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# Jewish Report

■ May 6 2016 / 28 Nissan 5776  
 ■ Volume 20 - Number 16

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# SA Jews in the desert on Pesach



AfrikaBurn, an annual gathering of revellers who came together to create art, burning structures, costume, performance, theme camps, music and more, in the remote Tankwa Karoo from April 25 to May 1, was once again a sight to behold. Based on the renowned Burning Man festival in the US, it is now in its 10th year. An estimated 13 000 people attended this year's event and in the run-up to the festival, two highly successful, well-attended Pesach seders were held on April 22-23. Dozens of SA Jews attended AfrikaBurn which continued throughout the eight days of Pesach, giving a whole new meaning to the notion of Jews wandering in the desert. Pictured are: Byron Kaplan; Alex Cohen; Tanita Boswell; Jason Seaward; Asher Stern; and Chad Nathan. See further photos on page 8.



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*“With love do I call you Mother”*

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# Looking through heaven’s eyes



Parshat Acharai

**Rabbi Dovid Wineberg**  
**Green and Sea Point**  
**Hebrew Congregation**

The Babylonians plundered it, Roman General Titus stabbed it and invader Pompey reportedly prostrated in awe when entering it.

The Holy of Holies in the Bet Hamikdash - the focus of Jewish worship until our present day - has held a certain fascination in world history. Its contents and mode of worship remained a mystery, as no-one aside from the High Priest had permission to enter the threshold of heaven - and only on Yom Kippur.

This week’s parsha focuses on this unique service and details the duties of the Kohen Gadol on this awesome day, including his multiple entries into the Holy of Holies.

For a moment, let’s look through the eyes of this most exalted servant and see what he saw as he parted the curtain. Immediately, he

would behold the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments, although he couldn’t see tablets because they were inside the box. But the Kohen Gadol could see that on top of the Ark were two keruvim, childish cherubic faces - porsei knofayim! - with their wings spread out towards each other.

You see, to look through heaven’s eyes is to behold the spiritual greatness of children - to reclaim your inner child.

Remember when you were little and suddenly you started to cry? And all the adults said: “Ah the baby wants attention.” But you didn’t want attention, you wanted connection. You didn’t like waking up all alone with no-one to touch and hold you; you sought the embrace of love.

But the adults didn’t understand that; they felt safer in the hardened lonely shell of self. And then you grew up and, left alone, you would say to the adults: “I’m afraid.” And they would respond: “Stop being irrational, there’s nothing to be afraid of.”

But it was they who were being irrational because you weren’t afraid of the dark, you were

afraid of the loneliness and the feeling of being disconnected.

Children are such masters of connection that they never harbour faribles. Remember when in anger you would shout the worst curse you could imagine: “I hate you!” And then five minutes later you were back to your chirpy self, expressing much love? Remember a time when you would choose to be wrong and happy rather than right and miserable?

But then you grew up and the world taught you the meaning of self-importance, self-actualisation and self-indulgence. Now it was more important to be right, even if it made you miserable, as long as the self was protected.

You learned to retreat to the safety of familiarity, even as you forgot the thrill of discovery. You learned that the self doesn’t make mistakes - and certainly won’t admit to them - even as you forgot how often you picked yourself off the floor as you were learning to walk. You were much braver then, but now the self is too fragile to handle such knocks.

We live in an age of unprecedented tools of

connection and yet we are the loneliest people in history. Oxford Dictionary’s 2015 “Word of the Year” wasn’t even a word because we’re not talking to each other!

Remember when you were a little kid and you didn’t yet know how to talk, but you sure knew how to communicate! Then you learned to talk, but forgot how to communicate. We learned to give, but forgot how to share. And then you learned how to provide, but forgot how to nurture.

The Prophet Hosea proclaims: “For Israel is but a lad and I love him. It was from Egypt that I called out to my child.”

We have just left Egypt; Pesach is behind us and we are as children on our approach to Sinai. Spiritual greatness - holiness - beckons if you are only willing to part the curtain and peer deeply into your inner child.

If you are willing to spread your wings to another and connect truly and deeply, to take risks as you care for and nurture the other. On this journey, try looking through heaven’s eyes.

Shabbat Shalom!

Community

## A host of communal remembrances and festivities

ANT KATZ

Jewish communal life will be dominated by the celebrations around the various festivals, commemorations and remembrances over the next two weeks. The SAZF and the SA Jewish Board of Deputies - our primary communal organisations - are bringing Johannesburgers the biggest and best events in many a year and they are joined by the Israeli Embassy, Jewish day schools and other Jewish organisations.

The Jewish holidays kick off every year with Yom Hashoah - or Holocaust Remembrance Day - which is hosted locally by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies at venues around the country.

This is followed in short order by the dual commemoration and celebrations of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut which are hosted annually by the SA Zionist Federation and ends a few months later with Yom Yerushalayim - the celebration of the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967, which will begin this year at sundown (after Shabbat) on Saturday June 4.

**Erev Yom Hazikaron**

In Johannesburg, next week, the sombre remembrance ceremony on erev Yom Hazikaron begins as the Israeli flag is lowered at Yeshiva College at sunset on Tuesday May 10, after which guest speakers will address members of the community, who every year attend in their thousands.

Yom Hazikaron is a day of commemoration of Israel’s fallen soldiers and victims of terror. The Fed has branded this year as Remember#withIsrael.



The guest speaker at the Yeshiva College Campus event, which starts at exactly 18:30, will be Raphael Herbst, a senior member of Israel’s Magen David Adom (MDA) ambulance and emergency-response service. There is no charge to attend, but booking is essential for security reasons: To book online, go to <http://www.sazionfed.co.za/events/yom-hazikaron-2016/> - or call the Fed at (011) 645-2500.

**Yom Hazikaron**

On the morning of Wednesday June 11, the Israeli Embassy will be unveiling the country’s first-ever monument to fallen soldiers (from South African origin) in Pretoria.

**Erev Yom Ha’atzmaut**

At sunset on Wednesday May 11, the Israeli flag will be lowered on the sombre day of reflection that is Yom Hazikaron, and the festivities of Yom Ha’atzmaut - Israel’s Inde-

pendence Day - begin in earnest.

This fun-packed event is expected to draw the thousands it usually does. The SAZF with a host of Jewish and Israeli partners will ensure a fantasy of fun for all, from young to old, singles and families. So expect more people and expect them to linger longer.

A multitude of get-togethers will take place at the Huddle Park Golf Course in Linksfield. Yom Ha’atzmaut is Israel’s national birthday and is a day of happiness and good cheer.

Among the host of events – (See full details on [www.sajr.co.za/yom](http://www.sajr.co.za/yom)) - at Huddle Park will be:

- A Yom Ha’atzmaut family/communal event;
- Yom Ha’atzmaut night carnival and shuk; and
- Live entertainment, kids’ carnival, food stalls, and much more
- Starting at 20:30 is the young adults’ Yom

Ha’atzmaut VIP after-party.

The doors open at 17:00 and the entrance fee is R50 for adults and R20 for kids. You can also stand a chance to win a ticket to Israel by booking online, at <http://www.sazionfed.co.za/events/yom-haatzmaut/>. Alternatively, you can call the SAZF at (011) 645-2500.

The Yom Ha’atzmaut VIP after-party, featuring guest DJs Euphonik, SauBomb, DJ Wags and Harael Salkow, starts at 20:30. Tickets are R80 and this event historically ends at breakfast time. Book online at <http://www.sazionfed.co.za/events/dance-israel/> - or call the SAZF at 011 645-2500.

**Yom Ha’atzmaut**

On Thursday May 12 at 08:30 King David Victory Park’s “Spread the Love” Yom Ha’atzmaut event (more on [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)) is aiming to get the school into the Guinness Book of Records by making and delivering the most sandwiches ever, to the needy.

• Further information can be found on our website: [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

Shabbat Times		
<b>Parshat Acharai</b>		
<b>May 6 / 28 Nisan</b>		
<b>May 7 / 29 Nisan</b>		
Starts	Ends	
17:16	18:06	Johannesburg
17:42	18:34	Cape Town
16:59	17:49	Durban
17:19	18:09	Bloemfontein
17:14	18:06	Port Elizabeth
17:06	17:58	East London
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# Berland declared a ‘flight risk’ and bail is denied to the elusive rabbi

JEREMY GORDIN

Last week Thursday, after a fraught and sometimes bizarre hearing, “Rabbi-on-the run” Eliezer Berland (pictured), wanted for sex crimes in Israel, was denied bail in the Randburg Magistrate’s Court.

This means that Berland, 79, will be detained at the Medium A section of Johannesburg Prison, known sarcastically by inmates and others as Sun City, until his extradition order is signed by the Minister of Justice.

South African government departments are not known for the rapid processing of bureaucratic matters, but it is understood that the Israeli embassy in South Africa will be doing its best to have Berland’s extradition implemented as quickly as possible.

It is understood too that the rabbi will be allowed to keep the single cell that Regional Magistrate Pravina Raghunandan had ordered he should have due to his age and dietary requirements.

Berland may appeal against the bail finding but then, given the serious backlogs in the South African justice system, he could be held in custody for months.

Berland, the leader of the Shuvu Banim Breslov Chassidic movement with headquarters at his yeshiva in Jerusalem, has been on the run since 2012 when allegations were made by female followers in Israel that he had sexually assaulted them. He has strenuously denied the charges.

Berland has managed to live under the noses of authorities from Morocco to the Netherlands and Zimbabwe. In South Africa, prior to his arrest on April 7, he had been staying at hotels and golf estates. He is followed by about 40 families to whom he is a spiritual guru.

Last week Thursday did not go off without incident, however. It began with Berland’s attorney, Themba Langa, alleging in his final submissions that the fake Israeli passport

found in Berland’s possession when he was arrested, had been “planted” by Interpol agents.

Langa also took offence at Raghunandan remarking that he sometimes tended to “manipulate” evidence. Langa told the magistrate that he did not “like being called names by the court”. Court was adjourned for 20 minutes and when the magistrate returned, she asked Langa three times if he wished to apply for her recusal. He declined.

Langa said it seemed understandable that Berland believed he was “under threat” by the State of Israel because, he asked: “Why else would a state spend so much money and energy chasing a man accused of kissing a woman on the cheek?”

Langa also accused South Africa of

Berland was wanted for.

Knopp said he knew Musli was obeying his bail stipulations and had not fled because he was one of Musli’s legal representatives.

Prosecutor, Advocate Nerisha Naidoo, said the “truncation” of the extradition process had been by agreement between the prosecution and defence; that she was dismayed by the apparent connection between Berland and Musli (via Knopp); and that Berland was clearly a flight risk if one considered that he had somehow managed to procure other passports when his extradition appeal failed in Holland - and had then fled the Netherlands, forfeiting bail of 50 000 euros.

“Berland clearly does not act alone; he has assistance everywhere. This

country does not have to bend over backwards for a fugitive from justice,” said Naidoo.

After a long adjournment, Raghunandan said she had carefully considered the evidence from everyone. She said she was concerned that Berland’s affidavits “were worryingly devoid of information” - he said he was in danger from the State of Israel and various other people but offered no

detail. Above all, it was his “brazen” procurement of a passport in Holland while on bail and then his departure from Holland that “weighed heavily” with her.

She concluded therefore that Berland was definitely a flight risk. Bail was accordingly denied and he had to be detained in prison until the Minister of Justice signed off on the extradition.

As she left the court, Berland’s main assistant, known only as Natan, walked up to the prosecutor’s desk, saying loudly: “They want to kill him, that is all, they want to kill him, that is what this is about, they want to kill him! How can you send an old man to a place where he cannot eat?”

• Follow the arrest and trial on our website: [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

# Berland followers demand that the rabbi be set free



Hundreds of Rabbi Eliezer Berland’s followers demonstrated in front of the South African embassy in Ramat Gan, calling for his release.

SHOSHANA MISKIN

About 700 followers of Rabbi Eliezer Berland demonstrated last week Monday morning outside the South African embassy in Israel in Ramat Gan, calling for the release of their leader.

Musa Masrawa of the South African Consul General office in Israel went out to speak with the protesters: “I came here because I understand your feelings,” he said. “I do not have the authority to release the rabbi, but I can certainly help if the rabbi is entitled to his freedom.”

David Shainberg, a follower of the rabbi, who attended the meeting with the consul, told Walla! News: “We told him that the rabbi is in critical condition, his health is deteriorating and he needs medical treatment.

“We said he should not be in prison, and you could put him under house arrest. He said he would write an affidavit to the state and explained that if he (Berland) is innocent, then they will release him. We are worried about his health.

“Israel wants to discredit him. I do not think that’s the solution. The rabbi is in charge and he will decide himself when to return. In the meantime, there are worries about his condition.”

Berland, who spent Passover seder behind bars in a Johannesburg jail, was denied a request to the Randburg Magistrate’s Court to be released to house arrest, for fear that the elusive “rabbi-on-the-run” would again attempt to evade trial. (JTA)

# Anstey steps down as councillor

ANT KATZ

Cape Town DA City Councillor Errol Anstey has stood aside for the sake of his party in an interesting exercise which has been required due to the scrapping of so-called “floor crossing” rules.

Anstey’s standing down was precipitated by the desire of councillor Mzwakhe Nqavashe who had been negotiating to change parties - from the ANC to the DA - for some time. To facilitate this, the DA had to make an existing seat available. But it had to be a proportional representation (PR) seat as against a ward seat. When a ward councillor resigns, a by-election has to be called, but with the local election date on August 3, that would not have happened. When a PR councillor resigns, the political party that nominated him or her, simply nominates a new councillor.

“Mzwakhe Nqavashe is a very effective councillor and will be an asset to the DA,” Anstey told Jewish Report. “I informed our metro chairman that I was willing to make my PR seat available to anyone of quality that wishes to cross over to the DA before the elections.”

There is little doubt that Anstey will return to Council after the local government elections. Years ago there were regular “floor crossing” periods which allowed city and town councillors to literally change their colours at will and take their seat with them. This is not allowed anymore.

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ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

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ON SHOW THIS SUNDAY

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# Cape Board: ‘Women singing’ proposal unacceptable

ANT KATZ

The Cape Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies issued a terse letter at the end of last week regarding the case against them by claimants who want the ban to be lifted preventing women from singing at Jewish communal events, particularly at this week’s Yom HaShoah memorial service at Pinelands Cemetery in Cape Town.

In their statement, the Cape Council stated that, “Contrary to media reports, no acceptable compromise from the applicants has ever been suggested notwithstanding false reports linking Judge Albie Sachs to mediation.”

Two Capetonians, Gilad Stern and Sarah Goldstein - later joined by SACRED, an organisation affiliated to the SA Union of Progressive Judaism in the person of Progressive Rabbi Julia Margolis, lodged the complaint in the Equality Court.



SAUPJ itself said in a statement it was not joining the court action, although its national chairman Alvin Kushner acknowledged that the SAUPJ does “share the frustration felt by women who are prohibited from singing” at communal events.

Cape Board Chairman Eric Marx did, however, confirm that the Cape SAJBD had proposed that a colloquium be held within two months for all interested parties to meet and try to find a workable solution. However, he says, no changes have been considered for this week’s event.

Papers were originally lodged on April 1 in the Equality Court by Advocate Anton Katz SC on behalf of the two Orthodox Cape residents.

Marx said last week Thursday that the Board is “a body, elected by the Jewish community to protect the

religious and civil rights of the community”. While the SAJBD “recognises the heterogeneous nature of our communities and works hard to balance the needs and requirements of our differing constituencies, our challenge is to be as inclusive as possible,” Marx added.

An element of Orthodox Jewish Law, or halacha, said Marx, “is that of the prohibition of men hearing a woman singing as a solo voice (kol isha). The SA Orthodox Rabbinic leadership and many members of their communities are unified in their adherence to this law and would effectively be excluded from attending the ceremony, were it to be contravened”.

With regard to the offer from the claimants that the women could sing at the end of the service (allowing those who object to it to leave), Marx said that “to require those

Continued on page 7 >>

## In Bobroffs’ tangled web, more knots than answers

The Victory Park house of Darren Bobroff has been advertised for R30 000 rent a month, unfurnished. The five bedroom, four-and-a half-bathroom home is listed for immediate occupation.

ANT KATZ

Judges at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria last week Thursday made a suspension judgment, ruling that personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff, who absconded to Australia, be suspended from practising as attorneys and conveyancers.

The Bobroffs face charges of fraud and money laundering, relating to suspected infringements in their handling of Road Accident Fund (RAF) claims.

The judgment is temporary and is pending the determination of the applications of the Law Society and Mathew and Jennifer Graham. Matthew Graham was injured in a car accident and the Grahams are first and second applicants in the case in the High Court against the Bobroffs. They applied to have Ronald and Darren Bobroff barred from practising as attorneys pending disciplinary proceedings against them.

The Grahams, who were represented by the Bobroffs in a claim against the RAF, allege that the Bobroffs deceived, defrauded and overcharged them - charges which the Bobroffs have denied.

George van Niekerk, a director at attorneys ENS Africa who acted on behalf of the Grahams, said the couple went to the Bobroffs after Matthew Graham was injured in an accident. They wanted the Bobroffs to pursue a claim against the RAF on their behalf.

While the legally allowable limit on contingency fee cases is 25 per cent of the sum awarded, “the Bobroff’s collected a payment from the Road Accident Fund and picked a fee of 40 per cent of what they collected”, Van Niekerk told the court.

That, he said, was way above the limit “prescribed in the Contingency Fees Act” and it became clear “that the Bobroffs were systematically overreaching their clients, in other words they were stealing from their clients under the guise of taking fees”.

Van Niekerk told EWN last week Thursday that the Grahams felt vindicated that the Bobroffs had finally been suspended. He said the fugitive attorneys had taken an estimated R500 000 from the Grahams’ claim.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Times reported in “Fugitive Bobroffs house up for rent” last weekend that while Ronald Bobroff was “evading arrest in Australia”, his home in Victory Park was available for rent at

R30 000 a month. SA Jewish Report found out that it is actually Darren’s house. “It’s advertised as ideal for an entertainer,” the newspaper said.

Jewish Report Online carried the story two weeks ago that the head of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Shaun Abrahams, had expressed concern that the Bobroffs had evaded justice and promised to give further details this week.

“I can reassure the public that the matter is receiving the requisite attention from my office and that of other law enforcement agencies,” Abrahams said, according to the African News Agency (ANA).

Abrahams added that the NPA was working very closely with the various enquiries that are taking place. “I will address the issue in greater detail in two and a half weeks’ time when I intend giving a press briefing in respect of the work of the NPA.”

The NPA inquiry adds to the long list of current investigations against the Bobroffs which include those of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks); the Law Society; the Curator of their now defunct legal practice; the Justice and Correctional Services Department; and the SA Revenue Services.

The Road Accident Fund has also been combining through all their prior cases which involved the Bobroffs and in the first week laid almost 20 charges with the NPA, claiming that the errant lawyers had billed them, the RAF, for appointments supposedly held with clients - who subsequently denied that those meetings in fact took place.

Ronald and Darren Bobroff made a name for themselves as personal injury lawyers for those injured in car accidents.

ANA confirmed from Abrahams’ media briefing that the Bobroffs had disappeared ahead of handing themselves over to the Hawks.

Abrahams and Justice Minister Michael Masutha, however, had declined to answer questions as to whether South African authorities were asking Australia to extradite the pair - even though the Hawks and Interpol had confirmed this earlier.

A Reuters correspondent told Abrahams in the media briefing that this was unacceptable. “There are hundreds of people (affected) and possibly tens of millions of rands lost... It is, dare I say nonsense,” the reporter remarked.

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# What do controversial stories say about us?

The South African Jewish Report has received surprisingly little criticism for some of the more controversial stories we have recently chosen to cover. These include the ongoing saga of the international fugitive and alleged sex offender Rabbi Eliezer Berland who is facing imminent extradition to Israel after evading the law for quite some time.

Another is the case of lawyer Ronald Bobroff and his son Darren who fled to Australia a day before they were scheduled to appear before the High Court on fraud and money laundering charges, relating to suspected infringements in their handling of Road Accident Fund (RAF) claims. They are alleged to have defrauded RAF claimants by overcharging for their services.

Some of our readers commented, however, that we should not be exposing the difficulties of our fellow Jews in this way as it is “lashon hara”. Others said that by focusing on a few “bad eggs”, it made our whole community look bad. And

one writer brought up our earlier coverage of the Sydney Frankel paedophile charges as an example of scandal that we should not have covered.

These are interesting questions for us as a community newspaper to consider. Is our role to just write about the splendid deeds of SA Jewry and pleasant community gatherings while other newspapers expose Jewish wrongdoers? Is it not an ethical imperative for a community newspaper to expose corruption and abuse from within? By not covering them, are we not then colluding with the abuse or misdeeds?

Our rabbis have generally given the message that we should not deal with scandal publicly and would prefer our own Beth Din to adjudicate over cases of abuse, fraud or divorce battles, out of the public eye.

But it is well known that human transgressions thrive in an atmosphere of silence. The Catholic

Church is a case in point. It kept quiet about priests’ abuse of youth in their parishes for decades until the press took it on, exposed it and now finally it is being dealt with.

Ironically, the week before last, I could not help but cringe when I picked up The Star’s front page to see a splash about Rabbi Berland’s legal battle to prevent his extradition, accompanied by a large photograph of him bedecked with tallis and tefillin in court.

The very next day’s front page in The Times daily edition was filled with the legal battle between the Cape Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the group suing them for not allowing women to sing at secular communal events (which the Jewish Report has covered in-depth too). In addition, the Bobroff case has also received a lot of media exposure.

Why did it feel alarming? After all our national newspapers have every right to run these stories.

Was it the fact that it was showing our own small minority in a negative way? Was I concerned that it would encourage anti-Semitism because Jews were making national headlines for all the wrong reasons: trying to evade the justice system, sexual offences, fraud and infighting?

What would other groups say about us, I worried. Would it have been better if it had only surfaced in our own community paper or if it had been suppressed completely? Do readers really care about the religion of perpetrators? Was I being oversensitive? ...I’m still not sure...

One thing I am sure of though is that we, as a community paper, have a duty to be brave and ethical; to confront difficult and embarrassing transgressions when it is in the community’s interest to do so. Sure, juicy stories and headlines encourage people to pick up the paper or click on our news site but that is not our primary reason



South African Jewish Report

for this focus. In fact, when news is unfounded or considered gratuitous gossip, we don’t touch it.

It is much more about keeping the bar for our behaviour as high as possible. We owe it to our community to help hold itself to the highest moral standards and not let individuals in powerful positions hide their misdeeds.

There is no room for silence. Perhaps the Latin proverb “Qui tacet consentire videtur” is applicable: “Silence gives consent”. Yes, we have to speak up.

– Vanessa Valkin, editor

## Absa Jewish Achiever Awards

# Nominations now open for Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2016

It’s that time of year again where nominations are open for the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2016. The Awards will be announced at a glittering gala on August 28, that includes a ‘who’s who’ of South African Jewry. It honours individuals who have excelled in business and the humanities. The evening is filled with music, comedy and no other event in the Jewish social calendar attracts as many high profile individuals.

All money raised goes to fund the free publication and distribution of the SA Jewish Report newspaper. All awards are judged by panels of independent experts and are considered, especially in the audited business categories, as the most rigorous and credible business awards process in the country.

### Nominations

Nominations are open to the public. Please feel free to nominate anyone you may consider worthy, for any of a host of categories. Nominations can be submitted on-line at [www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za) (click on the red nominations banner) or e-mailed to [nominations@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:nominations@sajewishreport.co.za)

### Nominations should include:

- The nominee’s name, telephone number and e-mail address
  - The award for which the nominee is nominated
  - A short motivation for the nomination
- The closing date for nominations is June 24, 2016.

### The awards

#### *The Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of Helen Suzman*

Awarded to a Jewish person who has contributed in an extraordinary manner, in their specific field, over a lengthy period of time.

#### *The Absa Listed Company Award*

Awarded to a Jewish person in a senior



At last year's gala dinner are Tali Nates; Thuli Madonsela; and Claudia Swartzberg.

leadership position within a listed company and who has achieved enormous success worthy of recognition.

#### *The Absa Unlisted Company Award*

Awarded to a Jewish person who is in a senior leadership position in an unlisted company and who has achieved significant success worthy of recognition.

#### *The Absa Entrepreneur Award*

Awarded to a Jewish person who has shown enormous entrepreneurial flair and business innovation.

#### *The KIA Community Service Award*

Awarded to a Jewish person who has served the Jewish community with remarkable distinction.

#### *The Arts, Science, Sports & Culture Award*

Awarded to a Jewish person who has excelled in any of the aforementioned spheres.

#### *The Chivas Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris*

Awarded to either a Jewish or non-Jewish person who has contributed substantially to the betterment of the lives of the people of South Africa.

#### *The Creative Counsel Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award*

This award recognises entrepreneurship in young Jews aged 30 and younger.

#### *The Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership Award*

Awarded to a Jewish woman who has shown extraordinary success in her chosen field.

Previous winners of awards include Natie Kirsh (Kirsh Industries), Brian Joffe (Bidvest), Paula Slier (War Correspondent), Stuart Cohen (Mr Price), Meyer Kahn (SAB/Miller), Adrian Gore (Discovery), Raymond Ackerman (Pick n Pay), Steven Braudo (Liberty), Asher

Bohbot (EOH), Alec Wapnick (Octodec), Gill Marcus (Reserve Bank), Brett Levy (Blue Label), Steven Joffe (Gold Reef City), Philip Krawitz (Cape Union Mart), William Kirsh (Primedia), Herschel Mayers (Discovery Life), Sean Melnick (Peregrine), Abe and Solly Krok (Krok Brothers), John Copelyn (HCI), Arthur Gillis (Protea Hotels), Jeff Zidel (Resilient Properties), William Kentridge (Artist), Danny K & Kabelo (Shout Campaign), Phillip Tobias (Paleo-anthropologist), Ina Perlman (Operation Hunger), Johnny Clegg (Musician) Dr Ali Bacher (Cricket Administrator), Pieter Dirk Uys (Comedian), and Thuli Madonsela (Public Protector).

The awards in the past have also honoured both President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu for their contribution to South Africa.

The results are all audited by Grant Thornton accountants.

Please nominate appropriate candidates NOW before it’s too late!



# Shame on the ANC for betraying South Africa’s children



TAKING  
ISSUE

Geoff Sifrin

It is a startling statistic and indictment of the ANC government which has ruled for two decades, that the new generation of black Africans aged 25 to 34 are less skilled than their parents. What a let-down from our idealistic vision of the new South Africa in 1994!

A report by Statistics South Africa last week revealed that the percentage of professional, managerial and technical workers in this age group has dropped over the past 20 years, rather than risen as we expected in the free, post-apartheid South Africa.

It is hard to overstate the human catastrophe created by the ruinous government education system. Many other national problems are fixable relatively quickly with sufficient political will and resources and a citizenry demanding action. But a child deprived of a proper education remains handicapped for life. We have created a whole generation of such children.

One response to the government

schools’ decline has been the flight to independent or private schools by those fortunate learners whose parents can afford it, resulting in a massive increase in such schools.

In 1990, there were approximately 550 independent schools - mainly white, affluent and exclusive. By 2014, however, some 1 584 independent schools existed, containing over 500 000 learners, 73 per cent black.

The high-fee independent schools had become a minority - only 15 per cent of independent schools charged more than R50 000 per child per annum. The most exclusive private schools, such as Hilton College and Michael House, however, still charge annual fees of about R209 000 and R192 000 respectively.

Jews remain less affected than most South Africans by the abysmal public education system, since over 80 per cent of Jewish children attend private Jewish schools such as King David, which today has several campuses.

There are similar Jewish schools in other main centres - 19 Jewish day schools are affiliated to the SA Board of Jewish Education - whose learners regularly place among the top in the country in matric

examinations.

But there are two sides to this coin. While the quality of education at these schools is to be lauded, a negative by-product is the separation it creates between Jews and the rest of society - the shtetl syndrome.

Most ordinary non-Jewish South Africans grow up today never meeting a Jew, and being left only with the - often negative - stereotypes from media and other sources.

The converse is also true. Jewish kids don’t get to mingle with non-Jewish South Africans, preserving the racial separation tormenting this country.

Historically, Jewish parents have also aspired to send their kids to universities. The best universities have always contained Jewish students. However, if South African universities continue to decline into chaos as has been happening countrywide recently, Jews as well as others will choose to go elsewhere, often to the loss of themselves as well as the country.

Poor education among South Africans is part of the picture of the skyrocketing unemployment rate. Some 57 per cent of the age group mentioned in the Stats SA report

without a matric were unemployed, while 38 per cent of those with matric were jobless.

Imagine how different South Africa would have been today if the money flittered away over two decades through corruption, President Jacob Zuma’s spending on his private homestead Nkandla - estimated at R246 million - and wastage at state-owned companies, had been spent building schools and training teachers.

It is to Zuma’s personal credit

that he overcame his own lack of education to become a hero of the anti-apartheid struggle and ultimately the occupier of the country’s highest office. But he and his government will forever be rogues for how they betrayed this country’s youth and sent them into the world without the tools they deserved.

• Read Geoff Sifrin’s regular columns on his blog [sifrintakingissue.wordpress.com](#)

## News

### Cape Board *continued...*

>> Continued from page 4

affected to leave the ceremony is exclusionary, disruptive and impolite”.

He said that “it has long been the accepted practice of the SAJBD to run the memorial service so as to ensure that all members of the community feel comfortable to attend”.

Women do play a prominent role in the ceremony, Marx maintained.

Marx said that the applicants “have unfortunately exacted maximum exposure and damage to our community in the media and this has regrettably been the case culminating in an extremely insulting and derogatory outburst against Orthodox rabbis on national TV on April 21”.

This action, he said, “will have the certain result of causing an implosion of what is a unifying ceremony”. It would also “exacerbate the divisiveness and disunity already created by the applicants’ ill-considered court action”.

In a clear hint of an impending court case, Marx said that the Cape Board is committed “to ensuring participation of all in Yom Hashoah and will continue to vigorously defend this and any other action which seeks in

any way to undermine any Jewish individual’s right to freely practise his or her chosen form of Judaism. Not to do so would undermine the very reason for the SAJBD’s existence.”

But he concluded with a reconciliatory offer: “We are willing to engage at any time to find a solution.”

In response, the South African Association of Progressive Rabbis (SAAPR) said this week that it renews its request to the Board of Deputies to remove their ban on the voices of women singing at the ceremony.

In a statement the SAAPR said: “Silencing women does not increase the inclusivity of this ceremony, it makes what should be a tribute to those who died in the Holocaust an instrument of repression.

“Recognising that there are those in the community who hold that the voice of a woman is nakedness, we believe that there are numerous ways to accommodate those who should attend without their religious practice being compromised, and we call upon the Board to use the options available to them to ensure that all can participate.”

• Catch up on this story on our website [www.sajr.co.za](#)

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# AfrikaBurn 2016 – a Pesach to remember



Asher Stern, Jake Levy, Alex Cohen, Jason Seaward, Tom Parkinson, Chad Nathan, Byron Kaplan, Tanita Boswell, and Ilan Scher, among others.

Photos: Chad Nathan



Chad Nathan, Alexis Gillis and Olivia Krok.



A mobile T-Rex was a favourite.



Ilan Scher jumping in Tankwa Town.



What a contrast! A fur coat in the Tankwa.

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# Jaffa - much, much more than a mere ‘retirement home’

SUZANNE BELLING

Jaffa, acronym for Jewish Accommodation for Fellow Aged, started in 1981 at a barmitzvah party because of a casual comment passed by one of the guests, Lynette Karp.

“Pretoria needs its own retirement home,” she said. She was overheard by the late Rabbi Sydney Katz zt”l and Alan Gordon, president of the then Pretoria United Hebrew Congregation. The idea had previously been mooted to no avail.

However, through the efforts of Bernard Levy, president of the Pretoria Council, representatives of Jewish organisations and individuals, Karp’s comment was translated into the reality which is Jaffa today.

“Jaffa should actually stand for Just Amazing Fabulous, Fantastic, Accommodation,” resident Anne Eichhorn told SA Jewish Report.

At the beginning a team of Levy, Sidney Lewinsky, Myra Egdes (former editor of the Pretoria Jewish Chronicle), Karp, Alec Wapnick and Norah Ginsberg pooled their myriad talents - in fundraising, eliciting government co-operation and public relations and hence Jaffa was born at 42 Mackie Street, in the suburb of Baileys Muckleneuk.

Today, under the helm of executive director Mark Isaacs, who succeeded



The senior staff of Jaffa. Back: Janet Stolp; Daleen Botha; Jill Shaskolsky (partly obscured); Karen van Rooyen; executive director Mark Isaacs; and Jake Jacobs. Front: Michelle Kacev; Roy Levinson; Esté Coetzee; and Erica Bester (matron).

Ronny Silbermann and the late Len Klein in the post, Jaffa has become “the heartbeat and social pulse of Pretoria Jewry”, according to Karp.

There are 81 residents and 70 members of staff in this luxury lifestyle accommodation, set in magnificent surroundings, opposite a bird sanctuary, park and art gallery, with beautifully tended gardens, security, medical attention, all kosher meals, tea breaks, visiting lecturers, shiurim and entertainment, as well as a library, bingo and film evenings, a Yiddish group and other activities.

Jaffa is often the chosen venue for functions, book launches and weddings.

“You can choose your lifestyle,”

Isaacs told Jewish Report. “We have hotel rooms for families of residents who participate fully in chagim and seders.

“We are within walking distance of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation and Bet Menorah and also have shul services on Friday nights on the premises.”

Rates are very reasonable and arrangements can be made for those who cannot afford the full fees.

“Originally Jaffa was established for Pretoria residents, but now we have attracted people from all over the country,” Isaacs remarked.

“It is five-star accommodation,” said one hotel guest. “Everything is carpeted and there is absolutely no

institutional feel about Jaffa.”

Under the watchful eye of mash-gicha Michelle Kacev and catering manager Roy Levinson, formerly of the Chevrah group, superb meals are prepared.

For those who go out to work or are out for the day, takeaway or picnic lunches are prepared, which is especially useful on Pesach.

Some of the residents work. Resident Jack Bierman has his own clothing alteration business on site, while Mervyn Horwitz, an iconic communal figure and honorary life president of Jaffa, still attends to his business on a regular basis.

Residents can be admitted from the age of 60, while the oldest

resident is Norah Ginsberg at 101, reaping the benefits of what she sowed as one of the founders of Jaffa.

Shelley Worms is the official driver who takes residents shopping and to the gym, using the home’s bus when there is a demand.

One of the most popular staff members is social worker Jill Shaskolsky, who has a personal relationship with all in the home and brings her Chihuahua to work every day, to the delight of the residents.

“It is wonderful here, we are like one big happy family,” she said.

One of the most novel and delightful features of Jaffa is Rochelle’s Garden, which resembles an archetypal enchanted garden, the brainchild of occupational therapist Daleen Botha. It was designed by Wally and Hermione Karpas in memory of Rochelle and Herman Karp and Lianne Lipshitz, through the generosity of Nolan and Leora Karp and family.

Figurines, fountains and sculpted water creatures abound among the beautifully tended flowers and herbs, intended to jog the memories of patients suffering memory loss from the adjacent frail-care section.

Residents take turns running Wendy’s Shop, which stocks novel and handcrafted gifts, kosher snacks and toiletries.

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

## Monument at Israel embassy to honour South Africans fallen in Israel

ANT KATZ

The South African Jewish community is invited to attend a once-in-a lifetime event: Israel has built the first-ever official memorial to the fallen outside of the Holy Land, at the Israeli embassy compound in Pretoria.

The memorial is in honour of the 87 South Africans who made aliyah and later fell, defending Israel.

“We encourage all members of the Jewish community to attend this very significant event,” Deputy Ambassador Michael Freeman told Jewish Report.

Construction of the memorial began last month and it features the names of each of the 87 South Africans. It will be officially dedicated on Yom Hazikaron.

The event takes place on Wednesday, May 11 at 09:30 for 10:00. There is no charge but booking is essential for security reasons.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, the heads of the SAJBD and the head of the SAZF will be attending, as well as other members of the Jewish communal leadership.

• *Further details regarding times and to reserve a place - RSVP is essential by no later than May 6 - call (012) 470-3504. The embassy is situated at 428 Kings Highway, Pretoria. Remember to take a photo ID with you and not to take a weapon.*

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## Feminist Elana Sztokman to visit Australia

MELBOURNE - Throughout this month and June, internationally renowned Orthodox Jewish feminist Dr Elana Maryles Sztokman will be touring Australia as part of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia’s (NCJWA) 2016 National Scholar-in-Residence programme.

New York born and bred, Sztokman is the founding director of the Centre for Jewish Feminism, an online learning forum for Jewish feminists around the world.

She has also worked as executive director of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, a global organisation which aims to bring a range of opportunities to women within the bounds of Orthodox halacha in their communities and beyond.

Now living in Israel, Sztokman is the award-winning author of The Men’s Section: Orthodox Jewish Men in an Egalitarian World, Educating in the Divine Image: Gender Issues in Orthodox Jewish Day Schools, and The War on Women in Israel: A Story of Religious Radicalism and the Women fighting for Freedom.

As part of the NCJWA programme, which aims to bring high-profile women to Australia from Israel to share their experience and be a role model for Australian Jewish women, Sztokman will be speaking at various events.

“Elana is an international leader on issues on gender equity in the Jewish world,” NCJWA National President Rysia Rozen told The AJN. “We are very excited to give her the opportunity to speak to Jewish communities around Australia. - Australian Jewish News

## Thousands of Israelis receive priestly blessing

JERUSALEM - Thousands of Israelis flocked to the Western Wall for the semi-annual priestly blessing - the Birkat Kohanim - filling the

Western Wall Plaza to overflowing. Moses’ brother Aaron first pronounced this blessing over the Children of Israel recorded in the Book of Numbers.

“The L-rd bless you and keep you; the L-rd make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the L-rd lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:22-26)

The Kotel is the last remains of the retaining wall of the Second Jewish Temple, which was built on the plateau above, known as the Temple Mount to Jews. Today, two Muslim shrines - the al- Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock - occupy the Temple Mount, known in Arabic as the Haram al Sharif.

Israel police beefed up security forces during the week-long holiday, with some 3 500 officers patrolling the city. - Kehilla News Israel

## White House prepared for major defence commitment to Israel

WASHINGTON -The White House says it is prepared to commit to the “largest single pledge of military assistance to any country in US history” in its defence assistance talks with Israel.

A White House official made the statement in response to a letter on Monday by 83 US senators to President Barack Obama, urging him to substantially increase defence assistance to Israel.

“We have been holding intensive discussions with Israel aimed at concluding a new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding on security assistance to follow the current MOU worth \$30 billion, which will conclude at the end of 2018,” the official said.

“We are prepared to sign an MOU with Israel that would constitute the largest single pledge of military assistance to any country in US history,” the official said. “And we are ready to do this even though we are operating in a particularly challenging budget environment that has necessitated cuts on federal spending

across a wide array of programmes.”

The official said discussions are continuing and “we remain hopeful” the sides can reach agreement.

It’s not clear what is obstructing the conclusion of talks over the memorandum. Reports have said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government wants as much as \$5 billion per year over a 10 year period, while the Obama administration reportedly is prepared to reach close to that amount if it includes missile defence co-operation, which is now considered separately and amounts to nearly \$500 million. - Los Angeles Jewish Journal

## Bomb victim awakens from coma

JERUSALEM - The young Israeli girl who has been in a coma for the past two weeks after sustaining serious wounds as a result of a suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus last month, has woken up, hospital officials said on Monday.

Eden Levy Dadon, one of 20 people wounded in the blast, was placed on a respirator during her convalescence at the intensive care unit of Hadassah University Medical Centre in Jerusalem’s Ein Kerem. – The Jerusalem Post

## Underage marriages revealed in report

JERUSALEM - From 2014 to 2015, 729 underage couples registered for marriage, according to a report by the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee released on Monday.

According to the report out of the 729 cases reported, 466 of the marriages were performed illegally.

The Age of Marriage Law in Israel stipulates that any child, male or female, under the age of 18 may not marry without special permission that is granted by a family court

in exceptional cases. Any person involved in the facilitation of an illegal marriage between two minors could be subjected to up to two years in prison.

According to the report, 716 underage couples registered for marriage between March of 2014 and December of 2015 with 517 of the juvenile marriages being performed in sharia court. Some 466 of the cases were performed illegally. Among Jews, the majority of underage couples registered for marriage in the ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem.

Government offices and police have turned a blind eye to this issue, charged the committee.

There is an extreme inconsistency in the cases being reported by the various government institutions, according to the committee.

In 2012, there were 90 cases of underage marriage reported, but police opened an investigation into only one case.

In 2014, the Interior Ministry reported 416 cases of underage marriage, but only 37 of those cases were investigated. Police officials recommended six indictments be filed, but ultimately all of the cases were dropped by the state prosecutor.

The committee expressed concern over a growing phenomenon wherein many underage couples get married in private, illegal ceremonies, registering for marriage only once the couple reaches the age of 18 or following the birth of a child.

Social Equality Minister Gila Gamliel (Likud) said that the continued issue of underage marriage is not based in the law itself, but in the enforcement of the law.

“In the past, some 4 000 mostly Muslim women under the age of 18 got married each year. Most of these marriages ended in violence or divorce. Part of the problem is not the law, but the enforcement of it,” she said to the committee.

Joint List MK Aida Touma-Suleiman demanded that the parties responsible for conducting these marriages be punished and pay the price and stand as an example for others. - The Jerusalem Post

### Sport

# Yach completes a milestone century Robben Island swim

### ILAN HERRMANN

Theodore Yach, proudly Jewish, proudly Capetonian, celebrated a unique milestone recently - the completion of his 100th Robben Island open water swim on a brisk Monday morning.

Yach back in 1981 started his first swim between Robben Island and Cape Town and now, some 34 years later, has completed his century!

The swims to or from Robben Island can follow different routes. There is the seldom used Llandudno and Camps Bay routes, but almost all have been either to or from Blouberg, or Three Anchor Bay. Blouberg is the shorter 7,4 km route from and the longer 10,2 km route is the Three Anchor Bay one.

His latest crossing took Yach 3 hours and 10 minutes, in 13-14°C waters, departing from Robben Island to Three Anchor Bay.

Yach describes the frenzied build-up to the swim: “It was a very emotional time for several weeks before. Firstly, I was determined to swim when our younger son, Daniel, was in Cape Town, on leave from Johannesburg. Secondly, the media frenzy was very difficult to deal with as they were constantly asking: ‘When? When?’ This made me an emotional wreck.”

In this particular swim Yach was joined

by six other swimmers: Toni Enderli; Kieron Palframan; Ryan Stramrood; Mark de Klerk; Buff van Westenbrugge; and Dean Noik.

Conditions are always challenging. The currents are usually quite strong, the water is always freezing and one always has to be vigilant of Great White Sharks.

When asked about previous failed Robben Island attempts, Yach said: “I have had four Robben Island failures, one due to a nosy great white shark in 1994 and three due to conditions turning against me, especially water temperatures dropping below 10 degrees.”

This particular race had its own unique challenges - as each race does - and Yach explains: “We faced tough conditions for the first hour and a half as we battled a large swell from Robben Island. And the water temperature was 12°C for the first two hours as well and as we swim without wetsuits, we were pretty cold.

“Also, I chose the longer 10,4km route to Three Anchor Bay as it is much more difficult and longer than swimming to Blouberg Strand. Swimmers cross the north-west current, so we had to compensate by swimming towards Llandudno for at least 90 minutes and then the boat crew could turn us into Three Anchor Bay.”

As Yach emerged on shore, he was

greeted by hundreds of supporters who had come to celebrate along with him.

Yach was recognised and supported by the City of Cape Town and was also given recognition by the World Open Water Swimming Association.

Yach commented just after the swim: “I am so relieved to have finally accomplished this milestone and to have the amazing support of everyone on the beach. I feel truly blessed from the love and support of my family, friends and the Cape Town community.”

Yach worked with six charities to raise funds in the name of his 100th Robben Island Crossing. The charities were The Children’s Hospital Trust; Paper Video; NSRI Water Wise Project; Wynberg Boys’ Schools Aquatic Centre; Highlands House; and the Herzlia Foundation Trust.

In reflection Yach said: “It’s been a 35 year goal since my first Robben Island crossing in 1981. I calculated that it has taken me more than 35 million kilometres of swim training to achieve my 100 crossings and helped by the rise of social media, we have (over the years) raised more than R6 million for various charities such as Highlands House, Herzlia and Sea Point Shul.

“My wife Michelle and sons David and Daniel, have been with me throughout this journey and that is what it is all about.”



Theodore Yach emerges at Three Anchor Bay at the completion of his 100th Robben Island open water swim.





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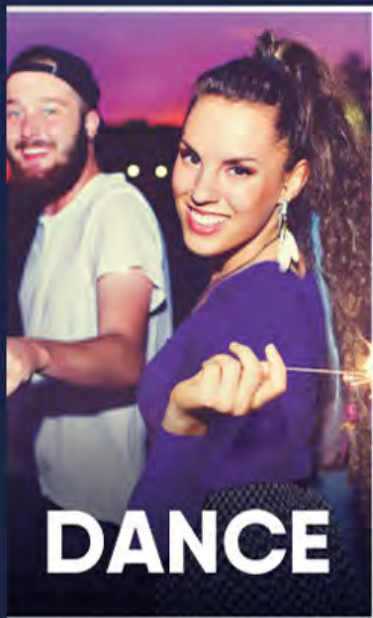
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LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY JOHNNY SKLAR BAND  
WITH GUEST VOCALISTS

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# Q&A

## with BEN SWARTZ

March 2015: Ben Swartz is inducted as National Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), having served as Vice-Chairman for the past 4 years, and Chairman of SAFI (South African Friends of Israel) since 2010. Ben lived in Israel for 5 years after matriculating; and it was during that time that his passionate support and love for, and constant defence of, Israel were finely tuned and finely honed. Ben’s single-minded determination to ensure the growth, development and sustainability of Israel’s positive relationships with the outside world has become the defining feature of his chairmanship, and he is resolute and steadfast in his efforts to promote this goal.



*‘One doesn’t have to be religious to be a Zionist. Zionism is the domain of all Jews, If one identifies with some or all of the categories that create one’s identity as a Jew, one has every right to fit into the framework of being a supporter of Israel.’*

**Fed Talk interviewed him on the eve of the 2016 Yom Ha’atzmaut celebrations which the SAZF is hosting on 11 May 2016.**

Fed Talk (FT): In his 2009 book, ‘The History of Zionism’, author Moshe Maor wrote, “The concept of Zionism remains one of the, if not the, strongest leitmotifs for Israel’s continued political, financial, economic and social success.” Do you agree with this?

Ben Swartz (BS): My view is that Zionism has always existed, but it is in fact only a word which reinvigorates and rejuvenates the national rights of the Jewish world, to modernise and envelop them. Is it the motivator? I don’t believe so, because in essence and as I mentioned, I see Zionism as only a word, one that encapsulates something that has existed for 3 700 years. There is no difference between Zionism and the fact of Abraham being led to the promised land, or the return of Israel after their 200-year exile in Egypt, or the Jews returning from exile in Babylon, or the Jews praying for 2000 years to return to the heart of their homeland - Jerusalem. Jerusalem is Zion (named after Mount Zion), and modern day Zionism simply represents this ancient motivation; it is the formalisation of this desire and movement in the context of a modern reality.

The necessity arose for a name to be penned to something that has existed for 3 700 years, to create a target, a goal for the Jews (Israel) to return to their historical and biblical homeland.

If that means it’s the leitmotif or the underpin, then I don’t believe it. I believe that our 3 700 years of existence as a people, as the Jewish nation, and our drive towards living in Israel, is the underpin. Zionism is merely a word encapsulating the Jewish right and the Jewish will to live in our national homeland

FT: Why then is Zionism such an emotively-laden word?

BS: In order to frame our historical rights to statehood and sovereignty as an achievable goal, we created this contemporary word that was necessary to allow us to realise the modern day establishment of the State of Israel. By creating a contemporary word for Jewish nationalism I think we have created the platform for a double standard. Everything that makes us Jewish as a nation is so ingrained in us - all the aspects of a genuine national identity, whether it be a land, language, culture, customs or religion are part and parcel of who we are.

Not many nations can attest to and compare with the depth and richness of what informs us as a nation. So simply by creating this definition we have separated ourselves from all the other nations in the world, none of which have had to define themselves ideologically or create such a movement to re-establish their sovereign identity.

Also, just as Zionism assisted us in structuring and enabling us to realise our modern day statehood and our sovereignty, so Zionism has, as a word, become a “definitive” target for all those who oppose the Jews in many respects. All the trials and tribulations we have endured in order to allow us to realise our dream, have in turn become the framework with which others attack us. This is what I mean by the double standard: no other nation has created a special term for its historical rights and the establishment of its sovereignty, but we created a special term which has become the red dot in the middle of the dartboard at which everyone opposed to who we are and what we represent can now take aim.

FT: In 1975 the UN General Assembly, supposedly fighting for democracy and a better life for all, adopted Resolution 3379 which equated Zionism with racism. Across the world countries, organizations and individuals attacked Israel with a virulence never before experienced by any democracy fighting to defend her citizens and her right to exist. Although it has been rescinded, do you think the battle scars still remain?

BS: There is no difference between the contemporary libel (of equating Zionism with racism) and the call to label Israel an apartheid state. It goes purely to the basis of forces in the world dead set against allowing the Jews to realise their sovereignty or to live out their self-realisation as a nation. By branding Israel as a racist or apartheid state, they are simply attempting to deny Jews the legitimacy of what is rightfully theirs. And this comes back to my previous point: there is no difference in the roots of why Israel is branded as racist or apartheid. If Israel, the Jews and their land are branded as illegitimate, they have no rights, they are demonised and criminalised and thus have no right to exist.

FT: Zionism is much more than just a religious movement, much more too than just a political movement. Can you expand on this?

BS: Zionism is everything to do with the identity of the Jews. It is another word for the national movement of the Jews. What defines a nation? A nation is defined by having a common land, culture, traditions, symbols, customs, language, religion – all encapsulating. We are an ancient people who can trace our roots back 3 700 years. That is who we are – that is what Zionism is.

FT: Is Zionism inclusive? Do you have to be a Jew to be a Zionist, or can you be a representative of other faiths that love Israel?

BS: If you believe in and respect the rights of Jews to sovereignty, to their national self-realisation, does it mean you’re a Zionist? Yes it does – it means you are for the rights of the Jewish nation to be who they are.

FT: Passionate Zionists have for decades spoken of the ‘Zionist ideal’. How do you interpret that?

BS: What does that mean? Jews are Jews, and we are taught early on that we have independent minds. The ‘Zionist ideal’ is different for you and for me. Everyone has his or her own dream of how our national homeland should develop. It is our opportunity and privilege to be part of that in this day and age. I think that the ‘Zionist ideal’ is the melting pot of what it is to be Jewish.

FT: Do you think people understand the concept of Zionism?

BS: I think people might miss it and see it instead as an ideology, but I don’t. I see it as the national movement of the Jews toward their national self-actualisation and the realisation of their sovereignty as a nation. People will miss it because it’s a target, and because it’s being, and has been, hit so hard. It’s seen by people as a political ideology.

FT: What in particular makes you proud to be a Zionist?

BS: I am very proud to be a Jew – proud of my heritage, my culture, religion, traditions, people, community,



and very proud of what we have done as a people and what we continue to do.

It is a privilege for us to live in this generation. For 2000 years we dreamed and prayed and hoped, and now we are living the dream. Our parents and grandparents and those going back 30 and 40 generations dreamed of what we now have. I'm so excited!

FT: How does the SAZF promote Zionism in a way that engages the Jewish community to take pride in the concept?

BS: The SAZF ensures that all Jews, young, old, religious, secular or whatever, are proud of their identity, of who they are and what they represent and are knowledgeable about it. That is our mission, to engage with and educate people and create a love for who they are, and enhance their love of Israel and the Jewish people.

One doesn't have to be religious to be a Zionist. Zionism is the domain of all Jews. If one identifies with some or all of the categories that create one's identity as a Jew, one has every right to fit into the framework of being a supporter of Israel. But what one cannot do is separate the Jewish connection and right to the land of Israel from being Jewish – the land of Israel is the bedrock of who we are.

FT: Can you envisage fighting for Israel's right to exist without calling on the ideals of Zionism to back up your arguments?

BS: Yes I can – it's all part of the package, just a semantic.

FT: We have many thousand passionate young South African Jews whose connection to Israel is absolute. Faced with a constant bombardment of negative media reports, virulent verbal attacks, accusations and hatred, however, especially on university campuses, they don't always have the necessary defence mechanisms to protect themselves from this anger. How does the SAZF support them, to ensure that their Zionist idealism remains firm?

BS: The SAZF offers multiple programmes through its affiliates, through the community, through networks, to engage anyone with a desire to support Israel and to find their place and have their voice heard and create an impact. Dozens of programmes allow our youth to have their voices heard, to make a difference both here and in Israel, and to encourage that relationship to grow and develop.

FT: We all have heroes and icons. Who, in the realm of Zionism, are yours? And why?

BS: I love this question ... where does one start? Right at the beginning I guess.

First it is Abraham, as in the biblical context the land was promised to him and his future generations and in the historical context he legally bought the first lands in Canaan.

Then it has to be Jacob - his name became "Israel" and the land is named after him as "The land of Israel".

Then Moses led the "Nation of Israel" (the descendants of the 12 sons of Israel / Jacob being the 12 tribes) back to the land about 3,300 years ago.

The next greatest icon must be King David, the King of Judah (the Jews) – who united the 12 tribes under one kingdom about 3,000 years ago with Jerusalem (yes, Zion) as the capital of the nation – and incredibly, in some form or another (with the exception of the 50 year exile in Babylon), the Jews were sovereign in the land for the next 1100 years!

In the context of modern day Israel ...

Yitzhak Rabin: I respect him and his decisions, and was in Israel at the time of his assassination, which affected me deeply.

I respect Menachem Begin, who despite being a hawk managed to finalise a long-term and sustainable peace with Egypt which was unprecedented.

I respect Bibi Netanyahu, who I feel was the right person at the right time. This past decade needed someone to stand up to pressure from the world, the detractors of Israel and those whose interests were not in line with the safety and security of Israel and its people. If he had been forced to capitulate on terms which were not his and which were those of people not responsible for Israel's security, serious damage to the long-term security and future of Israel would have been done.

I'm also a huge fan of Shimon Peres who made peace and at the same time never compromised on Israel's safety and security. He was the architect of Israel's most important defensive programmes; and he always had, and still has, hope and vision for the positive peaceful future of the country.

FT: To date the most exciting event on your calendar this year is next month's Yom Haatzmaut celebration. How do you see that re-invigorating our youth to stand up proudly for Zionism?

BS: Through inclusivity; speaking to everyone in the community, whoever has an inkling of support for Israel. It's all there for the taking – young, old, religious, secular, there's a space and place for everyone, including those who want to party. Across the world Israel is seen by many as the divider but in our community Israel is the unifier. People on the fringe will always stay there, but overwhelmingly for us Israel is a unifying force and the SAZF is the pinnacle of that.

FT: You have just returned from the USA where you addressed different groups on a number of issues relating to the apartheid libel around Israel and the BDS campaign. Please give me a short or long synopsis of your trip, and the exciting benefits for the SAZF and South African Jewry.

BS: It was most interesting to see how far ahead of the curve South Africa is. Having been dealing with this for 5/6 years, having had losses but many victories, we've never capitulated but have become stronger. The SA Jewish community and counter-BDS movement have much to offer and teach the rest of the world because of our tried and tested methods. People in the USA and Europe are now taking this very seriously. Initially they were slow on the uptake but are now feeling the impact especially on USA campuses, and the force and clout with which they are responding is incredible.

One of the main messages I kept telling people is, don't confuse yourself. BDS and destroying BDS is not the "main game". What is more important is to set up the structures, processes and mechanisms to strengthen the relationships of

the outside world with Israel. That will be the best way in the long term to take care of BDS. Just as we saw Zionism = racism being reincarnated as the apartheid libel, we will destroy BDS but it will come back in a decade in another guise. This is just how it works. It is a great opportunity for Jews to understand the privilege of the times they are living in, and to take the initiative not only to destroy BDS now but to protect and defend Israel in the long term against the scourge of those who will always seek to destroy Israel and what we as Jews represent.

*'In order to frame our historical rights to statehood and sovereignty as an achievable goal, we created this contemporary word.'*

I addressed the JFN Conference on the BDS panel discussion, while the rest of the conference dealt with all the challenges, issues and opportunities confronting Jewish communities, organisations and philanthropic bodies around the world, covering identity, education, working in the developed world and issues of poverty in the developing world. Those present were primarily from Jewish foundations in the US, with a few from South America and Europe.

I was late in registering for the StandWithUs conference so I participated as a delegate. The StandWithUs Conference looked at all the main issues - campuses, churches, social media, lawfare, legislation – and those present represented some of the USA's biggest and most successful organisations. SA Jewry is already helping the rest of the world. Many overseas organisations have contacted and want to work with us, including "StandWithUs", "Jerusalem Online" and "The Israel Project". They want to understand our experiences and to use our material and they want us to use theirs. We are uniquely positioned, both in terms of what we have achieved here at home with the broad network around SA of the non-Jewish pro-Israel community and well beyond into Africa. This is a group of people we can access and we explained to them the opportunities here and they were fascinated. They are thrilled with what we are doing and they want to help us so that we can help them. Collaboration - That's the message.

This makes us a global player in the support and defence of Israel. ■

*'There is no difference between the contemporary libel (of equating Zionism with racism) and the call to label Israel an apartheid state.'*



# YOM HAZIKARON

TUESDAY 10 MAY | TIME: 6:30 PM

YESHIVA COLLEGE CAMPUS, LONG AVENUE, GLENHAZEL

GUEST SPEAKER: RAPHAEL HERBST  
SENIOR MEMBER MDA

**NO CHARGE**

## The significance of Yom Hazikaron

A day of mourning for the young Israeli soldiers who lost their lives while defending Israel in battle, for the innocent victims of terrorism, for the intrepid security personnel who so unquestioningly gave their lives while protecting public buildings, restaurants, cafes, schools, kindergardens and shuls from the scourge of terrorist attacks that have plagued Israel for so long.

This is a sombre day, a day of commemoration, a day when parents, siblings, relatives and friends pay homage, tribute and respect to the courageous and valiant men and women who placed the safety and security of their beloved Medinat Yisrael above and beyond their own personal survival.

While they are remembered every day by those who loved them and those who miss them the most, Yom Hazikaron is a special day to remind Jews in Israel and across the diaspora that without their ultimate sacrifice, Israel would not today be the brilliant little country it has become, the proud and vibrant democracy, the place of refuge for so many.

On the eve of Yom Hazikaron a siren is sounded at 20h00, and again at 11h00 the following morning. The entire country stands in silence. The memories are searing. The tears flow in abundance. Sadness and grief envelop a nation. They will be remembered all the days of our lives.





# South African Friends of Israel

## '5 years of growing support'



Gavi Sacks , Director SAFI

South African Friends of Israel, better known as SAFI, a project of the South African Zionist Federation, is a movement whose primary mission it is to maintain and build relationships with different cultural, religious and ethnic communities within South Africa in order to educate and advocate for Israel. It was conceived in 2011 by SAZF Chairman Ben Swartz who recognised the potential of having the millions of South Africans who support Israel expressing that support publicly. And the rest, as they say, is history. From small beginnings, SAFI has become a major force in the SAZF world, and dynamite in the fight against those who would demonise and destroy Israel. SAFI has successfully reached out to the Christian communities; it has established relationships and received tremendous support from various cultures and faiths, including the Hindu Maha Sabha, Italian, Hellenic and Portuguese cultures; and it has embarked on various viable and much-needed projects that uplift the surrounding communities and educate the broader community about Israel and the local Jewish population. SAFI will continue to engage and grow the pro Israel support base in South Africa and Africa and we look forward to the continued support of our community for this important work.

### 2011

**South African Friends of Israel Conference Launch** 100 christians in attendance.

**The production** of two Israel advocacy films.

**Food and Trees for Africa** agricultural experts travel to Israel to learn about Israeli agriculture in association with SAFI.



### 2012

**SAFI arranges Protest march to the Department of Trade and Industry** against labelling of Israeli products- over 2000 people in attendance.

**Launch of the Bayede Wellness Clinic** in Mtubatuba with King Goodwill Zwelithini.

**SAFI partners with StandWithUs** and hosts an educational conference on the messaging of Israel.

**Kasim Hafeez** visits SA to help SAFI engage Christians during IAW.

**Mandate Africa** in association with SAFI take a tour of 280 christian delegates to Israel.

**Senior leadership of Shembe Church** (Gauteng) are hosted by SAFI in Israel.



### 2013

**SAFI hosts the 2nd Israel Advocacy Conference** at the Killarney Country Club with 280 attendees.

**Institute for Christian Leadership Development**, with the assistance of SAFI, hosts a conference in Jerusalem that attracts 180 Christian leaders from all over Africa.

**Launch of the Male Health Clinic in Nkandla** that offers circumcisions and assists patients living with HIV.

**SAFI together with the Jewish National Fund** trains the staff of the Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre in agricultural techniques from Israel.

**SAFI hosts Simon Deng**, a Sudanese human rights activist and a victim of child slavery.

**SAFI jointly participates in the establishment of Africa Bless Israel** an initiative created amongst churches in South Africa to support Israel.



### 2014

**SAFI hosts 3rd Israel Advocacy Conference** gains momentum with 350 people in attendance at HOD.

**The Solidarity Rally for Operation Protective Edge** at Huddle Park attracts 12 000 supporters for Israel.

**DEISI's leadership travels to Israel** on a fact-finding mission to Israel in partnership with SAFI.

**SAFI and SAZF launch campaign for the removal of anti-Israel billboards** and promote Nelson Mandela billboard campaign in support of Israel.

**Agricultural training and model farm launched** with the Shembe community in KZN in collaboration with Food and Trees for Africa.

**SAFI assists the Bible House Project** in translating the Old Testament into the South African vernacular.

**SAFI facilitates a tri-lateral Chamber of Commerce day** with Congo for Peace Without Borders during which Israeli businesses are introduced to SA.

**SAFI participates in second African leadership summit.**



### 2015

**SAFI FRIENDS are invited to Israel Expo** at the Sandton Convention Centre to learn about local and Israeli technology, agriculture and business.

**International advocacy expert Neil Lazarus** visits SA as a guest of SAFI.

**SAFI strengthens its relationship** with the leadership of the Hindu Maha Sabha community.

**International lecturer David Olesker** visits SA to train the leadership of 32 Christian communities.

**SAFI strengthens its relationship with the HIP Alliance:** Hellenic (Greek and Cypriot) Italian and Portuguese communities of South Africa.

**SAFI takes the parliamentary leadership** of South Africa's opposition parties to Israel and the West Bank on a fact-finding trip to the Middle East.

**SAFI becomes the sole SA distributor of Jerusalem U** content on Israel advocacy and Israeli innovation.

**Colonel Richard Kemp** visits SA and engages with SAFI leadership about his experiences with the IDF.

**SAFI participates in the creation of the Pan African Israel** chamber of commerce.



### 2016

**SAFI hosts 4th Israel Advocacy Conference** with over 500 Christian leaders in attendance.

**SAFI takes 20 influential Bishops, Pastors and Ministers** from all over South Africa to Israel to understand the importance of the Holy Land.

**SAFI supporters participate in pro-Israel rally** during IAW.

**SAFI partners with Israel Centre** to launch an inter faith soccer day in July.





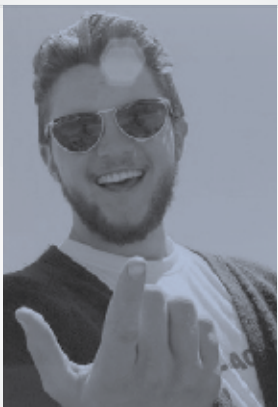


# What Zionism means to me... community voices speak up!



Michael Kransdorff

Almost a decade before Herzl was born (1850s), my ancestors made their way from Europe to Jerusalem with the goal of 'hastening redemption'. They foresaw the importance of a strong Jewish presence in our biblical homeland for jewish spirituality/cultural to flourish. However it was only with the advent, almost half a century later, of political Zionism and its idea of a Jewish state that Jews conceived of a sustainable institutional framework to make this a widespread reality. The eerie stillness that descends over Jerusalem on erev Shabbas; salad for breakfast; evening tango dancing classes on the Tel Aviv promenade; the cackle of hebrew on the bus ... More than Israel's many vaunted achievements in science, defense and economic development, its the ordinary, everyday aspects of life that give unique expression to what its means for Jewish people, after 2000 years, to once again be a free people in our own land.



Daniel Norris

As a member of the Reform Zionist community and together with my chanichim, I seek to promote the ideal of Tikkun Olam.

Reform Zionism sees the role of the State of Israel as the means by which the messianic era can be achieved, by acting as a "light unto the nations", a national example of ideal prophetic principles of justice and peace. For the Reform Zionist, this means that by working to make Israel a better place, one can lead the world in working towards a state of perfection.

This is what we refer to as Hagshama or 'self-realisation', which makes it both our right and our responsibility to take a stand on key issues and work actively to bring about our vision of the world.

Therefore, as leader of the Reform Jewish Youth in South Africa, I view this as my duty to create change in our own communities, Israel and the diaspora.





Jordy Sank



Candice Rom



Ari Kruger

*I am a proud Zionist and the Land of Israel means many things to me.*

It is a sanctuary of refuge after nearly 2000 years of expulsion and continuous persecution of our people throughout the ages. It is the land that our forefathers walked and where our unique heritage was established.

The nation of Israel's return to its homeland is undoubtedly one of the greatest modern miracles! I yearn to be in Israel and when I am there it is an experience like no other. It is difficult to explain, but you just simply feel as if you are home. Israel is simply a part of you, as Rav Kook said, "the extraordinary qualities of the land of Israel and the extraordinary qualities of the Jewish people are two halves of a whole".

Bnei Akiva South Africa is a Jewish Zionist Youth Movement dedicated to a love of the Land of Israel, a love for the people of Israel and a love of the Torah of Israel.

*Zionism - a somewhat controversial ideology if one googles it. But what does it really mean to a young Jewess, proudly South African with strong traditional Jewish values living in 2016?*

To me, it means freedom and safety. It is the right of return. Living in the turbulent times we do, Zionism is as relevant today as it was at the time of Israel's founding. Zionism is a practical solution for a many times repeated problem. Jews around the world continue to find themselves victimized and persecuted and Zionism means that there is a place to go.

But as well as that there is a feeling when one touches down in Israel, the feeling in your soul when you are truly touched, when you are connected or plugged in.... Plugged in to your people, your history and also your future. What is so beautiful about this feeling is the relevance that Israel holds, it is not an old museum that one visits, it is a hustle bustle metropolitan country, multi cultural with a European sophistication underbellied by a middle eastern warmth.

I am a passionate Zionist, I believe in our right to Israel. It is what binds the Diaspora together, it makes us not only a religion but a nation.

*In the heart of every Jew should be the connection to our ancestral homeland.*

Today more than ever, the connection of the Jew to the Land of Israel is one of the cornerstones of our identity and an opportunity to connect with our Jewish roots and heritage. Generation after generation cried as they prayed to be a free people in our ancestral homeland. As they wandered from place to place, escaping pogroms, forced assimilation and the Holocaust, they never gave up their dream.

Never in Jewish history has a generation been more privileged than ours, being born after the establishment of the Jewish State in Israel. Yet the challenge we now face is that of complacency.

Our responsibility, as the future generation of the Jewish people, is to stand proudly with Israel, defend her, and celebrate the miracle that is the one and only Jewish State.

As a proud South African Zionist I urge every member of our community, every friend of Israel and every supporter of truth and justice to support Israel at this year's Yom Hazikaron ceremony and Yom Haatzmaut celebrations.

May our generation never take for granted the greatest miracle of our time; the State of Israel. May we celebrate her existence and appreciate how she has forever changed the Jewish People. May we connect and re-connect with our people, our land and our eternal birthright!

## The importance of our Zionist Youth Movements to the future of Zionism

In our South African Jewish community in which Zionism and Judaism are so closely linked, we find ourselves with a constant challenge; how do we live by these two fundamental philosophies when everyone understands them so differently? How do we cater for a child who loves Israel but doesn't believe in the Jewish G-d? How do we draw in the child whose heart is in the Torah but barely opens his mouth when we sing Hatikva? With so many combinations of Jews and Zionists we have only one answer and it's a beautiful one... Our beloved Youth Movements.

Seldom have we found a healthy enough environment to cultivate such a diverse crowd anywhere other than in South Africa. However when it comes to the four youth movements, Bnei Akiva, Habonim, Betar and Netzer, we find ourselves with ample opportunity to reach all these youth who have such different backgrounds. And we do this through the medium of activities that teach our chanichim both intellectually and emotionally, providing them with enough knowledge and experience to understand why we believe in what we do, how we got there, and where we are going. We are their mentors and we take our responsibilities – of imparting to them the correct knowledge and facts – very seriously.

Of course a major focus for us is Israel. As well as the tochniot (activities) taught and enjoyed at camps and seminars, we participate in events throughout the year. Whether it be rallies, Yom Hazikaron ceremonies or Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations, we will be there and we will represent with fervor and passion what we stand for, and what we mean.

But our younger chanichim are not the only ones who are offered such awesome opportunities. We are fortunate enough to have our very own organisation for Jewish students, SAUJS, which represents Jewish students at universities around South Africa. The most important work they focus on during the year is undoubtedly the magnificent role they play during the annual hate fest known as IAW. This year SAUJS, together with the SAZF, represented Israel in an incredible groundbreaking way, shaping students' belief in and support for Israel in a positive way.

We are most grateful to the SA Zionist Federation for all their help and encouragement throughout the years, and for allowing and encouraging these successful and significant youth movements to make their mark in South Africa, to make their voices heard, and to prove to the community that they are indeed the leaders of the future, well-prepared and well-versed in the challenges that lie ahead of them. **By Aaron Chemel**, *Chairman SA Zionist Youth Council and Chairman Bnei Akiva*



# Stand#withIsrael





**The IUA-UCF is the “Iron Dome” of our Jewish community in South Africa.**

The goal of the IUA-UCF is to ensure the future of our local Jewish community with a strong Israel in our hearts. Through our vital beneficiaries we are able to meet the challenges of these difficult times by securing, protecting and leading the community.



The IUA works to secure the Jewish future by addressing the greatest challenges of our time. The evolving needs and priorities of global Jewry including Israel require us to grow and change to meet these challenges. Through KH in Israel our campaign is able to provide funding for priority projects such as portable bomb shelters, support for Victims of Terror, help for Children at Risk and other vital projects.

We fund the important work of the SAZF and the Israel Centre to ensure that Zionist education and activities continue.

We work closely with Partnership2gether and encourages one on one interaction between our community and Israel.



The UCF ensures the well-being, physical safety and civil rights that we are entitled to by supporting the CSO, the SAJBD and SAUJS. Security has become a priority. Anti-Semitism, BDS activities and anti-Israel sentiment is on the rise and it has become imperative to deal with matters as they arise and to ensure that our community can continue to live with the dignity that it deserves

Through the various divisions of the IUA-UCF, i.e. YAD (Young Adult Division) Re'ut Women's Division and the Legacy for Life Division our activities focus on nurturing the next generation of Jewish builders and leaders.

The IUA-UCF has taken a number of Missions to Israel and these strengthen the bond between our community and the people of Israel.

We are very instrumental in bringing high level Israeli politicians to South Africa not only to engage with the Jewish community but to meet and

exchange dialogue with their South African counterparts. Some of the dignitaries that have visited are Isaac Hertzog, Tzagi Hanegbi and Limor Livnat.

Most recently the IUA-UCF brought former President of Israel and world icon, Shimon Peres to engage with the local Jewish community. He said of his recent visit to Johannesburg, “ I am overwhelmed by the warmth and friendship that I received from the Jewish community and country. The work the community carries out is outstanding, truly inspiring and greatly contributes to strengthening the relations between Israel and South Africa. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the Jewish community and learning about the excellent work that the IUA-UCF does in South Africa. It is inspiring to see how the community dedicates time and efforts in representing Israel in often challenging forums and how the IUA-UCF looks after the safety and security of its community. I salute your work and wish the South African community much success and blessings in all its endeavors.”

# MACCABI SOUTH AFRICA



A key objective of Maccabi South Africa is to assist those in need in both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities, through outreach and upliftment projects in line with the fundamental principle of “tzedakah” – righteous behaviour through charitable contribution.

In 2015 Maccabi began to build the foundations for a meaningful programme by identifying how the organisation could most effectively help the community. The resulting three key focus areas are:

- The establishment of the Maccabiah Youth Fund to assist Jewish youth attend the Games and experience Israel;
- The collection and delivery of sports equipment to those in need;
- The transference of knowledge and skills to community coaches.

In the next phase of the programme Maccabi SA is delighted to announce a partnership with Afrika Tikkun. For over 20 years Afrika Tikkun has been instrumental in implementing development programmes to assist disadvantaged young people realise their full potential. Through their Cradle to Career model, this NGO is making an impact by supporting children from infancy into adulthood and employment, to ensure that they become the next generation of productive South African citizens.

Afrika Tikkun's sports programmes play a vital role in helping children develop

their skills and talents. To kick off the relationship, Maccabi SA arranged a sports equipment and clothing handover on 4 March 2016 at the Afrika Tikkun Centre in Braamfontein. Chairman of Maccabi SA, Clifford Garrun and Exco members delivered boxes of new and second hand gear; and following Maccabi SA's 2016 Launch on 13 March, additional new soccer, netball and volleyballs were donated to the programme. These goods will be used to support Afrika Tikkun's programmes at their five Community Centres and will be a big boost to the quality of the sports programme.

“The platform of sport provides Maccabi SA with the ability to effectively engage with communities and importantly contribute to increased health and wellness. In a very small way, we are delighted to be able to assist the outstanding efforts of Afrika Tikkun”, commented Garrun.



**Supporting our Elderly and families at risk**  
**over 370 Southern Africans assisted by Telfed each month**



**Scholarships**  
**500 study bursaries**



**Housing**  
**220 individuals in below market rate rental apartments**



**Aliyah & Klita**  
**230 new olim each year**



**serving the Southern African community in Israel**  
**IMPACT - 2015**



**Lone Soldiers**  
**35-50 each year**



**Social Welfare**  
**1,700 counselling sessions**



**Community Projects**  
**National network of 240 volunteers**



**Employment Guidance**  
**150 recipients**



**Information Services**  
**14,300 recipients**



**Events, Lectures, Training Seminar**  
**3,300 participants each year at 70 events**



**Youth Movements**  
**180 participants**



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# ISRAEL CENTRE



## Shlichim Seminar 2016

The Israeli Shlichim to SA attended a 3-day seminar in Cape Town. The seminar, under the banner of the Jewish Agency and the Israel Centre, focused on how the Shlichim work can be more relevant by bringing Zionist impact and Israeli vibrancy to the Jewish community. The Shlichim discussed various programs for the upcoming year, forming meaningful relationships in cultural, educational and social spheres. All the Shlichim emphasized how fortunate they are to have their Shlichut and be part of the very warm Jewish community of South Africa.



## Israeli Diller coordinators visit South Africa 2016

The Israel Centre was delighted to host the Israeli Diller Teen Fellows delegation in South Africa. The delegates were given the opportunity to explore our beautiful country and learn about its history, as well as to meet with the Jewish leadership and organizations.



## Zionist Caravan

This year Shlichim and representatives of the Israel Centre took to the road to visit smaller Jewish communities across the country, those which do not live within the mainstream hub of Johannesburg and Cape Town. The road trip began from the beautiful mother city of Cape Town with the aim to reconnect, strengthen and support fellow Jews from far parts of South Africa. It ended in East London, bringing Eretz Israel one step closer to South African Jewry, far and away, and as in previous years, once again proved to be a great success.



## Israel Fair 2016

Explore your opportunities in Israel at this year's 2016 Israel Fair where you'll have the chance to meet one – on – one with various representatives from Israel to discuss Aliyah, education, internship, volunteering and much more.

**DATE: CT - MAY 16TH & 17TH JHB - MAY 18TH & 19TH**

For further information please contact Israel Centre's offices:

Johannesburg: **SUE (011) 645-2530**

Cape Town: **SHANA (021) 464-6718/9**

# JNF-SA

The Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre, initiated and supported by the Jewish National Fund of South Africa, salutes Tata Baloyi, a member of our Nelson Mandela Pensioners Garden.

Adjacent to the WSEC centre is an area almost one hectare in size, which is rented out to about 20 pensioners to grow their own vegetable gardens. Each pensioner has his own 8m x 15m little plot on which to grow food. The rental cost is just R10 per month and includes the use of garden tools, suitable seeds and even seedlings from time to time.

One of our very loyal pensioners is Tata Baloyi. He worked in Silverton for many years, but after his retirement he rented a plot at the Pensioner's Garden and has been part of the team for almost 20 years.

Tata Baloyi's garden is the first plot one sees as one enters the community garden

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



and it is truly a sight to behold. Over the years he has developed his own techniques to fertilise his garden using only organic methods; and the result is a continually marvellous crop of spinach, green beans, onions and pumpkin. He makes a point of regularly filling his wheelbarrow with the fruits of his efforts and distributing them freely to family

members and friends. This is his generous contribution towards providing food and sustenance to many households.

But even more impressive than his actions is the fact that Tata Baloyi is 95 years old! Obviously maintaining his garden keeps him healthy and happy – and he is an example to us all of how significant the dignity of work is for both one's physical and emotional wellbeing.

The Mandela Peace Park was established as the first recreation area in the barren area of Mamelodi at the request of our late beloved Madiba, and he opened it officially in 1999. Prior to that, the Jewish National Fund had approached him and offered to share the extensive and superb knowledge and expertise (which was a hallmark of the KKL) gained in Israel for greening arid areas, and for creating public places for rest and relaxation. This of course is just one of countless activities undertaken by the KKL, and the JNF used that which

was most suitable for our local populace. President Mandela was delighted with the offer, and immediately identified Mamelodi as one of the areas most in need of development, and assistance. The rest, as they say, is history.

To date the JNF has been responsible for the planting of more than 24 000 trees in that municipal district; and has encouraged the successful development of the pensioners growing food security project. It has helped so many people regain their self-respect; and Tata Baloyi is a pioneer and a stalwart of the project.

We salute you, Tata Baloyi! May you enjoy many more years of health and satisfaction in your efforts.





SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION: NEW DIRECTOR'S FIRST 100 DAYS



Nicci Raz

It's been a busy and productive "first 100 days" for me at the SAZF. Together with an incredibly dedicated team and my colleagues in our regional offices we have not only succeeded in promoting "brand Israel" to the Jewish Community but we have achieved incredible success in expanding the support base of the South African Friends of Israel (SAFI), a project

that we feel is crucial to the fight against anti - Zionism and anti - Semitism.

Marketing and awareness campaigns have been a strong focus for the SAZF because we believe the time to speak up for Israel is NOW. We launched a highly effective and somewhat controversial "Anti -HAMAS" campaign last year that made national headlines. Our "Water Campaign" (during the terrible drought) showed South Africans how Israel as world leaders in water technology could help us. Recently the "See Israel for Yourself Campaign" launched during IAW went viral and was viewed and shared by pro -Israel organizations around the world. Our campaigns have reached millions of South Africans through digital marketing on social media platforms and print media. Our SAZF Facebook page has over 9,000 followers and our SAFI page has over 70,000 - our voice is being heard!

The leadership of the SAZF and SAFI have been invited to important global conferences in Israel and the US to present our strategies on combating the BDS (Boycott Divestment and

Sanctions movement) and how we are growing our friendship base in South Africa.

The SAZF is changing with the times and soon you will be able to tune in to international thought leaders on Israel from the comfort of your lounge or office via a "soon to be launched" You Tube channel called FEDTALK.

We will continue to create interesting opportunities for the community to engage with Israel advocacy such as international guest speakers and the launch of a new education programme that will be rolled out towards the end of year. Youth and young adult involvement remains a strategic priority beyond the usual role the SAZF has played in overseeing the Zionist youth movements.

The SA Friends of Israel has grown into a massive support base that saw over 500 Christian and other leaders gather at the SAFI Annual Advocacy Conference. We still believe that taking people to see Israel is the best way to win "hearts and minds" which is why there have been some powerful delegations that have

travelled to Israel including a delegation of 16 Christian leaders from all over South Africa with Bridges for Peace as well as the Israel Now Tour lead by Reeva Forman who took a select group of economists and financial strategists on a fact finding tour of Israel and the Palestinian territories.

I am extremely excited for our upcoming Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha azmaut functions. We have really created events that are meaningful and fun for the whole family. What better way to celebrate the miracle of the establishment of Israel than with massive Yom Ha'atzmaut festivals on **Wed 11 May** where the whole family can enjoy and **Celebrate#WithIsrael**.

With our dedicated team at the SAZF – it is our mission to build strong support and love for the Land and State of Israel in South Africa and as we enjoy the holy festival of Passover we remember the story of our liberation from Egyptian slavery, it is an opportunity to re-infuse our families and communities with a love for Israel as we say "Next Year in Jerusalem."

JULIE BERMAN (DIRECTOR SAZF, CAPE COUNCIL) ON THRIVING ZIONISTS COMMUNITY IN THE CAPE

For each and every one of us, the members of the South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council), being a Zionist is an integral part of our life.

When we think of what Zionism means to us, we think of the Declaration of Independence, the proclamation of the Jewish dream, and the expression of its very fulfilment. As is written in the Declaration of Independence, Zionism is "the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign state."

As proud Zionists, everything we do and all the hard work that we put into our daily lives has Israel at the forefront of our hearts and minds. The belief that this is our homeland and the

homeland of our forefathers in unquestionable. The right of the Jewish people to return to the land of Israel and live in an independent Jewish state is undeniable.

Those who established the State of Israel refused to make do with mere survival. They attempted to establish a better, wiser, more humane and more moral state in the land of Israel. They were willing to die for this cause and we are dedicating our life to it. We educate our children on the history of their people and their right to the land of Israel, we encourage the members of our community to move and build their future in this special place, we bring them closer to the land of Israel and its people with every holiday and every event that we coordinate and make sure they know that they

have another place which they can call home.

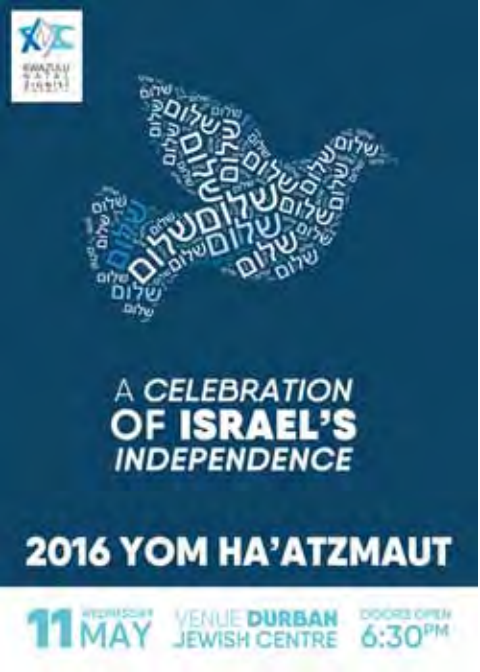
If you believe that the Jews are a people, and support the right of the Jews to a national home in the land of Israel, and you are willing to stand up for that right when it is challenged, then you can call yourself a Zionist – something we are willing to do proudly every moment of the day.

Our rebirth was earned and well-deserved; the sacred and historical duty of the Jewish people, who returned to their homeland, to their independence. Zionism is for Zion, and that remains the essence for us. Throughout history others have invested in wars, yet we have continued to invest in the future of our children and in the future of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

KZN - UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FROM KWAZULU NATAL

The Kwazulu Natal Zionist Council (KNZC) has long been in the forefront of strong Zionist affiliation and sentiment; and the promotion of and respect for Zionism play an integral role in the running of the organisation. We are constantly aware of the continuing challenges which face Israel and the Jewish people, and our response is most often one of deeds of loving kindness and outreach. We are intimately involved in the ongoing, wonderful work of DIVOTE, an affiliate organisation to the KNZC, which provides comfort and support to those affected by terror in Israel. Under our auspices, the JNF Victor Daitz Eco Educational Centre at Hammarsdale carries out, in co-operation with the KZN Dept of Education and Durban Solid Waste, education in the fields of recycling and permaculture to local school pupils, with much of the information coming from the KKL in Israel.

The KNZC has in the past made, and continues now and in the future to make, a very important contribution to the community in the organization of Israel related events, speakers and programs, especially our very successful annual Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut events. Our public events have almost always centred around the issues of Israel and Zionism, including hosting Israeli ambassador Arthur Lenk to a number of functions, the King David String Ensemble of Jerusalem, the film director Gloria Greenfield and internationally renowned concert pianist Astrith Baltzan. Our regular Israeli Book Club exposes its members to Israeli literature in English; and the ever popular Israeli Film Club screens the best and most acclaimed films from Israeli cinema. The work of the KNZC, to protect the interests of Israel in the diaspora, continues, so that the world can see the positive, hugely impactful contributions that Israel has made globally, and so that Israel and Jews world-wide are able to continue the task of tikkun olam, striving for peace and prosperity for all. What better way than these could there be to exhibit our dedication to and pride in Zionism!



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# Yom Hashoah: A candle to remember victims by

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

In commemoration of Yom Hashoah, Yeshiva College on Thursday participated in the “We Remember You Campaign”, run by an international organisation based in Israel which provides yahrzeit candles with the names of victims who perished in the Holocaust.

Every candle had the name of a victim printed on it with a unique bar code that took one to a website that provided more information on the life of the victim. Each child in the school was given a candle to take home and light.

**Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Avraham Tanzer and Rabbi Leron Bernstein, managing director of Yeshiva College, with learners from the school, holding candles with the names of those who perished in the Shoah.**



## Sydenham Pre-Primary goes all out for Pesach

**OWN CORRESPONDENT**

Preparing for Pesach is a busy time, not only in the home but at Sydenham Pre-Primary school too!

The school aims to instil in the children a love of Yiddishkeit and to teach them about this festival of freedom.

Pesach is a chag which centres on the child, so what better time than now to produce a child-friendly Pesach!

Each child created their own Haggadah displaying a wide variety of skills and techniques, from painting, drawing, colouring, sticking, stamping, matching, sorting and patterning.

Not to mention learning the words to the songs and participating in the mock seders. Enjoying their mock seder are Aaron Gruss and Gabriella Seymour.



# Pine Street Playschool kids get into Pesach spirit



**OWN CORRESPONDENT**

The pupils of Pine Street Playschool enjoyed making their own matzah. They mixed the flour with the water and once it was baked they relished eating their final product. Pictured are Alexia Contantinou; Danya Katzman; Ruby Theron; Amelie Amato; and Grayson Behr.

## World News in Brief

## US adopts IDF tactic in the war against Islamic State in Iraq

WASHINGTON - The United States is using an early warning tactic developed by the Israel Defence Forces to minimise civilian casualties in American strikes against Islamic State terror targets in Iraq, a US military official revealed last week.

Maj Gen Peter Gersten, deputy commander of operations and intelligence for the US-led coalition that is fighting Islamic State, said the US Air Force was now using an early warning method dubbed “roof knocking” to warn the residents of a suspected terrorist hideout that the premises had been targeted.

Developed during Operation Cast Lead, fought in the Gaza Strip in December 2008 and January 2009, this tactic consists of firing a projectile near or above an intended target, signalling to anyone inside to leave the building prior to an aerial strike.

The IDF has been using this warning tactic in every military operation since 2009, with the aim of sparing as many lives as possible.

Speaking with reporters last week, Gersten said the US Air Force employed the warning signal during its strike on Islamic State targets in Mosul, in northern Iraq, stating that the “tactic and technique were inspired by the Israeli military”. (JNS.org)



12 SA JEWISH REPORT		Letters		6 – 13 May 2016	
<b>Disclaimer</b> 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. <i>The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za</i>		<b>Guidelines for letters</b> 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.			
<b>SICK AND TIRED SEEING OR HEARING JEWISH VOICES FOR A JUST PEACE</b>		<b>ZAGNOEV’S LETTER: THE USE OF ‘COLLOQUIAL’ AND ‘BOOTED’ ARE NOT APPROPRIATE</b>			
<p>Back from a visit to Israel to spend Pesach with my family, in Johannesburg I went to Beit Emanuel as usual on a Friday evening. There I saw a pamphlet from Jewish Voices for a Just Peace. The pamphlet gave their interpretation of the Pesach seder.</p> <p>I am sick and tired of reading or hearing their point of view; I’m sure they would become much more credible if each one of them would host a family of poor Arabs/Muslims/Palestinians in their homes for a month or two, in order to help them in a more practical way.</p> <p>Alternatively, they could go and visit a Palestinian family in Palestine, again for a month or two, and see for themselves how they suffer under the Zionist oppressors! I think it is time for them to open the first Palestinian/Jewish synagogue in Johannesburg.</p> <p>Let’s see how they will manage and how many supporters they will have. I certainly would prefer not to see nor hear them anymore.</p>		<p>I refer to Shaun Zagnoev’s letter in the SA Jewish Report of April 22, “SAJR Online misleads with headline to Margolis matter”. Without wishing to comment on the merits or otherwise of the spat between Rabbi Julia Margolis and the SAJBD, I take issue with the editor’s defence of what she refers to as the “colloquial language” chosen to headline the JR’s online report on the dismissal of the rabbi in question from the activities of the Board.</p> <p>The common definition of “colloquial” in most dictionaries is “characteristic of informal conversation”, which indeed applies to modern trends on social media. But that is not the issue.</p> <p>In stating that in a shocking development Rabbi Margolis was “booted” off the Board of Deputies’ committee, the editor has unnecessarily chosen to conjure up an image more aligned to an extreme, demeaning and even violent act rather than what could have been clearly explained in more refined and</p>		<p>accurate terms.</p> <p>Would the word “suspended or removed” not have been more suitable and conveyed the same message? Not all readers of Jewish Report Online belong to the younger colloquial-speaking generation and neither do we have to be dumbed down in order to effectively communicate.</p> <p>Those of us who monitor events in Israel through the general media are all too aware of the manipulation that occurs via “doctored” headlines and content designed to cast aspersions against Israel. Care should be taken by the Jewish Report not to succumb to similar acts.</p> <p>I would respectfully suggest that the editor simply apologise for this error of judgement and admit that she is not always correct.</p>	
<b>Yossi Bogacz</b> <b>Highlands North, Johannesburg</b>				<b>Victor Gordon</b> <b>Pretoria</b>	
<b>WHY DOES ‘RESPECTED’ RABBI NOT WANT TO BE NAMED?</b>		<b>WRITING AS A DEDICATED ZIONIST WHO WANTS A BETTER ISRAEL</b>			
<p>In the article in Jewish Report on the forthcoming Equality Court case involving the Cape Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (on women not allowed to sing at communal functions), the writer refers to a “respected local rabbi who asked not to be named...”</p> <p>Why does this person not wish to be named? Is it perhaps because he is not proud of his views? Or perhaps he is uncertain? Please advise the reason.</p> <p>How can one be respected and anonymous?</p>		<p>Why is it that there seems to be an underlying fear among a large portion of the South African Jewry to openly call out Israel for its transgressions? When I criticise Israel’s ongoing occupation in the West Bank, why do they accuse me of being an anti-Zionist?</p> <p>But, contrary to their belief, I am a Jew and a Zionist. I believe that the Jewish people deserve a right to self-determination in their historical homeland. At the same time, I also believe that it is our responsibility to endorse a moral state - one that upholds its democracy and ensures equal human rights.</p> <p>As I form a greater connection to the State of Israel, so too emerges a greater urge to call Israel out for its wrongdoings. I am not a politician, nor am I journalist; all I am is a Zionist that wants a better Israel.</p> <p>Several years ago I made aliyah and served in the IDF. To describe the three years would defeat the purpose of the</p>		<p>article. Rather I’d like to share two specific experiences that “humanised” the conflict for me.</p> <p>Together with a team of 12 soldiers, we were instructed to invade a Palestinian house in the West Bank during the early hours of the morning. We forced through the doors, only to hear the weeping children in the background.</p> <p>Put aside the politics, I ask why should these children be subjected to such trauma at such a young age? In Gaza, in that greenhouse, I lost a friend. He had stood on an improvised explosive device that detonated and within seconds had lost his life.</p> <p>We’re so busy following news confirming our bias that we land up forgetting the individuals living through the conflict - the people like you and me.</p> <p>We forget the minorities, those whose voices aren’t as powerful. We forget those children that my friends and I woke up; we forget my friend who stood</p>	
<b>David N Fienberg</b> <b>Johannesburg</b>				<b>Yanir Grindler</b> <b>Killarney, Johannesburg</b>	
<b>BARRING WOMEN FROM HASHOAH SINGING IS AN EMBARRASSMENT</b>					
<p>We should all hope that this week’s Yom Hashoah ceremony is the last one where women are banned from singing. The continuation of this situation is an embarrassment for South African Jews.</p> <p>The Board of Deputies has rejected all attempts to compromise outside of court, including the offer that a woman will sing only the anthems at the end, or that independent mediation will take place.</p> <p>Maybe for the first time in this country, Jews are going to have to ask the state to decide in an internal dispute. This could have been avoided if the voice of the majority of South African Jews, who are not comfortable with this kind of discrimination, was heard.</p> <p>It is no secret that an ultra-Orthodox minority have managed to seize power in Jewish communities around the globe. What 10 years ago was the demand of a few extremists has made its way into the mainstream. And there are other issues, too, around female dress codes: the latest case in the news is a water park where girls were asked to use the slides with their clothes on rather than wearing swim suits. Or the IDF memorial day in the city of Sderot where women are now, suddenly, not allowed to sing.</p> <p>We still hear regularly about discrimination against women in public</p>		<p>transport (in Israel) and on El Al flights. Unfortunately for El Al, the airline was sued this February by Renee Rabinowitz, an 81-year-old Holocaust survivor, who was asked to move seats on a Tel Aviv flight because an ultra-Orthodox man refused to sit next to her.</p> <p>Sadly, it is undeniable that public space in Israel has become more and more constrained for women.</p> <p>We might have hoped that these kind of things would not infiltrate South Africa. It is sad that the rabbinic leadership is playing a divisive role rather than an inclusive and uniting one. It doesn’t have to be like that. Many South African Jews remember the times of late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris who would never have allowed such a deterioration.</p> <p>However, this struggle to allow women’s voices to be heard, will not be determined in court, nor by any chief rabbi. It will be sorted out finally when the silent majority have had enough of this mockery in the name of Judaism.</p> <p>The right “not to be offended by women’s voices” must not be allowed to overcome the right of those voices to be heard.</p>			
<b>SAVOY RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE VICIOUS ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS</b>		<b>ON STORY HEADLINES AND PURIM SHPIEL JOKES...</b>			
<p>Hatred, anti-Semitism and racism have become a daily part of life in the Johannesburg suburb of Savoy. A group of illegal mechanics operating on the corner of Louis Botha and Grenville Avenues have been harassing residents for months, because the residents are trying to clean up the area and stop this illegal activity.</p> <p>Jews here are verbally abused on a daily basis and threatened and are repeatedly called “f****ing Jews” and told to “f*** off back to Israel”.</p> <p>These mechanics have become so aggressive and abusive that a number of women who live in the building outside which the men operate are afraid to walk to the corner supermarket.</p> <p>Because of my efforts to stop the illegal activities of these mechanics I have for all intents and purposes become “a marked man” and in truth I fear for my own safety should I walk past these men. Various business owners have joined the residents to try and curb this behaviour but the Bramley Police seem powerless to help.</p>		<p>In response to Shaun Zagnoev’s letter in Jewish Report of April 22, “SAJR... misleads with headline”, I find that I must agree with him.</p> <p>The editor’s response was immediately to defend the right of the paper to use the usual modern journalese it termed the “colloquial language of the modern trends of news reporting”.</p> <p>However, I bear in mind also the recent Purim fiasco, during when a joke was published regarding the sale of the paper to the Gupta family - all in the name of a “Purim Shpiel”. However, this created an outraged response from Jewish readers worldwide.</p>		<p>With this in mind I suggest that a Jewish publication has an important responsibility to tread carefully with the words it prints, to respect the emotions of its readers and to uphold our Jewish self-esteem as a special nation with its own integrity of spirit. Therefore instead of springing in defensively to readers’ opinions, the powers-that-be in the Jewish publishing world would be wise to offer apologies to those readers it represents and who may well have a genuine bone to pick.</p>	
<b>Robi Schiffman, Johannesburg</b>				<b>June Levy</b> <b>Sunninghill, Sandton</b>	



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board  
Jeff Katz  
National Chairman

## Legislating against social media racism

There are various important pieces of legislation in South Africa aimed at preventing incitement to hatred on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or other such grounds.

One of these is the Film and Publications Act (FPA) of 1996, a substantial section of which deals with cases where the content of a particular film or publication is deemed to be unacceptable. In terms of this Act, one of the grounds on which a publication/film may be classified as a “refused

classification” is if it contains “the advocacy of hatred based on any identifiable group characteristic and that constitutes incitement to cause harm”.

A lot has changed in the 20 years since the passing of the original Act. Primarily, we have seen what has been nothing short of a revolution in human communications through the advent of the Internet, a phenomenon still very much in its infancy back in 1996.

Initially, the Internet was used for disseminating information and opinions via individual websites, which anyone prepared to make the effort could simply set up and which accordingly mushroomed at a phenomenal rate.

What really transformed the communication field, however, was the massive explosion of social media through the introduction of Facebook, Twitter and other similar platforms.

It is through these platforms that the greater proportion of racist and bigoted sentiments is propagated and disseminated today. In recognition of these new realities, a Bill to amend the FPA has been promulgated and an invitation issued to civil society and the public at large, to comment on it.

The Board, as it has done on various occasions in the past regarding legislation of this nature, last week made

a detailed submission to the Portfolio Committee on Communications. Among other things, we emphasised the need for proper procedures to be in place to ensure that cases of hate speech, whether via the Internet or any other medium, can be effectively followed through by the relevant regulatory bodies and/or law enforcement agencies.

We will also make oral submissions at the public hearings in Parliament when they are called for.

The consistent stance of the Board has been one of zero tolerance of anti-Semitism or racism in any form. While we fully recognise and support the right to freedom of expression, we insist that this right does not and cannot ever extend to propagating hate speech, in particular when such speech has the potential to incite violence.

Much of our work therefore involves confronting anti-Semitism on social media, some of it emanating from individuals holding high political office.

Interestingly, the Labour Party in the UK is wrestling with the same problem of anti-Semitic comments posted by some of its own members in recent months. We see from this how social media abuse is a modern manifestation of an old phenomenon that even the most advanced democracies are now having to deal with.

### Exams alert (2)

The Board is engaging with the relevant universities to address cases of exams being set on Yomtov or Shabbat. Once again, I urge students to check their exam timetables and in the event of there being clashes, to immediately send the relevant details (full names, date and time of exam and student number) through to us at [sajbd@sajbd.org](mailto:sajbd@sajbd.org).

We will do everything we can to assist our students, but it becomes extremely difficult to do so if we are not informed timeously.

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

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

## Trump: Obama ‘snubbing’ Israel while courting Iran

WASHINGTON - In a speech outlining his foreign policy vision, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on April 27 criticised President Barack Obama for “snubbing” Israel while cozying up to Iran.

“Israel, our great friend, and the only true democracy in the Middle East, has been snubbed and criticised by an administration that lacks moral clarity. President Obama has not been a friend to Israel. He has treated Iran with tender love and care, and made it a great power,” Trump said.

Obama negotiated a “disastrous [nuclear] deal with Iran, and then we watched them ignore its terms even before the ink was dry” at the expense of “Israel, our allies in the region, and more importantly, the United States itself,” he added.

Trump vowed that if he is elected president, Iran “will never, ever be allowed to have that nuclear weapon” under his watch. (JNS.org)

## US Air Force nominates second Jew for chief of staff

WASHINGTON - The US Department of Defence has nominated US Air Force Gen David Goldfein to succeed retiring Gen Mark Welsh as US Air Force chief of staff on July 1. If confirmed by the US Senate, the 56-year-old current vice chief of staff will be the second Jew in the position after Norton Schwartz, who filled the role between 2008 and 2012.

Goldfein served in the Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan, and in NATO's 1999 air campaign on what was then Yugoslavia. Air Force Times described him a “battle-tested” pilot.

“I'm extremely humbled by the nomination to serve as the Air Force's 21st chief of staff. If confirmed, I pledge to serve our airmen and their families unwaveringly and honour our remarkable heritage and legacy of integrity, service, and excellence,” Goldfein said in a statement. (JNS.org)

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## Embassy of Israel in South Africa



# Yom Hazikaron

## יום הזיכרון לחללי מערכות ישראל

Ceremony to mark the Day of Remembrance for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terror

Wednesday, 11 May 2016 at 09.30am for 10.00am

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# KZN Zionist Council a beacon of co-operation

MICHELLE SHAPIRA

In recent years, the focus of the SA Zionist Federation has expanded to include investing resources in strengthening ties between the Jewish community and other South African communities, especially Christian supporters of Israel, keynote speaker Ben Swartz, national chairman of the SAZF, told the Biennial General Meeting of the KwaZulu-Natal Zionist Council (KNZC) recently.

Professor Antony Arkin was re-elected for a further term as chairman, with Greg Bass as treasurer. The committee, consisting of Suzanne Edmunds, Rochelle Puterman, Jeanette Bank, Glen Sol and Gilad Friedman, was unanimously re-elected.

Swartz lauded the “phenomenal achievements” of SA Friends of Israel (SAFI), which was formed under the auspices of the SAZF five years ago. Through its hard work in areas such as Israel advocacy training, arranging group specific tours to Israel and their annual Israel Advocacy Conference, SAFI has gone “from strength to strength”.

He outlined the ways in which the Jewish community has been able to reciprocate the support received from South Africans in the



development of projects in the areas of health, agriculture and education facilitated by the SAZF and SAFI, through which Israeli ideas and technology can benefit the lives of ordinary South Africans.

In his chairman’s report, Arkin highlighted the varied and abundant achievements of the KNZC, considering the constraints, both financial and in terms of human resources. He noted that when he was first approached

to chair the KNZC 30 years ago, it had 14 fulltime employees, while presently, it had only one.

Nevertheless, the KNZC would continue to carry out the goals set by the South African Zionist Federation to the best of its ability, adapting to the changing circumstances.

He mentioned in particular the ongoing work of DIVOTE, an affiliate organisation to the KNZC, which provides comfort and support to those affected by terror in Israel.

Princess Mukelile Zulu, representing the Wellness Programme of King Goodwill Zwelithini, described the work of the Wellness Clinic at Matubatuba, a project which was undertaken by the Bayede Trust in conjunction with the KZN Department of Health, the Dis-Chem Foundation and the KNZC.

She described some of the great successes of the clinic so far and thanked the Jewish community for their support of the underprivileged and expressed her hope that in the future this project would be expanded to incorporate a further nine clinics in areas which are badly in need of better primary healthcare.

## Chaiyanu - giving succour to young cancer sufferers



**Rabbi Nachum Chaimovitz, Graeme Croock, Daniel Nathan (Drawing the prize), Ronnie Kaplan, Alan Kaplan, Jordan Picker and Adam Picker.**

Chaiyanu, an organisation supporting Israeli children with cancer and their families, held a raffle last month to raise money for their annual trip to bring out a group of children from Israel to South Africa.

The trip focuses on providing these children with once-in-a-lifetime experiences, helping them to forget their fears and conditions. This is the fifth annual trip to South Africa.

One year a group of boys are brought out and the following year it is the girls' turn. The group is scheduled to arrive in South Africa this coming Monday.

The winner of the raffle was David Abramowitz. He won tickets to London on El Al to watch Arsenal play Aston Villa on May 15. The second prize went to Colin Sidelsky. He won two tickets to Israel on El Al.

Chaiyanu would like to thank the community for their ongoing support and care.

## ORT SA launches its new academy

Educational NGO, ORT SA is strengthening its position as a leader in technology education in South Africa, with the imminent launch of the ORT SA Academy, ORT SA CEO Ariellah Rosenberg said in a media release.

“Our Johannesburg offices have recently undergone extensions and renovations, thanks to a generous donation by Eric and Sheila Samson. This will allow ORT SA to extend its impact on up-skilling South Africans, making them employable, with an emphasis on 21st century skills, which are now required for future careers.”

The ORT SA Academy will include a STEM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) offering seminars, courses and lectures with a view to future career choices.

The Skills and Enterprise Academy will cater for accredited small business training, including mentoring. An IT Academy will offer

end-user computer qualifications, robotics and coding. Bridging programmes in technology will be offered, which could open the way to careers in IT.

Says Rosenberg, “According to the World Economic Forum Report on the future of jobs, this ‘fourth industrial revolution’, together with socio-economic and demo-

graphic factors, is impacting the labour market across the globe, resulting in the creation of new categories of jobs.

“This affects the skills set required for a digital world and will transform how and where people work. The ORT SA Academy aims to meet these by bridging the unemployment and skills gap.”



The new courtyard at ORT SA.

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## Prof Barry Joffe from SA visits BGU to cement mutual ties

**CARLA TENZER (FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAABGU) AND KYRA WAINSTEIN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAABGU)**

The South African Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (SAABGU) recently welcomed Prof Barry Isaac Joffe, of the Centre for Diabetes and Endocrinology in Johannesburg, to the BGU campus.

SAABGU’s vision is for South Africa to enjoy the benefits of research collaborations with BGU, and to learn from its partnership with industry for job creation and the upliftment of our own impoverished communities.

Prof Joffe (76) joined the CDE 14 years ago as a specialist physician and endocrinologist. He continues to practise to this day. He has been actively involved in research since graduating from Wits University, where he is a professor emeritus in the Department of Medicine.

He served on the steering committee of the Hospital Restructuring Forum for Gauteng.

BGU and South Africa enjoyed close ties in the past when SAABGU facilitated joint research programmes aiming to benefit South Africa

and Israel. This relationship was celebrated in 1997 when BGU awarded an honorary doctorate to former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Over the last year, SAABGU has been focusing on building partnerships with BGU to address developmental and economic problems facing South Africa, as well as enhancing relationships between the two countries. SAABGU draws inspiration from BGU’s established and successful collaborations across the world with academia and industry.

As part of this revival, SAABGU brought BGU’s world-renowned immunologist, Prof Eli Lewis, to South Africa in October last year, where Prof Lewis met Prof Joffe. Prof Lewis invited Prof Joffe to present a seminar to students at BGU.

Prof Joffe and his wife Rebecca visited BGU in February this year, for that purpose.

The Joffes, having visited BGU for the first time, left feeling excited for the future of the university and even suggested that it would be a good idea for matric learners in South Africa to look to BGU for their tertiary education.



# Community Views

## Rapid, job-rich growth, a prerequisite for South Africa

ANN BERNSTEIN

Defending the Constitution is of vital importance to securing the long-term future of democracy. However, shared prosperity and economic inclusion through growth and employment are also essential if all South Africans are to share in the Constitution’s promise.

The devastating realities of unemployment, poverty and inequality underline that the country’s “good story” is predominantly one of “insiders” - empowered by access to decent education, resources, social capital and political connections.

The story is very different for the many millions who have been failed by a poorly-performing education system and government policy choices that discourage firms from creating work for unskilled workers.

South Africa has reached a point where fundamental government assumptions that shape the country’s growth and development policies need to be

questioned.  
Slowing

growth is partly a consequence of poor governance, and poor governance is partly attributable to an intensified scramble by elites for what is correctly perceived to be a shrinking economic pie.

Among the ideas the country needs to rethink are: market-led growth cannot be trusted to have inclusive outcomes; only (relatively) high wage, high skill jobs should be created; inclusion for those left out of this scenario by a failing education system can and will be achieved through social grants and other subsidies; and the public sector can and will be an employer of last resort.

All of these assumptions are false.

In a context of slow global growth, tightening constraints on public expenditure and stubbornly high rates of unemployment and poverty, a new growth agenda is urgently needed.

### What would such an agenda look like?

- The country needs one credible new strategy for inclusive growth: Since 1994, South Africa has adopted and discarded several plans for growth and development. Currently there are three with different proposals and approaches. Central to a new growth strategy must be recognition that faster growth is possible only if new businesses are able to start up, and existing firms can expand.
  - SA needs a capable state that understands competitive markets: This, rather than a state that has special relationships with selected businesses is vital to our growth prospects.
  - South Africa needs jobs for the workforce; we have not the one we wish we had: Expanding South African employment options to include industries that use lots of unskilled labour is a precondition for improving the prospects of the poor. These sectors have been undermined by labour market policies based on the “decent jobs” doctrine, which has raised the cost of employment and created a structural bias towards higher wages.
- Reforms to the country’s wage-setting institutions are needed to rebalance this relationship and facilitate employment growth.
- Growth requires resetting the state-

business relationship: The country will not succeed if government is pro-growth but anti-business. Government’s attitude denies basic truths about growth; it is firms subjected to competitive pressures that drive societies’ increasing prosperity. If the government wants growth and believes the private sector should invest and create jobs, then it cannot shirk the responsibility of defending markets, in particular to its own supporters. Business needs to devote strategic resources to developing policy proposals on national issues, and participate more effectively in debate on the role of markets and firms in this society.

Two further priorities complete the Centre

for Development and Enterprise’s growth agenda: Skills are vital to all growth priorities and prospects, and economic policies must recognise that South Africa’s future is urban.

South Africa’s best lever for transformation for millions is rapid, job-rich growth. This requires a new strategy that is urban-led, private sector-driven, enabled by a smart state that understands markets and targeted at mass employment.

• Ann Bernstein is head of the Centre for Development and Enterprise. This article is based on CDE’s Growth Agenda reports, available at [www.cde.org.za](http://www.cde.org.za)



Ann Bernstein

### Community

## Betar has new bayit in Glenhazel



Pictured are Eitan Ruso; Jarred Albert; Ayala Eloz; Gary Aberman; Hadley Shapiro; Nicci Raz; Guy Hadad; Livnat Katz; and Tovi Merkin at the launch of Betar SA’s smart new Glenhazel bayit on Monday.

ANT KATZ

Betar has been going from strength to strength since returning to this country several years ago, opening a new bayit in Glenhazel on Monday. The bayit will now house the Jewish Agency For Israel-deployed shaliach’s home as well as their offices, which were previously located at the Beyachad building.

The opening was attended by roughly 60 Betarim, as well as members and leaders of Likud-SA, The Israel Centre, The SAZF and many other Jewish organisations.

Conveniently situated in Cross Street in central Glenhazel, the bayit has a nice but manageable garden, a swimming pool, a number of informal rooms

and a meeting room.

One of their pride-and-joy facilities is a substantial library which was able to start off with a considerable collection donated by long-serving Betar/Likud chairman, Leon Reich. Reich, who reintroduced Betar in SA after a hiatus of several years, will be making aliyah shortly,

The keen youngsters got their first month’s rent free as they renovated and cleaned up the house which they are renting. This now becomes yet another communal facility where youngsters can meet and hang around together in a safe environment.

The use of the facility is not restricted to Betar members only.

The bayit also sports a well-equipped, kosher kitchen and good entertainment facilities.

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**Marc Hirschowitz, an events creator, with writer and cook Karen Alsfine and Estelle Sacharowitz, a caterer and “cuisine concocter”, wrote a fascinating book on food called “Savour”. The following recipes come from that book.**



# An asparagus and feta salad to die for

## Warm asparagus and crumbled feta salad

- Ingredients**
- 400 g fresh green asparagus
  - A squeeze of fresh lemon juice
  - 200 g baby rosa tomatoes
  - Olive oil for drizzling
  - Herbamare® organic herb seasoning salt to taste
  - Freshly ground black pepper to taste
  - ¼ cup ready-made basil pesto
  - 200 g feta cheese, crumbled
  - ¼ cup pine nuts, toasted
  - ½ cup chopped fresh basil

- Method**
1. To cook the perfect asparagus, trim the hard woody stems and wash well in cold water. Place the asparagus in salted boiling water with a squeeze of lemon juice.
  2. Cook thin-stemmed asparagus for approximately 3 minutes – thicker stems require about 6 minutes. To check if the asparagus are cooked, remove one from the

- pot. If the tip bends, it is ready. Drain in a colander and refresh under cold water to stop the cooking process.
3. Preheat the oven to 180 °C.
4. Arrange the tomatoes on a baking tray and drizzle with olive oil. Season with the seasoning salt and pepper, and roast until just soft. Remove from the oven and drizzle with the basil pesto.
5. Sprinkle over the crumbled feta and return to the oven for a few minutes until the feta is warm.
6. Arrange the asparagus on a platter. Spoon the tomatoes, feta and pesto over the asparagus. Sprinkle with the pine nuts and basil.

**Variation**

Boil the asparagus as in the above recipe. Preheat the oven to 180 °C. Place the asparagus in an ovenproof dish and dot with small blobs of 75 g softened butter. Sprinkle over ½ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese and ½ cup flaked and toasted almonds. Warm in the oven and serve immediately.

*Serves 4–6*

# Quinoa with sautéed vegetables and goat’s cheese

**An out-of-the-box recipe that is sure to have your family clamouring for more!**

*Serves 4–6*

- Ingredients**
- 4 sweetcorn cobs
  - 1 Tbsp butter
  - Freshly ground salt
  - 3 Tbsp vegetable oil
  - 1 head fennel, thinly sliced
  - ¾ cup chopped spring onion
  - 1 large red pepper, deseeded and diced
  - 1 tsp chopped fresh parsley
  - 2 Tbsp mirin or white balsamic vinegar sweetened with a little honey
  - 300 g depodded broad beans
  - 250 g quinoa, cooked according to packet instructions
  - 150 g goat’s cheese
  - 4 sticks celery, chopped
  - ½ lemon
  - 1 Tbsp chopped fresh mint

- Method**
1. Remove the corn from the cobs.
  2. Heat the butter in a saucepan and sauté the corn for 5 minutes, adding 1 Tbsp salt while cooking. Stir to prevent burning and cook until glassy and slightly crunchy. Remove from the heat and set aside.
  3. Heat the vegetable oil in a pan and sauté the fennel, spring onion and red pepper for 5 minutes.
  4. Add the parsley and mirin or sweetened vinegar, and season with extra salt to taste. Stir well and, when soft, remove from the heat.
  5. Bring a pot of salted water to a rapid boil, and add the beans. Cook for 3-5 minutes, then remove the beans and refresh them under cold running water.
  6. Gently peel the outer layer to reveal the bright green bean inside.
  7. Place the cooked quinoa in a bowl. Add the sautéed sweetcorn and vegetables and stir to combine. Add the beans.
  8. While still warm, fold in the goat’s cheese and then add the celery. Squeeze over the lemon and garnish with the fresh mint.



## News

# Three British city councillors suspended for anti-Semitic posts

LONDON - Three British city councillors were suspended by the Labour Party on Monday for tweeting anti-Semitic comments.

Shah Hussain, a member of the Burnley Borough Council in Lancashire, was suspended hours after the two other lawmakers who had made anti-Israel statements on social media.

An investigation will be launched into tweets Hussain sent to the Israeli soccer player Yossi Benayoun in 2014, the Labour Party announced on Monday evening.

One of the tweets, from July of that year during the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, read: “You and your country doing the same thing that Hitler did to ur race in WW2”. Another tweet, which uses the hashtag #FreePalestine, tells Benayoun: “Yossi, ur an idiot” and expresses sadness that a competing player “didn’t kick you hard enough in the head”.

Also on Monday, Ilyas Aziz, a law-maker in Nottingham in north-central England, was suspended hours after the Guido Fawkes British political watch-

dog website posted screenshots of his Facebook posts, including one from July 2014 calling for the relocation of Israeli Jews.

Other Aziz’s posts shown on Guido Fawkes included one comparing Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians to the Nazis’ treatment of Jews and another perpetuating the blood libel myth that reads: “Stop drinking Gaza’s blood”. Another post shows an Israeli flag with the words: “G-d didn’t give you the land - the UK did... Illegally” superimposed on it.

The former mayor of Blackburn, also in Lancashire, Salim Mulla, was suspended less than an hour after his anti-Israel posts were outed, also by Guido Fawkes.

Mulla, whose Twitter profile said he was born in India, charged in an August 2015 Facebook post that Israel is behind ISIS. A month earlier he posted a conspiracy theory video blaming Israel for the Sandy Hook elementary school murders in Connecticut, adding his own comment that “he is talking facts”. A June 2015 post reads: “Zionist Jews are

a disgrace to humanity”.

The suspensions come days after Labour suspended a British Parliament member, Naz Shah, for a 2014 Facebook post calling for relocating the entire State of Israel to the United States.

Last week Thursday, the party suspended former London Mayor Ken Livingstone (pictured) for saying that Adolf Hitler was a Zionist for advocating in 1932 a policy of moving Europe’s Jews to Israel.

The following day, Labour said it would launch an investigation into anti-Semitism in the party. Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn also said in a statement that he would propose a new party code of conduct that would “make explicitly clear for the first time that Labour will not tolerate any form of racism, including anti-Semitism, in the party”.

Corbyn, a harsh critic of Israel, who has called Hezbollah and Hamas activists “friends”, has been criticised for not doing enough to curb the rising anti-Semitic rhetoric in his party. (JTA)





# Let’s not lose the battle against forgetting

MARGOT COHEN

The “battle against forgetting” is an ongoing one, and we have a duty not to allow present and future generations to forget the past was the message that came across forcibly at a moving ceremony at the Old Fort building at Constitution Hill in Braamfontein recently.

The Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre (JHGC) and the Rwanda High Commission in Pretoria hosted the event where some 140 Rwandans lit candles in memory of the hundreds of thousands of Tutsis - estimated at one million - who were killed in Rwanda 22 years ago.

Tali Nates, director of the JHGC, welcomed the guests, with a special mention to the Rwanda’s High Commissioner in South Africa, Vincent Karega, Piers Pigou of the South African History Archives

and Bantu Holomisa, leader of the United Democratic Movement.

“We stand in solidarity with Rwanda, the million who were murdered and those who lived through it,” she said.

For Pigou, the images of working around memory, sharing experiences and their relevance in a contemporary setting, reflect the past of post-conflict societies.

Karega said: “We value our partnership with the Holocaust Centre. The genocide against the Tutsis is a crime against humanity. We need to stand together to start again, to build values, no matter our skin colour or ethnic differences.

“We honour the courage of the survivors. We can’t forget, but we forgive. Our moral obligation is to leave a better legacy for our children.”

He added that Rwanda today is a beacon of hope; its leadership has

changed.

The screening of the eye-opening film, “A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake”, was shown to the audience. It revealed the complex issues that surround memory, reconciliation and healing in communities emerging from genocide and other forms of conflict, such as in South Africa, Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland.

The film also touched on the work of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (from 1996-1998) and how a South African theatre troupe ignited a dialogue among people’s raw memories of atrocity.

The film aims to raise awareness about ongoing justice and accountability in relation to the unfinished business of the TRC.

Jazz legend Hugh Masekela’s music lent special poignancy to the occasion.



Vincent Karega, high commissioner of Rwanda, with his wife Neety.

# Yad Aharon selflessly does the walk, week after week

SUZANNE BELLING

“The community is either in denial as to the level of poverty in our midst, or is totally unaware. I believe it is a communal responsibility to alleviate this,” said Alice Friedman, managing director of Yad Aharon and Michael, which feeds 540 Jewish families in Johannesburg each week. Friedman joined the organisation 18 years ago and has been at the helm for the last eight. She has a background in personnel consulting and psychology and her empathetic attitude towards her “clients” has gone a long way to ensure the success and development of the organisation.

“It was started by two women (who have since emigrated) in Yeoville. They started cooking for needy Jews from their homes for Shabbos and Yomtov.”

But the organisation continued and flourished and now has its headquarters in Main Street opposite the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation.

“Maintaining the dignity of our clients tops our list of priorities and our weekly food parcels include fish, meat, chicken, eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit, bread and potatoes. We believe that giving fresh produce parcels gives our families the opportunity to decide how they want to cook the contents which encourages independence, creativity and gives our clients a sense of purpose,” Friedman told SA Jewish Report.

She exudes compassion and chesed and works from her office surrounded by personal mementoes, novelties and fluffy toy animals. This immediately serves to make visitors feel welcome and cared for. At its inception, the organisation had no name, but when it was taken over by Rabbi Moshe Schnerb, it was named after Rabbi Aharon Pfeuffer and Michael Zive, who were killed in a road accident. “Last year was their 20th yahrzeit,” Friedman said. “We remain committed to emulating their unique brand of chesed and Yad is their legacy.”

Yad Aharon and Michael is at its busiest before Pesach and the Yamim Noraim, when they organise major appeals.

“There is a big misconception that the boxes and parcels we give out are donated. In reality, we pay for everything in full and a week’s produce costs between R65 000 and R70 000.”

Two fulltime drivers deliver to clients living in Berea, Yeoville and Observatory and volunteer drivers selflessly report for duty each week. Clients who don’t mind collecting their own, are encouraged to “give back” to the organisation by delivering a couple of additional food parcels to people living in their area.

“All our projects are established in response to the needs of the recipients. For example, Ohr Natanel was founded as a much-needed monthly lunchbox project for children, which provides our school-going children with “treats” such as biscuits, crackers, cheeses, crisps and vegetarian polony.

“It enables the children to compare and swap their lunches with their peers, without feeling left out. Sadly, some of our families consume

hand clothing and furniture donations are also welcome. “The best is given to our clients, while the rest is sold to generate much-needed income. In the current economy, we have to be proactive and supplement our fundraising through income-generating initiatives.”

Friedman says many of the recipients - from young marrieds to retirees - are employed, but earn very little. “If they have R100, they have to debate whether to pay for electricity, airtime or other basic essentials.”

“As the leading and largest food parcels distribution organisation in Johannesburg, Yad Aharon and Michael plays a vital role in dealing with the nutritional insecurity in our community.

“Our clients rely on us and we are committed to providing them with the understanding and compassion they deserve.”

The organisation also runs a soup kitchen, which is indicative of the need to feed those battling in these difficult times.



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Community Views

Cyril Ramaphosa’s short road to fame and fortune

SARA GON

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa recently said: “For far too long this economy has been owned and controlled by white people. That must come to an end. For far too long, this economy has been managed by white people. That must come to an end. Those who don’t like this idea - tough for you. That is how we are proceeding.”

The irony is that Ramaphosa’s vast wealth is founded on access to white capital eager for access to government. The ANC “deployed” Ramaphosa to become a major beneficiary in empowerment deals aimed at creating wealth outside formal ANC structures.

In 1996 Ramaphosa resigned as secretary general of the ANC and became deputy executive chairman of New Africa Investments Limited (“Nail”). Nail, supported by Metropolitan Life, was the first broad-based black economic empowerment (BBB-EE) vehicle.

Nail invested R7 million to start an investment bank, Pleiade Investment Corporation, to raise capital. Publicly, it was a financial adviser and brokered an investment deal between SBC Communications and MTN. SBC invested R25 million in Pleiade (renamed AMB Capital).

In 1996 AMB acted as “adviser” to a R2,7 billion BBB-EE deal in which the National Empowerment Consortium (NEC) took a share in Johnnic Holdings Limited (Johnnic). AMB also raised R2,1 billion so that certain NEC members could acquire a controlling stake in Johnnic.

The members mostly came from Cosatu unions. The capital came from union pension funds. AMB proposed Ramaphosa as chairman of Johnnic.

In 1996, AMB raised a further R1,3 billion for the Ikageng Share scheme, AMB Southern African Investment Fund and AMB Holdings. By the end of 1997 these deals held a 10 per cent stake in all listed JSE shares. The Afrikaners had taken nearly 20 years to achieve the same level of ownership on the JSE.

Thus Ramaphosa helped favour these companies with government contracts and enhance their BEE status. Ramaphosa sat on nearly 20 boards including Alexander Forbes, SABMiller, MTN and Bidvest.

When Ramaphosa divested from Shanduka to become vice-president, BizNews interviewed Chris Bishop, MD of Forbes Africa. Forbes estimated Ramaphosa’s

wealth then at \$700 million. BizNews said that foreign investors weren’t sure about Ramaphosa’s understanding of the capital

world because he came from a BEE market. Bishop replied that Ramaphosa learnt the hard way as a lawyer



Photo: Michael Belling

and union leader (National Union of Mineworkers). BizNews countered that Ramaphosa was given shares.

Bishop said that he had learnt in the boardroom. Hogg argued that business is about creating. Ramaphosa couldn’t go wrong with the McDonald’s franchise or a Coca-Cola Bottler that he didn’t build from scratch. He had acquired ownership, not learnt business the hard way.

Bishop argued that he learnt a lot from the 1987 mining strike.

In 1987, as general secretary, Ramaphosa took the nearly 344 000 National Union of Mineworkers’ members out on strike. Ramaphosa believed that worker agitation could further weaken the state, as mass action had already done, to achieve a “dramatic transformation”.

NUM demanded wage increases of between 40 per cent and 55 per cent, while the Chamber of Mines offered 12,5 per cent.

• Sara Gon is currently a research fellow at the Institute of Race Relations. She is a former acting judge of the Labour Court and an assessor in the Labour Appeal Court. She managed Tararam, the Israel/SA Culture Fund and spent a year working for the Helen Suzman Foundation.

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Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss brings  
a message of hope to South Africa

ALANA BARANOV

“People have to know what has happened and that it is evil to be prejudiced against a group of people - we are all equal. All human beings deserve a decent life.”

This message is at the heart of the international travelling exhibition “Eva’s Story: The Promise”, based on the experiences of Eva Schloss and her family during the Holocaust.

The Durban Holocaust Centre held the premiere launch of the exhibition on Wednesday evening, April 13, with Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, the guest of honour, who officially opened the exhibition.

The launch attracted many members from civil society and the media, as well as the local Jewish community. Messages were given by the director of the Durban Holocaust Centre Mary Kluk, who had championed the creation of the exhibition alongside the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation’s Myra Osrin, as well as Richard Freedman, director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and director of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

Schloss recounted her family’s story, expressing her hope that the exhibition would teach people the dangers of discrimination and the need to treat refugees with dignity.

“I hope that my story of being a refugee encourages other people in bad situations that there is hope,” she said.

Schloss also shared the poignant motivation behind the exhibition. “When my brother Heinz was 12 he became very scared about what happens when we die, and so we decided to ask our father, who said there was nothing to be scared of, that we all die but you live on in your children.

“Then Heinz asked Father: ‘But what if I don’t have any children?’ Father reassured him: ‘You will achieve something in your life and someone will remember you.’”

Added Schloss: “Today Anne Frank (her stepsister) is immortal, but what about all the children who died in the Holocaust? Seeing this exhibition, I feel that I have kept Father’s promise that Heinz will be remembered.”

The travelling exhibition “Eva’s Story: The Promise” will run at the Durban Holocaust Centre until July this year, after which it will move to Johannesburg and Cape Town.

• For more information on the exhibition and the Durban Holocaust Centre, visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/DbnHoloCentre](https://www.facebook.com/DbnHoloCentre) or follow us on Twitter @DbnHoloCent

World News in Brief

Study finds 90 species of endangered plants in Israel

TEL AVIV - Ecosystems in Israel and particularly in its coastal plain have 90 species of endangered plants, 28 of them being unique to Israel or the countries that surround it, a newly released study discovered.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) conducted a survey and mapping project over the last two years in order to determine whether Israel meets international standards on biodiversity protection.

The international Convention on Biological Diversity requires at least 17 per cent of a country’s land mass to be protected with the highest level of biodiversity. The INPA survey found that almost 20 per cent of Israel is protected, though 60 per cent of those areas are concentrated in the southern Negev desert region. In some areas with more residential development and farming, such as Israel’s coastal plains, the ecosystems are only minimally protected. Ninety species of endangered plants, such as irises, were found in areas that are inadequately protected. (JNS.org)



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LUBNER, BERTIE

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From Issie and Mushe Kirsh

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What's On

Friday (May 6)

- UZLC hosts communal leader Marlene Bethlehem on “50 Years of a Communal Journey”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421

Sunday (May 8)

- RCHCC shows the documentary “Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry”. Directed by Alison Klayman. A dissident for the digital age who inspires global audiences and blurs the boundaries between art and politics. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, a/h (011) 728-8378 or e-mail: [rchcc@telkomsa.net](mailto:rchcc@telkomsa.net) or [rene.s@telkomsa.net](mailto:rene.s@telkomsa.net) or [www.greatpark.co.za](http://www.greatpark.co.za)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College Auditorium in

Houghton. The programme is compiled by Ron Cowley. A short DVD of Big Bands will be presented followed by an audio tribute to band leaders who have anniversaries and a DVD will be screened on “Two Girls and a Sailor”. Time: 14:15 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn 072-243-7436 or Jack 082-450-7622.

- Second Innings hosts Penny Hochfield of Exclusive Books Killarney, on “Facts and Fiction - 25 years of Bookselling at Exclusive Books” Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Contact: Linda Fleishman (011) 532-9701.

Tuesday (May 10)

- SAZF's Yom Hazikaron ceremony takes place at the Yeshiva College campus in Glenhazel in the Sally Liebgott Hall at 18:30. Information: Miriam Garb (011)

645-2531 or [miriam@sazf.co.za](mailto:miriam@sazf.co.za)

Wednesday (May 11)

- JWBS Annual Charity Golf Day takes place at Killarney Golf Club. Shotgun start at 12 noon. Cost: R850 per player or R3 400 for 4-ball incl prizes and snacks. Contact: (011) 485-5232 or e-mail [gloria@jwbs.co.za](mailto:gloria@jwbs.co.za) for more information.

Thursday (May 12)

- RCHCC hosts a “Lecture and Demonstration, Giving Lower Back Pain the Chop”. Includes a live presentation on a LBP patient. Donation: R80 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, a/h (011) 728-8378, e-mail: [rchcc@telkomsa.net](mailto:rchcc@telkomsa.net) or [rene.s@telkomsa.net](mailto:rene.s@telkomsa.net) or [www.greatpark.co.za](http://www.greatpark.co.za)

Community

# Young leaders discuss race, privilege and Madiba's legacy

As South Africa celebrated Freedom Day last week Wednesday, April 27, youth leaders from across Johannesburg's townships and suburbs, some from the most privileged and some from the most challenging of circumstances, came together to dialogue.

The topic was racism, xenophobia, privilege and the legacy of Nelson Mandela. Youth from Afrika Tikkun's four Johannesburg centres in Orange Farm, Diepsloot, Alexandra and the inner city/Hillbrow; with youth from the Alexandra Youth Parliament; the Hillbrow Theatre Project; and the Johannesburg Junior Council, shared views. They raised their voices through performance and dialogue on topics ranging from the Rwandan genocide, to poverty, lack of transformation, low self-worth to BBBEE.

Afrika Tikkun said in a media release that some of the points emphasised in the dialogue, which was facilitated by the outreach organisation's CEO Marc Lubner, was that racism is learned - it is an inter-generational belief system and set of behaviours that is passed from parents to the next generation.

One could be raised to hate or raised to love. This message was emphasised by Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, of the Great Park Synagogue in Johannesburg. Rabbi Hazdan's father lost his family to the Bolsheviks and the Holocaust, but as Rabbi Hazdan movingly recounted, he was never raised to feel pity or hatred but to love and embrace life and positivity. This profound lesson was taken to heart by the young people present.

Young people felt they didn't relate to the history of apartheid, though it was only 22 years ago since apartheid ended. They learned about it through stories their parents told them, and the values that they passed on to their children as they told their stories.

Marongwe Ramosobane, chairman of Nelson Mandela

Children's Parliament of South Africa, explained that racism was more prominent among the older generation. The key to overcoming discrimination, she explained, “is knowing your own self-worth”.

For participants Nellie Zembe and Marie Ndlovu, racism is furthered on a day-to-day basis by people who take to heart the discrimination they may experience. “We can be our own worst enemy by seeing colour and seeing situations in terms of colour.”

With so much of the dialogue being about the fact that hatred is passed from one generation to the next, former Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs, advocated for “soft vengeance”. This, he explained, was a vengeance for the wrongs of apartheid not through violence, but through ensuring that we have a living, functioning and constitutional democracy.

Success is the best revenge,

he maintained - success being a society in which we were united in our diversity.

Jabu Ncube of the Alex Youth Parliament said: “A hungry man is an angry man.” Real success and real transformation also involves defeating the problem of poverty and youth unemployment.



Various youth in dialogue.



Rabbi Dovid Hazdan addressing the youth.



Former Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs, addressing the youth.



# Yshai Oliel may become Israel’s Novak Djokovic

JACK MILNER

In December 2013 I attended the final Nike Junior Tour International Masters tennis tournament in Florida in the United States.

It was a tournament especially for under-12 and under-14 boys and girls and was made up of teams of four players of each sex and age group from some 26 countries. There were also a number of players the sponsors were keen to get under their wing or who they had already signed up and these youngsters were given wild cards into the tournament.

It had run since 1997 but as the age of players breaking into the top 100 was going up all the time, Nike opted to drop the tournament and spend the money elsewhere. It had been a great success for them as the likes of Rafael

Nadal, Robin Soderling, Juan Martin del Potro, Tomas Berdych and Roberto Bautista Agut had all made their mark at the NJT International Masters.

One of the most exciting players to come out of the 2013 tournament was an Israeli 12-year-old by the name of Yshai Oliel. It is always tough to tell at that age whether a kid will make it or not, but Oliel did have all the necessary talent and an excellent work ethic. The talented left-hander has the whole package and looks to be the real deal.

Although he lost in the final to Rudi Molleker, another massive prospect from Germany, Oliel did go on to win the Orange Bowl in his age group. Interestingly, he and Molleker have been playing doubles together with some success.

But tennis is a very expensive sport and all



Teenager Yshai Oliel is being groomed to be Israel’s Novak Djokovic, thanks to support from a British businessman.

the travelling, training and coaching costs a lot of money. Israeli players have suffered from not getting the necessary financial support.

However, luckily for Oliel he has been noticed by London businessman David Coffe who is hoping the teenager from Ramla can one day join the ranks of Novak Djokovic and the like and he’s backing up his dream with the funding to groom the hard-hitting youngster for stardom.

Oliel is the most promising member of the David Squad, a small group of young Israeli tennis players who Coffe along with his wife Ruth, and three children, finances and manages. It picks the nation’s most talented up-and-comers - the five members now range in age from 12 to 16 - who Coffe (67) hopes will soon become household names.

Oliel provides some optimism. The 15-year-old has made his mark already by twice winning the prestigious Junior Orange Bowl tournament in Florida - only the ninth player in the competition’s 70-year history to accomplish this feat.

Along with developing champions on the court, the David Squad also aims to create a good name for Israel, says managing director and head coach, Andy Zingman, a former Argentine tennis player, “all without political involvement”.

Coffe’s son, Adam, points out that countries today curry favour through sport, as they have for many years. He points to Djokovic: “If you stopped someone in the streets 10 years ago, most people would say his was a country of wars and murder. Today, thanks to Novak, half the people will say that the Serbs are nice, athletic, smiling people.”

The squad is committed to “developing Israeli tennis players of the highest international standards”, according to their website. Since their launch in 2005, Coffe, the chairman of a real estate advisory firm and owner of the popular Tuttons and Dirty Martini restaurant and bars in London, estimates he has financed 100 children and teenagers.

The name is a reference to King David, “the greatest hero of Israel’s history”.

World No 1 Djokovic personifies Coffe’s hopes for Israeli tennis. He is hoping his players can also win lots of Grand Slams and woo fans for their country.

“Imagine eight million Israelis glued to their television sets and not moving until the final game of Wimbledon is over,” he muses. “It would mean so much to have a champion - we will cry with joy.”

Israeli players such as Dudi Sela, Andy Ram, Shahar Peer (a NJT International Masters finalist in 2001) and Julia Glushko have enjoyed some success on international level. Ram and Yoni Erlich won the Australian Open doubles title several years ago but have never approached

the top of the world rankings in singles.

David Coffe says Oliel, the son of Moroccan Jews, has similar attributes. “People may warm to Yishai - to his smile, to his talent. We could win friends. So we are here to find talent and nurture it.”

The squad mostly trains in Raanana but they make occasional training trips to destinations such as South Florida and Spain to train with extended members of the David Squad family, including former pros Aaron Krickstein and Manuel Santana.

“My father could afford to put them up in a hotel,” Adam Coffe says, “but we all stay together in our home,” he said, referring to Spain and Florida. “They spend time together, feed off each other, pick each other up and share in the glory - you can’t put a price on that.”

Being part of the squad requires commitment by the players and their parents, who must abide by a strict code of ethics: Play to win, play fair, respect yourself - and, most important, Coffe says, “respect your parents”, who don’t join their children on trips around the world.

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