

## LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS LIMMUD

Book now at [www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)

# The world is coming to Limmud

## MISHY THE STORY TELLER

**MISHY HARMAN, Jerusalem**  
Mishy Harman is the host and co-founder of the much loved Israel Story podcast-the Israeli version of This American Life.

He's a curly-haired Jerusalemite who stumbled upon radio by chance. Come hear Mishy explain how setting out to tell Israel's 'story' taught him more than he could have ever imagined about his country, its people and its future.

**Sessions include:** Operation Huldah: In Search of an Israeli Symbol. An incredible story about Israeli soldiers standing in awed silence at the Kotel during the Six Day War, only to be startled by the cries of a woman in the throes of labour in a nearby Arab home...

**HURRY  
AND BOOK  
NOW!**

[www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)  
083 451 9176

Limmud presents its 13th extraordinary programme of Jewish learning and culture with up to nine concurrent sessions an hour. There are 21 international presenters across the three conferences, in addition to over 200 local presenters. They will discuss a wide range of Jewish subjects including Israel, Torah, the arts, human rights, current affairs, history etc. This unparalleled Jewish experience includes kosher catering and residential or come-for-the-day experiences in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Where else can you hear:

- An urban planner who specialises in environmental protection in Israel.
- A commentator on Islam and Jewish-Muslim relations.
- An expert on the history of Polish Jews and Holocaust studies.
- A former Israeli diplomat who now writes a Hasidic television show.
- Thought-leaders addressing the future of our community, South Africa, Israel and the Jewish world.

## BRING ALONG THE KIDS AND THE TEENS!

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 part of Young Limmud. Sessions cover a 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 in 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.

For our young adults, we have a stimulating Limmud Youth programme, 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 silent disco, cocktail making (over 18's only!), live performances by an artist collective, and an international musician and three film premieres. There will also be a late night nigun workshop.

We offer a limited number of discounts to first time families who come for the weekend, so that the entire family can experience the best in Jewish learning and culture.

**JOBURG: Friday 16 to Sunday 18 August. DURBAN: Wednesday 21 August. CAPE TOWN: Friday 23 to Sunday 25 August**



# JUST SOME OF THE GREAT HIGHLIGHTS OF LIMMUD 2019

## TEN LOCAL SPEAKERS YOU MUST NOT MISS

**ILANA STEIN**  
*Teaches Tanach and environment at Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning*  
Animal Rights and Human Responsibilities in the Torah

**JONATHAN ANCER**  
*Hard-hitting journalist and author of ‘Spy: Uncovering Craig Williamson’*  
Sessions include Spies, Lies and the Search for Pink Rabbit

**DAWN NATHAN-JONES**  
*Dynamic entrepreneur and accomplished business leader. Former CEO of Europcar*  
Power Pitch: Limmud’s Premier Business Game

**ADAM MENDELSON**  
*Director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT*  
What’s up with Cape Town’s Jews? A Data-Driven Snapshot of the Trends

**BONITA MEYERSELD**  
*Renowned human rights lawyer and academic*  
Social Justice and South African Jewry

**SCOTT HAZELHURST**  
*Professor of Bioinformatics at the Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Bioscience*  
Sephardi and Mizrahi DNA

**HOWARD SACKSTEIN**  
*Publisher of the SA Jewish Report*  
7 Life Lessons from 7 Remarkable People

**YOCHI RESS**  
*Clinical psychologist with a passion for Kabbalah, Chassidut and consciousness*  
Ancient Torah Wisdom Meets Neuroscience and Positive Psychology

**MIGHTI JAMIE**  
*Political analyst, Africa analyst and author*  
Death of Debate - Discourse in Universities

**JUDITH ANCER**  
*Clinical psychologist*  
Your Children Are Not Your Children: Thinking About Sexuality, Gender and Identity

## MIDDLE EAST TODAY



**BIBLICAL DIPLOMACY**

**DANIEL TAUB, Jerusalem**  
The multi-talented Daniel Taub served as the Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom from 2011 until 2015 and is currently Director of Strategy and Planning at the Yad Hanadiv (Rothschild) Foundation.  
Daniel was a member of Israel’s negotiation teams in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. He authored *Parasha Diplomati*, a book of diplomatic insights on biblical texts and created and wrote a popular television series, *HeChatzer*, set in an ultra-orthodox Hasidic sect.  
**Sessions Include:** *The three battles for Israel’s survival: security, legitimacy, identity*



**DEFENDING THE OTHER**

**JESSICA MONTELL, Jerusalem**  
Jessica is executive director of HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual, and has been a leading figure in Israeli civil society for two decades. Jessica served as executive director of B’Tselem from 2001-2014. A frequent commentator on human rights and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Action Against Armed Violence named Jessica as one of the 100 people making the world a safer place.  
**Sessions include:** *Why call it Occupation? A Political and Legal Analysis of the West Bank Map*



**CONVERSATIONS ON ISRAEL**

**CALEV BEN DOR, Jerusalem**  
Director of Research at BICOM, an independent British research centre producing analysis on Israel and the Middle East, and Deputy Editor of the Fathom Journal, Calev previously worked as an analyst in the Reut Institute and the Policy Planning Department of Israel’s Foreign Ministry. Based in Jerusalem, he is a member of the David Cardozo Think Tank, a forum of Jewish thinkers which explores a wide range of Jewish topics.  
**Sessions include:** *Israel’s Geo-strategic Challenges*

## THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES

**GLORIA GREENFIELD, Knoxville, Tennessee**  
Award-winning documentary filmmaker and president of Doc Emet Productions, a nonprofit organisation that produces films that contribute to the strengthening of Jewish identity, Jewish nationhood, and the values of freedom and democracy.  
Gloria will premiere her new film-The Fight of Our Lives-Defeating the Ideological War Against the West at Limmud. In January 1980, Ms. Magazine cited Gloria as a woman to watch in the 80s; she walked out of the women’s movement in 1983 in defiance of its intensifying anti-Semitism and illiberal dogmas.  
**Sessions include:** *The Contemporary State of Judeophobia: A View from the Battlefield*



**HURRY AND BOOK NOW!**  
[www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)  
**083 451 9176**

### 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 [jhbregistration@limmud.org.za](mailto:jhbregistration@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 the DJC 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.

## THE FIVE STEP GUIDE TO LIMMUD

**LEARNING**  
**1** Everyone should be a student and anyone can be a teacher. Learning changes people, inspires action and opens new worlds.

**DIVERSITY**  
**2** We value choice in form, content and style in our programmes. We value the rich diversity among Jews, and so we seek to create cross-communal and inter-generational experiences.

**ENABLING CONNECTIONS**  
**3** We aim to create opportunities for communities and individuals to connect.

**PARTICIPATION**  
**4** Volunteering one’s time is a key feature of almost everything we do. No matter how small the contribution, we encourage participants to take an active part in all aspects of our conferences.

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE**  
**5** Shabbat and kashrut are observed in all public areas. We recognise that in private areas, people will behave as they wish. Should participants wish to hold a prayer group, they may do so providing they supply all resources and are responsible for the session or prayer group in its entirety.

**JOHANNESBURG**  
Indaba Hotel, Fourways  
Friday 16 August to Sunday 18 August  
**Call 083 451 9176**

**DURBAN**  
The Durban Jewish Centre (DJC)  
Wednesday 21 August  
**Call 084 446 6362**

**CAPE TOWN**  
UCT Graduate School of Business  
V&A Waterfront, with accommodation options in hotels around the venue  
Friday 23 August to Sunday 25 August  
**Call 083 303 5406**



# south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 23 – Number 27 ■ 26 July 2019 ■ 23 Tammuz 5779

[www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

## Ehrenreich accused of ‘fauxpologising’ for hate-speech

NICOLA MILTZ

Former Western Cape provincial secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) leader Tony Ehrenreich last week ‘apologised’ for hate speech committed five years ago, but the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) has hit back, criticising his apology as fake and saying it reinforces the original intent. This led to a further tirade of hatred from Ehrenreich.

Ehrenreich was found guilty of hate speech against the SAJBD and members of the community last year.

The matter goes back five years, when Ehrenreich called for revenge attacks on the SAJBD and “other Zionists” in response to Palestinian deaths during violence in Gaza in 2014. He made many offensive, inflammatory statements around that time.

The SAJBD laid complaints with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), which found Ehrenreich guilty of prohibited hate speech, harassment, and violating the Jewish community’s right to dignity and equality. He was ordered to apologise, which he did.

However, his apology has only exacerbated the issue, and created more antagonism.

According to the SAJBD, his apology reveals a “lack of any sincerity or any semblance of

contrition”. The board says the “fake apology” has compounded Ehrenreich’s initial attack on South African Jewry. It says it can’t accept an apology “which only serves to reinforce the original intent of the hate speech”.

Going back to 13 August 2014, Ehrenreich posted a comment on Facebook, writing, “It’s time for an eye for an eye against Zionist aggression... The time has come to say very clearly that if a woman or child is killed in Gaza, then the Jewish Board of Deputies, who are complicit, will feel the wrath of the people of SA with the age old biblical teaching of an eye for an eye.”

Ehrenreich accused the SAJBD of being “complicit in the murder of the people in Gaza”. He incited the South African population to carry out revenge attacks against the board because of this. The SAHRC found that by using the expression “an eye for an eye”, Ehrenreich further indicated that, in his view, such attacks should take the form of violence, even of a lethal nature.

This was “deeply psychologically and emotionally hurtful in terms of Section 10(a) of the Promotion of Equality and Prohibition of Unfair Discrimination Act”, according to the SAHRC. It went to say that his statements further constituted incitement to cause harm, which was prohibited by the Bill of Rights.

In Ehrenreich’s letter of apology,

which he voluntarily shared with the *SA Jewish Report*, he accuses the board of not condemning the killings, and further accuses the Israeli Defense Forces of the “senseless killing” of women and children.

confronted with more violence. I concede that i was caught up in the anger of the senseless killing of woman and children by the Israeli defence Forces, for a cause that was condemned by the majority of members of the United Nations.”

wind of this did he respond to the SAHRC with a no-holds-barred, rabid tirade against the board.

In it, he tells the SAHRC that he had, in fact, intended to demand an apology from the board for its “support of the violence against the Palestinian community”, and was going to demand that the board “concedes (sic) that their attitude and stance of supporting the violence of the Isreali (sic) defence force against innocent woman and children is not shared by all people from the Jewish community in SA”.

“I don’t like the SAJBD attempts to justify their support for apartheid style conduct in Isreal (sic), that has been declared a crime against humanity,” he fumed.

He instructed that the SAHRC not copy him on correspondence

from the SAJBD, unless obligated to respond, because its position on Palestine was “offensive and unacceptable” to most South Africans. He went on to say that he didn’t regard the board as representative of many progressive members of the community.

Ehrenreich said he worked closely with many members of the Jewish community for peace, and they “would not be detracted by attempts to justify the SAJBD stance, to secure the status quo (sic) in the Middle East”.

The board told the *SA Jewish Report* that his subsequent tirade

Continued on page 8>>



Tony Ehrenreich

Some would call this a “fauxpology” or a “nonpology”, terms commonly used by politicians and those in public relations.

In his letter, full of spelling and grammatical errors, he admits that the SAHRC found him guilty of promoting hatred with his “eye for an eye” comments.

“Whilst this statement was directed at the Jewish Board of Deputies, who have not to date condemned the violent and vicious attacks against Palestinian people. The statement is regrettable and i apologise for it, as I do not want to see violent aggression

He goes on to apologise to all South Africans for the “rash” statements, and commits himself to “a more thoughtful and considered approach” to his comments in future. Ehrenreich said he remained committed to fighting oppression, but would do so in a “responsible manner”.

The SAHRC passed the “apology” on to the board, saying it considered the matter finalised.

However, the board responded by saying it was not appeased by the letter of apology, and outlined its concern about sincerity, asking for amendments to be made.

No sooner had Ehrenreich got



PROPERTIES



**LINKSFIELD | BOTH ASKING R 1.350 MILLION**  
Linksfield Place. Great opportunity, 2 apartments on show this Sunday. Both offer 2 spacious bedrooms. 2 bathrooms (MES). Large North facing enclosed balconies with fabulous views. Pool in complex. Walk to King David Linksfield School. Shul. Easy access to main highways. Directions: Follow pointers along Club Street.

2 2 Web Ref: RL50921  
Laureen 083 789 0229



**SANDRINGHAM | R 2 399 999**  
Henry Ave. Asking More. A superbly renovated 3 bedroomed, 2 bathroomed(mes) home, oozing character and style. Open plan gourmet kitchen, inviting reception areas, huge covered entertainers' patio or reception room. Lovely outside office / flatlet potential. 2 lock up garages. Double carport. Excellent security. Serious seller wants offers. Directions: Follow pointers from George Ave into Orange St or Wales St into Henry Avenue.

3 2 Web Ref: RL47494  
Joel 082 926 0287 | Laureen 083 789 0229



**ROUXVILLE / RAEDENE | R 1.850 MILLION**  
Milty Manor. This north facing 3 bed, 2 bath (MES) simplex offers the perfect starter home or down sizer. Situated in secure complex. This neat home has an open plan lounge & dining room that lead onto a covered patio & well-established spacious garden. Large granite top kitchen. Double electric garage. Situated close to numerous Shuls & schools. Directions: Follow pointers from Viljoen Street & Elray Street into Main Street.

3 2 Web Ref: RL52575  
Joel 082 926 0287 | Laureen 083 789 0229



**WAVERLEY | R 4.95 MILLION**  
Argyle Street. 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. Directions: From Knox Street into Argyle Street.

3 2 Web Ref: RL11651  
Chrissie Hammer 082 568 0440

# REAL LIFE

Real Estate.



## Corbyn says Labour has anti-Semitism issue

Jeremy Corbyn said the Labour Party must recognise that anti-Jewish bigotry has become part of the movement, and drive out anti-Semitism.

“The evidence is clear enough. The worst cases of anti-Semitism in our party have included Holocaust denial, crude Jewish-banker stereotypes, conspiracy theories blaming Israel for 9/11, or every war on the Rothschild family, and even one member who appeared to believe that Hitler had been misunderstood,” Corbyn said in an email to party members announcing the launch of an educational website on anti-Semitism.

The website, titled “No place for anti-Semitism,” says that “Anti-Semitism has no place in our party. Hatred towards Jewish people has no place in our society.”

Corbyn said in the email that the party would “produce educational materials on a number of specific forms of racism and bigotry. Our first materials are on anti-Semitism, recognising that

anti-Jewish bigotry has reared its head in our movement.”

Many British Jews believe that Corbyn, who has long associated with Palestinian radicals and in at least one case, a Holocaust denier, is anti-Semitic, and that he is responsible for a hostile environment in a party that for more than a century was a natural home for Jews.

More than a dozen legislators have resigned under Corbyn, and the party is facing an official probe by the government’s Equality and Human Rights Commission over its handling of anti-Semitism complaints.

## Rockstar praises Lubavitcher Rebbe



Rockstar Perry Farrell, born Peretz Bernstein, has rediscovered Judaism. So much so, that he has a book of the Lubavitcher Rebbe’s teachings with him on tour.

That’s just one detail from a recent op-ed written by the 60-year-old Jane’s Addiction singer in *Tablet* marking the 25th anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the influential leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

The essay, published on 14 July, touches on the history of Farrell’s Jewish identity, from getting kicked out of Hebrew school as a child for “making trouble” to finding Jewish spirituality while struggling with drug addiction. During the latter period, Farrell discovered the work and teachings

of Schneerson, whom Farrell calls a “modern prophet”. “The rebbe’s teachings help bring

about a change of consciousness and a transformation in daily living. They inspire me in my life as an artist,” Farrell wrote.

## Rabbi calls homosexuality ‘wild lust’

The Sephardi chief rabbi of Jerusalem said gay people could not be religious Jews, and called homosexuality “a wild lust that needs to be overcome”.

Rabbi Shlomo Amar made the remarks last week during a sermon. A video of some of his comments was published on Monday by the Israeli public broadcaster Kan.

“There are people who call themselves religious who also [have fallen] into that trap,” he said, according to *The Times of Israel*. “They aren’t religious. It would be better if they cast off their kippah and Shabbat [observance], and showed their true faces.”

The rabbi also referred to homosexuality as “a wild lust that needs to be overcome, and it can be overcome”.

Three groups representing religious LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer questioning) Jews – Bat-Kol, Havruta, and the Gay Religious Community – criticised his remarks in a joint statement on Tuesday, according to *The Times of Israel*.

“Rabbi Amar, with your harsh comments, you called on our families to vomit us out of our homes and from our communities,” the organisations said.

## Trump congratulates Netanyahu on service

United States President Donald Trump has congratulated Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on becoming the longest serving prime minister in Israeli history.

“Under your leadership, Israel has become a technology powerhouse and a world class economy,” Trump tweeted on 21 July, a day after Netanyahu reached the milestone by surpassing David Ben-Gurion’s total of 4 875 days in office. “Most importantly, you have led Israel with a commitment to the

values of democracy, freedom, and equal opportunity that both our nations cherish and share!”

Netanyahu thanked Trump in a tweet an hour later, which also lauded the relationship between the US and Israel. “I’m honoured to have the opportunity to work with you. Under your leadership, we’ve made the alliance between our two remarkable countries stronger than ever. I know there’s more to come.”

By 20 July, Netanyahu had served 4 876 days from 1996 to 1999, and from March 2009 to the present. He faces a new election on 17 September, and possible indictment in three different corruption cases the following month.

## Canadian Jewish groups spar over election

Canada’s two main Jewish groups are at odds over a lawsuit on whether it’s OK to hold a national election on a Jewish holiday.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the official Canadian Jewish advocacy group, says there are enough alternative measures to accommodate Canada’s 75 000 orthodox Jews who can’t cast their ballots on 21 October, which is both Shemini Atzeret and election day.

But B’nai Brith Canada, which was granted intervener status in a lawsuit launched by Toronto Conservative Party candidate Chani Aryeh-Bain and voter Ira Walfish, said that because of the end-of-Sukkot holiday, Jews will have significantly fewer hours to vote at advance polls than others. Of the four advance polling days, three are on other Jewish holidays or Shabbat.

“At its heart, this is a case of what it means to count in Canadian society,” said Colin Feasby of B’nai Brith. “Holding the federal election on a date where a religious minority cannot vote by reason of their beliefs sends a message to the community that it doesn’t count.”

Since 2007, Canadian law has mandated that national elections be held on the third Monday in October in the fourth calendar year following the previous election.

• All briefs supplied by JTA

Appliance Repairs on Site

Fridges, Dishwashers, Washing Machines, Stoves Tumble Dryers & more

Call Jason 082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

FREE QUOTATIONS

HAROLD'S REMOTES

Est. 1977

Keys & Key Cutting

Remote Control Transmitters for

★ Alarms ★ Gates ★

★ Garage Doors ★

81 Hathorn Avenue Cnr Durham St, Raedene Estate (free parking)

Tel: 082-881-3720

Shabbat times this week		
Starts	Ends	
17:20	18:12	Johannesburg
17:44	18:39	Cape Town
17:02	17:55	Durban
17:22	18:15	Bloemfontein
17:16	18:10	Port Elizabeth
17:08	18:02	East London

Michael David

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP

Tired of your old worn-out furniture? Rejuvenate your home...

CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY & FURNITURE REPAIRS

Michael 082 820 7091

430 Louis Botha Avenue, cnr Main Street, Rouxville

VEHICLES WANTED

Any make, any model, any condition

Accident damaged vehicles and non-runners also wanted

Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826

AUTO AFRICA

### Torah Thought

#### It’s wiser to be an activist than a critic

In the aftermath of Pinchas’ slaying of Zimri and Kozbi at the end of last week’s Torah portion, we read this week how some of the Jewish people complained about him. They found it difficult to believe that someone who came from a lineage such as his could have been genuinely disgusted by Zimri’s acts. So, G-d reminded them that although on one side of his family, Pinchas’ ancestors were non-Jewish idol worshipers, on his father’s side, he was descended from Aaron the high priest.

At times, we are tempted to find fault with good deeds, and question a person’s motives, but we can never know their true intention. So long as a person is doing good, they should not be put down or mocked, even if there is solid proof that they are acting insincerely. The Talmud advises us to study Torah and keep the mitzvot even for the wrong reasons, since this way, we will eventually come to have pure motives.

The followers of the “Alter Rebbe”,

Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, once informed their rebbe about the conduct of one of their number who acted outwardly like a pious man, but who they felt was not living up to the image he projected. The rebbe responded, “G-d should judge him like it is written in the Talmud at the end of Tractate Pe’ah.” Worried, the followers hurried to the study hall to refer to Tractate Pe’ah as they hadn’t intended to inflict any punishment on their colleague, merely to alert the rebbe to his behaviour.

“One who does not need charity but takes money set aside for charity will not pass away until they need to take charity. However one who is entitled to charity but manages without, will not pass away until they become wealthy and give charity to others. One who pretends to be lame, blind, or dumb will not pass away until they suffer such a fate.” (Peah 8:9)

The followers understood their rebbe’s “curse”. Although their colleague was only acting the part now, the rebbe was

blessing him that in future he should fully fulfil his role as a *hassid* (pious individual).

More often than not, criticism does not come from a holy place, but is driven by a desire to excuse one’s own conduct. The Jewish people were quick to whisper about Pinchas’ genealogy, but none of them had “stepped up the plate”. Now, their wounded pride and laziness demanded that they speak up. So, G-d reminded them that they had no knowledge of Pinchas’ motives, which in fact came from his Kohen genes as a lover of and pursuer of peace, and that could not bear seeing the Jewish camp ripped apart.

The lesson is obvious. It’s much wiser to be an activist than a critic. Pinchas showed that we can never be truly sure of another’s motives, and the effect of a good deed will resonate forever, whatever the intention behind it.



Rabbi Pini Pink, Chabad Greenstone

South African Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

Editor Peta Krost Maunder – editor@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editor Julie Leibowitz

Journalists Nicola Miltz • Tali Feinberg • Jordan Moshe

Editorial co-ordinator Martine Bass – editorial@sajewishreport.co.za

Proofreader Kim Hatchuel – kim@a-proofed.co.za • CEO Dani Kedar – ceo@sajewishreport.co.za • Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • Distribution: Sandy Furman

Subscriptions Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860 525 200 • Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Herby Rosenberg, Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benjy Porter. Advertisements and editorial copy do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.

Press Council

The SA Jewish Report subscribes to the Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media that prescribes news that is truthful, accurate, fair and balanced. If we don't live up to the Code, within 20 days of the date of publication of the material, please contact the Public Advocate at 011 484 3612, fax: 011 484 3619. You can also contact our Case Officer on khanyim@ombudsman.org.za or lodge a complaint on their website: www.presscouncil.org.za

abc

Audit Bureau of Circulations of South Africa transparency you can see



# Tomb raider caught out in Cape cemetery

TALI FEINBERG

The Cape Town Jewish community has experienced vandalism of graves in its country communities. However, it has now discovered that a stonemason working in the Pinelands Jewish Cemetery in Cape Town has been removing parts of old graves to use on new ones. “I borrowed the base from an old grave. I was called out and severely sanctioned,” says the stonemason. The *SA Jewish Report* knows his identity, and agreed to protect it in exchange for full disclosure. Although the stonemason has only once been brought to book over this, he admitted that there have been a number of similar instances in the past. He claims that he “recycles” tombstones, and this is standard practice in the industry. He says he has always rectified it. “We do recycle granite on graves we are working on. Often when we get a request for an identical stone, the old stone is totally removed. We then replace it with matching granite. The old granite is then re-polished and re-used.” A well-respected Cape Town communal leader with comprehensive knowledge of the cemetery says this has been done by this stonemason dozens of times – “possibly up to 100 times” – over the past 10 to 15 years.



The original Shapiro grave from which the stone was taken

The communal leader said he had previously allowed the stonemason to get away with warnings because of personal circumstances, but he now wants him brought to book. Surprisingly, there are no clear bylaws regarding tampering with gravestones in a cemetery. According to the bylaws, “The council is not liable for any loss or damage to any object on a grave unless such loss or damage is the result of the negligence of any employee of the council.”

However, no person may remove memorial work (the headstone, plaque, or slab) for additional inscriptions or other alterations without the consent of the officer-in-charge (a person authorised by the council in charge of the cemetery). Only a holder of private rights (the family of the buried person), or a person authorised in writing by the holder of such rights, may, with the written permission of the officer-in-charge, dismantle, alter, or disturb, any memorial work on a grave. The stonemason was caught out and hauled over the coals at the beginning of June 2019 after a cemetery worker noticed that the surname of the deceased was engraved into the base of the stone, but this “v-cut” method of writing on granite or marble has not been done on gravestones since the year 2000. All gravestones are now sandblasted. It showed that it was taken from an old grave belonging to a couple with the same surname. The *SA Jewish Report* has seen photographs of the graves that were disturbed for this base to be “borrowed”. The desecrated headstones were lying haphazardly on the ground alongside broken concrete. They were fixed only after the stonemason was caught out. The graves belong to Liba and Isaac Shapiro, who died in 1985 and 1996 respectively. The base with their surname, “Shapiro” was used on a new pair of graves, for Lionel and Freda Shapiro, who both died in 2018. A relative of the latter Shapiro couple says that when she was told that a part of the gravestone was stolen property, she said, “I felt sick to my stomach. It was traumatic. I’m just glad this has all come out now, and it won’t happen to

anyone else.” Labour lawyer and parliamentarian Michael Bagraim is a family member of the latter Shapiro couple, and is therefore aware of the case. He says “there is clear proof that a contractor has been stealing stones for many years. This issue is rife in the cemetery, and I don’t believe the Cemeteries Maintenance Board (CMB) is doing enough. “It has washed its hands of it by passing the decision [of who is allowed at the cemetery] onto the city council. As the custodian of the cemetery, it should tell the community that this is happening. Meanwhile, the stonemason undercuts the prices of his competitors because he is using stolen goods.” The *SA Jewish Report* has seen a number of other graves in the Pinelands Cemetery that are missing bases, slabs, and headstones. In one case, a grave slab is missing, and a headstone is lying next to a grave. Sources say it has been lying there for many months. This grave is close to the *ohel* (funeral hall), main path, and offices, and in clear view of authorities.

A source with intimate knowledge of the cemetery, and no vested interest in the case, says he saw this stonemason removing parts of graves. He reported it, and says the stonemason was only given warnings. “He’s done it many times, and always thinks he’s going to survive. We’ve all been desperate at times in our lives, but we don’t steal. The cemetery is a religious place. If you can’t respect the dead, how can you respect the living?” he asks. Another source familiar with the cemetery, speaking on condition of anonymity, says that the use of old stones for new graves has been going on for years. The *SA Jewish Report* has seen a number of emails with complaints about it. This source says the stonemason sees that certain graves have not been visited because they don’t have visitors’ pebbles on them, and uses the gravestones for new work. The stonemason in question told the *SA Jewish Report* that in the Shapiro case, he had “already secured a new



The new Shapiro grave onto which the stone was placed

base from a wholesaler, and it was not available. I was under pressure from [a businessman] who had subcontracted installation to me, and I knew I would not be able to secure the new base in a short period of time.” When questioned about the other missing grave slabs, headstones, and bases, the stonemason said “I do admit to taking a long time to repair stones that have either fallen or cracked, or have subsided, and need to be repaired. It might give the impression that stones are vandalised, but the CMB has requested that, while I am working on these graves, I remove the granite so that it isn’t unsightly. About five or six of these graves are still being worked on.” CMB Director Eric Berger acknowledged that a slab had been moved by a stonemason “to be replaced at a later stage”. Berger says the cemetery is on city council land, and the council issues relevant permits to stonemasons. “Appropriate action has been taken by the council, which will be enforced by the CMB,” he says. He has communicated with city officials, who will be releasing new regulations regarding the issuing of permits to stonemasons. Cape Beth Din Dayan Rabbi Ruben Suiza says “a complaint was brought to our attention this week. This very serious matter is presently under investigation.” Says Stuart Diamond, the director of the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies, “The Cape board is aware of the dispute involving the ‘recycling’ of tombstones at Pinelands Jewish Cemetery by a specific stonemason. We understand that the Union of Orthodox Synagogues is liaising between the affected parties, and have full trust that it will handle the situation appropriately. “Without knowledge of the finer details of the case, the Cape board would still record its disapproval of any behaviour or business practice that is conducted in bad faith or in a dishonourable manner.”

## Stephan Welz & Co.™ JOHANNESBURG AUCTION 26 & 27 August 2019

The Killarney Country Club  
60 5<sup>th</sup> Street | Houghton Estate

Preview: 23, 24 & 25 August 10am - 5pm  
Walkabout Saturday 24 August from 11am



A 1962 MASERATI 3500 GTI  
R 2 600 000 - R 3 000 000



ESIAS BOSCH: A PAINTED AND GLAZED CERAMIC TILE  
R 500 000 - R 700 000



MAGGIE (MARIA MAGDALENA) LAUBSER  
STILL LIFE WITH POINSETTIAS (recto);  
STILL LIFE WITH TULIPS (verso)  
R 300 000 - R 500 000

For more information please contact our Johannesburg office on **011 880 3125** or send any enquiries to **info@swelco.co.za**

Register for our forthcoming auction and newsletters by visiting our website  
**www.swelco.co.za**



FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE

Have a love at first sound experience.

Phonak Audéo™ Marvel

A new all-in-one solution that improves your hearing in everyday life and even in the noisiest environments.

- Experience exceptional sound performance
- Connect seamlessly to Bluetooth® devices
- Rechargeable so you'll always stay connected
- Remote Support for the ultimate in convenience



SPECIAL PRICE

FOR PENSIONERS

Affordable for Pensioners

2-Year Warranty

No Follow-Up Charges

Latest Technology

Small and Discreet

Extensive Wireless Communication Portfolio Available

Supplements for Tinnitus

Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

CONTACT US TODAY:

(011) 849-6256

082 953 4628

Fairmount

6 George Ave,

Sandringham

Additional branches in

Benoni and Germiston

NEWS OF THE EMPIRE

Unlock Your Share

KEY TO FORTUNE

R21 MILLION

6 May - 4 Aug 2019

Car draw on 3 August 2019

BURN THE FLOOR

GLORIOUSLY SINFUL, NOT YOUR GRANDMAS' BALLROOM!

22 Aug – 8 Sep 2019

From R180 at

COMPUTICKET

Winter Funstays™

FROM R665\*

PER PERSON SHARING

JUNE - AUGUST 2019

Bookings 0860 777 900 or online. Quote Sizzle.





EMPERORS PALACE

\*Ts and Cs apply to all offers and promotions

emperorspalace.com

Follow us

f t i in You Tube

PEERMONT PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING PROGRAMME.

PROBLEM GAMBLING COUNSELLING TOLL-FREE HELPLINE 0800 006 008.

PLAYERS MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER. WINNERS KNOW WHEN TO STOP.

# Would-be ambassador ‘will strengthen ties between US and SA’

NICOLA MILTZ

South African-born businesswoman and couture handbag designer, Lana Marks, intends to deepen trade and investment ties and strengthen the relationship between South Africa and the United States (US) if she is appointed to the position of US ambassador to South Africa.

Marks went before a US senate committee hearing on foreign relations last week to motivate for her presidential nomination to this position.

The stylish Palm Beach, Florida, resident told a number of senators that her experience in business and her ties to South Africa, having been born and raised in East London, would hold her in good stead for the position. Her ability to speak three of the four most widely spoken of the 11 official languages, as well as her knowledge of the country, would also help, she said.

In her written testimony, Marks said she started her business as a small artisanal handbag enterprise from the kitchen table of her then two-bedroom apartment, and grew it into a global brand.

Marks, who left South Africa when she was in her early twenties, said she and her family represented the American dream, “achieved through hard work, determination, and perseverance”.

Asked by US Republican Senator Lindsey Graham how she was nominated, and why he should vote for her, Marks said that the day after the US presidential elections, she had called President Donald Trump to congratulate him. He told her she would make an “ideal candidate” as ambassador, and asked whether she’d be interested. She said she told the then-new president she would be honoured.

“I have started a business from scratch, [expanding it] throughout the United States and globally. I have set up all the supply chains, I’ve done all the negotiations. I feel this will hold me in good stead in increasing business between the United States and South Africa.”

She said she had a knowledge of South Africa, had served on various boards internationally, and had interfaced socially and with the media, experiences which she would use to the best of her ability as ambassador.

Democratic Party Senator Tim Kaine raised last year’s highly controversial tweet by Trump, in which he asked Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to “study the South Africa land and farm seizures and expropriations, and the large-scale killing of farmers”. In the widely criticised tweet, Trump also said, “the South African government is now seizing land from white farmers.”

He told the hearing that the quote was widely condemned, the anti-defamation league said it was “deeply troubling”, and it was a “white supremacist talking point”.

Kaine then asked Marks whether she supported President Cyril Ramaphosa’s land-reform efforts, and asked what the US could do to be helpful in this regard.

“Land is a historically fraught issue, a complicated issue, in which there are legitimate grievances by the majority,” Marks said. She said one had to consider “security, the economy, and productivity not only for South Africans, but for American companies doing business there”.

The issue was “being dealt with in a transparent manner which the administration approves of”. Marks went on to say that she thought it important to engage further going forward, and she would put all her effort into this.

On farm murders, she said, “No farms have been confiscated at this time...” She went on to call farm and other murders in South Africa “shocking” and “unacceptable”.

Marks said she would encourage the police to get



Lana Marks

involved in a more meaningful way to help combat this.

Kaine asked her if murders of farmers were dramatically higher than they were decades ago, dramatically lower, or about the same. “Any murders of farmers is shocking. Any murders in general are shocking. The ratio goes up, it goes down, it’s less than 1% of the total murders of the country, but they are all unacceptable. The trend has gone down, but it’s not acceptable.”

Marks who was one of five nominees for various positions, was accompanied to the hearing by her husband of 43 years, psychiatrist Neville Marks, her son Martin, her daughter Tiffany Isaacs, and her son-in-law, Simon, as well as her grandchildren Asher, Skyler and Mia.

In her written testimony before the senate, Marks spoke about her father, who she described as “a good and fair” man. “He escaped the anti-Semitism of Lithuania in the 1930s, and emigrated to South Africa, where he worked his way through university, earned a degree in engineering, and went into real-estate development.”

She said her top priority as ambassador would be the safety and security of all Americans in South Africa, and she would also work to cultivate the already robust relationship the US has with South Africa.

“South Africa is our most developed trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa. Deepening those ties would directly support one of the administration’s key objectives in the Africa strategy.”

Marks said American firms already contributed about 10% of South Africa’s GDP (gross domestic product), and employed about 200 000 South Africans directly and indirectly. Considering this, she would “work tirelessly” to expand markets in South Africa for American exporters, and ensure that American businesses and products were treated fairly.

On the subject of HIV and AIDS, Marks said that continued bipartisan support, and generous funding from the US to South Africa through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), could help put an end to the scourge “once and for all”. If confirmed, she would work intensively with the PEPFAR team and South African partners to ensure that US funding was applied in the most efficient and effective way.

Marks said the issues of women and youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunity were close to her heart.

After centuries of hardship and colonialism, South Africa had embraced democratic ideals, and served as “a beacon of hope” for the rest of Africa. She referred to the election of President Ramaphosa as “heartening”.

“We must reinforce our message to the South African people that we are true partners on the road ahead,” she said, pointing out that there were “deep, long-standing, and genuine ties of affection” binding the two countries, which she would strengthen if appointed ambassador.

We buy and sell cars

www.samotorcorporation.co.za

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





# SA to milk it as Clover deal looms large

NICOLA MILTZ

It's not time to pop the champagne yet, say insiders, but things are looking up for the once sour multibillion-rand Clover deal, which anti-Israel activists have been intent on sabotaging.

Last week, the Competition Commission approved, with conditions, the R4.8 billion sale of foods and beverages group Clover Industries to a consortium led by Tel Aviv-based Central Bottling Company (CBC).

"This is a good sign," said a respected insider who wants to remain anonymous, "It's not a done deal, but it's a sign that things are going in the right direction."

Clover's shares surged last Friday afternoon after the announcement, closing 11.9% up at R23.50, according to business media reports.

The commission recommended that the Competition Tribunal approve the transaction, Clover said in a statement. The deal has elicited widespread criticism from the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions campaign (BDS), the Congress of South African Trade Unions

(COSATU), and the trade union Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU).

The Competition Commission is a statutory body constituted in terms of the Competition Act. While the commission is the investigative and enforcement agency, the Competition Tribunal is the adjudicative body which rubber stamps decisions and adjudicates on matters referred to it by the commission. The Competition Appeal Court considers appeals against the decisions of the tribunal.



One of the purposes of the Competition Commission is to investigate, control, and evaluate restrictive business practices, abuse of dominant positions, and mergers in order to achieve equity

and efficiency in the South African economy. It does this to promote employment and advance the social and economic welfare of South Africans, among many other things.

Earlier this year, Johannesburg Stock Exchange-listed Brimstone Investment Corporation bowed out of the multibillion-rand foreign direct investment (FDI) deal led by CBC to buy South Africa's biggest dairy producer. This followed huge pressure from anti-Israel lobby groups, who accused CBC of being complicit in human-rights abuses and violating international law.

Investment company Brimstone was forced to reconsider its participation after the "widespread outrage". The consortium, however, reiterated its commitment to the deal in spite of this.

The alleged threats and intimidation by BDS-SA and other anti-Israel lobby groups took their toll on Mustaq Brey, the chief executive of the JSE-listed company. Brey and his partner, Fred Robertson, the executive chairman and co-founder of the successful, proudly South African company, faced a barrage of questions at the Brimstone annual general meeting (AGM)



**"I'LL PAY YOU A  
WOW!  
PRICE FOR  
YOUR CAR"**

**ALAN FINGER  
082 850 0004**

**ALFIN**  
AUTO GROUP  
[www.alfinauto.co.za](http://www.alfinauto.co.za)

held recently.

Marc Hasenfuss of BusinessLIVE said Robertson fielded heated questions at the meeting. "Judging by the audience reaction, there are a few shareholders quite bitter that the sweet, sweet Clover deal slipped away," he wrote.

The Israeli-led deal appears to be going ahead in spite of Brimstone's exit. Brimstone engaged in negotiations with potential replacement black economic empowerment (BEE) investors to take up its 15% in the consortium.

CBC is leading the transaction as the biggest shareholder in the Milco consortium (the entity that has offered R4.8 billion to buy Clover Industries).

According to Clover, the conditions of the deal relate to, among other things, employment

and local procurement "which were part of the investment case for the consortium Milco SA. The conditions applicable to the implementation of the Clover scheme are acceptable to both parties."

The Competition Tribunal's hearings are open to the public. In almost all cases, three tribunal members must hear a case and make a decision. Clover said the tribunal hearing would take place in coming weeks.

CBC, which is Israel's leading maker and distributor of popular beverages including Coca-Cola, Fuze Tea, Tuborg, and Carlsberg beers, sees the Clover deal as a way of expanding its operations in Africa. Clover, meanwhile, has 8 000 employees, and operates 13 plants.

The transaction will culminate in Clover's de-listing.

## Mick Davis calls for greater Tory funding on quitting his post

LEE HARPIN, JACK SOMMERS, JORDAN MOSHE

South African-born Sir Mick Davis has quit as chief executive and treasurer of the British Conservative Party, warning that the party risks putting Jeremy Corbyn in Downing Street if it isn't "properly resourced and financed".



Davis, a former Eskom executive director and chief executive of multinational mining company Xstrata, wrote to the party's biggest donors on Wednesday. In it, he wrote: "One of my great bugbears has been the lack of unity in our party."

Boris Johnson, elected leader on Tuesday and appointed prime minister on Wednesday afternoon, "should be free to choose a team at CCHQ [Conservative Campaign Headquarters]", he wrote.

"Good politics is not a cheap exercise, and if we are not properly resourced and financed, we will risk a very bad outcome – Jeremy Corbyn in Number 10," he said.

"Our new leader and prime minister can be effective only if a strong and unified party stands behind him. One of the key roles of CCHQ is to facilitate that outcome, but I'm asking you, our donors, upon whom we depend, to embrace that call for unity as well.

"There is today no room for bystanders. My successor will need your help, and I hope that you will step forward right now, and send a powerful message of unity, purpose, and commitment."

Born in South Africa in 1958, Davis attended Theodor Herzl School in Port Elizabeth, and went on to attend Rhodes University, becoming a chartered accountant. After serving as senior manager with accountants Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co, Davis was appointed to Eskom before joining Glencore in 1994. He served as executive chairman of Ingwe Coal Corporation from 1995 until his appointment in 1997 as chief financial officer and executive director of Billiton.

Davis also served as chief executive of Xstrata from 2001, but left after the company was taken over by Glencore in 2013. Subsequently, he formed mining venture X2 Resources.

He was also president of the council of members of the Jewish Leadership Council of the United Kingdom, and chairman of its board of trustees. The Jewish Leadership Council is the umbrella body of the largest Jewish charities and institutions in the UK.

Owing to his chairing of the UK Holocaust Memorial Commission, Davis was appointed a Knight Bachelor in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List. Heavily involved in politics, he was also appointed treasurer of the British Conservative Party in 2016, and chief executive of the party the following year.

In April, *The Times* reported that Sir Mick was using his own money to fund Tory campaigning in the European Parliamentary elections, as donors had deserted the party.

His task was to bolster party funds at a time when many of the party's traditional donors were deserting it, mainly over fears that its Brexit position would be disastrous for business.

Sir Mick's efforts are believed to have met only limited success, with political events beyond his control playing havoc with his efforts.

Continued on page 8>>

# THE HOUGHTON HOTEL

and

# GARY FRIEDMAN CATERERS

invite you to a



Mehadrin Commission

it'skosher

# Smorgasbord

30 July 2019 | 19h00 | R320pp

Book now! [www.ticketzone.co.za/gfc](http://www.ticketzone.co.za/gfc)



The Houghton Hotel, Lloyds Ellis Avenue, Houghton Estate

For more information 082 779 1664 | [enquiries@garyfriedman.co.za](mailto:enquiries@garyfriedman.co.za)

THE HOUGHTON HOTEL

Cash Bar



# Sorry seems to be the hardest word

Saying sorry is easy, but not if you really mean it. We say sorry all the time, but it doesn’t mean anything unless we intend to ensure we don’t repeat that for which we have apologised.

South Africans apologise all the time – for almost anything. We say sorry if we brush past a stranger. We say sorry if we sniff because we have a bad cold. We often say sorry when actually we mean “excuse me”. We are a sorry-saying bunch.

But when it really comes down to it, most people find apologising difficult because it requires admitting they did the wrong thing. For some people, saying sorry is a sure sign of weakness. Some people even lower their voices, and say it under their breath.

However, we all make mistakes. And, you can genuinely say sorry only if you can accept what you did was a mistake.

On our front page, we have a perfect example of a “sorry” that was certainly not genuine. It was so fake, it didn’t take long to be outed as such.

Tony Ehrenreich was formerly provincial secretary of the Western Cape region of COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions). He is never one to shy away from a fight, one just has to look at his history in online media to see this. He also doesn’t



appear to be one to apologise readily when it becomes apparent he may be in the wrong. Five years ago, he made some ugly, violence-provoking, and racist statements about the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), and anyone who supports Israel. He has been ordered by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to say sorry, and he actually went through the motions, or so it seemed.

Surprisingly, he even contacted a journalist from the *SA Jewish Report* to tell her he had apologised.

Only, his apology was clearly not from the heart. He apologised, but then had a proviso or qualification to his apology. “I am sorry, but...” doesn’t cut it.

When the SAJBD didn’t accept it, he went ballistic with the same old ugly rhetoric, proving that his “sorry” wasn’t genuine. It was rather a case of the so aptly called “fauxpology” or “nonpology”.

The question is: can you actually force someone to apologise? If they strongly believe – rightly or wrongly – in what they say, can you actually make them change their mind? And if not, what’s their apology worth?

We are in a similar situation with Bongani Masuku, also a COSATU activist, who made what we believed to be hate-filled utterances back in 2009. That year, the SAHRC ordered him to apologise for what it called “hate speech”. He refused, and the commission took it to the Equality Court. In July 2017, Judge Dimphetse Moshidi ordered Masuku to make an “unconditional apology”. The judge referred to Masuku’s comments as “in essence ... made to instil detestation, enmity, ill-will, and malevolence towards Jews in South Africa. It is distinct advocacy of hatred – nothing else.”

Masuku still refused to apologise, took the matter on appeal, and actually won.

The point is that we want a real apology, an unconditional apology from those who apparently hate us and make venomous statements to and about us. Ordering them to do it won’t work. Unless people are educated, and genuinely find a way to change their opinion, they can’t actually give a heartfelt apology. Perhaps we are going about this the wrong way.

Rather than having judges force people to say sorry, we should be finding ways to teach those particular folk who despise Israel and the Jewish people the truth.

I’m always amazed at how South Africans who have firm beliefs – often negative – go on trips to Israel with a communal organisation, and return with very different views.

When you see things for what they really are, without the blinkers provided by the anti-Israel lobby, it becomes hard to hate. It becomes hard to deny that Israel has rights, and isn’t always just bad.

Last week, we spoke to weatherman Simon Gear who had just returned from a trip to Israel. He didn’t suddenly think Israel was angelic, but he had a deeper understanding of the real issues at play.

This week, we spoke to Twitter king @Sowellnomics, whose views have changed drastically.

How I wish people like Ehrenreich and Masuku could visit Israel and see for themselves. It doesn’t take that much, just a willingness to keep an open mind. My sense is that you wouldn’t then have to order them to apologise, as they would see that the truth is quite different to their beliefs.

I’m always amazed at how people can hate Israel when they have never been anywhere near the country. They say things that are so far from the truth, and yet believe them so strongly, simply because this is a popular way of thinking.

Being anti-Israel in certain circles in South Africa is cool, and enhances the way others think of you. You are believed to be a human-rights activist because of widespread hatred towards Israel.

However, the truth is worth noting. It’s worth checking out the situation in the Middle East before making up your mind that Israel is the devil incarnate.

Shabbat Shalom!  
Peta Krost Maunder  
Editor

# Boris Johnson – is he good for Jews?

My grandmother had a very particular world view. For the 25 plus years I’ve been a journalist, regardless of what was happening in the world, she’d ask me, “Is it good for the Jews?”

Expand that to include Israel, and this is the fundamental question now being asked by British and diaspora Jewry and Israelis over the election of Boris Johnson as the new British Prime Minister.

A deeply divisive character, the answer is typically yes and no.

The official word from the Board of Deputies of British Jews has been to welcome him, and reflect on a “long and positive relationship” with the 55-year-old Oxford-educated, Conservative party politician.

However, the more left-leaning Liberal Judaism movement of the United Kingdom (UK) merely said it “looks forward to working with” him as it has “with Prime Ministers over the past decade”.

The fundamental appeal of Johnson is his perceived ability to prevent opposition Labour hard-left leader Jeremy Corbyn from getting to Downing Street. But it isn’t going to be easy.

Johnson succeeds Theresa May, who failed to deliver Britain’s departure from the European Union (EU). Like May, Johnson has committed himself to getting the UK out of the EU. But unlike May, who desperately tried to strike a deal, Johnson says he’ll leave with or without one. His chances, however, of negotiating a better deal than the one May secured before the 31 October deadline are slim.

A “no-deal” Brexit thus seems increasingly likely. Experts suggest this will probably slow down the economy, and assist Corbyn’s election prospects. For the Jews of Britain, Israel – and my grandmother – this is a nightmare scenario.

For now, though, Johnson still outpolls Corbyn. When asked to choose who they see as the most capable prime minister, 51% of Brits chose Johnson against 33% who picked the Labour leader. Johnson’s support base is hoping his appeal will extend to Labour backers, as it did when he twice clinched the London mayorship a decade ago in that heavily Labour city.

Three out of every five UK Jews live in greater London. Relations between the community and Johnson grew closer during his eight years as mayor, forged by a common enemy – previous London mayor Ken Livingstone.

The latter compared a British Jewish newspaper reporter to a Nazi concentration camp guard, and publicly embraced Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a Muslim cleric who allegedly supports Palestinian suicide bombings. His comments that Hitler had an affinity for Zionism led to him being suspended from the Labour party three years ago.

Johnson has repeatedly attacked Corbyn for being anti-Semitic. During his campaign for the Tory leadership, he promised that government spending on security for communal buildings would “absolutely” remain at least the same levels as today, and that he would “continue to support” the planned Holocaust memorial and learning centre in Westminster. He also said “wild horses wouldn’t keep me away” from visiting Israel as prime minister.

He was the first British mayor to lead a London-Israel trade mission.

“I’m proud that the UK is now Israel’s biggest trading partner in Europe,” he recently said, “and we saw huge investments both ways, partly as a result of that trip. We did a lot of good business, but we want to step it up. There’s much, much more to be done, and I will be actively supporting trade and commercial engagements of all kinds.”

But it’s worth noting that throughout his tenure as mayor, he repeatedly ignored requests from Jewish groups to ban the infamous pro-Palestinian and anti-Semitic Al Quds Day marches through the city. It was only last year, for the first time, that protestors were banned from carrying the Hezbollah flag that had been a common sight in previous

## DATELINE: MIDDLE EAST

Paula Slier



marches. The move came with Sadiq Khan, a Labour politician and practicing Muslim, as mayor.

Johnson’s maternal great-grandfather, Elias Avery Lowe, was Jewish, while his paternal great-grandfather was a Turkish-Muslim. Lowe was born into a Jewish Moscow family of textile merchants, prompting Johnson to tell the London-based Jewish weekly newspaper, *The Jewish Chronicle*, that, “I feel Jewish when I feel the Jewish people are threatened or under attack, that’s when it sort of comes out. When I suddenly get a whiff of anti-Semitism, it’s then that you feel angry and protective.”

And, to be fair, also when he’s on the election trail. While it’s rare for British politicians to call themselves Zionists, in part because of the actions of Zionist militants against British targets in pre-state Israel, Johnson had no problem earlier this month calling himself a “passionate Zionist” who “loves the great country” of Israel. No doubt he was trying to appeal to the large number of Jews who have left the Labour party.

In 2014, Johnson called Israel’s attack on Hamas in Gaza “disproportionate”, and “ugly and tragic”. This month he said, “It’s totally unacceptable that innocent Israeli civilians should face the threat of rocket fire and bombardment from Gaza.” So is he good for Israel? Yes and no.

In 2015, he was a supporter of the Iranian nuclear deal that Israel, from the beginning, was opposed to. But then he was the first UK foreign secretary to pledge to vote against a permanent United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council agenda item that singles out Israel for criticism. He has accused the UN of “disproportionate” bias against Israel. So, yes and no.

In December 2016, he pushed the UK to help draft and push through UN Security Council resolution 2334 against Israel’s settlement policy. Critics denounced the resolution’s wording as an attempt to delegitimise Israel’s claim to holy sites, and said it reflected an obsession with Israel while ignoring widespread slaughter in Iraq and Syria.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has congratulated Johnson on becoming prime minister.

American President Donald Trump called him a “good man” who is tough and smart. This, in spite of the fact that in the early days of Trump’s presidency, Johnson spoke dismissively about the American leader. The two have since developed a positive relationship.

Johnson is a supporter of the two-state solution, and has said he “could see the logic” in moving the British embassy to Jerusalem.

Like Trump, Johnson has made some derogatory remarks about Muslims. He’s mocked veiled Muslim women, saying that it’s “absolutely ridiculous that people should choose to go around looking like letter boxes”.

Many British Jews criticised his view, and the chairman of the Jewish Leadership Council, Jonathan Goldstein, wrote on Twitter that “Boris Johnson’s comments [were] totally disgraceful.”

“Extraordinary to think he was foreign secretary only a few weeks ago,” he tweeted.

For many, it’s even more extraordinary to think he’s prime minister today.





# השבת נועם הנשמות

The Jewish community of  
**JOHANNESBURG**  
Welcomes the famed Tzadik

## Kalever Rav Shlita בן כ"ק מרן אדמו"ר מקאלוב שליט"א

### Shabbos Pinchas

July 26-27

**Mincha & Kabalas Shabbos** .....5:25pm

**Sydenham Shul** - 24 Main St  
Rabbi Yossy Goldman

Words Of  
Inspiration

**Oneg Shabbos** .....9:00pm

**Home of Rabbi Jarred Bloch** - 30a Sunny Rd

**Shacharis** ..... 8:30am

**Ohr Somayach Glenhazel** - 10 Kingswood Rd  
Rabbi Yecheskel Auerbach

Words Of  
Inspiration

**Mincha & Sholosh Seudas** .....4:55pm

**Yeshiva College Campus** - 2 Long Ave  
Rabbi Avraham Tanzer

Words Of  
Inspiration

**Kabalas Kahal after Maariv until 10:30pm**

renowned for his  
inspiration, wisdom, advice  
and blessings for Chinuch  
Habanim (child rearing),  
Shalom Bayis (marital  
harmony), Parnassah  
(livelihood) and all other  
pressing issues of today.

Will be available to give Blessings, guidance and advice to individuals &  
families during the week at various locations

~ **see separate flyer** ~

Will also be available Sunday Morning (July, 28)

**10:00am-12:30pm**

at the Home of Dr Michael Setzer

30 Fairmount Ave

For info: **082 788 8100**



# Twitter king says anti-Israel groups have something to hide

TALI FEINBERG

South African anti-Israel lobby groups “don’t want South Africans to visit Israel because they have something to hide. They will lose control of the ‘apartheid narrative’ as soon as people touchdown at Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv.”

So says the man known as @Sowellnomics, who has 28 300 followers on Twitter. He has just visited Israel to learn about the realities on the ground.

This man, who prefers to go by his Twitter handle because he can’t reveal his identity for “work reasons”, has returned with strong opinions.

It was his first trip to Israel. “Since I was part of the South African generation called the ‘born frees’, I didn’t experience the brutality of apartheid like my parents did,” he told the *SA Jewish Report* this week. “I decided to visit Israel to get a first-hand view of an apartheid accusation because BDS [the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions campaign] and the ANC [African National Congress] consistently accuse Israel of being an apartheid state.

“I was born into a family which held conservative values in KwaZulu-Natal during the late 1980s,” says @Sowellnomics. “We all supported the ANC, and sided with the Palestinians. I was the first child in my family to graduate from university, and I have been working in the financial services industry focusing on client acquisition and consumer lending.”

Led by the South African Friends of Israel (SAFI), the focus of the trip was to allow a group of senior traditional and Christian leaders to experience Israel for themselves.

Three things shocked @Sowellnomics when he arrived in Israel. First, “I believed that Israel was a racist European ethno-state, but realised that 55% of Israel’s population is made up of people from North Africa, Ethiopia, the Middle East, and India. The Ashkenazi [Jews of European descent] are a minority of the population. Israel is actually the ‘rainbow nation’ of the Middle East.”

Second, “I believed that Israel built an apartheid wall to segregate

Arabs from Jews. I realised that Israel received independence in 1948, but built the wall – which is a security barrier – in 2000 only due to a wave of suicide bombings and mass stabbings after the second intifada. The barrier has stopped 99% of these attacks, so it’s been a success.”

and Ben-Gurion Airport. “No stone is left unturned when it comes to security. The checks were rigorous. It’s something I’ve never experienced before.”

As expected, he experienced a backlash from anti-Israel lobby groups for visiting the Jewish state. “I have been called an

them because they will drag you into the mud, get you dirty, and beat you. On the occasions where I have responded, I’ve always maintained my integrity, and provided the facts to back up my claims.”

“These groups don’t want South Africans to visit Israel because they will lose control of the ‘apartheid

democracy.”

He would advise every South African “who is genuinely interested in truth to visit Israel because they will find a modern, young, diverse, democratic, and technologically advanced country which is worlds apart from the horrific apartheid regime which our parents and grandparents experienced. But, be warned, you will come back with a few extra kilograms around the waistline because the food is amazing, and Israelis aren’t shy with their portion sizes!”

To the South African Jewish community, he says, “You have nothing to be ashamed of. But please don’t leave – we need you here to help build our economy and our country.”

“Those who seek to destroy Israel are well resourced, and have a strategy in place,” @Sowellnomics says. “They have infiltrated the media, our education system, and the South African body politic. Please raise your children and grandchildren to become ambassadors for Israel. Also support groups like SAFI and the South African Zionist Federation. They do amazing work, and are going to need all the support they can get as the global environment becomes more hostile to Israel.”



Members of the touring group, including @Sowellnomics, in Israel

Third, he expected different facilities like toilets, restaurants, shops, and schools for Jews and non-Jews, “But I quickly realised that no such segregation exists in Israel. Everyone can use the same facilities irrespective of their race or religion, unlike apartheid South Africa.”

For him, the most challenging aspect of the trip was the security checks at OR Tambo International

apartheid sympathiser, and have had my social-media account doxxed on numerous occasions.”

Doxxing is a cyber-attack that involves discovering the real identity of an internet user. The attacker then reveals the person’s details so that others can target him/her in malicious attacks.

In response, he says, “I refused to get into mud-slinging contests with

narrative’ when people see the country for themselves,” he says. “Also, 75% of our country is Christian, which means 75% of the population believe in the G-d of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Israel is also the place where Jesus was born, taught, and died. Restricting people from visiting Israel is an assault on religious freedom, and hence is also an assault on our

**Ehrenreich accused of ‘fauxpologising’ for hate-speech**

>>>Continued from page 1

validated the concerns raised on receipt of his initial apology. It said his apology was “nothing more than justification by Ehrenreich of his original statements, in which he incited violence against the SAJBD as well as by clear implication anyone else who disagrees with his extreme anti-Israel views.

“His bizarre belief that the tiny minority of Jews that support his ideology exonerate his incitement against the majority of South African Jewry is ludicrous, not to mention insulting,” the board said.

The SAJBD has on several occasions accepted apologies from individuals who have made offensive or anti-Semitic statements. “This has been done when there is a sincerity and acknowledgement of wrongdoing,” it said.

Milton Shain, emeritus professor of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town, and an expert in anti-Semitism, said this week, “It seems to me that the SAHRC should consider the matter, and assess the meaning of Ehrenreich’s statement. It’s clearly not unequivocal, and since [the SAHRC] has ruled, it’s for it to judge.”

Evidently this matter is far from over.

**Mick Davis calls for greater Tory funding on quitting his post**

>>>Continued from page 5

Sir Mick took over the party after the dire 2017 general-election result. He has long been a donor to the party, and is said to have earned £75 million (R1.2 trillion) when he left Xstrata as it was taken over in 2013.

In a sign that Theresa May recognised the challenges facing the party, she said on Sir Mick’s appointment, “The party will benefit from his entrepreneurial and leadership skills as he works with the team at Conservative Campaign Headquarters to make the improvements that we need, now and for the future.”

The significance of Davis’ resignation has been acknowledged across social media, with MPs paying tribute to him in tweets in the wake of his announcement. Fellow British Conservative Party politician Benjamin Bradley tweeted, “Important, I think, to recognise the work that Sir Mick

Davis has done at @Conservatives HQ, and thank him for two years of detailed planning and improvement, and in many ways keeping the car on the road through the chaos. His massive contribution should not be forgotten.”

Businessman Lord Michael Ashcroft tweeted, “Sir Mick Davis has resigned as chief executive and treasurer of the Conservative Party, and leaves the board of the party. Mick brought discipline to the organisation, and will be difficult to replace.”

“We should all salute Mick Davis. He should go down as a dutiful and generous true hero. Without him, the party would probably have collapsed months ago,” tweeted MP Sir Alan Duncan.

• The original version of this story was first printed in *The Jewish Chronicle*, thejc.com

www.Xtremebowling.co.za

011 440 1160

X

XTREME

BOWLING

NEW

KALEIDOSCOPIC BOWLING

TO BLOW YOUR MIND!!



# Zimbabwe community in dire straits

TALI FEINBERG

While South Africans have had a taste of “Day Zero” and load shedding, our compatriots north of the border face this reality every single day. Water and electricity in Zimbabwe are cut for hours and days at a time, compounded by sky-high prices and shortages of medicine, food, and fuel. “Electricity is cut for a minimum of 18 hours a day. Food is available, but it’s at least four times the price it was two months ago. Water is frequently cut, or not available at all. Medicine is either not available, or up to twenty times the price a year ago,” says Harare Hebrew Congregation President Arnold Joffe. While he is usually optimistic and upbeat, Joffe admits that the country and the community are in dire straits. “The community is suffering like everybody else. It borders on impossible. It’s a very disturbing, distressing situation.”

One aged home with three elderly Jewish residents, Fairways Home for the Aged, might close soon for a lack of funds. “Generators are seldom used by the aged home because fuel is hardly available and very expensive,” Joffe says. Asked if these conditions are a health threat, he answers “Absolutely. There are minimal utilities, and very expensive medicine.” Asked if anyone is going hungry, he says “I’m so far not aware of anyone in the community going hungry, but a couple are on the verge of doing so. People attempt to carry on as close to normal as possible, but of course they are badly affected.” Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft visited Harare last week in his capacity as spiritual leader and chief executive of the African Jewish Congress. “It is much worse than it was in the past. But, Zimbabweans absorb crises and survive. The community rallies to assist each other when necessary. [Its members] are there to stay. Most won’t leave.”



A Rolls-Royce in a parking area in Harare

However, most Israelis have left. “In most African countries, Israeli companies see opportunities, and go into businesses with the government. They have now all pulled out as the

government has stopped paying for services. This shows the level of despair – when the Israelis leave, you know it’s not good.” Silberhaft says that when he was there, inflation was 173%. “One can only get medicine that is on a script from the black market. There is no bread because of a maize shortage. In fact, the famous Lobel’s Bakery closed last week. Traffic lights aren’t working, and the potholes are horrendous. For community members who can afford domestic helpers, they come in at 22:00 at night to do laundry, ironing, and cooking when there is electricity.” When things are prosperous, one sees pregnant women in the streets, he says, but there are almost none to be seen, as people are so malnourished. And, for the first time, he is seeing white beggars on street corners, and there has been an increase in crime by white people. There is also a huge discrepancy between the haves and have-nots, with Rolls-Royces and Bentleys on the roads. Shelley Lasker, who spends a few months of the year in Zimbabwe, says, “Bulawayo is just one long, snaking fuel queue. In 2007 and 2008, we thought things couldn’t get worse, but they are now much worse. Then, you could still rely on people outside of the country.” Now, with a ban on foreign currency [as legal tender] and massive inflation, funds from other countries are worthless.

“We’re dealing with a severe drought on top of antiquated infrastructure. Millions of people have no access to clean water, and a cholera epidemic is imminent. There’s a huge shortage of drugs,” she says. “The [Jewish] community is fairly ‘well cushioned’, and everyone can make a plan, for example, neighbours share water from boreholes. There is still a sense of help and support.” A community member who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the worst aspect of the crisis was that it was forcing people to do things they would never have done in normal circumstances.



Evidence of the huge discrepancy between the haves and have-nots – a Lamborghini in a petrol queue in Harare

“It’s forcing people to become criminals. How will we fix that? It will take a generation to undo it. People will lie, bribe, or cheat to get something they need. Even the nicest person will stab you in the back if it allows them to get something. It’s inhumane. Besides Venezuela, we are probably the poorest economy in the world.” “We have electricity about 30% of the time,” the community member said. “It comes on at 22:30 at night, so we stay awake and work up till

02:00 to get things done. We can cope – we have a gas stove, even though fuel is like gold. Even if there is water, there is no hot water because the geysers don’t have time to heat up. Shop prices change every day.” “The mood [in the country] is quite despondent, almost desperate, as people wonder how much worse the economic crisis can get as they struggle to support themselves and their families,” says human rights advocate Alana Baranov, who comes from Zimbabwe. “Zimbabwe’s latest economic predicament is a result of deepening political crisis in the country – which has worsened under President Emmerson Mnangagwa – and the misguided economic policies his government has put in place, the most recent of which is the move to return to the Zimbabwean dollar,” she explains. Says Silberhaft, “People are saying that when Mugabe was ousted, hope died, meaning that when Mugabe was in power, they had hope that things would improve once he was removed. But now they see that things are just getting worse.” However, in spite of all, he says the community remains optimistic. “They are still smiling, and are proud of their community. Miraculously, they survive. We pray for better days.”

53 Garden Road, Orchards, Johannesburg

★★★★ (est. 1996)

ACCOMMODATION

Senior Citizens

Independent Living Suites

Rates from R18 500 to R26 500 per month

is now offering a 12 month rental option Exclusive to Senior Citizens. Fully furnished suites, including Meals, DSTV, Water & Electricity, Wi-Fi Plus FREE Shuttle service to local Malls every weekday.

Minutes away from Links field Clinic, Easy access to Doctors on call, Nurses, Dentists, Physio, Hatzolah and within walking distance to Shuls and Norwood Village & Mall. We provide 24 hour security and all our units have Air conditioning, Fridge, Microwave, Safe, cutlery, crockery and serviced Monday to Friday.

Garden Place has 2 swimming Pools, 2 Dining Rooms plus an Entertainment area and wonderful gardens. There are three types of units to choose from Standard Rooms, Studios and Cottages. Management reside on the property.

Call Garden Place 011 485 3800/1 to view our beautiful property

www.gardenplace.co.za or see us on Facebook

EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE | EXTRAORDINARY TRUST

Property Sales | New Projects  
Land Sales | Rentals | Investments  
Property Management

Tel + 972 50 446 -9515 | WhatsApp +27 82 608 0168

ISRAEL

PROPERTIES

BY STAMELMAN & PARTNERS

trevorstamelman@gmail.com | www.israel-properties.com



# New Latvian president is second Jewish head of state outside Israel

JORDAN MOSHE

Egils Levits, the former Latvian justice minister and representative at the European Court of Justice, was recently elected president of the Latvian Republic.

Taking up this position makes Levits the second Jewish head of state outside of Israel. The first is Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, a 41-year-old Jewish comic actor, who took up office in May this year.

Levits is a lawyer and political scientist. He served as a judge in the European Court of Justice, and co-authored his country’s declaration of independence.

“As I take my oath of the president of Latvia in the 101st year of the existence of the Republic of Latvia, I’m aware that I have been passed the baton from my predecessors, all who have built and shaped the character and significance of this post in various circumstances of our complicated history,” said Levits in his inaugural speech.



Egils Levits signing the presidential vow in the Latvian parliament

Photo: Baltic News Network

dissidents who were expelled from the Soviet Union in 1972 as the KGB (Russian committee for state security) viewed them as a threat to the communist regime.

The family settled in West Germany with Ingeborga’s relatives, returning to Latvia in 1990 when the country regained its independence. Before their return, Levits obtained law and political science degrees in Germany, equipping himself to enter politics upon his return to Latvia.

His involvement in the political sphere began in the late 1980s, when Levits became a member of the Latvian People’s Front Council and a member of the Latvian Civil Congress, established in 1989. In May 1991, he co-authored Latvia’s declaration of independence, and participated in the development of the preamble to the country’s constitution.

In 1993, he was elected fifth parliamentary deputy from the list

Levits, 64, made the solemn vow on 8 July, when he officially became Latvian president. He replaced Raimonds Vējonis, who didn’t seek a second term.

His appointment comes just a few weeks after that of Zelensky, which resulted in Ukraine becoming the only country (outside of Israel) to have both a Jewish president and prime minister. Prime Minister

Volodymyr Groysman was elected prime minister in 2016, although he announced his resignation in protest against the new president’s decision to dissolve parliament.

Levits was born in Riga, Latvia, during the Soviet occupation to engineer Jonass Levits and the Latvian poetess Ingeborga (also known by her pen name, Aija Zemzare). Both were anti-Soviet

of the conservative-liberal Latvijas Ceļš party, thereafter serving as ambassador of Latvia to Austria, Switzerland, and Hungary.

He went on to serve as Latvia’s justice minister, be elected Latvia’s representative in the European Court for Human Rights, and became a judge in the European Court of Justice. His achievements resulted in him in 2018 being named “European man of the year in Latvia” by the European Movement.



Levits has committed himself to reducing inequality and making Latvia a modern country.

Levits’ rise to the presidency began with his being named presidential candidate by the National Alliance party in both 2011 and 2015, coming second in votes in both rounds to Vējonis.

Levits was again identified as a strong candidate for the presidency in early 2019, and in April, the parties of the ruling coalition announced that they would support his candidacy. Parliament elected him on 29 May, and Levits was subsequently inaugurated.

The Latvian presidency is primarily a ceremonial post, but grants the president the status of commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and the power to appoint the prime minister and ambassadors. The office of prime minister has been held by Latvian linguist, businessman, and politician, Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, since January this year.

Levits has committed himself to reducing inequality and making Latvia a modern country. He has reportedly taken to his new role with determination, working to address the country’s public media crisis, and keeping himself apprised of development plans for the country’s armed forces and potential military threats.

He also recently met Lithuania’s new president, Gitanas Nausėda, on a visit to Riga to reaffirm good neighbourly relations between the two nations. Although he has apparently spoken little of his Jewishness in public, the Jewish Community of Lithuania portal states that Levits has stressed that Latvia should follow Lithuania’s example in supporting Jewish culture and history issues.

Levits has urged the Latvian people to work for the country’s benefit, saying in his inaugural speech, “We have inherited our country from previous generations, which won and shaped it. Our task is hand over our country to next generations better than we inherited it. One’s own country must be continuously adjusted, renewed, and modernised so that it will be sustainable. That’s our duty to history.”

## Jewish reporter brought 1969 moon landing into America’s living rooms

JOSEFIN DOLSTEN – JTA

In the 1960s, astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and John Glenn were household names, idolised as g-d-like figures by a public enraptured by NASA's (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's) forays into space.

There was also Jules Bergman, who almost attained the same fame in spite of never actually going into space.

The charismatic television reporter covered all of NASA's 54 manned space flights during his lifetime. One of those was Apollo 11, which 50 years ago, on 20 July 1969, became the first manned spacecraft to land on the moon.

A long-time science editor for *ABC News*, Bergman was the first network correspondent assigned to cover space full time. That made him “almost as much of a celebrity as the astronauts he covered”, the *New York Times* wrote in his obituary in 1987.

Bergman, who grew up in New York City, took the subject so seriously that he spent almost as much time as the first astronauts at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. He said he wanted to give viewers “not an ivory-tower discussion of science, but an on-the-spot report of discoveries which are changing the lives of human beings daily”.



Jules Bergman covered all of NASA's manned space missions during his lifetime

*CBS's* avuncular anchor, Walter Cronkite, might have been the best-known “face” of the space programme, but the unsmiling, dark-haired Bergman was almost certainly the best prepared.

He took part in various simulations to show viewers the challenges and conditions of space travel, including being subjected to five Gs – five times the force of gravity. He undertook the exercise routine NASA's astronauts did to prepare themselves for space travel, and spent the entirety of a 12-hour broadcast in a harness identical to one worn by astronauts to measure their vital signs.

“I know that he was incredibly passionate about NASA, and all of space exploration. That comes across even when you watch him,” his nephew, Mark Bergman, told the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* in a phone interview on Wednesday.

The reporter’s legacy lives on even after his death in 1987 at the age of 57. Ten years earlier, Bergman was diagnosed with a non-malignant brain tumour and had surgeries to remove a number of growths. He was also suffering from seizures. The National Association of Physician Broadcasters gives out a Jules Bergman award for excellence in reporting. Footage of Bergman is seen in the Hollywood dramas *Apollo 13* and *Hidden Figures*, as well as countless documentaries.

Though he didn’t speak publicly about his Jewish identity, he was perhaps the only Jew whose public image was so tightly bound with the early space programme. Judith Resnick became the first Jewish-American to go into space in 1984. Two years later, she was aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger, which broke apart shortly after take-off, killing her and the rest of the crew.

Bergman was widely admired for his work, but also had a bit of a reputation among colleagues.

“[H]e was the most disliked person, I guess, in the programme, but he did his homework, and he was real good,” Jack King, who served as NASA's public-affairs officer, said in part one of the three-part *PBS* documentary *Chasing the Moon*, which is airing this month.

Fellow journalist George Alexander also didn’t mince his words.

“There were several prima donnas in broadcasting, Jules Bergman being the pre-eminent example,” Alexander said in the documentary. “Jules wanted you to know that he could have been an astronaut.”

Bergman’s nephew was aware of his reputation, though he said his uncle was “always really nice” to him.

“[H]e was a smart guy doing something that nobody else was doing, so there certainly could have been some jealousy from his competition, and others in his industry,” he said.

He recalled his uncle giving him and other family members a peek into a world few had access to, inviting them into the press area at the Kennedy Space Center and to *ABC's* studio in New York.

“Anytime he was on covering a story, it was a big deal,” his nephew said. “A moment to pause at the dinner table. We all had to shut up and listen.”

Bergman was so enthusiastic about flight that he earned a pilot’s license, and wrote about it in the book *Anyone Can Fly*. He won an Emmy award for his documentary, *Closeup on Fire*, as well as many journalism awards.

In his work as a reporter, he covered the highlights of the space programme as well as its tragedies. In January 1967, he reported the grim news that three astronauts had died on the launchpad as fire swept through their Apollo 1 spacecraft.

“They died at T minus, 10 minutes into a simulated launch countdown,” he said, “helplessly trapped inside their spacecraft.”

But he also witnessed the triumphs. When Armstrong and Aldrin became the first humans to land on the moon, Bergman described the moment for many of the 650 million people worldwide who were watching on television.

“What’s happening now up there is that at this point, Aldrin and Armstrong are scheduled to, and we have every reason to think they are, eating dinner, like millions of other Americans,” said Bergman, allowing himself a rare chuckle. “Who can imagine any more unusual place for two Americans to have dinner than on the moon?”

Photo: Denver Post via Getty Images





Since 1998  
Celebrating 22 years

# CYCALIVE 2019



Winner of Gauteng  
Premiers Award



**CycAlive thanks the generous sponsors for supporting  
this pioneering and inspirational Torah Academy initiative**

**WE WELCOME THE DELEGATION OF ISRAELI STUDENTS SPONSORED BY P2G**

**Johannesburg to Durban**

**Please join us for the launch this Sunday at The Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory**

Departure from Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory 107 Central St, Houghton.

**Sunday 28 July.** Ceremony 9.00 – 9.45 am. Departure 10.00.

Arrival Snell Parade and Somsteu Street, Durban. **Thursday 1 August** at 3.30pm.



**ADDITIONAL SPONSORS:** Lite Ads, Aquazania, Zartek, Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry, Treeline, UFO, Eyetique, Bhanis Cycles, Burger & Brew, Seattle Coffee

Success Brokers



# FaceApp could be ageing people with worry

JORDAN MOSHE

Whether you’re a user of Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, the odds are you’ve been inundated with pictures of wizened and wrinkly faces this past week.

Users across the spectrum have been snapping selfies using FaceApp, a mobile application which adds a few years to features, and shows you how well – or how badly – you will age.

With the app’s viral surge, questions are being asked about the safety of personal data. According to tech experts, there is no cause for panic, but the trend should serve as a reminder of the numerous threats to our personal information.

FaceApp, developed by Russian company Wireless Lab, has been around for a few years, but its recent spike in popularity was caused by the launch of the #AgeChallenge. More than 100 million people have reportedly downloaded the app to take up the challenge, among them many celebrities.

Essentially, you supply a photo of yourself to which the app applies AI (Artificial Intelligence) filters to show how you might look in your old age. Photos of users made elderly have been uploaded and exchanged copiously over the past few days, shared among friends and family to determine who would age the most gracefully.

However, users have been surprised to discover that the app’s creators are uploading the images to their servers to apply the filter. Yaroslav Goncharov, the chief executive of the Russian company, has reportedly confirmed that photos uploaded to the app are stored on the company’s servers to save bandwidth, but he says they are deleted shortly thereafter.

It has left many understandably concerned, but investigations conducted have yet to reveal any dishonest behaviour on the part of the Russian company. “The primary risk is that people waste too much productive time on a frivolous pursuit,” assures tech expert Arthur Goldstuck. “I have yet to see evidence that it represents any more of a threat to privacy or identity protection than any of dozens of apps that many of us use every day.”

There is the belief that the app gathers personal data, but even this is not unusual, Goldstuck says. “It requires access to the phone’s camera and photo gallery to allow users to search for and find the images they wish to manipulate. How that is a greater threat than having a Facebook or LinkedIn profile pic available on the internet baffles me.

“Every app is different, has different permissions, and gives different access. Tarring all apps with the same brush is like regarding all food as poisonous because one plant is dangerous.”

The fact is that any app we use on a regular basis can pose as great a risk to our online safety and privacy as FaceApp potentially does. “People will throw away any security for social gratification or entertainment online,” says Eli Black, cyber security manager for Israel’s foreign trade administration. “It doesn’t matter how often you warn them. If they can



share a meme, a cat video or a selfie, they will throw caution to the wind and share. That is standard user behaviour.”

He says the data generated online by users is of considerable value to numerous companies. However, most of it is used for standard activities without harmful effects, including marketing campaigns. “Facebook employs seven large marketing companies, all of which use dozens of third-party solutions to make sense of online human behaviour by sorting and using the data it generates.

“This is true of all social media. Computers generally store and use the data. Companies claim there is no risk because no person sees it, only computers do.”

Black says FaceApp is no different.



nor to believe that data is at a greater risk in Russian hands than in American hands. There is no reason to believe that having a picture of you is of any concern – anyone can google it anyway.”

He says the furore over FaceApp is mostly political babble between countries, but serves as another reminder that we need to be mindful about our habits online.

“People should always consider whether or not they want their

information online,” says Black. “Simply, this is a lifestyle choice. Today it’s almost impossible to avoid it, and once you’ve decided to go online, there’s no real going back.”

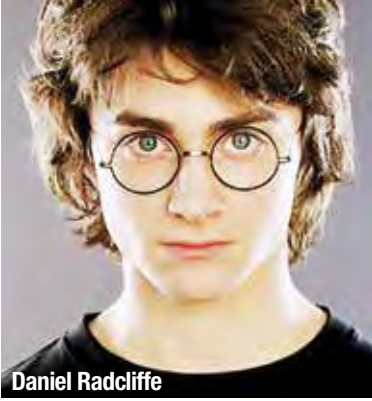
Once that step has been taken, security across all internet access platforms becomes essential. “Whether you use a phone app or computer app, it’s a window into your personal information in some way,” Black says.

Information which goes into cyberspace is all stored in some way, and users with access devise ways to trawl through it to find something valuable. Says Black, “Every marketing company out there uses tech to find information of value. They search for certain key words people are using to target them with adverts. If malicious users gain access to data, they also look for any useful information they can use. When this happens, one can get fraudulent emails and phone calls, and be tricked into divulging further information. This is the most basic way of hacking.”

It is therefore vital to understand that every time you use any app or device to access the internet, safety measures are necessary. “Buying a device and using it without implementing safety measures is like buying a house without putting a lock on the front door,” says Black. “If you don’t secure your information with simple software that will tell you when alarming activity is going on, you’re at risk.”

Beyond installing software which

detects malware and hacking, Black says the most basic way to be cautious is to change passwords regularly – every two months at least. “The biggest banks and businesses have experienced cases of fraud simply because no passwords were changed,” he says. “If it remains the same for too long, you increase the chance of someone gaining access to inboxes and bank accounts. All you need is a hacker with access to your emails from First National Bank, for example, and you could find your bank account has been targeted.”



## Lost in translation? There’s an app for that

MOIRA SCHNEIDER

After matriculating at Herzlia High School in Cape Town about twelve years ago, Glenn Stein spent a year in Argentina as a Rotary Exchange scholar. It was there that the seed was planted for what he today describes as his “personal passion project”, an app that facilitates communication between medical practitioners and those whose first language isn’t English.

In the small town that he was sent to, his hosts didn’t speak English, and he didn’t speak a word of Spanish. For the first four months, he battled to get a grasp of the language, something he found “incredibly stressful”. Eight months in, he was fluent.

“It changed my perspective on life,” he says. “I could communicate, and I made longstanding friends.”

Stein was participating as a change-maker on Mandela Day last Sunday, hosted by Mensch at the Gardens Community Centre in Cape Town.

Mensch is a platform that supports and facilitates change-makers and change-making activities to bring about social transformation. Its Mandela Day and Mitzvah Day projects have become popular as community volunteering events.

On Stein’s return to South Africa from his year in Argentina, he realised there were people around him who had come to the cities seeking employment and education, who hadn’t had much exposure to English growing up. He estimates that up to 50% of South Africans deal with this issue on a daily basis.

“How do they get by? With great difficulty. Going home isn’t an option. Their ability to learn is hindered because of a lack of language.

“English is seen as the language that will get you jobs. Also, for example, if you go to the doctor, he asks you questions that you don’t understand, and you try to explain your symptoms without the language”, not to mention the repercussions of possibly incorrect diagnoses and not understanding the treatment prescribed.

Stein is managing director of Aweza, an internationally award-winning tech-based initiative that strives to empower South Africans to overcome language barriers across all sectors of society. He is the winner of the International Netexplo Innovation Award (2016).

As a mobile software developer and product manager, he has always been driven by the idea of using tech for civic good.

His app, AwezaMed, facilitates communication between medical practitioners and those whose first language isn’t English. It has been piloted in the area of reproductive health, in partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

During the course of its development, the 30-year-old Stein spent months sitting in on medical consultations (with permission) and speaking to doctors and nurses. The app has been launched over ten pilot sites in rural and urban public clinics and hospitals across South Africa.

The trial has made the medical text-to-speech app available to 50 doctors and nurses for the past six months.

Stein spent years building the app, which consists of thousands of blocks of code. The project combines three human language technologies: automatic speech recognition, machine translation, and text-to-speech, to establish a speech-to-speech translation system, catering for speech input in one language, and speech output in another.

The app comprises 1 800 medical phrases, questions, explanations, instructions, reassurances, and patient responses

in Afrikaans, isiXhosa, and isiZulu, the result of hundreds of hours spent with doctors and nurses compiling the list.

The list was then translated into three national languages and synthesised into audio, using the CSIR’s text-to-speech engine.

Stein wants to add Portuguese, French, Arabic, and Swahili to the app. His dream is to see AwezaMed make its mark across the African continent, and beyond.

It assists doctors to diagnose patients accurately, as opposed to, for example, calling in the male security guard who isn’t a qualified translator to translate what are obviously sensitive issues in the field of reproductive health.

“I see myself as a language activist,” he says. “I embrace language as a tool to foster understanding and make the world a better place. It’s the lens through which we see the world and it can, in extreme cases, mean the difference between life and death.”

Stein notes that many English first-language speakers in this country are monolingual as they’ve never had to learn a language to survive.

“You don’t need to become fluent to show respect to your fellow Xhosa-speaking South Africans,” he says. “You could learn five or six phrases. You don’t need to put in a lot of effort. You’ll be amazed at the difference it can make.”

“If you speak to a man in his mother tongue, you speak to his heart,” he says, paraphrasing Mandela.



Glenn Stein



# Bacher laments current SA Jewish contribution to sport

MIRAH LANGER

Acclaimed former South African cricketing great and sports administrator, Dr Ali Bacher, says South Africans Jews no longer excel in administering or playing sport for the country after having done so for so many years.

“Sadly, in 2019, sport at a high level within the Jewish community is at its lowest ebb; it’s almost non-existent. There is hardly a Jew today playing provincial sport or for our country,” he said.

Bacher, who was addressing an event this week in Houghton organised by the Union of Jewish Women, cited numerous previous great Jewish South African sportspeople, noting, for example, that there had been 10 Jewish Springbok rugby players, “who not only played for our country, but played with distinction”.

Yet “the only Jewish sportsman of note today is Dean Furman, who plays for Bafana Bafana,” the former South African cricket captain suggested.

Bacher attributed the status quo to a number of factors. First, he said, local clubs like Balfour Park (where he used to play) were once great platforms for budding Jewish sports performers. “It was a really formidable sporting entity where Jews migrated, played sport, and then went on to play provincially. It was a home for so many young Jewish sportsmen on the weekend.”

It was a pity that the club had fallen into financial difficulties, and eventually closed.

Second, he said, emigration in the Jewish community meant that there was now a much smaller pool of potential.

Lastly, he suggested, the lifestyle stresses of

young people were greater than before.

Universities which once encouraged top sportspeople to come to their institutions by offering support for their degrees are no longer doing so. As such, “students now are under so much pressure to excel from an educational point of view, they can’t do both”.



Dr Ali Bacher

In regard to the general state of cricket in South Africa, Bacher said the sport was probably in for a tough time. Though the national side has good players, they are still young and need more experience. “We need a bit of time to have these young players come through,” he said.

Born in Roodepoort to Lithuanian

Jewish parents, Bacher was at the helm of transformation of cricket at the end of apartheid.

He recounted the impetus for his involvement in this change. “I’m a very positive person. I’ve always been positive about my country, and I still am. In 1986, for the first time, I got nervous. There were horrific killings in the townships. I called a few people [in the cricket world], and said, ‘We have to do something. We can’t sit back.’

“We went into Soweto ... We didn’t know what to expect. We got lost, and people were looking at us thinking, ‘What are these whites doing in Soweto?’,” he said.

Yet, when he and his group eventually got to the sports fields where they were going to introduce cricket skills, he was amazed to see “about a thousand kids, and for the next few weeks, they kept coming back”.

As he rolled out cricket training programmes in these poverty-stricken areas, township children got to experience the glory of the gentleman’s game, and enjoy the euphoria of getting a wicket, or batting for six.

Bacher shared a number of other memories of this time, in particular his interaction with Nelson Mandela.

He recounted how as cricket began to emerge from the racial divide of the past, “the world was looking to us to play international cricket”. However, there was no talk within international sporting institutions of that involvement reaching the level of test cricket or the world cup. During Bacher’s first meeting with Mandela in 1991, there were Swedish journalists in the room. When one of the journalists asked Mandela about South

Africa participating in the 1992 world cup, “Mandela said, ‘Of course, they must play’.”

The comment “went around the world”, recalled Bacher. By the next day, Bacher had received calls from key international cricket officials. The ball was rolling, and it culminated in South Africa’s participation in the world cup the next year.

Bacher reminisced about another encounter with Mandela a few years later. One day, Mandela simply phoned him, and asked him to pop over. “Off I go to his home in Houghton. We sit down, and have a cup of tea. He is waffling around.

“He said, ‘Ali, you know, two weeks ago, I went to Pietersburg. I went to one village about an hour away. Ali you can’t believe the conditions, the toilets, nurseries, the state of the buildings.’ And then, he said, ‘Ali, would you say that I helped you chaps get a little bit back in world cricket?’. I said, ‘Of course!’”

Then Mandela made his pitch, saying, “It would be a nice gesture if you gave me a million rand to give to the community.”

Bacher said he told Mandela he would have to get the approval of the board of Cricket South Africa. “Fine, I’ll leave it to you,” Mandela said.

At first, the proposal didn’t go down well at the board meeting.

Raymond White, the then chairman of Cricket South Africa, came up with a cunning plan. “He [turned to the board], and said, ‘All those opposed put up your right hand’. I tell you, not one person put up their hand.”

Bacher delivered the cheque to Mandela the next day. He brought along his family, including his two grandchildren, who were then about five and six years old. “Mandela put my grandchildren on his lap, and sang to them. He really was the most extraordinary person.”

## Americans don’t know much about Judaism – but love Jews, survey shows

BEN SALES – JTA

American Jews know more about religion in general than their non-Jewish neighbours, a new survey shows.

Americans who are not Jewish, meanwhile, don’t know a lot about Judaism. But they like Jews more than any other religious group. And, they think there are more Jews in the country than there actually are.

The data comes out of a new survey on what Americans know about religion published on Tuesday by the Pew Research Center. The survey asked a group of diverse Americans a set of 32 questions about religion, ranging from knowledge of the Bible and Christianity to knowledge of Judaism and other religions.



Photo: Godong/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

From left, symbols of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism

Ten of the questions related to Judaism in some way.

The survey was conducted from 4 to 19 February, and included a total of nearly 11 000 respondents. The margin of error for the whole group was 1.5%. The margin of error for the Jewish sample was 8.6%.

Here are some takeaways:

Americans don’t know a lot about Judaism. Out of four questions on Judaism, non-Jewish Americans got a dismal score. They averaged less than one out of four correct. Besides Jews

themselves, atheists did the best on the Jewish questions, averaging 1.3 correct answers.

A total of 29% of respondents knew that Shabbat begins on Friday night; 27% knew Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) is associated with Judaism; 24% knew that Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish new year; and 13% knew Maimonides was a Jewish scholar.

Jews did much better on these questions than non-Jews, averaging 3.1 correct out of four.

Americans as a whole also didn’t know how many Jews live in the country. Fewer than one in five knew that Jews make up less than 5% of Americans.

Jews didn’t only outscore their non-Jewish counterparts when it came to Jewish knowledge. They outscored everyone when it came to general religious knowledge, too.

Besides the questions on Jewish practice, history and text, seven questions were about Christianity, nine were about the Bible, including the New Testament, nine were about “world religions”, two were about atheism and agnosticism, and two were about religion in the United States.

Jews were the only religiously affiliated group to get a majority of the questions right. On average, Jews got 18.7 questions right out of 32, as opposed to a national average of 14.2. Atheists and agnostics also got a majority of questions right, but the closest religiously affiliated group was evangelical Christians, who got an average of 15.5 correct.

As other surveys have shown, Americans tend to have warm feelings toward Jews. Asked to rate religious groups on a thermometer scale, from 1 to 100, Jews got an average rating of 63, the highest of any group. Forty-one percent rated Jews at 67 or higher, while 8% rated Jews 33 or lower. Atheists and Muslims scored lowest, both with an average thermometer score of 49.



LEARN HEBREW  
IN 14 LESSONS

Hebrew  
Ulpan

registration

MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY

6:00pm-7:30pm

venue

BEYACHAD BUILDING,  
RAEDENE, JHB

cost

R2500 FOR 14 LESSONS  
*Aliyah discounts available*

contact

admin@sazf.org or 011 645 2601  
www.sazionfed.co.za

SOUTH  
AFRICAN  
ZIONIST  
FEDERATION



# Does chicken soup really work as ‘penicillin’?

JORDAN MOSHE

Chicken soup is easily the lifeblood of any Jew, flowing through the veins from *kop* (head) to *kishkes* (guts). The aroma of chicken soup pervading the house on a Friday afternoon is simply unforgettable.

Beyond its legendary status as a comfort food, this iconic and quintessentially Jewish dish has also been feted as something of a cure-all, ladled out generously at the first sign of cold, heartbreak, or any other physical or emotional malaise. But how did the famed dish become a Jewish icon, and just how healthy is a bowl of chicken soup? Is this golden broth truly the “Jewish penicillin”, or is this status nothing but a *bobba mayseh* (old wives’ tale)?

Chicken soup is considered a restorative dish in many cultures, among them Chinese communities where traditional medicine is practised. Archaeological evidence suggests that people started using poultry in soup soon after they discovered how to boil water.

The earliest recorded evidence of chicken soup being used as a therapeutic dish dates back to Chinese antiquity. Medical practitioners hailed the elixir a “yang food” – a warming dish capable of curing various diseases. Like the Chinese, Greek physician Galen recommended chicken soup for curing ailments such as migraine, leprosy, constipation, and fever.

Belief in the curative properties of chicken soup travelled across the globe, and Jews were also convinced of its medicinal powers. The Talmud related that the chicken of the sage Rabbi Abba, when cooked, served him as a general remedy.

Towards the end of the Middle Ages,

the Jewish philosopher and physician, Maimonides, recommended chicken soup for the weak and the sick. In his book, *On the Cause of Symptoms*, he recommends broth cooked with hens and other fowl to “neutralise body constitution”. Such a dish, he says, also plays a role in curing leprosy and asthma.

Still, the dish remained relatively uncommon until the 15th century, when a revival in the practice of raising chickens compensated for the scarcity of other foods, and people began to eat chicken soup regularly. The first Ashkenazic chicken soup was made in the poor Jewish villages of Russia, a product of the thrifty use of every part of the chicken to make a different dish. Bones and remaining scraps went into the pot with water and seasoning, creating a dish to be eaten alongside pupiks, schmaltz, p’tcha, and chopped liver. Sephardi Jews developed their own variations, customarily dishing out a *caldo de gayina vieja*, or old hen chicken broth, to women who had given birth, and sick people.

Recipes for chicken soup continued to be passed down for generations, and the properties of the dish extolled across the globe. The golden elixir reached the New World in the 16th century, but it was only in the 1800s that recipes first started being published and it was called “chicken soup”.

The American film producer and co-founder of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios, Louis B. Mayer, insisted that chicken-matzo ball soup be served daily in his boardroom, made only using his mother, Sarah’s, recipe.

According to Joan Nathan’s book *Jewish Cooking in America*, the original recipe for the iconic Pesach dish was Sarah’s own creation.



The dish continued to attract a following, and after World War II, Jewish emigrants continued popularising it in America, leading to its famous nickname, “Jewish penicillin”.

This title led many to question the true efficacy of chicken soup as a medicinal treatment. Scientists of the late 20th century were confused about what exact ingredient in the famed dish passed down from grandma activated the “healing”, and set out to determine the true extent of its power.

Countless studies were conducted in the 1980s and 1990s, with more than 1 000 scientists from respected institutions in the United States and European institutions trying to unravel the mystery. While the results varied,

chicken soup’s curative properties were actually shown – to a certain extent.

“Although chicken soup is not going to cure any illness, it can help to relieve the symptoms of the common cold and flu,” said dietician Toni Brien. “It has thus become synonymous with ‘curing’ sickness, and it is commonly used when people are ill.”

She explained that hot soup helps to lessen nasal congestion, especially if it contains pepper, garlic, curry, or other spices. These ingredients thin mucus and make it easier to breathe, and it may loosen mucus on the lungs, making it easier to cough up and clear the lungs. “Chicken also contains an amino acid called cysteine which could further aid congestion of the lungs,” she said.

“When you are sick, and have a fever or diarrhoea and vomiting, it’s important to stay well hydrated. Soup will keep you hydrated, as well as give your body nutrients and electrolytes which may be lost due to a loss of appetite.

“We usually find it easier to drink than eat when we are sick, especially if we have a sore throat. The salt in the soup may also sooth a sore throat.”

Soups with lots of vegetables might be better than chicken soup in terms of nutrient intake, but chicken soup certainly retains some status as a helpful brew.

Said Brien, “I wouldn’t say it fights flu, but it definitely relieves symptoms and can help you feel better while you fight the flu. I can’t be sure about it making medicine work better, but if you are eating and experience fewer symptoms, I’m sure you will feel like the medicine is working better.”

# Unbearable rightness of uncertainty underpins Kentridge’s art

MIRAH LANGER

World-famous South African artist William Kentridge says that allowing some uncertainty to enter into his work process, particularly during multimedia collaboration, has been key to his success.

“It’s a bit of a matzah pudding,” quipped Kentridge after a video clip of one of this theatre-making processes was shown at an event at the University of Johannesburg in Auckland Park last week.



William Kentridge

However, he said, in collaborative work, “making space for not knowing what we are doing is the vital part. There is an extraordinary energy that comes as discoveries are made. The performers are also part of the making and discovery of the performance.”

Kentridge made these remarks in conversation with Kim Berman, who heads Artist Proof Studio, a community printmaking centre. They spoke about the wide-ranging ways in which Kentridge has adopted collaboration and co-creation as

a methodology in his work, which ranges from print-making to theatre productions.

Kentridge said his first experience of collaborative theatre work shaped what he would come to embrace and refine in his own projects.

During the 1970s and 1980s in South Africa, the “most interesting theatrical pieces were made through an improvisational, collaborative” process, he said, citing examples of the plays produced by Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona.

“There was a way in which through collaboration, different parts of different communities would actually listen to each other and hear each other in a way that is very different from an author writing a script on their own.”

Kentridge’s initial foray into this field was with the Junction Avenue Theatre Company in Johannesburg, which was also working to produce protest theatre during the apartheid era. “[The company] had a kind of radical democratic idea that everybody’s voice was equally valid. It was an interesting lesson in democracy because all it really meant was that whoever was the most strident or the most self-serving, [got their way].

“I was always uncertain about how things should be done, or how we should tackle the scene, and there were certain people in the group who were very certain about exactly how to do so. I found I would always give in to that certainty. But I realised afterwards that if I hung onto my uncertainty, I would have had a better result.”

As such, when he returned to collaborative work in theatre years later, he established two ground rules. “One was to structure a space for uncertainty, for doubt, and for not knowing what we were doing into the very technique and strategies used.

“Second, it was to say that even though there was this space, it wasn’t a radical democracy. In the end, I would be the director and decision maker. The studio has to be a safe space for stupidity, for giving an impulse the benefit of the doubt, for allowing a kind of free association.”

While the successful outcome of this process was never

guaranteed, it did allow one to get to the point of realising the ultimate potential of an idea. On a deeper level, he said working with uncertainty in art also carried an underlying political resonance.

Kentridge said he discovered early on that he wasn’t suited to direct political involvement as a “committee person” or community activist.

“I tried doing that, but I realised that every time I would give in to the person that was louder, or to the person that would go to one more meeting which I couldn’t get to,” he said. “In the end, the most I could offer was the example of what it was to be in the studio; the duty one owes to one’s metier.

“There is a politics to it, but it’s a politics of saying that politics is made up of ambiguity, contradiction, and uncertainty. In the art which shows [these elements], there is a demonstration of how the world works and operates.”

Kentridge spoke about his upcoming new theatrical project, the opera *Waiting for the Sibyl*, which will premiere in Rome in September. The concept springboards from that of the “sibyls”, the ancient Greek oracles, and explores ideas of fate.

A clip Kentridge screened of the work in progress showed input being offered from various collaborators including choral directors, actors, dancers, musicians, film makers, and editors, as well as lighting and costume designers.

Kentridge also spoke about his Centre For the Less Good Idea, an organisation which brings together interdisciplinary arts practitioner to build collaborative work. He said that the name was a twist on a Tswana proverb that declares, “If the clever doctor can’t cure you, find the less clever doctor.”

Kentridge said that while the centre didn’t allow “a free for all”, it did ensure that artists had “an openness within the heart” of their work.

The Johannesburg-born and based artist discussed his process of printmaking, saying it had links to theatre-making. “There are points of overlap. In each case, there is a kind of transformation that is going to happen between the first idea, and how it arises.”

Printmaking is always “a negotiation between the image and this form of print making that is a kind of a dance. Having anticipated the way it will be printed, the actual print is always a surprise.

“You have a sense of how it looks on the plate. It comes out on the paper, and usually it is a disappointment,” said the artist who has been recognised with an Order of Arts and Letters from France, the Carnegie Prize, and various honorary doctorates, with a cheeky grin.



# CYPRUS - THE BEST PERMANENT RESIDENCY PROGRAMME IN EUROPE!

- ★ *Parents & parents-in-law qualify!*
- ★ *Dependent children up to 25 years of age qualify!*
- ★ *Residency permits issued in 4 – 6 weeks!*
- ★ *Residency permits are **FOR LIFE!***



**CYPRUS really is  
the perfect choice!**

*No need to live in Cyprus;*

*You can rent out your property;*

*No minimum annual tax levied.*

***Special inspection trip offer!***



**CONTACT US** for a confidential discussion about securing  
*your family's future in Europe.*

Cypriot Realty – **working with you** to realize your Plan B in Europe.

**Offices in  
CAPE TOWN,  
SANDTON &  
CYPRUS**

JENNY ELLINAS / 083 448 8734 / [jenny@cypriotrealty.com](mailto:jenny@cypriotrealty.com) / [www.cypriotrealty.com](http://www.cypriotrealty.com)



# צדיק בא לעיר



The South African Jewish Community  
Welcomes The Kalever Rav Shlita  
Son of the Great Tzadik

The **Kalever**  
**Rebbe** Shlita



world renowned for his inspiration, wisdom, advice and blessings for Chinuch Habanim (child rearing),  
Shalom Bayis (marital harmony), Parnassah (livelihood) and all other pressing issues of today.  
The Rav will be sharing his valuable time with individuals & families.

## Cape Town

### Milnerton

**Wednesday, July 24**

6:30pm-10:00pm

**Milnerton Shul**

9 Nieuhof Rd

### Sea Point

**Thursday, July 25**

4:00pm-7:00pm

**Morasha & Sephardi**

65 Regent Rd

### Sea Point

**Thursday, July 25**

7:30pm-10:00pm

**Ohr Somayach**

22 St Johns Rd

## Johannesburg

### Glenhazel

**Saturday, July 27**

7:00pm-10:30pm

**Mizrachi Shul**

2 Long Ave

### Orchards

**Sunday, July 28**

1:00pm-5:00pm

**Pine St Shul**

Cnr Pine & Louis Rd

### Rouxville

**Sunday, July 28**

5:30pm-10:00pm

**Sydenham Shul**

24 Main St

### Morningside

**Monday, July 29**

5:00pm-10:00pm

**Sandton Shul**

Longdon Ave

### Glenhazel

**Tuesday, July 30**

5:00pm-10:00pm

**Ohr Somayach**

10 Kingswood Rd

**There will be no solicitation**

@ kaalovvisit@gmail.com

082 788 8100



# Medicare Percelia Pharmacy donation drive

Emfundisweni Primary School in Alexandra Township was the beneficiary of Medicare Percelia Pharmacy's Mandela Day donation drive on 18 July, part of the organisation's focus on caring for the wider community.

Pharmacy staff made generous donations of sanitary towels; Moishe's Butchery donated soup ingredients; and Yeshiva College donated slippers to the school.

Pharmacy staff also made sandwiches, and handed out pens. Lorraine, Petunia, and Dintle donated the items to the school, reporting that the experience was overwhelming and uplifting.



**Medicare  
Percelia  
Pharmacy  
employees  
making  
sandwiches**

# Celebrities help NCCF honour Madiba's legacy

The Nashua Children's Charity Foundation introduced former Miss South Africa Kerishnie Naiker and singer Danny K to the foundation's 72 young representatives and their caregivers before Mandela Day commenced in Woodmead on 18 July. Among the R400 000 worth of donations made to the foundation on the day, Bidvest Waltons handed out Back-to-school hampers, and Pick n Pay Woodmead



donated goody bags. Donations will be distributed to 4 888 children in the care of the organisation's 12 charities.

# Temple Israel donates blankets to Hillbrow homeless

Temple Israel Heritage Centre Hillbrow, 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day, The Outreach Foundation Hillbrow, and the Mercy Church in Kensington joined forces in Kensington on 18 July to donate blankets to the homeless in Hillbrow and African

migrants in Kensington. Homeless residents helped to hand out the blankets, and shared in the tragedies and dreams of their fellow Africans, some of whom are highly qualified, but can't get employment because of red tape and a lack of finances.

# Soup and sarmies for the soul

Johannesburg's Norwood Mall was abuzz on Mandela Day on 18 July with hundreds of volunteers making sandwiches for those in need.

Peanut butter, jam, chocolate spread, and even polony, were packed into sandwiches which were distributed to charities, hospitals, and the homeless around the city. A total of 4 356 sandwiches were made and individually packaged for distribution, with 7 886 cups of soup collected and handed out with the sandwiches in cups decorated by volunteers as young as two years old.

The soup and sandwiches were distributed to the following organisations: Cadena; the Chayil Foundation; Children of Fire; Johannesburg Girls Preparatory School; the Mitzvah School; the Open Disclosure Foundation; ORT SA; Project Brave; the Princess Alice Adoption Home; the Rivers Foundation; the Union of Jewish Women (UJW) Alexandra Aftercare



## Eliana Zlotnick

Centre and Feeding Scheme; the UJW Hillbrow Soup Kitchen; and new moms at clinics around Soweto, homeless people, cleaners, and security guards within the area.

## Mandela mitzvah perks up patients in Klerksdorp

Women from the Klerksdorp Jewish community visited the oncology department, wards, and chemotherapy room of Klerksdorp Hospital on 18 July to hand out hand-crocheted blankets, cupcakes, and scones. The surprise Mandela Day visit helped to cheer up sick patients.



## More than 101 smiles on Bet David's fun day

Bet David in Morningside has a tradition of inviting children from the Alexandra Orphanage and child-care initiative, Look and Love, also situated in Alexandra, to an annual outing and fun day on 18 July. This year, the shul planned to invite 101 children to celebrate Nelson Mandela's 101st birthday. "In the end, there were more children than we expected, but who's counting when one can put a smile on their faces," said Bet David's Rabbi Adrian Michael Schell.



**Saturday (27 July)**

- Join us for an uplifting yoga minyan at Bet David. Suitable for beginners, advanced yogi, young and old. Bring a yoga mat if you have one. Entrance is free, all are welcome. Time: 10:30 to 12:00, 3 Middle Road, Morningside. Contact: 082 552 7385 or admin1@betdavid.org.za

**Sunday (28 July)**

- Second Innings hosts Candice van Heerden, audiologist and speech and hearing therapist, on *Better hearing is a better way of life*. Time: 09:45 for tea; 10:30 for the speaker. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, second floor, Golden Acres, 85 George Avenue, Sandringham. Cost: R20 members; R40 visitors, includes tea/coffee and refreshments. Contact: 011 483 7425.
- The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) presents an event related to our newest exhibition, *Portraits of Holocaust Survivors in Johannesburg* with photographer Julian Pokroy and testimony from Holocaust survivor Don Krausz. Time: 15:00. Venue: 1 Duncombe Road, Forest Town. RSVP to dawi@jghholocaust.co.za or 011 640 3100. Free admission, donations welcome.

**Monday (29 July)**

- The Union of Jewish Women (UJW) hosts Judge Ivor Schwartzman, retired judge of the Gauteng High Court, now engaged in arbitration on the tests applied by courts in reaching decisions in civil and criminal cases. Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW office, 011 648 1053.

**Tuesday (30 July)**

- The JHGC presents a screening of the award-winning film *Murer: Anatomy of a Murder* in partnership with the German embassy. Time: 19:00. Venue: 1 Duncombe Road, Forest Town. RSVP to 011 640 3100 or dawi@jghholocaust.co.za. Free admission, donations welcome.

**Thursday (1 August)**

- Hebrew speakers meet at 10:35 on second floor of Beyachad building, 2 Elray Street, Raedene. Every fluent Hebrew speaker can join.
- ORT SA CareerHub presents *What is the internet of things?* by Gavin Levenstein. Time: 18:00 to 20:00. Cost: R200 for non-members, R100 for members. Venue: ORT SA Academy, 44 Central Street and 10th Avenue, Houghton. Contact: ora@ortsa.org.za or 011 728 7154.
- Learn Yiddish every Thursday with Tamar Olswang and the UJW. Time: 10:00 to 11:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R100 per person, R80 for pensioners and UJW members. Includes tea/coffee and refreshments. Contact: 011 648 1053.



**KILLARNEY MALL**

CONVENIENTLY YOURS!

# WINTER SIDEWALK SALE

25 JULY - 5 AUGUST

UP TO **75% OFF**

SPEND AND WIN **R60,000** IN PRIZES

lp<sub>a</sub> leisure portfolio association  
The Ultimate in Retail

**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams  
BEST DEALS ON HONDA  
[www.hondagb.co.za](http://www.hondagb.co.za)

**CITY PROPERTY**  
Sustaining the Future



# Take that rage down a notch

Don't even ask. For some reason, we landed up at the World of Dogs and Cats Pet Expo in Midrand on Sunday afternoon. After having spent a week at the Kruger Park, I was shocked to find myself walking around and watching dog owners showing off their pooches. Whereas this is by no means the subject of the column, I do want to point out that not all dog owners look like their pets (especially the Whippet owners) and that cat people are stark raving mad. As a rule. My son of 17 has his learners license, and drove us home. He happens to be an excellent driver, but as we got to the traffic circle in Waverley, just off Louis Botha, he mistakenly entered the roundabout ahead of another car that had right of way. He was wrong. He made a mistake that young (and even more experienced) drivers make. But not so wrong that he deserved the reaction from another car that did have right of way. A man was in the passenger seat, and he took offence (deep and aggressive offence) to what my son had done. He adopted an

ugly contorted face, lifted himself out of his chair and almost out of the car, and with his fingers, he conveyed his displeasure. We had some young children in the car who thankfully were more concerned about the treats we were going to stop to purchase than the brush with road rage. The reaction was particularly extreme. I was hoping that they were headed in the same direction, as I wanted to get out my car to explain to them that this is a young learner driver, and it wouldn't do any harm for the bloke to chill. The incident wasn't a close call, and a little perspective wouldn't have harmed anyone. But they drove another way, and I was left contemplating why he behaved as he did. A similar incident occurred last week at the Kruger. We happened to arrive at the gate around 05:30, and we were the second car in line for the opening at 06:00. When we got to the front, the kindly attendant was helping a tour operator who was ahead of us, so entrance into the park was delayed by a few minutes. It was also our first time

at the Kruger, so we might have delayed her further by taking a minute to collect identity documents from all the adults. While this was happening, a man in the car behind us exited his vehicle, and started screaming about the delay. He mock charged us, and was completely enraged. Although his face was distorted, I recognised him as being a member of the Jewish community. I felt embarrassed for him, and apologised to the woman who was helping us. She smiled, and said, "Please don't worry – this happens every day." It was 06:10 when we entered the park, and when the car behind us took its place at the payment booth.

Local and international news is full of stories of people becoming outraged. Monday's *New York Post* features an article about crockery that was recalled from Macy's stores. The reason for the recall is that it playfully suggested portion sizes (on the actual plate) depending on which jeans the eater wanted to fit into. It seems that many potential customers were "triggered", and so the plates needed to be removed from the stores. Macy's was forced to apologise. We appear to be living in a dual reality. On the one hand, we are aggressive and rude and care little for others, but

at times, we are so sensitive, we can't imagine the horror that is associated with a plate that has the word "skinny jeans" on it. We appear to have lost all perspective, and we genuinely and seriously need to get it back. That is, before people die from stress related cardiac events. South Africans are particularly highly strung at the moment. But we need to keep it together. We need to find ways to take it down a notch or two. Even if it means buying a cat.



## INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman

----- A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies -----

# Best wishes to the SAZF for its conference

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) and South African Zionist Federation (SAZF) are often described as "sister organisations", although, to take the sibling metaphor a bit further, the SAZF is technically the board's elder brother, having been founded several years before it.



## ABOVE BOARD

Shaun Zagnoev



partnership with Israel's many Christian supporters. We thank and commend them, together with the SAZF leadership and staff as a whole, for everything they have contributed and will undoubtedly continue to contribute to Israel and the Jewish community in the future. **Homage to a true legend** Johnny Clegg, whose untimely passing last week elicited a deserved flood of tributes from all over the world, was much more than a composer and performer of anti-apartheid "protest" songs. Through his trailblazing synthesis of local white and black musical traditions, he was able to point the way to a society where cultural difference is seen as a source of mutual enrichment rather than division, and as a vehicle for binding people together in a shared commitment to their common South African-ness. While he was distinguished in his personal and professional life by his ability to assimilate different cultures, he was an identifying Jew, able to speak with much insight and erudition about this aspect of his heritage. Just two weeks before his death, the SAJBD's national executive council chose him to be the recipient of our Rabbi Cyril and Ann Harris Human Rights Award, to be presented at our upcoming national conference in November. We will, in due course, make contact with his family to see how we might pay homage to this distinguished Jewish South African, and help to perpetuate his legacy.

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

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

# Moonshine and folk song: changing the world

Who gets to see a new culture being born? Is it the Woodstock groupie, gathering his guitar, beads, jeans, and marijuana to join 400 000 people watching the likes of Janis Joplin on a New York dairy farm on 15 August 1969? Is it the guy in the Western world transfixed by his TV and the moon-landing in July of that year? Or is it you, with your 50-year vantage point on all this?

It's fascinating to cast an eye at what the world looked like 50 years ago. These were exciting times: the moon landing and Woodstock. As Neil Armstrong descended onto the moon using the most advanced technology of the time, in America, social tensions were roiling concerning sexuality, women's rights, psychedelic drugs, and interpretations of the American dream.

The previous year, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, famous for his "I have a dream" speech, was assassinated. Iconic entertainers were alive and active: Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, the Beatles, and others. In South Africa, the apartheid regime was fully entrenched, with no end in sight. Five years before the moon landing, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment. For whites, life continued as usual. The whites-only Johannesburg CBD was still a place of handsome art deco buildings and fancy stores such as Anstey's, which you would dress up to visit. Nobody in South Africa saw the moon-landing from the comfort of their own homes because the government didn't allow television. Nationalist Party leaders saw it as



## TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

a threat to the Afrikaner folk. The then minister of posts and telecommunications, Dr Albert Hertzog, said television would come to South Africa "over my dead body". Television became available countrywide only in 1976. Was a new culture being born? Politically, in the West, the new left had arisen. It was hatched as a counter-culture movement, led by numerous Jews such as Mark Rudd, Jerry Rubin, and Abby Hoffman, with their coolness towards Zionism and Israel, which alarmed many Jews. It was only 21 years after the end of World War II and the Holocaust, thousands of survivors were alive, and the knowledge of what had happened was gradually being put together. Israel was paramount in the Jewish psyche: it was two years after the Six-Day War in 1967, in which Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula, West Bank, and Old City of Jerusalem. It was the middle of the Cold War, and definitions were clear: East versus West, capitalism versus communism. Kennedy sent a man to the moon, though he did not live to witness it – he was assassinated in 1963. Everything changes, but everything stays the same. As we sit here in 2019, apartheid has been demolished, Israel is all grown up, the American Dream has been captured by a clown, and the left has lost its punch. What's our "Woodstock"? What's our "moon-landing"?

----- A column of WIZO South Africa -----

# WIZO makes Bar/Batmitzvah dreams a reality

At this time of the year, the WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organisation) Centre in Savyon has an annual Bar/Batmitzvah party for children whose parents cannot afford to organise one for them. The day is a significant moment in a young boy or girl's life, and a happy and memorable day for their parents. The children in the group come from the Gush Dan area. Although the parents of these children do all they can, low-income families can't always feed, clothe, and educate their children without help from the authorities. Significant milestones like Bar/Batmitzvahs are a dream for them. Some are sure they will not be able to celebrate this important day, and it causes them much anguish. This year, the Bar/Batmitzvah party began in the Savyon Synagogue Centre, where the children and their families gathered. Parents looked on as their children, most of them dressed in white, received presents – a tallit, kippa, and tefillin for boys; candlesticks and a necklace for girls. When the rabbi took the boys and their fathers to the synagogue for their religious ceremony, the girls remained at the centre to conduct *hafrashat challah* (separating the challah), and each girl got to take her challah home with her. It was moving to see the children's joy, and the tears of pride in their parents' eyes in sharing in their children's special day. It reminds us that nothing should be taken for granted, and that even such a low-key celebration can create happy memories to last a lifetime. You can help sponsor these Bar/Batmitzvah



programmes by contacting your local WIZO office and buying WIZO gift cards. While these children got the chance to celebrate their simchas courtesy of WIZO, others haven't been so fortunate. That's why WIZO Johannesburg recently held a Charidy fundraising campaign to raise money for therapy for children in WIZO day care centres, who have been traumatised by the rocket attacks from Gaza. These children suffer from a great deal of stress, which manifests in fear of being alone, bed wetting, disturbed sleep patterns, and poor concentration. The money raised has enabled WIZO to appoint 16 therapists to help these children. We would like to thank the community for its generous contribution to this worthy cause. Every day for WIZO South Africa is Mandela Day, with our ongoing provision of custom-designed, all-terrain wheelchairs from Israel to underprivileged children in South Africa to give them the gift of mobility. WIZO is looking for suitable recipients. Please phone the office for the donation of these brightly coloured chairs. WIZO wishes the South African Zionist Federation success with its upcoming conference. At the end of the year, it will be WIZO Israel's 100th birthday, and we invite you to join us for a marvellous conference in January. Remember to save the date – 19 to 23 January 2020. We wish everyone a good holiday.

This column paid for by WIZO SA



# English Jews thrilled at winning World Cup

OPINION

There was a spring in the step of cricket fans in local English shuls on Shabbat last weekend following England’s dramatic win in the World Cup final the previous Sunday – the first time they had won the tournament.

Our rabbi, a passionate cricket supporter, referred to the tense finale in his sermon. Although he was forced to miss the super over as he needed to make his way to synagogue for *ma’ariv* (evening prayer service), he was ecstatic when he heard the result on his arrival.

England’s victory captivated the nation. For a country that invented the sport, this win in the tournament was long overdue. It was the fourth time England had hosted the tournament, and they were runners-up three times previously (1979, 1987, and 1992). It will give cricket a much-needed boost in this country at a time when it faces stiff competition from many other sports, notably football and rugby.

The Anglo-Jewish community has been enjoying this special summer of cricket. Fans have been attending Lord’s at every opportunity, whether for Middlesex matches or for England’s test match this week against Ireland. Tickets for the second test against Australia at Lord’s in three weeks are like gold dust, and no doubt, several *kippot* will be



English cricketer Ben Stokes expresses his innocence after accidentally knocking the ball to the boundary

spotted in the crowd. It won’t be difficult to assemble a *minyan* (prayer quorum) during the interval for *mincha* (afternoon prayer service).

In the meantime, the South African Jewish diaspora in London was disappointed by the lacklustre performance of the Proteas in the World Cup. Back in 1990, well-known politician Norman Tebbit controversially questioned the allegiance of immigrant groups from Asia and the Caribbean to the United Kingdom (UK), suggesting that loyalty to the country should be tested by whether they support England or their “mother country” at cricket. Things have moved on since then,

and in an age of multiple identities, the “Tebbit Test” is too crude a measure of identity. Certainly, talking to South African Jewish friends in London, many wanted both the Proteas and England to flourish in the World Cup. They turned out in good numbers at a breakfast event last month in central London, at which Dr Ali Bacher and Mike Procter spoke.

Another sub-set of the Jewish community, the small number of Irish Jews in London, have been excited by this week’s first ever test match against England. For a small Jewish

community, the Irish Jewish community has made an outsized contribution to sport in that country. It has produced two captains of the national cricket team – Mark Cohen and Jason Molins. For now, England has an Ashes to win, and the UK Jewish community is excited by what lies ahead over the next few weeks.

• *Zaki Cooper is a London-based cricket fan, and co-author of “Cricket Grounds from the Air” with Daniel Lightman QC.*



ZAKI COOPER

## Rebbetzin Lipskar honoured at 70th birthday party

Chabad Hyde Park-Sandhurst held a surprise birthday brunch recently to celebrate Rebbetzin Mashi Lipskar’s 70th birthday.

The celebration was attended by about 80 women who have played a professional or personal role in her, and her husband, Rabbi Mendel Lipskar’s, lives since they were sent to South Africa in 1972 to direct Chabad-Lubavitch South Africa. Two of Lipskar’s daughters were present, her sister, family, friends, congregants, and several of her granddaughters, who made a loving tribute to their grandmother.

In an emotional speech, Lipskar recalled some special memories and shared personal anecdotes with many of the



Mushkie Barber and Goldie Raipport on either side of their mom, Mashi

guests, not forgetting to mention those beloved family members unable to be there with her. Her stories highlighted her deep connection to these individuals, and more importantly, the significant impact and influence Rebbetzin Lipskar has had on so many lives in one way or another.

The simcha conveyed the gratitude and respect felt by many present for the significant multiple roles that Lipskar has played in the community over the years, locally and internationally. It also reflected the warm way she has touched each person present, whether it be through mentorship, teaching, or the sharing of wisdom and insights.

WANTED!!!  
TOP PRICES PAID

Free Evaluation  
& Buying on:

- South African & International coins and banknotes
- Medals and Militaria
- Silver and Gold Jewellery in any condition
- Silverware
- Collectable Items
- Pocket and wrist watches

Remember your I.D. and banking details if you wish to sell your items

Collectors Investments  
Dealers in Coins, Medals & Banknotes

Enquiries:  
Tel: 011 880 9116 / 076 741 8801 • WhatsApp: 079 784 0101  
1st Floor, Illovo Muse, 198 Oxford Road, Illovo, 2196, Johannesburg  
[www.collectorsinvestments.com](http://www.collectorsinvestments.com)

## Letters

### MORE SENSITIVITY NEEDED IN HOUSE OF MOURNING

One is not supposed to speak in a shiva house unless the mourners speak first – for very good reason. Not only do some women go to the cemetery dressed in pants, they smoke cigarettes and a “zol” publicly, and chat away in loud voices while walking behind the coffin.

How disgusting! They should stay at home.

Shiva houses are hectic. People talk at the top of their voices, totally forgetting the reason they are at the house. I have seen mourners looking glazed and staring ahead, yet people are going on ad nauseum about their wonderful children, their achievements, the holidays they are planning, and family get-togethers. Though the mourners look pained, nobody notices.

Half the people who go to shiva homes want details, want to see and be seen, want it said that they were there, but how much do they know about their supposed role? Their role is to keep quiet, and be there as a comfort to the mourner. If the mourner speaks, then they too should speak,

but in a soft voice. They shouldn’t stay too long, it’s draining, unless of course it involves a sister, brother, or close family relative.

While the mourners may well want to hear about your wonderful grandchildren on Facebook, I doubt they find it a fascinating topic while they are mourning a beloved parent, husband/wife, or G-d forbid a child or grandchild. Waxing lyrical about your children or holidays is inappropriate and insensitive.

I suggest that just like the Beth Din has a sign up at simchas to say the food is under the supervision of the Beth Din, there should be a sign on the front door of a shiva house as follows: “You are entering a shiva house of mourning. Please speak softly, and refrain from chattering. Please switch your phone to silent, and try not to use it while you are comforting the mourners. Mourners are emotionally and physically drained. Keep your visit comforting, but short. – Anne Lapedus Brest, Johannesburg

### WE NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH – EVEN IF IT MAKES US UNCOMFORTABLE

As uncomfortable as some of the stories which have occurred over the past two weeks may make us feel, we need to know the truth.

Yes, the lead story regarding the tragic suicide of a young man was indeed very sad and upsetting to all of us, but hopefully, it will bring families together to understand the deeper issues. As for “stage setting”, the *Sunday Times* printed the exact same story together with a photograph of the parents. Who’s condemning this as sensationalism?

The naming and shaming of the accountant who stole funds without scruples is a good thing. Maybe it will make someone think twice in future

before knowingly doing such disgraceful things.

Whether or not you agree with the stories being reported, the editor and board of the *SA Jewish Report* are to be congratulated for bringing us the week that was, and the facts as they are. Otherwise, the whispers and suppositions behind closed doors could never really be a true reflection of the facts, and they become subjects of gossip and uncertainty.

I would like to add that Howard Feldman, although sometimes controversial in his opinions, is a well-balanced and thoughtful journalist.

Well done to you all. Keep shooting from the hip. – Yvonne Kolbe, Durban

### BETH DIN RULING ON LIMMUD OUT OF STEP WITH WORLD JEWRY

We appreciate our SA Jewish Report, thank you. Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein’s opinion piece refers, (vol 23, number 24.)

I haven’t yet attended Limmud, and look to the rabbinate for guidance. However, I’m puzzled.

In reviewing the statistics, there were 90 Limmud groups in 42 countries in 2017. There were 72 events with 40 000 participants, plus 4 000 volunteers. The statistics for 2018 will be even higher.

Throughout the world, the South African rabbinate stands alone in precluding members from attending.

The questions that arise are as follows: given

our Beth Din ruling, are all orthodox rabbis attending overseas in conflict with the halacha, including Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, the chief rabbi of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth? If a South African rabbi/rebbetzin attends or lectures at Limmud overseas, would they be contravening the South African Beth Din ruling?

Could this be isolating us from world Jewry? If this is the case, how can our leadership subject our small and precious community to this vulnerability? For what purpose?

Rabbi Goldstein’s somewhat opaque opinion piece does not bring sufficient light to these questions. – Gershon David, Johannesburg



**LUKE ALFRED**

He was there when Hennie le Roux famously put his cap on Madiba's head at Silvermine, and was close by when Hannes Strydom was so badly gashed by the Canadians in the infamous "Battle of Boet

\* Israel's under-20 basketball team held their European title on Sunday, beating Spain 92-84 at the Shlomo Group Arena in Tel Aviv to secure their second European title in a row. They have now reached three consecutive age-group finals, losing in 2017 but winning last year. Deni Avdija, their leading scorer in the tournament as a whole, scored 23 points in Sunday's final to help his side to victory.



“Despite having some of the best players in the world at the RCB, we still haven’t won the IPL, so you have to take my good luck

# KosherWorld

TRULY KOSHER

**MANY MORE SPECIALS IN-STORE**

**MEDITERRANEAN HERB & PEPPERED MACKEREL**  
28<sup>49</sup> each /100g

**LAYS SALT POTATO CHIPS**  
21<sup>49</sup> 200g

**ACHVA VANILLA HALVA**  
75<sup>99</sup> 500g

**DE LA VI CHILEAN SMOKED SALMON**  
93<sup>99</sup> 200g

**URBAN VEGAN SMOKED BACON STYLE RASHERS**  
43<sup>99</sup> 100g

**WHISKAS CAT FOOD ASSORTED FLAVS**  
61<sup>99</sup> 1kg

**Feigels Yummy Crepes!**

Served warm, sprinkled with cinnamon & sugar or drizzled with syrup

**2 FOR 9<sup>99</sup>**

**HEAVEN & EARTH ASSORTED RICED CAULIFLOWER**  
70<sup>99</sup> each 397g

**TAYSTI MAYONNAISE ORIG & SUGAR FREE**  
31<sup>99</sup> each 750g

**PAREVE OSEM CHICKEN STYLE CONSOMME SOUP MIX**  
73<sup>99</sup> 400g

**MR SHEEN MICROWAVE OVEN CLEANER**  
19<sup>49</sup> each 275ml

**ANAT ANATS BAKERY WRAPS**  
32<sup>99</sup> 6's

**WHISKAS KITTEN CHICKEN NUGGETS**  
61<sup>99</sup> 900g

**MONTAGU ROYAL APRICOTS**  
41<sup>99</sup> 250g

**TUFFY REFUSE BAGS INSECT REPELLENT**  
28<sup>99</sup> each 10's

**SKIP LIQUID PERFECT DARKS**  
59<sup>99</sup> 1.5L

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

Offers valid till 30 JULY or while stock lasts  
Actual offers may differ from visuals shown.  
We reserve the right to limit quantities. E&OE



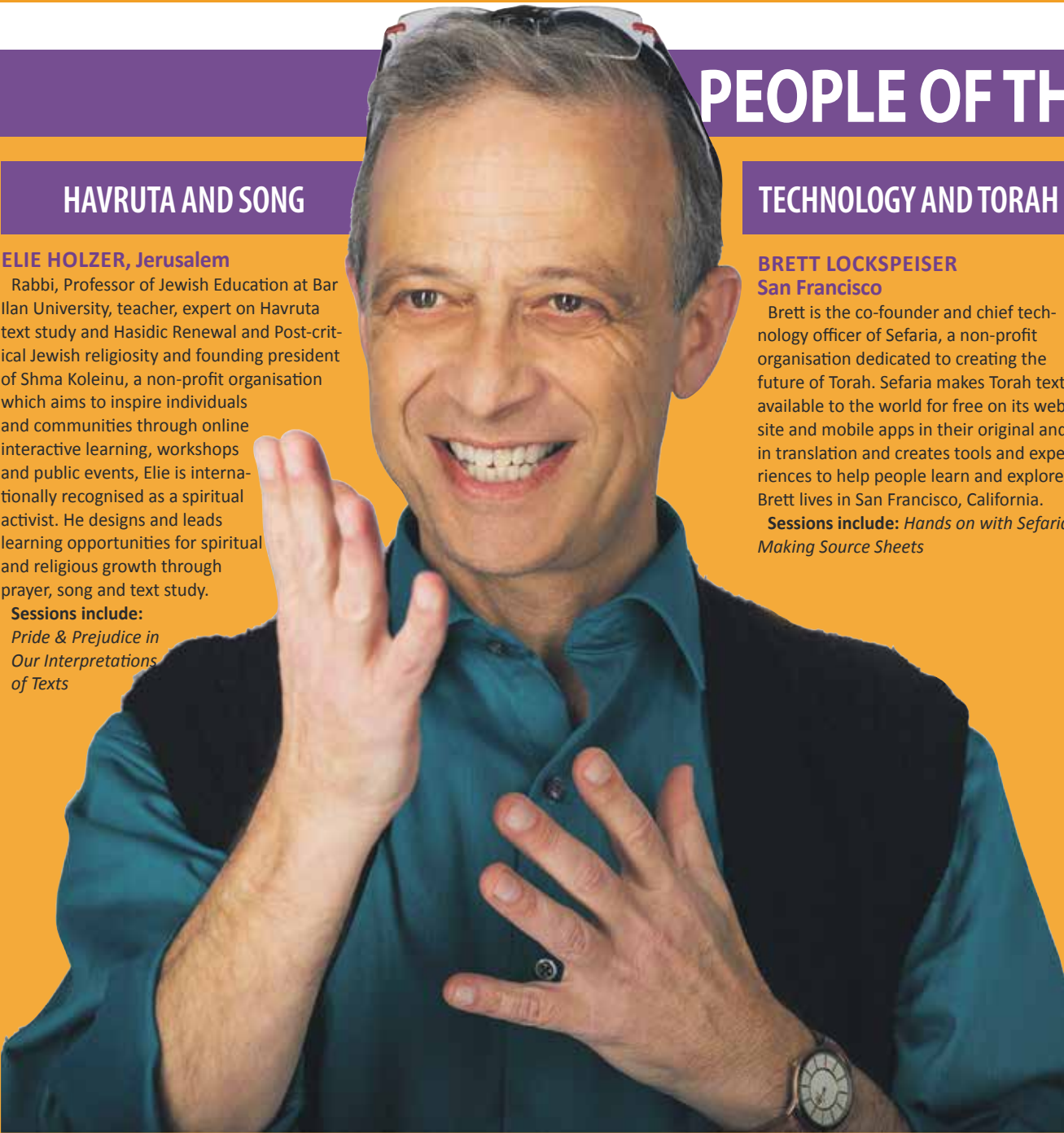
Book now on our website

www.limmud.org.za

# PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

## HAVRUTA AND SONG

**ELIE HOLZER, Jerusalem**  
Rabbi, Professor of Jewish Education at Bar Ilan University, teacher, expert on Havruta text study and Hasidic Renewal and Post-critical Jewish religiosity and founding president of Shma Koleinu, a non-profit organisation which aims to inspire individuals and communities through online interactive learning, workshops and public events, Elie is internationally recognised as a spiritual activist. He designs and leads learning opportunities for spiritual and religious growth through prayer, song and text study.  
**Sessions include:**  
*Pride & Prejudice in Our Interpretations of Texts*



## TECHNOLOGY AND TORAH

**BRETT LOCKSPEISER San Francisco**  
Brett is the co-founder and chief technology officer of Sefaria, a non-profit organisation dedicated to creating the future of Torah. Sefaria makes Torah texts available to the world for free on its website and mobile apps in their original and in translation and creates tools and experiences to help people learn and explore. Brett lives in San Francisco, California.  
**Sessions include:** *Hands on with Sefaria: Making Source Sheets*



## ABUNDANCE OF TORAH

**WENDY AMSELLEM, New York**  
Wendy is a Rabba and teaches Talmud and Jewish Law at Yeshivat Maharat, the first seminary to ordain Orthodox Women. She also teaches at Pardes and at Drisha. Wendy is an alumna of Harvard University and she received semicha from Yeshivat Maharat.  
She edits Maharat’s Keren Journal and was a founding editor of *thelehrhaus.com*. Wendy has a particular interest in empowering people to develop their own skills to engage with core Jewish texts.  
**Sessions include:** *Letters Flying Upward: The Martyrdom of Rabbi Chaninah Ben Teradion*



## SACRED SOUNDS

**JESSICA KATE MEYER, San Francisco**  
Jessica Kate strives to build community through song, and to lift song through community. Rabbi-hazzan at The Kitchen in San Francisco who served for four years as rabbi and musical leader at Romemu in New York City, she received rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College in 2014.  
She studies sacred Jewish music with masters from Sephardic and Ashkenazi traditions and has performed as a vocalist with ensembles in the US and Israel. In a previous life, she pursued graduate theatre training in London and appeared in film, theatre and television projects in Europe and the United States: most notably, she had a principal role in Roman Polanski’s ‘The Pianist’.  
**Sessions include:** *Thunder and Silence: What does Revelation Sound Like?*



## EMBRACING THE SACRED MESSINESS

**IRWIN KULA, New York**  
Rogue thinker, seventh generation Rabbi and author of the award-winning book, *Yearnings*. Irwin is president of Clal -the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership which works at the intersection of religion and innovation and the science of human flourishing. He is a co-founder with Clay Christensen of The Disruptor Foundation whose mission is to raise awareness and encourage the advancement of disruptive innovation theory and its application in societal critical domains.  
**Sessions include:** *Beyond the Tribe: Judaism as a Path of Human Flourishing*



## THE HUMANITY THAT UNITES US

**HAROON MOGHUL New York**  
Haroon is the Fellow in Jewish-Muslim Relations at the Shalom Hartman Institute and the author of ‘How to be a Muslim: An American Story’.  
**Sessions include:** *How Did Things Go So Horribly Wrong?*





# HIGHLIGHTS OF LIMMUD 2019

REGISTER TODAY AT  
[www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)

## HUMANS, HISTORY AND THE FUTURE



**UNEARTHING ANCIENT ISRAEL**

**JODI MAGNESS, Chapel Hill, North Carolina**  
Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism at UNC-Chapel Hill in North Carolina. Jodi holds a BA in Archaeology and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her most recent book is 'Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth'. Since 2011, she has been directing excavations at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee.  
**Sessions include:** *Masada: Last Stronghold of Jewish Resistance Against Rome*



**WINDOW TO A LOST WORLD**

**EDWIN SHUKER, London**  
Vice President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and a campaigner on Middle East issues, especially on the plight of Jews from Arab counties, Edwin will tell how in 2003, American forces in Iraq came across almost 30,000 Jewish documents and artefacts immersed in dirty water and about to be lost forever. Fast forward to 2018, when Mosul was liberated from ISIS and the abandoned Jewish quarter revealed its secrets. **Sessions include:** *Remember Baghdad and The Spy Next Door*



**THE POLISH EXPERIENCE**

**JONATHAN WEBBER, Krakow**  
Jonathan Webber is a British anthropologist and Jewish activist living in Kraków, Poland. Specializing in modern Jewish society, Holocaust studies, Polish-Jewish studies, and Jewish heritage, he taught at Oxford, Birmingham, and the Jagiellonian University, Kraków; he is now retired. He has had a long-standing interest in the Polish Jewish heritage and was the co-founder of the Galicia Jewish Museum in Kraków, where he co-curated its permanent exhibition.  
**Sessions include:** *A Town Called Brzostek*

### THE JEWS OF IRAN

**ARASH ABAIE, Tehran**  
Arash, an advocate for Iranian Jewish culture and community life, is based in Tehran, a community which has had a presence in that region since 727 BCE.  
He teaches Judaism at the University of Religions and Denominations and is a service leader at synagogues around Tehran. He has also served as editor of the Tehran Jewish magazine, BINA.  
**Sessions include:** *A Brief History of the Jews of Iran: From Persia to Present*

### BLUE STAR BELGRADE

**SONJA VILICIC, Serbia**  
Based in Serbia, Sonja worked for the Joint Distribution Committee in Budapest in various positions. A graduate of the Melton Senior Educators Program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she is one of the founders and an Executive Director of the NGO, Haver Srbija and coordinator of the educational programme of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia. She volunteers at Limmud ExYu.  
**Sessions include:** *The Rebbe of Montreal: Jewish Themes in the Songs of Leonard Cohen*





### SINGLES PROBLEM?

**ARI ENGELBERG, Jerusalem**  
Ari is a sociologist and anthropologist whose mission in life is to research religion and Israeli society. He teaches at the Tel Aviv and Hebrew Universities. His doctoral research focused on the phenomenon of prolonged singlehood in the Religious Zionist community. His research has extended to Orthodox marriage guidebooks as well.  
**Sessions include:** *Orthodoxy, Romantic Love and Relationships*



## Limmud always runs out of spaces. So, book soonest!



## WHERE, WHAT, WHEN AND WHO TO CONTACT

**JOHANNESBURG**  
**INDABA HOTEL, FOURWAYS**  
**Friday 16 to Sunday 18 August 2019**  
• **Full weekend:** Including two nights at the Indaba Hotel, all meals and child-care.  
• **Special rates:** For young adults, students and children.  
• **Sunday only:** 8.00am to 5.45pm including meals and child-care.  
**Call 083 451 9176**

**DURBAN**  
**THE DURBAN JEWISH CENTRE (DJC)**  
**Wednesday 21 August 2019**  
• 2.30pm to 9.30pm  
• Includes dinner.  
**Call 084 446 6362**

**CAPE TOWN**  
**UCT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, V&A WATERFRONT**  
**Friday 23 August to Sunday 25 August 2019**  
• **Full weekend:** All meals and children's programme included  
• **Special rates:** For families, young adults, students and children.  
• **Sunday only:** 8.00am to 5.00pm including meals and child-care.  
Register at [qkt.io/limmud-conference](http://qkt.io/limmud-conference)  
**Call 083 303 5406**

**EMAIL:** [jhbregistration@limmud.org.za](mailto:jhbregistration@limmud.org.za)    **REGISTER AT:** [www.limmud.org.za](http://www.limmud.org.za)