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Jewish Report

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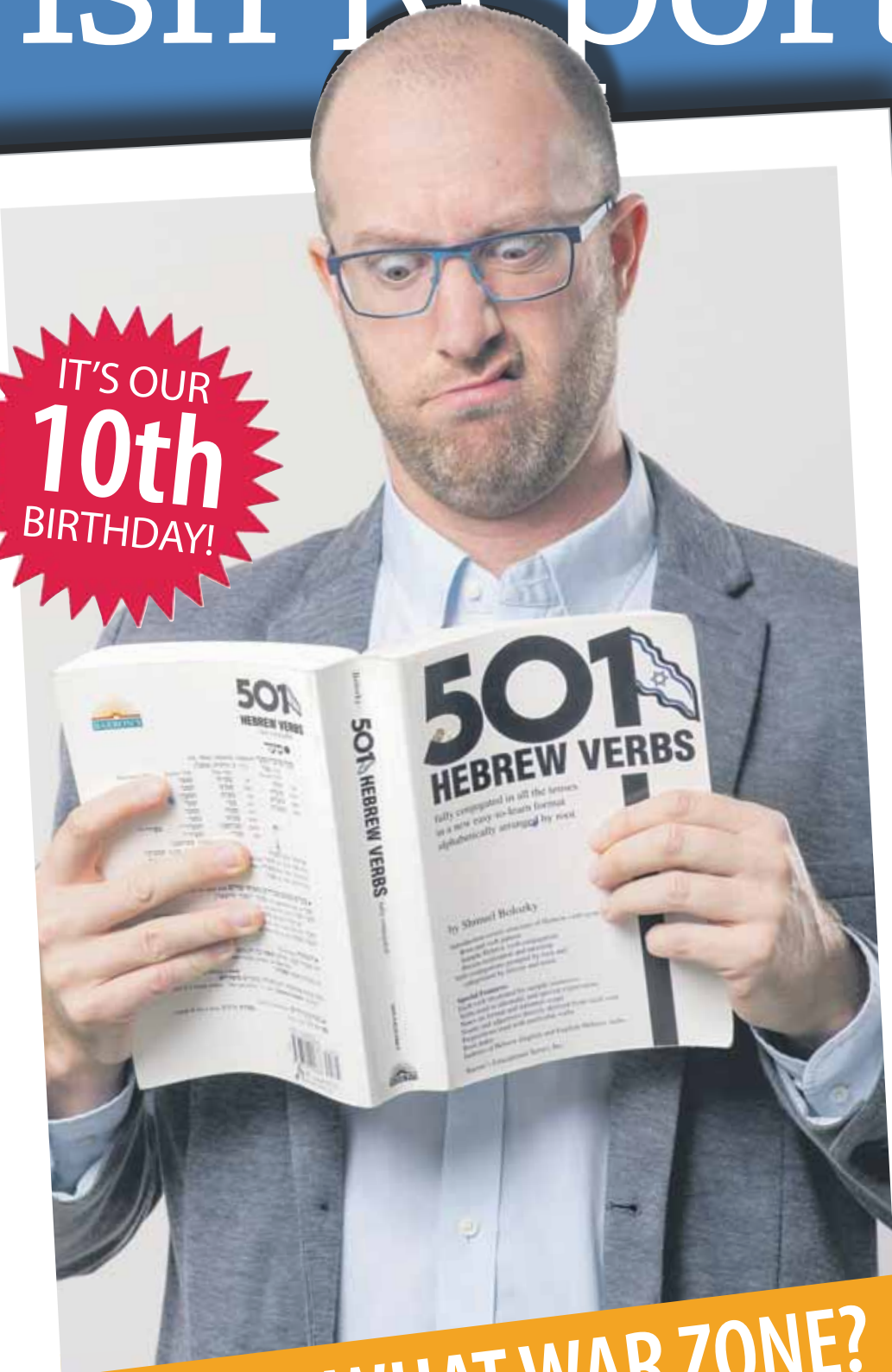
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- A New York-based performer whom Lady Gaga loves;
- Find out about Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean?

Limmud has a dedicated following for whom the event is the highlight of SA's Jewish calendar. Limmud always runs out of space so book as soon as you can. For more information or to register go to www.limmud.org.za

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more. His humorous discourse breaks down the differences between Jews in Israel and abroad. Benji's keen insights shed new, exhilarating light on both the challenges and marvels of life in Israel. His annual Yom Ha'atzmaut list of things he loves about Israel has developed a huge following and we have no doubt that he will have a huge following in Africa after Limmud SA 2016.

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Fifty Shades of Anti-Semitism-Varying Degrees of Hate

HUSSEIN SOLOMON
Author of “Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Africa”, and “Islamic State and the Coming Global Confrontation”
Towards Armageddon: The Role of Religion in Islamic State

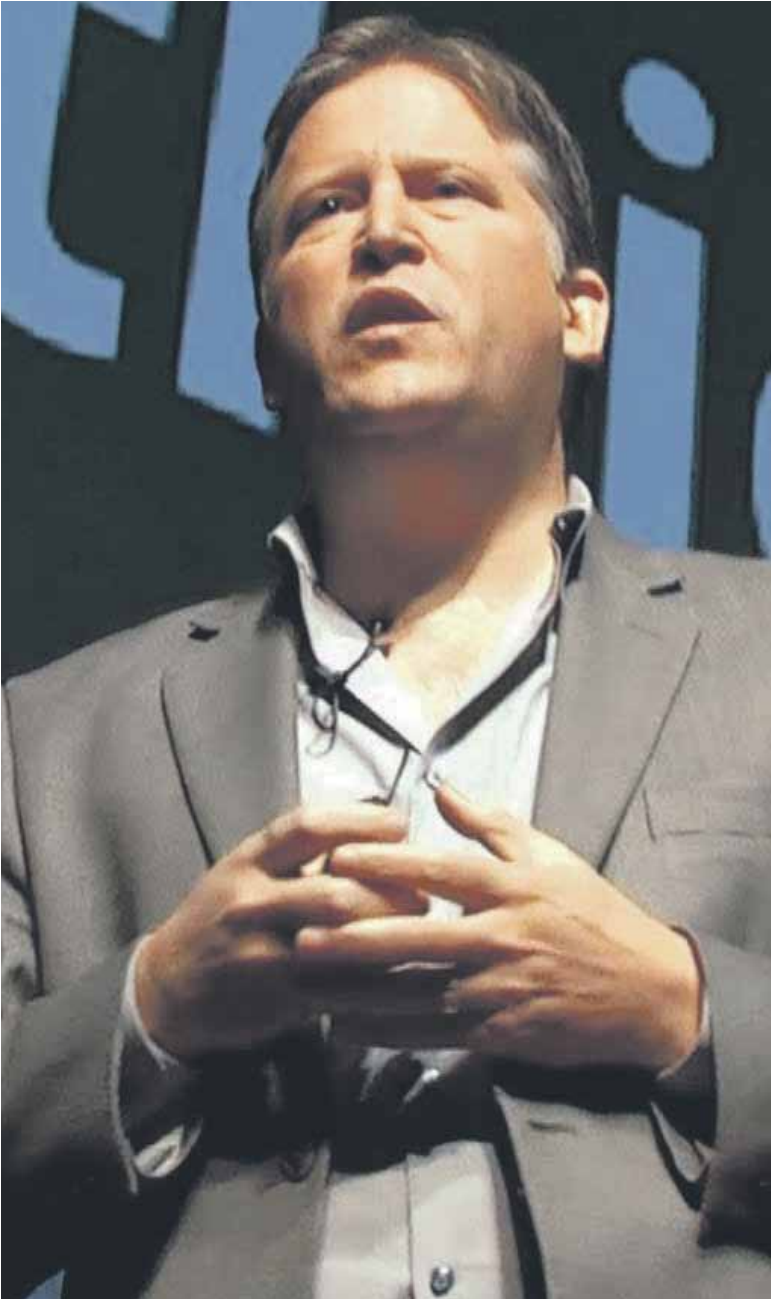
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Rivonia trialist and social justice campaigner
Chronicle a Life: Fighting for Freedom

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Defining Africa: A Continent in Flux

MIRIAM COHEN
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Reimagining relationship myths. Leaning In: how to sustain conscious intimate relationships



SCIENCE FICTION? WE’RE LIVING IT

PAUL ROOT WOLPE
United States Ethicist, futurist, scientist

Paul Root Wolpe is NASA’s Senior Bioethicist and past winner of the World Technology Network Awards in Ethics. He is a futurist fascinated with the religious and ethical impact of technology on the human condition. Root Wolpe is the Candler Professor of Bioethics, Schinazi Professor of Jewish Bioethics and Director of the Centre for Ethics at Emory University

in Atlanta. He is Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Bioethics Neuroscience.

His TedTalk- *It’s time to question bio-engineering* - has been viewed over one million times.

Paul’s sessions include *Frankenstein and the Golem, If I Am Only My Genes, What Am I? Jewish Identity And The Genetic Self, How Can Judaism Help Us Solve Modern Ethical Dilemmas* and *The Dilemma Of Saul: Ending Suffering By Ending Life.*



TALMUDIC TRAILBLAZER

GILA FINE, Israel
Talmud scholar and educator

Gila Fine is an innovative educator with modern and insightful views on the Talmudic narrative, which she has taught at Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Pardes, and the Shalom Hartman Institute. Gila has been described as the next Aviva Gottlieb Zorenberg.

Besides, teaching Talmud, she is the ghostwriter behind several well-known books and is the editor of

Maggid Books in Jerusalem. She is the former editor of the quarterly journal Azure: Ideas for the Jewish Nation.

Go in-depth with Gila in a three-part series on Talmudic heroines: *The Shrew (Yalta), the Femme Fatale (Homa), and the Madonna (Heruta).*

Some key principles

FAMILY DISCOUNTS: Limmud SA is an intergenerational learning experience! If you would like to attend the Limmud conference for the weekend with your family, you could qualify for a discount of up to 40%. To apply, please contact us at conference@limmud.org.za

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

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

Yes, you can bring the kids too

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

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

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

For primary school-age children there is a full programme of activities on offer as part of Young Limmud. Sessions cover a broad range of interests, including arts and crafts, interactive games, sports, drama and music.

For young adults we have a unique and stimulating Limmud Youth programme to supplement the main session choices – which will allow participants to engage more deeply on issues that affect the youth today.

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

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Jewish Report

■ August 5 2016 / 1 Av 5776
 ■ Volume 20 - No. 1

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Voting for our futures

South Africans around the country lined up on Wednesday to cast their vote in the 2016 municipal elections. A total of 26.3 million citizens were registered to vote, according to the Independent Electoral Commission and people were queuing from 7 am. Pictured here is Jonathan Golovey and his daughter Jade, who accompanied her father to cast his ballot at Summerwood Primary School in Johannesburg.

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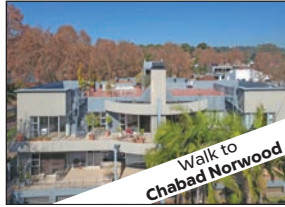
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Inheritance revisited



Parshat Matot-Masei
Reverend Joseph Matzner
Unaffiliated

There is something deeply spiritual about the inheritance that comes down to us from our parents or that we bequeath to our children. The laws of inheritance were taught to Moshe in response to the bnos (daughters of) Tzelofchad’s request concerning their share in their father’s inheritance in the Holy Land, which means that the halachot, rules and regulations of inheritance we apply today, are those derived from the method used to

partition the land. Everything has a Divine source and inheritance is no exception. If the above is true, then it goes without saying that it would be out of the question to gamble or fritter our inheritance away on useless extravagance. Our inheritance should be treated with deep respect and appreciation. It is, for example, forbidden to divert or disinherit a child as this causes anger in heaven. Inheritance has to find its way to the children. Inheritance can also travel backwards. In the absence of heirs, the yerusha (inheritance) returns to the previous generations, all the way back, sometimes even to Adam Harishon the first proprietor.

We can now return to our parsha. The Bnos Tzelofchad were given full permission to marry whomsoever they pleased, but they decided to marry only into their own tribe. In doing so, they revealed that they understood that the prime objective of inheritance is the perpetuation of name and legacy. The Torah also perpetuates the journeys of the Children of Israel, all their journeys including ours today. The travels of the Jewish people in the desert was a triumph over the desert. The travels of the Jewish people ever since, will also prove to have been a triumph over all empty ideologies of the world. Thus, the sefer Bamidbar ends with a joyous recapitulation of all Jewish journeys,

for they were all enormously precious. Our response is a resounding *chazak chazak venitcheik*.

Shabbat Times		
Parshat Matot-Masei August 5 / 1 Av August 6 / 2 Av		
Starts	Ends	
17:26	18:16	Johannesburg
17:52	18:45	Cape Town
17:08	18:00	Durban
17:29	18:20	Bloemfontein
17:23	18:17	Port Elizabeth
17:16	18:09	East London

Absa Achiever Awards 2016

Time running out to book a seat for social event of the year

ANT KATZ

The top social event on the annual South African Jewish calendar is without doubt the Absa Jewish Achiever and Jewish Report awards gala banquet - and it is just a few weeks away, on Sunday August 28. What’s more, this year’s black-tie fundraiser promises to be the best ever - and that’s saying a lot as anyone who has attended the event before can vouch for. Nominations for the 2016 Jewish Achiever Awards have closed and winners have been chosen. Their names are locked away and will only be revealed on the night. There are still a limited number of individual seats and tables available - but, as in previous years, it is bound to be a sell-out affair as space at the prestigious VodaWorld venue is limited.

To avoid disappointment, make sure you book soon! Email RSVP@sajewishreport.co.za and book your seats or tables. Last month Absa signed another big, multi-year sponsorship contract - much of it for the networking and entertainment value they and their clients derive from the event. Read what some of last year’s attendees had to say to Suzanne Belling about the event: **BARBARA LEVY**, whose late



The scene at last year's Achiever banquet.

husband Ivan was in the forefront of leadership in the SAJBD and other communal organisations, said the Achievers had reconnected her with the community. “The event is too wonderful. It brings people together, recognises business and other achievement and, especially with young entrepreneurship, encourages people to stay in South Africa, realising the country still has a lot to offer.” **GRAHAM KLUK**, husband of the President of the South African

Jewish Board of Deputies, Mary Kluk, felt the Achievers banquet provides an opportunity for people to get together once a year and celebrate the triumphs and activities of the Jewish community. “I have been twice before and am very impressed - it’s fantastic,” he said. **STACEY SWARTZBERG**, who was part of the Discovery table, stressed the importance of bringing the Jewish community together in a social setting. “The

Jews of South Africa make a vast contribution to the GDP of the country. It is fantastic that they always give back huge amounts to both the Jewish and general communities,” she said. **STEVEN DAVE** is “proudly South African” and even wore a bowtie in the colours of the national flag to identify with this feeling. He said SA has provided its Jewish citizens with the opportunity to achieve. “Of course, we have a little bit of tsoris, but

let’s not even go there! It is always good to recognise and acknowledge the success of entrepreneurs and go-getters,” he stressed. **JONATHAN COOPER** said an evening such as the Jewish Achiever Awards sends out a message to the “detractors of Jews that in this show of unity, we are part of progress and achievement - an important part of society and business. The vibe is amazing and this event is unique - something we can claim as our own.” **SASHA STAR** - ChaiFM newsreader, who covers worldwide events on radio, including reporting on the Oscars in Hollywood, said that for her, the event is “basically the Jewish Oscars”. **ANTONY SEEFF** described the gala dinner as “incredible” and “an event the community should be proud of”. He said celebrating success is encouraging. “I am proud to be part of this as it is important to get a dose of positivity in this day and age.” **VICKI KUPER**, a veteran communal worker for the Jewish NGO ORT, said the composition of her table was a microcosm of people in South Africa and was an example of ubuntu. “I now understand what ubuntu means and also why Jews and Afrikaners get on so well together, according to a remark that was passed at our table.” The event is underrated, she believes.

‘Kol isha’: Wendy Kahn misquoted in article

“The SA Jewish Report apologises to the National Director of the SAJBD Wendy Kahn for misquoting her in “Kol isha dispute settled out of court”. In response to the journalist’s question as to whether the settlement would be binding throughout the country, she said that “all regions of the SAJBD are committed to working towards finding solutions to address this important issue”. The inference made by the misquote in the article was that it had been made mandatory for all SAJBD regions to adopt the solution arrived at by the Cape Board, which is not true. With regard to “kol isha”, there had been a sincere commitment to the values of community consultation and conciliation, and it had been able to resolve the dispute in a spirit of openness, dialogue and inclusion of all views. “This same spirit of goodwill shown in Cape Town will continue throughout other regions of the country, with each SAJBD region working with its constituents to find a constructive solution for the ceremony.”

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Thulsie case: The dilemma of highly sensitive evidence

ANT KATZ

What was supposed to be a bail hearing for the alleged Thulsie “Terror Twins” - Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee (23) - has not materialised over the past 10 days because the brothers’ defence team launched its own application in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court to have their arrests and subsequent detentions declared unlawful.

The pair were among five people arrested last month and charged under the “terrorism” act for, among other things, “planning to cause explosions at a Mission of the USA and Jewish institutions” and that “such conspiracy and incitement was intended to spread feelings of fear and terror ... in particular to the US and Jewish sector” of the community at large. The “accused had committed themselves” to ISIS, according to the provisional charge sheet which can be read on the Jewish Report website.

The nub of their defence is that the pair were arrested without an arrest warrant.

The arresting officer, Warrant Officer Wynand Olivier, in the Johannesburg Magistrates’ Court on Tuesday testified that while it was correct that the police had set out to search the Thulsies’ homes with a search warrant, “it was evidence found at their homes that prompted their arrest”.

The Hawks, the police’s elite priority crime unit has “strong evidence” linking the two to ISIS. South Africa had been tipped off about the twins by “foreign intelligence agencies”.

A fifth suspect was arrested along with the Thulsies and the Patel siblings of Azaadville.

Magistrate Pieter du Plessis says he will base his decision on the legality of the arrest on the credibility of the evidence presented by the State.

Originally listed as “Jewish institutions”, the targets have been relabelled by the National Prosecuting Authority as “Jewish cultural sites”.

According to the provisional charge sheet the Thulsies were arrested at their Newclare homes on July 8.

The Hawks two days later stated that the twins, together with the Patel siblings - Ibrahim (20) and Fatima (24) - had been stopped trying to travel to Syria to join ISIS.

The Patels were arrested for firearm contraventions only and managed to get bail quickly.

After their attempt had been thwarted, the Thulsies allegedly began planning to build bombs and attack a “US diplomatic mission and Jewish institutions” in South Africa.

It transpired that the Hawks had only had a search warrant and that they found a list of intended targets and some sort of partially assembled bomb-related device - but no explosives. But it seems other state security agencies have got their hands on some of the evidence as neither the Hawks nor the NPA admit to having

them in their possession.

Late last week, the Thulsies’ defence attorney Annelene van den Heever had asked the court to declare the arrest of the twins “unlawful”, as the police had only arrived with a search warrant.

Magistrate Du Plessis ordered prosecutors to provide prima facie evidence to show that the arrests were, in fact, legal. Normally, under a schedule six offence such as terrorism, it is extremely unlikely that bail will be granted. If, however, NPA prosecutors are unable to show that the police found sufficient evidence to arrest the twins on a schedule six offence, things may start falling apart for them.

A source inside the investigation team told Jewish Report that the prosecutors did have sufficient evidence. The problem is, according to the source, that South Africa’s national intelligence agencies may be forced to compromise both this case and other alliances and joint operations between this country and foreign intelligence agencies should they have to reveal their evidence and its origins at this stage.

Van den Heever had the arresting officer in the dock when proceedings were ended for the day and remanded until Thursday.

The NPA officials will have to determine what evidence is enough to counter the defence’s assertions.

If prosecutors are able to prove that the arrests were, in fact, legitimate, the bail application will proceed and the onus will be on the twins to show that there are exceptional circumstances that justify their release.

WO Olivier resumed giving evidence on Thursday morning. He earlier told the magistrate after Van den Heever’s questions that reports by foreign intelligence agencies has been corroborated by the evidence obtained on the day of the raids.

He testified that he only applied for a search warrant for the brothers’ properties because, at the time the investigation was ongoing.

When the information that had been provided by foreign intelligence agencies was corroborated by the evidence police found on the day of the raids, only then had they contemplated arresting the twins.

He says during the raids they obtained the required evidence which then provided the grounds to arrest the twins.

The fifth suspect, Ronaldo Smith, gave the Hawks a statement after they raided his house, implicating the Thulsies. He had apparently agreed to turn state witness, but had since recanted.

However, NPA spokesman Phindi Louw told Jewish Report that there is no provision in SA law for a person who agrees to turn state witness to either recant his/her evidence nor change their status.

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Jews brave winter cold for a very good cause



The Levy Brothers with Miss South Africa, Ntandoyenkosi Kunene.

Photos: Ian Ossendwyer

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CEO of Investec, Stephen Koseff, gets ready to sleep the night out on the Nelson Mandela Bridge.

Members of the Jewish community were an integral part of this year's Sun International CEO SleepOut.

Among the numerous chief executives who braved the chilly Johannesburg winter night on the Nelson Mandela Bridge in the Johannesburg CBD last week Thursday were Investec's Stephen Koseff; Blue Label's Brett and Mark Levy; JJ Milner of Global Micro Solutions; and Discovery Vitality's Barry Sundelson.

Some of the Jewish day schools also participated in the SleepOut with learners arriving at their school campuses armed with warm clothes and sleeping bags for a night outside in an effort to understand the realities of homelessness.

Approximately R30 million was donated and already in the bank by the time the event kicked off. The SleepOut is expected to bring in R40 million this year over last year's

R36 million.

Despite the various protests at the site by students over student accommodation and critics questioning the sincerity of wealthy individuals with expensive equipment sleeping outside, the event is still the most successful fundraising initiative in South Africa.

Organisers said that next year's SleepOut is likely to take place on Robben Island.

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Jayna Goldstuck asleep.



Dina Diamond, Jewish Report board, and Kevin Fine, Jacaranda FM.

Berland finally faces sexual charges

ANT KATZ

The Jerusalem Magistrates’ Court was last week Friday presented with an indictment against “fugitive” Rabbi Eliezer Berland, who is accused of several counts of sexual misconduct and assault.

Berland, leader of his Breslov chasidic community’s Shuvu Banim sect, was also indicted for alleged abuse of authority. He was remanded in police custody for the duration of his trial.

Prosecutor Shmulik Barzilay asked Judge Hanna Miriam Lomp to deny Berland bail, explaining that Berland was considered a serious flight risk. “This is someone who conducted a three-continent journey, went from country to country, and fled the

United States, Morocco, Zimbabwe, South Africa and The Netherlands.”

Barzilay told the judge that Berland had fled Holland “despite depositing €50 000 bail money” (which he forfeited). “The rabbi has not just the will to flee, but the ability as well,” the judge heard. “He has the ability to get on planes, get a fake passport, an Ivory Coast diplomatic passport (and the ability to get sums of money.”

Berland was handed over by Interpol agents to Israeli police two weeks ago, after having been extradited from South Africa. Israeli police have questioned the rabbi extensively. Then, on the Sunday before last, the police put the rabbi (who had spent the bulk of his three-year exile in South Africa) face-to-face with some

of his four accusers. Some Israeli newspapers reported that Rabbi Berland had made a confession on tape, but his defence team denied that at last Friday’s hearing. The charges brought by the Jerusalem District Attorney’s Office last week Friday against the sickly 79-year-old Berland, were that:

- Berland allegedly kissed and hugged a minor against her will during a counselling session;
- The rabbi had grabbed and groped a woman seeking spiritual guidance, despite her pushing him away. The prosecution said Berland “forced physical contact” on the woman, and even “offered to give her money to buy a car, so she could visit him”;
- The third count alleges Berland forcibly kissed another female follower without her consent;
- The fourth count details how the rabbi grabbed one of the complainants, forcibly kissed her, groped her and tried to disrobe her;
- The rabbi is also accused of ordering two of his followers to assault a man who had exposed Berland’s actions and threatened to go to the authorities.

The attorney acting for all four complainants, Sara Markowitz, asked the prosecution to completely conceal her clients’ identity after a few of them had received threats for coming forward. The State Attorney’s office granted the request.

Rabbi Berland was represented by attorney Rachel Toren, who told

reporters last week Friday: “Regardless of all the media attention, this case boils down to basic charges of indecent acts allegedly carried out five and nine years ago. We have no doubt these charges will be refuted soon.”

Police say that all of the complainants claim that Berland asked them to cite the Tikkun HaKlali prayer while committing his indecent acts. Berland himself has denied all of this.

He fled his Shuvu Banim yeshiva in Israel when police sought to question him in April 2013 regarding their investigation into his alleged misconduct which was launched in 2012. Rabbi Berland was eventually arrested in Johannesburg earlier this year and extradited to Israel two weeks ago.

The court extended Berland’s arrest until further notice and set down his next court appearance for August 10.

Among the text of the indictment

(or charge sheet in South African legal parlance) was a paragraph that read: “The defendant kissed one of the complainants on the cheek and forehead and hugged her. While hugging her, he grabbed the complainant’s chest over her clothes and she felt his body shiver. The defendant did this while exploiting his status as a community leader and his religious authority.”

After several incidents of his followers attacking law enforcement officials during the course of legal proceedings against him, Rabbi Berland issued a signed instruction telling his followers to refrain from harming security forces or anyone escorting him during the investigation into the allegations.

“Anyone who loves the rabbi must beware that he does not do him harm,” the notice signed by Berland says according to Channel 10 TV.

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Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men pray during a demonstration in support of Rabbi Eliezer Berland, ahead of his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport on July 19.

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OPINION

Parliament is currently reviewing legislation on hate crimes and a new draft will come before Parliament in September. The SA Jewish Report hears from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies about their views and submissions regarding new laws as well as a differing view from David Bilchitz, Professor of Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Johannesburg.

Walking fine line between permitted and prohibited forms of expression

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies

South Africa’s much cherished culture of inclusivity, equality and non-racialism, launched with such pride and optimism in 1994 has been coming under serious pressure in recent years.

The ubiquity of social media racism, combined with the mounting instances of racially-charged rhetoric in the political arena and continuing xenophobic violence against foreign migrants, is undermining national unity at a time when the country is facing a range of critical challenges.

The South African government, in evident recognition of the seriousness of the problem, has in the course of this year embarked on a number of far-reaching initiatives to combat racism and related intolerance at every level of society. This includes the launch of a “National Action Plan to combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance” (NAP) and the drafting of new anti-hate crimes legislation that will come before Parliament in September.

From the outset, the SAJBD’s position has

been that while the right to freedom of expression is indeed a crucial pillar of democracy, this right does not extend to what can be regarded as “hate speech”, whether based on race, religion, ethnicity, nationality or other grounds concerning a person’s intrinsic identity.

To this end the SAJBD has over the years made significant input into public policy relating to freedom of expression and its limitations, including the post-apartheid Constitution and the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA).

As previously reported, the Board has this year made submissions on the NAP, the annual Constitutional Review and the Film and Publications Amendment Bill. It will do likewise with the new hate crimes legislation when the time comes.

The submissions made, while focusing on hate speech questions, have further made recommendations relating to the broadening of tolerance education and strengthening such statutory regulatory bodies as the SA Human Rights Commission.

The most far-reaching - and controversial - aspect of the Board’s recommendations

concerns how prohibited hate speech should be defined. Currently, the relevant section in the Bill of Rights states that the right to freedom of expression does not extend to: (a) propaganda for war; (b) incitement of imminent violence; or (c) advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

The Board, largely based on its own experiences in pursuing anti-Semitic hate speech cases in various forums, has taken the view that the third leg of this definition takes an overly-narrow approach when it comes to defining and identifying proscribed forms of expression, since it would appear that “advocacy of hatred” on the grounds listed would be proscribed only when coupled with “incitement to cause harm”. This definition, it was submitted, did not take into account the realities of how damaging racist hate speech was in and of itself, even though in most cases, such offensive discourse did not involve direct “incitement to cause harm”.

To illustrate its contention, the Board pointed to the now notorious Penny Sparrow affair, which concerned a Facebook post likening black holidaymakers on Durban’s beaches to

flurry of anti-white responses, many of which clearly did constitute incitement to cause harm (the comment that attracted widespread attention was that of Gauteng government employee Velaphi Khumalo stating that blacks should act towards white people “as Hitler did to the Jews”, but there were scores of others).

Some have expressed serious misgivings about the SAJBD’s approach, arguing that it may become a slippery slope leading to the censoring of legitimate viewpoints. In response, it is necessary to emphasise that the Board in no way advocates laws curtailing freedom of debate, nor the right of people to disagree, even strenuously, with one another.

It is acceptable to attack a person’s ideas, but not when this takes the form of gratuitous and offensive attacks on such a person’s identity, whether based on racial, religious, ethnic, gender or other grounds listed in PEPUDA and elsewhere.

It is true that establishing where the boundaries lie between permitted and prohibited forms of expression is not an exact science, but that does not render the challenge of attempting to do so insurmountable.

By addressing each incident on a case-by-case basis, and applying basic principles of objectivity, empathy and common sense, those charged with ruling on such questions should be able to come up with broadly acceptable guidelines for determining what crosses the line and what doesn’t. Through this, it will hopefully be possible to greatly reduce the current levels of racist discourse in South African society, which contribute so much to the already unhealthy levels of anger, mistrust, resentment and fear that permeate it and militate so strongly against people working together for the common good.



Hate speech: Should Constitution be amended to ban it?

In a recent submission, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) has put forward a proposal to the Constitutional Review Committee of the National Assembly to amend this clause.

The SAJBD argues that the “incitement to cause harm” and “advocacy of hatred” components should be separated: this would mean that any speech that advocates hatred could potentially be prohibited without the need for it also to constitute incitement to cause harm.

This proposal raises the question as to why have a clause relating to hate speech in the Constitution? Clearly all constitutional democracies must value free speech highly. Yet, the Canadian Supreme Court clearly articulated certain strong reasons why it is justifiable to prohibit hate speech when it was faced with a case of a school teacher spewing vile anti-Semitic stereotypes (Keegstra).

It stated that the reasons for such a clause are two-fold. First, hate speech causes an effect in the targeted individuals or groups: the judges found that “[i]t is indisputable that the emotional damage caused by words may be of grave psychological and social consequence”.

Hate speech thus causes the targets of the hate often to feel humiliated and degraded, leading to a sense of insecurity and alienation from the society as well as responses of

Continued on page 7 >>

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DAVID BILCHITZ

Jewish tradition is very clear about the harms that can come from speech. Indeed, in Proverbs 18:21 it is stated that “[d]eath and life are in the power of the tongue; and those who love it shall eat its fruit”.

These words are extremely apposite in light of a number of disgraceful racist utterances on social media that has ignited anger and stoked the flames of racial division in our country.

In light of several of these incidents, the government has proposed stricter regulations and penalties for speech that involves hate and prejudice including considering the criminalisation thereof. The current hate speech clause (section 16(2)) in the South African Constitution indicates that the right to freedom of expression does not include protection for the “advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm”.

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>> Continued from page 6

deep anger and resentment.

Secondly, hate speech has an effect on society: even if people generally reject these messages on a rational level, they often affect people’s attitudes across the society more subtly and perniciously. This speech can also attract people to the cause of hate and also cause serious discord between people in a society exposing fault-lines and sewing division. In light of South Africa’s painful history, it is clear that both these types of harm are created by hate speech. It also, in our context, harms the delicate process of healing and reconciliation that still needs to take place.

This indeed provides strong reasons for the SAJBD’s submission. When discussing recent regulations on student protests, I initially was also of the view that there was no place for advocacy of hatred on university campuses and an incitement dimension was not necessary. A colleague of mine, however, persuaded me against the wisdom of such a position.

She raised the problem that the concept of “advocacy of hatred” alone contains an inherent subjectivity. For instance, if someone provides a detailed critique or perhaps satirical cartoon about Jewish religious doctrines, could particularly sensitive religious people not see that as advocating hatred against Jews?

Moreover, in more fraught political debates such as around Israel/Palestine, would someone justifying Israel’s response in the 2014 conflict in Gaza be guilty of advocating hatred against Palestinians?

Could someone advocating for a boycott of Israel automatically be regarded as advocating hatred against Jews? Shouldn’t all these discussions be allowed in a society that values free speech?

The problem is that the boundaries of the concept of “advocacy of hatred” are unclear: if it comes to include everything some members of a group find distressing, freedom of expression will be severely curtailed.

The ‘incitement to cause harm’ component narrows the category of what constitutes hate speech and adds an objec-

tive dimension to the test. Harm has been understood in courts to include not only physical harm but also emotional and psychological harm. As such, this additional dimension can help to ensure a balance is attained between protecting free speech and preventing the harms attendant upon hate speech.

There is an additional reason why I do not think the SAJBD’s submission is desirable. The fundamental rights sections of the Constitution represent a broad societal agreement on central values which was reached after hard-fought negotiations across the political divides of South Africa in the 1990s. Generally we should leave the South African Bill of Rights alone without amending it as opening up the Bill of Rights for amendment is a risky enterprise. The reasons are clear: at a particularly fragile time, doing so may open up fault-lines in society and affect the still shaky foundations of the détente reached in the constitutional negotiation process.

It is also important to recognise the limits of law-making in this sphere. Law can make an important statement about the unacceptability of hate speech and, already, significant provisions exist in equality legislation for remedies in this regard.

At the same time, there is an overemphasis in South Africa on legal solutions without engaging with wider social strategies. The recent launch of an Anti-Racism Network of South Africa with over 80 civil society organisations is a heartening initiative which seeks to utilise advocacy, research and education to help address and eradicate racism. This wider societal approach is key in addressing other forms of prejudice too, such as sexism, xenophobia and homophobia. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of all of us to make it clear that hate speech and prejudice of any kind is socially unacceptable and has no part to play in the South Africa of the future.

• David Bilchitz is Professor of Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Johannesburg

We need more than ‘trim branches’



The SAJBD engages with Minister Masutha. Photos of Minister Masutha and Wendy Kahn and Mary Klug.

Photo: Ian Ossendwyer

STAFF REPORTER

Ahead of local government elections, Gauteng Jewry was provided with a perspective from a senior member of the South African government when Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Michael Masutha addressed a gathering of community leaders and members at Beyachad last week Wednesday evening.

The meeting was convened by the SAJBD which has in recent years engaged on a regular basis with the Minister on matters of community concern. In 2014, the ruling ANC instituted a “Suburban Task Team” to engage with various minority communities, with Masutha being assigned the Jewish community.

In his address, Masutha reflected on the ongoing prevalence of hate speech in the country and what the ANC

government was doing about it, the need to accelerate the process of transformation and the ANC’s unchanged commitment to promoting a society of inclusivity in which the contribution of every sector was acknowledged and valued.

Regarding the racism question, he said that the real root of the problem was the enduring problem of institutionalised, structural discrimination and the huge social disparities this was causing. So long as these root causes were not addressed, dealing with hate speech incidents would amount to little more than a trimming of the branches.

Subsequent questions from the floor in the main focused on issues relating to anti-Semitism, the local terrorist threat and the South Africa-Israel relationship. Masutha believed that anti-Semitism was not widely prevalent in South African society, with relatively few people knowing anything about it.

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African Christian leaders bring a gift of peace to Sharansky in Jerusalem

ANT KATZ

The Jewish Agency for Israel’s (JAFI) chairman Natan Sharansky last week in Jerusalem played host to a delegation of two African Christian leaders accompanied by SA Friends of Israel’s (SAFI) Reeve Forman. The trio had travelled to Israel to present Sharansky with an award on behalf of millions of Christian supporters of Israel across Africa.

Also present was JAFI’s South African shaliach, Aviad Sela, who made all the arrangements.

“Apostle Linda Gobodo told me she wanted to take a message of peace from South Africa and all African Christians who support Israel,” explains Forman about how the visit came to be.

Their support for Israel, explained Forman, was “not only prophetically, but also in their appreciation of Israel’s role in Africa’s development”.

Their support for Israel, explained Forman, was “not only prophetically, but also in their appreciation of Israel’s role in Africa’s development”. And so Gobodo approached Forman, who she knows well from both Forman’s SAFI and SAZF activities, and asked her to whom she recommends the plaque be given.

Forman recommended Sharansky in his capacity as head of JAFI, the Israeli NGO primarily responsible for the immigration and absorption of Jews as well as for connecting all Jews to Israel and each other.

Reeva said he was “the only person in Israel who represents all Jewish people in the world” – across all streams of Judaism and across political party lines.

Gobodo made it clear that she didn’t want it to be (a) political (gesture) and she wanted it to be as inclusive as possible.

After Gobodo’s approach, Forman broached it with shaliach Aviad Sela at the Israel Centre, JAFI’s chief representative in South Africa, who loved the idea. The Jewish Agency (JA) in South Africa operates in Johannesburg and Cape Town as “The Israel Centre”.

Sela set up a meeting with his boss, Sharansky. And it happened last week.

“It was all Linda’s initiative,” says Forman, “and she even raised the funds for the trip, including the cost for me to accompany them”.

Apostle Gobodo is founder of the Vuka Africa Foundation, and Nigerian Pastor Olanipekun, is founder of the Institute for Christian Leadership Development.

Gobodo told Sharansky that, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently said: “Israel is returning to Africa and Africa is returning to Israel.” In 2014, she told him, Vuka was part of organising the largest rally in the world to support Israel during the summer conflict with Hamas. It was also the largest pro-Israel rally ever to take place in Africa.

“We want you to know that there are millions of people in Africa who love, support, and pray for Israel.”

Olanipekun told the Israelis that his organisation believes that “Africa’s future depends on our connection to Israel. We have a great deal to learn from the Israeli people and we believe that we have a great deal to offer in return.”

They said they looked forward “to returning to Israel with dozens of leaders from



Natan Sharansky (second from left) is thrilled with the plaque presented to him by Apostle Linda Gobodo (next to him) and Pastor Olusegun Olanipekun (left) together with Reeve Forman.

across Africa for the third Africa Leadership Summit in Jerusalem in 2017”, said Olanipekun.

JAFI’s international media spokesman told Jewish Report that Sharansky “fondly recalled meeting with Nelson Mandela in 1990 and serving as an observer during the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994”.

That the African spiritual leaders had come to Jerusalem with an offering of peace was “deeply moving”, said an emotional Sharansky. “We need to pay more attention to the inspiring voices coming from Africa.”

The chairman discussed JAFI’s work in Africa, including project centres in Gondar, Ethiopia and Winneba, Ghana, and told his guests that a third will be opening in Durban later this year. At the end of the meeting, he accepted his guests’ invitation to address the third Africa Leadership Summit next year in Jerusalem.

• See more on our website: www.sajr.co.za including more about the delegates and Jewish Report’s in-depth interview with Sharansky in 2015.



Who are:

Pastor Olusegun (Segun) Olanipekun

Olanipekun is pastor to Pretoria Christian Centre, a congregation which he started with his wife Rachael. He is the founder of the Institute for Christian Leadership Development (ICLD).

He was a missionary in Kenya from 1996 to 2002 and since 1999 has organised international conferences to address social, political, economic and spiritual issues in Africa. He holds an LL B as well as a Bachelor in Education and History and was called to the ministry in 1985.

Olanipekun and his wife have three teenage children, Emmanuel, Joshua and Olive. Olanipekun is the author of the book “The Joshua Generation”.

He is also the convener of the Africa Leadership Summit (ALS) in Jerusalem, whose mandate, inter alia, is the connection of African cities, sectors and systems to Israel. ALS held its second biennial summit in Jerusalem last year. Their third event will take place next year.

The ICLD co-ordinates the Bible House Project in South Africa and is a partner with several pro-Israel movements including Africa Stands with Israel. It participated in the march against the BDS campaign as well as the Solidarity March organised by the SAZF in Johannesburg during the 52-day Gaza war. Olanipekun was one of the leaders who addressed this rally.

He is a frequent speaker at SAZF and SAFI events and addressed the 48th session of the SAZF,



where he was honoured with an award by Keren Hayesod (the Jewish National Fund).

At the Johannesburg rally in 2014, he advocated for the establishment of the Commonwealth of Israel - an association of nations aligned to Israel.

Apostle Linda Gobodo

Linda Gobodo founded the His Church Kingdom Ministries in 1997 in Sandton and led the church for 10 years. During this time she founded the Vuka Africa Foundation to herald the message of “Hope, Healing and Restoration of Africa”. The foundation drives this vision through four pillars: Prayer Revival; Standing with Israel; Kingdom Trade Missions; and Concerts.

Gobodo was among those who mobilised support for the Israel Solidarity Rally during Operation Protective Edge. She also led the launch of Africa Stands with Israel (ASWI), a movement aimed at calling the church in Africa to stand with Israel.

Vuka is presently taking the message of restoration to all provinces in South Africa and also encouraging intra-Africa trade. As part of the Africa Leadership Summit in Jerusalem in 2015, Vuka hosted a trade dialogue aimed at encouraging business between Africa and Israel.

She is the mother of three children and has seven grandchildren.

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South Africa is like a bolshie, immature adolescent



TAKING ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

This column was written just before Wednesday’s local elections because of the newspaper’s production deadline, so speculating on the results is pointless. However, it is clear that this has been the most racially charged election since 1994, with divisive racist talk coming from top leaders who should know better.

President Jacob Zuma told a Tembisa rally, for example, that the Democratic Alliance - a legitimate party with a black leader and mainly black candidates which has won support through free elections - was the “brainchild” of the white oppressors and blacks should unite against the oppressor.

“Where does a black person get the guts to associate with the oppressor?” Zuma asked.

Such statements coming from the country’s head of state about the largest opposition party is a sad indication of how far our political discourse has strayed from the reconciliatory days of Nelson Mandela.

Has South Africa’s bold nonracial project failed - the “rainbow nation”? Pessimists will say it has, that the country is exhausted and the ANC will remain in power under Zuma, discarding the nonracial idealism it embodied as a liberation movement and pursuing power just for the sake of power and personal benefit.

The optimists however - there are many, but their voices are being drowned out by the pervasive negativity - will say the current crisis, the declining of ANC dominance and the strengthening of opposition parties, is a positive sign of the emergence of a genuine multiparty democracy.

It is a young democracy, only two decades old, and we should be celebrating this much-needed restructuring of our political landscape, even though the road is rocky and scary at times and there are many villains trying to derail it.

The tensions are part of the political maturing of this country - like an awkward adolescent behaving badly trying to sort out his identity, who will become more sensible as he goes along.

The sobering thing is that our political discourse today is not that much different from one of the world’s most mature democracies, the United States, where a dangerous buffoon like Donald Trump, whose crude language seems to come from the gutter, has become the Republican candidate for American president. Hard to believe.

South African Jews are part of the process of this country’s political maturing. Many are as confused as other citizens about where it is all going.

What should the Jewish leadership be telling the ordinary community members? In a controversial gesture in November 2013, Israeli MK Avigdor Lieberman, then chairman of the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, told South African Jews that they should get out of the country before it is too late, warning them of a looming “pogrom” and accusing Pretoria of being “anti-Semitic”.

Newspaper posters on street poles along major Johannesburg roads blared out: “Call for Jews to leave SA”.

His statement was greeted with outrage by the South African Jewish leadership. This was our country, we were proud of it, and who the hell was he to tell us what to do? Jews were embarrassed by the whole incident.

But Jewish leaders do face a difficult personal dilemma. How to encourage the community to believe in the new South Africa, to grasp the incredible opportunities here to do something special and make a difference. Are they also saying this to their own children, however? What do they say when their loved ones who have emigrated call them from Canada, the UK, Australia and other places and ask how things are going in South Africa? Do they say: “Come back and help us build the country”?

Being South African is not for sissies, but it is a worthy challenge.

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

Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Good sense prevails in ‘kol isha’ dispute

Last week, the SAJBD Cape Council reached an agreement with those parties who had instituted legal proceedings against it based on the absence of women solo singers at Yom Hashoah ceremonies.

As per the agreement, future Cape Town ceremonies will be divided into two parts, with an initial cultural-educational component including women singing, being followed by the traditional Yom Hashoah format.

Through this agreement, Yom Hashoah will be observed in Cape Town without any sector of the community feeling offended or excluded. Following the agreement, the litigants have withdrawn their court application.

In welcoming the settlement, our National President Mary Kluk commented that she was “proud of the fact that while the SA Jewish community is diverse and heterogeneous, we are still able to frankly discuss and debate issues that are emotive and potentially disruptive to our community within.

“Our community is close-knit and unique, and it should never be in the hands of courts to decide our internal conflicts.”

I fully endorse this view. This was always a matter that should in the first instance have been resolved through dialogue, consultation and compromise between the various stakeholders in the community.

That the courts were brought into it is extremely regrettable, as was the fact that the matter was quite unnecessarily played out in the media. Predictably, our community was not depicted in a positive light, with the emphasis being placed on the dispute itself rather than on the complexities of the situation and the sincere efforts being made to resolve it.

Throughout the process, the overriding aim of our Cape Council was to maintain Shalom Bayit and work for a solution that was in the best interests of the Cape community as a whole. I commend all those who played their part, in particular Cape Chairman Eric Marx, in seeing this complex, often painful matter through to a satisfactory conclusion.

Gauteng conference

As previously reported, the Board’s Gauteng Council has introduced a special award in recognition of Jewish community members who have made significant contributions to social upliftment in the wider society. Fittingly the award which will be presented biennially at the Gauteng Council conference, is named after the late Bertie Lubner, someone who - through the founding of Afrika Tikken among many other initiatives - was truly a living legend in this area.

At our last Gauteng Council meeting, it was confirmed that the first recipient of the award would be Reeva Forman. The choice was a popular and unanimous one.

Over many years, Reeva has been at the forefront of transforming Temple Israel in Hillbrow into a centre that in addition to fulfilling its role as a place of worship, acts as a place of outreach to the previously disadvantaged communities throughout the Hillbrow area.

This is in addition to the outstanding work she has done and continues to do as a long-serving member of both the SAJBD and the SA Zionist Federation.

I warmly congratulate Reeva on this well-deserved recognition of everything she has achieved not only for our community but for the wider South African society in general.

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

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Fascinating and rewarding journey of Madiba’s shirt maker



Photo supplied

Desré Buirski presenting one of her shirts to Nelson Mandela.

SUZANNE BELLING

Desré Buirski had a dream of meeting President Nelson Mandela. Through her creative thinking and actions, she translated her dream to reality, transforming herself into the creator and supplier of Madiba’s colourful trademark shirts.

Buirski immigrated to Southern California from Cape Town with her parents and siblings in 1980. Having attended Herzlia Primary, Sans Souci and matriculating from Progress College, she had begun a career in drama, with a brief stint at the Maas-Phillips College of Speech and Drama.

She pursued her studies in drama and also graphic design at Orange Coast College in the US. But, in order to meet her expenses she became a dishwasher in the evenings, sometimes washing over 1 000 plates and working till 03:00.

Sharing a small apartment with her brother, she later joined her father’s clothing company, producing jeans and men’s shirts.

“This gave me the opportunity to travel to Indonesia,” she told SA Jewish Report. She remained there for several years, living in a small place near Central Java “with a population of about 100 with me as the only white person in the area. It was wonderful and safe - and the population is predominantly Muslim.”

She later moved to Bali, where the majority of inhabitants are Hindu. “But Indonesian is the common language linking everyone in the country.” Buirski became fluent in the language which is Dutch-derived as Bali was previously under Dutch colonial control.

“Bali became home. It was 1982 and I lived in a place where there were no direct telephone lines, no electricity and had to travel to the airport on a motorcycle.”

Going back to the US with her increased knowledge of the rag trade and attending shows in New York and other cities, Buirski was well and truly into her new career.

“In 1991 I managed to get back to Cape Town and opened a shop at the Waterfront. I was living, eating and sleeping my desire to meet Nelson Mandela.

“On May 7, 1994, three days before Madiba’s inauguration, I heard he was going

to attend the Marais Road Synagogue in Sea Point on Shabbat. I was determined to give him a personal gift and had one extra-large shirt I had brought from Los Angeles.”

A determined Buirski made her way through the throngs of people including “grannies and nannies” lining Marais Road and gave the somewhat wrinkled shirt to Mandela’s bodyguard, which he placed in the boot of the President’s car.

She had written a note on her business card, expressing her appreciation to Mandela.

She was tipped off to buy Die Burger. “There, on page three was Nelson Mandela wearing my shirt!”

Things snowballed. She was in constant contact with Mandela’s then PA Mary Mxadana, who asked Buirski to please send more shirts. In all, she must have given the former president 150 shirts.

She received New Year greetings from Mandela, followed by a personal tea with the President at Tuynhuys.

Buirski was invited to Mandela’s parties and banquets and was seated beside him at his Christmas party in 1998.

There was a hiatus of several years, during which time Buirski collected offcuts from the shirt fabrics. From this she created a massive quilt - made into a wall hanging - which she presented to Mandela and Graça Machel at their home in Mozambique.

“Both Graça and I were in tears.” The wall hanging went to the offices of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and later was sent to Monaco to be auctioned for charity under the auspices of Prince Albert and Sotheby’s.

“There was a rabbi from Chabad headquarters in New York staying at the Hotel De Paris.” Rabbi Avraham Berkowitz blessed Mandela and, when learning about the shirts, Buirski was invited to address a conference of 2 000 people in 2014 in New York.

This launched Buirski’s new career on the public speaking circuit in South Africa. In her capacity as founder of Presidential Shirts, it has put her hand to sustainable outreach projects in Gugulethu.

“It has been a sacred experience,” she remarked.

Cape Town and Johannesburg - same country, planets apart



FROM THE BELLING TOWER

Suzanne Belling

I have been an alien. I have lived in both Cape Town and Johannesburg and in each place it was as if I came from a different planet.

When I first came to settle in Johannesburg I had to learn a whole new way of life. I learnt that Shabbat doesn’t end after dinner on Friday night and that many of the practising Jews preferred synagogue attendance on Saturday mornings.

I learnt that keeping kosher did not just mean kosher meat and separating meat and milk. I learnt to examine everything for Beth Din stamps.

In Johannesburg I started attending “unveilings” instead of “consecrations”. And, at unveilings and funerals it was not okay to wear sleeveless dresses and spaghetti straps, or pants and definitely not jeans.

It is not in order to dress without modesty at funerals in Cape Town, but most people seem not to heed the instructions and up north, they tend to take tzniut more seriously. At Pinelands cemetery, I have even witnessed men wearing shorts - long shorts maybe, but shorts nonetheless.

When I went back to live in Cape Town in the earlier part of this millennium, I pointed this out to the odd people, who responded by thinking I was very odd...

They told me in no uncertain terms that at West Park it was not unknown for Jews to attend funerals and unveilings in their bowling outfits. Somehow, that didn’t seem to bug me as much, as bowling whites are usually skirts for women and long pants for men - and hats.

I was also shown proudly open boots of cars, where women kept a skirt in case they had to attend a funeral. I took to keeping an extra one-size-fits-all skirt with an elastic waist in the

boot of my car in case somebody needed a loan.

Even before I was welcomed into the Gauteng observant sect, I had always been told to cover my head at a funeral, to stand apart from the men at prayers and not to wear revealing or sleeveless dresses to shul.

But, conforming in Johannesburg, I still did not make the acceptance grade in Cape Town. Actually, it is a very difficult task to be totally accepted in the Mother City. When I went back, I still had my old school friends, so I didn’t find it all that cliquey.

We were, however, seldom able to go out for Shabbat dinners (they don’t do the big lunches in Cape Town, feeling that, if they do go to shul on Saturdays, the big brocha will suffice).

Don’t get me wrong, we had invitations from the rabbi, the cantor, my best friend and two Holocaust survivors, all of whom were strictly kosher. But, sadly I had to decline others, who were not kosher or, from those who were, who were not within walking distance.

I invited people to my home more often than I do in Johannesburg, earning myself the title of the Cholent Queen. I also had a permanent guest room for my friends who came down south for barmitzvahs or weddings and needed kosher meals and a bed.

After shul we would cross the road and walk along the beach front, admiring the sea, and the males among us, in spite of their kippot, the bronzed bikini girls tanning in the sun.

“You can’t really blame them,” one of my former Glenhazel friends said. “There is spirituality here - the sea, the mountain - and the beauty of G-d’s creations makes them feel closer to Him.”

“And the warmth and hospitality of Johannesburgers makes me feel part of one big Jewish family,” I replied.

I suppose he had a point. I prefer my lifestyle in Johannesburg, where they do not look upon me as ET’s sister.

But there is nothing to beat Sir Francis Drake’s assessment of “The Fairest Cape in the entire circumference of the earth”.

News

We need more than ‘trim branches’

>> Continued from page 7

One way in which the Jewish community could address the negative perceptions that do exist is to foster an awareness of what Jews have contributed to South Africa, especially in the liberation struggle.

With regard to the recent arrests of four local terror suspects, Masutha said that while in this instance the Jewish community had been specifically identified as a target, terrorism is something that knows no colour, religion or political allegiance, and therefore should be seen as a threat to everyone.

It is a global problem that the international community has to deal with together, said Masutha, and South Africa is very much committed to playing its part in this. Asked why Hamas, an avowedly terrorist organisation, was invited to visit South Africa last year if this is the case, he explained that if peace is to be achieved between Israelis and Palestinians, a solution that brought all players on board had to be found.

In terms of the South Africa-Israel relationship, Masutha said that government wished to avoid schisms within the population, and hence preferred to preach a message of inclu-

sivity rather than taking a hard line against either side.

He conceded that in times of heightened conflict in the Middle East, it is difficult to advocate even-handedness against more hardline anti-Israel elements within his party, since Israel is routinely seen in the role of an all-powerful bully.

SAJBD Chairman Jeff Katz commented that during the 2014 Gaza conflict the government, in the face of enormous pressure internally and externally to sever ties with Israel, had instead embarked on a process of renewed engagement with the aim of playing a role in resolving the conflict.

Since then, there has been regular and meaningful interaction between the two governments, including the ongoing work of the Presidential envoys to Israel and Palestine and the visit to South Africa earlier this year of Israeli Foreign Ministry Director-General Dore Gold.

SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn introduced the Minister while National President Mary Kluk delivered the thanks and concluding remarks.

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Uneasy Republicans and confident Democrats diverge on ‘Jewish’ issues

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It’s never been easy for Jewish Republicans. Jews have broken overwhelmingly for Democratic candidates since Woodrow Wilson. Despite rising American Jewish affluence, usually a harbinger of conservative voting patterns, a plurality self-defines as liberal.

Republican Jews have poured millions into upping their share of the Jewish vote in recent elections, portraying the GOP as the pro-Israel party and telling largely affluent Jewish Americans to vote their economic self-interest. The needle has only moved a little, despite those efforts: 80 per cent of Jews voted Clinton in 1992, 79 per cent voted Gore in 2000 and 74 per cent voted Obama in 2008.

Organisations like the Republican Jewish Coalition have kept pushing despite it all. Most Jews don’t vote primarily based on Israel, but as Democrats passed a controversial Iran deal and condemned Israel’s West Bank occupation, Republicans saw a window of opportunity.

Republicans doubled down on the Israel case at their national convention in Cleveland last month. Donald Trump, Mike Pence and a handful of other speakers included lines in support of Israel in their speeches and drew loud applause. President Barack Obama’s support of Iran’s nuclear programme, anathema to the Israeli government, was a nightly punching bag.

Dozens of delegates told JTA that the main reason Jews should vote Trump is that he’s better on Israel than his opponent, Hillary Clinton. The Republican platform swung right on Israel, eliminating the long-held bipartisan consensus supporting the two-state solution, and rejecting the United States’ right to dictate terms on Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Even so, Republican Jewish uneasiness showed at the convention. Big-name Jewish donors declined to attend. Republican Jews, from journalists Bill Kristol and Jennifer Rubin to former Republican operatives like Noam Neusner and David Frum, oppose Trump. The Republican Jewish Coalition held no events that were open to the media, a departure from previous conventions.

Much of this ambivalence has to do with Trump’s string of statements insulting minorities - Jews among them. It’s a point Democrats stressed every day of their confab a week later in Philadelphia. A video aired on the first night of the convention featuring Trump’s retweet of an image widely called anti-Semitic. The convention’s explicit message was that anyone who cares about safeguarding minority rights has to vote Clinton.

The first night of the Democratic National Convention featured a string of Jewish public figures - Sarah Silverman and Senator Al Franken among them - and it ended with a keynote speech by Bernie Sanders, the first Jewish candidate to win a major party primary. Jewish entertainers, activists and politicians peppered

every night’s roster, from singer Paul Simon to Senator Barbara Boxer.

Criticism of Israel was a recurring feature in Philadelphia, a point the RJC pressed in an ad released last week calling the party “stridently anti-Israel”. Many Sanders supporters wore pro-Palestinian stickers, and a few advocated changing the United States’ historically pro-Israel policy.

On Wednesday, a night devoted largely to national security, no one mentioned the US alliance with Israel. There was full-throated support for the Iran deal throughout the convention. At one point, protesters outside the convention burned an Israeli flag.

At a roundtable discussion held outside the convention by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and the American Friends Service Committee, Georgia Representative Hank Johnson compared Israel’s West Bank settlement movement to termites.

But in the end, the party could point to the ways it shored up its traditional pro-Israel wing. The Democratic platform committee rejected an effort to even mention settlements and occupation in its section on Israel.

Like Trump, Clinton threw a shout-out to Israel’s security into her acceptance speech, and didn’t mention Palestinians. General John Allen, the former commander of Nato forces in Afghanistan, gave a convention speech in support of Clinton that echoed neoconservative rhetoric,

which tends to be forcefully pro-Israel.

Even Bill Clinton got into the act, sporting a Hebrew “Hillary” button during Obama’s Wednesday night speech.

It could be that, in future election cycles, discord over Israel will drive more Jews to the Republican party. Part of Sanders’ dissent from Democratic orthodoxy was in his call for more criticism of Israel. In her acceptance speech, Clinton adopted much of his domestic rhetoric but none of his Middle East policies. But if Sanders delegates become the new Democratic mainstream, the party could gravitate away from its pro-Israel stance.

At Jewish Democratic events, though, the old guard held sway. If anything, the Democratic Jews’ biggest problem came from one of their own, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was ousted as chairman of the Democratic National Committee at the convention’s start.

Schultz was the favourite daughter of Jewish Democrats, a former National Jewish Democratic Council staffer who rose to be a congresswoman and party bigwig. Now, she’s facing a primary challenge and could exit political life.

Even as she was embattled, the NJDC stood with her, presenting her with an award on the convention’s final afternoon. Wasserman Schultz sounded defiant at the event, calling Trump a traitor and promising to win her primary. And despite her fall from grace, Jewish Democrats cheered her, as if to say that whatever the future held, they felt good about this year. (JTA)



Hillary Clinton speaking on the fourth day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia on July 28.



Donald Trump speaking on the fourth day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, on July 21.

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Icy weather didn’t deter KD Schools’ CEO SleepOut



Inspired by the Sun International CEO SleepOut, King David Linksfield and Victory Park had their own King David SleepOut last week Thursday. The aim of spending the night in the open – in the dead of winter - was to encourage the learners to engage and empathise with the realities of homelessness in the greater community.

High school learners together with grade 7s and some teachers rose to the challenge and participated in this worthwhile initiative, sleeping outdoors on their school campuses. The learners arrived armed with warm clothing, sleeping bags and blankets to face a freezing Johannesburg winter’s night.

Each of the participating schools put together various events over the course of the evening. There were many chesed (kindness)-related activities such as sandwich making, meal packing, knitting of squares for blankets, the making of sleeping blankets out of newspapers and plastic and collections of clothes and non-perishable food items.

Learners were fortunate to be able to listen to speakers from various organisations and also to two homeless women speaking about their real-life experiences.

But there were also many fun events such as six-a-side soccer, slam poetry, a building cardboard-box shelter competition and a debate about homelessness.

All the learners, regardless of whether they physically participated, were encouraged to support the SleepOut, by donating warm blankets as well as non-perishables and clothing which are to be donated to King David’s various partner outreach schools - Summerwood Primary School, Sediba Thuto School, Thato ke Matla Foster & Safety House, Pholosho School and Kidshaven.

Herzlia High has moved from an SRC to an SLC



TRACY KLASS

Herzlia High School has announced the incoming student leadership council for 2016-17. The real power in a school comes from the student group and Herzlia is mobilising this force by moving from a Student Representative Council (SRC) to a Student Leadership Council (SLC). The school is very excited by the new group of student leaders and is confident that Herzlia High will begin the next part of its journey with creative and proactive energy. Hearty mazaltov to the new council. The school wishes them every success for their term of office. Pictured are (back): Kayla Smith; Zach Israel; Kaelly Berkovitz; Ben Levin; and Melissa Morris. Front: Kira Meltzer (deputy head student); Greg Furman (head student; and Avi Lurie (deputy head student). Absent are: Shaiam Unterslak; and Aviva Philips (deputy head student).

Budding artists at work at Sydenham Pre-Primary

JENNY MILLER

The children of Sydenham Pre-Primary School in Johannesburg are thoroughly enjoying the theme on “Famous Artists”. They are learning about Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh and Henri Matisse. The art activities have been inspired by these artists and the children have created amazing replicas

Pictured are Baige Dedeu; Jade Kushner; and Lexi Zwick, reproducing a paper cut-out by Matisse.



YC learners make sandwiches during CEO SleepOut

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Yeshiva College grade 10 and 11 learners spent last week Thursday night “sleeping out” on the school’s sports field as part of the CEO SleepOut. They made sandwiches and hot meals for the needy and in a very short amount of time approximately 30 learners had made over 400 sandwiches which were distributed to charity organisations the next morning. A special recognition and acknowledgement must go to Tamir Bender in grade 11, for being chosen as an “Inspiration Learner” to participate alongside Barry Sundelson, chief operating officer at Discover Vitality, in the CEO SleepOut on the Nelson Mandela Bridge in Johannesburg’s CBD.



Miya Ichikowitz a rising singing star

NIRVANA ROGERS

Mazeltov to Miya Ichikowitz, grade 7 pupil from King David Primary School Victory Park. Miya participated in the Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music on Monday, July 25 at Wits and was awarded a Diploma+ for a vocal solo in the under-14 category.



Disclaimer
The letters page is intended to provide an opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report.
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Guidelines for letters
Letters of up to 400 words get preference. Provide your full name, place of residence, and daytime phone number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.

SIFRIN ON A MISSION - THE BEARER OF ENLIGHTENMENT

It seems to me that Geoff Sifrin, whose articles I sometimes enjoy is on a mission to ridicule the Orthodox community by referring to its growth as being the result of its adherence to narrow dogma. He has taken one issue and made it into a thesis. He, together with the Reform rabbi of Wynberg (in Cape Town), have made themselves the bearers of enlightenment.

The said rabbi even claims to know the true origin and development of the kol isha law, something the Orthodox rabbinate are ignorant of. I think I can guess, unfortunately been a part of that school of thought for a short time in my life, where that source is to be found.

That, having been said, I wonder why Mr Sifrin makes no mention of the rousing revival of Torah Judaism in the countless number of shiurim throughout Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Is this because of the attraction of the masses to narrow dogma? Of course he has nothing to say concerning the revolution in the protection of women's rights led by Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag, head of the Beth Din.

As a result of this bold ruling, any evil man who refuses to give a get to his wife thus condemning her to being "chained for the rest of her life" will be excommunicated without any rights within the Jewish community.

Is this also narrow dogma? Or maybe this: The unbelievable triumph of Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein in attracting thousands in this small community to his Shabbat event which was attended by 6500 people and his Sinai Indaba which drew a similar number.

Is this also the result of narrow dogma?

Rabbi Ben Isaacson
Johannesburg

WHEN RABBI YISRAEL MEIR LAU SANG ALONG WITH A FEMALE CHOIR...

I'm a former South African now living in Canada, but I happened to be in Johannesburg when the whole kol isha question arose over women singing at Yom Hashoah services. I notice that the issue has been settled. I would like to draw the attention of those Orthodox rabbonim and others who opposed listening to a woman singing a mournful song to suit the occasion to an article that appeared in the Canadian Jewish News of July 21, by Eli Rubenstein, national director of the March of the Living, Canada.

Rubenstein was paying tribute to Elie Wiesel, in particular when they went on a March of the Living to the ruins of Auschwitz-Birkenau on Yom Hashoah in 1990. Wiesel gave a very heartbreaking speech of the terrible events when he was there.

I quote from Rubenstein's article about what occurred after Wiesel spoke:

"And then, the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv and future chief rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, called upon the Toronto March of the Living student choir (composed of Tara Charendoff, Jillian Stronell, Talia Klein, Jennifer Goldhar, Jenny Lass, Dena Libman, Meghan Bochner and Jennie Blitz, accompanied by guitarist Hartley Weinberg and violinist Jillian Moncarz) to sing Hannah Senesh's Eli, Eli (My G-d, My G-d).

"Rabbi Meir Lau, himself a Holocaust survivor, sang along softly into the microphone. Soon, thousands of participants - survivors and students, educators and political leaders, from Israel and countries around the world - all joined in, amid the ruins of the crematoria singing the song that reminded us both of the beauty and fragility of life."

Obviously from their names, the members of the choir are all young women.

If someone as great as Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau is humble enough to ask a girls'/women's choir to sing, and to sing with them, why do the South African rabbis believe that they are so high and mighty that they cannot hear a woman or women sing a mournful song in memory of those who lost their lives in such tragic circumstances?

These women are not dressed indecently, nor are they singing pop songs or even opera where their voices can excite a man. I am unable to see how a mournful song sung by a woman in these circumstances, can excite anyone at all, especially a man. In fact, I remember seeing an article in the Jewish Report on other services held in South Africa where a woman (I'm almost sure from Klerksdorp) sang and there was no brouhaha over it and neither did the sky fall in!

I have enjoyed reading the Jewish Report from time to time when I have visited Johannesburg and am now subscribing to it electronically.

Marie Bickof
Thornhill, Canada

More news on our website www.sajr.co.za

LOOKING FOR DESCENDANTS OF HANS (SANDELOWSKY) SANDERS

Rolf Dyckerhoff of Wiesbaden in Germany is doing research on the Jewish community of Nordenburg, a small town in former East-Prussia (today Nordenburg is called Krylovo and is situated in the Russian Kaliningrad area). Before the Second World War there was a tiny Jewish community of about 10 families and a small synagogue.

One of those families was the Sandelowskys. Benjamin Sandelowsky (1848 - 1904) came from Lithuania to Nordenburg in about 1870. His descendants all left Germany in the thirties and emigrated to the former South West Africa (Namibia) and the US.

"One of the sons, Siegmund Sandelowsky, was born 1880 in Nordenburg and died probably 1939 in Panama. He is believed to have immigrated to South Africa and the family changed its surname to Sanders. Hans, his son, died in 1985 in Johannesburg.

"I would like to come in contact with the descendants of Hans Sanders; maybe they are still living in South Africa."

Rolf Dyckerhoff may be contacted on 00 49 (0) 170 41 59 211 or e-mail: rolf.dyckerhoff@t-online.de

JVJP IN ISRAEL SEE JUST WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE – UNFORTUNATELY

Jewish Voices for a Just Peace have again had something negative to say about the IDF, the State of Israel, "right-wing Jewish Israelis", the SAJBD, etc.

They quote from the testimony given by a staff sergeant of the IDF. In it he tells of being told to direct Arabs on one path and Jews onto another so "there won't be any friction" between the two groups while walking in Hebron.

JVJP finds this offensive, discriminatory. But perhaps it is true. Perhaps in an area heated with conflict, perhaps different groups walking on different paths would lessen the friction and possibly save lives by reducing unnecessary conflict.

They also equate this to apartheid. They talk about "racism" found among the Jews. And they might be right. The conflict has gone on for so long that there could be racism among individuals. But remember that apartheid was not just racism. Apartheid was a system of laws enforced by the government that controlled South Africa's black population.

A black person was legally not allowed to live in certain areas, to vote, to travel freely, inter-racial marriage was forbidden, etc. According to Wikipedia: "Non-white political representation was abolished in 1970 and starting in that year black people were deprived citizenship... the government segregated education, medical care, beaches and other public services, providing black people with services that were inferior to those of white people."

This is not the case in Israel. Arabs and Jews can all vote, can all be educated, can all receive medical care in the same hospital room by the same doctors. This is not apartheid!

Finally, in true pessimist style, JVJP choose to vilify the commander who told the staff sergeant that the paths of the two groups should be different. JVJP say this reminds them of the "old South Africa".

What about the staff sergeant? What about this IDF soldier who disagreed with the commander (as JVJP do)? He thought it would be easier for the elderly Arabs to walk on the other path and he "exercised his own judgement" and let them.

Why doesn't JVJP exalt him as an example to follow? Why? Because their minds are already made up and Israel/ the IDF/"right-wing Jewish Israelis" are always wrong. No matter what.

Michele Engelberg
Johannesburg

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KOL ISHA SETTLEMENT MEANS RESPECT FOR EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL

As a chairman of SACRED’s board I would like to say that SACRED and its co-applicants are delighted that a settlement has been reached in the case concerning the exclusion of women from singing at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony in Cape Town.

In the settlement, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies has agreed to end its ban on women singing at such a ceremony and has committed that future ceremonies will be restructured so as to include women singing.

We are glad to know that all future SA Jewish Board of Deputies ceremonies and events will be infused with respect for the equal treatment of all on grounds of sex and gender and that no members of the community will be treated as second class Jews.

SACRED became involved in this issue as it is deeply committed to the values of our Constitution and ensuring the elimination of unfair discrimination within the Jewish community of South Africa (and beyond).

The agreement has also brought an end to the unacceptable situation of there being officially-sanctioned discrimination at the Holocaust memorial ceremonies in South Africa. While the agreement has been reached with the Board of Deputies in the Western Cape, SACRED expects all chapters of the Board of Deputies across South Africa to include women singing in their Holocaust memorial ceremonies.

It is our fervent hope that young people, women and others who were alienated from the Holocaust Memorial due to the recent ban, will once again feel able to participate in a manner which reflects their values and the lessons of the Shoah.

We also have affirmed that our Jewish communal structures must affirm in all their actions the key constitutional value of equality - which is also a foundational principle of Jewish tradition.

On behalf of SACRED, I would also like to extend its sincere gratitude to our co-applicants and to all of those who have so generously given of their time, money and support in this struggle.

The solid support and encouragement received from across the South African Jewish community - from multiple organisations and individuals - has enabled us to succeed.

Rabbi Julia Margolis
Chairman of SACRED

JVJP’S ATTACK ON SAJBD TOTALLY UNFAIR, UNCALLED FOR

The lamentable ad hominem attack by Jessica Sherman and Rina King on behalf of Jewish Voices for a Just Peace betrays their ignorance of the reason for the foundation and principle object of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

It was, and I hope still is, to protect the interests of the South African Jewish community as a whole from intrusions by any South African government or any other person or body intent on, or aiding in, diminishing the rights and reputation of Jewish South African citizens, based solely on the fact that they are Jewish and despite their political views. Prior to my aliyah, almost 40 years ago, I well recall that the Board always stressed that it was the right of any Jew personally to express any political view.

Presidents of the Board such as Arthur Suzman QC and Namie Philips QC often and outspokenly expressed their personal detestation of apartheid and all its works. As far as I am aware, it is also true that no member of the Board, either officially or unofficially, expressed support for apartheid.

The authors are, however, quite right to censure (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu’s disgraceful summons to the Jewish voters to the ballot box because the Arabs were “voting in droves”.

It so happened that I was recovering in hospital from a heart attack at the time. How, I wondered, could I explain this shameful conduct to my caring, super-competent heart specialist, who was a Muslim, a graduate of the Hebrew University?

When he arrived at my bedside (at least 50 per cent of the patients in my ward were Israeli or Palestinian Arabs), he told me

CHIEF RABBI’S ‘G-D BLESS SOUTH AFRICA’ RATHER INAPPROPRIATE

Last week the Chief Rabbinate of South Africa issued a statement to the Jewish community urging them to vote in the coming elections (which subsequently took place on Wednesday). The Chief Rabbi concluded his message with the words: “G-d bless South Africa.”

With the utmost respect to him, I believe there are many Jews who will find this “prayer” inappropriate at this time.

The government of South Africa has shown - and continues to show - strong support for the enemies of Israel. It has hosted and welcomed some of the biggest Jew-killers since Hitler. Since the visit of Yasser Arafat in 1994 and subsequent visits of arch-terrorist Leila Khaled

and the leader of Hamas - branded as a terrorist organisation by the UN - the South African government has had cordial ties with these fervent haters of Israel. The government has never condemned the vicious acts of terror against Israeli men, women and children by these killers of Jews.

According to reports in the Jewish Report, a large group of leaders from “Palestine”

that I should walk as much as possible. I accordingly invited him to have a cup of tea with me at the distant hospital tea room.

When we were comfortably seated, haltingly, I tried to apologise to him for Netanyahu’s gaffe. “Forget it,” he said, “it’s just politics. We all understand that.”

As a proud “leftist Israeli Zionist Jew”, I have difficulty in understanding why these professing South African Jews have contrived their illogical agenda against the Board.

Achieving a “just peace” by denigrating the Board at every turn, merely arrogates to it an authority which it neither has, nor seeks, nor should accept.

Might I suggest to my just brethren in South Africa that they should spend as much time drawing attention to the calumnies of the Palestinian Authority, as instanced not only by their internal killings and corruption, but also for their incitement to murder Israelis of any or of no religion - as they do to their (sometimes) justified criticism of the present or any future Israeli government and our perennial Orthodox zealots.

Surely, constructive, positive suggestions for a just peace would have a more sympathetic and influential reception than ill-informed, shrill attempts at divisiveness?

Justice cannot be achieved by the perverted persecution against a body (the Board) which should not be in the dock in the first place.

Anthony Maisels
Tel Aviv

gathered in South Africa for so-called “unity talks”. A number of high government officials, including the minister of finance, addressed this unity conference.

One can only have nightmarish recollections of a similar conference held in Wannsee, Germany during the Second World War. Then, as now, groups of fervent Jew-haters gathered to plan the destruction of the Jewish people. At that time Arab leader Al Husseini, together with the leaders of Nazi German, planned the elimination of all Jews.

Now South Africa hosted leaders whose primary agenda is the elimination of a Jewish state in the Middle East. I would suggest that the only unity these groups wish to achieve is to unify in their bid to destroy Israel.

In view of the above, as well as other anti-Israel/Jewish sentiments expressed by the South African government, any Jew or gentile with pure emotions would hardly find deep in their hearts the ability to see any merit for “G-d (to) bless South Africa”.

I would ask our Chief Rabbi to wait until we have a government which is far more sympathetic to Israel and its people, as well as a complete rejection of visits by terrorists and their supporters to our shores, before he requests “G-d to bless South Africa”.

Choni Davidowitz
Golden Acres, Johannesburg

GOOD HEADS OF STATE - MALE OR FEMALE - CANNOT BE ‘GENDER BOUND’

I would like to respond to the strange letter of Errol Horwitz from Cape Town in last week’s Jewish Report, suggesting that “women, such as (Hillary) Clinton and (Angela) Merkel can rule the world so much better than men”. Since when is exploiting the memory of Jewish victims of the Holocaust for sheer perverted propaganda while basically denying the existence of non-Jewish victims (like Hillary Clinton did when she boasted that she urged her husband when he was president, to bomb Serbia), or flooding one’s own country with hostile refugees, including ISIS terrorists (like Germany’s Angela Merkel did) considered as any kind of achievement or anything positive, or tolerable?

I know there were despicable rulers and politicians of the male kind. I wouldn’t be able to say who are better as politicians and heads of state, men or women, and would probably suppose that

there is no difference... except for the fact that the Torah and our sages hint (and don’t only hint) that men are better, and that in the Second World War SS women tended to be crueller then their male counterparts.

In any case, there are some excellent women politicians such as Marine Le Pen (president of the National Front in France) and the wife of Dr Vojislav Šešelj (president of the far-right Serbian National Party). I also guess that the great Serbian singer (who might be the coolest widow of any assassinated politician in the world) Svetlana Ceca Raznatovic, known as “Ceca”, could be a good politician and head of state, if she were interested in politics.

Avner Eliyahu Romm
Jerusalem

INFORMATION WANTED ON RABBI M KUPERMAN AND YESHIVA TACHKEMONI

Juan-Paul Burke of Sea Point in Cape Town is doing research on Rabbi M Kuperman zt”l and Yeshiva Tachkemoni of Cape Town. He writes: “If anyone has any information, especially if you were a student of the aforementioned, please could you contact me at juan-paul.burke@uct.ac.za.”

BETH HATEFUTSOTH VOLUMES - A WORK-IN-PROGRESS

I would like to make a correction to the article which appeared in the Jewish Report of July 15 on the Beth Hatefutsoth project on Jewish Life in the SA country communities. The seventh volume will complete the series of books, but the database of information, however, will be ongoing and any corrections and/or additions will be included in it, and will eventually be available on our website.

Adrienne Kollenberg, Johannesburg





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Wendy brought oxygen to SAJBD

SUZANNE BELLING

Wendy Kahn, the first woman national director of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies since its inception in 1903, celebrated her 10th anniversary in this post a week before National Women’s Day.

“I have honestly never felt undermined as a woman at the Board and have been privileged to work with many extraordinary elected and professional women,” she told Jewish Report.

Inspiring role models for her include Marlene Bethlehem and Mary Kluk (past and present presidents) and her professional staff comprises over 50 per cent women.

“We are the envy of other Diaspora communities in terms of the female representation of our leadership body.”

Before her appointment, Kahn was steeped in the Jewish community, having attended Yeshiva College, and was active in Mizrachi, where she ran the He’atid leadership programme, at the helm of the organisation for 14 years till it became the SA-Israel Forum.

He’atid was responsible for taking South African leaders to Israel and other relevant countries to acquire leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

Previously Kahn was an elected member of the Board and served for five years, including as vice-chairman of the Gauteng Council.

She studied at Wits and obtained a post-graduate diploma in management at the university’s business school.

“I am the black sheep of the family - the only one not having gone into the medical field.”

Her father, Professor Barry Schoub, was CEO of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases and is currently chairman of the National Health Laboratory Services.

Her career started at Eskom. “I am in no way responsible for the load shedding! Eskom became my real university where I managed middle management leadership development for five wonderful years.”

Kahn attributes coping with a high-powered job to a supportive family infrastructure. Her children, Michaela (20), David (17) and Rachel (11) are “up to date on the issues and the activities in which we are involved.

“In 2016, I don’t believe that a mother or father in fulltime high-powered jobs should be facing different challenges.”

She describes her husband, Lance, as “amazingly supportive and long-suffering”.

Looking back at the start of her SAJBD career, she said: “When I inherited my office at the SAJBD, it was freezing cold and there was no electricity. I walked in, felt the glare of 100 men looking down at me. My first task was to remove the photographs and introduce bright South African art into my office.”

She brought colour to the logos and the work of the Board, “cherishing the many different facets of our community and embracing the diversity of our country”.

A typical day in her life is getting up at 05:00, checking her Twitter feed and being at boot camp half an hour later.

“What I love about my job is that every day is different and unpredictable. I only truly know what my day will be when I get to my office at



07:30. We may have an anti-Semitism incident erupting in the media, resulting in the need for statements. On these days everything else gets shifted.

“Other days see us attending government meetings, workshops or civil society interactions. My personal favourites are the projects we run, such as the Youth Day outing to Soweto with members of our schools, or the xenophobia campaigns we were involved in where our community made a great contribution.”

She has developed and led many campaigns, including the Jewish Xenophobia Relief Programme; ensuring patient care during the 2010 public sector strike; representing South Africa in the international Jewish response to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva; co-ordinating the 2011 counteraction to the

Russell Tribunal for Palestine, sending a message that this was nothing more than a kangaroo court and responding to the “anti-social” media, as well as campaigns to encourage the Jewish community to participate in South Africa’s democratic processes.

Regarding Women’s Day, Kahn says: “We have such powerful women leaders in our country, such as Advocate Thuli Madonsela and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. Our representation of women in all facets of society, including parliament and government, is impressive on a global level.”

Kahn, however, is concerned about the level of violence against women in this country. “It is something we must always stand up against.”

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Australian broadcast tweet compares Israel to ISIS

SYDNEY – A tweet drawing parallels between Israel and ISIS that appeared on-screen during Monday’s edition of Q&A on Australian national television (ABC) has caused communal outrage and has drawn an apology from the national broadcaster.

The post in question stated, “Any young radical who joins ISIS or Israel should not be allowed into Australia.”

Meanwhile, two tweets objecting to the comment were not screened by the programme makers.

Noting it had received complaints from both Jewish and non-Jewish viewers, Peter Wertheim, executive director of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, wrote to the ABC’s managing director Michelle Guthrie and director of corporate affairs Michael Millett, stating that, “The comparison with ISIS is utterly false, and viciously defamatory of Israelis, including Australian-Israeli dual nationals.

“For Q&A’s Twitter selection team to allow the ... tweet to go on-screen during the programme betrays an appalling ignorance, flawed values and a lack of judgment, for which the ABC should apologise immediately and without reservation.”

The sentiment was echoed by chairman of the B’nai B’rith Anti-Defamation Commission Dvir Abramovich, who urged the ABC “to put in place effective mechanisms to ensure that such abhorrent sentiments are not posted”.

Apologising for the offensive tweet, Q&A producers issued a statement which read, “An audience tweet was broadcast on Q&A which implied false equivalence between ‘radicals joining ISIS’ and Israel. It was a moderator error. Q&A apologises for any offence and removed the tweet from future broadcasts.” - The Australian Jewish News

Early detection of melanoma spreading to the brain

TEL AVIV - When malignant melanoma - the most dangerous kind of skin cancer – spreads to the brain, it is almost always a death sentence. But now, Tel Aviv University researchers have found a way to detect micro-metastases – tiny bunches of spreading cancer cells – months before they reach the brain and develop into fatal tumours.

The mechanisms that govern early meta-

static growth and interactions of metastatic cells with the brain micro-environment have long remained shrouded in mystery.

According to the research led by Dr Neta Erez of TAU’s pathology department and just published in Cancer Research, micro-tumour cells hijack astrogliosis, the brain’s natural response to damage or injury, to support metastatic growth.

This breakthrough could lead to the detection of brain cancer in its first stages and permit early intervention.

Erez and her team used mice to study and follow the spontaneous metastasis of melanoma in the brain. They recapitulated all the stages of metastasis – the initial discovery of melanoma in the skin, the removal of the primary tumour, the micro-metastatic dissemination of cancer cells across the body, the discovery of a tumour and death.

The detection of metastasis depends on imaging techniques that still can’t detect micro-metastases.

Melanoma patients whose initial melanoma was excised believe that everything is fine for months or years following the initial procedure. But after the primary tumour is removed, micro-metastatic cells learn to communicate with cells in their new micro-environment in the brain. These cells are at first hostile to them, but eventually, a tumour appears.

The cells travel across the body to the brain or other organs but are undetectable at the micro level. When they become detectable, it is already too late for treatment. – Jerusalem Post

Israel’s largest-ever Olympic delegation heads to Rio

TEL AVIV - Fifty-one Israeli athletes in 17 sports will compete for the blue-and-white at the 2016 Olympics this month.

Rhythmic gymnast Neta Rivkin will hold Israel’s blue-and-white flag aloft at the opening ceremony of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, to be held August 5 to 21.

The Olympic delegation that will be led into the stadium by Rivkin is Israel’s largest since the country’s first Olympic Games in 1952. The qualifiers include Israel’s first Olympic competitors in golf, triathlon and mountain biking.

Rivkin, who finished seventh in her category at the 2012 London Games, is one of 11 repeat Olympic athletes from Israel who are hoping for a spot on the medallists’ podium.

At the Baku World Cup in Azerbaijan in July, she won a bronze medal.

The 2016 delegation also includes 34 coaches and about 25 support staff.

In 16 Olympic Games, Israelis have won seven medals - in judo, sailing and canoeing. The only gold medallist was windsurfer Gal Fridman (Athens, 2004) and he also won a bronze medal in Atlanta in 1996. – Israel 21c

Police probe Arabic newspaper for article blaming Jews for the Holocaust

LONDON, Ontario - In the days after a Holocaust-denying, anti-Semitic article ran in a London, Ontario-based Arabic-language newspaper, police are investigating whether it qualifies as a crime, while politicians who had advertised in the paper are vowing never to do business with the publication again.

According to a statement by B’nai Brith Canada, an article titled “The Question Which Everyone Ignores: Why Did Hitler Kill the Jews?” ran in the June-July issue of the Al-Saraha newspaper, which B’nai Brith says can be found “in every Middle Eastern restaurant and every Middle Eastern grocery in South-western Ontario.”

The article by Egyptian writer Salah Montasser originally published in Al-Masry Al-Youm, an Egyptian daily newspaper, asserts that the figure of six million Jewish Holocaust victims is based on “Jewish propaganda” that “managed to spread [this number] and establish it.”

It accuses Jews of causing “most of the economic collapses that occurred in the banks in the period between 1870 and 1920”.

Montasser also said “the first theatres of homosexuality appeared in Berlin in the 1920s, and the first presentations of pornography appeared in 1880 and 1890 by the hands of Jewish authors”.

In a statement, B’nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn said the article “constitutes an obscene form of hate propaganda aimed at Canada’s Jewish community. Its appearance in a community newspaper which hosts advertisements from local businesses and mainstream political parties is extremely worrying.” - Canadian Jewish News

Is Ivan Lewis the man to unite Manchester?

MANCHESTER - Ivan Lewis is on a mission. The veteran Jewish MP is fighting to be Labour’s candidate in next year’s Manchester

mayoral election.

He has a mountain to climb - his rivals for the nomination are Tony Lloyd, who is currently interim mayor, and Shadow Home Secretary Andy Burnham.

But Lewis told the Jewish Chronicle that he is confident.

The former chief executive of The Fed, Manchester’s Jewish social welfare charity, said: “Unlike some politicians, I wasn’t a special advisor fast-tracked into a safe seat and then into a big ministerial job.

“I started off in my local community. I set up a charity supporting people with learning disabilities and mental health problems at the age of 19. And I served for eight years in local government.”

He believes an elected mayor could benefit not only the city as a whole but its Jews as well.

“Look at the history of Greater Manchester - the contribution of the Jewish community in culture, commerce, politics, is extraordinary, and I think it’s incredibly important that that is celebrated and sustained.

“Today the contribution of the Jewish community to the wider community in Manchester is very substantial indeed.

Lewis, an MP since 1987, was sacked from Jeremy Corbyn’s first shadow cabinet last September and he is now a leading critic of Corbyn. – Jewish Chronicle, London

Revolutionary artificial material fits body like a glove

TEL AVIV - A new material not found in nature that has unique properties and potential applications that require exact fitting on the human body and soft robots has been engineered by scientists at Tel Aviv University and in the Netherlands.

The great advantage of the meta-material is that it can be produced to fit any format. In the future, the innovative material could be used to build custom-made prostheses for amputees as well as other wearable technologies that can mould to the body exactly; soft robots could also be manufactured from the new material.

“Meta-materials are smart materials engineered by man and not found in nature,” said Dr Yair Shokef, head of the research group at TAU’s School of Mechanical Engineering. “In contrast to the materials currently being used whose characteristics are determined by their chemical composition (atoms and molecules), the physical properties of meta-materials result from their spatial structure.

“Thus,” said Shokef, “the special building blocks and how they fit together determine the characteristics of the meta-material. In the new study, the meta-material we have developed are ground-breaking and three-dimensional rather than cyclical, in which the patterns keep repeating themselves.

“All meta-materials developed so far have been homogeneous and crafted according to one pattern. But we and our colleagues in the Netherlands have developed cubical building blocks that are hollow, allowing flexibility.”

The new meta-material especially interfaces with biological surfaces, especially the human body, which is not uniform by nature. For example, it will be possible in future to build prostheses that most accurately suit an amputee’s stump like a glove, and improve their feeling and functioning. – Jerusalem Post

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Mouth-watering watermelon steak more than a novelty

Watermelon steak topped with chickpea and feta salad

VICKY COHEN AND RUTH FOX

If you’ve never tasted watermelon and feta together before, it may sound like a strange combination but give it a taste and you will certainly be hooked. It being August, watermelon may be scarce unless you pay for imported ones. Yet spring is just weeks away and this is something to get excited about. The sweetness of the juicy watermelon meets the rich, salty feta creating an explosion of flavour on every perfect bite.

Inspired by the traditional Israeli watermelon salad, this recipe incorporates protein-rich chickpeas, greens and sweet tomatoes, beautifully arranged on top of a thick, slice of watermelon - all drizzled with a tangy lemon, mustard and olive oil dressing.

It’s a light, refreshing addition to a spring or summer brunch, lunch or light dinner.

- INGREDIENTS:**
- For the salad:**
- ❖ 1 small baby watermelon
 - ❖ 6 romaine lettuce leaves, chopped (you can also use your favourite greens)
 - ❖ 16 red cherry tomatoes, sliced in half
 - ❖ 6 small yellow tomatoes, quartered
 - ❖ 1 cup crumbled sheep’s feta cheese (about 6 ounces)
 - ❖ 1 15-ounce can garbanzo beans
 - ❖ 1 cup chopped parsley
 - ❖ 2 teaspoons sumac

- For the dressing:**
- ❖ 2 tablespoons brown mustard
 - ❖ 2 tablespoons lemon
 - ❖ 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
 - ❖ 1/8 teaspoon salt



- Directions:**
- ❖ Slice the watermelon into four 1/2-inch rounds and remove the rind.
 - ❖ Place the rest of the salad ingredients in a large bowl. Whisk all dressing ingredients together until well incorporated. Add dressing to salad and toss well.
 - ❖ Arrange salad on top of each watermelon slice and sprinkle with sumac. Serve immediately. (The Noshers via JTA)
- Vicky Cohen and Ruth Fox are sisters who were raised in Barcelona, Spain. Their parents are Syrian-Lebanese Jews but now live, cook and blog from the East Coast of the US about their family recipes and healthy eating.

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News

Israel and Egypt recommit to their 37-year-old peace treaty

ANT KATZ

Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin addressed an Egyptian national day reception hosted by Egypt’s Ambassador to Israel Hazem Khairat last week: “It has been 37 years since Israel signed its peace treaty with Egypt,” said Rivlin. Ever since, “Egypt has been a strategic partner in security, commerce, and regional co-operation.”

Modern Egypt is four years younger than Israel. The reception was hosted by Ambassador Khairat in honour of the Egyptian national day commemorating the Egyptian Revolution of 1952. Also present were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara.

Rivlin, a seventh-generation Jerusalemite who is fluent in Arabic and English and speaks several other languages, began his speech in Arabic. “It is an honour for me that we are celebrating Egypt’s independence together, ‘Om El Donya, Mother of the World’. On my own behalf and on behalf of all the citizens of the State of Israel, we congratulate President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, and the Egyptian people.”

Switching to English, the President said - to much applause: “Israel stands shoulder to shoulder with Egypt in its fight against terror.”

He added: “Human culture as we know it would not be the same without Egypt. Egypt’s greatness has not remained only in the past. To this day your country is a leading force in our region, and a truly positive one.”

Rivlin told the assembled diplomats: “As other countries in our region are torn by internal war and jihadi terror, Egypt stands out as a pillar of stability. Now more than ever, Egypt’s leadership is indispensable in the Middle East.”

Rivlin spoke of the importance of standing together in the face of the threat of terrorism, saying: “I send my own condolences, along with



President Reuven Rivlin, right, with Egyptian Ambassador Hazem Khairat.

the condolences of all Israelis, to all those hurt and wounded, and to the families and friends of those who were killed by terror this year. May you know no more grief.” The struggle against terror, said Rivlin, was one that had to be fought, as it was “for the benefit of our entire region and for the benefit of humanity itself”.

On the importance of the peace treaty between the two countries, Rivlin said that it had been 37 years since Israel signed the treaty. “Ever since, Egypt has been a strategic partner in security, commerce, and regional co-operation,” adding that this was “proof of the importance and benefits of peace”.

The President expressed his hope for developing peace and stability in the entire region. “The younger generations are looking for development and progress in hi-tech, science, and commerce. I hope that we can work together to carry out these projects for the benefit of all peoples.”

Should the two countries succeed in their current initiatives in this regard, said Rivlin, he felt that many more international players from the Middle East and beyond would join them.

“In this context, I would like to recognise the personal commitment of President el-Sisi to peace, reconciliation, and stability,” and added that Israel “deeply appreciates this commitment”.

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Jewish Report

World News in Brief

Heinrich Himmler's diary discovered in archive in Russia

PODOLSK - The diary of Nazi SS leader Heinrich Himmler was discovered filed in an archive in Russia.

The diary, actually a service calendar including dates, meetings and military decisions was discovered earlier this year in the Russian Military Archive in Podolsk. It was filed under Dniewnik, which is Russian for diary, the Daily Mail reported.

The diary from Tuesday started to be serialised in the German newspaper Bild.

An entry in the 1 000-page diary in August 1941 revealed that Himmler, who was known to be squeamish at the sight of blood, almost fainted when the brains of a Jewish mass shooting victim at the edge of a pit outside of Minsk splattered on his

coat, according to the Mail.

He writes in 1943 about witnessing the "effectiveness" of the diesel engines used to gas prisoners at the Sobibor death camp. That same day SS men threw a banquet in his honour, he recorded. He also calls for new guard dogs at the Auschwitz complex "capable of ripping apart everyone but their handlers", according to the Mail.

In 1945, Himmler was captured by British soldiers in northern Germany, carrying falsified papers. He was recognised during his interrogation, which led him to bite down on a cyanide capsule hidden in one of his teeth. He died moments later. (JTA)

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Keep an eye on the Jewish Olympic brigade

JACK MILNER

The Olympic Games kick off in Rio de Janeiro on Friday and there will be quite a few Jewish - or Israeli - participants to watch at this year's event.

Israel is sending its largest contingent ever to this year's Games - at least 47 athletes. Perhaps one of their most interesting entries is that of Lonah Chemtai. The 26-year-old hails from Kenya and is Israel's most accomplished female long-distance runner. Chemtai managed to get her Israeli citizenship just before the deadline and will represent Israel in the 3000m hurdles race and in the marathon.

Chemtai arrived in Israel in late 2008 to work as an au pair for the children of Kenya's consul to Israel. Now she is married to her Israeli coach, Dan Salpeter, and the couple has a six-month-old baby named Roy.

"I am very proud to represent Israel and I hope to achieve a new personal best time," Chemtai told Reuters.

Her personal best time of two hours and 40 minutes for the marathon is relatively slow compared with the likes of Paula Radcliffe who ran the London Marathon in 2:15:25 on April 13, 2003. But Dan Salpeter says "a personal best in Rio very much depends on the conditions, which can change from day to day, so it's hard to know.

"But Lonah still has tremendous potential to improve greatly over the next 10 years and even beyond."

Chemtai is not worried about the marathon, which she says "is not hard," but after Rio she plans to focus on track events and hopes to represent Israel in the 10 000m race at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

The Israeli rhythmic gymnastics team had a great warm-up for the Olympics after winning several medals at the World Cup Final in Baku, Azerbaijan last weekend.

Their best performance was gold for the ribbons event. Israel also took gold for this event at the European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships earlier in July.

In addition, the team won silver in the group all-round category.

Veteran gymnast Neta Rivkin won bronze during the individual ball event. Rivkin will be the Israeli flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Olympics. This will be her third Games as she competed in both London and Beijing.

"My ambition is to win an Olympic medal. All my efforts are currently focused on doing my absolute utmost to do the very



Kenyan-Born Lonah Chemtai will represent Israel in the Olympic Games marathon.

best at the Olympics," said Rivkin.

From 1992 to 2008 Israeli athletes have won medals in every Olympic Games, but, at the London 2012 Games, the team came home empty-handed, so hopes are high this time.

The US is sending a team off 555 athletes and there are high hopes for seven Jewish participants.

Topping the field is gymnast Aly Raisman who was the toast of the Games in London. She won a floor gymnastics gold medal while performing to Hava Nagila.

Raisman noted the 40th anniversary of the massacre of 11 Israelis at the 1972 Munich Games to reporters after her performance, an event the IOC declined to recognise.

Rugby players Zack Test and Nate Ebner were mentioned in a previous article. Ebner will be the first-ever NFL player to make a US Olympic team.

Swimmer Anthony Ervin was born to an Ashkenazi Jewish mother and a father with both African-American and Native American heritage.

After winning gold in the 50m freestyle at the 2000 Olympics at age 19, Ervin felt burned out. He quit swimming in 2003 and spent his 20s experimenting with drugs, playing guitar and teaching the sport in Brooklyn.

He nearly committed suicide by overdosing on the medication he takes for his Tourette's Syndrome. In an even more symbolic split from swimming, Ervin auctioned off his gold medal for \$17 000 (around R250 000) and donated the money to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

Remarkably he made a comeback at the 2012 Olympics, placing fifth in the 50m freestyle. He called his latest Olympic trials his best ever and qualified for both the 50m freestyle and the 4x100m freestyle relay in Rio.

Not many athletes stay in peak shape long enough to participate in an Olympics at 39, but Merrill Moses, a water polo veteran of the 2008 and 2012 Olympics - will do just that when he celebrates his birthday in the middle of the Rio Games.

Moses will likely be in the starting line-up for his third straight Olympics.

Eli Dershowitz 20, is studying at Harvard. He is one of two sabre fencers in the US team. His performance at the Fencing World Cup in February helped the US team gain the No 1 world ranking. He is considered a serious medal contender.

Monica Rokhman, 19, is the daughter of Russian-Jewish immigrants and is a rising star in rhythmic gymnastics.

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David Wolpe has been named the 'most influential Rabbi in America' by Newsweek Magazine and one of the '50 most influential Jews in the World' by the Jerusalem Post. David is the Rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. He has debated with Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins and

Sam Harris about faith and God. He is also Kirk Douglas' Rabbi. Wolpe will also present on his personal battles in having to beat both a brain tumour and non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. He is the author of eight books, including the national bestseller *'Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times'*. His new book is titled *'David, the Divided Heart'* and has been optioned for a movie by Warner Bros.



THE ROCK STAR OF JEWISH HISTORY

JONATHAN SARNA
UNITED STATES
Historian of US Judaism

Renowned "rock star Jewish historian" Jonathan D. Sarna is author or editor of more than thirty books on American Jewish history and life. His American Judaism: A History won six awards including the 2004 'Everett Jewish Book of the Year Award' from the Jewish Book Council. He is the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History

at Brandeis University, and chairs its Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program. His most recent books are *When General Grant Expelled the Jews* and *Lincoln & the Jews: A History*. "Sarna is more than a walking encyclopaedia of the American Jewish experience. He is a part of what makes American Jewish history vibrant and vital" -Jewish Daily Forward. • Visit made possible by the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at the University of Cape Town

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

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

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

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STARTING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

LAURA JANNER-KLAUSNER, UK
Rabbi and social justice campaigner

Laura Janner-Klausner is the first person to be appointed Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism in the United Kingdom. She was active in the Remain campaign and issued a warning with other faith leaders against BREXIT. She is outspoken on the challenges faced by asylum seekers in Europe. She is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' and BBC One's 'The Big Questions' series of moral, ethical and religious debates and makes regular appearances on other programmes. Sessions include *Jews and Muslims*, *Starting Difficult Conversations*; *Losing it – Judaism and Dementia*, and *LGB & T*, as a parent of a gender queer person.

SHOOTING FROM THE HIP ABOUT ISRAEL



NOAH EFRON, Israel
Writer and political pundit

Straight talker Noah Efron hosts "The Promised Podcast" on TLV1 Radio in Tel Aviv. When not shooting from the hip, he chairs the Program on Science, Technology & Society at Bar Ilan University. He was a founder of the "Green Movement" political party and served on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa City Council. He's written three books and many essays on the intertwine of Judaism, science, technology and politics. He will present on *Bursting the Tel Aviv bubble: How the Left lost Israel and How We Can Win It Back*, *Technology and the Jewish Question* and *Why Jews won so many Nobel Prizes in the Past (and why we might not in the future)*.

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FAT IS NOT A FEELING

CAROLINE ROTHSTEIN, USA
Performer and body positive activist

Caroline Rothstein is a writer and performer, as well as a longtime activist for body empowerment. She is a rising star who doesn’t shy away from topics others find taboo and in sharing her personal story (“unfiltered, unabashed and unashamed”),

she empowers individuals to embrace self-confidence and authenticity. For over a decade, Caroline has been spreading her message at colleges, schools and performance venues worldwide, encouraging her audiences to find strength in their own vulnerability, and embracing the power of their own story and voice. Her work has appeared in BuzzFeed, Narratively,

and The Forward, and her Youtube video ‘*Fat is Not a Feeling*’ has racked-up an impressive viewership of over 2 million. Even Lady Gaga is a fan of this hugely talented writer, performer and activist. Caroline’s sessions include, “*A Letter from my Judaism to my Body*”, “*Spoken Word Activism*”, and an interactive writing and performative workshop on “*Jewish Identity and Body Image*”.

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THE 60 MINUTE SOLUTION

SARA HIRSCHORN, UK
Israel Studies pioneer, columnist

Sara Hirschhorn is a Research Lecturer as well as a Sidney Brichto fellow in Israel Studies at Oxford University. Her main areas of focus are the Israeli settler movement, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Diaspora-Israel relations. Sara is a public speaker, media commentator and columnist on Jewish/Israel affairs, with work published in the New York Times, Haaretz (where she is a regular op-ed columnist), BBC, Times of Israel and others. “*City on a Hilltop: American Jews and the Israeli Settler Movement Since 1967*”, her forthcoming book, presents the first known attempt to draw up a comprehensive demographic profile of Americans within the Israeli settler movement. Her sessions include *Myth and Memory in Mandate Palestine*, *How to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict in 60 minutes or less*, and *The Unsettled Question: The History of the Politics of the Israeli Settler Movement since 1967*.



HYPOCRISY OF REPENTANCE

JOE WOLFSON, Israel
Rabbi and philosopher

Joe Wolfson is a dynamic modern Orthodox Rabbi and Jewish educator, originally from the UK, who has spent most of the last decade in Israel and is currently heading the Jewish Learning Initiative at New York University. His academic background is in political philosophy and he has a strong online presence, both of which add to his virtuosity as a contemporary educator. From Sydney to New York, throughout the UK and Israel, and with popular classes offered worldwide through his website, Joe Wolfson has garnered a great reputation and is one teacher you do not want to miss when he presents at Limmud SA 2016. Sessions include *Jonah*, *Nineveh and the Positive Hypocrisy of Repentance*, *The Two Goats of Yom Kippur as Two Models of Teshuva*, and *The First King’s Last Night: Saul and the Witch of Ein Dor*.



ISRAEL AFTER ARAB SPRING

NIR BOMS, Israel
Counter-terrorism expert

Nir Boms is a counter-terrorism expert and a research fellow at the Moshe Dayan Centre of Tel Aviv University and at the International Centre for Counter Terrorism. He co-founded CyberDissidents.org – a network of Middle East bloggers that focuses on freedom of expression and the promotion of dialogue in the region, while his recent book *Expat-ing Democracy* focuses on technology and political discourse in the Middle East. He is fluent in Hebrew, English and Arabic. Nir will present on *Technology and the Democratic Revolution*; *The Case of Humanitarian Diplomacy in Syria*; *What do Arabs Want? Unconventional Wisdom from Middle East Public Polling*, and *Israel in the Post Arab Spring Era*.

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