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# south african Jewish Report

July 15 2016 / 9 Tammuz 5776  
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## 'Terror twins' had Jewish institutions in cross-hairs



Looking at a Facebook photograph of Brandon-Lee and Toni-Lee Thulsie (pictured), you are confronted by two fresh-faced youngsters - the typical "boys next door". But the 23-year-olds who converted to Islam last year, have, according to friends, dramatically changed into zealots allegedly plotting attacks on the American Mission and on unnamed "Jewish institutions". They are now known as Yaqeen and Salahuddin ibn Hernani respectively. Since their clean-shaven Facebook appearance, they are said to have grown "substantial beards". After their conversion they had the burning desire to join the terror group ISIS in Syria. Through the swift work of the Hawks investigative unit, their departure - and that of the Patels - was thwarted when they were prevented from boarding a plane that would eventually get them to Syria. But the Hawks never stopped watching them and an unrelated raid on the Thulsies' Newclare home in Johannesburg last Saturday, uncovered more than the Hawks expected... The photograph below that of the Thulsies, shows an ISIS fighter waving the flag in Syria. See page 4.



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# Three miracles with an association with Torah



*Parshat Chukat*  
**Rabbi Ariel Woznica**  
Associate of Kollel Erev Lubavitch

The Torah portion of Chukat tells of Miriam's passing. Immediately afterward, the verse goes on to say that "the people did not have any water".

The Gemara explains that the two events were related, for the Jewish people had water in Miriam's merit. With her passing, Miriam's Well ceased to flow. It subsequently returned in the merit of Moshe and Aharon.

The Gemara also states that the Clouds of Glory which surrounded and protected the Jewish people in the desert were in the merit of Aharon, while the manna was provided for them in the merit of Moshe. With the passing of Aharon the Clouds of Glory ceased. They returned in the merit of Moshe.

What is the relationship between the manna and Moshe, the Clouds of Glory and Aharon, and the Well and Miriam?

All three miracles have an association with Torah. The Clouds of Glory protected the Jews from the ill winds, snakes and scorpions found in the desert. They also smoothed out mountains and laundered the nation's clothing, as the verse testifies: "Your garments did not wear out."

The manna was of course eaten, with the taste being whatever the person desired. The well provided water, something that in itself does not provide nourishment, but distributes the nourishment which food provides to all parts of the body.

Torah also contains these three elements. It sustains the Jew in an internal way, and protects in an external fashion. And there is an element that diffuses the first two aspects to all Jews.

That manna-like aspect of Torah that is internal - such as the comprehension of it - affects each Jew according to his or her personality, intellect and spiritual capacity.

The cloud-like aspect that is external - such as the revelation of the soul's essence that it can engender in times of crisis, for example - affects all Jews equally.

The aspect of water in Torah - that which descends from on high - diffuses both the internal

and external aspects within all Jews.

The relationship between the manna and Moshe, the Clouds of Glory and Aharon, and the well and Miriam, will be understood accordingly.

Moshe was the Jews' shepherd, guiding each according to his particular level. This is similar to what the Midrash relates about Moshe herding actual sheep: When he grazed the flock, he made sure that the young lambs had softer grass.

The reason Moshe acted in this manner is because the provision of sustenance must be tailored to the needs of each individual. Thus the manna, a food that served the internal needs of each Jew, descended in the merit of Moshe.

Aharon was known for his "love of creatures", for instance, he loved even those people whose most flattering appellation was that even they are G d's creatures. By loving them all, he was able to engender within them a desire to perform mitzvot, although these people harboured no such desires on their own.

The Clouds of Glory therefore appeared in the merit of Aharon. For all things come about "measure for measure". Since Aharon loved all creatures without differentiating, he drew down

the Clouds of Glory in his merit.

While still in Egypt, Miriam devoted herself to the small children. Her heroic and self-sacrificing efforts negated Pharaoh's evil decree, and prepared the generation to say: "This is my G d and I shall glorify Him."

So it was in her merit that the Jewish people had water to drink, as water symbolises the ability of Torah to descend even to those whose level puts them "at the outskirts of the community".

## Shabbat Times

**Parshat Chukat**  
**July 15 / 9 Tammuz**  
**July 16 / 10 Tammuz**

Starts	Ends	
17:15	18:07	Johannesburg
17:38	18:32	Cape Town
16:56	17:49	Durban
17:17	18:10	Bloemfontein
17:09	18:03	Port Elizabeth
17:02	17:56	East London

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## Community

# Sprightly Temple Israel in Hillbrow, turns 80 in grand style

### OWN CORRESPONDENT

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau and Israel's Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk, were among the dignitaries attending a packed service at Progressive synagogue Temple Israel in Hillbrow last Saturday, celebrating the 80th anniversary of its opening in 1936 by Rabbi MC Weiler.

It was also the launch of the Temple Israel Heritage Centre (TIHC), which defines its mission as tikun olam and will focus on combating intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia among the cosmopolitan communities of Hillbrow and its surrounds.

The service was attended by some 300 people, including international delegates of the Progressive movement.

The TIHC project is driven by its chairman, Reeva Forman, who says it aims to engage with diverse local communities, be a meeting place for people of different cultures, and promote healthy interfaith relations, based on the Jewish principle of "Justice, justice shalt thou pursue".

It will run workshops on discrimination whether religious, racial, gender or otherwise, engage with experts and interact with government; it will host performances, meetings and other events with different communities to help them get to know and understand each other; and it will work with all faith groups for the good of society.

Forman is determined that the South African Jewish community will become more involved in these activities through the TIHC, and bring to bear its skills and resources.

Several decades ago Hillbrow was an important centre of Johannesburg Jewish life, containing many Jewish residents. Since then the demographics have changed and only a small number of mostly elderly Jews remain in the area. The synagogue has been threatened with closure several times because of the lack of a viable local Jewish community.

A dedicated group of stalwarts, however, have kept it going, providing regular Saturday morning and other services. In 2014 the building, an impressive structure in the art deco style designed by legendary architect Hermann Kallenbach - who was a friend of Mahatma Gandhi when he lived in South Africa - was declared an official heritage site of Johannesburg.

In her address after the service, Madonsela described the crucial role of the public protector's office in achieving justice for all "when the world



is in turmoil and our country itself is in turmoil".

She quoted Nelson Mandela, who said even the most benevolent government can contain people with potential for wrongdoing, which is why institutions like the public protector, the Human Rights Commission, the Constitution and others were essential. She paid tribute to some great Jewish fighters against apartheid, such as former Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson and parliamentarian Helen Suzman, who had not been religious, but were informed by the Jewish tradition's emphasis on justice.

Mayor Tau lauded the TIHC's creation as an agent in combating racism and xenophobia, and said "its location is ideal in the melting pot of South Africa in Hillbrow". For many immigrants, he stressed, Hillbrow has historically been and continues to be the "reception area" to Johannes-

burg, where people begin building new lives in the city and country.

He believed the city's new "Corridors of Freedom" project of transport links between formerly black and white areas, would bring new unity to the whole urban fabric. Hillbrow and the busy Louis Botha Avenue were integral parts of the programme.

Ambassador Lenk spoke about the crucial role of leadership in history, referring to the Torah portion of the week, and how debate and discussion defines "who we are as Jews". He called for increasing genuine debate between Israel and South Africa.

Following the launch of the TIHC, Forman is embarking on a publicity campaign to raise awareness and funding, and developing practical programmes.



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# JR, Absa sign another multi-million rand sponsorship for Jewish Achievers

Photos: Shereen Miller



**Back:** Dominic Ford, Absa's Provincial Manager Gauteng South, Banie Claasen, Absa Regional Managing Executive Gauteng South and Jewish Report Board Chairman Howard Sackstein, with board member Herschel Jawitz. **Front:** SA Jewish Report board member Dina Diamond and Kumari Moodley, Absa General Manager: Business Markets Group Marketing.

**STAFF REPORTER**

On Wednesday morning this week Absa Bank and the South African Jewish Report signed a further multi-year contract for the bank's continued sponsorship of the prestigious annual Jewish Achiever Awards. The 2016 event is the 15th consecutive event to be sponsored by the bank.

Champaign flowed before the official announcement and speeches, which were in turn followed by an elaborate finger breakfast at the Absa Capital head office building in Sandton.

Banie Claasen, Absa's Regional Managing Executive, Gauteng South, said how delighted the bank was to be associated with the event and how much value it had generated for both the bank and the newspaper during their long relationship.

The relationship gives Absa so much access to the Jewish market in South Africa and, on August 28, eight remarkable South Africans will once again receive one of the coveted trophies as winners in one of the categories in which they were nominated for.

Jewish Report Board Chairman Howard Sackstein said this year's event will once again "showcase the remarkable and disproportionate contribution that the South African Jewish community has made to the country".

The gala dinner at the Achievers function - which is the highlight of the annual Jewish social calendar - will, as always, be a glittering black tie affair where 600 crème de la crème from the community - and also a good proportion non-Jews - will celebrate the success stories of members of South African Jewry.

Claasen told the guests at the contract signing ceremony that Absa was proud to extend its sponsorship of the event. The bank, he said, values the relationship between itself and the Jewish Achiever Awards.

The theme for the 2016 event is "Igniting the soul of Africa". The August 28 gala dinner will have as master of ceremonies one of the country's top comedians, John Vlismas. Sackstein promised guests at the sponsorship event that the 2016 gala "will be the best function and Achievers event so far".

The wide array of nominations - and quality of nominees - bears testimony to the prestige attached to this annual event. Claasen offered "a big thank-you to the Jewish Report, not only for the business relationship but also for the friendship".

Sackstein echoed this, telling Claasen that relationships like this one only come with time. "I know marriages that haven't



**Banie Claasen, Absa Regional Managing Executive Gauteng South, Jewish Report Board Chairman Howard Sackstein, Jewish Report Board member Dina Diamond, Kumari Moodley, Absa General Manager: Business Markets Group Marketing, and David Hodnett, Absa Director Group Finance.**

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lasted this long," joked Sackstein. The three Absa Jewish Business Awards are: The Absa Listed Company Award; The Absa Unlisted Company Award; and The Absa Entrepreneur Award.

The five Jewish Report humanities awards are sponsored by Chivas, Kia-SA, The Creative Counsel and Europecar.

A few seats and tables for the event are still available. Reservations can be made at [RSVP@SAJewishReport.co.za](mailto:RSVP@SAJewishReport.co.za)



**Banie Claasen, Absa Regional Managing Executive Gauteng South and Howard Sackstein, Chairman of the Jewish Report Board of Directors.**

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Directions: Along 9th and 12th Avenue into Avondale.  
**Joel Harris 082 926 0287 | Marco 082 048 2644**

# Thulsie twins' planned attacks on Jewish institutions nipped in the bud

ANT KATZ

Twin brothers Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee Thulsie, 23 (pictured), were arrested last Saturday at their Newclare home in Johannesburg for planning to blow up a US diplomatic mission and Jewish institutions in South Africa. The police's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) is aware of the institutions involved but would not give further details at this stage.

The brothers, converts to Islam in 2015, were ISIS-inspired and had tried last year to fly from South Africa with another pair of siblings - the Patel brother and sister of Azaadville on the West Rand - to join the group in Syria.

The Thulsie twins were charged with three counts related to terrorism and appeared on Monday in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court where they were remanded until next Tuesday, July 19, when they are expected to apply for a bail hearing.

Ibrahim and Fatima Patel, 20 and 24 respectively, whom police believe had been recruited by the Thulsie twins, appeared on a lesser firearms charge in another Johannesburg court on Monday.

Media speculation that the Patels were found with explosives "relating to the alleged terror plot" and another that the two cases would be joined, were denied by the police on Tuesday.

Hawks spokesman Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi told Jewish Report that no link between the bomb-plot and the Patels had emerged at this stage.

The provisional charge sheet (PDF at [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)) alleged that the Thulsies planned, between last October and this month, to "cause explosions at a Mission of the US and Jewish institutions" in South Africa. This, according to the charge sheet, "was intended to cause or spread feelings of terror, fear or panic in the civilian population of SA and, in particular, the US and Jewish sector thereof".

The twins and their alleged recruits, the Patel siblings, had tried to fly to Syria to join ISIS in April last year but were stopped after the Hawks, a specialised crime-fighting unit, informed the airline on which they intended to travel. They are subsequently alleged to have "unlawfully and intentionally conspired and attempted to perform acts" that would assist the Islamic State and made themselves available to the terrorist group in order to conduct terrorist activity.

A number of new facts have emerged from information Jewish Report received from the SA Police Service, the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority, Jewish security organisations and several other parties who are close to the investigation but not able to speak for their employers and hence cannot be named.

The story has made headlines around the world this week, even the lead story in some publications. The facts are startling enough. New information is that the Hawks stumbled upon the twins' plot while at their home to execute an arrest warrant (Jewish Report has yet to establish the nature of the search warrant); Hawks spokesman Brigadier Mulaudzi told Jewish Report on Tuesday that there was nothing to suggest at this stage that the Patel siblings were in any way involved in the activities of the Thulsies. It has also emerged that one of the Thulsie brothers worked for Discovery and group CEO Adrian Gore sent out a company-wide notice to staff on Tuesday (see JR Online).

Some of the latest information uncovered by Jewish Report includes (watch our website for daily updates):

- The Patels have a bail hearing on Monday and the Thulsie twins on Tuesday;
- The police had been watching the ISIS supporters, but did not expect to arrest anyone on Saturday. Luck led to their uncovering a plot they did not know existed before then;
- The link between the Thulsies and the Patels is that the four had tried to leave South Africa to join ISIS in Syria together last year - a plan that was thwarted by the Hawks. But the Hawks never stopped watching them;
- The Hawks are not aware of any contact between the Twins and the Patels since then;
- Last Saturday the Hawks were executing a search warrant at the Thulsie home;
- Once the police were inside, they found a lot more than they bargained for - leading them to first arrest the twins and later in the day the Patels;
- The twins had a list of targets which included the US Embassy in Pretoria and "certain" Jewish institutions, the names of which the police have - but are not releasing at this stage;
- Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee Thulsie are also known as Yaqeen and Salahuddin ibn Hernani respectively since their conversion to Islam;

**Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee Thulsie are also known as Yaqeen and Salahuddin ibn Hernani respectively since their conversion to Islam...**

- While one police spokesman said that there was no imminent threat as the twins were not yet ready to carry out their plans, another told Jewish Report Online that police who raided the home on Saturday found a bomb in the process of being assembled. Jewish Report has not yet been able to verify this; and
- One Thulsie who worked at Discovery, had not been at work for several weeks and was suspended on Tuesday.

The Community Security Organisation (CSO) Gauteng, told Jewish Report that the Jewish community needs to be more vigilant with regard to their own security and the security of their installations. CSO had, in fact, been preparing the community for the reality of terror in South Africa for some time.

CSO continues to work closely with the SA Police and security services to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community, but this needs to be a community effort and everyone must play their part, they say.

To assist both Jewish and national security organisations, Jewish Report Online will be running an awareness campaign using the US Department of Homeland Affairs' slogan: "See something, say something" together with the CSO - see [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

The Thulsie brothers were wearing hoodies when they appeared in court on Monday. Photographers were not allowed to take pictures of them. The brothers are believed to have grown substantial beards when seen against their clean-shaven appearance in their pictures on Facebook.

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The Thulsie twins, Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee in a Facebook photograph, before they grew beards.

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# Will the real editor please stand up?



## TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

An encouraging outcome from SABC boss Hlaudi Motsoeneng's crude attempt to censor visuals of "bad" news and give South Africans sunshine journalism portraying the ANC in a good light, is the massive outcry against him. Journalists, ICASA, the public protector, former SABC board members and even members of the ANC have got involved.

Images can be highly provocative, of course, and the media should not be a free-for-all in which any visual, however grotesque, should be aired. Editors face tough decisions when reporting on violence and bloodshed - Motsoeneng, however, is not an editor and should not be making

editorial policy.

Responsible media channels are - or should be - careful in how they show visuals which violate the dignity and privacy of people who have gone through terrorist bombings or other traumatic events tearing them apart.

Where to draw the line is not a rule set in stone, however; different editors will make different judgements in different circumstances about using such material.

Should a bereaved Israeli mother sobbing over the coffin of her murdered teenage daughter be shown to millions of anonymous viewers worldwide? Should a body with its head blown off by a suicide bomber be shown?

Most good editors would be careful about how they use such visual material. At the very least, responsible media should give adequate warning to viewers about the disturbing nature of material they

publish.

Political agendas may play a role in the editor's decision and sometimes override considerations of dignity. For example, the shocking images published in May 2008 of Mozambican Ernesto Nhamuave being set alight by a mob in Ramaphosa informal settlement on the East Rand during a xenophobic rampage, served an important role in raising revulsion among citizens and authorities and stopping the attacks - although there have been subsequent similar attacks.

Likewise, the horrifying image - which immediately went viral on social media - of a Syrian boy's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach as thousands of refugees fled the Syrian civil war in rickety boats, played an important role in making people worldwide understand how desperate was the refugees' plight.

What the SABC has done, however, has nothing to do with editorial

sensitivity or respect for human dignity. In banning images of mobs burning government and other buildings and property, and claiming that this is to prevent viewers being influenced to do the same, the aim is to prevent people understanding how catastrophic ANC rule has been for this country, and how angry South Africans are about not receiving what the party promised them year after year.

When mobs burn down tens of schools in Vuwani, torch public buses in Tshwane, and engage in similar acts, they are expressing their rage.

Sadly, these kinds of violent actions have almost become a norm in South Africa today, where people feel they will only be listened to if they become violent, burn things or kill people. This poses grave dangers to the country.

South Africans are in the main extremely generous and warm-

hearted, but a poison has taken root in the society. Strong leadership is needed to turn the ship of violence around - or else we will see more scenes like the burning Mozambican.

Motsoeneng is said to be close to President Jacob Zuma and has an interest in protecting him. But it's incredible that the people running the public broadcaster as the only source seven million people receive their news from, still think they can get away with censorship and sunshine journalism in the era of the Internet.

What kind of bubble do they live in? Hopefully the saga will end with him being fired together with his board of lackeys. Perhaps this saga might even be the tipping point when South Africans say "Enough!" to Zuma and his cronies and their contempt for the law?

• Read Geoff Sifrin's regular columns on his blog [sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com](http://sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com)

## Community

### JNF-SA joins the DWS campaign to clean rivers



ANT KATZ

The Jewish National Fund of South Africa (JNF-SA) met with the national Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) last week and agreed to team up with the department this month in its "Clear Rivers Campaign".

Amber Cummins, national director of JNF-SA, is asking communities to consider small river clean-ups during the month and registering their efforts on the DWS website (see link to register pledge and PDF of the campaign booklet on [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za).)

"Our natural resources need our care and consideration," Amber told Jewish Report. "I would love our community to be seen to be very co-operative and helpful in this regard."

The Department of Water and Sanitation is attempting, in light of the current drought, to create awareness through all manner of community groups, of the importance of careful water use, and keeping water supplies clean.

As the month of July is Mandela month and a time when community volunteerism is highlighted, they are appealing to communities to pledge support for their clean water initiatives and to arrange river clean-ups and water education awareness.

"The Department of Water and Sanitation will be embarking on a month-long 'National Clear Rivers Campaign' in July with the main clean up taking place on July 18. The objective of the 'Clear Rivers Campaign' is to raise awareness through collaborative effort with business and communities on the protection and conservation of fresh water ecosystem as well as creating awareness on the importance of voluntarism."

The departments call all South Africans to pledge support to the campaign through the following initiatives: use of water efficiently; create awareness with staff and stakeholders on protection of water resources, etc.

"We further invite your organisation to identify rivers you can clean during Mandela Month as well as to sponsor protective gear or mini sass kits for schools."

JNF is asking the Jewish community to pledge their support by signing up and making a pledge. This would show SA Jewry's commitment, says Amber, especially in the wake of the Israeli Embassy's highly successful SA-Israel-Water Week last month.

• For further information see the Jewish Report website or call Amber Cummins on (011) 645-2541 or 083-559-432.



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# Netanyahu upbeat after successful 4-nation African tour

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's four-nation Africa visit last week was the first to sub-Saharan Africa by a sitting Israeli prime minister in nearly three decades. Netanyahu visited Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda while pursuing closer security, trade and other ties with African nations, which cut or limited their relationships with Israel in the 1970s under pressure from Arab countries.

African states were also opposed to Israel's close ties to South Africa's apartheid government. His last stop was Ethiopia.

Netanyahu was joined in Africa by a delegation of 80 Israeli business executives representing 50 companies working to strengthen commercial and economic ties.

With the Jewish state's policies toward Iran and the Palestinians having produced years of strained relations with Washington and Europe, Netanyahu is seeking stronger ties with African nations to help blunt Palestinian diplomatic efforts in the UN and other international bodies.

Last week Tuesday Netanyahu pledged to share intelligence with Kenya to pre-empt terrorist attacks.

Each of the countries on the tour was selected because of its link to Israel. Uganda, where the tour began last week Monday, was the site of a hostage rescue in 1976 when Israeli commandos stormed Entebbe Airport and saved more than 100 people. Netanyahu's older brother, Yoni, led that raid and was killed during it.

The next stop, Kenya, is one of Africa's biggest markets.

On the Wednesday, Netanyahu flew to Rwanda, which shares with the Jews a history of genocide. Israeli experts were consulted in constructing Rwanda's memorial to the estimated

one million people massacred in 1994. Historians have said more civilians were killed in Rwanda during that three-month span than during just about any other three months in human history, including the Holocaust.

Netanyahu's last stop was Ethiopia, home to Africa's largest indigenous Jewish population until Israel organised airlifts and brought thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Relations between Africa and Israel have been strained over the years. In the 1960s the Arab-Israeli conflict drove a wedge between African countries, many of which were embroiled in liberation struggles, and the Jewish state.

The Israeli entourage accompanying Netanyahu, hoped to sell Africa everything from Israeli-made plastic wrap, sprinklers and irrigation pipes to software, CCTV cameras and military equipment. Even cantaloupe seeds.

But Netanyahu was also on the lookout for something else: precious United Nations votes.

"There are 50 countries in Africa," Netanyahu said (actually, there are 54). "Just about all of them," he continued in an interview, "could be allies of Israel. They vote at international forums, and I know people don't believe this, but I think we can change the automatic majorities in the UN and so on if you begin to shift this."

Arab states often galvanise blocs of support within the UN to pass resolutions condemning Israeli policies. And with European and other nations increasingly critical of Netanyahu's right-leaning government, blaming him for the impasse in the peace process with the Palestinians, reinvigorating ties with Africa seems to be part of a global Israeli survival strategy.

Later, wars between Israel and its neighbours in 1967 and 1973 led North African nations to urge sub-

Saharan African states to cut ties with Israel, which many did.

Israel's support for the apartheid regime in South Africa - which ended in 1994 - also soured relations with much of the rest of the continent.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Israel felt a kinship to newly independent nations in Africa and dispatched diplomats across the continent, opening two dozen embassies.

But in the mid-1970s, after the Yom Kippur War between Israel and a coalition of Arab states, many African countries severed diplomatic ties with Israel. Today, it operates only 10 small embassies in sub-Saharan Africa, and its development projects tend to be low-key, like sending Kenyan students to study farming in Israel or helping Tanzanian beekeepers make more honey.

Israel also wants African states to support it at the United Nations, where the Palestinians were recognised as a non-member observer state in 2012.

Netanyahu and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said last week Thursday they would renew co-operation in the fight against extremism, a theme that Netanyahu has repeated often during his African tour, and they signed agreements to increase ties in technology, agriculture and more.

At his arrival in Kigali in Rwanda last week Wednesday for a symbolic stop, boosting ties between the two countries with a history marked by genocide, with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Netanyahu visited the Kigali Memorial Centre where more than 250 000 of the at least 800 000 victims of the 1994 genocide are buried in mass graves.

"My people know the pain of genocide as well, and this is the unique bond that neither one of our people

would prefer to have," Netanyahu said at a media conference after visiting the memorial, alongside Kagame.

Kagame spoke of how the history of genocide had also influenced the two small nations to rely on their citizens. "We have been formed and shaped to see, to do things in a certain way - but based mainly on the major resource we have," Kagame said. "And that is our people, the other resources come after."

In 2014, when Rwanda sat on the UN Security Council, Kigali abstained from a resolution - ultimately rejected - advocating the end of the occupation of Palestinian territories.

Israel's business with Africa constitutes only two per cent of its foreign trade, leaving plenty of room for growth while demand for its defence expertise and products is rising.

In Nairobi, Kenya where he met Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Netanyahu said Israel and Kenya should work hand-in-hand against terrorism.

The Israeli leader promised to share intelligence and provide "direct assistance" aimed at saving lives. "There is a raging battle with terrorism," Netanyahu said.

The two leaders also discussed investment opportunities, student exchanges, easing of visa restrictions and opportunities to employ Israeli technologies in health, water and agriculture development.

"Israel is coming back to Africa and Africa is coming back to Israel," Netanyahu said, insisting that Kenya and Israel share "common opportunities" as well as threats.

Many sub-Saharan Africans, even if they have never met a Jew, are enamoured of Israel because of its links to biblical places and "because of the common enemy, the Islamic fundamentalist Arabs and terrorists," said

James Solomon Padiet, a political science lecturer in South Sudan.

But many Africans also identify with the Palestinians, who are seen as oppressed underdogs in the Middle East conflict.

Like any other nation, Israel constantly scans the horizon, trying to push its economic, strategic and diplomatic interests, looking for new friends and new markets.

Several African countries, including Kenya, receive Israeli military training and equipment; Africa has become one of the biggest growth markets for Israel's arms industry.

Kenyatta said it was "critical for us to re-evaluate our relations with the State of Israel given the challenges we on the African continent are faced with today."

Kenyatta, who visited Israel in February, said he would lobby to have Israel's observer status at the African Union reinstated. Israel had observer status under the AU's precursor, the Organisation of African Unity, but it was not extended when the AU was launched in 2002.

Tanzania has also said it would open an embassy in Israel.

Israeli relations with most African nations collapsed over the 1967 Six Day War and its support for South Africa's apartheid regime.

Many of Netanyahu's meetings have focused on combating the terrorist threat from groups such as ISIS, al-Shabaab, the Somali militant group, and Boko Haram in Nigeria.

"The African continent constitutes vast potential for Israel," Netanyahu said before the trip.

"We are trying to diversify our exports through channelling efforts to markets that are growing more rapidly than [others]," he said. "Africa is one of them."

More news on our website [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

## Turkey, Egypt, eastern Africa: Netanyahu pulls off trifecta

### RON KAMPEAS WASHINGTON

The conventional wisdom has it that earning the sobriquet "the most right-wing government in Israeli history" does not lead to diplomatic successes. In recent weeks, on the Turkish, Egyptian and African fronts, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is proving the conventional wisdom wrong.

How is it that the head of a government beating a hasty retreat from the two-state solution scored a triumphant tour of Africa, hosted a convivial summit with an Egyptian foreign minister for the first time in nearly a decade and renewed full ties with Turkey?

What Netanyahu's diplomatic successes mean - and their limitations.

Oh, Bibi, Bibi, it's a wild world

Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, talks about retreating from America's pre-eminent role in the world. Although he is adamant that he is pro-Israel, Trump has suggested he could charge Israel for the billions in defence assistance it receives.

Similarly, Europe, overwhelmed by a refugee crisis, is becoming more insular and, for the first time in decades, faces the prospect of falling apart as a common political force, with Britain's planned exit from the European Union and other countries contemplating similar actions.

Meantime, calls to target Israel - or its settle-

ments - with boycotts are increasing across the continent.

"In Israel, there's broad recognition for no substitute for the US-Israel alliance. It remains crucial," said Jonathan Schanzer, a vice-president at the Foundation for Defence of Democracies, a think tank with a focus on the Middle East. He mentioned some challenges.

"Enhance security ties with Egypt, reinvigorate decades-old ties in Africa and mend ties with Turkey."



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry meeting in Jerusalem last Sunday.

### The shared Sinai threat

The vastness of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, its strategic positioning between Asia and Africa and the porous nature of its Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea coasts, have been like catnip to terrorist groups like al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

That poses a shared challenge to Israel and Egypt and has helped already friendly ties between the nations.

Israel in recent months quietly has allowed Egyptian forces entry back into the peninsula, effectively allowing Egypt to abrogate one of the tenets, demilitarisation, of the 1979 Camp David Peace Agreement. Commensurately, Egypt has allowed Israel to target terrorists with drones.

That helps explain why Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi was willing to send his foreign minister, Sameh Shoukry, to Israel for a high-profile visit. Keeping the Sinai secure trumped the domestic blowback Sissi knew he would endure for the visit.

Pre-empting the Palestinians, France and (maybe) the Obama administration

The French are trying to kick-start peace talks with the Palestinians under an international umbrella. The Palestinians hope to advance statehood recognition during the UN General Assembly launch in September. And President Barack Obama may deliver his own post-US election surprise, setting out the US parameters for a final-status arrangement.

All are anathema to Netanyahu, who favours direct talks with the Palestinians, where Israel is able to exercise greater leverage. Shoukry, the Egyptian foreign minister, appeared to favour the direct talks track.

### Turkey is more about what Erdogan needs

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's president, pressed for the rupture with Israel in 2010 after Israel's deadly raid on a Palestinian convoy aiming to breach Israel's blockade with Gaza. Now he's the force behind the reconciliation.

Erdogan is dealing with restive Kurds in the south, the chaos in Syria across his country's border and the blowback from his decision recently to take tougher measures against the Islamic State. He needs to smooth waters elsewhere.

Re-establishing ties with Israel not only returns an important trade partner to eminence and restores full security ties at a time of crisis, it addresses a longstanding US demand that its two most important allies in the Middle East reconcile.

### Back to Africa

The last time there was a movement on the rise to isolate Israel - in the wake of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when the Arab League used oil leverage to pressure third parties to join their boycott - Israel countered by quietly reinforcing ties in Africa. The ties were, established as early as the 1950s and 1960s. (JTA)

# After Elie Wiesel, can anyone unite American Jews?

**BEN SALES  
NEW YORK**

Being an American Jew, more than anything else, means remembering the Holocaust.

That's what nearly three quarters of Jewish Americans said, according to the Pew Research Centre's landmark 2013 study on American Jewry. Asked to pick attributes "essential" to being Jewish, more Jews said Holocaust remembrance than leading an ethical or moral life, caring about Israel or observing Jewish law.

If anyone personified that consensus, it was Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor who through his writing and speaking turned himself into perhaps the leading moral voice of American Jewry. Some quarters of the left derided him for, in their view, being insufficiently sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. But in a fragmented community, he was the closest thing Ameri-

can Jews had to a unifier. know of anybody out there who can be so comfortable in our very, very partisan, unique Jewish world and experience, and yet be a voice, and an icon, and a standard-bearer of moral issues. He was such a giant in so many areas that it's hard to see a successor."

**Rabbi Jill Jacobs, executive director, T'ruah:** The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights: "There's no single moral voice - but that's a good thing! It's not healthy for our community to be dependent on a single voice - it's much better when we have many voices, on and off the pulpit, bringing our Jewish values to bear on pressing concerns."  
**Alan Dershowitz, law professor and Israel advocate:** No one can replace Elie as the moral voice. There will be new voices, but none represents the combination of tragedy and hope that Elie characterised."  
**Deborah Lipstadt, Holocaust historian:** "A moral, ethical rock-star (in the best sense of the word)... Wiesel was it and I

as a Jewish Mandela, while being able to connect with and inspire the amcha, or rank-and-file."

**Jennifer Rubin, columnist, Washington Post:** "[Sharansky's] ordeal as a human rights dissident and imprisonment by the former Soviet Union give him a moral standing to address issues of Jewish persecution. As someone who came to live and serve in the Jewish state, he represents the next link in the history of the Jewish people."

**Spielberg? Sacks? Somebody else?** Sharansky wasn't the only leader proposed. One possibility was Hollywood director Steven Spielberg, 69, who made the foundational 1993 Holocaust film "Schindler's List" and since then has dedicated energy to preserving Holocaust memory. Spielberg certainly has the name recognition, but not the full-time commitment to Jewish causes.

Another was Jonathan Sacks, 68, the former chief rabbi of Britain, who has written dozens of books on Judaism and ethics, and has an audience beyond the Jewish community.

Others were confident that while Wiesel has left a void, eventually someone will rise to fill it.

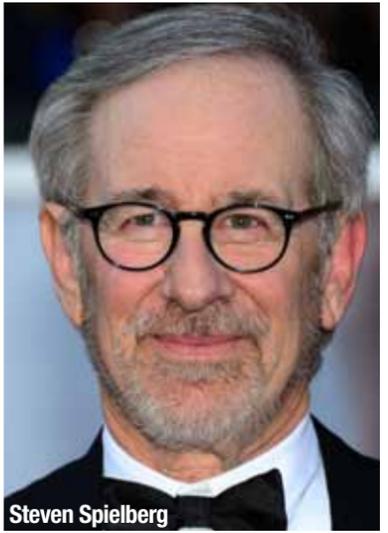
**Jonathan Sarna, American Jewish historian:** "There's always another because we can't live without them. I never say there won't be a central moral figure."

Sacks, said Sarna, had "an ability to speak to non-Jews, which is crucial. His reputation, his wisdom, his ability to project Judaism as a crucial moral force and his support of Israel have all shaped him as a central moral figure in Jewish life."

**Jeffrey Goldberg, national correspondent, The Atlantic:** "He was the closest thing we had to a saint. Spielberg is the most obvious first among equals, but he limits himself to Shoah activities and commentary. Elie Wiesel had the life experience to say what he wanted... The reason we're not going to have one [consensus leader] is that everyone wants to be the one." (JTA)



Natan Sharansky



Steven Spielberg



Lord Jonathan Sacks

can Jews had to a unifier. Regardless of religious observance or thoughts on Israel, nearly all Jewish Americans agreed with Wiesel's message of remembering the genocide and preventing another one.

Following Wiesel's death on July 2, will another consensus leader rise to take his place? Or is the American Jewish community too divided to unite under any one person's moral voice?

JTA asked a range of American Jewish leaders who, if anyone, can take up Wiesel's mantle.

The most common answer given was that no one can or should replace Wiesel, both in terms of name recognition and moral authority.

**Abraham Foxman, former director of the Anti-Defamation League:** "I don't

think there are no more."

**Natan Sharansky** The most common name mentioned as a moral successor to Wiesel was that of Russian-Israeli, Natan Sharansky. The former face of the Soviet Jewry movement, he spent nine years in Soviet prisons facing specious espionage and treason charges, but mostly for advocating his and other refuseniks' desire to live as Jews and move to Israel. Sharansky, 68, now lives in Jerusalem and is chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

**Rabbi Avi Weiss, leading liberal Orthodox rabbi:** "While not a survivor, Natan's fearless struggle against the empire of evil, turning that struggle into a pro-active commitment to Am Yisrael, is unparalleled. Natan has achieved a rare combination of access to government leaders who see him

## SECURING OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY – A CALL TO ACTION



**Naomi Hadar  
Executive Director  
Gauteng**



We are all too aware of the recent threat to the safety and well-being of our local Jewish community. This threat is not new; however we need to be more active than ever as these kinds of threats could be on the increase as has been shown, not only locally but

internationally as well. It is crucial that we take all preventative measure against a worst case scenario and call on you, our local community, to assist us in securing our safety at this critical time. By supporting the IUA-UCF you are actively assisting in safeguarding and ensuring our existence as a community. **Don't be a bystander; stand by us and make your donation today!**

President of Bar-Ilan University, Rabbi, Professor Daniel Herszkowitz will be

visiting Johannesburg at the end of July. He has visited South Africa previously as the guest of the IUA-UCF and now together with the Israel Centre they are thrilled to be involved with this visit. He will be visiting Jewish Day Schools and some of the Shuls in the community to expose students to the potential of studying in Israel and to enlighten listeners to his views on the current situation in Israel.

Over the years he has served in high



profile academic and public positions. Besides being President of the prestigious Bar-Ilan University, he served as a professor of Mathematics at the Technion in Haifa and is the rabbi of the Ahuza neighbourhood of Haifa. He was appointed Chairman of the Bayit Yehudi Party and was elected to the 18th Knesset where he served as Minister of Science and Technology. During his tenure, he placed special emphasis on the synthesis of science and Torah on all levels.

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## Opinion and Analysis

# Let's not just punish but also teach

**SARA GON**

In an environment of moves to go beyond existing legal avenues for criminalising racism and hate speech, I suggest that the matter be considered in a different way.

The Equality Court has found Penny Sparrow guilty and ordered her to pay a fine of R150 000 within 60 days. Presumably if she fails to pay, which is likely as she is now destitute, an application could be made holding her in contempt of court and she may end up being jailed.

In our view, Sparrow's Facebook utterances amounted to racism but not hate speech. She may well succeed on appeal to overturn the judgment of hate speech, but she is unlikely to afford the legal representation necessary.

Racism is mostly a matter of opinion, emotion, beliefs and ignorance. Anti-Semitism is usually a part of religious teaching at a young age, then exacerbated by the Israel/Palestine situation.

The government and some of civil society express outrage and demand a need to up the legal ante to further criminalise attitudes. At the same time, there are calls for "an honest dialogue" on racism which is unlikely to take place because honesty would be required by both sides.

Both sides would really have to be willing to listen and it doesn't look like we're in that space.

It is seldom acknowledged or understood that attitudes cannot be changed by law or fiat. Attitudes can only change by forcing a change in behaviour. Thus the law is the most common instrument of behavioural change.

However, if it's only punishment that is meted out, then attitudes are likely to harden even while they're being expressed less openly. Thus it is with racism and thus it will be in the case of Velaphi Khumalo.

A slew of complaints were laid with the Human Rights Commission and the HRC has consolidated them into one charge before the Equality Court. His speech is more likely to be categorised as hate speech.

As most will recall, he ranted anti-Semitic and racist comments on Facebook in response to Sparrow. He may or may not be harshly punished by the court, depending partly on the extent to which Sparrow's words are determined a mitigating factor.

We suggest that part of any penalty should be an obligation to spend time with those he has hurt, learn about them, their history and how they lead their lives.

Khumalo is a young man, full of anger, with a precarious understanding of history. Wouldn't society in general and the Jewish community in particular, be better served if the court was asked to give him community service? The SAZF as one of the complainants, could determine, propose and manage the process.

Is it not worth trying to change his mind, and those around him, about whites and Jews through education and experience, and not just through punishment?

• Sara Gon is a Research Fellow at the SA Institute of Race Relations

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## World News in Brief

### Abbas to boycott Mideast Quartet following peace process report

JERUSALEM - Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas last week expressed his disappointment over the Middle East Quartet's recent report on the stalled peace process and has instructed his people to not co-operate with the international group.

"We have published our position on the Quartet commission, and we said this report is not fit for the task of peace," Abbas said, the official Palestinian Authority news agency Wafa reported.

"We are very sorry that this is the position, and we hope the United Nations Security Council will not adopt this report," added Abbas.

In its report issued last week, the Middle East Quartet - United States, European Union, United Nations, and Russia - blamed both sides for the stalled peace process. While the report criticised Israel's ongoing construction in the disputed territories, it also took Palestinian leaders to task for not "consistently and clearly condemning specific terrorist attacks" and for glorifying terrorists as "heroic martyrs".

Abbas has reportedly instructed his political party, Fatah, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to stop co-operating with the Middle East Quartet. (JNS.org)

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# Rwanda and the Holocaust: is it a valid analogy?



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (centre) with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, in the museum to commemorate the Rwandan genocide.

**RAFAEL MEDOFF/JNS.ORG  
KIGALI**

At a memorial in Rwanda to the victims of the 1994 genocide, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week wrote in the visitors' book that he was "reminded of the haunting similarities to the genocide of our own people".

Certainly all instances of genocide have some characteristics in common. But perhaps the most compelling analogy between the Holocaust and the Rwandan slaughter concerns the international community's apathetic response to the news of those genocides.

During the Holocaust, news of the Germans' mass killing of the Jews was slow to reach the Free World, but Allied leaders still found out in plenty of time to rescue some of those who were targeted. The Allies publicly confirmed in December 1942 that the mass murder was underway; yet the killing continued through the spring of 1945.

In the case of Rwanda, the news arrived quickly. In April 1994, machete-wielding militias of the Hutu tribe in Rwanda began carrying out the slaughter of the country's ethnic minority, the Tutsis. Within three days, the New York Times (in a front-page story) cited Red Cross eyewitnesses reporting that "tens of thousands" had already been murdered, with corpses piled "in the houses, in the streets, everywhere". As early as April 23, a Times editorial stated: "What looks very much like genocide has been taking place in Rwanda."

The Bill Clinton administration received detailed intelligence about the mass killings from its diplomats on the scene as well as other sources. But the president did not see any compelling reason to intervene.

The US wasn't willing even to help maintain the United Nations peacekeeping force in Rwanda. Ten peacekeepers were murdered during the first days of the slaughter and some of the sponsoring-nations wanted to cut and run. On April 12, 1994, the US ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright, sent a cable to the State Department, urging the US to advocate a withdrawal of all the peacekeepers except for "a skeletal staff". There was a "window of opportunity" for UN forces to escape, Albright emphasised. But there would be no escape for the Tutsis.

Later, in her autobiography and in media interviews, Albright blamed the State Department and the National Security Council for urging the withdrawal of the UN forces from

Rwanda. She also falsely claimed that "we didn't know about the massive aspect [of the killings]" at the time of the discussion about withdrawing. But recently released cables revealed the truth about her pivotal role.

Tragically, Secretary of State Warren Christopher followed Albright's advice. He threw his support behind the withdrawal proposal, and the UN Security Council voted to pull out almost 90 per cent of the 2 548 peacekeepers. During the next three months, Hutu death squads slaughtered some 800 000 Tutsis. America watched in silence.

We know about some of the behind-the-scenes discussions within the Clinton administration at the time, thanks to Samantha Power (who today serves as the US ambassador to the United Nations). In her Pulitzer Prize-winning 2002 book, "A Problem from Hell", Power cited internal memos showing the State Department was "worried" that publicly acknowledging the Rwanda genocide "could commit [the US] to actually 'do something'."

Susan Rice, who today is President Barack Obama's national security adviser, also figured prominently in those 1994 discussions. At the time of the genocide, Rice was director of Africa affairs for the National Security Council. According to Power, Rice remarked to her colleagues: "If we use the word 'genocide' and are seen as doing nothing, what will be the effect on the November [Congressional] elections?"

The Allies could not have saved every Jew from the Holocaust. The Clinton administration could not have rescued every Tutsi. But just because you can't save everybody doesn't mean that you shouldn't save anybody.

The problem, in both cases, was not ignorance. Nor was the problem an inability to reach the victims or interrupt the killing. The problem was moral blindness: the refusal to recognise our humanitarian obligation to intervene against genocide, and the willingness to put narrow political considerations above moral responsibilities.

In this sense, Netanyahu was correct. The similarities between then and now are indeed "haunting". And they should continue to haunt us, until the day our government finally resolves to undertake a meaningful response to genocide. (JNS.org)

• *Dr Rafael Medoff is founding director of the David S Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies and author of 16 books about Jewish history and the Holocaust.*

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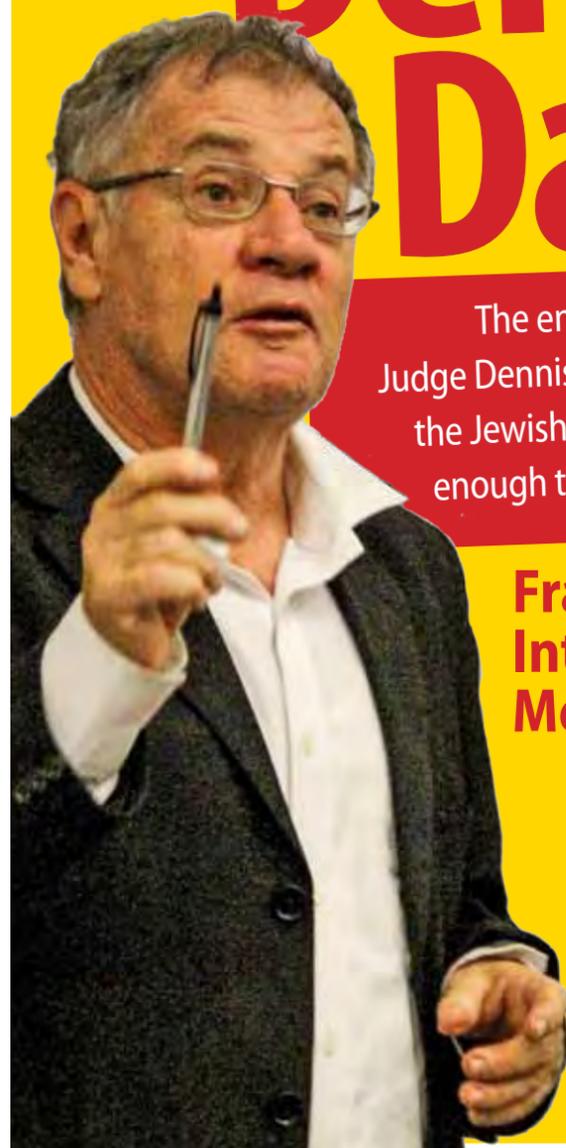
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# Tale of survival and endurance through the dark war years

STEVEN KRAWITZ

“Anna and the Swallowman” (published by Bodley Head) is a powerful book about survival during the Second World War. It is set in Poland from November 1939 until just before the end of the war and focuses on Anna Lania who is seven years old when the German army invades and occupies Poland and the enigmatic Swallowman.

Anna’s mother has passed away and her father, a professor of linguistics at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, has ensured that she has mastered Polish, German, Russian, French and English and can converse in Yiddish, Ukrainian and Armenian.

Two months after the German invasion of Poland, Professor Lania is deported by the Nazis to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany, leaving Anna all alone to fend for herself in a hostile city. Former friends and neighbours are too terrified for their own lives to look after a Jewish orphan.

Quite magically Anna encounters the Swallowman, a man who can also speak many languages and can even converse with birds. A strong enduring relationship develops between the two for the hellish duration of the war. Anna and the Swallowman encounter the mass killings and graves of the Ukrainian Holocaust and witness the first salvos of Operation Barbarossa.

The simple act of survival in the Polish, Ukrainian and Russian countryside is perilous and death lurks in every shadow and leaf’s rustle. Gavriel Savit grew up in a Modern Orthodox family in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a university town where his father lectured theoretical physics at the University of Michigan and his mother taught cello.

His upbringing has given him a strong Jewish identity which is apparent in his writing. After studying musical theatre in Ann Arbor, Savit moved to New York to pursue a career in theatre performance and to pursue other projects, including writing.

“Anna and the Swallowman” has strong resonances with other Second World War and Holocaust films and novels, especially “A Beautiful Life” and “The Boy in Striped Pajamas”. What sets Anna apart and could turn it into a modern classic, is the fairytale quality and the “open uncertainty” that underpins the novel.

This “open uncertainty” makes the book more challenging and far more rewarding than a straightforward narrative that ties up all loose ends by the last page. In conversation Savit expressed his belief in the need for historical fiction to reflect lived experience, to convey the complexity of the historical reality and to capture the nuances as they were experienced at the time, instead of the certainty that hindsight allows.

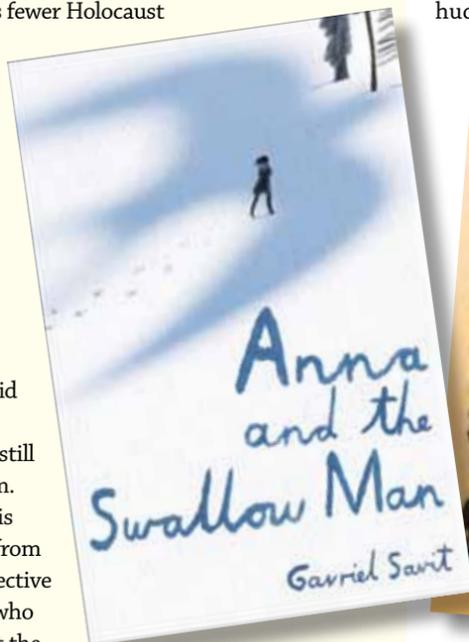
Savit also feels the enormous responsibility in telling a Second World War story and capturing a sense of truth true to the historical record, especially as fewer Holocaust

survivors and witnesses of the war remain alive.

On the Swallowman, Gavriel said that this character still eludes him. The book is narrated from the perspective of Anna, who is seven at the beginning and a young teenager at the end of the book. Her ability to understand the war is understandably limited and the reader is able to piece a fuller narrative from Anna’s.

The Swallowman’s strategy for survival is non-disclosure, and we never fully know where he came from, nor why he took to the road. But we have ample clues and many possibilities to speculate over.

Although Anna and the Swallowman is being marketed to young adults, it truly deserves a much wider readership, independent of age. It is a book that shows a sense of wonder even during the darkest times, the will to survive and a very special relationship between a magical, secretive man who is wrestling with his own demons and a young girl who is in the process of self-formation.

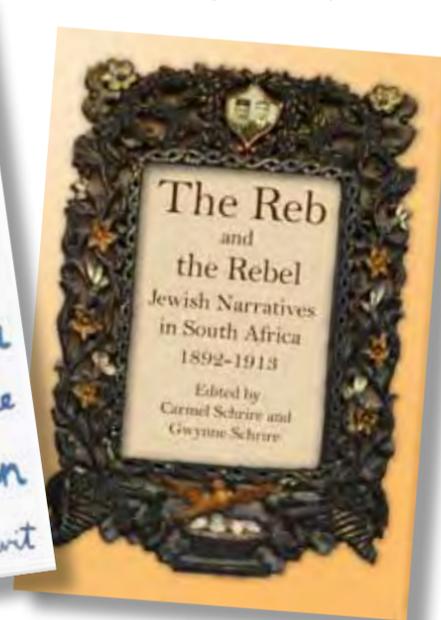


# Fascinating insight into early Jewish travel and travails in SA

BRIAN JOSSELOWITZ

One of the most interesting things Gwynne Schrire (Robins) learnt from “The Reb and Rebel”, subtitled, “Jewish Narratives in South Africa 1892 - 1913”, she and her cousin Carmel Schrire edited, was the fact that her great-grandmother had the plague and the family went bankrupt.

The Reb and the Rebel, (UCTPress/Juta), is a fascinating insight into life in Cape Town and Johannesburg by Reb Yehuda Leib Schrire (1851-1912) who was a



cantor and a shochet.

He arrived in Johannesburg from Lithuania in 1892 and in his diary describes his journey from his birthplace, Oshmany, through Germany, Holland, the Canary Islands to his arrival in Cape Town on the Dunbar Castle and then on to Johannesburg.

His description of the long trip is so lively that you feel you are on the ship, on the train and on the mule cart with him.

The book consists of three manuscripts: a diary and a poem, titled Tolada (history) by Yehuda ben Leib Schrire and the memoirs of the Rebel, the District 6-born Harry Nathan Schrire (1895-1980).

Robins had the copy of her Uncle

Harry’s memoirs which she had wanted to publish for 40 years and her cousin, Carmel, a PhD and professor at Rutgers, had the diary and the poem, which she found when her mother directed her to the “big cupboard”.

Carmel, who is a regular lecturer at UCT, got UCTPress/Juta interested in publishing the book and they sent it to various readers to be vetted, said Robins.

“Editing the poem and the poem footnotes was the most difficult part of the book. Carmel insisted on this as it was written in biblical Hebrew before Ben Yehuda had developed it into a modern language and Carmel wanted to know where the words and phrases had come from. When the poem, Tolada, had been translated, Carmel said she had a handwritten diary but the Kaplan Centre had no more money for the project,” Robins recounts.

When Robins went to visit one of her mother’s best friends, then terminally ill, the woman’s Israeli daughter from America was there and she offered to translate the diary as it would give her something to do.

“So every night I would go there and she would tell me what the diary said; I wrote it down and at home put it on the computer and tidy the language. Then the woman died and I never thought the book would be completed. But when I went for prayers, the daughter-in-law afterwards took me into the bedroom and finished the translation.

“Uncovering the diary was so exciting because it is the oldest such manuscript we have about Jewish travels and Jewish Johannesburg, and the book’s publication is a dream come true,” said Robins.

Michaelis Professor of Art, Pippa Skotness, did the design for the book cover. The picture is of one of Yehuda Leib’s woodcuts, designed to mourn his daughter-in-law’s mother, Bertha Mauerberger and the bird with the five eggs at the bottom represent her and her five children. Skotness inserted the photographs at the top.

## World News in Brief

### Egypt’s foreign minister visits Israel, first time in a decade

JERUSALEM - The foreign minister of Egypt last week visited Israel to discuss his country’s recommendations for peace between Israel and the Palestinians with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Last Sunday’s visit by Sameh Shoukry was the first by an Egyptian foreign minister since 2007, according to Netanyahu.

Speaking at the start of the weekly Cabinet meeting last Sunday, Netanyahu said the visit “teaches about the change that has come over Israel-Egypt relations, including President [Abdel Fattah] el-Sissi’s important call to advance the peace process with both the Palestinians and Arab countries.

“The Egyptian foreign minister is coming on behalf of the president of Egypt; we welcome him.”

Shoukry, who has been foreign minister for two years, visited Ramallah for the first time two weeks ago to talk about Egypt’s peace plans with Palestinian leaders, Haaretz reported.

Netanyahu and Shoukry met in the afternoon and evening.

They also reportedly discussed co-ordination between their two countries over the search for wreckage of the EgyptAir flight that crashed in May

after some pieces of wreckage were recovered off the coast of Netanya last week Thursday.

The flight from Paris to Cairo crashed into the Mediterranean Sea, killing the 66 passengers and crew on board. (JTA)



### Theresa May, UK’s incoming prime minister, seen as friend to Israel

LONDON - British Conservative Party leader Theresa May, who is expected to succeed David Cameron as prime minister when he resigns this week, is being welcomed as a long-time friend of Britain’s Jewish

community and a strong advocate for Israel.

May, 59, was named party leader on Monday following weeks of jockeying and political turmoil surrounding the decision by voters to leave the European Union and Cameron’s subsequent decision to step down.

As the country’s home secretary, May was known to be a frequent guest at Jewish communal events, where she would praise Israel and British Jewry’s contributions to the country. The Community Security Trust and other Jewish groups thanked May for securing significant government funding to protect Jewish institutions in the wake of terrorist attacks in Europe.

Supporters recalled on Monday that following the terrorist murders in 2015 at a kosher supermarket in Paris, May carried a sign to a Board of Deputies of British Jews meeting reading “Je Suis Juif” (I am Jewish) in solidarity with its victims.

In 2011, May banned from Britain the leader of the northern branch of the Islamic movement in Israel, Sheikh Raed Salah, for encouraging extremism.

May has also pledged to defend kosher slaughter, which is under attack in many parts of Europe on animal cruelty grounds.

“As Home Secretary for six years, Mrs May is better placed than most of her Westminster colleagues to assess the threats facing British Jews,” Marcus Dysch, a columnist for the Jewish Chronicle, wrote on Monday.

Ansel Pfeffer, writing in Israel’s Haaretz newspaper last week, noted that shortly after visiting Israel in 2014, May told the Conservative Friends of Israel

that in the face of threats from Hamas, Hezbollah, ISIS and Iran, Israel must “maintain a strong defence and security capability and be prepared to deploy it if necessary”. (JTA)

### Israeli Navy successfully tests long-range missiles

JERUSALEM - The Israeli Navy has successfully tested two long-range anti-ship Harpoon missiles, launching them at a decommissioned Israeli naval vessel 100 kilometres away and hitting the target accurately.

Two of the navy’s missile boats, INS Hetz and INS Herev, fired the Harpoon to its maximum range at the target, the INS Atzmaut, a Saar Class 4 missile ship that was deactivated about a year ago and was used in the exercise to simulate an enemy ship. It was sunk offshore following the hit.

Col Ziv Rom, the commander of the navy’s Missile Boats Flotilla, said that “this was a unique exercise, which involved all the components of our force. The missiles accurately struck the target, an old ship that once served us well but is now at the bottom of the sea.”

The Harpoon missile system is manufactured in the US and is considered the most advanced missile in the Israeli Navy’s arsenal, with its own independent missile guidance method and a low-level, sea-skimming cruise trajectory. (JNS.org)

# Mathematics becomes a fun environment component in this exhibition

AMY JAFFE

The “Maths in our Environment Exhibition” exceeded all expectations. Sandton Sinai Primary aims to have an integrated curriculum for its learners, so the exhibition showed how learners had learnt about the concepts of maths across the various curricula.

In Kodesh for example, the concept of Gematria was explored. A scale was made for the month of Elul, so learners can fill the one side of the scale with all their mitzvot they do and see how it outweighs their avairot. In Afrikaans, learners learnt the names of numbers and in English, they had to write about concepts they had learnt in maths.

The grade R, 1, 2 and 3 learners all displayed projects at the exhibition which related to how maths is used in the environment. Grade 3s tackled a menu in a restaurant and worked out costs of items in terms of the metric measurements. The grade 2s’ projects dealt with money and different currencies in the world.

Grade 1 learners used different shapes for their projects. Grade R projects covered the concepts of shapes,



Photo: Melinda Chazen

Kami Lowenstein; Sarah Orkin; Teagan Friedman; and Georgia Ross.

diagonal lines, ordinals number formation pairs and symmetry, to name a few.

In developing their self-esteem, the learners had an opportunity to explain their work to their parents, family and friends. Overall the projects were of an outstanding level and the teachers were impressed by the creativity of the learners.

## News

# Mensch - a bridge between people and communities - now independent



Photo: Mensch Network

Mensch Network members Gina Levy, Debbie Silver and Daphne Miller.

BRIAN JOSSELOWITZ

“Mensch” - originally “The Mensch Network”, a project of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Cape Council, (CSAJBD), has been relaunched to make the point that it is an independent community organisation, run and supported by its own board, separate to the Cape SAJBD, Gina Flash, founder and executive director, told Jewish Report.

“The Cape SAJBD historically has created several initiatives which have gone on to be separate organisations, for example Staffwise and the CSO. The SAJBD Cape Council often plays the role of facilitating discussion and bringing different parties together. This created an ideal environment for the formation of a network of Jewish people working for social change in some way.

The Mensch Network brought together Jewish people working in, or running NGOs, social entrepreneurs working in for-profit businesses which have at their core the social upliftment of people and communities.

“Whether people are working in social change or do a lot of volunteering, they are welcome to join the Mensch Network.

“It soon became clear that there was far more potential for Mensch beyond the network, so I negotiated with the SAJBD to allow me to take Mensch out and set it up as an organisation in its own right,” Flash said.

Now Mensch is governed by a board of community members and leaders: Dr Jonathan Marks (chairman); Miriam Luyt (treasurer); Helen Lieberman; Michael Bagraim; Dianna Yach; Li Boiskin; Patti Silbert; Roy Silver; and Gina Flash.

Some 50 people attended the relaunch to celebrate that it is now an independent Jewish organisation and to update the Jewish

community and broader civil society partners on Mensch’s plans for the future.

A highlight of the relaunch was the facilitated conversation between Helen Lieberman, founder of NGO Ikamva Labantu and Lauren Gillis, founder of fundraising social enterprise Relate.

Social entrepreneur and mentor Roy Silver moderated this session in which the two social change leaders shared their personal journeys and motivation for what they do, as well as their collaboration in how Relate operates.

The Relate model is one where “gogos” from ikamva run seniors clubs and bead the Relate bracelets into large balls of strung bead strands. They are paid for their work per ball. These balls then come to Relate where unemployed youth cut the bracelets to size, join and package them for sale.

“There are 50 Mensch Network members in Cape Town. We are going to expand nationally and are planning a launch event in Johannesburg soon. Mensch benefits the Jewish community in that it connects change makers to increase the impact of their work.

“It benefits our community generally as it showcases the amazing work and commitment of Jewish South Africans to the future of this country and the important role we play - and therefore our relevance as a community of leaders and change-makers.

“Mensch creates a bridge between people and communities and creates ways for our community to play a role in meeting the challenges facing South Africa, proudly as Jews working outside of the Jewish community, primarily in poor and disadvantaged communities,” Flash said.

• To register as a Mensch Network member or to find out more, visit [www.mensch.org.za/register](http://www.mensch.org.za/register)

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**FINALLY the Sandton Shul Mikvah is renovating**

Exciting times ahead and we cannot wait for the new fresh and modern Mikvah to be completed.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused. We will miss our regulars and the wonderful monthly visits and cannot wait to catch up with you all in three months’ time.

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

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

Sandton Shul  
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## FAMILY ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK 15 - 21 JULY 2016

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SOCIAL SERVICES

# Brilliant Eris Silke paints straight from the heart

Artist Eris Silke.

SUZANNE BELLING

Maybe the legends of Count Dracula and her birthplace in the Eastern European province of Transylvania fired the imagination of artist Eris Silke and her paintings, which combine both the dark and the aesthetic, but whatever it was, Silke blossomed into an artist of renown, with her work hanging in Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg and in private collections the world over.

An exhibition of her latest work will open at the Art.b Gallery at the Bellville Library, Cape Town, on August 31, with a private viewing the day before.

“Make of my birthplace what you will,” Eris laughs, but goes on to say that she is the daughter of Hungarian Holocaust survivors, who beat the Nazi machine by happenstance - living beyond the actual borders of Hungary and, as Zionists, settling in Israel after the establishment of the State.

Silke, an only child, retreated into her art from the age of five. She represented her country as Miss Israel in the late 1960s. Her undeniable talent has been acclaimed, although self-taught. Her painting overtook her initial studies in Hebrew literature and

law and her graduation as a psychology major.

Her first marriage at the age of 18 forced her to leave the army. Then she and her husband, the late Professor Israel Ben-Yosef, former head of Judaica at UCT, came on shlichut to South Africa. She was even a rebbetzen for a short while when her husband was acting rabbi in Springs!

Silke moved to Cape Town after a divorce, was remarried for many years, a marriage that produced her only son, Robert, a well-known Cape Town architect.

She knew she wanted to be an artist and since she turned professional in 1975, she has incorporated all the different aspects of her life into her work - literature, political influences, deep psychological understanding, spirituality, Judaism, pain, pleasure, the macabre and the cruel, the bizarre and the beautiful...

Her psychological insight manifested in her work, particularly the influence of Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud in her early works.

“For me there is lots of beauty in the world but there is also pain and darkness,” says Silke. “I paint as my heart dictates, as a true artist as opposed to meeting modern demands of commercialism in order to eke out a living.”

Among her paintings are characters from

the Bible, following on her earlier themes of European and Yiddish culture.

“There is so much beauty in our Bible and beliefs, coupled with deep psychological meaning - as with Joseph and his brothers and the analysis of what led Pharaoh to believe Joseph’s dream.”

She is also engrossed in the fictional works of great writers, especially Edgar Allan Poe. Then there is the fantasy - the ever-present porcelain dolls, which surround her in her studio in Sea Point. They are at times pretty, then suddenly their fragility is shattered like broken china, depicted as a crack on their faces.

Her paintings - acrylic on canvas - and her drawings reflect her cosmopolitan and unconventional lifestyle and show glimpses into the soul of the artist herself.

Silke has over 30 solo exhibitions to her credit. Her paintings have been shown at most of the biggest galleries in the country and at other venues.

Her paintings are in the SA National Gallery, Stellenbosch Museum, the UCT Library, College of Music, a women’s residence and more recently at Serendipity and Burr and Muir antique collections.

She appears in “The Dictionary of South African Painters and Sculptors” and “150 South African Painters” (1990).

## Community

## World News in Brief

# Ariellah’s ORT legacy will be the opening up of young minds

MICHAEL BELLING

Some people study for one career and then find their passion and dedication elsewhere. Ariellah Rosenberg is one.

She now puts her love for education in science and technology into practice on a daily basis as the CEO of ORT South Africa.

Report.

She continued with this work after she married her husband, Ayal, in 1991. His father was from South Africa. In 1997 he was made an attractive IT proposition in this country and the family - they had two children by then, with a third later in South Africa - came to live in Johannesburg. On her arrival here she approached

She started at ORT heading up the teacher empowerment department, with a focus on STEM education (science, technology, engineering and maths).

Building the department, she implemented maths and science projects she developed for the foundation phase - grades 1, 2 and 3, starting at schools in Alexandra township.

The programme expanded over time, with more and more projects, not only in science and technology, but in maths as well.

As the work increased and performance in the schools succeeded, the department also grew. It is now accredited to the Education, Training and Development Practices (ETDP) Seti and with the department of education.

The number of requests from the department of education to implement programmes is growing. Funding for them is often obtained from sponsors, particularly corporations.

In 2013 Rosenberg was appointed CEO of ORT SA. She is dedicated to the 130-year-old Jewish organisation, with branches all over the world, involved in the education and training of hundreds of thousands of teachers and pupils and students in schools and tertiary institutions.

“My one passion is the legacy I will leave in ORT,” she said, “making a difference in people’s lives, both ORT staff, as well as thousands of beneficiaries on whom we are impacting on a daily basis.

“I have a very strong belief that education is the route, the tool, the means to achieve greatness and that is my belief in empowering people.”

Her second passion, “what makes Ariellah Ariellah, is for my family. I believe that the legacy I will leave is to my daughters, by providing them with the tools, the love, everything they need.”

Rabbi Isadore Rubenstein, head of the SA Board of Jewish Education.

“I said I would love to run a programme to start at nursery school to ignite little minds in skills of creative thinking, analytical thinking, through science and technology.”

It started at King David Linksfield in nursery school in grade R, the year before grade 1, soon expanding to all the King David Schools and then to all the Jewish nursery schools.

By the time she left the job in 2004 to take up a post at ORT, the programme extended to grade 7.

“I used to work with the teachers. I did teachers’ training and used to go into the classroom with resources and run the lesson in line with the curriculum,” she said.



Ariellah Rosenberg - passion for education.

But that’s not where she started. After growing up in Bat Yam, she obtained a BSc degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot, later specialising as a dietician, but she soon found her niche and sense of career achievement in education.

Following her internship at the Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba, she was asked to run a science museum there, in a relatively poor neighbourhood of the town. Her job - which she held until she came to South Africa in 2004 - included special extracurricular activities for gifted young children. These programmes later extended across the entire country.

“My passion has been science from an early age,” she told SA Jewish

## Netanyahu held talks with Muslim leader during Africa tour

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed that he held a phone conversation with a leader of a Muslim nation in Africa during his four state tour of the continent last week.

“There are a lot of these contacts. He is not the only Muslim leader who contacted us in recent years,” Netanyahu said, without revealing who he spoke to. “The world is changing.”

According to Netanyahu, the phone conversation between him and the Muslim African leader took place on the sidelines of the Israeli-African summit in Uganda earlier last week, which was attended by leaders from Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. It is believed that Netanyahu was referring to Chad’s President Idriss Deby as the African leader, Israel Hayom reported. (JNS.org)

## Germany says Iran violating UN missile resolutions

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week that Iran is violating United Nations Security Council regulations concerning its ballistic missile programme. During remarks to the German Bundestag, Merkel said that Iran “continued unabated to develop its rocket programme in conflict with the relevant provisions of the UN Security Council”.

The statement by the German leader comes following a report by the country’s intelligence agency revealing that Iran has continued to seek illegal nuclear technology in 2015. Iran’s, the report said, “illegal proliferation-sensitive procurement activities in Germany registered by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution persisted in 2015 at what is, even by international standards, a quantitatively high level. This holds true in particular with regard to items which can be used in the field of nuclear technology.”

Additionally, the reported noted “a further increase in the already considerable procurement efforts in connection with Iran’s ambitious missile technology programme which could, among other things, potentially serve to deliver nuclear weapons. Against this backdrop it is safe to expect that Iran will continue its sensitive procurement activities in Germany using clandestine methods to achieve its objectives.” (JNS.org)

## Sharansky joins protest against rabbinical court decision rejecting conversion

JERUSALEM - Natan Sharansky, head of the Jewish Agency, joined a demonstration in front of the Chief Rabbinate building in Jerusalem last week over a recent decision by the rabbinical court to reject a conversion by popular US-based Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. “Rabbi Lookstein is a man of great renown and a lengthy record of accolades and achievements,” Sharansky said in a statement posted by the Jewish Agency.

“At a time when we are combating efforts to delegitimise Israel, as our enemies attempt to sever the ties between young Jews and the Jewish state, this is deeply detrimental to Israel’s image among Jewish communities around the world,” he said.

Demonstrators are protesting the controversial recent decision of the rabbinical court in Petah Tikvah to reject the conversion of a woman, which was performed by Lookstein, a prominent modern Orthodox rabbi from New York. The protest was organised by Lookstein’s former students and ITIM, an NGO advocacy group who appealed the Petah Tikvah decision. As a result of the decision by the rabbinical court, all of Lookstein’s previous conversions would also be rejected. Lookstein converted Ivanka Trump, the daughter of presumed Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. (JNS.org)

**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.

**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.

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

**KOL ISHA PLAINTIFFS NOT THE KEEPERS OF THE JEWISH NATION**

The kol isha issue has been written and discussed about at levels that will split an already fractured South African Jewish community in ways that this Jewish community may never recover from.

If the court case - in the Equality Court - goes ahead, this will do untold damage to the Jewish nation as a whole. In a month's time we will be mourning the Tisha B'Av destruction of the two holy temples in Jerusalem and other tragic events through Jewish history.

Have the Jewish nation and the South African Jewish community not learnt anything in over 3 500 years and especially over the last 2 000 years?

The Yom Hashoah events that are held in all parts of the world and especially in Cape Town and Johannesburg, are held in most cases within the boundaries of a Jewish cemetery or Jewish holy site or a Jewish museum.

A Jewish cemetery is a sacred place. A Jewish cemetery has certain halachic rules whether Orthodox, Reform or any other faction. It is halacha that a woman should dress modestly, not wear pants, should always wear a dress and an acceptable skirt and should cover her arms in modesty.

A man who is wearing a tzitzit that normally would be hanging out, should not come into a Jewish cemetery in this manner and should hide away his tzitzit out of respect for those departed souls that are no longer able to perform mitzvot. We also do not eat in a Jewish cemetery for the same reason.

These halachas tell the living Jews coming to a

Jewish cemetery that the cemetery is a holy place and that there are halachas that guide all Jews.

If this is the case, then the Yom Hashoah event is not a "secular" event and is in fact a religious event with all the halachas that must be kept for ALL the people attending such an event - Orthodox, Reform and secular Jews.

What Gilad Stern, Sarah Goldstein and SACRED are doing, is bringing the entire Jewish nation into disrepute and they should be ashamed of themselves. This should not be the way Jews behave.

Whether one keeps the halacha of kol isha or not, is not for these two people and an organisation to decide on behalf of the greater Jewish community to determine what is right or wrong. Who made these people the keepers and judges of the Jewish nation?

One cannot turn a religious event inside a Jewish cemetery into a "secular" one. Where is the respect for the dear departed souls of all those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and all the dear departed souls of those buried inside the Jewish cemeteries?

It is not the SA Zionist Federation nor the Jewish Board that decides if an event like the Yom Hashoah one is religious or secular. It is Jewish halacha that can only dictate that and the fact that the Yom Hashoah event is held in a Jewish cemetery in Cape Town and Johannesburg makes that event a religious one and subject to halacha.

**ELIE WIESEL WAS INTOLERANT TO OTHER POINTS OF VIEW**

Eli Wiesel has passed on and I for one feel it is my moral duty to say that I am not and cannot be sorry about that.

To the best of my knowledge he was one of those who would never tolerate people comparing Second World War atrocities against non-Jews to those against Jews; would never tolerate, let's say, any comparison between Nazi and Ustase atrocities committed against Serbs, to Nazi atrocities against Jews, while making comparisons between what he and his likes accused the Serbs of doing to others to "what Nazis did to the Jews".

And of course, as everybody knows, he and his likes would never become confused by facts. So the bottom line is, he and people like him are no saints, to say the least.

**Avner Eliyahu Romm  
 Jerusalem**

**A BIG HUG TO NEW SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN MASCHA SCHAINBERG**

During a holiday to Cape Town last year I visited the Holocaust Centre there and was deeply touched. So, when I read an article about Holocaust survivor Mascha Schainberg obtaining her South African citizenship, in the South African Jewish Report last week, I was excited and honoured as a fellow South African.

In fact, when I saw the photograph of Schainberg with the Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba, I was envious... because I wished I were there to give her a big hug! I hope the South African Jewish Report together with the SA Jewish community will be hosting celebrations to give Mascha Schainberg a "Proudly South African" welcome.

I enjoy reading your newspaper and find the contents very insightful. Keep up the excellent work.

**Stranton Narain  
 Pretoria**

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It is not South African law of gender equality that dictates these proceedings. It has nothing to do with gender equality.

If those who do not believe in these halachic rules don't like Yom Hashoah being a religious event, then they should hold their own "secular" events somewhere else or at a different time to the halachic religious event and get women to sing to their hearts delight.

**Errol Horwitz  
 Fresnaye, Cape Town**

**Sir Nicholas Winton already died on July 1, 2015**

Isaac Reznik pointed out to Jewish Report that the article on Sir Nicholas Winton's passing in last week's paper, is wrong. "He passed away on July 1, 2015. This was reported in the Jewish Report last year." Thank you, Isaac. We regret the error.



**FAMILY ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK 15 - 21 JULY 2016**

**Fact: Abuse occurs in educated, religious and wealthy families too**

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# Another one of the Clegg clan makes it big time



PETER FELDMAN

Singer and songwriter Jesse Clegg long ago stepped out from the shadows of his famous father, Johnny, to forge an impressive musical career - based on his own talents.

But in the beginning Clegg was unsure whether to follow the same musical path as his father and become a professional musician. "I have a BA law degree and an honours degree in English literature," he said. "I was sceptical about becoming a professional musician and I enjoyed academia."

"But I think when I started writing my own songs and fell in love with music as a form of personal expression, I knew I had found my calling."

Over the years, Clegg has gone from strength to strength in all facets of his work and this year has been a "whirlwind" and one of the most hectic ever.

He recently spent two-and-a-half months on tour in the US where he did 35 shows across 34 states. It was "hectic but rewarding" as he showcased his work to new audiences.

"My new album, 'Things Unseen' is also about to be released, so that's kept me very busy. We've just shot the new music video for the third single entitled 'Breathing', and I'm currently on tour in Cape Town."

Clegg describes his music as "a mixture of pop, rock, electro and folk, but at my core I am a singer-songwriter".

Talking about his new CD, Clegg told Jewish Report that it was a shift in style for him. "I wanted to move away from guitar-oriented productions and utilise synthetic elements to make this album. There is a whole world of possibilities with the technology that is available to artists now and I was excited to experiment with it."

"I still wrote the songs in the same way - a very organic process just sitting on

guitar or piano - but the production was what sets the album apart from my others. Its more pop/electro which is a very exciting genre at the moment for me.

"The songs are written based on my own personal life and my observations. There is a lot of songs about seeking, as well as the complexity of human relationships."

On the state of South African music, he feels it is growing, but he believes there are aspects that need improving. "I see more and more support in the live scene and there seems to be an increased interest in local music generally. It's getting there, I believe."

Asked what advice he would give a budding artist who wants to enter a tough industry, he responded: "Before you think about fame, money and success, start with the song writing. It's the most important part of what we do. You have to love it, and have a lot of passion for music in and of itself. A great song will find its audience."

In a competitive and often fickle business Clegg has managed to keep interest levels high and his career on track. He said: "I just do what I do. I've been fortunate that my audience has followed me throughout the years. I think my music has always been honest and that means something to people. I also have a fantastic management team in Real Concerts. I give them a lot of credit for steering me in the right direction."

Clegg is based in Johannesburg and his downtime, he said, is spent "hanging with friends, playing video games, squash, watching movies. It's the normal stuff."

His favourite artist he is listening to at the moment is a female performer from the UK called NAO. "I love her work. Her song 'Bad Blood' has been on repeat in my car for the last few days."

## 'Gruesome Gresh' honoured by Midem for lifetime of service

PETER FELDMAN

David Gresham is a South African record industry icon and after more than four decades still shows no signs of slowing down.

Over the years, Gresham, once known by his radio moniker as "Gruesome Gresh", has achieved numerous accolades for his contribution to the South African music industry, both as a well-known TV and radio presenter in the '70s and '80s, and later steering his own fiercely independent company, David Gresham Records, through the highs and lows of a very competitive business.

A famous achievement was when he became the only South African media personality to interview John Lennon who apologised for saying the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. The SABC refused to air the interview.

Recently Gresham was awarded a gold medal by Midem at their 50th anniversary in recognition of his support of the annual trade fair in Cannes. (Midem is the acronym for Marché International du Disque et de l'Édition Musicale - the key industry event that unites the entire music ecosystem.)



David Gresham and his wife Ismay.

He told Jewish Report that it was totally unexpected. "I was advised at Midem that some 20 people would be honoured for long service to Midem and the music industry. It was part of Midem's 50th anniversary celebrations and in July it will be my 44th year in the business."

Asked how he kept his passion going for so long, he replied: "I guess keeping the passion is really about the love for music and especially developing young talent and the desire to see the talent climb the charts successfully. Of course it is a mammoth task developing these talents."

Gresham, who is 73, and heads one of the continent's biggest publishing and record labels, said Midem helped him connect with the world and over the years he signed such illustrious names as Kylie Minogue, Depeche Mode and Nickleback through his contacts.

Today music has changed dramatically. He says: "Technology has created a kind of mercenary position among consumers who feel it's a given right to take music freely, not realising the amount of work, cost and creative work needed for one recording."

"Many people need to make a living out of their talent. However creatively music is at its best, even though these talented artists sometimes find it difficult to make a living these days. It has to be total dedication by these artists."

On the state of South African music, Gresham believes it is growing in leaps and bounds across the board. "In every genre we are noticing amazing musicianship and live tours are creating a lot of interest and support."

On his books he has Connell Cruise, who is touring in the United States, Afrikaans songstress Amore

Vittone, Rouge in the Urban field, Jimmy Nevis and Miza who is in Vegas. In the pop field he has developed Alexander May, currently in the Top 5 on Five FM, and new name, Timothy de Monk, who is in matric this year and will have his first release out once he has completed school.

Gresham comes from a rabbinical family, on his grandmother's side, the Carlebachs from Germany.

"I was 10 and living in Swaziland when my parents felt I needed a strong Jewish background and so I was sent to Johannesburg to board at Herber House and attend King David School. This was necessary for me to reach my barmitzvah as there was no Jewish education in Swaziland."

A recent milestone in Gresham's life was that he and his wife Ismay recently celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. They have three children and five granddaughters.

He still maintains that fitness is an important facet of his life and he does daily gym work before heading for the office. His downtime is spent watching movies, eating out and entertaining with family and friends. He and Ismay also travel regularly to New York to visit their youngest daughter, Angela, and her family.

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# Gitlin and Isie Maisels Libraries host gems



Librarian Maxine Fine and Eric Mathobo.

everything from historical to horror films.

Due to the enormity of the task, the Isie Maisels Library was turned, for the most part, into a “reference” library (in other words, look but don’t lend). There are, however, still some books that may be taken out.

Long-standing Beyachad employee, Eric Mathobo, who had assisted in the library in the past, was seconded to a fulltime role at the library in 2014.

“Every item in the audio-visual library has been catalogued and numbered,” says Mathobo. “The majority of DVDs are Jewish interest,” he adds, and most popularly loaned-outs are documentaries. They have people taking out or returning DVDs on a daily basis. All Hebrew-language DVDs have English subtitles.

Fine and Mathobo are well on their way to catalogue every book, as it should be, by subject, author, title, sub-title, publisher, dates, editors, compilers, etc.

This library opens at 08:30 on weekdays and closes at 16:30 except Fridays

(or erev chagim) when it closes at 14:00.

The educational value of this treasure trove has not been lost and more and more educators, learners and students are making use of this resource.

They also have a massive collection of cuttings from mainstream newspapers on South African Jewry and Israel, as well as bound reference copies of almost every edition of all Jewish newspapers published in the country over the past 150-odd years.

This collection includes over 15 000 books and in excess of 1 400 unique DVD titles (they have multiple copies of the more popular titles).

Both the Gitlin and Isie Maisels

Libraries are very comprehensive and offer community organisations and the public at large an invaluable research archive.

Both the Maisels’ print and DVD collections contain a good mix of unique fiction and non-fiction titles. The fiction sections are mostly populated with books and films written about, or made in Israel or South Africa and in a South African Jewish and Israeli setting.

The non-fiction sections specialise in areas such as Holocaust-related material; historical Judaism; Christian Zionism items and Israeli/Zionist advocacy. This facility is centrally located on the first floor of Beyachad.

**ANT KATZ**

The Jewish communities of Cape Town and Johannesburg have valuable heritage libraries of South African Jewry. Cape Town’s pride is the Gitlin Library, while Johannesburg has several resources libraries - an extensive document archive managed by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and The Isie Maisels Library and Audio-Visual Centre based at Beyachad in Raedene and maintained

by the Zionist Federation.

Librarian Maxine Fine took charge of the Isie Maisels 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.

The very well-stocked and regularly updated audio-visual library, on the other hand, is a lending library and is well supported by both local Jewry and Israelis. Its range of genres spans

# Tools and skills aplenty in a growing technological world

**MARCELLE RAVID**

A new, exciting digital marketing course is being undertaken at ORT SA, as part of a series of events planned for the launch of the new ORT SA Academy.

Ariellah Rosenberg, CEO of ORT SA and a participant in the class, said: “This unique course has been very effective in asking the correct questions about business promotion through social media. There are rules of the Internet and rules of marketing and it is interesting to explore the link.”

This digital marketing course is the brain-child of Michael Harf, an ORT JET volunteer mentor, who owns Aquaspresso, a coffee company which sells and rents coffee machines to small businesses and corporates.

Harf has used a wide range of digital marketing methods which has contributed to the rapid growth of Aquaspresso, over the past seven years. He is passionate about training and shares many of these methods and lessons learnt about social media.

“This course differs from the usual training offered at ORT JET as this weekly course runs over an extended period of three months. The response to this course was overwhelming

and the commitment shown by the 15 business owners has been testament to how much they are benefiting and enjoying the hands-on and practical classes,” says Tracy Rosen, training co-ordinator at ORT JET.

“Michael’s sessions are so interesting, practical and vital that we have full attendance each week,” said Rosenberg. “ORT SA is planning to provide a range of online training programmes and will be offering his digital marketing course on an online platform such as Udemy, in the near future.”

Since 2005 ORT JET, a division of ORT SA, has been assisting hundreds of small business in the Jewish community to achieve financial sustainability. ORT JET’s support includes training and mentoring made possible by an incredible network of volunteers. The mentors give of their time and expertise through mentoring, coaching and training.

The ORT JET training programme includes workshops and lectures held throughout the year. Topics for these sessions include latest trends in technical business skills, personal growth and development and new legislation.

ORT JET also provides many opportunities for networking and collaboration.



The satisfied participants of the ORT SA Digital Marketing course run by Michael Harf (front) in the new ORT Academy.

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## FAMILY ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK 15 - 21 JULY 2016



**Fact: Abuse is generally perpetrated against the most vulnerable in our community – children, women and elders**

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# A chicken dish that will have you clamour for more



## CHAYA RAPPOPORT

Deep frying is a pain. It's hot, it's splattery, sometimes things come out raw and it's not exactly healthy. Fun stuff, right?

But, it is also, when done right, one of the best things in the world. Deep frying has given us French fries, doughnuts, falafel and, perhaps most important, fried chicken.

To give this comfort food classic an Israeli twist, I added plenty of zaatar and fresh thyme

Another thing that makes this dish so special is the pareve buttermilk brine. Most fried chicken recipes use either a buttermilk marinade or a spiced brine to tenderise the chicken. This recipe uses both.

To keep things kosher, I make "buttermilk" with soy milk and lemon juice. Soaking it overnight along with a saltwater brine (which has honey, zaatar, lemon and a variety of spices for flavour) seasons the meat and breaks down the proteins in the chicken to keep it moist as it fries.

The next day, the "buttermilk"-brined chicken is breaded in a sumac, thyme, zaatar and paprika-spiced flour mixture. A little bit of baking powder helps the breading brown and crisp more efficiently in the fryer, and the chicken is dipped into the flour mixture twice, which makes the skin even thicker and crispier.

This chicken is herby and perfectly seasoned, succulent and juicy from the "buttermilk" brine, and it has a delicious shatteringly crispy crust.

The spicy, thyme-infused honey, which comes together in minutes, adds a touch of heat and sweet that's positively addictive.

### Frying tips:

- If you don't have a deep fry thermometer, let the oil heat for around 10 minutes. When the oil has preheated, dip the handle of a chopstick into the oil. If the oil starts steadily bubbling, then it is hot enough for frying. If not, let it heat for a few more minutes.
- Don't overcrowd the pan; the temperature of the oil will drop and that will result in greasy chicken. Fry three pieces at a time, preferably in a heavy bottomed pan.
- Use a neutral oil such as canola, for its high smoke point. If the oil starts smoking at any time, the temperature is too high and must be lowered. If it's too high, the outside of the chicken will brown quickly and look done, but the inside will be raw. On the flip side, if the temperature is too low, the chicken will be greasy and overcooked.
- Once the chicken is fried, let it cool on a drying rack set over paper towels. Have fun frying! I know you'll do great.

### Zaatar fried chicken with spicy thyme honey

#### Ingredients

##### For the chicken and brine:

- 4 cups soy milk
- juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1 peeled, seeded and halved lemon
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 cups hot water
- 1/3 cup kosher salt
- 6 tablespoons zaatar
- 6 bay leaves
- 3 cloves garlic, smashed with the side of a knife
- 6 sprigs of thyme
- 4 chicken thighs
- 4 chicken drumsticks

##### For the flour mixture:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 tablespoons zaatar
- 3 sprigs thyme
- 1 teaspoon sumac
- 1 tablespoon hot paprika
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 quart canola or vegetable oil, for frying

##### For the spicy thyme honey:

- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons hot sauce
- 2 tablespoons chilli oil
- 3 sprigs thyme
- a few peppercorns

#### Directions

- In a large food safe container, add the soy milk and the juice of a 1/2 lemon. Let it sit until it curdles, around 10 minutes. This is your "buttermilk".
- To the "buttermilk", add the peeled, seeded and halved lemon. Crumble in the bay leaves. Add in the zaatar, smashed garlic and thyme.
- Dissolve the salt in the hot water. This is the brine. Dissolve the honey in the brine. Add the brine to the container, along with the buttermilk and spices.
- Add the chicken to the brine. Refrigerate for 1 day.
- The next day, combine the flour, baking powder, zaatar, thyme, sumac and paprika and the salt in large bowl. Mix thoroughly to combine.
- Remove chicken from the brine, but do not throw away the brine.
- Coat the wet chicken in a thin layer of the flour mixture, and let it come to room temperature on a drying rack set over paper towels.
- Heat the oil to 370 degrees in large heavy bottomed pot. Once chicken is close to room temperature, dip in the reserved "buttermilk" brine and then in the flour mixture once more, then drop gently into the hot oil.
- Fry three pieces at a time. Cook for 4-5 minutes on each side, until golden brown and until instant read thermometer inserted into chicken reaches 165.
- Remove from oil and sprinkle with fresh thyme. In a small saucepan, combine the ingredients for the spicy honey. Let come to a boil. Serve drizzled over the hot chicken, immediately. (The Nosh via JTA)

• Chaya Rappoport is the blogger, baker and picture taker behind [retroillies.wordpress.com](http://retroillies.wordpress.com). Currently a senior in high school, she's been blogging since 2012.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

## No-one immune from terrorist threat

As has been widely reported, earlier this week four individuals in Johannesburg were arrested in an anti-terror raid. On Monday, two of the suspects appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court, where they were charged with three counts of contravening the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act.

According to the provisional charge sheet, the suspects allegedly planned to carry out bombing attacks against a US mission and unspecified "Jewish institutions" in South Africa.

Reports of alleged terrorist plots within our society are deeply concerning, particularly when, as in this case, our own community has been named as a target. We must however always bear in mind that this is a global, not a specifically South African problem.

As SAJBD Vice-President Zev Kregel put it when approached for comment by the media: "We know and we've always known, that no one is safe anywhere," adding that we worked closely with South African authorities and would continue to do so.

In many other countries, reports of planned terrorist attacks, including ones explicitly aimed at Jewish institutions, being discovered and thwarted, have been a regular occurrence.

Among the countries with sizeable Jewish populations where this has occurred are the US, France, Belgium, Germany, the UK and Australia. This is in addition to the continual atrocities being carried out in various African countries, including Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon and Somalia.

In view of these realities, it was reasonable to anticipate that a terrorist threat might one day surface in South Africa as well. In this case, thankfully, the potential danger

has so far been successfully averted and we fully commend the South African authorities on their decisive action.

In addition to what the national security establishment is doing, our community itself must do all that it can to ensure our own safety. I urge all community members to continue their vigilance and report any suspicious activity to the CSO immediately on 086 1800 018. Should you require any advice in improving the security of your installation, please e-mail [jhboutine@csso.org.za](mailto:jhboutine@csso.org.za).

### Kudos for Memorial Foundation's Marlene Bethlehem

Warmest congratulations to SAJBD Past President Marlene Bethlehem, who was confirmed as the new president of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture at its recent meeting in Mexico.

That one of our own has been elected to head up this prestigious organisation is a signal honour not just for Marlene, but for the whole of South African Jewry.

The MFJC was established after the Second World War with the primary purpose of rebuilding Jewish life in post-Holocaust Europe. It has since become a dynamic vehicle for grooming future Jewish leaders in all parts of the world, largely through its flagship Nahum Goldmann Fellowship Programme project.

Graduates of the latter include a number of senior SAJBD professional staff members and lay leaders. The close fruitful relationship that exists between the Board and the Foundation has very largely been due to Marlene's dedicated efforts over many years.

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

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

## Naftali's memory perpetuated through his mother's inspiration

ANT KATZ

A major catalyst for the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict, Operation Protective Edge, was the kidnapping of three Israeli youths on June 12 of that year. That fateful day (and the subsequent discovery of their brutally murdered bodies) shocked the Jewish world and forever changed the lives of three Israeli families and their community.

Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaer, and Eyal Yifrah were normal 16-year-old teenagers getting on with their daily lives. Unfortunately, on that fateful day, their lives were cut short.

Naftali's mother, Rachelle (pictured), has refused to succumb to the tragedy and decided instead to fight and to keep the "light of truth and love burning". The sought-after speaker will be in South Africa next month.

The teens had been kidnapped and murdered by Hamas in what is widely believed to be a purposeful spark aimed at igniting an intifada in the West Bank and Jerusalem. During the search and rescue mission, communities around the world came together in prayer to "Bring Back our Boys".

True to the indomitable Israeli spirit, Rachelle Fraenkel has since travelled the world taking a message of peace and unity with her. She has conducted herself with grace, modesty and true

resilience befitting women of her calibre.

She has been invited to speak at the United Nations Human Rights Council, given television interviews, met Israel's president and prime minister and has become a public leader and a national heroine leading the Unity Day campaign globally.

Unity Day was created by Rachelle Frankel as a day for Jewish people to unite despite their differences. It was founded following the period of mourning for her son, Naftali. Jerusalem Mayor Nir Birkat visited the grieving families and asked what could be done to preserve their children's memory.

The movement Geshar as well as former President Shimon Peres helped endorse and support this initiative.

Rachelle and her family will be visiting the South African Jewish community next month. Hosted by the Zionist Federation and Mizrahi SA, the local community and Israelis living in the country, will get the opportunity to meet this inspirational

family.

Rachelle will be speaking at various events, including a Women's Day breakfast on August 9 and Tisha B'Av at Mizrahi Shul in Johannesburg. The family will also attend a community event in Cape Town on August 21. For more information or to attend the events, contact the SAZF offices (011) 645-2510.



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**World News in Brief**

### IDF 'Israeli public's most trusted institution'

JERUSALEM - Eighty-two per cent of the Israeli public has confidence in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), making it the country's most trusted institution, according to findings published last Sunday by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

The findings revealed that 93 per cent of Israeli Jews trust the IDF. Only 32 per cent of the Israeli-Arab public, however, expressed confidence in the military.

Local municipalities are the second-most trusted public institution in Israel, earning the confidence of 61 per cent of respondents, while the State Comptroller placed third, with 60 per cent. The legal system was fourth at 58 per cent. (JNS.org)

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## Intermarriage at record high – but rate of increase slows

LONDON - New research into intermarriage among British Jews has shown that it is at its highest level for generations. The report, by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, claims that marrying out is having a “corrosive” effect on the Jewish population.

However, marriage between Jews and non-Jews is rising at a far slower rate than had been previously thought - and is half that of the United States.

David Graham, author of the new survey, said that the “doom-laden predictions of the 1990s about accelerating intermarriage have not come to pass”.

He added that “although the intermarriage rate has been steadily rising since at least the

early 1970s and is currently higher than it has been in a generation, the rate of increase since the early 1980s has been modest at most”.

Yet, the effect of such marriages remains “corrosive” on the Jewish population, the report claims, because the children of intermarried couples are three times less likely to be raised as Jewish as those from all-Jewish families.

The new research shows that while marriage between Jews and non-Jews is at a record high of 26 per cent, it has climbed by only one per cent since the mid-1990s. This compares with a figure of 58 per cent for the United States.

Whereas 96 per cent of Jews who married-in raise their children as Jewish, only 31 per cent of intermarried couples do. And while 44 per cent of intermarried Jewish women raise their children as Jewish, just 10 per cent of intermarried Jewish men do. - Jewish Chronicle, London

## Reason says: look for more diversity in senior management.

## Instinct says: business growth will follow.

On Women’s Day, the business issue of gender diversity at board and senior management level becomes a focus. With only 26% of senior management positions occupied by women in South Africa, how do businesses improve parity and yield the growth benefits associated with it? Contact us to help unlock your potential for growth.



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## Israel 21c exhibition ‘informed, amazed and inspired’

TEL AVIV - Since launching its Independence Day online exhibition “18 Ways Israel is Changing the World”, Israel 21c has been getting enthusiastic feedback from people in several countries who are using all or part of the full-colour, 18-image downloadable display onsite or online.

“The photos and information are fantastic,” wrote Jodi Gross of Congregation Adat Shalom in Farmington Hills, Michigan. “They are a wonderful way to tell kids and adults about the amazing things happening in Israel. We printed them and put them on a bulletin board focused on Israel.”

Ruth Saunders, executive director of the Anglo-Israel Association in London, said she plans to hang the Israel 21c exhibit at the organisation’s annual dinner in November.

Gail Jospa of Dix Hills Jewish Centre in New York had the exhibition printed for the synagogue’s Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration, and then displayed the posters at a countywide programme preparing Jewish high school seniors to respond to BDS, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism they may face on college campuses.

The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation included a link to the exhibition in the May edition of its interactive newsletter that goes out to its many programme participants in the United States and Israel.

Pedro Bilar, an Israel advocate from Zug, Switzerland, said he downloaded the exhibit and is hoping to have it displayed at a Swiss university. “Together with friends, we are thinking of other venues as well. We think it is very good and could be effective.” - Israel 21c

## Thousands in 13 countries use sports media platforms from Israel

TEL AVIV - Thousands of amateur sports writers across 13 countries are using the 90min and 12up platforms from Israeli sports media and technology company Minute Media to produce, publish and share more than 15 000 pieces of curated interactive content in 10 languages every month.

It may be called the BuzzFeed of the sports world.

The precursor of Minute Media, FTBpro, was founded by Asaf Peled in 2011 in Tel Aviv. The company has raised a total of \$45 million in venture-capital funding.

“We saw a space in the global sports market for user-generated content and foresaw the way journalism was going toward the likes of Huff-Post and BuzzFeed,” said Matan Har, Minute Media vice-president of growth and content.

“We didn’t see anyone in the sports space doing this. And since we eat, breathe and sleep sports, it was a natural fit for us.”

90min, its first platform for soccer citizen journalists in Europe, South America and Asia, has more than 110 million users engaged through social media monthly, 70 per cent of them under the age of 25.

12up was launched in May as a media platform for fans of American sports. In private beta testing for two months, 12up built up to reach more than four million unique users, mostly through mobile use and mainly between the ages of 18 and 24.

“12up” is an American football term. - Jerusalem Post

## Manitoba Jewish Foundation aims for \$150 million assets

WINNIPEG - After doubling its capital base over the last 10 years, the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba (JFM) is aiming to reach even higher and increase its assets by 50 per cent to \$150 million.

In order to do this, the board has developed a new strategic plan, CEO Marsha Cowan reported at the organisation’s annual general meeting last month.

“We started working on our new strategic plan last fall,” Cowan said. “We felt that we needed this plan in order to help us chart our way forward. Successful organisations regularly examine their performance and set meaningful targets and goals. They anticipate challenges and adapt accordingly.”

At the AGM, Cowan, who has headed the JFM for 10 years, reported that the foundation’s current capital base is \$104 million. Last year it received bequests totalling \$1,3 million. The largest was \$1,1 million from the estate of the late Irma Penn.

In developing its new plan, the JFM board considered best practices in foundation governance, community demographics and trends in local Jewish philanthropy.

“We identified two areas to focus on: governance and fund development,” Cowan said.

For fund development, the board decided the JFM needed a formal marketing plan in order to accentuate growth. As a result, the board has approved the establishment of a multi-year fund development plan.

As for governance, the new plan calls for reducing the size of the JFM board and establishing two new standing committees, one for development and gift planning, the other for distribution. - Canadian Jewish News

## Record number of Jewish politicians elected

CANBERRA - Australians have voted, and while the final results are still being determined, the country has elected three new Jewish politicians.

Julian Leeser became the first Jewish Liberal in the House of Representatives from New South Wales when he easily won the seat of Berowra, Dr Michael Freeland s swooped to victory for Labour in the Western Sydney electorate of Macarthur with a swing of more than 10 per cent, and Stirling Griff from Adelaide earned a seat in the Senate as he was second on the Nick Xenophon Team ticket. The three new politicians will join Liberal’s Member for Kooyong Josh Frydenberg, who was one of the few Liberal parliamentarians to increase their vote, Labour Member Isaac Mark Dreyfus and, in all likelihood, Labour’s Michael Danby, who is ahead as the count continues for the vital seat of Melbourne Ports.

It is believed to be the first time that six Jews would be elected to Federal Parliament. Leeser said - referring to the six - that it’s very exciting and he wants to encourage other Jewish people to get involved in politics. “We shouldn’t stop at six,” he said.

Frydenberg told The AJN this week that it will be fantastic to see so many Jewish politicians elected to Parliament House.

“For a long time the Jewish community has been well represented in the top echelon of the professions of academia and of business, and it seems there has been a catch-up occurring in politics.” - Australian Jewish News

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# Pretoria Hebrew Congregation pays tribute to Sammy Marks



Shmuel Rosenbaum with his young charges at the Jewish Heritage Celebration.

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The bochurim of Pretoria's Yeshiva Le'Rabbonus last week organised a Jewish Heritage Celebration Family Picnic in honour of Sammy Marks whose contribution to Pretoria and South Africa in the late 1800s and early 1900s is legendary and of great historical value.

This was to celebrate Marks' birthday on July 11.

Over 200 members of the Pretoria Jewish community, family and friends from Johannesburg as well as a number of former Pretorians, came together to enjoy this picnic celebration and tour the splendid 48-room Victorian mansion, Sammy Marks Museum, east of Pretoria.

More than 70 children had great fun making ice cream, playing Victorian games and decorating tzedakkah boxes, something which Sammy Marks was well known for.

The bochurim and madrichim dressed up in Victorian outfits to add to the atmosphere. Well-known guest, David Saks from Johannesburg, addressed the large crowd giving insights into Marks' Jewish identity while bochur Aharon Tzvi Altman who initiated and worked tirelessly to bring the event together, discussed lessons to be learned from Marks that everyone could take home together with a custom-made tefillat haderech card.

Marks arrived in South Africa with a case of silver knives as his only valuable possession and became one of the first entrepreneurs, playing a significant role in mining, industrial and agricultural development in the country.

Born the son of a Jewish tailor in 1843 in Lithuania, Marks was endowed with integrity, courage, astonishing business acumen and faith.

He arrived at the Cape in 1869, followed by his cousin Isaac Lewis, starting the partnership of Lewis & Marks. They made a modest living supplying goods to mines and

diggers and later branched into diamond trading.

Moving to Pretoria in 1881, Marks gained the confidence of President Paul Kruger and the government of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR). His friendship with Kruger became close and was well documented.

In 1898 Marks was allowed the extraordinary privilege of using the state mint for a day where he used the opportunity to strike 215 gold ticekeys as mementos for his relatives and friends, including President Kruger.

Marks acquired business interests in the goldfields of Barberton and Witwatersrand and founded coalfields in the southern Transvaal and northern Free State and later gave the town of Vereeniging its name.

Lewis & Marks' business interests included a distillery, a canning factory and a glass factory. Their firm opened a number of collieries and also started Vereeniging Estates Ltd, dedicated to developing agricultural land along the Vaal River.

Marks pioneered the use of steam tractors and progressive farming implements. He also sponsored the establishing of flour mills and brick and tile works in Vereeniging. By the end of the 19th century, the pair were both millionaires and their company was among the top 10 businesses on the Witwatersrand.

In 1910 Marks was nominated as senator in the first Union Parliament, an office he held until his death.

Marks contributed generously to Jewish communities all over South Africa. He paid for all the bricks for the Pretoria Synagogue which was built in 1898 and he also paid for the electric light installation and chandeliers.

At the end of the Anglo-Boer War, he presented a cast-iron fountain to the city of Pretoria, shipped from Glasgow. It today stands at the Zoological Gardens. Marks also commissioned the statue of Kruger on Church Square in Pretoria, sculpted by Anton van Wouw and cast in bronze in Europe. It carried a price tag of £10 000.

What's On

Sunday (July 17)

• Yiddish Nostalgia in Song presented by Russel Lurie (soloist) and Evelyn Green (accompanist) and narrated by Helen Heldenmuth and Tamar Olswan. Sunday 17 July 15.00 at Venue: 34 Fifth Street, Orange Grove. Time: 15:00. Refreshments will be served. Donation to Yad Aharon. Information and booking: Russel Lurie 082-331-3019 or Evelyn Green (011) 728-5570 or 082-704-2322.

• Second Innings hosts journalist Phylcia Oppelt on "The Political Space Before the Local Government Elections". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Tel (011) 532-9701.

Tuesday (July 19)

• JWBS hosts a movie, "Broadway Musical - A Jewish

Legacy" with talented composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Roger & Hammerstein and George Gershwin. Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, Sandringham Gardens. Time: 09:30 for 10:00 Cost: R80 (incl tea and refreshments). Contact: (011) 485-5232 or gloria@jwbs.co.za

Wednesday (July 20)

• Second Innings hosts an outing to The Windmill at Hartebeespoort Dam. Time: The bus departs at 09:30 sharp from Golden Acres. Cost: R190 (incl the bus, lunch and tea/coffee). Bookings: Betty Jankelowitz or Pearl Kahn, tel (011) 532-9701.

Thursday (July 21)

• The Light Music Society plays music for the over 50s, Broadway shows and MGM musicals of the 40s, 50s and 60s. Venue: Roosevelt Park Recreational Centre on Beyers Naude Drive. Time: 14:00. Cost R20 (incl

tea and light refreshments). Two audio presentations, followed by music of bygone years. Information: David (011) 678-9725 or 076-574-1446.

Tuesday (July 26)

• WIZO Women Inspired hosts Ooh La La owner Karen Schneid-Liberman on "From the Law Bar to Candy Bars", - an advocate who turned confectionery queen. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R100 (incl tea). Bookings and venue details: Lorraine 083-268-8016; Joceline 082-441-4375 or Lesley 083-456-3911.

Sunday (July 31)

• Second Innings hosts Prof David Bilchitz on "Constitutional Democracy Twenty Years on: "How is South Africa Doing?" Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members and R40 non-members (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: (011) 532-9718.

# Israel-born Denis Shapovalov wins Junior Wimbledon

JACK MILNER

His name does not sound particularly Jewish and if you had to pass him in the street you might not think he looks typically Jewish - if you're one for stereotypes - but Denis Shapovalov is very much Jewish.

He was born in Tel Aviv in 1999 from Russian immigrant parents and his mother, Tessa, played tennis professionally in the country in 1997 and 1998. She stopped playing professionally after Denis' birth, but she has always coached her son.

The family moved to Canada when Denis was nine months old and as a kid Denis was keen on playing ice hockey. His parents, however, were afraid he would get hurt and he started playing tennis at the age of five.

His mother runs a tennis school in Richmond Hill, Ontario, where they live and Denis' junior boys' singles championship last weekend, came after years of hard, dedicated work.

Canadians went into Sunday at Wimbledon brimming with hope. They had a shot at three championship titles but Shapovalov was eventually the only winner, beating Australia's Alex De Minaur 4-6 6-1 6-3 in the boys' singles final to start the day on the No 1 Court.

Milos Raonic, looking to become the first Canadian to win a Grand Slam singles title, lost 6-4 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-2) to Andy Murray of Scotland later in the day on Centre Court. After that, Shapovalov and Montreal-based Félix Auger-Aliassime lost their boys' doubles final 4-6 6-4 6-2 to Estonia's Kenneth Raisma and Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas.



Denis Shapovalov tries to keep cool as he shows off his junior boys' singles championship trophy with Prince William and Kate alongside in the Royal Box at Wimbledon last Sunday.

Things didn't start off well for Shapovalov in his match against the Australian as he lost his serve to love. He broke back in the second game, but then was broken again to fall behind 2-1 and went on to lose the set.

"I was very nervous, to be honest," he said at his press conference. "I started off making a lot of errors in the first couple of games. I managed to break him back at the start, but I got broken once again.

"After I got broken the second time, I just told myself to 'calm down a little bit'. Started making some longer rallies. By the end of the first set, I gained my confidence back. I was ready to go in the second."

The All-England Club gives the juniors a great experience in having them play their final on No 1 Court - a big court with a lot of history, and a lot of running room. There is always a good crowd on hand, too. Until then the juniors are banished to the outside courts which are much smaller and have a transient crowd. The move to a massive court takes quite a bit of adjustment.

"Before the match, I just went into the stands a little bit, sat there for a couple of minutes. But I didn't get a chance to be on the actual court which is, yeah, one of the reasons I started off tight," Shapovalov said. "It's very, very difficult. It's completely different. The atmosphere... it's massive. It's a huge stadium, lots of people watching. Obviously it was very nerve-wracking."

After that life got a lot easier and after taking the second set and after going up a break in the third game of the final set, young Shapovalov

set sail for the winning post.

He has become only the second Canadian to win a boys' Grand Slam title after Filip Peliwo, who won both Wimbledon and the US Open in 2012. Eugenie Bouchard is the only Canadian girl to win a junior singles Grand Slam title, doing it at Wimbledon the same years as Peliwo.

Shapovalov called his parents back home before he went into the interview room. "I just wanted to thank them, actually, because of all their support they're doing. I also want to thank my mom who opened up her own training club where I'm training.

"They're extremely happy. Yeah, I mean, I couldn't see, but it sounded like they even had tears in their eyes. For sure it's very exciting for them. Hopefully we have a nice dinner when we get back. It will be good."

On Sunday night he would have had to attend the Champions Ball, where the backwards baseball cap was not going to be considered appropriate attire.

"It's funny. Actually Adil Shamasdin (a 34-year-old Canadian player), when I went as a hitting partner for Davis Cup, I didn't have a suit. I didn't know what to do. He gave me one. He said: 'Hopefully you're not going to be asking me for a suit this time.'"

Shapovalov won't rest long. The talented left-hander has received a wild card into the City Open in Washington, which begins next week, from the owners of the tournament.

He hasn't signed with an agency and turned pro - yet.

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