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Joburg CSO threatened by lack of funding

TALI FEINBERG

The Community Security Organisation (CSO) exists to secure South African Jewry, but right now, this vital community organisation needs rescuing.

This week, the CSO announced that, for the first time, its Gauteng branch faces an uncertain future “due to the substantial reduction in financial support from its primary fundraiser, the United Communal Fund (UCF).

“The CSO, which has not traditionally had a full-time fundraising capability, has become responsible for raising close to 100% of its financial needs in order to continue protecting our community,” said the organisation in an email to the community.

The organisation has had to retrench nine staff members in conjunction with an extensive cost-cutting process. “We now have to start the process of restructuring the organisation to ensure that the community continues to be empowered and protected,” it said in the statement.

“Unfortunately, over the past few years, the funding base of the community has shrunk significantly due to emigration, the passing away of major donors, and the adverse economic situation that has prevailed in South Africa over the past decade,” explains UCF Chairman Avrom Krengel. “This has forced almost all communal organisations to work with reduced budgets and retrench staff.”

CSO Gauteng Director Jevon Greenblatt confirmed that the situation was extremely serious. “While every effort has been made to ensure that the operations of the CSO are not affected by this restructuring, it’s impossible to maintain security at the current level with significantly diminished resources,” he said.

“Operations will be sustained in the short term by committed volunteers,

but unless we reconstitute support structures as soon as possible, we might start to experience a negative impact going forward.

“We need a large cash injection to give us leeway to settle the new structure and implement a new strategy for our new reality. Simultaneously, we need to create a sustainable funding model that will ensure the consistent high standard of security that the community requires.”

He said the problem was specific to Johannesburg. The CSO in Cape Town, Durban, and other parts of the country are not affected.

Greenblatt said that it had been decided in the past that fundraising for the CSO would be housed in a separate entity called the UCF, which would also raise funds for the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) and South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS). This would allow the CSO to focus on its core function – security.

“Over the past few years, as circumstances have changed and threats have evolved, the CSO has adapted to the new environment. It required new resources, training, and support for members. Our community infrastructure has grown in spite of decreasing numbers, and this has necessitated growth and professionalising of the CSO.”

But this growth has come at a cost. “Since 2011, the CSO has been requesting more funds from the UCF, but it has been unable to provide them,” said Greenblatt.

“In 2014, the CSO was advised by the UCF that it should go to the community itself and raise the shortfall that the UCF could not provide. The CSO assembled a small volunteer team to try raise additional funding, which was then allocated to improving the quality of training, administration, and volunteer backup.”

Towards the end of 2017, the UCF approached its three major

beneficiaries – the SAJBD, the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), and the CSO – indicating that there would be changes at the UCF from the end of 2018. It was decided that all three organisations would raise funds independently from 2019.

“We were put in a situation where we suddenly became responsible for raising almost 100% of our required funding, which we didn’t readily agree to,” said Greenblatt.

The CSO was told that all existing UCF debit orders would be utilised to fund the Beyachad building (in Raedene, Johannesburg) and pay rent, and to pay for the combined accounting and administration services of these organisations.

For the CSO, it comes to about 7% of its annual budget. However, the

actual amount of financial support is unclear, and it has been told that there is no guarantee that this assistance will continue.

Krengel said that the decision for the CSO to do its own fundraising was made by mutual agreement between the two organisations, pointing to a letter sent out by CSO in February 2019 which said that donors could donate directly to the organisation of their choice, including the CSO.

He also referred to a letter he sent out in January 2019, which said that “Johannesburg Jewry has become a community where almost all of the communal organisations fundraise for themselves, and don’t make use of an umbrella fundraising organisation such as the IUA/UCF.”

The letter went on to say, “Many of our donors have expressed their wish to give directly to the beneficiaries of the IUA/UCF. After extensive consultation with our major donors and beneficiaries, we have restructured our operations to facilitate this. Each of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, SA Zionist Federation, and CSO have established their own fundraising departments, and will be approaching donors directly to meet their fundraising requirements.”

Greenblatt said that in spite of this agreement, the SAJBD, the SAZF, SAUJS, and the Israel Centre had continued to raise funds through the UCF, but the CSO was no longer allowed to do so.

Continued on page 2>>

Celebrating love on Tu B’Av



Rochelle and Leon Druckman of Golden Acres in Johannesburg are still deeply in love 58 years after getting married. They met at a 21st birthday party, and got engaged on Rochelle’s 19th birthday. They will be celebrating on Tu B’Av (Sunday), the Jewish festival of love.

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Israeli voters concerned with economy

Though the majority of Israeli Jews support change to the religious status quo in their nation, issues of religion and state appear to become irrelevant when they enter the voting booth, according to a new online survey released by the Israeli Democracy Institute.

Among the 760 respondents to the poll, economic-social issues and foreign affairs-security were the determining factors for 36.7% and 36.2%. Among the secular, 45.5% said that they saw economic and social issues as a "key consideration when deciding which party to vote for".

On religion and state, only 15.5% regarded those issues as important enough to determine their political choices even though 60% of respondents supported the introduction of public transportation on Shabbat, and 59.5% were in favour of introducing civil marriage.

More than two-thirds of respondents – 68.5% – said they supported drafting haredi orthodox Jews. The number rose to 79% among secular and nonreligious Israelis. The issue was the sticking point in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bid to form a government following April's election.

Israeli flight attendant dies from measles

A 43-year-old El Al flight attendant has died several months after getting measles, thought to have been contracted on a transatlantic flight from New York.

She was hospitalised for the infectious disease in late March, and placed in an induced coma. She was on a respirator and reportedly suffered brain damage. A passenger boarded the flight while sick with the virus, the Jerusalem Post reported at the time.

The flight attendant received only one shot of the measles vaccine instead of the recommended two, according to the Times of Israel. In late April, more than 250 El Al crew members were vaccinated against measles after the

Israeli health ministry ordered all local airlines to inoculate their staff, especially those who came into contact with travellers.

Israel has experienced a serious outbreak of measles this year, pegged to lower-than-average vaccination rates in the haredi community. Two Israelis – an 18-month-old baby and an 82-year-old woman – have died from the disease.

Hungary has high prevalence of Ashkenazi genes

Genetic tests in Hungary suggest that the prevalence there of Jewish genes is double that of the United States.

In recent testing conducted by the MyHeritage firm and the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, slightly more than 7.5% of the 4 981 people tested had more than 25% Jewish Ashkenazi genes, the firm announced on Tuesday.

Hungary has about 100 000 people who are considered Jewish by the largest organisation representing Hungarian Jewry. That number accounts for about 1% of Hungary's population.

This suggests that Hungary has the highest prevalence of Ashkenazi Jewish genes after Israel.

In tests conducted in the United States and Canada, only 3.5% of tested individuals displayed Ashkenazi Jewish genes at a rate exceeding 25% of their genetic material.

Testing in Russia, Argentina, and Ukraine all showed greater prevalence than in the US, but less than Hungary.

Dershowitz to defend Biblical child traffickers

Alan Dershowitz will take part in a mock trial in which he will defend biblical characters accused of "kidnapping and child trafficking".

The celebrity lawyer will defend the brothers of Joseph in November at New York's Temple Emanu-El. In the Bible, Joseph's brothers kidnap and sell him into slavery because they are jealous of him.

The event is part of a series of mock trials based on stories from the Torah by the prominent Reform congregation. Former federal prosecutor and New Jersey governor Chris Christie will act as prosecutor and United States District Court Judge Ronnie Abrams as judge.

An advertisement for the event was posted on Twitter by Jewish Insider's Ben Jacobs on Tuesday, only days after former Dershowitz client and associate, Jeffrey Epstein, committed suicide in a Manhattan jail. Epstein faced sex trafficking charges for allegedly abusing dozens of minor girls.

Dershowitz has denied being involved in the sex crimes.

• All briefs supplied by JTA

Joburg CSO threatened by lack of funding

>>>Continued from page 1

"The CSO has no access to the combined structure, nor knowledge of the debit-order income of the UCF, nor expenses of the Beyachad building, in spite of multiple requests. This has a direct impact on our planning and resource utilisation."

Asked if the CSO would survive in Johannesburg, Greenblatt said, "Neither the community nor the CSO can allow for the CSO to fail. We will have to build our own fundraising capacity, and we believe that given our value proposition to the community and

to donors, there will be a positive response to our appeal."

He said it costs in excess of R20 million a year to run the organisation in spite of its small staff and huge reliance on volunteers.

"We are constantly working to keep costs as low as possible," Greenblatt said. "The CSO has operated quietly and steadily for many years. We would prefer to focus on security, and not fundraising."

• Go to cso.org.za for sponsorship information.

Shabbat times this week

Starts	Ends	
17:30	18:21	Johannesburg
17:59	18:52	Cape Town
17:14	18:06	Durban
17:34	18:26	Bloemfontein
17:30	18:23	Port Elizabeth
17:22	18:15	East London

Torah Thought

Seeing light where others see darkness

The Talmud tells us that Rabban Gamliel, Rabbi Elazar ben Azaria, Rabbi Joshua, and Rabbi Akiva went up to Jerusalem. When they reached Mt Scopus, they tore their garments as an act of grief and mourning for the Temple that had been destroyed there. When they reached the Temple Mount, they saw a fox emerging from the place where the Holy of Holies was situated.

The others started weeping while Rabbi Akiva laughed. Startled, they asked him, "Why are you laughing?"

He responded, "Why are you weeping?"

They answered, "This is the holy place of which it is said of it, 'The stranger that approaches it shall die,' and now foxes traverse it, and we shouldn't weep!?"

Rabbi Akiva replied, "That is why I laugh, for now I see that the prophecy of the destruction of the Temple has taken place," (Micah 3:12: "Zion shall be plowed as a field and Yerushalayim shall become heaps of ruins, and the Temple Mount a shrine in the woods"),

"most certainly now the prophecy of the rebuilding and ever greater third Temple is ready to be fulfilled." (Zechariah 4-5: "There shall yet be old men and women in the squares of Yerushalayim. The city shall be crowded with boys and girls playing in the squares.")

With these words, they replied, "Akiva, you have consoled us!"

As an aside, news outlets in Israel reported that in the days before Tisha B'Av this year, a previously unseen site was witnessed. A half dozen foxes were seen walking in the southwestern area of the Western Wall in the early hours of the morning over a period of few days

We see in this Talmudic passage that the very same vision that caused the sages to weep was the vision that caused Rabbi Akiva to laugh. The difference was that the sages saw despair and darkness in it, while Rabbi Akiva saw hope and light.

Today, we witness the coming to fruition of numerous prophecies foretold by our great sages. These prophecies

describe the manifestations that will arise in the time soon before the arrival of moshiach (Talmud sanhedrin). Many of these are signs of hardship and difficulty, the maladies of a world and society in many ways bereft of virtue, perhaps much like the generation before Noah's flood.

Those who are close to the teachings of Torah, however, recognise in them the beginnings of the birth of a new era. The same visions that show darkness and difficulty are the ones that also signal the long awaited arrival of moshiach. Where others saw only decay, Rabbi Akiva saw the promise of redemption.

The same Talmud (sanhedrin), describing these signs as the world's experience of "birth-pangs" before the birth of the messianic redemption ask, "What is man to do to be spared the birth-pangs of Moshiach? The Talmud answers, "Engage in Torah and acts of loving-kindness!"

Rav Ilan Herrmann



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Selfless warrior fights for his life

NICOLA MILTZ

While community stalwart Shaun Karpelowsky remains in a coma in hospital, the community he serves has pulled together in a show of support. As medical personnel try limit the impact of the trauma, the selfless activities of his communal warrior friends mirror Karpelowsky's life-long actions and spirit. On 17 July Karpelowsky, 45, a plumber specialising in water leaks, was stung by what is understood to have been three bees while attempting to detect a leak in Glenhazel, Johannesburg.

Ezra (the medical response team of the CSO), and paramedics from Hatzollah descended on the Corbel Crescent home. They set about reviving their hero and friend – someone they call a brother. “The reality is that most people don’t survive this or even make it to hospital,” said Dr Brad Gelbart, a CSO volunteer. “Shaun knew he was in trouble, and his call ensured that advanced life support got to the scene in no time.” In a Herculean display of effort, his colleagues worked tirelessly to resuscitate him. Had he been a few kilometres further away, experts agree, he wouldn’t have made it.

He isn’t a man of many words, but his actions speak volumes, they say. Close friend Mark Riesnik, who works with him at the CSO, described Karpelowsky as loyal and reliable. “Shaun is more concerned with the needs and wishes of others than with his own. He is a warrior who quietly gets the job done. This has been a very emotional time. He is one of our own,” he said. Karpelowsky’s wife, Liora, 42, a Grade R teacher at King David Linksfield Pre-Primary, believes there is something deeply spiritual about this tragic incident, which has galvanised the community and brought people together.

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Shaun Karpelowsky with his wife, Liora, their son Idan, 13, and daughter Ashira, 11

Karpelowsky has been allergic to bees since childhood. So, when two of the bees attacked his face, it created a surge of life-threatening venom that caused anaphylaxis. He dashed to get his EpiPen (an epinephrine autoinjector for the treatment of anaphylaxis), while dialling the Community Security Organisation (CSO) to call in the incident. Karpelowsky has been a CSO volunteer for more than 20 years. “I’ve been stung,” he said into the receiver, still able to get the words out. So severe was the allergic reaction, he collapsed in anaphylactic shock a few seconds later. News of Karpelowsky’s life-threatening situation sent shock waves through communal emergency personnel, who reacted with lightning speed. Within minutes, the men and women he worked with at the CSO,

Gelbart said doctors and paramedics worked for about an hour at the house to regain Karpelowsky’s airwaves, describing it as a “race against time”. It took another two hours to stabilise him at hospital. “While every life is important, the difference here was the emotions involved. This was deeply personal. It took a huge amount of effort to stay focused on the task at hand and put our emotions aside.” A rolling WhatsApp *tehillim* (prayer) group was set up, and members of the CSO kept watch over him throughout the night, never leaving the Netcare Linksfield Hospital where he lay in the intensive care unit. In the hours, days, and weeks following the incident, family and friends have described Karpelowsky as a quiet *mensh* who selflessly gives to others without needing recognition or praise.

“In the days leading up to the incident, Shaun and I were able to spend a lot of time just being together,” she said. This was unusual as they both lead busy lives. “We had good conversations, expressing how much we loved each other. It was almost as if on some unconscious level, we knew what was coming.” Prayer sessions, including an Amen party (where people gather to recite *tehillim* for a speedy recovery), challah bakes, and prayer sessions overseas, are some of the ways people have shown support and reacted to the shocking news. Another of Karpelowsky’s closest friends, Darryl Oberstein, said, “Shaun always puts others first and puts his life on the line to protect the community. In his quiet way, he has touched so many people’s lives.” This Sunday, a 5km and 10km run

or walk in Shaun’s honour is taking place at Huddle Park in Senderwood at 09:00. The proceeds of this event will go to the CSO and Hatzollah, causes close to his heart. A similar run/walk will also take place in Toronto, Canada, and Melbourne, Australia, as many of his friends who have emigrated feel this is a way of doing something for their special friend. Karpelowsky is an avid nature lover and hiker. A group of his friends this week are hiking through the Kruger National Park over six

days in his honour. They are doing it in the hope that “every step we take in the Kruger will be a gigantic stride for his full and speedy recovery”, said Oberstein. Various charity initiatives involving the wider community have also taken place. Expressing her gratitude for the support, Liora said it was a “truly humbling experience to watch [members of] our community hold so tightly to each other”. She said that while her husband was “going through a difficult



Shaun Karpelowsky

time”, she liked to think he could hear her. “His body is fine. The neurological component is tricky. Each day, he continues to take steps. Sometimes it’s forward, sometimes it’s back, but he keeps on stepping, and that’s what keeps us going.” She believes his *neshomah* (soul) has chosen this journey to continue to serve. “I believe the purpose of his journey is to affect as many people as possible, and be a catalyst for change in our own journeys through life. “While I’m completely devastated and heartbroken, I don’t feel angry. When we fill ourselves with anger, there is no space left to appreciate all the good that surrounds us – and there has been so much good.”

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Israel's biggest battle is against delegitimisation says IDF colonel

STEVEN GRUZD

Israel faces military threats on its northern and southern borders, from Iran, and in cyberspace. Though the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is strong and finds solutions, the greatest threat is one of legitimacy, said former IDF representative Colonel Hanny Caspi.

"For short range missiles, there is the Iron Dome. The terror tunnels can be found, shown, and destroyed. We have the bravest soldiers. But the main challenge is legitimacy, and attempts to delegitimise the state of Israel. Israel isn't always ready to cope with this threat."

"If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel."

The world's most sophisticated weaponry cannot be deployed when Israel's enemies use women and children as human shields, and civilian homes, schools, and hospitals to stockpile weapons and house missile launchers. Israelis are quickly labelled as bloodthirsty child killers, causing worldwide outrage.

Caspi trained as a lawyer and served for 27 years in the IDF. Among many other prominent roles, she has been IDF representative to the Knesset; defence and military attaché to the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg; and

IDF representative to NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

Caspi was speaking about the "Security challenges facing Israel today: presenting the Israeli narrative" at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre at Great Park Synagogue in Johannesburg on Tuesday night.

"We have sophisticated stuff, but can't always use it," she said, referring to the legitimacy issue. She has fought (successfully) to get IDF generals to accept delegitimisation as a real and dangerous threat.

"The struggle for legitimacy is a war against Amalek," she said, evoking the biblical enemy of Israel, who knew all its vulnerabilities and exploited them. "BDS [the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions campaign] against Israel is the Amalek of today.

"The conflict with the Palestinians is a local conflict turned global," she said, and false narratives that delegitimise Israel are winning the propaganda war. Easy slogans like "occupation", "free Palestine" and "apartheid" resonate, whereas Israel's story takes much more nuanced explanation. "The internal debate in Israel fuels the Palestinians' narrative," she said, as does the brainwashing of Palestinian children in the "hate industry" through biased school textbooks, the glorification of martyrdom, and anti-Semitism.

To illustrate fake news and unfounded propaganda, Caspi quoted a recent article that debunked false claims by a left-wing Israeli writer that Israel killed Palestinian children in

the hundreds and thousands. It was soundly refuted by real data that showed far lower casualty numbers, even with military operations against Gaza, and the use of children in the frontlines of violent protests at the Gaza border fence.

She related the old joke that G-d told Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt to Canada, so they'd

have the United States as their neighbour. But Moses was a stutterer, and he kept mumbling "Canaan" rather than "Canada", so Israel landed up in a very tough neighbourhood.

In terms of conventional threats, "Israel thankfully has peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, but don't confuse that with peace," she said, describing the enmity and resentment these countries still show to the Jewish state.

Israel faces an existential threat from Shi'ite Iran, a state that has repeatedly vowed to obliterate it.

The radical regime wants to remain in power at all costs, export the Islamic revolution, and destabilise the region by supporting insurgencies and terrorism. Iran is probably the most dangerous threat to international peace today.

Caspi outlined the strength of Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, in Lebanon and now Syria. She denounced the United Nations Interim Force

common enemy – Israel. Hezbollah learned from Hamas to dig tunnels into Israel before these were exposed and destroyed in January 2019.

On Gaza, Caspi outlined the sad history of the region, saying that Egypt refused to take back Gaza in the 1979 Camp David Accords because it wanted this crisis-ridden, densely-populated area

to be a festering problem for Israel. It certainly continues to be that, nearly 15 years after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005.

Caspi concluded with two apt quotations from Israeli prime ministers. Golda Meir said, "Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us." Benjamin Netanyahu said, "If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there

would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel."

She urged the audience to be informed ambassadors for Israel in the ongoing war for legitimacy. She pointed out that Israelis sometimes take it for granted that everyone is familiar with the intricacies of the Middle East. "When we give them information, we explain the second floor, without giving them the foundations. We need to show the world our truth."



In October 2011 Brazil's Ambassador to Israel, Maria Alicia Bregner awarded a medal to Colonel Hanny Caspi for her peace-making efforts

in Lebanon, installed after the 2006 Second Lebanon War, as "worthless", continually deferring to a Lebanese government that tips off terrorists about upcoming operations. She said Israel needed to be less fixated on Hezbollah, putting the onus on the Lebanese government to reign it in, "but perhaps there are egos among the IDF generals who want to confront Hezbollah".

Shi'ite Iran even supports Hamas, a Sunni movement in Gaza, because they are fighting a

Somerset West school apologises unreservedly for Nazi salute

TALI FEINBERG

When a photo of Somerset West Private School students raising their arms in a Nazi salute surfaced last week, it caused outrage, especially when the school said it was a "Roman salute", and implied it didn't know what all the fuss was about.

But after meeting the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) and the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, it appears that the school now understands the implications of the photograph, which was on the home page of its website.

"We apologise unreservedly to the public at large, and all groups and individuals that were victims of the Holocaust," said Principal Morne Coetzer. "We also acknowledge that referring to the gesture as a 'Roman salute' was misjudged, and we apologise for the additional offence it caused."

The school said it would educate the students in the photo – and all students – about "the offensive nature and insensitivity of the use of Nazi symbolism and imagery". It would also ensure that students, educators, and parents undertook Holocaust education programmes at the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre.

"Further to this, we have committed our school to join the Cape SAJBD's 'No Place for Hate' campaign and to introduce its material into our school environment," he said. "We look forward to positive engagement with both organisations in the future."

Cape SAJBD Director Stuart Diamond said that while Jews, as the primary victims of Nazi tyranny, were particularly sensitive about displays of this nature, the incident was something that concerned all South Africans.

"With increasing racism and hatred being spread in South Africa, especially on social media, it's incumbent on our schools to inculcate in their students – the future citizens of our country – respect for others and an avoidance of any symbols and gestures that could indicate identification with racist ideology. We are happy that after a long and productive discussion at the school, it has committed to corrective action."

Author David Grossman eulogizes settler teen who was murdered hugging his book

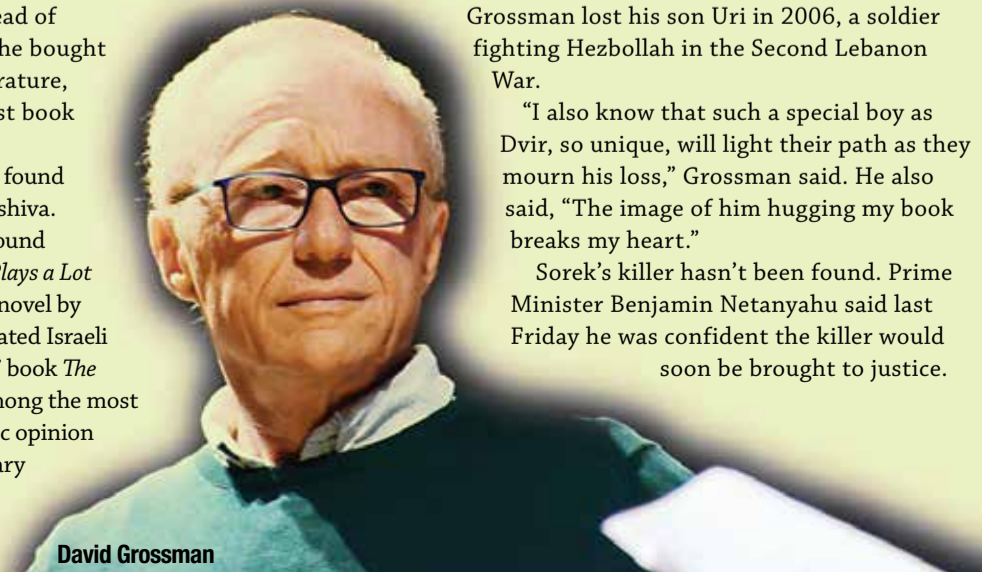
CNAAN LIPSHIZ – JTA

The body of Dvir Sorek, the 19-year-old student who was murdered last Thursday in a West Bank terrorist attack, was found clutching a book by David Grossman, a staunch opponent of Israeli settlements.

Sorek's friends from the West Bank settlement of Ofra, where his family lives, described him as a unique young man, saying that he was, "an upstanding person, a poet, a musician with a special connection to nature".

This is perhaps the reason that he chose to give an unusual goodbye gift to his teachers at the West Bank religious seminary, or yeshiva, he attended. Instead of Jewish scripture, he bought them modern literature, including the latest book by Grossman.

Sorek's body was found not far from the yeshiva. One of the books found with him was *Life Plays a Lot with Me*, the latest novel by Grossman, a celebrated Israeli author whose 1987 book *The Yellow Wind* was among the most influential on public opinion about Israel's military presence in the West Bank.



David Grossman

On social media, Sorek's final literary choices became a powerful symbol of unity in a country that is deeply divided over West Bank settlements, and the role of religion in society.

But that's only part of the reason it moved Grossman deeply, the author said during a speech he delivered at a commemoration for Nechama Rivlin, the late wife of President Reuven Rivlin.

"I didn't know Dvir Sorek, but from what I have heard today, he was such a humane boy," Grossman said, according to Ynet. "Sensitive. Loved humanity, and loved peace. An artist in his soul. My heart goes out to his parents, his family, and all his loved ones. I know from experience that a difficult path lies before them."

Grossman lost his son Uri in 2006, a soldier fighting Hezbollah in the Second Lebanon War.

"I also know that such a special boy as Dvir, so unique, will light their path as they mourn his loss," Grossman said. He also said, "The image of him hugging my book breaks my heart."

Sorek's killer hasn't been found. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last Friday he was confident the killer would soon be brought to justice.

Salaita lashes out at Zionist money for destroying his career

MOIRA SCHNEIDER

Palestinian-American scholar Dr Steven Salaita is still furious about the fact that his offer of a professorship at the University of Illinois was revoked in 2014 after he put out a series of anti-Israel tweets.

He now drives a bus for a living. Last Wednesday, Salaita blamed Israel-supporting donors for destroying his career. He claimed that academic freedom was always conditional on corresponding politics, and was not possible in institutions possessed of wealthy donors.

This was while delivering the 53rd annual TB Davie Memorial Lecture at the University of Cape Town (UCT), held under the auspices of its Academic Freedom Committee.

Salaita, speaking to a slightly more than half full auditorium of about 120 people on “The Inhumanity of Academic Freedom”, recounted his experience of having his professorship in American Indian Studies revoked.

Although he said a court settlement had been reached in his favour, he hasn’t been able to secure another position in academia. He referred to this as “a rigorously enforced blacklist”, and claimed that numerous bodies had labelled his firing as “a clear-cut violation” of academic freedom, but to no avail.

“For five years, I’ve had to consider whether my sharp criticism of Israel and subsequent recalcitrance – the unwillingness to grovel my way back into academe’s good graces – was worth it. I wouldn’t change anything, nor do I entertain regret,” he stated defiantly.

“They took my career. They

continue to patrol academe to make sure I never return. That’s why they’re complaining about my presence at UCT. They’re sending a message: ‘Don’t even dream of hiring this guy; don’t even consider it.’”

Salaita went on to claim that it was Israel or the Jewish lobby and its “donations” that was enforcing the demise of his academic career. “We’ll create a circus, a ragbag of bad press, the one thing that administrators of all ideological leanings dread. We’ll withhold donations. We’re willing to harm the entire institution in order to preserve our anachronistic politics. I know this because they do the same thing at every campus I’ve ever visited.”

Salaita claimed that anti-Zionism wasn’t racism, but “the just position”, and that more than anything, denouncing Israeli aggression had a long record of provoking recrimination.



“I’ve been sued two different times by the same people who wrecked my academic career. Tell me, then, what opportunity? What autonomy? What freedom?”

He maintained that Israel was the subject of endowed professorships across the globe. “Why does this comparatively miniscule country, in both size and population, enjoy such prominence on campus?” he asked. “The obvious answer is that the state’s supporters spend money on professorships.

“This explanation isn’t comprehensive, though. Lots of factors exist: the importance of Israel to US culture and identity; Israel’s prominent role in Western imperialism; the pro-Israel leanings of many professors and administrators; the state’s seamless reproduction of orthodoxy; the notion that Israel is exceptional and thus worthy of special analysis; methodical efforts to scrub Palestinians from the globe.

“Zionists have made it so that even identifying as Palestinian is contentious.

In spaces devoted to learning, inquiry into our very existence is *verboten*

[forbidden].”

Salaita went on to paint US President Donald Trump with his tainted brush, saying that upon becoming president of the US, he appointed “Likudnik” Kenneth Marcus as head of the office for civil rights at the department of education. Marcus founded the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights, which had “dragged dozens of pro-Palestine activists into court – including myself”.

He continued his tirade. “To this day, not a single university president has condemned the University of Illinois’s 2014 annihilation of academic freedom or its destruction of the programme in American Indian studies.”

He described Zionists’ argument about campus being awash in anti-Israel (“and thus anti-Semitic”) sentiment as “a fantasy, or, more precisely, a rhetorical gimmick to convey a more critical point that challenging their supremacy is a form of prejudice.

“Once a narrative about an academic’s offensive social-media profile takes hold, it becomes a permanent demerit. Because I was marked in a particular way, deliberately and publicly, I can’t visit Palestine, my mother’s ancestral land, as the Zionist occupiers control all ports of entry.

“I can’t find a single university president who will affirm my right to extramural speech. I can’t get an office job with any campus or corporation that has access to Google.

“I’ve been sued two different times by the same people who wrecked my academic career. Tell me, then, what opportunity? What autonomy? What freedom?”

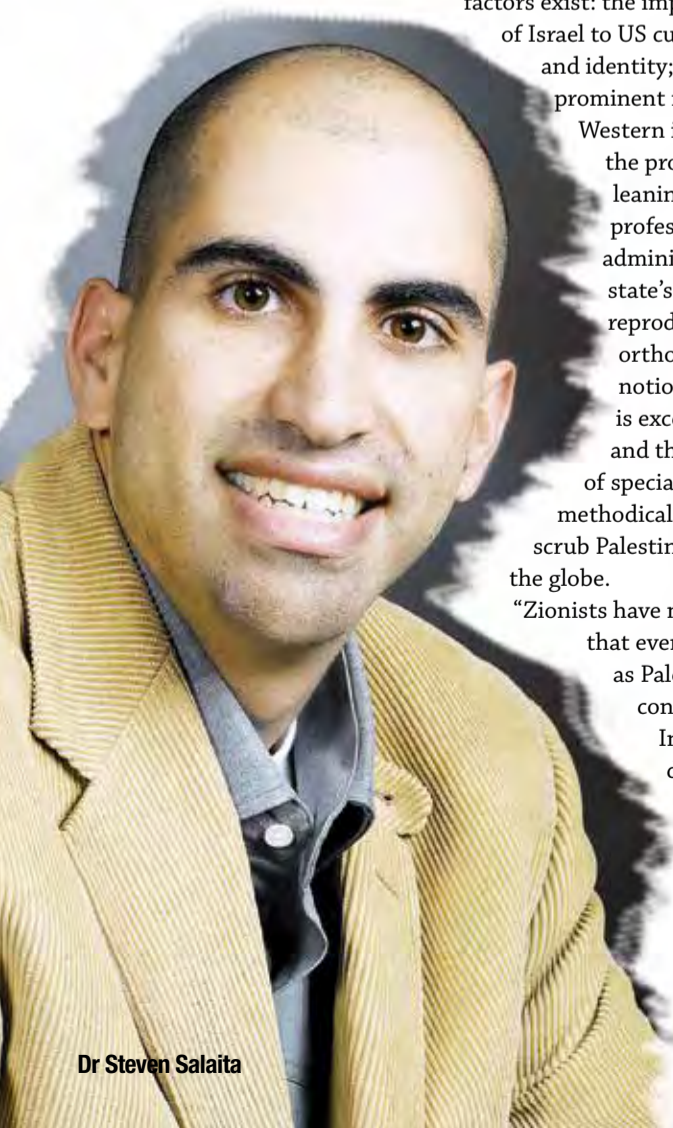
“Academic freedom can’t make any university hire me, no matter how strong my CV. It can’t alleviate the fear administrators have of upsetting the Israel lobby.”

With this in mind, he tackled the UCT senate’s resolution in March to end collaboration with Israeli academic institutions operating in the occupied territories. Salaita referred to it as having “set off a flurry of disapproving and often reproachful commentary from Zionist scholars. Most of them, not wanting to betray partisan motivation, disapproved of the resolution by citing academic freedom.

“First of all, the decision was made according to a democratic governing process, so it represented a classic example of academic freedom in action. What, then, are critics of the resolution actually doing?”

“What do they truly want, beyond piety and platitudes? They’re asking upper administrators or outside forces to intervene in faculty governance based on political displeasure, the very thing academic freedom is supposed to prevent.”

Asked what inspired him to remain calm in the face of his challenges, Salaita said, “People think I’m a monster because of my Twitter comments. I’m not. It’s part of my social media persona.”



Dr Steven Salaita

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South African Jewish Report

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Stop fighting and start working together

The last thing any of us would want is for the CSO (Community Security Organisation) to be under threat – or so it would seem.

The CSO represents our security. It enables us to lead Jewish lives in Jewish environments, be it schools, shuls, events, and so on. When we send our kids off to camp or on youth-movement weekends, we feel secure in the knowledge that they will be protected by the tough guys escorting them. When we mingle at Yom Ha'atzmaut or other Jewish events, we do so without a thought of our security because of those same guys who we trust will stop the bullets.

The CSO represents peace of mind, knowing there is a hotshot team of trained security people overseeing volunteers in keeping us safe.

They are our community bodyguards. If you know of a threat to our security, it's the CSO you contact.

So, when the email from the CSO was sent to the community saying that it was in financial trouble and needed help, I, for one, was taken aback.

Surely, it's incumbent on our community to ensure that the CSO is safe and sound. If it's secure, then we are safe. It makes sense.

Some people might question the work it does, and whether we need it, but suffice to say that in my position as editor of this newspaper, I have witnessed the extent of its work. I'm grateful it's around.



So much of the work it does isn't visible to the naked eye, so to speak, but it does a fortune to ensure our well-being.

How the organisation became cash-strapped is in our lead story, but I want to look at the context of the situation.

We are a small community with fairly big threats. Sometimes the concerns are bigger than others. We live in a greater Jewish world – not necessarily in South Africa at the moment – where being Jewish makes us a target. On the southern tip of Africa, blee ayin harah we are not overtly physically threatened. But we cannot and dare not take that for granted. So, if you think we shouldn't focus too much on the CSO, I think you are wrong.

I'm not undermining the work other communal organisations do. I certainly wouldn't do that. We need to sustain all of them as they are all spokes in the wheel that keeps us going as a community. We choose any one of the spokes over the others at our peril. We need to look after all of them.

This brings me to the financial situation, the bottom line bothering us all. We are living in a country where the economy is at a real low. The pool of people who used to give large donations to our communal organisations is much smaller, as are the donations.

Most of our organisations have had to tighten their belts, as have we all. Such is the situation in the larger community, and the country as a whole.

As Jews, we are in a better situation than many other communities in this country, not least because as Jews, it's our nature to look after each other.

We make sure to keep afloat our poor, our sick, our security, and the people who protect us against anti-Semitism and ensure our place in the sun.

Those outside our community always marvel at this. They are amazed at how we don't only think of ourselves – as in our personal and familial security and well-being – we also always look after our community.

Jewish people know that if they fall on hard times, get sick, are under physical threat, or experience other unfortunate eventualities, we will look after them. This is the most beautiful thing about this community, something we should all be proud of.

Having said that, we cannot afford to fight with each other over money. I understand that our communal organisations all need money to stay afloat. However, the backstabbing and nastiness that comes with fighting over money is unacceptable, especially in this small community.

We can't put one organisation down to make another look more important. We can't be badmouthing one another to make ourselves look better.

We have to help each other raise funds, even if it's easier not to. We have to find ways of working together, especially if it's tough out there. We can't see other communal organisations as competitors, or worse, enemies. That's crazy, and so short-sighted.

We have the same goal: to maintain this magnificent community in all its glory! Every organisation has a role to play, and needs to be able to do it to the best of their ability. With the small pool of money, we need to ensure that everyone gets what they need to stay afloat. That's just the way it is.

We need to work smart as a community. We need to work together as a team of communal organisations for the betterment of all.

No, I'm not about to start singing *Kumbaya*, I'm just trying to make sense of the situation we find ourselves in.

Let's stop fighting, and start talking to find honourable solutions. They are out there, we just need to make the effort.

The community is as good as its communal leaders. We have some incredible people at the helm, many of whom do it on a voluntary basis for the betterment of our community. I take my hat off to them because their task is not easy, nor is there any glory in what they do.

But we have a duty to our community to suck up our differences, and work together for the betterment of all our organisations, including the CSO.

Shabbat Shalom!
Peta Krost Maunder
Editor

The sordid saga of Jeffrey Epstein's 'suicide'

American financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's apparent suicide last Saturday has triggered a wave of anti-Jewish conspiracies online.

The hashtag #EpsteinMurder has been trending with thousands of shares on Twitter alleging that Epstein was a Mossad agent; that his murder was ordered by a "Jewish mafia"; and that the Talmud justifies sex abuse of children who are not Jewish.

There is worse: claims that Judaism promotes paedophilia; that Epstein was killed to protect Jews working to bring about the rise of the anti-Christ; that he and others were Jewish supremacists; and that the "Jewish state of New York" killed Epstein.

The conspiracies are not limited to Jews, but include how Epstein died. He reportedly hanged himself in his Manhattan prison cell (which has been described as less hospitable than Guantanamo Bay), in spite of the fact that three weeks earlier, he'd been found unconscious in the cell with injuries to his neck.

He was subsequently placed on six days of suicide watch. But twelve days before he died, he was taken off, prompting a plethora of theories, including that the body found was not his and belonged to someone who looked like him.

An initial autopsy was inconclusive, finding only that the cause of death was likely to have been suicide. At the time of writing, Epstein's corpse is awaiting a second, independent autopsy.

Born to Jewish parents in Brooklyn in 1953, Epstein left college without a degree. He taught calculus and physics for two years before beginning his career as a lowly junior assistant to a floor trader at investment bank Bear Stearns.

Swiftly rising through the ranks, he was made partner four years later. He then left to form his own money management firm catering only for billionaires. His main client was Victoria's Secret mogul and Jewish philanthropist, Leslie Wexner.

But that relationship ended more than a decade ago when Wexner cut ties with Epstein as suspicions first surfaced that Epstein was using his employees to bring him local teen girls, some as young as 13-years-old, for sex.

Accused at the time of molesting more than 100 underage girls at his Palm Beach home in Florida, he was granted an unusual non-prosecution agreement. Instead of facing life in prison, Epstein pleaded guilty only to two minor charges of solicitation of prostitution and procurement of minors for prostitution.

He served 13 months of an 18-month sentence in the private wing of a county jail, and was permitted to leave six days a week, for 16 hours each day, for "work release".

Israel defender and well-known Jewish Harvard law professor, Alan Dershowitz, was a member of Epstein's legal team who helped broker the secret agreement. Dershowitz himself is now under fire, accused of sexual misconduct by two of Epstein's alleged victims.

As he desperately tries to rescue his reputation, Dershowitz has insisted that an email, only now unsealed from a pile of court documents, exonerates him of the crime.

In the email, a reporter writes to one of the two victims: "Don't forget Alan Dershowitz ... JE's [Jeffrey Epstein's] buddy and lawyer ... good name for your pitch ... We all suspect Alan is a

DATELINE: MIDDLE EAST

Paula Slier



pedo and tho no proof of that, you probably met him when he was hanging out with JE."

Dershowitz said, "If she had sex with me, I'd be highlighted. This is completely exculpatory, and completely consistent with what I've been saying. She made it up when she met her lawyers and heard there was a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

In an essay that originally appeared in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), Dershowitz defended his role in getting Epstein that favourable plea deal in 2008. He wrote that because he did his job well, he has become a target of efforts to destroy his reputation and career.

"I get my inspiration from the biblical Abraham, who defended the sinners of Sodom," Dershowitz wrote.

"Our sixth amendment demands that every accused be afforded the right to counsel, but too many defendants are denied zealous representation because lawyers fear economic and political reprisal. Lawyers who were part of the Epstein defence team have had their contributions to political candidates returned. Others have been threatened with loss of business."

As the Epstein scandal continues to unfold, another high-profile Jewish man fighting for his reputation is former Israeli Prime Minister

Ehud Barak. Earlier this year, he staged a political comeback, forming a political party ahead of the Israeli elections next month.

But the evidence is there. Made public now, photos taken in January 2016 identify Barak trying to hide his face as he entered one of Epstein's townhouses on the same day as a large group of women.

Barak insisted, "I was there, for lunch or a chat, nothing else."

So what? I never attended a party with him. I never met Epstein in the company of women or young girls."

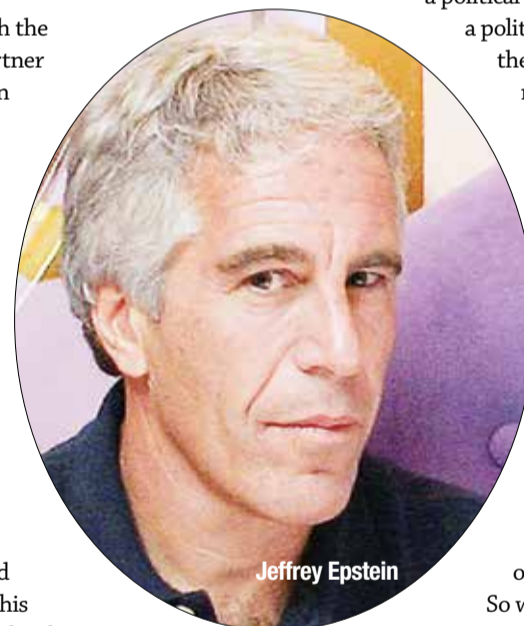
Barak has also defended his decision to work with Epstein in spite of the latter's earlier plea bargain. "He'd [Epstein] served his sentence for soliciting prostitution – the indictment didn't say she was a minor," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has challenged Barak to explain why in 2004, he was paid more than \$2 million (R30.3 million) for what was described as a research programme by a foundation for which Epstein was a trustee. So where does all of this leave Epstein's body as it awaits burial?

Neither the Chevrah Kadisha nor any of the nearby Jewish burial sites in New York have reportedly been contacted. Experts admit they don't know what will happen to his corpse.

Most Jewish sources say that although suicide is against Jewish law, those who die by suicide can still be buried in Jewish cemeteries. But they're less clear about how to bury the bodies of people who have done evil things.

One thing is certain, though. Epstein's crimes will not be buried with him. There are too many powerful people connected to this sordid saga for Epstein, or his crimes, to simply disappear.



Jeffrey Epstein

Fleeing anti-Semitism in Iraq, only to encounter it in the UK



EDWIN SHUKER

OPINION

My family and I managed to escape from Iraq and the hell of Saddam Hussein 48 years ago to the day on 15 August 1971.

We were part of the remnants of a glorious Jewish community that arrived in what was then Mesopotamia as captives to the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar II in 587 BCE, and we maintained a continuous presence there for more than 2 600 years.

We left our home in Baghdad with just the basic necessities to avoid suspicion, with forged identity cards to avoid severe restrictions on movement, and fervent prayers.

After an arduous and perilous journey, and with the assistance of brave Kurdish rebels, we were eventually able to cross the border into Iran and freedom.

This story is not unique, but shared with hundreds of thousands of Jews indigenous to the region who were displaced after the establishment of the state of Israel, with less than 4 000 remaining.

We managed to get to the United Kingdom, where we were granted asylum and began the process of rebuilding our lives. Little did I imagine that in my lifetime, I would again be facing the malaise of anti-Semitism, this time in the UK.

In 2003, weeks after the fall of Saddam Hussein, I felt the urge to reconnect to my birthplace. I wanted to see the shrines of the prophets, the cemetery where my grandfather lies, and the Tigris and Euphrates from which I and a hundred generations of Babylonian Jews drank. I now visit Iraq regularly, keeping alive a tentative link that might or might not last beyond this generation.

In May 2018, I was elected vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and currently chair the communities, education, and interfaith division. I took this on because I wanted to pay back to the Jewish community and Britain for their kindness in embracing our family and providing us with opportunities and blessings.

Ironically, what is currently occupying the board and the Jews of Britain and Europe is a sudden and unexpected rise of anti-Semitism, both in its original anti-Jewish racism and masquerading as anti-Zionism/anti-Israel.

It's fair to say that in 2015, the UK Jewish community felt reasonably safe, secure, and happy – a longstanding, well-respected minority living within a vibrant mix of cultures in the country.

However, anxiety levels increased hugely that year with the election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour Party leader. As a back-bencher in parliament, Corbyn had held cordial meetings with anti-Semitic

figures such as Raed Salah – a cleric notorious for promoting the blood libel.

Corbyn also associated with Holocaust denier Paul Eisen, and referred to Hamas and Hezbollah representatives as “friends”.

At the time, British Jews were alarmed that this was a leader who would tolerate anti-Semitism in his party. Unfortunately, these fears have since turned out to be – if anything – understated.

A large number of British people have historically identified with the Labour Party, and its proud record of fighting racism. Certainly, the anti-Semitism crisis which has developed over the past four years would have been unthinkable under any previous Labour Party leader.

A significant amount of the fault lies with Corbyn, who attacked British Jews whose views on Israel he disagreed with by saying they “do not understand English irony”. He then attempted to dilute the internationally-accepted definition of anti-Semitism.

His attitudes have unsurprisingly created a permissive culture around anti-Semitism. Equally, his equivocation on the severity of the situation and of individual cases; his public embrace of suspended members; and his dismissive response to legitimate questions from journalists, have fuelled the culture of disbelief and denial that has consistently deepened the crisis.

The issue of anti-Semitism has dominated our day-to-day work

in recent years and, thanks to our advocacy, has changed from a fringe issue to being at the front and centre of British politics. However, there is more to the board than anti-Semitism.

We work hard to protect the religious freedom that our community needs to pursue a Jewish way of life. We strive to ensure that the community has the right to educate its children in Jewish schools.

We also work to educate the wider community about Judaism, and to ensure that we have good relations with all the other minority communities which make up the patchwork quilt of our multi-cultural society.

In spite of it all, the British

Jewish community continues to lead a most vibrant life with outstanding schools, kosher facilities, eclectic restaurants, strong youth movements, and much optimism for the future.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews has always had special relationship with its sister organisation, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, based on shared values and challenges.

• *Edwin Shuker is vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. He will be speaking at Limmud Johannesburg this weekend (16-18 August); Limmud Durban, (21 August); and Limmud Cape Town (23-25 August).*

Missing Israeli soldiers an international outrage

OPINION

ARSEN OSTROVSKY – JTA



This week marks five years since an Israeli soldier, lieutenant Hadar Goldin, was killed by Hamas in the midst of a ceasefire during Operation Protective Edge.

On 1 August 2014, hours after the ceasefire went into effect, Hamas terrorists emerged from a tunnel in Gaza, ambushed an Israel Defense Forces unit, and killed Goldin, who was only 23. Hamas took his body, and has been holding it hostage in Gaza, treating it contemptuously as a bargaining chip, and an instrument with which to torment his family.



Israeli lieutenant Hadar Goldin on army duty

Photo: AFP/Getty Images

Hamas is also keeping the remains of another Israeli soldier killed that summer, Oron Shaul, who was only 20. To this day, Hamas refuses even to grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to their remains.

In June, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2474, which calls upon parties to armed conflict to take all appropriate measures, to actively search, account for, and return the remains of all persons reported missing “without adverse distinction” and “consistent with applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and human-rights law”.

Holding the bodies of soldiers killed in action, and refusing their return to their next of kin for burial, is a flagrant and indisputable violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law, as

is wantonly using the soldiers' bodies as bargaining chips and intentionally withholding information about missing persons, which Hamas continues to do.

The bodies of Goldin and Shaul must be returned to Israel for proper burial immediately, unconditionally, and without reservation.

It isn't surprising that Hamas, a fanatical Iran-funded, Islamist terrorist organisation that uses children as human shields and aims rockets at Israeli civilians, doesn't abide by international law. But what about the commitment of the international community to uphold these fundamental and inalienable principles?

The United States has seemingly been the sole voice to take up this humanitarian cause.

Last week, Goldin's parents met in Berlin with the US ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, who called for the immediate repatriation of his body while urging those who fund United Nations Palestinian programmes to “demand action”. Nikki Haley, the former US ambassador to the UN has also taken up the cause of Goldin, both during her time at the UN and afterwards. Jason Greenblatt, the Trump administration's point man on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has raised the matter repeatedly during international gatherings.

Regrettably, however, there has been almost callous indifference from the rest of the international community – especially the European Union.

In April 2018, the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling on Hamas to return to Israel the remains of Goldin and Shaul (as well as civilians Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed). But the EU has barely paid lip service to its own resolution by failing to apply it and call on the Palestinian leadership to release the Israelis.

Even just this past week, with explosive revelations of mass corruption and ethics breaches at UNRWA, the United Nations' aid agency for Palestinians, most of the EU has continued with business as usual, serving as an ATM to the leadership of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA). In 2018, it provided a total of \$415 million (R6.3 billion) in aid, including to Gaza, the PA, and UNRWA.

Although it is Hamas that is directly responsible for the killing, abduction, and captivity of Goldin, we

must also not overlook the legal responsibility of the Palestinian Authority.

The PA, which accepted the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over alleged crimes committed since 13 June 2014, could be deemed liable under international law for the ongoing crimes carried out by Hamas, including failure to act to bring about the release of Hadar and the other captive Israelis.

However, instead of holding the PA accountable, the EU continues to underwrite the Palestinian Authority's “pay to slay” programme, incentivising and contributing funds to the PA's payment of salaries to Palestinian terrorists and their families.

As long as the EU fails to abide by its own



Holding the bodies of soldiers killed in action, and refusing their return to their next of kin for burial, is a flagrant and indisputable violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law.

principles, as well as commitments under international law and the resolutions of its own parliament, it will continue to de facto aid and abet Hamas in the perpetuation of this grave crime and abuse of international humanitarian law.

Likewise, the UN, under whose auspices the ceasefire was enacted, therefore also bears moral and legal responsibility for Hadar's capture and return. The UN must uphold its charter and security council resolution in demanding the immediate and unconditional release of his remains and all captive Israelis.

It's time the international community showed it is prepared to uphold the sacrosanct principles of international humanitarian law, and that Israeli lives matter, too.

• *Arsen Ostrovsky is an international human rights lawyer and an adviser to the Goldin family.*

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How not to fudge your first *frum* date

JORDAN MOSHE

If you're looking to date *frum* (religious), be sure to bear the following in mind: a packet of fudge can mean almost anything.

I learnt this the hard way when I attempted to give it to a young woman as a gift after we'd gone out a few times.

The day after she accepted the confectionary, the *shadchan* (matchmaker) who helped arrange our dates called to say that I had made a considerable error in judgement.

"She says you gave her fudge," I was told. "She wasn't sure what you meant by it. It's not something you should do." To me, fudge meant a form of sugar, in this case presented for the gustatory enjoyment of a fellow human being. To the other party, it clearly meant more than I could possibly have imagined.

The modern orthodox dating scene is a territory which confounds and astounds many. It's a space which hangs somewhere in the balance between the casual realm of secular dating, and the "meet to marry" group, to which the more ultra-orthodox belong.

Modern orthodox dating has been coloured to some extent by both sides of the spectrum, creating a dimension that is unmapped and often treacherous to navigate.

In the modern orthodox world of dating, the *shidduch* or blind date has become an accepted norm, whether it is through a matchmaker or well-meaning friends.

While not quite a shotgun wedding arrangement, it's often not dating in the traditional sense. There are also those who steer away from it and opt for a more casual approach, like asking someone out who they have met at a social event or through a friend.

Either way, the reality is that different people have different expectations when they enter the dating game. Some are looking to start a traditional relationship like that of boyfriend/girlfriend, while others are in the market for a spouse.

Attempts to make the system work when you're not looking to get married just yet, but rather to test the waters, are fraught with complication.

When you're in your early twenties and *frum*, the pressure to find a spouse – whether induced by family, friends, the community, or yourself – is considerable.

You can't attend a *chuppa* or reception without being toasted with a "soon by you" utterance from another attendee. People mean well, but this push to follow suit and adhere to the norm of marrying fairly early takes its toll on young men and women alike. Then, there is the growing worry of young women about "being left on the shelf", and the stress about knowing where or how to look.

Being *frum* (even modern orthodox) places certain limitations on courtship or any relationship prior to marriage. Physical contact between parties is problematic, and reserved for spouses only.

This makes sense, of course, but its application can make even casual *frum* dating a tad tricky. Take kissing off

the table entirely. Hand-holding, parting hugs, and even pats on the back are also out of the question.

Of course, when two people are on the same page about this, and commit themselves, it's somewhat easier. But trying to establish what the other person expects, and how to engage meaningfully without overstepping the lines isn't easy.

The etiquette and codes of behaviour which apply to modern orthodox dating are unwritten. However, they are adhered to by all players of the game.

There are rules which apply to the first few dates: don't go anywhere in Glenhazel where people may see you and start talking; establish how serious the other party is about marriage; and clear the air with neutral topics of conversation.

When the *shadchan* I consulted offered me topics for conversation, it occurred to me that she was accustomed to providing young initiates in the world of dating with a plan for every eventuality.

There are those in need of such guidance, as the space in which they find themselves has the potential to be unforgiving, and the risk of becoming a hopeless case is real.

Much like what you witnessed in the TV series *Shtisel*, *shidduch* dates often take place in hotel lobbies, even in South Africa. If you visit Melrose Arch on any given night, chances are you'll spot a

first date at the African Pride, Fire and Ice, or any other hotel in the area.

Like Akiva Shtisel, boys attempt to broach any subject that is neutral enough to inspire balanced conversation, wondering how to determine if a second rendezvous will turn out based on the responses they elicit.

The success of a date is ultimately determined by the *shadchan*, who consults both parties after the event, and relays what was said. This back and forth might not happen, and the two parties are put in touch at some point if they so wish. Still, in traditional settings, it is usually by the fourth or fifth date that it becomes pretty clear whether they are going to pursue a relationship or marriage. It can, however, continue until both sides are 100% clear.

The art of modern orthodox dating lies in it being anything but a precise science. While you



A scene from *Shtisel*

might want a dictionary of terms for this fraught field, the fact is that dating *frum* is what those involved make of it, and want they want it to achieve.

People might have different expectations or subscribe to different value sets. However, they are ultimately simply moving along levels of the same arena, and might need to shift to another track to make things work.

Whether people choose to use a *shadchan* or not, they will need to decide on the definition of a bag of fudge for themselves.

Observant Jews preoccupied with 'crisis' of unmarried singles

JORDAN MOSHE

In July last year, *shadchanim* (matchmakers) around the world organised a worldwide prayer event asking Jews to pray for a solution to a single problem: unmarried Jewish singles.

The so-called "*shidduch* crisis" – the growing number of eligible Jewish singles who are not finding a spouse – is a growing preoccupation across the Jewish world.

Concern about prolonged singlehood continues to gain prominence in modern-orthodox society, and the perception that young Jews are remaining single for longer is being debated across various platforms.

Perception is one thing, but is it a real crisis, and just how true is it in the local orthodox community?

The phenomenon is more acute in some places than others, says Dr Ari Engelberg. "The term 'crisis' is more American than Israeli. It's known as the religious Zionist singles 'problem' in Israel. It's a matter of perception, perhaps worse in some places than others."

Engelberg is a sociologist and anthropologist at the Israeli Hadassah Academic College. He devoted his doctoral studies to dissecting this issue in religious Israeli society. His findings help to shed light on the wider issue outside of Israel.

"More religious Jewish people today aren't getting married quickly or are staying single," he says. "It's a problem on various levels, both for the people themselves and their communities."

"Like any conservative ideology, family values form part of orthodox Judaism. Being religious and not having a family is seen as an issue."

Engelberg says the rise of individualism, consumer culture, and more modern perceptions of love and relationships partly account for the problem. "These things lead to people having a harder time in deciding who to marry," he says. "Singles are spending longer on the market, leading to a feeling of crisis."

"The single person is caught in a conflict between religious values and reality. Orthodox Judaism champions family and community, while modern culture is more relaxed, celebrates individual freedom, and self-actualisation. These are powerful forces, and people are caught."

Engelberg says the singles he engaged with all want to get married. "Some are happy to wait but ultimately do want to marry. However, social forces sometimes mean they don't find a spouse until they're in their 30s, or even older. Modern expectations of marriage, emotional intimacy, and perceptions of self come into play, and people

are left waiting. This wait clashes with orthodox values, people get worried, and it fuels belief in a crisis."

"If people are experiencing a crisis, we say there is one," he says. "For the Zionist religious group, it's a crisis because they want to be part of the religious community, but experience barriers because they are unmarried and ageing. Role models in the community are not getting married, there's a growing number of older singles, and even divorced religious people. The central value of Jewish family is challenged by people living lifestyles which don't conform to the orthodox norm."



Dr Ari Engelberg

Ultimately, even if it isn't a crisis, there is certainly a lot of hand-wringing going on. The thought of being single in the religious community is devastating for many, raising issues which supposedly clash with orthodox norms.

Many modern orthodox youth still do marry before 25. Engelberg points out that some prefer to marry later, but they are a decided minority.

This is also true for the *shidduch* system, in which singles are introduced to one another for the purpose of a lasting relationship geared towards marriage. Although typically used by more religious people, it isn't the sole preserve of the ultra-orthodox, and is popular amongst the modern orthodox as well.

According to local *shadchanim*, the singles problem in South Africa occurs for a variety of reasons.

"South Africa has a very broad spectrum of people looking to find a match," says Mandy Kaufman, a *shadchan* who has been in the industry for ten years. "From the modern orthodox

to the ultra, people find the *shidduch* system opens things up. You think you know everyone out there, but realise how many more there are when you get into the system."

Kaufman acknowledges that young people are not meeting socially the way they used to. Another problem is that people enter the dating space at different phases in their lives.

"Girls are ready to enter a relationship and marry sooner than boys," she says. "In South Africa, modern orthodox girls leave school, spend some time in a seminary, return to study, and are looking to marry. Boys take longer. They finish school and perhaps go to yeshiva for a few years, get a degree, and don't yet think about marriage. They start looking at the age of 23 or 24, and by that time, the girls have been sitting around waiting. These girls and their parents panic, and the girls pursue the boys because they've been waiting."

Mark Tocker, a former *shadchan* of 15 years, agrees that there is a disparity in age and expectation, saying that the situation is made worse by parents who try to get involved. "Parents are getting more involved. They are blocking suggestions, saying that the people their children or even matchmakers suggest don't fit their criteria."

"There are multiple problems in modern-orthodox dating. Age discrepancies, the demands of reality, parents, different expectations, and a lack of education all come into play. The *shidduch* world does yield success, but it's in doubt for many."

When people don't opt for the *shidduch* system, they often try social platforms and events – such as those offered by youth movements – to better their prospects. Add to the mix that some want to date casually and others want to marry, both while having the same religious values, and you can see why the situation is so complex.

Ultimately, Tocker argues that *frum* (observant) youngsters need to put themselves out there to make a match happen. "Whether it's an informal match made through friends at a lunch, a social event, or a traditional *shadchan*, *frum* Jewish youth need to make an effort," he says. "Social networks can develop if people involve themselves in the social space."

He says religious youth need relationship coaches to whom they can turn at any point in the dating or marriage process so they aren't on their own. "Their parents lived a different reality in most cases, so they are unable to help them. Parents can offer moral support, but the youth needs more than that."

What drove philanthropist Leslie Wexner into Epstein's arms?

BEN SALES – JTA

One of the most befuddling questions surrounding the Jeffrey Epstein saga is why Leslie Wexner, a billionaire entrepreneur, entrusted all of his money to Epstein, a secretive financier with no college degree.

For those immersed in the Jewish world, there's an added question. How did Wexner – a prominent philanthropist seen as a champion of Jewish learning and ethical teaching, whose foundation has trained waves of rabbis, Jewish professionals, and volunteer board leaders – end up so enmeshed and enamoured with a future convicted sex offender and alleged sex trafficker?

Is Wexner connected to the sex-abuse accusations against Epstein? Has the philanthropist been accused of any wrongdoing? Does any of this taint Wexner's legacy or the beneficiaries of his many programmes?

Since the Epstein sex scandal resurfaced this year, these questions have dogged Wexner, the owner of Victoria's Secret who at one point was Epstein's only known financial client. Wexner was very close to Epstein, and trusted him as a money manager and legal representative.

Epstein, who served a year in prison and registered as a sex offender more than a decade ago, was arrested recently and charged with sex trafficking. He was found hanged

in his jail cell on Saturday in what officials are calling a suicide.

As the scandal has unfolded, Wexner and his associates have put out a series of statements on Epstein and their relationship. His connection with Epstein has also led to stormy discussions among the recipients of his largesse about the ethical dilemmas they face.

square metre) mansion. According to Forbes, he's worth \$4.6 billion (R69.8 billion).

Plenty. The Wexner Foundation is among the most prominent private Jewish charities in the world. In 2017, according to tax documents, it gave \$3.6 million (R54.8 million) in charity, much (but not all) of it to Jewish educational causes, as

distributed by his foundation, Wexner wrote that Epstein "had wide latitude to act on my behalf with respect to my personal finances while I focused on building my company and undertaking philanthropic efforts". In 2003, Wexner told *Vanity Fair* that Epstein had "excellent judgement and unusually high standards".

Epstein also was involved with Wexner's charitable efforts. In 1990, the two helped fund the construction of a new building for the Harvard Hillel.

In his recent statement, Wexner insisted that Epstein "had no executive responsibilities in the running of the foundation" and "didn't work directly with foundation staff, and didn't engage with leadership initiatives in any way".

However, their relationship was more than a typical professional one. They were invested together in Wexner's Ohio real estate development. Epstein lived in Wexner's New York City townhouse for years, eventually acquiring it, along with a private plane from Wexner.

Epstein also supervised the construction of Wexner's yacht, *Limitless*, and was a frequent guest at Wexner's Ohio parties, according to

the *New York Times*.

Wexner says he broke off his relationship with Epstein in 2007, and later found out that Epstein had taken a lot of money from him.

"This was, frankly, a tremendous shock, even though it clearly pales in comparison to the unthinkable allegations against him now," Wexner wrote in his recent message. "I'm embarrassed that, like so many others, I was deceived by Mr Epstein. I deeply regret having ever crossed his path."

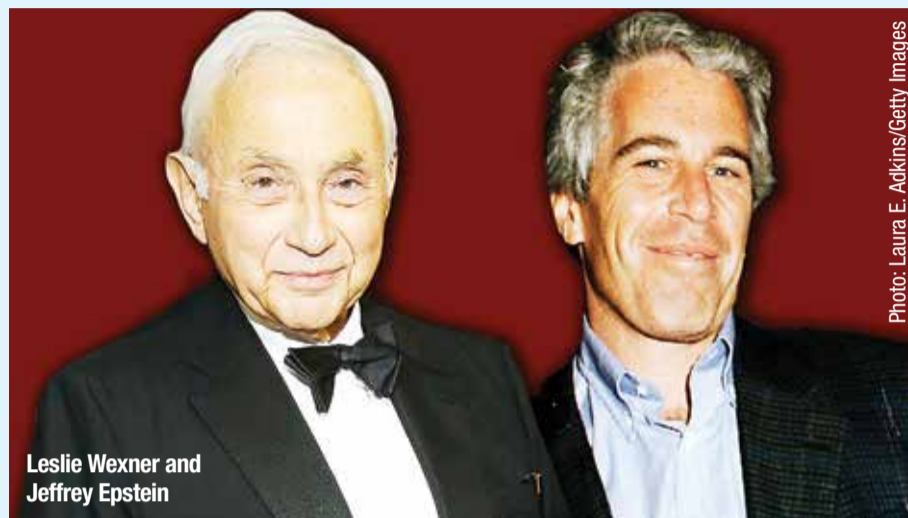
In 2008, Epstein made a \$46 million (R700 million) donation to one of Wexner's charities. Wexner wrote in his letter that "payments Mr Epstein made to the charitable fund represented a portion of the returned monies" Epstein had misappropriated.

According to CNBC, Wexner has provided documents showing the financial misconduct to federal investigators.

So has anyone implicated Wexner in Epstein's crimes?

Some of Epstein's alleged abuses occurred at the Manhattan townhouse once owned by Wexner, where Epstein lived. Another Epstein accuser, Maria Farmer, said Epstein hired her to work on a mural at Wexner's home in Ohio in the summer of 1996, and assaulted her there.

However, Farmer's affidavit doesn't suggest Wexner himself was involved with or knew about the incident.



Leslie Wexner and Jeffrey Epstein

Wexner is an 81-year-old Jewish billionaire who lives in the Columbus, Ohio, area. He made his fortune by founding The Limited, a women's clothing brand, in 1963. Wexner has since expanded his apparel empire to include other brands, like Bath & Body Works, Abercrombie & Fitch and, most notably, Victoria's Secret.

He also ventured into real estate, developing the posh community of New Albany, Ohio, where Wexner lives in a 60 000-square-foot (5 574

well as more money for educational programmes.

What does all of this have to do with Epstein?

Nothing, and everything. For decades, if Wexner spent any money, Epstein was probably connected to it somehow. Epstein met Wexner in the 1980s, and the two forged a close relationship. Epstein eventually received power of attorney over Wexner's finances.

In a statement last week



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Journey into the murky world of apartheid spies

Jonathan Ancer has just released his second book on spies, *Betrayal: The Secret Lives of Apartheid Spies*, the first being *Spy: Uncovering Craig Williamson*. The SA Jewish Report spoke to him about his obsession with agents on the dark side.



What motivated you to write the book?

Growing up, I was fascinated by spies – not the James Bond type of agent, but spies like Eli Cohen, the Mossad agent who spied on Syria, the Cambridge Spies, and the Red Orchestra – the anti-Nazi resistance movement. I became interested in South African spies by accident when I started to do research on “super spy” Craig Williamson. Williamson was a central figure in South African politics during the 1970s and 1980s but after democracy, disappeared from the public eye. He was a member of the special branch who had infiltrated the anti-apartheid student movement, and then carried on spying in Europe. He was unmasked in 1980, after almost a decade undercover, and then transformed from a spy into an assassin. He killed three people (that we know about). I wanted to know why he did what he did, and whether he had any remorse so I wrote the book *Spy: Uncovering Craig Williamson*, published in 2017. I then wondered about other South African spies who have also just disappeared. I decided to track them down. I wanted to explore issues of trust, betrayal, and repentance, and to see if forgiveness is possible. That’s how *Betrayal: The Secret Lives of Apartheid Spies* came about.



Olivia Forsyth was a spy at Rhodes University

What kind of research did you do for this book?

I trawled through archives, court documents, newspaper clippings, and interviewed a wide range of people – spies, and the people they betrayed. Telling the story of each spy was a journey in itself. It took me to an underground cell of the South African Communist Party in the 1950s; to a flat in Johannesburg one evening in 1959 where Richard Goldstone and two of his colleagues “interrogated” the “pretty blonde spy” (the first student caught spying at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)); to a hotel room in New York where a crack team from the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) swooped on Simon’s Town dockyard commodore Dieter Gerhardt who had been a Russian spy for 20 years; to the resistance and repression of the Eastern Cape in the dark days of the 1980s; and to a history class at a top Cape Town high school in 2019 – where a popular teacher had been an apartheid spy. Ultimately, though,

I went on my own journey, looking at South Africa’s past of victims and perpetrators. The culmination of the journey was the realisation that where there is remorse, there is hope of finding understanding, and with understanding comes healing and the possibility of forgiveness.

Having done the book on Craig Williamson, and now this one, you may well become associated with writing about spies. How do you feel about that?

I’m okay with being the “spy guy”. I think this book is more than just about spies – it’s about a particular slice of South Africa’s history that hasn’t been properly recorded.

The life of spies is one of pure betrayal of those you get close to. Have you ever experienced being on either side of this?

I’ve never been a spy (although if I had been, I probably wouldn’t admit it). When I was a student at Wits in the early 1990s, I joined the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), which had been infiltrated by spies (three of whom are profiled in *Betrayal*). There was a sense of paranoia, and one of the first things we were told was to be on the lookout for spies. A few of us were convinced that one of our members – Andre – was a special branch agent. We had planned a meeting where I, as the chair of the ECC branch on campus, would call on men to refuse to serve in the South African National Defence Force. Encouraging people to resist was a criminal offence. The night before the meeting, my phone rang. It was Andre, wanting to know when our meeting was taking place. I told him. As soon as I put the phone down, I went cold. I couldn’t recall having ever given him my phone number. I was convinced there would be a policeman at the meeting who would arrest me as soon as I called on people to defy their call-up. However, no policeman rushed up to me to lead me away in handcuffs, and I still have no idea if Andre was a spy. He probably wasn’t.

What does betrayal, and living a lie mean to you?

Betrayal is one of the most painful and damaging experiences we can endure, and it’s at the very heart of espionage. Most of the spies I write about infiltrated a group of people, socialised with them, had romantic relationships, and formed “genuine” friendships. (I was told that one spy was the best man at the wedding of someone he was spying on), but all the time, they were deceiving them.

What do you think it takes to become a spy?

It takes someone who is capable of being duplicitous, and able to compartmentalise. Spies have to be able to live the role so they need to be

good actors. They have to have an excellent memory to remember the lies they have told so that they don’t get caught out, and they need to be manipulative. People have different motives for becoming spies. One of the questions I explore is what motivated the people I profiled to spy. The acronym MICE – money, ideology, coercion, and ego – is used to explain their motives. There are complex reasons why people spy, but for many of the people I profiled, becoming a spy satisfied their desire to belong. Being a spy made them feel powerful. They enjoyed the secret life, and being able to pull strings. One or two were reluctant spies. For example, Roland Hunter, who did his national service in military intelligence, became a spy for the African National Congress because he opposed apartheid, and happened to be at the right place at the right time (or, perhaps, the wrong place at the wrong time).

Which spy fascinates you the most and why?

Two fascinated me. First, Gerhardt, who was very senior in the South African Navy, and was spying for Russia. A lot of the other spies bumbled along, and were opportunistic, but Gerhardt was a professional spy. He was considered one of the most important spies of the Cold War – in the league of Kim Philby, the British double agent who also spied for Russia. When Gerhardt was finally arrested, it emerged that he had given Moscow between 400 000 and 500 000 pages of documents containing “the deepest secrets of South Africa, Israel, and NATO [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization]”. There’s still a lot of speculation about his motives, and looking into his history was fascinating. I was also very interested in Joy Harnden, who



Karl Edwards was a spy in the Eastern Cape

infiltrated the Black Sash (among other organisations). While the other spies I tracked down just wanted to forget the past and get on with their lives, I got the impression that she had genuinely grappled with her past. She seemed contrite and remorseful about what she had done.

What impact has this book had on your life and relationships?

I’ve learnt that trust is so important, and not to be taken lightly. The research has made me appreciate the people who are in my life because I know I can trust them.



How fortuitous it is that Jacob Zuma recently threatened to reveal more apartheid spies? What are your thoughts about this?

Zuma threatening to name names is merely a distraction. It’s a political sleight of hand so that people don’t look at his corruption. He has accused people he had included in his cabinet of being apartheid spies – it doesn’t ring true. Of course, the people he named all happen to be his political enemies. Accusing people of being spies is precisely what happened during apartheid – it creates a culture of paranoia, and a climate of fear. The problem with spy allegations is that they are usually impossible to prove one way or another.

What is it about spies – particularly from the apartheid era – you believe will fascinate your readers?

What motivated them to become spies in the first place. Some (perhaps most) were manipulated and taken advantage of, but they all chose to become spies. They were conscious of what they were doing. Most have tried to minimise their role, and just want to disappear. What is also interesting is the interviews with people who were betrayed – Toni Bernstein and Jo-Anne Richards were romantically involved with spies. For them, the betrayal was deeply personal. Decades later, most of the people who were betrayed still feel angry, hurt, and humiliated. They talk about the betrayal as if they are grieving a friend’s death. In a way, they are. The person they thought they knew is no longer there, and their sense of what’s real is shattered.

Going back into the dark days of apartheid is fascinating, but it can’t be easy. How did you wash it off at the end of the day to be a normal dad and husband?

I spoke to people who had been tortured and, with regards to Williamson, the family members of his victims, which was very upsetting – especially the murder of one of his victims, six-year-old Katryn Schoon. As a journalist, I’ve covered some

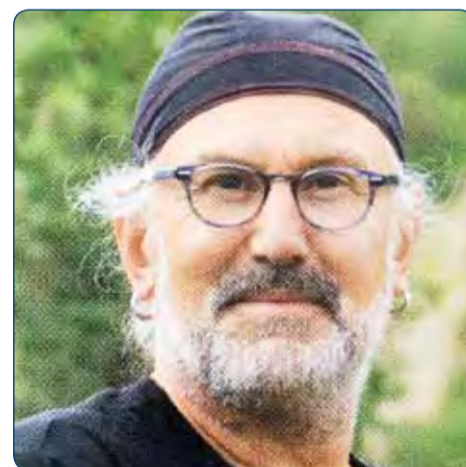
terrible incidents, and have learnt to deal with the trauma – both my sisters and my wife are psychologists, and they look after my mental well-being.

Is there a difference between apartheid spies and other spies around the world and through the ages? If so, what makes apartheid spies unique?

There have always been spies (contrary to popular belief, espionage is actually the world’s oldest profession) and there will always be spies – no state can survive without espionage. I have no doubt that the current South African government has infiltrated a range of organisations. So, in that sense, apartheid spies were not unique. From an ideological point of view, though, there’s no moral equivalence between the apartheid spies and those who spied on the apartheid government for the simple reason that apartheid was a crime against humanity. It was an evil system.

You obviously did other work and had a life while writing this book. How did you manage it?

Yes, I tried to have a life. After picking the dozen spies I wanted to profile, I started doing research and conducting interviews, which was the best part of the process. When I had a cupboard full of notes, papers, and interview transcriptions, I realised it was time to start writing (the agonising part of the process). I work best in the morning when there are no ping-pong phones, so got



Mark Behr was a spy at Stellenbosch University

up at 04:00 and, trying to ignore *The Atlantic*’s crossword puzzle, went to my shed and worked for a few hours. I sent chapters to my father, who gave me very valuable feedback, and my excellent publisher and outstanding editor helped to guide me.

What’s next?

There are two projects I want to work on. The first is a story about my daughter, Rachel, who had a very rare disease and a bone marrow transplant in 2017. I went from her isolation ward a few days after her transplant to the *Spy: Uncovering Craig Williamson* book launch. It’s been an incredibly tough journey, but her medical fairytale is a story of hope and miracles. The other project I’m interested in pursuing is about Jewish anti-apartheid activists, and the impact their involvement had on their families.

• *Betrayal* is being launched on 20 August at Love Books in Melville at 18:00, where Ancer will be chatting to Gus Silber.

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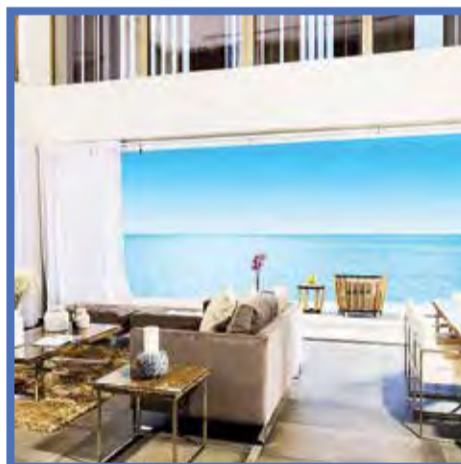
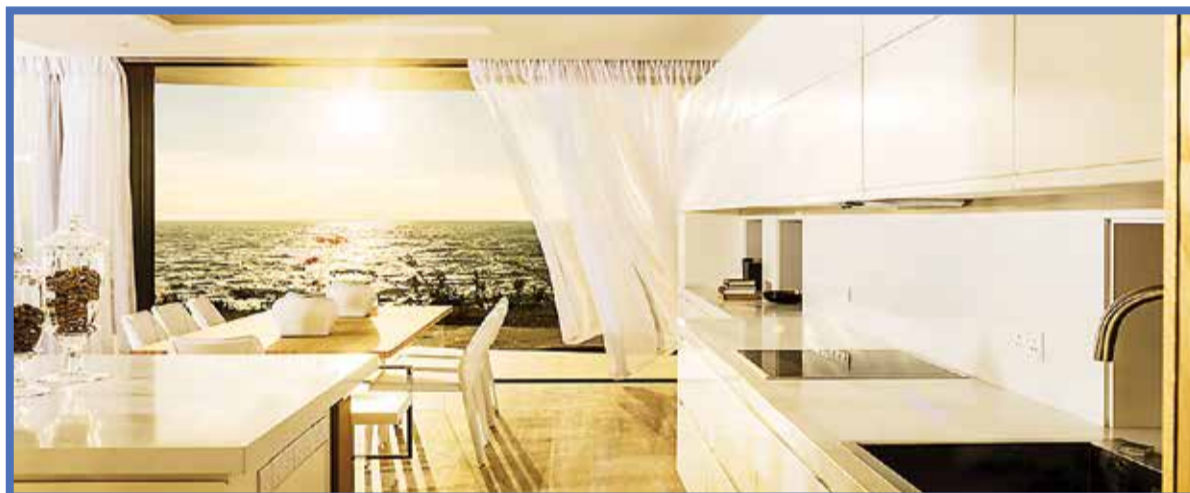
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Israel offers economic lessons for SA, says academic

TALI FEINBERG

Philippe Burger, professor of economics at a top South African university, recently returned from a trip to Israel believing that interaction between Israeli and South African academics is worthwhile.

"Israel presents an example of how a country reinvented itself economically. It shows what's possible," he says.

"South African academics can learn from their Israeli counterparts how a country can re-imagine its economy. Taking a struggling economy in the 1970s and 1980s, reinventing the role of the government in the economy, and laying the foundation for a fast-growing entrepreneurial economy contains a few lessons. That is, especially given the economic challenges that South Africa faces. For that, interaction between South African and Israeli academics will be worthwhile."

This is Burger's first trip to Israel. He travelled with a group of academics. Their tour was sponsored by the South African Friends of the Hebrew University.

Burger was a Fulbright scholar at the Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, at Columbia University. There, he wrote a book on South Africa's low growth and high unemployment problem titled, *Getting it right: a new economy for South Africa*, so he knows what he's talking about when he sees an economic model that works. He suggests Israel can offer an example of how to revive South Africa's economy.

He believes South African academics should visit Israel for other reasons too. "Being an academic is all about exchanging ideas. If you don't interact, there is limited exposure to alternative views. South Africa as a society has overcome huge political, social, and racial divisions, and the job is still unfinished. We can expose people in other societies characterised by conflict to the possibility of creating a different, peaceful, and common narrative among different groups, a narrative that recognises the humanity of all. Such a common narrative will even be necessary to ensure peaceful co-existence in a two-state solution.

"The South African group that visited Israel was, in fact, a good example of the different narrative that we constructed in the South African context. We come from different communities, but we interact as human beings, seeing our diversity as a strength. We can expose others to how we overcome the divisions of the past while building a better future. If our South African story – even as a side effect of exchanging ideas on technology and science – can inspire people across communities in Israeli society to interact more and get to know each other on a human level, the interaction between South African and Israeli academics will be worthwhile," he says.

On a more personal note, he chose to go on the trip as he was aware that Israel is on the cutting edge of technological development, and is known for its start-up culture. Also, from childhood, he has loved history, and finds Jewish, Israeli, and Middle-Eastern history fascinating.

What he found most surprising was the central role the Israeli Defense Force plays in developing Israeli technology, with many young people picking up the skills and independence they need to create start-ups in the army. "Also, even though I had read about it, I was quite surprised by the extent of the start-up culture, and how key it is to the Israeli economy."

He was very aware of the divide between Israeli and Palestinian society in the West Bank and Gaza, however. "I was quite surprised by the size of the social divide between the Jewish and Arab-Israeli communities in Israel itself. The impression I got was of communities largely living in parallel, not even interacting much in the workplace."

He enjoyed interacting with Israeli

academics. "As an academic, I love exchanging ideas. I found the almost radical interdisciplinary approach quite refreshing. For instance, the fact that groups of engineering, design, and business students have to work together to create viable products is worth emulating. The competitiveness – even at university level – between groups of students who have to create such products, and the sharp focus on the job at hand, is also worth exploring as ways to enhance learning."

He was disappointed that most of these academics didn't offer solutions for the resolution of conflict in the region. "Based on the admittedly limited exposure one can gain in five days, I got the impression that because

Professor Philippe Burger on Mount Scopus overlooking the old city of Jerusalem



Photo: Muimeleli Mutangwa

Israel is under constant threat, it might make it difficult for even Israeli academics to conceive of a normal future where all communities live in harmony. Probing them on how the country can move to a viable and stable political settlement that will bring peace usually brought little more than acknowledgement of the current political impasse, and an expression of hope that the

impasse will be overcome by fresh leadership in future."

The highlight of his trip was the OrCam MyEye demonstration. This is a tiny camera which can be attached to any pair of glasses, and increases the independence of people who are blind and visually impaired. It can read texts, recognise faces, identify products, money notes, and colours, and tell the user the time and date, by conveying visual information audibly.

Burger also enjoyed his visit to the Peres Center for Peace, and learning about water and solar industries in Israel. "I'm a bit of a tech junkie, so I found all the amazing technological developments interesting," he says. "I stayed on in Israel for a few days after the tour, visiting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Tel Aviv is an amazing, beautiful, and modern city."

**Burger asked that his university not be named as these are his personal views and not those of the university.*

Liberal Hungarian Jews swing far-right

CNAAN LIPSHIZ – JTA

In 2011, Hungary's largest Jewish group called on the justice ministry to ban the far-right Jobbik party, describing it as "anti-Semitic" and "fascist".

Now some in the Jewish community, and even inside Mazsihisz (a liberal-leaning federation of Hungarian Jewish organisations) see Jobbik as a legitimate partner for effecting democratic change, in spite of its blunt racism.

Years ago, opposing Jobbik was natural for Mazsihisz. Jobbik's virulent incitement has made it an outlier, even among European ultranationalist movements.

In spite of some attempts at rehabilitation, racism still appears to be part of Jobbik's political DNA. Its current leader, Tamas Sneider, is a former skinhead who confessed to beating a Roma person in 1992 with metal cables in an allegedly racist attack. In a 2013 speech in parliament, Jobbik's second in command, Marton Gyongyosi, called for drawing up a list of all Hungarian Jews because they are "security risks".

But the political landscape has shifted. There is growing frustration with the ruling party, the right-wing Fidesz, and its iron grip on power. Anti-Fidesz left-wingers, including within Mazsihisz, have turned toward Jobbik as a potential partner.

This process has resulted in an unlikely alliance ahead of local elections in October featuring Jobbik and left-wing parties that once were among its harshest critics, including the Hungarian Socialist Party and the Democratic Coalition.

Under the arrangement announced last month, all opposition parties would endorse whichever candidate polls suggest is likeliest to win a given constituency. In other words, left-wing parties would urge their supporters to vote for Jobbik candidates where they are likeliest to win, and vice versa.

Many observers are stunned by the co-operation between ultranationalists and their formerly staunch opponents. World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder wrote in February that reports of the alliance "deeply troubled" him.

But to many Hungarians who have had enough of Fidesz rule under Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the deal makes sense.

A masterful politician with nationalist populist tendencies, Orban has had an unshakable hold on Hungary's politics for more than nine years thanks to a series of landslide electoral successes after first serving as prime minister from 1998 to 2002. He has made Fidesz so powerful, the party has received triple the votes of the runner-up in every parliamentary election since 2010.

Against this backdrop, Jobbik and left-wing parties hope their newfound partnership will deliver the first major blow in nearly a decade to Orban's hold on power.

The Orban years have been bad for liberals. He has cracked down on human-rights groups, immigration, the rule of law, higher education, and the free press. But his populist shift has harmed Jobbik, too, having stolen its base. Jobbik crashed in this year's European Parliament elections, receiving only 6% of the vote compared to 14% in the 2014 elections.

In response, Jobbik has pivoted from promoting crude anti-Semitism to competing for mainstream voters.

Gabor Vona, the party's previous leader, sent a Hanukkah greeting to Jewish groups in 2016. The next year, he said Jobbik would drop its anti-Israel line, and "treat Israel as any other country".

In 2014 and 2015, Vona had vowed to "immediately resign if somebody found out I had Jewish ancestry." But in a 2017 interview with the Forward, Vona said, "Over the past two or three years, I made it clear that there is no place for any racism or anti-Semitism in the party."

That claim was a dramatic shift for Jobbik, whose nationalist line has become more inclusive and focused on Fidesz's corruption scandals. But given the party's history, liberal and Jewish community leaders dismissed Vona's recent statements.

As Jobbik tried to soften its image, the Orban government's relations with Mazsihisz became more fraught than ever. In 2014, the Jewish group suspended its contacts with government officials because of a Budapest statue that it said whitewashes Hungarian complicity in the Holocaust. Other Jewish groups disagreed with that position.

Last year, Mazsihisz accused Orban of inflaming anti-Semitic sentiments with a media campaign against George Soros, a liberal Jewish philanthropist and vocal critic of Orban. Many Hungarian Jews also disputed that allegation.

Debate over the left-Jobbik alliance erupted last year in the Jewish community when a local Jewish leader endorsed a Jobbik mayoral candidate named Attila Kiss. The Jewish leader said Jobbik "is not a Nazi party".

But in 2009, Kiss had called on fellow city councillors to "take up sickles and hacks" and "exorcise the synagogue". Mazsihisz filed a criminal complaint against Kiss, accusing him of incitement to racist violence, but it was dismissed by local prosecutors.

Mazsihisz distanced itself from the endorsement of Kiss. But, tellingly, the group's statements did not condemn Jobbik specifically, and spoke only of the organisation's commitment to nonpartisanship in general.



Hungarian supporters of the far-right Jobbik party in Warsaw, Poland

Another potential sign of warming relations between Jobbik and Mazsihisz came in 2017, when Rabbi Zoltan Radnoti, the chairman of Mazsihisz's rabbinical council, called a rival rabbinical group "Jobbik bashers".

"For the past three, four years, Mazsihisz has indeed been much less critical of Jobbik," Peter Feldmajer, a former Mazsihisz president, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Someone [at Mazsihisz] has figured out that the left-wing opposition must join forces with Nazis to overthrow Fidesz." Feldmajer criticized the new alliance, calling it "a disgrace and a betrayal".

Mazsihisz has denied endorsing the deal between the left wing and Jobbik, and says it is not allied with any party.

"We have never had, we don't have, and we will not have any relation with Jobbik," Mazsihisz President Andras Heisler told JTA.

Photo: JaneKszynski/AFP/Getty Images

Planting the seeds of the cannabis revolution

TALI FEINBERG

The cannabis industry is booming in South Africa and around the world following legislation changes, and members of the community are taking the lead in its regulation and derived business opportunities.

The Constitutional Court ruled in September 2018 that it is not a criminal offence for an adult citizen to use, possess, or grow cannabis in private for personal consumption. Then in May this year, the health department effectively deregulated cannabidiol (CBD), the compound of the plant that is not associated with psychoactive outcomes.

“At this point, the South African cannabis industry is still in its infancy, and not all legal, but globally, the kind of products that are available vary from pain management to the reduction of seizures, and many other ailments,” says Leanne Blumenthal, a pharmacist with 32 years of experience. She is playing a leading role in regulating the CBD industry in South Africa.

As an inspector for the South African Pharmacy Council for 19 consecutive years, Blumenthal has a deep understanding of regulating medicines. “Through my years of researching globally, I believe that cannabis has amazing benefits. But it must be handled in a responsible manner as with any other medical product, especially if it is being given to patients that are already in a compromised position,” she says.

Demand for cannabis has risen because of growing global awareness of its effectiveness. “There is an increasing demand for alternative solutions in healthcare. Also, there has been great success with cannabis in certain patients, and this gives us hope for a ‘miracle’ cure. Unfortunately, evidence-based medicines take years of research and clinical trials to prove efficacy, and this is serving as a great challenge and frustration for the industry at the moment,” Blumenthal says.

Blumenthal has been working to legalise cannabis for medicinal use for the past five years. “It’s important that cannabis is legalised to ensure compliance with standards. It would also level the playing field. The only people who would benefit from this would be the patients,” she says. “There is a global trend to legalise cannabis for medicinal use. South Africa already has processes in place to align with the rest of the world.”



“There is a global trend to legalise cannabis for medicinal use.

South Africa already has processes in place to align with the rest of the world.”

As a pharmacist, she was drawn to this work by the medicinal qualities of the cannabis plant. “There is a lot of misinformation around the recreational and medicinal uses of cannabis. As healthcare professionals, we are always looking for more effective, innovative ways to treat people, and safer and more accessible solutions to deal with various ailments,” she says.

But she warns consumers to be cautious, as not all of the products available in the market are legal, and not all have gone through rigorous quality controls and testing.

“Try and educate yourself as much as



possible about the plant. Certain strains are used for certain conditions, and it’s not always a one-size-fits-all situation,” she says.

Neil Freeman is an entrepreneur, and one of numerous investors in the industry.

“Our entry was an opportunistic one. In this case, Medigrow Lesotho was founded by Andre Bothma, who belongs to a family that has been doing business in Lesotho for three generations. They are reputable, and what we would consider true partnership material. The overarching qualification was to get into business with Andre given his track record, with the industry being a secondary consideration.”

Freeman says the CBD industry is “piping hot” at the moment. “Medigrow was an opportunity to get into a low cost, but very high-quality asset at the beginning, and have a lucky ride, looking back in hindsight, to a place where prospects are looking really good, globally. The early signs were there when we first invested in 2017, but they are now all over the place.”

For international markets, it manufactures a full-spectrum cannabis oil, made under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) conditions, although the company awaits GMP accreditation. For South Africa, it manufactures CBD oil, tinctures, creams, sprays, and patches with little to no trace elements of THC. According to an article in *canniseur.com*, the main difference between CBD oil and full-spectrum cannabis oil is that cannabidiol is the only cannabinoid in CBD oil. Full-spectrum cannabis oil contains the complete range of cannabinoids and terpenes that can be extracted from cannabis.

“The demand for ‘real’ oil – and by real I mean full-spectrum cannabis oil – is high, and it will be used for medicinal purposes only,” he says. “There aren’t a lot of producers globally given the extremely high cost of producing a pharmaceutical-grade product. We produce to fulfil this need internationally, given the shortage. We constantly progress to a higher and higher quality product to satisfy a market that will become increasingly regulated.”

In South Africa, he says, “there is demand, and the market is getting cluttered. We produce what we believe is a very high quality CBD oil in partnership with very reputable firms. South Africa is awash with untested or badly tested product that is extremely harmful to people. We saw the gap, and will produce to fill this void.”

He believes the demand for the product

around the world is based on the fact that anecdotally – and in some cases through clinical trials – it has shown great efficacy. “It’s also a naturally good product, and natural is increasingly in demand if grown and extracted correctly.”

Freeman says the company’s biggest successes to date include commissioning a state-of-the-art facility in the mountains of Lesotho, and extracting the first oil in September 2018. “Our site selection took a lot of time, given the search for an absolutely clean environment – no pests, clean water, high altitude, and no detectable

pesticides in the surrounding areas.

“We have finished construction of a fully European Union GMP-compliant facility on site, and await accreditation. Our initial investment from a Canadian-listed player, widely regarded as a torch bearer for high quality, gave us confidence that we were on the right track.”

Cost has been a major challenge. “A proper at-scale cannabis-extract facility and grow site is extremely expensive,” Freeman says. In addition, “there are no laboratories in South Africa that can test to the standards we require for a quality export. We imported and commissioned all equipment for this purpose, as well as bought and developed standards that don’t exist locally.”

He believes medicinal cannabis will be quickly legalised around the world, given its assumed efficacy and popularity. “Polls [in the United States] increasingly show more and more people in favour of full legalisation. You are also seeing developed markets legalising [the product], such as Canada, Israel, Australia, and Germany. In time, I believe cannabis will be legal medicinally and recreationally across the globe – or at least in most parts of it.”

Freeman’s advice to anyone who wants to get into this industry is to “have a lot of money and skill to do it properly, and at the highest quality standards, because regulators will demand it. If you are distributing CBD products locally, be careful. People taking these products can sometimes have very compromised immune systems, and impurities in concentrate form can cause a lot of harm.”

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Unearthed headstones tell story of Jews of Brest

PAULA SLIER

The Belarusian city of Brest won't mean much to many. It meant nothing to me until a few years ago. But it was here where former Israeli prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Menachem Begin, was born in 1913. The family of another former Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, also came from here. In fact, Sharon's grandmother was the midwife at Begin's birth.

Known to Jews as Brisk, the city is on the Polish border along the Bug River. Over the centuries, it has changed hands repeatedly. At different times it was part of Lithuania, Poland, and the Soviet Union. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, it finally became part of the newly sovereign state of Belarus in 1991.

I first heard its name from my grandmother, Sarah, who was born in Brest, but was ashamed to admit it. She didn't have fond memories of the place, and the pain of her childhood didn't dim as she aged.

But the one thing she'd sometimes mention was the Bug River. Our family jokes that the *meshugas* (craziness) in our genes comes from our ancestors drinking water from this river.

A few years ago, my father and I visited Brest. "My mother would've thought we were *meshuganas* (crazy) to come here," my dad chuckled throughout our trip. But he couldn't hide his excitement when we finally set eyes on this family "heirloom".

"I always imagined it as a huge river with craft and barges sailing up and down," my father exclaimed from its shore. He was sorely disappointed.

"I'm looking at it, and it's dirty and full of green moss. I intended to put my toe in the water, but I'm afraid something will bite me!" he declared solemnly. "One thing I'm convinced of is that our family would've really been *meshugana* to drink from it in the first place, and

No-one remembers who was the first to take the headstones to use as pavements, and in the basement floors of peoples' homes and gardens, but what locals do remember is that no-one stopped them.

"As children, we played football with the skulls and bones we found here," a stooped over, elderly man, walking past where the cemetery used to be, tells me in Russian. A football track has since been built with a parking area and sports club at the one end, and an open field at the other.

When I look around, I see



An example of the kind of memorial wall to be built



The following three pictures are of the broken tombstones



certainly *meshuganas* after they'd done so."

Humour soon gave way to sadness and loss. Exploring the Jewish world of my grandmother's youth uncovered precious little. It's as if a Jewish community that accounted for more than half of the city's inhabitants before the Nazis murdered nearly 30 000 of them in 1942 has simply disappeared. In 1944, when the Soviets liberated Brest, only nine Jewish citizens were alive.

There is a Magen David on the ground in front of the house where Begin was born. The Great Synagogue is now a movie theatre. Another synagogue serves as a residential building, and the former Jewish hospital, while still a hospital, has nothing Jewish about it. If you look closely, you can see indents on the door frames where the *mezzuzot* were once placed.

Symbolically, the only Jewish reminder of this now vanished world are tombstones that date back to 1830 – and even they haven't escaped the vestiges of war.

In the early 1940s, the German army and Nazi SS totally destroyed the main cemetery. In the decades that followed, the Soviet authorities desecrated whatever tombstones had survived to give way to a stadium and playing field.

broken Jewish tombstones lying among the unruly grass in the backyard of people's homes.

"No-one stopped us. We were children," the old Belarusian man continues. "I don't remember about tombstones. Maybe they took them, maybe they didn't. No-one was caring about that."

But in the past 15 years, these tombstones have been surfacing all over the area. While

some are broken, others are intact with distinctive Hebrew inscriptions.

Neighbouring the cemetery was once the Warburg Colony, a housing district built for the beleaguered Jewish community after World War I. Soon, however, the houses were full of Jewish orphans whose parents had been killed in the war or in violent programs. They, in turn, were murdered by the Nazis who subsequently used the houses for Soviet prisoners of war. All the buildings have since been torn down.

While they were being demolished, Debra Brunner was in Brest. Brunner is the founding director of The Together Plan, an initiative that empowers Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to set up and run projects.



"We got a call from a reconstruction company that they were clearing the area to lay foundations for a new supermarket, and had uncovered a whole lot of headstones," she says.

"It was incredible. They were digging, and headstones were literally coming out of the ground. I've never seen anything like

it. It was bizarre," she reflects.

"They were everywhere. They were in total disarray. The builders were very kind and concerned, and wanted to know what they should do with them."

Brunner knew exactly what to do. She asked them to put them in a pile, and later arranged for them to be moved to Brest fortress where already more than 1 200 stones from the same

cemetery had been collected and stored. About 150 Jewish gravestones were uncovered. Some were still intact; others broken and damaged.

"We are campaigning to raise funds to create a memorial wall using these reclaimed headstones," says Brunner.

"The idea is, where possible, to make a detailed list of all the people who were once laid to rest here, and return the tombstones to their rightful place. It's vital that we preserve the past to create a symbol of hope for future generations."

At this stage, there is nothing above the ground where the old Jewish cemetery used to be.

"As soon as we've raised enough money, we will build a memorial wall from the headstones to be placed there. We will be working closely with the authorities and the local community on the project. Afterwards we hope to digitise the information and save it in an archive," she says.

The Together Plan is building a Jewish journey through Belarus. The memorial wall will feature along the route, and help visitors to discover the country's rich Jewish heritage.

Earlier this year, while digging the foundation of an apartment building in Brest, construction workers discovered human remains believed to be from hundreds of Jews killed by the Nazis. Some of the skulls bore bullet holes, suggesting that the deceased were executed.

The tragedy of the Holocaust was twice-enforced because so many people disappeared into mass pits without a name or outward sign of where they had died. Since biblical times, it has been customary for Jews to erect a tombstone at a gravesite to serve as a symbol of honour to the deceased. It also gives friends and relatives a place to visit.

But like so many Jewish families, there's nowhere in Brest for mine to be remembered. And so, I'm left wondering if some died in this newly discovered mass grave? Or if one day I'll find their names on a recovered tombstone in the memorial wall to be built?

I've always believed it's not when a person's body ceases to function that death comes; it's when he or she is forgotten about. Helping to collect the tombstones is the least I can do to preserve the memory of my family and a corner of the world where Jewish history and memory almost came to an end. But not forever. If we do something about it, people will return, and they will find more than history. Miraculously they will find the seeds of new Jewish life, and so much more.

If each of us donated just a little to the memorial, I'm sure we could have it built in no time. Even R100 would help.

• To donate, visit <https://thetogetherplan.com/en/brest-headstones/>



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'Egg'cellent news! Yolks are your friend

"Don't have more than three eggs per week", "Have as many eggs as you like", "Only have the egg white, and not the yolk". Which one is it? This is confusing!

It's amazing how a tiny, oval food item that is found in so many foods has caused such controversy. The real question is, do eggs deserve their negative reputation? A whole egg contains a wide array of important nutrients that benefit our bodies. Yes, you heard me. That's one whole, full egg! Many people are stuck in a craze of ordering egg-white only omelettes as they think they are being healthy, when in fact they are missing out on the most magical part of all – the golden yolk.

Egg whites provide a great source of high-quality protein, while egg yolks contain minerals, vitamins, fats, and other important nutrients. Loaded with vitamin A, Selenium, B vitamins, and choline, this palm-sized health-grenade is exactly one protein portion, and even contains small amounts of vitamin D, folic acid, iron, zinc, magnesium, and more.

Anyone heard of choline before? Choline is a nutrient that certainly doesn't get enough attention. It plays an important role in

cognitive function in all stages of life. During foetal development, it plays a major role in the development of the brain. As we age, low choline levels have been shown to have an impact on memory and learning functions, possibly contributing to protection of the brain from Alzheimer's disease.

Choline is also needed for the production and repair of DNA, while choline-deficiency has been shown to increase oxidative stress in the body, increase the risk of cancer, have adverse effects on mood, and can result in liver dysfunction.

And guess what, egg yolks are the most concentrated food source of choline!

So why the confusion about eggs – especially when it comes to cholesterol and heart disease. The main reason why people are so scared of eggs is because they contain dietary cholesterol, and for years, dietary cholesterol was implicated in increasing blood cholesterol levels and cardiovascular disease.

The recommendation for dietary cholesterol by the American Heart Association used to be no more than 300mg per day, and 200mg if you were at high risk for heart disease. Extensive

research, however, did not support the role of dietary cholesterol in the development of cardiovascular disease and ultimately, these guidelines were removed. It's rather a high intake of saturated and trans fats (which eggs have very little of) that causes the liver to produce more LDL (unhealthy cholesterol) which has a direct impact on the risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

It's important to look holistically at your dietary intake and lifestyle when it comes to increasing cardiac risk. A diet that is high in saturated fats, processed foods, and refined carbs as well as genetics, inflammation, smoking, and alcohol can all contribute to poor cardiac health.

Although one egg yolk contains a whopping 186mg of cholesterol, studies show that this form of cholesterol tends to increase both HDL cholesterol (the healthy cholesterol) and LDL cholesterol, but the overall LDL:HDL ratio remains unchanged.

Two other nifty anti-oxidants known as lutein and zeaxanthin, which are also found in egg yolks, are found in the retina of the eye, and help to protect the eyes from degeneration, cataracts, and damage from the sun. One study found that the consumption of two egg yolks per day for five weeks in elderly subjects reduced the risk of macular degeneration – one of the leading causes of severe, irreversible vision loss.



**ON
NOURISHING
NOSH**

Hilil Milner

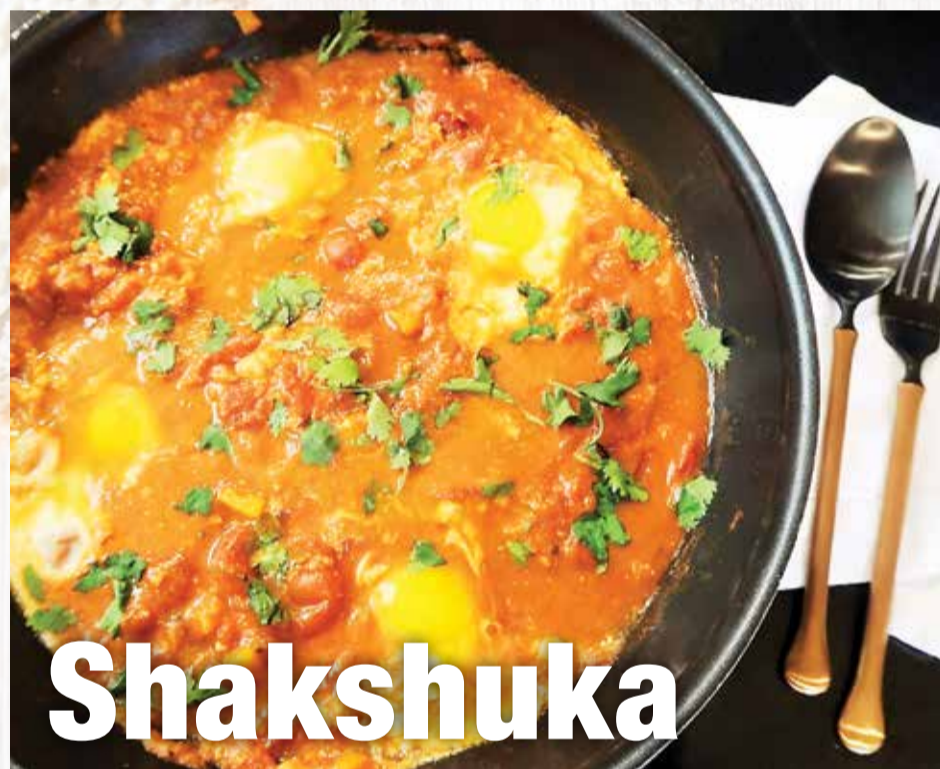
Whole eggs also contain all nine essential amino acids, and are considered to be one of the best sources of protein. They help promote muscle-mass retention, are great for post-workout muscle building, and provide sustained energy for the day as they contain fats and proteins – keeping you fuller for longer.

So, eggs, including – and maybe even especially the yolk – are rich in micronutrients, vitamins, protein, and other key nutrients. Overall, they are a real asset in our diet.

If we scramble all the nutrients and their benefits together, we see that eggs can contribute to bone health and calcium absorption, they support immune function, give us energy, and help provide the nutrients needed for oxygen transport around the body.

If you are at risk of developing heart disease or diabetes, before you cut out eggs, it might be beneficial to assess your total fat and cholesterol intake from other sources, and ensure that those, together with other dietary and lifestyle choices, are healthy.

Does this mean you should have three eggs a day? No. But just like anything, having eggs as part of a healthy lifestyle and balanced diet will really get your sunny side up.



Shakshuka

Serves 2-4; depending on how many eggs you want

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 1 tin peeled cherry tomatoes
- 1 handful cherry tomatoes
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon tomato paste
- 2 cloves garlic
- ¼ medium red chilli
- 2 tricolour peppers
- 1 onion
- 1-1½ teaspoons harissa paste (depending on spice tolerance)
- ½ cup fresh coriander (1 handful)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt
- Pepper

Method

- Finely chop the onion, chilli, garlic, peppers, and medium tomatoes.
- Place a deep non-stick pan onto a heated stovetop, and add the olive oil once the pan is hot.
- Add the onions and garlic to the pan, and sauté until translucent.
- Add the harissa paste, chopped chilli,

Tip: I like to vary my shakshuka from the classic, adding many different vegetables. A great tip is to make this on a weekend, and throw in all your left-over vegetables whether it be celery, fennel, mushrooms, or peppers.

salt, and pepper, and stir to release the flavours.

- Add the chopped medium tomatoes, peppers, and cherry tomatoes, allowing them to sauté for about 3-4 minutes.
- Add the tinned tomatoes, and the tomato paste, mixing all the ingredients together.
- Reduce the heat, and allow all the ingredients to simmer for a further 3-4 minutes. At this point, taste the mixture to see if you need to add extra heat or seasoning.
- Using the back of a spoon, create a well in the tomato mix into which you will crack an egg. Repeat the process for all 4 eggs, spreading them out evenly.
- Once all the eggs are cracked, cover the pan with a lid/solid splatter screen/foil.
- Leave the pan covered to cook the eggs and reduce the sauce. The length of time it takes depends on how you like your eggs done. If you like your eggs runny, reduce the sauce slightly beforehand, and cook the eggs between 5-10 minutes. The white part of the egg must be cooked, while the yolk can still be soft.
- Sprinkle the chopped coriander on top, and enjoy.

Jews part of SA National Gallery's turbulent history

MOIRA SCHNEIDER

South Africa offered refuge to Jewish artists from Europe like Moses Kottler, Lippy Lipshitz, Wolf Kibel, and Hans Ludwig Katz, and then the South African National Gallery honoured most of them with exhibitions.

This titbit of information was shared by the gallery's former director, Marilyn Martin, who gave some insights into her newly released book, *Between Dreams and Realities – A History of the South African National Gallery, 1871-2017*.

She highlighted the Jewish links with the gallery in conversation with Jon and Paul Weinberg, hosted by the South African Jewish Museum and the Jacob Gitlin Library last Wednesday. Jon worked with Martin and his brother Paul is an acclaimed photographer.

The book covers exhibitions and events without shying away from controversies, as well as focusing on the achievements of directors who often faced political agendas. "The book brought back a range of memories, some good, some tough," Jon said, recalling "a difficult time as we headed towards transformation".

Martin had to do a lot of navigation around political currents, which she did with courage and aplomb. "It's a very well written book, but doesn't always make for easy reading," he said.

Martin tells how Hyman Liberman, the first Jewish mayor of Cape Town (1904 to 1907), left £10 000 (R181 000) for a "suitable and useful public memorial", as he had no direct heirs.

The result was *Liberman Doors*, the memorial doorway, carved in Burmese teak by sculptor Herbert Vladimir Meyerowitz, "whose footprint is all over the gallery". The main exhibition room was named after Liberman, and designated for the exclusive display of South African art.

The doorframes tell the story of the Jewish people, placing Jewish history in the context

of Africa and the Cape, according to Martin.

Max Michaelis, born of German-Jewish parents, made a "huge gift" of Netherlandish art to the nation in 1910.

Irma Stern is present across the decades, with *Arum Lilies* having been acquired in 1951. By 1987, there were 20 paintings, 13 drawings, and 12 prints by the artist in the collection. In 2015, Carol Kaufmann and Andrea Lewis curated *Brushing up on Stern* from the permanent collection, and published a catalogue.

Marilyn Martin



European Jewish artists Kottler, Lipshitz, and Kibel's works, honoured in retrospective exhibitions at the gallery, were then acquired for the permanent collection.

"But there was another side to the story," Martin said, mentioning reactionary Nazi sympathiser Edward Roworth, who ran the gallery from 1930 to 1948. "A bastion of intransigent artistic attitudes, he removed Kibel's work from an exhibition."

When Paris fell to Nazi Germany in 1940, Roworth claimed it was "OK. France was ripe for national downfall because the French had been responsible for the downfall of art".

He was supported by "reactionary" art critic Bernard Lewis, a trustee of the gallery.

Continued on page 17>>

Gulag survivor tells of 'Russian evil' throughout history

JORDAN MOSHE

When Mordechai Perlov was fifteen years old, he was branded an enemy of the Soviet state and taken prisoner to chop trees on the arctic circle. Faced with minus-40 degrees, clouds of mosquitos, and meagre rations, he made a simple resolution: he would rather escape this hell than die.

The now 92-year-old Lithuanian-born survivor shared his extraordinary story with a spellbound audience at The Base in Glenhazel last Saturday night. "The world should know what happened," he said. "I've got to tell the world how evil the Russians have been throughout history."

Perlov, who lives in Johannesburg, has committed his life to sharing his story with others and exposing the evils of the Russian state.

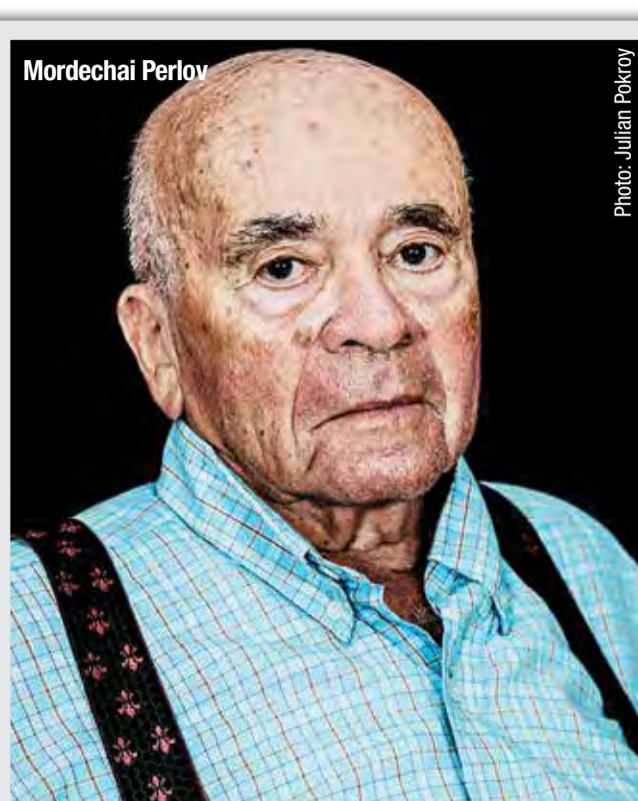
His experiences have been captured on camera in a documentary, *Because of Stalin*, by Johnathan Andrews slated for release later this year. Perlov has also published a book with his cousin, *Once Were Slaves: A Journey Through the Circles of Hell*, and he is often

invited to speak about his experiences at events.

The film and book tell the story of his journey, attempts to reunite his family, and his resilience in getting back to life. His journey took him through northern Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Italy, Cyprus, Israel, and eventually South Africa, where he became a successful businessman.

"Whether it's the tsar, Stalin, or Putin, they are all murderers, and many people in the world don't know about it," said Perlov. "Even when I started telling [my own family] about it, they said I was talking a lot of bull. I kept quiet for many years. Now, I need to bring a message to humanity."

Born in 1926 in the shtetl of Rasein in Lithuania, Perlov's family were part of about 5 000 Jewish



Mordechai Perlov

Photo: Julian Pokroy

residents who made up about 40% of the town's population. His family owned a timber and flour mill, and lacked nothing. All this would change when Stalin occupied Lithuania in 1939.

"We lost our liberty," says Perlov. "They nationalised all the belongings of my parents, and told us to get out of our home. We went to stay with my maternal grandmother for a short time, and were then deported to a hell."

In June 1941, one week before Hitler attacked Russia, a list of "enemies of the state" including Jews, Poles and Lithuanians was finalised. The dreaded NKVD (the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) – the forerunner to the Soviet KGB (Committee for State Security) – used the list

to arrest hundreds, the Perlov family among them.

In one week, 871 freight cars sent more than 30 000 people to remote places in the Soviet Union, 40% of them under the age of 16. From 1941 to 1942, the Germans came into Lithuania, and 95% of Lithuanian Jewry perished, the highest attrition rate in all of Europe.

Perlov and his family were sent to Ust'-Lokchim, a gulag in northern Russia in the Arctic Circle. The place was a veritable nightmare. "Winter lasts nine months, and the temperature is always minus 40," recounted Perlov. "In winter, darkness lasts 18 hours, and summer is the reverse. My family of five and uncle and two daughters were given a small room with a fireplace and bunks that had to serve as everything else."

Those young enough and capable were given an axe and saw, and had to chop trees around the camp. Perlov and his brother, Yaakov, were among those who went out to work. When eventually there were no more trees to chop, they were relocated to a different temporary camp. His sister and parents, who by then were ill and weak, were forced to remain there.

The conditions at the new camp were even more dire, and Perlov

resolved to escape rather than die in that place. After a failed attempt, he and his brother made it out on their second attempt, walking for three days to their parents and sister. Tragically, they arrived at Ust'-Lokchim to a devastating sight.

"We arrived in the semi-dark. I opened the door, and heard Tova sobbing," he recounted with difficulty. "I went in, and saw her lying in the middle of the bunk. My father and mother were on either side of her. They were both dead. It was a terrible shock from which I will not recover."

"However, there was no time to cry. I had to start planning their funeral. There was nobody to help us." He and Yaakov dug a shell grave with their fingers over a few days, burying their parents with their sister, aunt, and two cousins.

Said Perlov, "Then I had to pull myself together. I decided that there would be no way I would live in this hell anymore."

The group teamed up with Perlov's childhood friend, Yitzchak, as well as two Polish-speaking Lithuanians, and by way of various schemes, found ways to survive. They managed to pass themselves off as Polish, and Perlov and his sister eventually ended up in Israel. Yaakov would remain in the Arctic circle by choice until the 1990s, marrying an Inuit woman and bearing nine children.

Perlov joined the Haganah, and was among the troops who marched on Yom Ha'atzmaut in 1948. After earning a degree as a surveyor at the Technion in Haifa, he settled in South Africa in the 1950s, working in his uncle's business, the Crystal Bakery in Doornfontein, before starting a successful sock manufacturing company. He and his brother would be reunited in the late nineties.

Perlov found meaning and purpose in life in spite of indescribable hardships and trauma, and remains determined to tell others about the dangers of communism and Russia today.

"Life carries on," he said. "Whether it's the tsar or Putin, they are all the same. They kill people today, and will do so tomorrow."

Jews part of SA National Gallery's turbulent history

>>Continued from page 16

In a notorious article, Lewis launched a tirade against "modern" painters, quoting from Hitler's Nuremberg speech of 1 September 1933, praising his "wise words" on "degenerate art".

He came under attack in the press by Kibel and others, and when between 1944 and 1947 Roworth embarked on a "selling spree" of pieces from the National Gallery, "they had to get rid of him", Martin said.

Martin told how a David Goldblatt retrospective at the gallery was held in 1983, an overview of his first 35 years, opened by Nadine Gordimer.

William Kentridge, too, had had a "long association" with the gallery, Martin said, praising his generosity. In 2004, a piece of his art was auctioned in the United States for \$10 000 (R148 000), which he gave to the gallery to purchase other artists' work.

Jonathan Shapiro (Zapiro) and Gideon Mendel, activists through their art, have both held "remarkable" exhibitions at the gallery.

In the early 1990s, members of the community approached the gallery to engage in joint ventures, Martin recalled. "Elsie Menasce approached me to work with Cape Town's Sephardi Hebrew Congregation on Sepharad '92, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain."

Two years later, Myra Osrin, then-director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, asked the gallery to host the photo-documentary exhibition from Amsterdam, *Anne Frank in the World*. The gallery's education department had, in fact, been "very involved" in writing the text, Jon said. "We created a link with what happened in South Africa during the apartheid period," he said. "Martin opened up collaboration on Museum Mile, and Jewish-related projects were part of that."

Paul said Martin's book was important to understand art history in this country. "We're living in a time when art's been highly contested, burned, removed," he said, alluding to incidents on the campus of the University of Cape Town in recent years. "Martin has brought us to a space to consider historical questions. The book takes on the history, and fills in a space of what could easily have been erasure and noise."

Martin highlighted Neville Dubow's contribution to art, architecture, and education. He served on the gallery's board from 1972 to 1995, and had been chair of its acquisitions committee. She noted that his had been a "progressive voice" during the apartheid years.

She also paid tribute to artist Joe Wolpe, who founded the Friends of the National Gallery 51 years ago, and served on its council for 27 years.

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“Dolling’ up a treat for little women

The Our Generation Doll Hairstyling Event for “little women” at the Selwyn Segal gift shop on Women’s Day catered for more than 130 little girls, each of whom brought their dolls (and their moms) for a morning of pampering and partying.

The dolls sat on doll-sized hairdressing chairs alongside their small owners, while hairdressers and fun-loving high-school volunteers fashioned the girls’ and dolls’ hair into identical matching styles.

Also available was nail-polishing, make-up, and a fabulous photo-booth to capture the results of the pampering. To add to the party atmosphere, a beautifully-displayed array of delicious party treats was available for everyone to help themselves – sweets, biscuits, candy floss, chips, cold drinks, and juice. At the entrance to the shop, the Corner Café set up chip ‘n dip, ice cream, and coffee bar for all to enjoy.

The venue was “pinkified” with pink balloons, hearts, and draping. Some serious shopping took place, too, as the little ladies picked out outfits and accessories for their dolls. Buyers stood the chance to win magnificent hampers.



Dani Feinberg and Leah Grauman standing in front of an Our Generation Doll poster

Conscious discipline helps Torah Academy thrive

Torah Academy teachers recently attended workshops with conscious discipline practitioner Esther Levin, and have been integrating conscious discipline into their classrooms. The children have also had interactive lessons with Levin on identifying and naming different feelings, and how to respond to them effectively.

Conscious discipline is a comprehensive programme that integrates social and emotional learning, school culture/climate, and discipline.

The trauma-informed, evidence-based, research-backed programme, is founded on the premise of safety and connection. Children who feel safe and connected will be more willing to solve problems, and are

more likely to thrive.

Connected children feel safe enough to reflect on their choices, and see the impact of their actions on others. The programme emphasises connection through empathy, encouragement, the school, family, and “I love you” rituals.

Conscious discipline also helps adults to regulate themselves sufficiently to choose a helpful response to a child’s behaviour. Because you can’t teach skills you don’t have, it focuses on an “adult first, child second” methodology, and makes adults aware of brain-body states in themselves and children. It then offers them the practical skills needed to manage thoughts, feelings, and actions.



Sholom Lipskar, Levi Sztorn, Esther Levin (conscious discipline practitioner), Nachi Lazarus, Yehuda Immerman, and Mendel Grinshtein

Toast to Hirsch Lyons volunteers



Hirsch Lyons Grade 10 boys volunteer in Yad Aharon & Michael’s “future CEO Soup Kitchen”, preparing hundreds of toasted sandwiches for recipients.

Winning words at ORT Jet Women’s Day breakfast



Lauri Kruger, Helene Itzkin, Mushe Kirsh, Tracey Catania, Lynn Joffe and Tamar Taback

Lynn Joffe, the chief executive and founder of Creatrix, an agency which cultivates brand and edutainment storytelling for South African consumers, was guest speaker at an ORT Jet Women’s Day breakfast at Frangelicas on 9 August.

The dynamic and witty Joffe spoke about her Jewish heritage, and the love of her grandparents who raised her. She also spoke about how to survive and thrive in a man’s world “which is our world now!”

“Words have been my survival all my life,” she said, having worked as a copywriter at top agencies until starting Creatrix. The 50 guests held on to every flamboyant word as she gave her version of the ten commandments.

Integrity, experience, authenticity, age, ego, and wonder were some of the words she elaborated on, enthralling the audience with her storytelling.

UJW’s hand-knitted baby clothes a blessing

BabyLoversBlessings (BLB), an organisation which assists less fortunate mothers and newborns, recently received a stunning donation of hand-knitted jerseys, baby clothes, pads and more from the Union of Jewish Women in Port Elizabeth.

“After all these years, I’m still shocked to see what we saw today. Two babies at two maternity wards with only a nappy on and in a pillowcase. After we dressed them, they looked so cute! The mums were grateful,” said BLB founder Caty Coetzee Pieterse.

“We handed out 10 parcels at the maternity wards, and 34 at the clinics. We also handed out very big, soft toys to sick children at the clinics (they weren’t suitable for babies).”



Real-life stories of addiction raise awareness

Grade 10 students at King David Victory Park High School recently participated in a presentation on substance abuse.

The pupils were joined by three special guests. Nic Ingel, a recovering alcoholic, and Dovi Teperson, a recovering drug addict, shared their journeys. Liane

Lurie, an ex-student and psychologist working in the field of addiction spoke about the effects of substances on the developing teenage brain.

Hearing real life, harrowing stories of people in our community who have struggled with substance abuse is a powerful way of educating our children.



Aron Lazer, Daniel Sundelson, Katelin Drinkwater, Luchia Turtledove, Dovi Teperson, Gita Lipschitz (school counsellor), Liane Lurie (psychologist), Amber Michel, Jacob Hamlyn, Amira Benguri-Karstaedt, and Aerin Cohen

Sunday (18 August)

- Second Innings hosts singers, performers, and producers Debbie Mizrahi and Janice Lurie on *Debbie and Janice in Song*. Time: 09:45 for tea, 10:30 for the event. 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 Big Band Music Appreciation Society presented by Jack Mink. Audio: some of Al Jolson’s musical repertoire. Movie: *The Al Jolson Story (1946)*. Time: 14:15 sharp. Venue: Beit Emanuel Slome Auditorium, 38 Oxford Road, Parktown (entrance in Third Avenue). Contact: Marilyn 072 243 7436 or Jack 082 450 7622.

Monday (19 August)

- Book launch of *Through the Window – How I Beat PND* by journalist Lauren Shapiro. Time: 17:30 for 18:00. Venue: Jacob Gitlin Library, 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens, Cape Town. No entrance fee. Books will be on sale. RSVP: admin@gitlinlibrary.co.za or tel. 021 462 5088.
- Nechama Growth From Grief support group. Time: Tea from 09:30, group starts promptly at 10:00 to 11:30. Venue: Jossel Card Room, Ground Floor, Golden Acres, Sandringham. No need to book. Men and women welcome. Contact: Linda Fleishman 011 532 9701.
- The Union of Jewish Women (UJW) hosts film and TV producer Harriet Gavshon on the making of the forthcoming TV series,

The Girl From Saint Agnes. Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW office 011 648 1053.

Thursday (22 August)

- Emmarentia Shul will be having a Bingo evening. Lots of wonderful prizes to be won. Time: 19:00 for 19:30. Venue: Emmarentia Primary School (Secure Parking). Cost: R250 per person includes five Bingo games and food and drinks. RSVP: Wendy 011 646 6138.
- 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.



Just how long do we have?

We're clearly back in the negative part of the South African cycle. Wherever I go, I engage with people who are concerned, anxious, and worried.

And whereas most of the worries are real and relevant, a little perspective might not be a bad thing.

From when we were kids, my grandparents and then my parents instilled in us the notion that, "Your education is the only thing that they can't take away from you." I was never clear who "they" was, but the threat seemed real.

With exodus from Germany still fresh in their minds, understandably they continued to sleep with one eye open, and a sceptical eye on the future.

The standard question in the 1970s and 1980s was, "How long does South Africa have?"

The range was five years at the very least, and 10 if we were lucky. So much so that for me, there was no time for a "gap" year when I finished school because we needed to get that education as quickly

as possible before it all came tumbling down.

And here we are 40 years later.

This past Shabbat was particularly noteworthy. Because we complained a lot. It might have had something to do with the sudden cold snap and gloomy weather, or discussion of the NHI (National Health Insurance). However, I caught myself, surrounded by family and friends, at a magnificent meal in a magnificent home, being waited on (it was an occasion), complaining about how tough things are in this "wretched place".

Later that evening, I went to listen to a 93-year-old survivor of Stalin's Russia, and again wondered if we have lost it completely.

Yes, it can be difficult, and we can't live our lives comparing ourselves to a man who as a youngster found his parents dead in a Russian gulag. Then, with no tools available, he had to dig a shallow grave with his bare hands just to bury them. Considering this, a bit of perspective might not be a bad thing.

NHI would be an unmitigated disaster. The government has proven that it is unable to run a cake sale without stealing the ingredients, and has pretty much destroyed every enterprise it has touched.

But the "good news", at least in this sense, is that it hasn't implemented anything in the 25 years it has been in power.

It's still talking about land reform, and it still hasn't sorted out Eskom. Schools are still a mess, and South African Airways continues to dump money like fuel before an emergency landing.

To be brutal, with the post office in the state it's in, the government can't even get a letter successfully delivered.

Why then should the implementation of a billion-rand enterprise of the complexity of the NHI, which demands that each citizen, doctor, and associated medical services be registered, logged, and reimbursed, ever come to fruition? Cynically, it would solve the unemployment crisis, as we are



INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman

likely to see more deaths than Ebola would cause, and more immigration than migration season in the Serengeti.

But it's not going to happen. Never. Ever. Not as it's being proposed.

It doesn't mean that some version of national health won't be implemented. It also doesn't mean that it mustn't be opposed as vigorously as possible. But it's unlikely to have an impact on anyone who prefers private health.

Denial is rarely a good thing. We need to acknowledge the ruthless plunder of the past few years in South Africa. We need to stand up to corruption and folly.

But we shouldn't lose perspective. We need to curtail the negative speak, and guard against becoming trapped in a space of our own creation.

For the woman who makes your bed

On the day Nelson Mandela died in 2013, a crowd gathered on the pavement outside his house in Houghton, Johannesburg. Black women, among others, arrived from every direction, lit candles, sang and danced in their own language, dominating the neighbourhood. Their sadness at losing Mandela was huge, but equally palpable was the mood of optimism for the future he made possible.

It's common knowledge that the country has not done justice to Mandela's vision. Even ratings agencies such as Moody's can see it, and the citizens who are fleeing elsewhere.

Most black South Africans are no better off today than when Mandela emerged from jail. Many people have benefited little from democracy, even if they have freedom of speech, which doesn't put food on the table.

In the United States, another great person with a dream for the black diaspora died on 5 August. Nobel Laureate in literature, Toni Morrison, attempted to do through her literature and personal greatness what

Mandela tried to do for black South Africans, namely eliminate the racism that tormented them.

Yet, today, there is a resurgence of the racism towards black Americans that she abhorred.

Platitudes praising all kinds of women are everywhere during what has been dubbed Women's Month, but one category has received insufficient attention, namely the black women who look after white families, and have done so, thanklessly, for decades.

There is an abiding image of old South Africa of groups of nannies sitting on the pavement outside the homes they work in, clad in aprons, with *doeks* (cloth) on their heads. They often had their legs stretched out straight in front, and white children with them.

As with male 'servants' – as they were referred to by white people – they lived in small 'servants' rooms, usually at the back of the house, sometimes with special gates from the street.

Have their lives changed since black women sang

on the pavement outside Mandela's house in 2013? It depends on their employers. But, in general, to the shame of rich Jewish South Africa, many are still not paid a living wage.

Women who once were tasked with carrying white people's babies on their backs while their own children were neglected in townships have been "repurposed" to be so-called carers for the elderly. Their families in rural areas are still poor, and their sons and daughters still don't have jobs.

Disillusionment in the country has gone so far since Mandela's time, that even mentioning his name today in some political quarters will be seen as naïve. Incredibly, there are even people who refer to him as a "sell-out" because he chose at the end

TAKING ISSUE



Geoff Sifrin

of apartheid to hold secret negotiations with the very people who wanted to leave the country with their money.

There are legendary black South African women to be celebrated in Women's Month. But the humble black women who raised their families during apartheid, often alone while their husbands lived in migrant hostels elsewhere in the cities, in the mines, or other places, bore the brunt of the struggle. Isn't it time their employers recognised them – and in the case of those who don't – paid them properly?

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Welcome to our American visitors

We had hardly had a chance to catch our breath after the whirlwind visit of our Women Wage Peace guests from Israel when it was time for us to welcome another prestigious delegation to South Africa, this time from the American Jewish Committee (AJC). One of the world's most effective Jewish advocacy organisations, the AJC has a long and proud history of building relationships with different religious and ethnic communities, and world leaders.

The guiding ethos of the AJC is to further the safety and well-being of world Jewry and find ways in which Jews can contribute to global peace and prosperity. Every year, an AJC delegation visits a different part of the world to meet the local Jewish community and engage with leaders and opinion-makers about political, economic, and regional challenges, including anti-Semitism. This year, the delegation is visiting South Africa and Mozambique, and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) has partnered with it in organising the itinerary. In the course of this week, it has met leadership of the Jewish community, government officials, senior political figures (including a past president), academics, and business leaders.

The board has a close and cordial working relationship with the AJC going back many years, in large part thanks to the unstinting support of Stan and Marian Bergman. The Bergmans left South Africa way back in 1976, but they have never forgotten their roots, and remain meaningfully connected to the country and its Jewish community, including through generous support of local universities. A past president of the AJC, Stan was also



ABOVE BOARD

Shaun Zagnoev



instrumental in the establishment of the AJC's Africa Desk. It has been a pleasure to welcome them back to South Africa together with other distinguished members of the delegation, and we thank them for helping our community to remain a connected, relevant, and indeed respected component of global Jewry.

University exams and Yom Tov

With the three weeks of mourning culminating in Tisha B'Av now behind us, there are just six weeks left before the commencement of the main Jewish festival season. It is around this time that the board is particularly called upon to address the problem of university exams being set on the *chaggim* (Jewish holidays). A number of UNISA (University of South Africa) students have already contacted us concerning scheduling clashes, and no doubt others will be brought to our attention in the coming weeks. In the past, we been able to resolve nearly all problems of this nature by working closely with the relevant institutions. In order for us to continue doing so, we rely on the students concerned to inform us about their situation in good time. Those with scheduling clashes who have not yet informed the board are therefore strongly advised to do so as soon as possible by writing to sajbd@sajbd.org

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

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South Africans swim to victory at European Maccabi Games

LUKE ALFRED

“Off the charts,” is how Elan Sawitzky, #TeamMaccabiSA’s head of delegation, describes the team’s 51 swimming medals at the recently-completed 2019 European Maccabi Games (EMG) in Budapest, Hungary.

Competing in futsal, half-marathon, tennis, table-tennis, and swimming, #TeamMaccabiSA’s swimmers hauled in a tally of 51 out of the 68 medals gained, which put the South Africans sixth on the overall medal table behind the United States, Hungary, Germany, Great Britain, and Lithuania (in that order).

Sixth overall also put them second-highest of eight non-European competitors behind the US – a remarkable achievement. “We knew we had a good chance of winning some medals, but this was off the charts,” said Sawitzky. “The team were also excellent ambassadors for our country. We’re immensely proud of what they achieved.”

Said Maccabi Chairman Cliff Garrun, “To come fifth in total [SA gained more medals than Lithuania overall, but Lithuania won more golds] against countries with far bigger delegations and who have significantly more resources – including teams of full-time staff – is an exceptional achievement.

“All the hard work and training that our athletes put in paid off. They really did South Africa proud.”

Swimming’s big splash in Hungary is due to a number of factors, some well-documented, others less-so. Fundraising was an important part of getting the swimmers to Hungary. The money was provided by several generous benefactors who reached into their pockets without hesitation, but who prefer to remain anonymous.

Among the better documented reasons is a culture of early-hours training before school, and punishing training afterwards. There was remarkable dedication from parents and swimmers, as well as a culture of team camps, outreach, and bonding. “To get to Hungary, they worked like absolute dogs,” said a member of the 86-strong South African delegation, most of whom returned home from Hungary either on the weekend or earlier this week.

Possibly the most important reason of all for #TeamMaccabiSA’s 51 medals in the pool comes in the form the Cape Town-based Hungarian coach, Csanad Feldhausz, who

grew up training at the Alfréd Hajós National Swimming Centre in Budapest where the swimming events for the EMG took place.

Feldhausz has swum for

he looked back on several hard years of blood, sweat, and tears.

The swimming team’s haul of 51 medals put it third on the medals table for swimming, behind the US

members.

This augurs well for the Maccabiah in Israel in two years’ time. “Their results bode well for our future, and I look forward to watching their progress and hopefully seeing them all in Israel in 2021,” said Garrun.

As for Feldhausz, he was brimming with pride. “I’m so proud of the time put in, dedication, and commitment from our swimmers, and they responded with these excellent results. It was also such a special experience to be able to share my love for my country with the team. I hope they left with great memories of Budapest, and an even greater passion for swimming.”

While the EMG was about gaining medals, renewing old friendships, breaking bread, and having fun, it was finally a family affair. Take tennis player in the 45+ category, Rob Sulcas, who teamed up with Brad Bloch to win bronze in the men’s doubles, while Sulcas’s sons, Benji and Jamie, both won futsal medals.

They were not alone. Dedicated mom, Vanessa Arelisky, whose sons, Nicholas and Jordan, won medals in the pool and on the futsal court respectively. Vanessa, a Western Province Maccabi board member, had a hectic EMG, spending busy days shuttling between futsal and the pool.



A practice session in Budapest

Hungary, and has firm ideas about what is needed to get ahead in the competitive world of international swimming. There was some privately-expressed anxiety when Feldhausz started coaching the young Maccabi swimmers, but his ethos of hard training and self-belief has clearly paid dividends.

A relentless optimist, the Hungarian believes there is nothing that can’t be achieved if you believe in yourself, and the team’s remarkable achievement in the pool is a vindication of his endeavours. “We challenged them every step of the way,” he said as

and Hungary. Although the South Africans won fewer golds than the Hungarians, they won more medals overall, beating the hosts of the 15th European Maccabi Games by 51 medals to 29.

Standout performers included Jaden Harris (12 medals, six golds), Daniella Solkow (11 medals, four golds), and Benji Sack (nine medals, eight golds). Many of the 12-strong swimming team are educated at Herzlia, and although they don’t train there, all members of the team were able to win at least three medals, including the team’s youngest

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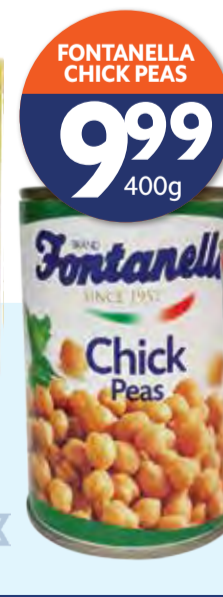
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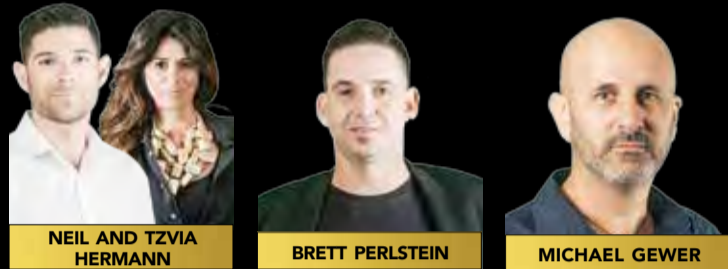
VICKS COUGH SYRUP HONEY & GINGER
44⁹⁹ 100ml



CAL-C-VITA IMMUNE PROTECT
143⁴⁹ 20's

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– Benjamin Zander



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