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# Jewish Report

■ May 27 2016 / 19 Iyar 5776  
 ■ Volume 20 - Number 19

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# Jewish Literary Festival, popular beyond expectations

Photo: Robert Bellon

The idea of a Jewish Literary Festival was born as a result of co-directors Joanne Jowell, Viv Anstey and Cindy Moritz’s exposure to Jewish book festivals around the world. “We felt there was a gap here and we could do this too,” Moritz told Jewish Report at the inaugural Jewish Literary Festival held at the Gardens Community Centre on Sunday. “Something so key to Jewish culture is our literary tradition – Jews and words – and we wanted to celebrate that,” she said of the sold-out event. Mirroring the Franschhoek Literary Festival’s format, attendees were offered a full day’s programme with seven parallel sessions in each time slot. The 93 presenters selected, either had to be Jewish, have a Jewish connection or write about Jewish themes. Various tracks included politics, sport, food, psychology and Israel. See story on page 14.



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# Worries in all its facets



And if you say, “what shall we eat?” (Leviticus 25,2)  
A disciple once approached the famous Kotzker Rebbe (Menachem Mendel Morgensztern, 1787-1859) and shared with him that he was very concerned about making a living. These thoughts haunted him day and night. The worry was so overwhelming that it crippled him and made him unable

to function.  
“Why the incessant worrying?” asked the Rebbe, “Pray to Hashem, and he will send you sustenance.”  
“But Rebbe,” said the Chassid, “I don’t really know how to pray properly to G-d!”  
“This,” said the Rebbe, “is really a cause for serious worry and concern.”  
We are all familiar with the famous words of Ethics of our Fathers: “Who is wealthy? He who is satisfied with his lot.” (Avot 2,1).  
Many of us are great believers in the adage that we must be happy with our current situation, but misinterpret this Mishnah to refer to matters spiritual. Indeed, we tend to be very happy with our levels of religious observance and practice.

We think we are learning enough Torah, doing sufficient mitzvot. We are content to remain where we are and resist being pushed outside our comfort zone.  
However, we fail to apply this principle to material wealth. When it comes to amassing physical possessions, we adhere to the adage of the Midrash: “He who has 100, desires 200 but he who has 200, wishes to have 400.” We are never satisfied with the blessings Hashem has sent our way.  
In truth, as the Kotzker Rebbe was saying, how much time do we spend worrying about our spirit, our neshomas, our relationship with our Creator? On the other hand, how much energy is devoted to the pursuit of the physical?

There is an old Chassidic teaching that helps us redress the imbalance. When it comes to the material, find someone who has less than you, then look down at this individual with a sense of gratitude for what you have and a feeling of being truly blessed.  
In matters of spirit and of religion, find a person who is ahead of you and constantly look up with longing and envy, as you strive to catch up.  
“What will we eat?” is a genuine and legitimate question. But in the next verse Hashem gives us the answer: “I will send My blessing.” An even more legitimate question is: “Do I know how to tap into that blessing and bring it down upon me?”

# Jewish women are not second class citizens – Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis calls himself “very fortunate” to have grown up in South Africa and to have been part of the English Orthodox model where one did not have to be “frum” to attend an Orthodox shul. “Everybody’s welcome, all are equal and part of our communities - we leave it up to G-d to judge individuals.  
“We need to reach out with genuine ahavat Israel - love of our fellow Jew.”  
The Chief Rabbi was on a private visit to Cape Town during which he launched 90-year-old Rabbi Dr Lionel Mirvis’ Daroma educational programme at Beit Midrash Morasha. “I’m deriving so much huge ‘nachas’ from my Dad,” he said, paying tribute to “Avi Mori” (my father, my teacher).  
“I owe so much to my father: my knowledge, my quest for community leadership, my passion for

For his part, the elder rabbi said he was “awed to be speaking after the Chief Rabbi”. Addressing himself to his son, he said: “Thank you for acknowledging that you’re a product of your parents.”  
Speaking on “the role of the shul in the 21st century”, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said pulpit rabbis needed to be a fusion of shepherd and sheepdog, the latter to prevent Jews straying from the flock. The rabbi’s role was not to produce rosh yeshivas, but to hopefully see people getting married under a chuppah.  
“Through the shul we should find the means to engage with every single Jewish person and make sure they’re all welcome,” he emphasised. “It’s important that women should know that all are included,” he added.

“Within Torah law, we must guarantee that women feel as included as possible.” The Chief Rabbi had asked himself what it would be like sitting in (some of) the areas allocated to women (in synagogue). “I wouldn’t like it,” he commented.  
“I’ve given instructions that no shul is to be built without my input. Women don’t have to be up in the gods - no person should feel that they’re a second class citizen,” he stated.  
Introducing the Chief Rabbi earlier, Rabbi Sam Thurgood, spiritual leader of Beit Midrash Morasha, referred to Rabbi Mirvis’ appointment in 2012 of Britain’s first Orthodox female



Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Ephraim Mirvis; Rabbi Dr Lionel Mirvis; and Rabbi Sam Thurgood, spiritual leader of Beit Midrash Morasha, at the launch by the Chief Rabbi of his father's educational programme, Daroma.

halachic adviser at London’s Finchley Synagogue, where he had been the senior rabbi.  
“He has a history of being an innovator, he is prepared to take risks and move the Jewish world forward,” Rabbi Thurgood noted.  
Referring to this appointment of the yoetzet halacha, the chief rabbi said that having a woman available had led to more women asking questions, because “the reality is that some feel uncomfortable asking a rabbi”. It had also resulted in increased observance of taharat hamishpachah (laws of family purity).  
“Men can learn from women too,” he added. “We must find a way – in line with halacha – women have a role to play in our communities.”

Questioning whether the style of davening was appropriate for people of today, the chief rabbi said the days of individuals coming to shul because it was the right thing to do, were gone.  
“We’re facing a younger generation who are so spoilt with what they have at their fingertips – we’re competing with the most thrilling forms of entertainment.  
“Today’s young people will only come if there’s something in it for them.” It is the chazzan’s role to get the community to engage in genuine davening.  
“The chazzan sets the tone of the service. He’s the anchor of the service –

he either includes you or he bores you to tears.  
“You have to engage people, create ‘ruach’, because loyalty doesn’t exist in the younger community anymore.”

“Women don’t have to be up in the gods - no person should feel that they’re a second class citizen,”

the rabbinate. There is nothing better than to associate myself directly with Jewish educational initiatives,” in this case with a personal connection.

| Shabbat Times    |       |                |  |
|------------------|-------|----------------|--|
| Parshat Behar    |       |                |  |
| May 27 / 19 Iyar |       |                |  |
| May 28 / 20 Iyar |       |                |  |
| Starts           | Ends  |                |  |
| 17:06            | 17:57 | Johannesburg   |  |
| 17:29            | 18:22 | Cape Town      |  |
| 16:47            | 17:39 | Durban         |  |
| 17:08            | 18:00 | Bloemfontein   |  |
| 17:00            | 17:54 | Port Elizabeth |  |
| 16:53            | 17:46 | East London    |  |

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# Husbands’ refusal to grant a get leaves many Jewish women in limbo

**BRIAN JOSSELOWITZ**

A Cape Town woman has been living in a married wilderness for five years because her former husband is refusing to give her a get. But now she is getting help from the Cape Town branch of the Union of Jewish Woman (UJW) who has launched a campaign they hope will persuade the rabbonim and community leaders to help secure a get from the man who is getting married in a civil ceremony this Sunday.

A get, a divorce document in Jewish law which must be presented by a husband to his wife to effect their divorce, returns to the wife the legal rights that a husband holds in regard to her in a Jewish marriage. The essential part of a get (plural gittin) is: “You are hereby permitted to all men.” This means that the woman is no longer a married woman and that the laws of adultery no longer apply to her.

A Facebook project, called Go-Getters-the South African Gett Network, was started recently by Michelle Blumenau of Johannesburg, a friend of the woman’s (who does not want to be named to protect the dignity of her children) and her husband when she lived in Cape Town many years ago, with the help of Capetonian, Balu Nivison.

The UJW says the religious community regards the husband’s attitude as a form of domestic abuse. Until the wife secures a get, she is a so-called “chained” woman and cannot have relationships and will be regarded as an adulteress if she does so, as she is still married religiously. She is one of two women in Cape Town facing this predicament.

Leaza Cowan, chairman of the UJW in Cape Town, started the Women4Women activism group (W4W) after they screened a film in May on women who are unable to secure a get from their husbands.

“During question time after the film, the issue of two women was highlighted and someone in the audience asked if the UJW would support any action to try to assist the agunah - ‘chained’ women - and the rest is history,” Cowan said.

“Our Constitution gives us a mandate to take part in matters affecting the rights of all women. We have a proud history of promoting and working for women’s rights since 1947, which has continued to this day. We recently set up W4W as a subcommittee to look at issues affecting women today. The first time I had heard of the woman’s plight was at the movie,” she said.

The couple in question were married in 1993, the woman told SA Jewish Report. This was before South Africa’s new Constitution was adopted. The then Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris negotiated a clause to the effect that the man has to give his wife a get along with a civil divorce, so that Judaism would not be unconstitutional on the grounds of gender discrimination.

However, Cowan said that as far as she was aware, it was not obligatory and is dependent on the discretion of the judge presiding. “But it is clearly a case of gender discrimination in Jewish law,” she pointed out.

Blumenau said she started the Go-Getters on Facebook with the help from Nivison. She told Jewish Report from Johannesburg they have agreed to raise awareness via shuls, community leaders and brides.

Cowan was, however, wary of divulging their plan of action as W4W did not want to alert the people they were targeting. “But, if nothing happens (securing the get) in the next few days, we will be taking visible action,” she said.

W4W said while the Beth Din in South Africa explained that this Torah law cannot be changed, they understand the need to find a way to resolve it, and there are reputable orthodox religious Jewish leaders who say that to avoid these terrible, unreasonable, unjust and abusive circumstances occurring in the future, they are very happy to work with other organisations and groups towards finding a way to rectify it.

Nivison said the woman in question has been waiting for five years to get a get, “but he (the husband) refuses and shifts the goal posts all the time”.

Rosh Beth Din Moshe Kurtstag recently warned that recalcitrant husbands who refuse to give their wives a get, would be “named and shamed”.

Wikipedia says the laws of gittin only provide for a divorce initiated by the husband. However, the wife has the right to sue for divorce in a rabbinical court. The court, if finding just cause as prescribed in very rare cases in Jewish law, will require the husband to divorce his wife.

In such cases, a husband who refused the court’s demand that he divorce his wife, would be subjected to various penalties in order to pressure him into granting a divorce. Such penalties included monetary punishments, and corporal punishment - including forcing the husband to spend the night at an unmarked grave (with the implication that it could become his grave).

In modern-day Israel, rabbinical courts have the power to sentence a husband to prison to compel him to grant his wife a get. Rabbinical courts outside of Israel do not have the power to enforce such penalties. This sometimes leads to a situation in which the husband makes demands of the court and of his wife, demanding a monetary settlement or other benefits, such as child custody, in exchange for the get. Prominent Jewish feminists have fought against such demands in recent decades.

UJW and Go-Getters are raising awareness about the woman’s plight as most people in the Jewish community are unaware of the circumstances. “We want people to know about it and put pressure on the ex-husband to give the get and we are also asking the rabbonim to do more to put pressure on the ex-husband to do the right thing,” Nivison said.

Rabbi Kurtstag told Jewish Report that the drastic action the UJW referred to was to put the man in cherem. “Among the sanctions are that he would not be counted in a minyan, he would not be allowed to take part in any Jewish rituals, he would be ostracised and at the most extreme, would not be allowed to be buried in a Jewish cemetery.” However, Rabbi Kurtstag said that when he told this to the former husband, the man said he did not “need the shul”.

Referring to the UJW’s campaign, Rabbi Kurtstag said he did suggest to the UJW that they hold a protest with placards and banners, outside the man’s business, which may help to put pressure on him. But they would have to get permission first from the municipal authorities.

“There are many reasons why the man is so obdurate; it could be a form of blackmail. Whatever it is, it is time the community stood up against this kind of abuse,

which is a growing and ongoing problem.”

Chabad.org states: “While Jewish law requires one to follow the law of the land and thus necessitates a civil divorce as well, a civil divorce cannot serve as a substitute for a halachic get (conforming to the strictures of Jewish law).

“Without a get, no matter how long the couple is separated and no matter how many civil documents they may have in their filing cabinet, in the eyes of Jewish law the couple is still 100 per cent married.”

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# Rabbi Grossman back to assist Rabbi Berland

ANT KATZ

Migdal HaEmek Chief Rabbi Yitzchok Dovid Grossman is back in South Africa for the second time in a month to try and secure the release of Breslov Rabbi, Eliezer Berland, who heads the Shuvu Banim Chasidic sect, with its headquarters in Jerusalem and is presently held in prison in Johannesburg awaiting extradition to Israel to face sex charges there.

According to The Yeshiva World website, the influential Rabbi Grossman “took off (from Israel) on Sunday night” for a second trip to Johannesburg in recent weeks, “reportedly because there may be a chance for the rabbi to be released, instead of handing him over to Israel Police”.

Rabbi Grossman, who was spotted at the exclusive Saxon Hotel this week, is reportedly going to participate in a meeting with government officials pertaining to the case. The tzaddik, who has turned down the post of Chief Rabbi of Israel, but does sit on the Panel of Chief Rabbis, is reportedly being accompanied by a grandson of Rabbi Berland, Chaim Reicher.

After his earlier post-Pesach visit to Berland, Rabbi Grossman described Rabbi Berland’s conditions as “extremely difficult”, maintaining that Berland is held “inside a pit and has minimal food since he will not compromise his kashrus standards”.

According to previous and substantiated reports, however, Jewish Report has written that Rabbi Berland personally requested to be sent back to the infamous “Sun City” prison where he enjoys a private cell, has access to all his required religious and prayer accoutrements, and has his food brought to him daily by his wife, Tehila.

More news on our website [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

## Ronald and Darren Bobroff maintain they are innocent of RAF charges

*In response to recent coverage in the Jewish Report on Ronald and Darren Bobroff, the personal injury lawyers under investigation for overcharging clients, the family were offered an opportunity to provide their side of the story. Here follows their statement.*

“

We deny any wrongdoing of whatsoever nature and anybody who alleges such wrongdoing must prove it.

No formal charges have been laid against Ronald, Elaine, Darren or Lisa Bobroff to date.

We would like to place the following undisputed facts on record:

Save for the current allegations and disputes, no director of the practice, which has been in existence for over 42 years has ever been found guilty of unprofessional conduct or any criminal offence.

Ronald has since 1983 served on virtually every committee and council of the organised profession, voluntarily. This includes 20 years’ service on the Council of the LSNP (Transvaal), Law Society, and being honoured after 10 years’ service on the Council by fellow councillors by being elected as only the fourth Jewish person to serve as president of the Law Society in its 125-year history.

Ronald also served on the council of the Law Society of South Africa from its inception in 1996 until 2012.

The law firm has worked tirelessly to assist the less privileged members of our society. Ronald has also served as a commissioner (judge) in the Small Claims Court, presiding over cases for four hours weekly at night for almost 20 years.

Ronald has given freely of his professional time to assist the less privileged members of our society in obtaining access to justice by teaching students and advising members of the public at the Wits Legal Clinic every Friday for more than a decade.”

Ronald hosted his own radio show “A word on legal matters” for two hours every Monday night for more than a decade on Talk Radio 702. Over that period he received thousands of letters and e-mails from grateful listeners

for the legal advice he had given on air and by e-mails to them.

Ronald and Elaine supported in the most substantial manner, needy members of the community, by becoming Pillars some years ago.”

Ronald Bobroff & Partners’ contingency percentage fees were at all times Law Society compliant and charged out on exactly the same basis as thousands of other attorneys including major corporate law firms, who made extensive use of such agreements.

A Law Society survey indicated that more than 74 per cent of the Law Society’s members utilised such agreements exclusively in their practices. This system of no-win no-fee, percentage fees, has been the norm in America in all personal injury and medical malpractice litigation for more than 100 years with a minimum fee of one third increasing to over 50 per cent.

No finding has ever been made by any court or Law Society disciplinary committee against the firm of overcharging or any other professional offence, nor have any sanctions ever been imposed in the firm’s 42-year existence.

Our families, including spouses, children and grandchildren have suffered a great deal as a result of the tirade of allegations and the surrounding public vilification and controversy.

Our family members during this very difficult time should be left alone and the law should be allowed to take its course. Each and every allegation will be dealt with at the appropriate time and in a proper manner.

Readers who wish to avail themselves of more information with regard to the background to recent events should visit [www.ronaldbobroff.com](http://www.ronaldbobroff.com) or [www.bobroff.co.za](http://www.bobroff.co.za).

”

## PA’s Mahmoud Abbas meets President Zuma on Middle East



ANT KATZ

It has been a busy week for Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, who was in South Africa on Wednesday to meet with President Jacob Zuma.

According to the Presidency, Zuma will be hosting Abbas who was on a “working visit” to South Africa”. The two are scheduled to hold bilateral discussions which, says the Presidency, are expected to cover “a broad range of issues including the current initiatives aimed at resolving the Israeli-Palestine stand-off”.

Other related issues are the recently-postponed Paris Middle East Conference that was initially scheduled for May 30. Abbas has also been involved in significant diplomatic efforts led by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi designed to organise a summit between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader.

On Tuesday, Abbas was in Istanbul, Turkey, where he addressed the first World Humanitarian Summit. Also at the Summit and riding on the crest of a building wave of diplomatic activity with that country, was Israel’s Director General of Foreign Affairs Dore Gold, who inaugurated the Israeli Pavilion at the Summit.

In 2014, at the height of the Gaza War, Zuma appointed former Minister Zola Skweyiya and former Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad as special envoys on the Middle East peace process.

Abbas’ visit is his third to South Africa in recent years. Of late South Africa has also controversially hosted Hamas and, most recently, Israel’s Dore Gold.

President Zuma’s spokesman, Nelson Kgwete, said that it was also expected that Abbas would brief Zuma “on efforts at Intra-Palestine reconciliation”, meaning infighting between PLO/PA and Hamas.

• The outcome of the meeting will be reported on [sajr.co.za](http://sajr.co.za) later this week.

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# Lithuanian government promises a relook at its citizenship law

SUZANNE BELLING

Many South African Jews whose parents and grand-parents came to this country from Lithuania have been frustrated in their efforts to take advantage of the Lithuanian citizenship law and obtain Lithuanian (and through it, European Union) citizenship. They now have renewed hope of doing so.

According to Stefanie de Saude, a Cape Town immigration and citizenship law specialist, while the Lithuanian law as a rule does not allow dual citizenship, it makes an exception in the case of descendants of Lithuanian citizens who were forced to flee the country between 1919 and 1990.

“If you can show that the Lithuanian citizens fled not for economic reasons, then their descendants within four generations can apply for a reinstatement of citizenship,” she told SA Jewish Report.

She said, however, that in 2013, the Lithuanian Constitutional Court issued a restrictive ruling regarding these citizenship applications, requiring proof that the people who left Lithuania were forced to flee. The authorities then argued that there had been no serious pogroms in Lithuania between 1919 and 1940, when the Nazis invaded the country, and those Jews who left in that period - many of whom came to South Africa - left because they wanted to leave.

It is estimated that some 80 per cent of the 70 000 South African Jews are of Lithuanian descent.

The result of the court ruling was that many applications were refused. While thousands of applications worldwide are still pending, figures from the Lithuanian migration office show that 10 applications were refused in 2014, 76 in 2015 and 97 so far this year.

According to De Saude, over 1 000 South African Jews have applied since 2013.

The manner in which the court ruling is being implemented has led to a backlash in Lithuania, with widespread condemnation.

Those in favour of allowing more Jews to acquire Lithuanian citizenship have pointed out that anti-Semitism was rife at the time, including business boycotts and Jewish children not being admitted to many schools and universities.

Jews feared for their own lives and the safety of their families.

This meant that Jews were forced to flee the country.

Those opposed to the court ruling ask whether the Jews had not suffered enough, without making it so difficult for them to reclaim ancestral citizenship. The new rules merely added further injustice.

Some unsuccessful applicants are trying to take the decision on review to the court.

Earlier this month, De Saude said, because of the pressure and publicity following the court decision, the Lithuanian parliament appointed a working group to look into amending the law to allow descendants of Lithuanian Jews to qualify for citizenship. This would resolve the current difficulties.

“Jews take this issue personally,” said De Saude. “It is not just Lithuanian citizenship and an EU passport, but denying the applications is a way of saying that their families did not suffer.”

She also pointed to the substantial numbers of South African Jews who visited Lithuania in search of their roots.

“Returning Litvaks (Lithuanians) often make a positive impact on the country’s economy”, with some building up business relations there.

De Saude is optimistic about a positive outcome.

# Israel is bringing its water experts to help South Africa

ANT KATZ

A delegation of Israeli water experts from government, academia and industry will be coming to South Africa between June 6 and 10 to share Israel’s experience of how it turned a water-strapped country into one that now enjoys a surplus of potable water.

The water experts will be hosting conferences in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town on June 6, 8 and 9 respectively, aimed at “sharing with our friends in South Africa’s government and private sector our experience in managing drought on a national level”, says Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa, Arthur Lenk.

Israel’s population has recently passed the 8,5 million mark and, as an arid country, it has been forced to harness its considerable technological skills over the past 70-odd years to ensure that the country becomes a world leader in creating and conserving potable water. Technologies and subjects that will be discussed at the three venues will include:

- Water management and saving techniques;
- Desalination;
- Waste water treatment;
- Mine water treatment;
- Water efficiency solutions; and
- Novel water management solutions.

Ambassador Lenk told Jewish Report that, like most Israeli embassies around the world, the embassy in Pretoria hosts a fancy reception in the garden for Yom Ha’atzmaut (Independence Day).

However, “after watching the deepening drought crisis facing southern Africa, we decided to cancel our event this year and redirect the budget”, towards bringing the experts out to South Africa.

Even as guests in South Africa, said Lenk, “we can see the country is approaching a significant water crisis that brings destabilising threats to the economy and society”.

The team at the embassy therefore decided that Israel, “as a mostly arid and desert country that has strategically faced its water management challenges, had a unique experience to add to that conversation”, says Lenk.

He adds that one of the core jobs of any embassy is to connect to the conversations and discussions where they reside. “I listened carefully to the frank words of President Jacob Zuma at the State of the Nation address,” says Lenk, referring to the President’s statement: that “the drought that is currently taking place in most of our provinces is really devastating. Livestock are dying and as a result, the agricultural sector is going through a difficult period”.

It was then that Lenk and his staff decided that they would redirect their budget, normally used for speeches, toasts, promoting bilateral relations and Israeli music in the embassy garden and instead sponsor the three significant water management seminars.

• For more information or to register to attend one of the free conferences, go to <http://israelsawater.co.za>

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# Grappling with a new super power

There’s a certain bravado and lack of inhibition that comes from the anonymity of the Internet. A year ago it emboldened former Wits SRC President Mcebo Dlamini to post “I love Adolf Hitler” on his Facebook account. And then there was former US Jewish congressman from New York, Anthony Weiner, who disgraced himself after being caught sending an explicit photo to a female Twitter follower.

Instead of a private message, he erroneously sent it via his public account! He later admitted sending lewd photos to at least six women and was forced to resign from Congress. Both social media mishaps cost these men their high profile positions.

For lawmakers the Internet is still a vast, unknown terrain that requires new rules. The South African Film and Publications Board released a revised version of the Act of 1996 recently and the public had

until Thursday of this week to make submissions for further revisions.

Any published content that is sexually inappropriate or shows disrespect for the right to human dignity of any person, or constitutes incitement to cause harm, could lead to criminal prosecution. The policy will therefore allow the Board to request that social media posts considered “potentially harmful and disturbing to children of certain ages” be taken down or classified if a complaint is received.

Many felt that the first draft was too broad and unclear and the Film and Publications Board had hoped the new version was vastly improved. However, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) made a submission this month that even the latest draft was insufficient.

SAJBD National Chairman Jeff Katz says that the extremely complex nature of electronic media cannot be effectively regulated simply

by broadening the already existing act and that further clarification was required.

“Even if the proposed amendments were to be enacted, the FBA would still have shortcomings as it has not sufficiently recognised the realities of how hate speech and racism is disseminated today,” Katz said.

The Jewish Board said it believed the committee should look to places like the United States to follow their guidelines on internet policy. The Board’s submission also raised the obstacles of regulating the forwarding or retweeting of racist material, which is further complicated when people use pseudonyms or stolen identities.

What is clear is that with explosion of content, the Internet is a very difficult place to regulate and it is going to be a learning process - even for the regulators.

Indeed, we are all trying to grapple with the still sometimes

unfathomable worldwide web. At the SA Jewish Report, we are faced with similar intricate and sensitive challenges. Our readers at times submit outrageously offensive comments for posting (which we are luckily able to vet) that if we did publish, could easily be construed as hate speech.

And even though we do censor, we do not always get it right. Only last month, a Jewish community figure was most offended by a post. The intention of the post had been misunderstood by us, but once it was out there, the damage was done.

We have also recently been taken to the SA Human Rights Commission by Mohammed Desai, head of the South African BDS movement, for posting an image of him with a speech bubble that said “Shoot the Jew”. He complained that it constituted hate speech and had resulted in a threat to his personal safety. We are still awaiting the result.

And in our personal spaces, apart from racial and political sensitivities, as parents, we also need to be vigilant about what content our children are exposed to. Just in my own circle of Jewish parents, I am aware of two primary school-aged children who were emotionally traumatised for months after unwittingly viewing explicit sexual content and violence on YouTube.

The Internet is indeed a scary global club for which we all have membership. About 300 hours of video is uploaded to YouTube every minute and almost five billion videos are watched on that site every day!

We can only celebrate the extraordinary advantages of instant access to knowledge if we do it with vigilance and caution. So it is vital that our regulators get it right - not only for us but more urgently for our children.

– Vanessa Valkin, editor

# Trump versus Clinton: Battle of the Jewish sons-in-law

URIEL HEILMAN  
WASHINGTON

Somebody had better put a mezuzah on the Lincoln Bedroom. Whoever ends up winning the US presidential election in November, one thing seems certain: For the first time in history, Jews will be in the president’s inner family circle.

Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have Jewish sons-in-law and of course Bernie Sanders - in the unlikely event he makes it to the White House - is Jewish himself (though his daughter-in-law is not).

With the head-to-head contest between the two likely nominees heating up, we decided to take a closer look at Jared Kushner, who is married to Ivanka Trump, and Marc Mezvinsky, who is married to Chelsea Clinton.

sity of Oxford, England.

## FAMILY

**Kushner:** Grew up in Livingston, New Jersey. Father: Charles Kushner ran a real estate empire until his imprisonment and is involved in various Jewish philanthropic endeavours. Mother: Seryl Kushner is involved in the family’s business and philanthropy. Has three siblings.

Mezvinsky: Grew up in Philadelphia. Both parents served stints in Congress as Democrats. Father: Edward Mezvinsky served two terms from Iowa in the 1970s (and decades later went to prison). Mother: Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, a former TV journalist, served a single term from Pennsylvania in the mid-1990s. Parents are now divorced. Has one full brother, four half-siblings and five adopted siblings.

## PROFESSIONAL TRACK RECORD

**Kushner:** Often described as a wunderkind, Jared Kushner has doubled the assets of his family’s real estate empire since taking over as CEO in 2008. In 2014, Kushner Properties did \$2 billion in transactions.

**Mezvinsky:** Worked at Goldman Sachs for eight years before launching Eaglevale in 2011, which now has \$326 million under management. But the hedge fund was down 3,6 percent in 2014, largely due to Mezvinsky’s bad bets on Greek debt.

## CAMPAIGN INVOLVEMENT

**Kushner:** Helped draft Donald Trump’s AIPAC speech, advises the presumptive Republican nominee for president on Israel issues and is involved in assembling his White House transition team. Kushner’s newspa-

per endorsed Trump for president.

**Mezvinsky:** Appears at non-political events with the Clintons, but has no known involvement with Hillary’s campaign.

## JEWISH PRACTICE

**Kushner:** Belongs to an Orthodox synagogue, Manhattan’s Kehilath Jeshurun, observes Shabbat and

home. “We’re pretty observant,” she has said.

**Mezvinsky:** Chelsea Clinton is still a practising Methodist. The couple married in an interfaith ceremony featuring a chuppah and co-officiated by Rabbi James Ponet of Yale University and Methodist Rev William Shillady.

## WHY DAD WENT TO PRISON

fraud, mail fraud and wire fraud.

## RESIDENCE

**Kushner:** Stylish 10-room apartment on Manhattan’s Upper East Side at - where else? - Trump Park Avenue.

**Mezvinsky:** A sleek apartment in Manhattan’s Flatiron district, on 26th Street, that the couple

## AGE

**Kushner:** 35  
**Mezvinsky:** 38

## OCCUPATION

**Kushner:** CEO of family real estate firm Kushner Properties and owner-publisher of The New York Observer.

**Mezvinsky:** Investment banker and co-founder of hedge fund Eaglevale Partners.

## EDUCATION

**Kushner:** High school at Frisch, a modern Orthodox yeshiva in Paramus, New Jersey; BA from Harvard (sociology); JD and MBA from New York University.

**Mezvinsky:** High school at Friends Central in the Philadelphia suburb of Wynnewood; BA from Stanford (religious studies and philosophy); MA in international relations from the Univer-



kosher restrictions, and is raising children as Jews.

**Mezvinsky:** Grew up in a Conservative synagogue, has been seen in shul on occasion with wife Chelsea Clinton and is raising daughter with both Jewish and Methodist traditions.

## WIFE'S RELATIONSHIP TO JUDAISM

**Kushner:** Ivanka Trump underwent Orthodox conversion after studying with an Orthodox rabbi, Haskel Lookstein. She now observes Shabbat and keeps a kosher

**Kushner:** Hired a prostitute to seduce his brother-in-law, secretly recorded the encounter and sent the tape to his sister as part of a blackmail scheme. He served 16 months after pleading guilty to 18 counts of tax evasion, tampering of evidence and making illegal campaign donations.

**Mezvinsky:** Bilked his friends, family and even strangers out of some \$10 million in bogus schemes that he disguised as investments in Africa and oil development. He served five years after pleading guilty to 31 counts of felony fraud, including bank

bought in 2013 for \$10,5 million.

## CHILDREN

**Kushner:** Theodore James, 2 months; Joseph Frederick, 2; Arabella Rose, 4.

**Mezvinsky:** Daughter Charlotte, 1, and one on the way.

## LOOK

**Kushner:** “Baby-faced”, “sandy haired” and “handsome”.

**Mezvinsky:** Bespectacled with a perennial 5 o’clock shadow. (JTA)



# Take the trouble to learn his language



## TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

When Eugene De Kock - the apartheid assassin who tortured and murdered numerous activists, was sentenced to two life sentences plus 212 years for it, and was granted parole last year - strolled into the Franschhoek Literary Festival two weeks ago to attend a discussion on a book about him, his presence was repulsive even though he had expressed remorse for his apartheid deeds.

Black writers had been victims of his operations and their family members had been killed; they were visibly upset. He was asked to leave, and did so. One writer, Palesa Morudu, the sister of slain Umkhonto we Sizwe soldier Moss Morudu, who died at the regime's hands, said: "I saw a broken man and felt pity for him."

Jews know this dilemma well: how to relate to people - former Nazis, their descendants or relatives - who were part of a system which perpetrated the Holocaust, and wanted to atone and form relationships with Jews.

Many believe forgiveness is not possible in Judaism, except by the victim, Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize-winner and Nazi concentration camp survivor, said in a famous statement when Oprah Winfrey asked him if he could forgive Nazis who murdered Jewish children, that he had no right to do so. It would be "arrogant", because only those children could forgive their killers.

However, other things are possible. The humble, moving speech by the Germany's ambassador at the Yom Hashoah commemoration in Johannesburg this month, illustrated how history can be partially overcome.

The Germans are today among Israel's and the Jewish people's best friends and have tried to atone for the past. Although disagreements exist about the Palestinian issue and other matters, they are discussed behind closed doors; as a matter of policy, Germany supports Israel because of the Holocaust.

Stepping into our own context: What can

ordinary white South Africans do to heal the decades of black subjugation - although apartheid, evil as it was, was not a Holocaust?

This is not as extreme as the murderer De Kock's case, but whites as a group were responsible, whether they supported apartheid intellectually or not.

Remember the black maid in the kitchen serving the Pesach meal as Jews recounted their struggle for freedom, as if she didn't exist?

There is an uncomfortableness among most whites when trying to cross the racial divide and form a relationship with a black person: they generally don't speak the black person's home language, can't pronounce his indigenous name properly, know scant details about his life, and possess privilege and power from being white.

Although former Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris formally apologised at the Truth and Reconciliation Committee for white Jewish South Africans' silence during apartheid, it didn't create personal relationships with blacks.

That sort of reconciliation is a long way off. Whites complain about "reverse racism" against them and get irritated and insulted when President Jacob Zuma makes a side comment in Zulu during a speech in English in Parliament. For all most whites know, he could be laughing at them.

What can the ordinary white person - and Jew - do? One thing: learn the others' language. Can you imagine the difference if they could respond to Zuma in Zulu?

Why can't Jews lead the way? Schools - including Jewish ones - do offer a black language to learners, but few take it seriously. For adults, most don't care, since blacks also speak either English or Afrikaans, because those were always the masters' languages.

We expect them to know our tongue; why shouldn't we know theirs? Of course, it would require Jewish leadership - sorely lacking at this point. But if Jewish South Africans say they want to feel part of South Africa, and are not just trying to be politically correct, speaking black languages is necessary.

• Read Geoff Sifrin's regular columns on his blog [sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com](http://sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com)

withdrawn.

A decade later, after more allegations, the Ontario College of Teachers ordered a disciplinary hearing. It was cancelled and Schacter continued to teach until he retired in 2013.

There's no documentation about why the cases were dropped, but in the close-knit Orthodox community, it was understood that the children had recanted, their families unwilling to proceed.

Schacter faces charges of gross indecency and sexual assault going back to 1982. The allegations have not been proven in court and his lawyer declined to comment.

It's unclear exactly what two charges were laid in 1993 or why they were dropped.

In 2006, when the Ontario College of Teachers planned a disciplinary hearing, it documented all the known allegations against Schacter and a few rebukes.

The Eitz Chaim school fired Schacter in 2004, 18 years after he began teaching there.

Schacter was hired at another Hebrew school, where he stayed for five years before retiring. – The Globe and Mail



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# It’s not over till the lady sings

GILAD STERN

How did I get to be in the situation of being one of three complainants against my own Jewish community? Ninety per cent of South African Jews probably think that muzzling women is looney, but 90 per cent also feel that we Jews shouldn’t wash our dirty linen in public. I agree. So if I agree, why am I, a shomer Shabbat Orthodox-ish Jew, litigating?

The truth: I never imagined it would go so far. I thought the SA Jewish Board of Deputies would back off at the last minute. I was gobsmacked that they didn’t.

Stopping women from singing is part of a recent extremist trend in some Jewish sects. About eight years ago, Orthodox protesters in Jerusalem burned buses which displayed adverts with pictures of women.

On airline flights to and from Israel, male ultra-Orthodox passengers often refuse to sit next to female passengers. In Beit Shemesh in 2014, the ultra-Orthodox-controlled municipality posted signs warning women to use alternate pavements, for reasons of “modesty”.

But the most popular of the past decade’s assaults on women’s status in the extremist Jewish world, has been the idea that a Jewish man should not hear a woman’s solo singing voice. Like wildfire, this new meshuganeh craze spread. And in some places, the Jewish secular authorities, instead of saying: “Suit yourselves fellows,” started saying: “Okay, no problem, we won’t let women sing.”

In South Africa, the Jewish Board of Deputies instituted a ban on women singing solo at annual Holocaust memorial ceremonies, even though the event is a secular one, not a religious service.

A Cape Town rabbi suggested that women singing would lead to the breakup of marriages. The rabbi suggested that “the

singing voice of a woman is an erotic stimulus”, and that Judaism opposed “promiscuity of the mouth”. I’m not making this stuff up; these are actual quotes.

The Chief Rabbi (Warren Goldstein) in a recent e-mail to the Jewish community said: “A woman’s singing voice is regarded by the halacha as being private in the same category as her unclothed body.”

So I ask: When we hear a female colleague at work sing “Happy Birthday” to another colleague, do we really imagine that anyone in their right mind conjures up a vision of the singing woman’s “unclothed body”? Does a woman singing Hatikvah at Yom Has-hoah fall in this category?

The Chairman of the Association of Holocaust Survivors in Johannesburg, Don Krausz, says: “Considering the unfathomable tragedy of the Shoah, the idea that men can find time for sexual arousal through hearing women’s voices in song and prayer on such an occasion is not a religious consideration but is blasphemy! Such men do not deserve our consideration; they can abstain or take tranquillisers.”

I agree and ask: Is this type of speaking by rabbis acceptable? I think it’s much more “problematic” than a woman singing at a Holocaust memorial ceremony.

I’d like to call on the Jewish Board of Deputies to stop muzzling women, to stop litigating, and instead to rein in the public airing of lewd or misogynist sentiments by rabbis, and other paid or elected Jewish officials.

The SA Constitution sees race discrimination and gender discrimination as the same. The



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ON THE YESHIVA COLLEGE CAMPUS

News

Many a true word is spoken in jest

SUZANNE BELLING

Watch out Trevor Noah, you may have some serious competition from Michael Bagraim (pictured), spokesman on labour for the Democratic Alliance in Parliament.

This time around Bagraim’s audience was not in a theatre but in the National Assembly, where his antics “brought the house down”.

Bagraim gave two major addresses to the House over the last two weeks - the first on the non-delivery of payments for workmen’s compensation and Unemployment Insurance Fund cases.

“We have wonderful workmen’s compensation, with over R40 billion in funds available, but they can’t get it together to pay out,” said Bagraim, who recently visited five labour department offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg. During his onsite visits, Bagraim was met with a litany of complaints: “The common refrain is that they have to wait for hours - then the staff eventually go off for lunch or tea; or they have lost the files, or would-be beneficiaries are told to come back as the department cannot locate the payments.

“I called my first speech ‘Let’s go down to the woods’, and compared parliamentarians to characters from Grimms’ Fairytales and other stories.

“The Big Bad Wolf was President Jacob Zuma, Little Red Riding Hood was Julius Malema and Lumka Yengeni, chairman of the Portfolio Committee (on labour), I likened to Cruella de Vil.

“It’s like a fairytale. We have very good legislation but it is worth nothing if not implemented. We need a proper inspectorate to enforce laws.”

By pre-arranged signal to his party, every time Bagraim raised his left hand, they chanted the refrain, “the DA delivers”.

“Then they caught on and Deputy Speaker Cedric Frolick asked: ‘Mr Bagraim, have you always wanted to be a choirmaster?’”

Chaos erupted with Bagraim’s second speech antics. He brought a toy parrot with bright red colours into the House and told the EFF they merely chanted slogans parrot-fashion and did not know what they were saying.

Bagraim had consulted with his deputy chairman, Mike Waters, before donning a jester’s hat for the second part of his speech. He was advised he could wear it but should take it off before he was ordered to do so by the Speaker, as hats, except religious headgear, are forbidden in Parliament.

“Cedric Frolick was laughing so much, he forgot to admonish me. One third of the ANC joined the rest of the House in mirth; they were virtually sitting on the floor from laughter.”

The jester’s hat was borrowed from Bagraim’s wife Patsy, who had worn it to a Purim party. But Minister of Labour Mildred Oliphant was not amused. “It is not even in ANC colours,” she said, referring to him as the Honourable Member Bahrain (sic).

“I donned the hat to illustrate that we have become an international joke and the laughing stock of the world,” Bagraim explained.

“There was such a cacophony in the House, it rivalled a discotheque.”

And, although akin to comedian Trevor Noah, Bagraim made his point through laughter, many suffering the consequences of non-delivery could well apply the Yiddish term “bittere geleechte”.



# Kol isha question is steaming towards the Equality Court

ANT KATZ

Unless something drastic happens at the proposed Cape Town community colloquium next month to try to resolve the differences between two Cape Town Orthodox Jews joined by SACRED (a Progressive-affiliated interfaith group, the SA Centre for Religious Equality and Diversity) and the Cape Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies who decided not to allow women to sing solo at this year’s Yom Hashoah commemoration, the scene is set for a ground-breaking court case with huge repercussions all-round.

The Cape Council is being sued by Gilad (Gerald) Stern and Sarah Goldstein and later joined by SACRED on the basis that the Board’s policy amounts to “discrimination of women on the basis of gender”.



**The Cape Board's 41-page answering affidavit and Gilad Stern and Co's 12-page replying affidavit.**

The claimants originally tried to use urgency to lift the ban on women singing at Yom Hashoah, which took place earlier this month, and at future Jewish secular communal events, but were unsuccessful for the recent ceremony.

The Western Cape High Court Judge President has appointed Justice Lee Bozalek of the High Court, sitting as the Equality Court, to hear the case which has been set down for August 22 and 23.

The outcome of this serious challenge between religious rights and a host of constitutional rights, could become a legal reference case in South Africa.

In their answering affidavit, Cape Board Chairman Eric Marx, sums up the pending legal tussle thus: “While I accept that the (Constitutional) right to equality is implicated in the present matter, so too are the rights to dignity, freedom of association, religious freedom and freedom of choice.”

Marx says his legal advice is that on a “proper balancing of these competing rights”, Stern’s application will fail.

It also seems a distinct possibility that should the parties remain as “immovable” as they are at present, the loser of the Equality Court matter may well challenge the decision in higher courts. Given the high calibre legal counsel involved on both sides, even assuming they are acting at “reduced rates”, the cost is going to be considerable.

In their replying affidavit, Stern et al submitted that, having read the answering affidavits of the Cape Board, SAJBD National President Mary Kluk and Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, they still believe that “a proper case has been made out that the Board has committed unconstitutional discrimination on the basis of gender, and has violated the law”.

The matter has been aired in the mainstream media this month, with Stern having written an op-ed in the Sunday Independent of May 14 and SAJBD National President Mary Kluk responding in the same publication this past weekend. All of the Independent Group newspapers have carried the story.

While Stern states in his replying affidavit that “a large portion” of the Board’s answering affidavit would be dealt with in court, he accuses the Board of “not being entirely candid” in their application. He also questions “certain aspects” of Rabbi Goldstein’s affidavit and maintains that his “entire affidavit is irrelevant to the application”.

Stern states under oath: “In every other facet of the Board’s operations and activities, it has demonstrated its complete commitment to

gender equity.”

Women, he says, participate at all levels in the Board, including holding leadership positions, and “there is full participation, including women singing at other events under (the Board’s) aegis”.

The Board, in turn, takes Stern to task in its affidavit over a TV interview on ENCA, with Leigh-Anne Jansen. The two quotes highlighted by the Board are:

- “My problem is not with the rabbis that don’t want to hear women sing. I regard that as quite quaint, A bit weird;” and
- “If a rabbi has got a problem with women singing, they think it is going to affect them in the mind or in their heart or in some other part of their anatomy, they need to take a cold shower.”

The Board says it carries out a range of functions on behalf of Jewry, including:

- “Safeguarding the religious and civil rights, the status and the welfare of the Jewish community”; and
- “Furthering respect for and the application of fundamental human rights for all sections of the population.”

Marx explains that the community comprises two main groupings: Orthodox and Reform. The Board, says Marx, “treads cautiously and carefully preventing discord between both these groups of the Jewish community”.

The Cape SAJBD ensures harmony and cohesion in the community and ensures it does not act “in a way that is divisive or undermining either grouping”. The Board “represents no particular brand of Judaism” and it “exhibits no doctrinal preferences or allegiances”.

In fact, says Marx, the Cape Board has had two “female chairpersons” and the current national president and immediate past chairman is Mary Kluk.

He goes on to say that he can state without reservation that, should Stern’s order have been granted before Yom Hashoah, “many, if not all, Orthodox” Jews would not have attended. This, he told Jewish Report, had been categorically conveyed to him by the Orthodox rabbinic leadership.

He said he believed the court case was premature in that the Board had undertaken to hold a colloquium of Cape Jewry on the matter in June. Marx’s affidavit is supported by affidavits from Board National President Mary Kluk and the Chief Rabbi.

Stern himself explains in an op-ed in this week’s Jewish Report that he considers himself to be a “Shomer Shabbat Orthodox-ish Jew” and explains to the community why he is litigating.

In a written statement to Stern last month, the Board suggested “it’s caught between a rock and a hard place; either affect women or the Orthodox rabbinic leadership”.

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## ‘Facebook, Google part of problem in Israel’s war on terror’

NEW YORK - The Israeli government will pass legislation against social media and Internet giants like Facebook and Google if they do not take steps to curb anti-Israel “incitement”, Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan told The Jerusalem Post annual conference in New York last Sunday.

Erdan made the remarks during a speech in which he outlined the challenges faced by Israel and its supporters in dealing with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement.

“Social media companies are happy to use the data they collect on all of us to make money, but unfortunately not to help stop terror,” the minister said.

Earlier this year, the Foreign Ministry called on governments around the world to regulate social media in order to combat anti-Semitism and violent incitement, reiterating the government’s support last year for Internet censorship during an anti-racism conference.

Speaking at the annual gathering of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations in Jerusalem, Akiva Tor, the director of the Foreign Ministry’s Department for Jewish Communities, stated that while the issue is certainly controversial for Americans, it is important to discern the nature of the Internet and to act accordingly. - Jerusalem Post

## Board of Deputies election result reversed after miscount

LONDON - A Board of Deputies election result has been changed after it emerged that the methodology for selecting the winner “had been incorrectly applied”.

Gillian Merron, Board chief executive, e-mailed deputies to inform them that Bernard Silver and not Anthony Tricot, as had previously been announced, had won the by-election for a place on the International Division.

The result was changed after two deputies challenged the method used for the third round of counting the votes, which were cast using the single transferable vote system.

Merron wrote that following the challenges, “a manual recount was conducted of the votes”.

In the same e-mail, Jeromé Freedman, the returning officer, explained that the ballots had been counted manually, unlike past elections, which have used an electronic system.

“The software licence is no longer available,” he explained, adding that “an alternative software programme which allows for paper ballots was found to be unreasonably expensive and also untried.

“I apologise for the error, now thankfully corrected, to all deputies and particularly to the candidates.” - Jewish Chronicle, London

## Taxpayers’ money used in call for Oz to break ties with ‘Israeli apartheid’

CANBERRA - Federal Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon used taxpayers’ money to print posters that called for Australia to “break ties with Israeli apartheid”, called for the Palestinian “right of return” and for Israel to “end the occupation”.

The poster, printed for the Palestine Action Group to

mark Al Nakba Day, the Palestinian people’s national day of “catastrophe” caused by the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, was printed and authorised by Rhiannon.

According to rules, parliamentarians must use their communications entitlement to “support their role as members of the Australian Parliament and to help them communicate with members of the public in relation to their duties as elected representatives”.

And they can only print material “for parliamentary or elected purposes”.

Australian Greens leader Senator Richard Di Natale assured The AJN that his party will not seek to end relations between Australia and Israel.

“Australian Greens policy recognises the ongoing injustices, repeatedly highlighted by the United Nations, that the Palestinian people have suffered,” he said. “We would like to see these injustices addressed in a way that will enable both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace.

“We feel that ongoing diplomatic dialogue and relationships between Australia, Israel and Palestinian representatives is important to achieving this goal.” - Australian Jewish News

## Michigan Jewish Institute loses federal funding

The US Department of Education has held firm in its decision earlier this year to deny the Michigan Jewish Institute (MJi) in West Bloomfield recertification to federal Title IV financial aid programmes.

MJi filed a 33-page response to DOE allegations of widespread and long-term Pell Grant fraud after the federal department first denied the school recertification in a letter it sent to Rabbi Kasriel Shemtov, MJi president.

In an 11-page letter sent to Shemtov, the DOE said the denial is now “a final agency decision” and that MJi is ineligible to participate in Title IV programmes.

Pell Grants are federal aid given to low-income students to help them pay for college costs. Unlike loans, they do not have to be repaid. For the current academic year, a maximum Pell Grant is \$5 775.

In its letter, the DOE stands by its reasons for denial: MJi breached its fiduciary duty to the DOE by awarding Pell Grant funds to students who were not “regular students” as required; that MJi failed to exercise required standards of administrative capability by not maintaining consistent and reliable student records; and that MJi presented false information to its accrediting agency. - Detroit Jewish News

## Man denied entry into Canada for being a member of Fatah

OTTAWA - The Federal Court of Canada has upheld a ruling by immigration officials that denied entry to the country by a Palestinian national because he was affiliated with Fatah, which it described as a terrorist group.

In a February ruling recently made public, the court found that the Immigration Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board was right to deny entry to Akram Muslih Anteer because he was once a member of Fatah, the largest political party in the West Bank.

The court upheld a definition of Fatah as a “terrorist” group, even though it is not recognised as such by the federal government.

Anteer, a national of the Palestinian Authority and resident of Sweden, arrived in Canada in April 2013 and

claimed refugee status.

Anteer said he had achieved “cadre level” of membership in Fatah, the court found.

“He also described his role with-in Fatah, which included identifying and intercepting opponents of Fatah and working with high ranking Fatah officials, and stated that he reported to the head of Fatah in the Jenin area, Ata Abu Rumeila.”

The CBSA officer noted that Rumeila was the reputed head of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AAMB) in Jenin. The group was added to Canada’s list of terror groups in 2003.

There was “sufficient evidence to ground the conclusion that Fatah was a terrorist organisation,” the ruling stated.

He was arrested twice more by Israeli forces, and in 2009 was expelled from Israel and removed to Jordan. - Canadian Jewish News



## Not McKosher under the kilt

SYDNEY - In a decision sure to ruffle a few loose kilts in the Scottish-mad northern New South Wales town of Maclean, a Jewish lawyer has lost his battle against McDonald’s to register the business name McKosher.

Mark Vincent Glaser, principal of Glaser Lawyers, had provided a statement to the Australian Trade Marks Office (ATMO) claiming he is of Scottish Jewish descent, his ancestors’ surnames included McKosher and he intended to open a restaurant with that name in Maclean, which would be “serving kosher meals and products using Scottish and Jewish recipes”.

He also told the ATMO that Maclean’s population prides itself that the town is known as “the Scottish capital of Australia” and prefixes like Mc and Mac are commonly used to describe local events and services there.

The twist in this tartan-infused tale is that McDonald’s argued it holds the trademark rights to the Mc prefix when it comes to food service products.

Furthermore, lawyers representing McDonald’s told the ATMO that the Jerusalem rabbinate is in negotiations with the global fast food chain to certify McDonald’s outlets in Israel’s capital as kosher, but will not do so as long as there are any non-kosher branches in the city. - Australian Jewish News

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DON'T THRUST WOMEN INTO MEN'S ROLES, FORCING THEM TO MIMIC MEN

The soul is in this world for a purpose, comparable to a prince being in a dumpster for the sole purpose of finding valuable diamonds.

But that is not his real place. Similarly, our elevated, G-dly souls are only in these lowly physical bodies and world to collect mitzvot and do Torah study.

A mitzvah is much more valued when done discreetly, as it is then done with pure intentions and not to impress anyone else; the only exception being if the influence it will have on others is so strong it will outweigh the purity.

Many people went to great lengths to conceal how much charity they gave, or their good deeds. Women who traditionally have a background, supportive role and whose mitzvot are focused on supporting her family and using her sexual attractiveness in a very controlled way, are areas not generally in the limelight and therefore have greater spiritual benefits or are purer diamonds.

Western culture values appearance and results. For example, the striker who scored the winning goal will go down in history, but the defender who brilliantly stopped the opposing team's attack and made a great pass to a midfielder will be forgotten together with the midfielder who made a skilful series of dribbles and a fantastic pass to the striker.

It is because we have applied the Western values of appreciating people and their contribution that, when we talk about something like the Exodus, we remember Moshe

but quickly forget the heroics and righteousness of the women who made it possible, women like his mother, sister and Batya (daughter of G-d).

Should we follow the Western values and try thrust women into men's roles and force them to mimic men to be recognised?

The last time we adored Western values and culture was when Berlin was called by progressive Jews the new Jerusalem.

At a time, Berlin was capital of the country and at the forefront of every form of science, of music, maths, physics, psychology etc, except one science: Torah - which is G-d's value system, and we are still reeling from the consequences.

G-d put the soul into a body with everything the body entails, whether rich or poor or even disabled, in such a way that the soul will maximise the chances of attaining his or her unique mission and diamonds allocated to them.

There is a story of a man who helped a butterfly free its cocoon, but thereafter it couldn't fly. It turns out that the struggle to free itself moves the fluids from the body to the wings, enabling it to fly.

So too we have our struggles and circumstances and unique roles in life, which enable our souls to fly one day.

Eli Knight

Johannesburg

AN OPEN LETTER TO 702'S JOHN ROBBIE

Dear John,

Last week Friday morning you received a call from a woman named Fahima who referred to a local South African celebrity who was visiting Israel.

Fahima expressed her opposition to the visit as she firmly believed that Israel was an apartheid state. This elicited an enthusiastic "Yes" from you and the statement: "There's many of us who believe that being critical of Israel is not being anti-Semitic at all. In fact, it's being pro-Israel in the same way as us being anti-apartheid, and I'll argue that with anyone".

Here's my counter argument:

Clearly, you agreeing with Fahima that Israel is an apartheid state reveals how little you appear to know about the country. Otherwise how would you explain how a country with full voting rights for all citizens; with five Arab parties represented in the Knesset; with Arab judges appointed to the judiciary (including the Supreme Court); where two Arab judges adjudicated the trials of a former state president and a former prime minister, resulting in both serving jail sentences; where

two Arabs have acted as Israeli ambassadors; where the press is among the freest in the world; where there is complete freedom of association and of speech; and where the rights of gays are fully protected, can possibly be guilty of practising apartheid?

According to Freedom House, the independent monitor of democracy worldwide, Israel is both fully democratic and free. Explain therefore, John, how a fully democratic country can simultaneously practise a policy of apartheid?

As for your patronising claim to be "pro-Israel" by applying "tough love" (which you say should never be construed as anti-Semitic), your hypothesis is shaky for the following reasons:

- Of course being critical of Israel is not necessarily anti-Semitic. None are more self-critical than Israelis themselves. However, when one's criticism is continually directed at Israel alone, one is forced to ask what lies behind so one-sided a stance. Sadly, with the worldwide surge of so-called "anti-Zionism" (read "anti-Semitism") - and an equal hostility towards

"Zionists" (read "Jews"), Jews can be forgiven for their sensitivity when the John Robbies of this world claim that their one-sided criticism is inspired by their concern for our welfare.

- I have never heard you express any understanding of Israel's point of view, but only ever an appreciation of the plight of the Palestinians. In fact, you've repeatedly turned the past three wars against Hamas into no more than a numbers game based on comparative casualties figures with no appreciation of the factors that created these casualties in the first place.
- I have yet to hear you apportion any of the blame for the conflict to the Palestinians. Israel comes off as the eternal villain and the Palestinians the eternal victim. Perhaps, John, the time has come to visit Israel to see things for yourself. A visit to both Israel and the Palestinian territories, free of any restraints, can be arranged.

Victor Gordon

Brooklyn, Pretoria

WOMEN SINGING AT SHOAH EVENTS NOT AN ORTHODOX-PROGRESSIVE ISSUE

The conclusion reached by Geoff Sifrin in his recent Taking Issue column, "What allows you to dictate to me as a Jew?", is pivotal when discussing the ban on women singing at Yom Hashoah; we do need to reach across the aisle and yes, "creative solutions require setting aside egos and Jewish politics".

I would like to differ however on the impression created that the current debate is between Progressive and Orthodox Jews.

In October 2014, the Union of Jewish Women and Bnoth Zion WIZO made submissions to the Board of Deputies in support of the removal of the prohibition. These focused on compromise solutions to accommodate competing rights.

The constitutions of both of these women's organisations include the objective to defend the rights of all Jewish women and the memberships of the UJW and WIZO span Orthodox and Progressive Jews as well as secular and unaffiliated. It is also safe to assume that the majority of their respective memberships are Orthodox women.

In addition, two of the three applicants in the court case who are asking for the removal of the prohibition on women singing at Yom Hashoah, are Orthodox.

Statements from other secular Jewish organisations (SAUJS, Association of Holocaust Survivors, for example) also with memberships that span religious ideologies, are further evidence that this controversy is not a Progressive vs Orthodox one.

I would go further to say that, empirically, this debate is centred in Orthodox communities as many differing opinions on Orthodox interpretations on whether a women should be allowed to sing, are discussed.

Unwittingly and ironically, a consequence of the assumption that this debate finds itself within traditional battle lines, is the side-lining of the voices of Orthodox Jewish women who have advocated for the rights of all Jewish women in this regard.

So while we may be tempted to assume that differences between religious denominations are at play here, the truth is that this debate has not been about Halachic interpretations this time around.

Compromise, consistently advocated by Jewish women in Cape Town over the last two years, is what we should really be talking about. Then the solution, as Geoff so eloquently writes, is well within our ability to achieve.

Beverley May

Cape Town



# Walk in the Footsteps of Giants

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MARGOLIS GETS NOD OF APPROVAL FROM ORTHODOX JEW

I read Julia Margolis' reply to Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, regarding women singers (at Jewish communal events).

I am an Orthodox Jew and a regular member of the Great Park Shul (and want to say): Well done Rabbi Julia, well done!

She has my support on this issue all the time.

Geoff Wald  
Oaklands, Johannesburg

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# Anyone in the market for delicious pizza?

RUTH KIRKEL, PRINCIPAL

To the delight of the children in Jenny Dredzen’s class at Yeshiva College, the “Derech Eretz Pizza Shop” opened for business.

Amidst the fun and enjoyment of ordering “pizza”, choosing the “topping” and combining the “ingredients”, the children learned about and practised a variety of numerical concepts and skills. Pictured is Noa Sweidan waiting to take an “order” from Adina Horwitz and Irv Joss.



# Fun Chinese auction to raise funds for charity

JUDY EBERLIN

Hirsch Lyons Girls’ High School recently hosted a fun and successful Chinese auction fundraising event. A Chinese auction is a combination of a raffle and an auction.

Ohr Natanel, the “School Lunch-Box Project” of Yad Aharon & Michael, was a part-beneficiary.

Pictured are Alice Friedman (MD of Yad Aharon); Michaela Tobias (Hirsch Lyons event organiser); and Beverley Feigenbaum (Ohr Natanel - the Children’s Lunch-Box Project).



# TA Primary kids get in touch with nature

The grade six girls from Torah Academy Primary School recently went on Bushtrail, an environmental camp in the Magaliesberg, which taught them about living with nature and other team building activities. This is an annual adventure for learners from the school. The activities included hiking, an obstacle course, a mud slide and a Tarzan swing.

Pictured are the children enjoying outdoor life to the full.



# A trip that has changed my outlook on the past and the future

JULIA STENZ  
GRADE 11, KING DAVID VICTORY PARK

March of the Living 2016 was the longest, shortest, happiest, saddest as well as the most unbelievable and indescribable experience imaginable.

The International March of the Living is an annual educational programme which brings individuals from all over the world to Poland and Israel, in order to study the history of the Holocaust and to examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate.

Run through the Holocaust and Genocide Centre, 33 grade 11 pupils from Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town were privileged to embark on this life-altering journey.

We started off on a “pilgrimage” to Poland. It is a life-changing experience that will affect everyone. It touches the very core of us all. It is rooted in history and pain, but there is also a legacy.

I have come back from this trip with a huge responsibility. This programme is a call to action. I embarked on a mission as a witness to everything that has happened in the past. I internalised it, memorialised it and now that I have returned, I will speak about it.

We accessed a wealth of Jewish culture and history and visited the remnants of some of the sites where this tragedy took place. The trip enriched me with an education beyond comprehension, about our past, present and future.

I learned, I gained and I felt. March of the Living gave me not only a true understanding and connection to the Shoah, but truly briefed me about the State of Israel, providing opportunities that I never otherwise would have received.

In Israel we accessed many of the voices that make up this crazy, amazing country. We met Arab Israeli students, Bedouin and Ethiopians – and were exposed to their lifestyles. We also experienced Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut in Eretz Yisrael, which was a huge privilege to be part of. I cannot be more grateful to have been a member of the 2016 March of the Living family.



# Three King David Linksfield learners achieve gold for service



King David Linksfield High Principal Lorraine Srage; Senior Deputy Principal Thomas Johnson; Daniel Abrams; Rachel Dave; Deputy Principal Mazal Sacks; and Shane Bassin at the Oprah Winfrey Academy.

DESRE ABRAMS

The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy in Meyerton, south of Johannesburg, hosted the President’s Award, 60th Celebratory Event and Gold Award Ceremony last Sunday.

Prince Edward, as chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Foundation, presented gold certificates to King David High School Linksfield grade 11 pupils Daniel Abrams, Shane Bassin and Rachel Dave.

The award is the culmination of an exciting personal challenge for the trio. They undertook tasks encompassing physical recreation, service to others in the community, skills development, an adventurous journey (hike) and a residential project which aims

to broaden one’s experience away from home.

Fundamental to the programme is the encouragement of self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility and personal growth - traits clearly demonstrated by the group.

These King David gold medallists gave of their services in many different ways. Bassin taught English to Tibetan monks in India; Dave worked with owls at a sanctuary in the Magaliesberg; and Abrams explored leadership roles via Habonim in Cape Town.

In addition, Bassin has been voted chairman of the Gauteng Presidents Award Youth Committee for 2016 and was selected to usher Prince Edward, as well as being one of the three speakers on the day.



# Wide-ranging Jewish Literary Festival fills a cultural gap

**MOIRA SCHNEIDER**  
**CAPE TOWN**

Why is our tax money going to the New Age and Independent Newspapers? This is the question we should be asking, said veteran journalist Ray Joseph who was participating in a panel discussion titled: “Can newspapers survive? The changing face of media” at the sold-out, inaugural Jewish Literary Festival held in Cape Town at the Gardens Community Centre on Sunday.

“Advertising is used as a stick to beat up small independent newspapers, but they’ll be the last ones standing because they survive on the smell of an oil rag,” he maintained.

During the discussion moderated by assistant editor of the Daily Maverick Marianne Thamm, journalist and

author Gus Silber said newspapers in modern society had a huge responsibility to explain events to readers as opposed to merely reporting, citing the SA Revenue Service “rogue unit” story as an example. “Simply putting your story on the front page is no longer good enough, especially in this country.”

Silber described the use of smartphones to access and contribute to news as a “huge development” for journalism, with Joseph stating that the vast majority of younger people were consuming media on their devices.

“So, that means we have to produce media for mobile too, otherwise we don’t do the story.”

The idea of the Festival was born as a result of co-directors Joanne Jowell, Viv Anstey and Cindy Moritz’s expo-

sure to Jewish book festivals around the world.

“We felt there was a gap here and we could do this too,” Moritz told Jewish Report on the sidelines of the event.

“Something so key to Jewish culture is our literary tradition - Jews and words - and we wanted to celebrate that.”

Mirroring the Franschhoek Literary Festival’s format, attendees were offered a full day’s programme with seven parallel sessions in each time slot. The 93 presenters selected, either had to be Jewish, have a Jewish connection or write about Jewish themes. Various tracks included politics, sport, food, psychology and Israel.

Another session saw Thamm in conversation with academic Steven



Photo: Moira Schneider

**Daily Maverick assistant editor Marianne Thamm in conversation with academic Steven Robins, author of “Letters of Stone”, at the inaugural Jewish Literary Festival held on Sunday.**

Robins on his recent book, “Letters of Stone”. Robins had grown up with a photograph of three women in his home in Port Elizabeth, not knowing who they were.

His father had never spoken about his family or his life prior to coming to South Africa from Germany in 1936. It was only much later, as a student of anthropology, that he interviewed his father and discovered that the three women in the photograph were his grandmother and two aunts who had perished during the Holocaust.

The book pieces together the family’s story, aided by the discovery in 2012 of a bundle of letters which had been written by his grandmother and aunts to the family in South Africa between 1936 and 1943 when they were deported.

“My grandmother was desperate to

get out, yet she had to convey to her sons in Africa that things were okay,” Robins noted. “I also had to read between the lines because they were aware of censorship.” There would, for instance, be a devastating line about someone who had gone missing, followed by trivial accounts of cake and coffee evenings, he related. “At certain times, her grammar broke down.”

“My aunt Edith writes about how her classes are shrinking in size every day - I find out this is because of the Kindertransport. She realises this is the end, whereas my grandmother was stoic, religious.”

The “Omer” was a factor in the timing of the Festival, Moritz noted. With no celebrations taking place, the organisers felt that a book event would “fill a gap”. It is hoped that the Festival will become an annual event.



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**NOMINATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE:**

- The nominee's name, telephone number and email address
- The award for which the nominee is nominated
- A short motivation for the nomination

**The closing date for nominations is 24 June 2016.**

**2016**

Absa Jewish Achiever Awards



\* Awarded to either a Jewish or non-Jewish person who has contributed substantially to the betterment of the lives of the people of South Africa. Members of the Board and Staff of the SA Jewish Report are not eligible for nomination.

### Community Column

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

#### Mother City is in celebratory mood this year



**Above Board**  
**Jeff Katz**  
National Chairman

Since the beginning of 2016, a number of events, including a symphony concert and public lectures, have been held in Cape Town as part of a year-long programme marking the 175th anniversary of Jewish communal life in the city.

The founding of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation shortly after the Yom Kippur of 1841, also marked the birth of organised Jewish life in South Africa and indeed southern Africa.

One of the highpoints of the commemorations will be an exhibition, to be hosted by the SA Jewish Museum. This will tell the multifaceted story of Jewish life in this country, not merely by spotlighting those who achieved fame and success, but to a large extent by portraying Jewish life from the perspective of ordinary members of our community.

The Board is assisting in the process, including making available the extensive historic documentation and photographs it has at its disposal. It is intended that once it has been shown in Cape Town, the exhibition will travel to the other major centres throughout South Africa.

Another highpoint of the 175 programme will be the participation of Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of the Commonwealth. In addition to speaking at the Great Synagogue (Gardens’ Shul), the mother congregation of South African Jewry whose 175th anniversary is specifically being celebrated, he will be speaking at the SAJBD’s biennial Gauteng Council conference.

Having someone of Rabbi Mirvis’ stature

taking part, already raises the profile of these events, but there is an additional dimension to this that makes his forthcoming visit even more meaningful. The Cape Town Hebrew Congregation started with a mere 17 members and for its first eight years it had no rabbi. Thereafter, its religious leaders were mainly provided by the Mother Country - Great Britain, whose Chief Rabbi was also heavily relied upon for guidance and input.

The very idea of rabbis, let alone a Chief Rabbi, with a “Made in South Africa” stamp one day making their mark in the UK, was for a long time unthinkable. In the end, though, it became a reality. South African-born and trained rabbis are now found in all parts of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, as well as further afield.

Rabbi Mirvis, who was born in Johannesburg and held his first pulpits in Ireland, is one of them. His presence at the 175th anniversary will testify to how far our community has come since those pioneering days.

A second highly distinguished rabbinical leader who will be in the country around that time is Rabbi David Rosen, one of the foremost Jewish religious leader in the interfaith space. He will be visiting Durban, Cape Town and finally Johannesburg.

While not of South African birth himself, he also as it happens, served for a number of years as rabbi of Cape Town’s prestigious Green and Sea Point Congregation in the 1970s. The Board is partnering with several other organisations in bringing Rabbi Rosen to South Africa and intends giving him maximum exposure to both our community as well as to our inter-faith colleagues.

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

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



A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

## Campus life

Some mornings I purposely get to work very early so that I can watch the massive Sandringham Gardens campus come to life.

The no-nonsense security team members check people leaving and arriving through the entrances at George and Long Avenues. I may be one of the few to elicit a smile and wave. As I drive in, the night nurses are going home after their long shifts in the hospital section.

On my way to the parking area I drive past Morris, a Selwyn Segal resident, making his way to the maintenance department, eager to start his day. Morris is part of the 100-strong World of Work protected employment programme. He takes pride in helping the staff and learning new skills.

Walking into the beautiful little shul I am greeted warmly by the regulars - some from our mental health facilities (the Lodge and Square) and others from the Home. They complain good-naturedly that I don't come to the minyan more often. After davening we walk to the dining room, passing the Nosh Bar on the way. It's not open yet but the residents on duty are busy preparing for the day ahead.

The weather is chilly and breakfast - hot and tasty - is delicious. The catering team start at the break of dawn and have their work cut out



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for them preparing 3 000 meals every day; I go from table to table chatting to the residents and am always amazed by the amount of useful information I gather from casual conversation - how they're feeling, what they're happy about and... not.

I pass some Golden Acres residents walking their dogs on the way to my office. Support services staff are arriving as I get there: finance, operations and marketing.

Just outside there is a lot of vehicle activity - drivers are returning from having delivered Arcadia children to seven different schools; everyone is seated on the bus to Kadimah and it is ready to leave. Our drivers are gently helping elderly patients onto transport to take them to their doctors' appointments.

There are close to 1 000 residents on this campus and around 800 staff members. As the campus wakes, I am always reminded of the essential and meaningful nature of the Chev's work. It's an inspirational message I carry with me into my day.

*This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha*

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# Local dance school invited to dance in New York

MARGOT COHEN

Thirteen dancers between the ages of 12 and 17 from the Bowring Levin School of Dance in Johannesburg, have qualified to dance at the prestigious American Dance Awards in New York in July.

Having won the regional competition in Pretoria in October last year, which included best choreography and overall best group, these top performers are presently perfecting their routines.

The dance school was established in 1992 and is based in Rivonia. Here classes in contemporary, modern and tap dance, are offered to children from the age of five upwards.

A one-night-only showcase fundraiser is being

staged at the Victory Theatre in Orange Grove on June 16, at 18:30. Tickets at R150 each, can be purchased from russb@icon.co.za.

The programme includes routines with intriguing names like The Eye and Running to Standstill.

“It is a wonderful opportunity for dancers from South Africa to dance on the international stage and be judged by American judges of such high calibre” says Adi Levin, co-owner of the dance studio.

The group can’t wait to fly the flag and make South Africa proud.

“If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere,” say their teachers, quoting the iconic lines from the song New York New York.



## Velvet-voiced Laurie Levine nominated for a SAMA

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Singer songwriter Laurie Levine has again been nominated for a SAMA (South African Music Award), South Africa’s equivalent of the Grammy Awards in the category of “Adult Contemporary English”.

She is the first Jewish, female musician in the country to receive a SAMA nomination, and this is her second time being nominated.

The nominees for the 22nd annual SAMA were announced soon after the official launch of Levine’s latest album, “Tigerlily”.

This is Levine’s sixth studio album and is a collaboration with singer songwriter Josie Field. The two musicians have been working together over the last three years.

Their folk duo is a rich blend of Field’s deep, soulful blues tones with Levine’s velvet-honey country inflections.

Levine has the ability to draw on the deep roots of folk music and mix it in with a myriad other influences, including America’s Appalachia region and her native South Africa.

The Johannesburg-based singer has taken her original material to a growing fan base, earning multiple accolades along the way. These include four SAMA nominations and three Standard Bank Ovation Awards at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival.

The UK release of her album Six Winters led to two successful UK tours in 2012 and 2014.

The SAMA award ceremony takes place in Durban on June 4.



## Deep Fried Man out to heat up the Lyric Theatre at Gold Reef Casino

PETER FELDMAN

Daniel Friedman is a young Jewish comedian and musician whose unique satirical take on South Africa, conveyed mostly through the medium of original music, has brought him a wealth of fans, both here and overseas.

Trading under the name Deep Fried Man, he is the son of political analyst Prof Steven Friedman and though he admits that his interest in politics rubbed off from his father, he handles the subject in his show in a different and entertaining manner.

“I play it for laughs. And in the process you sometimes simplify a complex issue,” he told SA Jewish Report.

Deep Fried Man’s new show, In Good Taste, will be staged at the Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City Casino, this coming weekend and according to Daniel comprises all new material.

He said: “Because it’s in a bigger space (the first time he occupies a major stage in such a solo show), we are putting together a host of collaborations, and there will be visuals and an impressive set - it’s basically my usual show but on steroids”, he said tongue-in-cheek.

“I don’t want to give too much away because I’d like to maintain some surprise factor, but the show will feature artists from a range of genres including classical music, hip hop and bluegrass, who will join me on stage.”

Deep Fried Man said the content of the show is political satire. “I usually focus on South African politics and social satire and while that will definitely be in the show, there will also be a lot of international politics (featured).”

Asked about the title, In Good Taste, he explained that, in the first instance, the show will be “a very tastefully done production”, adding that he sometimes tests the bounds of what is in good taste and jokes about it.

The material covers topics

such as Islamic State, apartheid and “even my song on how to end the conflict in the Middle East. So I like to take topics that aren’t funny and try and find the lighter side to them.”

Over the years Deep Fried Man has won awards, performed on some of South Africa’s biggest stages, been part of three Comedy Central TV specials and contributed to Emmy-nominated television shows such as Late Nite News with Loyiso Gola and ZANews: Puppet Nation.

He admits that there is no topic he won’t tackle in his comedy routines and is prepared to take audiences to places that many of his peers are afraid to venture.

Being a creative soul, Deep Fried Man finds inspiration from the everyday world and his songs and humour reflect this.

The new venture is certainly a challenge because he hopes the show will be more visually exciting than anything he’s done before. “One can expect video visuals, looping machines, audience participation, improvisation and musical accompaniment provided by my sidekick, the enigmatic El Niño.”



### World News in Brief

## Netanyahu tells Knesset he’s prepared to take ‘brave steps’ for peace

JERUSALEM – Israel’s PM Netanyahu said in a Knesset speech on Monday he supports the establishment of a Palestinian state as long as it is demilitarised and recognises Israel as a Jewish state.

Netanyahu said he is prepared to take “brave steps” to achieve peace with the Palestinians, despite his scepticism about France’s upcoming summit aimed at restarting peace talks.

Netanyhau also told French PM Manuel Valls, who is visiting Israel and the West Bank to drum up support for his peace initiative, that direct negotiations are the only way to achieve peace. The Palestinians, unlike Israel, have voiced support for France’s conference.

“Peace just does not get achieved

through international conferences,” Netanyahu told Valls.

According to the AP, Netanyahu said he would accept a French initiative that brought him and PA President Mahmoud Abbas together in a room alone to discuss the conflict’s most difficult issues.

During his Knesset speech, Netanyahu did not specify what brave steps he is prepared to take. At the same Knesset session, opposition leader and Zionist Union chief Isaac Herzog accused Netanyahu of “slamming the door” to peace.

Last week, following weeks of reports that Netanyahu was negotiating with the Zionist Union to create a national unity government, the prime minister surprised

many when he invited the right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu party into his governing coalition, appointing former Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman as defence minister.

Last week the right-wing Jewish Home party approvingly described the new coalition as Israel’s “most right-wing government ever”. (JTA)





The young leaders of Melton's Beyond Borders.

# Unique Melton course puts spotlight on the Middle East

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Youth movement leaders, King David learners, Yeshiva College educators and a variety of young adults recently celebrated the conclusion of the first-ever Melton Young Adult Beyond Borders: The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict course in Johannesburg.

This was the first time that young leaders from all walks of the community were able to learn together and to share their views and visions on Israel and the region.

The course provided learners with a text-based historical overview from the late 19th century through to the present.

The course gave participants new tools for understanding, dissecting and critiquing texts and events as the Middle East conflict continues to unfold.

# Israel Centre's Annual Fair and Expo pulls in the crowds

The Israel Centre hosted the very successful Annual Israel Fair/Expo 2016 in Cape Town on May 16 and 17 and in Johannesburg on May 18 and 19.

The Centre said in a media release that Israeli delegates arrived in South Africa to represent their organisations, which included various aliyah departments - employment, absorption and property.

Municipalities from Haifa and Beit Shemesh were on hand to promote their towns too. Representatives from higher education facilities, the Technion, Hebrew University, gap year programmes: Aardvark, Masa and Kol Ami, as well as the Israeli student authority, visited the South African Jewish day schools where they addressed the high school learners, informing them of all the options and opportunities available to them in Israel.

Hundreds of youth, young adults and families took the opportunity to look into what it entails to make aliyah and meaningful programmes offered in Israel.

Those who have missed the expo and would like further information, may e-mail Israel Centre at [israelprog@israelcentre.co.za](mailto:israelprog@israelcentre.co.za) or [aliyah@israelcentre.co.za](mailto:aliyah@israelcentre.co.za) or telephone (011) 645-2560.

# Clem Sunter's scenario: Not all roads lead to Rome



Merlene Daniel; Lorraine Rosmarin (hon life vice-president); Brenda Trope; Joceline Basserabie; guest speaker Clem Sunter; Leslie Fine; and Maureen Shaftoe.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

On Tuesday May 17, WIZO Women Inspired held a very successful evening with Clem Sunter, well-known scenario planner and futurologist.

In the '80s, he coined the phrase the "High Road" to espouse his philosophy. The "High Road" was if we would use negotiation through peace while the "Low Road" was if there was confrontation.

In his talk, he said that thankfully in the '90s South Africa chose to take the "High Road".

Sunter and his colleague have since written a trilogy about scenario and strategy planning, which were immediate bestsellers.

They also predicted that there would be great acts of terror on American soil, going as far as sending a message to (then) President George W Bush a few weeks before 9/11.

Sunter has also been very involved in the awareness campaign of HIV/Aids and helping to develop young entrepreneurs.

# Juggling Too Many Balls?



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**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Contrary to rumours circulating at this time, Dennis Cohen was not dismissed by Catering by Stan and Pete Catering but left by mutual agreement.

Pine Street Shul is hosting a Yom Yerushalayim function on Saturday evening, June 4, at 20:00 sharp. Rabbi Gerson will give a small talk on Jerusalem. Cantor Ezra Sher will present a selection of Jerusalem melodies, to be followed by a DVD “Mekonen” - the journey of an African Jew who became an officer in the IDF. This is a follow-up to Wayne Kopping’s movie “Beneath the Helmet”. Kopping will also be present and give his own commentary on the movie, answering any questions. This will be followed by tea, coffee, cake and hot soup. Cost: R75 pp. Payment at the door. Booking: E-mail lazari@iburst.co.za (011) 728-6366

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## WHO: Israel has world's 6th-highest life expectancy

JERUSALEM - Despite ongoing security threats and regional instability, Israelis can expect to live well into their 80s, according to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) newly released global report on life expectancy. Japan has the world's highest average life expectancy - nearly 84 years - followed by Switzerland, Singapore, Australia, and Spain. Israel came in sixth. The shortest life expectancy belongs to Sierra Leone, with women in that country only expected to live to about 51 years and men about 59 years. Israelis can expect an average lifespan of 82,5 years – 80,6 for men and 84,3 for women, according to WHO. This sharply contrasts with some of Israel's neighbours, including Jordan (74 years), Egypt (71 years), and Syria (65 years). (JNS.org)

## Intel to close production plant in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM - The American technology giant Intel Corporation will close its Jerusalem-based production plant by the end of this year, transferring the plant's 170 employees to Intel's Kiryat Gat facility in southern Israel, Globes reported. The closure follows the announcement of 12 000 layoffs by Intel around the world. A small number of Intel's Jerusalem employees will be laid off, but it is not yet clear how many of the chip maker's 10 000 R&D employees across Israel will be affected the company's streamlining plan. Amid a decline in sales for Intel computer chips, the California-headquartered company is reportedly shifting its focus to wearable technology, cloud computing, and data servers. (JNS.org)

## What's On

**Friday (May 27)**

- Shalom Masorti Seniors Club hosts Pearl Siegel who will speak about her book. “7 Tried and Tested Triangles”. Contact: Esther (011) 485-5619 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings

- Second Innings is arranging an outing to Kees Beyers Chocolate Factory. Bus will depart from Golden Acres at 09:00. Cost: R140 includes the bus and the tour. Book with Betty Jankelowitz (011) 440-4751 or Pearl Kahn (011) 346-2975.

**Saturday evening (May 28)**

- Yale University's famous Magevet singers, the leading American Jewish a cappella youth choir, is in Johannesburg for one night only. They draw from traditional liturgy, contemporary Israeli pop and folk songs. Venue: Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, Parktown. Time: 20:00. Tickets: R150 per person. Booking: Ilana (011) 646-6170 or e-mail office@beitmanuel.co.za

**Sunday (May 29)**

- WIZO Etgar hosts a 5km fun “Walk for WIZO”. Venue: Huddle Park. Time: 09:00. Cost: Adults: R175, Children under 12: R50 and dogs R10. Free T-shirt for first 300 adults to register. Registration: Jenny (011) 645-2515 or wizojhb@beyachad.co.za

- The Rwandan community in Cape Town, the East African Society (EASOC) and

Friends of Rwanda, host the 22nd commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. Venue: Cape Town Holocaust Centre, Gardens. Time: 14:00 - 16:00. The event will include the screening of the documentary “A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake”, the lighting of candles and an address from the High Commissioner of Rwanda in South Africa. RSVP: (021) 462-5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za

- JH&GC, Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, SACRED and Bet David, host a discussion between Israel's Ambassador Arthur Lenk and German Ambassador Walter Lindner on “Dealing With a Complicated Past, Creating a Common Future” Time: 3pm Venue: JHGC, Forest Town. Time: 15:00. Seating limited. Booking: shirley@jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-3100/2148.

- Second Innings hosts Sue Tinsley, counselling psychologist, on “Dealing with Loss and Grief in Ageing”. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman: (011) 532-9701.

- JAFFA Aged Home in Pretoria hosts a cappella singing group Magevet, from Yale University. It has been called “one of the finest a cappella groups in the US”. Liturgical, traditional and modern arrangements of Jewish Hebrew and Israeli songs. Time: 19:00. For ticket prices contact Mark Isaacs on (012) 346-2006.

A light finger supper will be served.  
• JWBS is hosting the Sonia Bernstein Book Fair/Portabella Market/Milk Deli from 09:00 - 13:00 at Jabula Recreation Centre, Sandringham. Information: (011) 485-5232.

**Monday (May 30)**

- UJW Adult Education Division hosts Hamilton Wende, adventurer, author and TV presenter, on “Ancient Rome's Incursions Down the Nile in the Time of Nero”, an audiovisual presentation. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R40. Contact: UJW offices: (011) 648-1053.

**Tuesday (May 31)**

- JJAC invites Jewish singles aged 27 - 49 to a Ster Kinekor movie night at 19:00. E-mail whatson@jjac.co.za for venue details.

**Thursday (June 2)**

- JJAC invites Jewish singles aged 27 – 49 to a table tennis and games evening at 19:00 in the Youth Centre of Sandton Shul. Cost: R25 per person, first time is free. E-mail whatson@jjac.co.za to book.

- Bet David Sandton hosts a “Study Session on Shavuot & Pentecost in the Jewish and Christian Tradition”. Guest Rev Michael Diezun from Midrand Lutheran Church & St Johannes Lutheran Church. Venue: Bet David, Time: 18:00. RSVP: admin2@betdavid.org.za



# SA’s ‘Little Rafa’ looks very much like a future ‘Big Rafa’

ILAN HERRMANN

He hits a forehand with the ferocity of a senior player. At 13, Dylan Salton is a rising star and has now moved up the rankings to becoming second in South Africa for his age category in tennis.

Dylan doesn’t like to talk much and as he puts it: “I’d rather let my game do the talking.” And it does. He has recorded some impressive wins at both provincial and at SA national schools’ levels and is now gearing up to playing Junior International Tennis Federation-affiliated tournaments, which will enable ITF points to be won and for him to develop a ranking on the international stage. If successful, this could lead to qualification for ITF international junior tournaments.

This King David Linksfield learner took a liking to tennis when he was only five years old and he enrolled in sessions at Glenhazel courts. He subsequently moved to Old Eds and then in 2012 found his home at the Real Athletes Tennis Academy, one of the top tennis academies in

the country, run by national Federation Cup captain, Earl Grainger.

Grainger speaks glowingly of Dylan: “He is a fantastic talent. He has a major passion for the sport and a great work ethic. He has all the assets to succeed and although it’s a long road with many challenges to come, at this moment I can say he has a future in the game.”

Dylan is an all-rounder and led his school’s soccer team as captain and had played school cricket until Grainger recognising his exceptional talent, recommended he should make a choice of where he wanted to focus in his sport. Dylan chose tennis.

Dylan generally trains five days a week with sessions of about two to three hours. He has a voluminous forehand and a smashing serve; with his strength also being in his topspin, shape of hit and depth of shot. One of the stand-out qualities that he possesses is in his consistency, giving his all to his game.

He is a left-hander and has an uncanny likeness in his style to that of Rafael

Nadal. He has in fact been called “Little Rafa”.

Young Dylan has won many tournaments, including the recent 1000 Wilson Challenge. He qualified for the SA high schools’ provincial team, despite being younger than many of the other competing players. He qualified for Maccabiah 2017.

Although devoting many hours to tennis, he is equally committed to his academic studies. His mother insists that he will first finish his schooling and then, if tennis doors are open to him, they will consider a career move for him in the form of a scholarship in the US.

“Little Rafa” met “Big Raffa” two years ago when Dylan went to the Tennis Academy in Majorca, Spain, for a two-week clinic. It was an unforgettable experience which opened his eyes to the far more enriched European style and experience of tennis. Observers noted that his game was well suited to the clay courts there.

**Dylan Salton in a combative mood on court.**



# Sera to carry on four generations of Maccabi involvement

JACK MILNER

South Africa has been involved in Maccabiahs since the first event was quickly arranged in 1932. Over the years there are people in South Africa who have had generations of their family involved in Maccabi Games.

When 16-year-old Sera Shor (pictured) attends next year’s Maccabi Games - in July - she will become the fourth generation of her family to have been involved in the Games.

Sera recently flew to Cape Town where trials were held to select a junior under-18 netball team. She was one of nine girls selected to represent South Africa at Maccabiah.

She attends Yeshiva Girls’ High School in Johannesburg and, when in grade 7, she shared the netball award. In grade 9 she was awarded half colours and another award was garnered the following year. She also plays indoor netball on a weekly basis.



Sera is the youngest family member to have achieved Maccabi colours. Her great-grandfather, Abe Levenstein, was the oldest member of the family to attend the Maccabiah. He managed the 1985 cricket team and was a well-respected administrator.

Sera’s grandfather, Jack Lurie, has devoted almost a lifetime to the Maccabi movement. He began his career as the football manager

in 1977 and was a long-time member of the board of Maccabi South Africa.

Jack’s wife, Sandra, was also involved in the movement and represented South Africa in the lawn bowls competition in 2009.

Sera’s uncle, Brian Levenstein, participated in two Maccabiahs as a left-arm spinner in cricket and her mother, Kim, was a member of the medical team at the 1993 Games.

# Dream comes true for Hermina



**Holocaust survivor, 89-year-old Hermina Hirsch performs The Star-Spangled Banner last weekend at Comerica Park prior to a Tigers game against the Tampa Bay Rays.**

JACK MILNER

Almost everybody has one dream they wish would come true and fortunately for some it does.

The city of Detroit has a large Jewish community and one of them is Hermina Hirsch, 89. Hirsch, a Holocaust survivor, was finally given the opportunity to fulfil a lifelong dream, namely to sing the American national anthem at a Major League baseball game.

She performed The Star-Spangled Banner last weekend at Comerica Park prior to the Tigers playing the Tampa Bay Rays.

In an interview last month with the Detroit television station WWJ, Hermina called on the club to allow her to sing and said she would not be nervous singing in front of thousands of baseball fans.

“If I lived through the concentration camp, it couldn’t be that bad,” Hirsch said. “I don’t want to die before I sing at a baseball game.”

She was born in Czechoslovakia and had to endure a series of Nazi camps, beginning in 1944, at the age of 17. She was liberated in January 1945.

She has been a Tigers fan since moving to Detroit with her husband in 1953.

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# HEAVEN SENT

## 3 JUNE



Join thousands of children and parents worldwide as we gather together once more for Generation Sinai. This year we will unlock some of the mysteries, interesting facts and historical context of the famous prayer we say after eating bread – Birkat Hamazon or bensching.

Did you know that Moses himself composed the first paragraph, word for word? Have you ever wondered why bread is so special? Find out how the act of eating an everyday meal can become an exercise in mindfulness.

Join your child on **Friday morning 3 June** at their school to find out.