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south african Jewish Report

■ March 3 2017 / 5 Adar 5777
■ Volume 21 - Number 7

www.sajr.co.za

**HAPPENING
THIS
WEEKEND**



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VI**

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JHB 4-5 MARCH | **BOOK NOW** SPACE IS LIMITED



2017 SPEAKERS



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RAQUEL KIRSZENBAUM

Born on Margarita Island and raised in Panama City, Raquel Kirszenbaum knows how to deliver Torah shaken, not stirred. With a passion for life and enthusiasm for the everyday, Kirszenbaum understands how to get a crowd thinking, engaged and – most importantly – smiling. A refreshing perspective and relatable approach makes Kirszenbaum a unique teacher who keeps her students coming back for more.



RABBI DR ELIMELECH GOLDBERG

CNN Hero of 2014 and Kids Kicking Cancer founder Elimelech Goldberg is a professor of paediatrics, a first-degree black belt in the Korean art of Choi Kwang Do, and a rabbi. Affectionately known by thousands of children as Rabbi G, his non-profit organisation teaches martial arts to kids battling cancer or other serious challenges in their lives, in over 45 locations. Rabbi G began the programme 18 years ago, after losing his first child to leukaemia. Using meditation and breathing exercises, his therapeutic techniques and workshops are profoundly effective tools that have been adopted as stress seminars for Fortune 500 companies.



CHARLIE HARARY

US investor, strategic advisor and professor turned motivational speaker, Charlie Harary's optimism and passion will invigorate his audience on the path to success. Son of an immigrant father and grandson of Holocaust survivors, Harary was born knowing what it means to survive. But learning how to thrive has become his life's mission. Harary graduated from Columbia Law, and after making his mark as the first VP and legal counsel at RXR Realty New York, he moved on to co-found H3 & Company, a multimillion-dollar VC and advisory firm.



KEN SPIRO

Arks, crusades, emperors and empires – all the props you need for the perfect action-packed blockbuster. Except this one's real. Ken Spiro has made it his life's mission to uncover the impact, stories, relics and meaning of Jewish history. He has a BA in Russian language and literature from Vassar, did post-graduate studies at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow, obtained a master's degree in history from Vermont and has Rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Aish HaTorah. He has featured on radio and TV shows like The History Channel, National Geographic and The BBC, and has authored *WorldPerfect: The Jewish Impact on Civilization* and *Crash Course in Jewish History*. A licensed tour guide – let Ken Spiro take you on a tour of the miraculous and astounding history of the Jewish people.



RABBI BINNY FREEDMAN

IDF company commander, Rosh Yeshiva and founder of Orayta, guitar-wielding storyteller, lover of Israel, gifted teacher – Rabbi Binny's expertise lies in applying classic Jewish concepts to contemporary life in a very personal way. A survivor of the S'barro suicide bombing in 2001, his views on a meaningful life, Zionism and serving G-d have seen Rabbi Freedman interviewed on CNN, MSNBC and WCBS.



RABBI REUVEN LEUCHTER

Raised in Lucerne, Switzerland, Rabbi Reuven Leuchter moved from a career in mathematics at the University of Zurich into the introspective world of mussar – character development. This original thinker was one of the closest students of Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe, a mussar master of the previous generation. He now coaches thousands of people around the world to flip their ideas and view practical things through his unique lens. Rabbi Leuchter has the uncanny ability to 'just get it' in five different languages and is widely sought after for his innovative approach to growth and spirituality.



SHTAR

Hip-hop, funk, rap, rock, pop, electronica and a hint of Sephardi chazonas? It can only be Shtar. What are the chances of four insanely talented musicians – each carving out their place in the competitive world of professional music – leaving it all to break for a spiritual journey to explore their Jewish heritage in Jerusalem? Well, that's exactly how Shtar was born. Fresh off a UK tour, Shtar's wildly diverse audiences attest to the band's most outstanding ability – to transcend labels and preconceived notions and bring us all together.



RABBI DR SAMUEL LEBENS

Rabbi Dr Samuel Lebens is a senior research fellow in the Philosophy Department at the University of Haifa. Born in England, Rabbi Lebens holds a PhD in metaphysics and logic from the University of London. While studying, he was heavily involved in student politics and a prominent defender of Zionism on British campuses. Rabbi Lebens holds rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Zalman Nechemia Goldberg and chairs the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism. If he had enough spare time, he'd like to be a playwright.



NISSIM BLACK

Nissim Baruch Black (born Damian Jamohl Black) is an acclaimed American rapper and producer from Seattle, Washington. Originally performing under the stage name D Black, he released two albums and was featured on producer Jake One's debut album, *White Van Music* (2008). He's also spent most of his life searching for a place to fit in. From stints in Christianity to Islam, Black tried desperately to find a way of life that resonated with him spiritually. And he found it next door. Having grown up alongside a Jewish community, Black started researching Judaism on the Internet. Today, he and his wife Adina live in Jerusalem, with their children and other members of their extended family.

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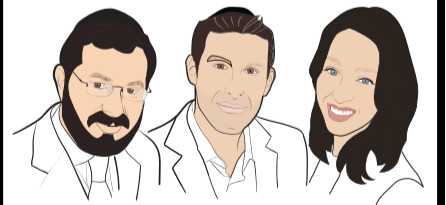
You won't find Torah talks about karate, bling or Jay-Z meeting Moses anywhere else! With awesome tracks tailored to you – you'll get to question, probe and challenge the speakers and their thoughts – they're ready and waiting for a grilling.

From **Charlie Harary**, US investor and professor turned motivational speaker, to **Nissim Black**, US rapper who found spirituality in the Jewish community, and more, the time for Next is Now!

JHB 5 MAR 2017 | 15:00 – 17:00

- 15:00 **CHARLIE HARARY**
TAPPING INTO YOUR INNER GREATNESS
- 15:10 **RABBI BINNY FREEDMAN**
AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN: ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF A JEWISH OFFICER IN A JEWISH ARMY
- 15:20 **RABBI DOV GREENBERG**
HOW 5 POWERFUL WORDS CAN PUT YOU ON THE PATH TO HAPPINESS
- 15:30 **SHTAR**
JAY-Z MEETS MOSES – LIVING AN ANCIENT LIFESTYLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY
- 16:00 **NISSIM BLACK**
LIFE STORY
- 16:10 **KEN SPIRO**
G-D'S HAND IN HISTORY
- 16:20 **RABBI DR ELIMELECH GOLDBERG**
LIGHT BREATHING FOR DARK DAYS
- 16:30 **NILI COUZENS**
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SATURDAY 4 MARCH | DOORS OPEN 20:00



THREE THINGS TO LIVE BY

RABBI DOV GREENBERG, CHARLIE HARARY & NILI COUZENS

Sinai VI kicks off in true Sinai style, as three of our speakers reveal – in 10 minutes each – their three things to live by.

FOLLOWED BY **NISSIM BLACK & SHTAR LIVE**



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Dan's memory lives on in the Torah bearing his name



Photo supplied

Daniel Copans – the young King David pupil who died of cancer in his matric year – will always be remembered because of the Torah that was bought in his honour and named after him. Jews from all over contributed to buy and create Dan's Torah that was, last weekend, escorted by hundreds of Jews through suburban streets to Chabad Savoy. This photograph is of Daniel's father, David, when he went with Rabbi Eitan Ash to collect the Torah in Israel. See page 4.



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What happened to David Ezekiel?

ANT KATZ

A body discovered in an open field in Benoni on the East Rand last week, may well be that of 60-year-old Briton David Ezekiel who went missing earlier in February. However, the body has yet to be formally identified.

Ezekiel, who has been living in Johannesburg for 35 years, disappeared on February 16 and became the subject of an intensive and desperate missing person social media campaign. A body, which is presumed to be that of Ezekiel, was found in the Actonville suburb of Benoni, near the place where Ezekiel had last been sighted.

"There is clear evidence of murder," a reliable source close to the investigation told the Jewish Report on Tuesday, "but police still need to positively identify the body."

Ezekiel, who emigrated to South Africa some 35 years ago, spent most of that time as the catering manager of Our Parents Home in Norwood. For the past three years he has run a handyman service called "Dave's Handyman" and was last seen alive driving away from his home in a gated community in Linksfield, accompanied by two other cars. He was thought to be buying or selling a car.

Senior SA Police Services spokesman Brigadier Vishnu Naidoo confirmed that police had arrested two suspects, a man and a woman, in Actonville. "They appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court on Monday charged with two counts of theft of motor vehicles, general theft and fraud and in connection with the disappearance of Mr Ezekiel." The charges "all relate to property that belonged to Mr Ezekiel", Naidoo said.

The two suspects were remanded in custody until March 8 for a formal bail hearing.

Ezekiel's close-knit family, including two brothers in the UK, his SA-born children Charlane (Charlie) and Jason, both of whom went to King David School, told media in the

UK before the body was found that they were "incredibly worried" over what might have happened to him. They called his disappearance totally out of character.

Charlie, a fashion designer in Los Angeles,

COMMUNITY SECURITY ORGANISATION

MISSING PERSON

Name: David Ezekiel	
Age: 60	Hair: Grey, balding Eyes: Brown
Height: 6ft / 1.8m	Distinguishing features: • Scar on abdomen • British accent
Weight: Heavy set	
Vehicle: Champagne Audi A4 Registration: DAVIDE1 GP	



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had described her father as a "hard working, kind and loyal man".

Charlie told UK media: "He left the house at around 18:00 with two people - an Indian man and woman. We think he went with them to sell two cars, but nothing is set in stone. They went out for dinner and then dropped him... in Benoni."

She said her father, who lived alone, was last seen getting into a car in the Benoni area at around 22:30.

The then concerned family, working with police and the CSO, launched an appeal for witnesses online which was widely shared among the community. They also posted a notice on the SA Missing Persons Facebook page.

Glen Phillips, a long-time friend of Ezekiel, told the Jewish Report that Ezekiel had trained as a chef in the UK, Israel and Europe. He said that the 25-year-old married immigrant arrived in South Africa 35 years ago and began to work at Our Parents Home in Norwood.

"David had been popular and very well liked by the residents" at the home, says the Chevrah Kadisha head of group communications, Tzivia Grauman. Ezekiel left the home for a while and worked at a bakery, only to return to the home in 2008, and finally retiring in 2013.

In 2012, the then-divorced Ezekiel married Bev Pockroy in Pretoria, but that marriage also ended in divorce.

Phillips confirmed that the police were treating the matter as a murder. The case had originally been "handled by the missing persons division, before it was escalated to a murder", he said.

"We are in contact with the authorities and the family," said Isabel Potgieter, spokesman for the British High Commission in South Africa. She told Jewish Report that she was unable to say anything more as it was a consular affair.

Philip Kalmanowitz of the Johannesburg Chevrah Kadisha told Jewish Report that Ezekiel's body was in a mortuary and was undergoing forensic testing. Once it has been released it would be prepared for repatriation to the UK where he will be buried.

Shabbat Times

March 3/5 Adar		
March 4/6 Adar		
Parshat Terumah		
Starts	Ends	
18:15	19:07	Johannesburg
18:15	19:54	Cape Town
18:10	18:59	Durban
18:15	19:18	Bloemfontein
18:15	19:25	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:15	East London

Parsha

Happy people live longer



Parshat Terumah
Rabbi Ari Shishler
Chabad of Strathaven

Forget an apple a day; a smile a day is healthier. This Adar, the month when the Talmud instructs us to increase in joy, consider the health benefits of unbridled joy.

Science has proved that happy people live longer. Laughter relieves stress and joyfulness improves the immune system and relieves pain. Be happy and everything will be fine. Your health will improve, your friends will enjoy your company and your family will like you again.

Ah, but where is the happiness "on"-switch? Read the news - local or international - and you will quickly believe that you will need to lose a few brain cells to be happy in today's world of corruption, anti-

Semitism and family breakdown.

There lies our mistake: We believe that happiness relies on external factors. A 2005 BBC study debunks that notion. They found that, in 1957, 52 per cent of Britons considered themselves "very happy". Half a century later, that figure had declined to only 36 per cent.

Considering that the average Briton is wealthier, more mobile, more connected and entertained than his 50s counterpart, that turns the "if we have more, we'll be happier" theory on its head.

A 2009 study (by the US National Bureau of Economic Research) found that the "liberated" women of today are generally less happy than their pre-feminism contemporaries were 40 years ago. Apparently, freedom and equality don't guarantee happiness any more than money and technology do.

I'd wager that the Jews of the shtetl, who lived in matchboxes and had no running water or sanitation, were, on average, happier and less stressed than their great-grandchildren who have two cars, a robust investment portfolio and platinum Voyager status.

Where do we find happiness? Not in possessions, nor opportunities, but in being

in touch with, and totally comfortable with who we really are: G-d's chosen people.

"Two centuries ago, and the Russian authorities had once again imposed a curfew on the Jewish population. A chosid of R' Aharon of Karlin once felt a strong yearning to see his rebbe. He grabbed a Tehillim and stepped into the cold night, disregarding the curfew. He was soon arrested for having broken the law.

"Despite his failed attempt to visit his rebbe, the chosid refused to feel dejected and began to joyously read Tehillim in his cell. That didn't last long. A warden summarily snatched away his Tehillim book. Still, the chosid would not submit to melancholy.

"They have kept me from my rebbe," he told himself, "and they have taken my Tehillim. But, I am a Jew, and that nobody can take from me!" With a surge of joy, he began to dance and sing. Momentarily, an officer arrived and escorted him from the prison, explaining that the jail was not an insane asylum.

"In high spirits, the chosid charged off to R' Aharon and shared what had transpired. Hearing the story, R' Aharon told him: 'If one is joyous to be a Jew, a part of the Jewish nation, one is rescued from anything!'"

Shabbat Shalom and happy Adar!

Jewish Report

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Sasco's 'directive' on Israel flies in face of open-mindedness

PETER FELDMAN

The South African Students Congress (Sasco) - the biggest student movement in Africa - has "summarily suspended" any Student Representative Council member who went on a recent so-called "propaganda trip" to Israel.

Sasco condemned the trip it labelled "utterly disgusting", claiming it was "aimed at undermining our relations with the Palestinian people and other progressive forces of the Free Palestine Movement".

In the run-up to Israel-Apartheid week, Sasco put out a statement that said: "It has become a norm that the reactionary management and Zionist proponents at Wits lure our members with international trips. We are saying enough is enough with this practice of using our 'conscious' members who are perpetually available to be used by racist Zionists."

"It is for this reason that the provincial executive of Sasco in Gauteng has decided to summarily suspend all SRC members who participated in this propaganda trip."

Klaas Mkgomole, head co-ordinator of Africans For Peace, which organised a students' trip to Israel, hit back by saying Sasco was "opportunistic", and is led by "clowns" who make "fun of themselves". He added that they do not understand the issues at hand. Mkgomole said he would recommend students or any other person with an interest in the Middle East issues, to challenge themselves and take up the opportunity to visit Israel.

"This trip exposes you to both sides of the conflict. Instead of being fed information by people or organisations, it is better to go and get first-hand information."

He accused Sasco of expelling students without undertaking a thorough investigation. "They cannot prove how many members of Sasco went on the recent trip and they are just relying on rumours and assumptions."

These tours are for young leaders at university and graduates who are



A selection of photographs from recent student trips to Israel.



interested in the Middle East and current affairs. They are taken on an educational tour where they are given a full overview of the situation, including the culture, history, geography, politics and people of Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"It works not just with students, but with faith, community, political, business and media leaders."

Neo Mangope, a 23-year-old former law student at North West University, was a member of the recent "Empower ZA Tour", undertaking her first trip to Israel. She spent eight days on the tour.

"I had good impressions and I learned a lot. I came back really empowered and I can confidently say that I can share my understanding of the Israeli-Palestine conflict with my community. But not only did I get a better understanding of the conflict,

but the richness and complexities of the Israeli and Palestine society, their heritage, and the diverse cultures and religions."

Mangope said there was no pressure on her not to go. "I actually wanted to take this tour to Israel, experience it for myself and learn as much as I can. I wanted to get a better understanding as to what we usually hear in the media about Israel and Palestine."

She felt Sasco was being "very petty".

One important thing that she also learned on this trip was not to take sides. "Honestly, if we carry on like this then there will not be any hope for peace for the Israeli-Palestine conflict. I strongly believe that we should rather come up with solutions to help end this conflict."

She said Sasco should "stop buying into the perpetually told lies and propaganda. "People need to be properly informed, she emphasises.

"There are those whose have prejudices and will be blinded to the truth, as has been shown by the Sasco statement."

Ben Swartz, national chairman of the SA Zionist Federation, told Jewish Report that Sasco "fails to grasp a very fundamental and basic tenet of our constitution and of human rights and that is the fundamental freedom of speech and association. It is absolutely astounding the degree to which such 'decree' could be issued."

He said by trying to prevent people from seeing the truth of what exists in reality on the ground in Israel, is the only way those opposed to Israel can perpetuate the hatred and lies."

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Daniel's memory lives on in a special Torah

SUZANNE BELLING

Several hundred Jewish people streamed through the suburban streets of Savoy on Sunday, singing haunting songs of celebration as they accompanied "Dan's Torah" to its new home in the Chabad Savoy Shul.

This Torah was bought for the shul by the Jewish community in the name of Daniel Copans, a phenomenal teenager who died from cancer two years ago, shortly before completing his matric at King David High School Linksfield.

Thousands of people from South Africa, New York, London, Australia and Israel donated towards the Torah, the final letters of which were written by Daniel's twin Adam at the home of Rabbi Eitan Ash, of Chabad Savoy. Rabbi Ash, not only drove this project, but did everything in his power to obtain life-saving treatment from American doctors for Dan, even going with him to New York for medical treatment. Rabbi Ash and Dan went to visit the grave of Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson to daven for Dan's recovery.

"Dan's dream was to have a family and give back to the community and it was my wish that he should stand under a chuppah one day to get married," Rabbi Ash said.

"A Torah represents the whole Jewish world, is the centre of Jewish life and it is always brought into shul under a chuppah. So, a Torah in Dan's name seemed totally appropriate. Also, a Torah lives forever..."

Rabbi Ash, who was with Daniel in New York when he found out that the treatment hadn't been successful, said: "Dan had an amazing effect on people. He changed my life and renewed my commitment to being a rabbi."



"Dan's Torah" is carried triumphantly through the streets of Savoy.

But Daniel, an acclaimed sportsman died just before his 18th birthday surrounded by his family and Rabbi Ash. His brother, Adam, went on to write matric and do exceptionally well in the name of his brother.

Rabbi Ash went on to raise funds for Dan's Torah. At the end of

last year, he, Dan's father, David Copans, and a group from their community, went to Israel to collect the Torah.

Rabbi Ash explained that the Copans family "coloured in" the first letters of the Torah and the rest was almost completed in Israel, with the exception of about 400 letters. "These were filled in by donors, friends and family after we got back."

"On Sunday, the extended community - young old, religious and non-religious - gathered at my house to put the finishing touches to the Torah, with Adam filling in the last two letters, which were an Aleph and a Lamed, which represented their names - Daniel Leib and Adam."

The congregants then marched through the streets of Savoy to the Chabad Shul, holding the Torah aloft under a chuppah "to join the other Sifrei Torah in the shul", Rabbi Ash said. "Dan was never destined to go under the chuppah as a chosson, but the Torah served as a symbol in place of this."

David Copans said the Torah was "a worthwhile tribute by Rabbi Ash. I don't know if I can bring closure to this. The mourning will always be with us. [But] with the Torah we can daven on a weekly basis from it and have Dan's memory in the shul."

Mother Jodi Copans said: "I think it is absolutely amazing that Rabbi Ash has done this for Daniel. He was an amazing kid - he was an absolute hero."

There was music, food and a spirit of celebration, but no one could miss the tears - behind their smiles - shed by his friends and family.

Dan's illness and fortitude were "a life-changing experience for thousands", Rabbi Ash said. "He loved life, he loved people. This Torah is a tribute to him and his whole family."

The congregation davened mincha and went on to the shul in Chabad Savoy for the completion of the service. Traffic came to a standstill as the procession marched through the streets. There were supporters in wheelchairs, the disabled with walking sticks, babies in prams... all to acknowledge the bravery of the young man who would never reach full maturity.

Many more joined the throngs at the shul, where a special service followed. Being Rosh Chodesh Adar added to the spirit of celebration of Dan's short but meaningful life.

"This is a community event for everyone, not just Chabad Savoy," Rabbi Ash said. "Daniel changed so many lives."

Are UK universities starting to Brexit IAW?

ROLENE MARKS

March is a month that Jewish students dread. It is the month that the hate fest known as Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) winds its ugly way onto campuses around the world, bringing with it a climate of bullying, rabid anti-Israel sentiment and sometimes violence.

Jewish students are frightened to attend university during this week and those who do, often do not want to be identified as Jewish or even worse, Zionists.

Most universities hide behind "freedom of speech" when it comes to allowing an event of this kind.

Very often, this "freedom of speech" veers dangerously into hate speech.

But is the trend changing? Anti-Semitism is on the rise and is at levels not seen since prior to the Second World War.

Prior to IAW events in the UK, University Minister Jo Johnson urged universities to stop "intimidation and violence" against Jewish

students. Johnson has written to the chief executives of the representative bodies for higher education institutions, reminding them of their responsibility to ensure students do not suffer "discrimination, harassment or victimisation".

So, has this resulted in UK universities starting to Brexit IAW? So far, four universities have either cancelled events, or IAW altogether. The University of Central Lancashire has identified the threat and the harm that pro-Israel students face and has taken the decision to cancel Israel Apartheid Week on the campus, saying that the event is in fact, unlawful.

"The UK government has formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's new definition of what constitutes anti-Semitism. "We believe the proposed talk contravenes the new definition and furthermore breaches university protocols for such events, where we require assurances of a balanced view or a panel of speakers representing all interests," said the university's spokesperson.

He added: "In this instance our procedures determined that

the proposed event would not be lawful and therefore it will not proceed as planned."

The official definition reads as follows:

"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

This decision has been welcomed by many Israel advocacy groups and is further supported by more and more legislation being introduced in various countries

around the world as they recognise that the BDS movement is less about Palestinian rights than it is about the delegitimisation and eventual destruction of the Jewish state.

Other universities are following suit. The University of Central London has also cancelled IAW "Checkpoint" events.

The UCL is also the university where pro-Israel speaker, Hen Mazzig and his

supporters were subjected to a protest that turned violent last year that some called "the campus pogrom".

Kings College's IAW event organisers have been told they cannot host notorious South African speaker (who has been banned from speaking in France) Farid Esack on campus, but they have moved the venue.

The fourth university is Exeter which has also banned the "Checkpoint" event, saying "it blocks a thoroughfare for students and staff to congregate".

The decision follows national news coverage reporting the discovery of a swastika carved into a door and a "Rights for Whites" sign in the university residence halls. There were reports of anti-Semitic slogans at a social, claiming "the Holocaust was a good time".

Disdain for the BDS movement is growing. University campuses are perhaps the most important frontier still left to conquer. It is here where future opinion leaders and policy makers are bred.

Disdain for the BDS movement is growing. University campuses are perhaps the most important frontier still left to conquer.

Twin brother Adam Copans with the scribe, Yisroel Drutman.



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SA Jewry speaks out on wave of xenophobia



A recent xenophobic incident.

ANT KATZ

Every time 80-year-old Holocaust survivor Irene Fainman sees xenophobic attacks on TV, she is chilled to the bone as she relived her own experience 70 years ago as a refugee in England.

"I was stateless, didn't speak the language, and ostracised by other children," she remembers. "I had nightmares for 35 years," she says. Now, watching xenophobia playing out on the streets of South Africa, she is taken back to a time when she never thought she would ever feel safe as a Jew.

The resurgence of anti-immigrant violence in Gauteng this month has sparked outrage, not least of all from local Jewry who have been critical of the racism and exploitation of refugees.

As Fainman and many of South Africa's elderly Jews - who came to South Africa as refugees from Lithuania, Russia, Germany, Poland, among others - are testament, Jews are no strangers to being "strangers in a strange land". And the people of those lands have not always been welcoming.

The current wave of xenophobia in South Africa has been focused on Pretoria mainly, but also in Johannesburg and other areas around the country. The targets: Undocumented Nigerians, Pakistanis, Zimbabweans, Somalis and others. The perpetrators: Locals who accuse them of perpetuating crime and taking jobs away from them.

Hundreds of these looters - who see it as their "right" to take from foreigners - have been arrested and thousands of refugees have fled their homes and abandoned their businesses.

"There have been serious incidents of arson and looting targeting immigrants in both Johannesburg and Tshwane, while tensions are being further heightened by an upsurge in inflammatory rhetoric, particularly on social media," said Durban-based Alana Baranov, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies' representative on the national Hate Crimes Working Group, in a media statement. "It is crucial that every feasible measure be

taken by the authorities to "prevent the situation from spiralling out of control, as has so tragically happened in the past".

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein said this week: "Xenophobia is like all forms of racism - an affront to the values and principles of the Torah. Our Sages teach in Pirkei Avot, 'Beloved is the human being created in the Image of G-d'. This is a declaration of the oral Torah enshrining the equality of all human beings before G-d.

"The Mishna also teaches that G-d created all human beings to be descended from one common father and one common mother (Adam and Eve) in order to eradicate racism and remind us that all human beings are brothers and sisters."

Irene Fainman and her mother - who were sent to the camps - were the only survivors from her family. "When we were liberated on April 20, 1945, we were sent by the Red Cross to Sweden," she says. The Nazis had revoked their Dutch nationality. After a few weeks at the Red Cross camp, Irene and her mother appeared before a British team tasked with relocation.

Although her mother was a native Briton with nine siblings, she had revoked her UK citizenship for Dutch citizenship. Irene's mother requested that they be allowed to join her family.

England declined. They wanted to send them to Hungary, a country neither had ever seen, and told Irene's mom that she "shouldn't have married a foreigner". An aunt in England hastily

sent a letter to none other than Winston Churchill, says Irene, and they were allowed into England.

Then-nine-year-old Irene Krausz (her maiden name) told of being ostracised as she couldn't speak any English, only Dutch and some German she'd picked up in the camps. On top of it, when the children discovered she was Jewish, it became worse, forcing her mother to home-school her - until they arrived in South Africa.

And now, after so many years, it looks as if history is repeating itself...



Students visiting the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre play with a giant puzzle that forms part of the museum's anti-xenophobia programme.

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South African Jewish Report

A dysfunctional, caring family

We live in a society where dog eats dog and everyone is out there for themselves. That is, other than the Jewish community. Let me rephrase that: Jewish individuals are out there for themselves and their families, but more and more I realise that, despite that, there is an intrinsic kindness and care for community that I don't believe exists in any other community.

We are that kind of community, where we can say terrible things to each other, argue - we do that a lot - because we have such diverse opinions and sometimes not speak to each other for ages, but we will still look after each other. You could say we are a dysfunctional extended family.

There is an African saying that translates into "It takes a village to bring up a child". In our case it takes a community to look after the community.

And we have phenomenal organisations set up to do just that, to make sure that no Jewish person is left without food, a home, an education, a burial, and the list goes on.



When I heard last week about the community having raised funds to buy a Torah in the name of Daniel Copans who died of a very aggressive cancer just before his 18th birthday, it warmed my heart.

But when I heard how his rabbi and community had rallied behind trying to save his life, raising funds to send him to America for treatment, it brought tears to my eyes.

As hundreds of Jewish people followed the brand new "Dan's Torah" to Chabad Savoy Shul, I was just so proud. It wasn't that it was a Torah, but rather how the community stands together and gives of itself for its own and others.

In the same week, the Morris Isaacson School - initially created by Morris Isaacson, a South African educational philanthropist - welcomed Isaacson's grandchild to their school in Soweto, thanking him for what his grandfather did for their community.

They also paid tribute to the late Mendel Kaplan for donating the Centre of Music adjacent to this school. These are just two of so many of South Africa's philanthropic Jewish people. They weren't just looking after their own, they were helping those outside of the community who were in need.

I could pay tribute to all the phenomenal wealthy big-time philanthropists, but that isn't what this is about. It isn't about the thousands and millions of rands, it is about the giving of time, money and energy for others, that I would like to believe is in our genes.

Some people say that Jewish people make a game of making money. That in itself is their challenge, rather than producing something to sell because it is a necessity.

I don't really care why people make money, but I do care that they take some of that money and give it to people who really need it. If they do that, then no matter how much money they have, I salute them.

Whether it is for a child who needs money to get to America for cancer treatment or for a child who needs money to get an education, those people who put their hands in their pockets and give, are good people in my books.

For those people who can't afford to give much, but still give something to someone in need, they are even more impressive.

I remember the late great Bertie Lubner (who also gave of his time to be on the Jewish Report editorial board before my time) telling me that the joy he gets from giving to someone in need is far greater than anything they would get from him.

This week, I had reason to call Hatzolah when my domestic worker needed an ambulance. I looked to my colleagues and they all said: "Call Hatzolah!" But, I said, she isn't Jewish.

Hatzolah gently guided the two of us through the process and, within no time, she was in the safe hands of doctors.

This incredible sense of community and will to help others - financially and otherwise - bowls me over.

How I wish that other powerful people in this country could see how gratifying it is to put community first.

Gremlins

In last week's edition, we erroneously put a headline onto the story about the King David Victory Park #thinkpink drive - in which they cut their hair to make wigs for people with cancer - that referred to CANSA, when it had nothing to do with that organisation. The organisation behind is The Forever Changed Global Awareness Campaign. Apologies!

Should the Hebron shooter be pardoned?



Elor Azaria surrounded by well-wishers.

PAULA SLIER
JERUSALEM

It's the same faces I film every time I cover right-wing demonstrations. And every time they refuse to be interviewed. They regard us journalists as part of the enemy, accuse us of being left-wingers and biased.

Several weeks ago I was accosted by one during a protest in Jerusalem. He kept screaming at me that the Israeli soldier, Elor Azaria, standing trial for killing a Palestinian in Hebron last March, was "one of us" and deserved to be set free. A short time later clashes broke out between these young Azaria supporters and police in front of the Israeli Defence Forces' Tel Aviv headquarters as the 19-year-old army medic's sentence was read out.

The same faces confronted me shouting: "We will not abandon Azaria," and "A soldier who kills a terrorist cannot be a murderer."

Last week Tuesday we were all back again to hear the verdict. Police lined up on one side outside the court; protesters opposite them, and journalists moving between the two.

After an hour, the familiar faces sighed a collective relief as the verdict of 18 months in prison was handed down - the prosecution had been pushing for three-to-five years. But still Azaria's supporters were outraged that there was a sentencing in the first place.

Azaria was found guilty of firing a bullet into the head of Abed al-Fattah al-Sharif, a 21-year-old Palestinian, as he lay wounded on the ground after stabbing an Israeli soldier.

The defence argued that Azaria feared Sharif would attack again, either with a knife or a concealed explosive vest. The prosecution pointed out that Sharif was defenceless as he lay bleeding to death. A good soldier, they charged, does not fire at a helpless, unarmed person - even if he's a terrorist.

The trial captivated the Israeli public and overnight catapulted Azaria into hero status of Israel's Right. But, had his actions not been caught on camera by an NGO, it's doubtful the trial would've made the impact it has, although the issues being brought to the fore remain relevant and divisive.

"I think it's an absolute disgrace," one protester told me, his frustration overcoming his usual reluctance to talk to journalists. "He should be getting a medal of honour, not a sentence. What was his big crime - killing a terrorist? That's exactly what we expect of our soldiers and it's immaterial whether the terrorist was injured or not."

A religious demonstrator added: "In our Torah it is written that if someone comes to kill you, you kill him first."

The outpouring of sympathy for Azaria and the backlash from left-wing Israelis has many comparing the trial with that of OJ Simpson (a former American footballer acquitted of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman) in the United States decades ago.

Just as the OJ trial highlighted the racial divisions and fault lines in American society, the mixed and intense public reaction to this case reveals how sharply split Israeli society

is along deeply divided political and social lines.

Among the many debates stirred, is the question of what it means for soldiers facing similar situations in the future. For those who've strongly condemned Azaria's actions, like Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot, the verdict proves soldiers have to adhere to the rules of engagement and chain of command. But Azaria's supporters accuse the defence establishment of abandoning one of their own, arguing it sends out a damning message that soldiers are alone on the battlefield, with the result that in future they'll second guess their every move.

Azaria is widely regarded as everyone's son; every Israeli can identify with his story and imagine him - or herself - in his position. In the beginning Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood firmly behind the army's decision to

prosecute the so-called "Hebron shooter", but he later softened his stance and controversially phoned Azaria's parents, reassuring them: "As a father of a soldier I understand your distress."

Just as controversially, Netanyahu has said he supports a full pardon (which only President Reuven Rivlin or Brigadier Ronnie Noma, the IDF commander in the West Bank, can implement). It's a view echoed by

several government ministers, among them the Education Minister and leader of the right-wing religious "The Jewish Home" party, Naftali Bennett. He argues that Azaria was sent to defend Israel and if he spends time in prison, "we will all pay the price".

Construction Minister Yoav Galant has appealed: "The IDF has paid a heavy price for this incident and it created unnecessary rifts. What Azaria did was unacceptable, but we must recall that even a soldier who made a mistake, is our soldier... he should have been dealt with within his unit."

The debate triggers wider questions that are relevant in any crime-fighting situation. In South Africa, for example, where there is debate on how far police can go in confronting criminals, and when does the end justify the means, this case perhaps provides some food for thought.

In both situations, there is the rule of law that needs to be upheld - soldiers, policemen, ordinary citizens cannot act how they see fit - and this was the important message the army and defence establishment wanted carried forward.

But where it gets murky is when decisions need to be made on the spur of the moment and those making them are acting from adrenalin and fear while confronting an immediate danger.

Should Azaria be pardoned - and there's no guarantee whether that will happen - the debate will again be ignited. Central to it will be the message this imparts to anyone who finds him/herself in the same situation.

• Paula Slier is the Middle East Bureau Chief of RT, the founder and CEO of NewshoundMedia and the inaugural winner of the *Europcar Woman in Leadership* award of the South African *Absa Jewish Achievers*.

Aliyah – the good, the bad and the meshuga

Benita Levin



The freedom to walk in the streets in your suburb is something most people the world over, take for granted. For us, it's something brand new. Watching our 10-year-old son and nine-year-old daughter leave home in Ra'anana each morning, as they walk or cycle to school, is a novelty. It's something we'd never have allowed in South Africa. Not everyone may agree, but for us, it was a question of safety.

In Johannesburg, we'd drive all of four minutes to get to school each morning. It seemed completely normal then. It's only now, that we realise how bizarre that was. A 10-minute walk to school here is a great start to the day. Cycling - with helmets on - is brilliant exercise.

I'd predicted it would take a few months before the children would be comfortable walking on their own. I couldn't have been more wrong. On their second day at their new school, we were advised our "escorting services" were no longer needed, they knew the way home and would happily walk together. It's a fabulous "new normal".

Earlier this week, my daughter and I went for a walk along the main road in our city. (As a life coach, I often talk about the need to be outdoors, to change one's surroundings and appreciate the power of nature.) It may be winter, but if the sun is out here, we are outdoors.

One of the friendly school moms stopped her car at the traffic light and asked if we needed a lift. I laughed and replied that we weren't going anywhere in particular - we just wanted to walk together, well, because we could.

It takes a while for South African parents to get used to seeing young children getting onto buses as they bop up and down listening to music in their oversized headphones. It's unusual for us to see primary school pupils cross the road alone. It also takes a while to get used

to how many people walk the streets of the city late at night.

Women can be seen pushing prams at 22:00, energetic types can be spotted jogging close to midnight and groups of teenagers can be found on electric bikes at any hour.

The various modes of transport here also take getting used to, after decades of only travelling by car. When heading to Tel Aviv, I've been advised that if one doesn't want to navigate traffic and circle for much sought-after parking in the heart of the business and entertainment centre, you could take a bus (with WiFi on board), take a train (with WiFi on board) or join a car pool.

There are many stark differences for new motorists, besides the obvious one that involves driving on the wrong side of the road:

- Most petrol stations are self-service.
- There are no car guards.
- Roadside parking is often scarce. If you can't find the free allocated parking bay, you can simply use an app on your phone to pay for your spot. That same app can later help you find your car if you've forgotten where you left it.

We recently met a wonderful couple who spend six months of the year in Israel. They told us they don't have a car here, because they love using the buses. The one bus takes them straight to a popular beach in Herzliya Pituach.

The other route they use takes them to the promenade in Tel Aviv. We've met many families who have one car, partly because buying and maintaining vehicles here is very expensive and partly because public transport here is both reliable and safe.

So, part of our journey around the country here will hopefully involve trying out all these types of transport. For now, "these boots are made for walking", and I have a feeling the novelty of this new-found freedom, will last for a very long time...

Favourite new word for the week - Sababa - slang word meaning "great" or "cool".

The phrase heard most often this week - Lama Lo - Why not? (Preferably said while shrugging one's shoulders).

Favourite new life coaching phrase of the

week - "Le'at le'at"- slowly, slowly.

Smile of the week - walking for 30 minutes just to get to your favourite nut shop to buy a packet of delicious, warm, sugar-coated nuts - and then inadvertently finishing them on the walk back. Surely this type of dedication and effort should qualify one as a true local?

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Put on your dancing Jews



Top DJ David Guetta at the Ultra Music Festival.

HOWARD SACKSTEIN

It attracts more young Jews than Habonim and Bnei Akiva camp combined. Despite driving rain, thousands of young Jews poured into the Nasrec showgrounds in Johannesburg last Saturday evening and into the Cape Town Stadium on the Friday, as the Ultra Music Festival, which started in Miami in 1999, rhythmically beat its way into town. The Glenhazel set waited for sunset before lines of Ubers advanced on the area to ferry the hordes of observant youth to worship on the altar of Ultra South Africa.

The mud and rain competed with lasers and smoking robots for the attention of the crowd, as some of the world's greatest DJs took to the stage. Legendary names like Dash Berlin, Martin Garrix and DJ Snake, supported the anointed grandfather of commercial Electronic Dance Music (EDM), David Guetta.

The 49-year-old Guetta - with a Moroccan Jewish father and a Belgian mother - is always claimed as "one of our own". To date, he has sold over nine million albums and more than 30 million singles. In 2011 he was voted the number one DJ in the world, by the populist vote of DJ Mag readers.

In 2013, Billboard Magazine named Guetta's album "When Love Takes Over" as the best dance-pop collaboration of all time.

Guetta has performed in South Africa on a number of occasions and is a regular as the Ultra Music franchise travels the world.

Kim Myers (DJ Kimmi K), who played Ultra South Africa in 2016, says: "I love Guetta, he is a true master of his trade and an entertainer, he is so passionate about music and has also shown such versatility. He has an amazing ability to evolve with the changing music industry."

DJ Jevan Binder of SauBomb describes Guetta as iconic; "he produces anthem after anthem, he has always made sure his songs give the crowd something to sing to, his hooks and melodies are top notch.

"Guetta thrives in the big boom between electronic dance music and pop music."

Says DJ Kimmi K: "I play his tracks in my sets, both old and new. I have followed him for years even pre-2005 where I watched him win Best DJ at the House Music Awards in London. His music will change the music industry for years to come."

Guetta is best known for singles such as "When Love Takes Over", "Sexy Bitch", and his massive collaboration with Sia, "Titanium". His collaboration with the Black Eyed Peas, "I Gotta Feeling", included in the lyrics the words "Mazaltov" and "le' Chaim".

Guetta was not the only Jewish talent at Ultra. Jewish DJ duo SauBomb (Binder and Jason Saus) were a major attraction.

"This year was our third Ultra", explains Binder. "We spend hours gearing up for this festival."

Ultra is special "in the sheer size and scale of the production and the remarkable lineup of international DJs".

DJ Wags (Adam Wagenheim), accountant by day, DJ by night, explains that Ultra is special "in the sheer size and scale of the production and the remarkable lineup of international DJs".

Part of the success of Ultra is its ability to draw in, not just the EDM crowd, but lovers of all forms of dance music, including trance, hip-hop and house. Says Wags: "Music goes through cycles; EDM is coming to an end, but Ultra has evolved to appeal to broader audiences."

The diversity of music genres at Ultra has created an opportunity for inter-generational attendance. Top divorce and criminal lawyer Billy Gundelfinger was spotted with his son-in-law, musical superstar Danny K, at the Cape Town production. Explains Billy: "As my daughter, Lisa is seven and a half months pregnant, I volunteered to accompany Danny. It was well organised and orderly; the music was sensational!"

Binder of SauBomb thanked "the unbelievable management" behind Ultra South Africa, King David Schools alumni Shaun Duvet and Tony Feldman. Duvet himself was a major South African DJ. To misquote Guetta, "I gotta feeling that Ultra was a good good night so to all involved, fill up my cup, mazeltov. Let's paint the town, we'll shut it down."



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NEWSMAKER

Q & A

At the forefront of the youth revolution

Shaun Duvet is the owner and managing director of Ultra South Africa and a King David School alumnus. He has straddled the world of DJ, producer, club-owner, marketer and promoter for close on 15 years and last weekend put on the most successful Ultra in both Cape Town and Johannesburg yet. Howard Sackstein asks the questions.

How big was attendance in Cape Town and Johannesburg?
Over 50 000 people

What is special about Ultra?
Ultra is the world's biggest dance music festival; there are 20 festivals around the world on five continents. Ultra fuses the very best DJ and live act talent from around the world, combined with the best cutting-edge technology stage and production, beautiful dancers and of course all the Ultronauts who come out dancing.

How did you get involved?
I have been involved in dance music for most of my life, from DJing,

promoting and so on... In 2011 we toured Deadmau5 to South Africa which got roughly 30 000 people attending, from then we toured acts Swedish House Mafia, Skrillex, Avicii, Carl Cox, Hardwell and many more. Around 2013 we met the Ultra Miami family and decided to bring the festival to South Africa and put all these amazing DJs on the same stage. We have just completed four years of Ultra and we can't wait to make year five our biggest and best yet!

What is it like working with French DJ David Guetta?
Excellent, extremely professional and lovely guy to work with. David

and his teams know exactly what it is that they want and we do our best to accommodate. He is a professional of the highest regard and I look forward to working together again soon.

What attracts so many people to the Ultra brand?
A lot of heart, love, hard work and energy goes into producing the festival and it all shows in the end. The magic that I feel attracts people to Ultra is the combination of the artists performing, the incredible production, fused with the crowds partying and the fact that it is a global brand. When you put this all together magic happens.

Blue Label pulls off Cell C deal

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Two Jewish entrepreneurs, Brett and Mark Levy of Blue Label Telecoms, have pulled off a stunning coup by reaching an agreement with struggling Cell C, beating off a fierce attempt by Telkom to snatch a deal from under Blue Label Telecoms' noses before this week's deadline.

The Levy brothers in 2007 won the SA Jewish Achiever Award in the non-listed category. Their company has since been listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Brett at the time gave his company's "vision for the future" as follows: "Change the way that communication is being done in all developing countries. I would like to be in 21 countries by the end of 2009, giving all emerging markets the ability to communicate and grow with the rest of the world.

"We are halfway there and our restrictions are rather time to get there than the ability to do the job. We will hopefully be listed in three months' time, which should help our speed to market. All in all, the future looks great." Indeed.

In a statement to investors on Monday afternoon - just one day before a deadline to finalise the deal - Blue

Label said it has reached a "binding umbrella restructure agreement" with Cell C, its debt providers, a third-party investor (presumably Net1 UEPS Technologies) and "other relevant parties".

However, Blue Label said the binding agreement is "subject to the conclusion of the relevant transaction agreements, which agreements are expected to be unconditional by no later than June 30, 2017".

In terms of the agreement, Cell C's net borrowings will be reduced to R6 billion (from more than R20 billion).

The third-party investor, which Blue Label doesn't name (though it's named Net1 in previous communication to shareholders), will subscribe for 15 per cent of Cell C's share capital for R2 billion, while Blue Label will buy 45 per cent of the business for R5,5 billion, the same as

before. The agreement may now have scuppered any hope Telkom had to snatch a last-minute deal to acquire Cell C from under Blue Label's nose. Some of Cell C's lenders - believed to include Chinese and South African banks - are said to have shopped around for interest from other parties. This prompted Telkom to lodge a "proposal" with Cell C's board, which the board last week rejected out of hand.



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Chevrah Kadisha

Nissim Black finds spiritual answers in his Judaism

SIMON APFEL

Nissim Black wears his heart on his sleeve. That heart, like everything about him, is warm and large, and that sleeve is on a black, silk chassidic caftan - far removed from the oversized T-shirts, baggy tracksuit bottoms, and bling he sported on his first foray into hip-hop, yet worn with the same air of unquestionable cool.

Over the course of a decade, Black has swapped his low-hanging gold chains for lower-hanging tzitzit with twists of blue tekhelet. His designer shades have morphed into a pair of studious thick-rimmed spectacles. His red baseball cap set iconoclastically askew has become an enormous skull-spanning black velvet kippah.

His face is still a wonderful cherubic orb, but the menacing scowl he engineered for his first album cover, has relaxed into a warm, beatific grin.

The artist formerly known as D.Black is now known as Nissim. And as we chat it becomes abundantly clear that his transformation isn't merely surface deep.

Damian Black was born and raised a Sunni Muslim to Seattle hip-hop pioneers James Croone and Mia Black. Any early religious identity was tenuous at best. "I was whatever my grandfather told me I was," he says.

A protégé of Seattle rap legend Vitamin D, "D.Black" put out his first album at the age of 19 and was promptly described by the Seattle Times as "Seattle hip-hop's first son, the mini-wrecking ball with a golden voice".

By that time, encouraged by friends in the industry, he had converted to Christianity. I've always been spiritual, a seeker," says Black, "and Christianity opened up new ideas to me."

In his early 20s he became disillusioned with traditional Christian beliefs and moved onto a more Messianic strain, coinciding with the release of his second album, "Ali'yah", in 2009, which received extensive airplay on MTV, and which one critic described as "the hip-hop version of church - except you don't feel like you're being preached to".

But Messianic Judaism proved

unsatisfying, too. "I read through the Tanach twice, and I couldn't get into Christianity anymore," Black recalls. "I would ask questions about Christianity and be shut down. You have to accept everything in faith. I just wanted to find the truth for myself."

This "search for authenticity" as he describes it, was how he discovered Judaism.

"I looked into the origins of Islam and Christianity, tracing them back to the roots. And after digging up both I found Judaism there. This was ancient, untampered-with wisdom, and it really resonated with me.

"For the first time, I felt a connection with Torah. I became fascinated with halacha."

He was especially moved by Judaism's openness. "Questions are encouraged. If there's an issue, something that seems difficult or doesn't appear to make sense, Jews want to explore it, wrestle with it. I wanted to be a part of that."

Today the transformation is complete. Black and his wife Adina, having converted together through a

local Sephardi synagogue, now live in Jerusalem. And after a brief hiatus, he has returned to his first love - hip-hop.

"In life it's so important to innovate, reinvent and renew ourselves; to never become complacent..."

Ditching the stage name and gangsta-rap lyrics, Black's current music is infused with Torah ideas and imagery - in particular the spiritual teachings of Breslev rabbis Shalom Arush and Lazer Brody.

These days he's more likely to be found performing for Jewish teens than at iconic festivals like Bumbershoot and the Capitol Hill Block Party.

Black was recently brought out by Bnei Akiva to perform at the youth group's December camp. It wasn't quite what he expected.

"It wasn't like 'camp' in the US -

this was a serious camping ground, I've never seen anything like it... I felt like I jumped back a few thousand years to Avraham Avinu.

"I don't know what you have to do to get kids to leave civilisation to live in tents in the middle of nowhere - but they came in their hundreds and they were amazing, really inspiring."

He was similarly impressed with the turnout at last weekend's Sinai Indaba in Cape Town.

"I was amazed at the crowds that turned up for what is in essence a mass Torah learning event. The people were warm and receptive, relaxed and open, hungry to learn and be inspired. Most importantly, they laughed at my jokes."

What can Johannesburg expect? His former Seattle rap cohort Lucciauno, who once felt Black was throwing away his talent for religion, puts it this way: "The thing is, he's incredible, man. He had to go through a transformation. I love his new stuff. It's refreshing. It shows that he's not stuck in one box."

Black has a simpler take: "I'll bring what I have in my heart."



Nissim Black wins over an unlikely new demographic of hip-hop fans at Sinai Indaba last Sunday.

Sinai Indaba refreshes and innovates

SIMON APFEL

Sinai Indaba's launch in Cape Town last weekend drew far more young people - school kids and university students alike - than in previous years because many had been unable to attend because of exam commitments. There was a special Sinai Indaba youth track, "Sinai Next", that catered specifically to high-school learners.

For the past six years, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's Sinai Indaba initiative has brought the top international Torah thinkers and personalities to South African shores for this national symposium.

Speakers have ranged from renowned rabbis and rosh yeshivas, to leading academics, artists and entertainers, and the event has routinely drawn audiences in the thousands, bringing together South African Jews of every persuasion - religious, secular, traditional; young and old.

The Cape Town International Convention Centre pulsated, as crowds bustled between

venues, scanning their programmes, animatedly discussing the speakers, embodying the "Unite, Inspire, Discover" ethos.

It was a slick affair. From start to finish, it felt like a high-level academic conference.

The lineup of speakers was probably the most eclectic yet.

Rabbi Dr Elimelech Goldberg, founder of the Kids Kicking Cancer organisation, which teaches breathing techniques and meditation to children battling serious illnesses, ran his audience through the full gamut of emotions in a literally breathtaking seminar that doubled up as a meditation class.

Pop historian Ken Spiro surgically but cheerfully dismantled the recent Unesco resolution on the heritage status of Jerusalem, while his "WorldPerfect" presentation excavated the ancient world to show how the big ideas of a small people form the bedrock of civilisation.

Nili Couzens, fittingly, made her audience feel like family, presenting a series of warm, compassionate talks addressing the challenges

facing the 21st century Jewish woman.

Fellow JWPR torchbearer, Raquel Kirszenbaum, was as warm and welcoming as the Panamanian weather, her words tumbling forth in a torrent of care and concern, warmth and humour, love and gratitude, and with a straightforwardness that was immediately engaging.

There was the elfin Rabbi Dr Sam Lebens, a young analytical philosopher working at the cutting edge of language and logic, who took a surreal trip through the nature of reality by way of the Polish chassidic masters and Harry Potter.

Rabbi Dov Greenberg showed why he is one the most popular campus rabbis in the world, as he presented profound Torah teachings in a practical, down-to-earth manner, demonstrating their deep relevance to contemporary life. And Rabbi Reuven Leuchter, one of the great mussar masters of this generation, was a towering presence (and a surprise favourite among the young people), delivering piercing, pathbreaking insights on

human nature and personal development.

Johannesburg has more to look forward to, with motivational guru, Charlie Harary, JPost editor and military pundit, Yaakov Katz, and popular rosh yeshiva Binny Freedman, added to the bill, along with Jewish funk-rockers, Shtar.

In her closing address, Couzens called Rabbi Goldstein a "spiritual entrepreneur" and "true visionary", and paid tribute to the South African Jewish community.

"I don't know any place on the planet where anything like this happens - that thousands of Jews get together for a pure learning experience."

Rabbi Goldstein said: "The message of Sinai Indaba is that in life it's so important to innovate, reinvent and renew ourselves; to never become complacent.

"How can we do things differently? How can we find more avenues for connection? How can we grow as people? How can we bring renewed energy and excitement into our lives and shrug off the stale and empty, the boring and tired?"

DA MPs agree that SA Jews have a good, positive story to tell

**TALI FEINBERG
CAPE TOWN**

“South Africans need to know their history, and the local Jewish community has a very important role to play in this, making others aware of the dangers of prejudice,” says DA member of parliament George Michalakis.

Michalakis was part of the Democratic Alliance caucus’ visit to the South African Jewish Museum in Cape Town recently. It was the first of many visits planned for politicians from across the spectrum.

The DA parliamentarians were hosted by the museum and the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

“It is absolutely vital that we ask all our members of parliament to visit the Jewish Museum to fully understand the background of the South African Jewish community. This gives the MPs excellent insight into what a minority community has done and will continue to do for the building of the future of this country,” said MP Michael Bagraim (shadow deputy minister of labour), who conceptualised the visit.

“It was fantastic that we had 41 MPs altogether at the Jewish Museum who absolutely cherished the visit. The majority of them said that they want to come back and it was interesting to hear how many false perceptions have been created about the Jewish community and its history.

“The members of parliament are the country’s most senior representatives and it is particularly within the mandate of the Board of Deputies to engage with all echelons of society,” said Bagraim.

“The Jewish community is immersed in values of social justice and mutual support,” Joshua Hovsha (executive director of the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies) said.

Juanita Terblanche (shadow deputy minister of science and technology) said: “Visiting this museum is essential for every South African. In this tumultuous time we need to learn about other minority groups.”

She also expressed her admiration for the Jewish community in general, particularly the way it cares for those with both mental and physical disabilities. Ross Purdon



Gavin Morris, director of the SA Jewish Museum, taking Tim Brauterseht; Manny De Freitas and Dr Allan Grootboom of the DA, on a tour.

(deputy shadow minister of water and environmental affairs) commented that the visit was “a great opportunity to honour the Jewish community and its contribution to South Africa”.

He commended the school visits that are part of the museum’s educational work and said that such visits should be a model that is replicated in other museums, both for learners and adult groups.

“Visits like this one are our main focus,” said SAJM Director Gavin Morris. “We aim to demystify our community, share our story and build an understanding of Jewish life and culture in South Africa. We are a community among communities.”

Harvard professor prophesies economic doom under Trump

STEVEN GRUZD

The global economy is headed for turbulence in the Donald Trump era and his plans to bring back manufacturing jobs to the US won’t work, according to Robert Lawrence, professor of trade and investment at Harvard’s Kennedy School.

Lawrence spoke at a fundraiser for the King David Schools Foundation at Investec in Sandton on Tuesday morning.

This “Dynamic Davidian” matriculated from King David Linksfield as head boy in 1965. His illustrious CV includes sitting on a council of economic advisers to US President Bill Clinton, and giving trade advice to Thabo Mbeki and Trevor Manuel through the “Harvard Group” of economists. He is a regular drawcard at Davos.

“Trump ran on a platform with lots of rhetoric and very few specifics,” Lawrence said. He added that Trump’s narrative about America’s economic problems, and how he could solve them, was a tale of falling employment in manufacturing, especially for older, less educated white males.

Trump blames the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Mexico, and China’s entry into the World Trade Organisation.

“Disenchanted Germans in the 1930s blamed their troubles on the Jews. Trade agreements are Donald Trump’s ‘Jews,’” Lawrence said. Older Trump supporters bought his explanation, and the power balance shifted in the deindustrialised rust-belt battleground states. Lawrence sought a deeper explanation. Manufacturing job losses predate NAFTA. There have been productivity gains, falling food prices and manufacturing job erosion across the developed world, and those countries didn’t sign NAFTA.

Today, products from iPhones to Boeings are not made in single countries; their components

come from across the globe. So even if at most 1,5 million manufacturing jobs returned to America, it’s not enough to change the big structural problems.

Lawrence sees “a tremendous battle looming” with lobbyists who have taken advantage of special deductions from high corporate tax rates. Republicans’ proposals to tax products where they are produced, will impose tariffs and punish those manufacturing abroad. He noted how Trump threatens corporations on Twitter, and claims victory when they reverse decisions to invest offshore.

“It’s very dangerous if US policy is based on the president’s opinion, on whether he likes what a company does or not. We need rules,” Lawrence said. “But the rules of the game are unclear now. We’re on the verge of huge disruptions, in industries from automobiles to aerospace to textiles.”

Lawrence now sees “a replay of Reaganomics, with increased military spending and tax cuts, which means a ballooning deficit and rising interest rates”. As the dollar strengthens, borrower countries face rising debt burdens, which in turn will squeeze Western financial institutions.

He noted how protectionism and high tariffs in the 1930s provoked a trade war. “America First” means others will say ‘Us First’ as well... markets are on a sugar high, expecting big tax cuts and weaker regulation, but this optimism is most likely to wane.”

Is there a silver lining? He acknowledged the need to spend on crumbling infrastructure, an area where Congress stymied Barack Obama. He also agreed with Trump proposals to allow healthcare insurance to be purchased from another US state, and bargaining over pharmaceutical prices.

Lawrence said: “At least we know who’s in charge, and who to blame - a Republican president and Congress.”

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ChevrahKadisha

SA plays its part in Israel's booming tourism figures

ANT KATZ

The number of South African tourists travelling to Israel in January this year was up four per cent on the month of January and eight per cent on January 2015. This plays a small, but important part in Israel's best January tourism arrivals in history.

Incoming tourism statistics to Israel in January increased by 27 per cent over January 2016, with a record number of 210 000 tourist arrivals. January, being mid-winter, is a historically low month for tourism in Israel. Many Christian tourists arrive in December to be in the country over Christmas, but stay well into January.

South Africa represented 35 per cent of all African tourist arrivals to Israel, while, in turn, Israelis represent a whopping 49 per cent of all Middle East tourists coming to South Africa.

Israel's Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, said: "For the last few consecutive months, we have witnessed record figures in

incoming tourism to Israel."

This is no coincidence, said Levin, but rather it was the result of policy. "The marketing activities and the steps that we are taking to brand Israel in the campaign 'Two Cities One Break' are proving themselves time after time.

"The dramatic increase teaches us that Israel is seen as an attractive and varied tourism destination. I am convinced that if we continue on this path, we will see additional, significant increases in the future."

South African tourist arrivals in Israel in January this year (at exactly 1 000) represented 35 per cent of all African arrivals (2 900) enhancing South Africa's long-established position as Israel's largest incoming tourist contingent on the continent.

Conversely, the latest annual report from Statistics South Africa (Stats-SA) on tourist arrivals in South Africa during 2015, published in April last year, shows that



Israeli tourists to South Africa represented a whopping 49 per cent of all arrivals from the Middle East.

A total of 39 482 Middle Eastern tourists arrived in the country in 2015, with 19 244 arriving from Israel. The peak month of tourist arrivals from Israel in 2015 was September, when 2 526 Israeli visitors came into the country.

The 210 000 tourist entries recorded in Israel during January 2017, was a 27 per cent increase on the 165 000 arrivals in January last year and 25 per cent more than in January 2015.

In all 188 200 tourists arrived in Israel by air in January 2017, 23 per cent up on January 2016. A further 22 000 entered through the land borders, 76 per cent up on last year's figure.

Minister Levin says that Turkey, after a hiatus of several years, is returning

as a competitor in the international Mediterranean tourism market. Yariv Levin met with his counterpart the Turkish Tourism Minister Navi Avci earlier this year, as well as with other tourism ministers and leading figures in the global tourism industry who were in Israel to participate in an international tourism conference.

The Tourism Ministry consistently arranges new activities to encourage incoming and domestic tourism, including the second Tourism Ministry "hackathon". This is a competition aimed at developing useful tourism apps using data provided by the ministry.

The competition was won by the app Livetrip, which allows tourists to locate attractions, restaurants, etc on a map and watch short videos. The developer won NIS 10 000 (R35 000 at today's exchange rate).

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Jewish Report

Israel Encounter programme may be in peril over sponsorship

One of the flagship projects of the Jewish Agency for Israel may be forced to shut down after one more round, as their funding expires after this year-end Encounter experience.

After going for nine years and having facilitated around 1 600 southern African Jewish teenagers visiting Israel for the first time, the Israel Encounter programme is in dire peril of having to close shop after one more trip over the 2017/2018 year.

Israel Encounter is an exclusive project for South African youth, initiated by South African Jewish philanthropist, Mendel Kaplan, whose vision was to see that every southern African Jew would have an opportunity to visit Israel before their 18th birthday.

To implement this vision, Kaplan donated "several million dollars", says Jewish Agency shaliach, Aviad Sela. This was to kick off the project and fund it for a decade, covering 100 per cent of the ground costs in Israel.

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JA), through its Israel Centres in Johannesburg and Cape Town, implemented Kaplan's vision and runs the programme. For the past nine years, between youth movement camps returning and schools opening, between 150 and 200 youngsters travel on Encounter - around 1 600 to date.

Says Sela: "It makes Israel real for them. They visit, feel, taste and smell Israel." They become "connected in the most fundamental way. They touch the sand and the stones."

Over the past December/January there were five separate Encounter groups who mostly went for 12 days, accompanied by local teachers and joined on the other side by a tour guide.

For the more observant there were separate boys' and girls' groups; there was a large Cape Town group, a mixed group and a specific Yeshiva College Kfar group - the last one being a six-week trip.

"What we have seen over the past nine years," says Sela, is that Encounter has connected South African youth to Israel in a multitude of layers:

- They understand the components of their identity; it becomes real and not abstract.
- "It creates the understanding of the dream," says Sela. Local Jewry understands why Israel is important as a collective community, but not about how Israel has created large numbers of gap-year projects to allow teenagers to spend meaningful time in Israel.
- Encounter scholars all come back much more "connected in terms of values", says Sela and this understanding of "the collective peoplehood of the Jewish people and the importance of there always being an Israel, allows them to become more active members of the community".

They realise that being Jewish is not simply a religion, he says, but also Zionism, culture (reminding them that Israel is a centre of who we are) and knowing that they have a home in Israel should they ever want to study there, or make aliyah.

"I strongly believe that Mendel Kaplan's vision has borne enormous fruit," said Sela, but the programme must now find a replacement sponsor in the next 12 months or so, or else the upcoming 10th year will be their last.

Sela is actively seeking new sponsors.

Jewish leaders laud Bibi's Oz visit - but protesters call him 'a war criminal'



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop talks to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

OWN CORRESPONDENT SYDNEY

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu concluded a highly successful five-day visit to Australia last week, being feted by his Australian counterpart, Malcolm Turnbull and having an in-depth discussion with Australia's foreign minister, Julie Bishop on a wide range of topics.

Jewish community leaders in Australia lauded the visit as a breakthrough and applauded Turnbull's remark that his country would have voted against the controversial December UN Security Council resolution, condemning Israel's recent moves to extend settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The reaction by the Jewish leaders to the visit was overwhelmingly positive - a once in a lifetime occasion - and called "a morale booster".

In a synagogue meeting Netanyahu addressed more than 2 000 cheering Jewish guests.

As could be expected, the Australian media focused on the settlement issue - with the US for the first time having abstained in the December Security Council vote of censure. But the Israeli and Australian leaders discussed wide-ranging bilateral arrangements and synergies. The mood was warm and sympathetic, and Netanyahu's warning of the "bad Iran nuclear deal" signed by the Obama administration, touched a sympathetic nerve Down Under.

Australia was one of a handful of countries to speak out against the Security Council resolution, calling it "one sided" and "deeply unsettling".

Netanyahu praised Australia's stance, saying: "Australia's been courageously willing to puncture UN hypocrisy, more than once."

The Israeli prime minister, at a joint news conference, pointed out that he was Israel's first prime minister to officially visit Australia. "It's been a long time coming," he said. "It celebrates, really, a hundred years of friendship of Australia to the Jewish people and their state."

But Netanyahu's visit has also generated some pushback with 60 notable Australians signing a letter opposing it because of "Israel's policies toward the Palestinians".

Ahead of Netanyahu's arrival last week Wednesday, some 60 business leaders, academics, members of the clergy and former politicians signed the letter saying Australia should not welcome Netanyahu, claiming his policies "provoke, intimidate and oppress" the Palestinians.

Last week Thursday several hundred pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated in Sydney against the visit, branding Netanyahu a "war criminal".

Pro-Palestinian author and Australian lawyer Randa Abdel-Fattah told AFP: "We are here to oppose Australia's support for Israel, for a racist apartheid nation. It's

disgusting to see that some of our Australian leaders have rolled out the red carpet and welcomed a war criminal into Australia," she said.

"But there are so many Australians who are against this and we are raising our voices loudly and clearly today, to say to Malcolm Turnbull, and Julie Bishop: 'Not in our name,'" she added.

On the "two-state solution", Turnbull said Australia's position "is exactly the same as it has been for many years".

The goal of two states as a permanent Middle East peace solution, something Netanyahu seems to be at best lukewarm about, US President Donald Trump recently also seemed to call into question, alluding to it as one of several options.

Turnbull added: "We support an outcome which has two states where Israelis, the Israeli people, the Palestinian people live side by side as a result of direct negotiations between them."

But he added: "You cannot expect any Israeli government to put itself in a position where its security is at risk, where its citizens are not safe."

Netanyahu's visit came as Australia's support of Israel faces increasing scrutiny domestically. Bill Shorten, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, who is also supportive of Israel, is facing pressure to declare his party's official position as backing recognition of a state of Palestine.

In last week Wednesday's public remarks, the two leaders highlighted the nations' ties. Turnbull cited a new agreement on technology and innovation and work on a deal for direct air travel between the countries. Trade between the two now totals about 1,3 billion Australian dollars, or about \$1 billion, a year.

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Morris Isaacson School – the legacy lives on

SUZANNE BELLING

Sixty-one years after the founding of the Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto - synonymous with the start of the Soweto Uprising in 1976 – Isaacson's grandson, Kevin, came to Johannesburg from Israel to see the school and his grandfather's legacy for himself.

Morris Isaacson had been an immigrant from Lithuania who arrived in South Africa in 1896. He became wealthy through trading and set up a fund for black students to complete their education to university level. He then funded the school - now a government secondary school - which was named after him.

When the school was opened, Morris Isaacson gave sufficient money to build 10 classrooms. It initially had 300 learners and was then called the Mohloding School.

In June 1976, the SA Police tried to arrest Enos Ngutshane at Naledi High School. He was the local leader of the South African Students' Movement and had sent a letter to the government complaining about the imposition of Afrikaans as a language medium in the schools.

The police failed to arrest him; they were stoned and a car was set on fire by the learners. On June 16, learners congregated at Naledi School to walk to the Morris Isaacson School in Jabavu. They at first wanted to gather at Orlando Stadium, but the police arrived and schoolchildren were shot and killed - 23 on the first day of the Uprising. Thus, Morris Isaacson High School became indelibly etched into the collective psyche of South African history.

After Nelson Mandela was democratically elected president of South Africa in 1994, he visited the Morris Isaacson School to celebrate and pay tribute to the school's role in the Soweto Uprising and the country's transformation.

The visitors on Monday - Kevin Isaacson, his wife Dr Atara Isaacson, accompanied by close family friend, former Chief Justice of Swaziland



Kevin Isaacson and his wife Dr Atara Isaacson, being presented with a gift by grade 12 learner, Realeboga Maphalala.

Photo: Lilly Harmse

Stanley Sapire - felt being at the school was "probably a way of closing a circle", according to Kevin.

Born in South Africa, Kevin has not been back to the country for 50 years.

"What triggered the visit was that my father passed away last year and I didn't know much about what happened back then."

Impressed with the school's infrastructure, teachers, the children, and the way they looked, he said this was very different from the schools in Israel.

"We were curious to see how the school fits into Africa. In South Africa, we see the wonderful scenery, the views - and then the reality in other parts."

The best investment was good education, he remarked. His grandfather gave the [educational] cause "top priority".

"He was very far thinking in those days." Morris had used his personal wealth and a positive outlook "and it is satisfying to see this is still ongoing. This community wants to be successful and to make this a better place for the younger generation."

Education was the key to solving many problems. It provided a better chance in any field.

"It is very warming for us to come here and see all the devotion and the challenges you are dealing with on a daily basis, to get a sense of achievement of things that have

happened over the years. Principal Steven Khanyile outlined the achievements of the school, "which is not currently the best in the community, but is moving towards it".

The school excelled at most sports and was one of the best in debating.

Morris Isaacson High was endeavouring to establish relationships with different communities to take the school to greater heights.

Being a school in a township, however, had many challenges such as the scourge of drugs "which are 'normal' in almost all communities" and making sure that a learner, who is a product of Morris Isaacson, understands how important it is to turn away from drugs.

Discipline was another important issue. "We are trying our level best to show these learners how important it is to be disciplined, respectful and to take care of other people."

Security was also a concern "to make sure that whoever is inside is safe... We are reaching a point where we have to turn our school into a jail."

Khanyile was aiming to build a wall around the school - ("not a Donald Trump wall", he quipped) in relation to what was happening outside.

On a positive note, Khanyile said that the school was furthering the legacy of Morris Isaacson and was ready to take issues to another level.

'Sounds of Summer' raises much-needed funds

OWN CORRESPONDENT

A four-acre bushveld garden in the heart of the Sandton concrete jungle is hard to imagine. Alongside a road that during the week is bumper to bumper with rush hour traffic, an "idyllic paradise" exists. Across the road from Sandton City, in the private garden of Debbie and Ivor Ichikowitz, the Union of Jewish Women last Sunday held their "Sounds of Summer" fundraiser, celebrating art, music and nature.

The leafy garden is host to magnificent outdoor sculptures made by many of South Africa's top artists.

Guests relaxed among an oasis of trees, ponds, aloes and indigenous plants and grasses. Light music, refreshments and tours of the art garden were the fare on offer by the Union of Jewish Women.



Debbie and Ivor Ichikowitz in their garden.

Part of the UJW's ethos is to boost morale, uplift the community, improve lives and do good in the world.

Everyone who attended the "Sounds of Summer" event helped to fundraise for the Union's charitable and outreach projects. The Union relies on fundraising events, membership fees and donations.

Its projects include Kosher Mobile Meals that provide healthy cooked food to elderly members of the Jewish community.

For the broader community there are feeding schemes in Baragwanath, Hillbrow and Hammanskraal. The UJW runs sewing schools, vegetable gardens, and educational upliftment projects.

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Farewell to South Africa's unsung 'Mr Chips'

At his son's wedding: Keith and Jonathan Kleinot.

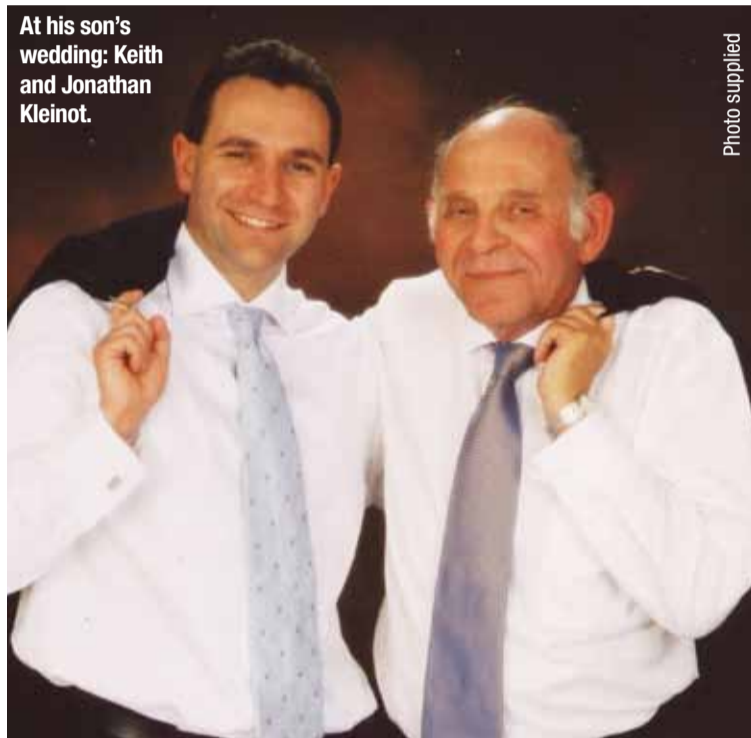


Photo supplied

SUZANNE BELLING

Keith Kleinot was South Africa's own version of "Mr Chips", an old-fashioned schoolteacher who devoted over 20 years of his career to teaching at an impoverished school in Soweto.

Kleinot - who died last month - loved teaching at Lovella High and spurned the bureaucracy prevalent in many white schools during the apartheid era.

"He was your typical 'Mr Chips' [from the well-known book by James Hilton and subsequent movie, 'Goodbye, Mr Chips'], leaving home just after seven each morning and returning after three, facing the dangers prevalent in the townships and meeting other teachers outside Soweto to be driven to and from the school in an armoured vehicle," said his widow, Rachel Kleinot, an attorney by profession.

She used to worry about him until the telephone would ring. "Rochie, I'm on my way home," he would say. Keith was "eccentric, quick-tempered and always a liberal", earning the love of his pupils, many of whom stayed in contact with him long after his retirement.

"Some of them went on to have successful careers, several in the municipality and one even became a dentist.

"His children (in the school) had nothing, but they were always laughing and singing. They were happy and loved

him," Rachel said. "Although they had no playground and only a school building, the children, although deprived, were happy."

After the first democratic elections in 1994, Keith was the only white teacher left at the school. "There were no more bullet-proof vehicles and Keith had to make his own way to and from Lovella.

"There were many hair-raising incidents - theft from outsiders, chased by tsotsis when driving in and out of Soweto and even knife fights with a class from a rival school. There was also a hold-up in the toilets. It was not the children from Keith's school, but outsiders who were the culprits.

"One day Keith arrived to find the whole class missing. They had gone to the other school to continue a fight. Then they were back the next day as if nothing happened."

Keith's colleagues used to visit him at the Kleinots' home in Highlands North and have meals there. But the children did not venture out of Soweto.

"They really appreciated him," said Rachel, who still practices law part time. "I miss that daily call, saying I am on my way home."

Their son Jonathan lives in England, and their daughter Karen works for the CCMA (Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration) and lives in Cape Town. They have three grandchildren.

DONALD TRUMP COULD TURN OUT TO BE ISRAEL'S WORST NIGHTMARE

"I am the least anti-Semitic person that you've ever seen in your entire life." A disturbing response from President Donald Trump to a question at a recent media conference from Jake Turx, a journalist from the ultra-Orthodox Jewish publication, Ami Magazine. A disquieting response because Turx's question wasn't about the president, but rather what was being done about "an uptick in anti-Semitism [in the US] and how the government is planning to take care of it".

It was alarming when Trump chose to respond: I am the least anti-Semitic person... "If he had said: "I am not an anti-Semite," it would not have raised a red flag. Instead he couched his statement by using the word "least"; which simply means he is an anti-Semite, but at the lower rung of the anti-Semitic scale. To put it differently: Trump is a little prejudiced and hostile to Jews, but nevertheless an anti-Semite. His emphasis on "little" is akin to the fallacy of being a "little bit" pregnant.

Trump's obfuscation is consistent with the permissive populist-ridden anti-Semitic sentiment evident in his campaign. In the last days prior to the election, the Trump campaign published an ad using standard anti-Semitic themes - readily identifiable Jewish figures, and established anti-Semitic vocabulary - money, power and "global special interests".

It was an ad intended to appeal to anti-Semites and spread anti-Semitic ideas. It was intentional inasmuch as Trump's campaign manager, Steve

Bannon, orchestrated it - a die-hard anti-Semite, and currently Trump's top adviser in the White House. There are those who would argue that Trump is blind to anti-Semitism inasmuch as his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is a Jew, and his wife Ivanka - Trump's daughter - converted to Judaism. Unpersuasive at best, as Kushner appears to lack an inner sense of what is right or wrong and in the eyes of anti-Semites distinguishable between good Jews and bad Jews?

When the issue of anti-Semitism was raised by journalists at Trump's media conference, he was clearly uncomfortable with their questions.

He had the opportunity to put matters right in his message on Holocaust Remembrance Day, but failed to do so, even failing to mention Jewish victims. Many believe it was premeditated.

There are those who would argue that Trump is a friend of Israel. During the election campaign he sided with Israel on the expansion of West Bank settlements and relocating the US embassy to Jerusalem. He has since backtracked on both, as well as declaring that the US will no longer insist on the creation of a Palestinian state as part of a peace accord with Israel. This raises a key question: Can Israel trust Trump whose positions on fundamental US-Israeli relations have swung so wildly in a few weeks?

**Errol Horwitz
Cape Town**

HITLER EMOJIS ON SHORTS: OWNER PROTESTING IGNORANCE NO EXCUSE

I'm referring to a story in Jewish Report of January 27, on smiley face emojis that resembled Hitler, on two pairs of shorts in a store of The Lot in Cape Town, which the owner destroyed when she became aware of it.

Journalists need to get their facts straight. I am Tamir Leshem, the one who took the photograph of the Hitler face when I saw it in The Lot in Claremont, and not in the Sea Point branch as reported.

Chloe Sarah Shain is reported to have been the one to alert the Jewish community about the faces. Chloe is my partner and I asked her to write (the story of the Hitler faces) on my behalf to the Jewish community Facebook group because I am an Israeli and needed help to write in English.

It is really sad that the article makes Ashleigh Battle, owner of The Lot chain the victim, rather than facing the fact that she allowed, by negligence, these shorts to be sold.

She is portrayed as a naive victim who cannot be blamed for not knowing what her shop is selling.

In fact, we never even knew that this article was written until recently. What happened to unbiased journalism? What happened to getting consent from those you wrote about? Is that legal?

It seems that Battle somehow managed "to flip the story" to ensure that her business was not compromised. I am a third generation Holocaust survivor; I grew up in a house where the memory of the Holocaust was forever present and forever haunting our daily lives. When I walked into The Lot and saw these shorts, I could not believe that something like this can still happen.



The pain and the humiliation I felt when the shop assistant laughed and said: "Yes, it's Hitler", is something I can't forget.

Maybe the owner was "naïve" and "unaware", but the people working for her were completely aware of what they were selling. This should have been what the article was about.

Lastly, nobody "ran" to Facebook; I consulted the Jewish Board of Deputies first (during the year-end holidays) and they said they could not do anything until their offices opened again in January. It was only then that we went to Facebook and actually, going to Facebook is what put us in touch with the owner (of The Lot) and got the shorts to be removed.

Tamir Leshem, Cape Town

The Jewish Report stands by its story. We did our best to get all the sides - Ed.

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

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

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

Report on 2014 Gaza War slams Netanyahu and military leadership

JERUSALEM - Israel's prime minister, defence minister and army chief of staff, did not update the Security Cabinet about the serious threat of Hamas tunnels from Gaza, the nation's state comptroller said in a report on the 2014 Gaza War.

The Security Cabinet did not have enough information about the threat posed by the tunnels to make decisions about how to proceed during the war, leaving the Israeli military unprepared, Yosef Shapira wrote in the 200-page report released on Tuesday afternoon.

The government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not provide the military with clear objectives for the war and also failed in the one identified objective of what was dubbed Operation Protective Edge - to identify and destroy the tunnels.

According to the report, which also scored then-Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon and former Chief of Staff Benny Gantz, the Israel Defence Forces only destroyed about half the cross-border tunnels.

The report also criticised the Security Cabinet for not holding discussions on and dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, including the collapse of infrastructure including water

and electricity. The comptroller also criticised Netanyahu for failing to consider diplomatic alternatives in Gaza and not presenting such a possibility to the Security Cabinet for its consideration.

In the year-and-a-half prior to the Gaza War, the Security Cabinet held 33 meetings on Gaza, according to the report.

Yaalon called the report "political" and said that it "examines partial aspects of the complex campaign". He also acknowledged that the Security Cabinet at the time was "a superficial, political and populist Cabinet. A Cabinet of leaks, of speaking with two voices - one in the room and one in public."

Netanyahu defended the handling of the Gaza conflict, saying: "The unprecedented quiet that has prevailed since Operation Protective Edge is a test of the results."

Opposition leader Isaac Herzog called on Netanyahu to resign.

"The report clearly reveals how Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Cabinet which he led failed in their role of understanding the threats, setting strategy, understanding the reality, properly preparing soldiers and civilians, particularly residents of the south," he said. (JTA)

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A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Decisive action needed to stop xenophobic violence

During times of heightened xenophobic unrest, particularly in 2008 and 2015, the SAJBD was involved in co-ordinating the Jewish community's humanitarian relief work on behalf of victims.

Above Board
Jeff Katz
National Chairman

While it was heart-warming to witness the extent to which our community rallied to assist in ending the crisis, it goes without saying that we would have preferred that such emergency assistance had not become necessary in the first place. In view of past experience, it follows that in the event of warning signs that a renewed outbreak of xenophobic violence might be imminent, we cannot afford to sit on the sidelines and simply let events unfold. If there is not to be a repetition of past tragedies, effective and timely action is needed.

Following a number of incidents of arson and looting targeting foreign nationals over the past two weeks, there appears to be a possibility that Gauteng may be on the threshold of yet another upsurge in xenophobic violence.

In a press statement, issued shortly before a protest march was due to take place in Tshwane last Friday (which in theory was directed against crime and illegal immigration, but one with clear anti-foreigner undertones), the Board urged the authorities to take decisive action to calm the situation, rather than allowing matters to spiral further out of control.

While noting that political leaders in particular needed to exercise caution and sensitivity when commenting on issues relating to foreign nationals, we stressed that all South Africans, regardless of race, nationality or social backgrounds, had a moral and ethical duty to

do whatever they could to defuse rather than further increase existing tensions.

In addition, we deplored the targeting of people solely on the basis of their country of origin, something which is a betrayal of the humanitarian and democratic values on which our society is based.

Here, at least, all of us can and must contribute by condemning incitement to violence and unfounded accusations against our fellow Africans from other parts of our continent, wherever and whenever it surfaces.

Countering hate with facts and dialogue

The annual anti-Israel propaganda hate fest known as "Israel Apartheid Week" is almost upon us. It is inevitably an unpleasant time for the community, particularly our university students.

The chosen strategy of the other side has always been to demonise and delegitimise both Israel and anyone who dares to speak out on its behalf, rather than to engage in any kind of genuine engagement with the issues.

Standing up for one's beliefs in such an atmosphere is always daunting. In response, the community has over the years developed our own campaign that emphasises the importance of dialogue, education and peace activism aimed at finding solutions, as opposed to IAW's emotive mud-slinging, misinformation and shutting down of debate.

How IAW unfolds this year and what was done to counter it, will probably be the subject of a future column. What I can say now is that as always, SAUJS will be at the frontlines of this battle, and that we are giving them as much practical support as we can.

• 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

World News in Brief

Anti-Semitic incidents rise 16 per cent in Berlin

BERLIN - With a new report noting a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in Berlin, Jewish leaders in the German capital renewed their call for a federal commissioner to deal with the problem.

The Berlin-based Research and Information Office on Anti-Semitism, founded in 2015, reported on Monday that the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the city has risen by 16 per cent in 2016 over the previous year. Most incidents were nonviolent but nonetheless threatening. According to the report, a total of 470 anti-Semitic incidents were reported in Berlin in 2016, including seven physical attacks.

A permanent federal commissioner would help ensure that the government does not drop the ball on fighting anti-Jewish hate, Deidre Berger, head of the American Jewish Committee office in Berlin, said in a statement on Monday.

Berger said, authors of threats hide behind the anonymity of the Internet, creating a general

atmosphere of angst.

That hate must be countered whatever its source, Josef Schuster, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said in a recent address to the State Parliament in Lower Saxony.

Schuster, who also has called for the establishment of a federal commissioner, said it was more important than ever for civil society and political leaders to oppose anti-Semitism and right-wing extremism.

"Initiatives against the far right need our ideological and financial support," and anti-Jewish sentiments among Muslims must also be countered with vigour, Schuster told state legislators, while emphasising that "the Jewish community rejects all forms of anti-Islam hate".

The report also noted 18 verbal threats and 53 cases of damage to Jewish-owned property or Holocaust memorial sites. (JTA)

Muslims who repair vandalised Jewish graves: Are they merely naïve do-gooders?



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

If a Muslim campaign in the United States to raise money for repairing more than 100 Jewish graves vandalised by anti-Semites in St Louis can raise over \$100 000 in just a couple of days, does this indicate that the new emergence of racial hatred in the world can be overcome by ordinary people doing something proactive?

The Jewish headstones were damaged at the historic Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery in St Louis, at the same time as a wave of bomb threats against Jewish community centres across the country.

The Muslims were responding as a goodwill gesture to how Jewish organisations in the past few months had spoken out vehemently against US President Donald Trump's orders against Muslim immigrants coming into the country.

One of the Muslim organisers, Tarek El-Messidi, told an Israeli paper: "You could say there is a silver lining in all the hate that is being directed against Jews and Muslims in America right now, in that it has brought the two communities together."

Are they simply naïve, thinking the world's purveyors of hate and prejudice can be countered by a few do-gooders getting together? Today, we live in the world of "America First" Donald Trump and other leaders who are bringing hatred back into public discourse in the guise of patriotism.

These people are not a new phenomenon - we have seen their type many times in history before.

The new wave of ultra-nationalists arising worldwide claim that they are acting to protect the identity of their own countries and cultures, which they feel are being overrun by foreigners. Last year tensions were stoked as the "Britain First" group held a "Christian patrol" in front of Muslims in the town of Luton through a busy high street, creating heated exchanges with Muslim shopkeepers and passersby.

In South Africa we are seeing a different but related kind of nationalism - the rising again of the xenophobia that flares up from time to time against Africans from other African countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia, Congo.

A recent article in the Huffington Post

referred to a person called Mario Khumalo who has apparently registered a "South Africa First Party" with the Independent Electoral Commission.

He was quoted as saying: "We are not xenophobic but we work in the interest of South Africans. It is about national identity and pride. There is no nationality called African. You are either South African, Angolan or Ethiopian. My [identity document] states that I am a South African, not African."

The new wave of ultra-nationalists arising worldwide claim that they are acting to protect the identity of their own countries and cultures, which they feel are being overrun by foreigners.

Another strange phenomenon of our times is the rise of people in white right-wing circles claiming there is a process of "white genocide" underway. South African singer Steve Hofmeyr is a purveyor of this view, and he is a strong Trump supporter.

The concept of the white populations in Europe and elsewhere being subjected to an onslaught of foreign refugees and immigrants, is one of the ideas that has factored into elections across Europe. Essentially the "political correctness" of the left has been replaced by the "patriotic correctness" of the right.

Will the Trump phenomenon and people of similar ilk run out of steam? The entrenched values of democracy and human rights which have been created in the Western world since the Second World War, cannot be brushed aside so easily.

A recent poll from NBC and the Wall Street Journal shows that Trump's approval rating has fallen to 44 per cent, which is the lowest ever for a new US president so early in his tenure.

Hopefully, that trend will strengthen. Meanwhile, it is crucial that ordinary people do what they can to help the process. Such as what some Jews and Muslims in the United States are doing.

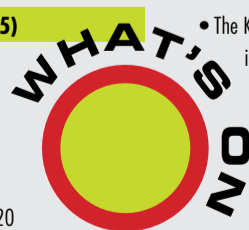
• Read Geoff Sifrin's regular columns on his blog sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com

Friday (March 3)

- UZLC hosts Alexandra Levin on "The Deeper the Sorrow the Stronger the Spirit". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45-14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.
- Lunch hour classical music concerts at the Auto & General Theatre on the Square every Friday at 13:00. No booking. Unreserved seats at R50 (incl coffee and biscuits) available at the box office from 12:30. The Judell Ensemble concert series return with an oboe and piano duet, with Olivier Barrier on oboe and Annalien Ball on piano. Information: Daphne Kuhn or Mika Stefano (011) 883-8606.

Sunday (March 5)

- Second Innings hosts Aubrey Goldsmith on "Managing on Fixed Incomes and Spiralling Costs". Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701.
- The JJAC invites Jewish singles and dating couples between ages 27 - 49 to a screening of West Side Story. Information: E-mail whatson@jjac.co.za or Sheli Berger 082-929-9765.



• The King David Schools' Foundation presents internationally renowned baritone and cantor Colin Schachat in a musical extravaganza and tribute to Elliot Wolf for 50 years of service to King David Schools and Jewish Education. Colin and his son Gabi will be accompanied by the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra conducted by maestro David Sebba. Special guest appearance by South African tenor Given Nkosi and a united King David School Choir. Time: 6pm. Venue: Linder Auditorium. To book call 011 480-4723

Monday (March 6)

- UJW hosts Prof David Bilchitz of the Department

of Public Law at the University of Johannesburg on "Student Issues at UJ". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (March 8)

- Sandton Sinai Primary is hosting an open evening for anyone interested in enrolling for grade R or grade 1 for the 2018 academic year. The evening will also be of interest for general admission enquiries. Information: E-mail info@sandtonsinai.co.za.
- Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosts the opening of the travelling exhibition to commemorate the

"75th Anniversary of the Babi Yar Massacre". Venue: 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens. Time: 18:00. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP Dianne: (021) 462-5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za

Friday (March 10)

- Lunch hour classical music concerts at the Auto & General Theatre on the Square every Friday at 13:00. No booking. Unreserved seats at R50 (incl coffee and biscuits) available at the box office from 12:30. The Wits Trio with Malcolm Nay (piano), Zanta Hofmeyr (violin) and Maciej Lacny (cello) will perform the Schubert Trio in B flat major. Information: Daphne Kuhn or Mika Stefano (011) 883-8606.

Eli Rabinowitz explains Partisan song to KDVP learners



Photo: Yael Gordon
 Back: Rabbi Craig Kacey; Rabbi Mendel Rabinowitz; KDVP Principal Andrew Baker; and Eli Rabinowitz. Front: Jared Greenstein; and Gila Dove.

RABBI MENDEL RABINOWITZ

Jewish genealogy expert Eli Rabinowitz regaled King David High School Victory Park staff and learners last Wednesday with the background to the well-known Partisan song, Zog Nit Keynmol (Never say this is the final road for you).

Rabinowitz explained how this poem, a symbol of defiance and protest, inspired and gave Jews courage to fight against the Nazis. The lyrics come from the poem written by Hirsh Glick in 1943 and then sung to the tune of a Russian song "Terek Cossacks" written in 1937.

Glick's attempt to escape the Vilna Ghetto failed and he was recaptured and executed.

Rabinowitz, born in Cape Town and now living in Perth, is not a Jewish educator by profession. However, his passion for collaborative learning has encouraged thousands of Jews worldwide to benefit and participate from his pursuit on topics of Jewish interest.

Sydenham tots raring to go for Purim



Photo: Y Jacqui Miller

JENNY MILLER

Preparations for the upcoming chag of Purim are well under way at Sydenham Pre-Primary.

King Achashverosh, Queen Vashti, Mordechai, Esther and Haman have all come alive in the classrooms. The children are creating their own megillahs to relate the Purim story and catchy tunes can be heard everywhere as the lyrics tell the story too. The schools middle group experimented with their "Haman" hats and created Shushan (a city in ancient Persia) out of foam building blocks.

Nissim Black enthralled Yeshiva College

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Yeshiva College learners were enthralled and star struck thanks to a visit by black rapper Nissim Black, who found a spiritual home in Orthodoxy. Nissim will be performing at the upcoming Sinai Indaba.

The YC learners spent the morning dancing and singing to Nissim's various hits. Nissim also spoke to the learners about his faith in Hashem and spent time with rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva College, Rabbi Avraham Tanzer.



Photo supplied
 Nissim Black and Rabbi Avraham Tanzer.

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"Over the years of my career in education, one thing has remained constant irrespective of any trends at the time: children need to feel safe and happy to be open to learning," says Melinda Chazen, principal of Sandton Sinai Primary School.

Sandton Sinai recognises that the pace of change is rapid in today's world, and the best we can do to future-proof our children is to ground them in good values, and nurture their inborn curiosity to develop a love of learning.

"We recognise the importance of educating each of our children as the individuals they are, if they are indeed to reach their full potential," Chazen added. With relatively smaller classes, teachers at Sandton Sinai are able to take an individual interest in the intellectual and emotional development of each child.

Sandton Sinai Playschool, Nursery and Primary Schools offer a refreshing outlook on education. A core of good values and life skills is integrated throughout the curriculum of kodesh and general studies. Through this balanced approach, children are instilled with the foundations to become caring, capable and well-adjusted menschen - qualities critical for a successful future.

Sandton Sinai Primary School is hosting an open evening on Wednesday, March 8, for anyone interested in enrolling for grade R or grade 1 for the 2018 academic year.

The evening will also be of interest for general admission enquiries. To find out more, e-mail info@sandtonsinaï.co.za. There will be the opportunity to ask questions and make an appointment to see Sandton Sinai for yourself.

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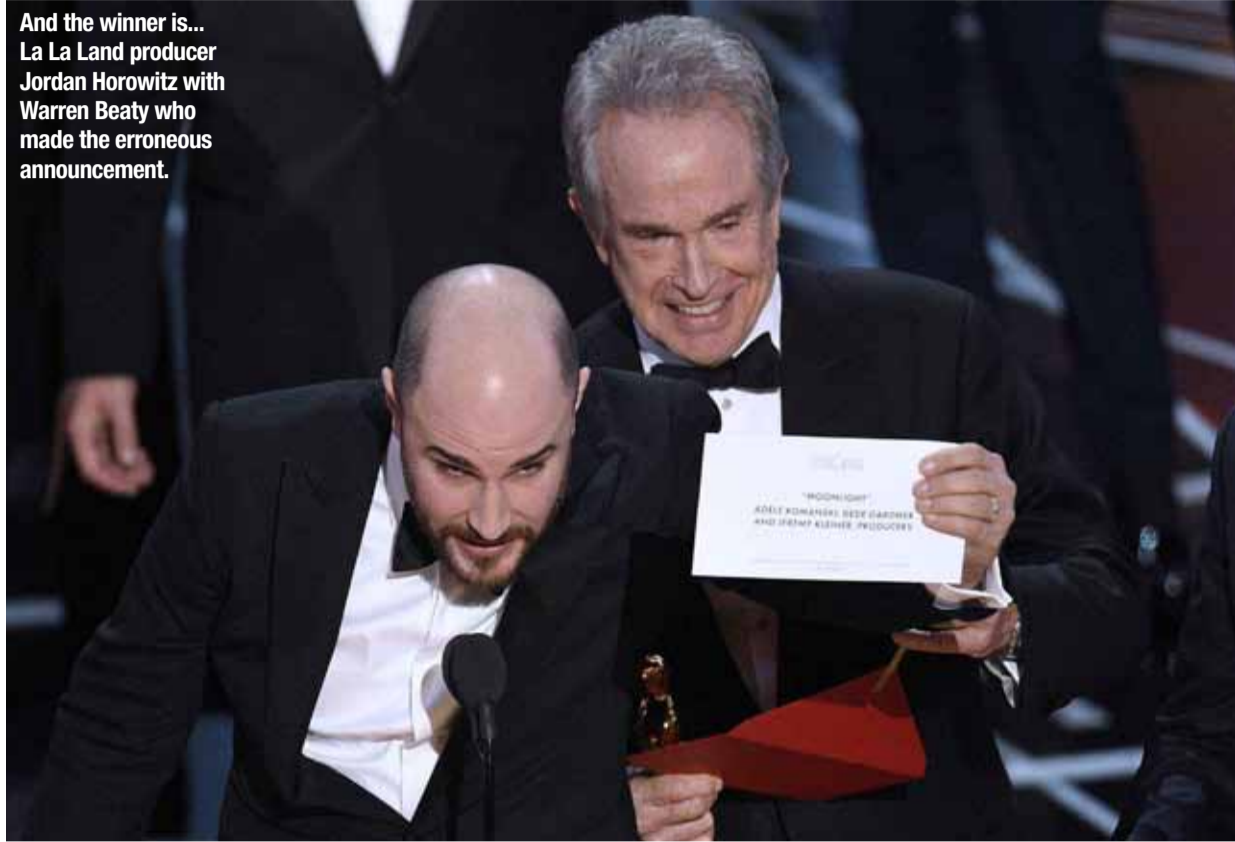
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Jewish 'La La Land' producer takes starring role in Oscars gaffe

And the winner is...
La La Land producer
Jordan Horowitz with
Warren Beatty who
made the erroneous
announcement.



JTA STAFF
LOS ANGELES

In an nominee list peppered with Jewish stars, the happiest one at the Academy Awards 2017 was undoubtedly “Moonlight” producer Jeremy Kleiner, who almost didn’t believe his movie won best picture because of the now historic mistake.

“La La Land”’s Jewish producer Jordan Horowitz was in the midst of his acceptance speech for winning the Best Picture award on Sunday night, when he found out that he and his cast were mistakenly called up by Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty and in fact the winner was “Moonlight”. The presenters had been given the wrong envelope by tabulators PwC.

Horowitz, holding someone else’s statuette, realised the mistake when he was approached onstage by Academy security. “I’m going to be really proud to hand this to my friends from ‘Moonlight’,” Horowitz said, raising the golden Oscar statuette that he

had been handed.

The very Jewish cast of “La La Land” still took home six Oscars, after being nominated for 14, tying the record set by “All About Eve” and “Titanic”.

Emma Stone won Best Actress for her performance in “La La Land”, beating Jewish actresses Natalie Portman and Isabelle Huppert. Casey Affleck won Best Actor for his role in “Manchester By the Sea”; in the category of Best Supporting Actress, Viola Davis won for her role in “Fences”, and Mahershala Ali won for his performance in “Moonlight”.

During his acceptance speech, Ali thanked his teacher Zelda Fichandler, a Jewish stage producer, director and educator, who was chairman of the graduate acting programme and Master Teacher of Acting and Directing at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

Damien Chazelle, who won Best Director for “La La Land”, grew up in a Catholic household

in Princeton, New Jersey, but attended Hebrew school for four years after his parents became dissatisfied with his religious education at a church Sunday school.

Composer Justin Hurwitz, Chazelle’s Jewish roommate at Harvard University, won for Best Original Score and for Best Original song for “City of Stars”, from “La La Land”. Benj Pasek, who is Jewish, and Justin Paul

wrote the song’s lyrics.

Kenneth Lonergan, whose mother and stepfather are Jewish, took home an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay for “Manchester By the Sea”.

Ezra Edelman, who with Caroline Waterlow won in the category Best Documentary Feature for “OJ: Made in America”, is the son of Marian Wright Edelman and Peter Edelman, among the founders of

the New Israel Fund.

“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them”, based on the 2001 book by Harry Potter series author J K Rowling, which features two Jewish characters, took an Oscar in the Best Costume Design category.

Among the actors who died since the last Academy Awards ceremony were Jewish thespians Gene Wilder, Anton Yelchin, and Carrie Fisher.

Oshy Tugendhaft dedicates music to family

PETER FELDMAN

When acclaimed singers Oshy Tugendhaft and Yael sang together at the launch of his latest CD, it was a dream come true for her. While both are celebrated singers in their own right, Tugendhaft is Yael’s uncle and mentor and this was their first stage performance together.

Tugendhaft, a well-known figure in the Jewish community whose passion for singing has taken him to great international heights, launched “Reflections”, his most personal album to date, at the Auto & General Theatre on the Square, in Sandton.

The 13-track CD is dedicated to the loving memory of his late wife Karin and to his children Dalya, David, Jonathan and Aviva.

Yael confided that this was the most moving experience of her life, especially since it was the first time they had performed together in front of family and friends. “It was a dream come true.”

It was also a special moment for Tugendhaft, who said: “It was a very moving experience singing with her. She has a beautiful and empathetic voice and both of us have been trained by Ann Hamblin, so that our musical styles are very easy to combine.”

The highlight of their combined performance was a duet of Leonard Cohen’s emotive “Dance Me To The End of Love” and “En Aranjuez Con Tu Amor”.

Yael also duets with her uncle on his album, but her own album, “Fly



Oshy Tugendhaft with Black Yogurt’s Donovan Yaards, Itu Tshabane, and Sean McGrath at his CD launch.

Away”, was released in November last year.

While their combined performance was a highlight at the launch, the show was Tugendhaft accompanied by a seven-piece orchestra, under the direction of Dan Selsick.

Singing tracks from the CD, Tugendhaft showed his world-class, performing such uplifting classics as “Bring Him Home”, “Sogno” and “If I Loved You” from Carousel.

Talking to Jewish Report about the CD, he said: “I was looking for songs that were timeless and that represented the many facets of everyone’s life - the joy and happiness that we sometimes feel, the sadness, the loss, our hopes and our dreams.”

He acknowledged that

“Reflections” is his most heartfelt project. “I know that each of these songs would have been very special to Karin, as they are to my children.”

He feels lyrics are as important as the music itself. “A memorable song is an interpretation of words, of poetry. I look for lyrics that can speak to us, that can tell us something about who we are, something real about life.”

For this 13th album, Tugendhaft once again collaborated with renowned musician and arranger Dan Selsick. “I have worked with Dan over the years and he has been responsible for a number of the arrangements on some of my other albums. I was looking for an arranger who could bring originality, excitement as

well as sensitivity to cover songs performed by other artists,” he said.

“Some of these are very old compositions, and it was important to have someone like Dan bring to bear a new modern contemporary feel, which would be completely different from any of the original recordings.”

Selsick sourced the musicians because they were looking for a live sound which was important for the compositions that Tugendhaft chose and in order to give them a dynamic and passionate feel.

“Because there were so many musicians involved, it was sometimes difficult to co ordinate times for recording sessions and we found that everyone would be available in the

early hours of the morning - hence, sometimes recording at 03:00!”

Tugendhaft’s past recordings have been solo albums, as well as work with his former Sydenham Synagogue Choir (with arrangements by Professor Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph), and as resident cantor with the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir.

Tugendhaft began singing at the age of six when he joined the synagogue choir and became a child soloist at the age of seven.

“In my late teens I trained and conducted synagogue choirs and subsequently became the cantor of the Sydenham Synagogue in 1985, a position I held for many years.

“I studied liturgical and cantorial music under Cantor Shlomo Mandel. I studied singing for many years, first with Francis Russell, a former principal tenor of the Covent Garden Opera House, and subsequently with Ann Hamblin, who is still my vocal coach.”

On stage with him were Black Yogurt, a three-piece vocal group, whose dynamic sound impressed him.

Tugendhaft has been invited to do a series of concerts in Australia at the end of the year. He will be taking Black Yogurt, 10 musicians, with musical director Professor Zaidel Rudolph and a choir of 12 backing singers along. The show will be entitled “Voices Africa to Israel in Song”.

Gluten-free hamantaschen to drool over

RELLA KAPLOWITZ
WASHINGTON, DC

Food-related traditions like hamantaschen are some of my favourite parts of being Jewish.

I had to work on this hamantaschen recipe for a while, because creating a gluten-free cookie dough that can be rolled and cut, is no easy task. But I think I've finally got it (don't skip chilling the dough, it really makes all the difference)!

This recipe makes hamantaschen that are crispy on the outside but soft and chewy on the inside.

If you prefer them to be completely crispy, bake an additional 2-3 minutes.



Ingredients

- 1 cup (2 sticks) of margarine, softened to room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla

- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt, 3 1/4 cups gluten-free all-purpose flour, divided*
- Jam or other filling of your choice

Directions

- Make sure you choose a gluten-free flour that includes xanthan gum, or add 1 1/2 tsp of xanthan gum with the flour.
- Cream margarine and sugar on high for 2-3 minutes. Add eggs one at a time, allowing to combine before adding the next.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together baking powder, baking soda, salt, and 3 cups of gluten-free flour (and xanthan gum if required). Turn mixer to the lowest speed and add to wet mixture a 1/2 cup at a time, allowing the dry ingredients to be incorporated before adding more. The dough should be soft but not

sticky.

- Divide the dough into four parts, roll each into a ball, wrap separately in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for an hour.
- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Dust the counter and the rolling pin with gluten-free flour. Remove 1 dough ball from the refrigerator and cut into circles using a 4 oz mason jar or small juice glass (if the dough is too sticky to roll out and cut, add additional flour a tablespoon at a time until it is pliable enough).
- Fill with 1/4 tsp of filling, pinch into a triangle, and bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Repeat with remaining dough balls. (JTA)

• Rella Kaplowitz has blogged gluten-free and mostly dairy-free as the Penny Pinching Epicure for the last 3 years. Rella lives in Washington, DC.

These hamantaschen not your common garden variety

SHANNON SARNA

I have a confession to make. I do not love hamantaschen. Most varieties are dry, crumbly and tasteless. But a few years ago I had a friend's recipe and so now I have amended my original opinion and I can say: I only like Rachel's hamantaschen!

Rachel and her mom shared their hamantaschen recipe with us so that we can all say goodbye to dry hamantaschen forever.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter (or margarine)
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp milk (or almond milk)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder

Directions

- Beat the butter and sugar together until smooth. Add egg, milk, vanilla and lemon zest until mixed thoroughly. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt.
- Add dry mixture to wet mixture until incorporated. Note: if the dough is too soft,

increase flour amount by 1/2 cupful until firm. Chill dough for at least 1 hour or up to 24 hours.

- Dust surface with powdered sugar to keep from sticking. Roll the dough to about 1/4 inch (about 6,5 mm) thick. Using a round cookie cutter, cut out and place onto cookie sheet.



- To keep the dough from sticking to your cutter, dip in powdered sugar before each cut. Fill each round with your favourite filling, and using your favourite method, pinch corners together.
- Bake at 400° for about 7-9 minutes. (JTA)

• Recipe adapted from Betty Crocker's Picture Cookbook, General Mills, 1950

Purim What's On

Saturday (March 11)

- WIZO Tzabar - brilliant Broadway show. An evening not to be missed! Tickets are selling fast. As it's Purim time, come dressed as your favourite musical character (optional). Time: 20:00. Venue: Beyachad. Early Bird Special R230. Refreshments will be served. Contact: Jenny (011) 645-2515 or Nava 082-789-9118 or Raya 083-377-2970.

Sunday (March 12)

- Sydenham's "A Magical Disney Purim". Megillah Reading at 10:00 and Disney World opens at 10:30. Entry bags available beforehand in the shul office at R100. Bags available on the day at R150. Bags include popcorn, Slush puppy cup, candy floss holder (refills of these items are unlimited) plus a Disney surprise and includes access to all rides and entertainment. Waffles & Soft Serve,


chip n dip, cold drinks and crisps on sale. Have your picture taken with your favourite Disney characters.

- Camp Gan Ysrael Purim Bash. Time: 10:00 – 13:00. Venue: Torah Academy Primary School back field. Cost: R40 per child. Megillah readings at 09:30 and 11:30. Come enjoy rides, music, Scooby Doob Shloimy, face painters and much more.

- Chabad's Seniors Purim Party. Johannesburg's "young at heart" can enjoy a festive Purim feast at Chabad House. It begins with a multi-media Megillah reading; including an entertaining slide show displaying the scenes of the Scroll of Esther as it is being read aloud. Live music with guest entertainers from the US and place for everyone to dance along. A festive lunch, to satiate discerning palates with hamantaschen too. Come in fancy dress and stand a chance to win fabulous prizes. The

Purim Party is open to all senior citizens and will take place at Chabad House in Savoy on Sunday, March 12 from 11:00. Information on Chabad's Chai Senior services or the Purim event, Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or e-mail: rak@chabad.org.za

- Full programme at Gardens Shul. A braai, jumping castle, kiddie rides, Purim stalls and more. At 10:30 a hamantaschen bake for charity. Booking essential admin@gardensshul.co.za; 11:15 Megillah reading in Gardens Shul; 11:45 Gardens Got Talent, for ages four to bar/batmitzvah. Register your child's 90 second act at gardenstalent@gmail.com. Include any musical accompaniment required. Every performing child wins a prize. Grand prize: Waterfront voucher; 12:30 dress up parade. Every child in costume will receive a small prize. Free entry. Food for sale Information: (021) 465-1405.


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Securing your future in Israel

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ANDREW TOBIN
TEL AVIV

Every week, thousands of women across Israel gather to play a sport almost no one outside the country has heard of.

For that matter, few Israelis knew about catchball - or "cadur-reshet" in Hebrew - a decade ago. But in recent years it has become the most popular sport among adult women in the country, with nearly all the players over 30 years old.

"It's like a disease among women here," said Naor Galili, the director-general of the Maccabi sports association in Israel. "We like it. We love it. We fully support it."

Now the Israel Catchball Association is trying to spread the feminist fever to

women around the world. A major step will be catchball's appearance for the first time at the Maccabi Games in Israel this summer. The hope is that the thousands of Jews who attend the multi-sport games from around the world will be inspired to ask: What is catchball?

Well, catchball is like volleyball, but easier because catching and throwing replaces bumping, setting and spiking. Israelis adapted the sport from Newcomb ball, which was named for the Louisiana women's college where it was invented over a century ago. Today, Americans rarely play Newcomb ball outside of gym class.

Meanwhile, catchball leagues in Israel boast more than 12 000 female members. That is twice as many adult women as

belong to basketball, soccer, volleyball and tennis leagues combined, according to data from Israel's Culture and Sport Ministry.

Hila Yeshayahu, 41, plays for the Herzliya-based squad Good Heart and handles marketing and business development for the Catchball Association, to which the team belongs. She said women start playing catchball because it is fun and easy - and stick with it for the sense of community and personal empowerment.

"Catchball is a present women give themselves. It's a chance to do something healthy with other women and come back home with more strength and more passion," she said. "When I step out the door in my uniform, my kids aren't on my shoulder; my husband isn't on my shoulder. I'm 18 years old again. I'm Hila, and I can do anything."

Yeshayahu's twin sister also competes for a team in the association, and their 11-year-old daughters play together in a new girls' league.

On a Tuesday evening, Yeshayahu and her team faced off against AS Moment at a high school gym in Ramat Hasharon, not far from Herzliya in central Israel. The crowd consisted of a few husbands and sons on the sideline. But the atmosphere was competitive, with a referee, scorekeepers and players wearing numbered uniforms.

When AS Moment won two sets to none, Good Heart players slumped onto the court, and several tearfully threw their knee pads toward the bench. (The first two sets are scored up to 25 points, while a third set in the best-of-3 match would go to 15. The victor must win a set by at least two points.)

Good Heart coach Liron Shachnai, 34, a marketing and sales manager by day, said most of her players have little experience losing. Competitive sports in Israel are male-dominated, she said, so women do not have the opportunity to learn



A match at the Israeli catchball tournament in Kfar Saba, February, 21, 2017. (Courtesy of the Israel Catchball Association).

sportsmanship growing up.

"You have women who are over 40 going home crying, saying [the opposing players] think they're better than us," she said.

Still, by the next practice on Thursday evening, the players were looking toward the future. It helped that at this weekend they would compete in the Catchball Games in the southern resort town of Eilat. The tournament is catchball's biggest event and a highlight of the year for many players.

In its sixth year, the Catchball Games are expected to draw more than 1 500 women from all of Israel's leagues, and even a few teams from abroad. The women will don pink Israel Catchball Association T-shirts for four days of competition and socialising.

Local schools will host hundreds of matches, and the top two teams will face off for the championship. Off-court festivities will include a parade, Eilat's first night road race and a standup comedy show.

Alexandra Kalev, a sociology professor at Tel Aviv University, says the success of catchball in Israel can be seen as a challenge to the roles women have traditionally played in the country's sport and culture. Women's sports in Israel are underfunded and little covered in the media, and women are expected to work and handle most household responsibilities.

"Catchball can empower women, especially at a stage in life when they are weakened," Kalev said." (JTA)



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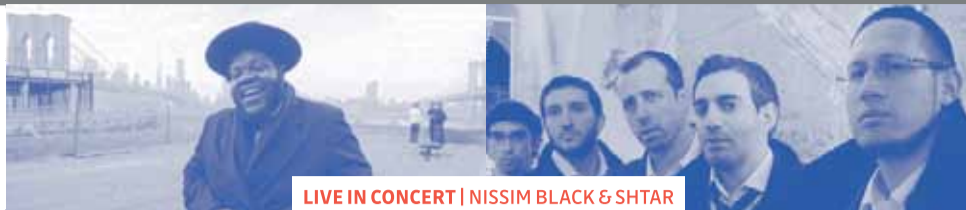
SINAI INDABA VI JOHANNESBURG PROGRAMME | SATURDAY 4 MARCH

20:00 | DOORS OPEN

THREE THINGS TO LIVE BY RABBI DOV GREENBERG, CHARLIE HARARY, NILI COUZENS



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LIVE IN CONCERT | NISSIM BLACK & SHTAR

SINAI INDABA VI JOHANNESBURG PROGRAMME | SUNDAY 5 MARCH

ROOM 01

10:00

YAAKOV KATZ
WEAPON WIZARDS

From drones to satellites, missile defence systems to cyber warfare, Israel is leading the world when it comes to new technology for the modern battlefield. Yaakov Katz will examine these hi-tech solutions to illustrate how this tiny nation of 8 million has learned to adapt to the changes in warfare and the defence industry, to become the new prototype of a 21st century superpower, not in size, but rather in innovation and efficiency – and as a result of its long war experience.

#BUSINESSSHACKS #THELAND

11:00

RABBI DOV GREENBERG
PROZAC FOR THE SOUL

Recent developments in cognitive psychology affirm the importance of optimism to enhance the quality of life. Using one of the most moving stories from the books of the Prophets, in the light of Kabbalah, we'll learn some simple techniques on how to encourage optimistic behaviour at work and at home.

#BETTERYOU

12:00

CHARLIE HARARY
THE INDOMITABLE WILL TO WIN

Pushing for greatness is not easy. It takes incredible drive and perseverance, but it's all worth it in the end. How can we tap into our inner strengths and reach goals that others only dream of? Join Charlie as he explores the physics of being comfortable with the uncomfortable.

#BETTERYOU

LUNCH

14:00

RABBI DR ELIMELECH GOLDBERG
POWER, PEACE, PURPOSE

Life-changing lessons for everyone from the amazing little warriors of Kids Kicking Cancer are the core of a strategy of personal growth that you will want to share with your friends and family.

#LIFEWORHLIVING

15:00

YAAKOV KATZ
WHAT DOES TRUMP MEAN FOR ISRAEL?

It's been 44 days since Donald Trump entered the White House. Can he repeal the UN Resolution? Will he move the embassy to Jerusalem? How influential will his pro-Israel ambassador be? Will he tear up the Iranian deal? Is he really intending to remain "neutral" during Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and was he serious about cutting off foreign military aid?

#THELAND

16:00

CHARLIE HARARY
JOSEPH'S HACK TO ENTREPRENEURIAL & PERSONAL SUCCESS

Ever dream of having it all? Delve into Joseph's climb to success, understand the pathway to entrepreneurship, and master the keys to having a successful business and life.

#BUSINESSSHACKS
#BETTERYOU

ROOM 02

10:00

NILI COUZENS
THE COSMO EFFECT

We live in a world where the body has been reduced to a sales tool, where all is revealed and nothing is sacred. Society seems so big and so sure of itself – who are we to question it? Are we liberated by listening to those voices – or by defying them?

#BETTERYOU

11:00

RABBI BINNY FREEDMAN
WHAT RIGHT DO WE HAVE TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL?

The history and the mystery – against the backdrop of last year's UNESCO resolution denying the Jewish connection to the Temple Mount, and the UN Security Council resolution referring to the Old City as "occupied territory", Rabbi Freedman explores different perspectives from the Jewish sources relating to our claim to the Promised Land, including the story of Abraham.

#THELAND

12:00

NISSIM BLACK
LIFE STORY

Nissim Baruch Black tried desperately to find a way of life that resonated with him spiritually. And he found it next door. Having grown up alongside a Jewish community, Black started researching Judaism on the Internet. Today, he and his wife Adina live in Jerusalem, with their children and other members of their extended family. This is their story (drops mic).

#LIFEWORHLIVING

14:00

RABBI BINNY FREEDMAN
SONGS & STORIES

In this uplifting session of musical niggunim, Torah and stories, Rav Binny talks about the power of simcha, Shabbat and Jewish unity.

#GETTINGDEEP
#THELAND

15:00

NILI COUZENS
WILL I EVER DRINK HOT COFFEE AGAIN?

The hamster wheel is physically exhausting and even more emotionally depleting. We want what's best for our children, but we need endless reserves of energy to supply to the constant demand. How do we raise kids in a world where we struggle to find our centre?

#ME&YOU

16:00

RABBI DOV GREENBERG
THE ART OF LOVE

Explore the profound, timeless teachings of an ancient faith – on igniting the spark of love, how to deal with your spouse's flaws, and how to enrich and develop the skills to strengthen your relationships.

#ME&YOU

ROOM 03

10:00

RABBI DR ELIMELECH GOLDBERG
BREATH BRAKE™ SEMINAR

Stress has the power to destroy relationships and health. Learn the trademarked Breath Brake method, which the founder of Kids Kicking Cancer has taught at Fortune 500 companies around the globe. Take control of the stress in your life, live longer and better by discovering the power of this technique – used by thousands of cancer-fighting children across the globe.

#BETTERYOU

(Double session)

12:00

RAQUEL KIRSZENBAUM
WORLD OF ILLUSION

There's a gap that exists between our physical and spiritual selves. What makes our bodies happy doesn't make our souls happy. How do we find fulfilment in these two different worlds?

#GETTINGDEEP
#BETTERYOU

14:00

KEN SPIRO
THE SEVEN WONDERS OF JEWISH HISTORY

Rabbi Spiro examines the unique nature of the sweep of Jewish history, from Abraham to today, and its remarkable relationship to prophecy.

#LOOKINGBACK

15:00

RABBI REUVEN LEUCHTER
RESPONSIBILITY

What does being responsible mean? Do I have to be responsible for myself before I can be responsible for others? Am I responsible when my life is a mess? How responsible do I have to be for the world at large? Get ready for what you thought you knew to be flipped on its head.

#BETTERYOU

16:00

RABBI DR SAMUEL LEBENS
FAITH PHILOSOPHY

Is faith 'unscientific' or 'irrational'? What can justify a life of faith and what would it mean to live one? In this session, Rabbi Lebens moves from a Midrashic account of G-d's faith in us, to contemporary philosophies in search of a theory of faith.

#BRAINFOOD

ROOM 04

10:00

KEN SPIRO
THE JEWISH IMPACT ON CIVILISATION

What would the world be like without Judaism and the Jewish People? Explore 4 000 years of world history from this unique perspective, which promises to completely transform your understanding of Judaism and the mission of the Jews as a "light unto the nations".

#LOOKINGBACK

11:00

RABBI DR SAMUEL LEBENS
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FIND OUT YOU'RE FICTIONAL?

Rabbi Lebens explores some provocative texts from the Polish Chassidic masters, who developed a school of thought that suggests human beings are little more than figments of G-d's imagination. He will unpack these surprising texts in conversation with contemporary philosophies of fiction to discover the religious significance – and captivating power – of this challenging Chassidic school of thought.

#BRAINFOOD

12:00

RABBI REUVEN LEUCHTER
THE SCIENCE OF HUMANITY

In higher education, there exists a split between the sciences and the humanities. This categorisation expresses a deep concept, that the more exact and scientific something is, the less human it is, and vice versa. Therein lies the uniqueness of Torah – it is the only intellectual endeavour that claims to build a human being in an 'exact' scientific way. What seems counterintuitive is actually the most natural way for a person to grow.

#BRAINFOOD

14:00

NILI COUZENS, CHARLIE HARARY & RAQUEL KIRSZENBAUM
JWRP EXCLUSIVE

What happens on tour, stays on tour! If you've been on a Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) tour or are going on one soon, then this talk is just for you. Come spend 45 minutes with Nili Couzens, Charlie Harary and Raquel Kirszenbaum – three of the JWRP greats!



17:30 | CLOSING CONCERT

NISSIM BLACK & SHTAR



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