



Walter Battiss,
oil on canvas
R290 000



Chinese intricately
carved rosewood screen
SOLD R1 000 000



Keith Alexander,
oil on canvas
SOLD R200 000



Set of eight 19th
century carved oak
dining chairs
SOLD R26 000

View previous results at www.rkauctioneers.co.za • 011 789 7422 • 083 675 8468 • 12 Allan Road, Bordeaux, Johannesburg

south african Jewish Report

www.sajr.co.za

■ April 7 2017 / 11 Nisan 5777
■ Volume 21 – Number 12



Rise South Africa, rise!



**Shooby Doob Shloimy
Pesach Concert**

Best wishes for a
Chag Sameach & Kosher Pesach

חג כשר ושמח

Denese, Solly,
Ephraim Zaslansky
& The Firzt Family



FIRZT

SALES | RENTALS | DEVELOPMENTS
COMMERCIAL SALES & RENTALS

011 731 0300 | www.firzt.co.za

Bramley Plumbers

Since 1966

Reliable
same-day service

Specialist Mechanical
Drain Cleaning

011-444-4732

CUSTOMISED
HATS

072 060 1005

Soundwaves

(011) 887-3250

082-849-6483

soundwaves.co.za



Aircon Repairs
Car Sound • Car Security

212 Athol Street Highlands North

Prince Unisex
Barber Shop

RAEDENE: 5 Durham Street, Raedene
LYNDHURST: 14 Lyndhurst Place, cnr Johannesburg
Rd and Kemick Ave, Lyndhurst
(opp MacDonalds)

084 451 0517 072 024 8142

Haircut R 50
Shave R 30
Colour R 60
Facial R100



Bring your family for a haircut...

PESACH SAMEACH

VEHICLES WANTED



Any make, any model, any condition
Accident damaged vehicles and non-runners also wanted

Arnold Orkin 082-823-7826
AUTO AFRICA

Zuma’s impact on economy, disturbing

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The frustration and anger about President Jacob Zuma’s cynical firing of Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and his deputy Mcebisi Jonas and the country’s subsequent downgrading to junk status by rating agency Standard and Poor’s, was best expressed by Investec Bank CEO Stephen Koseff who said that 14 months of work (to avoid a downgrade) had been wiped out by government.

Koseff is a member of the CEO Initiative, a grouping of 81 top South African companies - a number of which are Jewish-owned - which in October last year came out in support of Gordhan and his initiative to prevent the country from being downgraded.

Koseff said in a radio interview this week that the work of 14 months has now been wiped out because of the reshuffle.

The CEO Initiative was formed after former Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene was fired in December 2015 and has worked with labour and government to find unity with business going forward.

Following South Africa’s downgrade on Monday, the CEO Initiative issued a statement expressing their disappointment, especially given that a number of “green shoots” had been appearing in the economy. This is due to the work done to restore confidence among investors and ratings agencies, through the collaboration between business, government and labour.

“This downgrade could and should have been avoided had the structural reforms necessary to underpin sustained and inclusive economic growth been

implemented in the interests of all South Africans,” said the CEO Initiative.

Standard and Poor’s admitted that the political turmoil surrounding the reshuffle, helped them make a decision on a downgrade to junk.

Koseff said: “We were on a good path starting to come right and gain momentum, a positive mood starting... The ANC needs to take corrective action. They can’t just forget about fiscal conditions.

“It is a difficult time for a society. We’ve just missed a recession, now we go back to square one.”

Political analyst Daniel Silke says the downgrading was “regrettable, but entirely predictable, South Africa has walked right into the S&P’s ratings downgrade”.

He said “in a swift and stark reaction to Jacob Zuma’s Cabinet reshuffle and its underlying motivation, the ratings agency decision now compounds the problems of an already stagnant economy so dependent on both domestic and foreign capital investment.

“While the economic effects will ripple across all sectors in the coming months, there is a more dramatic short-term political effect. The downgrade further damages

President Zuma at a time when he faces unprecedented internal pressure from his own party and broader society.

“It will be used by his increasingly vocal detractors to hammer home their message for a change of leadership and direction. The downgrade undermines the political spin from the President around ‘radical economic transformation’ and also undermines his own leadership abilities already much maligned.”



Stephen Koseff

Parsha

Redeeming your miles

During the American Bush Administrations (both Senior and Junior), a tired old classic in Jewish humour advised the Israeli prime ministers of the period, to ignore anything the American president said, because, as the punchline went, the last time we listened to a bush, we ended up wandering in the desert for 40 years.

Of course, in typical Jewish style, the punchline is bitter-sweet and conceals a deeper, wry truth, one which pokes fun at the Jews themselves.

As the Ramban z”l (Nachmanides) taught us so powerfully, the Exodus from Egypt is not essentially about a path from slavery to freedom, it is not mainly about a state of being where we were oppressed and then moved to a state of being where we were liberated from the hatred and pettiness of the master. Rather, the Exodus is a call to action for us, the Jews: a call to redeem. As we progress through life, we encounter (often at the darkest

moments of our lives) the question which has been asked by people of faith since time immemorial: “Does G-d care?” Does G-d care about the sufferings, small and large, which are the fate of humanity? And if G-d does care, why doesn’t He act to prevent it? How can a caring G-d, an infinitely powerful G-d not obstruct evil every second of the day?

The Ramban writes (essentially in response to this question) that the reason the Exodus happened and the reason that we entrench it so emphatically within our collective consciousness, the reason we sit at a seder each year and

ensure that our children internalise the story, the reason there is so much energy invested in this and only this event, is because it shows that G-d does indeed care, and G-d does indeed intervene: G-d redeems.

But then comes the hard part (hard for us, that is). G-d didn’t redeem us from Egypt only because of our immediate suffering; He redeemed us so that he could become the “Model of a Redeemer”, a model whom we are supposed to emulate. The next stage of redemption is supposed to be one which we lead. G-d does not overtly redeem anymore because He is making space for us to do it.

We take it for granted today that the United Nations and governments should intervene to redeem and prevent the suffering of innocents. It is almost axiomatic in the Western world that we should not live on a planet where that redemptive spirit lies unchannelled by human beings. That desire is the legacy of the Exodus (notwithstanding the fact that we have delegated the task to organs so clearly incapable of fulfilling it.)

Have we stepped into that G-d-made space yet? Not fully, not yet.

It is true then, that we wandered that desert for 40 years and clocked up many a mile on the road, but the real question is whether we have redeemed those miles, internalised their lesson: that G-d has intervened, but that it is now our turn to step out; and if there is inordinate suffering and pain in the world, it is not because G-d has not acted, but because we, human beings, have not. Yet.



Parshat Tzav Shabbat Hagadol
Rabbi Ramon Widmonte
Mizrachi South Africa

Chag Pesach Sameach! Our next print edition is on April 28. Please check www.sajr.co.za for news updates.

South African
Jewish Report

Roni Lea – roni@sajewishreport.co.za • **Advertising and Distribution** Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520 - britt@sajewishreport.co.za • **Small ads** Lilly Harmse - admin@sajewishreport.co.za • **Subscription enquiries** Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-525200 • **Board of Directors** Howard Sackstein (Chairman), Herby Rosenberg, Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benjy Porter. **Advertisements and editorial copy from outside sources do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and staff.** Tel: (011) 430-1980.

Editor Peta Krost Maunday - editor@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editor Paul Maree • Editorial Co-ordinator Martine Bass – editorial@sajewishreport.co.za • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • Website Anthony Katz • General Manager



We buy and sell cars

www.samotorcorporation.co.za

11 Republic Road, Bordeaux, Randburg Tel: (011) 326-1954



SA MOTOR
CORPORATION

Use your gift of freedom to speak out



Pesach message from Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

Pesach is the time we treasure the gift of freedom, which G-d first gave to our people 3 329 years ago, when He liberated us from the slavery of Egypt. South Africa today is at a critical point in its history, and the message of Pesach is powerfully relevant. It reminds us of the preciousness of the gift of freedom, but also of the responsibilities that come with it. Judaism teaches that freedom and responsibility are deeply connected, and that with freedom comes the responsibility to do good in the world. This is why as soon as we left Egypt, G-d took us straight to Mount Sinai to give us the Torah - our practical moral vision and framework for all time.

G-d has blessed South Africa with freedom, but it has been a blessing that came through great sacrifice of so many brave people, like Nelson Mandela and others; people who were prepared to sacrifice everything so that this country could be free. And now, at this time, we must use this G-d-given gift of freedom to make South Africa into a better country. As citizens of this country, our rights and freedoms are protected by the Constitution and we must use them to make our voices heard.

G-d has blessed South Africa with freedom, but it has been a blessing that came through great sacrifice of so many brave people, like Nelson Mandela and others

More and more courageous people are speaking out against corruption and state capture, calling for a country and political leadership of integrity and service. These voices are coming from civil society, from business and labour

organisations, from all political parties, including from within the senior leadership of the ANC, from the judiciary, from the media and from religious leaders. We, as the South African Jewish community, must join these voices. We have so many platforms at our disposal. There are marches taking place throughout the country, and we should join these marches. I will be attending the march on the Union Buildings, taking place on Friday (April 7), and invite community members to join the thousands of South Africans from all walks of life who will be making their voices heard. There are other marches taking place in Cape Town and throughout the country. Let us join these marches. Let us take a stand. Let us be part of creating a better country. While we take action and join the struggle against the tyranny of corruption, let us not forget the power of prayer. At this time, let us turn to G-d and ask Him to bless South Africans with wisdom and courage, at this critical moment in history, so that South Africa can indeed fulfil its great potential to be a country of blessing and light for all. Chag Kasher v’Sameach. Wishing our entire community a kosher and joyous Pesach.

Jewish Report directors call for Zuma’s dismissal

For the past year, the Board of Directors of the SA Jewish Report has struggled with the dilemma of whether it would be appropriate to call for the removal of President Jacob Zuma from office. We as a Board are unelected volunteers who represent no one. Yet at the same time, we reflect the deep morals and values which underpin our community. The country has reached breaking point, we can no longer remain silent - President Zuma must go! Next week we celebrate Passover, the Jewish festival of freedom. So important are the principles of freedom to the Jewish people, that we are commanded to narrate the story of the Exodus as if we ourselves, in our generation, were liberated from bondage in Egypt. In the 3 000 years since our deliverance from slavery, and despite ongoing racism, genocides and discrimination, Jews have overcome many of the burdens of oppression. All people thrive in free, democratic societies. We believe that the people of South Africa deserve the same. In nearly 23 years of democracy we have witnessed many positive developments in South Africa. We have seen the delivery of water, electricity and sanitation to the poor. But today we fear that many of our hard-earned gains will be lost in

a malaise of corruption, greed, maladministration and cronyism. This week, South Africa was downgraded to non-investment grade by Standard & Poor’s and we see South Africa slowly drifting down the ranks of countries in areas of employment, education, healthcare and economic development. We are all affected, but the greatest victims of an immoral and rudderless leadership are the poor. It is their jobs, pensions, education, housing and social grants that are being stolen by rampant corruption. Today we are all in a moral crisis. As patriotic South Africans, we believe South Africa deserves better. We demand that the ANC restore dignity back to the people of South Africa and provide the country with moral authority and true leadership. This can only be achieved with the removal of President Jacob Zuma from office. At this time of freedom, we join the growing voices of civil society for the ANC to remove President Jacob Zuma from office. May this time of freedom herald a better society for all who live in our beloved South Africa.

Howard Sackstein (Chairman), Benjy Porter (Deputy Chairman) Directors: Herby Rosenberg, Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn.

HAPPY PESACH

Wishing you and your families a happy, kosher & meaningful Passover.

With warm regards
AriShapiro, JulianNathan& the Hold Real Estate team

HOLD

REAL ESTATE

Securing your future in Israel

JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL FROM R5 MILLION

Contact Herschel Jawitz in strict confidence: 082 571 1829 | herschel@jawitz.co.za

ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

Morningside – R5.999 Million
A cluster in the heart of Morningside. Where elegance, modernity and sophistication are perfectly intertwined. This home has it all, stunning bedrooms all en-suite, a downstairs bedroom, privacy, security and light that dances everywhere. Don't hesitate, It's truly too good to be true! Be the lucky one. Walk to Shul. Web Ref: 104746
Directions: Rivonia into Outspan, left at robot into Fir, right into Vickie, follow pointers.
Norma Robinson 082 554 7260 | 011 656 0888

ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

Waverley– Inviting buyers from R1.290 Million
45 Scottbridge. Duplex Delight. Quiet, ground floor unit. Offering large living/dining room, renovated kitchen, guest cloak, 2 beds, 1 bath, 2 parkings in well managed, secure complex. Move right in! Web Ref: 114923
Directions: North along Scott St, complex on right (opp Waverley Shul).
Chrissie Hammer 082 568 0440 | 011 880 3550

ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

Glenhazel – R2.2 Million
Nova Place. Exciting new launch - an affordable modern 3 bedroomed. Gorgeous cluster home. Spacious reception rooms onto patio and private walled garden, lovely well fitted kitchen, 2 stunning bathrooms (mes), separate playroom, off street secure parking, 24 hour security guard. Low levies. Hurry will be sold. Web Ref: 115915
Directions: Along Northfield becomes Avon into Nova Place.
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 | Marco 082 048 2644

ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

Glenhazel – R4.799 Million
Kingswood. Exciting launch. Brand spanking new upmarket cluster development. Already built waiting for new owners. 2 modern 4/5 bedroomed clusters with all the mod cons. Gourmet open plan kitchen onto spacious entertainment rooms leading onto covered patio and walled garden. Endless possibilities - stunning staff suite/guest suite or work from home. Double lock up garage. off street parking. Web Ref: 115361
Directions: Along Kingswood Road.
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 | Marco 082 048 2644

France takes anti-Semitism seriously

TALI FEINBERG

The French government is doing all that it can to stop anti-Semitism in France, insists Ambassador Jean-Christophe Peaucelle, the religious affairs adviser to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was in South Africa last week.

He spoke at a luncheon in Cape Town, where he hosted members of the media.

Peaucelle acknowledged the increasing levels of anti-Semitism in France as a reality and believes it is linked to radical ideologies. “We have all the legal instruments to fight anti-Semitism,” he said. Security has also been increased at shuls, schools and Jewish community centres.

However, the rate of aliyah is at its highest ever from France at the moment, which has become one of the top springboards for aliyah in the Western world.

Peaucelle, however, cautions about the distinction between anti-Semitism and anti-Israel. “Any denial of Israel’s right to exist is anti-Semitism,” he states. He asked that the Jewish community should carefully discern between criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism. “Politics should not be decided by religion,” he said.

In France, Peaucelle mediates between religious groups and the government and advises on religious issues, particularly related to the Middle East.

“We are peace brokers, not peace ‘brakers,’” he said at the gathering that took place last week Friday, just hours after President Jacob Zuma’s fateful Cabinet reshuffle.

In response to this, he recalled the current

“miracle” of good relations between France and Germany, which were hostile for decades before. He said that if a country is hitting “rock bottom”, then it could only improve from here.

A career diplomat, he has been the French Ambassador to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey and Qatar. He now advises the French Foreign Minister on complex religious issues, particularly in the context of France’s religious laws known as “laïcité” (translated loosely as “secularity” or the principle of separation of church and state).

The purpose of his visit to South Africa was twofold: to better understand the very specific South African interfaith coexistence and dialogue model - its history, its successes and challenges; and also to explain the French model of secularism.

Laïcité is a core concept in the French constitution, which formally states that France is a secular republic. It came into law in 1905, following over three decades of anti-religious violence and tensions.

It is based on the notions of “liberty, equality and fraternity”, aiming to give religious minorities the right to practise their religion as they see fit. However, the concept has often been misunderstood.

For example, under the “equality” aspect of the law, France has banned the wearing of religious symbols (such as kippot) in public schools. While this may seem like an attack on religion, it was actually put in place to ensure that no child was bullied for wearing or not wearing a religious symbol, making all pupils equal in the public school space.

However, in all other public spaces, citizens



Ambassador Jean-Christophe Peaucelle

are encouraged to wear religious symbols and dress. When some municipalities banned the wearing of a “burqini” by Muslim women last year, this was overturned by the courts because it was against the principle of liberty in “laïcité”.

Another example is when France was asked to assist in restoring cemeteries in Algeria, which have fallen into disrepair. Peaucelle was working closely with the Chief Rabbi of France to ensure that this process in the Jewish sections of the cemeteries was done according to halachah.

Peaucelle emphasised that while religion can’t make the decisions for politicians, it has a crucial role to play in ensuring the moral integrity of all South Africans.

Tribute to our ‘Mr Community’

GILLIAN KLAWSKY

“Largely thanks to Gerald Leissner we live in one of the most vibrant Jewish communities in the world.” So said Avrom Krengel, co-chairman of the IUA-UCE, speaking at Tribute to a Legend, a memorial held in Leissner’s honour at Yeshiva College Shul on Monday evening.

The tribute illuminated the unshakeable foundations Leissner laid in numerous spheres of South African Jewish life.

Moving but understated, much like the man it honoured, the memorial was a fitting tribute to Leissner who passed away in December last year. Through each address and a touching video tribute, the unwavering dedication of a natural leader whose love of Judaism and South Africa, and whose intrinsic optimism, humility and business savvy helped strengthen South African Jewry, shone through.

Serving as chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, as a pioneer of Yeshiva College and as founding member of the first Holocaust and Genocide Centre in

Johannesburg, Leissner - dubbed “Mr Community” - had a lifelong devotion to his people. He also helped lead the community through the transition to democracy in the country.

Also a highly respected businessman, a chartered accountant and an innovator in South Africa’s listed property market, Leissner helped found the Central Johannesburg Partnership in the 1980s.

Speaking of the “many Gerald’s”, Rabbi Tanzer made it clear that it was Leissner’s friendship that meant the most to him.

“Through 36 years of friendship, he held my hand as we planned the future and survival of Yeshiva which was never a certainty. Yet, together we were blessed to see how Yeshiva grew. Hashem sent us a miracle - he was called Gerald.”

Veteran community leader Marlene Bethlehem remembered a man of sincerity and great humility.

“He was calm but authoritative,” she said. “He was my mentor and adviser, my guiding light. What a visionary, what a friend!” Bethlehem said that Leissner’s

Jonathan Leissner



influence would be felt way into the future.

Committed to perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust, an integral part of Leissner’s vision was creating the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, which he hoped would reach all the people of South Africa.

Tali Nates who worked with Leissner in the realisation of this dream, echoed the prevailing depiction of a man whose unwavering positivity was nothing short of inspirational.

Also delivering a tribute, Avrom Krengel highlighted the hope Leissner instilled for the future

of the South African Jewish community, through his vision, modesty and financial acumen.

“No one answered the call to serve his people in a finer manner than Gerald. We must honour him by continuing his work,” he said.

In addition to his unparalleled impact on the Jewish community - and just as admirable - was Leissner’s devotion to his family.

“My father’s life was all about moving and contributing,” said an emotional Jonathan Leissner. “To us, he was our father.” Married for 52 years to Shirley, Leissner was a devoted father and grandfather. “You were our eyes, you guided us.”

TAXI
AIRPORT TRANSFERS
7 seater
Pip Friedman 083 267 3281
dailalift@gmail.com

Appliance Repairs on Site
Fridges, Dishwashers,
Washing Machines, Stoves
Tumble Dryers & more
Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532
FREE QUOTATIONS

TO LET
Apartment in Cheltondale
Cut above the rest
exquisitely renovated
2 Bed, 1 full bath,
1 Parking bay
Call (011) 485 3960
Leave your details if phone not answered

TO BOOK THIS SPACE CONTACT LILLY ON (011) 430-1980

HOLIDAY APARTMENT NETANYA ISRAEL
Beautiful condo with views of sea and nature reserve Ir Yamin. Experience Netanya’s upscale neighbourhood. A light modern three bed condo that has all the details for a wonderful stay.
Colin 083 460 4049 • 2806colin@gmail.com

MATIS
PARIS
MATIS PARIS EXPERT FACIAL TREATMENTS
36 Years’ Experience,
Paris trained beautician Cidesco.
Acne, rejuvenation, tightening, firming, electro interferential muscle firming.
Pigmentation and deep cleansing.
Hand and Arm treatments, Salicylic, Glycolic and Hyaluronique acid peeling facial and arm and hands.
Prices from R500 for 1:30 min.
Contact Laurence:
011 485 0401 / 083 266 9423
Email: info@aesthetics.co.za

the florence melton school of adult jewish learning
A PROJECT OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Adult Learning for the Wondering Jew



SHEMOT I: From Slavery to Sinai
10 Lessons
Beginning
24 April 2017



BEYOND BORDERS: The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
20 Lessons
Beginning
24 April 2017
Early bird special until 16 April 2017



The Holocaust as Reflected in Diaries and Memoirs
10 Lessons
Beginning
7 August 2017

For more information about Melton School and our upcoming courses in 2017, please contact

Ariella Milner

at meltonjhb@gmail.com or 082 804 6113

Visit our websites at www.meltonschool.org or www.meltoncapetown.org

Visit our Facebook:
Florence Melton School of ADULT Jewish Learning

ANC Youth League attacks peace group

ANT KATZ

The ANC Youth League hit out this week at “a certain individual (who) is parading around on a pro-Israel trip in the USA, claiming to be a youth leader of the ANC”. The League claims in a statement, issued by Njabulo Nzuza, its secretary general, that, by doing this, “this individual” violates the Youth League’s “stance and is dishonest as this individual is no leader of ours”.

Nzuza in the statement calls Israel “the enemy” and goes on to say that anyone engaging on Middle East peace “must consider their membership revoked”.

The person they vented their spleen against, was part of a group called Africans for Peace (AFP) who are currently on a speaking tour - sponsored by US Jewry - in the United States.

A representative of AFP, former ANC bad boy and Wits student leader Klaas Mokgomole, in turn hit out at Nzuza, insisting that the ANCYL could not carry out the threat to revoke the ANC membership of those in the US.

“We are not breaking any party rules,” Mokgomole said, adding that, if anything, they were doing the bidding of the ANC and President Jacob Zuma.

Mokgomole - who is one of four African for Peace members on the tour - was “anti-Israel” back in 2014 when he led a revolt by Wits students, forcing the abandonment of a concert by Israeli-born pianist Yossi Reshef on campus. Mokgomole was then Wits SRC president and one of two of the so-called “Wits-11” who were severely censured for their behaviour.

Today, however, Mokgomole - who spoke to the Jewish Report from America - says he has had his eyes opened. That is not to say that he

is pro-Israel, he is quick to point out: “I am pro-peace between Israel and a Palestinian state.”

He changed his opinion after a visit to Israel on a South Africa Friends of Israel-sponsored tour. There he became aware that there were no major differences between young people in the two countries - and South Africans for that matter.

“I spoke to a lady in Palestine who only wanted to be free. She wanted peace. She wanted her children to go to school. And here we were (at Wits) disrupting concerts, showing pictures from Syria and saying that they were in Gaza - we didn’t know what it was about.”

On their American tour, he explains: “We are also speaking about the #FeesMustFall issue and exchanging ideas with US students on how they deal with the high cost of studies.”

He said their tour, which was drawing to a close, had been “very productive” in that the South African and American students had engaged and exchanged ideas and learned from one another.

“It is good to see how (in the US) they empower youth funding and to see the work student leaders do on campuses.”

AFP, says Mokgomole, “is a collective of young African scholars and thinkers whose main focus is to empower young South Africans to raise their voices and become independent thinkers”.

He slammed Nzuza for making the ANCYL statement “without even communicating with us - without speaking to anybody on our side. We are a multi-partisan (sic) group and consist of members of the ANC, DA, other parties and even apolitical members.”

Mokgomole said while he wasn’t the ‘individual’ Nzuza was referring to, however, he was not at liberty to disclose the names of the



other three AFP members on the tour.

Mokgomole says Nzuza could not revoke his or any of the others’ ANC memberships. “There is no rule in the ANC that says: ‘If you go to the US you will be expelled,’” he says.

“There is no resolution that says we cannot travel outside South Africa. And our president even encourages us to travel, even to Israel, if it is to promote the cause of peace.

“Njabulo jumped the gun,” says Mokgomole. “This trip is about the message of the movement - pro-peace, pro-Israel, pro-Palestine. We are here to promote dialogue. Which is ANC policy. Zuma said himself in Parliament that we should go to Israel if we advance the dialogue.

“We love the ANC so much,” says Mokgomole. “The ANC gave us our freedom. Njabulo doesn’t know what he is talking about.”

Mokgomole is unhappy that the ANCYL is “in the hands of Njabulo. We are supposed to trust the organisation to him. We need our young people to be able to empower themselves and he discourages independent thinking.”

He expresses concern that if Nzuza “becomes our leader in the next 10 or 20 years, where will we be? He makes irrational and unilateral decisions. He knows members are not empowered and he takes advantage of that.”

That is how people are, says Mokgomole. “They are lazy to read, our young leaders should promote empowerment through knowledge,” he emphasises.

If he has learned anything from his US experience, says the former bad boy, it is that “we are failing to empower our young people with knowledge, to think outside the box”.

A photograph of a young man with dark hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a brown t-shirt and a black backpack. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with steps.

Are you a University Student? Have any of your exams been scheduled on Shabbat or Chagim?

If yes, contact sajbd@sajbd.org so that we can include you in our representation to the University.

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies works closely with the university to ensure that no Jewish student is disadvantaged by his/her religious commitments.

A graphic featuring a blue sign that says "HAPPY PASSOVER" with a menorah and wine glasses. To the right are the logos for IUA (Israel United Appeal) and UCF (United Communal Fund).

Dear Friend

Leaving Egypt and coming to the Promised land was a long and arduous journey. The process not only involved escaping the tyranny of Pharaoh and his warriors but it was also a test of faith and commitment on the part of the Children of Israel.

In many ways, our own lives have been marked by similarly profound moments of challenge and change. We can identify with the difficulties, struggle and determination of our ancestors. Pesach is a time of celebration and affirmation of faith, of achievement and of commitment to Jewish values.

The story of our people’s history incorporates the personal story of Jews throughout the generations. Locally we continue to witness an increase in anti-Semitism

and threats and dangers to our well-being. By supporting our beneficiaries, we endeavour to ensure the security and dignity of our vibrant Jewish community.

Recently we witnessed the ugly face of billboards across the country with the same derogatory messages and we see the bullying and intimidating tactics of the BDS movement. We have to be pro-active and take the necessary measures to counter these threats.

You can help safeguard our future by showing your support by making a donation. You can make the difference!!!

A photograph of a family sitting around a table during a Passover Seder. There are wine glasses, plates of food, and a menorah on the table. A man is standing and holding a glass, possibly making a toast.

May your Pesach be a time of joy with family and friends. May it also be a time of committment to our Jewish community with a strong Israel in our hearts. Chag Kasher v’ sameach!

Executive Director Naomi Hadar, Chairman, Lay Leaders and staff.

Make a difference and help secure our community

MAKE YOUR DONATION: UCF STANDARD BANK – SMAL STREET BRANCH CODE – 001805
ACCOUNT NUMBER – 001367072
REF: NAME / PESACH APPEAL | SECTION 18A TAX CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR DONATION

south african

Jewish Report

Normalising a horrific situation

Last Friday morning (in the aftermath of Jacob Zuma’s sacking frenzy), I had a sense of what it might have felt like in Germany in the late 1930s when the Nazi government kept changing the laws to make Jewish people’s lives worse.

And every time they came up with laws that demeaned Jews further, many Jews were first shocked and horrified, but then they did their best to find a way to normalise this in their heads. How else could they find a way to live with it? It is human nature, I guess, and is called cognitive dissonance.

In Germany, those Jews who could not find a way out of the country, kept doing this until they simply couldn’t any more.

In ancient Egypt, I am sure the Jews underwent the same stages of trying to find a way to make peace with what was happening to them until they became slaves.

Over the last few years, we have all watched President Jacob Zuma do the most outrageous things.

These include: being bribed by Schabir Shaik and Shaik went to jail and Zuma became president. Zuma was charged with rape and was acquitted. He was charged with corruption for accepting bribes from a French arms company. Charges were dismissed. He uses R248 million of taxpayers’ money to upgrade his Nkandla homestead. And so it goes on...

He is the ultimate Teflon King, nothing sticks on him.

And every time he does this, he takes us further down the road of our country’s destruction.

And last week, he fired Pravin Gordhan and Mcebisi Jonas, who were clearly doing their best to steer this country’s economy under tough circumstances.

However, because of this, South Africa’s credit rating was downgraded to junk status by S&P Global and other ratings agencies are believed to be hot on their heels.

Black Monday was declared this week so that people could physically show their disapproval.

I couldn’t help but notice that very few people chose to wear black, dismissing it as silly, and what’s more, many chose rather to heavily criticise the idea.

A number of protest marches are planned for the end of this week and many are planning to take to the streets. But while there is some fervour about the marches, there is as much criticism.

I have that real sense that we are already experiencing cognitive dissidence. I fear that people are not going to stand up and be counted. I fear that we will just continue to let this man get away with what he is doing to our precious country.

We all - white, black, Indian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, men and women - have to stand up and be counted.

I keep hearing that, as Jews or even white people, we don’t have a voice or our voice doesn’t count. That is not true! It counts if we make it count.

We may be a small minority, but we can be very persuasive.

Perhaps wearing black or marching is not going to get Zuma out of government, but it will have an impact. What else can we do that will have more clout?

How about joining forces with non-governmental organisations that educate rural people about what the president and his cronies are actually doing and why rural people should use their votes to stop it?

That is just one idea. We are an innovative, smart, influential community and we do a great deal of good. We need to find ways to use our smarts to preserve our beautiful country.

I for one am going to start by marching in Pretoria on Friday to show how I feel. Please join me!

Chag Sameach!



Peta Krost Maunder
Editor

Power play and the unravelling of the ANC

DR IVOR SARAKINSKY

How do elected and appointed servants of the public amass such wealth way beyond their official income? This is a question often asked. The call for “lifestyle audits” from a range of groups and from within the ANC itself, gets to the heart of the current crisis of leadership in the ANC-led government.

The fracture lines within the ANC have been evident for years. The Cabinet reshuffle by President Jacob Zuma last week, made this explicit with the dismissal of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan and Mcebisi Jonas.

Two clear camps in the ANC became explicit, taking their dispute public, with both camps competing for the heart and soul of the organisation.

Those aligned to President Zuma support his initiative of “Radical Economic Transformation”, which means using state resources and other policy mechanisms to empower black businesses, the poor and working class.

They are also invested in the leadership race for Zuma’s successor which is scheduled to take place in the December Elective Conference. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the president’s former wife, is their chosen candidate.

Supporters of this faction are closely associated with the Gupta family whose business ties with state-owned entities have received much media attention and is the subject of the Public Protector’s report, State of Capture.

The other camp supports Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa. They publicly declare a commitment to proper public governance and democratic accountability, to grow the economy through stability and the confidence of investors.

Gordhan was particularly important in achieving these goals and his dismissal in the Cabinet reshuffle has galvanised this group into action.

As the fallout from the reshuffle intensifies, through the downgrading of the country’s investment status to junk and mass mobilisation of opposition forces and ANC alliance partners, calls for Zuma’s resignation have reached a crescendo.

A successful vote of no confidence in Parliament will result in Zuma and his Cabinet being dismissed. However, the chances of ANC parliamentarians siding with the opposition are slim. The most likely arena where this call will be played out is within the inner circles of the ANC, especially its National Executive Committee.

It is not clear how much support Zuma has in this body, but well-attended rallies around the country scheduled for this Friday might lead to a shift in the balance of power and Zuma’s demise.

This is a fight to the death for the ANC, its history, legacy and control of government. Former State President Kgalema Motlanthe has been a vocal critic of the Zuma camp. Yet Ramaphosa has been - until quite recently - politically reserved. Some commentators have criticised his alleged timidity. This is harsh as he is bound to conduct himself in accordance with the decorum of his office - an important element of the government.

Ramaphosa also has to tread a fine line as a contender for ANC leadership later this year, by not providing



grounds for his removal now. A noticeable omission from the new Cabinet is Zuma’s former wife who was widely expected to receive a ministry to bolster her electoral appeal.

If Ramaphosa is removed and replaced by Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as deputy president, then she has the gender argument as well as ANC tradition behind her as President Zuma’s successor.

This would seriously undermine Ramaphosa’s campaign, which relies on him being the current ANC and government deputy president.

The two groupings will continue to compete for hegemony within and outside the ANC throughout 2017 and this will come to a head at the December conference. Delegates from ANC branches from around the country, will elect a new party leader.

The most important factor influencing this vote is that the division within the ANC is mirrored in the KwaZulu-Natal ANC. Previously, this province voted in unity for Zuma. Without this unity of vote, Ramaphosa might expect to receive a large number of these votes, meaning that his chances of success are fair.

This assumes that the election is both free and fair, although this assumption might not hold as the stakes are extraordinarily high and powerful.

But this succession battle might not be as significant as it seems. In 2019, South Africans go to the polls in provincial and national elections. In the 2016 local government election it became clear that the ANC is losing support across the country, while opposition parties, like the DA and EFF, had grown.

This resulted in coalitions in key metropolitan municipalities where the ANC had been removed from office. As the scandals surrounding Zuma and his supporters and beneficiaries intensify and as the rules of public governance are increasingly ignored, the chance of the ANC falling beneath 50 per cent of the national vote is now a prospect.

There are a myriad possibilities. One thing for sure is that Zuma’s Cabinet reshuffle has catalysed his opposition inside the ANC, with the spotlight on the irreversible fracture line slicing through the ANC.

• Dr Ivor Sarakinsky lectures in the School of Governance at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Never despair. You’re not alone.

No matter how bleak things look, our skilled counsellors, rabbis and psychologist are there to offer **hope, support, guidance and empathy** for addicts and their families.

To get in touch please call the CARE Hotline on 0636639704 24/6 or email CARE@chabad.org.za



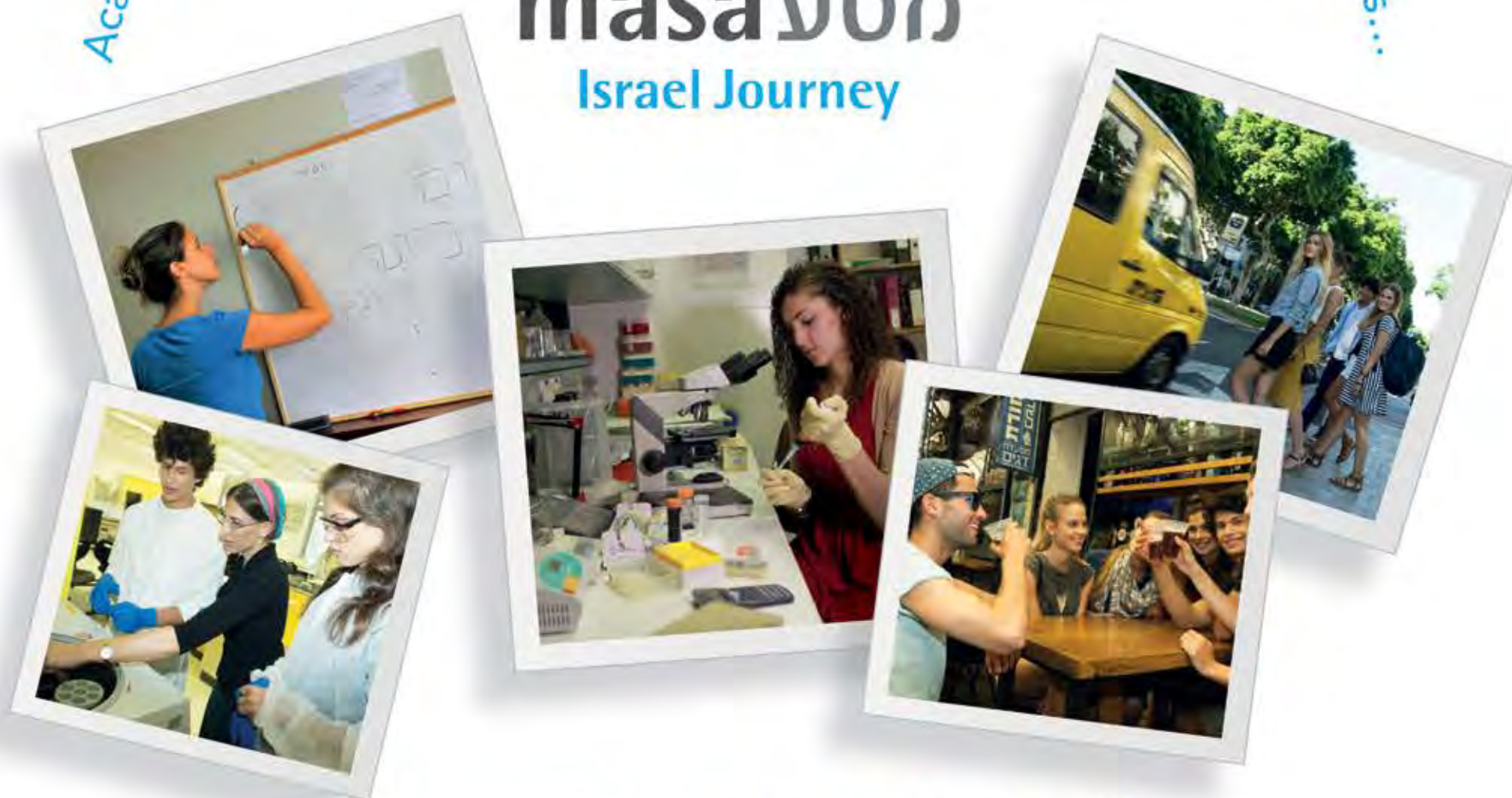
Driven by Miracle Drive

Now MASA is affordable!

Academic studies, career development, internship, Jewish studies, youth movements...



masa מסע
Israel Journey



Automatic grants for 18-30 year old

All grants below in USD

Segment/Term	4 months	5 months	8 months	10 months
Academy/Universities	4,750	4,750	9,100	9,100
Career Development/ Internship	3,800	4,750	7,600	9,100
Judaism/Yeshivot	3,600	4,500	7,200	8,500
GAP Academy	3,600	4,500	7,200	8,500
Youth Movements	3,600	4,500	7,200	8,500

ISRAEL  CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA

 **הסוכנות היהודית**
JEWISH AGENCY
לארץ ישראל
FOR ISRAEL

(011) 645-2561 | israelprog@israelcentre.co.za | www.masaisrael.org

Please support our advertisers
They support our community

FOR SALE

The Manor Retirement Village, Morningside



Ready to move into a retirement village?
Want to invest now for your future?
This townhouse is for you! Three-bedroom, two-bathroom simplex in a beautiful sectional title residential complex for the over 50s – within walking distance of Sandton Shul, Bet David, Morningside Clinic & the Virgin Active.

Price on request • No agents • Darryl Egnal – 079 670 1433

Imageworld

Kingswood Centre
9 Northfield Avenue
Glenhazel 2192

Digital Media
Print & Copy Centre

Tel: 011 440-5598
imageworld@telkomsa.net

Pesach Special

on Canvas Prints

2 For Price of 1

A5 (15 x 21 cm)	R200
A4 (21 x 30 cm)	R220
A3 (30 x 42 cm)	R330
A2 (42 x 60 cm)	R490
A1 (60 x 84 cm)	R840
A0 (84 x 200 cm)	R1290



Bring this Advert to Claim Additional Reward

Peter RESO

DESIGNS



Specialising in made-to-measure tailored garments
Suits, dress suits, jackets, trousers and kapotas. Choose your own fabrics and styles from our vast and exclusive range.
We also make for weddings, bar mitzvahs, and other special occasions.

Visit Clive Lauter and Martine Hesselberg at our Johannesburg showroom or arrange with Clive to have our consultant see you at your home or office.

41 years of tailoring expertise | Established since 1976

4th floor works @ Main, 195 Main Street, Cnr Nugget
Clive: 082-454-3949 | Martine: 082-444-2640 | Office: (011) 334-8969
info@peterreso.co.za | www.peterreso.co.za

Rabbi not bothered by Kathrada criticism

ANT KATZ

A Reform rabbi, who has been taken to task by some members of the Jewish community for saying prayers at ANC stalwart Ahmed “Kathy” Kathrad’s funeral at West Park Cemetery last week, says he is not bothered. Rabbi Sa’ad Shaked, rabbi at the Beit Emanuel Shul, said he felt honoured when asked to say a prayer at the ANC stalwart’s funeral.

Although Kathrada was buried in terms of the Muslim faith, it had been his wish that prayers were also said by Jewish, Christian and Hindu religious leaders. In the words of 2014 Jewish Achievers Awardee, Jonathan Jansen: being in a place “where Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and other faiths come together in a broad swathe of South African humanity to remember a man who fought for all of us. For a moment, just a moment, it felt good to hope again,” he wrote afterwards.

Kathrada was a staunch Boycott, Divest, Sanction (BDS) supporter and angered many Jewish leaders by his strong anti-Israel stand. However, those who knew him well insisted that he was a humanist above all else.

While he was vociferous in his stance that Israel was an apartheid state, he was vehemently opposed to being called anti-Semitic. He and his wife, Barbara Hogan, have been Rabbi Shaked’s guests at Beit Emanuel shul services a number of times, says the rabbi, who was not concerned about his or Kathrada’s critics.

Shaked is a member of the



Kathrada Foundation and pointed out that a number of the Foundation’s members had attended a special Human Rights Shabbat Service at Beit Emanuel last year. Kathrada was not able to attend due to his ill health.

Of the funeral, Jansen said: “On and off the stage, no one racial or ethnic or religious group dominated the event.

“Show me another country where the Anglican Archbishop prays at a Muslim funeral; where a white man chairs the proceedings to remember a leader from a black liberation movement; ...[and] where the widow of the black man being buried is a white woman who gave her life to the struggle for freedom.”

The faith leaders who said prayers at the funeral were Moulana Bham, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Gur Jay Naidoo and Rabbi Shaked.

Shaked says he chose to read - in both Hebrew and English - psalms that would resonate with the multi-

ethnic audience. He first read Psalm 15: “O L-rd, who will sojourn in Your tent, who will dwell upon Your holy mount? ...” followed by Psalm 23: “The L-rd is my shepherd...”

“I was asked not to make a speech, but to deliver prayers,” says Rabbi Shaked, adding that he “was the least important person there”.

The funeral became a political catalyst for change after it was disclosed that Kathrada had written to President Jacob Zuma a year ago asking him to stand down. The family asked Zuma that if he attended he shouldn’t speak. He never attended and a State memorial, planned for Saturday, was later cancelled.

The funeral saw the first open chastisement of Zuma by high-ranking ANC politicians like immediate past-President Kgalema Motlanthe. The following day, at midnight, Zuma made his Cabinet move and added impetus to the #ZumaMustFall campaign and the marches that will be taking place countrywide this week.

As Jansen said after the funeral: “Show me a country where a sitting president of a developing country is told to step down in a letter from the deceased stalwart of his own party.”

Asked about the speed with which the anger at the President had grown since the funeral, Rabbi Shaked said: “Zuma will go, and all the troubles will stay.”

Just as in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gets blamed for everything that goes wrong, said Shaked, “when Netanyahu goes, do you think the problems will go away?”

ANC veteran pays tribute to Kathrada

TSHIDI MADIA
NEWS24

One of the remaining two Rivonia Trialists, Denis Goldberg, described Ahmed Kathrada’s death as a terrible loss at a time when South Africa needed to learn from him the most.

“We have to honour his life and life’s work,” Goldberg said last week. He said Kathrada’s belief of non-racialism was a value South Africans still needed to work towards.

“Of course, we have to deal with the historic apartheid legacy that the African majority are the most oppressed, but we cannot rectify this at the expense of the minorities,” said the Rivonia Trialist.

Black people, Indians, coloured people and whites, have to somehow walk a line of respect for each other. It is difficult, but it has to be done otherwise South Africa is in for a lot of unhappiness, added the ANC stalwart.

Goldberg said he and Kathrada had a lovely relationship.

“You know, if you had been through a trial together and you faced death together, there’s a bond. Even if you don’t see each other often,

there is a bond of a shared experience,” said the youngest surviving trialist.

“People you respect and admire leaving you all alone - actually it’s not a nice feeling,” he added. Goldberg told News24 that he didn’t want to be the only remaining Rivonia Trialist. He said he needed both Kathrada and Andrew Mlangeni (the other remaining trialist) alongside him.

He said the last time he saw Kathrada was at the Drakenstein prison in February. This was the correctional facility which used to be called Victor Verster prison, where former President Nelson Mandela was released in 1990 after spending 27 years behind bars.



Struggle activist and Rivonia Trialist Denis Goldberg

“When Kathy came... I was astounded by how frail he looked,” said Goldberg. He said that he believed the blood clot on the veteran’s brain was possibly the result of a fall he had that day.

“I had wondered what caused the fall, was it a stroke or a minor incident? But these things tend to go with age,” said Goldberg philosophically.

The veteran said he would always remember his comrade for the respect he showed others and to his close friend Madiba.

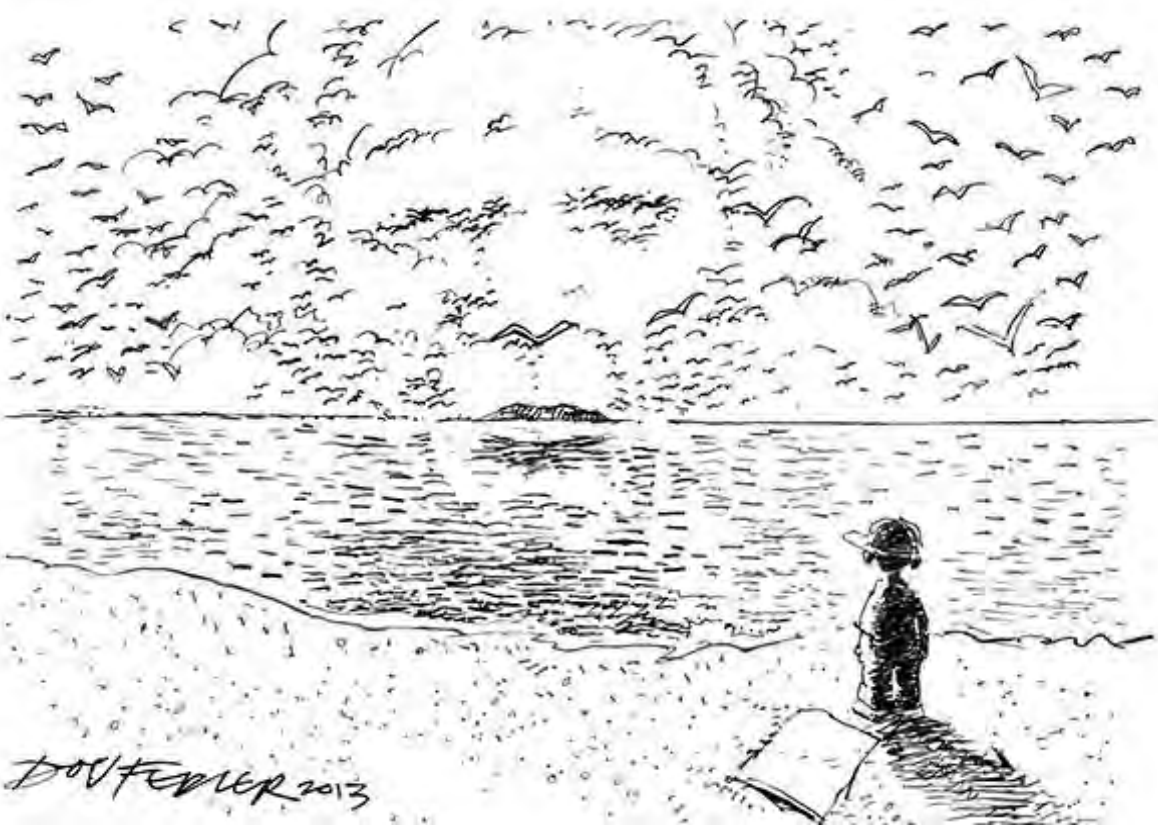
Happy
Passover



Bedfordview Office
011 455 6666



Stationary pictures - the remarkable life of Dov Fedler



HOWARD SACKSTEIN

On a recent visit to Our Parents Home to visit relatives, one of the residents, who Dov Fedler had known his entire life, heard his name and asked if he was related to the famous cartoonist, Fedler replied: “I’m not sure anymore.”

And that answer sums up the life and retirement of The Star newspaper’s cartoonist: Fedler is not quite sure who he is anymore.

“I saw it coming,” says Fedler, “I had been at The Star for 50 years and in 1969 I became their political cartoonist. It’s strange, I’m not political and I never wanted to be a political cartoonist.”

But over nearly half a century, Fedler documented the rise and fall of South African politics with an acerbic wit and artistic genius.

“Cartoons are dog-piss on the doorstep to history. The cartoonist doesn’t even make it to the door, we document and comment, but we don’t change anything,” he said. “You need to be careful, though, when you play on the railway track, don’t complain when you get hit by the train.”

And so, after 50 years on the tracks, the train began rumbling towards Fedler himself. “The age of independent journalism is gone. Today newspapers are there to sell not report.

The Star has always treated me royally. Japhet Ngube, the new editor was unhappy to lose me but the old guard, both black and white, were being cleaned out. With the Cape Times, it was resign or get fired.” By the end of February this year, Fedler was retired.

“Freedom of speech belongs to those people who don’t depend on a salary, I wasn’t that lucky,” he says with no malice.

Over the years, he has built up an archive of more than 3 000 political cartoons, which would probably be one of the most historic pieces of South African history still in private hands.

“I think I’m ready to sell”, says Fedler, “but it has to land up in the right hands - these are drawings of the most significant moments in our country’s history.”

Suddenly, after so many years of chasing the clock on getting his cartoons in on time, he says: “I complained about deadlines my entire life, but as soon as they were gone, I felt a profound sense of loss.

“My first memoir, Out of Line published in 2015, was a huge critical success, I’ve decided to write a follow-up.”

The Lubavitcher Rebbe told Fedler in 1979 to finish his book and that’s exactly what Fedler intends to do. “I met the

Rebbe in the days when I thought you could find G-d under a hat,” says Fedler as a homage to Oliver Sacks’ The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat.

His first autobiography starts with the words: “You will be a dentist” and explains how Fedler’s father thought that dentistry anointed you with the title “doctor” but you won’t be called out at night. His eureka moment came to him in the shower as he ran naked and wet to transcribe the first line of the book, just as Archimedes had done from his bath.

Today, a relaxed Fedler does a lot of corporate work, drawing mainly creative caricatures for businesses. “It’s fun work, it’s iconic and it allows people to walk away with something tangible as a gift.”

But there are many moments or cartoons that will always remind the nation of Fedler. He sees his crowning cartoon

glory as being his iconic farewell to Madiba. The poignant cartoon captured, in its ghostly seagull face of Mandela, the heart-wrenching emotion of the nation’s grief.

Last year, he was criticised for his cartoon that depicted Wayne van Niekerk alongside Oscar in his cell. People misinterpreted his intention, claiming he was predicting the self-demise of South Africa’s new Olympic running superstar.

“That’s not what I intended, the contrast was to show how Oscar had the world at his feet, yet threw it all away compared to Wayne’s meteoric rise to success,” he said. “But I understand why

it was misinterpreted, and it is my fault, I just I didn’t give a thought to the way some people might misread it.”

Fedler and his wife Dr Dorrine Cumes, have three very successful daughters, Carolyn, Joanne and Laura.

When Fedler’s oldest daughter Carolyn was born, Dov and his wife were told that she was “brain damaged”. Later they discovered that Carolyn was hard of hearing. Today that “brain damaged” child has a BSc, a medical degree, a masters degree in medicine and is an accomplished pathologist.

His second daughter Joanne has been one of the most successful South African writers in modern history. She has sold more than 600 000 books in Germany alone. The youngest Fedler daughter, Laura, is also at the top of her game in marketing research.

Fedler contemplates his pencils, saying: “It’s hard not to be a political cartoonist anymore in the age of Trump, succession battles, SASSA and PRASA, there is just so much material. But you have to show some humility and that’s what we’ve learned from our children.”

Dov Fedler was the recipient of the Arts, Sports, Science & Culture Award at the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2015.



Wishing the Community a Chag Kasher v Somayach



designbandis.co.za/050417

Stamelman PROPERTIES

Trevor Stamelman (MPRE)
Master Practitioner Real Estate

Trevor Stamelman: 082 608 0168 or 011 885 3742
For these and all your property requirements: www.stamemaproperties.co.za



Catering for Pesach

Beth Din Kosher

ORDER ALL YOUR MEALS NOW

Meat & Chicken Dishes
Your Favourite Fishes
Soups, Salads, Kugels, Kneidelach & Kichel
Sauces You Can't Eat Without
And Tasty Bakery Treats

Go to www.feigels.com & complete the order form or send request to orders@feigels.com



Rosen Electrical

- ★ Installations and repairs
- ★ Residential
- ★ Commercial
- ★ Industrial

Tel: (011) 885-1713 • Cell: 082-442-7124
LICENSED & REGISTERED CONTRACTORS

GLENHAZEL FLOWERS

7 LONG AVENUE | ☎ (011) 440-6472

Wishing our customers Chag Pesach Sameach
Thank you for your continuous support





Freshfellas

☎ (011) 440-8352
3 Long Avenue Glenhazel

3 ENGLISH CUCUMBERS R20

while stocks last
WHERE QUALITY COSTS YOU LESS!

MON – WED 7:30am – 6:00pm • THURS 7:30am – 6:30pm
FRI 7:30am – 5:00pm • SUN 8:00am – 1:00pm

CHAG PESACH KASHER V'SAMEACH

Most unlikely friendship between Mandela and his jailer



Photo: Moira Schneider

Christo Brand, former President Nelson Mandela's jailer (left) with Rabbi Pini Hecht, assistant rabbi at Cape Town's Marais Road Shul.

MOIRA SCHNEIDER CAPE TOWN

How do you retain your sanity during 27 years of imprisonment, particularly when much of your time is spent in isolation? While this may not be one of Pesach's Four Questions, it was one which was posed to Christo Brand, jailer of former President Nelson Mandela, at the Marais Road Shul's annual Pesach learning experience.

Brand was the keynote speaker at the event which featured a shiur by the spiritual leader of the congregation, Rabbi Dovid Wineberg; tips on keeping children interested at the seder table from Rebbetzen Sara Wineberg; and a multimedia presentation by the shul's Cantor Ivor Joffe including songs of the seder.

Brand replied that his famous charge had insisted that his fellow prisoners study and "through their studies they network (with) each other to keep their minds". When new prisoners were brought in after the 1976 uprising, "they were encouraged because they realised the Struggle was still continuing outside", he added.

Some prisoners queried the point of studying as they were going to die in prison, he said. Mandela's retort was that their certificates would remain for their families who would think: "Even if he died in prison, he didn't waste his time."

Brand's son didn't escape

Mandela's attentions in this regard either. During his presidency or shortly thereafter, on learning that the young man wanted to study engineering, he arranged a bursary for him in New York, assuring Brand that "the comrades will look after him".

Much to Brand's embarrassment, his son then changed his mind, saying that he wanted to become a commercial diver. When Mandela heard this, he said: "Bring the boy to my house."

Excusing himself from Brand, he had a private conversation with the son. On his return he said: "We must listen to our children - if he makes a mistake, he'll learn from his mistakes."

Mandela then paid for a scholarship for the son to become a commercial diver and, Brand suspects, arranged his first job on Robben Island. Sadly, the young man died in a car accident in 2005.

"Mandela phoned the next day and said how bad it was to lose a child (as he had)." He, Ahmed Kathrada and Barbara Hogan were among those who attended the funeral.

Brand recalled his arrival as a 19-year-old warder on Robben Island in 1978 and how he had been told that he was about to meet "the biggest criminals in the history of South Africa". On entering the isolation section, he was taken aback to be greeted politely by an elderly African gentleman, Rivonia trialist Andrew Mlangeni.

"I couldn't believe they let these old guys do hard labour," he remembers thinking.

When Mandela learned that Brand had grown up the son of a farm foreman, he asked him for advice on his prison garden.

He also had a piece of advice for Brand: "After you've locked up the prisoners at night, you've got all the time - you must use it to study."

Brand recalled an incident when Winnie Mandela had smuggled a grandchild onto the island and through an elaborate subterfuge, had managed to let Mandela have sight of the baby. This was kept secret for years until 1994 when then-President Mandela called him over at Parliament, where Brand was by then employed, announcing: "This is the most important man - he risked his life for me."

Brand remembered his 1982 transfer to Pollsmoor Prison with Mandela and three of his comrades. The strict isolation in which they were kept, including from other warders, had the paradoxical result that "for the first time we could drink a cup of coffee with the prisoners and play tennis with them!"

Brand has so many memories of this country's icon during a time when the rest of South Africa didn't even know what Madiba looked like. He was witness to Mandela - like the Jews of Egypt - being forced to do slave labour. However, Mandela's memory is kept alive every day in this man, who was his most unlikely friend.

Show your love, gratitude & appreciation with our beautiful presentations, filled with fruit, nuts and chocolates

Kingswood Centre,
9 Northfield Ave, Glenhazel

☎ (011) 440-4924

JOHANNESBURG MUSICAL SOCIETY

THE WITS TRIO

MALCOLM NAY piano
ZANTA HOFMEYR violin
MACIEJ LACNY cello

Sat 22 April - Linder Auditorium - 20:00
Schubert * Zaidel-Rudolph * Dvořák's 'Dumky' Trio

www.jms.org.za **BOOKING AT COMPUTICKET** *No credit card facility at Linder

PHONE US LAST FOR TYRE PRICES!!

011 440-9540

FOR THE PRICE OF A PHONE CALL YOU CAN SAVE HUNDREDS OF RANDS!

Cor. LOUIS BOTHA & 11TH AVE HIGHLANDS NORTH

MOTOMAGS & TYRE

WHERE THE BOSS DOES IT HIMSELF!

Savoy Pharmacy Clinic Hours

Mon – Fri 9:00am – 3:00pm

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

- Cholesterol Screening
- Blood Screening
- Vaccinations
- Family Planning
- Discovery Vitality Assessments
- First Aid & Wound Care

- Breast Feeding Advice
- Baby Milestones
- Immunisations
- Rapid HIV Testing & Counselling
- Ear Piercing

580 Louis Botha Ave, Savoy Estate (Opp Nando's)
Tel: (011) 885-1200/1 • Email: savoy@medicarepharmacies.co.za

Specialist designers of

- Business Cards
- Magazines
- Brochures
- Adverts
- T-shirts
- Flyers
- Websites
- Billboards
- Logos
- Ezines
- Bookmarks
- Posters
- Invitations
- Emailers

T: 083 460 3633
E: info@designbandits.co.za
W: www.designbandits.co.za



**DEAR CUSTOMER
WE WISH YOU HAPPINESS,
PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
A KOSHER PASSOVER.**

**cash
converters®**

KosherWorld



WISHING YOU & THE COMMUNITY A HAPPY TRULY KOSHER



DE LA VI
CHOPPED HERRING
45⁹⁹
500g

DE LA VI
DANISH HERRING
41⁹⁹
500g



VILLA CAPE
GRAPE JUICE
34⁹⁹
750ml

MEVUSHAL



SELWYN SEGAL
TEIGLACH

84⁹⁹
350g

Only available
from 2pm Sunday.
Pre-packed
Pre-washed
EXCLUSIVE
TO US



FRESH
4⁴⁹
18g

KORECH
ROMAINE
LETTUCE

WIDEST
RANGE OF
KOSHER WINES
& DELECTABLES
FOR PESACH



CAPE AQUA
ASSTD SPARKLING
FLAVOURED WATER
12⁹⁹
1.5L



WHOLE
FROZEN
CHICKEN
49⁹⁹
/kg

MAXI
MORTADELA COLD
MEATS

149⁹⁹
/kg



OK SUNFLOWER
OIL - PURE

18⁹⁹
750g



MINCE MEAT
LEAN

114⁹⁹
/kg



HELIOS
ORIGINAL MARGARINE

19⁹⁹
500g



OSEM
ASSTD LONG LIFE CAKES

79⁹⁹
350g



MENORAH
48 HOUR CANDLES

25⁹⁹

Offers valid till
12 APRIL '17
or while stocks last



SCHMERLINGS
ASSTD CHOC SLABS

44⁹⁹
100g

BLACK
CHERRIES
29⁹⁹
350g

BLUE
BERRIES
34⁹⁹
350g

STRAW
BERRIES
20⁹⁹
350g

AVAILABLE
IN-STORE

Actual offers may differ from visuals shown. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While stocks last. E&OE

1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel | 011 440 9517 | info@kosherworld.co.za | www.kosherworld.co.za
Hours: Mon-Thurs 7am-10pm | Fri: 7am-4pm | Sat: 1/2 Hour After Shabbos -10pm | Sun: 8am - 10pm

Comprehensive insurance cover for...

BRETEL INC - TOC1268A

DOMESTIC

AGRICULTURE

Car and Home | General Liability | Asset All Risk

Crop | Assets | Vine | Weather

COMMERCIAL

SPECIALISED

Marine | Body Corporate | Aviation | Sectional Title
Contract Works | Long Term | Professional Indemnity

Specialised Liability | Travel | ProCycle Insurance
Film Producers | Indemnity & Weather Day

National Strength. Local Signature.



011 694 5000 | www.garrun-group.co.za
Authorised Financial Services Providers



Aliyah – the good, the bad and the meshuga

Benita Levin

It's been more than two decades since I last attended lectures and even longer since I sat on a school chair with wooden desks in front of a white board. The class is full of adults, mostly fellow olim who are offered the intensive five-month Hebrew course soon after moving to Israel.

But one can't help but feel like a teenager again, securing the seat in the back row, glancing surreptitiously at one's watch to see when the next break is due and giggling with classmates about the increasing amount of "homework" we're given, five days a week.

Our teacher is witty and sassy with a passion for the language that reminds me of Robin Williams' lovable character in the movie Dead Poets Society. But if any students here were ever shouting "Captain, my Captain", they wouldn't be doing so in English.

There are only five English-speaking students in this class of more than 20 - two Americans, two from England and just me, waving the South African flag.

I was stunned by the range of countries "represented" in this archaic-looking classroom - Brazil, France, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, Columbia, Mexico, Hungary and Turkey. Classmates include a cardiologist, doctor, engineer, psychologist, biologist, advertising manager, clothing exporter and a club deejay.

In class, your qualifications and careers mean very little - all things being equal, we are all pupils being transported back to our youth, trying our best to access a dormant part of our brain, while hoping that our weekly test won't be too tough.

Changing your mindset

Communication in class hasn't been easy, especially during the breaks - we've had no choice but to try and chat to each other in broken Hebrew, with some hilarious results. Much has no doubt been lost in translation, as French and Portuguese interpretations fly across the room and many joke about our range of accents.

But there is something incredibly moving about realising that each person in this melting pot is trying to immerse themselves in a new culture and country. It gives one enormous solace realising that people from so many different parts of the globe have made a similar move and are taking on a similar risk.

Coincidence or a sign?

There are many people who choose not to go to ulpan. We've met some who left the course to start working and others who believe one can get by with just English here, especially in areas like Ra'anana and Modi'in.

I still feel one can't integrate into a country without at least trying to speak the language, even if the goal is to be able to speak to one's children's friends, teachers or the all-important bakery owner.

I was given a fabulous "sign" which put paid to any doubt about taking on ulpan.

Shortly after arriving in the country, I received a Facebook message from a news editor from the Ukraine. We'd met at a conference for Women in the Media in Washington six years before. Our contact since then had been restricted to using Google Translate to understand each other's social media posts.

What are the chances? Ilona Fanta and her husband had made aliyah a few months before us and we had both signed up at the same ulpan venue. I had to re-read her message a few times.

Shortly after this online chat, we met for lunch in Ra'anana. A long way from Washington, Ukraine or South Africa.

We both agree that when we meet up again, we both hope to be able to have most of our conversation in Hebrew...

Reconnecting with Ilona was just the "feel good" coincidence I needed to cement my decision to keep sitting on a wooden chair in front of a big white board, armed with a pencil, eraser and a cup of strong coffee.

Word of the week – mamash - really. Often used by English-speakers for emphasis. Example: "I think it's a great idea, mamash."

Favourite new phrase – Ein ba-ayah - no problem.

Smile of the week - having my nine-year-old daughter look through my ulpan "homework", seeing her nod and say: "Not bad, mommy, 'Tov me'od' (very good)."

Experience Israel, Explore Your Future.

ISRAEL CENTRE SOUTH AFRICA

ALIYAH EXPO 2017

HIGHER EDUCATION in ISRAEL

For more information about Aliyah, studies, internships, programmes & much more...

Please contact Israel Centre to book your one on one appointment

- Cape Town 15-16 May - Shana 021 464 6700 aliyah@ctjc.co.za

- Johannesburg 17-18 May Sue 011 645 2530 aliyah@israelcentre.co.za



CONNECTING CAREER ASPIRATIONS WITH THE MIRACLE OF PESACH

Celebrate the freedom of choice with our unique network of clients and candidates



NO JEW GETS LEFT BEHIND

To assist those less fortunate with their Pesach needs:

- www.jhbchev.co.za
- 011 532 9758/9674
- SMS 'Pesach' to 37613



ChevrahKadisha



Could you describe your haggadah and why it is unofficial?

The haggadah contains the full Hebrew text of a traditional Ashkenazi haggadah, an English translation, and sections throughout of Harry Potter-themed commentary and divrei Torah. I wanted it to be a fully functional haggadah that could easily be used at a seder in many denominations.

At the end there is a cute parody of Chad Gadya illustrating the cause and effect narrative of the Harry Potter series, and an English section with some longer essays, one of which can be found in Tablet Magazine. It also contains some discussion questions and student answers, which can be used as great conversation starters.

It is unofficial for legal reasons, at the suggestion of a top copyright lawyer - legally, the word “unofficial” is not required, but we wanted to be clear that we aren’t in any way affiliated with JK Rowling and are merely building on her wonderful universe with our own commentary, within the realm of fair usage.

Why did you decide to write this book, pairing tradition with magic?

There are so many parallels between Harry Potter’s journey from unwanted orphan to the saviour of wizardkind, that I’m surprised this is the first major haggadah to be written about it. The Harry Potter books contain many of the key elements and lessons of the Exodus story - uplifting the downtrodden, sharing our current wealth and prosperity with others, education, different learning styles, parent-child relationships, unconditional love and kinship with one another, and so on.

What is your feeling and relationship to Harry Potter and how far back does it go?

It has always been a gift to have a common



Pesach according to Harry Potter

Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg has created a haggadah that will attract not just children, but the Harry Potter fans in all of us. This New York rabbi, who has been the rabbi of the Etz Chaim of Kew Gardens Hills congregation for over 20 years, has written The (unofficial) Hogwarts Haggadah.

language, with which to communicate with anyone that you’re teaching, and Harry Potter has been exactly that. I can make references and illustrate points though the story or through the characters and instantly everyone knows what I’m talking about. It’s like a shorthand and a code that almost everyone understands.

I wrote my first book, Morality for Muggles, on that basis. For years, I’ve hosted Harry Potter Nights for my students, where we sort into Houses, make HP-themed carnival booths, and play Quidditch. Almost 20 years back, I created a Harry Potter writing club for my sixth graders.

Are you a Muggle or Wizard and just how can you prove it?

I think that one of the messages of both Torah and Harry Potter is that every Muggle is, in truth, a wizard who simply hasn’t received his or her letter yet - and we have magical gifts inside of us and a contribution to make to saving the world, and only we, through our living a meaningful life, can sort ourselves into the company of the House of our choice.

How have you combined the hagaddah and the world of Hogwarts?

Harry Potter themed divrei Torah are sprinkled throughout. It was very important to me to have some commentary in every major section of the seder. I was also careful not to portray the wizarding world in a way that could seem demeaning to Jewish tradition.

I did not replace traditional recitations with parodies from the world of magic. My point is to show that both of these streams of wisdom, without needing to rank them, can teach us eternal lessons on how to live a meaningful life.

What is it about magic, Potter, Hogwarts and Judaism that can be aligned?

I don’t actually focus so much on the magical aspects of the Harry Potter books - to me, what makes these books resonate with so many people across so many walks of life, are the human themes infused in the stories: parent-child relationships, student-teacher relationships, friendship, class differences, and so on. JK Rowling is so skilled at illustrating these ideas, and in my writings I seek to highlight the parallels between the Harry Potter themes and Jewish themes. It’s a natural fit.

In 2011, you published Morality for Muggles - what was that about and what made you write that?

Morality for Muggles, or M4M, was a natural outgrowth of the work I had been doing with my students, as outlined above. In fact, one chapter is devoted to student writing connecting Harry Potter, Judaism, and an examined life. The book enabled me to flesh out the sporadic lessons and comparisons with which I had sprinkled my classes for years.

What kind of response have you had to your haggadah and Morality for Muggles from your family, community, and the Jewish world?

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. My family has of course been supportive and enthusiastic from the get-go, with my children taking on very real editorial and promotional roles; it’s thanks to them and their social media skills that this has become such a widespread phenomenon.

I’ve been overwhelmed by the generous expressions of well-wishes from colleagues at

the Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy (SAR) and members of my community. I am especially gratified when I hear that kids are reading the haggadah from cover to cover, even before the holiday. That means it is serving its purpose. People from all over and from all denominations of Judaism are sending in pictures of their haggadahs. Everyone is talking about it and how it will enhance their Passover this year. It’s been incredible to watch.

Where can we - in South Africa - get hold of your haggadah?

I have not heard of any specific stores in South Africa that are carrying it. But if any would like to, please tell them to feel free to contact our distributor, Alef to Tav (info@alefotav.com), and see if any arrangements can be made in time for Passover.

• This haggadah is also available in South Africa through amazon.com

AIPAC: Finding likeminded Africans

SHELLEY GLASER

Nothing impressed the South African representatives to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference last week more than an African president taking the podium.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame drew parallels between the Rwandan and Jewish people and claimed that “the survival and renewal of our two nations testifies to this truth”, said Benji Shulman, chairman of the South Africa Israel Forum, one of the South Africans in New York for the conference.

Shulman explained that in 2014 Rwanda used its position to stop a United Nations anti-Israel resolution that called on Israel to withdraw to pre-June 1967 lines by late 2017. It also abstained from the 2011 Unesco vote to make Palestine a state.

“It is very rare for a non-Israeli or American politician to speak at AIPAC,” Shulman pointed out. “Mr Kagame will receive the Adelson Prize for Outstanding Friendship with the Jewish People. He is credited with ending the Rwandan genocide in 1994.”

Shulman also attended a panel discussion where Karim Keita, chairman of the Security and Defence Commission of the National Assembly of Mali, spoke. Shulman said Keita talked of “Israel’s booming ties with Africa” and added that he believed that the rise of jihadist militancy in Mali may have resulted in a possible change of policy towards Israel.

Shulman said he attended the AIPAC conference because he believes that it is a way South Africans can learn to “strengthen the South African and Israel connection”. AIPAC, he says, “can teach us these lessons as it is an example of a highly successful model for civil and political engagement.”

Shulman expressed his admiration for Nikki Haley, America’s newly-appointed ambassador to the UN, calling her “the unequivocal star of the AIPAC conference”. He pointed out that “she filled a hockey stadium with Israel supporters and got a long and enthusiastic standing ovation”.

Shulman was also struck by the willingness of many people across the political spectrum, to be at AIPAC and to “support Israel as part of a natural aspect of being American”. He was amazed at the diversity of attendants.

“I met Democrats, Republicans, African Americans, LGBTQ, and feminist activists.” He was fascinated that “these diverse people consider it to be part and parcel of their political work, to be at AIPAC, and to work with the pro-Israel community”.



Balfour
Mall
MAKE YOUR MOVE

SINCERE BLESSINGS!

Happy and Kosher Pesach for you and your families.

 www.balfourmall.co.za  @BalfourMall

Proving the prejudice wrong...

TALI FEINBERG

Enrolling your child in a remedial school may feel like the toughest decision ever, not least of all because of your fear that it means your child will never succeed. However, the many success stories speak to the fact that this is by far not the case.

In fact, private remedial schools are designed to help learners reach their ultimate potential, and to succeed in both schooling and their careers. Most children go back into mainstream schooling, and succeed alongside their peers. The SA Jewish Report spoke to families with inspiring stories.

“Before this journey started, I was one of those parents that stood in judgement of a child that attended a remedial school. The day I acknowledged that I have a child with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder), was the day I enrolled my son into a remedial school,” says Ashleigh Elad.

Her son Guy Elad is just one of many success stories - while he started his school career at Crossroads remedial school, he matriculated from a mainstream school with seven distinctions and 100 per cent for maths. He went on to study actuarial science at Wits, and has just been awarded the Golden Key Award, given to the top 15 students in the subject.

“Guy was never singled out or labelled as the boy with learning challenges, but rather as the boy with the determination to succeed. I always thought that having a child with a learning challenge was a curse but in actual fact it has been a blessing,” continues Ashleigh.

“Attending a remedial school was a true gift which taught him to be grounded, taught him coping skills and how to apply himself. It taught our family to never judge. I cannot stress enough, how crucial it is, that parents find the right school for their child.

“Avoiding remedial therapists in fear of stigma or ridicule or fear of isolation from friends and family does not solve the problem. In fact, it is a disservice to the child. Give your children what they need, be it educational or psychological support.”



A 28-year-old Jewish man went to Crossroads when he was in grade 3 because he had auditory processing issues that were getting in his way of learning at school. He spent three years at Crossroads. His mother asked that he not be named as she was not able to contact him before going to press.

“Crossroads was fantastic for my son. It gave him so much confidence and taught him that he certainly wasn’t stupid, he just had a learning challenge and he needed to learn differently,” said his mother. He went back to King David and went on to get a matric that enabled him to get into the University of Central Florida, where he studied B Com accounting.

When he finished, he applied for a job at Google. He was one of 500 applicants, probably the only South African, and he got the job. He and his wife now run their own company in Los Angeles.

“My son is just one of so many Crossroads and Bellavista success stories. There have been doctors and engineers who once had learning difficulties and went to these schools, which give them tools they couldn’t get in mainstream schools, so they could go back and succeed,” said the mother.

Tallia Pitum is 21 years old and attended Bellavista remedial school. “When I first went to Bellavista I honestly never thought I would be where I am today. It was a very good schooling environment for me and I think my parents made a good choice,” she says.

After Bellavista she went to Eden College and matriculated in 2013 with a distinction in visual arts.

“Although I had to study twice as hard as my classmates, I did it. I am now a prosthetic make-up artist working in the film industry. Just because I have dyslexia and ADD, it still doesn’t stop me from achieving my goals.”



Razelle Esakowitz’s son Michael was at the Eden SCIP School for primary school, a remedial section of Eden College. “He then mainstreamed for high school, but would have continued to benefit from a small class environment. He had very little success at school, in fact he was lucky to scrape by and receive his matric, but his after-school success has been phenomenal,” says Razelle.

Michael made aliyah straight after he completed matric in 2010. He managed to learn Hebrew and became fluent after about a year in Israel. He did two and a half years of army service in an elite combat unit and went on to become a commander for a further six months, where he was in charge of nine soldiers.

He completed all the tests and course material in Hebrew - not even his mother tongue. He then went on to complete a BA Honours degree in government and counterterrorism at IDC University in Herzliya.

While he was studying for his degree, he also worked up to five shifts a week in order to support himself.

Michael is currently studying for a masters in energy and sustainability at Tel-Aviv University, but ultimately he would like to finish a masters in government/counter-terrorism at IDC.

Shterna Bacher went to Crossroads

remedial school for four years and then to Torah Academy. “I was told I would not manage to study further after high school, but I went on to do a double BA in criminology and psychology and my honours as a PGCE in education for grades 7-12.”

Shterna says she has “reached success in myself and what I do. I have managed to enjoy learning new things and I have worked with amazing people in our Jewish organisations that I would never have tried to if I believed I wasn’t capable.

“To hear from your old teachers and headmistress that they can’t believe what I do today, makes me understand why I went to a school that gave me that foundation.”

As someone who taught at King David, she feels it is imperative to start a remedial school. “I have seen so many children struggle and they begin to feel less and that the school doesn’t care about them.

“They are constantly compared to the other children and are told they need to try harder in new terms or new year. This is belittling to them as most of them are either trying their best with what they are given, or have become lazy due to their own lack of belief in themselves.

“I believe this new school will give these children the chance to find themselves and what they are capable of achieving.”

Frame the Moment
with Distinctive Frames
and Fine Vision

Present this add for R200.00
Frame Discount

Maurice Oskowitz
OPTOMETRIST

Oaklands Shopping Centre
+27 (0)11 728-5446 • www.mauriceoptometrist.co.za

Maple Galleries
Chag Sameach
ANTIQUESS
EST. 1959

4 TIME WINNER BEST ANTIQUE GALLERY LEISURE OPTIONS ‘BEST OF JO’BURG’

Buy/sell, repairs, restoration,
valuations to all silverware, furniture,
jewellery, clocks and watches

Level 3
ROSEBANK MALL
Tel: +27 (0)11 788-8514

81 6th Street
PARKHURST
Tel: +27 (0)11 447-9360

ANTIQUA JEWELLERY, FINE
SILVER & OBJETS D’ART

FURNITURE, INTERIORS,
SILVER & OBJETS D’ART

WWW.MAPLEGALLERIES.CO.ZA

MEMBER OF THE JEWELLERY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Check Dry
Cleaners
The Professionals

www.checkdrycleaners.co.za

Your Pesach Cleaning Specialist

Talleisim ✓ Kapotas ✓ Curtains ✓ Tailoring ✓

Extended Trading Hours
Sunday 9th April 9:00am - 1:30pm

011 640 3596
Cnr George Avenue &
Bradfield Drive, Fairmount

King David opens a remedial school in Victory Park

TALI FEINBERG

Jewish children needing remedial help have had little choice but to leave King David Schools to go to Crossroads and Bellavista - not always returning to the Jewish school fold.

This is now about to change with the 2018 launch of King David Ariel, a Jewish remedial school on the King David Victory Park campus.

“The SA Board of Jewish Education (SABJE) makes decisions, guided by three key areas of focus: Community, Excellence and Sustainability,” says Rabbi Craig Kacev, general director of the SABJE.

“At times, these three create a paradox of sorts, yet in this case, with the establishing of a Jewish remedial school, all three came together.

“The King David Schools have offered the best quality education for 70 years, yet have not expanded this offering to all Jewish children. With the opening of King David Ariel, we broaden to more learners in the community.

“At the same time we believe that it will contribute to the sustainability of the other 10 King David Schools.”

Rabbi Kacev explains that the name Ariel is made up of two words, “Ari’ - Hebrew for lion, because our pupils will exhibit courage and the tenacious desire to succeed - and the word ‘El’, which is one of G-d’s names indicating strength.

“We will draw on our Jewish heritage to build a strong and caring learning community,” he pledges.

Opening a King David remedial school means that Jewish children who experience barriers to learning will still be able to enjoy all the social, cultural, Jewish and sporting benefits of King David Schools, along with individual attention, top remedial teachers, therapists and academic support.

The school will cater for children who have learning challenges and who require extra support. They will ultimately be able to re-enter the mainstream system smoothly, not least of all because they remain part of the same school system.

“These children have learning potential, but simply present with specific or general learning difficulties.”

A full range of extramural, cultural and sporting activities will be on offer, and most will take place together with the King David Victory Park Primary School learners.

“Ultimately, a King David Ariel learner could



The new state-of-the-art school will initially cater for the foundation phase (grade 1 to grade 3, with grade R under consideration) and will ultimately grow to grade 7 in the future. The school will start with eight classrooms and all of the offices, spaces and therapy rooms needed.

become captain of the cricket team - totally integrated with mainstream learners,” says Rabbi Kacev. While they may be having classes in a separate building, the entire system will aim to connect all learners with each other.

The new state-of-the-art school will initially cater for the foundation phase (grade 1 to grade 3, with grade R under consideration) and will ultimately grow to grade 7 in the future.

The school will start with eight classrooms and all of the offices, spaces and therapy rooms needed. They will have the use of a media centre, an art room, a music room, computer laboratories, a hall and all sporting facilities as they share space with King David Victory Park Primary.

“All therapies will be offered as part of the school day, such as occupational therapy, speech and remedial therapy. All interventions will be under the guidance of the school head and an educational director tasked with looking after each child and their needs with the full team of professionals caring for each child,” explains Rabbi Kacev.

Sally Ann Knowles, current Preparatory Deputy Head of the Junior Prep at St David’s Marist Inanda, has been appointed principal of King David Ariel and will begin her tenure in April this year.

Knowles has always taken a particular interest in the diagnosing and implementation of early intervention strategies for those pupils whose learning requires additional scaffolding and remediation.

She has headed up a multidisciplinary team of class teachers; bridging teachers and therapists; for a number of years and has built up an extensive network of medical and educational professionals.

She is looking forward to serving the King David community with dedication, collaboration, and a commitment to personalised learning and 21st century academic excellence.

Sally Ann Knowles



SANDTON / WYNBERG

Battery Centre

THE BATTERY SPECIALISTS

Sandton/Wynberg	Balfour/Highlands North
Tel: 011 887 7336 Cell: 082 823 0655	Tel: 011 440 8980 Cell: 073 559 1053
Motor City Cnr Rautenbach & 6th Street	Cnr 11th Ave & Louis Botha Also from Athol Street
Jorge & Jean	Tony

Curtain Cove

YOUR CURTAIN SPECIALISTS

STOCKISTS OF BRANDED FABRICS

FREE QUOTES

We measure, make & install curtains

We specialise in blinds

We do upholstery

Stockists of haberdashery & linen

We do rail & rebated rods

Midways Mall, 280 Corlette Drive, Bramley Gardens

(011) 440-9633

Some things are worth waking up early for...

Enjoy our selection of breakfast options at Brioche. Choose between something savoury or sweet or make your own breakfast!

Shop 1 Longridge, No. 2 Long Ave, Glenhazel
Tel: +27 11 028 1244/55
Email: info@brioche.co.za

BRIOCHE

CHALAV YISRAEL

Had my eyes checked and found the afikoman...

Thank you Stephen

Stephen J Goldberg
Optometrist

Tel: (011) 885-2543

198 Athol Street, Highlands North

Dateline: Middle East

Egypt, after the exodus...

PAULA SLIER

There is a joke that when Shimon Peres was president of Israel, he invited ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to spend Passover with him and his family so that together they could commemorate their exodus from Egypt.

But no-one’s joking much in Egypt today. Except perhaps Mubarak, who was recently freed from prison after an upset in Egyptian politics that saw him kicked out of power at the start of the Arab Spring six years ago.

But while Mubarak might have been overthrown with a roar, this time around, most Egyptians were mute about his homecoming. Many of the tens of thousands of passionate youngsters who thronged Tahrir Square in the early months of the revolution sit in prison. Fear is back. Resignation has replaced optimism.

It’s a far cry from the dreams Egyptians shared with me about their country as I mingled among the crowds that would never leave the streets in those hopeful, heady, years. Former American President Barak Obama backed up their dreams. “The people of Egypt have spoken,” he said at the time. “Their voices have been heard and Egypt will never be the same ... for Egyptians have made it clear that nothing less than genuine democracy will carry the day.”

That genuine democracy, unfortunately, saw the Muslim Brotherhood, a Sunni Islamist movement of which Hamas in Gaza is an offshoot, come to power. It was no irony that for the first time in 5 000 years of Egyptian history, the first democratically head of state, Mohammed Morsi, was from an organisation the government had banned for most of its 85-year history.

Israelis watched with growing concern, especially as the Brotherhood’s Morsi promised easier border controls between Egypt and Gaza and weapons started flowing into the Sinai Peninsula.

But the Egypt saga was far from over. Morsi was soon overthrown by the Egyptian



A protest on Tahrir Square in Egypt

army, imprisoned and preparations made to free Mubarak. Egypt must be the only country in the world where a president enters jail while those who were previously in jail enter the presidency - only for it all later to be reversed. It would be laughable if it wasn’t downright terrifying.

And so Egypt today is right back where it started... and Jerusalem is breathing a sigh of relief. The head of the Egyptian Armed Forces, General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, a former Mubarak crony, is in power. He has his hands full trying to deal with a plummeting economy and growing insurgency.

On both these scores Israel can help - as long as the country turns a blind eye to the fact that el-Sisi has led Egypt to be among the top jailers of journalists in the world and has arrested thousands of people for opposing the government.

Islamist extremism is an enemy both countries fear and IDF commanders have

repeatedly said that military-to-military co-operation and intelligence sharing between the two has never been better.

El-Sisi has even offered to mediate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - although most understand this offer to be more about Israel-Egypt relations than the Palestinian cause.

What’s more, should the countries decide to work more closely together, it could result in renewed agricultural and technological co-operation - something Cairo desperately needs to help invigorate her economy. A growing number of Egyptians also think that their country has done more than its share to help the Palestinians and paid a heavy price for it. Perhaps it’s time to move on...

Thirty eight years ago, last week, Israel signed its first peace agreement with an Arab neighbour. And yet, still, most Egyptians dislike and distrust Israel. Those I interviewed on the streets prior,

during and after the Arab Spring, were not supportive of the historic deal and there remains a deep-seated antagonism towards Israel from among the old Egyptian elites, be they Islamic or nationalistic.

Their view of history is also very different. A Cairo museum display about the Yom Kippur War details how Egypt won that war and the taxi driver who took me there gleefully recounted how he came within kilometres of Tel Aviv as a soldier.

Egypt today is a gloomy place to me - the euphoria that once lit up the streets is gone - and the Arab Spring has turned into an Arab winter. What remains to be seen is at whose seder table Mubarak will be sitting this year.

• Paula Sliver 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.

Pesach

Pesach away from family

KIM NOVICK
SYDNEY

The absence of family always becomes magnified around the High Holy days. When one emigrates, you get used to missing out on spending time with your siblings, parents and extended family on a regular basis. That’s not to say it gets any easier. It simply becomes the new normal.

However, the prospect of sitting at a table for a seder with no family, or worse, with a group of strangers, is not something any relocated family looks forward to. Happily, this is when the community is at its best and most beautiful.

No expat will be alone over Pesach. We gather whatever family we have (no matter how often we do or don’t see them) as well as friends who have no family and we make sure the seder table is filled with camaraderie, food and joy.

For an immigrant, good friends forge bonds as close as real family and there are many who will not spend a High Holy day without each other.

We are each other’s very loved and cherished family substitutes.

Ari and Kim Novick

We arrived in Sydney just over five years ago and have an unspoken yet understood rule that we spend Pesach with Ari’s brother and sister-in-law, Dan and Liora Novick.

They have been in Sydney for around 16 years and there is no question that we spend at least first night with them. Others join us, those who may have no family or are close friends, but we don’t make any plans for first night without each other.

It’s a newly established tradition that is the mark of making a firm footprint in our new world.

Larry and Tessa Dorfan

Pesach is always spent with Larry’s family. It’s difficult not being able to celebrate chags with loved ones, but the new friends made abroad, become the extended family.

We always celebrate with friends and other family members who have emigrated. New friends made abroad become the family which



A family Pesach

has been left behind. Usually the children are of the same age and it’s a wonderful, happy gathering.

Ryan and Samantha Rubinstein

Until this year when Ryan’s sister moved to Sydney, we had no family here. We were quickly gathered up by old friends who have

been in Sydney for some time and have never been alone for Pesach. Everyone looks after each other. This year will be no different, but it will be a treat to have Ryan’s sister and her daughter to celebrate with us. Friends become so important when you move to a new country. We have each other’s backs.

Lithuanian mission accomplished



Zev Krengel; the Mayor of Vilnius Arturas Zuokas; Robbie Brozin and Ilan Chasen, a member of the SA delegation.

SUZANNE BELLING

Zev Krengel and Robbie Brozin were men on a mission last year - and now they are men on a mission accomplished.

Krengel, honorary life vice-president of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and businessman Robbie Brozin, of Lita Lives (an organisation of descendants of Lithuanian Jews), initially went to Lithuania to persuade the government there to change the law that prevented South African Jews from obtaining Lithuanian passports. This year, they went back to say thank you.

After their first visit, the Act to stop the granting of Lithuanian passports was amended by the Lithuanian Parliament - 94 in favour, none against - to allow anyone who left Lithuania between 1920 and 1990 - and their descendants - the right to reclaim their citizenship.

An upbeat Krengel told Jewish Report: “They heard what we said and our second visit last week was to say thank you, to explore the possibility of closer co-operation between the South African Jewish community and Lithuania, and to set up a proper Jewish museum in Vilnius (formerly Vilna).”

Under the previous law, the only way South Africans could get Lithuanian citizenship was if they proved their parents or grandparents had left the country for reasons of physical security - not for economic reasons.

“That was the law,” said Krengel. “You couldn’t have a blanket reason. You had to prove that your grandparents or parents were in mortal danger and that’s why they left.

“But it became almost impossible to prove that a specific Jewish family was in danger. However, the facts are that if you didn’t leave, your life was in danger, as proved by Lithuanian Jewry being decimated in the early part of the Second World War.”

South African Jews, including Krengel and Brozin, played a role in challenging this law, because of the pre-war anti-Semitism in Lithuania and the rise of Nazi Germany.

Describing the visit as a “healing process”, Krengel said: “We really were treated well in Lithuania as Jews.”

Part of this process was an acknowledgement that over 90 per cent of South African Jews were of Lithuanian descent and that virtually all those who did not leave in time were killed.

Krengel had told the authorities: “We don’t need the passports. South Africa has been unbelievably good to us. Of course, if our kids want to study in Europe, we can be part of the EU and also will not need visas if we hold Lithuanian passports.”

Now, by granting passports, Lithuania recognised that Jews had been forced to leave Lithuania, but could now be part of that country again.

“I think it’s very important that the authorities document the Jewish history. If we, as the South African Jewish community, do not take pride in our Jewish heritage, then no-one else will, because we are almost the only true-blooded Jewish Lithuanians left.”

In South Africa, he said, most Jews married others also of Lithuanian descent, whereas this was not the case with those who immigrated to Israel or the United States.

“One thing about Jewish people is that we can forgive, but we don’t forget. We all know what happened in Lithuania and what our ancestors went through,” Krengel said.

Both visits also explored the possibility of setting up a Jewish museum in Vilnius, the capital and aimed to foster closer ties between the Lithuanian government and South Africa’s Jewish community.

South African Jews had a responsibility to record the history of Lithuanian Jewry all the way back to its 600 years before the Second World War, said Krengel. Now only 5 000 Jews remained in Lithuania.

The Krengel-Brozin delegation included Zev’s father Julius, who had never been to Lithuania, to visit the shtetl of Julius’ late father, Shepsel.

Krengel said: “My zeide wrote a diary in Yiddish on his life in Lithuania, which my uncle Benny Krengel translated into English. I had it published last year and presented Lithuanian Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis with a copy.”

The delegation met with the prime minister, the mayor of Vilnius, Arturas Zupkas, and members of the Opposition.

Please support our advertisers; they support your community

011 485-5589
74 George Avenue
nicky@mooz.co.za

Treat your family to the ‘last 3 chometz’ breakfasts before Pesach. On 7 and 9 April 8am – 11am • 10 April 8am – 10am

Eat as much as you like

R130 for adults • R75 for children 8 and under

Come to Mooz...to shmoooooz

We are specialist manufacturers and installers of granite kitchen tops, vanities, staircases, windowsills, flooring and much more, since 1988.

We are the largest supplier of Rustenburg granite kitchen tops to the market direct to the public at a wholesale price of **R790.00** + VAT per L/M INSTALLED

JUST ARRIVED
Pure White Glass Stone kitchen tops exclusive to us. Maintenance Free, Toughened with a **LIFETIME GUARANTEE** at **R2200.00 + VAT per L/M INSTALLED**

011 786 3565/8/9 • sales@granitecity.co.za • 083 269 6040

KILLARNEY MALL

CONVENIENTLY YOURS!

WISHING ALL OUR JEWISH SHOPPERS

A **HAPPY** AND **KOSHER PESACH**

VISIT OUR **NEWLY OPENED STORES!**

T: 011 646 4657 | 60 Riviera Road, Killarney | KILLARNEYMALL.CO.ZA

CITY PROPERTY
Addressing the Future

Ten easy tips to avoid a boring seder

RABBI REBECCA ROSENTHAL
NEW YORK

If your Passover seder is anything like mine, it can resemble the world’s most difficult classroom: different ages, ranging from three to 93, and varying levels of interest. Some want to read and discuss every word in the Haggadah, some just want to get to the food - and everything in between.

Designing a seder that can work for everyone can feel like a challenge for even the most seasoned educator, let alone a busy parent.

But there is magic in the seder. Having loved ones around a table together can feel like a luxury in this day and age, so here are some tips for making the most of the festive meal. I hope these ideas will inspire you to be creative in a way that feels authentic to your seder.

The seder’s purpose is to get people to ask questions, so the more you break the mould of the way you have always done it, the more likely you and your guests will be able to access the true meaning of the holiday.

10 TIPS TO PERK UP YOUR SEDER:

1. Put out some food earlier. Food is always important in Jewish events and never more so than in the seder. It can feel like a long time until you get to dinner, but after karpas (the green vegetable that comes right at the beginning), you can serve appetisers. Vegetables and a dip or fruit are good healthy options, but my family also puts out candy, which keeps the kids busy for a little while. If you want to be thematic, there is fair-trade, slavery-free chocolate that is kosher for Passover.

2. Play with your food. Along the same theme, there are fun ways you can incorporate food into the heart of the seder. One friend of ours attaches the parsley to mini fishing rods and uses them to dip the parsley in the salt water. Another friend chops up lots of fruits and nuts (and even some chocolate) and allows the guests to make their own charoset, as long as it resembles the mortar. When it comes time to remember the plague of hail, I have heard of families throwing mini marshmallows at one another. Finally, there is a Persian custom of lightly (or not so lightly) slapping your neighbour with scallions during the song “Dayenu” as a reminder of slavery.

3. Use the table. Put something interesting on the table, either in the middle or at each individual plate. We have used different kinds of frogs, puppets and masks. Perhaps it will inspire a guest to ask a question about Passover, the story or the traditions of your family. At the very least it will entertain those at the table when they need a break.

4. Don’t be a slave to the Haggadah. The Haggadah is meant as a guide, and you don’t have to read every word to fulfil your obligation to tell the story. Get many different Haggadahs and look for readings and retellings that speak to you and share those at the seder. Or get the kids to write a play about the Passover story and perform it. Or ask your guests to bring something that represents freedom and tell the story of why. As long as your guests are engaged in the story, you have done your job.



A Jewish family in Encino, California on April 14, 2014, re-enacts the oppression that Jewish slaves felt as part of a Passover seder.

5. Move around. This is the story of a wandering people. If you have the space, then wander! Do one piece of the seder in the living room, one in the dining room, or even go outside if the weather permits it. Turn a few bed sheets into the sea and walk through it on your way to the Promised Land. Give your guests a chance to be in the story, not just talk about it.

6. Assign homework. People always do better if they are prepared, so ask your guests to participate in the seder. Send a question in advance, ask them to bring something or even make decorations for the seder table. Guests, bring a reading or an object that speaks to you. I guarantee your host will appreciate not having to carry the weight of the entire evening.

7. Give everyone a job. Before the seder, make a list of everything that has to be done during the evening, from pouring the wine to serving the soup to clearing the table. Then, assign away. You guests will be happy to help, and you will be happier if you come out of the seder not feeling enslaved.

8. Sing (or watch videos). There are tons of songs for kids and adults alike for Passover. Google around to find tunes or songs that you like and teach them at your seder. Providing song sheets helps everyone sing

along. And if singing is not your thing, a quick search on YouTube for Passover song parodies turns up videos that would be fun to watch before or during the seder.

9. Make something. When I was about 10 years old, I spent hours creating a chart that outlined the order of the seder. I made a small arrow that could be used to show where we were in the progression of the evening, and since then it has been used every year. My mother still brings out Elijah’s cups that my sisters and I made in Hebrew school, and my kids proudly show off their seder plates, kiddush cups and matzah covers. If your kids don’t make them in school or Hebrew school, these are easy crafts to make at home.

10. Let loose. The point of the seder is to engage people in the questions, both ancient and contemporary, of slavery and freedom. The way you do that is up to you. Try to find a balance between preparing for the seder and obsessing about every detail. And if your kids run screaming circles around the table while everyone else is trying to talk, as mine have done on more than one occasion, those are memories, too. Don’t beat yourself up about it. (Kveller via JTA)

• *Rabbi Rebecca Rosenthal is the director of youth and family education at Central Synagogue in New York City.*

Contact Kim Faclier for all your property related requirements!



designbandits.co.za040417

Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach

082 554 6295

www.Go-Dove.com/southafrica

0861 GoDove (463683)

LIQUIDITY SERVICES

GoIndustry DoveBid

A LIQUIDITY SERVICES MARKETPLACE

Global leaders in asset disposal and valuation

from moo to you

‘Free your wife’ from the kitchen

Treat your family to the ‘last 3 chometz’ breakfasts before Pesach

On 7 and 9 April 8am – 11am • 10 April 8am – 10am

Mooz scrumptious buffet breakfast

Eat as much as you like

R130 for adults

R75 for children 8 and under

Looking forward to seeing you there

74 George Avenue, Sandringham

nicky@mooz.co.za • Tel: (011) 485-5589



Mooz BROTHERS

from moo to you

Embrace the young as they are our future

RABBI YEHUDA STERN
SYDENHAM SHUL

Trying to understand young adults - or Millennials - is no easy task. Countless debates have focused on whether it is better to have young leaders or staff, or not. This is pertinent in government today as President Jacob Zuma has changed his Cabinet to supposedly bring in young(er) blood.

One view holds that “older” is better because with experience comes knowledge. Another view argues that with the “younger person” comes more energy and more enthusiasm. But what about experience? “Well, if experience was so important then man would never have walked on the moon,” is often the reply.

Today the Millennial generation is the hot topic. They are those born from approximately 1984 onwards and turned into young adults at the beginning of the 21st century. They have many advantages over the older generation, which gives them an edge over their older colleagues. They are technologically proficient; they have higher levels of education; they have taken multi-tasking to a whole new level; and they have an insatiable thirst for success.

But according to Simon Sinek, a British American author, motivational speaker and marketing consultant who grew up in South Africa, they have their challenges too.

“They are self-entitled, impatient, lazy and tough to manage,” says Sinek, who had 56 million Facebook hits on his video on Millennials in the workforce. “However, the reality is that by 2025 Millennials will make up 75 per cent of the global workforce and we can’t ignore that.”

This dilemma is not only in the workforce, but within the Jewish community and the various organisational structures too. I personally work very closely with young adults - both students and young professionals.



Rabbi Yehuda Stern, Jean de Villiers and the young adults in his community

My wife and I run the Sydenham SpiritShul, which provides shul services specifically for this age group, as well as educational and social activities, catering for, what we call, “Young Jewish Johannesburg”. And we love them all dearly, with their strengths and with their shortfalls.

One of the powerful conversations in the Torah takes place during the episode of Pesach and the redemption from Egypt. I believe it encompasses what should be our approach to young adults and to youth in general.

G-d was smiting the Egyptians, plague after plague. By the time it came to the seventh plague of locusts, Pharaoh was under huge pressure by his top officials to give Moshe what he wanted. At that point all Moshe had asked for was to let his people go.

Pharaoh finally gave in and he summoned Moshe and Aharon and says: “The adults may go to serve your G-d in the desert, but the youth must stay here in Egypt.” This was his way of ensuring that they would come back and not escape.

But Moshe disagreed. “With our youth and with our elders shall we go; with our sons and with our daughters, with our flock and with our cattle shall we go, because it is a festival for us.”

The Jewish people cannot serve G-d and celebrate our religion with the adults alone. What is a Shabbos table without the youth? What is shul without the children services? What is a community with only funerals and no barmitzvahs or weddings?

The continuity of our people is in the hands of the younger generation. “So, when we leave Egypt and we go to celebrate, it must be with the old and the young,” demanded Moshe.

As community leaders and educators, Moshe’s request must ring constantly in our ears. It is our responsibility to cater for every member and every age group of the community however, with extra emphasis on the youth. It is not an easy task at all. Honestly, it may be easier to educate and engage with the older members of the community than the younger ones.

We must be innovative and creative to find ways to attract them and to inspire them. They may be complex and they may be tough to manage, but that’s not an excuse to leave them behind.

Many organisations and community leaders have already tried all sorts of new ideas. Age-specific shuls, events with guest celebrities and speakers, cocktail parties, overseas trips and much more.

The amount of money that has been spent on these sorts of programmes is mind-boggling. Yet, we still have challenges. With social media today, one has access to everyone and everything and too often people would rather stay home than go out to a Jewish community event or party.

Truthfully, after all that has been done, I believe that something is still missing. It’s called “personalisation”. A personal call, a coffee date, one-on-one or small group discussions, a listening ear, etc.

With the revolution of technology, people struggle to develop real friendships and genuine relationships. We can be the ones to change that, slowly but surely.

Let us hear Moshe’s words. Let us embrace the youth. They are our future - we must not forget that.

• Rabbi Yehuda Stern runs the Sydenham SpiritShul for Young Adults and Young Jewish Johannesburg.



YAD AHARON & MICHAEL REQUIRES

18 980

PIECES OF MATZAH THIS PESACH...

...AND THAT’S JUST THE MATZAH!



580 families rely on us for Yom Tov food hampers which overflow with **ALL** the necessary items, to assure them a plentiful and Kosher Pesach.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO OUR APPEAL. WITH JUST A FEW DAYS LEFT TO REACH OUR TARGET, IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION.



Snap here to pay

SnapScan



The Jewish Food Fund

Donations

Nedbank
Yad Aharon and Michael
Account NO: 1911 087 363
Branch Code: 151105
Or **Donate Online**

Contact

Tel: 011 485 2076
Fax: 011 640 5277
info@yadaharon.co.za
www.yadaharon.co.za



29⁹⁹
300g each
Jerusalem Matzos Matza



34⁹⁹ 750ml
Villa Cape Kosher Red Grape Juice

WISHING ALL OUR JEWISH CUSTOMERS CHAG SAMEACH



19⁹⁹
20 per pack
Selwyn Segal Chag Sameach Serviettes



59⁹⁹ 200g
Nescafé Classic Instant Coffee



39⁹⁹ 450g
Mosmarks Matzo Meal



34⁹⁹ 300g
Mosmarks Matzos Squares



59⁹⁹ 300g
Mosmarks Egg Matzo



48⁹⁹ 250g
Selwyn Segal Kichel Biscuits



77⁹⁹ 350g
Selwyn Segal Traditional Jewish Taiglach



24⁹⁹ 400g
Black Cat Smooth Peanut Butter



29⁹⁹ 320g
Selwyn Segal Apricot/Peach Jam



28⁹⁹ 275g
Selwyn Segal Horseradish



27⁹⁹ 150g
Selwyn Segal Dried Yellow Cling Peaches



29⁹⁹ 150g
Selwyn Segal Veggie Chips



23⁹⁹ 560g
Beit Hashita Whole Dill Cucumbers in Brine



10⁹⁹ 170g each
Cape Point Shredded Tuna in Brine



34⁹⁹ 2L
Sunfoil Pure Sunflower Oil



35⁹⁹ 2,5kg
Huletts White Sugar



96⁹⁹ 6x1L
Dewfresh UHT Long Life Milk Assorted

OFFERS VALID FROM TUESDAY 04/04/2017 UNTIL MONDAY 17/04/2017. PRICES APPLY TO CHECKERS STORES BALFOUR PARK, EMMARENTIA & CHECKERS HYPER SANDTON ONLY. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES. NO TRADERS PLEASE. SEAFOOD ONLY AVAILABLE AT STORES WITH SEAFOOD COUNTERS. LIQUOR ONLY AVAILABLE AT STORES WITH A VALID LIQUOR LICENCE. WINE ONLY AVAILABLE AT STORES WITH WINE DEPARTMENTS. WINE FOR SALE ON SUNDAYS IN GAUTENG ONLY. ERRORS & OMISSIONS EXCEPTED (E&OE). SELECTED ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT CERTAIN STORES. WHILE STOCKS LAST. CUSTOMER CARE LINE 0800 01 07 09 (TOLL-FREE).



36⁹⁹
250g each
Mediterranean Delicacies Herring
• Bismark
• Danish
• Rollmops

seafood

WE'LL FILLET YOUR WHOLE FISH FOR FREE

**KOSHER FISH
ONLY AVAILABLE AT
BALFOUR PARK**



8⁴⁹
per 100g
Whole Hake



15⁹⁹
per 100g
Whole Medium Kingklip



27⁹⁹
per 100g
Norwegian Salmon Fillets



59⁹⁹
100g each
Three Streams Smokehouse Smoked Trout



69⁹⁹
100g each
Mediterranean Delicacies Smoked Salmon



39⁹⁹
250g
Debras Schmaltz



18⁹⁹
per 100g
Nussbaum's Mortadella/Salami



49⁹⁹
per kg
Tenderchick Frozen Whole Chicken



29⁹⁹
per 100g
Nussbaum's Pastrami

wine route

WINES FROM OVER 100 LEADING ESTATES AT CELLAR PRICES



Wine Not for Sale to Persons Under the Age of 18.

checkers
better and better

also at **Checkers Hyper**

OFFERS VALID FROM TUESDAY 04/04/2017 UNTIL MONDAY 17/04/2017. PRICES APPLY TO CHECKERS STORES BALFOUR PARK, EMMARENTIA & CHECKERS HYPER SANDTON ONLY. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES. NO TRADERS PLEASE. SEAFOOD ONLY AVAILABLE AT STORES WITH SEAFOOD COUNTERS. LIQUOR ONLY AVAILABLE AT STORES WITH A VALID LIQUOR LICENCE. WINE ONLY AVAILABLE AT STORES WITH WINE DEPARTMENTS. WINE FOR SALE ON SUNDAYS IN GAUTENG ONLY. ERRORS & OMISSIONS EXCEPTED (E&OE). SELECTED ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT CERTAIN STORES. WHILE STOCKS LAST. CUSTOMER CARE LINE 0800 01 07 09 (TOLL-FREE).

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies Pretoria and the Chevra Kadisha request your attendance at the

YOM HASHOA service

PHC SYNAGOGUE COMPLEX

Sunday 23 April 2017– 5.00 pm

Guest Speaker: Holocaust Survivor
VERONICA PHILLIPS

ALL YOUTH are encouraged to please attend



ARE YOU SEPHARDI AND JEWISH?

GET YOUR PORTUGUESE PASSPORT NOW!

ADVANTAGES OF BECOMING A PORTUGUESE CITIZEN

***VISA-FREE TRAVEL**
In February 2016, Portuguese citizens travelled visa-free to 172 countries, ranking the Portuguese passport 6th in the world according to the visa restrictions index. Portuguese citizens can live, study and work in any EU member country and do not require a visa to visit USA, Canada and Australia.

*** NON-RESIDENT TAX INCENTIVES**
If you decide to transfer your wealth to any Portuguese bank and you do not physically reside in Portugal, you are eligible for a "non-resident tax incentive"

World's safest countries list – 2016
Portugal is ranked 5th safest country in the world by the global peace index.

WHO ARE WE?
We have been the pioneers of Portuguese citizenship applications for Sephardi Jews since 2015. We have helped over 1600 applicants (of both Portuguese and Spanish descent) from Israel, the USA, Argentina, Turkey, the UK, Russia and other countries. We work in partnership with the most experienced law firms in Portugal regarding citizenship applications, thus securing an application, which is prepared according to the Portuguese Government's requirements. We have weekly meetings with the Portuguese authorities regarding the applications we submit and we follow up each file carefully.
As of February 2017, over 550 of our applicants have received their Portuguese citizenship.



Please e-mail/call us for more info and/or a Skype appointment

info@ceydahabip.com
CeydaHabipMetin

+90 552 888 1903
+351 91717 55 99



INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT

Short Term Insurance

Material Damage
Accident
Consequential Loss
Liability
Transit
Motor
Domestic

Specialised Risk

Alternative Risk Transfer
Construction & Engineering
Professional Indemnity
Guarantees – Engineering & Financial
Broadform Liabilities

Marine Division

Imports
Exports
General Transit
Small Craft
Advanced Loss of Profits

**110 Oxford Road,
Houghton Estate, Johannesburg**

Tel: +27 (11) 442 6160

FSP No : 8423

Email: admin@vanflymen.co.za

www.vanflymen.co.za



חג שמח

fia
Federation of Insurance Associations of Southern Africa

Will it take 40 years to let go of apartheid?



DENNIS DAVIS

The Haggadah is a lesson in attaining freedom and dropping the yoke of slavery. It took the Jews 40 years wandering in the desert to rid them of the slave mentality. How long will it take South Africans to get rid of the apartheid mentality?

The central passage of the seder as captured in the Haggadah, as translated into English reads as follows:

“In every generation, every individual should feel as if he or she had actually been redeemed from Egypt. As it is said you shall tell your children on that day saying, it is because of what G-d did for me when I went free out of Egypt. He redeemed not only our ancestors but us with them as it is said ‘G-d brought us out of there to bring us to the land promised our ancestors.’”

The two nights that we spend around the seder table poring over a text which has been read in similar fashion throughout vicissitudes of our history, should not and indeed was not designed to be a simple ritual incantation, abstracted from current challenges.

After all, each of us must place ourselves existentially as if we were part of the Exodus and then ponder what that means for ourselves and contemporary society of which we are a part.

Sadly, the radical implications of the ritual at the seder, which are designed to trigger this kind of existential reflection among the participants at the seder table, have given way to ritual for its own sake, divorced from the reflective quality which lies at the heart of the passage which I have cited.

The critical lessons of history are then lost. Hence, do we even begin to ask whether the discussion of Rabbi Eliezer and his rabbinical colleagues was not about pilpul but rebellion against the Romans? The implications that should be prompted by the prescribed rituals are sadly forgotten. As a result, we continue in both the spiritual and political wilderness.

Within this context it is significant to think through the implications of the narrative that inhabits the Haggadah and the rituals attendant upon the seder for contemporary South Africa.

Twenty years ago we were liberated from the yoke of apartheid, racism, sexism and a totally oppressive society. We claimed to gain our freedom. But did we?

As did those who were fortunate to exit the Egyptian oppression forgot to understand the moral implications of their delivery, so does contemporary South Africa suffer from a similar social amnesia.

In being delivered from the burdens of apartheid and its consequential racist

and oppressive incrustations, we fail to understand what delivery to freedom really meant for us for the implications of our identities and thus for a newly-constructed society.

To recap those who benefited from the miracle of delivery from the Egyptians swiftly began to grumble about their fate, and they rapidly thereby eschewed the true challenges which freedom from exile posed. Thus, they wandered in the desert for 40 years until they had died out and a new generation, filled with the embrace of a fresh identity and a better grasp of freedom, took over the nation.

In South Africa today, there are many who look back with depressing fondness at the previous regime: “Not everything was that bad, some benefits flowed from 300 years of oppression; the record is ambiguous.”

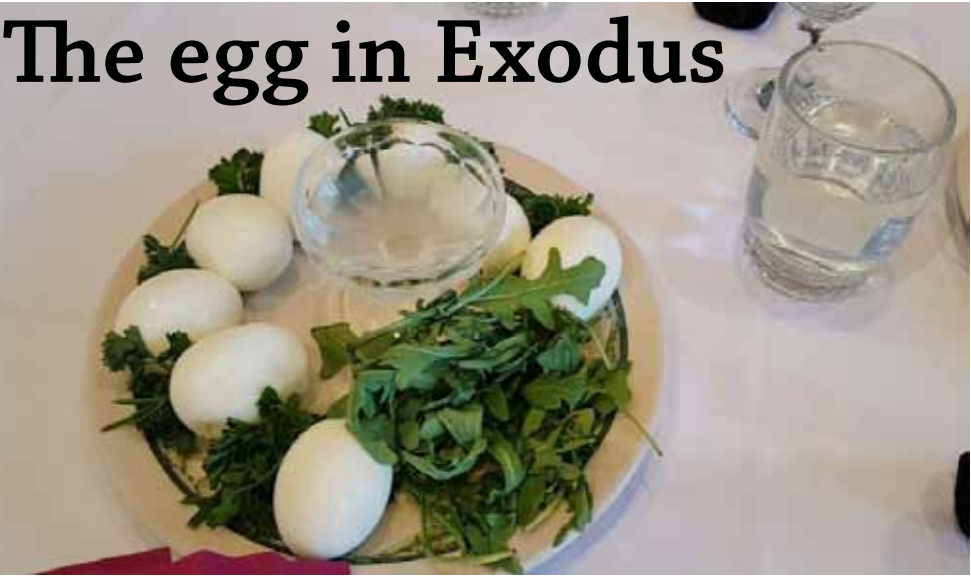
These are statements which flood our discourse with all too depressing regularity. The core of this view fundamentally misunderstands that the gift of freedom from the yoke of exile impels us to meet the challenge of developing a fresh identity, unhindered from the prejudices of the past and able to grasp knowledge which is no longer saturated with the prejudice of the past and the effects of a truly egregious history.

The reason that a new generation had to be born subsequent to the Exodus, was that the people who exited were not up to the challenge of freedom. They hankered after the past and could not see the future. They were unable to embrace fresh perspectives unfettered from the restraints, intellectual, political and moral, which had been imposed on them, very often subconsciously.

A generation saturated with subconscious bias could not meet the challenge of a society which is designed to inherit G-d’s kingdom. That message is as applicable today in South Africa 2017, as it was all those generations ago.

Similarly, the new kingdom was not designed to reproduce awful habits and practices of previous oppressors. Corruption, lack of accountability and transparency, moral slippage, false news, the inability to think beyond the narrow confines of one’s self-interest, were hardly the stuff of a new society. It took 40 years to purge the people of those perspectives.

These lessons are luminously applicable to South Africa in 2017. Perhaps the only prayer that we might make as we sit down to embrace this spirit at the seder table, is to hope that it will not take another 20 years before South Africans learn the lessons which flow so clearly from the readings that we engage over during two pulsating nights of debate and reflection.



RABBI YOSSY GOLDMAN

At Pesach seders around the world, one item on our seder plates will be a simple hard boiled egg. For me, this little egg tells a fascinating story and truly encapsulates what Pesach is all about and what message it has for us today.

One of the reasons we have the egg at the seder is because it symbolises the beginning of life and Pesach marks the very beginning of our national existence. But it’s much more specific and precise than that. The egg reflects the exact position of the Jewish people at the time of the Exodus from Egypt.

Let’s look at the journey of our egg: The egg is first inside the hen. It is then laid and thereby freed from the constraints previously imposed upon it. But has the egg been hatched? Has a little chick emerged from the shell yet? The answer is no.

The egg, you see, is only “potential” life. It is not yet a living being. One day, please G-d, a chick will emerge and the cycle of life will continue.

When the Jewish people left Egypt, they were just like that - an unhatched egg. Free from the

prison of Egypt and the constraints of slavery - but they weren’t quite fully born.

It would take another seven weeks for them to stand at the foot of Mount Sinai and experience the great revelation of G-d. That’s when Moses would bring down the Tablets with the Ten Commandments, and teach them the Torah. Only when we were given a way of life did the Jewish people receive a purpose in life. Until Sinai, we were all dressed up with nowhere to go.

So, at Pesach we emerged from the confines of Egypt like the egg that drops out of the hen. But only at Sinai where we actually hatched, were we born properly.

The message for us? Political freedom without spiritual freedom is an unhatched egg and incomplete. We may have been free and unfettered, but we were still spiritually lost and morally confused.

Who better than we in South Africa to understand this message? We have, thank G-d, achieved political freedom in our beloved country. Since 1994, we’ve had democracy with free and fair national elections. Everyone had a chance to cast their vote.

But the fact is that most of our population is still as impoverished as they were before. Yes, many more now have access to water, electricity and housing, but for the majority of the majority, their lives have been unchanged.

Worse still, new freedoms bring new cultures, new lifestyles, and sadly, new decadence. Gone are old traditional tribal values and in its place, is the empty, materialistic Western worship of all that is new and glitzy. Sadly, too, there is a new sense of entitlement which allows criminals to justify taking what belongs to others.

Today, we are in the throes of a power struggle within the government and one can only wonder how it will turn out. Will we regain our exalted status as a model for emerging countries, or will we, G-d forbid, become just another banana republic?

We may be free from the oppression of the past but we haven’t yet been provided with a coherent, wholesome infrastructure to help direct our aspirations.

So, freedom itself is only half the story. What we do with our freedom - that is the question. We need a purpose in life and we need a moral, spiritual infrastructure to help guide us in life. Otherwise, we wander aimlessly through the wilderness and our freedom remains undeveloped potential.

Pesach calls out to all of us not to remain unhatched eggs. Let us use our freedom wisely so we can achieve all our aspirations. Let us realise that Pesach and its political freedom is but the beginning.

Now we must consult the Torah to discover how to take maximum advantage of that freedom. Only a higher, more noble way of life, can make our physical freedom a lasting success.

• Rabbi Yossy Goldman is the senior rabbi at Sydenham Shul and president of the SA Rabbinical Association.

Hearing Aid Labs

NORWOOD MALL

NORWOOD (011) 483 1795

norwood.hearingaidlabs@gmail.com

FREE HEARING SCREEN TEST

*HEARING TESTS *SERVICING & REPAIRS
*PROGRAMMING *ALL MEDICAL AIDS ACCEPTED

H A P P Y P A S S O V E R

EL AL will cross seas, land and skies to bring you to Israel.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy Passover.

www.elal.com

Join us on

OFF THE STRIP

DELI & FINE FOODS

17 Anne Street Sandringham

CHAG PESACH KASHER VE SAMEACH

to all our customers and the Jewish Community.

Check us out for all Kosher le Pesach products.

Open motsei chag 18 April 7:30pm – 10:30pm Pita bread and pastry for sale

Monday – Thursday 8am – 6pm
Friday 8am – 4pm | Sunday 9am – 3pm

designbandits.co.za/050417

INCREASE IN FEAR

We are surrounded by a comfort zone into which we like to retreat, especially when feeling insecure. A way to expand this circle is to step out of it and to see that things are not so bad on the outside.

This is especially the case among South African Jews. Many of us grew up under an anti-Semitic, right-wing apartheid government, which sent out mixed messages to the Jewish community.

Like other members of the National Party, Prime Minister John Vorster was a Nazi supporter. This was especially scary coming so soon after the Holocaust. The apartheid government was also in favour of all racial groups only mixing within their own communities. As a result, our people formed a very insular community. Jews form over 90 per cent of the white population in Glenhazel, making it one of the highest proportions of “Hebrews” in the Diaspora.

Coupled with an often difficult history, we have found comfort behind the walls of Greater Glenhazel. There are, however, advantages as well as disadvantages in such a set-up.

On the positive side, the traditional ways are thriving and there is a low level of assimilation. On the negative side, there is an increased sense of fear.

On the other hand in America, with the largest Jewish population in the Diaspora, our people are mostly viewed favourably by the greater gentile population. As a result, our American brothers do not experience the same levels of fear and panic when an isolated anti-Israel comment is made, as we do.

Over the past 2 000 years, the Church demonised our people and we were considered to be in league with the devil. Fortunately, that has now changed and there is no longer a need to carry so much fear.

Indeed, a recent study by the Kaplan Centre has found a low level of anti-Semitism among black South Africans; and even under the previous government we enjoyed full equality, religious freedom and a high standard of living, unlike other South Africans. In fact, Vorster even established friendly relations with Israel.

Martin Zagnoev, Johannesburg

SOMETIMES A MIRACLE TAKES LONGER

In 1949 I was 16 years old and stayed on the Berea in Durban. I was going to catch a bus to town. Also waiting at the stop was a group of Indian men, all very agitated. I asked one man what the commotion was about. He pointed to the horizon.

Coming towards us, there must have been an impi of several thousand men waving spears, assegais and knives, coming closer, in battle array. At the bus stop three police vans were waiting to take the Indians to safety. However, there was one elderly man with a crippled leg, with his bicycle. He was in a quandary whether to leave his bicycle and get into the police van. They were petrified of the Zulus.

I was watching, speechless to act. Eventually I went up to the crippled Indian man and said I would look after his bicycle. He didn’t know me from a bar of soap and said goodbye to his bicycle. He was helped into the police van and they drove off, as the Zulus were within striking distance of us.

I went home with the bicycle, with no information about the owner. He could not believe a white boy would find him and bring his bike back to him.

About 10 years later, about seven o’clock in the evening, six madrichim were taking a long walk, from our bayit, to the North Beach. A curfew was still being enforced because of apartheid.

We walked past the seedy part of Durban and never met a soul. Around a corner we were confronted by a chanting band of young black people. We were quickly surrounded by them. The leader came up to us and said: “Take me to your leader.” We nominated a leader who went to their leader.

Near to where we were walking was the Bantu Recreational Hall. The young men were having a choral festival with various choirs taking part. They were looking for a group of independent judges who would adjudicate them fairly.

We followed them to the hall, which was filled to capacity. Our six madrichim were treated like royalty and given places of honour. It was a wonderful evening and I really felt it wa yet an other example of a miracle happening to us.

Bennie Puterman, Johannesburg

ISRAEL TODAY A WORLD LEADERS IN ALL THINGS RELATED TO BANKING

Jack Miller’s letter “Israel can learn a lot about banking” (in last week’s Jewish Report) left me absolutely dumbfounded. This may have been true, as Jack writes, many years ago, but this is certainly not the case today.

There is nothing archaic about Israel’s banking system. In its embrace of banking technology and its application to banking systems, payments, credit cards and the like, Israel is today a world leader.

My own background is in banking including many years with Standard Bank’s electronic banking division (as it then was). After making aliyah in 1999, I spent over six years as an adviser to the Bank of Israel (the central bank) in its huge upgrade project that brought the country’s banking systems into the 21st century.

Banking today in Israel is so driven by technology that a physical visit to your bank is no longer really necessary. Everything can be done from your desk or on your smartphone.

Need to deposit a cheque? Snap a picture on your smartphone and deposit it! Have to pay an account? A couple of clicks and not only is it paid, but your receipt is already waiting in your e-mail! Need a mortgage to finance your home? Apply on your PC and the telephone, get the approval by SMS and sign the documents digitally. Credit card renewals are mailed and the customer validates the new card on-line.

True, for cash you still need a bank, or ATM really. And when you get there you have a choice - Israeli shekels, US dollars, sterling or euros.

Travelling overseas? Just take your regular Israeli credit card. No authorisations are needed, no blocking of accounts, no pre-paid foreign exchange cards - just go-and-pay. And for personal payments? Well there is PayPal topped up automatically from your credit card or bank account.

I could go on and on, but I think that these few examples paint the picture of Israeli banking today.

Stanley Epstein, Modi’in, Israel

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*

COLLECTORS
INVESTMENTS

Dealers in coins, banknotes and medals since 1959.



Suite 15, 1st Floor, Illovo Muse, 198 Oxford Road, Illovo, Johannesburg. PO Box 393, Parklands, Johannesburg, 2121
Email: collectables@telkomsa.net / Telephone - 011 880 9116 / Cell - 076 741 8801 / Fax - 086 248 4281

WE GIVE FREE VALUATIONS.
WE PAY TOP PRICES
FOR ALL COLLECTABLES.

Please be advised on sale of items an Identity Book
or Drivers Licence is required.
Banking details are required for an EFT.

WE BUY SOUTH AFRICAN COINS, WORLD COINS, GOLD, SILVER AND COPPER COINS



'Veldpond'
R30 000 and UP



Kruger 5 Shilling
R1000 and UP



One Rand Coin
1966 to 1969
R65



Gold 15 Rupee
R20000 and up



Silver 2wei Rupee
R1500



Gold Full Sovereign
R3400



20 Lire
R450



Russian Rouble
R500

WE BUY OLD WRIST AND POCKET WATCHES,
JEWELLERY, GOLD AND SILVER ITEMS



WE BUY MILITARY MEDALS AND MILITARIA



R1000
and UP



All three (Trio) R1000,
single R100



R1500

WE BUY BANKNOTES





FIVE SHILLING
1947 to 1950 = R120
1951 to 1964 = R70
1959 = R1600



TWO & HALF SHILLING
1923 to 1950 = R60
1951 to 1964 = R35
1931 = R7000 Up to R10 000



TWO SHILLING
1923 to 1950 = R40
1951 to 1964 = R30
1925 = R300 Up to R2 000
1931 = R8000 Up to R10 000



ONE SHILLING
1923 to 1964 = R15
1931 = R500 Up to R3000
1939 = R500 Up to R30 000
1949 = R400 Up to R4000



60
1923 to 1964 = R8
1931 = R500 Up to R3000
1939 = R10 000 Up to R30 000



30
1923 to 1964 = R4
1931 = R10 000 Up to R50 000

Seder - a jolt to consciousness

ADINA ROTH

The heart of Pesach is the seder and the heart of the seder is a collective memory, the Jewish story of freedom.

On seder night we remember our slavery and recall how G-d delivered us with miracles and wonders to become a people. But the seder is more than an experience of memory. If it is important to inform our children, that “once upon a time we were slaves in Egypt”, it seems much more prescient to consider what does it actually mean to be free and to explore the current vicissitudes of freedom in our world, for ourselves and for others.

To simply re-tell the same story every year as a kind of Jewish nationalist triumph is not the point. The Pesach seder is an invitation to a wider and perhaps deeper sense of ethics.

The ethical weight of the seder emerges in the Magid section as we start to tell the Exodus story. The matzah becomes the focal point as we chant, “Hah lachma anya” “This is the bread of our affliction.

The Aramaic word “anya” points to the Hebrew word “oni” which reflects dual, intertwined meanings; poverty and affliction. Matzah, unleavened bread is the poor man’s fare. Matzah is also the bread of affliction for it points to when we were slaves.

The song continues: “Kol dichfin yeitei veyechol, kol ditzrich yeitei veyifsach, Let all who are hungry come and eat, Let all who are in need, come and share the Pesach meal.

We sing these lines with aplomb (perhaps even wondering, how much longer till we actually get to eat?). But the seder is not intended as a simple read-along sing-along.

In the Talmud we are told that before commencing any meal, Rav Huna of Babylonia would get up, open his front door and announce a refrain that has echoes of “Kol dichfin”: “Let all who are in need come and eat”. Indeed, Rav Matityahu Ga’on of the 9th century says it was a custom in Babylonia to leave one’s door open on Pesach night so that poor people could join for the seder.

Our seders start through casting our consciousness and indeed our place settings, towards the hungry in our community. For South Africans, the concept of hunger is not some abstract idea. We have probably passed a few homeless people on our way home from work that very day.

What would it be like if our doors were open on seder night and if Jewish people called from their windows and gates: “You who don’t have a meal tonight - join us, we are celebrating our festival of freedom”?

That we start our freedom celebrations by including the hungry, points to a fundamental understanding of freedom apprehended by



the rabbis in the Talmud: “Political freedom without economic freedom is not freedom”.

The dual meaning of matzah as the bread of both slavery and poverty reflects the same notion. As we sit down to celebrate Jewish freedom at our tables of abundance, we are immediately invited to reflect: Where is there still economic slavery? Where is there still political imprisonment?

But the reflection is not simply theoretical. The Haggadah text calls us to action, immediately as it were, by inviting those on the street to join the meal. Our freedom is worth less if others are still in chains. And the message of “Kol dichfin” is clear, freedom begins with challenging poverty.

At times, Jewish South Africans think of the widespread poverty in South Africa in paternalistic terms: “How can ‘we’ help ‘them’?”

But Rabbi Joseph B Soloveitchik offers a profound interpretation of these two lines which jolts us to consider the host and the “hungry guest” as each needing the other.

He suggests that the first line “let all who are hungry...” refers to those who are materially poor. But “Let all who are in need...” points to a different kind of impoverishment - loneliness.

The poor person is not fully liberated. But, a person disconnected from community lives also in a narrow prison and must be included in the discourse on freedom.

Jewish South Africans might want to

consider the dialectic between material poverty on the one hand and loneliness on the other.

If we tell the Pesach story solely about our own people without casting our consciousness to the wider communities among whom we dwell, we are in danger of starting to feel disconnected from the wider South African population, which creates a kind of communal isolation and loneliness.

Pesach is a potential bridge to help narrow that divide. Instead of stopping with our own story, let us take the invitation of “Kol dichfin” to connect with the unfulfilled longing of our fellow-South Africans for full freedom.

Ironically, as we connect across communities, Jewish people might feel less lonely and disconnected from our fellow-South Africans, thus experiencing Soloveitchik’s alternative reading of freedom as a sense of belonging.

Pesach as a call outwards, towards the “other” seems like the only way to become our best ethical and liberated selves. (This Pesach, may we ponder the different types of freedom, material and existential and consider how to realise freedom more deeply for ourselves and our neighbours.)

• Adina Roth is a Clinical Psychologist in private practice and a teacher of Jewish studies. She runs an independent bar and bat mitzvah programme in Johannesburg and she teaches Tanach to adults.

Friday (April 7)

- 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. Goldberg Chamber Players Jaques Fourie (violin), Morkel Combrink (viola), Wess Beukes (cello), Christopher Evans (violin) and Song Choi (violin). Information: Daphne Kuhn or Mika Stefano (011) 883-8606.

Sunday (April 9)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at its new venue, Beit Emanuel Slome Auditorium, Parktown. Programme compiled by Jack Mink. A DVD from his collection of Big Band music will be followed by an audio presentation of swing and Big Band music and then the DVD, “The Gang’s All Here” Time: 14:15 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn 072-243-7436 or Jack 082-450-7622.

Monday (April 10)

- Chabad House presents communal seders today and tomorrow (April 11) at the Sandton Central Shul, opposite the Gautrain station. Cost: R360. RSVP: (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad.org.za

Friday (April 14)

- 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. Goldberg Chamber Players Jaques Fourie (violin), Morkel Combrink (viola), Wess Beukes (cello), Christopher Evans (violin) and Song Choi (violin). Information: Daphne Kuhn or Mika Stefano (011) 883-8606.

Thursday (April 20)

- Hebrew Club meets on the 2nd floor at Beyachad. Time: 11:00 - 12:00. Calling all fluent Hebrew speakers to hear interesting Hebrew lectures on economy, history, technology, family memories, etc. Information: Abigail (011) 640-2376 or 072-432-9198.

Friday (April 21)

- 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. Emerging piano star Sulayman Human (piano) from the Cape and Jacqueline Martens from London (violin) are back. Information: Daphne Kuhn or Mika Stefano (011) 883-8606.

Sunday (April 23)

- Jewish Genealogical Society of A hosts Marc Kopman on “Tracing the Jewish Communities of Eastern Cape” expanding on many of his

personal experiences while living in Queenstown and visiting the many towns in the region. Venue: HOD. Time: 19:00. Cost: R25 (incl tea & refreshments). RSVP: Hannah (011) 485-2188 or jgssa16@gmail.com

- Second Innings hosts Prof Barry Schoub on “Triumph Over Epidemics - The Jewish Role in the Remarkable Conquest of Smallpox And Polio”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701.

Friday (April 28)

- 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. Etienne Malan (violin) is back from Wiesbaden, Germany for a special performance with Jacob Swart (piano). Information: Daphne Kuhn or Mika Stefano (011) 883-8606.

- Shalom Seniors Club meets today. Contact Esther on (011) 485-5619 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings for more information.



RESTONIC[®]

Supporting Dreams since 1938

CHAG SAMEACH
TO ALL OUR JEWISH CUSTOMERS !

Restonic Mattresses, since 1938



011 298 9800

www.restonic.co.za

Isn't there enough to do?

Many families do their best to race through the Pesach haggadah to get to the food, while others do their best to make it meaningful. Hayley Levitan and her family have made Pesach a themed event of the year and their success has spread by word of mouth.



HAYLEY LEVITAN

I must confess, I'm one of those people who can start to panic at the mention of the word Pesach – the cleaning, shopping, endless to-do lists. In fact, seder prep could be overwhelming and, like for many people, it was my most stressful Jewish holiday.

Then one year, my husband and I decided to host a pre-Pesach shiur about the meaning of the seder. We decided to try and find a way to get this meaning across without everyone falling asleep in their bowl of soup at the table.

For the record, we host both seders and the majority of our guests would probably appreciate an abridged version of the seder. You see, we expect them to not only get through the whole haggadah, but then to add meaningful discussion to this, which is no small challenge.

Of course, today there are props for the plagues, bingo games and other ways to make the night more fun and engaging, especially for the youngest among us. We realised then that we needed something more, and so that year we created our own "Amazing Race for Pesach" game.

We made maps of the journey from Egypt to Israel, broken down into the 15 steps of the seder along the way. We had challenges our guests had to complete that made reading about the steps and why we do them, a little more palatable (blindfold tasting to see which of the karpas options is on offer anyone?). We had a discussion around "freedom". And incredibly at the end of the night, we had fun.

The next year, having set the tone, we decided a little less emphasis on a game and more of how Pesach is relevant to us today. Our theme was "Home and what it means to have a home", focusing on the wandering through the desert for 40 years. We gave our guests homework to send through quotes about a home and had these printed and put in jars along the table.

But the real meaning came through when we moved our furniture out, hired some beanbags and had a change of perspective as we reclined near the floor eating off low tables discussing not just Pesach but the refugee crisis taking place at the time.

The following year we had tables split by our sea of mini-figures crossing through them, but again the real meaning was found in the "homework" our guests participated in and the discussion that resulted from the quotes around "integration and identity".

So, is the extra work worth it?

I am completely a décor, party-planning kind of person, so no question for me that the themes make the holiday that much more exciting, although it's probably not for everyone.

What should be for everyone, though, is going beyond the food, and making the seder relevant to everyday life at every person's level around the table.

It is amazing how much everyone participates when they are not overwhelmed by their level of Hebrew, or lack of knowledge of how things work in a seder or a story they might not feel they relate to.

And there is certainly less of a feeling of counting how many pages still to go or wondering if we really have to sing that song when you might let your team down as you race to the finish line.



**LIVE MUSIC FOR
ALL OCCASIONS**
AVI ☎ 082-352-4291





Freshfellas
☎ (011) 440-8352
3 Long Avenue Glenhazel
3 ENGLISH CUCUMBERS R20
while stocks last
WHERE QUALITY COSTS YOU LESS!
MON – WED 7:30am – 6:00pm • THURS 7:30am – 6:30pm
FRI 7:30am – 5:00pm • SUN 8:00am – 1:00pm
CHAG PESACH KASHER V'SAMEACH

ACCOMMODATION
Budget Rooms, Studios & Cottages`
Daily • Weekly • Monthly

Easy walk to Pine Street Shul, Torah Academy, Chabad Norwood & Kolel



Pesach Special
R599 per room
Sleeps two

53 Garden Road Orchards (next to H.O.D.)
☎ (011) 485-3800/1 • info@gardenplace.co.za

Frank Solomon Hearing Centre

- Affordable Hearing Aids for Pensioners
- 2 Year Warranty
- No Follow-Up Charges
- Latest Technology
- Small and Discreet Hearing Aids
- Extensive Wireless Communication Portfolio Available
- Supplements for Tinnitus, treatment approved by the American ENT association

Open on Sundays
09h30 to 13h00



FREE hearing screen TEST

WORLD'S FIRST Built-in Lithium-ion Rechargeable Hearing Aid
PHONAK
life is on
Fairmount:
George Ave, Sandringham
Johannesburg
Fax: 011 849-3027
CONTACT US: (011) 849-6256
Additional Branches:
Bedfordview • Benoni • Germiston



NO BORDERS
DID YOU KNOW?
You may be eligible for EU citizenship based on ancestral heritage.
No Borders specialises in citizenship applications for Germany, Lithuania and Poland.

For further information, please contact us:

www.noborders.global
info@noborders.co.za
No Borders
+27 11 485 3955
+27 83 346 4627

Killarney to fortress Gupta: a walk to save SA

It is only three minutes’ walk from the intersection of Oxford and Riviera Roads in Johannesburg’s Killarney neighbourhood, where beggars hold cardboard signs saying “No food, no job, please help”, to the Gupta family’s estate in the adjoining, elite Saxonwold neighbourhood, where menacing security guards and expensive cars are always present at the high walls.

Government officials have been frequent visitors to the Saxonwold mansion for highly suspect reasons.

These are the stark, opposing South African realities: the former evoking shame, the latter producing widespread outrage at the Gupta’s capture of the country through their puppets President Jacob Zuma and his cronies.

There were beggars and rich people here decades ago during apartheid - the blacks were workers from townships and the whites, residents of Killarney and Saxonwold. Today the country has a black government and president, but the inequalities remain, albeit with the racial divide blurred.

During apartheid, Killarney’s blocks of flats were inhabited primarily by Jews. Less so today, but it still has a “Jewish” feel. Many Saxonwold mansions are still Jewish-owned.

South Africa’s current crisis shows Zuma as a tinpot dictator - a president gone rogue, says ANC stalwart Barbara Hogan - doing things that serve his interests and threaten the country’s well-being.

Such as last week’s dead-of-night Cabinet reshuffle to include people who will do his bidding, allow him to raid the Treasury and strengthen his patronage network. In response, Standard & Poor’s Global Ratings has cut South Africa’s sovereign credit rating to junk status.

Although this country’s history is riddled with citizens’ protests, people don’t know what to do. Marches are planned, but they alone won’t bring down Zuma. He could ignore them, and his supporters could mobilise counter-protests.

Legal actions in Parliament and the Constitutional Court, or decisions by ANC internal structures are necessary to force him out. But a display of disgust en masse is essential for citizens to express themselves and begin healing the country.



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

What if the people of Killarney - joined by others - took an initiative, assembled in Riviera Road at the traffic lights where the beggars stand, and marched to the Guptas to picket at their gates, televised by the media?

Few Jewish faces have been visible in the anti-Zuma protests shown on television, such as last Saturday’s memorial to Struggle veteran Ahmed Kathrada. Jews were once prominent politically.

No longer, although echoes remain: The Helen Suzman Foundation said Zuma’s action has “endangered the country’s economic and financial situation” and created “a constitutional crisis”.

The mandate of organisations like the SA Jewish Board of Deputies is to look after community interests, not get involved in politics. But other Jewish organisations have a long history of political action during apartheid, such as the Union of Jewish Women and the United Sisterhood.

Many Jewish individuals were active in the Black Sash, Operation Hunger and other NGOs. Now would be a good time for a new generation of activists to come forward. The country needs them.

During apartheid, most people were afraid of protesting the brutal regime, except for a brave few who made huge sacrifices such as Ronnie Kasrils, Albie Sachs and others. Now there is little official danger, although the possibility exists of violence between Zuma opponents and supporters - the ANC Youth League has already threatened force against Zuma’s critics.

What should expat South Africans in Canada, Australia, the UK and other places be saying to friends and relatives living here? Should they urge them to leave, as this country threatens to become another “Zimbabwe”? Some might leave. But for the majority who stay, getting involved is crucial.

Whether the march from Killarney through the beggars’ intersection to the Gupta mansion happens or not, it is a metaphor for what South Africans must do to reclaim their country.

• Read Geoff Sifrin’s regular columns on his blog [sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com](#)

World News in Brief

Kushner met secretly with US Muslims prior to Trump’s inauguration

WASHINGTON - Jared Kushner had a friendly but secret meeting with Muslim Americans prior to the inauguration of his father-in-law, Donald Trump, but contacts diminished after the president banned entry to refugees and to travellers from seven Muslim majority countries.

“We thought discussing our nation’s founding values and freedom for Americans of all faiths was the responsible thing to do before Mr Trump came to power,” Farhana Khera, the director of Muslim Advocates and one of five Muslim leaders at the meeting, told BuzzFeed, which on Tuesday broke the story of the early January get-together.

“It soon became clear, however, that unless Trump makes drastic changes and shows he’s committed to being a president for all Americans, engagement is not an effective tool at this stage,” Khera said.

In addition to the travel ban, which Trump put in place a week into his presidency, but has been stayed by the courts, tensions between the Trump administration and Muslims were exacerbated by a visit to the White House by Brigitte Gabriel, who leads a group that has been described as Islamophobic.

Kushner asked those who attended for suggestions on smoothing relations between his father-in-law and Muslims, and even sought recommendations for a liaison to the Muslim community. (Trump has not named a liaison, nor has he named one to the Jewish community).

BuzzFeed said that Kushner, who is Jewish and is an unpaid adviser tasked with an array of assignments, including advancing Middle East peace, remains the conduit for Muslim contacts with the administration. However, the online news site said that relations with the community have been consigned to a “severely restricted” backchannel. (JTA)



Norman Goodfellows®
FINE WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS

BY APPOINTMENT TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

autumn CATALOGUE

2017



Out 6 April 2017
BROWSE ONLINE AT
NGF.CO.ZA

Wishing all our customers a joyous and kosher Pesach.

JHB

CT

KZN

ILLOVO • MELROSE ARCH • KYALAMI • SANDTON GAUTRAIN • THREE ANCHOR BAY • GARDENS • UMHLANGA

010 140 4888 011 684 2756/7 COMING SOON 010 140 5999 021 439 6043 021 461 2270 031 566 1246

Same day delivery

service@ngf.co.za
ngf.co.za
find us on  



Celebrating GWM 10 Years Anniversary

SAVE UP TO R30000



S/C 2.2 WAS ~~R164 900~~ NOW **R149 900** SAVE **R15 000**
D/C 2.2 WAS ~~R189 900~~ NOW **R169 900** SAVE **R20 000**
M4 WAS ~~R189 900~~ NOW **R169 900** SAVE **R20 000**

VISIT GWM JHB SOUTH TODAY OR WWW.GWMJHBSOUTH.CO.ZA

Haval Motors SA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Wall Motor Company Ltd, China, directly enters the South African motor vehicle market, operates all GWM brand sales and after sales support within the South African market. GWM-China's Largest SUV & Pickup Manufacturer.

Haval Motors South Africa Pty Ltd

Terms and Conditions apply. E&OE. Pictures for illustrative purposes only. Pricing excludes licence registration and on the road charges.

GWM JHB SOUTH

An authorised Financial Service Provider no. 27903 in terms of the FAIS Act.

73 Main Street, Rosettenville 2091 || (011) 210 1300

ass_14_GWM



vehicle sales

POP

The Franchise

011 210 1300



MORE IS
MORE

ZOOM-ZOOM

MAZDA 2 1.5 ACTIVE



NOW ONLY FROM
R2 699 P/M



OFFER EXCLUSIVE TO MAZDA FINANCIAL SERVICES	
Model	Mazda2 1.5L Active Manual
Recommended Retail Price	R211 900
Deposit	10%
Balloon payment	R74 165 (35%)
Instalment (excl R68 monthly admin fee)	R2 699
Months	72
Rate (linked to prime)	8.93%
Total cost to client	R270 663

MAZDA 3 1.6 ORIGINAL 4DR



NOW ONLY FROM
R3 499 P/M



OFFER EXCLUSIVE TO MAZDA FINANCIAL SERVICES	
Model	Mazda3 1.6L Original 4Dr
Recommended Retail Price	R258 500
Deposit	0%
Balloon payment	R90 475 (35%)
Instalment (excl R68 monthly admin fee)	R3 499
Months	72
Rate (linked to prime)	7.29%
Total cost to client	R343 767

MAZDA CX-5 2.0 ACTIVE



NOW ONLY FROM
R4 699 P/M



OFFER EXCLUSIVE TO MAZDA FINANCIAL SERVICES	
Model	Mazda CX-5 2.0L Active Manual
Recommended Retail Price	R369 400
Deposit	10%
Balloon payment	R129 290 (35%)
Instalment (excl R68 monthly admin fee)	R4 699
Months	72
Rate (linked to prime)	8.97%
Total cost to client	R467 779

MAZDA BT-50



NOW ONLY FROM
R441 600



The impossible made possible.

Visit www.mazda.co.za or contact 0860 069 700
While stocks last. Offers are valid until 30 April 2017

Mazda Johannesburg South

087 803 2201 • www.mazdajhbsouth.com
77 Leo Street, Kenilworth, Johannesburg

Parts & Service
Monday-Friday: 7:30am to 17:00pm
Saturday : 8:00am to 13:00pm



Meyer Benjamin
082 490 6000



Mario Cardoso
082 569 5339



Lance Da Silva
082 328 5279



Mazda Financial Services, a product of WesBank, WesBank - a division of FirstRand Bank Ltd.
An Authorised Financial Services and Registered Credit Provider. NCRCP20. Terms and Conditions Apply. Finance Subject to Credit Approval. E&OE

The only thing rising this Pesach are prices

SUZANNE BELLING

The only rising in terms of food that practising Jews will have to contend with this Pesach is the increased prices over the Passover season.

And even though matzah is unleavened and not permitted to rise, its price will be higher than in previous years. However, prices for basic Pesach foodstuffs compared favourably with those in other countries.

Matzah is no longer produced locally and South Africans have to pay for imported matzah. Mosmarks erroneously is still thought to be produced here, but it’s not the case.

SA Jewish Report contacted people in several places with sizeable Jewish communities and looked at the prices in Israel (Modi’in), US (Detroit), Australia (Sydney), Toronto (Canada) and South Africa (Johannesburg).

Pick n Pay Norwood Hypermarket is competitive, with the most reasonable offer being Rakusen’s matzah (300g) at R23,99. Mosmarks matzah at Sandringham Spar costs R34, 99 for the same size.

Rakusen’s matzah meal (375 g) costs R27, 99 at Pick n Pay, while Mosmarks matzah meal is R49,99 for the same size.

Yekev Grape Juice at Pick n Pay is R39, 99 per litre, while at Spar (Sandringham) Kedem Grape Juice is R59,99 per bottle. Backsberg Kiddush Wine has been cut to R50 at Pick n Pay, while Kerem costs R74,99 at Sandringham Spar.

Kosher l’Pesach PnP brand name oil is R35, 99 per two litres, while one litre of Helios oil at Spar is R17,99.

According to one shop owner, the only way to obtain a better price is through the “middle man” who determines the price the shop pays, by what he charges. Pesach in Israel is affordable, as supermarkets do not price exorbitantly, according to Modi’in resident Rolene Marks. “Israelis are preparing for Pesach and the supermarkets are filled with delicious treats and every kind of cleaning implement you can



imagine.”

Cheapest prices are: Kiddush wine NIS 29,90 (R110,63); Canola oil NIS 9,90 (R36,63); grape juice NIS 36,63 (R135, 63); matzah meal NIS 3,90 (R14,43). The cheapest matzah is NIS 9, 90 per box.

“It is a time of year when the supermarkets offer sales and good deals on everything you would need to make your home kosher l’Pesach,” said Marks.

She says many products, like wine and matzah are affordable and many restaurants are kosher for Passover, with prices remaining the same.

Allan Gale, associate director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Detroit, US, says for

Passover, most of the best prices are at one store. There, you have to have coupons to get the best prices. However, you can’t buy huge quantities with coupons - you are limited to a few items at the low prices.

“But if you shop wisely, you can get enough for a family to last throughout the holiday. Passover shopping is highly competitive in Detroit. The best prices are always found at shops dubbed ‘loss leaders’, which means stores that take a loss on a product to bring in customers who hopefully will do their entire shopping in one place.”

Prices he sourced were Kedem wine \$4 (R53,68) for 750ml; Kedem

grape juice \$4 for 64oz; Streit’s matzah meal \$1,70 (R22,81) for 16oz (446 gr); Streit’s matzah, limit of 3 lbs (1,34kilos), but only \$1 (R13,42) each 1 lb box; Glick’s Cottonseed Oil (96oz) is \$8 (R107,36).

Noa Rothgiesser, who recently immigrated to Sydney from Cape Town, found sunflower oil on a special - Australian \$2,70 (R27,64) for 750 ml - also Kedem grape juice - \$6 (R61,44) for 946 ml.

She also spotted a special on matzah meal - \$4,40 (R45,05) and matzah on special for only \$2,70 (R27,65) compared with a non-special box for \$4,75 (R48,64).

Selwyn Kahn, of Toronto, found

single boxes of Manischewitz matzah for Canadians \$1,99 (R20) each; matzah meal for the same price and Kedem grape juice at \$3,99 (R40,18) per bottle.

Jarrold Abelson, head of Finance and Group Services at the Union of Orthodox Synagogues/Beth Din, says prices are set by the retailers alone, and the UOS has no control whatsoever.

“The free market operates completely without any constraints, and so you will find that there are price discrepancies for the same products at the different retail outlets.

“Some of the price differences between the same products relate to whether the product is imported or locally made. As a service to the community, the UOS, through its Facebook platform kosher desk, is making customers aware where there are opportunities to get the best prices.”

For people who are needy or very cash-strapped, the Chevrah Kadisha (Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society) has already distributed 650 food boxes containing essentials for Pesach.

Michael Sieff, joint CEO of the Chevrah, said perishables may be collected closer to Pesach. “Our motto is: ‘No Jew Gets Left Behind’ and for those who cannot afford to make a seder, they can book at Sandringham Gardens, Our Parents Home, the Lodge or Selwyn Segal. For more information, call the Chev at 011) 532-9600.

Alice Friedman, managing director of Yad Aharon and Michael, said they are distributing 580 boxes for the needy of everything required for Passover.

“The food and perishables will be available closer to Pesach and will ensure that those who cannot afford it, will be able to have a wonderful seder, like anyone else.”

Yad Aharon and Michael closes for Pesach on Friday, but if people run short, they can call Alice on her cellphone on Chol Hamoed (not Yomtov) on 083-266-7078.

Community Column

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board
Jeff Katz
National Chairman

We are not a political lobby and therefore do not speak on behalf of the Jewish community on questions of national policy-making. Not only would doing so exceed the bounds of our mandate, but it would undermine our core purpose. In order to effectively represent our community, regardless of which government is in office, we need to be strictly non-partisan when it

Unite in confronting corruption, maladministration

When the SAJBD was founded shortly after the turn of the last century, it was solely for the purpose of upholding the civil rights and representing the interests of the South African Jewish community. This remains our core mandate.

comes to political matters.

That being said, extraordinary situations have sometimes arisen which have called for the Board to speak out. While we must continue to remain apolitical, we nevertheless have a moral obligation not to turn a blind eye when we see unethical immoral or unacceptable conduct at multiple levels of government.

This week, we took a decision to add our voice to the broader national debate over the unfolding saga of the recent Cabinet reshuffle and the political and economic fallout that is resulting.

The Board’s full statement can be viewed on our Facebook page or website (www.sajbd.org). In essence, our approach was not to single out particular parties, factions or individuals, but rather to call for citizens to unite in confronting corruption and maladministration, protecting the Constitution and fostering a stable economic

and political environment.

We stressed how critical it was for the independence and integrity of our democratic institutions to be upheld. Should this be compromised, it would be impossible to achieve the stability, efficiency, economic growth and good governance that this country so desperately needs.

While expressing the profound concern that we all feel at this time, we also stressed the inherent strengths of the South African people and their collective ability to overcome even the most daunting challenges.

As expressed in our statement, “South Africans have come too far and achieved too much together to allow their country to become a failed state. By working together in a spirit of shared commitment to meeting the challenges of the day, we will ensure that it does not happen.”

Recent events appear to be bringing problems of governance that have long been

evident in our politics to a head. We are likely to see further important developments, which will give us a better idea as to where the country is heading.

We face difficult times in the immediate future, but remain hopeful that our democratic institutions will ultimately be robust enough for the necessary self-correction to take place.

Perhaps it is appropriate to close with the thoughts of Stephen Grootes, one of this country’s leading political commentators: “We are in for a wild ride over the next few weeks. There will be ups and downs.

“Monday... was a downer. But there’ll be highs as well. Our politics is changing, the ground is literally shifting beneath our feet. But something new will emerge from the earth upon which we’ve trodden for so long.”

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

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

A Captive read, flaws and all

STEVEN KRAWITZ

Captivity by Gyorgy Spiro. Translated from the Hungarian by Tim Wilkinson.

Captivity is a masterpiece of Jewish historical fiction from one of Hungary’s most prominent and prolific literary figures. It spans most of the first century Common Era and recreates the ancient world in vivid, pulsating detail.

It tells the story of Uri, a Jewish-Roman citizen who is 17 years old when the novel begins. Uri, whose Roman name is Gaus Lucius, is informed by his father, Joseph, a respected but marginal member of the Trans tiberium Jewish community, that he is to accompany the official Jewish delegation to Jerusalem.

The delegation is taking the community’s half-shekel per person’s donation to the Temple and is scheduled to arrive in time for Pesach. What starts out as Uri’s late antiquities road trip, soon develops into both a gripping narrative of imperial political intrigue and a documentary/travelogue around the Mediterranean Basin’s Jewish communities.

Spiro has researched the time period so thoroughly that he is able to describe the minutiae of an almost infinite list of relevant topics. At times the level of research drowns the narrative and Captivity lapses into textbook mode. Some might feel this to be a weakness of the book but, in many ways, it makes the experience of reading Captivity more rewarding.

The period covered by Spiro was one of great change and importance for the Jewish people and Spiro offers an accessible one-volume opportunity for the brave reader to fully immerse themselves in this world.

Politically, Rome was the hegemonic ruler

over the Mediterranean and exerted thorough control over all parts of Israel, forcing the Jewish elites to enter into compromises and accommodations with the Romans.

Rome had broken up King Herod’s Jewish empire after his death, appointing prefects and puppet kings over the provinces carved out of the Jewish state. Geographically the diaspora communities of especially Alexandria and to a lesser degree Rome, were important centres of Jewish life, influence and wealth and would become even more so after the second Temple was destroyed, an event covered towards the end of the novel.

Spiritually the learning and practice of Torah and mitzvot in both Israel and the Diaspora, is documented well by Spiro.

Upon arrival in Israel, Uri experiences the tensions between Greeks and Jews in Caesaria, the port on Israel’s coast built by Herod as a miniature version of Alexandria. This creates the tone for the heavy-handed Roman treatment of rebellious Jewish elements in Jerusalem on Pesach, the repercussions of which will result in the beginning of Christianity, covered in the last part of the book.

The tensions also presage the wider tensions between Jews and Greeks that will result in the Bane of Alexandria, a protracted, horrific anti-Semitic attack on the 300 000 strong Jewish community in Egypt, an event Uri is witness to.

In Jerusalem Uri is hit unconscious by the delegation’s leader and wakes up in a jail above the Kohen Gadol’s residence. He is in prison with two thieves and a messianic Jewish preacher. These three prisoners are crucified during Pesach, their identities are obvious.

This leads Captivity to have a Forrest Gump feel and this continues throughout the book.

Uri is released from jail and taken to dine with Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor and Antipas Herod, the late emperor’s son and a pretender to the title king of the Jews.

Uri is taken to the Judean countryside and kept in hiding for a few months. The intrigue continues when he is travels to Mount Gerizim, the shrine of the Samaritans and witnesses a massacre carried out by a neighbouring army, but blamed on Pilate.

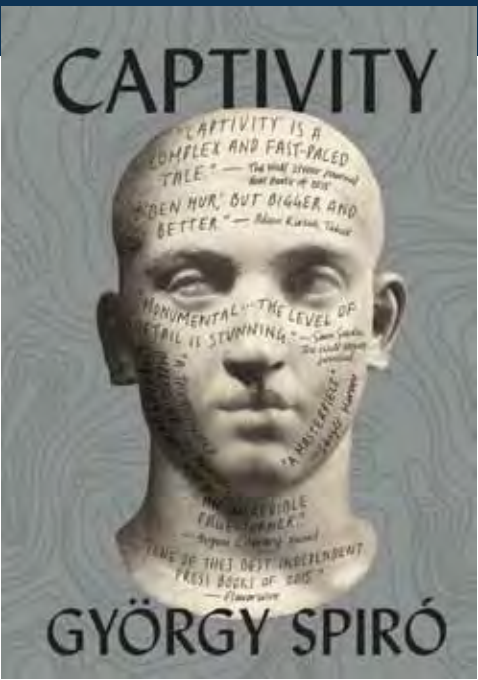
For a book heavy on research, the absence of the history of the Samaritans is glaring. The strained relationship between the Jews and the Samaritans is expertly conveyed.

Uri travels to Alexandria and stays with Philo, a famous Jewish philosopher and brother to the Alabarch, the head of the Jewish community who holds the monopoly rights to collect all import duties in Alexandria.

Captivity is good on nudging the reader to compare the world it recreates to the Jewish and wider worlds of 2017. In awe of Alexandria, Uri studies in its famed Gymnasium and is present in the city when the month-long pogrom is unleashed on a community who felt more Alexandrian than the Greeks of the city.

Disillusioned, Uri is able to escape a city whose politics are so poisonous they will ultimately destroy it. He returns to Rome after an absence of a few years. His life in Rome, the politics of the Roman empire, the destruction of the Temple, the start of the Nazarene sect and the changing fortunes of Jews throughout the empire, now become the focus of the narrative.

Once again Uri has a front row seat to history, personally knowing Tiberius, Nero and Claudius, depraved, psychotic caesars with strong anti-Semitic attitudes. Uri becomes a conduit to power for the Jewish community.



If there is a flaw in Captivity, it is neither the length of the book nor the amount of research overpowering the story. Rather it is a number of inexcusable mistakes and misrepresentations of Torah laws and concepts.


People were purified after touching a dead human body with the ashes of the Red Heifer, not the red doe. Yibum, levirate marriage, occurs when a man dies without children, leaving his widow to either marry her late husband’s brother or do Chalitzah, thereby severing all links to her late husband’s family.

In Captivity a long convoluted case is presented where the brother-in-law presents evidence that his sister-in-law was divorced, but he insists on doing Yibum as he does not want his nephews to inherit from his dead brother. There are a number of other halachic inaccuracies which blight an otherwise magnificent read.

For all its flaws, Captivity is still a remarkable work of fiction and an important read for anyone interested in this fascinating time.

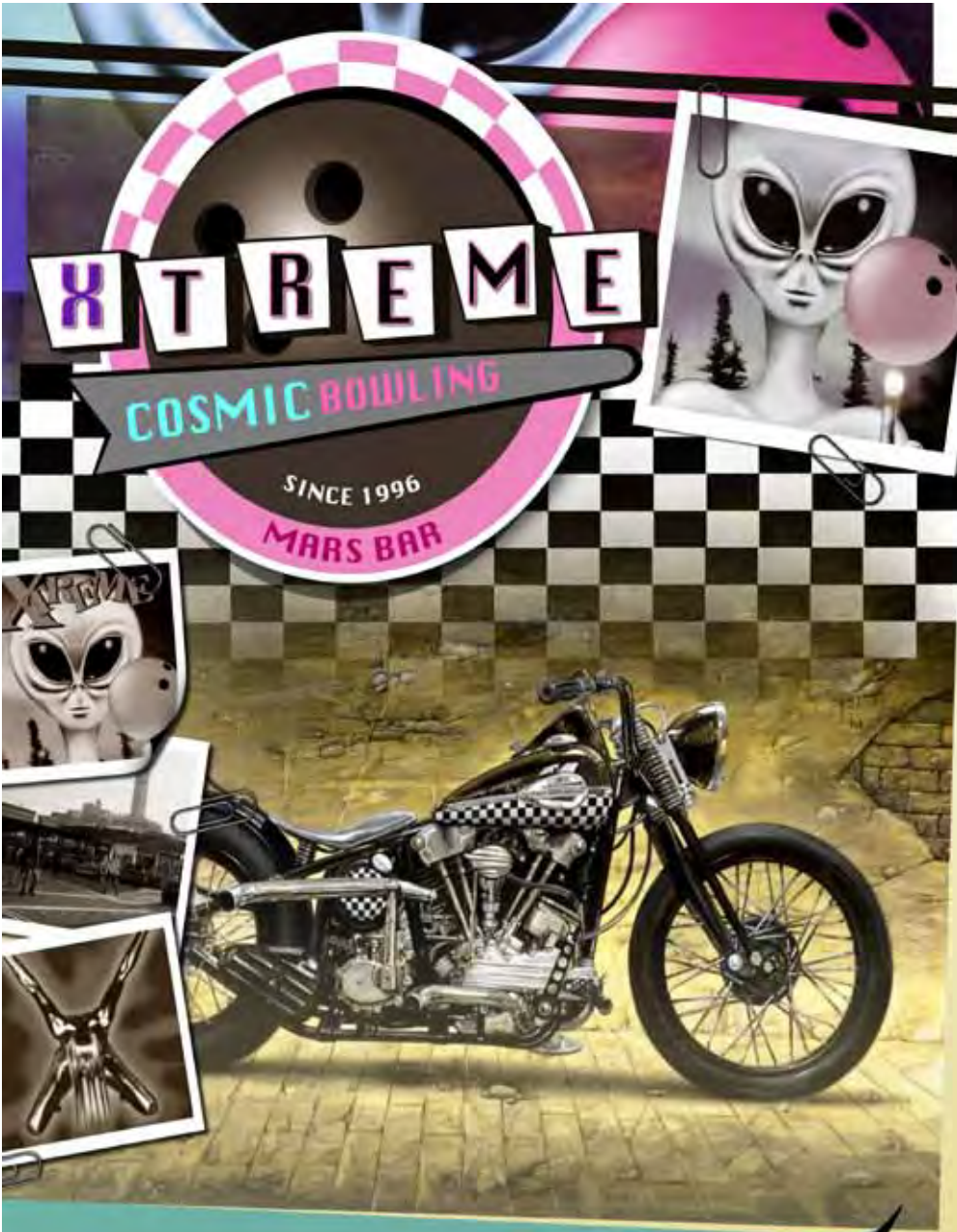
Chag Sameach

*Wishing all our Jewish customers
a Happy Passover*





CaRRoL BoYeS



XTREME

COSMIC BOWLING

SINCE 1996

MARS BAR

TELEPHONE: 011 887 2095/6

www.xtremebowling.co.za

Midways Mall, 280 Corlett Drive, Bramley,

Hundreds come to help Chev pack for Pesach



OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Chevrah Kadisha Pesach Packing Day, which took place at the beautiful new Arcadia grounds on Sunday April 2, was attended by hundreds of excited children and their families.

The day was abuzz with excitement, with the packing of food boxes (with matzah, wine, and many other kosher for Passover food items).

There were also lots of fun activities for kids, which the young thoroughly enjoyed.

The children rallied to the Chev's call in a magnificent demonstration of gratitude for the wonderful blessings in their lives - by helping others who are less fortunate.



Sydenham tots at the Matzah Factory

Waiting for their matzah to bake are Dovy Levy; Chad Diamond; Jaron Riesnik; Samuel Licht; Jesse Roff; and Jarren Rosenthal.

JENNY MILLER

The grade Rs at Sydenham Hebrew Pre-Primary were treated to an interactive show about Pesach at the Matzah Factory at Chabad House in Johannesburg.

They were taught the ins and outs of what should and shouldn't be done in making matzah and they got to make, bake and take home their own piece of matzah.

Pesach fever grips Sandton Sinai



Grade ones at Sandton Sinai with Matzah Man: Micaela Blake; Rachel Orkin; Ashira Jaffe; Rafi Finkel; Ori Sherman; Michael Rosenberg; Ethan Nahon; Azi Shevel; Jake Strouss; Edan Fleshel; and Layla Sher.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Learners at Sandton Sinai Primary School are getting into the Pesach spirit. The nursery school children went on their annual outing to the matzah factory and the primary school learners were treated to a visit by Matzah Man.

Matzah Man encouraged all children to show kavod to the greater community by donating Pesach food items.

'Asking questions' at KD Sandton

SEAN KORB

King David Primary Sandton held a Pesach yom iyun (day of study) for its grade 7s, with “asking questions” being the focus in a fun-filled morning run by the Jewish studies department and the Division of Informal Jewish Education advisers.

The aim was to show how Pesach is really themed on questions; how deep our questions are, will determine the depth of the answers we should get.



Ilan Biddle, Rachel Hodes, Lior Ronthal and Gidon Orelowitz

JSN Motors

www.bmw-jsnmotors.co.za



Sheer
Driving Pleasure

A JOURNEY WORTH CELEBRATING.

CHAG SAMEACH.

Steven Silber and the team at JSN Motors would like to wish you well as you celebrate Pesach. May the festival bring you and your loved ones joy and happiness. Here's to a peaceful and prosperous year ahead. **If you have any BMW sales, parts or service related questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

JSN Motors

43 Ormonde Street
Corner William Nicol Drive, Bryanston
Tel. 011 700 9000
E-mail. steven@jsn.co.za

‘No rules’ Krav Maga is trending in Paris

CNAAN LIPSHIZ
PARIS

In a dark alley in a poor suburb of this Paris, five men with violence on their minds closed in fast on 17-year-old Netanel Azoulay and his older brother, Yaakov.

“Dirty Jews, you’re going to die!” one man yelled.

The driving dispute quickly transformed into something physical, with one of the assailants wielding a saw. Azoulay - who, along with his brother, wears a kippah - nearly lost his finger and had his shoulder dislocated before passers-by broke up the brawl.

The February 21 incident in Bondy, one of Paris’ northeastern suburbs, was one of dozens of anti-Semitic assaults - among hundreds of less violent episodes - recorded annually in the Paris region. This altercation, however, was particularly shocking because of its bloodiness, and how it illustrated how quickly harassment can lead to bloodshed.

But Azoulay’s injuries could have been worse. Azoulay has a brown belt in Krav Contact, a variant of Krav Maga, the self-defence martial art developed in Israel. And, in fact, he has been training for such a moment for years.

“I think Krav saved our lives,” said Azoulay, who started training as a child, like his brother, in order to defend himself on Bondy’s rough streets.

Azoulay’s father is a Krav Contact instructor, and the family was an early adopter of the method when it was still largely unknown in France. Over the past decade, however, thousands of French Jews

- and some non-Jews, too - have turned to Krav Maga amid a wave of intimidation and violence on the streets of France’s major cities.

“There’s an explosion in the popularity of Krav Maga,” said Avi Attlan, one of the technique’s pioneers in France.

Ten years ago, it was taught at a handful of Jewish schools in the Paris area, he said. Today, Krav Maga is taught in at least 20 Jewish schools, including many belonging to the Chabad-Lubavitch educational network. Jewish summer camps have also recently begun to offer lessons.

Attlan and the Krav Maga masters in his employ, teach approximately 200 trainees in five venues across Paris. A decade ago he had about 40 students, Attlan said.

In 2013, France had its first Krav Maga championship; it’s now an annual event.

“To me, Krav Maga is a sport and a way of life,” said Attlan, an Algeria native in his 60s who stands only 5-foot-4 (1,626 m).

He said “it became a survival tool” for French Jews with the increase of anti-Semitic violence following the second intifada in 2000 - incidents in France that year rose from several dozen annually to hundreds.

A sense of insecurity is what inspired Laurent Kachauda to start Krav Maga training 15 years ago with Attlan in Saint Mande, the upscale Paris suburb where an Islamist assailant killed four Jews at a kosher shop in January 2015.

“Someone carved a swastika on my locker in high school,” recalled Kachauda, a 30-year-old accountant. “I realised someone was watching me and that they might one day attack. So I looked up Krav Maga instructors.”



Avi Attlan, kneeling, teaching Krav Maga to students in Saint Mande, on March 23.

Kachauda was one of 12 students at Attlan’s lesson last week at a gym in Saint Mande located just some 300 metres from the site of the supermarket attack. The pupils - mostly Jews ranging in age from 17 to 50 - practised moves in pairs and threes.

In the aftermath of the deadly attack, leaders of the sizeable Saint Mande Jewish community reached out to synagogue-goers, recommending they learn to defend themselves. Jewish communities across the country mirrored the awareness-raising campaign.

In some communities, rabbis recommended Krav Maga training. In others, members of the SPCJ, the security unit of French Jewry that also trains in Krav Maga, held workshops to give members a taste of the technique.

One of Attlan’s students - Jordan Ctorza, 17 - needed no convincing to sign on.

“I already wanted to be able to defend myself when they talked to us about Krav Maga at the synagogue,” he said.

During the lesson, Attlan paired Ctorza with Sylvie, a non-Jewish resident of Saint Mande. Sylvie, a woman in her 30s who declined to state her last name, signed up for Krav Maga lessons “because the streets are not so safe for anyone, and especially as a woman”, she told JTA during a water break.

She rejoined the group as Attlan gave rapid instructions in a hushed voice. Encouraging students to “hit faster” or “close up those exposed areas”, he discouraged them from chatting or giggling.

“We don’t talk - we hit, we block,” he said.

To Ctorza and many other Jewish Krav Maga trainees, the Israeli connection to the technique - part of the basic training for Israeli soldiers - makes for an emotional attachment.

“It means a lot to me that it’s something developed by my people for my people,” the teen said.

But Krav Maga offers advantages that appeal also to non-Jews in France, where hundreds have died since 2012 in a series of terrorist attacks in which Jews were not specifically targeted.

“Krav Maga is unlike karate, jiu-jitsu and other martial arts in that it has no rules,” said a Muslim Krav Maga instructor who works

in the impoverished suburb of Saint Denis, north of Paris. He asked to withhold his name, citing safety reasons.

“It’s suitable for the urban reality because it’s totally utilitarian,” he added. “It’s designed to neutralise an attacker. No bows, no niceties. Only whatever it takes to thwart an attack. Kicks to the groin - fine. Thumbs to the eyes - sure. Whacks to the neck - why not.”

The Arab instructor, who is in his 50s, said he left Saint Denis for a safer suburb 20 years ago following a brawl he had with drug addicts. He recalled assaulting them near a playground where his 18-month-old son had just found a used syringe in a sandbox.

But the instructor, who has eight siblings in Saint Denis, keeps returning to teach Krav Maga to at-risk youth.

“It prevents bullying and helps instil discipline and confidence,” he said.

Martial arts, including Krav Maga, “got me out of this place, where 80 per cent of my high school friends are now dead,” he said. “I hope to put others on that path, as well.”

The Muslim instructor teaches his students about the Israeli origins of the method and uses its Hebrew-language terminology, “even though many of them have a negative image of Israel”, he said.

“Religion stays outside the ring; there’s a mosque for that,” he said. “Politics stay outside the ring; there are debate clubs and youth movements for that.”

A fifth of his 80 students are women, he said. He does not train children or “people likely to abuse the weapon I teach them”.

Back in Bondy, Azoulay plans to resume his Krav Contact training once his hand is fully recovered. Surviving the attack showed him he has “what it takes to keep myself safe”, he said.

But the incident’s emotional effects linger, he adds.

“It didn’t make me afraid, but it made me uncomfortable,” Azoulay said. “I decided after the attack that I want to leave this country. Maybe for Israel, maybe go to the United States.” (JTA)

• Krav Maga is taught at various facilities all over South Africa. Visit www.elite-defence.co.za for details.



Wishing all our Jewish Customers
a Chag Kasher v'Sameach



T: +27 11 640-7641
www.thechoctree.com f TheChocTreeSA

With our freedom from slavery, what are Jews free to do?

RABBI RACHAEL BREGMAN
BRUNSWICK, Georgia

At Pesach, Jews over the world gather to celebrate “zman cheirutenu”, the season of our freedom. We will read all about freedom from slavery. We drink four cups of wine to rejoice in the four freedoms given to our ancestors by G-d.

We eat charoset, a mixture of fruits, nuts, cinnamon and wine that represents the mortar used with the bricks we no longer have to place as slaves. Freedom from bondage, from Egypt, from Pharaoh.

The idea of being freed from slavery by G-d is a central tenet of Judaism. We say every Friday night in the blessing of the wine and throughout the Torah, even when speaking about seemingly unrelated things: Remember G-d freed you from slavery and took you out of Egypt. But what, I wonder, upon finding freedom from slavery are we now free to do?

Primarily, we are free to serve G-d and not Pharaoh. Spiritually speaking, the seder gives us the opportunity to check in with ourselves to see if we have become enslaved to Pharaohs of modernity like power, money and ego.

G-d didn’t work so hard to bring us out of one Egypt just to replace it with another. The seder asks us: Now that you have your freedom, what have you done with it?

If the Exodus is a story of a three-part journey - Egypt, the wilderness-desert and Israel - serving G-d is the wilderness-desert, a stop on the way, the means to an end, but not the final place on the journey.

Author and psychologist David Arnow writes in Creating Lively Passover Seders: “Paradoxically, as we celebrate our liberation during Passover, we sharpen our awareness of the enslavement that reigns within and around us. At the moment we taste freedom,

World News in Brief

Kids’ Pesach reads

Around the world there are a few lovely new children’s books that are of special interest over Pesach. Here are a few:

The Family (and Frog!) Haggadah - Rabbi Ron Isaacs and Karen Rostoker-Gruber wrote about this wisecracking frog, who takes centre stage in this kid-friendly Haggadah. It is a complete guide to a fun-filled, informative, abbreviated seder that’s designed to be 30 minutes to an hour.

Passover Scavenger Hunt – Shanna Silva wrote about every year at the seder, Rachel’s Uncle Harry hides the afikomen. Rachel takes over the job. She grabs her markers, scissors and a big piece of cardboard and creates a clever scavenger hunt.

A Different Kind of Passover - Linda Leopold-Strauss tells the story of Jessica, who loves spending Pesach with her grandparents. Then her grandfather cannot come to the seder table - but Jessica makes a plan.

The Passover Cowboy - From the acclaimed Jewish children’s book writer Barbara Diamond Goldin comes an unlikely heart-warming Pesach story set in the Argentine countryside in the late 1800s.

Kids get an up-close look at how matzah is made in Allison Ofanansky’s book, **How It’s Made: Matzah**. This book overflows with stunning colour photographs that bring to life small-batch, handmade matzah-making to factories that bake 35 000 pieces of matzah every day.

Sammy Spider’s Passover Shapes - Sylvia A. Rouss brings back ever-popular Sammy Spider, who is now in his 24th year. “Passover Shapes” is the second Sammy Spider board book that is geared for toddlers.

we remember the hungry... From the heights of deliverance, we survey a shattered world crying out for healing.”

He adds later: “What is the source of the staggeringly audacious conviction that the present, the status quo, cannot be the end of the road?

That’s where G-d comes in. G-d speaks in a small voice within each of us saying: “Never forget that yours is not a ‘normal’ but a broken world, one that we can surely help fix. At the seder, that voice calls a little bit more audibly because with Passover we confront the reality of our freedom and we have used it, for good or ill.”

G-d did not bring us out of Egypt to serve G-d (Dayenu, it would have been enough). Rather, through our service to G-d we are meant to eternally bring freedom to others. Our service to G-d is our service to humanity. Our service to humanity is G-d’s work in action.

So, when you sit down to your seder, I hope you ponder not just your freedom from slavery, but relish also your freedom to free others. Happy Passover. (Rabbis Without Borders via JTA)

• *Rabbi Rachael Bregman is at Temple Beth Tefilloh in Brunswick, Georgia.*



Getting to the
promised land
may take 40 years,
but it starts today.
Invest now for
the future.

Wishing all our clients, colleagues and associates a Chag Sameach.

sasfin.com

business | [wealth](#) | banking

Sasfin Bank Ltd. Reg no. 1951/002280/06
An authorised financial service provider licence no. 23833
A registered credit provider NCRCP22 and a member of the Sasfin Group

sasfin
beyond a bank

Billy Crystal on being Jewish, playing ball, etc

CINDY SHER
CHICAGO

The inimitable Billy Crystal is back on the road. The six-time Emmy Award-winning comedian, actor, producer, director and writer - most recently of a book of essays, Still Foolin’ ‘Em: Where I’ve Been, Where I’m Going, and Where the Hell Are My Keys - is currently touring the US with his new show, Spend the Night with Billy Crystal.

The show, scheduled to tour through April, promises to feel like an intimate chat with the audience - a blend of stand-up with a “sit-down” interview with Crystal, moderated at many shows by comedian and actor Bonnie Hunt. Crystal, who lives in Los Angeles, will tell stories, talk about the world as he sees it, reflect on his life and show some film clips from his long career.

Of course, the popular nine-time Oscar host has numerous iconic films and roles to choose from: The title character in the quintessential rom-com “When Harry Met Sally”; the grouchy “miracle worker” in “The Princess Bride”; Mitch, a New Yorker heading toward a midlife crisis who goes on a cattle drive with his buddies in “City Slickers”; and in “Analyze This”, a shrink to Robert De Niro’s mob boss.

But before he was charming millions, Crystal, 68, was entertaining his family and friends while growing up in the quaint beach town of Long Beach, New York. Then a predominately Jewish and Italian town, Crystal describes it as the “perfect place to grow up”. He often references his beloved hometown in his act, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy’s battering of New York in 2012, Crystal and his wife of nearly 47 years, Janice, helped raise more than \$1 million to help Long Beach rebuild and rebound.

Crystal’s early childhood, back in the 1950s, was filled with music and laughter. His mother, Helen, was a talented tap dancer and singer. His father, Jack, worked six days a week at two jobs - as a jazz promoter and manager of the family’s popular New York City record store. Jazz greats like Billie Holiday - who were friends of his parents - would frequent their home.

Crystal and his dad would spend most Sundays together watching baseball games. Their relationship was chronicled in Crystal’s Tony Award-winning one-man show 700 Sundays (also adapted into a book and HBO special), named for the number of Sundays he spent with his father before his dad died of a heart attack when Crystal was only 15.

The only thing Crystal ever aspired to do as much as comedy was play baseball for

his beloved New York Yankees - in fact, he says the highlight of his long career came in 2008, when he signed a one-day contract with the team in honour of his 60th birthday.

In a phone interview with JTA, Crystal looked back on his family, his Jewish identity, his long career and the “one thing” that keeps him going.

JTA: You seem to be a celebrity who wears your Judaism as a badge of honour, and not in a self-hating sort of way. Would you agree?

Billy Crystal: I do. I mean, I still make fun, but it’s not about Jews - it’s about my Jews, it’s about my relatives. It’s not generalisations.

What are some of your favourite parts about being Jewish?

You mean, besides the circumcision?
You remember that, huh?

Yeah, oh yeah, that’s why I’m an insomniac. I’m waiting for that guy to come back in the room.

What else do you love about being Jewish?

The storytelling, the warmth, the sense of humour. My dad was strict about the holidays. We honoured them, we went to temple. I like the ritual, and the caring for our planet that’s written into so many of the works I read in Hebrew school.

How do you compare when you were just starting out in showbiz 40-plus years ago to touring with your new show today?

It all feels the same. I don’t think I’ve stopped working since the eighth grade. Backstage, when I was on Broadway, felt the same as it did backstage when I was getting ready to do a school play in high school. It’s that same energy of confidence, a little bit of nerves... The moment you go out, you release and say, ‘OK, I’m ready, here I come.’ It’s kind of an intoxicating feeling to go out and entertain people.

That’s why, after all these years, I’m going back on the road with this show... At this age and this point in my career, to still have the hunger I did as a young man is a great feeling.

לשנה הבאה בירושלים



This cartoon was created by Dov Fedler this week especially for the SA Jewish Report and the original will soon be put on auction with a number of other precious Jewish treasures. Watch this space for an announcement.

Auctioning a masterpiece

Besides signing to a one-day contract with the New York Yankees, what’s another of your proudest professional achievements?

I was the first American comedian to perform in the Soviet Union back in 1989 in an HBO special called Midnight Train to Moscow. It was a Russian-speaking audience [with] some Americans. Gorbachev was in power, the [Berlin] Wall had not come down yet, and [I felt honoured] that HBO trusted me. I found all these relatives that I didn’t know I had there [in Russia]. But performing there and being an ambassador, if you will, for American humour in that country is something I look back on with great pride.

What did your father teach you during those 700 Sundays, before he passed away?

Besides teaching me a love for comedy, a love for reading, a love for baseball, he also taught me about doing the right thing. My dad was a civil rights giant in his own quiet way, in that he was one of the first promoters to integrate jazz bands. So the house, yes, was filled with Jewish relatives with stories, but sitting next to them was Zutty Singleton, who was a great jazz drummer, or Tyree Glenn, who was Louis Armstrong’s trombone player, or any of these other great musicians. They were all just friends. My family label - Commodore Records - produced Strange Fruit, which is Billie Holiday’s epic song about lynching. It took a Jewish family to produce that record, to write that song.

How did your father’s premature death

shape your life and your relationship with your mother?

I was 15 and was dealt a bad hand. You can’t help but be angry, and I was angry and had to learn to live with that, and to deal with my mother, who was suddenly widowed and forced back into the workforce. [Being] back home alone with her, while my brothers were away at college, made me grow up really fast. I admired her strength - at the age of 50 she was suddenly back in the workforce. Three sons in school and we all graduated college because of her. You watch that and learn what parenting is really about, and what being a son is really about. My mom sent me on a path of trying to do the right thing in my life and also valuing every moment that you live.

What’s your secret to your happy, healthy and long marriage?

We still feel that we’re dating. After all these years, and all the things that we’ve been through, and all the joys and sadness that we’ve shared together - right from the beginning: You’re 18 and you have to tell the in-laws [that] you’re going to be a comedian.

But Janice’s faith in me, her trust in me, her strength when things aren’t going well. Our key is we keep laughing, we keep talking and we keep loving.

I’m going to remind you about a scene from your own movie, “City Slickers”. Curly, a cowboy, asks your character, Mitch, if you know the secret to life. Then, Curly holds up one finger and says “One thing”. What I took Curly to mean is that each of us have to find that one thing that give our lives meaning. What is that one thing, or maybe a couple of things, that give you purpose?

The purpose is Janice and the kids, and continually doing right by them and right by myself. That’s the most important thing... and in my job, I have a purpose. I have a mind that still loves to create and I follow that deeply. (JUF News via JTA)

• *Cindy Sher is the Executive Editor of Chicago’s JUF News.*



Pesach seders of my youth

SUZANNE BELLING

There were people living there – alas, very few remain - anchored like the roots of the giant oaks that shade the long, narrow road of Wellington Avenue, in Wynberg, Cape Town.

It was a medina but not a goldene medina like Glenhazel and environs in Johannesburg are today. It was heimisch. Everyone was kosher and we lived opposite the rabbi.

Many of my generation are now scattered to far-flung shores, in perpetuation of the concept of the Wandering Jew. Some have moved to the Atlantic Seaboard; some have swapped their South African lifestyle for that of the US, Canada, Australia, England and Israel.

But wherever they have wandered to, Wynberg, the suburb in the Valley of the Vines, hibernates in the corners of the mind to awaken to the sight of an oak leaf stirring in the breeze and the fragrance of a Yomtov or Shabbos meal wafting from the windows of high rises.

Wellington Avenue and the perpendicular Wellington Road were named for Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, after his sojourn in Wynberg in 1796. The area had a “British feel” about it, even more so for my family, who actually lived in Wellington Street West in Manchester, England, my home for the first eight months of my life.

For some of us, parents of the democratic generation, life has turned full circle. My own son and daughter took advantage of their British ancestry and made their home in England, one temporarily and the other permanently.

In the houses - nearly all Jewish - along the avenue, dwelt the laughter of children, the loquats that fell to the ground for eating and pelting, the array of ornaments and photographs from “Der Heim”, the aroma of Mrs Hendler’s taiglach bubbling away in the mysterious pot of sweetness that seemed to seep into every neighbouring home, enticing folk to make their purchases for Pesach.

Pesach was special. We had no chocolates - only imberlach and pletzlach or Pesachdike cooldrinks - or jam, except when it was homemade.

The entire family gathered at the home of the matriarch of the family, Auntie Celia, and sat around the huge seder table.

But it was a “mutter mumble” seder - my father and uncles sat at the head of the table. They muttered and mumbled. Only when it came Ma Nishtana and the songs did we join in. A far cry from today’s generation who learn everything at school. They even have props - including frogs, lice, cattle, bottles of blood (play-play) - when we come to the 10 plagues. But inevitably, when my brother opened the door for Elijah, the dog walked in.

Year after year, we had the same menu (my aunt was a wonderful cook). Chopped liver, chopped herring, chicken soup and kneidlach, tzimmes from a recipe handed

down from my great-grandmother, turkey, duck, chicken (and apple sauce instead of gravy), sweet potatoes, roast potatoes and squash, followed by stewed and fresh fruit.

There were no kosher l’Pesach cakes and jellies then. For weeks Auntie Celia planned the menu. Her home was large and the floors highly polished. “You can eat off them,” she took pride in saying.

One Pesach night, as she was carrying the massive pots and dishes into the dining room, she dropped the tzimmes! Her house was spic and span - not a crumb of chometz could be found. So, Celia proved what she had always said: We ate the scraped-up meal off the floors and no one was any the wiser!

The spiritual leaders of our shul always played an important role in my life till I left the area. I was too young to appreciate or understand Rev Gordon, especially his sermons which were in Yiddish. But we became close to the Pakters, as the rav’s children were our peers.

Rabbi David Rogut, now in Sydney, and his wife, Vicky, lived opposite us. He was young, innovative and taught me Hebrew, while Vicky showed me how to follow services.

Rabbi Dr Lionel Mirvis, who married us, came into our lives again in Johannesburg

in the late nineties, when we helped him set up some Kabbalah lectures. In December 2004, he spoke at our silver wedding in Sea Point.

His son, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, is the chief rabbi of the Commonwealth.

In Wynberg, I learned the lesson of Hillel’s injunction in Pirkei Avot (2:5): “Separate not thyself from thy congregation...” It is as a result of this that I have been steeped in the community, professionally and personally, all my life.

But nothing can replace the family feeling and the unforgettable Pesach seders of our youth.

THE NEW
LEXUS IS
With FutureDrive

EXPERIENCE AMAZING.
VALUE ASSURED.



The new Lexus IS, with its fierce turbocharged engine, is as thrilling to drive as it is to look at. Additional state-of-the-art features have been incorporated to enhance your driving experience, including stop-start technology and a 10.25" multimedia display. The new Lexus IS is where performance and exhilaration meet.

Experience amazing today with FutureDrive, a new finance option that guarantees the future value of your Lexus, offering you peace of mind.

WWW.LEXUS.CO.ZA

LEXUS
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

10023120JB/FCBJHE/E

Preparing for Pesach in Ukraine’s last shtetl

Photos: Cnaan Liphshiz



A house in the Jewish quarter of Bershad, Ukraine

CNAAN LIPSHIZ BERSHAD, Ukraine

At first glance, this drab town, 256 km south of Kiev seems nearly identical to the settlements that dot the poverty-stricken district of Vinnitsa.

Shrouded in a seemingly permanent cloud of smoke from wood fires - still the standard means of heating here - Bershad, population 13 000, features two rickety bridges over the polluted (and presently frozen) Dokhna River, roads traversed by Soviet-era clunkers and an utter absence of street lights.

And like many far-flung Ukrainian towns, Bershad, too, has a small, ageing Jewish population. The Jews persist here even though almost all of their relatives are living in the relative comfort of Israel or the United States.

But there is more to Bershad than meets the eye.

A closer look at its unique history and architecture reveals something incredible: Bershad is one of Europe’s last remaining shtetls. This town near the Moldavan border, with a Jewish population of 50, is a living testament to the Jewish community’s incredible survival story - one that has endured despite decades of Communist repression, the Holocaust and the exodus of Russian-speaking Jews.

Nowhere is the uniqueness of this Jewish community more evident than the Bershad Synagogue, which was built from clay 200 years ago.

Incredibly, Soviet authorities returned the white, two-storey, tin-roofed building to the

town’s Jewish community in 1946, shortly after the Red Army liberated present-day Ukraine from the grip of Nazi Germany and its allies. It was a highly unusual move in a secularist empire that under Joseph Stalin systematically nationalised property of faith communities and routinely persecuted Jews who insisted on practising their religion.

Coming on the heels of the Nazi genocide, this Soviet policy was a death blow to Jewish life throughout Ukraine’s countryside - once the home of thousands of shtetls - and severely limited it in the large cities.

Yet “at a time where communist repression ended the existence of the few shtetls that by some miracle survived the Holocaust, the existence of a working synagogue in Bershad was the axis of communal life for this shtetl,” said Yefim Vygodner, 64. The town had a Jewish population of some 3 500 in the 1960s.

Vygodner is the leader of Bershad’s Jewish community - and its youngest member.

Over the decades, the relatively privileged status of Bershad Jews - Vygodner attributes it to a combination of luck, remoteness, resilience and friendly ties with non-Jewish neighbours - became most apparent on Pesach and Yom Kippur, he said, because on those holidays Judaism came out of the home and into the synagogue.

In an interview this month, Vygodner told JTA how, when he was a boy, his mother would send him to a makeshift matzah bakery that opened each year in front of the synagogue. In the weeks before Pesach, the smell of baking matzah wafted along the shtetl’s muddy streets,

he recalled.

“The baker would scoop out of the oven wavy, handmade matzah and wrap [it] up in paper for each client individually,” Vygodner said. “I didn’t even know that matzah was also mass produced.”

Bronia Feldman, a jovial 79-year-old, recalled another scene from Jewish life in Bershad: Every Yom Kippur, her mother would take her to the square opposite the synagogue, where hundreds of Jews would gather to hear the shofar - the culmination of Judaism’s solemn Day of Atonement.

“Those with sensitive jobs, teachers and doctors, didn’t go into the synagogue because they didn’t want to get in trouble,” Vygodner said of the communist years. “They just hung around the synagogue.”

On Pesach, though, “everyone ate matzah - doctors, teachers, engineers - everyone,” she said.

Vygodner and Feldman’s accounts are highly unusual for Jews their age who grew up in the former Soviet Union, where Judaism was practised in secret, if at all.

The key to Bershad’s survival was its western location: In 1941, its region fell under the occupation of Romanian fascist troops, who were less methodical about murdering Jews than their German allies.

They liquidated neighbouring shtetls and turned Bershad, which in 1939 had a Jewish population of 5 000, into a central ghetto with 25 000 prisoners. Many perished, but 3 500 Bershad Jews survived.

One of them is Alxander Zornitskiy, 83, a retired veterinarian and an author, who hid with his mother and two sisters as German soldiers killed 2 800 people in their nearby shtetl of Ternovka.

With help from non-Jewish locals, the family made it to Bershad, where they lived in crowded conditions and without enough food in one of the two-room wooden houses that made up the Jewish quarter.

“The Romanians were cruel, but they didn’t shoot us,” he summarised. “Every street here reminds me of the Holocaust. But it’s also where I survived.”

After the Holocaust, the consent - or at least silence - of Bershad’s non-Jews was crucial to maintaining the town’s Jewish spiritual life.

“This is where centuries of coexistence played a role,” Vygodner said.

Unlike their more intellectual coreligionists from big cities, he added, Bershad’s Jews were blue collar: metal workers, shoemakers, carpenters and fishermen, whose families for centuries had worked shoulder to shoulder with

non-Jews.

The matzah bakery closed in the 1980s. By 1989, Bershad’s Jewish community comprised 1 000 members - half its size from a decade earlier.

Today, Bershad’s remaining Jews celebrate a communal seder at the synagogue organised by Chabad. They also come here year-round to receive food packages courtesy of the Christians for Israel charity group.

Yakov Sklarsky, who owns the town’s only photo studio, functions as rabbi most of the year. His credentials are his ability to sing and read, if not understand, Hebrew.

The Torah scroll in the synagogue is not kosher. The shul itself, which Vygodner said functions more like a community centre than a house of worship, rarely gets a minyan, the quorum of 10 men required for some prayer services in Orthodox Judaism.

Its Star of David ceiling fresco remains, but its façade is peeling, revealing the clay and hay makeup of its walls. The women’s section has been transformed into a storage area.

Even so, it is one of the best-preserved buildings of the old shtetl, boasting a new tin roof and a fresh coat of white paint.

Most of the houses that surround the synagogue, which is at the heart of Bershad’s Jewish quarter, are uninhabitable, left to disintegrate by Jewish owners who immigrated to Israel, the United States or Kiev, but were unable to sell the land in one of Ukraine’s poorest areas. The yards are filled with junk and packs of stray dogs.

Many of the houses have a front porch that Vygodner says was an amenity favoured by shtetl Jews. Some even have mezuzah markings on the peeling paint of their door frames.

But members of the Jewish community here, for their part, are not complaining. Feldman says she is happy to have a synagogue - an institution that few other towns of Bershad’s size can boast in Ukraine - and feels “lucky to have Yakov as our rabbi”.

Despite the local pride Feldman, the last remaining Bershad Jew whose mother tongue is Yiddish, is contemplating leaving.

“I have a sister in Ashdod, and I’m thinking of joining her,” she said of the Israeli city, adding that her main reason for staying is her daughter, Maya, who lives in Bershad.

As for Vygodner, his son left for Israel five years ago. But he and his wife, Tamara, won’t be joining him anytime soon.

“I don’t think Israel is holding its breath for me,” he said. “Besides, living here is an acquired taste and I’m set in my ways. I have my community here, my place.” (JTA)



Yefim Vygodner and his wife Tamara, at their home in Bershad, Ukraine

With**CLASS-LEADING**
fuel efficiency

XL
SMALL CAR

4.6L/100km

CELERIO
1.0 GA MT

FROM **R2 050**pm
incl. VAT

Retail price includes 2 year / 30 000km service plan (GL model only)

CELERIO 1.0 GA						
Retail Price	Term	Deposit	Balloon	Instalment	Interest	Total Repayment
R132 900	72 months	0%	35% or R46 064	R2 050	9.39%	R192 037

Mario Cardoso
082 569 5339

Lance Selley
082 445 5652

Meyer Benjamin
082 490 6000

Fred van der Westhuizen
082 414 5434

An authorized Financial Service Provider in terms of the FIC Act.
77 Main Street, Roseville 2001
(011) 210 1300
www.suzukijhb.co.za

An authorized Financial Service Provider in terms of the FIC Act.
Carnegie View Shopping Centre, Car Seefording, & Conero rd, Bassonia 2001
(087)8032200
www.lgophassonia.co.za

An authorized Financial Service Provider in terms of the FIC Act.
Cnr Sandikilana & Westrand roads, Westrand, Roodepoort
(011) 760 2307
www.suzukiwest.co.za

*Terms and Conditions: Monthly Service Fees on all existing WesBank agreements inside the Act will have their existing fee of R50 increased to R60 plus VAT = R68.40. The first service fee will be calculated as a pro-rate amount from inception of the deal to first instalment date. Customers signing new agreements inside the NCA will be charged an increased Initiation Fee of R1050.00 plus VAT = R1197.00. Valid until the end of March 2017.

BRAND OF THE YEAR
WINNER
2016 / 2017

Way of Life!

Renowned Suzuki QUALITY,
at an **AFFORDABLE PRICE.**

SWIFT
1.2 GA MT Hatch

FROM **R2 312**pm
incl. VAT

Retail price includes 2 year / 30 000km service plan

SWIFT 1.2 GA						
Retail Price	Term	Deposit	Balloon	Instalment	Interest	Total Repayment
R152 900	72 months	0%	35% or R52 996	R2 312	9.04%	R217 654

Mario Cardoso
082 569 5339

Lance Selley
082 445 5652

Meyer Benjamin
082 490 6000

Fred van der Westhuizen
082 414 5434

An authorized Financial Service Provider in terms of the FIC Act.
77 Main Street, Roseville 2001
(011) 210 1300
www.suzukijhb.co.za

An authorized Financial Service Provider in terms of the FIC Act.
Carnegie View Shopping Centre, Car Seefording, & Conero rd, Bassonia 2001
(087)8032200
www.lgophassonia.co.za

An authorized Financial Service Provider in terms of the FIC Act.
Cnr Sandikilana & Westrand roads, Westrand, Roodepoort
(011) 760 2307
www.suzukiwest.co.za

*Terms and Conditions: Monthly Service Fees on all existing WesBank agreements inside the Act will have their existing fee of R50 increased to R60 plus VAT = R68.40. The first service fee will be calculated as a pro-rate amount from inception of the deal to first instalment date. Customers signing new agreements inside the NCA will be charged an increased Initiation Fee of R1050.00 plus VAT = R1197.00. Valid until the end of March 2017.

BRAND OF THE YEAR
WINNER
2016 / 2017

Way of Life!

Meyer Benjamin wishes
family, friends and customers
a Chag Sameach

vehicle sales

POP

The Franchise

011 210 1300

Don't sell or trade in your car until you have spoken to me
Meyer Benjamin. 082 490 6000

Delicious crunchy Pesach muesli

Ingredients

- 125g matzah broken into pieces (3.3 pieces or ½ packet crackers)
- 100g pecans
- 100g flaked almonds
- 100g slivered almonds
- 1/2 cup honey - more honey can be added
- 1/3 cup oil

Method

- Heat oil and honey just to warm and to mix through.
- Toss over matzah and nut mixture.
- Spread mixture onto two baking trays (or do two batches) in a preheated 160°C oven for 10 minutes.
- Watch sides carefully, stirring carefully as they brown.
- Cool and keep in a Tupperware until ready to eat.

Things to add if desired: Dried fruit - apricot or mango. Add fruit just before eating.



**Reason says:
this acquisition is
too costly.**





**Instinct says:
not as costly as
missing out.**

Business decisions are rarely black and white. Dynamic organisations know they need to apply both reason and instinct to decision making. We are Grant Thornton and it's what we do for our clients every day. Contact us to help unlock your potential for growth.

Quiche with a vegetable crust for Passover



**SHANNON SARNA
NEW YORK**

Breakfast can be hard during Passover - no oatmeal, no toast and certainly no pancakes. (No, the boxed kind do not count.) I like making eggs or matzah brei or even shakshuka (a combination of eggs, tomatoes and spices). But I am always looking for something a little different to serve as a satisfying breakfast or portable lunch.

This vegetable “kugel” crust is all those things: great for a vegetarian lunch, it’s healthful, packed with tons of vegetables and it’s a super-satisfying breakfast. I use spinach in the filling, but you could just as easily use kale, broccoli, squash or any other quiche filling you like. Just make sure that if you use a frozen vegetable, to thaw it completely and remove the excess water.

Make sure to grease your springform pans for easy baking. This recipe yields two 8-inch (20 cm) quiches - ideal for eating all week, or serving for guests.

Ingredients:

For the crust

- 1 large sweet potato
- 1 russet (Idaho) potato, or some other kind
- 1 medium zucchini
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup matzah meal
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

For the filling

- 6 large eggs, at room temperature
- 2 cups heavy cream or half and half
- 6 ounces (around 2 cups) frozen spinach,

thawed and drained well

- 2 cups shredded cheddar or Gruyere cheese plus extra
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Directions:

- To make the crust, coarsely grate the potato, sweet potato and zucchini using a hand grater or in a food processor. Add to large bowl and mix with eggs, matzah meal, salt and pepper.
- Preheat oven to 200°C.
- Grease two 8-inch (20 cm) springform pans. Spoon veggie mixture into bottom of pans and gently push all along the bottom of the pan and up the sides a little to form crust.
- Place in fridge for 5-10 minutes.
- Bake crusts for 10-15 minutes, until crust just starts to brown and crisp around the edges.
- While crust is baking, prepare filling by whisking eggs and heavy cream (or half and half) in a large bowl. Add spinach, cheese, salt and pepper.
- Pour half the mixture into one prepared crust, the other half into other crust. Top with a sprinkle of additional shredded cheese, a few dabs of butter and thick sea salt if desired.
- Reduce oven temperature to 190°C and bake another 25-30 minutes, or until the middle of the quiche has puffed slightly.
- Allow to cool slightly. Serve warm or at room temperature. Can be prepared 1-2 days ahead of time. (The Noshers via JTA)

Shannon Sarna is the editor of The Noshers.

Chremslach

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- 3 cups water
- Cinnamon
- Sugar
- Salt
- Matzah meal till runny

Method

- Mix and drop in hot oil and fry.



World News in Brief

Indian Jews remarry in Israel

JERUSALEM - Ten Indian-Jewish couples from the Bnei Menashe “lost tribe” were married in a Jewish ceremony at an absorption centre in northern Israel.

The group wedding remarriage ceremony on Sunday in the Kfar chassidim community was part of the couples’ formal conversion to Judaism. The couples, who immigrated from India, ranged in age from their 20s to their 70s.

The couples were among 102 new immigrants who emigrated from Mizoram in late February.

Their aliyah was facilitated by the Shavei Israel

organisation, which tries to find lost Jews throughout the world.

“After realising their dream of making aliyah and returning to the Jewish people, the 10 Bnei Menashe couples now have an additional reason to celebrate,” Shavei Israel founder and chairman Michael Freund, said in a statement.

“They have now been remarried in a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony which symbolises the new lives they are building here in the Jewish State.” (JTA)



011 485-5589

74 George Avenue

nicky@mooz.co.za

Treat your family to the ‘last 3 chometz’ breakfasts before Pesach. On 7 and 9 April 8am – 11am • 10 April 8am – 10am

Eat as much as you like

R130 for adults • R75 for children 8 and under

Come to Mooz...to shmoooooz



Chag Sameach

Wishing you a happy Passover



SERVICE CENTRES SA

The Macsteel Group - Africa’s leading steel supplier - www.macsteel.co.za

Sexwale under fire over soccer clubs in settlements



Tokyo Sexwale, chairman of the Fifa Monitoring Committee, with representatives from Israel (right) and Palestine (left), gather at Fifa offices to discuss the committee’s proposals on the dispute over Israeli clubs based in the occupied territories.

JACK MILNER

The credibility of Tokyo Sexwale as chairman of the Fifa Monitoring Committee in Palestine is under the spotlight after he presented his long-awaited draft report on the dispute over Israeli clubs based in the occupied territories and other festering issues in the region.

The commission was set up in 2015 and Sexwale, former South African Minister of Human Settlements, was originally due to release his report last October. He asked for an extension and was given until January this year and when he still had not submitted it, his final date for submission was extended to the end of March.

He finally presented his recommendations to Palestinian and Israeli officials in a session last week that has been described as “stormy”.

At issue are six small-time Israeli soccer clubs which play in Israeli settlements. Palestinians argue the presence of the clubs is in breach of Fifa statutes. They want football’s world governing body to force Israel to change its policy. Palestinians have also long claimed that Israeli security restrictions limit movement of their players, visiting teams and football equipment. Israeli football officials have said that political decisions are beyond their control.

Sexwale presented three possible options. The first recommendation proposes maintaining a status quo. The second stresses that Fifa statutes ban any federation from organising matches on a territory that is not its own, without the agreement of the federation of the country concerned. The third would be to seek a compromise - but efforts to do so have failed.

Both parties feel that all three recommendations fail to take the debate forward and are unlikely to satisfy the Palestinians who have reiterated that they will not agree to any further compromises if Fifa continues to drag its feet.

Palestinian football chief Jibril Rajoub, who was present at the meeting, said none of the three options offered by Sexwale met Palestinian expectations. He said he would “prefer that we go right away to sanction and to suspension (of the Israeli football federation)” but declared himself “realistic”.

“We were flexible, we were realistic, but the other side insisted on acting according to a policy of an expansionist, racist government,” Rajoub said.

He has vowed in the past to take the matter to court if Fifa drags its feet or fails to stand up to the Jewish State.

On the other hand, the Israelis also are up in arms. “We make no distinction between any of the Israeli football teams that are active in the Israel Football Association and we have players from different nationalities and backgrounds playing together in camaraderie and full co-operation, regardless of where the clubs are located.

“The same holds true for clubs located in places whose final status is to be determined,” said IFA legal adviser Efraim Barak.

Fifa said in a statement that Sexwale’s monitoring committee presented a “draft final report containing specific recommendations” without providing any detail, adding that the various parties will “come back” to him before he submits his final report to the Fifa Congress in May in Bahrain.

Susan Shalabi, a Palestinian member of the monitoring committee and Palestine Football Association vice chairman, told the Jerusalem Post that one last-ditch final meeting would be held in early May before the Fifa Congress where the committee’s mandate is set to expire.

However, Israel’s participation at the congress is also an issue because the Shin Bet has not approved their trip to the Persian Gulf.

The congress was due to take place in Kuala Lumpur, but was moved as Malaysia wouldn’t guarantee it would issue visas to Israeli delegates, as well as display the Israeli flag during the congress.

Meanwhile, Sexwale has been lambasted from all corners. A number of human rights organisations representing the Palestinians, have accused him of dragging his feet.

“Far from producing his report in time for today’s deadline, Mr Sexwale has not yet met with the two associations’ representatives and is unlikely to do so before late March,” said a representative of Red Card Israeli Racism after the January deadline was missed.

“This shabby record is totally unacceptable and indicates a lack of engagement by Fifa’s new leadership.”

It looks highly unlikely that a settlement on this issue will be negotiated, because there seems to be no compromise on the table that will be acceptable to both sides. So it appears Fifa will have to make the final decision unilaterally.



THE PESACH RETREAT

BON Hotel Riviera on Vaal

with Rabbi Ari & Batya Kievman

WHERE Yom Tov is a pleasure - entire hotel Kosher for Pesach!

WHEN Your choice - 1 to 9 days (spend a day or a few)

ENJOY Exquisite cuisine • Shiurim • Kids programs • Picturesque views • Golf Club • Entertainment • Water Sports • Spa • Wi-Fi • Fitness Centre & more

WE’LL MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR YOU

www.pesach.co.za | 072 801 7491 | pesachSA@gmail.com