stirling, when gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire on a gym class on March 13, 1996. The two hid under a desk while the gunman killed 16 children and their teacher, Gwen Mayor.

The brothers have previously spoken about how they have found it difficult to relive the terrible events and it is only recently that Andy chose to speak about it.

This year, on the 20th anniversary of the massacre, he posted a picture of the Dunblane coat of arms on his Facebook page with a heart emoji and the message: “Always in my thoughts. Take you with me everywhere I go. Always my home.”

The Murray brothers have been praised for creating a positive story for Dunblane through their tennis success and Andy told a BBC documentary in 2013 it is “nice that I have been able to do something that the town is proud of”.

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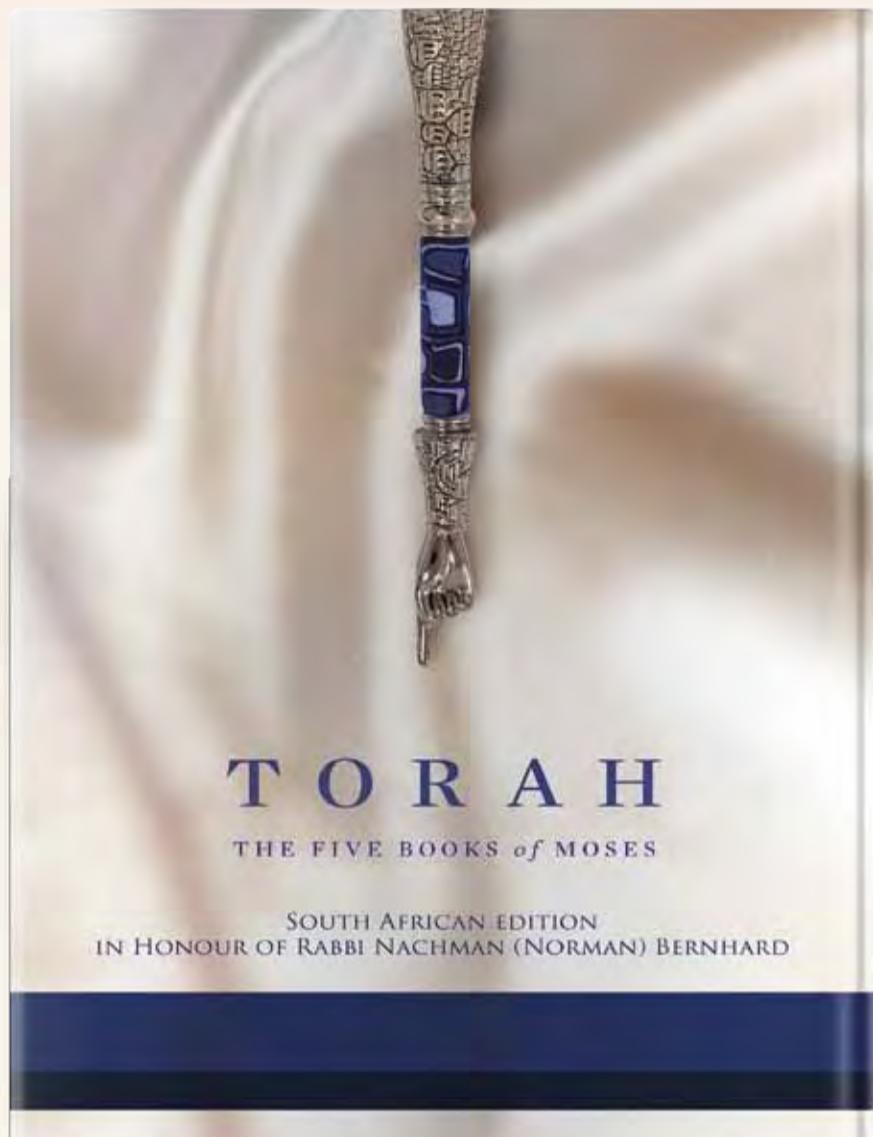
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TESTIMONIALS

For someone who is a novice at Torah learning, I found this Chumash to be particularly easy to navigate and comprehend. It offers insightful and thought-provoking commentaries that are so valuable in enhancing one's overall understanding of the Torah in an unpretentious way.

Taryn Cross

Chaim Miller has compiled an easy to read Chumash that allows even laymen like myself to enjoy the deeper meaning of Jewish life.

David Shapiro

A unique tribute to Rabbi Bernhard, enabling deep spiritual symbolic concepts to be accessible, comprehensible and compelling, thus facilitating Torah lessons that we can consider, internalise and act upon ...making our world a better place.

Dorianne Weil 'DrD'

The Chumash is a pleasure to read and for all Jews to understand. The Chumash should be part of every Jewish household. The publishing of this Chumash in honour of Rabbi Bernhard is a fitting tribute to a Rabbi who always liked to simplify matters and who played a major role in the South African Jewish Community for so many years.

Paul Winer