



STEP OUT TO BRING IT IN



south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 23 - Number 40 ■ 15 November 2019 ■ 18 Cheshvan 5780

www.sajr.co.za

ONE KABBALAT SHABBAT. ONE PEOPLE. ONE PARK.

A Kabbalat Shabbat like it should be, like it once was - away from our closed doors and into the open fields. You, me, men, women, children, every Jew from every shul, beneath the open sky, in all-out unity, welcoming in Shabbos together.

Join Zusha
and friends

FRIDAY 15 NOV
Terminal Cres Park
15:30-17:45

WELCOME SHABBOS

**LINKSFIELD
BAND**

REUVEN GARBER



**The
Shabbos
Project**
KEEPING IT TOGETHER



WELCOME SHABBOS. WELCOME YOU. FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU THIS SHABBOS.

JOHANNESBURG

CHABAD OF SANDTON

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night:	Challah Dates → Communal candle lighting for men, women & kids → Kiddush and bites
Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: Havdallah: RSVP:	Community lunch Picnic in the park Musical Havdallah Prina on 0118035787

EDENVALE SHUL

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night:	Challah bake with Rebbetzin Helene Gruzid Communal candle lighting and dinner
Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Games, activities & treats for the kids Communal lunch Communal Seudat Shlishit Tamara 0769937767

SANDTON SHUL

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night:	→ Challah bake → Pre-Shabbos drinks → Unity candle lighting & Asian infusion dinner
Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Kids entertainment throughout Shabbos Communal lunch Family Seudat Shlishit sandtonshul.co.za

WEST STREET SHUL

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: RSVP:	Challah bake Communal dinner Cindy 0724153222
--	--

CHABAD OF FOURWAYS

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night:	→ Challah bake → Women and girls candle lighting Kiddush after shul
Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Guest speaker Zemach Mendelow Yael 082 870 0880

AISH HATORAH

Friday night: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	After-dinner tequila, whiskey & biltong get-together Community Seudat Shlishit All welcome, no RSVP
--	--

OHR SOMAYACH SAVOY

Friday night: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Tisch with Zusha at 9:30pm → Afternoon learning programme → Seudat Shlishit with Clamber Club at 5:10pm All welcome, no RSVP
--	---

OHR SOMAYACH GALLO MANOR

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: RSVP:	Challah bake with Shereen Richter African-style braai and biltong shul dinner office@ohrsandton.com
--	--

CHABAD OF LYNDHURST

Shabbos lunch:	Brocha/light lunch
----------------	---------------------------

HAMAOR

Friday night: RSVP:	Special brocha and davening All welcome, no RSVP
------------------------	---

SYDENHAM SHUL

Shabbos afternoon: Havdallah: RSVP:	Seudat Shlishit in song with Chazan Yudi Cohen, musical director Rav Doron Chitiz, and the Sydenham Singers Musical Havdallah All welcome, no RSVP
---	---

CHABAD OF GLENHAZEL

Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Picnic-style lunch in the Lalou's garden All welcome, no RSVP
-------------------------	--

WAVERLEY SHUL

Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Lunch and speaker programme Seudat Shlishit All welcome. 0117860437/8
---	--

CHABAD OF GREENSTONE

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: RSVP:	Challah bake "A night in China" dinner rabbi@chabadofgreenstone.co.za
--	--

PRETORIA HEBREW CONGREGATION

Friday night: Shabbos morning: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Community dinner Brocha and shiurim Shiur by guest rabbi, Rabbi Chaim Finklestein Ora 0124607991
--	---

VICTORY PARK SHUL

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: Shabbos morning: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Challah bake Kiddush after shul Shabbos brunch Picnic on the field All welcome. Adrienne 0117825247 / 0842218770
--	---

SANDTON CENTRAL

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: Havdallah: RSVP:	Challah bake → Candle lighting meditation → Community dinner Community lunch Picnic in the Mushroom Park Musical Havdallah Rabbi Kievman 0794341293
--	---

OHR SOM STUDENTS

Pre-Shabbos: Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Hotel stay in Sandton Shabbos dinner Shabbos lunch Picnic in the Mushroom Park Musical Havdallah Rabbi Kievman 0794341293
---	--

SUNNY ROAD KEHILLA

Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Meat Kiddush lunch All welcome, no RSVP
-------------------------	--

GREENSIDE SHUL

Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Shiurim Shabbos lunch Melanie 0117885036
---	---

SEPHARDI HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Shabbos lunch All welcome, no RSVP
-------------------------	---

CHABAD OF MELROSE

Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Shabbos lunch All welcome, no RSVP
-------------------------	---

SANDRINGHAM GARDENS

Friday night: Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch:	Singalong shul service & communal dinner Singalong shul services Communal lunch
---	--

LINKSFIELD SHUL

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: RSVP:	Challah bake Special guest Pinchas Shiel ticketzone.co.za/nightoflight or seizethedough@gmail.com
--	--

PINE STREET SHUL

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Challah bake with Rebbetzin Gerson Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with treats & mega Kiddush Seudat Shlishit 0116403101
--	--

OXFORD SHUL

Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Kiddush Shabbos lunch Lee 0116466020
---	---

HAZELWOOD SHABBOS MINYAN

Friday night: RSVP:	Shabbos dinner rabbisecrets@gmail.com or 073172258
------------------------	---

CHABAD OF ILLOVO

Pre-Shabbos: RSVP:	Visit to senior citizens before Shabbos 0832921006
-----------------------	---

CHABAD OF STRATHAVON

Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Big brocha with cholent made by dads and lads All welcome
-------------------------	--

CHABAD OF NORWOOD

Friday night: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Friday night dinner Shabbos brocha Shabbos lunch and some fantastic speakers 0823642555
--	--

MIZRACHI SHUL / YESHIVA COLLEGE

Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch:	Shiurim after brocha focused on Hilchos Shabbos A unity Horim V'Yeladim with Seudat Shlishit
------------------------------------	---

HYDE PARK SHUL

Friday night: Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Young adults dinner at Rabbi Levi and Leah Communal dinner at the shul Communal lunch Young adults dinner: 0828627499 Communal dinner: 0783149339
--	--

THE BASE

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: RSVP:	Thursday night challah bake - 19:30 Friday night dinner sunnyroadbase@gmail.com or sunnyroadbase.co.za
--	---

BNEI AKIVA SHUL

Friday night: Shabbos morning: RSVP:	Massive Kiddush Huge brocha at the Bnei Bayit All welcome
--	--

GREAT PARK SYNAGOGUE

Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Shabbos lunch and shmooze → Shabbos afternoon experience with speakers, board games, readers' corner and nosh → Kids programme: soccer, jumping castle and Tumbling Tigerz Sandy 0117288152
---	--

CAPE TOWN

CLAREMONT SHUL

Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Shul brocha Lunch with guest speaker Howard Feldman 0216719006
---	---

CHABAD OF SEA POINT

Friday night: RSVP:	Shabbat dinner for CSO volunteers 0214343740
------------------------	---

BEIT MIDRASH MORASHA

Pre-Shabbos:	Families are encouraged to invite others and participate in Shabbos
--------------	--

MARAIS ROAD SHUL

Pre-Shabbos: Shabbos morning: RSVP:	Cholent competition Cholent tasting at the brocha will be judged by congregants and Merle Rubin kerry@maraisroadshul.com or maraisroadshul.com
---	---

MILNERTON HEBREW CONGREGATION

Friday night: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: Havdallah: RSVP:	→ Communal candle lighting Kiddush l'chaim - Lamingtons & Liqueur → Shabbat dinner with guest speaker, Dr Brian Levin → Exciting entertainment for the kids! Community Shabbos brocha lunch with Dr Brian Levin → Kids/family activities → Ladies' shiur with Devorah Kruss → Delicious Seudat Shlishit Havdallah led by MHC Youth 0215524285 office@milnertonshul.co.za
--	---

CAMPS BAY HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos morning: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Guest speakers at brocha Seudat Shlishit 0214388082
---	--

CAPE TOWN HEBREW CONGREGATION (GARDENS SHUL)

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: Havdallah: RSVP:	Thursday at Shimmy Beach Club with Zusha → Chessed Club: Supper for residents of Highlands House → Under the Stars communal dinner Speakers throughout Shabbos Shabbos lunch with cholent and inspiring talk → Late afternoon oneg Shabbos at the Feldman house with an optional learning circle → Seudat Shlishit Musical Havdallah 0214651405
--	---

MUIZENBERG HEBREW CONGREGATION

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: RSVP:	Thursday evening music fun Friday night supper 0217881624 Cecile
--	---

OHR SOMAYACH

Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Guest speakers Dr Angelique Oliveira, Prof Cyril Karabus and Yaakov Shleider Shabbos lunch 0214346772
---	--

SEPHARDI HEBREW CONGREGATION

Friday night: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: RSVP:	Friday night communal dinner Shabbos lunch Seudat Shlishit WhatsApp 0727806492 or office@sephardi.capetown
--	---

DURBAN

UMHLANGA JEWISH CENTRE

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: Shabbos morning: Shabbos lunch: Shabbos afternoon: Havdallah: RSVP:	Friday welcome l'chaim 5:00pm → Wizo Candle Lighting 5:30pm → Punch and Perogen Kiddush after shul → Shabbos coffee and cake from 8am → Kiddush and shiur Festive lunch Dads & lads soccer match, board games & popcorn Musical Havdallah 0315663227
--	---

DURBAN UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Communal candle lighting Shabbos supper after services Shabbos Project lunch after services Booking essential 0312015177
--	---

CHABAD OF UMHLANGA

Pre-Shabbos: Friday night: Shabbos lunch: RSVP:	Accommodation for anyone who needs at R120 Community Shabbos dinner Brocha lunch Booking essential 0315612487
--	--

russelkaplan rka
auctioneers

**Grande December auction on
7 December 2019 9:30am**
Items wanted for forthcoming auctions



Daum glassworks, Nancy
France Winter landscape
vase of clouded ground
and double-overlay
cameo etched
SOLD R15,000

Peter Bonney
Mercedes-Benz 500 S Coupé,
Rosendal Free State,
oil on canvas
SOLD R24,000



Zanzibar chest
overlaid with brass
studs, raised on
4 bun feet
SOLD R42,000

Hannes Harrs,
Totem,
carved and
varnished wood
SOLD R27,000



View upcoming auction highlights at www.rkauctioneers.co.za
011 789 7422 • 011 326 3515 • 083 675 8468 • 12 Allan Road, Bordeaux, Johannesburg

south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 23 – Number 40 ■ 15 November 2019 ■ 18 Cheshvan 5780

www.sajr.co.za

A barrage of rockets aimed at the Jewish state

NICOLA MILTZ

It has been days of mayhem and panic with more than 250 rockets fired in Israel since Tuesday morning. This situation has been caused by retaliatory attacks after the planned killing in Gaza of a senior Islamic Jihad commander, who had intended unleashing mass bloodshed in Israel. The *SA Jewish Report* contacted South Africans living in Israel who spoke of how they were scrambling for safety in bomb shelters and safe rooms as air raid sirens wailed across the country. “Thank G-d for the Iron Dome,” said Pretoria-born father-of-four Shmuel Shantall, a tour guide who lives in Modiin.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) warned that they were prepared for several days of fighting following the “surgical strike” on Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) senior commander Baha Abu al-Ata. On Tuesday the IDF ordered schools to be closed in southern and central Israel, including the Tel Aviv metropolitan area, as terror groups in the Gaza Strip fired hundreds of rockets at cities and towns throughout the country in retaliation for the assassination. By Tuesday night, more than 190 rockets had been fired into Israel from Gaza. There was relative calm overnight, but the barrage of rocket fire continued on Wednesday morning. At the time of going to print, the number of rockets had risen to 350. On Wednesday, the IDF said the PIJ was launching rockets at Israeli towns once every seven-and-a-half minutes. Tuesday started like most ordinary days, said Shantall, getting the children ready for school. But then “it really turned into one of those days”.

“We heard the sirens as my wife, Orya, got back from dropping the kids at school,” he said. The couple then rushed to fetch their children and made their way to his parents’ apartment to use the secure room with its steel shutter. “We heard the Iron Dome interception over the skies of Modiin, then we heard the loud boom. And afterwards, when we went outside, we saw the clouds above and you could see the trail of smoke.” Shantall said the biggest concern is “to keep the kids calm and distract them”. “My 11-year-old knows what’s happening, so he becomes a bit shaky. There is this strange sense of

security. You worry for your kids, that they don’t see you panic. It’s a strange feeling, almost surreal. It has the element of excitement and adrenaline, but there’s also a huge sense of gratitude that we are able to defend ourselves.” In certain areas, once it is safe to leave shelters, life returns to normal, shops reopen and people go about their everyday lives. “There is a lull, but I also know that friends of mine have been called up for reservist duty,” said Shantall. For many, the air-raid sirens are hugely disruptive and inconvenient. But for those with young children there is the added dimension of fear and panic as

intercepted, and went back inside again. You can’t let these things get to you – life goes on, there are issues all over the world.” Janice Friedland of Johannesburg, who was visiting her daughter in Tel Aviv, said it was “quite scary”. “On Tuesday, we heard the siren and went to the bomb shelter. It lasted a few minutes and then we could come out,” she said. She added that the streets were noticeably quieter afterwards and many of the shops were closed. “It was quite scary seeing as this was our first time

a siren. Her family, including her husband and two daughters who are in their 20s, stay indoors and spend quality time together. But, she said, “for people with small kids it’s a very different kettle of fish”. South African Oleh Dorron Kline told the *SA Jewish Report* that during a flare-up it is stressful, but residents get fair warning. The instructions from the Israeli Home Front Command are very clear, and if people stay close to their safe rooms they will be fine. His daughter, Shaked, lives about 400m from the Gaza fence in Kibbutz Nahal

Oz. “Her bedroom is a safe room, so when there are sirens at night she stays put. On Tuesday there were so many sirens that she and her partner went hiking in the Ramon Crater to get away from the noise, as there was no work.”

This week was the first time that the IDF ordered a closure of schools and businesses in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area since the 2014 Gaza war. According to the IDF, Abu al-Ata was planning to carry out rocket attacks and other terrorist activities against Israel, and was also directly responsible for several cases of rocket fire over the past six months. The military said it had sent a number of warnings to Abu al-Ata to call off his operations, but they went unheeded

In the past year, terror groups in Gaza, including the PIJ, have fired hundreds of rockets at Israel, which has responded by targeting their infrastructure and some of their members. Twenty-one Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israeli fire since early Tuesday, the majority of whom are believed to belong to terror groups. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies has called on the South African government to condemn the rocket attacks. The government, however, had not issued any statements at the time of going to press.



A traffic camera in central Israel captures the moment a Gaza-fired missile strikes a highway

they dash to safe rooms and attempt to keep the little ones calm. Others regard the sirens as a rude interruption in the day, and then it’s back to life as normal. South African immigrant Geora Zadok, who resides in south Tel Aviv, has lived in Israel for 10 years. He said he is used to the sirens. “I was out cycling on Tuesday when I heard the sirens go off. I watched the Iron Dome take out two missiles and then I went inside and ate breakfast.” He said a short while later, while he was taking a shower, he heard the sirens again. “I went onto my balcony, heard the loud bangs of missiles being

experiencing the sirens in Israel,” she said. Heather Bloch, who lives in Ashkelon, about 20km from Gaza, said her family is always “very relaxed” during the air raid sirens as it has “become a way of life”. “You sort of get used to it. It’s unsettling, more than anything else, and there is uncertainty over how long things will last – when work will resume, when schools will open, that kind of thing. The uncertainty is unsettling.” She said in Ashkelon the residents have 30 seconds to get to a safe area following

OPEN MINDS. OPEN HEARTS.
OPEN WEDNESDAYS
GRADE R - GRADE 7

Book a tour of King David Sandton any
Wednesday morning from 1st – 30th November

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: 011 253 7440

www.kingdavid.org.za



Community on high alert as Sydney faces ‘catastrophic fire’

TALI FEINBERG

A Jewish family living on the far north coast of New South Wales, Australia, had to evacuate their home at 03:00 on Shabbat last week. “At the moment, they don’t know if their home is still standing,” said Vic Alhadeff, chief executive officer of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies. Alhadeff spoke to the *SA Jewish Report* this

Shabbat times this week		
Starts	Ends	
18:15	19:09	Johannesburg
19:09	20:05	Cape Town
18:11	19:05	Durban
18:15	19:23	Bloemfontein
18:15	19:37	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:25	East London

Relocating or Moving to Toronto Canada?

We can help in many areas



Contact Daniel Bloch
Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd
Daniel@teambloch.com
www.teambloch.com/relocate/
416-666-0311

Appliance Repairs on Site

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

Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532
FREE QUOTATIONS

Pension Grants SA

Expertly handled from A → Z

Contact
Arnold 082 447 0185

AIRPORT SERVICE JHB



8-seater
Tours/Day Drives
CONTACT ARNOLD,
082-447-0185 or (011) 454-1193

VEHICLES WANTED



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

Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826
AUTO AFRICA

week from the east coast of Australia, where more than 130 wildfires are burning and the greater Sydney area faces a “catastrophic fire danger” for the first time. He said another Jewish family in the same area had been badly affected by smoke. His organisation has started a crowdfunding initiative to raise money for the bushfire victims. Alhadeff explained that the Sydney suburb of St Ives has many expat South African Jewish families, and they are nervous because of fires threatening the next-door suburb of Turramurra. “In addition, if you fly over St Ives, it looks like bushland. It’s very green and dense with trees, and it has a major nature reserve in the middle of it, so that is a flashpoint for fires. While people there have not been ordered to evacuate, they are concerned and anxious.”

According to Australia’s fire-rating system, “catastrophic” means “for your survival, leaving early is the only option”. It instructs residents to “leave bushfire-prone areas the night before or early in the day – do not just wait and see what happens. Make a decision about when you will leave and where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return. Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions, so you should leave early.”

More than 100 000 homes are at risk over the coming days as a combination of drought, heat and blustery winds bears down on NSW, the country’s most populated state, reported the *New York Times*.

“The conditions are expected to get worse,” Shane Fitzsimmons, the Rural Fire Service commissioner, said on Tuesday afternoon in Sydney. “Complacency kills,” he added. “We cannot afford to be complacent.”

The fires, which began burning last weekend, have caused four deaths and destroyed more than 150 properties, with more going up in flames every few hours. Maps for the areas likely to burn show blazes potentially doubling in size, with Coffs Harbour, a coastal city of 70 000 people, looking especially vulnerable, along with Sydney’s outer suburbs.

“Everybody has to be on alert, no matter



Smoke engulfs one of Sydney’s outer suburbs

where you are, and everybody has to assume the worst. We cannot allow complacency to creep in,” NSW premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters in Sydney, according to Reuters.

Alhadeff said there is a chance that the fires were started deliberately, but they also could have occurred because of drought and heat. This is highly concerning as it is not even summer yet and the country is expecting a hotter, drier season ahead. “So it’s all too easy for a bushfire to erupt,” he said. “These conditions are an urgent crisis.”

He said he had just received a call from a group of 15 Israeli firefighters, who are ready to fly out to offer their expertise in both firefighting and post-fire work. However, they would need thousands of dollars for flights, accommodation and equipment. At this stage, those in authority told Alhadeff, things are under control, although the offer is appreciated.

Hilary Coleman, formerly of Johannesburg and now living in Sydney, says when she moved to the city 20 years ago, she found bushfire season to be a scary reality of life in Australia. This week, she

was grateful to “have escaped the horror of this catastrophic and unprecedented event, but seriously, the north shore of Sydney is carved out of bushland. We have had to download the app of the Rural Fire Services, Fires Near Me. Everyone was instructed to have a bag ready to take with in case of evacuations – passport, important documents, photos and jewellery. These situations turn at the drop of a hat and you are faced with walls of flames,” said Coleman.

“Hundreds of schools that backed onto bushland were closed today [Tuesday, 12 November]. My grandson’s school wasn’t closed, but we were on alert in case things changed. These are all schools right in all the streets around me. There have been house fires in the suburb right next to me, a three-minute drive from me, where blowing embers caught the roof. This has been totally catastrophic. I am devastated for those who have lost loved ones, their homes, their farms, their livelihoods. And, oh my G-d, the loss of wildlife, especially the koala bears, is just incalculable,” she said.

Torah Thought

Let trust be the message this Shabbat

This parsha continues with what Rashi (in his commentary to Gemara Gittin) calls Megillat Avraham, the Scroll of Abraham. The story of our great patriarch Avraham and matriarch Sarah takes place over 14 chapters in the Torah and certainly merits the title Megillah in its own right. The question, however, is: What is special about Avraham that he suddenly becomes this primary character in the story that Hashem tells us through the Torah?

Although the Midrashim and Gemarot contain famous oral traditions regarding Avraham discovering the truth of G-d unassisted, smashing the idols in the father’s shop and more, there must

be a core truth that we can extract from reading the revealed Torah as it is presented to us. I believe that the essence of the role that Avraham plays can be summed up in one word: trust. Avraham was one who trusted Hashem, and who was

trusted by Hashem.

In contrast with Adam, who, seemingly five minutes after being given one instruction regarding the fruit of the tree of knowledge, disregards that instruction and eats the fruit, Avraham withstands 10 trials (as we learn in Pirkei Avot chapter 5), and emerges greater than ever. Why is Avraham tested? I propose that it is through testing the relationship that trust is both created and emerges. So often in life we struggle to “let go and let G-d”, to release the problems that we cannot solve anyway, and ask Hashem for help.

But, equally often, we fail to be trustworthy to Hashem – to use all that He has given us in his great kindness in the way in which He intended it. Recently, someone confided to me that although they rarely attend shul, they do visit G-d’s beaches and G-d’s mountains frequently over Shabbat. “Wonderful that you appreciate these wonders of Hashem’s creation,” I said, “but are you using them as the Giver intended?” In other words, are you a trustworthy recipient?

The beauty of the relationship between Avraham and Hashem is that when Hashem calls upon Avraham, he is ready and he responds. And when

Rabbi Sam Thurgood,
Beit Midrash Morasha



Avraham needs Hashem, He is there for him too. This week’s parsha takes that dynamic a step further – Avraham is not only trustworthy in his religious life, he is a trustworthy friend. Seeing strangers in the desert, he runs to assist them and take care of them. In turn, they bless him with a son. The open-hearted way in which Avraham engages with all, risking disappointment and rejection (and at times experiencing both), earns him his place as a firm friend of Hashem and of humanity.

This Shabbat is the Shabbat Project, in which we join with over one million Jews around the world in keeping Shabbat. It is a day which ideally combines all these great forms of trust. We demonstrate our trust in Hashem by letting go of our weekday work, worries and plans. We show our trustworthiness by using the gift of Shabbat as intended. And we show that we are trusted friends by sharing Shabbat together, inviting people over and learning together what Shabbat means and how it blesses us.

I trust that you will have a wonderful Shabbat!

South African Jewish Report

Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • Distribution: Sandy Furman • Subscriptions Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860 525 200
Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benjy Porter.
Advertisements and editorial copy do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.



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



First Jewish South African-born US ambassador-designate has arrived

NICOLA MILTZ

Lana Marks, the first Jewish South African-born United States ambassador-designate to South Africa, got down to business on Wednesday. It was her first day in the office and she hosted a media briefing in which she outlined her priorities as she begins her tenure.



“As you know, South Africa is the land of my birth. When I left in the 1970s, the majority of South Africans were suffering under the brutal apartheid regime. Twenty-five years ago, in 1994, just as I became an American citizen, South Africa was embarking upon its dramatic journey towards democracy,” said Marks.

“To this day, I am still filled with pride at how far South Africa has come. And although I am now an American, I feel a great kinship with the people of South Africa, with whom I will always have a special bond.”

Speaking to a packed auditorium, a slightly nervous Marks said she plans to strengthen the enduring relationship between South Africa and the US. “Our relationship is broad and the ties between our people go far beyond government channels.

“Engaging and expanding trade, business and investment between our two countries – for the benefit of both – is one of my priorities, a

cornerstone upon which everything else can be built.”

She said South Africa is the democratic and economic leader of the world’s fastest-growing continent and that the US “greatly values” the partnership between the two nations.

The US is South Africa’s third largest trading partner, with two-way trade in 2018 valued at \$13.7 billion,

“The tremendous victory of the Springboks in the Rugby World Cup – and especially the powerful message of unity and determination spoken by the team’s remarkable captain, Siya Kolisi, was an inspiration not just to South Africans, but to Americans as well. As such, I would like to borrow a theme from that historic weekend: the United States and South Africa, indeed, are stronger together.”

Marks said President Donald Trump and Congress believe in Ramaphosa and she is “thrilled to be the conduit” to facilitate the strengthening of relationships between the two countries. She said it is an “exciting and pivotal time” to greatly increase trade and investment, and she can see it being “accelerated at a fast pace”.

The Prosper Africa initiative shows a commitment to expanding the number of commercial deals between the two countries, Marks said, and she will lead the Mission South Africa “deal team” to play matchmaker for US firms interested in coming to South Africa, and South African companies looking for access to the US market.


Marks said she will prioritise control of HIV/Aids, youth employment and empowerment. She said that since 2004, the US has invested R80 billion in South Africa to support HIV prevention, testing and treatment. “We will be spending more than \$750 million [about R11 billion] this year alone,” she said. “I will wholeheartedly continue to advocate for and work towards this crucial goal of epidemic control, doing so alongside the South African government and our heroic President’s Emergency Plan for

or over R203 billion. “And, as you’ll soon learn about me, I’m not one to settle for third place,” said Marks.

The US, she said, is the largest source of foreign direct investment, with more than 600 American companies active in South Africa accounting for an estimated 10% of GDP and over 200 000 jobs.

She said the Ford Motor Company stood alongside President Cyril Ramaphosa to break ground in Gauteng for the new Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone. “This alone will generate new employment for 6 700 South Africans working in the auto supply chain, with up to 70 000 indirect follow-on jobs possible in the future. My message for South Africa is that I am here to work with you to maximise this exciting opportunity at such a unique time,” she said.

In a guest column for News24 this week, Marks wrote: “Throughout my journey from East London to America’s East Coast, I have always retained my love for South Africa.



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

**ALAN FINGER
082 850 0004**

**ALFIN
AUTO GROUP**
www.alfinauto.co.za

Aids Relief, Pefpar.”

She said the US has many programmes in place to promote leadership, entrepreneurship and career development for young people, including the Youth African Leaders Initiative and the Mandela Washington Fellowship. “However, we can do more,” she said.

Marks said she is particularly “and personally” interested in helping South African women realise their full professional and economic potential. The US is piloting the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs in SA, and through a TechWoman programme will bring together women leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics for mentorships and exchange programmes.

She said she will support South Africa in its fight against crime, specifically violent crime, “whether it be in a township or on a farm”, and wildlife trafficking.

In the first few weeks on the job, Marks said, she intends “to listen and learn” in order to reaffirm her country’s commitment to South Africa. “This is an exciting time and a unique opportunity on the road ahead, and I am thankful to be working with President Ramaphosa and his government.”

During the question and answer session, Marks told the media: “I arrived two days ago and I would like for nothing more than for President Trump to visit South Africa. He was anxious for me to arrive here; he personally told me how beautiful Cape Town was.”



Photos: Ilan Ossendryver



PROPERTIES

**INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL
FROM R5 MILLION**
Contact Herschel Jawitz in strict confidence
082 571 1829 | herschel@jawitz.co.za

REAL
LIFE

Real Estate.





ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

GLENHAZEL | FROM R 2.699 MILLION

Mervyn Road. Asking more. This spacious family home offers incredible value. 3 receptions rooms. A large playroom/tv room opens onto a covered patio overlooking an inviting pool. Modern granite top kitchen. 4 large north facing sunny bedrooms all overlook the pool area. Study or a 5th Bedroom. 2 full bathrooms (M.E.S) Guest loo. Outside laundry room. Lovely tropical garden and plenty of safe play area for the kids. Directions: Follow Jawitz pointer boards from Summerway into Mervyn Road.

5 2 Web Ref: **RL55643**
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 *National Sales Consultant of the Year*
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

GLENHAZEL | FROM R 3.999 MILLION

Mervyn Road. Asking more. 2 homes for the price of one, or a great combination. A blend of face brick and modern features combine to create this wonderful family home. Open plan spacious, light and bright reception areas lead onto a covered entertainer dream patio that overflows onto a beautiful lawn with an inviting pool. Kiddies tree house and wooden jungle gym complete this perfect secure play area for your children. Directions: Follow Jawitz pointer boards. Directions: Follow Jawitz pointer boards from Summerway into Mervyn Road.

3 2 Web Ref: **RL57093**
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 *National Sales Consultant of the Year*
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229




NEW RELEASE | ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

WAVERLEY | R 1.35 MILLION

Scott Street. Generously proportioned unit in well-established, older complex. Offering open plan dining/living area, 2 beds, full bathroom + sep guest toilet, great kitchen, 2 parking spaces. An opportunity to buy into centrally located, sought-after Waverley. Directions: From Corlett Drive, into Scott St, on your left.

2 1 Web Ref: **RL59089**
Chrissie Hammer 082 568 0440



ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

SANDOWN | R 3.499 MILLION

Walk to Shul. The ultimate retreat! The perfect backdrop for relaxed entertaining with spacious living areas leading to a huge sparkling pool. 3 - 4 large and stunning bedrooms filled with sunlight and warmth. This welcoming home offers a spacious garden, staff suite and a kitchen with a breakfast room. It offers excellent security and complete privacy. Directions: Rivonia into Grayston, left into Linden, follow pointer boards.

4 2.5 Web Ref: **RL58899**
Norma 082 554 7260 | Romaine 082 685 5177

SAJBD: Committed to realising SA’s goals

JORDAN MOSHE

While Eastern Cape residents spent hours waiting for a glimpse of the Springbok team last Sunday, those who attended the 50th biennial South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) conference in Johannesburg received a personal greeting from captain Siya Kolisi.

His greeting and message of support – shouted above the din of tumultuous revelry in the background – elicited a hearty applause from the audience of hundreds at The Venue in the Houghton Hotel. He wished the attendees all the best for the conference and thanked them for all their continued support.

Said SAJBD national director Wendy Kahn: “We were told it would be easier to get a greeting from the Queen, but they don’t know our vice-president, Zev Krengel. The president of SA Rugby, Mark Alexander, this afternoon in East London in the midst of celebrations stopped Kolisi for a message for us.

“A week ago we celebrated our incredible win in Japan,” said Kahn. “The Springbok victory was the unifier we all needed. Tonight, we host many more heroes who will hopefully inspire us to write ourselves into our country’s and community’s history.”

Investec Group CEO Fani Titi paid tribute to local Jewry’s tireless efforts to contribute to the country. “South African Jewry continues to be a vital, innovative and contributing part of our society,” he said. “Investec has always had a close relationship with the community, and this is something the new generation of leadership at the company is committed to maintaining and building into the future.”

Titi said the conference was taking place at a time when South Africa is grappling with many serious challenges, particularly in terms of the economy, government infrastructure and service delivery. “In many ways, progress has been disappointingly slow,” he added. “Government has yet to make the necessary tough calls concerning the economy and tackling head-on the need to bring to book those implicated in serious acts of criminality and corruption.”

Still, he believes that South Africa is in a better place today than it was two years ago. “It may not feel that way when you look at the headlines, but if you look at the facts, we are in a different place,” he stressed. “We are seeing encouraging progress.”

Titi maintains that South Africa needs to become more business-friendly, and trust between the private and public sectors must be rebuilt. “The private sector has a critical part to play in taking the economy forward,” he said. “We need to be resilient, building on our strengths, and take a long-term view of things. We need

a mindset of endurance and a willingness to tough things out, while being sufficiently flexible to respond to hurdles of the day.

“We cannot afford to lose faith in ourselves and our abilities, since such negativity can become self-fulfilling. Our country has the potential to grow and flourish.”

Several recorded messages of support were screened at the conference, among them from Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein, the Israeli ambassador to South Africa, Lior Keinan, and the chairperson of the South African Zionist Federation, Rowan Polovin.

SAJBD chairperson Shaun Zagnoev suggested in his address that South African Jewry often takes its uniqueness for granted. “Our community remains active and vibrant, admired throughout the diaspora,” he said. “Our Chevra Kadisha has no equivalent in the world. Our Limmud and Sinai Indaba continue to attract thousands of Jews. We birthed the global Shabbos Project. With few small exceptions, there is harmony amongst all Jewish organisations.”

He added that the local Jewry



Zev Krengel presents Jesse and Jaron Clegg with their father Johnny Clegg's posthumous award

plays an outsized role on the international Jewish stage as well. Citing examples, he explained that SAJBD president Mary Kluk heads up the security portfolio of the executive of the World Jewish Congress; Kahn participates in forums such as the global coalition against anti-Semitism; and past SAJBD president Marlene Bethlehem is serving a fourth term as president of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Zagnoev also mentioned that the SAJBD continues to be recognised by South African authorities, having met with more than 10 government ministers and senior ANC and other party officials in the past 12 months.

The SAJBD has also made certain changes over the past year to ensure its own viability and relevance, he reported. “To assess our progress to date, we commissioned Ernst & Young to review all financial transactions over a 12-month period and we received a clean bill of health.”

He added: “The SAJBD remains committed to protecting the safety and civil rights of South African Jewry, and to leading our community in being an active and contributing part of our evolving democracy.”

Things aren’t as bad as we think, says expert panel

JORDAN MOSHE

The pessimism and myths we hear from politicians skew our perceptions of reality and make us feel depressed and hopeless. If we could see reality for what it really is in South Africa, we would hold the key to unlocking a brighter future.

So says University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) vice-chancellor Adam Habib, who weighed in on the current state of South African affairs at the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) conference on Sunday.

He was joined in a panel discussion by businessman and academic Dr Reuel Khoza, Nando’s co-founder Robbie Brozin, Judge David Unterhalter, and SAJBD president Mary Kluk. Journalist Mandy Weiner moderated as they unpacked the reality of South Africa and evaluated its potential on various fronts.

According to the panel, South Africans tend to believe that their perceptions are reality, allowing negative opinions to colour their everyday outlook. Although we



Judge David Unterhalter and Wits vice-chancellor Adam Habib

raised at two consecutive investment conferences R304 billion last year, and R371 billion this year,” Khoza said. “It doesn’t come easy or go to a country that is not a direct investment destination.”

Ultimately, our perception of reality is coloured by who we listen to, stressed Habib. “If you listen to the politicians, it’s quite depressing,” he said. “But if you look at the hard indicators, then I think we look far more promising than we imagine.”

He explained that although the rhetoric suggests our universities are in big trouble, Wits and other top institutions in South Africa continue to raise the bar on numerous fronts, including postgraduate and research output. “Parents want to tell me about why it’s important to go to the US or UK for their children,” said Habib. “They’re scared. But the irony is that to go to the UK costs about R900 000. Wits is one-ninth of the price and we produce the equivalent graduate and will continue to do so.

“We’ve not had as dangerous a moment globally as we have right now. When you say you’re leaving, where are you going to? The US is politically polarised, the UK has Brexit, Germany has the [right-wing political party] AFD, Italy has the Five Star Movement. Wherever you look, there is a politics of nativism that could bring the world to an end.”

He stressed that the belief that white students have no future here is a myth. “Data suggests that white graduates get jobs faster than black students because most jobs happen through networks in the private sector,” he said. “It’s an absolute myth that white students have no future here.”

Jews, too, can continue to be assured of a future in South Africa, added Kluk. “It remains good to be Jewish in South Africa. In 2018, Canada had over 2 000 violent anti-Semitic incidents and the UK had 1 645. South Africa had one, which we’re not even sure can be called violent. The opportunity to live a full religious life here is extraordinary and not to be taken for granted.”

The panellists agreed that there is still hope for the country, outlining some of the strategies we might use and listing the traits in our favour. “We have attributes that are difficult to see when we are buried in despondency,” Unterhalter said. “These include a constitutional framework that has endured, a robust civil society, and a strong

private sector of entrepreneurial talent.”

He added that the courts are ready to hear corruption cases, even if they are complex. “Unfortunately, the prosecution services have slowed,” he said. “None are being brought forward by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). It’s not acceptable anymore. There must be readiness to begin with simple charges first before bringing the biggest cases. The NPA must accept offers of help from the legal profession, and actionable cases must be addressed no matter who is implicated.”

Khoza agreed with the positive outlook, suggesting that businesses and the citizenry must rally around Ramaphosa, in whom he expressed confidence. “We as a country are not about to die but will turn things around for the better,” he said.

Although equally positive, Habib took issue with certain parts of the president’s conduct and our perception of him. “Stop relating to Cyril in a romanticised way,” he urged. “He was the best candidate we had and he has done more than we thought he could. But he is making big mistakes, and we need to acknowledge that.

“He is playing a long game but needs short-term victories to maintain public support. He has got to be seen to lead as president and make hard choices. He needs to stare rich people down and demand things of CEOs, and also stare down unions and demand concessions.”

Habib added that in terms of law, government must do more. He said: “Why have we not passed a law to confiscate the Guptas’ assets? We can win this. The same is true at Eskom. Choose a board, choose a CEO, choose an executive and shut up.”

Ultimately, the common sentiment was that there is a sizeable opportunity inherent in the current situation South Africa faces, and even the layperson can and must get involved.

“The mess created over the last nine years gives us an opportunity,” said Brozin. “The bigger the mess, the more opportunities it creates and the more people it will take to fix it. We have to be patient, but there is a strong turn coming and opportunities are coming our way.”

However, if we really want to start implementing change for the better, we need to begin by altering our mindset. “There’s a disjuncture between perception and reality,” said Habib. “Start focusing on reality, not rhetoric. Do your own research, and you’ll find your results are very different.”

Photos: Ian Ossendryver

Pandor clearly shows her bias against Israel

JORDAN MOSHE

Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Naledi Pandor recently blamed Israel for the continued occupation of “Palestine” and being single-handedly responsible for not securing peace.

In her final address as president to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 28 October in New York, she called Israel out for violations of human rights and acting in bad faith, failing to mention any violations on the part of any other party.

She also berated the UNSC’s five permanent members – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – for failing to champion the plight of Palestinians.

Political analyst Phumlani Majozi says Pandor’s statements highlight South Africa’s bias against Israel in the conflict. “What has always struck me is that in biased countries like South Africa, and many others that are anti-Israel, there exists a tendency to overlook Palestine’s failures on key fundamentals.”

South African Zionist Federation chairperson Rowan Polovin says the minister’s harangue against Israel was not aimed at bettering the lives of the Palestinians or promoting peace in the region. Instead, it was designed to single out, isolate and berate the Jewish state among the nations.

“South Africa places all blame, responsibility and burden on Israel for the failure to achieve peace with the Palestinians,” he says. “The minister’s speech negated all agency and moral duty on the part of the Palestinians, and abandoned history and context in order to promote a partisan position.”

In her address, Pandor claimed Israel was guilty of “violence directed

at the people of Gaza and the West Bank through occupation and aggression”. She suggested that the UN’s moves towards securing peace have been undermined through “unilateral decisions aimed at predetermining the outcome of the negotiations”. She said: “That points to bad faith and can never secure peace.”



Naledi Pandor

Pandor slammed the council for failing to act regarding Palestine, calling its failure to end the Israeli occupation “a profound stain” on the mission and objectives of the UN.

“The council has a duty to the people of Palestine clearly articulated in the founding charter,” she stated, “and it is vital for dedicated attention to be directed at finally achieving the outcomes stated in manifold United Nations resolutions.”

In lambasting the UNSC’s permanent members, she claimed that they had failed to implement their own resolutions. She was specifically speaking about resolution 2334 of 2016, which declared Israel’s settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem a “flagrant violation” of international law with “no legal validity”.

Pandor identified strongly with the Palestinian cause and pledged South Africa’s support for their struggle. “South Africa believes it is always possible to find solutions to seemingly intractable challenges. Our own struggles were advanced by United Nations action and determination to end a crime against humanity. We need similar vigorous

international solidarity, indignation and commitment for Palestine.”

She continued: “We, as South Africa, are gravely concerned by the continued disregard for the long-standing Middle East peace process through the systematic foreclosing of the final status issues, particularly with regard to the borders, the return of refugees, the status of Jerusalem and the ever-expanding illegal settlements.”

She reiterated that South Africa supports a two-state solution and an agreed peace process aimed at ensuring two co-existing, viable states, saying this would benefit the entire region. Pandor recommended that the council insist on regular written reports on the implementation of its decision in the region, conduct field visits in

the occupied territories, and take further action “against the continued violations of human rights”.

According to the Afro-Palestine Newswire Service, her statements were reportedly hailed by Hamas spokesperson Basem Naim. He said: “We agree fully with her diagnosis regarding the failure of the international community in general, and the Security Council in particular, to protect Palestinian rights and force Israel to respect and implement resolutions.”

Majozi, however, said: “[It is a] decades-long conflict that has become more and more complex over time. I have always argued that both sides have their faults on the matter. That needs to be said loudly.”

He believes if “biased countries like South Africa” didn’t overlook Palestinians’ failings too, they might “help speed up the negotiation process and eventually arrive at a peaceful resolution with Israel”.

Indeed, previous negotiations have failed even when Israel offered land for peace. This includes the offer in 2000 to withdraw from 97% of the West Bank and dismantle 63 isolated settlements, and the disengagement from Gaza in 2005.

Polovin believes that South Africa’s presidency of the UNSC had offered a unique and rare opportunity for the country to lead in the international arena, but that it squandered the moment. “Pandor used the platform at the UNSC open debate on the situation in the Middle East to repeat tired, unfounded and clichéd arguments against Israel, he says. “In so doing, South Africa missed the chance to focus on the real issues and fault lines of the Middle East, and failed millions of people across the region suffering decades of oppression, violence and conflict,

radicalism, dictatorships, and totalitarian regimes.”

He called upon the South African government to moderate its foreign policy towards Israel and find ways to impact positively on the conflict, saying that it is the kind of international political leadership that the country needs.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies echoed the sentiment, saying that South Africa cannot hope to assist when full blame is being apportioned to only one side.

“We believe that our country indeed has a role to play in assisting with the process of finding solutions, using the lessons of our own country’s experience in peaceful conflict resolution,” said national director Wendy Kahn.

“However, we can only offer assistance when we have the trust of both parties, including the Israelis. Many of the minister’s remarks are overtly one-sided, precluding any responsibility on the part of the Palestinian leadership to also be part of the peace-building process.”

She encouraged Pandor to urge the UNSC to emulate the South African model of facilitating dialogue and negotiation as a path to peace-building, instead of issuing its regular barrage of anti-Israel resolutions. “We welcome South Africa’s continued support for a two-state solution,” said Kahn, “but impress on our government the need to engage constructively and even-handedly with both parties in order to attain this objective.”

• The SA Jewish Report contacted Pandor’s office a number of times over more than a week for comment but had not received a response by the time of going to print.

Those who made our freedom possible

JORDAN MOSHE

Did you know that a Jewish financier saved Winston Churchill from bankruptcy, actress Hedy Lamarr was secretly an inventor, and that Jewish savvy kept the guns firing during World War I?

Despite the inconceivably challenging circumstances of war, stories of superhuman accomplishment also emerge from times of conflict. Innumerable Jewish personalities are no exception, their names and achievements populating wartime narratives throughout the decades.

On Sunday this past week, communities around the world took a moment to acknowledge those who gave their all for the freedoms we enjoy today. Remembrance Day is dedicated to all those who have fallen in armed conflict since WWI, and also affords us an opportunity to remember and acknowledge those who were willing to serve their country in any number of different ways.

In addition to those who gave their lives, there are some whose contributions to the war effort are beyond extraordinary and, in some cases, almost defy belief.

In 1916, the British forces engaged in battle against the Central Powers of WWI experienced a dire shortage of acetone, a crucial ingredient needed to produce cordite. A smokeless explosive, cordite was in turn used to manufacture several munitions. Acetone had previously been made from calcium acetate imported from Germany, but

since the Allies were at war with Germany, this was no longer possible.

Then a senior lecturer in biochemistry at the University of Manchester, Dr Chaim Weizmann, serendipitously invented a fermentation process that converted starch from corn and potatoes into acetone. The famed Zionist dubbed it the “Weizmann process”, and Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, requested that it be used to mass-produce acetone in England, Canada and the United States.

Weizmann’s process was employed, thereby keeping the British sufficiently supplied with the necessary ammunition.

Unbeknown to the Allies, Germany was experiencing a shortage of its own: a lack of ammonia. This substance was equally vital to producing munitions, and scientific minds applied themselves to solving the crisis. A German-Jewish chemist, Fritz Haber, discovered a way to synthesise ammonia using nitrogen and hydrogen, a discovery for which he would later receive the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Haber was later appointed director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Research Institute and proved instrumental in developing chemical weapons such as chlorine and mustard gas.

When Hitler came to power in the 1930s, he allowed Haber to remain at his post, but insisted that he fire all Jewish employees. Haber refused and instead resigned his position. Incredibly, he was offered a position at the Seiff Institute in then Palestine by

Continued on page 11>>

EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE
EXTRAORDINARY TRUST

New Projects | Resales
Commercial | Investments
Land | Property Management
Rentals | Project Management
International Properties
Aliyah Services

ISRAEL
PROPERTIES

BY STAMELMAN & PARTNERS

MEET OUR
TEAM

TREVOR STAMELMAN
Israel Tel/WhatsApp
+972 50 446 9515
South Africa Tel/WhatsApp
+27 82 608 0188
Email
trevorstamelman@gmail.com

DAVID DRUTMAN
Available in SA - 18, 19, 20 November
Available remotely at all times
Attorney & Notary Israel & SA
Tel +972 50 642 5947
Email office.drutlaw@gmail.com

AARON MORGAN
Available remotely at all times
Mortgage Consultant Israel & USA
Tel +972 52 568 8940
Email
aaron@morganmortgage.co.il

We are in South Africa 11th - 22nd November.
Book your meetings with us!

Expert Real Estate Products and Services, with 25-30 years of
experience in Real Estate, Law, Finance, Investments and Business.
We have the widest range of projects across Israel, as well as a wide
selection of Resales and Rentals in Beit Shemesh, Jerusalem, Modiin,
Rannana, Netanya, Tiberias, Tel Aviv and across Israel.

Property and Project Management.
International Properties in Cyprus, Greece and others.
Investments.
Tama 38.
Commercial Properties.
Land.
Expert team of Agents, Builders, Developers, Lawyers, Banks, Mortgage and
Insurance Consultants, Architects, Designers... all you need and want.

The 4 main Costs when buying and selling a property are:
Purchase/Sales Price
Legal Fees
Mortgage Fees
Real Estate Fees
Buy or sell with us and we will discount and
save you on all of these fees (terms also available).

We cannot forget Yitzhak Rabin

OPINION

EDEN PLEIN



Yitzhak Rabin was an Israeli military hero and political leader, who served two terms as prime minister. He was assassinated while in office on 4 November 1995 in Tel Aviv.

According to Knesset law, the Hebrew date of the assassination, the 12th of Heshvan, serves as Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Day. All ceremonies and educational programmes on this day are devoted to commemorating the life and legacy of Rabin, promoting and protecting democratic values, and examining the danger that violence poses to society and state.

Rabin was born in Jerusalem to two Russian immigrants. He attended school in the Galilee before enlisting in the Palmach in 1941. He rose steadily through the ranks of the military, earning a reputation as an outstanding intellectual and a capable thinker in matters of military strategy.

Rabin became the Israel Defence Forces chief of staff in 1964, and was a prominent figure in the victory in the 1967 Six-Day War. In 1974, he took up the position of prime minister, representing the Labour

Party. In 1984, he held the position of minister of defence under the government of national unity, and in 1992, he was elected as prime minister once again.

Although Rabin distinguished himself in his early years as a military man, he is best remembered for enacting perhaps the most consequential shift in the history of Israeli foreign policy: the launch of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the signing of the historic Oslo Accords in 1993, for which he earned a Nobel Prize but paid with his life.

Today, more than ever, we have a duty to observe Rabin’s memorial day. Twenty-four years since the assassination of one of Israel’s greatest leaders, the youth movement is faced with two great challenges.

The first is fighting against the downplay of this important anniversary, and the disconnection from its historical context through the neutralisation of left-wing politics.

The second is collectively remembering an event that we did not experience. Our generation does not carry the memory of the night

of 4 November 1995. Nonetheless, we are tasked with the responsibility on this day to awaken our diasporic Zionist community to Rabin’s legacy as one of transformative leadership and standing bravely in the face of difficult decisions.

We learn that on the side of his commitment to peace, Rabin did not wait idly for the Israel “after peace”. He did not wait for a peace that would solve all problems once and for all. Instead, he was brave enough to tackle Israel’s problems in the here and now.

It is thus our duty as Habonim Dror to ensure that the assassination of Rabin is marked in history not only as a sad event, but a formative one too. It is our obligation to ensure



that the efforts expended to bring our nation to the brink of peace are not wasted.

The risk that confronts us on this anniversary day is that no lesson concerning the world view which led to the assassination was learned. If we observe the past two decades of Israeli politics, we see that the right did not weaken as a result of the assassination, and nor did the left get stronger. Political positions did not change. Rather, democracy became a tool in the hands of those who threaten to destroy it.

Rabin was not murdered because of a momentary weakness in Israel’s democracy. Rather, crucially, the assassination took place against the background of a social reality that

did not bring us together, but forced us apart. We had no shared language, we had no shared vision, and we were not able to stress the values we shared. This is what threatened to destroy us.

And this is not just the reality of the past. Israeli society continues to face difficult and painful challenges, and Rabin’s memorial day continues to be one with a relevant lesson for many generations to come.

On this day, we ask ourselves difficult questions about the common vision that guides us and the values that bind us. And while courageously striving to find answers to these questions, for us as Zionist educators in our community, this day reminds us that we have the opportunity to mould future generations.

Let us bequeath to these future generations not just our differences; not only the dry understandings between us; but also a language to speak with each other.

This is our obligation.

• *Eden Plein is Habonim Dror Southern Africa’s S’ganit Rosh Machaneh 2019*

The girl with the Hebrew tattoo

HOWARD SACKSTEIN



HOWARD SACKSTEIN

It was one of those windy, brisk mornings in Cape Town when the ocean spits spray over those brave enough to walk on the promenade. It was the sort of morning that makes us hate Capetonians for their privilege of living between the shadow of the mountain and the rampaging seahorses of the Atlantic. Then my phone beeped. Peta Krost Maunder, editor of the *SA Jewish Report*, was looking for a contact for Rachel Kolisi, wife of Springbok captain Siya Kolisi.

“Why on earth are you looking for Rachel?” I enquired from the most dogged journalist I have ever encountered. When Peta sets her sights on a story, no one ever stands in her way. She forwarded the picture of Rachel’s tattoo – the Hebrew words *Gam Ze Yavo*, which means “this too shall pass”. Why was Rachel the girl with the Hebrew tattoo?

Fearing that I would never survive disappointing Peta, I immediately consulted Facebook. Surely Rachel and I would have common friends? After all, I am the man with one degree of separation to every other human being on the planet. But no, we shared not a single friend. I could get to US President Donald Trump in two steps; I had Dr Ruth, Ben Zander, Dan Ariely and President Cyril Ramaphosa on my speed dial, but no Rachel Kolisi.

Rachel is a full-time mother to her and Siya’s four children; she probably never leaves the house. She is a Christian, so I certainly wouldn’t know her from synagogue. She has had to fight off the toxic world of social media, whose trolls have accused her of “contaminating the white race” by marrying the towering, handsome hulk that is the Springbok captain. Maybe she has just withdrawn a bit from the world.

Morose with defeat in failing to track down Rachel, I went to Paranga restaurant in Camps Bay to eat away the emptiness inside me and drink double shots of Scotland’s finest. And there, at the table next to me, were Siya and Rachel having dinner with Jürgen Klopp, manager of Liverpool soccer club, and Faf du Plessis, captain of the Proteas cricket team.

The restaurant was abuzz. Everyone wanted a photo of Siya, some wanted a picture with Jürgen, everybody ignored Faf.

This was my opportunity, so I made a beeline straight for Rachel. “Hi Rachel, I’m Howard Sackstein from the *SA Jewish Report*, and I want to talk about your Hebrew tattoo.”

She looked puzzled before bursting out laughing. “Yes, I wore a dress recently and you could see the tattoo,” she said.

“But why do you have a Hebrew tattoo?” I asked.

“I had it done about six years ago,” said Rachel. “It was something close to my heart, so I wanted to have it done.”

To the question of whether it has any special meaning, she answered: “Not really.” Then I asked her whether she would take a selfie with me. It seemed that everyone wanted a picture with Siya, and no one was asking Rachel. I didn’t do it out of pity – it just seemed like the right thing to do. So Rachel and I selfied together, and in the process, I pushed Jürgen’s wife out of the way, nearly sending her tumbling over the restaurant table.

There was no way I wasn’t going to take a selfie with Siya too. And so, the most photographed man in the country had a picture taken with Siya. I hope he posts it to Instagram soon so that he can get more adoration and likes.

JOHANNESBURG MUSICAL SOCIETY

PERCY BANESHIK MEMORIAL CONCERT
Celebrate with JMS and a glass of sparkling wine

JONGDO AN

Brilliant international pianist
Winner Marguerite Long – Jacques Thibaud Int Competition

Saturday 16 Nov • Linder Auditorium • 20.00
Bach, Chopin, Schumann

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

Michael David

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP

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

- Custom upholstery
- Furniture repairs
- Dining room suites
- and more

Michael
082 820 7091

430 Louis Botha Avenue, cnr Main Street, Rouxville

FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE

Have a love at first sound experience.
Phonak Audéo™ Marvel

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

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

PHONAK
Life is on

SPECIAL PRICE FOR PENSIONERS

CONTACT US TODAY:
(011) 849-6256
082 953 4628

Fairmount
6 George Ave,
Sandringham

Additional branches in Benoni and Germiston

Johnny Clegg wins SAJBD human rights award



JORDAN MOSHE

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) decided to give the Rabbi Cyril and Ann Harris Human Rights Award to musician Johnny Clegg a mere three weeks before he passed away. They had no intention of it being a posthumous award.

The vice-president of the SAJBD, Zev Krenkel, presented the award instead to Clegg’s two sons, Jesse and Jaron, who were at the conference with their mother, Jenny.

The audience was overwhelmed by nostalgia and emotion on Sunday as tribute was paid to the musical legend. The Jewish “white Zulu” was recognised for paving the way for democracy in South Africa through song.

“For me, as a young boy, Johnny Clegg was everything,” said an emotional Krenkel. “For my first Bnei Akiva camp, I got his name crocheted onto my yarmie.

“For those of us who grew up in the ‘80s, Johnny was the inspiring light,” he said. “He was always an incredible energy, he had love and passion, and everyone around him loved him. He reminded me of the TV show *Everybody Loves Raymond*, but for us it was ‘Everybody loves Johnny’.

“He never lost his energy or his amazing ability to do on stage what no other white man can do. He inspired the generations that lived through apartheid, black and white, and showed us what South Africa could and did become.”

The award recognised Clegg for his legendary achievements through music, bridging

generational and cultural barriers, and bringing people of all backgrounds into a common commitment to a shared, democratic South Africa. It also recognised him for playing a unique role in furthering the cause of democracy and human rights in his adopted homeland.

Clegg’s sons thanked the SAJBD for recognising their father. “It has been a very challenging year for me and my family,” said Jesse. “On behalf of dad, we would like to thank the SAJBD for this incredible award.

“Beyond his music, my dad was someone who had deep compassion for his community and country. He crossed cultural boundaries and found human connections against all odds.”

Jaron added: “Our dad was never afraid to act on his beliefs. He always led by example. This acknowledgement of his contribution is a point of great pride for us, his family.”

Jesse explained that he and his father together had written the 2017 hit, *I’ve Been Looking*. Before he proceeded to perform the song, he said: “It’s a song about those precious things in life that you can’t replace. To my dad, that was his family and his country. I sing this to pay tribute to him and acknowledge him at this amazing moment.”

With guitar in hand and backed by his brother, Jesse performed an emotionally charged rendition of the song, bringing the audience members to their feet. It culminated in a standing ovation. The energy in the room was palpable, proving that despite Clegg’s absence, his spirit and legacy clearly remain alive among his family and fans alike.

Recognised for their great work

JORDAN MOSHE

“Being recognised by one’s own community is the most significant honour achievable. As stated in the Talmud, in one’s own town, it’s one’s name that counts.”

With these words, community stalwart Marlene Bethlehem captured the spirit of the award presentations that took place at the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) conference in Houghton on Sunday.

She was one of a number of personalities recognised for their contribution to the South African Jewish community, clearly lending credence to the Talmud’s dictum.

Bethlehem, former president of the SAJBD, received the Mendel Kaplan and Eric Samson Community Service Award from current president Mary Kluk, who lauded her for her decades of service in Johannesburg and further afield.

“In a communal career spanning more than half a century, Marlene has involved herself in activities ranging from welfare and humanitarian work to human rights activism and relationship building, preservation of Jewish culture, and extensive political engagement on behalf of both local and international Jewry,” said Kluk.

Bethlehem was also recognised for having served as chairperson of the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society and the Jewish Community Service, both of which made her an honorary life vice-president. She was also praised for her work at the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, where she has been president since 2016.

Kluk added that Bethlehem had made history in 1995 by becoming the first woman to be elected as national chairperson of the SAJBD. “In this capacity, you played a role in helping the community adapt to, and become a meaningful part of, the transition to democracy,” she said. “You have brought enduring honour to South African Jewry through the senior positions you have held on prestigious national and international forums.”

Also recognised were Merle Rubin and Shirley Resnick, both of whom have played equally crucial roles in the Cape Town and Johannesburg Jewish communities, respectively.

Addressing Rubin, SAJBD’s national vice-chairperson, Rael Kaimowitz, said: “It has been said that the true measure of any society can be seen in how it treats its most vulnerable members. The defining characteristics of your life have been in how quietly, unobtrusively and without desire for recognition you have gone about realising this idea.”

Rubin was lauded for having overseen women’s burial purification services at the Jewish cemetery in Cape Town, and for being among the foremost kosher caterers in the city, notable for her generosity in making functions affordable. “You epitomise what it is to be an *eishet chayil*, the lofty ideal of Jewish womanhood described in our sacred scriptures,” said Kaimowitz.

Presenting the award to Resnik, Mark Pozniak, chairman of the SAJBD Gauteng Council, said: “As the long-serving head of the Chevra Kadisha’s financial assistance team, your unstinting commitment to ensuring the best possible outcome for those in need of a helping hand has been combined with empathy and sensitivity.”

Pozniak praised Resnik for her contributions in Johannesburg, among them taking on the responsibility of women’s burial purification at Westpark Cemetery for over 30 years, and for running the Chev’s bridal gemach. “For all this and more, you have been described as a true

pillar of Chessed,” said Pozniak. “Someone who, behind the scenes, has brought comfort and rendered assistance to innumerable members of our community.”

Additionally, four legal giants – two from Johannesburg and two from Cape Town – were posthumously acknowledged for their contributions. They are Solly Kesler, Ivan Levy, Mervyn Smith and Harry Schwarz.

Harold Jacobs, SAJBD Gauteng’s vice-chairperson, paid tribute to them for the several decades they devoted to defending the community’s rights. He said: “Members of the legal profession have been at the forefront of the board’s work, whether in combating anti-Semitism, safeguarding religious rights, dealing with immigration and citizenship, or resolving intra-communal disputes. Tonight, we pay tribute to them.

“In their own unique way, they played a vital part in helping guide SA Jewry from apartheid into a new era of multiracial democracy.”

Jacobs outlined the respective achievements of these legal stalwarts, making the significance of their contributions emphatically clear. “Levy stood at the forefront of the board’s work in fighting anti-Semitism,” said Jacobs. “He spearheaded the application to ensure that the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* remained banned in South Africa. He put his expertise at the disposal of the board in pursuing the landmark hate speech case against Radio 706.”

Speaking about Schwarz, Jacobs characterised a noted, brilliant parliamentarian who fought apartheid as a member of the liberal opposition, and also devoted hours of his time to Jewish communal work, including serving on board committees. He rendered critical assistance in addressing complex issues relating to payments



made from compensation funds for local Holocaust survivors.

Capetonian stalwart Kesler made his contribution in the capacity of chairman of the constitutional and legislative subcommittee. Said Jacobs: “Under his guidance, this body made input into the new Constitution and subsequent legislation, including the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act.”

Fellow Capetonian Smith formerly served as national chair of the SAJBD and stood at the forefront of combating anti-Semitism. Jacobs explained that Smith had headed up the board’s long-running hate speech complaint against Radio 706 and devoted hours to ensuring that the case was brought to a satisfactory conclusion. “He drafted many court papers for the board, including the initial letter of complaint in the 10-year-long hate speech case against [trade union federation] Cosatu’s Bongani Masuku,” said Jacobs.

He concluded: “At this 50th conference, we remember and pay grateful tribute to these four great Jewish South Africans and to all those members of the legal profession who served our community so well.”

Bethlehem’s final remark certainly spoke for the philosophy common among all those recognised. Quoting Pirkei Avot, she said: “It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it. With these words in mind, I hope to contribute to this wonderful community for many years to come.”

The Jewish Democratic Initiative Offers:

A Home at Last

Save the date for our flagship community workshop

Sunday 17 November

9:30am Registration - 5pm
Full Price: R250; Student: R150
Cape Town: Kaplan Centre, UCT
Johannesburg: Hazeldene Hall, Parktown

Email: JDImovement@gmail.com to RSVP
Facebook: Jewish Democratic Initiative
Payent methods: Cash at the door or EFT via:
SISO, Standard Bank, Branch code: 026509,
Acc No: 272073504

Black Motion to perform at Israeli event

TALI FEINBERG

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions South Africa (BDS-SA) insists that South African artists should avoid anything to do with Israel, but South African music duo Black Motion is dancing to a different tune, with an upcoming performance at cannabis conference and Israeli initiative CannaTech in Cape Town.

And, with more than 287 000 followers on Facebook and 292 000 followers on Instagram, the group has a huge fan base that is open to its message of music as a way to cross barriers.

In August 2018, Black Motion got caught in the crosshairs of BDS-SA, which triumphantly announced that the duo had decided not to play at the Meteor Festival at Kibbutz Lehavot HaBashan because it wanted to boycott Israel.

But when the *SA Jewish Report* spoke to Black Motion’s manager, Kutlwano Chaba, he said it was completely untrue. The group backed out of the festival because they were nervous about travelling to a “conflict zone”, he said. He was horrified that a personal decision had been twisted for political purposes.

Chaba says the band has learnt from that experience, and it has made an informed choice to perform at the Israeli

event, CannaTech, at the end of November.

“If you don’t have your own view, you will be used, and that’s unfair, especially to musicians. All they want is to perform their music as a way to bring people together. We don’t want to separate people; it’s not what we’re about. Always ask yourself where you stand before you allow yourself to be used. Why must we take sides? Our message is to appreciate each other as people.

“One day we play at an ANC [African National Congress] rally and the next day at an EFF [Economic Freedom Fighters] rally. We wouldn’t boycott either. If we are being used to play political games [like with BDS] ... I don’t think it’s fair,” he says. “Let us decide. Don’t vilify people if they differ or don’t want to get involved [in politics]. Music can unify rather than divide people.”

CannaTech will bring together experts and businesspeople from the burgeoning global cannabis industry, and this is a particular interest of the band members, especially Thabo Mabogwane (known as “Smol”).

“They really want to play at this event. It makes sense as they will be exposed to the [cannabis] industry, and they will get to do what they love and learn about something they are really interested in. It makes complete sense,” says Chaba.



“These are big players from Israel, and if one nationality is spearheading it, we want to learn from it,” he says. “So we got the information, and made an informed decision. It’s not important where people are from; what’s more important is what they can offer. There will always be conflict in the world. You can’t listen to only one side.”

Chaba believes the band missed out by backing out of the Meteor Festival last year. He hopes that

they’ll still be invited to play in Israel in future, either at Meteor or other festivals, clubs and events. “That’s the thing about house music: it can be played anywhere,” he says.

When the *SA Jewish Report* spoke to him last year, he said that Black Motion was considering hosting an event to bring Jews and Muslims together in South Africa. “We are launching an album in two months’ time, and I would love to see both sides of this issue attend, and enjoy the gift of music. I suspect

there is no dialogue between the two groups. Music can bridge this gap,” he said at the time. Although the group didn’t manage to hold the event due to budget constraints, Chaba would still like to get people from different backgrounds to attend shows together.

“We are lucky because in South Africa, one of most diverse countries, we have managed to live together and make music together. We shouldn’t allow ourselves as musicians to fuel divisions,” he says.



ISRAEL
PROPERTY
NETWORK

רשת נדל"ן בפריסה ארצית

www.israelpropertynetwork.com

JOBURG

15 - 21 NOVEMBER 2019

Israel Property Network is coming back to **YOU** in conjunction with the Israel Centre South Africa



PLACES LIMITED
SO BOOK EARLY

Join our panel discussion and Q & A

Buying, Investing & Renting property in Israel

Tuesday 19 November

Venue

Beyachad Centre,
2 Elray St, Raedene.
Johannesburg

19.30 - Light refreshments

20.00 - Presentation

- Ari Kruger - Financial Advisor - My aliyah experience
- Eli Symon - Ex-SA & Israeli Property lawyer
- Sabrina Ziff & Shoshi Gentely Kahtan - Israel Property Network
- Dani Schecter - First Israel Mortgages: Applying for a bond
- Benefits - to Oleh or not to Oleh
- Q and A



IPN Jerusalem

IPN Bat Yam

IPN Ra'anana

IPN Zicron Yaccov

IPN Modiin

IPN Tel Aviv

IPN Tel Mond

IPN Hadera

IPN Beit Shemesh

IPN Herzilya

IPN Netanya

IPN Tzfat

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL PRIVATE
MEETINGS

For more details & to book call Ari 083-564-9073 or email

Ziva: aliyah@israelcentre.co.za
Ari: ari@israelpropertynetwork.com

israel centre is hosting this commercial event but not responsible in any way to the contents

Coleman leaving to return in a stronger position

PETA KROST MAUNDER

Colin Coleman may be retiring from his position as CEO of Goldman Sachs in sub-Saharan Africa, leaving the banking industry and heading for Yale University to take up a lecturing post, but he is certainly not emigrating, nor is he giving up on South Africa’s future.

Coleman, 57, is very clear that his future is intertwined with that of the country. He told the *SA Jewish Report* this week: “I am not leaving South Africa. I might be out of the country, but even when I am not here, I am connected to it.”

Leaving Goldman Sachs is something he has “been contemplating for the last two years”, he says. When he bids farewell on 31 December, he will have turned an institution – Goldman Sachs South Africa – that he literally started “into a full-service investment banking operation”. He says: “It’s a 20-year project that has come to conclusion.” And now he is passing it on to a new generation as he has fresh ambitions to fulfil.

These, he says, are about “how I can impact on society in an environment of freedom, which is not easy in a corporate. On my own, I can have maximum impact by bringing together my skills and knowledge in a powerful way.”

He sees the academic exposure he will get teaching the “Africa: Doing Business in the Last Frontier of Global Growth” course, at Yale University’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, as a bridge to this. Although he has never worked in an academic environment, he is excited by the new challenge. “I will still have my family back here, including my three-year-old son, and I will split my time between countries,” he says.

Even while he is lecturing, he says, “I will be doing private consulting in South Africa and some things in the public sector. I may join some boards, but I will definitely be writing and publishing.”

Coleman wants to use the next two years to transition, think and analyse. “Time will tell what responsibilities I take up here,” he says when asked about the rumours of him getting a Cabinet position down the line. “I anticipate that there will be responsibilities here or in relation to South Africa.

“I don’t hide that if there is an impactful role that I can play in and around the public sector, I would be happy to do that. My objectives now are not about making money, but making an impact on society and using the next 25 years to do that.”

And he isn’t blind to what is happening in South Africa under the presidency of his dear friend, Cyril Ramaphosa. “The rugby tells you that



we are at a high and the economy tells you that we are at a low. There is some truth in that – it is the best times and the worst times.

“The best times in that we have hope again with President Ramaphosa. We have a nation that is far healthier relative to the pre-democracy years; we have a nation struggling to work its way through. The worst of times in that we have a half-percent growth rate, nearly 30% unemployment, tremendous

inequality and a dearth of resources. We also have the scourge of Zuma’s corruption that we are still living with, and it’s going to take a lot of time to work through.

“It takes years to build a reputation and it takes one stupid act to destroy it. Zuma performed terrible acts repeatedly for 10 years, so he did a better job of damaging this country than we ever imagined,” says Coleman. “President Ramaphosa has to remodel the service, administration, the state-owned enterprises. While many can criticise him for going so slowly, it takes time.”

However, as a risk manager, he says that opportunity always exists in adversity, so people just need to look for those. “This is not the time to give up. Everyone needs to get behind Cyril,” he says.

He believes the grass isn’t greener elsewhere. “Many white South Africans who emigrated did very well, but they lost their homeland, and many feel displaced and are still very connected to South Africa,” he says.

Coleman will continue to be integrally involved with the YES (Youth Employment Service) campaign, which he and former Investec CEO Stephen Koseff launched in 2018 alongside government, business and labour to tackle youth unemployment.

Their goal is to get one million young people getting work experience in five years. “We currently have 25 000 interns and will finish the year with 30 000,” he says. “I hope we can reach 100 000 in the next year. We have to ramp it up to reach our goal, which will take young people off the streets.” What is incredible, he says, is “if every business took on two interns, we would be able to get to our million”.

As Coleman embarks on what he sees as “the last third of my career”, he recalls his first: as a political activist. He was 18 and studying architecture when his brother, Keith (one of two older brothers already involved in the anti-apartheid struggle), was arrested. At that point, Coleman’s parents, Max and Audrey, “became horrified by the reality of the repression laws and, together with the parents of the 50 others arrested together, were quickly drawn into a whole different world”.

He recalls: “The white community

shied away and all their friendship and business networks went away. They found this whole new support system that was part of the anti-apartheid movement, and a number of families were bonded together.”

Coleman got involved in the National Union of South African Students, becoming its executive officer, and then in the End Conscription Campaign. He was a conscientious objector at a time when it was a criminal offence. He joined the ANC underground in 1986 and began the process of facilitating talks, which led to multiparty talks and negotiations. It was in his early 20s in the United Democratic Front that he met and befriended Ramaphosa.

When he was in his early 30s, he went into banking as he “wanted exposure into business and banking was a great window into the economy”, he says.

He and Ramaphosa have become closer over the past five years and Coleman has been called on to help in various areas, including bridging the divide between government and business, and on Ramaphosa’s political campaign. “The president responded to our call from the YES programme around youth unemployment, and I have been actively trying to assist and encourage him in his objectives.” Coleman says while the elite see Ramaphosa as being “a gentle and unifying force”, he has witnessed how the president “is capable of being extremely tough when he needs to be”.

His relationship with the Jewish community hasn’t always been close. Last year this time, Coleman and his family received an award from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies for the role they played in ending apartheid. “This was a very cathartic moment for us,” he says. “For me, it was a way of letting go of any antagonism and anger and being able to express it and, at the same time, encouraging the community to move forward into a pro-democracy stance.”

Although he says he sees himself as a “very global and patriotic South African”, he also acknowledges that “I am Jewish and proud of it”.

His first Yale lecture begins on 15 January, but this is clearly not the last we will see or hear of this “global South African”.

Afghan’s last Jew too much for Taliban to handle

LAURA E. ADKINS – JTA

Meet Zebulon Simentov, 66, who is believed to be the last remaining Jew in Afghanistan. Journalist Emran Feroz recently profiled Simentov for the US publication *Foreign Policy* and uncovered some incredible stories about the feisty Afghan, including that the Taliban once imprisoned him for arguing with a fellow Jew, then kicked him out because the constant bickering became too annoying.

There is lots of information available on Simentov as Afghanistan’s last remaining Jew. He always wears a kippah and observes the Jewish Sabbath, though he will watch television if a non-Jew has turned it on for him. He lives in Afghanistan’s last standing synagogue – which he renovated

himself – in the heart of Kabul’s flower district. Every Shabbat, he reads Torah from the bimah of the old sanctuary. He hates the Taliban, and is on a quest to reclaim a Torah stolen by its interior ministry. He allegedly charges a pretty penny (or euro) for interviews.

But Feroz’s article, framed around the imminent return of the Taliban to Afghanistan, adds much to the story. “Everyone in these streets knows [him],” a neighbour told Feroz. “He is salient and sometimes he is choleric. But we have fun with him.”

Jews have more than a thousand-year history in Afghanistan, and only slowly began emigrating after World War II. But the rise of communism, the

Red Army’s persecution of religious people across Central Asia, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 led the Jews of Afghanistan to leave for good to Israel, the United States, and elsewhere.

When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in the late 1990s, Simentov went to Israel with his family, where his wife, daughters and sisters now live, but returned to Kabul after

alcohol, which Levi denied. Simentov also spread rumours that Levi had converted to Islam, which Levi denied.

“I don’t talk to him, he’s the devil,” Simentov said in 2002. “A dog is better than him ... I don’t have many complaints about the Taliban, but I have a lot of complaints about him.” Levi replied that Simentov was “a thief and a liar”.

The Taliban was so annoyed by their constant fighting that it threw them in jail. But it eventually kicked them out when they continued to fight inside the prison. Levi died in 2005.

“[The Taliban] beat me a lot,” Simentov told *Foreign Policy*. “I was imprisoned several times because of this charlatan Levy [sic]. He wanted to get rid of me to sell the synagogue. But thank G-d he was not successful.”

Unfortunately, their feuding also allowed the Taliban to run away with the synagogue’s Torah. Scribed in the 15th century, the scroll was

allegedly taken by Taliban’s interior minister and sold on the black market.

Simentov has vowed to keep searching for the Torah until his dying days. He still believes that the Torah will resurface, but “whether the holy scripture re-emerges or not, there will be at least one Jew waiting for it – and he will continue to stay in Kabul”.

“I’m a man with no fear. I will never leave Afghanistan because of the Taliban or anyone else,” Simentov told *Foreign Policy*.

When Feroz asked Taliban official Khairullah Khairkhwa about Simentov and Levi, “he could not hide his grin”.

“Yes, I remember them, they caused me a lot of problems,” he said.



Afghanistan’s last Jew, Zebulon Simentov, blows the shofar at the sole synagogue in Kabul

just two months. “I didn’t want to stay there. Afghanistan is my homeland,” he told *Foreign Policy*.

When he returned, Simentov encountered Yitzhak Levi, nearly two decades his senior, living at the Kabul synagogue. The two didn’t hit it off. They “fought viciously about which of them was the rightful owner of the land”, according to a 2017 *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* profile of Simentov. They moved into different wings of the synagogue.

In 1998, Levi wrote to the Taliban interior minister to accuse Simentov of theft of Jewish relics. Simentov retorted by telling the Taliban that Levi ran a secret brothel where he sold

Where are we 30 years after the Berlin Wall fell?

STEVEN GRUZD

I remember vividly my matric history class on 10 November 1989, the day after the Berlin Wall started to come down. We’d watched on television how Germans on both sides hacked with pickaxes and chisels at this despised barrier, their joy unmistakable. My history teacher, Paul Edey, was animated. “Boys! History is being made right now before your eyes!” he said. “This is momentous. It could be the end of the Cold War!”

Thirty years on, how has the dismantling of the Berlin Wall transformed Germany, Europe and relations with Jews?

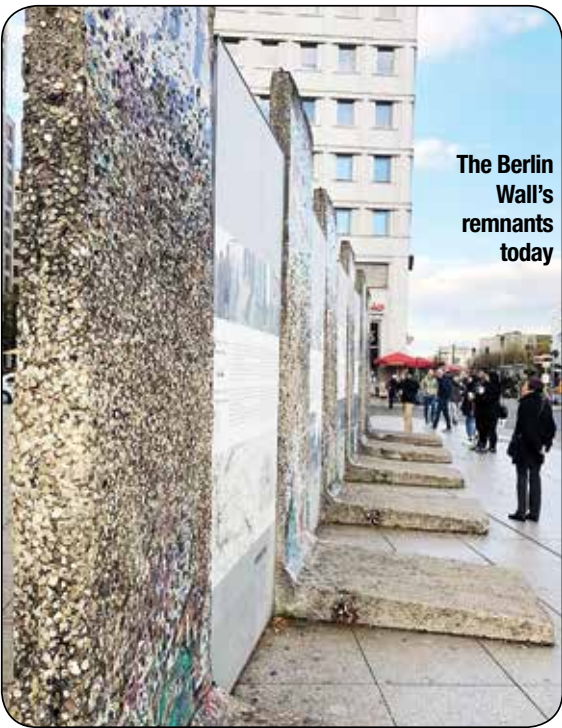
Mr Edey was right. The superpower standoff that had dominated world politics since 1945 slowly petered out. Within a year, West Germany swallowed East Germany as they were reunited as a single federal state, inside of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance. There began a mass exodus of the “refusenik”, Jews from the Soviet Union, to Israel, Europe and the United States. The USSR itself ceased to exist by the end of 1991, as it split into 15 sovereign states. With France, a united Germany became the engine of European integration.

The prospect of the fall of global communism prompted former president FW de Klerk to unbanned the ANC and release Nelson Mandela, as he hoped to wrong-foot the liberation movement in negotiations for a “new South Africa”. Soviet withdrawal from Africa heralded

both democratic transitions and intra-state conflicts. There was hope that freedom would permanently engulf the planet.

I visited Berlin a few weeks ago to attend a conference. Today, there is very little left of the wall that once bisected the city into a capitalist West Berlin and a communist East Berlin. Tourists pose with the few graffiti-covered panels of the wall dotted around the city. Souvenir shops still sell commemorative plaster shards affixed to fridge magnets. The wall’s route is marked by a line across the roads and pavements.

The partition of Berlin mirrored how Germany itself was divided into American, British, French and Soviet zones after World War II. The first three amalgamated to form West Germany, while the Soviet zone



transformed into the German Democratic Republic. I was once told that if a country has to use the word “democratic” in its name, democracy is usually in short supply.

The shadow of the Shoah is never far from modern Germany for Jews. A stone’s throw from Berlin’s iconic Brandenburg Gate stands the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. It is a huge field covered with undulating rows of monolithic concrete blocks, 2 711 in all, completed in 2004. For me, it simultaneously evokes both coffins and tombstones.

Indeed, the day the wall fell, 9 November, was also Kristallnacht in 1938, when thousands of Jewish homes, businesses and places of worship were destroyed across the country. This decimation of property would be replaced by the murder of millions only a few short years later.

I asked Henning Suhr, resident representative of Germany’s Konrad Adenauer Foundation in South Africa, for his thoughts. He said the fall of the wall “is one of the happiest events in German history. That day, millions of people were lying in each other’s arms celebrating the destruction of a shameful

monument of separation. Families and friends who had been torn apart could finally reunite. Even now, many Germans get very emotional and float in bliss when remembering 9 November 1989.”

Suhr continued: “By no means does celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall diminish the importance of the Kristallnacht. On the contrary, both events remind us to fight injustice, human rights abuses, and the separation of people who choose to be together. The reunification of Germany does not mean the resurrection of nationalism. Israel’s right to exist is unwavering, and Germany is dedicated to enhancing Jewish life worldwide, especially on German soil. The government of Germany and the vast majority of Germans reject any kind of anti-Semitism. ‘Never again’ remains relevant now and will do so in the future.”

Many Jews from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union settled in Germany. Its Jewish population was estimated to be 275 000 in 2018, with some 30 000 to 40 000 living in Berlin. The city has also attracted thousands of Israelis discovering their roots, and attracted by the relatively cheap cost of living, the relaxed lifestyle and the city’s vibrant art scene. There is a renaissance of both Chabad and Reform Judaism, catering for different religious choices.

The world changed forever on 9 November, 30 years ago. Today, it faces renewed rivalry among world powers and threats to European integration and the multilateral co-operation that characterised the post-Cold War era. As the US retreats into an “America first” posture, Germany has assumed the mantle of democratic exemplar. It has many lessons to teach about facing and overcoming a difficult history.

Those who made our freedom possible

>>>Continued from page 5

Weizmann in 1934. He set out for the Holy Land to assume the position but died of poor health en route.

The American Bernard Baruch was a financier, a confidante of Franklin Roosevelt and responsible for keeping Churchill in politics. Baruch was a close friend of Churchill, and though he admired him greatly, he perceived that the British statesman was an inept investor.

While on a visit to America in 1932, Churchill decided to play the stock market. Unfortunately, fate was not on his side, and market prices tumbled steeply that day. “As prices tumbled, he plunged deeper and deeper, trying to outguess the stock exchange,” writes historian William Manchester. “At the end of the day, he confronted Baruch in tears. He was, he said, a ruined man.”

Churchill had lost so much of his family fortune that he would have no choice but to sell all he owned, including Chartwell, his beloved estate. Moreover, he lamented the fact that he would have no choice but to leave the House of Commons and enter business to support his family and pay back the enormous losses he had incurred.

But Churchill’s long-time friend “gently corrected him”, telling him that he had lost not a cent. Unbeknown to the statesman, Baruch had instructed his employees at his office in New York to monitor Churchill as he went about his transactions, telling them to buy equivalent stocks every time Churchill sold his and sell whenever he bought. Manchester writes: “Winston had come out exactly even because, he later learned, Baruch even paid the commissions.”

Thanks to Baruch’s savvy, Churchill could remain in politics and would eventually navigate England through the perils of war, which would beset the country a few years later.

Lamarr, often touted as the most beautiful woman in the world, was not only famous,

but Jewish and scientifically gifted to boot. Born Hedwig Kiesler in Vienna in 1914, she was given her new surname by Louis B Mayer when she signed with MGM in 1937.

Although she achieved international fame as a Hollywood movie star, Lamarr was not satisfied by acting. Between takes in her trailer and staying up all night at home, she practised her favourite hobby: inventing.

It is said that while the 26-year-old Lamarr was thriving in Hollywood in September 1940, Nazi U-boats hunted down and sank a cruise ship trying to evacuate 90 British schoolchildren to Canada. Tragically, 77 of

them drowned in the frigid north Atlantic.

Lamarr, at this point a Jewish immigrant from Nazi-occupied Austria who had been making America her home since 1938, was outraged. She fought back by applying her engineering skills to the development of a sonar submarine locator to protect Allied torpedoes from German U-boat fire during conflict. Lamarr created a system called

“frequency hopping” in which torpedoes would “hop” between frequencies to avoid detection. Ingenious though her invention was, the US Navy chose, for reasons unknown, not to implement her design. Although they did patent it, it never went further in its use in the war effort.

The existence of Lamarr’s invention became known in recent years only, proving there was more to her than her beauty. In addition, the principles of her work are now incorporated into modern Wi-Fi, code-division multiple access and Bluetooth technology, and this work led to her being inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.

So whether financier or film star, scientist or soldier, there are certainly Jewish personalities worth remembering for their remarkable wartime contributions this Remembrance Day.



Hedy Lamarr

Leaders of stature

Honouring 100 years of combined service as Dayanim upon their retirement



Dayan Kurtstag



Dayan Rapoport



Dayan Suchard

You're invited to the **Hachnasat Sifrei Torah** in honour of our venerable Dayanim who have served our community with mastery and selflessness.

Thanks to the generosity of the Cyrildene Shul, **three sifrei Torah** have been dedicated by the UOS in honour of the Dayanim who have recently retired.

Sunday, 24 November 4:45pm
Leaving from 37 Corbel Crescent, Glenhazel, leading up to the **Yeshiva College campus, followed by a ceremony and cocktails.**



CHIEF RABBI *Warren Goldstein*



UNION OF
ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES
OF SOUTH AFRICA
איחוד בתי החרדיים הוותיקים בדרום אפריקה

Kasrils – the story of a Jewish boy from Yeoville

JORDAN MOSHE

The name Ronnie Kasrils is synonymous for many with the African National Congress, anti-apartheid activism, and years spent combating racism in South Africa.

In his newly published memoir, however, Kasrils brings to light the early years of his life, cataloguing a childhood lived in thriving Jewish Yeoville.

In conversation with acclaimed author and journalist Mark Gevisser, Kasrils launched his most recent book, *Catching Tadpoles*, at Exclusive Books in Hyde Park last week. The pair tried to get to the heart of an identity formed in the ‘40s and ‘50s.

“We all know of this man as armed and dangerous, the Red Pimpernel, and a great freedom fighter,” said Gevisser. “He is somebody who has always been at the barricades when it comes to fighting for freedom and justice.

“This book gives us another Ronnie. The little boy known as Ronelah to his beloved bobba, Clara. A leader of an intrepid gang called the Zorro gang as a Yeoville boykie. A young bohemian who had an affair with Miriam Makeba. This is what *Catching Tadpoles* is about.”

Kasrils shared his experiences as a young Jewish boy growing up in the Johannesburg of the mid-20th century, bringing up the names of people familiar to many. These include famed Jewish jockey Cocky Feldman; his horse, Danny Boy; and the horse’s trainer, Jumbo Goldstein, the great-uncle of Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein.

Kasrils explained that people like Feldman were crucial to Jewish life when he was growing up.

“In the 1940s, he was a champion jockey, and that meant the entire Jewish community was inspired by his feats. His slogan in the community was ‘Ride ‘em, Cocky. Give him more with the shtick.’ He was someone we could feel proud about, especially coming after what had happened in Europe and the anti-Semitic sentiment we had been so used to.”



“There are those who are prepared to get involved and undergo a metamorphosis, so convinced are they that things are wrong.”

Of his family home, Kasrils said that he grew up with parents Isidore and Rene in a flat in Yeoville, a home in which much happened, including poker evenings and clobyosh tournaments.

“They weren’t devout Jews,” said Kasrils of his parents. “There was a pretence at a kosher kitchen. We didn’t have bacon, but we had most other things. My grandfather and father went to shul only on



Photograph supplied by Jacana Media

Yom Kippur to atone for their sins.”

His father was a commercial traveller who sold sweets for the family of David Pratt, a personality who would achieve notoriety for shooting Hendrik Verwoerd. Kasrils said that his father worked at the low-end of the market, selling sweets in poor-white areas and townships. His then 10-year-old son would often accompany him on sales trips, carrying his bag of samples.

Said Kasrils: “I travelled with him, and we’d go along old Main Reef Road and be popping in to Greek, Lebanese and mainly Muslim shops closer to the townships.

“My father would sit with these men, and the little boy would watch them and feel an inexplicable warm, rosy feeling. Only later could I understand it was because my father showed them respect. It was a feeling that my father accepted people and was accepted, and was totally different to the rest of his crowd.”

These lessons would leave a lasting impression on Kasrils as he grew up, shaping his perspective on apartheid South Africa and its wrongs. Isidore took an interest in his son’s foray into politics (Kasrils learned only later that he was a socialist at heart) and believed that anyone who worked hard deserved just rewards.

His mother, too, provided him with a political education. By way of an anecdote, Kasrils explained: “My mother provided one of the first major turning points of my life. She once took me downtown to the Rissik Street bioscope, and when we got off the tram, suddenly I felt her yanking my arm. I could hear screaming and cursing. We rushed across the road. There were four young hoodlums with knuckledusters beating an African man mercilessly. They were killing this man, and blood was spewing everywhere. My mother rushed me into Anstey’s department store, ordered water with sugar for us both, and calmed me down.”

That night, Kasrils was disturbed, and wet his bed. His mother opened the discussion with him a few days later.

“She saw I was unhappy, and asked if it was because of what had happened. I said yes, and asked her if this was the way Jews were treated in Germany. Her eyes looked into mine, and she thought carefully.

“Ronald. Our people and others were being thrown into concentration camps and into gas chambers,” she said. “That’s not happening here, but my boy, it starts like this when people can be attacked and beaten in the streets. Ronald, don’t be like them. Be kind.”

Other influences on Kasrils

included the Sacks sisters, three girls of Russian origin whose mantelpiece bore Stalin’s portrait, and who taught young Ronnie how to dance and about what was going on in the world in 1948. Kasrils’ high-school history teacher, Teddy Gordon, would also contribute to his consciousness, introducing him to the French Revolution and its belief in liberty and equality.

Said Kasrils: “He opened my mind up. South Africa in the ‘50s was relevant to what he was teaching. It changed me.”

Accumulatively, these forces would engender a personality who joined the ANC and went further than many other white or Jewish activists had gone in the wake of the Sharpeville massacre in 1960. “This man went beyond being horrified,” said Gevisser. “He became a revolutionary and a freedom fighter.”

Kasrils concluded by reflecting on the writing process as a journey of self-discovery. “There’s something about writing a memoir. You discover new things you never noticed about yourself. As I look back, more emerges.

“I moved from just prattling and wringing my hands. There are those who are prepared to get involved and undergo a metamorphosis, so convinced are they that things are wrong. I was an action person, and so I chose it for myself.”

Documenting anti-apartheid’s unsung heroes

JORDAN MOSHE

We all know Albie Sachs, Joe Slovo and Helen Suzman as heroes in the fight against apartheid, but it’s the unsung heroes that Mohale Selebi wants to honour.

A political activist and researcher, Selebi wants to write about ordinary Jewish people who challenged the system as he has personal experience of the difference they made.

He has never forgotten the Radus family, who hid him as a youngster in their home while he was on the run from the police. “I remain very close to them,” he says. “I remember the Friday nights and Shabbat meals, and I cherish those memories.”

With them in mind, he is determined to uncover the stories of ordinary Jews who did the extraordinary during the oppressive years of South Africa’s history. He began this undertaking in earnest in January this year, and is collecting accounts for his book, to be published next year.

“My interest lies in unearthing and sharing untold stories,” Selebi says. “I want to go beyond the famous names. There were attorneys who aided detainees, and doctors who treated black activists who’d been tortured and shot, without reporting them to the authorities.”

Selebi was born in Soweto in 1967, one of seven children in a politically active family. His two elder brothers were involved in subversive activity, and his uncles worked closely with underground movements.

“I remember from an early age the police were always coming into our home, kicking in doors, pointing guns, and searching for weapons or any incriminating material,” he says. “They often took my brothers away. The situation became unbearable, and they left the country.”

Selebi assumed the role of bigger brother to his younger siblings in his early teens. He also got involved in politics, taking part in youth movements.

“I was always involved in civic politics. My parents discouraged me from doing so, and my dad’s involvement in the underground came to

my attention only years later.”

Selebi was detained on various occasions in his late teens. His longest incarceration was in 1986 during the state of emergency. Upon his release in 1987, he enrolled at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he stepped up his political activity, bringing him into frequent contact with white activists, many of them Jewish.

“I was very involved in student politics, and although white and black students mobilised separately, we worked together,” he says. “At this stage, I realised that the bulk of the white comrades with us in the underground and in the open were actually Jewish. It struck me. I wondered why that was.”

Years later, Selebi began working at Afrika Tikkun (today known as MaAfrika Tikkun) alongside Jewish personalities like Herbie Rosenberg and Bertie Lubner, strengthening his links to the Jewish community.

Through the community, he spent a month in Israel in 1998 on a leadership development programme. His trip brought him into contact with Wendy Kahn, the national director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), with whom he developed a good relationship.

“Upon our return, Wendy and I met frequently to discuss various issues and projects I was involved in,” says Selebi. “At one of our meetings, I told Wendy that I had been thinking about documenting stories, and the fact that Jewish people are more inclined than any others in the white community to be on the side of the oppressed.”

Kahn encouraged him to write the book which he is now researching. “Now is the time to write

the book,” he says. “A lot of the people I should speak to are ageing and passing away. If I delay, I’ll miss out on the opportunity.”

He related some of the other stories he has come across so far. One involves a Jewish family who drove from Johannesburg to the Swazi border in the dead of night to hide their uncle from police searching for him because he was a communist. Another

concerns a Jewish doctor, based in the Cape, who would sneak out of army barracks at night to deliver medical assistance to activists in Gugulethu, and teach them how to treat gunshot wounds and teargas inhalation.

Selebi’s fact-finding mission has, unfortunately, caused friction between him and members of his community. Some question how he can interact with those who support the oppression of the Palestinians in Israel, while others

accuse him of being overly devoted to Jews. “It’s fashionable these days to go Jew bashing,” he says. “It’s a favourite pastime of many to blame the Jews for the ills of society, and because of my experience, I find this unfortunate.

“You can’t tar an entire community with the same brush. I know of many stories that show who the Jewish people really are, and [the fact that] their teachings have instilled an ethos of helping others. After what the Jews were subjected to in Europe and in South Africa, they still wanted to help.

“People in the wider South African community don’t seem to understand the role played by Jews during the apartheid years. I’m not saying that they’re all holy, I’m saying there are stories not told to people outside the Jewish community that they need to hear. I remain determined to uncover these remarkable stories.”



Mohale Selebi

Shabbat Project celebrated around the world

This Shabbat, Jewish people are gathering in more than 1 500 cities and towns in 105 countries worldwide for the sixth annual international Shabbat Project. The head offices in Johannesburg and Tel Aviv are again working with thousands of international partners, who will be marshalling countless volunteers in these locations.

New partner towns and cities include Devizes (United Kingdom), Kigali (Rwanda) and Bayonne (France). Afghanistan, Antigua, Barbuda and Papua New Guinea are the latest countries to join the project.

In the United States, there are more than 500 participating cities. This year will see “pink challah bakes” to raise breast cancer awareness in more than 20 US cities; a teen-led challah bake in Long Island with the young cooking sensation and



Chopped winner, 14-year-old Rachel Goldzal; and a cross-border challah bake, bringing together the communities of South Bay (San Diego) and Tijuana (Mexico).

In Pittsburg, the scene of last year’s horror shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue on the Shabbat Project weekend, partners are commemorating those killed in the attack with a moment of silence just before Shabbat comes in.

In Israel, the Shabbat Project has been endorsed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and various celebrities and members of the Knesset. Partnerships with organisations such as the Ministry of Education’s Tarbut Toranit division; the digital educational platform, Hidabroot; and the national service programme, Sherut Leumi, are helping to bring the project to the entire country.

In Tel Aviv, an estimated 800 residents from all backgrounds will gather for Shabbat dinner at the city’s port.

In Jerusalem, the campus-based Nefesh Yehudi organisation is running a full 25-hour Shabbat for about 100 students, many of whom will keep Shabbat for the first time.

Beit Aryeh-Ofarim resident Tsachi Amir has invited the entire town to a Shabbat dinner at his home.

This year, the Israeli Defence Forces are official partners of the Shabbat Project, with Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations and pre-Shabbat music concerts planned for five army bases.

In France, organisers are working alongside Jeremie Berrebi, the well-known tech mogul and former adviser to President Emmanuel Macron, to bring the Shabbat Project to more than 50 French cities.

In Gibraltar, a Friday night dinner is being catered exclusively for children between nine and 13 years old.

In Brussels, five local organisations are joining forces for a very special challah bake for 400 women, including a live concert and a hip-hop dance show.

Vienna will be adding rugelach baking to the traditional challah bake, alongside a festival of events that includes a community dinner for 350 people.

Prague is co-ordinating a Shabbaton for 350 people, with a challah bake, unity services at two different synagogues, a Havdalah concert, and a post-Shabbat kosher wine-tasting event in memory of a local winemaker, who passed away on the weekend of last year’s Shabbat Project.

In Olomouc, a city in the Czech Republic, the 150-strong community will come together for a challah bake, Friday night dinner and Havdalah at the grand Olomouc synagogue, which was burnt to the ground by the Nazis and recently rebuilt.

In the UK, highlights include a cocktail party for young professionals at Chabad Borehamwood, and a challah bake at The Jewish Community Secondary School in New Barnet, London, for more than 1 500 students.

Sydney is again one of the most active partner cities in Australia, hosting a total of 125 events. Among them are 16 city-wide “headline events”, including a Shabbat Shuk that will bring “the tastes, smells and sounds of Machaneh Yehuda” to Sydney, and an attempt by the organisers to break the Guinness record for the world’s longest challah (it’s currently six metres).

In South Africa, organisers have crafted beautiful Challah Date Boxes for friends and families to bake challah together at home. The boxes were sold out two weeks before this weekend’s event. There’s also the Adopt a Community campaign, with Jews in outlying “country communities” being hosted by families in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Elsewhere in Africa, Rwanda, Uganda and Ghana are all hosting Shabbat Project celebrations. US soldiers stationed at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan are also gearing up to celebrate the Shabbat Project with the rest of the Jewish world.

In South America, Argentina will again lead the charge, with close on 20 participating towns and cities. Highlights include a mass challah bake in Buenos Aires for 3 000 women, a Shabbat-themed art competition for the city’s Jewish day schools, and a Shabbat Fair in Cordoba that will unite the city’s four communities.



Challah bake and concert in Buenos Aires
In Lima, Peru, educators have incorporated the Shabbat Project into the school curriculum, while the small community of Iquitos (100 Jews) will gather for a Shabbaton and endeavour to keep Shabbat in full.

Mexico City is hosting the world’s first “mindfulness and meditation challah bake”. While preparing challah, participants will hear a guided meditation through a set of headphones.

Advertorial



Online trading made easier with Mexem Africa

Many people are turning to the stock market in search of higher returns. Although there are several risks involved in trading, the buying and selling of shares can provide attractive earnings and boost savings. When trading in shares, choosing the right platform that meets your requirements is critical. With the advancement in technology and the internet, trading has become easier and more accessible to investors through several online trading platforms.

Welcome to Mexem Africa

Mexem Africa is a premier online trading platform that provides a high-quality and competitive offering to South African investors. Mexem’s platform allows you to trade online without having to use the services of a broker or intermediary, giving you control over your trades. Mexem has partnered with Interactive Brokers (IB), the largest online stock trading platform in the United States (US). This partnership allows Mexem

especially when purchasing offshore shares. Mexem prides itself on offering a platform that is efficient, fast and cost-effective.

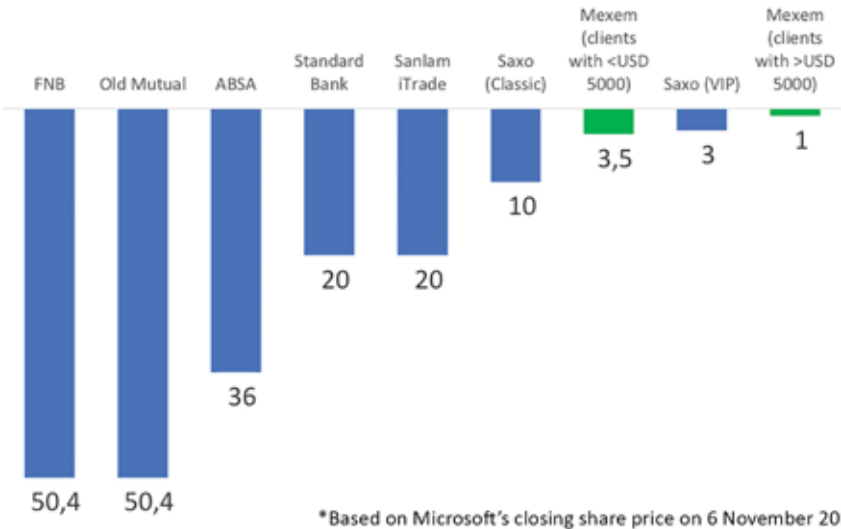
Trading on Mexem is quite affordable compared with trading through a broker. The platform does not charge any management fees, unlike most platforms or brokers. Further, Mexem does not charge a cent more than what IB charges – meaning South African investors get the same trading terms as US investors.

Mexem’s trading fees are also extremely competitive. We compared the trading fees of purchasing 100 Microsoft Corporation shares across various platforms in South Africa. The graph speaks for itself:

Simplicity and security assured

Mexem’s platform, designed by IB, is simple to use, allowing investors to complete transactions independently.

Trading fees for purchasing 100 Microsoft Shares (in US\$)*



to offer an outstanding platform, giving investors access to trade in over 23 currencies and 120 markets globally.

Mexem entered the South African market in 2017. By capitalising on low trading fees and good customer service, the platform has attracted hundreds of local investors and seen massive growth over this period. Due to the strength of its offering, Mexem already has clients in four other markets and is on course to grow throughout the African continent.

Mexem benefits from its partnership with IB. Apart from being the largest electronic brokers in the US (based on daily average revenue trades), IB is regulated and supervised by the US legal system. This means clients are trading on an extremely secure and regulated platform. IB has also been rated the best online broker consistently for five years, making it one of the most reliable.

Competitive fee offering

The traditional South African market has been associated with the high costs of trading. The process has proven to be both expensive and cumbersome,

The platform can be accessed both on desktop and mobile devices.

Some of the features that make Mexem such an attractive trading platform include advanced options for completing transactions, the ability to trade after closure of the markets and during pre-market hours, and several news sources and fundamental scanners. The platform is fully customisable and has the option of back-end subscription to access in-depth information.

Customer safety and security are fundamental to the operations of Mexem. The company ensures that investors’ funds are protected and safe. In addition, the platform is regulated by multiple international bodies, including the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mexem is an excellent choice for those looking for an online trading platform. The combination of its wide range of offers and extremely low trading costs has resulted in Mexem disrupting the South African trading market.

For more information visit www.mexem.co.za

Experts concerned about misuse of ADHD drugs

GILLIAN KLAWSKY

Children today are under increasing pressure to perform academically. In response, some are reportedly taking attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication to improve their results – without an ADHD diagnosis. But what are the associated risks?

“If drugs in sport is such a huge issue, why are drugs in academia not?” This question was posed by a pharmacist who contacted the *SA Jewish Report* with his concerns. He wishes to remain anonymous. “We’re following an American trend where it’s almost becoming acceptable in society for people to take amphetamines and tranquilisers to perform better in the workplace. It’s the pressure that society is putting people under – society is basically condoning it.”

What’s most worrying, he says, is that children who don’t suffer from ADHD are using associated drugs to enhance their performance. “You get people, particularly postgrad students, who come into the pharmacy to get Ritalin or Concerta. ‘I’ve got an exam coming up,’ they’ll say.”

Although the pharmacist acknowledges the difficulty in tracking this behaviour in high school students because their parents collect the scripts, he argues that ADHD medication is simply too widely prescribed.

Psychiatrist Caroline Serebro agrees and says Ritalin should be prescribed with more caution. “There’s demand to script unnecessarily when there is no clear attention deficit disorder or ADHD. You’ve got to meet the criteria. That’s why the prescription of ADHD drugs should always be done in consultation with a psychiatrist,” she says.

Psychiatrist Dr Wendy Duncan agrees and points out the ways in which children work the system. “A lot of kids are faking ADHD,” she says. “They read up on symptoms. There’s also what we call Ritalin diversion, where kids with ADHD are selling their pills. That happens a lot both here and internationally.”

What’s ironic, though, is that the unnecessary use of Ritalin or Concerta will provide little benefit to one’s studying. “If you don’t have a diagnosis of ADHD, the only benefit that a stimulant, be it Ritalin or Concerta, will add is probably wakefulness,” she says. “Studies show that they don’t really improve memory.”

“The child may have a sense of being more focused or more concentrated. Yet, in terms of actual cognitive paths and memorising or retaining information, there’s a lot of research to suggest that they don’t work. The risk of using them for this purpose, and them not being effective, is that kids might be tempted to use higher and higher doses.”

The dosage needs to be carefully monitored, Duncan adds. “As with any medication, if you take it in a big enough dose, you face serious risks. These could include psychosis, seizures, and in kids who have a vulnerability towards cardiac problems, you could end up with high

blood pressure, arrhythmia and the like. That’s only in a child who’s taking a big, big dose, though.”

Parents of children on these drugs need to be aware of risk factors. “If you don’t have ADHD, the medications can interfere with your sleep,” explains Duncan. “That’s particularly problematic when you’re studying, because you retain your information and lay down memory when you sleep. It also could potentially interfere with your appetite. Emotionally, it could elevate levels of agitation and anxiety quite significantly for any child who is already vulnerable to anxiety.”

“Parents should also watch out for extreme irritability that’s out of character for the child, or levels of stress that are out of keeping with what’s warranted for the exams. Social withdrawal is also always something to be concerned about.”

Before doctors prescribe ADHD medicine – as with any medication – they’re under obligation to explain any possible side effects. This is particularly vital in terms of medications that come with what’s known as a “black box warning”, as is the case with the ADHD drug Strattera and antidepressants such as Prozac and Zoloft.

“Strattera is a serotonin noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor, or SNRI. It’s more like an antidepressant medication, as opposed to the stimulants like Ritalin,” explains Duncan.

“To me, it seems unlikely that a child would be taking Strattera as a quick fix for exams because it

takes six to eight weeks to work.

“All SNRIs carry a black box warning to say that adolescents taking these medications may be at higher risks for suicidal ideation behaviour [suicidal thoughts].”

This is where the pharmacist strives to promote awareness. “My concern is how easily these meds are prescribed and how the threats of the issue surrounding suicidality seem to be taken so lightly



in South Africa,” he says. He argues that parents are not always adequately warned of these risks when medication is prescribed.

But Serebro disputes this. “I’m very particular about sharing the risks and the black box warnings with every patient. Every patient I see has to sign an informed consent, which means that everything is explained in terms of the most common side effects, including black box warnings. Part of my job, besides formulating a diagnosis and deciding on treatment, is having a discussion around

treatment and what the risks around that are.”

A full medical, birth and family – physical and psychiatric – history is taken before prescribing treatment, adds Serebro. “You ask about medication issues and any other medical issues. Especially with stimulants, you ask around cardiac problems and epilepsy. If there was a risk around suicide or other mood-related issues or anxiety, one again would err on the side of caution around scripting certain medications.”

If one’s child is on these medications, they need to be monitored by a psychiatrist. “A parent whose child is about to start on the drug should be fully aware of any ruminations of suicide,” says the pharmacist. “I know of two instances where people have had to take their children off these drugs because they’ve started talking about having suicidal thoughts. It’s hard to get your mind around how a chemical can start doing that to people, but it’s a fact.”

One needs to see the bigger picture, caution the experts. “It’s the anxiety, the pressure, the perceived need for academic excellence that sets these children up for a sense of failure and suicide,” argues Duncan. “It’s not as simple as a pill causing suicide.”

“Fundamentally, the point is that there’s always a risk taking a medication,” she concludes. “Ultimately, it doesn’t make sense that children without ADHD are taking these medications, because they won’t really achieve what they’re hoping to.”

SA ‘an island with a self-management problem’

GILLIAN KLAWSKY

Professor Nick Binedell, the founding director of the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), argues that one of South Africa’s biggest problems is that it’s basically an island.

“Two-thirds of our border is sea. The other third comprises very small economies which collectively make up 22% of our GDP (gross domestic product). We don’t have a rival in our face, so we’ve gotten a bit lazy and careless,” he said, speaking at a Hebrew Order of David (HOD) function last Wednesday.

“We may not understand how much we need to change because there isn’t a change agent near us. We self-manage, and because of our awkward history, that self-management tends to involve looking backwards. When you self-manage backwards, when your memory is more powerful than your vision, you’re doomed.”

However, in many other ways we aren’t an island, like in “rugby and business, where we play in the global league”, Binedell said.

“Culturally, maybe one day we’ll play in the global league too, because we’ll overcome our differences and find a rhythm. When we embrace each other’s values and cultures, and understand that we need each other, a great interdependency is created. I dream about how extraordinary it is to have so many cultures in our society, the possibilities of leveraging that in spite of all that’s happened.”

What’s important right now is to become “active

citizens”, the GIBS strategy professor insisted in his talk about the future of South Africa. Binedell, who consults to local and international companies, said it was up to each generation to “claim our space” and exercise the democratic rights enshrined by our Constitution – one of the most progressive in the world.

Keeping up with the ever-changing world in which we find ourselves is key, he said. “We’ve been living in a particularly bumpy time for the past 10 years or so. Like all countries, we’re deeply affected by what’s happening globally in terms of constraints, but also in terms of opportunities. We live in this deeply interconnected world that’s moving very quickly, and it behoves us all to try and get to grips with some of these changes and what they mean for us individually, for our families, our communities, the organisations in which we work, and for this country.”

Binedell lauded South Africa’s democracy. “We live in a constitutional order, and the law does apply, even if unevenly. But in the past five or so years, we can salute the judiciary for having exercised its constitutional duties and given us the confidence to believe we’re a democracy, even when it comes to removing presidents, which we’ve done more than once.”

He said he had faith in intergenerational change. “When I’m teaching MBA and master’s degree students, I’m seeing a significant change even in the past five years of who’s there, the energy they’re bringing, their business experience, and their confidence. Our generation can rely on the next generation, but we’ve got to shape the journey and shine the torch. The world has never changed this fast; humans have never had to adapt so quickly.”

Everything from Trump’s election to Brexit would have been impossible to predict just a few years ago, he argued. “We live in an uncertain world. It’s a world where, overall, life has improved for billions of people. The potential of this generation is extraordinary.”

Binedell argued that we need to generate “the habit of curious eyes”, to look at and explore what’s around us, to see things for ourselves rather than through the media. “Johannesburg is the heartland of our economy, the heartland of the African economy,” he said. “There’s nothing in Africa to compare to Sandton. It has the best multinationals and the best South African companies. We are in the centre of the centre. We’ve just got to see it.”

Despite South Africa’s achievements, there’s still much work to be done, Binedell said. It’s all about how fast you change. If you change slower than the world around you, you are lost. “This happens to countries, which can disappear in the blink of an eye, like Venezuela, Syria and Zimbabwe. On the other hand, the optimism fostered by the extraordinary growth in countries in Asia particularly is because they change faster than the world around them. It comes down to energy – their pure work rate, discipline, efficiency and values.”

Quoting Chairman Mao, the founding father of the People’s Republic of China, who famously said, “When hurricanes come, build windmills,” Binedell said: “When things are going to change, capture the energy; don’t hide from it, embrace it. That will be our struggle. Not just can we learn, but can we unlearn faster than change happens around us?”

Binedell remains optimistic about the framework in which we’re operating. “The question will be, will the centre hold?” he said. “Countries like ours are often run by a small group of elites. They shape the agenda or the narrative, and they shape society based on the decisions they make. Often, they’re unaccountable because we don’t know how to hold them to account. We’ve developed a political system where MPs aren’t accountable to us, they’re accountable to the party, which is an error.”

The middle class is vital, he said – its creativity, energy, and the nature of its social contract. The creation of trust within and between these groups, from upper to middle and lower strata, is central.



Professor Nick Binedell



www.kia.co.za



25005/JR OLD FRIENDS YOUNG TALENT



Add the wow factor to your family from just R4999pm.



The Power to Surprise

UNLIMITED
KILOMETRE

5 YEAR
WARRANTY

Surprises are some of life's greatest pleasures and we've got the deal to help you keep them coming. From just R4999pm, you'll have your loved ones entertained with the KIA Sportage's 8-inch Touchscreen with Navigation, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Get them anywhere effortlessly and in comfort with the Sportage's 8-speed Automatic Transmission and an unlimited kilometre 5-year warranty. The best technology, comfort and performance in a surprising package.

Find out more about this surprising offer at www.kia.co.za

Model	Monthly Instalment	Cash Price	Interest Rate	Term in Months	Deposit	Balloon	Monthly Instalment
Sportage 1.6 GDI Ignite AT	From R4999 per month	R399 995	9.01%	72	8.09%	40%	R4999 <small>(Excluding monthly service)</small>

Terms and Conditions Apply

Kirsh family’s African story adds to SA Jewish legacy

STEVEN GRUZZD

In her twilight years, Mushe Kirsh, now 83, had an insatiable desire to tell her dynasty’s story before it was too late. She wanted her many descendants - four children, 24 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and counting - to know about their heritage. “I wanted to leave a legacy,” Kirsh said. “Our family knew very little about my parents, where they lived, what their lives were like, why they came to South Africa.”

She was born a Bacher, one of five siblings and sister of cricket great Ali, and she married the founder of talk radio station 702, Issie Kirsh. These families have both produced many remarkable South Africans in all walks of life. But Kirsh also wanted to universalise her story, and set it against the remarkable tale of South African Jewry.

Kirsh and her co-author, David Saks, spoke to renowned radio personality Jenny Crwys-Williams at the launch of *African Outliers: The Story of the Bacher and Kirsh Families*, at Exclusive Books in Hyde Park last Wednesday evening. Ali Bacher introduced the evening.

“I’m sure our story will resonate with many of the people here tonight,” said Kirsh at the packed launch. “It’s important to know about our roots, and celebrate the remarkable contribution Jews have made to this wonderful country.”

Saks, historian and associate director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, described how South African Jewry is largely the remnant of the once-vibrant Litvak culture that was decimated in the Holocaust. Vilna (Vilnius, today’s capital of Lithuania) was known as “the Jerusalem of Europe”, a centre for devout Jewish scholarship.

Today, particularly pious yeshivot are still known as “Lithuanian”, wherever in the world they may be.

The bulk of South African Jews are Litvaks, tracing their lineage to Lithuania and surrounding areas. From 1880 to 1929, when Jewish emigration was severely curtailed, 50 000 souls sought a better life away from Eastern Europe’s anti-Semitism, oppression and poverty in the land of diamonds and gold at the southern tip of Africa.

The first Lithuanian Jew came to South Africa in 1816. Early pioneers like Sammy Marks arrived in the 1860s, but the big wave was in the 50 years from 1880. They transformed South African Jewry, which was comprised mainly of comparatively assimilated English and German Jews at the time. Saks said: “The existing Jewish community found the Litvaks barbaric and uncouth, while the Litvaks basically thought the others were goyim. But they fused their traditions, and energised this special community. South African Jews who have emigrated to Australia have similarly revived Jewish communal life there.”

Saks also spoke of the phenomenon of many young Johannesburg Jews becoming more religious than their parents, bucking international trends. The community has also been



among the world’s staunchest Zionists.

Kirsh visited her ancestors’ family home in Rakishok, Lithuania, in 2013, a place she thought she’d never want to go due to the destruction of Jewry in World War II. “I was very sad.

There was really no semblance of the once-powerful Jewish scholarship and presence in Lithuania ... but I’m pleased I went, to come to grips with this amazing story.”

Saks said he was haunted by a photograph of a mass grave of

about 8 000 Jews murdered by the Nazis in Siauliai/Shavel. “It’s likely my own great-grandparents may be among them. You don’t get over something like this.”

Kirsh’s family rose from humble beginnings in a tin shanty house on a railway line, selling cheap blankets in a concession store

to mine workers in Johannesburg. Mushe spoke about meeting her future husband, Issie Kirsh, on the train to Habonim Machaneh. “This man changed my life,” she said.

Crwys-Williams asked whether the hardest part of writing the book over three years was knowing what to leave out. Kirsh said: “I so enjoyed researching, reading, recording. I loved every minute.”

Saks said the story kept growing. “It has a big cast of characters, and it was therefore important to get the structure right.”

William Kirsh, one of Mushe and Issie’s sons, said at the launch: “I’m so happy and proud of what my mom has accomplished. Every person here wants to leave some legacy, and this book will resonate for all of them.”

Cutting-edge brain surgery may help make you ‘un-sad’

JORDAN MOSHE

Depression can feel like a life sentence for those susceptible to it, but Dr Trevor Hurwitz may have found a solution.

This South African expat believes he has identified the centre of sadness in the human brain and, using a specialised surgical technique, is helping to solve debilitating biological depression.

Through an operation he pioneered, Hurwitz believes he can make people “un-sad”. “Basically, the surgeon cuts through the cabling system in the brain and interrupts the transmission,” he says. “We intercept the circuits responsible for emotion. The assumption is that these pathways carry the circuits that are causing disabling depression.”

In the past 20 years, Hurwitz has seen 17 patients undergo the procedure, 12 of them suffering from depression, and has had incredibly positive results.

His findings are nothing short of miraculous. “They have told me they aren’t sad or suicidal,” he recounts. “I’ve seen this in 12 cases. Their sadness vanishes. These were patients I’d known for many years – they’d overdosed, been suicidal, gone through shock therapy, and yet in an interview after surgery, described a different feeling altogether.”

But before it can be seen as a solution, it has to be validated 100% by medical science. Until then, it remains experimental. “Neuroscience is going to take this idea and take it apart – that’s its job. If it’s validated, we will have found out a new truth about the human brain,” Hurwitz says.

“Depressive illness is the second most prominent psychiatric illness there is, second only to anxiety. At any time, 5% of people around you are depressed. In a single lifetime, 10% of people will have a depressive episode.”

Hurwitz is the founder of the neuropsychiatry programme in Vancouver, Canada, which he has run for the past 30 years. He is the medical director of the programme, operating out of the University of British Columbia and specialising in bringing together neurology and psychiatry.

“The principle is to bring the [physical] brain back into the mind,” he says. “They are not separate entities. Everything in the mind is part of the brain structure, and they need to be treated together.

“Psychiatry deals with the fact that you cannot treat a patient as if they are just a brain. That would be a mistake. But equally, you cannot miss the brain when you focus on the mind. The mind is a

component of the brain.”

He likens groups of brain cells to computer chips, each of them responsible for controlling a certain part of our everyday function. “From the cell group, you can trace the wiring that goes through the brain into the stem, the spinal cord, connects to certain nerves and muscles, and makes you move. Equally, when you think, feel, get angry, or cry – neurology is responsible for it.”

Medical science knows where the centres of various emotions are in the brain, including anxiety, anger and pleasure, according to Hurwitz. However, nobody has been able to identify the centre of sadness. “It has been very difficult to study,” he says. “The paradigm of sadness is major depression, and it can be used to attempt to locate the seat of sadness.

“When people see someone who is depressed,



they think he can snap out of it. They tell him about all the good things he has in life, that he needs to get it together. The truth is that it’s a disease. Once you get depression, you have it for life. The pain of depression is so great for some that their only escape is death.”

Hurwitz says that the first port of call in such cases is typically drug therapy, partnered with intensive psychotherapy. “A good psychiatrist doesn’t treat a brain, he treats a person,” Hurwitz says. “Drug therapy can help, but it needs to be paired with therapy. You cannot treat a person as a brain. There’s a human there.”

However, some people don’t respond to antidepressants, and the next step is electric

convulsive therapy involving anaesthesia and an induced seizure. In certain cases, not even this alleviates the symptoms. This has led to the option of surgery.

“In the old days, this was the frontal lobotomy,” he says. “There was no alternative. A lobotomy solved a problem, but created zombified people by separating the front of the brain from the back, the mind from motor control. It helped, but it was catastrophic.

“However, in the modern era, people have realised that there are circuits and wiring in the brain. If we interrupt these, we can change something.”

Starting in 2000, he devised surgery known as an anterior capsulotomy, a form of brain surgery far more sophisticated than the chilling procedures of the lobotomy days.

The procedure itself involves the screwing of a frame to the skull while one is awake, and using an MRI, X and Y co-ordinates are plotted and a very specific point identified. Two holes the size of 50 cent pieces are made in the skull, and metal probes are inserted through brain tissue. The tips of the probes are heated to 60 degrees for 60 seconds, burning a rectangular lesion and killing the tissue.

The low number of patients who have undergone this operation is explained by the fact that the surgery is a last resort, used only in cases of people who are going to end their lives, and after intensive medical and legal processes are carried out.

Says Hurwitz: “Patients see me for a first opinion, then a colleague for a second opinion. They then see two other psychiatrists for consent, and then a neurosurgeon. All five send through reports to a lawyer, who meets with the patient to make sure he is aware of what he is going to undergo. A committee then convenes to review the process and accept a patient. In 20 years, only 17 people have been approved. You can’t just cut through the brain.”

Hurwitz himself sees patients immediately after surgery as a psychiatrist, not a surgeon. “From a neurosurgeon’s perspective, if you can stand up and walk after surgery, you’re doing well,” he says. “I need to see how you’re feeling post-surgery. For the first two weeks, a person thinks they’re on Mars. After the swelling recedes, I can ask how they feel. They can then tell me how they feel inside.

“This surgery makes them instantly un-sad. There’s no term in psychiatry for it.”

Jewish mentalist proves you don't have to be Afrikaans to win

TALI FEINBERG

It's not often that a Jewish guy from Joburg wins a hit Afrikaans game show, but this week, Michael Abrahamson took that crown on Noot vir Noot, one of the longest-running and most popular competitions on South Africa's TV screens.

"It's huge to win, especially for an English-speaking person. It's probably the longest-running game show on South African TV, as this was its 44th season. I think it started in the '70s or '80s, just after TV came to South Africa. It has a massive following around the country, in the Afrikaans-speaking community and other communities," says Abrahamson.

He has been on the show before. He reached the semi-final in the year 2000, and has been trying to compete again ever since. He was finally given the chance to return, and knew he was in it to win it.

Abrahamson was one of only 36 people out of thousands to qualify in the auditions. "It's basically a 1% chance, so the odds are astronomical from the word go. English speakers are also at a huge disadvantage as it's all in Afrikaans and based on Afrikaans music from a database of 20 000 songs," says Abrahamson.

"You have to translate the question in your head, and answer it before the other competitor, who is on top of their game." He also had to answer in Afrikaans, unless the answer was a word, name or phrase in English.

Abrahamson won the title and a monetary prize, but for him it was about "the yichus [bragging rights] of winning this at astronomical odds. The money was immaterial. It was about taking an opportunity and grabbing it, especially after trying to get on the show for so long."

So, how does one prepare to win? "You listen to as much music as possible, but at the end of the day, you know what you know. It's about being able to recall something under a huge amount of pressure – like hearing two notes of a song and being able to identify it," says Abrahamson.

In fact, that's what led him to win. "Those last moments were tense. I was way ahead of my competition until the last round, when my rival caught up. We had to identify two notes of an Afrikaans song. I knew it, pressed the buzzer and won. It was a

huge relief and it hasn't properly sunk in yet!"

Filming the show is a huge commitment – each one-hour episode translates to about 12 hours a day on set, so the contestants need mental and physical stamina. Also, this season was filmed in May, so Abrahamson had to keep his win quiet until now.

Despite the fierce competition, he is good friends with his rivals on the show. They are part of a WhatsApp group with competitors from other seasons. "It's almost like a little family," he says.



Although Abrahamson is a public figure recognised for sports

commentary and a mentalist world record, he is being recognised even more often following the win. One could say that he is famous. "The reaction among the Jewish community has also been amazing – everyone is excited. Even in shul on Friday night my rabbi spoke about it for 10 minutes!"

When not winning game shows, Abrahamson is a professional mentalist, motivational speaker and sports commentator. He hosts Powerbrain workshops for schoolchildren and students on how to use the brain effectively. "In the show, I used the skills I teach on

staying calm and turning the brain on and off," he says.

He often enters other game shows and quizzes. Next year, he hopes to break a world record he set on Mathematical Pi Day on 14 March when, under the supervision of four watchful judges, his goal was to recall as many digits of Pi as possible in five minutes. Exceeding his own expectation and breaking the South African record, he recalled the first 1 500 digits in an astonishing time of four minutes, seven seconds – 53 seconds faster than his target and without a single error, and all while blindfolded. He hopes to beat this record on 14 March next year.

The not soy clear debate

I'm often asked whether one should be eating soy products or avoiding them. With all the mixed messages regarding soy or soya products, I'm not surprised there's so much confusion. Even when one looks at the science, there's conflicting evidence. With plant-based diets on the rise, of which soy is a big component, we almost want to ask science to make up its mind already!

Soy and its mystery

Soybeans are legumes that can be eaten in their whole, natural form, namely edamame beans. Other traditional sources include tofu, soya sauce and soya milk. Soy can also be found in its fermented form such as miso and tempeh. In fact, soybean oil and soy protein are used in the production of many food items without us even realising it. More Westernised processed forms include soy burgers and sausages.

Soy offers an array of nutrients such as B vitamins, fibre, magnesium and calcium, and they are considered complete proteins – offering all nine essential amino acids.

Studies of soy consumption as early as the 1940s showed oestrogenic and adverse effects in animals, sparking more worldwide research. However, soy is metabolised differently in animals, and this can cause confusion.

Soy and breast cancer

Soy products have a uniquely high content of compounds called isoflavones. Chemically, these have a very similar

structure to the hormone oestrogen. This means they can mimic oestrogen, binding to oestrogen receptors, causing our body's oestrogen levels to increase. An imbalance of oestrogen in the body can result in an increased risk of breast cancer, but does this mean we shouldn't be eating soy?

It isn't as clear-cut as we once thought. While historical research suggests that soy stimulates the growth of oestrogen-dependent cancer cells, studies over the past 20 years show that natural sources of phytoestrogens (like soy and other legume-based foods) are safe and are, in fact, beneficial.

Research published in the journal

soy products is not only safe, but also beneficial when it comes to avoiding the risk of breast cancer.

Soy and thyroid function

Studies done on thyroid function and soy show no effect of soy on people with normal thyroid function. For those with an underactive thyroid who are taking thyroid hormone replacement therapy, research shows that soy interferes with the medication's absorption, and may result in the need for a higher dose. Having said this, there is no evidence that those with an underactive thyroid should avoid soy. Rather, they should wait a few hours after taking their medication before consuming soy products.

Soy and cardiovascular health

Soy intake has been found to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Soy contains compounds which lower our LDL cholesterol (the bad cholesterol). In addition, soy products replace fatty, processed meat-based alternatives, contributing to a reduction in the risk of inflammation, cholesterol and cardiac problems.

Back to the source

Soy's varied health effects stem from the form of soy being consumed. Natural, traditional soy products contain a variety of nutrients and are a healthy option. Fermented soy further helps feed the bacteria in our gut, creating a healthy gut-bacteria balance.

Processed soy products are, however, genetically modified and the crops are



Cancer in 2007 showed the lack of association between soy and breast cancer, emphasising that using natural sources of soy to replace a diet that is high in alcohol and processed and refined foods aids in the reduction of weight and breast cancer. However, a diet rich in natural soy products is less effective when introduced later in life.

A recent long-term study including 6 235 participants (as well as other smaller studies) has shown that consumption of



ON NOURISHING NOSH
Hilit Milner

sprayed with the herbicide Roundup, painting a not-so-beneficial health picture. Most people don't consume appreciable levels of soy, and when they do, they are in their processed, unfavourable forms.

Take-home message

Whether listening to the popular press or researching soy, some debate remains. Increasing evidence, however, is showing the product's benefits over possible harm. Unfortunately, with most conclusions there are conditions and a "but", especially when it comes to science.

Although no single study is perfect, there is sufficient evidence for soy's safety and benefit when it comes to avoiding the risk of breast cancer and maintaining cardiovascular health, if consumed correctly. It's important to remember that this can vary, depending on when you start consuming soy, your current hormonal status, the way you break down soy, and your medical history.

It's also important to consider the type of soy you are eating. Natural or fermented forms such as edamame beans, tempeh, miso and tofu are beneficial, while processed products can be harmful.

Always remember to check the other ingredients when choosing soy products, and go for organic or non-GMO sources where possible.

As with everything, moderation is key. If you're unsure, seek medical advice.

Aliya made easy with expert advice on your doorstep

Founded by ex-pat Brit Sabrina Ziff, the Israel Property Network (IPN) is the first and only network of independent professional estate agents in Israel.

With more than 25 years' experience in selling and managing an incredibly large and varied international portfolio of properties, Sabrina identified a gap in the Israeli market: the high standard of care, due diligence and attention to detail that is considered the norm outside of Israel simply did not exist on the streets of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, or many of Israel's leading cities. So she set up IPN to raise the bar of the local real estate sector.

At the start of 2019, Sabrina was joined by Shoshi Kahtan Gentely, an agent with 18 years' experience in the Israeli market, and the perfect partnership was formed.

Having both been through the aliya process from London – Shoshi in 1997 and Sabrina in 2009 – they have a lot more to offer new immigrants than helping them find a home. They understand from their own first-hand experience the challenges of aliya, getting to grips with the major cultural differences, and battling through Israeli bureaucracy. That's how, together with a trusted network of the best local lawyers and accountants, and a team of reliable, English-speaking Israeli tradesmen that includes builders, designers and domestic assistants,

they are able to provide a truly comprehensive service to anyone renting or buying in Israel.

Sabrina and Shoshi's vision of extending superior service to their clients around the country is becoming a reality as they expand the IPN network of professional estate agents, all committed to providing the same high standard of service, and all going above and beyond to ensure a smooth transaction and house move for their clients.

Israel is and has always been on an intense growth trajectory, and the current atmosphere felt by Jews all over the world is resulting in a consistent increase in foreign investment in Israeli property. Now in particular, many people are talking about realising their lifelong dream to own a property in the promised land. Sabrina and Shoshi enable this dream to become a reality – without the potential nightmare issues that are so often discussed by potential buyers around their shabbat tables.

No wonder IPN has grown into 14 offices across the country covering many cities. Its brokers and property managers offer the quality service people deserve in sales, rentals, property management, holiday rentals, aliya, and investor services.

Simply put, whether buying or renting, the Israel Property Network makes finding and moving into your new home in Israel easy – from securing the perfect location to ensuring you have Wi-Fi and clean

Advertorial



ISRAEL
PROPERTY
NETWORK
רשת נדל"ן בפרויסה ארצית
SALES | RENTALS | MANAGEMENT | NEW PROJECTS
HOLIDAY RENTALS | ALIYAH & INVESTOR SERVICES

JOHANNESBURG & PRETORIA

15-21 NOVEMBER 2019

bedlinen when you move in. As Sabrina loves to tell clients, "Don't forget your toothbrush. Everything else is here waiting for you!"

If you are considering aliya and want to find out how IPN can smooth your way, call or e-mail Ari Kruger on...

STOP PRESS! Sabrina and Shoshi will be in South Africa with their team consisting of independent mortgage advisor Dani Scheter and expat Israeli-qualified lawyer Eli Symon from 15-21 November 2019. They are available for private meetings and for presenting an evening about how to buy, rent and invest in Israel in conjunction with the Israel Centre at Beyachad in Johannesburg, and another evening in Pretoria.

For more information and to book your private meeting or seat at the event contact Ari Kruger SA +27 83 564 9073, Israel +972 58 633 7409 or email ari@israelpropertynetwork.com

Marilyn Monroe’s chanukiah among Judaica sold on auction

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Marilyn Monroe’s spirit will be lighting up a household this Chanukah, after her chanukiah was sold for more than R1 million at a New York Judaica auction last Thursday.

The brass-plated chanukiah, which has a wind-up mechanism in its base and plays the Israeli national anthem, fetched \$90 018 (about R1.34 million) at the Kestenbaum & Company’s “Fine Judaica: Printed Books, Manuscripts, Graphic and Ceremonial Art” auction. The company has auctioned more than 40 000 rare and antique items of Judaica.

Although the auctioneer’s hammer came down sooner than the \$100 000 that the company had estimated, the chanukiah has a rich provenance attached to it.

Monroe, the 1950s sex symbol, model and star of films such as *Some Like It Hot* and *The Seven Year Itch*, is believed to have received the chanukiah as a gift from the parents of her third husband, American playwright Arthur Miller.

After her divorce from baseball player Joe DiMaggio, Monroe developed a relationship with Miller. In June 1956 they married in a civil service, which was followed by a Jewish religious ceremony two days later.

Monroe, who had just turned 30, never had a real family of her own and was eager to join the family of her new husband. She converted to Judaism, taking the decision seriously and studying Judaic texts with the Miller family’s rabbi, Robert E Goldburg.

According to biographer Jeffrey Meyers, Monroe’s conversion to Judaism was to “express her loyalty and get close to both Miller and his parents”. It is believed that a deep mutual bond was formed with her new parents-in-law, Augusta and Isidore, who gifted Monroe with this chanukiah.

It remained in her possession for the rest of her life, and was displayed on the mantelpiece of her Los Angeles home when a coroner’s report ruled that Monroe had died in a “possible suicide” from a barbiturate overdose in August 1962.

Monroe’s impact was keenly felt in an auction hosted locally by Russell Kaplan Auctioneers on 26 October. A silkscreen with diamond dust artwork of this screen icon’s face, titled “My Heart Is Yours”, by Mr Brainwash (the pseudonym used by the French-born, Los Angeles-based

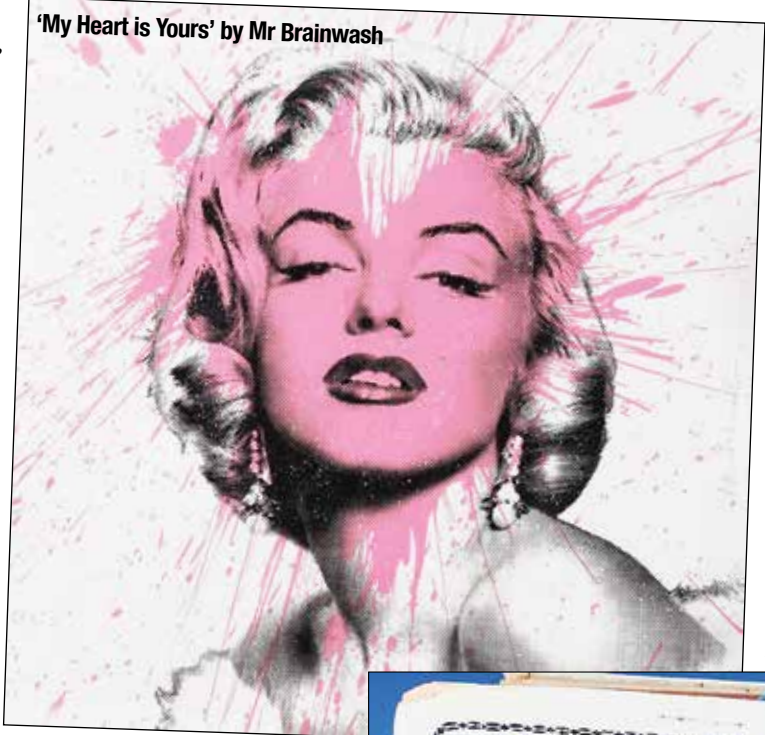
street artist Thierry Guetta) was sold for R36 000.

On 12 November last year, a Monroe fan acquired a siddur that she had owned. The cream-coloured prayer book, which was published in 1922, was sold for \$21 000 at an auction by J Greenstein & Company in Cedarhurst, Long Island.

Annotations in the book are believed to have been inscribed by the actress herself,

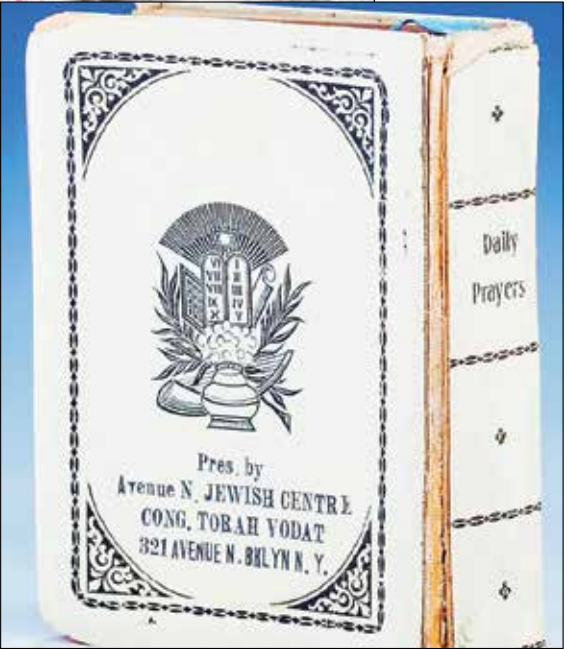
as an unexpected substitute for his auctioneer father at the tender age of 12.

“We had a family business in Zimbabwe, and one day my father needed to go to the toilet in the middle of an auction,” says Burke. “So he turned to the crowd and said: ‘Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the best auctioneer in the world!’ I had no choice but to just carry on in his absence, and I absolutely loved it.”



Another auctioneer who was “thrown into the deep end” is Barney Girnun, the joint managing director of MSC Sports.

“One evening, before I started my own business,” says Girnun, “my boss told the organisers of a big wildlife auction that I was the auctioneer. I had



recording the instructions she had received either from Miller or the rabbi who had given her the book.

“It was a daily prayer book. I believe it was used daily,” Jonathan Greenstein, an antique Judaica authentication expert, told the *Washington Post*. “It has had a lifetime of wear in the very short period from the time she was married to Miller to her death.”

Someone who knows a lot about the auctioning off of Judaica is South African auctioneer Joey Burke, who has sold “lots of mezuzot” during his 45 years in the profession. “We actually had a mezuzah art auction once, where all the different artists got together and made some mezuzot. There were some stunning pieces,” says Burke.

At the Astra Race Day, held at Kenilworth Racecourse in Cape Town two years ago, Burke sold a Shabbat dinner with table styling and a meal for 10 people at R11 000.

He was thrust onto the auction block

never done one before, but I did it even though I was very nervous.”

In the following two decades, Girnun auctioned off many mezuzot, a painting of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe and memorabilia of his uncle, the late Springbok winger Syd Nomis.

Russell Kaplan has been in the auctioneering business for 17 years. During that time, he has auctioned off a pair of silver Torah finials from London, an embroidered Torah curtain panel, an

early 20th-century silver Torah shield, and a sterling silver Torah shield from the same period.

On 15 September last year, Kaplan’s hammer came down at R65 000 for an archival pigment print artwork titled “Lion’s Synagogue”. It was a photograph by David Goldblatt, one of South Africa’s most acclaimed documentary photographers.

Kaplan also auctioned off eight William Kentridge pieces in his most recent auction, held on 26 October, including two

engravings for R40 000 each, titled “Insider Trading: Death on the Outers” and “Industry & Idleness: Double Shift on Weekends Too”.

“I have always been in the industry of collectibles and antiques, and a student,” says Kaplan, whose auctions feature interesting and unusual furniture, art, jewellery, objects and items.

And interesting items, like Monroe’s chanukiah, continue to attract attention at auctions around the world.

WHAT'S ON

Saturday (16 November)

- Bet David hosts a talk by Brett Steingo on *Keeping Shabbat the Progressive Way*. Time: 12.00. Bet David, Middle Road, Morningside. Contact: 011 783 7117.

Sunday (17 November)

- The Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre and the Polish Association of Siberian Deportees in South Africa invite you to the sixth South Africa-Poland History Conference, a half-day event exploring the effects of war trauma on those who were in the gulags of Siberia. There are also talks by visiting academics Dr Marta Nowakowska and Prof Antonia Czechowska Bifulco. Time: 14:00-17:30. Venue: 1 Duncombe Road, Forest Town. RSVP: dowi@jhbholocaust.co.za or 011 640 3100. Free admission.
- The Johannesburg Light Music Society holds its next meeting. There will be two audio presentations before a short interval for refreshments, and then an audio-visual of great music from either Broadway-type shows or MGM movies. Time: 14:00. Venue: Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre. Cost: First-timers free or R20 per head (optional). Contact: David on 011 678 9725 or 076 574 1446.
- Bet David hosts its *Mitzvah Day High Tea and Music* for seniors. Time: 15.00. Venue: Bet David, Middle Road, Morningside. Contact: 011 783 7117.

Monday (18 November)

- The Union of Jewish Women hosts Dennis Arden, honorary fellow and past president of the Photographic Society of South Africa, on *A Photographic Record of Machu Picchu, the Peruvian World Heritage Site* and of the market at nearby Cusco. Time: 10:00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton.

Donation: R40.
Contact: UJW Office on 011 648 1053.

Wednesday (20 November)

- The Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society is staging a pop-up book store. Date & time: From Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 November, 10:00-15:00, and on Sunday 24 November, 9:00-14:00. All books R10. Venue: On the kosher strip in George Avenue, Sandringham. Contact: 011 485 5232.

Thursday (21 November)

- The next meeting of Hebrew speakers will be at 10:30 at the Beyachad building, 2 Elray Street, Raedene.
- Learn Yiddish every Thursday with Tamar Olswang and the Union of Jewish Women. Time: 10.00-11.00. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Cost: R100 per person, R80 for pensioners and UJW members. Includes tea, coffee and refreshments. Contact: 011 648 1053.
- Beit Emanuel hosts the 15th Auerbach Memorial Lecture with guest speaker Prof Bonita Meyersfeld, director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, recently awarded Knight of the National Order of Merit of France for her two decades of ground-breaking work in the field of gender-based violence. Time: 19:30. Venue: Beit Emanuel, 38 Oxford Road, Parktown. Contact: 011 646 6170.

DEMISE OF NUSSBAUMS A WAKE-UP CALL FOR SUPPORT

My letter is in response to the article in the *SA Jewish Report* about the closure of Nussbaums Kosher Butchery, published in the 8 November issue. What a tragedy for the family! However, I think that it’s a tragedy also for the Jewish community. Nussbaums has been an icon in Johannesburg from its early beginnings in Doornfontein.

If one views the demise of Nussbaums alongside the closure of Mooz, Friends restaurant, the Flame Grill and others, one sees a potential problem developing in our community. My concern is not restricted to butcheries and eateries. With the economy shrinking, this would be applicable to many businesses and service providers.

We have, in recent years, seen the proliferation of a number of supermarket chains taking it upon themselves to provide kosher products for the Jewish community. While one needs to commend them for providing this service, one should not view this as altruistic. These chains are not doing it for the love of the Jewish community.

It has to be a business decision done for financial gain, and many are able to offer products at discount prices. These are “loss leaders” to attract buyers into their stores to purchase other items at the same time.

There is an urgent need for us to support Jewish-owned businesses and Jewish service providers. As a proud Jew, I feel that it is imperative that we support our fellow Jews. – **Monty Kaplan, Johannesburg**

Letters

YOUTH SUMMIT AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

A few weeks ago, I was lucky enough to attend the World ORT/ Scholas Occurentes Youth Summit in Mexico, together with 10 King David high school pupils and two teachers. Scholas is Pope Francis’ NGO, and it has a special relationship with World ORT. This was the fourth such annual youth summit.

How does one describe such an impactful experience? It’s hard to explain the effect of this programme to those not actually immersed in it. Watching powerful education in action is so heartening. It is one thing to understand the current theories of education, but it is quite another to see that, when expertly handled, it actually works magnificently.

I am so grateful to both World ORT and Scholas for giving the King David students

(who live in an isolated place at the tip of Africa and also in a sheltered or protected manner) an opportunity to interact, network and build relationships with students from other cultures, nationalities and religions. The students cannot stop raving about their experiences and feel that their lives have been fundamentally and positively altered.

Personally, the programme gave me, as a school social worker and a representative of King David High School, an opportunity to network with other like-minded educationalists wanting to make positive impacts on the lives of their students. I am so inspired to share with my school all that I have seen and learnt.

– **Meryl Malkin, social worker, King David Linksfield High School**

ANTI-ISRAEL LOBBYISTS A BUNCH OF EMPTY VESSELS

Empty vessels make the most sound. That’s what the anti-Israel lobbyists sound like to me.

Many people from different races support Israel. They always have, and always will.

– **Magdalena Brak, Johannesburg**

'Dancing at two chuppahs'



INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman

My late grandmother, who understood me well, was fond of telling me that I can't "dance at two chuppahs". In essence, what she was trying desperately to tell me was that as much as I might want to be, I could not be in two places at once, and that it would best if I focused on one thing at a time. Millennials use the term "FOMO", which is the fear of missing out, and for me it is pretty much the same thing. It explains why I find it difficult to switch off at night, knowing that the world is carrying on and I might be missing something, and why I leap frantically out of bed at 4am, eager to find out what I might have missed.

It's exhausting. Whereas I may have a particularly aggressive case of FOMO, most of us encounter this every day. It may be that our child is playing a soccer match that we are unable to attend because of a work commitment. Or, we may have two events happening at the same time and we need to choose between them. It's simply part of living and prioritising.

But there is another area in which many diaspora Jews feel the pain more acutely. On Tuesday morning, when I began my radio show at 6am, the news of Israel's assassination of the Islamic Jihad leader was just breaking. Within 10 minutes of being on air, news of sirens in the south of Israel came through, followed by (at that stage) another 25 rockets. Tel Aviv, we were told, was on alert: schools had been cancelled and businesses informed their staff to stay home near shelters.

My son lives and works in Tel Aviv. Still on air,

I messaged him: "Ben, are you okay? Is work cancelled?" His response: "Fine, why? Why would it be?" Clearly, he was less up to date than I would have assumed. Less than a minute later, he had received notice from his company, and in no time at all he was running to a bomb shelter (which was still locked).

Each show has a prearranged plan for the entire three hours. On Tuesdays we get the latest updates from Australia, talk technology, and had a planned feature about the future of work. The show is designed to appeal to a cross-section of South Africans and people around the world. Many of my listeners are not Jewish, which has prompted us to introduce a sting, "Hashtag, you don't have to be Jewish", so that non-Jewish listeners know that this is a programme for them too.

All this resulted in Tuesday morning's show being enormously difficult to navigate. With South African news hardly covering the attacks in Israel, if at all, many listeners are desperate for up-to-date and current information. For me, knowing that my son was there, made balancing the show an almost impossible task. No matter how hard I tried to focus on the local issues (which were really interesting and important), my heart kept pulling me elsewhere.

Although Tuesday might have been an extreme example, in essence, this is what it means to be a Jew in the diaspora. There are times when we are able to balance the tension better, but there are times when it becomes a massive challenge.

My grandmother passed away before social media became a thing. She never even got to see Facebook or Twitter, and never had to tell us to put our phones down at meals. But even back then she recognised that we are built to be restless. And though it might be that we can't decide which wedding to attend, it is simply because, sometimes, our hearts and our bodies are in different places.

Our lethal penchant to fiddle needs a rethink

The threat to human life from climate change renders archaic the disputes about religion, power and territory over which we traditionally fight. A strange "benefit" of the climate crisis is that now nobody can deny humanity is one: either we work together to solve it, or we die together.

But the human being is a creative species and, as dire as the situation is, there are already imaginative attempts to address it. This is epitomised by the Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg, who became the world's climate leader with a potent address to United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres and UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa at the 2018 climate negotiations.

She condemned the world's political leaders for being in the grip of a "political economy" of exponential growth economics, and banking and multinational corporate interests that are destroying the earth's capacity to support human life for money's sake. Thunberg is a brilliant example of the youth, who may lead the way against so-called leaders sacrificing their children and life on earth.

What does this emergency mean for local community life? There are more questions than answers. Must it be made a public pillar of a community – any community? Clearly, communities cannot continue caring only for their own needs, as if the world will take care of itself.

The threat is pervasive and requires communities to act in co-operation, including individuals, business people and others. Schools could be brought in, enabling people to understand that all activities, big or small, are part of their carbon footprint.

In some cases, these requirements may affect communities' rights to follow traditions and customs; for example, inward-looking communities whose population growth is often exponential, such as some in third world countries; Mormons for whom any birth control is forbidden; and Haredi Jews, for whom every increase in their population is regarded as a blessing. The planet cannot support so many people.

TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin



People worldwide did not always understand themselves as being part of a global community that needed to act together. Attitudes changed partly with NASA's spaceflights and Neil Armstrong's 1969 moon landing, as people saw not just their own house but the entire planet. A sense of belonging to a worldwide community increased. Events in one place resonated elsewhere: John F Kennedy's assassination, the rise of Margaret Thatcher, Watergate.

Awareness of global warming took off in the 1970s. The "hole in the ozone layer" was the buzz. It rose in South Africa too, but at the height of apartheid there were other issues. Today, ethnic nationalism threatens the global approach to a solution, with its emphasis on separateness exemplified by United States President Donald Trump. But the climate crisis may be the thing to defuse it. Even the nationalists may see that the recent migration crisis from the Middle East will be nothing compared to mass migrations caused by rising sea levels plunging large tracts of land under water.

Some of the problem's sources are obvious, such as burning fossil oil – Thunberg says 100 million barrels are burned every day. Oil has long been fundamental to industry in developed countries. This became starkly clear in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries such as Saudi Arabia, reduced supplies to Europe and the US for collaboration with Israel. Oil prices quadrupled, British industry was reduced to a three-day work week, and US gas stations ran dry. But the prospect of stopping oil use was considered unthinkable.

With today's understanding, however, everyone will have to examine their lifestyle and priorities for humanity's future.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Conference considers state of our nation

Telling people to "face reality" generally means saying they should recognise where there are problems instead of burying their heads in the sand. In a different context, though, it can mean precisely the opposite, namely that we should beware of becoming so fixated on the negatives that we fail to take into account where things are going right. Reality, after all, is by definition all-encompassing – it refers just as much to strengths as it does to weaknesses.

In his opening message at our national conference on Sunday, Investec CEO Fani Titi put it well when he said: "While always being realistic, we have to remain hopeful and forward-looking. We cannot afford to lose faith in ourselves and our ability to negotiate the challenges confronting our country, since such negativity can all too easily become self-fulfilling."

"Unpacking Reality" was the theme of our conference, and our five distinguished panellists obliged by rigorously debating both sides of the question. No one denied the huge challenges facing our society. Undoing the destructive legacy of the state capture era will inevitably take years to accomplish, and although South Africa is in a much better place than it was two years ago, progress has in many ways been disappointingly slow.

Mention was made of the failure so far to prosecute those implicated in serious acts of corruption and the fact that the government has yet to take the tough decisions necessary to fix Eskom and other state-owned enterprises, start addressing the jobs crisis, attract more foreign investment and, in general, get the economy moving forward again.

Against all this the positives were highlighted. Thus, we heard about the vital role a strong, vigorous civil society is playing in confronting the challenges of the day, the exciting opportunities available for entrepreneurs, and how our top universities are producing more world-class



ABOVE BOARD

Shaun Zagnoev



graduates and postgraduates than ever before, at a fraction of the cost of their overseas counterparts.

From a Jewish perspective, I dwelt on the continued strength and vibrancy of the community, mentioning our enviable network of outstanding communal organisations, the unmatched proportion of learners in the Jewish day school system, and the success of such initiatives as Limmud, the Sinai Indaba and, of course, the Shabbat Project, a global phenomenon that was birthed in South Africa. I further noted the outsized role that South African Jewry continues to play on the international Jewish stage, and how we are able to thrive in a country where the rights of all faiths are respected and guaranteed. National president Mary Kluk pointed out how strikingly low anti-Semitism levels continue to be in this country at a time when, almost everywhere else, they are assuming alarming proportions.

Another thing that made this year's conference so memorable was the wonderful spirit in which it was conducted. One was aware throughout of a real sense of patriotism, pride and hope on the part of both the participants and the capacity audience. Especially well received were a message of support, recorded at the eleventh hour, from Springbok captain Siya Kolisi, and a tribute to the late musician Johnny Clegg. These two people epitomise the spirit of national unity, and in their own way they have reminded South Africans what we are capable of achieving when we stand together.

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

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



Your support will give them a meaningful December holiday

When a person is born with intellectual and physical disabilities - as our residents at Selwyn Segal are - pushing themselves beyond their recent accomplishments to set ever-new records of achievement, becomes a daily reality. Their successes, although tiny, are inspiring and humbling and that's why the concept behind Selwyn Segal's Club360NE annual raffle fundraiser is so appropriate. 360° is a perfect circle. R361 - the cost of each raffle ticket - is just that tiny degree more! It's all about pushing the boundaries, even R1 at a time.

Based upon the huge success of previous years, Selwyn Segal has once again decided to use the raffle profits to provide our residents with a great December holiday - fun outings, entertainment and exciting activities.

For further info: campaigns@jhbchev.co.za

Follow us on Facebook @ chevrahkadishajhb to learn more about our residents' holiday wishes

PRIZES

1ST R36 000

2ND R18 000

3RD R9 000

Sponsored by

360NE
THREE SIX ONE ASSET MANAGEMENT

TO ENTER
visit www.jhbchev.co.za

Draw takes place on
12 December 2019

*Competition rules and regulations apply



LUKE ALFRED

The squad for next year's

Along with a healthy contingent of baseballers, the Israeli team will also be competing in show-jumping, rhythmic gymnastics and shooting.

Not to be confused with work on

The Israeli baseball team

The Israeli baseball team

The daughter of parents who are
of Moroccan-Jewish and Yemeni

Although hopes are high that Ashram has the international experience and temperament to gain a medal in Tokyo, her chosen disciplines are extremely competitive. The Russian rhythmic gymnasts Aleksandra Soldatova and Arina Averina have been pushing hard over the past few years and are likely to do so in the Olympics. Whichever way the medals fall, hopes are high that Ashram can bring back a rare Israeli

Although hopes are high for Israel's best-ever showing in Tokyo, her Olympic ambitions haven't been greeted with universal acclaim. Critics point out that baseball is a relatively minor sport in Israel, and that the Olympic team comprise largely imported Jewish Americans who have conveniently discovered their Israeli roots only recently. They cite Valencia as one such example. He only became an Israeli citizen earlier this year, just in time for him to participate in the Olympic qualifiers.

21⁹⁹

CERES APRICOT & PEACH FRUIT JUICE 1L EACH

38⁹⁹

DE CECCO LASAGNE 500G

49⁹⁹

Yummy Perogen!

2⁹⁹

OK SOUP ASSTD FLAVS 50G EACH

52⁹⁹

TENDERCHICK FROZEN CHICKEN /KG

92⁹⁹

UNORTHODOX MERLOT CAB SAUVIGN 750ML

23⁴⁹

DE CECCO LINGUINE 500G

58⁹⁹

STEINZ RED GRAPE JUICE UNSWEETENED 1L

35⁹⁹

EAT REAL CHIPS HUMMUS, QUINOA & LENTIL 135G EACH

41⁴⁹

DOLCE VITA NON-DAIRY FROZEN DESSERT ASSTD FLAVS 1L. EACH

69⁹⁹

FRISCO GRANULES 750G

39⁴⁹

Geffen TEALIGHT CANDLES 50'S

43⁹⁹

TI FLAIR LUNCH SERVIETTES 20'S EACH

31⁹⁹

TWINSAYER PAPER PLATES 50'S

59⁹⁹

SKIP LIQUID PERFECT DARK 1.5L

16⁴⁹

OK DISHWASHING LIQUID 750ML

KOSHER AT EVERYDAY PRICES

Offers valid till 20 NOVEMBER '19 or while stocks last

1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel | 011 440 9517 | info@kosherworld.co.za | www.kosherworld.co.za

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

facebook

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

Offers valid till 20 NOVEMBER '19 or while stocks last
1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel | 011 440 9517 | info@kosherworld.co.za | www.kosherworld.co.za



SHABBOS SHOPPING WITH A SAVING

MAXI

Shuls or complexes ordering bulk meals get 10% discount

NORWOOD SPAR

Range of deli specials for Shabbos

TIBERIUS

2 X CHALLAHS	R30
300G SALMON SHAVINGS	R59.90
500G SALMON TROUT	R219.90
5 X FRIED SOLES	R99
5 X GRILLED SOLES	R99
LOAF CAKES	R39.90

GELATISSIMO

R5 off for every litre or 1.5 litre tub of ice cream

SANDRINGHAM SPAR

500g piece of fish and chips R30

OFF THE STRIP

Special imported ice-cream from Israel, including sugar-free, chalav Yisroel and Italian kisses

NANDO'S

FRIDAY 15 OCT

Get two free challahs for each full chicken and 4 sharing sides purchased.

FRESHFELLAS

CUCUMBERS	FROM R3.99
SWEET PEACHES, PER PUNNET	R14.99
BUTTON MUSHROOMS, PER 250G PKT	R14.99
PURE OLIVE OIL, PER LITRE	R69.99

BAGEL ZONE GENESIS AND BENMORE

Babkes for only R44

FEIGELS*

SHABBOS DINNER SPECIAL FOR FAMILY OF 4: **R375**

Two challahs, 500g chopped herring, tray of kichel. Honey ginger chicken OR roast beef in gravy, savoury rice and butternut kugel. Apple crumble.

DINNER, MINIMUM 10 GUESTS: **R140 PER ADULT, R90 PER CHILD UNDER 10 YEARS**

Two large challahs, 1kg chopped herring, 2kg kichel. Honey ginger chicken, roast beef in gravy, savoury rice and butternut kugel, malva pudding with custard.

LUNCH, MINIMUM 10 GUESTS: **R99 PER ADULT, R60 PER CHILD UNDER 10 YEARS**

10 challah rolls, green garden salad with boiled eggs and croutons, served with creamy salad dressing, potato salad. Fish platter with fish balls and curry fish ball bites. Fruit salad and ice-cream.

* All meat is Mehadrin Commission

KOSHERWORLD

DOLCE VITA NON-DAIRY FROZEN DESSERT

CHOCOLATE 1LT	R41.49
FUDGE 1LT	R41.49
VANILLA 1LT	R41.49

FONTANELLA

DICED CHOPPED TOMATOES 400G	R12.49
WHOLE PEELED TOMATOES 400G	R11.49

NORTHWINDS WHITE EGGS

EXTRA-LARGE 18S	R48.99
LARGE 18S	R38.99

SNOWFLAKE CAKE WHEAT FLOUR

1KG	R10.99
2.5KG	R23.99

SNOWFLAKE SELF-RAISING FLOUR

2.5KG.....	R37.99
------------	--------

RUMPLERS

JELLY BUTTERFLIES 200G	R19.99
JELLY FRUITS 200G	R19.99
MARZIPAN STARS 100G.....	R19.99

TRIGZ

CHUTNEY 28G	R5.49
CHUTNEY 85G	R12.99
JALAPENO 28G	R5.49
JALAPENO 85G	R12.99
KETTLE CRUNCH 28G	R5.49
KETTLE CRUNCH 85G	R12.99
SEA SALT 85G	R12.99
SWEET CHILLI 28G	R5.49
SWEET CHILLI 85G	R12.99
WHITE CHEDDAR 28G	R5.49
WHITE CHEDDAR 85G	R12.99

MARMITE SPREAD 125G	R23.49
GEFFEN TEALIGHT CANDLES 50S	R39.49
GLAD BAKING PAPER 5 X 3M	R30.99
IDEAL EVAPORATED MILK 380G	R21.49
SNOWSOFT FACIAL TISSUES	R16.49
TIME SWITCH	R109.99
VILLA CAPE KOSHER GRAPE JUICE 750ML	R41.99
TENDACHICK FROZEN CHICKEN - PER KG	R52.99

The
Shabbos
Project

KEEPING IT TOGETHER