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Last week Thursday over 500 women from all sections of the Johannesburg Jewish community joined hands to be inspired, learn and bond. Mothers, daughters and friends made challah together in the spirit of Unity Day, spreading light and joy. The King David Linksfield High School Hall was transformed into a riot of pink energy and the school’s legacy of inspiring change and embracing tradition, was embodied in the four walls that night. Guest speakers were Brigitte Youngworth and Rachelle Fraenkel, whose son Naftali was one of the three young Israeli boys kidnapped and murdered by Hamas terrorists two years ago. All proceeds of the challah bake were donated to POWA (People Opposing Women Abuse). Pictured are King David Linksfield’s new head girl Amber Sandler with Gila Dove, head girl of King David Victory Park, making challah together.



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Don’t stop dreaming



Parsha Vaetchanan

Rabbi Ari Kievman
Chabad Goodness and Kindness Centre

This past Sunday world Jewry commemorated Tisha B’Av - the saddest day on our calendar. But this weekend is known as “Shabbos Nachamu - the Shabbos of Comfort” when we declare the immortal words of Isaiah from the haftorah, “Nachamu Nachamu Ami - Take comfort, be consoled my people”, a vision of healing and renewal.

In the Torah portion of Vaetchanan that we read this week, it describes Moses’ passionate plea to the Almighty to allow him to enter the holy land of Israel. Yet his lifelong dream remained unfulfilled.

Although his desire to reside in the land was not granted, his prayer was partially answered.

G-d instructed him to go up to the top of the hill from where he could see the land.

Throughout our lifetime, we each have our own unique dreams and visions of our bright future. Perhaps we envision achieving better grades in school or a successful business venture, some aspire to a more meaningful life, we may have dreams of a perfect relationship with our family...

For one reason or another, as ambitious as we may be, not all of our dreams always come to fruition. Sometimes, whether for reasons beyond our control or even due to our own failures, some of our dreams are shattered and are never realised. There’s a famous Talmudic dictum that no person completes their life with all of their desires fulfilled.

Despite life’s disappointments, it is vital that we never stop dreaming because our dreams express our ambition for life and desire for growth. And that is the genesis of all great achievements. Wherever we dream, that’s where we go.

Though not all of our dreams do materialise, some are realised partially, as Moses saw the land though he didn’t get to enter it and other visions may only be fulfilled by our next of kin as Moses who didn’t get to enter the land, but his disciple Joshua did.

Many elderly people I know lament about many unfulfilled plans. For some, it’s a depressing source of dissatisfaction. I wish I had that magic wand which can make it all alright. But here’s one dream with which I am able to assist and I encourage you to inform any seniors you know to take advantage of.

People wish they had the time over the years to catch up on missed out Torah study. The good news is that retirement years can be utilised for meaningful learning and fulfilling one of our soul’s desires. In addition to stimulating the mind, studying Torah allows us to reconnect with our heritage and endows us with feelings of hope, truth and

purpose.

I’m proud to direct Chabad’s Seniors Club that convenes daily, offering lectures on Jewish values and history for elderly people (besides for delicious free meals and other exciting opportunities that we offer).

Of course questions and discussions are welcomed and encouraged. There’s no reason for our dreams to ever die. So here’s one dream you can ensure is fulfilled, namely the desire to quench our soul’s thirst for nourishment, whether at home, or on your phone, be it at shul or even at the pool. Today it’s easier than ever.

May we each take comfort and consolation this Shabbat that we can aspire to great things and at least know that some of them will be fulfilled. Indeed, Nachamu Nachamu Ami - the dream of our ultimate redemption is very much alive. Keep dreaming, but not just in your sleep. Good Shabbos!

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Rabbi David Wolpe: Understanding G-d’s command to love Him

RABBI DAVID WOLPE OF SINAI TEMPLE, LOS ANGELES, WILL BE PRESENTING AT LIMMUD

Want to understand love? Look to army veterans and rats.

The parsha for this week - Nachamu Va’etchanan - tells us to love G-d. How can you be commanded to love someone, and especially to love G-d? You can’t see or touch G-d, so love G-d?

Let’s start with the drug heroin. When soldiers returned from the Vietnam War, studies showed that some 20 per cent were regular heroin users. Experts assumed we would have a huge addiction problem in the United States. Yet when the soldiers returned to civilian life returned, 95 per cent just stopped using. How did they release themselves from this very addictive drug?

One answer was demonstrated in an experiment with rats. When a rat is put in a cage with plain water and water containing drugs, the rat will drink the drug until he dies. But when a rat is put in a “rat heaven” - with wheels and toys and other rats along with the drug - they will use the drug very sparingly.

As with veterans who returned home to their family and friends from the isolation of war, there is lots of evidence that connection is a strong part of the antidote to addiction. We are wired to connect to something or someone.

So when people are checking their cell phones or screens all the time, it is the “connect wiring”. We need that charge of closeness, even if it is virtual. When surrounded by people whom they love, they can put the phone down, at least for a bit. When the Torah says that you shall love G-d, there are three connection lessons in



the command:

1. To love another human being is to draw close to a spark of G-d. Each person is in G-d’s image. If G-d is in some sense the parent of all humanity, then when you love someone’s children, you are showing love for the parent as well.
2. When you appreciate the world, when you notice it instead of being slave to a screen, you appreciate the gifts that G-d has given. Gratitude is a ladder to love.
3. Real love is not an emotion, it is an enacted emotion. When a woman comes to my office, bruised and hurt, and tells me her husband did this “but he loves me”, she is thinking that he feels passionately toward her. But that is not love. Love is how we carry our feelings into the world. So when the Torah says to love G-d, it is another way of saying: Act as G-d would wish you to act in this world. To love is to be loving.

These reasons become clear when the passage we know as the first paragraph of the Shema continues with: When you sit in your house, when you walk by the way. In other words, how you act toward your family reflects your love; how you see the world in your daily life reflects your love. If your life is a parade of online games and YouTube videos, it is a genuine failure of love.

The Jewish tradition is characterised in many ways - a tradition of law, or of ethical monotheism, or of memory. But at bottom it is a tradition of love.

Rabbi Akiba said that the Song of Songs, that erotic love poem contained in the Bible, is the holiest book in the whole Bible. For love is the root of our culture and our connection. Look into the eyes of another human being; the electric charge you will feel is a pathway to elevating your life in love.

• *Rabbi Wolpe has been described as “America’s most influential rabbi” by Newsweek Magazine and one of the “50 most influential Jews in the world” by the Jerusalem Post. He is the author of eight books, including the national bestseller “Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times”.*

Shabbat Times		
Parshat Vaetchanan		
Aug 19 / 15Av		
Aug 20 / 16 Av		
Starts	Ends	
17:32	18:22	Johannesburg
18:02	18:54	Cape Town
17:16	18:07	Durban
17:36	18:27	Bloemfontein
17:33	18:26	Port Elizabeth
17:25	18:17	East London

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Rabbi Mirvis, cherry on top of a highly successful SAJBD Gauteng Conference



Photos: Ian Ossendryver

Hillary Lubner; Marc Lubner with first Bertie Lubner award recipient, Reeva Forman, and Gauteng Chairman, Shaun Zagnoev

STAFF REPORTER

There was an appropriately celebratory mood at the SAJBD Gauteng Council conference, held at the Sandton Shul hall on Monday evening. The theme of the conference was looking back on 175 years of Jewish life in South Africa - what has been achieved on the communal level and what Jews have contributed to the country as a whole.

In his keynote address, South African-born and educated Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, gave a global perspective on the fundamental changes and challenges confronting the contemporary world, and what the Jewish response needed to be.

A new divide has emerged, he said, namely between a particularistic versus a universalistic approach to dealing with one another as people. This has been reflected in the reaction against multiculturalism, immigration and free trade and growing insularity evident in Europe and the US, as evinced by the growth of factions espousing an exclusivist nationalism and “drawbridge-up” type of politics. The Donald Trump phenomenon and Brexit vote are very much illustrative of this ideological shift.

The Jewish mission, Rabbi Mirvis stressed, is to maintain a balance between participating in and contributing to the world on the one hand and maintaining an appropriate distance from it on the other. A clue to how Jews in exile should conduct themselves, he explained, is provided by the word “Goshen”, the name by which the part of Egypt in which Jews lived prior to the

Exodus was called in the Torah.

The root of the word - “gesh” - indicated approaching something, but not becoming a part of it. The lesson was that Jews should “contribute to society but remain apart from it, integrate but not assimilate”.

Rabbi Mirvis was introduced by Rabbi Avraham Tanzer who commented on how remarkable it was that South African Jewry, which in previous years had had to import its religious personnel from Europe, had now so far progressed in terms of its educational institutions as to be able to provide the world at large with religious leaders from its own ranks. Of the latter, Rabbi Mirvis is a striking example.

Master of ceremonies, popular comedian Harry Sideropolous devoted his opening remarks to a review of the community’s evolution and a DVD presentation entitled “75 years in 75 seconds”, with photographs and video footage depicting different aspects of the community’s history since 1841, was screened.

The presentation of the inaugural Bertie Lubner Leadership Award to veteran community leader and social activist Reeva Forman was one of the emotional highpoints of the evening.

Following the passing earlier this year of legendary philanthropist, businessman and Jewish communal leader Bertie Lubner, the SAJBD Gauteng Council decided to introduce a special award in his name, to be presented at its biennial conferences. The award was presented to Forman by Lubner’s son, Marc.

The Board’s National Director Wendy Kahn read out the citation, which acknowledged in particular Forman’s social outreach work on behalf of the greater Hillbrow community through her association with Temple Israel and her dedicated activism on behalf of Israel, including heading up solidarity tours to the country during the violence-torn period of the so-called “Second Intifada”.

Another tribute at the conference, was in memory of Dr Melville Edelstein, the academic and social worker killed on the first day of the Soweto Uprising. Extracts from a DVD on Edelstein was screened, after which his daughters, Janet Goldblatt and Shana Rosenthal, spoke about the abiding example he had set for them in their own life’s journeys.

In his introduction, Sideropolous emphasised how in addition to his work on behalf of the underprivileged in Soweto, Edelstein had been much involved in social welfare projects within



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

the Jewish community, particularly with Arcadia Children’s Home.

Messages were given at the conference by SA-JBD National Chairman Jeff Katz, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and Gauteng MEC for Health Qedani Mahlangu.

Katz introduced a more sober note by referring to the recent arrests of the Thulsie twins and others on charges of planning terrorist

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attacks, including against Jewish targets. He urged the community to be vigilant at all times, just as they were regarding the crime threat, and to report immediately anything out of the ordinary.

Invoking the maxim “Do not separate yourself from the community” from Pirkei Avot, Rabbi Goldstein dwelt on the enduring value of being part of and contributing to one’s community and how this helped provide a sense of stability in the face of constant change.

Mahlangu said that in order to realise the vision of a united, peaceful and prosperous South Africa, all citizens needed to instil in themselves and their children the values of caring for, building bridges with and learning from one’s fellow citizens, regardless of racial, cultural, or religious differences.

Outgoing Gauteng Council chairman, Shaun Zagnoev, in his chairman’s report, commented that South African Jews had been blessed to have been able “to foster a rich and thriving Jewish communal life while at the same time fully participating in and contributing to the wider society”.

Zagnoev went on to refer to particular functions of the Council as specified in its Constitution and highlight some of its recent activities. These included the recent “Make Us Count” pre-election education and awareness campaign, actions taken in response to anti-Semitic incidents and the Board’s partnering with Chabad in the 2015 Heritage Day parade in Tshwane

In his closing remarks, Gauteng Council member Mark Pozniak commented that while many communities marked important anniversaries at a time when their best days were behind them, the South African community can look to the future with confidence, just as it looked back on its past with pride. However, the community must commit itself to continuing the work of its predecessors.

“The message that we need to take to heart is that this community cannot exist purely for us - it is essential that it exist because of us. Thus, even as we enjoy the benefits of being part of the Jewish community, we should continually be looking for ways to contribute to it,” he said.

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Justice Weiner: for her corruption is like a red rag to a bull

SUZANNE BELLING

Justice Sharise Weiner (pictured), who made the shortlist of 14 candidates to succeed Thuli Madonsela as public protector - at the time of writing the incumbent had not been named - feels it is important for women to be recognised.

“Even in the Jewish community, most of the boards of organisations comprise mainly men,” she told SA Jewish Report.

She was nominated for the position of public protector by Group One Chambers of Advocates in Sandown Village, who stated: “Her integrity is, and has always been, beyond reproach.”

Mother and grandmother, Justice Weiner lives by a code of ethics that she says, “is core on Jewish values. These were inculcated in me by my late parents, especially my mother.”

The moral and ethical Jewish teachings, as entrenched in the Constitution, were one of the reasons for her accepting her appointment as a judge. She has served on the High Court in Johannesburg since 2011 and prior to that was an advocate for 33 years.

The ethics of the Constitution stress “diligence, honesty and truth, which are part of Jewish values”, she says.

A founding member of Lawyers for Human Rights, she emphasises the Constitutional values where injustice and cruelty are not tolerated.



Photo: Howard Sackstein

nesburg Society of Advocates for her service in the cause of advocacy training, serving for 10 years from 2000 as the chairman of the Advocacy Training Committee of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa, and she still serves on the executive of that committee.

Advocacy training is essential in preparing young advocates for legal practice at the Bar and she “possesses a great passion for skills transfer to young members of the profession and gives expression to that passion through her tireless work as an advocacy trainer”.

She ran advocacy workshops for lawyers in several overseas countries as well.

Her “exceptional management and time management skills” permit her many important professional and other interests and activities “in the interests of justice and in the service of the community at large.

“Justice Weiner has always exhibited a strong sense of justice, compassion, balance and fairness in her work and her life generally. She has an enviable sense of duty and dedication to the causes she pursues,” Philip Ginsberg SC said on behalf of Group One Chambers of Advocates.

In 2012, Weiner founded “Warm the World”, a charity that donates blankets to the needy and empowers women by paying them for knitting and sewing the blankets - the charity has donated some 50 000 blankets.

Born and educated in Johannesburg, she obtained BA and LL B degrees at Wits.

Other voluntary activities include a department in ORT SA, work for Afrika Tikkun and serving as a trustee for The Tomorrow Trust, which supports vulnerable children.

“I have compared the Constitution to some of our Jewish teachings, including the Bill of Rights, where everybody should be equal.”

Referring to other sections of the Constitution, she highlighted just administration, labour relations, human dignity, family values, saying that poverty and riches are not recognised by judges.

She admires outgoing Public Protector Thuli Madonsela for doing the right thing and holding people to account.

Should Justice Weiner be appointed as public protector, she would continue “that sort of important work in this country. I have zero tolerance for corruption,” she said.

South Africa has lost R30 billion a year through corruption. “If this were kept in check, there would be less poverty and less crime, which are contributing factors to the decline in the country.”

Her nomination letter stated that she was honoured by the Johan-

World News in Brief

Pentagon: Iran has improved cyber abilities and ballistic missiles

WASHINGTON - Iran has gradually improved both its cyber abilities and developed more advanced ballistic missiles since the signing of the nuclear deal with world powers in July 2015, a new report from the US Defence Department says.

The Islamic Republic now has a “substantial inventory of missiles capable of reaching targets throughout the region, including US military bases and Israel,” the Pentagon said in an unclassified summary, Bloomberg News reported.

The report issued by the Pentagon is part an annual

review mandated by Congress from the defence agency as a result of the nuclear deal being approved last years.

In addition to boosting its cyber and missile technology, the Pentagon report also said that Iran seeks to continue to control strategic regions in the Middle East such as the Strait of Hormuz between the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea. The report noted that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are also trying “support and carry out” terror attacks to advance their strategic interests. (JNS.org)



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A visualisation of what the future holds showing a small bus stop on the Louis Botha Avenue “Development Corridor”. Around all bus stations will be six to eight storey developments, business rezoning and facilities for mini-bus taxis to take passengers from the bus stop closer to their homes.

ANT KATZ

One of the most complained about topics among Johannesburg Jewry over the past year has been the construction on the very busy Louis Botha Avenue artery. “What’s going on?” is frequently asked and “Why is it taking so long?”

The answer is that the Louis Botha Avenue hustle and bustle is not just building a Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) from Alexandra township to Johannesburg’s CBD; it is the first stage of a major redevelopment in the coming two decades that will herald a complete transformation of the city.

By the time all is said and done, there will be six BRT stations between Orange Grove and the Wynberg industrial area, with six times the present population density. It will also see the automatic rezoning by the City Council of all land several blocks deep alongside Louis Botha with developments ranging between two and eight storeys, with business rights near the stations.

Taxis will not be allowed to travel on the road, but will have much more profitable “last mile” passenger loads from the stations to their destinations. Originally there were only going to be three east/west crossings in this area but community complaints have led to the Council agreeing to five crossing points

The City aims to have at least four development corridors - two running north/south and two east/west. The latter ones will cross the north/south version down George Avenue, past the Chevrah Kadisha, over the N3 and all the way to Kempton Park (if Ekurhuleni buys in).

To facilitate a programme of such massive proportions, Johannesburg has to build the requisite infrastructure - and that is what is happening now. The reticulation of power and water to service six

times as many residents, and the removal of sewage and storm-water pipes and drains, all have to be put in place.

Over this week and next, Jewish Report will try to answer our readers’ questions. We have placed a link on www.sajr.co.za to the 145-page “Strategic Framework” document in a PDF format for readers to see, print or share - to understand what is happening and why.

This major undertaking is bound to be a challenge to commuters and residents for quite a number of years to come.

Some of the motivation for the redevelopment, according to the City, is to address the problems of past spatial planning practices which have left Johannesburg with “sprawling low-density areas of settlement, lacking viable public transport systems”.

The majority of working-class and poor citizens are still living on the fringes of the city, commuting daily often at considerable cost, and face long distances to access work and economic opportunities. Also, private car and taxi use is a significant driver of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

• Follow this series in print and on sajr.co.za (which has more illustrations) and feel free to join the conversation.



A bulk services trench near Balfour Park which has already had some infrastructure buried, filled with soil and compacted for further service to be added. This exercise is happening on both sides of the road in some places.

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BEN SWARTZ
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, SA ZIONIST FEDERATION

When it comes to South Africa’s policy towards Israel, there is an urgent need to re-examine realities and to come to terms with how out of touch with reality, current policy is.

Recently, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu travelled to East Africa and visited Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. In addition, he participated in a summit with the leaders of seven countries (including Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Zambia and Tanzania).

A similar summit is in the pipeline for West African states and is likely to be hosted by Togo.

Simultaneously, Guinea (an African Muslim majority country) has established formal diplomatic ties with Israel.

It is a fact that Israel and Egypt (being the powerhouse of North African politics and the most populous Arab state) have a strong strategic relationship, as exemplified by the recent visit of the Egyptian foreign minister to Jerusalem.

Further, a high-level delegation of Saudi Arabian businessmen travelled to Jerusalem just three weeks ago.

It is also clear that relations both between Israel and Jordan and with the Emirates continue to grow - as reported regularly in the media.

Even Turkey is in the process of returning to normalised

Relationship between SA and Israel: The time is now!

relations with Israel with the implementation of a plan for renewed relations, imminent.

In other geographic areas (traditionally among the closest of South African allies), Russia’s President Vladimir Putin has met with Prime Minister Netanyahu four times in the past year.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi places much emphasis on the strategic relationship with Israel and has already travelled to Israel in his term and intends on returning in 2017.

Modi prides his relationship with Israel and its contribution to his achievements in developing the state of Gujarat (which was ultimately the draw-card that swept him to power); not to mention the relationship with China who continues to invest in opportunities in Israel, while at the same time encouraging Israeli technological investment in China.

As these new and developing relationships between Asia and Africa continue to build, so the longstanding and trusted relationships between Israel and the US and Europe continue to strengthen.

It is clear from the above that Israel’s standing in the world has never been stronger and on this basis South African policy needs to be examined and revitalised.

Is it not time that the policy writers within (ANC headquarters) Luthuli House begin to engage in a manner that would contribute to building a more constructive foundation and engagement between the two countries?

The example being set by many of the Sunni states of the Muslim world is certainly a point of departure. These states have realised that Israel is actually a rock of stability in the

Middle East and it is only through their constructive engagement and by understanding Israel’s right to safety and security, that they can hope to exact any concessions needed from both sides to resolve the deadlock in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

When it comes to South Africa-Israel relations, the relationship between these two countries prior to 1994 is always used by Israel’s detractors as a “reason” for the troubled relationship.

Yet, what we need to remember is that there was a process of reconciliation in South Africa that involved almost everyone for their involvement in apartheid South Africa affairs. South Africa has to move on from blaming Israel for its rela-

tion-ship with the pre-1994 government of this country. If one wants to blame Israel for her relationship with South Africa, then one must blame Saudi Arabia and Iraq for oiling the wheels of apartheid right up until the end.

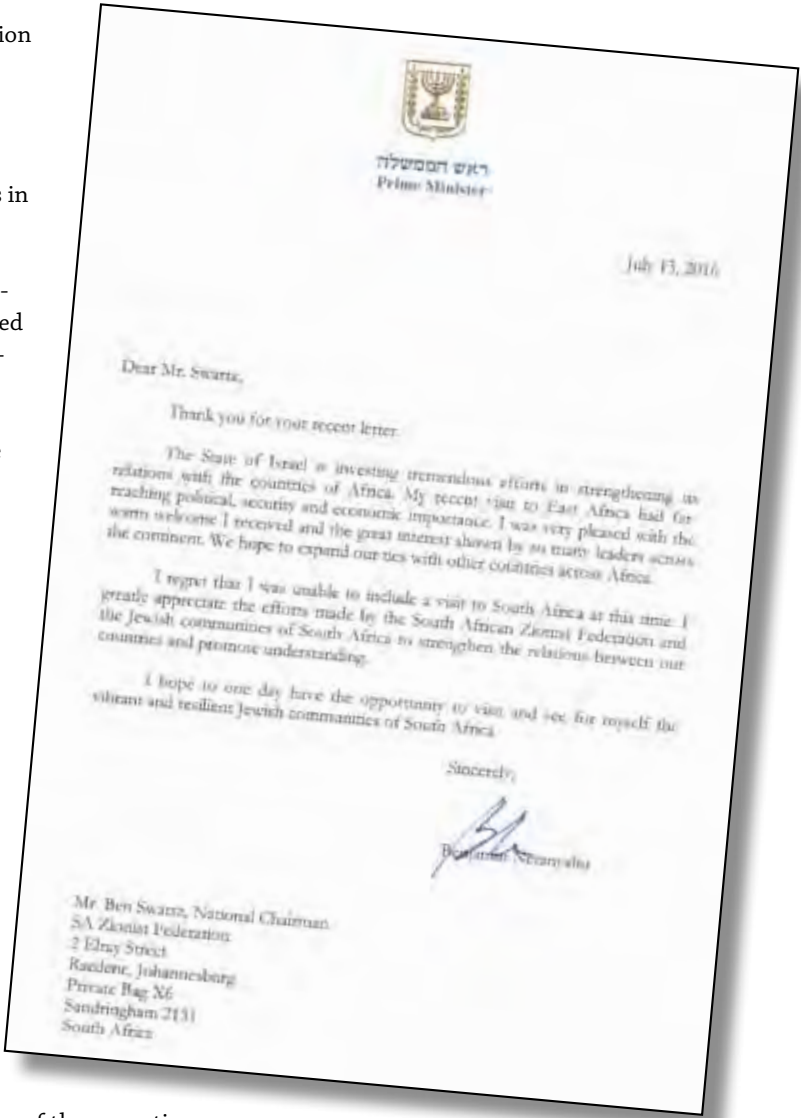
I suggest that our Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, should travel to Israel, just as Egypt has recently done, or send a high-level business or political delegation just as Saudi Arabia has done.

We need to see senior members of the ANC ending their support of the BDS movement and to stop having ministers attend BDS events (as recently exhibited at the 702 Walk the Talk). These actions are seen to endorse BDS - a movement that has been proven to harbour a belief in the destruction of Israel through its hatred of anything Jewish or Israeli.

I urge a focus on a collaboration of what is good for South Africa - water and food security, health and medicine, business innovation, safety and security - areas in which Israel is a world leader.

Shannon Ebrahim, foreign editor of the Independent Group, recently asserted: “Africa mustn’t allow Israel to subvert its moral standing on Palestine.” Sadly, it is this outdated type of thinking that is perpetuating the conflict and stonewalling any progress and preventing South Africa from playing a meaningful role in the Mideast conflict’s resolution.

Most in the world see it; indeed, it is now time for South Africa to see it and do something about it!



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World News in Brief

Turkey, Israel reportedly to sign reconciliation deal soon

ISTANBUL - Turkey and Israel are reportedly expected to sign a reconciliation deal before September, the Turkish state-run Anadolu Agency reported last week Thursday.

“I think we will finalise the issue before parliament’s recess. Israel has met our terms, paving the way to normalise ties. Therefore, we must do this as soon as possible,” Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters last week Wednesday.

Conditions of the agreement to restore diplomatic relations were met by both countries last month following a six-year breach in relations, but finalisation of the deal was delayed by a failed coup attempt by a faction in the Turkish Armed Forces.

Turkish-Israeli ties broke down in 2010 when nine Turkish militants were killed in clashes after they had attacked Israeli commandos who boarded the Mavi Marmara ship that was attempting to breach the blockade on Gaza.

As part of the new reconciliation deal, Israel agreed to give \$20 million in compensation for the families of the Gaza flotilla incident. (JNS.org)

Which Jews to be proud of after 175 years?



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

It takes courage to denounce the organisation which has been your ideological home for most of your life. Two Jewish anti-apartheid struggle heroes who are long-standing ANC members with deep emotional loyalties to it, have publicly condemned the rot pervading it today, and should be celebrated by South African Jewry for epitomising Jewish values.

Sadly, they are hardly mentioned in the formal community and their names raise hackles. For one reason alone: their criticism of Israel.

Which raises the pertinent question: Does criticism of Israel - even if it sounds extreme and unbalanced to Israel's supporters - invalidate one from being celebrated for standing up for justice?

Ronnie Kasrils and Denis Goldberg made huge personal sacrifices in the Struggle. Kasrils, born in Yeoville, Johannesburg, joined the ANC and Communist Party after the 1960 Sharpeville massacre and was a founding member of uMkhonto we Sizwe. He went into exile in 1963. Goldberg, who grew up in Cape Town, was charged in the Rivonia Trial and spent 22 years in jail for his part as one of the first members of MK.

Their vitriol towards Israel is well known. In 2001 as an ANC government minister, Kasrils attacked Israel during a special Middle East debate in Parliament, comparing it with apartheid South Africa. His "Declaration of Conscience on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict by South Africans of Jewish Descent" attracted signatories including Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer and Rivonia trialists Arthur Goldreich and Goldberg.

In 1985, Goldberg visited his daughter on an Israeli kibbutz - after Israel interceded on his behalf to have him released from jail - and vehemently criticised Israel's treatment of Palestinians and co-operation with apartheid South Africa.

He went into exile in London, was an ANC spokesman and represented it at the Anti-Apartheid Committee of the United Nations.

Kasrils wrote in the Daily Maverick this week that the ANC is on a slippery slope: "From the serial scandals, corrupt relationships, unresolved court cases... to Nkandlagate, GuptaGate and Nenegate, the muck has oozed as from a burst sewage pipe throughout the once venerable organisation... Zuma's cronies and sycophants... have run it into the ground."

Goldberg in an interview in the Daily Maverick this week said the ANC's recent election campaign had been racist in part: "The Opposition's Mmusi Maimane has captured the policies of the ANC promoting nonracialism," while the ANC was associated with separateness. "We have to clean house from top to bottom."

Each in their own way are truth tellers and should be praised. South African Jewry should be proud of them. But because of their views on Israel, their names are seldom brought up.

Sadly, Israel has become a divisive factor in some aspects of Jewish affairs rather than a uniting one. South African Jewry finds itself between a rock and a hard place. It is surrounded by Struggle heroes who it should be lauding for helping to bring freedom and for their courage today, yet can hardly bring itself to do so because

of their hostility towards Israel.

Many moderate Jews who support Israel, disapprove strongly of certain policies. Voicing such criticism is regarded by many in this conservative community with displeasure – enough reason to want to exclude them from the mainstream.

As Jewish South Africans, someone's views on

Israel is not enough reason to shun them.

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

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DANIEL SILKE

South Africa’s local elections were something of a watershed in its recent democratic history. In a political system that had become “single-party-dominated”, the governing ANC now faces a new and very real vulnerability in power. Considering that the ANC enjoyed in excess of 62 per cent support since 1994, a new era of marginal power - now at 54 per cent - awaits the country and the liberation movement.

There is much to praise in the new competitive political environment. Politicians should be more responsive to the needs of the electorate as they now fear losing their jobs come the next election. The ANC’s “bloody nose” means the party is now forced to interrogate its own wrongdoings and excesses - notably rising levels of corruption and poor governance.

And, for many, the fact that the sky did not fall in when the ANC lost control of Johannesburg or Tshwane can unleash a genie of political competition that might be very tough to put back into the bottle.

Above all else, this local poll was always going to have national ramifications occurring in the shadow of the Constitutional Court judgment on President Jacob Zuma’s Nkandla payback.

Voters clearly spoke on all these issues and the ANC will be forced to react over the coming 30 months until the 2019 elec-

Watershed vote raises questions

tion campaign is announced.

Of course, competitive democracy is critical for the efficient functioning of any society. Amidst the euphoria of the newfound checks and balances imposed on a weakened ANC, the real issue is just how will the governing party react to its poor showing.

Can it repair the damage with its own supporters - an increasing body of them having not only voted for the DA or EFF but also abstaining entirely? Can the ANC extricate itself from the Zuma presidency and find a new leader who commands respect across the increasingly fractious factional divide?

Finally, how does the ANC interpret the election results? Does it shift left, right or drift rudderless in an ongoing state of policy paralysis?

Ultimately, this election brings into focus the core issue: Is this the beginning of the end of the ANC’s hegemony, or can it be “reborn”?

The immediate state of the ANC post-election is deeply problematic. Indeed, the electoral loss has only exacerbated deep divisions, personality and ideological clashes, as well as Zuma-induced polarisation.

Any party suffering substantial losses - especially a liberation party used to repeated success - is likely to be wounded for some time.

An attempted repair of this magnitude will take time. While the party can be torn asunder by a knee-jerk and therefore debilitating blame game for the poor results, expect a more incremental and considered attempt to analyse and change direction.

Clearly the position of Jacob Zuma is an important part of repairing the ANC. Again, to expect the ANC to acquiesce to the demands of the EFF and smaller parties regarding Zuma is naive. The ANC will deal with Zuma in its own time - as frustratingly and damagingly slow this already has been.

Remember, the ANC finds itself now in a position in which it has absolutely no experience or precedence to fall back on. It has been harmed at the polls to a position of marginal power. Its president has been at the centre (although not entirely) of this loss of support. And, the electoral losses have been both to the left (EFF) and centre-right (DA) in a classic pincer-style squeeze result.

This is an ANC that now faces every unknown in the political book for a party of liberation. It therefore has a stark choice to be pragmatic in government or be populist to offset electoral losses to the left.

Already suffering from a high degree of policy paralysis, these choices are equally tough for the ANC to make. They are likely to add to the divisions already present as policy polarisation is compounded by electoral uncertainty and ongoing turf wars for well-connected (but more vulnerable) cadre apparatchiks. It’s a position almost untenable.

So we come back to quality leadership as a catalyst for a reversal of the ANC’s misfortune. It is entirely possible that a new leader - less tainted by scandal - can bring some relief. But even then, the party has to make some tough choices.

Will its patronage-infused recent history continue to keep a softer support base in the rural areas relatively happy? Can it develop policies for a more demanding (and numerically increasing) urban electorate? Again, it is a tough series of choices which only outstanding leadership can deliver.

This is indeed a watershed for South Africa. But a fragmented Opposition and a wounded liberation party still make for combustible - very combustible - politics in the months ahead. It’s an initial type of political maturity that needs much nurturing.

• *Daniel Silke is director of the Political Futures Consultancy and is a noted keynote speaker and commentator. Follow him on Twitter at @DanielSilke or visit his website at www.danielsilke.com*

News

Jo’burg likely under a DA mayor from Friday

ANT KATZ

The ruling ANC lost its 55 per cent majority in this month’s hotly-contested municipal election for the Johannesburg metro. In Tshwane and Ekurhuleni in Gauteng, it also could not muster 50 per cent plus one to govern on its own.

While still garnering the most votes in Johannesburg, the ANC now has 44 per cent, the DA 38 per cent and the EFF 11 per cent. Since the EFF as “kingmakers” indicated on Wednesday they would not enter into coalitions, but will vote for DA candidates

as mayors, the city council will most likely be governed by an ANC minority.

Councils have to, in terms of electoral law, sit within 14 days of the election results being issued. The city manager takes up the mayoral seat at the beginning of the meeting until a mayor is selected by a simple majority.

As the EFF plans to vote for the DA mayoral candidate, the likelihood is that the day-to-day running of the city will be carried out by a DA-led Mayoral Committee.

Three previous Jewish councillors - Steven Kruger, John Mendelson and Tyrel

Meyer - have been returned while two new ones - Madeleine Hicklin and Josh Apfel - have become first-time councillors. All five represent the Democratic Alliance.

One of the country’s longest-serving local politicians, Sol Cowan of the ANC, lost his seat to the DA. The disappointingly low poll saw the DA getting fewer votes than it did in 2011, but a higher percentage of the seats on Council, through the proportional representative formula.

In the event of no agreements being reached in hung municipalities and metros, the new councils will still sit on Friday,

chaired by the town or city managers.

Johannesburg is home to most of SA’s Jews, who largely live within 10 of the city’s wards. Previously, eight were held by the DA, now all 10 are.

Steven Kruger, the DA councillor for Ward 72, which stretches from Orange Grove to Glenhazel, has been elected with a massive 83 per cent of the ward’s votes, although he was disappointed at the 64 per cent turnout.

The results that affect Johannesburg Jewry

The ANC received 1 121 948 votes, 44 per cent of those cast, and 121 of the 270 seats on the Council. The DA got 966 192 votes (38 per cent) and 104 seats while the EFF got 279 195 votes (11 per cent) and 30 seats. The remaining 15 seats went to five smaller parties.

The smaller players, in order of the number of votes they got, are the Inkatha Freedom Party, 5 seats; the African Independent Congress, 4; and one each for the Vryheidsfront-Plus, the African Christian Democratic Party, Al Jama-ah, the United Democratic Movement, the Congress of the People, and the Patriotic Alliance.

Your City Councillors

The 10 wards that largely cover the Jewish community have voted the following DA candidates in – format is Ward#, Area, Ward Councillor: 73 (Norwood, Killarney), Mia Snyman; 74 (Gresswold), Dave Fisher; 81 (Kew), Irene Rugheimer; 87 (Greenside, Victory Park). Bridget Steer; 88 (Emmar-entia, Northcliff), Nicholas Lorimer; 91 (Athol, Inanda), Jeffret Pietersen; 109 (Wendywood, Gallo Manor), Werner Smit; 117 (Saxonwold), Tim Truluck; and 103 (Sandown, Morningside), Vincent Earp.

Wards 81 and 109 were not previously held by the DA.



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Being held up at gunpoint...

Being held up at gunpoint with her young son and daughter has left radio personality and life coach BENITA LEVIN (pictured) asking how many thousands of other children are tossing and turning at night after surviving traumatic ordeals? What is the long-term impact for these young children? Will they be able to trust again?



It has to be every parent’s worst nightmare, being held at gunpoint in front of your two children. It certainly was mine.

It took just a few minutes one evening, outside our home. Two armed men. Two cars. An unknown number of people in the cars.

The next few moments were surreal. One gun in front of my face. At some point, one of the weapons was waved in the direction of my children. Clichéd as it sounds, some form of survival instinct did kick in during those blurred few moments and I somehow managed to get the children to safety.

The men fled with my keys. They took a phone, wallet and watch from a friend who had been visiting our home at the time. No shots were fired. No-one was hurt - physically, anyway.

“We were so lucky... it could have been much worse,” I told myself countless times that night.

The trauma of those few minutes is something that will take time to process. The exact sequence of events is still not clear. It was as though the “volume button” was turned down for a few moments, as I focused only on the weapon pointed in my direction. As if zoning in on the gun would help secure it from being fired at my children?

It was the children’s questions later that night that were really chilling:

How did you feel mommy, when the man came toward you with a gun?

Not exactly the discussion I’d ever imagine having with my 10-year-old son. I told him I knew I had to stay calm and that the men “only wanted things”. I assured him I knew they’d leave as soon as they’d taken those “items”. Later that evening, it was his turn to do the assuring. He told his eight-year-old sister:

You don’t have to worry – the men were definitely using toy guns.

A child taking on the “guardian” role, trying to convince his younger sibling we weren’t really in danger. Goosebumps.

But the real jolt came the following day, when she agreed:

They must have been toy guns because “what adult would use a real gun on a child”?

The pure beauty of innocence. Unwavering trust in humanity. Shattered in a matter of minutes.

By newsroom standards, this was what we clinically call a “non-story”. After working for

more than 20 years in radio news in South Africa, I’ve been privy to the details of countless crime stories, local and international. Some leave a lasting imprint on one’s mind and in one’s heart. One’s instinct and experience “tell” you when an incident is newsworthy. This was simply not one of those stories.

Police echoed that sentiment later that evening. They stayed seated in their van, asking if there was a crime scene and if any shots had been fired. Not much for them to follow up on.

The non-story, non-crime-scene incident has left me with many questions. On paper, our response was correct. An SA security expert has given the following advice to any person who might be held up, after clarifying that each situation is obviously different:

- Stay calm
- Minimise the risk to the safety of your loved ones and yourself
- Don’t escalate or antagonise attackers
- Listen to their demands

A tick to all those broad boxes. The children were moved to a secure place. The items were handed over without argument. No-one screamed, no-one fought.

Again: No-one was hurt, physically. But evidence suggests that young children experience many after-effects from traumas like these, including nightmares and poor sleep.

As a life coach, I spend much of my time encouraging people to talk about their feelings. There is no doubt it is empowering and liberating to speak to someone you trust. But when a child has literally looked “down the barrel of a gun”, talking is just part of the recovery process.

Some people re-live the trauma from day one. Others might experience nightmares or flash-backs weeks later.

The question is: How do children process these types of attacks, when their sense of security has been shattered? What can parents do to help repair that sense of trust?

Johannesburg clinical psychologist Liane Lurie says trauma shatters our belief that the world and our environment are safe. Children often lack the language to verbalise their emotions, so one might see regressed behaviour or a shift in the disposition of a once confident child; bed wetting, thumb sucking, separation anxiety, social withdrawal, a fear of new people or situations. She says it is “important to create safe spaces in which your child can express their emotions freely, be it in the form of play or drawing and painting”.

Some tips for parents:

- Ask open-ended questions rather than those that require a simple yes or no.
- Don’t hide your emotions from your child; being told you are okay when they can clearly see you are not, may lead to more anxiety.
- If possible, stick to former routines.
- It’s okay if your child needs to sleep in your room temporarily.
- Enlist the help and support of extended family, friends and people in your community.
- If needed, seek counselling for yourself and your children.

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Battle looming in court over Thulsie twins



The Thulsie twins’ sister Sumaya Lackay and their mother, Wasiela Thulsie (hiding), with an unidentified friend, and their lawyer, Annelene van den Heever.

ANT KATZ

The legal battle being played out in the Magistrate’s Court in Johannesburg over the arrest on terror charges of Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee Thulsie (23) has been carried over to the High Court after the self-declared ISIS-affiliated pair were told by Magistrate Piet du Plessis on Monday that he had deemed their arrest (on terror charges) to have been lawful - which means that they remain behind bars for now.

Their lawyer, Annalene van den Heever, immediately gave notice that she is taking the matter to the High Court to challenge the legality of her clients’ arrest.

The twins were arrested by the Hawks on July 9 and accused of crimes under the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist Related Activities Act 33 of 2004 (Terrorism Act), including planning to blow up (as yet unnamed) Jewish institutions in Johannesburg. The matter was postponed to this Friday for a bail application.

However, under the Terrorism Act they do not qualify for automatic bail and the onus is on them to show reasons why they should be granted bail. Given the State’s claim that the twins were part of a cell which had been at an advanced state of planning to blow up one US and various Jewish installations in Johannesburg, and that they were trying to buy detonators on the international market (which appears to be what prompted the arrests), the chances of them being granted bail are considered to be slim, a legal pundit told SAJR this week.

Charges under the Terrorism Act are considered Schedule 6 offences, which means the applicants need to prove “special and extraordinary circumstances” exist in order to obtain bail.

Their defence has been in the hands of attorney Mahomed Afzal Abba who has briefed advocate Van den Heever. The Thulsies have provisionally been charged on three counts under the Act (see the charge sheet on our website).

Neither Van den Heever nor Abba, the advocate, would speak to Jewish Report this week, and it is not known whether they plan to ask the magistrate at Friday’s bail hearing for leave to appeal his decision, or to approach the High Court directly to review the magistrate’s ruling.

The National Prosecuting Authority’s (NPA) Gauteng spokesman, Phindi Louw, says the State will oppose any approach to the High Court. “We will be opposing that application as we still maintain that the twins are lawfully detained.”

Last month Hawks senior spokesman, Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi, told Jewish Report that while conducting a search of one of the Thulsie twins’ homes, police found a list of intended targets, all but one of which were Jewish targets. This is confirmed on the NPA charge sheet.

South African authorities had been trying for some time to identify a South African using the code name “Simba” who had allegedly been communicating with ISIS. Foreign intelligence agencies discovered that “Simba” was at an advanced stage of building bombs and had been looking for a trigger mechanism on the web. South African intelligence was tipped off to this.

The Hawks initially raided the home of Ronaldo Smith (also known as Arashad Smith) who agreed to turn state witness and identified Tony-Lee Thulsie as “Simba”. Smith is presently under police protection. He has since requested to recant his evidence and leave police protection but the State has not agreed to this and there is no way under SA jurisprudence that he can unilaterally do so.

Should he continue to maintain his present position, he would probably eventually appear in court as a “hostile” witness.

SAJR understands from someone close to the investigation who spoke on the basis of confidentiality that national intelligence has taken charge of some items of evidence, including the list of potential targets.

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

Buy a print for victims of terror

OneFamily is an organisation in Israel that aims to overcome the aftermath of terror and rehabilitate the lives of victims, providing ongoing financial, emotional, and legal support.

This includes Jews as well as non-Jews, orphans, bereaved parents, widows and widowers, and youth.

South Africa recently has become part of OneFamily and is launching a new project alongside Johannesburg artist Julian Grabman. It is selling prints of Grabman’s watercolour “Jerusalem Forever” and half of the proceeds will go to OneFamily’s programmes helping victims of terror in Israel. OneFamily CEO Chantal Belzberg said: “I’m very excited to launch the ‘Jerusalem Forever’

watercolour painting by Julian Grabman in Johannesburg as the starting point towards opening doors to OneFamily, and extending the reach of the family from Canada to America and from Israel to the UK and now to South Africa!”

“By buying signed prints of this painting you will be contributing to OneFamily, and by displaying them prominently in your home, office, or even in your classroom at school, they will become your symbols of solidarity with the Israeli victims of terror,” a brochure states.

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Limmud: ‘The great rebellion’

TERRI PILLEMER
Terri Pillemer is a Durban-based Limmud volunteer, TV producer, and mom of three.

My seven-year-old son has learnt that when a phrase is in inverted commas, it means the opposite of what it says. Not always, but those are the kinds I’m using in this heading. I mean, how can Limmud - something that makes learning interesting and accessible - be rebellious?

That’s what you’d think, right? But since it arrived on the South African scene a decade ago, the organisation has been a change-agent, pushing boundaries and sometimes provoking the status quo so while many have embraced it, there are still those watching warily from the side-lines to see if this volunteer-driven organisation is a fad that belongs on the fringe, or is gaining popularity because it offers something of real value, if not necessity, to our community?

In the UK, where the movement originated more than three decades ago, it upset the appcart initially but eventually began to achieve mainstream acceptance. By 2013, the Commonwealth’s Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, endorsed the movement when he attended and presented at the Limmud UK conference.

In 2006, the first South African delegation went to Limmud UK to find out more about the workings of Limmud and how it could be customised to a South African context. Viv Anstey was on that delegation and explains: “We needed to understand how to engage with our diverse community which was facing the same challenges as a democratic South Africa - democratising South African Jewry, opening doors, minds and hearts of an inter-generational target market.”

Anstey and ally David Bilchitz knew bringing Limmud to South Africa would be transformative.

She recalls: “We were isolated as a community through apartheid. Not many of us had the privilege of interacting with international presenters. We needed to bring Jews out of the woodwork and also unearth some local gems who were changing the world and the face of South Africa.”

When Limmud SA launched, it was immediately impactful. The volunteer, value-driven, inclusive structure turned conferencing on its head. It drew in the youth and those who had not felt comfortable in the established or organised community.

Wayne Sussman, Limmud SA’s co-chairman, attests to the appeal of this model in our South African context: “We attract those who are religious and secular, of all denominations, those from the left to the right, those at the core and on the periph-

ery, from Athol to Yeoville, Camps Bay to Diep River to Durban.”

Limmud brings disparate people and organisations together to dialogue, provides a platform to engage more meaningfully than ever before and has brought about a resurgence of Jewish inspiration in South Africa. In fact, it has proven to be an ideal vehicle to reach all types of Jews and in a little over 30 years it has spread to 80 different communities across six continents.

Part of Limmud’s appeal is that it’s not controlled or driven by anyone in particular - it’s an organic, volunteer-run organisation, not a rigid hierarchical one.

It doesn’t support any particular viewpoint; instead it’s a place where everyone teaches and learns from everyone else. It’s a place where ideas and opinions are discussed without prejudice or bias. No opinion is above any other and participants are allowed to explore and create their own learning adventure.

The result is a buzzing Jewish community hub with the spirituality of a synagogue, the robust learning of a yeshiva, the intellectual simulation of a university, the creativity of an art school and the energetic fun and frenzy of a youth group.

Another aspect of Limmud SA’s success is the relationship between the three major cities. Limmud SA Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban are partners, with different audiences and flavours for each region.

“We share best practice, presenters, ideas, and time frames for events so we can piggy back on internationals coming in,” explains Anstey.

The current chairman of Limmud International is a local - David Bilchitz and Tali Nates sits on the Limmud International Executive.

“We do not rest on our laurels,” says Sussman. “We constantly discuss and work on challenges such as succession planning, funding, volunteer development, and programming innovations.”

It’s onwards and upwards for this not-so-rebellious rebellion. Since the first delegation went to the UK conference a decade ago to see what Limmud was all about, this organisation is set to continue on its path of growth, innovation and learning regeneration. So if you’re still on the side-lines, maybe it’s time to jump aboard!

** This month Limmud SA will facilitate approximately 250 sessions nationally, presented by over 20 international presenters and almost 200 locals. The events held in Cape Town (August 19 - 21), Durban (August 22 - 23) and Johannesburg (August 26 - 28) are set to attract a combined turnout of approximately 1 500 participants. Be part of the party. Visit www.limmud.org.za*

Achievers is finally here – the long wait is over

Absa Jewish Achiever Gala 2015 at VodaWorld.

File photo



Just when people say it couldn't get any better, the fundraising event somehow manages to outdo itself year after year. And by all accounts, 2016 will continue this legacy. But you'll only know if you are there. Avoid disappointment. Book your seats or tables here: RSVP@sajewishreport.co.za

This is literally the last chance readers have to book their seats or tables for the top Jewish social event of the year, the Absa Jewish Achiever and Jewish Report awards gala banquet - and it is just a week away on Sunday August 28. What's more, this year's black-tie fundraiser promises to be the best ever - and that's saying a lot as anyone who has attended the event before can attest to.

An impressive array of nominees made it to the judging tables for the 2016 Jewish Achiever Awards. The judging has taken place and the winners have been chosen. But results are not yet public and will only be revealed on the night.

There are still some individual seats and tables available - but, as in previous years, it is bound to be a sell-out affair as space at the prestigious VodaWorld venue is limited.

Last month Absa signed another big, multi-year sponsorship contract - much of it for the networking and entertainment value they and their clients derive from the event.

World News in Brief

Leaked document: Soros donated to anti-Israel causes

WASHINGTON - The website DC Leaks has released a confidential report composed of documents showing that Jewish Hungarian-American business magnate George Soros has contributed a large amount of money to anti-Israel causes.

The documents were accessed after Soros' company was hacked as part of the larger hack that targeted the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in June.

According to the leaked documents, Soros gave more than \$2 billion to Adalah, a self-described "independent human rights organisation" that has accused Israel of war crimes and called on governments to sever diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

More than \$1 million was also donated to the Palestinian media centre I'lam, which has accused Israel of ethnic cleansing and has published anti-Zionist content.

Other organisations which received funding from Soros according to the report include: Mada al-Carmel, Kayan-Feminist Organisation, Mossawa Centre, Molad, The Galilee Society, Al-Tufula Centre, Ma'an, Injaz, Sidreh, Lakiya, Baladna, Arab Association for Human Rights, National Committee of Heads of Arab Local Authorities in Israel and PILI Foundation.

In addition, the leaked documents also revealed how Soros and his network's efforts to promote awareness of perceived Israeli violations against Palestinians, while at the same time making an effort not to draw attention to this goal.

"For a variety of reasons," states one of the leaked documents. "we wanted to construct a diversified portfolio of grants dealing with Israel and Palestine, funding both Israeli Jewish and PCI (Palestinian Citizens of Israel) groups as well as building a portfolio of Palestinian grants and in all cases to maintain a low profile and relative distance - particularly on the advocacy front." (JNS.org)

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

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

Guidelines for letters

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

SHOAH: EL SALVADOR CONSUL IN GENEVA SAVED THOUSANDS OF JEWS

I address this letter as the honorary consul of El Salvador, a position I was appointed to after the passing of my predecessor, Mendel Kaplan.

This honorary appointment is made as an adjunct of the El Salvador embassy in Israel, which I happily visited last month. While there, I met the present and past ambassadors who gave me some most enlightening information which I would like to share with the South African Jewish community, who have, through your recent publication, recognised other countries’ contributions during Holocaust times.

An article appeared in the Jewish Observer and Middle East Review of October 1955, entitled: “The War’s Unpaid Debt of Honour - How El Salvador Saved Tens of Thousands of Jews”. The author, Jon Kimche, described the Salvadorian actions and ended by saying: “As far as I know, neither the World Jewish Organisations nor the Israel Government has ever expressed its appreciation to the Government of El Salvador, nor to its servants, who by their courage, initiative and humanity, helped to rescue many thousands of Jews who otherwise would have gone on the road to Auschwitz and oblivion. It is a debt of honour, which it is still not too late to repay.”

Fifty-five years after the article was published, the debt has been repaid.

During the Second World War a Salvadorian consul general in Geneva, Jose Arturo Castellanos, and his secretary George Mantello saved tens of thousands European Jews by awarding them Salvadorian citizenship.

This gentleman was honoured recently as Righteous Among Nations and Yad Vashem awarded medals to his children in San Salvador, a remarkable and well-deserved honour.

Added to this is the unique position of power that diplomats had, from which their stamp and their signature on a piece of paper could mean the difference between life and death for another person.

This tribute is indeed a wonderful recognition of these unknown events that took place during those terrifying war years, particularly by a country with a tiny Jewish community.

This year I learned that there are two words in Hebrew for survivors: sordim and nitsolim. Sordim are the survivors, the ones that went through the horrors and lived. Nitsolim are the ones who were spared from that generation and all generations to come.

Norman Lowenthal
Honorary Consul of El Salvador
Saxonwold, Johannesburg

BRITISH JEWS ABANDONING LABOUR PARTY IN DROVES

As a result of extraordinary levels of anti-Semitism in Britain’s Labour Party, Jewish voters are turning away from Labour.

In a recent poll published in the London Jewish Chronicle, only 8,5 per cent of British Jewish voters would vote Labour if there was a general election tomorrow.

Rows over comments made by members were allegedly improperly dealt with.

Two Labour councillors were suspended in May for posting anti-Semitic comments on Facebook. One councillor, Salim Mulla, called for Jews to “relocate” to America, while another, Ilyas Aziz, posted offensive

images calling for Jews to “stop drinking Gaza blood”.

A Jewish MP, Ruth Smeeth, who walked out of Labour’s anti-Semitism report launch, said that the party was not a safe place for Jews.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis has also deemed some of the comments made by Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, “offensive”.

To add insult to injury, human rights lawyer Shami Chakrabarti, was tasked with conducting an enquiry into anti-Semitism within Labour, and her report concluded

that the Labour Party was not overrun by anti-Semitism or any other form of racism. This shocked Jewish members who accused her of “sweeping these maladies under the carpet”.

Moreover, the peerage offered and accepted by her from Corbyn was widely criticised by British Jews and by the Board of Deputies’ vice president, Marie van Zyl, who said: “The report which was considered weak in several areas, now seems to have been rewarded with an honour.”

Indeed, even Tom Watson, deputy leader of Labour, slammed Corbyn’s nomination

for Chakrabarti to be elevated to the House of Lords.

The Zionist Federation of Great Britain has said that the peerage would only serve to worsen ties between Labour and the British Jewish community.

While 15,1 per cent of Jews voted Labour in 2015, it is becoming clear that the Labour Party, under Corbyn, has lost almost 50 per cent of its Jewish voters this year.

Nathan Cheiman
Northcliff,
Johannesburg

KD Victory Park remembers the three boys killed by Hamas

HANNA BEN-MOSHE

King David Victory Park Campus hosted Rachelle Fraenkel on Monday. She is the mother of Naftali Fraenkel, one of the three boys abducted in Israel in 2014 and killed by Hamas terrorists.

She delivered a most moving address to parents and learners and the High School will be planting three trees in its Biblical Garden in memory of the three boys, Gilad Shaer, Eyal Yifrah and Naftali Fraenkel.



Photo: Yael Gordon

Youth

Jewish day schools unite to remember the three boys



Photo: Sean Korb

SEAN KORB

Last week, Jewish day schools across Johannesburg united to remember the three young Israeli boys who were tragically kidnapped and killed two years ago by Hamas terrorists.

Learners and teachers from King David Sandton Primary School were enthralled by the moving words of Rachelle Fraenkel, one of the kidnapped boy’s mothers.

The King David Sandton Geshar council assisted in painting a mosaic which will be displayed in Sandringham Gardens as part of the Unity Day commemorations.

Pictured are the past and present King David Sandton Mini City Councillors who attended the event: Jared Greenstein and Gila Dove (current head boy and head girl of King David High School Victory Park and both former Mini City Councillors for King David Sandton), together with Gabriella Friedman and Aaron Kahanovitz (current 2016 Mini City Councillors for King David Sandton).

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A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Comforting our people

I was recently privileged to hear a talk by Rachelle Fraenkel, Israeli mother of Naftali, the boy who was murdered by Hamas together with his two friends Gilad Shaer and Eyal Yifrah in 2014.

When she was thanked for her truly inspiring words she turned to the audience and offered her gratitude to everyone - in Israel, in South Africa, and throughout the entire world - for their support during the ordeal and the comfort that poured in following the tragic news of her son's death.

Offering comfort after loss is fundamental to Judaism, as is the idea that all periods of grief must be followed by rebirth and rebuilding.

We have just come out of the three weeks of mourning - an intense period that concluded with the fast of Tisha B'Av on Sunday. The Shabbat ahead of us is Shabbat Nachamu - the Shabbat of Comfort.

There are few experiences in life more painful, or inevitable, than losing a loved one. We see this in our work at the cemetery where we encounter distraught and heartbroken families. At that time the pain could be too new, too raw for comfort to be meaningful.

Time and perspective may be needed and the week of shiva provides consolation with its carefully constructed processes that allow for families to sit with others who knew and loved the deceased, to remember,



ChevrahKadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE

Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff

to heal. After that, life goes on and so must the living. But that's not always easy. Most people these days recognise the benefits of therapy. Talking about our thoughts and feelings with an objective, confidential professional can be immensely comforting.

The truth is that time, alone, does not heal unless we use it well, and talking about one's pain is often the gateway to regaining joy, hope and meaning in life.

The Chev offers help through our Nechama Bereavement Services whose counsellors are professionally trained and experienced in helping people who are grieving - providing context, perspective, support and understanding.

There are many beautiful moments in life and there are also some dark ones. Regardless of what we are currently experiencing, we should remember that King Solomon wore a ring engraved with the words, "this too shall pass".

The wisest man in history knew that the wheel of life would continue to turn and that the sun would come out again. In the meantime, we should all take advantage of the opportunity to find comfort and support where it is offered and to give comfort where it is needed.

May our partnership continue to thrive.
Feedback@jhbchev.co.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Lessons going forward from Gauteng Council conference



Above Board
Jeff Katz
National Chairman

One hundred and seventy -five years of Jewish life in South Africa, from the first-ever prayer service in Cape Town in 1841 through to the vibrant, diverse community we have today, was celebrated at Monday's SAJBD Gauteng Council conference.

Milestones like this do not come our way very often, so when they do, we can be forgiven for a little self-praise and mutual backslapping. South African Jewry has achieved much in the course of its history, both in specifically Jewish terms and in the extent to which its members have contributed to the development of the country.

One of the benefits of reflecting on this is how it firms up our self-belief in terms of how we meet the challenges that lie ahead. As my colleague on the Gauteng Council, Mark Pozniak, expressed in his closing remarks, just as we can look back on the past with pride, so can we look ahead to the future with confidence.

In the course of the evening, a number of themes came through in the presentations made by the various speakers, including by our special guest Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. One was that of the Particular versus the Universal, that is, the need to combine addressing our internal Jewish communal needs with playing our part as identifying, contributing citizens of South Africa.

That to date South African Jews in the country have been successful in balancing these two imperatives is, according to Rabbi Mirvis, one of the key reasons why our

community is so highly regarded, both locally and in the wider Jewish world.

Nevertheless, we need to guard against becoming too insular, even as we look to maintain and grow our own community. To counteract such tendencies, the SAJBD has been extremely proactive in recent years in terms of participating in broader national events.

Among our initiatives over the past year are our 60th anniversary of the Freedom Charter event, participation in commemorative events in Sharpeville and Soweto on Human Rights Day and Youth Day respectively, our "Make Us Count" election campaign and, most recently, last week's visit of a Jewish women's delegation to Boipatong to engage with survivors of the massacre that took place there in 1992.

Another important theme was the need for both inter- and intra-community bridge building. We should continue on the one hand to forge relationships and partnerships with other communities (our collaboration with the HIP - Hellenic Italian Portuguese - Alliance has been especially pleasing, as has our involvement on the Hate Crimes Working Group).

On the other hand we need to foster unity and understanding within our own community, regardless of where people might stand on religious, political or social justice issues.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my warm congratulations to the chairman, Shaun Zagnoev, and the members of the last Gauteng Council for all they have achieved over the past two years and to wish the incoming Council success for their upcoming term of office.

• 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

A column of WIZO South Africa

WIZO pays tribute to women through Rebecca Sieff Awards

Every year on August 9 we celebrate Women's Day in South Africa, a public holiday that pays homage to the women of our nation - who fought tirelessly against the tyranny of the apartheid government.

An inspiring display of political strength, female solidarity and inner fortitude, the march on August 9, 1956 was both a reminder of the great women who helped mould South Africa and the trail-blazing women who continue to lead the country forward.

WIZO wholeheartedly supports this day and recognises the vital role women play in society. The founders of WIZO were like a mirror image of the South African struggle heroes. Three women, Rebecca Sieff, Vera Weizmann and Romana Goodman, wives of prominent Zionists and powerful personalities in their own right, took the first steps in improving conditions for women in Israel.

On arriving there, they were appalled at the conditions in which they found the women and children - malnourishment, neglect and exhaustion were commonplace.



WIZO
South Africa
Moonyeen Castle
President

So began the long road in the upliftment of women, ensuring that women have economic, political and personal rights in Israel today.

During this month and next, WIZO South Africa hosts their annual Rebecca Sieff Awards. At these awards, it has the pleasure to honour women who have worked tirelessly for over 40 years, and continue to work to advance the status of women in Israel. By contributing to many projects in Israel, WIZO continually enables women and children to reach their full potential.

The silent protest of the four women at the IEC results centre recently demonstrates tremendous courage, similar to that displayed by the Jewish community

in South Africa, when women's rights are at stake, for example, the recent kol isha issue and the right of women to obtain a get.

In the 21st century there are so many countries where women have no rights. We salute the women in South Africa and Israel who continue to ensure a brighter future for all women.

This column paid for by WIZO SA

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A recipe even Popeye would have been proud of

SHANNON SARNA

Quinoa and I have not always been friends. For the uninitiated, quinoa is a plant of the goose-foot family found in the Andes, where it was widely cultivated for its edible starchy seeds prior to the introduction of Old World grains. The grain-like seeds are used as food and in the production of alcoholic drinks.

I much prefer rice and pasta over the hyped-up quinoa grain, even though I know people love it. And what’s not to love: It’s gluten-free, packed with fibre and protein and it’s even Passover-friendly!



So, since it’s that time of year when everyone is eating lighter and when colourful vegetables and fruits abound, I decided to give it another chance and added some hearty red quinoa to a salad recently.

Lo and behold, I became a quinoa convert, adding it to salad after salad. I served a spinach and quinoa salad with fresh local strawberries earlier this summer for a Shabbat dinner with friends, and it was devoured. Then again, when I was in Los Angeles a few weeks ago, I made this salad with figs instead of berries, and it was equally delicious. Try it with plums, peaches or any seasonal fruit that you love.

You can even serve this salad with some grilled salmon, tofu or cannellini beans for a hearty and healthy entrée salad.

BERRY SPINACH QUINOA SALAD

Ingredients:

- ❖ 1 bag pre-washed fresh spinach
- ❖ ³/₄ cup cooked red quinoa
- ❖ ¹/₂ seedless English cucumber
- ❖ 1 pint strawberries, blackberries, raspberries or a mix
- ❖ 1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
- ❖ ¹/₄ cup crumbled feta cheese (optional)
- ❖ 2 tablespoons sunflower seeds

For the dressing:

- ❖ Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- ❖ 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ❖ 1 teaspoon honey
- ❖ ¹/₂ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ❖ Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

- ❖ Place spinach in a large bowl or on a platter. Top with quinoa, cucumbers, tomatoes, berries (or other fruit), sunflower seeds and feta cheese, if desired.
- ❖ Whisk together lemon juice and zest, Dijon mustard and honey. Slowly whisk olive oil until dressing comes together.
- ❖ Pour dressing over salad and toss to coat. Serve immediately. (The Noshers via JTA)

• Shannon Sarna is the editor of *The Noshers*.

World News in Brief

Yitzhak Rabin’s son warns Trump on ‘same kind of incitement’

JERUSALEM - The son of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Donald Trump’s “ugly” campaign rhetoric is threatening American democracy and creating an atmosphere similar to the one in Israel leading up to his father’s assassination.

In a USA Today op-ed last Sunday, Yuval Rabin wrote that the recent call by Trump to “Second Amendment people” is the same kind of “incitement” that “led to the murder” of his father in 1995.

“More than one commentator in Israel and the US has pointed to the parallels between Israel in the 1990s and the US today,” Rabin wrote, citing articles in Haaretz and The New York Times.

He added: “Trump has called Clinton ‘the devil’, claimed that the election might be ‘rigged’, denigrated religions and questioned the impartiality of the justice system.

“Intentional or not, the Republican presidential nominee is removing confidence in the democratic form of governance. If an election is seen as illegitimate, if those who supported a candidate are viewed as somehow lesser ‘Americans’, then it becomes acceptable - and even appropriate - to work outside the political system.”

Trump’s comments last week - suggesting that gun-rights supporters could take action against Hillary Clinton if she “wants to abolish” the Second Amendment, or the right to bear arms – also prompted Connecticut Governor Daniel Malloy to make the Rabin assassination comparison.

“I instantly thought about Rabin and Israel,” Malloy, a Democrat, said on MSNBC. (JTA)

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‘Along with the pain, there are blessings and joy’ – Rachelle Fraenkel



King David Linksfield grade 11 learners Amber Sandler (Head Student); Caylin Firer; Rachelle Fraenkel; a representative of the Bana Ba Modimo victim support group; and Talya Katz.

STAFF REPORTER

Last Thursday a delegation of Jewish women headed by the SAJBD travelled to Boipatong township near Vanderbijlpark to meet with survivors of the massacre that took place there in 1992 and hear their stories. On June 17, 1992, 46 township residents were massacred by local hostel-dwellers.

The initiative was organised in the context of August being Women’s Month and follows the attendance by Board representatives of the wreath-laying ceremony and opening of an exhibition in Boipatong on June 17. Speakers included Gauteng MEC for Sport, Arts, Recreation and Culture, Faith Mazibuko; Rachelle Fraenkel, mother of one of the three Israeli teenagers abducted and murdered by Hamas in June 2014; and SAJBD Gauteng Council member Professor Karen Milner.

The delegation comprised representatives from the SAJBD, SAZF, JNF, Emunah and the Union of Jewish Women, as well as 20 grade 11 learners from King David Linksfield and King David Victory Park.

Fraenkel referred to the “unbelievable support” that the immediate community and the nation as a whole had provided to the families of the missing boys and how much this had helped them in dealing with their grief and loss. Responding to comments made by a representative of the Bana Ba Modimo support group, she said that she had been particularly struck by the observation that regardless of what they might have suffered, people should not define themselves and their lives in terms of victimhood.

“There is part of our lives that is pain and loss and there is the part of our lives that has a lot of joy and blessing. I can feel the pain but don’t have to become my pain, feel sorrow and loss, but don’t have to become my sorrow and loss. With the help of family and community, and survivor support organisations, we can experience a full life that, along with the pain, has blessing and joy, and allows us to speak out and tell our story,” she said.

Milner commented that the purpose of the day’s event was to reach out across nationalities, countries, races and religions to understand one another’s pain and bear witness to one another’s stories.

“I am humbled by the depth of faith that I see in all the people here today, and the strength that faith gives so many who have experienced loss and sorrow. All of this is part of the resilience of the human spirit, the ability to find meaning, hold on to faith and reach out to others who may be helped by sharing experiences and gain a deeper understanding of one another’s humanity” she said.

City of David bolsters Jewish claim to Jerusalem

JERUSALEM - Tisha B’Av is a day deeply rooted in Jewish history and memory. Its primary association is with the destruction of the Second Temple at the hands of the Roman Empire in 70 CE.

Despite controversy over the temple with international bodies such as Unesco, remembering the religious and cultural heritage that the temple represents can take form in looking back at the biblical archaeological record, something that City of David International Affairs Director Ze’ev Orenstein believes strongly bolsters the connection between Judaism and Jerusalem.

“If all that stuff is built on the notion that none of this ever happened, and then you pull a seal out of the ground with the names of the ministers straight out of the Bible one after the next in the same verse... that causes problems.”

Seals in reference to King Hezekiah, lower-level royal officials and even of a woman named Elihana bat Gael, serve as proof of a 3 000-year connection between ancient Israel and the country we know today, adds Orenstein. According to him, these discoveries present problems, however, for people who are committed to an opposing agenda.

“Unfortunately today, much of what you can call ‘Palestinian nationalism’ or ‘Palestinian identity’ is based on the narrative that the Jewish people have no legitimate ties to this land... that we’re a bunch of white Europeans,” says Orenstein. “That would then make excavations in the City of David particularly problematic.” - Jerusalem Post

Snake prank teens sent home from Israel tour

LONDON - More than half the boys in a Bnei Akiva Israel tour group were sent home after a dead snake was draped over the door of a female leader and tour members urinated outside her room.

Nine members of the group were expelled from the programme two days before it was due to end. One of those sent home has claimed that many of the nine were not involved in the snake incident.

The snake had been obtained from a formaldehyde jar found in an abandoned office on the site of the tour party’s accommodation.

According to the boy who spoke to the Jewish Chronicle, the prank was meant to symbolise a feeling among some of the group that the madricha had allegedly been snake-like - duplicitous - in her behaviour towards them.

Bnei Akiva said that the nine had all been previously warned about their behaviour during the tour, organised as part of the UJIA Israel Experience. They were dismissed for “serious breaches of our code of conduct, far beyond anything we would normally expect”.

The expelled boys were part of a tour party of 32, including 15 girls, from schools said to include Hasmonean, JFS and Immanuel College. Five boys from another Bnei Akiva tour group were sent home for alcohol-related breaches of the conduct code. - Jewish Chronicle, London

15 swastikas daubed on Bondi Beach

SYDNEY - Police are appealing for witnesses after 15 swastikas drawn in permanent black marker were located on Campbell Parade, Bondi Beach last week.

The swastikas were drawn on the footpath, bus shelter, poles, benches and electrical boxes and span the eastern (beach side) footpath between Beach Road and Hall Street.

One of the benches with swastikas drawn on also had the words “Not white not right” written in black permanent marker.

The vandalism has reportedly since been removed. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said he was “appalled” at the anti-Semitic graffiti.

“This is a vicious attempt to intimidate and insult the Jewish community and seeks to undermine the harmony of all Australians,” Turnbull said.

“This hateful vandalism has absolutely no place in our society, and those responsible should be held accountable.”

Superintendent Jason Box, commander of the Eastern Suburbs Local Area Command, said: “The NSW Police Force takes crimes that are motivated by hatred or prejudice very seriously and any such crimes will not be tolerated.”

New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies CEO Vic Alhadeff told The Australian Jewish News: “How very disappointing that there are those who feel the need to express their bigotry in this way. A swastika is more than graffiti; it represents the ultimate in racial hatred.” - AustralianJewish News



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Israel manages its water better than California does

LOS ANGELES - California and Israel share a climate of perpetual drought. As far as water is concerned, however, that’s where the similarities end.

Israel has a water surplus, while California struggles to manage. Among other reasons, the Jewish state owes its water wealth to technology such as drip irrigation and water reclamation, which have yet to win wide popularity here.

But different rules on water use pose one often overlooked answer to why California remains parched while Israel thrives.

Water law is a famously complex field, but one regulatory difference is clear-cut: In California, if a landowner digs a well, he can freely use the water that comes up. In Israel, the government controls that water.

“This itself is so powerful,” said Tamar Shor, senior deputy to the director of the Israel Water Authority.

In late June, Shor sat at a round table at the Ritz Carlton in Marina del Ray at a conference on Israel-California water collaboration. Across from her was Felicia Marcus, who, as chairman of California’s State Water Resources Control

JWBS hosts a not-to-be-missed fundraising breakfast



The Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society on Monday, August 29, hosts a fundraising breakfast with guest speaker the renowned political journalist Justice Malala (pictured).

In his recently published book “Now we have begun our descent”, Malala comes face to face with the country South Africa has become; South Africa is on the brink of ruin.

But, he maintains, it is not all gloom and doom. He believes the country has the wherewithal to turn things around.

Says the JWBS in a media release: “JWBS too is on the ‘brink of ruin’. Our fundraising is suffering from this negative atmosphere, and there are even more hungry needy clients on our doorstep. We intend a stunning affair which will help us to raise the funds we require.”

The breakfast takes place at Investec in Sandton, at 07:00 sharp. The cost is R4 500 per table of 10 – R450 per person. RSVP: gloria@jwbs.co.za; or Gloria (011) 485-5232; or Leigh 083-441-7287.

Board, is the top water official in the state.

Marcus expressed her “Israel envy” over the way water rights are apportioned in the Los Angeles County-sized nation.

In comparison to Israel’s system, she said, California’s water rights look something like the Wild West.

“Right now, it’s whoever has the deepest pump wins,” she said.

Wells draw from underground water tables with finite resources. - Jewish Journal, Los Angeles

Montreal Mayor Coderre condemns BDS advocacy

MONTREAL - Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre

attempted to distance his administration from anti-Israel - and what Jewish groups have described - as anti-Semitic content at the World Social Forum (WSF), but he fell short of condemning the international event as a whole.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), B’nai B’rith Canada and the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre had appealed to Coderre to dissociate the city from the six-day event, which concluded last Sunday.

The city continued to be listed as a “partner” on the WSF website as of August 11, in recognition of the \$30 000 grant it contributed.

Speaking at the city’s August 10 executive committee meeting, Coderre said: “Associating with this event does not mean that we confirm everything said there. Like the government of Canada, we are against BDS [the boycott, sanctions and divestment campaign against Israel].

“We must be proud to have a gathering of progressive forces and we cannot be in agreement with everything that is said. Things that are condemnable are going to be condemned,” he said, underlining the stand he has taken against anti-Semitism and mentioning that he and Toronto Mayor John Tory are leading a mission to Israel and the West Bank in November.

Coderre noted that some 1 400 activities were scheduled throughout the WSF and “no one can speak in the name of” all those participating.

The WSF website listed more than 9 500 registrants from around the world and there were events open to the public. Most activities were “self-managed” by the more than 1 200 “civil society” groups from 118 countries said to be represented. - Canadian Jewish News

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Taryn Cantor - living her dream in fashion

SUZANNE BELLING

Bubbly and multi-talented Taryn Melissa Cantor returned to South Africa this week from an eight-day Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project (JWRP) trip to Israel - where she joined 37 fashionistas from seven countries who are “using fashion to change the world”.

Born in Johannesburg, Cantor who matriculated from King David Linksfield and who now lives in Cape Town, started her career by delving into her mother’s “dressing up” costumes and discovering she had a flair for fashion.

“JWRP started in Utah, US, with eight women and has now been joined by different states in the US; and by Canada; Greece; Estonia; Panama and South Africa, all of whom have partnered with Israel.”

The other South African delegate was Capetonian Jodi Cohen, a fashion editor for an in-house trade magazine.

Cantor’s business, ReDressed, was founded in Johannesburg. The women at a sewing school for unemployed women run by the Union of Jewish Women do all the sewing for Cantor and she has taught them to be self-sustaining. They are called “Sew Sara,” based on the biblical Sarah.

Until she started her business which essentially empowers disadvantaged women through fashion, she worked as a photographer, in PR, as a music journalist, an “accountant” and a clothes stylist and designer.

She has a BA dramatic arts hon-

ours degree from Wits and licentiate diploma in speech and performance from Trinity College in London.

Always having had the urge to empower women and use her creativity, she worked in the music industry as an assistant director for music videos. She became a costume and later production designer, working with sets, costumes and props.

“But I was working for freelance producers and this was not sustainable.”

She went on to become a music journalist at the online Entertainment Africa.

“As a young girl, I always dressed differently and was complimented on my clothes. My friends would copy me,” she told SA Jewish Report.

“I decided to put together a portfolio to get into the fashion industry and was employed by the House of Busby, also working with Avroy Shlain cosmetics.

“I became a senior merchandiser, travelling to London, New York and China, but I had a niggling [feeling] about moving to Cape Town. I needed a change. I had a job offer in Cape Town, working for an online retail fashion house, but I missed the feel of the fabric and putting together outfits.”

Cantor always did make-up for her friends and continued her dream of fashion, “until I had the ‘click’ moment.

“I met a woman lawyer at a workshop who told me she loved the way I

put my outfits together and asked me to do it for her. We became friends. I advised her to stop wearing ponchos and coats indoors, instead of focusing on the garments underneath,” she said.

“During my next meeting with her, I went through her wardrobe. She wanted to wear jeans and, when we bought them, her whole face, walk and demeanour changed.”

This was the beginning of her fashion business, ReDressed.

Describing her recent trip, Cantor said, “In Israel we all became “Sarah”, based on the strong matriarch in the Bible.”

The women on the trip were from all walks of life, single, divorced and married - “we became fashionista sisters”.

The clothing she makes has evolved to fit the five body shapes and four colour palettes.

Cantor herself has been an observant Jewess for the past four years. “Most of my clothes can be adapted in different ways and are suitable for those who dress with tzniut.

“I have created a range of fashion designed to fit and flatter women of all shapes and sizes,” she said.

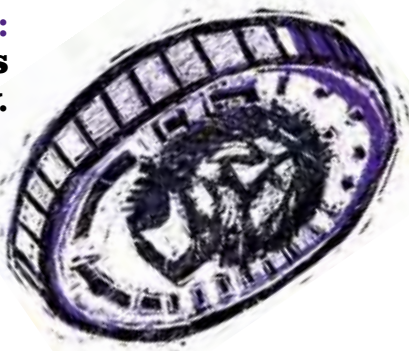
“I am focused on empowering women, which is two-fold - empowerment and independence for those who make the fashion garments, with job creation, and empowerment to feel good for those who buy and wear them.

“In this way I aspire to be an agent of change and tikkun olam - a Jewish concept of repairing the world.”



Taryn Melissa Cantor in Safed, wearing one of her Sew Sara garments.

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Friday (August 19)

- Hash Tag Lottering with comedian Marc Lottering is at the Auto & General Theatre on the Square, Sandton until September 16. His show covers a broad range of topics, ranging from the beauty of a prawn, to the dangers of the WhatsApp Family Group. It is not suitable for children. There are six performances a week including two shows on Saturdays, with the last one after Shabbat at 20:30. Enquiries: The theatre (011) 883-8606 or Strictly Tickets 082-553-5903 or book online at www.ticketpros.co.za or www.strictlytickets.com

- UZLC hosts Jack Bloom on “What Now - After the Elections?” Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Saturday evening
(August 20)

- Chev Marriage Week presents the premiere of “Nine Lives” starring Kevin Spacey and Jennifer Garner. Venue: Ster Kinekor @ the Zone Rosebank. Cost: R200 per couple. Refreshments for sale. Bookings: lindaf@jhbchev.co.za or (011) 532-9701.

Sunday (August 21)

- Johannesburg Light Music

Society has music for the over 50s, Broadway shows and MGM musicals of bygone years. Venue: Roosevelt Park Recreational Centre (behind the fire station on Beyers Naude Drive) Time: 14:00. Two presentations by members of music of their choice. a short interval for tea/coffee and refreshments at R20 pp (optional), followed by music from movies of the ‘50s, ‘60s, & ‘70s. Information: David 076-574-1446 or (011) 678-9725.

- Jewish Genealogical Society of SA hosts Lt Col William Bergman MMM (SA Army Rtd) on “The Jewish Contribution to the South African Military History”. Venue: HOD. Time: 19:00. Cost: R25 (incl tea & refreshments). RSVP: Hannah (011) 485-2188.

Monday (August 22)

- UJW’s adult education division hosts Tom Wheeler, research associate, SA Institute of International Affairs, on “The Arab Spring - Consequences in the Middle East”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (August 23)

- JWBS takes you for a walk down memory lane with radio personality John Berks. Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R100 (incl tea and refreshments). Booking: (011) 485 5232 or gloria@jwbs.co.za

- UJW hosts an “Inspirational Evening” with Ivan Sacks, survivor and motivator from Dallas, who will share his approach to the challenges of his life in a humorous and inspiring way. Ivan has had three bouts of cancer and a stem cell transplant and other life challenges. Proceeds to DL Link. Venue: HOD, Orchards. Time: 19:30. Cost: R100 (incl light refreshments). Prebooking essential: info@jwbs.co.za

ujw.co.za or (011) 648-1053.

- RCHCC and the SAJBD host a “Book Event” with Collen Lemawane, presenter, economics reporter and specialist producer for SABC news in conversation with Nompumelelo Runji (policy analyst, researcher, author) on Collen’s book “Why Broke - when there is so much info?” Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, a/h (011) 728-8378 or e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

- JH&GC in partnership with the Lithuanian Embassy hosts the opening of a new exhibition, “Zakhor! Imaginations of the Former Jewish Vilna in Modern Lithuanian Art”. Venue: JHGC, Forest Town. Time: 19:00, Seating limited. Admission free, but donations welcome. Booking: shirley@jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-3100/2148.

Wednesday (August 24)

- Chev Social Services Enrich 2016 presents “Courageous Conversations for All Relationships” with Dr Joel Shapiro. Venue: Jewish Life Centre, Strathavon. Time: 19:45. Cost: R50 (incl light refreshments). Booking: Sharon (011) 532-9616 or enrich@jhbchev.co.za

- UJW’s adult education division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer Dept of English, Wits, on the third lecture on “Enjoying Contemporary Poetry”. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

Friday (August 26)

- Shalom Masorti Seniors Club invites everyone who would

like to make new friends and have some light-hearted fun on the last Friday of each month. Tea will be served and there will be a selection of board games, cards and a convivial, friendly atmosphere. Mike Kimmelman will speak on “Growing up and Helping the World”. Contact: Esther (011) 485-5619 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings, for more information.

Sunday (August 28)

- UJW hosts “A Celebration of the Wit & Wisdom of Sholem Aleichem in Word and Song” in “Welcome to the World of Fiddler on the Roof”, starring Shane Baker, special guest artist from New York and Caely-Jo Levy, with the Yid Dish Players. Venue: SABC Auditorium, St James Road, Sea Point, Cape Town. Time: 17:30 and 19:30. Booking: Quicket or tel (021) 434-9691. Tickets R180. Proceeds of the shows in aid of the Cape Jewish Seniors Association.

Monday (August 29)

- UJW’s adult education division hosts Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, national director, SA Institute of International Affairs on “Antarctica and South Africa - the Antarctic Treaty, a Legal Exposition” Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09



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Photo: Alex Livesey/Getty Images

Aly Raisman wins third medal at Rio Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO - American Jewish gymnast Aly Raisman won her third medal of the Rio Olympics on Tuesday - a silver in the floor exercise.

Raisman, 22, of Needham, Massachusetts, was beaten out for the gold by US teammate Simone Biles, who claimed her fourth gold medal here. Biles finished with a score of 15,966 to Raisman's 15,500.

Biles, 19, had also won in the individual all-around with Raisman finishing second. They combined to help the United States win the women's team all-around.

Raisman now has six Olympics medals in total; she also won three at the 2012 Games in London.

With the floor exercise closing the artistic gymnastics portion of the Rio Olympics, the US women's gymnastics team finished with nine medals, well beyond any other country. (JTA)



Photo: Roy Arima/Flash90

Entering the arrivals hall at the international airport near Tel Aviv on Monday night, Yarden Gerbi and Or Sasson (pictured) were showered with flowers. Supporters waved flags, sang patriotic songs and held up pictures and posters of the athletes. The two medallists stopped frequently on their way through the airport for selfies and hugs.

“I didn’t expect so much craziness,” Gerbi said, according to the Israeli news site Ynet, which reported that a crowd of nearly1 000 packed the airport hall.

Gerbi and Sasson both won bronze medals in judo at the Olympics. The medals - which bring Israel’s all-time total to nine, five of them in judo - were a bright spot among disappointing performances and controversy for Israel in Rio.

Gerbi and Sasson have become instant national heroes and helped establish judo as Israel’s unofficial national sport. They were celebrated last week with headlines in the Israeli press and congratulatory phone calls from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

After beating Egypt’s Islam El Shehaby, who refused to shake his hand afterward, Sasson won two more matches before narrowly losing to undefeated French legend Teddy Riner. He then prevailed over Alex Mendoza of Cuba to earn the bronze in the men’s over 100-kg category.

Gerbi defeated Miku Tashiru of Japan in the women’s under 63-kg category on August 9, to claim her place on the Olympic podium.

After refusing to shake Sasson’s hand, Shehaby was sent home and “strongly condemned” by the Egyptian Olympic Committee, according to the International Olympic Committee. The IOC said the Egyptian’s behaviour “was contrary to the rules of fair play and against the spirit of friendship embodied in the Olympic values”. (JTA)



Photo: Pascal Le Segretain/Getty Images

Ervin becomes oldest individual swimming gold medallist

RIO DE JANEIRO - Jewish swimmer Anthony Ervin became the oldest Olympic gold medallist in an individual swimming event, at 35, capping a comeback from burnout and drug use in the aftermath of his gold medal at 19. Ervin edged France’s Florent Manaudou by one one-hundredth of a second in the men’s 50-metre freestyle race last week Friday in Rio.

The son of a Jewish mother and a father with black and Native American roots, Ervin won his first Olympic gold medal in the same event in 2000.

“When I touched the wall, I saw kind of the absurdity, the surrealness of it all,” Ervin said, according to USA Today. “I smiled and laughed. It just seems so unlikely.”

Ervin, of suburban Los Angeles, won a second gold medal earlier last week in the men’s 4×100-metre relay.

He had quit swimming in 2003 and, as he details in a memoir published in April (“Chasing Water: Elegy of an Olympian”), spent his 20s experimenting with drugs, playing guitar and teaching the sport in Brooklyn, New York. (JTA)

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