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2017 GUIDE

south african Jewish Report

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- An Australian-based Philippino sharing his experiences of capturing Jewish diaspora through his camera lens
- A New York historian on the long-forgotten history of the Jews of Spain and Portugal

LIMMUD WINS JEWISH UNITY PRIZE

Limmud won the coveted Jerusalem Unity Prize this month, in recognition of its global success in bringing Jews together.

The Jerusalem Unity Prize, in memory of Eyal Ifrah, Gil-ad Shaer and Naftali Fraenkel, was bestowed in Jerusalem by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat.

Said Limmud global chairman, David Hoffman, "Limmud promotes Jewish unity by offering an inclusive cross-communal

space for Jews of all ages and backgrounds, to meet, learn, volunteer and build community."

Founded in the United Kingdom in 1980, Limmud has expanded to 84 communities in 44 countries.

Limmud South Africa takes place across three cities during the month of August, drawing over 2 000 participants. It is considered one of the success stories of World Limmud.

PICKLING UP A STORM

Meet Liz Alpern. She puts a hip Brooklyn accent on Old World Ashkenazi cuisine.

She is co-founder of The Gefilteria and co-author of the acclaimed The Gefilte Manifesto. She got her start in the Jewish food world working with the doyenne of Jewish cooking, Joan Nathan.

She curates and cooks for pop-up events and gives lectures and hands-on classes around the globe about Jewish food and culture.

She has been featured in Forbes' 30 Under 30 list for food and wine, as well as in The New Yorker, The New York Times, Saveur, and The Wall Street Journal. She will pickle up a storm at Limmud SA this August.

JOHANNESBURG: Fri 4 - Sun 6 August. DURBAN: Wednesday 9 August. CAPE TOWN: Fri 11 - Sun 13 August

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Photo: David

Famous
Bopapa
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collaborated
been going
Town

Keeping
Canada

Jewish Re
with large
under the
kosher pro
there - and

LAI
Sunday

Artist Impress

g...mer road at I-Junction left into Brian Road.

JUST SOME OF THE GREAT HIGHLIGHTS OF LIMMUD 2017

A jam-packed feast of Jewish

SIX LOCAL SPEAKERS YOU MUST NOT MISS

MAX PRICE
Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

Presenting on Ethics in my workplace: 20 dilemmas I dealt with last year

GIL OVED
Shark on Shark Tank SA Co-CEO of The Creative Council

Pitch your business idea to Gil at Sharks (and Sardines)

MBUYISENI NDLOZI
Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Member of Parliament and National Spokesperson

Presenting on Radical economic transformation

MARLENE BETHLEHEM
President of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture

Presenting on Connection, Reconnections: Returning to Roots

TALI NATES
Founder of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

Presenting on Tipping Points in Jewish History

JAY NAIDOO
Former Cabinet Minister and founding General Secretary of Cosatu

Presenting on The Spiritual Lens of Social Activism

ISRAEL TODAY



INTELLIGENCE SQUARED

MIRI EISIN

Miri served in Israeli intelligence, retired as a colonel in 2004 and was Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's international media adviser.

Miri is an authoritative Israeli voice on regional geopolitics, security related issues in the global media, and the dif-

ferent narratives within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Miri teaches at the IDC in Herzliya and is an associate at the Institute for Counter Terrorism.

Sessions Include: *The Syrian Chaos – What Happened and What are the Options for the Future?* and *The Regional Turmoil – Overview and Implications*



ISRAELI DEMOCRACY: WHITHER?

DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Public opinion analyst and strategy consultant based in Tel Aviv, specialising in progressive causes and political and social campaigns in over a dozen countries, including Israel, Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Works for a range of organizations dealing with Israeli-Palestinian conflict

issues, peace making, democracy and religious identity.

A founder and columnist at +972 Magazine. Dahlia holds a PhD in political science from Tel Aviv University.

Sessions include: *The Losing Battle for Peace in Public Opinion & Two States, Dead or Alive?*



FINDING THE LOST TRIBES OF ISRAEL

MICHAEL FREUND

Michael served as deputy communications director in the Israeli prime minister's office under Binyamin Netanyahu. He is the founder of Shavei Israel/Israel Returns, an organisation that searches for and assists the lost tribes of Israel.

Freund is a correspondent for The Jerusalem Post and is a leading conservative thinker in Israel.

Sessions include: *The quest for the lost tribes of Israel: From India to Nigeria and Out of the shadows: the return of the Bnei Anousim*

50 YEARS ON: THE MEANING OF 1967

THE GREAT ISRAEL DEBATE

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Israel would take control of the Sinai Peninsula, East Jerusalem and the Old City, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At the same time, Israel would have to determine what to do with these new territories under their control, and a refugee crisis. How does the outcome of the war impact on Israel and the region today and how would the panelists address the challenges?

HURRY NOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AT
www.limmud.org.za

Some key principles

DISCOUNTS: Limmud SA is an inter-generational learning experience. If you would like to attend the Limmud conference for the weekend as a young adult (19-29), or with your family, you could qualify for discounts.

To apply, please contact us at conference@limmud.org.za

KOSHER FOOD: There's delicious food and snacks, constantly available, thanks to the fully kosher catering of Gary Friedman in Johannesburg, Goldies in Cape Town and Heidi Matisonn in Durban.

VOLUNTEERS: Limmud is organised almost entirely by teams of volunteers. We believe there is space for everyone to contribute in their own unique way. We would be delighted if you would volunteer to help.

Lots of fun for kids and teens

Limmud South Africa prides itself on hosting conferences with a diverse and eclectic range of topics and presenters.

Yet not only adults can enjoy all that that is on offer: our **Limmud Youth** and **Young Limmud** programmes have been specially created to cater for our younger participants.

For our youngest Limmudniks - babies and toddlers - we have a supervised crèche facility, as well as the option of evening babysitting.

For primary school-age children we have a full programme of activities on offer as

broad range of interests, including arts and crafts, interactive games, sports, drama and music.

These programmes are all planned and run by our fantastic volunteers, each of whom has had experience in youth movements, education or childcare.

Leaders with a combination of expertise guarantee that participants of our programmes are not only safe and cared for, but also exposed to fun, structured learning opportunities, ensuring that Limmud is truly an experience for the whole family.

ing **Limmud Youth** programme to supplement the main session choices – which will allow participants to engage more deeply on issues that affect our youth today.

This includes **Limmud Nights:** an electrifying Saturday night programme including a live jam session, a silent disco, a cooking demonstration, cocktail-making (over 18s only!) and a live performance by singer-songwriter, Laurie Levine.

We offer a limited number of discounts to first time families who come for the weekend, so that the entire family can experi-



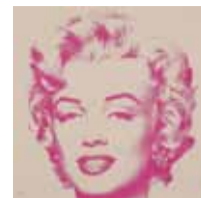
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south african Jewish Report

Volume 21 - Number 21 June 23 2017 29 Sivan 5777

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Photo: Lilly Harmse

From victims to victors

See page 5

Shane Rothquel celebrating
the Frankel Eight judgement
with Ian Levitt (right).

The Fitzgerald
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Islamic State may be coming to Israel

ANDREW TOBIN
JERUSALEM

When the Islamic State claimed credit for an attack on Israeli soil for the first time last week Friday and vowed to strike again, the response here was not fear but incredulity.

Israeli officials generally dismissed the militant Islamist group's assertion that it was behind the shooting and stabbing in Jerusalem that left a 23-year-old policewoman dead along with her attackers.

Top US experts on the group said the officials would be wise to think again.

"This is a pattern that we see. ISIS makes threats, very grandiose threats, accompanied by snuff videos and things of that nature," Rukmini Callimachi, a New York Times reporter who monitors the group online, told JTA.

"Reaction in the West is this is the talk of deranged people, it's all talk and no action, and then one by one, countries that have been called out, have seen bloodshed on their soil."

Callimachi and other US analysts warned that the Islamic State rarely bluffs about attacks. The group has long vowed to destroy the Jewish State, they said, and it may finally be following through.

The Islamic State, or ISIS, claimed responsibility soon after the attack, which involved a pair of co-ordinated assaults by three West Bank Palestinians in and around the Old City, last week Friday night. Through its official online news agency, the Islamic State announced that "lions of the caliphate carried out a blessed attack on a gathering of Jews in al-Quds," referring to Jerusalem by its Arabic name. It warned the attack "will not be the last".

Hamas, the militant Islamist Palestinian group that controls the Gaza Strip, rejected the Islamic States' claim early on Saturday morning, with a spokesman calling it an "attempt to muddy the waters". The attack was carried out by "two Palestinians from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and a third from Hamas", Sami Abou Zouhri said.

For their part Israeli officials, including the Israel Security Agency, or Shin Bet, and Israel Defence Forces were unimpressed by either group's declarations. They said the attackers appeared to have been part of a local cell with



Israeli security forces standing at the scene of a terrorist attack in Jerusalem, last week Friday.

Photo: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

no organisational backing.

"As we understand it, there is no connection between ISIS or Hamas to what happened," a high-ranking military official told JTA last Sunday on condition of anonymity. "We understand at the moment that it's a local initiative, a local terrorist cell, without any connection to any terrorist organisation."

But Callimachi said it was unusual for the Islamic State to falsely claim an attack and it was unclear what the group would gain from doing so in last week Friday's attacks, which she described as "small potatoes". She noted that many attacks connected to the Islamic State are deemed initially to be the work of lone wolves, with evidence of ties to the group only emerging later, often too late to make headlines.

"Contrary to public perception, ISIS does not claim every attack," she said. "They actually have a very good track record - there are far more instances of attacks ISIS did but never claimed, than the opposite."

"It doesn't make sense that they would want to [falsely] claim this small attack in a territory where they have already been accused of inspiring attacks at a time when they have had major attacks in places like Europe and Iran."

Callimachi also pointed out that the Islamic State has repeatedly threatened Israel, including in a December 2015 video believed to feature its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The group eventually followed through against other

countries it menaced, she said, including the United Kingdom and Iran.

Local officials confirmed the group's claims of a car ramming and stabbing in London on June 3 that killed eight people and a shooting in Tehran on June 7 that killed 18, as well as of two deadly attacks in Britain earlier this year.

Following the Iran attack, Michael S Smith II, an adviser on terrorism to the US Congress, had predicted Israel would be next. Increased use of Hebrew on Islamic State communication channels hinted to him that something was afoot. With the group suffering military losses in Syria and Iraq, he said, targeting Israel is a good way to win recruits and distinguish itself from competitors.

Smith speculated that both Israeli and Hamas officials were hesitant to credit the Islamic State with the Jerusalem attack for fear of giving it a propaganda victory. Neither party wants to see Hamas face competition to take a more violent approach to its conflict with Israel. (JTA)

Shabbat Times this week

Starts	Ends	
17:07	17:59	Johannesburg
17:27	18:23	Cape Town
16:47	17:40	Durban
17:08	18:01	Bloemfontein
16:58	17:54	Port Elizabeth
16:52	17:47	East London

Parshat Korach

Every Jew has a role in the greater scheme of things

When we look at the biblical account of Korach's rebellion against Moses and at the numerous commentaries which describe Korach's personality and actions, it paints quite an interesting picture.

Korach was no ordinary rabble-rouser; he was a leading member of the Levite family. Joining him in his uprising against Moses and Aaron were "two hundred and fifty men of Israel, leaders of the community, of those regularly called to assembly, men of renown".

Korach's differences with Moses was an ideological one, driven by the way in which he understood Israel's relationship with G d and by the manner in which he felt the nation ought to be structured. He

was challenging Moses and Aaron in their roles as leaders of the Jewish nation. Korach wanted everyone to have equal roles; he was the first one to advocate communism.

In Ethics of our Fathers we are taught: "Make for yourself a rabbi". The role of a Jewish leader, is to help each person connect to their source, G-d.

We find ourselves a few days before the 3rd of Tammuz the date of the passing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. To the Rebbe the entire People of Israel were his concern, and a deep concern.

Jews in every corner of the world, no matter how forsaken and no matter how small in number, were on his mind and in his heart and soul.

The Rebbe would not acknowledge division or separation. Every Jew - indeed every human being - has a unique role to play in the greater scheme of things and is an integral part of the tapestry of G d's creation.

For nearly five of the most critical decades in recent history, the Rebbe's goal to reach

out to every corner of the world with love and concern, has unfolded dramatically. No sector of the community has been excluded - young and old; men and women; leader and layman; scholar and labourer; student and teacher; children, and even infants.

With great insight, he perceived the potential in each person. His inspiration, now accessible through his writings and videos, helps to ignite one's awareness of that hidden wealth and motivates a desire to fulfil one's potential.

The same strong, if subtle, message is imparted: "You are Divinely gifted with enormous strength and energy - actualise it!"

We can take an appropriate lesson from this week's portion; so, let's not get caught up in the wrong type of idealism. With the direction of our leaders we can all make the world a better place and usher in the final redemption with the coming of Moshiach, though, as the Rebbe said many times, everybody increasing in acts of goodness and kindness.

Rabbi Pini Pink
Chabad of
Greenstone



Safeguarding brit milah in South Africa

NICOLA MILTZ

A Sandton mother whose baby boy's brit milah went horribly wrong three years ago, says she is "comforted" in knowing that a website governing the practice of brisses has just been launched in her son's honour. She is pleased that the site will go a long way in educating future parents and mohelim about the rules and regulations which now govern brisses.

"I pray no other child will ever endure what my child has had to go through," she said this week, "It is soothing to know that a regulatory board is in place that will make sure that something like what happened to my boy, never happens again in this country."

The Regulatory Board of Brit Milah in South Africa, has just launched a full regulatory framework coinciding with a digitally interactive website which deals with every aspect of the brit milah procedure.

Dr Richard Friedland, who is chairman of the board and CEO

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and the Beth Din, following a commission of enquiry into this failed circumcision, which has seen the toddler in and out of doctors' rooms ever since he was eight days old. Since the board was established last year, a huge

It is now incumbent on all mohelim in South Africa to be fully registered and accredited with the Board...

amount of work has been done to formulate a set of regulations governing the entire brit milah process. Until this time, there were no regulations in place.

"This is a historic moment for us," said Rabbi Goldstein, "The Board is an ongoing governance structure. It will oversee the maintenance of the highest

registered and accredited with the Board. A list of the mohelim and their contact details is available on the site and parents are encouraged to use only the ones listed.

Fellow Board members include advocate Nathan Segal, Rabbi Dr Pinhas Zekry, Rabbi Anton Klein from the Beth Din, specialist trauma surgeon Dr Reuven Jacks and Dr Joseph Spitzer.

Each of the country's seven registered and approved mohelim, including four in Johannesburg and three in Cape Town, have been subjected to a strict accreditation process, including the requirement to produce things like a police clearance certificate, documentation proving they are not on the sexual offenders register, make known their HIV status and show they do not have Hepatitis B.

What's more, mohelim are required to take part in yearly continued education workshops and be subjected to annual inspection.

The Regulatory Board is in the process of accrediting these

MAIN POINTS FROM THE WEBSITE:

- All mohelim have to adhere to the highest standards of brit milah and ensure that the safety and wellbeing of the baby are paramount, while ensuring the procedure is completed according to the precise halachic requirements.
- A mohel will not have any contact with a baby, nor undertake any procedure if he is ill.
- A mohel must be in good health and stop practising where there is a change in his own health which might affect performance or pose a risk to the baby.
- A mohel should offer clear, consistent verbal and ideally written information and advice throughout all stages of the circumcision process. This should include the risks of any complications, bleeding and surgical site infections, what is done to reduce them and if complications occur, how they are best managed.
- A mohel must obtain written, informed consent from parents before performing the circumcision. The consent form can be downloaded from the site.
- The mohel must keep notes relating to all encounters with the baby or family including a record that written consent for the procedure was obtained. He will also complete an electronic registration and procedure document, which will be submitted to the Beth Din.
- The mohel must respect the confidentiality of the family and must not share any medical information he may receive, without the express consent of the baby's parents unless this disclosure is in the best interests of the baby.
- If a mohel is concerned that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, he must inform the medical officer of the Regulatory Board in the first instance for advice on how to escalate this concern.

The website is www.britmilahsa.co.za



Dr Richard Friedland, chairman of the Regulatory Board of Brit Milah, addressing the launch. Seated: Rabbi Moshe Kurstag and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein.

of Netcare, said: "This is a very interactive website - the first of its kind in the world - and we encourage all new parents to actively engage with us digitally. They will get a response from a member of the Board within 24 hours. It is a work-in-progress, so we welcome all comments and suggestions."

The Board was established by

international standards of good governance, safety, hygiene and halacha."

In trying to make sense of what happened to her boy, the mother said her baby's accident was the spark that ignited the authorities to put these very important measures in place.

It is now incumbent on all mohelim in South Africa to be fully

mohelim, in terms of its latest guidelines, policies and procedures, and expects to complete this process by this December.

Dr Spitzer, one of the world's foremost authorities on circumcision, was brought out to South Africa to help set up the Board and its website.

Speaking after the launch of the website, Dr Spitzer said: "The Regulatory Board is responsible

for ensuring the highest standards of care and safety for all infants undergoing a brit milah and ensuring that it is conducted according to strict halachic principles. The interactive website is a world first and the UK is inches behind."

The Board is responsible for the development of standardised guidelines, policies and procedures to ensure the highest standards of safety are maintained. It must ensure the appropriate registration, accreditation and continuing education of practicing mohelim; and maintain all records of brit milahs performed in South Africa. The Board also has the authority to fully investigate any concerns or complaints raised and to recommend and institute appropriate remedial action.

Said Friedland: "The website's information will be helpful in guiding and advising parents as to the regulatory framework that now governs Orthodox Jewish circumcision."

According to Rabbi Goldstein,

The site also deals with the most frequently asked questions including: Will the mohel use an anaesthetic?

How long does the procedure take? How is the procedure performed? How dangerous is a brit milah?

all mohelim have been given the opportunity to have their say on the guidelines. "We have the buy-in from all the mohelim," he said.

The site also deals with the most frequently asked questions including: Will the mohel use an anaesthetic? How long does the procedure take? How is the procedure performed? How dangerous is a brit milah?

What, if any infections, could my son contract? What do I do in the event of excessive bleeding? How long will it take for the pain to subside?

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Cluster. The open floor plan of this magnificent home features formal rooms for unparalleled entertaining, grand and comfortable family rooms, large bedroom suites and all imaginable amenities. With a gourmet Delawood kitchen, landing study, staff room, 24 hour security and peace of mind, this is truly a home of repose and a respite from the world beyond. Across the road from Shul. Web Ref: 115120

Directions: Rivonia into outspan, left at 4 way stop, follow pointers.

Norma Robinson 082 554 7260 | Romaine Buchalter 082 685 5177



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

Waverley – R5.750 Million

21 Argyle Street. One for the Family! Start making a lifetime of memories in this fantastic family home. 3 spacious receptions, 3 bedrooms (mes), 2nd full bathroom, study/guest room, large covered patio, pool, 4 garages & superb staff accommodation. Web Ref: 117363

Directions: From Knox St, into Argyle.

Chrissie Hammer 082 568 0440 | OTI 880 3550



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

Fairmount – Inviting buyers from R3.999 Million

Bradfield Drive. A pristine 4 bedroomed family home. Stunning position, stunning home, stunning space. A well loved 4 North facing bedroomed home oozing style and character, 3 spacious receptions (downstairs flatlet) gourmet eat in kitchen, covered entertainer's patio, big beautiful pool and super garden. Lock up garaging for 4 cars plus off street parking and staff accommodation. Asking more. Web Ref: 115062

Directions: Along Summerway into Bradfield Drive

Joel Harris 082 926 0287 | Marco 082 048 2644



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

Glenhazel – Inviting buyer from R2.499 Million

Leigh Avenue. Stunning 4 Bedroom home. Step into this magical home with original Glenhazel park galore, four bedrooms set on 1800 land, flowing to 3 reception rooms with open entrance hall, plenty of off street parking. Includes cottage. A must see! Asking more. Web Ref: 116874

Directions: Along Northfield into Leigh

Joel Harris 082 926 0287 | Marco 082 048 2644

Soccer boss donates Torah to shul



Photo: Greg Mulford

Shardi's oldest son, Wade, carries the Torah flanked by an exuberant Stan Matthews and sofer Rabbi Yoshua Abramson.

ANT KATZ

Stanley Matthews is known for being past Premier Soccer League CEO and currently CEO of top football club SuperSport United, but few would expect him to be buying and donating a Sefer Torah to a shul.

But that is exactly what Stan and his family did last weekend, holding a celebration of a Hachnasat Sefer Torah for Linksfield Shul, with a procession through the streets, the likes of which the suburb had never seen.

Stan's older friends - who have not been in touch lately - will be saying: "What? Stan? But he isn't even religious!"

His family's religious transformation, which led to this huge gift, started when his wife Shardi was pregnant with her fourth (and his first) child.

Shardi says they decided to start going to shul one Shabbat a month. Before long, she says, "it was twice a month, then almost every week". Thus began their religious journey. By 2012 the family had become fully observant, and as it was becoming difficult to walk to Sydenham Shul, where Stan had been a member for 19 years, they moved to Linksfield Shul.

Shardi joined the shul's women's guild and, after a while of acting as her driver, Stan also started to get involved. "It offered us the opportunity to become active participants," he says.

The cacophonous crowd exuded "a vibe (that) was electric", said Rabbi Avtzon. When they arrived in the shul, he says, "we were greeted by all the Torahs who were welcoming their new friend to the team".

Stan, who is now religious and Shabbat observant, continued to attend his club's major matches on Saturdays for another year. "We were keeping Shabbat," he explains, but he would have a driver collect him, didn't take his phone, money or tickets.

While on an Ohr Somayach programme in 2013, Stan discussed this with a rabbi and realised that it conflicted with his personal experience of Shabbat and he stopped attending Saturday matches.

Last year, the Matthews family went to Israel to attend a Hachnasat Sefer Torah which their friend, Sean Melnick, was donating to a shul.

"We decided it would be nice to do the same for our eight-year-old son's barmitzvah (when the time comes)," says Shardi. "Then we decided: Why wait?"

The Matthews family dedicated the Torah in memory of their great-grandparents, and to their parents and their five

children - two boys, Wade and Cole, and three daughters - Savannah, Cassidy and Madison.

"The dedication of the Matthews family Sefer Torah was an I-will-never-forget-this-moment experience," says Linksfield Shul Associate Rabbi Levi Avtzon. "Tregoning Street came alive."

At noon on Sunday June 11, the final few letters were written in the magnificent Torah and the scroll left the Matthews' Tregoning Street house for the last time. It was covered by a chuppah and regally escorted by hundreds - including Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and other leading rabbonim, family, friends and shul members. Many took turns to dance with it under the chuppah.

The kilometre-long route to the shul was blocked off by the CSO, says Shardi. The joyous procession walked, danced and sang to loud music blasting from an accompanying bakkie. A miniature train was provided to carry toddlers so their parents could participate in the parade.

The cacophonous crowd exuded "a vibe (that) was electric", said Rabbi Avtzon. When they arrived in the shul, he says, "we were greeted by all the Torahs who were welcoming their new friend to the team". It was the first new Torah the shul had received in nearly two decades.

This coming Saturday, Stan will again be attending his team SuperSport's rematch against Pirates. No, he would not break the Sabbath, but he can go because it's a night match after Shabbat. He is ecstatic as he will be attending his team's first cup final ever.

His transformation to religious observance and Yiddishkeit, was helped by certain seminal, inspirational moments. The strongest of these, he says, was attending Rosh Hashanah at the grave of Rebbe Nachman in Uman, Ukraine.

"Being part of 35 000 Jews to crown Hashem as king, was such a spiritually powerful experience," says Stan, that he returned twice more.

He has come full circle with shul life. "Rabbi Michal was my teacher at school (Michal was the rabbi at Linksfield Shul for 15 years) and his present shul, Baalshem Tov, was built in the house where Shardi grew up," he says.

One of the most powerful religious experiences that Stan and Shardi had, he says, was when their daughter attended Yiddish Folk Nursery School. "It grew us as parents - it sounds strange but it really happened. It was inspirational and allowed us to grow spiritually."

Stan says another changing point in his life was "when I first heard (Israeli hit singer) Yaakov Shwekey's music".

Since then he only listens to "Jewish music and shiurim in my car. Every day I listen to a shiur, it has helped me grow myself as a person - tremendously - it was a point of refinement in my life," he says.

Stan's parents named him after Sir Stanley Matthews CBE. "I met him in South Africa in 1991 and told him that," says Stan. His famous namesake promptly invited Stan's father to lunch to thank him. "It was amazing," he says.

Lord Joel Joffe, legal defender of Nelson Mandela, bows out

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Anti-apartheid and human rights lawyer, Lord Joel Joffe, passed away peacefully last Sunday after a short illness, at his home in Liddington, UK. The South African-born lawyer was 85.

Tributes have poured in for the iconic legal mind who defended Nelson Mandela during the 1963 Rivonia Treason Trial, which saw the anti-apartheid leader jailed for life - but spared the death penalty.

Joffe moved to the United Kingdom in 1965 shortly after the trial and worked in the financial services industry, setting up a large insurance firm and later becoming a parliamentarian, spearheading a campaign for assisted dying for the terminally ill.

He was very involved in various capacities with the aid agency Oxfam, also serving as its chairman for several years.

He and his wife Vanetta set up the Joffe Charitable Trust in 1968, which still supports development in the developing world, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa.

"He was a friend, inspiration and support to many fighting poverty and injustice. The Joffe Trust will continue to work for these goals," said members of the Trust this week.



Joffe was born to a Jewish family in Johannesburg on May 12, 1932 and first studied business, then law at Wits.

Well-known British anti-apartheid campaigner, Peter Hain, told AFP that Joffe was an "iconic figure" who never sought the limelight - "he just supported everybody else".

Joffe was "a totally generous person, warm, passionate, and he continued to fly the flag for the anti-apartheid struggle and subsequently the new South Africa," Hain said.

In his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, Mandela described Joffe's role as being "the general behind the scenes in our defence".

"For me it was about saving the lives of these wonderful people," Joffe told BBC radio in 2007, "It was a great privilege to defend them."

Mark Goldring, chief executive of Oxfam's UK branch, said: "He was able to use his sharp legal mind and years of experience in business, to challenge authority and increase the effectiveness of our work around the world.

"His fearless campaigning for the care of the elderly, corporate responsibility and global development, shaped the world for the better; he always maintained his trademark self-deprecating sense of humour," said Goldring.

Joffe was appointed to the British parliament's House of Lords in 2000, as a Labour Party member.

He was awarded honorary doctorates from several universities and retired from the House of Lords in 2015, after which he was awarded the Freedom of the City of London last year.

In 2007, Joffe wrote a book about his experiences entitled "The State vs Nelson Mandela: The trial that changed South Africa".

In its foreword, Mandela wrote that the book would serve as "one of the most reliable sources for understanding what happened at that trial and how we came to live and see democracy triumph in South Africa".

Lord Joffe spoke at the celebration of the life of Nelson Mandela held at the Westminster Hall, House of Commons, in December 2013.

The Frankel Eight effectively changed the law

NICOLA MILTZ

It may not look like it but they are modern day heroes. No capes, no masks, just a motley crew of wounded souls whose innocence was devoured by an alleged paedophile billionaire. He was no ordinary villain: super rich, super powerful, much loved and respected. He was the late Sidney Frankel - who this week would have been turning in his West Park Cemetery grave as he lent his name to a landmark court ruling which has been hailed as a victory for all victims of sexual abuse.

This is a grisly saga involving a top Jewish businessman, a host of Jewish kids some from the wrong side of the tracks and a string of other kids along the way. Thanks to eight brave men and women, sexual abuse cases are no longer limited to a 20-year cut-off date. This is ground-breaking, legal landscape-changing territory, the stuff blockbuster movies are made of where the little guys get to take on the big, bad guy and win.

But for the Frankel Eight - his alleged victims - it remains a horror show with a glimmer of light at the end of a very dark and twisted tunnel of lost dreams and would haves, could haves, and what might-have-been.

"I had dreams, I wanted to be someone," said Marinda Smith this week from her Boksburg flat. "I'm thrilled about the change in the law but that man ruined my life. I'm a broken woman. If he had killed me it would have been better."

A lifetime of substance abuse, failed relationships and making "all the wrong choices", she is only now starting to pick up the pieces.

She and the other victims in the case laid bare their dirtiest laundry and watched on in silent shame as it all publicly unfolded while their every accusation was scrutinised and dissected. They knew they had a strong case but they knew too that it was going to require them to display an Everest of fortitude and courage.

In the South Gauteng High Court this week, acting Judge Claire Hartford, ruled that the prescription period for sexual offences set out in the Criminal Procedures Act is invalid and that there should no longer be time limits for prosecuting these serious crimes.

"The law must encourage the prosecution of these nefarious offences, which are a cancer in South African society, and must support victims in coming forward, no matter how late in the day," read the judgment.

An elated Ian Levitt, attorney for the Frankel Eight said: "My clients are the real heroes here. When the plaintiffs first came to see me the odds of winning their case seemed insurmountable.

"I never doubted a positive outcome but it was a real David and Goliath scenario. What are the chances? A billionaire philanthropist versus a group of unknown people with no money coming up against the best legal team money can buy. They have helped to change the law, it doesn't happen every day."

There is huge comfort in knowing that his "coming

out" will make an enormous difference in the lives of all future child abuse victims. But Shane Rothquel is still unsettled.

"I was not at all surprised that the judgement came down in our favour; we had a strong case. Interesting that government has been silent on the issue.

"The judgement doesn't bring me closure. This is only the beginning. I am looking forward to the close of the civil matter... I want to be able to move forward positively knowing that what we achieved this week did not just change the law, but it changed the course of our country and the fight against sexual violence."

He wants his story to "help others by showing that survival is possible and that you can make a good life despite the perverted paedophilic actions of one human being."

For brother and sister Paul Diamond and Nicole Levenstein, this week's judgment is a complete victory

and vindication. Scarred by their shared past but comforted by their journey of healing and recovery, they agree that there are huge positives.

"An interesting narrative has emerged following our coming out. All of us have experienced major life changes, I am now married, George (Rosenberg) has had a child, and other plaintiffs have experienced some life altering shifts," said Paul.

"Our legal team led by Ian Levitt has been magnificent. Advocate Anton Katz is a giant and all the support groups have been incredible.

We are all deeply humbled and so grateful for this outcome."

Said his sister Nicole Levenstein: "It takes time to process the coming full circle and knowing we got the result we did for all of South Africans in the future. Our hard work and tenacity has paid off. Truth has prevailed. This brings closure, it has all been worthwhile."

The case was never cut and dried. It was complicated and lengthy. But according to Levitt the legal minds behind the Frankel Eight were "superb".

"My clients and I are deeply indebted to the powerhouse legal team consisting of people like Advocate Anton Katz and Advocate Laurance Hodes."

Organisations like The Teddy Bear Clinic, Centre for Applied Legal Studies and Women and Men Against Child Abuse have heartily welcomed the judgement.

Director of Women and Men Against Child Abuse, Miranda Friedmann said: "It may take decades for survivors to come forward and report abuse and now they have that time... this is for me the real victory."

The civil case is still proceeding against the estate of Sidney Frankel and will be heard next year.

"Money can never take away the damage but if this judgement saves one child from future abuse because a perpetrator knows he will be chased down by the law, then it would all have been worth it. If you save one child you save a universe; this is how I'm feeling," said Levitt.

Happier times ahead for sister and brother Nicole Levenstein and Paul Diamond



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South African Jewish Report

Setting the example as accountable leaders

We live in a country where - right now - the leadership doesn't appear to be accountable for their wrongdoing and for the damage they do to South Africa.

Our president appears to feel nothing about firing a group of top ministers, leading to the economy plummeting into a recession and apparently selling our country to the highest Gupta. Instead, he accepts no responsibility and blames the country's woes on apartheid and the so-called white monopoly capital.

So, it is heart-warming and inspiring when a leader of the Jewish community shows he is accountable to his people. Three years ago, there was a highly publicised botched bris. It was horrible and has left a little boy and his family scarred. Nothing can take that from them. However, as is apparently the way in many sectors of this country, people could have swept it under the carpet.

Instead, the Chief Rabbi arranged a commission of inquiry into what happened. He then created a Regulatory Board of Brit Milah, which included the highly respected Netcare CEO Dr Richard Friedland and top trauma surgeon Dr Reuven Jacks and international expert on brit milah regulations, Dr Joseph Spitzer.

They have now implemented stringent regulations, an interactive website and other vital tools to ensure that mohelim are seriously regulated and are doing the best possible job in fulfilling this covenant of brit milah.

As is our part of our mandate at the SA Jewish Report, we hold all Jewish leadership of the community to account on behalf of our readers.

And just as we hold our leaders accountable, we have to give credit where it is due.

It took a long time - three years - to get to this point with these regulations, but it appears to me that no stone has been left unturned and an exceptional job was done.

The regulatory board brought in the international expert to guide and advise them and created something that is a world first. Kol Hakavod to both Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and Dr Richard Friedland (who chairs the board)! I do believe a lot of leaders could take a leaf out of your proverbial book. You have done us proud!

Because of you, Jewish parents and parents-to-be will be able to sleep soundly at night, knowing how seriously the formulating, setting up and implementing of these regulations have been taken.

Frankel Eight

They were just little kids when Sidney Frankel abused them. They were vulnerable and to all extents, helpless. For a long time, they lived silently with having experienced unspeakable deeds at the hands of a powerful businessman, who most in the community respected.

But these eight men and women this week took back their power for keeps. Because of them, and a team of top lawyers, other people who were abused more than 20 years ago, have the right to legally take their accuser to task.

These eight people did not get to see Frankel punished for his sick deeds, because he died before they had the chance. However, they can hold their heads up high for having made the country see that the law that prevented them from seeking justice when they felt able to do so, was unjust.

This may not have healed their wound entirely, because they have been through hell, but they have won their battle for the good of others. They have forced the legal leadership of this country to be accountable for those who were molested as children and take a long time to be able to take their abuser to task.

You eight may have been victims, but you are now victors!

Maccabi Games

The excitement is palpable in our community. Our sportsmen and women are kitting up and are soon to be flying to Israel to compete in the Maccabiah. It must be incredible to have the chance to represent your country, the chance to participate in an international sporting competition where you compete with people from all over the world. What a thrill!

Are these the best sportsmen in their field in South Africa? Maybe or maybe not. Are they all going to come home with fortunes of medals? Who knows! Are they all going to have an experience of a lifetime? Undoubtedly!

We at the SA Jewish Report wish all South African Maccabi sportspeople Behatzlacha (good luck)! We will be rooting for you! Make us proud!

Shabbat Shalom!

Peta Krost Maunder
Editor



Dateline: Middle East

So much more than just paying electrical bills...

PAULA SLIER

I have a colleague who lives in Gaza. We've worked together for 12 years, but never met. He's 32 years old and because of his age, considered a possible security threat by the Israeli authorities.

We'll probably have to wait until he's 40 and is granted permission to cross the Erez Crossing into southern Israel, before we can say our first hello face-to-face. Lately, his cell phone is off more than it's on and his life centres on the three-to-four hours of electricity he receives each day.

For the almost two million people living in Gaza, these hours are a lifeline - and a luxury. The Gaza Strip's sole power plant shut down in April after it ran out of fuel and no one has come forward to foot the bill.

Egyptian electricity lines feeding southern Gaza, are constantly breaking down because of the ongoing battles between the Egyptian military and ISIS close to the Gaza border. And now, at the request of the Palestinian Authority (PA), Israel has scaled down its electricity supplies to the Strip to at least 40 per cent of its former levels. The original PA request to Jerusalem was to cut supplies completely.

It's a sorry story to begin with. The Gaza Strip requires 450 megawatts daily, and before the cuts, was receiving only around 150. The power plant has not run at full capacity in years and Israel's blockade has severely limited fuel imports.

Until now, the PA has been paying Israel for the electricity it provides to Gaza. Hamas argues the PA government in Ramallah rules Gaza and so this is their responsibility. But the reality is that Hamas is in charge of the coastal enclave and even collects electricity bills from residents.

It appears that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has finally had enough.

Most observers believe Abbas' decision to stop paying the Israel Electric Corporation, is an attempt to settle old scores. They think he wants to cripple the rival Hamas leadership as it marks 10 years of controlling Gaza after booting Fatah officials out.

I covered the civil war at the time and I remember interviewing a Gaza schoolteacher who was a supporter of Fatah. We filmed at his home where his six children crowded around us, and his wife shyly watched from the doorway. He begged me not to mention his political convictions as he was convinced this would get him fired.

There was real support for Hamas at the time. For years, they'd run schools, hospitals and food banks and delivered on much more than had the ruling Fatah party of former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

But Israeli observers said then that Gazans would inevitably get fed up with Hamas. It seemed unlikely, but as politics the world over has repeatedly proven, it's always easier to sit in the opposition than be in power.

Hamas has increasingly been unable to deliver on promises - and while 10 years ago Gaza's population was around 1,4 million, today it numbers more than two million.

Abbas' decision follows other recent cuts he's made to PA officials in Gaza, including financial support for released prisoners and medical payments. The cuts come after his meetings with US President Donald Trump, which is why some suggest these moves were agreed to behind closed doors.

Abbas is certainly emboldened after wandering in the political wilderness for a long time and being thrown a lifeline by Trump.

But, where does this leave Israel? With the strong possibility, many believe, that frustrated Gazans will direct their anger towards the Jewish State.

Hamas warned Jerusalem that its decision to accede to Abbas' request, would be "disastrous and dangerous" and could lead to an outbreak of violence. Its spokesman, Sami Abu Zuhri, said Israel would "bear responsibility for the consequences of the reduction".

But, ask Israelis what they think and many say this is not Israel's problem to begin with. "Why should we be providing them with electricity in the first place?" they challenge me.

"Because," my colleague, Ahmed, in Gaza retorts, "you control our waters, our airspace, our borders. We wouldn't be in this position if it wasn't for the Israeli occupation."

Senior Israeli officials, including Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman, have said Israel cannot step into the PA's shoes and pay off its debts. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stressed the country is not party to internal Palestinian disputes and does not want war.

The last thing Netanyahu needs is to be seen by his right-wing support base as capitulating to Palestinian threats.

Hamas is also unlikely to be gunning for war. It's more isolated than ever in the Arab world and faces the possibility of losing a main donor - Qatar - as that country faces its own embargo from Saudi Arabia and others.

But while war might not be either side's stated objective, it might be that Israel and Hamas are getting closer to one, whether they like it or not.

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



The feminine pull to challah bakes

ELIANA CLINE

I'll never forget my first challah bake. Hundreds of immaculately dressed women crammed into a hall, all armed with giant plastic bowls and latex gloves. Soon puffs of flour fill the air, and intense concentration and laughter surround me as women energetically mix ingredients.

Wedged in between women I have never met, I feel completely at home. The walls between us crumble as my hands mix the sticky dough and I am transported back to generations of women before me.

I was taken back to a time, long before ready-made stoneground rye challah and sugar-free challah and pesto-flavoured challah, could be bought in every supermarket.

In the sophisticated world we occupy, our lives as women bear little similarity to the women who came before us. We juggle demanding professions with even more demanding mothering; both of which present challenges never experienced in bygone centuries. Our lives are fast and frenzied and convenience is king.

The modern setting of this recent challah bake gathering would be unrecognisable to our great-grandmothers. But the actions are identical. Mix flour and water and yeast. Knead. Knead. Punch. Knead.

If I close my eyes, I imagine myself in a tiny kitchen in the shtetls of Europe. Knead, punch, poke. Is it dry? Add a bit of water. Like all things of value, you cannot rush making challah; the yeast needs time to make the dough rise.

A solemn quiet descends the animated room.



The blessing over separating challah is recited, and a fervent amen is recited. Our eyes close in intense prayers, asking for G-d to grant healing, health and salvation for fellow Jews in need.

The mitzvah of challah

The commandment to separate challah, is one of the three uniquely feminine commandments; alongside Shabbat candles and the laws of family purity. While the commandment of separating challah applies to every Jew - man or woman - this has been one of the special mitzvot entrusted to Jewish women.

When a person makes dough of 2,25 kilograms of flour or more, the obligation to separate off a piece of dough with a blessing comes into effect. Once the dough is ready, the blessing is recited and a small portion of the dough is separated and discarded.

The power of the group

Separating challah is a powerful act. This is a sacred time, where a woman can offer her prayers for herself, her family or anyone else she may have in mind.

A widespread custom is for 40 women to do the mitzvah of challah on the same day, all having in mind a particular person (people) in need of blessings for health, fertility and well-being. Interestingly enough, traditional sources do not site this now-popular custom.

In recent years, the popularity of challah bakes - groups of 40 or more women gathering together to perform the commandment of separating challah - have exploded.

Performing this timeless activity, provides women with a connection to our past, and a connection to each other in a fragmented world. It's this search for deeper connection that draws

women globally.

"It was very moving to see all Jewish women unite as one, doing a mitzvah on behalf of another person. It's very inspiring," says Tammy K.

"There is a tremendous sense of unity and energy when women come together to make challah. I love the fact that no matter what our backgrounds, we all share a common goal, whether it be to daven for a sick person or to celebrate a simcha.

"For me it's also a time to reflect, to express gratitude and to ask myself what area in my life can I improve on. It is my special time with Hashem" says Bernice.

"I think they are amazing! They are so powerful and uplifting. You would not think that most of the women there are strangers to each other. There is such a sense of unity and togetherness. Such an incredible spiritual experience," says Debbie G.

"It's empowering and uplifting praying together and performing the mitzvah together," says Jodi S.

Bonding bakes

"My mom and I went to a challah bake about five years ago and we try to bake together most weeks. As a result, we try to go to as many challah bakes as possible. It's really a special and bonding experience for mother and daughter and for the community at large," says Amy S.

Our sages teach that the commandment of separating challah reflects a woman's ability to transform the mundane into meaningful; the material into spiritual. From participants' reflection, it's clear that challah bakes offer a meaningful experience with a long-lasting impact on all who attend.

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Preventing Jewish genetic diseases



GILLIAN KLAWSKY

You're madly in love; planning to get married and start a family, the last thing on your mind is to check whether you are both carriers of a genetic disease. But, to avoid devastating hardships later, it is essential to check, says Rabbi Yossi Chaikin of Dor Yeshorim, an international non-profit committee for the prevention of Jewish genetic diseases. "There's the heartwrenching story of a

couple who left genetic screening really late in their relationship and were in total denial about what the consequences would be," says Rabbi Chaikin, Dor Yeshorim's South African representative.

Under the auspices of Dor Yeshorim, Rabbi Chaikin therefore actively encourages young Jewish people to test as early as possible to see if they're carriers of Ashkenazi genetic diseases. In so doing, the non-profit is working to prevent the incidence of children being born with these severe and often fatal conditions.

on both sides. It really took everything out of me." Sadly, leaving genetic screening late, is too often the cause of such turmoil.

teamed up with Hatzolah last Sunday to facilitate their annual mass screening. With Hatzolah's support, Dor Yeshorim runs this annual campaign offering mass screenings for these Jewish genetic diseases at subsidised rates.

At Sunday's screening, 40 people were tested at Hatzolah's headquarters. While most people are tested at these annual events, screening through Dor Yeshorim is offered throughout the year with an average of 25 people taking advantage. The screening process involves drawing blood, explains the rabbi.

The blood is then sent to the lab for processing, where DNA is extracted and genes can be read. Results from school and mass screenings take three to four months, although results can be fast-tracked.

Dor Yeshorim oversees this anonymous process where those tested provide their birth date and gender and are then given a number entered onto Dor Yeshorim's database. In South Africa, Dor Yeshorim suggests that people as young as 18 get screened. "Their philosophy is to avoid carriers marrying one another, by screening very early on and suggesting to those who aren't genetically compatible to not even date, and certainly not to get engaged or get married.

"Before a couple allows anything to get serious or even starts dating, Dor Yeshorim cross checks the numbers in the database to ensure they aren't both carriers. "It works very well in a shidduch environment," explains Rabbi Chaikin.

People tested through Dor Yeshorim never receive their results, as research suggests it's better not to know. Results are only revealed to them if they meet someone who is also a carrier.

"If you get a couple who are both carriers, it requires some genetic counselling and advice and sometimes halachic advice, as they'll want to ask their rabbi if what the doctor says is correct," says Rabbi Chaikin.

"Dor Yeshorim has an international call centre where people are referred to someone for support - in South Africa couples are generally referred to me."

For those wanting to know their results, it's recommended they do the tests directly through Lancet Laboratories or speak to their doctors for advice.

• To find out more, visit: <http://doryeshorim.org> or contact: Rabbi Yossi Chaikin on 083-794-1178.

The Jewish genetic diseases

While many of us are familiar with Tay-Sachs, there are nine debilitating genetic diseases that a basic screening panel covers. These are:

- Tay-Sachs, Canavan Disease and Niemann-Pick Type A, which are all a fatal metabolic dysfunction that results from the body's inability to break down certain substances - sick children rarely reach the age of five. According to its website, Dor Yeshorim is credited with singlehandedly eradicating Tay-Sachs from the Jewish community. Studies suggest that Canavan Disease affects one in 6 400 to 13 500 people in the Ashkenazi Jewish population. The incidence of Niemann-Pick within the Ashkenazi population is approximately one in 40 000 individuals.
- Cystic fibrosis, which manifests itself in serious respiratory ailments as well as other health problems of varying severity. Approximately 1 000 new cases are diagnosed annually in the general population.
- Familial Dysautonomia, which mainly affects the central nervous system that is responsible for many of the body's systems, such as blood pressure stabilisation, motor function, and the sensory nervous system. This disease affects about one in 3 700 individuals in Ashkenazi Jewish populations.
- Fanconi Anaemia Type C, which manifests itself in severe anaemia, congenital defects in the extremities and a tendency towards cancer and leukaemia. This occurs in one in 160 000 individuals worldwide.
- Glycogen Storage Type 1A where patients lack the ability to break down sugar, which frequently leads to liver tumours and can be fatal.
- Bloom Syndrome, typified by dwarfism, a tendency towards malignant tumours, chromosomal instability, sometimes mental retardation and more. Only a few hundred affected individuals have been described in medical literature. However, about a third of these are of Central and Eastern European (Ashkenazi) Jewish background.
- Mucopolysaccharidosis Type 4, a severe degenerative disease of the brain that hampers neurological and motor development and causes blindness. Some patients reach adulthood, but never develop beyond the level of a 12-18-month-old. This disease is estimated to occur in one in 40 000 people. About 70 per cent of affected individuals have Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.
- Tests have recently been devised for another seven conditions. One can test for those as an optional additional panel which is likely to become standard as well in the near future.

"They went through real pain when they discovered they were both carriers of genetic diseases - I referred them to genetic counsellors and doctors and they each went to see their own doctors. They ultimately made the decision not to get married and I had to counsel the families

A genetic carrier is a person who has inherited a recessive genetic mutation but has no symptoms of the disease themselves. If only one spouse is a carrier, there's no chance of their children being affected.

"However, if two carriers marry one another, the chances of their children being affected are 25 per cent," explains Rabbi Chaikin.

Promoting early, premarital testing to avoid such a scenario, Dor Yeshorim

Hebrew University breakthrough in combating epilepsy

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, have made a major breakthrough in discovering a micro-gene that protects the brain from developing epilepsy

They say increased levels of a micro-RNA could have a protective effect that explains why identical stressors trigger seizures in some people but not in others

On December 16, 1997, hundreds of Japanese children were brought to hospital suffering from epilepsy-like seizures. They all had one thing in common: they had been watching an episode of the Pokémon TV show when their symptoms began.

Doctors determined that their symptoms were triggered by five seconds of intensely bright flashing lights on the popular TV programme. But why did the lights affect a few hundred children while thousands of other viewers were unharmed?



Photo: Hebrew University
Prof Hermona Soreq at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In new research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a team of researchers headed by Prof Hermona Soreq at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, sought to answer this question.

Drawing on her previous research, Soreq, the Charlotte Schlesinger Professor of Molecular

Neuroscience at the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences and the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, hypothesised that healthy brains may be protected from epileptic seizures by rapidly produced molecules called short RNAs, or microRNAs (miRs).

MicroRNAs are a recently-discovered class of non-coding RNAs that can prevent genes from expressing particular proteins.

To test this idea, Soreq and her colleagues developed a transgenic mouse, producing unusually high amounts of one micro-RNA called miR-211, which the researchers predicted was involved. The levels of this molecule could be gradually lowered by administering the antibiotic Doxycycline, enabling tests of its potency to avoid epilepsy.

Working with colleagues at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Dalhousie University in Canada, they suppressed excess miR-211 production in the engineered mice to the levels found in normal brains.

Within four days, this caused the mice to display electrically-recorded epilepsy and hypersensitivity to epilepsy-inducing compounds.

"Dynamic changes in the amount of miR-211 in the forebrains of these mice shifted the threshold for spontaneous and pharmacologically induced seizures, alongside changes in the cholinergic pathway genes," said Soreq.

These findings indicated that miR-211 plays a beneficial role in protecting the brain from epileptic seizures in the engineered mice.

Noting that miR-211 is known to be elevated in the brains of Alzheimer's patients who are at high risk for epilepsy, the researchers suspect that in human brains as well, elevated miR-211 may act as a protective mechanism to reduce the risk of epileptic seizures.

"It is important to discover how only some people's brains present a susceptibility to seizures, while others do not, even when subjected to these same stressors," said Soreq. In searching for the physiological mechanisms that allow some people's brains to avoid epilepsy, we found that increased levels of miR-211 could have a protective effect."

The researchers believe that recognising the importance of miR-211 could open new avenues for diagnosing and interfering with epilepsy. By understanding how miR-211 affects seizure thresholds, scientists could potentially develop therapeutics that lead to greater miR-211 production.

Barbieri to the rabbis and their flock



Nino Vivaldi and Tony Montepara show a photograph of themselves with the former chief rabbi, the late Cyril Harris.

NIA MAGOULIANITI-MCGREGOR

Tony Montepara, 75, is a barbieri. No, that doesn't mean he is some character from the Sopranos television series. But then so many Jewish males in Johannesburg don't need an explanation – they know Tony.

Even with a razor in his hand, Tony, a barber with an 80 per cent Jewish clientele and an Italian accent that rivals Marcello Mastroianni's, is a gentle, mild-mannered man, a lover of marathon running, of coffee with a little grappa - and Jewish culture thanks to his long-term Jewish clientele.

At the entrance of Salon Roma, a little slice of Italy in Parktown North in Johannesburg, with orange sofas, small cubicles with authentic barber chairs

His favourite story involves Chief Rabbi Harris. "Every time I cut his hair and he wanted to pay, I would refuse. But every time, he would take out R50 and insist: 'Tony, this is a blessing to play the horses.'"

("Some men like their privacy when their hair is being cut," says Tony) and a calendar of Jewish holidays, is a black and white photograph of a smiling Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft with Pope Francis at the Vatican, a present from the rabbi to Tony.

"Inside the shop, you will see of photo of me and Nino (barber Nino Vivaldi) with the late Chief Rabbi (Cyril) Harris," he says.

There are other rabbis in Tony's appointment book, including Rabbis Rapoport, Kacev, Lipskar, Levy and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein.

"But ah," muses Tony, "Chief Rabbi Harris' hair! It was very thick and beautiful and he had a magnificent silver beard."

Of course, he says, beards are important to religious men. "The haircuts can be any style - a number one or a number two, depending on taste, but rabbis are very focused on their beards. Some can be trimmed. Some can't be touched. And you must approach the whiskers with great care."

Tony started Salon Roma in Nugget Street, Johannesburg in 1972 - 11 years after leaving Italy aged 18 - with an all-Jewish clientele. He now knows which Jewish holidays forbid cutting of hair or shaving and all else that goes with hair and Jewish people. "Sometimes a client will ask me: 'Tony, is it the right

time to cut my hair?' and I have to say: 'No, we must wait another day.'

"Although I am Italian, I like the idea of eating kosher, of the celebrations and the way people look after each other in times of trouble. Once I discussed become Jewish with Rabbi Boruch Rapoport. I had to ask: 'Is it going to be sore?'"

"The rabbi replied: 'Well, I don't remember.'"

Both men laughed and the subject was closed.

When he moved his premises to Tyrwhitt Avenue in Rosebank in 1995, his Jewish customers showered him with presents. "I received so much, a fridge, even a TV..." And when he moved Salon Roma to its current home in Parktown North in 2008, Rabbi Mendel Lipskar put a mezuzah at the door!

His favourite story involves Chief Rabbi Harris. "Every time I cut his hair and he wanted to pay, I would refuse. But every time, he would take out R50 and insist: 'Tony, this is a blessing to play the horses.'"

"I love the stories," says Tony. "Once Rabbi Silberhaft told me how a Christian man living in Mauritius, wanted to marry a Jewish girl. He was just about to start his conversion to Judaism when Rabbi Silberhaft delved into his family history, traced his descendants and discovered the man's grandmother was Jewish. The man, 'Geff' Geffroy is still a client and a good friend.

"Sometimes the staff have a little whisky with our clients on a Friday, or we make a special plan if a client is getting married."

Tony has a loyal staff. Pino Lizzi, now 74, has been with him since the beginning. There's also Nino Vivaldi, Enzo Romano, Giuseppe Rossi, Tony Frau and Fabio Montepara, Tony's son.

Men like to talk sport, says Tony, but mainly, "men talk about how their wives want their hair. They will say: 'Tony, my wife likes it long, don't cut it too short please.' Or they say: 'Tony, last time, my wife, she didn't like your haircut.' And if the sons come along for their first haircut, it is the wife who judges whether it's a good cut or a bad cut.

"One thing I've learnt from the community? To respect your wife. I've also learnt the wife gets the last word. Even on haircuts."

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South Africa's hunt for Maccabi gold about to begin

REPORTS BY JACK MILNER

The search for medals is about to begin as the 295 members of the Maccabi South Africa team make their final preparations ahead of the 20th Maccabiah which begins in Israel on July 4.

Few people are prepared to nail their colours to the mast when it comes to predicting gold medal winners, but, in fairness, they will only know the standard of the opposition when they take to the fields, pitches and courts.

However, historically the strength of the South African delegation has always been in team sports, especially cricket and rugby.

This year a junior rugby team will take to the field in both the 15-man game and the Sevens. South Africa is guaranteed a medal in the Sevens as only three countries are participating - South Africa, Argentina and host country Israel. A mixed team could be added to the 15-man game, however.

The seniors, who have a record of six gold medal in eight Maccabi Games, will have another four teams with whom to contend in the 15s, namely the US, Israel, Argentina and Australia, while France and Chile will both field a Sevens team.

The cricketers have also done the country proud over the years and both the juniors and seniors will be looking to win their fourth successive gold medals.

"We're coming home with gold," exclaimed Joanne Tankle, manager of this year's junior cricket squad. "I told the team if they think they're going there for anything other than gold, then stay behind."

Tankle admitted there were lots of issues they will need to confront. "We don't know the field because I believe they are using mats for the pitches. We also don't know the opposition, but I believe we have a very good team and we are competitive - I am competitive!"

Among their team members are Guy Sheena, a 15-year-old from Cape Town who recently made the Western Province under-17 squad, as well as spin bowler Matt Cronson, who is the grandson of former South African wicketkeeper Dennis Gamsy.

"We play the final on July 14, so the guys will have a few days to have fun after that. We know we have big shoes to fill, but winning is the only thing on our minds," added Tankle.

Their wicketkeeper, Dylan Ephron, is making aliyah and he will not be coming back with the team.

The juniors will hone their skills against the senior team in a match at Crawford College on Sunday, after which they will be given advice by two greats of South African cricket, Ali Bacher and his nephew Adam.

Tennis has always been a good medal gatherer for the country, but this year it could be tough,



although Jacqui Boyd is quite happy to "back myself for gold" in the women's masters tournament.

Boyd's first Maccabiah was as a junior in 1993 when she won bronze in doubles. She next went in 2005 and this time won gold in both the women's and mixed doubles. In 2013 she took part for the third time and came away with gold in the mixed doubles and bronze in the singles.

"I was proud of my performance that year. I was a 34-year-old taking on 18-year-olds," she explained. "Now I'm excited playing in the 35 to 40 age group."

"I play regularly on the local circuit and I'm ranked No. 1 in my age group in the country. I also played in the World Senior Championships, so I know a number of the senior players, but the better ones I met weren't Jewish, so in this age group I would pretty much back myself to win. I would be a bit disappointed if I didn't."

Of course, the heat could always be an issue, but the tournament has changed for the masters events; the early games are round-robin events and the first to win eight games, wins the match. At 7-7 they would play a tie-breaker.

From the quarterfinals it becomes a knockout tournament and back to the best of three sets.

The other teams who have high hopes of gold medals, are the under-16 Futsal team and the junior netball team, both of which have had very good preparations.

Golfers have generally performed well and particularly the Sundelson family. All over, father Neville and sons Barry and Dean have won medals at the Games and Barry is back to do it all again.



Alain Nathan, Shireen Sapiro, Adam Bacher and Ambassador Arthur Lenk

provided a number of gold medals for South Africa and for the first time the country will be sending a junior team.

The members are talented and will come up against five other countries, although

their strength is unknown.

The junior boys squash team boasts some talented players and they will be looking to come back with some medals as well.

This year, however, the next generation Sundelsons will take to the course in Caesaria as Judd, Barry's son, will play in the junior tournament.

In the past, water polo has

Chief Rabbi Goldstein gives his blessing



Photos: Ilan Ossendryver

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein has always been a great supporter of the Maccabi Games and its ethics and last Sunday night he explained his view.

"We live in a world where everything is about values - the values of Jewish unity, of Zionism, of global Jewish identity and of sport," he said.

"We also live in a world in which people spend too much time in front of screens, whether it be television, computers or phones. Maccabi represents going out into the fresh air, competing, playing sport and being healthy - and being healthy is a mitzvah."

He also spoke of the responsibility the youth have when they represent South Africa in Israel. "Everybody is willing to get on an airplane and go. You are all very precious to the Jewish community and we are very proud of you.

"But remember that people will judge our community on the way you interact with them.

"May Hashem bless you to bring back all the gold medals - and silver and bronze too."



Gadiel Sheperd, Kayla Bernstein, Jayden Collet and Talya Blumenfeld



Soccer stars

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THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

Gaza electricity deal-maker in return to centre stage

AVI ISSACHAROFF

Gaza's electricity crisis may be drawing to an end, and as the lights come back on, Palestinians are looking at an unlikely hero who managed to broker a deal between Egypt and Hamas: Mohammad Dahlan.

Egypt on Tuesday was expected to begin sending dozens of fuel trucks to the Hamas-run Strip to bring the Gaza power station back online and supply electricity to residents.

Dahlan - a former Fatah leader once considered persona non grata by Hamas and ousted in the coup that put the Islamist terror group in power in the Strip 10 years ago - is understood to have been a key player in the electricity deal, and appears to have made his peace with the Islamists en route.

Dahlan, who maintains excellent links with Egypt and the United Arab Emirates and apparently managed the talks under Egypt's auspices, is thus being depicted as the person who saved Gaza by having Cairo ship in hundreds of tons of industrial diesel - compensating for the cuts in supply that Israel introduced this week at Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' request.

By bringing fuel into Gaza, Dahlan will not only give residents additional precious electricity, but also seems to have defused a potentially disastrous situation and knocked Abbas, a rival of both

him and Hamas, down a few pegs.

Even if the extra fuel proves to be only a temporary solution, the winds of war with Israel in the coming weeks seem to be dying down. Given this week's declaration by senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya that Hamas has no intention of going to war with Israel, it seems the terror group has no interest at the moment in ratcheting up tensions.

In fact, the new realignment of forces in Gaza, with Egypt deeply involved and Dahlan at centre stage, could have profound implications for the future of the coastal enclave.

It was Abbas who decided to cut off the fuel to Gaza, as well as to cut payments to Gaza civil servants. As a result, the PA president is currently seen as having damaged both Palestinian unity and the well-being of the residents of Gaza.

By brokering Egypt's agreement to send fuel, Dahlan, by contrast, is now viewed as someone who can solve Gaza's problems - and perhaps even save the Palestinians from their wider troubles.

That means Dahlan has now become a real political threat to Abbas, who had worked assiduously to isolate him from Fatah and the West Bank.

Thanks to Cairo, and by extension Dahlan, a crisis impacting Hamas will be alleviated, boosting its status and strengthening Dahlan - who becomes a de facto foreign minister for Gaza - while Abbas'

GAL GADOT'S HUSBAND SHOWS OFF HIS WONDROUS WIFE



"Wonder Woman" actress Gal Gadot (32), set social media on fire over the weekend with an Instagram appearance alongside her husband, Yaron Versano. Versano is wearing a T-shirt featuring a stick figure of a woman of the type one might see at the entrance to a bathroom, with the legend "Your Wife", next to a silhouette of Wonder Woman, with the words "My Wife". Gadot is shown pointing at the image; Versano points at Gadot. The two have been married since 2008 and have two daughters.

standing will be further eroded.

According to Palestinian sources, the understandings between Dahlan/Egypt and Hamas, include an agreement that the terror group will remain responsible for the internal and external security of the Gaza Strip - able to rule undisturbed.

Initially, the understandings relate only to humanitarian steps: the opening of the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza for longer periods, the supply of diesel to Gaza (apparently with

funding from Dahlan's ally the United Arab Emirates), and the entry and exit of Palestinians from Gaza to destinations abroad.

But in a second stage, if the agreement progresses as expected, Gaza could become a sort of separate political entity from the West Bank.

Hamas will reportedly commit itself under the deal with Cairo to acting with more diligence against global jihadist elements - including the Islamic State group - inside Gaza and at the border between Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula. It will also allow the return of Dahlan's confidants to Gaza - the ones who managed to escape from the Strip a decade ago during the Hamas coup.

In response to the fast-changing circumstances, the Palestinian Authority has already gone on the attack. Senior Fatah officials have slammed Egypt for its blatant attempt to become involved in internal Palestinian matters.

The PA well understands that if the reconciliation process between Dahlan and Hamas is put into practice, an old dream shared by Hamas and some on the Israeli right-wing will be realised: the emergence of a de facto Palestinian state in Gaza, while Israel maintains its presence in the West Bank.

It's no mystery why Hamas

and Dahlan want to quash Abbas. What's less clear is why Egypt is willing to play along, slapping down the Palestinian leader by undoing his attempt to put pressure on Hamas - and via one of his archenemies, at that.

Dahlan's camp has been meeting with Hamas leaders in Egypt in recent days under the auspices of the Egyptian General Intelligence Directorate led by director Khaled Fawzy, and it may be Fawzy who was the key to the deal, and to Abbas's undoing.

Fawzy, according to people who have met him, deeply despises Abbas. He is said to regard Abbas as an obstacle to a regional political process that Egypt seeks to promote, even at the expense of the PA, and wants to see him replaced.

Abbas has refused more than once to toe the line with Fawzy in Cairo, insiders say, enraging the Egyptian intelligence chief and sparking a quest for vengeance. If so, he may now be getting his comeuppance.

In total, four meetings were held in recent days by Yahya Sinwar, Ruhi Mushataha and others senior Hamas officials from Gaza, with Dahlan's people, including Samir Mashharawi, culminating in a meeting between Dahlan and new Hamas Gaza chief Sinwar that lasted for two hours.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL TO 'MAKE FRIENDS' ACROSS FAITHS

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF

In an extraordinary appeal last week, top religious leaders from across the world called for inter-religious friendships "to counter misperceptions, prejudices and distrust" between peoples.

In a three-minute video, the petitioners - including Pope Francis, Former UK Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the Dalai Lama and Egyptian Grand Mufti Shawki Allam - disseminated their message in 16 different languages.

The initiative, organised by the Elijah Interfaith Institute under the slogan #MakeFriends, seeks to "reduce social tension around the world by stimulating interpersonal contact between people of different faiths", according to a statement from the institute.

In the video, released last week, Sacks says: "One of the wonderful things about spending time with people completely unlike you, is that you discover how much you have in common. The same fears, hopes and concerns."

Pope Francis and Rabbi Abraham Skorka speak of how their religious experiences have been enriched by their interfaith friendship.

The Dalai Lama says "personal contact, personal friendship" would lead people to the exchange of "a deeper level of experience".

Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople, adds: "We are called... to look into one another's eyes in order to see more deeply and in order to recognise the beauty of G-d in every living human being."



WHAT WE DO: Promote Aliya & Travel to Israel 🇮🇱 Share Israel related information 🇮🇱 Monitoring / Response to Israel related Media 🇮🇱 Support pro-Israel organisations 🇮🇱 Increase support for Israel through outreach programmes 🇮🇱 Engage with key decision makers to communicate our narrative

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Ground broken for first new West Bank settlement in 25 years



SUE SURKES AND JACOB MAGID

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Tuesday that ground had been broken for the construction of the first Israeli West Bank settlement in 25 years.

The new settlement, to be known as Amichai, is to accommodate residents of the illegal Amona outpost, which was evacuated in February in line with court orders, because it was built on private Palestinian land.

"Today, ground works began, as I promised, for the establishment of the new community for the residents of Amona," the prime minister tweeted.

"After decades, I have the privilege to be the prime minister who is building a new community in Judea and Samaria."

Judea and Samaria is the biblical term for the area also known as the West Bank, which was among the territories conquered by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War.

The new settlement - which will be located near the settlements of Shiloh and Eli, north of Ramallah - will be the first of its kind to be constructed since the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo peace accords were signed in 1993.

Israel Radio said the works begun on Tuesday, involved laying the infrastructure for the settlement. However, the actual building plans still need several stages of planning approval.

Netanyahu is treading a fine line between US President Donald

Trump's request in February to "hold back" on settlement activity so as not to jeopardise peace moves and constant pressure from right-wing members of his party and coalition to expand settlement building and even to annex sections of the West Bank.

On Monday Netanyahu told his Likud faction meeting: "There was not and will not be a better government for settlement than our government."

He repeated this in a tweet on Tuesday.

Naftali Bennett marked the occasion by raising a toast with settler leaders.

His party colleague, Jewish Home MK Moti Yogev, wrote: "We're toasting the start of works on the Amichai community for the Amona evacuees. We expect speedy building to end the suffering of the residents soon."

Amona evacuees reacted cautiously to the announcement about breaking ground, saying they were "praying" for the works to progress "without interference and without stoppages".

"The entire public expects from the prime minister not to allow any enemy element, whether leftist or judicial or bureaucratic, to stop the works," a statement said.

"This success - the building of a new community in Judea and Samaria - cannot be allowed to turn into a failure and a farce."

The statement reiterated that the government could not allow "the leftist organisations or any other leftist elements, to determine reality once again".

UNICEF child welfare report finds Israel among worst in developed world

STUART WINER

The UN's child welfare agency said Israel has one of the worst records on child poverty in the world.

UNICEF's Innocenti Report Card 14 on children in the developed world, released last week, ranked 41 European countries and members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

On a chart for country performance on nine child welfare-relevant goals, Israel ranked 36 out of 37, above only Romania. Norway topped the table followed by Finland.

The report also ranked efforts at reducing economic inequality, putting Israel at 39th place, above only Bulgaria and Mexico.

"Israel and Romania have the worst records on relative poverty - here more than one child in three is considered poor," the report said, referring to the percentage of households that earn less than 60 per cent of the national median.

"Living in poverty during childhood, can do lifelong damage, with proven effects on health, nutrition, brain development and educational attainment. These effects can evolve into large earnings differences in adulthood."

The report noted, however, that "Bulgaria, Mexico, Spain, Turkey and the United States also have child poverty rates substantially above the rich-world average".

According to the report, one in three children in Israel (36.1 per cent) lives in poverty compared to one in 10 in countries such as Denmark, Iceland and Norway. The average for developed countries is one in five, the report said.

There were however, some positives. Israel scored better on efforts to reduce hunger to zero, ranking 13th on the list, and 7th on a ranking of "good health



and well-being".

Some 7.4 per cent of Israeli children below the age of 15 are considered food insecure, defined as a "lack of secure access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that can ensure normal growth and development, as well as an active and healthy lifestyle". That compared to the average among developed countries of 12.7 per cent for the same age group.

A December 2016 National Insurance Institute's annual report on poverty, found that a poor person in 2015 - the year covered by the report - was defined as one living on a monthly income of less than NIS 3 158 (\$823). A poor family of four had less than NIS 8 086 (\$2 107) to live on, a family of eight under NIS 13 139 (\$3 423).

While only around 14 per cent of Jews are poor, more than half of Arabs fall below the poverty line, the NII report found.



News and views from the Fed

Batmitzvah chesed project at WIZO daycare centre in Israel

NICCI RAZ
NATIONAL DIRECTOR,
SA ZIONIST FEDERATION

It was an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to travel to Israel with my daughter Ora and her best friend Noa, for a special mother-daughter trip to celebrate their upcoming batmitzvahs.

The girls were inspired by so many of their experiences in Israel, the highlight being part of the 50th year celebrations in Jerusalem over Yom Yerushalayim.

In South Africa, it is common for batmitzvah girls to take upon themselves a chesed project.

Our girls decided they wanted to do something for children and having been exposed to the incredible work that WIZO is involved in, we thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to take them to a daycare centre in Israel.

The visit was extremely meaningful and our girls were able to tour the centre and interact with the teachers and the children. They were surprised to see that both Jewish and Muslim teachers worked side by side and that children of all colours and religions are accepted, loved and cared for.

The staff were warm and welcoming and take great pride in their work. It gave us a great sense of pride to see the placards showcasing the South African donors who have generously contributed towards the upgrades in the daycare centre and continue to support WIZO programmes.

Working in an environment where I am constantly dealing with negative perceptions on Israel, often hearing Israel being compared to "apartheid", I stood in this WIZO centre feeling angry that the world is not exposed to the truth - that Israelis, Muslims, Jews and Christians, live side by side and deal with the same common issues that most societies are exposed to - poverty, abuse, broken families.

WIZO centres all over Israel assist both children and their parents, no matter what their race or religion and play an important role in the upliftment of their surrounding communities.

Israel is truly a rainbow nation, a democracy, just like South Africa - and I was grateful that I could showcase this to my daughter - the next generation of powerful Jewish women who will continue our legacy of chesed, tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam.

I look forward to launching this fundraising project with Ora and hopefully making a small contribution to this special place that made an imprint on our hearts.

Thank you to the WIZO team both in South Africa and Israel, for your tireless work in supporting and running these centres and for allowing us to share in your success.

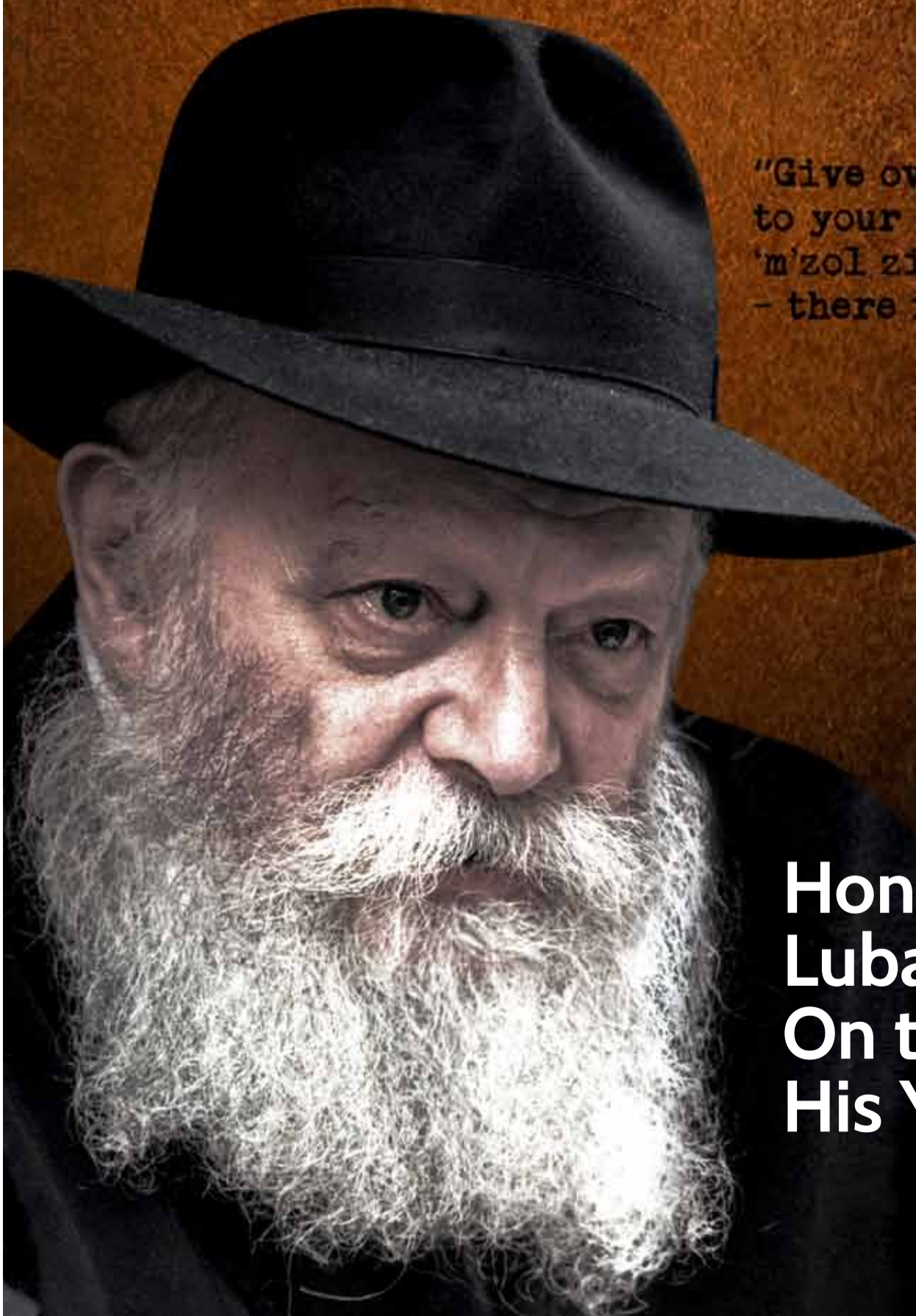
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GIMMEL TAMMUZ

3 TAMMUZ 5777 / 27 JUNE 2017

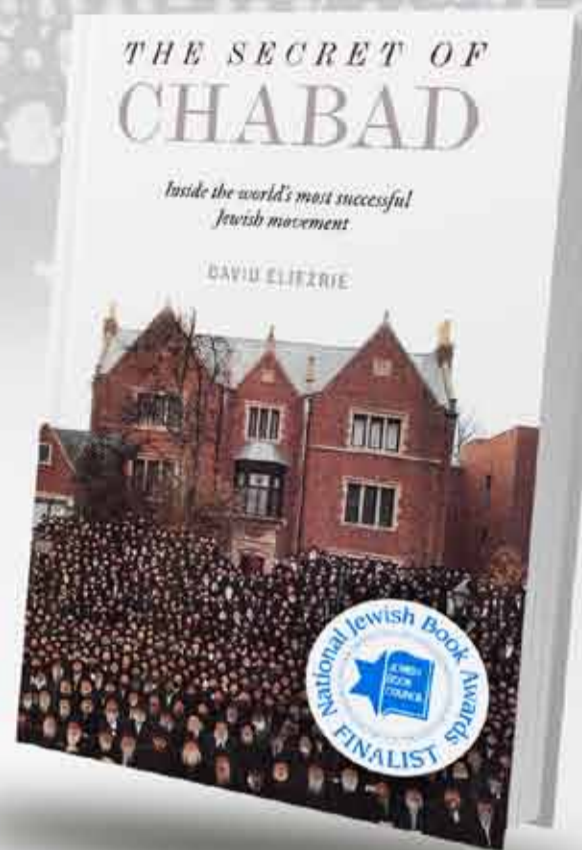
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Rabbi Shmuel Lew serves as the Principal of the Lubavitch Senior's Girl's School and senior Chabad Shliach in London, England. A most charismatic and dynamic speaker, Rabbi Lew is renowned for his wisdom and uncanny ability to connect to diverse audience. Since the early '60s he has been pioneering outreach activities on college and university campuses and has inspired thousands over the last six decades. Throughout his decades on Shlichus he has merited to dozens of Yechidus; hundreds of letters & Tzetzach and countless meetings with the Rebbe's mother and wife.



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A CALL TO ACTION

Your special mission...

In honour of Gimmel Tammuz, here is a practical guide to honour this special occasion – a guide to practical mitzvah observance. The Rebbe requested that those who as yet do not do these Mitzvot, should make a start. Those who are already doing them, should improve in their observance.



LIGHT SHABBAT CANDLES

Women and girls (age 3 and up) should light candles every Friday afternoon, 18 minutes before sunset, in honour of the Shabbat, and before Festivals.



TEFILLIN

Men (age 13 and up) should put on Tefillin every morning excluding Shabbat and Festivals. Tefillin are black leather boxes containing small parchment scrolls of selected portions from the Torah, in which the fundamentals of the Jewish faith are inscribed.



MESSAGE ON A DOORPOST - MEZUZAH

Every Jewish home should have a mezuzah on its doorposts. The mezuzah contains the Shema and is a sign that the home is sanctified for G d and enjoys His protection.

TORAH

Study a portion of Torah daily. Even a few lines contain the infinite wisdom and will of G d.



TZEDAKAH

Give charity daily. When you give to the needy, you are serving as G d's emissary to provide for His creations. The home is a classroom, and keeping a "pushkah" (charity box) in your home -- and contributing a coin to it every day -- will teach you and your children the noble value of regular giving.



A HOME FILLED WITH HOLY BOOKS

Furnish your home with as many holy books as possible. At the very least, get a Chumash (Bible), Psalms, and a Prayer Book.



KASHRUT

Eating is one of the basics of life. Shouldn't it be done with intelligence? For a healthy and sound soul, eat only kosher foods, for when you eat differently, your Judaism is not just metaphysical, but part and parcel of your very being. Contact Chabad House if you need advice or assistance in koshering your kitchen.



OBSERVE FAMILY PURITY

Observance of the Jewish marital laws allows you to make the most of your marriage, bringing you and your spouse to new, undiscovered depths of intimacy and sacredness in your relationship.



EDUCATION

Every Jewish boy and girl should receive a Jewish education. Teach your children everything you know about your faith, and provide them with a quality Jewish education -- you will be ensuring Jewish integrity, Jewish identity and a Jewish future.



LOVE YOUR FELLOW

"Love your fellow as yourself," said the great Jewish sage Rabbi Akiva, is a most basic principle in the Torah. Reaching out to your fellow Jew with patience, love, concern and unity is among the greatest mitzvot a Jew can do.

MOSHIACH

The over-riding goal of our time – to help hasten the arrival of Moshiach – as the Rebbe said: "Moshiach's coming is not merely the redemption of the Jews but a general change in the entire world ... we will recognize that G-d encompasses past, present and future."

Do as many mitzvot as possible to make this a reality!



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Woman stabbed to death near Old City, was 'loving and fearless'

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF

Hadas Malka, 23, the Border Police officer stabbed to death by a Palestinian assailant in a terror attack outside Jerusalem's Old City last Friday evening, had sent a final selfie to her friends just minutes before the attack, wishing "Shabbat Shalom to my loving friends".

Those friends on Saturday remembered her as loving and fearless a "real-life wonder woman", said one.

Friends on Saturday recalled how they heard about the attack and tried to message Staff Sergeant Malka, as they did every time there was an incident in Jerusalem where she served, but this time she did not reply.

"I woke up from a nap and my mother told me there had been an attack in Jerusalem. I said how can there have been an attack? She just sent us a message," Nofar Sarusi told the Ynet news site. "Every time there was an attack in Jerusalem I would SMS her to see if she was okay and she would answer," Sarusi said. "Yesterday she simply didn't answer."

The friends spoke of how Malka had been in the navy, but wanted to be a combat soldier and transferred to the Border Police where she did the rest of her mandatory military service and then extended it 15 months ago and became an officer.

They also recounted how she was never afraid, despite all the attacks that have occurred in and near the Old City, where she was on duty. "No one will come approach me... They won't dare even come close to me," she would tell them, according to Ynet.

Over the past 18 months the Old City, and the Damascus Gate area in particular, have seen several attacks by Palestinians, and in one case a Jordanian.

Since September 2015, mainly Palestinian assailants have killed 43 Israelis, two visiting Americans and a British student, mainly in stabbing, shooting and vehicular attacks. In that time, some 250 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, a majority of them attackers,



according to authorities.

The critically injured Malka was transferred to Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus in Jerusalem on Friday evening, where she underwent emergency surgery but later succumbed to her injuries.

She fought her attacker for several seconds while attempting to draw her weapon, according to a Border Police statement. Nearby troops shot and killed the assailant.

According to the Border Police statement, Malka was part of a group of officers responding to sounds of gunfire near their area of patrol, close to Damascus Gate, when she was attacked.

The gunfire was coming from an attack seconds earlier in which two assailants attacked Border Police troops

Border Police officer Hadas Malka, who was killed on June 16, in a stabbing attack near Damascus Gate in Jerusalem.

with a homemade sub-machine gun and knives, at Zedekiah's Cave in the Muslim Quarter. Some reports said the gun used by the attackers jammed, preventing further casualties. The two attackers were killed.

While on her way to the scene, Malka was accosted by a third attacker.

At least four more people were injured in the attacks, including another police officer. They all sustained light to moderate wounds and were being treated in hospital.

The attack took place as Muslims were marking the end of the third Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan, during which tens of thousands of Palestinians from east Jerusalem and the West Bank attended prayers at the nearby Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Islam's third-holiest site.

Jerusalem police chief Yoram Halevy said in a briefing with reporters that police suspect the killers arrived from the West Bank earlier in the day for Ramadan prayers and suggested that at least some of them did not have permits to cross into Israel.

"During Ramadan, there are large numbers of (Palestinian) youths who enter without permits; they take advantage of Ramadan to be in Jerusalem," he told media, adding that in some cases "this is what we get", in reference to the co-ordinated attack.

Israel last month announced that it was relaxing restrictions on the movement of Palestinians to and from the West Bank and Gaza Strip during Ramadan, including easier access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, issuing more travel permits and allowing some to travel abroad. The measures were similar to those of previous years.

Warmbier dies after being released by North Korea

AGENCIES AND JTA
CINCINNATI

Otto Warmbier, the American university student who was released by North Korea in a coma last week, died on Monday afternoon. He was 22.

His family announced his death in a statement released by UC Health Systems, saying: "It is our sad duty to report that our son, Otto Warmbier, has completed his journey home. Surrounded by his loving family, Otto died today at 2:20 pm."

The family thanked the University of Cincinnati Medical Center for treating him, but said:

"Unfortunately, the awful torturous mistreatment our son received at the hands of the North Koreans, ensured that no other outcome was possible beyond the sad one we experienced today."

Warmbier was sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labour in North Korea, convicted of subversion after he tearfully confessed he had tried to steal a propaganda banner.

The University of Virginia student, was held for more than 17 months and medically evacuated from North Korea last week. Doctors said he returned with severe brain damage, but it wasn't clear what caused it.

In their statement on Monday, Otto's family said they believed he had found a peace of sorts after being flown home.

"When Otto returned to Cincinnati late on June 13, he was unable to speak, unable to see and unable

to react to verbal commands. He looked very uncomfortable - almost anguished," they said.

"Although we would never hear his voice again, within a day the countenance of his face changed - he was at peace. He was home and we believe he could sense that," they added.

Warmbier had been active in the campus Hillel at the University of Virginia and had visited Israel on a Birthright trip, according to Rabbi Jake Rubin, who headed the Hillel there.

The rabbi described Warmbier as "a beloved member of our Hillel community. He was a regular at Bagels on Lawn, celebrated Shabbat and holidays at Hillel, and even led a seder for other students that focused on issues of environmentalism and sustainability," Rubin wrote.

Parents Fred and Cindy Warmbier told The Associated Press in a statement on the day of their son's release that they wanted "the world to know how we and our son have been brutalised and terrorised by the pariah regime" and expressed relief he had been returned to "finally be with people who love him".

Three Americans are still held in North Korea.

The US government accuses North Korea of using such detainees as political pawns. North Korea accuses Washington and South Korea of sending spies to overthrow its government.

American student Otto Warmbier, centre, is escorted at the Supreme Court in Pyongyang, North Korea, on March 16, 2016.
AP/JON CHOL JIN



Cabinet mulls electronic tags for abusive spouses

RAOUL WOOLLIFF

Faced with growing public outrage over the high murder rates of women, and with police investigating four incidents that took place in the week before last alone, government ministers were on Sunday set to debate an initiative to monitor suspected abusive spouses by forcing them to wear electronic tracking tags.

The bill, which was to be voted on in the Ministerial Committee for Legislation, would allow courts to order the tags placed on a suspect after a complaint of domestic violence has been lodged against them, even without a full trial and conviction.

Advocates say that the introduction of tags would allow authorities to more effectively monitor suspects in real time and prevent them from approaching the women who have made complaints.

The author of the bill, MK Aliza Lavie (Yesh Atid), said the proposal would place restrictions on abusive spouses as opposed to the current system of safehouses, which offers women the option of police protection in a secure location, but forces them to leave their homes.

"There is no reason that the victim of violence should be the one to lock herself away and cut off her regular life when there are technological solutions that could be helpful," Lavie said in a statement last week Thursday. "This is a dramatic and necessary step toward protecting women who have experienced the hell of violence in the family and find themselves in ongoing danger."

Lavie said the bill is expected to gain the support of the committee, as it is being championed by Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan. Speaking ahead of the committee debate, Erdan said the bill "challenged the current paradigm" of prevention of spousal violence.

"Instead of the threatened woman living under the fear of her violent spouse, the spouse would be the one under constant surveillance that will prevent him from getting near and being able to attack, threaten or abuse the victim," he said. "This is one move among many that I am advancing in the struggle against violence on women."

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Lobbying and engaging with key decision makers to communicate our narrative

The news and views expressed on these pages are not the views of the SA Jewish Report nor the SA Zionist Federation. This content originates from the Times of Israel.

Labour's surge in UK poll, fans anti-Semitism fears

CNAAN LIPSHIZ

Nearly 50 years after she left her native South Africa for Britain to escape apartheid, Sharon Klaff again is finding herself unable to imagine a future for her family in her country

and society because of racism.

And this time, the problem is hitting nearer to home, said Klaff, 69, a yoga teacher and Jewish mother of two.

Troubled by the Labour Party's recent electoral successes despite its perceived failure to tackle anti-Semitic vitriol in its ranks, Klaff felt even more concerned last Sunday when London Mayor Sadiq Khan - a Muslim Labour politician who on his first day in office reached out to the city's Jews - allowed hundreds of protesters to march at an anti-Israel event with flags of the Hezbollah terrorist group.

"There probably isn't a place for me here as a Jew," Klaff, who attended an unauthorised counter-protest against the annual Al-Quds march, told JTA. "And I'm kind of wondering where's the place of anyone who belongs to Western, democratic civilisation."

In the Jewish media, few spoke out quite as pessimistically as Klaff about the march or Labour's performance in the June 8 general elections, when the party gained 29 seats rather than suffer the collapse anticipated by critics of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

But amid record levels of anti-Semitic hate crimes, these events nonetheless compounded for many British Jews a growing sense of isolation and the polarising effects of terrorism on a society that already was struggling with its impending divorce from the European Union.

Corbyn, a far-left politician, ascended to leadership of Labour in 2015. Last year a parliamentary committee of inquiry determined he was not doing enough to curb the growing prevalence of anti-Semitic hate speech in his party.

The previous year, Corbyn attended a memorial ceremony for Palestinian terrorists who were killed by Israel



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn talks to faith leaders at Finsbury Park Mosque on Monday in London.

before the initiation of peace talks. And in 2009, Corbyn described during a speech in parliament both Hamas and Hezbollah as organisations "dedicated towards the good of the Palestinian people and bringing about peace and social justice and political justice". Corbyn last year said he regretted calling the militants his "friends" in the same speech.

The British media gave unprecedented coverage to Labour's anti-Semitism problem under Corbyn. Critics say he has failed not only to prevent hate speech against Jews and Israel in his party's ranks, but also to punish anyone responsible for it.

A record high 1 309 anti-Semitic incidents in 2016 and growing anger over Islamist terrorism, further highlighted the party's perceived failures. Subsequently, the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Jonathan Arkush, in an unusual statement for his nonpartisan group, said last year: "Frankly, most people in the Jewish community can't

trust Labour."

The rare rebuke was cited frequently by pundits who said Corbyn's Labour was unlikely to threaten the ruling Conservative Party headed by Theresa May, who called an early election. May was seeking a public reaffirmation of her leadership after replacing David Cameron as prime minister; he resigned after a majority of voters supported leaving the European Union.

Her gambit backfired spectacularly. May lost her party's absolute majority in parliament, forcing it to form a coalition with a smaller party from Northern Ireland and handing Corbyn an important success that shocked British Jews.

Prior to the election, 77 per cent of Jewish voters said they supported May's Conservatives and only 13 per cent backed Labour.

"We were unable to stop anti-Semitic politics being normalised on the left and we were unable to stop it from moving into the mainstream," David Hirsh, a British Jewish columnist and prominent sociologist at the University of London, wrote in a column in *The Jewish Chronicle* titled "Anti-Semitic Politics is the New Normal".

To Klaff, "Corbyn's success, the acceptance of Hezbollah flags on the streets of London, it's the culmination of something that I first started noticing about seven years ago, I guess, that is making me feel increasingly uncomfortable in the United Kingdom."

She cited a conversation that she recently had with a yoga student of hers, a housing union activist in his 20s who supported Corbyn.

"I told him that Corbyn is responsible for anti-Semitism. He wasn't interested," Klaff recalled.

Corbyn did not participate in the Al-Quds march over the weekend, but he had attended several previous events, including in 2012 when he was photographed smiling in front of a Hezbollah flag held by an Al-Quds marcher.

The photographer who took the picture, said Corbyn may have not been aware of the flag in the background.

At last Sunday's event, organisers instructed participants to say they support Hezbollah's political wing, but not its military one. The distinction is rejected by Hezbollah itself, although the European Union in 2013 classified only the armed wing as a terrorist group.

In 2002, Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, said Israel's creation was the expression of Allah's will to "gather the Jews in one place" for "the final and decisive battle".

The United States, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands and several other countries, regard all of Hezbollah's organs as belonging to the same terrorist entity.

The refusal by police and the City of London to ban the march, and their action against counter-protesters, drew harsh condemnations by critics from the Jewish community in an apparent reflection of growing exasperation.

Hezbollah "seeks the genocide of Jews worldwide," Gideon Falter, chairman of the Campaign Against Anti-Semitism watchdog, wrote in a scathing statement. "As Britain mourns those we have so recently lost to Islamist terrorism," he added, police "permitted Hezbollah supporters to mount a show of force through the heart of London. This is the reality of the supposed crackdown on extremism and terrorism." (JTA)

Einstein letters on G-d, Israel, physics, auctioned

KAREN MATTHEWS
NEW YORK

Letters written by Albert Einstein about G-d, Israel and physics, fetched nearly \$210 000 at a Jerusalem auction this week, with the highest bid going to a missive about G-d's creation of the world.

value at between \$31 000 and \$46 000. The highest bid of \$84 000 was for a letter to eminent physicist David Bohm.

In it Einstein wrote: "If G-d has created the world, his primary worry was certainly not to make its understanding easy for us." It was written in February 1954, a year

and "relativistic field theory".

"I must confess that I am not able to guess how such unification could be achieved," Einstein wrote.

Bohm, born in the United States to Jewish immigrant parents, had worked with Einstein at Princeton University before fleeing to Brazil after losing his post in Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist witch-hunts.

Israeli illusionist and magician Uri Geller bought a 1954 letter in which Einstein discusses the possibility of Bohm moving to Israel.

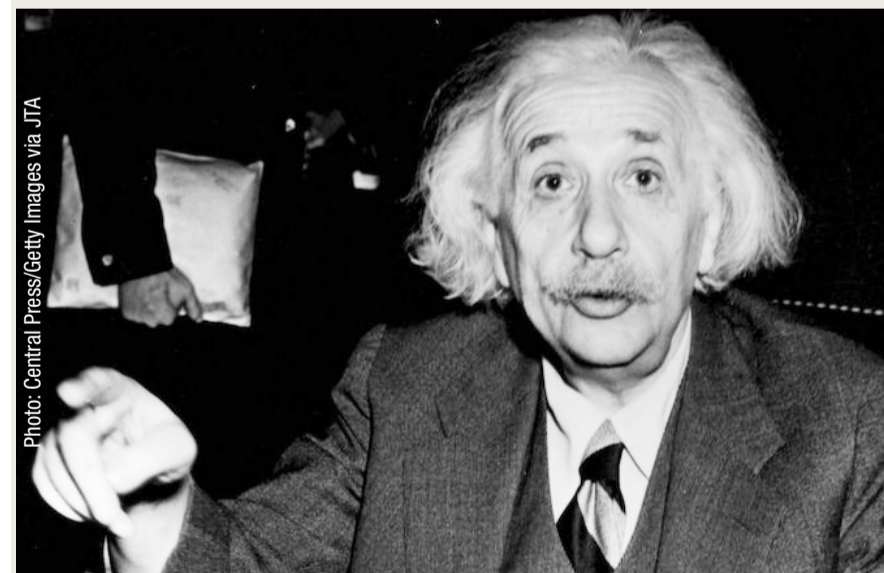
"Israel is intellectually alive and interesting, but has very narrow possibilities and to go there with the intention to leave on the first occasion, would be regrettable," wrote Einstein.

Bohm took up a visiting professorship at Israel's renowned Technion technological institute in 1955 and moved to England two years later.

Einstein himself declined an offer in 1952 to become Israel's president, though he served remotely on the Hebrew University's first Board of Governors and left his papers to the university in his will.

before his death.

In another missive to Bohm, which sold for \$50 400, Einstein discussed the link his colleague made between quantum theory



Albert Einstein, 1946.

Eight letters, written in English between 1951 and 1954 and signed by Einstein, were sold by Winners auction house, which had initially estimated their combined



Daniel Fleishman, Jason Mervis, Josh Modlin, Gadiel Shepard and Aryn Bloch

Excellent Maccabiah record for Team SA

This year Maccabi South Africa will be sending a team of 295 athletes to the 20th Maccabiah which kicks off on July 8.

South Africa has participated in every Maccabi Games since 1935, although in the 1980s the country had to compete as an unofficial team, because South Africa was suspended from the International Olympics Committee.

Nevertheless, the country has established an amazing record over the years. A total of 3 100 athletes have represented South Africa and they have amassed a total of 791 medals, of which 269 have been gold.

If one takes into account the medal haul as a percentage of the Jewish community in the country, it makes South Africa the best performer in the Diaspora.

South African tennis players have had the best results over the years, having won medals at every Maccabiah with a total haul of 122. With players such as Wimbledon Plate winner Marlene Bethlehem (née Gerson), Abe Segal, Ilana Kloss, David Nainkin, David Schneider, Earl Grainger, Howard Joffe, David Egdes, Brian Levine and Jacqui Boyd in the teams, that result comes as no surprise.

Another strong event has been bowls, in which the South Africans have accumulated 110 medals. Cricketers have also won medals at every Maccabiah, including 10 golds.

This year both the senior and junior teams will be looking at their fourth successive gold medals.

The rugby teams have often been the most controversial for various reasons, but they have nailed their colours to the mast over the years, with six gold medals in eight appearances at the Games.

The Maccabiah – politics or sport?

JACK MILNER

The Maccabiah is regarded as the third largest event of its kind in the world, but it would not be a Jewish event if it wasn't without some controversy.

In 2001 the Maccabiah was shortened as a result of the Intifada in Israel at the time, but it also coincided with the Davis Cup tie at the Ramat HaSharon Tennis Centre between Israel and South Africa.

I was in Israel to cover both events and discussed the Maccabiah with Israel's Davis Cup captain, Amos Mansdorf. "Never forget," he said, "that the Maccabiah is not a sporting event, it's a political event."

That differing view has often created a divide between participants, particularly the juniors, and the organisers. Interestingly the issue was brought up again in a light-hearted manner by Israel's Ambassador to South Africa Arthur Lenk, at last Sunday's send-off event at the HOD in Johannesburg.

He pointed out that the Maccabiah was not about the medals. "It's about being exposed to the Jewish world and to Israel," he stressed. "The most meaningful moment will come at the opening ceremony when you walk into the stadium with people from all over the world.

"You will have the chance to meet them and to interact with them. You will meet other people who are just like you and you will make new friends."



Shireen Sapiro and Adam Bacher

Perhaps that is not exactly what youngsters who have worked their butts off to make the team and have been practising for the last year really want to hear. They want a genuine sporting event, but it is also true that the Maccabiah is more than that.

The politicians hope that many of these participants will fall in love with the country and make aliyah, but they also need to ensure that the Maccabiah is a serious sporting event. In fact, Ben Swartz, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, commented that Maccabi was one of their best tools of getting people to Israel. "Our role is to do that and nobody can do it better than Maccabi.

"Go there, embrace the experience, love it, and connect with everyone in Israel," he told the participants.

Whatever happens on the playing fields, I have yet to meet one youngster who did not have the finest fortnight of his or her life at the Maccabiah.



Tennis girls under 18: Dani Lang, Erin Atie and Lella de Abreu

More on the Maccabi Games on page 20

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Filling our galaxy with achieving stars

SUZANNE BELLING

What do the late President Nelson Mandela and singer Danny K have in common apart from being renowned South Africans?

Answer: They are both winners of the humanitarian awards in the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards. And though famous in very different ways, they both earned the accolades of the Jewish community in stirring up the soul of the South African people and igniting the "Soul of Africa".

The excitement for this year's Achiever Awards is mounting as people are putting forward their nominations for six-pointed stars in the galaxy of South Africa, who will share the spotlight on stage at the Awards event on August 13.

The event will be a glittering banquet, with top entertainment and the best kosher food on offer.

Who will win in the various categories: Lifetime Achiever Awards in honour of Helen Suzman; the Chivas Regal Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris; the KIA Community Service Award; the Richmark Art, Sport, Science and Culture Award; the Europcar Jewish Woman in Leadership Award; the Absa Entrepreneur Award; the Absa Unlisted Company Award and the Absa Listed Company Award?

The nominations are coming in at a fast and furious pace - the competition is keen, but we will have to wait for this night to see which stars will shine the brightest and win the coveted awards.

They will join such illustrious past winners as Brian Joffe (Bidvest), who walked away with the first Lexus Lifetime Award in 1999; Fedsure's popular Nedbank Business Achiever winner Arnold Basserabie (1999), both of whom work not only in their chosen fields, but have proved assets in the community through their voluntary work and philanthropy.

In the second year of the Achievers, the Lexus Lifetime Achiever was former Finance Minister and

Governor of the Reserve Bank, our very own Gill Marcus, who adds to her qualifications a courageous background in the Struggle. She has an award in common (the Jewish Report Humanitarian Award) with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, a patron of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

In 2001 the first husband and wife team to become Lexus Lifetime winners were "Prince of the Community" the late Eliot Osrin, who was responsible for putting the Cape Town Jewish community institutions in the black when their finances were threatened, and his wife Myra, founder and former director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.

We will always remember the late Professor Phillip Tobias and his strides in the fields of paleo-anthropology - which put South Africa on the map as one of the forerunners in the field - not only for being a Lexus Lifetime winner, but for the myriad honours bestowed on him by the University of the Witwatersrand, including a building in his name. He was a Lexus Lifetime Achiever in 2002.

Described as "the diminutive, energetic, resolute, chain-smoker who fed millions", Ina Perlman was a Jewish activist who quietly saved millions in the face of starvation with Operation Hunger, the organisation she founded at the height of apartheid. She was a Lexus Lifetime Achiever in 2002.

In the same year Discovery's Adrian Gore, won the coveted Nedbank Business Achiever Award.

In 2003, Dr Ali Bacher won the match to become Lexus Lifetime Achiever. He captained the national cricket team in only one series: in 1969-70 against Australia at home in which the South Africans won all four tests. He was selected to captain the touring teams to England in 1970 and Australia in 1971-72, but neither tour eventuated, owing to anti-apartheid protests in the host countries.

In 1972, he became the first player to make 5 000 runs in the Currie Cup.

Rebbetzen Rochel Goldman and Gill Marcus



He was awarded South Africa's Sports Merit Award (the top honour in its field) in 1972.

In 2004, the late Mervyn Smith, a former national chairman and president of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, who held countless leadership positions in the legal and cultural fields, was a Lexus Lifetime Achiever. Living in Cape Town, he could not credit himself with winning the award, so, after much vacillation, he was not present to collect the award personally.

The following year Philip Krawitz, veteran and respected Cape Town leader and the man who put Cape Union Mart on the map, became a

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft



Dr Ali Bacher



Lexus Lifetime Achiever.

Elliot Wolf, described as the "consummate educator" (he was headmaster of King David High School Linksfield and now runs the King David Schools' Foundation), achieved top marks in the Lexus Lifetime Award.

In the same year, Pieter-Dirk Uys won the Jewish Report Arts Award. "But we didn't know you were Jewish!" some remarked. Halachically he is. His mother escaped Nazi

Germany and kept her past a secret until he and his sister, Tessa, discovered the infamous Jewish star after her mother's passing. The brilliant satirist often quips: "I am a member of two lots of chosen people - the Jews and the Afrikaners."

In more recent years, "Travelling Rabbi" Moshe Silberhaft, was the winner of the Absa Community Service Award - the first rabbi to stand up on the stage at an Achievers banquet and give his acceptance

speech.

The rabbi, who heads the country communities' department of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and is CEO of the African Jewish Congress, received his prize two years after winning a Commonwealth Jewish Council award on the Council's 25th anniversary for his dedication and service to the Jewish people of sub-Saharan Africa.

The next rabbi in the limelight was Rabbi Dovid Hazdan (2014) who won the KIA Community Service Award. Dean of Torah Academy and spiritual leader of the Great Park Shul, Rabbi Hazdan has an exemplary record of outreach, especially as founder of CycAlive, where his learners and others from Soweto and Israel, brave a long cycle ride to Durban in a charitable and cultural endeavour of ubuntu.

Our very own columnist Paula Slier, who trained on the Jewish Report and is now an international TV correspondent, was the first winner of the inaugural Europcar Jewish Woman in Leadership Award.

But, perhaps, the biggest drawcard in the history of the Jewish Achievers was former public protector Thuli Madonsela, who was named the winner of the Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris in 2015. She brought the house down.

There are very few of her ilk, but perhaps we can hope that she will grace us with her presence at the 2017 Jewish Achievers Awards.

Danny K



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- Absa Unlisted Company Award
- Absa Listed Company Award
- The Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award
- Europcar Jewish Woman in Leadership Award

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- * The award for which the nominee is nominated
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Discovering a relative was involved in mass murdering Jews

STEVEN KRAWITZ

In the spring of 1945 while the Red Army was liberating Austria from the Nazis, an act of dark wickedness occurred in the town of Rechnitz; it still casts a shadow over the town and created a conspiracy of silence among the townsfolk.

By the end of 1944, 600 Hungarian Jews were reassigned from deportation to the death camps, to strengthen the defences around the town of Rechnitz, in the face of the advancing Russian army. They were housed in appalling conditions in the cellar of Rechnitz Castle.

On the night of March 24, 1945, with the Russian army just 15 km away, a party was held in Rechnitz Castle. Forty people, including leading Nazi Party, SS, Gestapo and Hitler Youth members, attended; the party started at 21:00 and lasted until dawn.

At midnight, 200 Jews - who were deemed unfit for further work on the local fortifications - were taken to a barn within walking distance of the party. Sixteen party guests were ushered into a storeroom at the castle, given weapons and invited to "kill some Jews".

A massacre of 180 of the Jewish labourers followed. A number of them were spared to bury the murdered Jews. They were in turn killed the next night.

A number of factors make this massacre stand out, even though it occurred during the Holocaust. Firstly, it was carried out by individuals, not the Nazi state and its apparatus.

Secondly, it happened so close to the end of the war that it seems beyond belief that a group of Nazis would carry out such an atrocity with Russian forces so close by. Also, these Jews had endured such suffering, surely they could have been allowed to live to be liberated from the Nazi hell of wartime Europe?

Thirdly, the hostess of the party was Margit Thyssen-Bornemisza, a member of one of Europe's wealthiest families and heiress to a family fortune.

Margit's German father, Heinrich, himself heir to the Thyssen industrial fortune, had profited from the First World War, but lacked the necessary social position to be

taken seriously within European society.

In the inter-war years, he acquired Hungarian nationality and the dubious title of baron. He completed his reinvention as a European aristocrat by buying a castle at Rechnitz, on the Austro-Hungarian border, 150 km south of Vienna.

In 1938 with the inevitable prospect of another war, Heinrich transferred ownership of the castle to his daughter Margit and moved to the safety of neighbouring Switzerland.

From his Villa Favoritaon at Lake Lugano, Heinrich controlled his mining and industrial holdings in Germany and supplied the Third Reich with coal, steel and U-boats. He also provided his friend, Herman Goering and the Nazi intelligence service, with access to international banking.

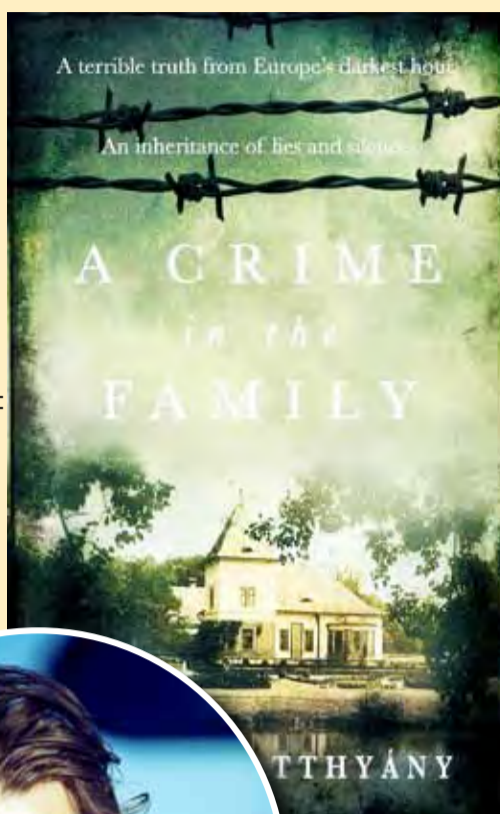
Margit had married a Hungarian count, Ivan Batthyany, whose family had originally owned the area around Rechnitz and a sizable portion of Hungary. The Batthyany family were one of the great Hungarian aristocratic families, but had fallen on hard times and reduced circumstances.

The marriage was a sham from the start, but it allowed Margit to enhance her social prestige by joining her wealth and arriviste title to the ancient Batthyany name.

Margit's brother "Heini", inherited the family businesses and built one of the great private art collections of the 20th century. This collection was given to Spain when the Spanish government offered to house it in a palace across from the Prado Museum. It is the famous Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid.

During the war, Margit remained at her castle even after it was requisitioned by the SS in the early years of the war.

She took a number of Nazi lovers as she had a voracious sexual appetite. A Thyssengas employer and Nazi, Joachim



Photos supplied



Sacha Batthyany

A Crime in the Family

Oldenberg, managed the estate and shared her bed, as did Franz Podezin, leader of the Rechnitz Nazi Party, who was part of the Gestapo.

It was Podezin who handed out the guns and ammunition to Margit's guests on that fateful night. Oldenberg and Podezin killed the Jewish prisoners who had been spared to bury the victims of the previous night's massacre.

Margit, Oldenberg and Podezin fled Rechnitz and the Russian army and escaped to Switzerland. Margit assisted Oldenberg to return to Germany and housed Podezin in a flat in Lugano in Switzerland where she continued her affair with him.

When the possibility of criminal proceedings against Podezin became a reality, he extorted funds and assistance from Margit and Oldenberg and escaped to

South Africa. He was last seen in Pretoria. Oldenberg eventually followed the Nazi ratlines to Argentina.

Attempts at post-war efforts to investigate the Rechnitz massacres ended when the two main witnesses were killed and one of their houses was burnt down, destroying all incriminating evidence.

The locals also contributed to the obstruction of justice by maintaining a silence on the massacres. The Thyssen family has never acknowledged their wartime activities.

The Rechnitz massacre is one of a number of events that Sacha Batthyany, a great-nephew of Margit, deals with in his book, *A Crime in the Family*, published in German.

Having grown up in Switzerland, Sacha, a journalist, is surprised to hear for the first time as an adult, about his aunt's wartime atrocities, when she is called "The Hostess from Hell" in newspapers across Europe.

The publication of *The Thyssen Art Macabre* by David Litchfield in 2006, provoked widespread interest in Margit, who died in 1989 and sent Sacha on his own personal investigations into his family's history.

Not only does he travel to Rechnitz, he also gains possession of his grandmother's diaries and discovers another family secret which sends him off to Argentina in search of a Holocaust survivor.

His grandfather Feri Batthyany's post-war experiences as a Hungarian prisoner of war in the Soviet Union for 10 years, results in Sacha and his father retracing Feri's steps through Siberia.

Sacha maintains that Margit was not present at the Rechnitz massacre and that she was guilty merely through association. This is hotly contested by David Litchfield who places Margit and her husband Ivan, at the scene of this heinous crime.

Is *A Crime in The Family* an honest account of a family's war crimes, or a whitewashing of the family's guilt, without assuming any responsibility for the crimes of the fathers? Is Sacha truly a victim of third generation guilt, or is his book, trading on the Batthyany name, an opportunistic grab for publicity?

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Friday (June 23)

- UZLC hosts David Saks on "SA Jewish Communists Against Apartheid". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45-14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (June 25)

- Second Innings hosts Kelly-Jo Bluen, project leader for international justice at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, on "The International Criminal Court at Fifteen: Perceptions, Politics, Successes and Challenges in International Justice". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acre, Sandringham. Time: 10:00. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701.
- In support of The Forever Changed Global Awareness Campaign the "Dance of The Butterfly event" is back by popular demand. Venue: Group M Auditorium, 7 Naivasha Road, Corner Leeuwkop Road, Sunninghill, Johannesburg. Time: 14:00 - 16:00. Ticket Price: through donation on arrival. Limited tickets available so WhatsApp 074 973 9999 to reserve your tickets.

Monday (June 26)

- Chabad Seniors Club for men and women includes free transport, Memory Enhancement, Lectures & Discussions, Refreshments, Lunch, iPad Lessons, and much more. Venue: Chabad House 27 Aintree Ave. Savoy Time: 09:00 – 13:00 daily Info: Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600
- UJW hosts Mr Justice Edwin Cameron of the Constitutional Court, on "The SASSA Judgement". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 10:00.

Donation: R40. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053.

- Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosts a lecture by Dr Matthew Boswell on "Holocaust in the Digital Age". Venue: 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens, Cape Town. Light refreshments will be served. Time: 18:00. RSVP: Dianne (021) 462-5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za

Tuesday (June 27)

- Event honouring Yahrzeit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe with guest speaker, author of *The Secret of Chabad*, Rabbi David Eliezrie. 20:00 at Capital Empire Hotel. Book with Chabad House (011) 440-6600
- ORT2TALK hosts psychologist Lorin Phillips on how to parent ADHD children. Venue: ORT Academy 44 Central St Houghton. Time: 18:30. Donation: R100. Information: nelly@ortsa.org.za or www.ortsa.org.za/ort2talk

Wednesday (28 June)

- Chabad Seniors presents Smartphone Training with Wendy Cohen at Chabad House or location of your choice. RSVP essential 082-955-1161

Friday (June 30)

- Shalom Masorti Seniors Club meets on the last Friday of each month. It invites everyone who would like to make new friends and have some light-hearted fun. Tea is served and there will be a selection of board games, cards etc. Maurice Reznik will speak on "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". Time: From 14:30. Contact: Esther (011) 485-5619, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings.



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

The SAJBD and the wider society

In the SAJBD's mission statement, even before any mention of upholding Jewish civil rights, particular stress is put on the Board's role in building bridges of friendship and understanding between the Jewish community and the wider society.

Specifically, our mandate is "to work for the betterment of human relations between Jews and all other peoples of South Africa, based on mutual respect, understanding and goodwill".

Over the decades, the Board has pursued this goal in many areas, including in the interfaith sphere, wartime mobilisation, cultural exchanges and participation in initiatives aimed at strengthening human rights and democracy.

The Cape Council has traditionally been very involved in this aspect of the Board's work. In recent weeks, their activities have included hosting 70 members of the Muslim community to an interfaith iftaar meal (an event addressed by Israeli Ambassador Arthur Lenk), meeting with the Congolese Civil Society to assist them in deciding priorities and forward planning and participating in the 23rd Commemoration of the Rwandan Genocide.

In Gauteng, Reeve Forman has been especially active in the sphere of social outreach and interfaith activities on behalf of both the Board and Temple Israel. In recognition of her excellent work on the Gauteng Faith-Based Organisations, she was elected vice-chairperson of the National Interfaith

Council of South Africa - Gauteng Chapter, at its official launch two weeks ago. As detailed in previous columns, the Board further leads SA Jewry in identifying with and participating in the broader South African democratic culture and heritage, including national holidays, elections, input into the legislative process and anti-racism education.

During times of national crisis, including periodic outbreaks of xenophobic violence and natural disasters such as the recent Knysna fires, we find ways in which Jewish organisations and individuals can help in alleviating the situation.

We have not and will never appeal in vain. The culture of giving has always run deep in our community, and providing a conduit through which our community can contribute to the public good, is an important component of the work done by the SAJBD.

Exam timetable reminder

Through all of this, the Board is regularly called upon to resolve difficulties specifically relating to Jewish law and practice. As noted in last week's column, we have been working with the Gauteng health authorities and other relevant bodies in addressing problems of autopsies being delayed as a result of the current mortuary workers' strike.

An area where we are continuously involved, is that of

accommodating religiously observant university students whose exams have been set on Shabbat or Yomtov. As always, students who have scheduling clashes, need to inform us as soon as possible so as to allow us sufficient time to come to an acceptable arrangement with the institution concerned.

In particular, we ask Unisa and University of Johannesburg students who might be in this position, to check their timetables and contact us immediately should there be any problems. All communications should be sent to sajbd@sajbd.org and marked for the attention of Wendy Kahn.

• 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



Above Board
Jeff Katz
National Chairman

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

What's appealing and what's appalling

Sometimes it feels as if social media is taking over the world. And like so many modern innovations, it is both a blessing and a curse.

While millions are fascinated by Facebook and the Twitter tweets of people in high places, my focus here is on the beautiful and beastly aspects of WhatsApp groups.

I belong to a number of them and am always astounded by how quickly they can galvanise people to action, raise the alert in emergency situations, inform members of the latest news and developments and gather information.

Family groups share



ChevrahKadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE
Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff

photographs, arrange lift schemes and coordinate celebrations. Shul groups organise minyanim and share details of community events. Tehillim groups elicit prayers for people in need of them and on social and sports groups we post appropriate and relevant information.

All of this is practical, positive and time-saving. Provided, that is, that people stick to

the purpose of the groups and refrain from posting irrelevant and inaccurate information - sometimes at unearthly hours!

In my working life at the Chev, I am part of a number of WhatsApp groups too - many of

them operational and designed to enhance efficiency and accelerate response times.

A specific group advises me of every resident who passes away. Others deal with matters of management, meeting schedules, maintenance issues, power outages, transport strikes and security alerts.

Again, all of these groups can expedite and improve our services and are very useful. These are the beautiful aspects of WhatsApp groups.

So, what are the beastly ones? Sometimes in sensitive situations community group members - undoubtedly motivated by the best and most noble of intentions - can forget who may be on the group and post insensitive or hurtful statements, questions or banter.

Sometimes misinformation is shared as fact and sometimes that can be deeply hurtful or even devastating.

It is my experience that two simple rules can protect us all from miss-steps and tactless behaviour:

1. Never add or share any information unless you are certain it is kind, and also necessary and also true, because often information that is true can also be unkind and it may well be unnecessary to share it.
2. Always be sensitive to the

feelings of others on the group.

As we go about our daily family, work and community lives, and as technology creates new ways of communicating, our challenge is to take the best of what is on offer and handle it with extreme care.

Let's be at the forefront of how to use these tools efficiently, effectively and with sensitivity, not only for ourselves, but also for our children, our community and our contact lists!

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

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

World News in Brief

Jason Greenblatt visits home of slain Israeli policewoman, Western Wall

JERUSALEM - Jason Greenblatt, President Donald Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, on Sunday evening paid a shiva visit to the family of an Israel border policewoman stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist and on Monday morning visited the Western Wall before meeting with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Greenblatt arrived on Sunday. That evening he visited the family of Hadas Malka, 23, who was killed in the Old City of Jerusalem last week Friday evening as she responded to another Palestinian attack nearby.

"Incidents such as this one underscore why it is vital to realise President Trump's vision of a Middle East free from threats of terrorism and extremism," a White House statement said.

"Today, at the Kotel, I prayed for an end to violence and that we would experience the blessings of peace," he wrote.

Trump senior adviser Jared Kushner, who also is the president's Jewish son-in-law, scheduled arrived on Wednesday for meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials to push for restarted peace talks between the two sides.

The visits by Greenblatt and Kushner are the first major peace push by the White House since Trump visited the region last month. (JTA)

Olmert suffers suspected heart attack

JERUSALEM - Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, currently serving a 27-month prison sentence for corruption, was rushed to the hospital on Tuesday with a suspected heart attack. Olmert experienced chest pains and felt ill. After being examined by a prison doctor, he was transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital near Tel Aviv.

Last Sunday, Olmert appeared before the Israel Prison Services parole board requesting an early release after serving two-thirds of his sentence. The board is scheduled to announce its decision next week.

In March, President Reuven Rivlin rejected a pardon request for Olmert.

Olmert is currently under investigation for the possible leak of classified information after an autobiography he has been writing in prison was found to touch on sensitive security issues. Last month, one of his attorneys was caught with a chapter that discussed a top secret security-related incident that the military censor has banned in the past for publication.

The first Israeli prime minister to serve time in prison and be sentenced to jail, Olmert resigned his post in September 2008 after police investigators recommended that he be indicted in multiple corruption scandals.

He was convicted of receiving bribes in the Holyland affair in what has been called the largest corruption scandal in Israel. Holyland involved the payment of bribes to government officials by the developers of a luxury high-rise apartment complex in Jerusalem.

Olmert also was convicted of accepting cash-filled envelopes from an American-Jewish businessman, Morris Talansky, and using it for personal and not political expenses. (JTA)

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Gelb's magic is in sync with Judaism

TALI FEINBERG

What do you get when you combine a magician with a frum executive director? You get Greg Gelb, who heads up Cape Town Torah High and performs magic in his spare time.

He will be performing his show *Blurred Lines* at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown this year.

The young director has an important role to fill at a religious Jewish day school. "I joined Cape Town Torah High at its inception in 2013 as a tutor and I have grown with the school since," he explains. "I moved away from teaching at the beginning of 2016 and took on a more managerial position, helping the principals and Board run the school."

His interest in magic began as a child. "Like most stories about magicians, mine is no different. I saw my first magician at St Elmo's (a Cape Town restaurant) when I was a child and was amazed with what magical things appeared out of my ear..."

At birthdays he got some basic magician paraphernalia and books, and the rest is history: he was hooked. "I tried going to the College of Magic when I was in Middle School but as it was on Shabbos and at that time I had just decided to be more observant, I resolved to use whatever resources I had, especially books.

"I remember it like it was yesterday: I landed up in the arts section of the library for a school project and found the magic and illusion section. I found a book on card magic and ran straight to the librarian and took the book out. I learned some tricks back

then that I perform in the corporate environment to this very day!"

As an observant Jew, the combination of magic and Torah Judaism may seem unusual, but Gelb says they are actually in sync. "I believe that with today's technology and access to the Internet, it would be fairly concerning if someone believed that real magic existed.

"I make an effort telling anyone who accuses me of performing real magic, that I use 'sleight of hand' only. I don't have special powers. I believe those who preach that they have real magical powers are unethical and I don't have patience for them.

"My job is not to trick and fool you, no matter what you watch on TV. I'm here to give you the gift of a moment that you can't get anywhere else. I am here to entertain, to make you smile and be in a state of amazement.

"It's not often that one has the opportunity to forget about his or her troubles for a few minutes and regress to a childlike state of absolute astonishment. That's what I do and that is 100 per cent in line with my Judaism.

"In addition, when I'm doing a show on Shabbos or YomTov, I make a point to explain to people why I can or can't do a certain trick because of keeping the laws of the festival or Shabbos."

When parents of learners at the school find out that the executive director is a "deception artist" and magician, they get excited. "It's not often you find someone with such a rare skill. Some of the school's parents believe it's a wonderful lesson



to teach others that life is multi-dimensional, that working in an office all day doesn't mean that that's all there is or all you are," says Gelb.

"Using magic in any setting, but specifically a school setting, is an excellent tool to break down barriers between learners, cheering them up and providing a level of comfort and friendliness for the children and the parent body. Parents appreciate knowing that there is someone there who can give their children some

magic to lift their spirits," he explains.

"Parents know they can rely on me to communicate to them anything related to the school. It's my job and I take pride in it and respect the responsibility. That's the one side of me.

"The other side is that parents know that because of my magical talents I am able to put smiles on theirs and their children's faces and seeing me in this light makes me easier to relate to."

There is a wide variety of magic that can be performed, and Gelb focuses on close-up and stage/parlour magic. "In close-up magic, there is no room for error with my sleight of hand and I have to make sure that the routines I perform have been practised to the point where I can do the moves in my sleep! My wife complains that I try to cut her like a pack of cards when I'm sleeping!"

He does parlour magic for corporate functions and a variety of events. For those interested in magic as a hobby, "there are, thankfully, plenty of resources around – both online and offline", says Gelb. "Magic is a great tool to gain self-confidence and self-esteem. If you are prepared to put the effort in, it will certainly benefit you and those around you."

Gelb will be performing for the first time at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival this year. "I am excited to share my one-man show that I performed at the Cape Town Fringe Festival in 2016 entitled *Blurred Lines*.

It's a mind-bending show that looks at the fine line between our reality and imagination and how we are often too comfortable living in the reality and too scared to venture into the unknown. I will take patrons on a journey where those lines are blurred and are then woven together, encouraging patrons to blur their own lines of reality and imagination. It's a show full of wonder and laughs."

He can also be found performing every second Sunday at a restaurant in Stellenbosch. He will also be performing at the Cape Town Club in Gardens on June 12 and on July 17.

Performing all forms of betrayal

PETER FELDMAN

Betrayal is one of the most painful human experiences conceivable and few have captured this quite like Harold Pinter in his highly acclaimed play of the same name.

"Betrayal" made its first appearance on the London stage in 1978 and has now been resurrected for South African audiences at the Auto & General Theatre on the Square. It is directed by Greg Homann, with Jewish actress Carly Graeme playing a pivotal role.

Harold Pinter is one of theatre's most renowned practitioners, and during his early life before the Second World War, he experienced many instances of anti-Semitism in London, which had a deep impact on his writing and his theatrical works.

"Betrayal" is a complex work with three characters, all of whom have been betrayed in love. The work richly illuminates the shifting balance of power in triangular relationships and the pain of loss, and it may resonate with those who have experienced this scenario in their lives.

The play examines relationships, love, lust and time, poetically exploring the rift between memory and reality. Inspired by Pinter's own clandestine extramarital affair, "Betrayal's" plot integrates different permutations of betrayal. It also shows that the very capacity for love itself is sometimes based on betraying not only other loved ones, but even ourselves.

Pinter employs an interesting device in his storytelling armoury. By utilising reverse chronology to chart a seven-year-long affair, he cleverly probes the corrosive nature of betrayal.

Emma (Carly Graeme) and Jerry (Tom Fairfoot) are married lovers who have betrayed both their partners. Robert (Antony Coleman), Emma's husband, has also betrayed Jerry, his closest friend, by not revealing to him his discovery of the affair. Jerry and Robert,



The play examines relationships, love, lust and time, poetically exploring the rift between memory and reality.

respectively an agent and publisher, use the world of literature as a core tenure of their lives.

In conversation, the men reveal that in their youth they worshipped poetry, especially the works of W B Yeats, for its aesthetic joy. Now, as adults, their idealism also appears to have somewhat been betrayed.

Pinter's acute intelligence and deep understanding of matters of the heart, flow through the crisply delivered dialogue. Director Homann manages to elicit from his players some of the heartache inherent in these infidelities.

In one striking scene, where Emma and Jerry part in the Kilburn flat that has been their secret love-nest, there is a cold sadness evident in Carly Graeme's demeanour and a defeated, almost resigned, mien to Tom Fairfoot's Jerry.

A pivotal scene takes place in a Venetian hotel, where Robert learns of Emma's infidelity through a letter his wife receives from Jerry. It's a terminal moment in their relationship.

When Robert discusses with Jerry his affair with Emma, he conceals his emotional hurt under a sardonic mask, and seems to relish the power he has over the unaware Jerry.

Homann's production, with its simple stage setting, gives Pinter's play a veneer of reality. The players manage to imbue their characters with a degree of emotional heft that give these creations a solid grounding.

"Betrayal" is aimed at discerning audiences. It is on until July 1.

ENGELBERG ON LASHON HARA: THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK

Lashon hara means that it is forbidden to speak negatively about someone else, even if it is true. However, the report about Duduzane Zuma, the president's son who is reportedly the father of a Jewish child, seems to have upset Michele Engelberg.

I refer to her letter in Jewish Report of June 15, "Story on Zuma's Jewish grandchild sensationalist lashon hara".

The SA Jewish Report has a mandate to report on issues that are relevant to the community and the fact that President Jacob Zuma's "playboy son" has a Jewish child is of interest, although some readers like Engelberg think it's salacious and doesn't comply with the moral values she espouses.

Engelberg also refers to the tragedy that befell a young high

school pupil. "I noticed... that the paper did not publish another article about this recent tragedy," she wrote, pointing out that the editor said in an editorial: "The SA Jewish Report will not get in the way of the family's privacy..."

Engelberg wrote that "while these two stories are very different, this single mother is dealing with her own struggles and took precautions to protect her (and her child's) privacy".

I assume she is referring to the mother of Zuma's child. I'm surprised that Jewish Report did not name her. Not because Engelberg thinks it's lashon hara, but as I recall, the Sunday Times which broke the story, had a picture of Zuma with the woman and she was identified in the report. In the end, we all have a

choice. It depends on what we choose and how we handle the consequences.

One of the many laws of lashon hara says if you have already heard it, it is forbidden to believe it. On the contrary, one should always judge one's fellow in a good light. Well, by calling Zuma "the playboy son of a corrupt president who is on the gravy train, including relationships with the Gupta family", Engelberg is already playing judge, jury and executioner. And the only evidence she has is what she has read in the papers or seen on TV. If that isn't lashon hara then I don't know what is, and I am no expert.

Brian Josselowitz
Cape Town

MEDIA'S HYPOCRISY WHEN REPORTING ON ISRAEL, IS ASTOUNDING

The hypocrisy, bigotry, and double standards of the press (both local and global) never fail to amaze me.

The tragedy of so many deaths and injuries attributable to bombings, stabbings, shootings and car rammings, in recent times, in London, Paris, Madrid, Boston and elsewhere, even in Arab countries, are an indictment of man's inhumanity to man. Much

prominence is accorded to these atrocities worldwide. However, when these same crimes occur in Israel on an almost daily basis, nary a mention in the press and on television.

The media are probably trying to be "politically correct", despite the fact that they are fully aware that virtually all of these horrors are perpetrated by Muslims.

Unfortunately, the majority of peace-loving integrated Muslims are totally irrelevant, since the face of Islam appears as representative of the 100 million plus radical Muslims with no control whatsoever by the billion decent family-loving Arabs.

Jack Miller
Johannesburg

ACCOLADES ON YOUTH OF '76 MADE ME STOP READING JEWISH REPORT

I agree with Allan Wolman's sentiments expressed in his letter in last week's Jewish Report, that the current editorial policy has denied/frustrated lively debate.

I reject the editor's reply that letters which are repetitive, filled with hate speech or written by the same writers every week is rejected, as nonsensical.

SAJR has sought, since February, to abandon publishing contentious letters.

My argument is supported by the editorial in last week's paper, "Saluting the brave", in which the

editor purports to commend the riots which took place on June 16, 1976, during which many people, including school children, were murdered.

In 1976, and as is the case today, the children who rioted, were from disadvantaged families, mainly black. Today, the previously disadvantaged, still burn and destroy schools and universities. Only the politics have changed.

To mention June 16 in the same sentence as the Holocaust, is disrespectful. ("Lest we forget about the Holocaust".)

While Jewish youth may have compassion, the ANC and government have a converse view regarding Israel and its Jews. Indeed, the government is a supporter of Hamas and other terrorists.

Your accolades on heaping praise on the youth of '76 has no place in a Jewish newspaper and it is for this reason that I no longer read the Jewish Report.

Nathan Cheiman
Northcliff,
Johannesburg

BURIED IN THE MISTS OF TIME, A LONG-FORGOTTEN PRETORIA SHUL

A few days ago I was asked a question relating to some early Jewish history of Pretoria. I obtained the information required, but on reading the article, it suddenly struck me that there was something which I remember from a time when I was about 10 years old - and there is no mention about it.

Someone mentioned that there was a shul in Andries Street, predating the Paul Kruger Street Shul.

I found a single-storey building, which was then used as a storeroom of sorts. The frontage was bricked up, but across the width of the building there was a concrete lintel, which had been painted with white paint. Through the paint I could make out Hebrew lettering.

This was on the north-western block, just off the corner of Andries and Proes or Struben Streets. I am not sure which one.

I had a book on Jewish history, it was yellow and in it, it had a picture of this building.

As soon as I ask questions, I get answers which relate to the Adath Yisrael Shul which was on the corner of

Vermeulen and Dorlas Streets (nicknamed the Amalieta Shul.) No-one seems to know anything about the building I am referring to.

There is a story about Paul Kruger only giving a small piece of ground to the Jewish community as they only believed in half the Bible. This I think, relates to the Paul Kruger Street Shul. I know that some early Yomtov services were held in the Caledonian Hall.

Anyone who may have a picture of this early building, which is in the yellow history book, please let me have a copy.

Harry Kanowitz
Jaffa Aged Home, Pretoria

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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.

Email: editorial@sajewishreport.co.za



Photo: Shelley Pozniak

Sandton Sinai netball girls soar

AMY JAFFE

Sandton Sinai girls have had a great netball season. The team won both their matches at the Walty Brothers Indoor Tournament.

Being part of this tournament was an opportunity to honour the memory of these two special brothers. The tournament also raised money for Arcadia.

Recently, the team also won their match against Houghton Primary.

Sydenham Pre-Primary kids build with their dads

JENNY MILLER

Sydenham Pre-Primary School children paid tribute to their fathers last Thursday, with a Father's Day STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) Evening. Fathers and their children were encouraged to build structures out of toothpicks, marshmallows and jelly tots, with imagination being the only limitation.

The school's STEM, resource and fantasy rooms, were overflowing with various construction toys and the jury is still out as to who enjoyed the evening more... the fathers or the kids!



Photo: Sue Benjamin

Peter and Kayla Hanson.

Mina Lopato kids pay tribute to their dads



Photo supplied

Leo Balkind with his dad Michael and grandfathers Des Waldman and Les Balkind.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Father's Day was marked in typical Mina Lopato style at its "Donuts-with-Dad" morning last Thursday. Some families were lucky enough to have three generations celebrating together.

King David juniors learn new skills

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The junior class at King David Victory Park Pre-Primary learnt about community construction workers last week.

The children found out how buildings are constructed, starting with the floors then the walls, followed by the roof and finally the doors and windows.

Each child had an opportunity to plan and construct their own houses using sticks and glue. They then stuck in the doors and windows. During this activity, they could focus on their skills of planning and creativity.



Photo supplied

Sweet smell of cologne for very special fathers

OWN CORRESPONDENT

It was a fragrant Father's Day celebration at Yeshiva College Primary School last Thursday. Gideon Norton, who works in the cosmetics industry, came to talk to his daughter and her classmates about fragrance making. He did a demo and the kids in Morah Stacey Lipshitz's class then had oodles of fun making cologne to take home for their own dads.



Photo supplied

Aaron is really rocking his socks

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Eight-year-old Aaron Greenblatt started a charity initiative at the end of March to collect socks for the less fortunate. His initial goal for Aaron's Rock your Socks was to get 1 000 pairs and to date he has collected over 7 000 pairs and handed out almost 6 000. His new goal is to collect one million and to hand out 10 000 by the end of winter. He collected through family, friends and social media. This last week the family sent 1 500 pairs of socks to the Knysna relief fund.

"We have donated to a wide range of charities and organisations who have made contact with us and one of Aaron's favourite spots is Dukes Soccer Club from Alexandra Township," said his mother, Lee Greenblatt. They hand out on a daily basis to needy people as they see them.

Aaron said he will continue with the project for the entire year and in summer they can collect school socks.

If you would like to donate to Aaron's Rock Your Socks, e-mail leegreenbl@gmail.com; 083-304-4440 or visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/Aaronsrockyoursocks



Aaron Greenblatt

Opinion and Analysis

Sex abuse - the monsters among us



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

This week's welcome ruling by high court judge Claire Hartford in the sexual abuse case against Sidney Frankel, which put in place the removal of the "expiration date" of 20 years for laying criminal charges for sexual offences, is a step forward in dealing with the scourge of children and women abuse. Philanthropist Frankel was accused by eight alleged victims of abusing them as children at a Jewish orphanage.

It begs the question of how many other "Sidney Frankels" are at large among us. Sadly, this case hasn't provoked the vigorous community-wide response it ought to have done. And regularly, there are rumours about similar kinds of incidents which get summarily quashed.

South Africa is a sick society, known as the world's rape capital. A 1996 survey of reported rape cases in 120 Interpol-member countries ranked it as the worst, with 119,5 cases per 100 000 population, compared to the United States' 36,1 and England's 8,8. Other sources showed 40 per cent of reported rapes were children under the age of 18. Current surveys show similar stats.

Abuse of women and children exists in communities everywhere - Catholic, Muslim, Jewish and others. There is a tendency among close-knit communities to hush up such crimes for their good name. Brave "whistle-blowers" have often been the catalyst for exposure - usually adults who were abused when young.

In 2013 the Jewish paper The Forward in New York, investigated reports of sexual abuse by rabbis in the 1970s at Yeshiva University's (YU) High School for Boys in Manhattan, a prestigious Orthodox Jewish establishment.

The notion that this had happened at so venerable an institution, was breathtaking; the instinct was to say: "It can't be true!" The paper was pressurised to keep it quiet.

It raised memories of scandals about sexual abuse by priests in the Catholic Church, when Catholic papers were similarly pressurised.

When word got out about The Forward's investigation, numerous men in their 50s and 60s called to report abuse they had suffered as students, eventually filing a \$380 million lawsuit against YU. YU has since instituted policies with multiple avenues for reporting and acting on abuse and equipping teachers and parents to recognise any signs.

Exposing abusers is the best deterrent, but it has to be done properly. Last year, Rhodes University students in Grahamstown, frustrated with feeble university policies that allowed men accused of rape to remain on campus, compiled a list of alleged rapists called the #RURferenceList. They went to the residences of alleged rapists to demand accountability, and delivered a memorandum to the university demanding changes.

But was this action done in an irresponsible way? The obvious danger is that false accusations may be made, which would cause irreparable damage to someone accused who may be innocent.

Does the law apply equally to all? In 2011, former Israeli President Moshe Katsav was found guilty of rape and sexual assault and sentenced to seven years in jail. But in South Africa, in an unforgettable incident in August last year, four brave young women rose to stand silently with handwritten posters decrying rape in front of President Jacob Zuma as he addressed a gathering of dignitaries in Pretoria.

Zuma had been accused of the rape in 2005 of a woman called Fezekile Ntsukela Kuzwayo known by the non-de-plume "Khwezi". He was found not guilty, but the case remains shrouded in suspicion.

The Frankel case should inspire this community to institute strong mechanisms for detecting abuse and acting on it. What has happened in previous years and how it was dealt with - such as keeping it quiet - cannot be undone. But any hint or allegation of this nature today must never be ignored. Public exposure of perpetrators is imperative. The Frankel judgement this week makes that more possible.

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

Maharal's Tiferet Yisrael, now translated into English

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Maharal of Prague is one of the pillars of Jewish philosophy - a relevant voice, even after 500 years. Strangely, the person who so impacted on the Jewish response to the Renaissance and who helped formulate key Jewish educational policies, has become known as the creator of a Golem, with his powerful writings off limits to the English-speaking public. That has changed in Johannesburg with the recent launch of the first-ever English translation and commentary of the Maharal's classic Tiferet Yisrael. This translation with a commentary, was written to address key questions in Jewish thought relating to the purpose of Torah and mitzvot.

The Maharal asks powerful, bluntly relevant questions and then constructs a framework on which he builds relevant, profound answers. One of his opening questions in the book is one which is often raised: how is it that one

finds ostensibly observant Jews who are unfortunately unethical and immoral?

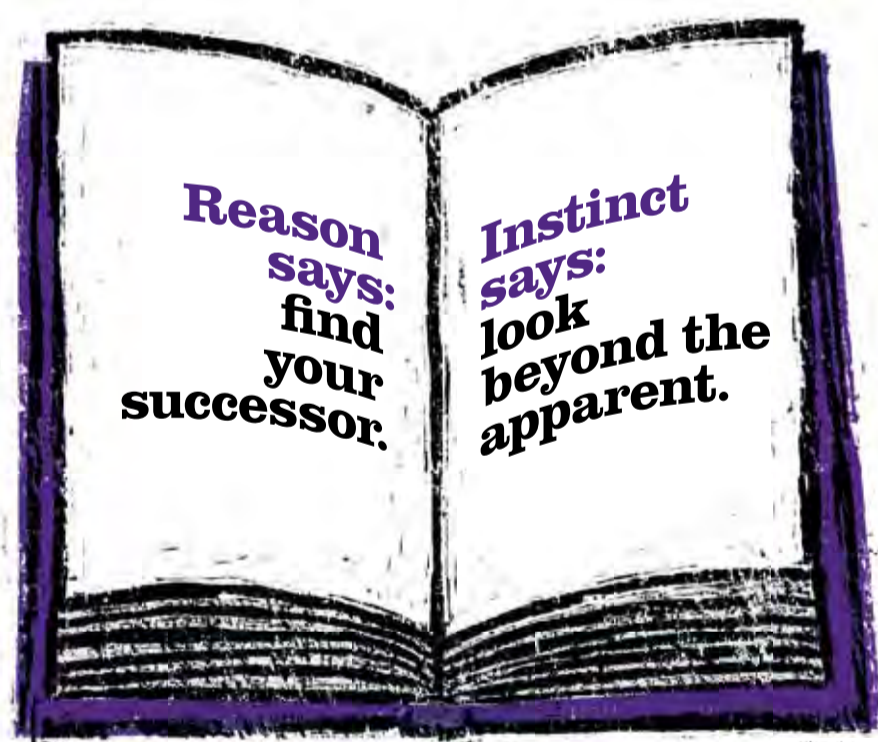
He also addresses the purpose of the entire structure of mitzvot, especially if a person observing mitzvot is ignorant of the purpose of the particular mitzvot she or he is observing.

The English translation with commentary, was written by Rabbi Ramon Widmonte over a period of eight years and published by Urim worldwide.

Copies of the book can be obtained from the offices of the Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning, 010-140-2099 and info@theacademy.org.za.



Rabbi Ramon Widmonte, Rabbi Yehoshua Hartman and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein



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SA soccer boys to make a difference

JACK MILNER

The under-18 soccer team who will be representing South Africa at next month's Maccabiah, are more than just a squad of footballers - they are out to make a difference.

The youngsters have created a supporting relationship with the Selwyn Segal Eagles, a soccer team made up of people from the home. The under-18 team started a tournament with the Selwyn Segal Eagles and this will become an annual event.

Last week Thursday the Selwyn Segal Eagles showed their support for the under-18 squad and attended a function at which the South

African representatives were presented with their kit for the Maccabiah by Bafana Bafana and SuperSport United midfielder, Dean Furman.

They had a cake prepared with the wording "Good luck Junior Maccabi team, from the Selwyn Segal Eagles".

"These 16 boys have redefined what Maccabi is about and what Jewish sport is all about," said Maccabi South Africa convener Craig Nossel.

The team will also be playing for brothers Dean and Dylan Walt. Dean died tragically in a motorcar accident at the age of 13 and a few years later his brother, Dylan, died at age 19



in Israel. "Dylan and Dean both loved soccer and it is an honour that you will be playing for them," said their mother, Belinda.

Furman - who played competitive football in England for quite a number of years, before returning to South Africa - explained to the boys the importance of donning those colours. "To represent your country and community is the biggest honour you will have. When you're on the field, respect your opposition but play with no fear, play for that

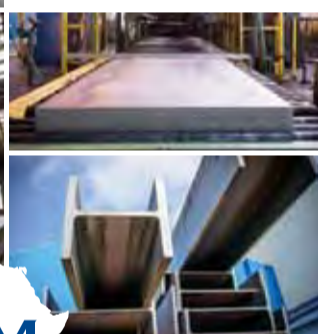
shirt, play your hearts out."

Also at the farewell was Maccabi rugby coach Kevin Musikanth, who also had some advice for the boys. "Remember that a team that plays for something other than the result, is a hard team to beat."

And then light-heartedly he added: "You will have the full commitment of the rugby team. They will run onto the field to help you so even if you don't win the match, you will win the fight after the match!"



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A great deal of money to raise for the SA team

JACK MILNER

The Maccabiah has over the years become an expensive event to participate in or to attend.

With a falling rand and everything quoted in dollars, this year an athlete would have to lay out around R63 000 to participate. This, however, covers all the costs - airfares, accommodation, three meals a day and transport.

It has always been the view of Maccabi South Africa that nobody who deserves a place in the team should be disadvantaged through lack of funds, and over the years they have set up the Maccabiah Youth Fund to assist youngsters who genuinely lack funding.

As Maccabi SA Chairman Cliff Garrun points out, the competition for the limited funds out there is very strong, and it is hard to compete with some of the other charities.

"Most of the money this year was raised by the youngsters themselves, holding their own events," he said. "They also sold tickets for a car and some other prizes we were raffling. The respective sporting codes, along with the conveners and coaches, organised events, talks and dinners (to raise funds)."

One of the best was a comedy evening put together by the cricketers, where they had comedian Nic Rabinowitz entertain the guests. Rabinowitz has a soft spot for Maccabi cricket, considering he played for the SA team at the last two Maccabiahs.

In order to benefit from the fund, applicants have to prove they qualify to the committee.

The raffle raised in excess of R1,6 million and all the proceeds went directly into the fund. The winners were drawn at a function last Sunday night and the winners are up on the Maccabi website.



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

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SHMULY YANKLOWITZ

Newsweek has rated Rav Shmuly one of the top 50 rabbis in America. *Forward* has named Rav Shmuly one of the most inspiring and influential Rabbis in America.

Founded Uri L'Tzedek, an Orthodox social justice movement. Also founded Shamayim V'Aretz Institute, an animal welfare activist centre.

Serves as the Dean of the Valley Beit Midrash. He has published books on topics ranging from ethics to social justice.

His most recent publication is *The Soul of Jewish Social Justice*.

In 2015, he underwent transplant surgery to donate his kidney.

Sessions include: *Ethical consumption: challenges & opportunities in the 21st century and Jewish social justice in our time!*



PHILOSOPHER RABBI

SAMUEL LEBENS

Star of the Limmud International circuit, who captivated South African audiences on a visit earlier this year.

Philosopher, Orthodox rabbi and Jewish educator. Co-founder of the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism and senior research fellow at the University of Haifa.

Sessions include: *The Prophet and the Prostitute and Two Competing Forms of Religious Zionism*



OUT OF THE DEPTHS

MARC KATZ

Associate Rabbi at Beth Elohim, a large Reform congregation in Brooklyn, and author of *The Heart of Loneliness: How Jewish Wisdom Can Help You Cope and Find Comfort*.

A finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. He received his ordination at Hebrew Union College.

Sessions include: *Adam and Eve: A Study of a Broken Marriage and Rachel, Weeping For Her Children: Infertility And Pregnancy Loss In Judaism*

BETWEEN UNITY AND UNIFORMITY

ZOHAR RAVIV

Acclaimed educator and Jewish thinker, who serves as the International Vice President of Education for Taglit-Birthright Israel. Teaches extensively on Jewish education, identity formation, intellectual history, theology, Israel, and the contemporary Jewish experience.

Recipient of the 2015 Bernard Reisman Award for Professional

Excellence from the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University, as "one of the most influential Jewish educators in the world".

Sessions include: *Revisiting our Holocaust narrative: a call for paradigm shift and The binding of Isaac: Whose test was it anyway?*

• Participation made possible by The Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

LEADERSHIP IN CHAOTIC TIMES

DAVID BEHRMAN

CEO of Behrman House Publishers, the leading publisher of educational materials for Jewish religious schools throughout North America.

Previously a management consultant with McKinsey where he served Fortune 500 clients. Consultant in the area of organisational leadership and effectiveness to major tertiary institutions and businesses.

Sessions include: *Five Lessons I Learned Working With The World's Largest Companies and When Good Intentions Go Bad: Five Landmines Of Jewish Organisational Life.*

ENCOUNTER 19TH CENTURY POLAND

MARCIN WODZIŃSKI

Professor of Jewish history and literature at the University of Wrocław in Poland. Special fields of interest are Jewish material culture and the social history of Jews in nineteenth-century Eastern Europe, especially Hasidism and Haskalah. Written ten books and over one hundred articles.

Awarded the Jan Karski and Pola Nirenska Prize by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Sessions include: *Space and spirit: on geography of Hasidism and Jewish material heritage in post-Holocaust Europe*

• Marcin's visit is made possible by the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at the University of Cape Town.

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Sessions include: *five essential ingredients for living in the moment and Shira Live In Concert.*



BETWEEN THE LINES

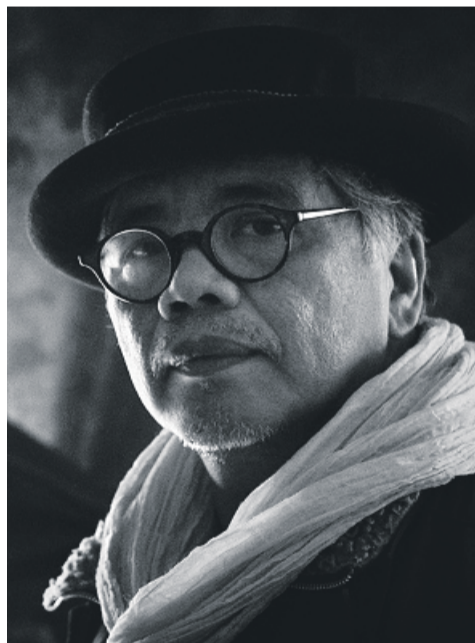
DAVID BENKOF

Jerusalem-based David Benkof has taught and published widely about Jewish history, American politics, homosexuality, Hebrew grammar, and contemporary Jewish life.

He is a polyglot, theatre lover, world traveller, crossword constructor, and trivia buff. He is also a columnist for the Daily Caller, an American conservative website.

Sessions include: *Jewish Broadway in 2017, "The Conversion of the Jews"-How do we answer Philip Roth? and Chiasms: the Bible's Dazzling Literary Structure*

WITNESS, I AM



EMMANUEL SANTOS

Born in the Philippines, Emmanuel is an Australian based documentary and art photographer.

For more than a decade now, Emmanuel Santos has been tracing the songlines of the Jewish spirit. His photographs are memory tracks spiralling through history, hinting at the prophecy of ingathering from every corner of the earth.

His portfolios are in the theme of nomadic portraits, visual interpretations of ancient myths and legends and the ongoing cultural evolution in the independent countries and indigenous communities of the world.

He has regular solo exhibitions and lectures in major cities globally.

Sessions include: *"Observances", Prophecies for the Exiles and "The songs of Longing", Leonard Cohen.*

BRINGING HISTORY TO THE PEOPLE



BENJAMIN GAMPEL

Benjamin Gampel specializes in the history of the Jews of the medieval and early modern world. A dynamic presenter, there was standing room only at his sessions at the Limmud conference in the UK.

For his first book, *The Last Jews on Iberian Soil*, Gampel spent almost a year in Spain combing through local archives and carefully recreated some of the long-forgotten history of the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula.

Gampel also edited *Crisis and Creativity in the Sephardic World*. In 2016, he won the National Jewish Book Council's Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award in Scholarship.

He is among a small group of educators dedicated to bringing the history of the Jews to as wide a public audience as possible.

Sessions include: *Sex, Food and the Lush Garden of Sepharad: Religious Piety Confronts Sensual Pleasure, and A Story about Rabbis, Karaites, and Original Sin*

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