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Jewish Report

■ July 8 2016 / 2 Tammuz 5776
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Elie Wiesel – indefatigable Jewish fighter to give Shoah a face



Official White House photo by Pete Souza

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel has died at age 87. But Nobel laureate Wiesel was not merely a “survivor” of the Nazi horror where six million Jews were killed in the extermination camps; he became a leading icon of Holocaust remembrance and global symbol of conscience. He wrote some 50 books on that horror, to ensure that it is never relegated to the back-burner of history. “Lest we forget” became a mantra that permeates his many scholarly works. He was fearless and would take anyone on should he disagree with them - even American presidents. He had the “ear” of many presidents - also Barack Obama - who would consult him on many aspects of the Holocaust. He became a moral compass for many of them. The quest to challenge indifference was a driving force in his writings, advocacy and public presence. He became a voice that challenged easy complacency about history. Pictured in this file photo of May 4, 2010, Wiesel is seen having lunch with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office’s private dining room. See page 6.

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The most underrated quality



As I gazed at my grandson on my knees, about to be brought into Abraham’s covenant with G-d, a multitude of thoughts flew in and out of my mind. Chief among them: “I am much, much too close to this bris!” Then I noticed the remnant of the umbilical cord which once linked him with his mother, carrying nutrients and oxygen to him, and waste products away from him.

I have always referred to the umbilical cord as the humbilical cord, because the character trait of humility connects us with G-d, with others and with our true self, like the umbilical cord connects us with our mother.

You don’t often hear people describe some-

one as humble anymore. We don’t seem to value it much as a character trait. It has gone out of fashion.

This lack of humility and our focus on what we mistakenly think is the opposite, feeling superior to others, destroys us and our relationships with others, and especially with G-d. Of the arrogant man, G-d says: “He and I cannot live in the same world.” And I don’t think G-d is planning on leaving...

In our parsha, Korach leads a rebellion against Moshe. Korach’s wife told him: “Kenny my dear, (that was his English name) you have many talents and great blessings, just like Moshe. You should be a leader like he is! But he has taken all the honoured positions for himself and for his pals!” (Sound familiar?)

Ohn ben Peles was also dragged into the dispute, but his wife convinced him to withdraw from the fight and rather to use his G-d-given talents in a way that would serve G-d and give G-d pleasure. She told him not to seek high of-

fice, because, when the goal you seek is against the will of G-d, nothing good will come of it. The story of Korach ends when his talents and blessings bring disaster upon himself and his followers - but not upon Ohn!

What is humility? Well, what isn’t it? It isn’t a feeling of inferiority, where one can only see the bad in oneself, leading to anxiety and possibly depression. That is terrible, but striving for the opposite of that is just as bad: a feeling of superiority, where one can only see the good in oneself, which leads to arrogance, selfishness, boasting, and, in the end, also to anxiety and possibly depression.

Humility is the awareness that I have certain talents and blessings (resulting in a sense of self-esteem and confidence), given to me by G-d. Denying those talents and blessings is false and delusional - and one will end up wasting them.

Humility means that I know I have them and, because they have been given to me by

G-d, there is no reason to boast of them. On the contrary, if G-d had given the same gifts to someone else, that other person might have made more of them than I have. Humility means using what G-d has given me in the way G-d wants me to use them - sometimes to lead and sometimes to follow.

We need to keep our humbilical cord intact, always.

Shabbat Times

Parshat Korach

July 8 / 2 Tammuz

July 9 / 3 Tammuz

Starts	Ends	
17:12	18:04	Johannesburg
17:34	18:29	Cape Town
16:53	17:46	Durban
17:14	18:06	Bloemfontein
17:05	18:00	Port Elizabeth
16:58	17:52	East London

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Forty years on, Entebbe still indelibly imprinted on Israel’s psyche

ANT KATZ

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Kampala, Uganda on Monday to start a three-day, four-state visit, the first by a sitting leader of the Jewish State to the country.

Netanyahu used his attendance at a ceremony to mark 40 years since the famous “Entebbe Raid” in Kampala as the springboard for a four-nation East African visit. But the Entebbe ceremony was not without drama as that country’s President Yoweri Museveni, continuously referred to Israel as Palestine during his speech. Other “untrue historical facts” were equally embarrassing.

Many Ugandans have been openly tweeting about who could have written his speech and predicting that heads would roll for the mistake. Tweets in Israel, on the other hand, also lashed out at the gaffe, saying Museveni “rambled” and that his speech was “bizarre”. Israel radio cut off the speech before it finished.

The Entebbe Raid saw then-Ugandan leader Idi Amin hosting German and Palestinian terrorists and their 100 hijacked Israeli passengers at the airport in Kampala. Israeli commandos rescued all-but-one of the hostages in a daring night-time raid.

Netanyahu laid a wreath at a plaque marking the rescue. His older brother, who commanded one of the assault groups of 29 elite commandos, was the only



A file photo of a poignant Benjamin Netanyahu at his brother's grave.

Israeli killed in the raid.

The plaque had been originally unveiled by Netanyahu himself in 2006 (in between his two stints as Israel’s prime minister). It marks the spot where Lt-Col Yonatan (Yoni) Netanyahu, was shot and killed. Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft of the African Jewish Congress (AJC) also attended that unveiling.

“Israel is coming back to Africa; Africa is coming back to Israel,” said Netanyahu on Monday. “We were powerless no more,” he said, referring to the raid on July 4, 1976.

Returning to 2016, Netanyahu said as he embarked on his trip on Sunday: “The African continent constitutes vast potential for Israel.” He will also hold meetings with the leaders of Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda.

The Israeli leader seeks East African allies both to improve the already thriving trade and tourism between their countries, but also to bolster political support for Israel in international forums.

The prime minister is being accompanied by some 80 Israeli businessmen in order to further cultivate trade ties. He will also address the Ethiopian parliament.

At the Entebbe commemoration, Netanyahu also held scheduled meetings with the leaders

of Zambia, Tanzania and South Sudan - as well as some unscheduled meetings. Netanyahu is the first Israeli prime minister to visit sub-Saharan Africa since 1987.

A delegation from the South African-based African Jewish Congress, led by its president, Ann Harris and CEO Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, also attended. They left Uganda on Tuesday for Kenya, from where Rabbi Silberhaft told Jewish Report that there had been “a large IDF military presence” at Entebbe.

“The terminal building where the hostages were held and then rescued is being converted to a museum displaying this historic event in Jewish history,” he said on Tuesday. One of the four Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft used in the rescue was on display at Monday’s event. Two Boeing 747s had also been used in the raid.

Ann Harris told Jewish Report that “the AJC was privileged to be invited to attend the commemoration” by invitation of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Africa Desk with which the AJC works closely.

The AJC delegation consisted of Rabbi Silberhaft, Ann Harris and AJC Vice-President Geoff Ramokgadi. See more on SAJR website.

- In his gaffe-filled and embarrassing speech - see it at www.sajr.co.za - Museveni also referred to the fact that “baby Jesus was hidden from Herod in the bulrushes in Egypt in 4 AD.”

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Email: roni@sajewishreport.co.za

Editor Vanessa Valkin - vanessa@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editor Paul Maree • Ed co-ordinator Sharon Greenblatt - sharon@sajewishreport.co.za • Senior Writer Suzanne Belling
Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • Website Anthony Katz
General Manager Roni Lea – roni@sajewishreport.co.za • Advertising Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520 - britt@sajewishreport.co.za • Classified sales Shereen Miller - shereen@sajewishreport.co.za
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‘Untrustworthy’ Rabbi Berland’s bail request denied by Supreme Court

ANT KATZ

Justice Fayeenza Kathree-Setiloane told Rabbi Eliezer Berland late last week in the South Gauteng High Court in Johannesburg that as he was so “well-connected” he remained a flight risk and she therefore denied “the Rabbi on the run” bail as he awaits extradition to Israel to face charges of alleged sex crimes. The fugitive rabbi has asked the court for bail and a review of his extradition order.

The justice rejected Berland’s request to have his detention in Johannesburg Prison declared unlawful, saying he remained a flight risk and could not be trusted.

Berland, 79 is the leaders of the Shuvu Banim Breslov Chassidic movement based at his yeshiva just a stone’s throw away from the Kotel in Jerusalem. He launched an urgent application last month, arguing that he should be released to a “place of safety” pending a legal review of his extradition order launched by his lawyers last month.

The review will be conducted by a yet-to-be-appointed justice on a date to be advised.

Justice Kathree-Setiloane said that the application was based on the argument that the extradition process in the Randburg Magistrate’s Court had been flawed and irregular and therefore unlawful.

Rabbi Berland claims that the denial of bail and his continued detention at “Sun City” prison in Johannesburg should therefore be set aside. Berland also asked the justice to order on certain “guarantees” if he is, in fact, to be extradited to Israel.

Justice Kathree-Setiloane ruled that there had not been

any major irregularities in the extradition and bail hearings and rejected the application to grant house arrest. The justice heard that the rabbi was igniting a culture clash within South African courts and prisons as they were not established to cater to his devout needs.

Berland was clearly “very resourceful” said the justice, as well as being well-connected, had jumped bail of around R850 000 in Holland, had two fake passports when arrested, and therefore remained a “flight risk”. He would have to stay in detention as “he cannot be trusted,” she said.

She also said that, in her view, Berland’s review had “no prospect of success”.



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After the judgment, members of the defence team and some of Berland’s followers asked Prosecutor Nerisha Naidoo that if Berland was to be extradited, whether she could arrange for it to be done as quickly as possible.

They expressed concern about the rabbi’s welfare in prison and said they could arrange a ticket almost immediately. Naidoo replied that if a request was made in writing, she would see what she could arrange.

The review, which has been served on Minister of Justice Michael Masutha, the National Prosecuting Authority and Randburg Magistrate’s Court, questions the legality of the decision to extradite Berland to Israel. The extradition order was signed by the minister on June 3.

Berland has been on the run from Israel since 2012, living under the noses of authorities in Morocco, Holland, SA and Zimbabwe.

Berland’s legal team is led by attorney Ellie Karp and advocate Anton Katz SC.

Last chance to reach agreement on kol isha

ANT KATZ

If a solution is to be found that stops the case of two Cape Town Orthodox Jews and a Progressive organisation taking the Cape Board of Deputies to court over applying religious doctrines at secular events, it will have to happen this week.

As things stand, case #EC/04/2016 is set down to be heard by the Cape Town High Court, sitting as the Equality Court, on August 22 and 23. The main complainant is a Cape Town observant Orthodox Jew, Gilad Stern. He was joined in his original complaint by his sister-in-law Sarah Goldstein and they were later joined by the SA Centre for Religious Diversity and Equality (SACRED).

Their court action regards their belief that the Cape Council of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies acted with unfair discrimination against women by not allowing women to sing at the annual Yom Hashoah ceremony in May. They are claiming that this goes against the constitutional guarantee of equality of gender.

The Board, from its perspective, believes that the Constitution guarantees other rights as well, such as the freedom of religion and the freedom

of association. A community colloquium was called last week and chaired by an outsider - Bobby Godsel - who was to provide a report and recommendations to Cape Board Chairman Eric Marx.

On Monday morning Marx told Jewish Report he was at an advanced stage of negotiations (presumably with Stern) and that he expected to be able to report on the progress of the discussions “within 24 to 30 hours”.

Repeated attempts to contact Marx on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, however, have not been successful.

If the Board does intend to defend the action against Stern et al, it will have to act in due haste. The present order stipulates that they have to file any further papers by next Wednesday, July 13. They last filed in early May. (See copies of all pleadings on www.sajr.co.za) and unless an agreement regarding late filing is reached with Stern, this will be the Board’s last chance to file documents.

In these papers it would need to show what it had tried to do since May to resolve the situation (developments such as having had negotiations with the claimants, proposing solutions, holding the colloquium, etc.)



The Board cannot introduce any further defence thereafter, explains a legal pundit. The applicants, in turn, would have to file their response two weeks later - on July 27.

The Western Cape High Court Judge President last month appointed Justice Lee Bozalek to hear the case.

Kol isha - the halachic decree that men should not hear the voice of a woman singing - has become a divisive issue within the Jewish community.

The issue has been simmering for several years as both the Board and the SA Zionist Federation have not allowed women to sing at secular events, due to the widely held Orthodox

religious practice of kol isha.

While this practice is correct according to halacha, for many years Orthodox religious authorities applied one of the many dispensations available to them to exclude certain events.

However, the current trend among Orthodox Jewry worldwide reflects a “general shift to the right”, explained a respected rabbi who asked not to be named, adding that no Orthodox rabbi in this community would support the perception of applying dispensations to bypass halacha on an issue such as this today.

Gilad Stern told the Jewish Report on Wednesday that he had no comment to make at this stage.

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Australian leaders' final pleas to Jewish voters

CANBERRA - Malcolm Turnbull and Bill Shorten made last-minute pitches to the Jewish community just days before the Federal election last weekend.

The Liberal and Labour leaders spoke of a robust and resilient Jewish community, which has shaped the Australian story and made the nation a better place.

Acknowledging that Australian Jewry faces particular security concerns and promising to “always act to ensure your protection”, Turnbull said he and his wife Lucy have lived in the heart of Sydney’s Jewish community in Wentworth all their lives, and are “grateful that they have taken us to their hearts as well”.

“As the Federal Member for Wentworth I have been welcomed into your homes and your synagogues, your schools and your community centres,” he said.

“I have celebrated simchas and chagim.”

He said there were only a few communities as robust and resilient as the Jewish community and that many survivors of the Holocaust sought refuge in Australia after they escaped Europe.

Meanwhile, Shorten said the Jewish community had made “a lasting contribution to Australian business, academia, culture and politics”.

“From Saul Same to Frank Lowy and Sidney Myer - the Jewish community has shaped the Australian story and made our nation a better place,” he said.

Declaring that Labour is “resolute in its support of the people of Israel” and committed to supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Shorten added that a Labour government would continue to strengthen trade and economic ties between Australia and Israel. - Australian Jewish News

Israeli-Slovenian rowing duo making waves

TEL AVIV - The number 1 Israeli and Slovenian rowers allowed their oars to drag back. They flexed their arms forward and leaned back as they exhaled as one.

With Dani Fridman at the bow and Gaspar Fistravec at the stern, the two glided down the Yarden River at Daniel Rowing Centre, training for their doubles race in the Henley Royal Regatta earlier this week.

The Henley is the most renowned rowing tournament the world has to offer.

This race wasn’t always the plan, though; Fridman’s tattoo, which faces the water as he rows, can tell that story. It consists of five oars bent into circles and intertwined into the shape of the Olympic rings, representing his dream since he was a teenager.

Both Fridman and Fistravec want to compete in the Olympics. They each lost in the qualifiers during the weekend on May 22.

Fistravec, racing for Slovenia, was in fourth place throughout the entire single sculls. Fridman, representing Israel, almost won. He maintained the lead through 1 750 metres before his speed dropped from 4,7 metres per second to 3,8.

He had suffered a back injury training for the semifinals. He was unable to fight through it and slipped from first place to fourth, not good enough to qualify. He was clearly frustrated when talking about it. - Jerusalem Post

Call to investigate Corbyn’s conduct regarding so-called anti-Semitism

MANCHESTER - A Jewish group has called on Labour to investigate Jeremy Corbyn’s conduct during last week’s launch of the report into anti-Semitism in the party.

Solicitors acting for Jewish Human Rights Watch wrote to Labour’s central office objecting to the party leader’s remark in which he compared Israel to hardline Islamic states.

In a speech at the media conference unveiling the report, compiled by Shami Chakrabarti, Corbyn said: “Our Jewish friends are no more responsible for the actions of Israel or the Netanyahu government than our Muslim friends are for the self-styled Islamic states or

organisations.”

JHRW said the remark was “demonising and delegitimising” of Israel “in a way wholly consistent with modern anti-Semitism”.

The fact that he chose to make the remark on the release of the report, “serves only to underscore the reality that Mr Corbyn has no interest in fighting anti-Semitism whatsoever”, JHRW said.

JHRW also complained that Corbyn had failed to act when a Jewish Labour MP fled the conference in tears after being verbally attacked by a hard-left activist.

Ruth Smeeth became upset after she was accused of colluding with the Daily Telegraph.

Robert Festenstein, of RHF solicitors based in Manchester, wrote the letter on behalf of JHRW.

The solicitor, a member of the Labour Party himself, said: “I was appalled that not only did Jeremy Corbyn fail to respond to what happened to Ruth Smeeth, Chakrabarti failed to respond to the harassment of a Labour MP as it happened in front of her.

“She said she wanted the Labour Party to be a place where everyone was welcome, but in light of the evidence it is something to the contrary.” - Jewish Chronicle, London



Jewish celebrities to get stars in Hollywood Walk of Fame

HOLLYWOOD - Comedian Sarah Silverman, actor Jeffrey Tambor, actress Goldie Hawn (pictured), Israeli-American media mogul Haim Saban, and actor George Segal are all getting their own stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Their names were announced in the annual list put out by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce last week Tuesday.

Among the Jewish honorees all but Hawn were listed under the television category. Silverman is best known for her standup comedy but created her own Comedy Central series, “The Sarah Silverman Programme”, which ran from 2007 to 2010. She also performed on “Saturday Night Live” during the sketch show’s 1993-94 season.

Tambor has starred in dozens of films and shows since the 1970s but is most famous for his recent roles on the shows “Arrested Development” and “Transparent”.

Hawn, who got her start as a ditzy go-go dancer on TV’s “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In”, went on to win an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for “Cactus Flower” and appeared in a string of hit films in the 1970s, including “There’s a Girl in My Soup”, “Butterflies Are Free”, “The Sugarland Express” and “Shampoo”. In “Private Benjamin” she played a pampered Jewish girl who joins the Army.

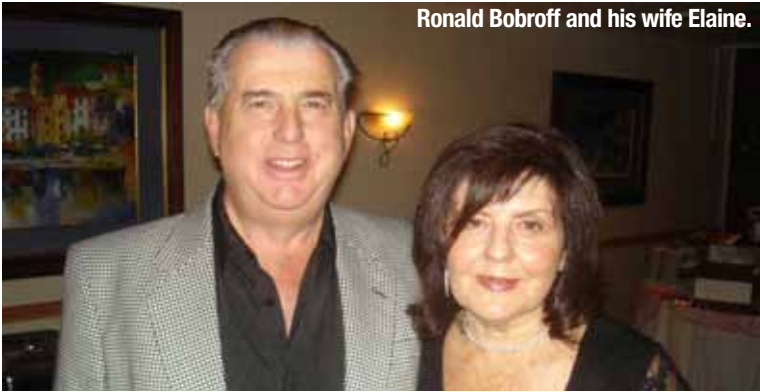
Saban started the now defunct Saban Entertainment group, which distributed the popular children’s action hero shows such as “Power Rangers” and the American versions of “Digimon” and “Dragonball Z”. His estimated net worth is over \$3 billion.

Segal is more famous for his film work, having appeared in classics such as “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” and “The Hot Rock”. But he has also appeared in dozens of shows, including the ABC sitcom “The Goldbergs”. - Los Angeles Jewish Times



News

Charges against Elaine Bobroff provisionally withdrawn



ANT KATZ

Elaine Bobroff, wife and mother of absconded personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren respectively, walked into court last week as a defendant on bail, charged with fraud and money laundering of millions of rand, and walked out a free person. But it may only be a temporary reprieve.

A relieved 69-year-old Elaine Bobroff said to Jewish Report this week: “I’ve done nothing wrong.” But she is angry and traumatised.

Elaine says that the early-hours raid on her home in March which led to her appearing in the Johannesburg Specialised Commercial Crimes Court charged with fraud of R26 million and money laundering, has turned her life and that of her family upside down.

“They’ve destroyed my family, and they have done nothing wrong,” Elaine insisted.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) regional spokesman for Gauteng, Phindi Louw confirmed to Jewish Report that “the case was provisionally withdrawn by the State pending further investigations”.

Elaine Bobroff, known as a tireless communal worker, will next month be presented with a prestigious award from the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society for 40 years’ service. The JWBS is a 110-year-old organisation that works closely with the Chevrah Kadisha.

Elaine’s husband and son took flight to Australia in March after they had agreed to hand themselves over to the police to face charges of fraud pertaining to Road Accident Fund payments.

A highly placed and reliable source, who cannot be named, maintains that the amount of money overcharged, missing, misappropriated or due in unpaid taxes by Ronald Bobroff and Partners has passed R1 billion last week.

The Hawks referred the question of whether this figure was correct (the last reliable figure Jewish Report had was R550 million) to the NPA. “At this stage the NPA is not in a position to confirm the amount of funds till all investigations are finalised,” Louw said in response.

The NPA opened their own investigation in early May. “I can reassure the public that the matter is receiving the requisite attention from my office and that of other law enforcement agencies,” National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) Shaun Abrahams said.

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 National Prosecuting Authority.”

Jewish Report is still trying to establish whether this briefing ever took place.

The NDPP’s announcement of an investigation by the NPA added another investigation to the already long list of investigations against the Bobroffs, which include those of: The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks); the Law Society of the Northern Provinces; the curator of the now-defunct legal practice; the Justice and Correctional Services Department; and the SA Revenue Services (SARS).

The Road Accident Fund also started combing 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.

Elaine Bobroff is adamant that her husband (whom she says had not consulted clients for a decade) and son were being persecuted and had done nothing wrong. She expects her family to be together again sometime soon, but says the saga has traumatised her family.

Shain’s seminal work on anti-Semitism, wins him prestigious Recht Malan Prize

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

Milton Shain’s “A Perfect Storm: Antisemitism in South Africa 1930-1948”, has been described as “history at its most compulsively readable” by the judges who awarded him the Recht Malan Prize for Non-fiction in the 2016 Media24 Books Literary Awards late last month.

Published by Jonathan Ball, the book is the second volume in a trilogy that Shain is writing on the history of anti-Semitism in this country.

Jewish Report asked Shain (pictured), emeritus professor in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town, if he foresaw a possibility of the “Jewish Question” taking centre stage in this country as it did during much of the period described in the book.

“I don’t think the ‘Jewish Question’ will ever revive. It’s transformed maybe into the ‘Zionist Question’ insofar as the overwhelming number of Jews are pro-Israel, not necessarily always agreeing with the government’s actions, but want a Jewish state.

“That ‘Question’ could develop, it may be manipulated, but the ‘Jewish Question’ as such and anti-Semitism, I don’t see evolving in South Africa in the foreseeable future.

“There’s a celebration of diversity, of cultural difference,” he explains.

“There’s also a long history of struggle and in that long history, prejudice, racism is just not acceptable in the same way, so the idea of classic anti-Semitism getting a foothold in South Africa today is unlikely.”

But, he repeats: “It can be done in

a mutation of old anti-Semitism into anti-Zionism, which in itself doesn’t have to be anti-Semitic, but often is informed by the old rhetoric of classic Jew hatred.”

Shain notes that the period under review has attracted relatively little scholarly interest. “It’s such a novel area of South African writing, except for Gidi Shimoni who has a chapter in his excellent ‘Jews and Zionism - the South African Experience’, written 35 years ago.

“Besides that, we know there were troubles in the ‘30s, but this is much deeper and hopefully more insightful than previously devoted to the subject,” he states.

“It allows one to see the unfolding and the contingencies of hatred - how it appears and then lessens by 1948.”



Shain refers to the “great paradox” of D F Malan (who in 1948 became the National Party prime minister) introducing the Quota Act of 1930, designed to keep out eastern European Jews on the grounds of their being “unassimilable”.

In 1955, Malan writes the foreword to Chief Rabbi Israel Abrahams’ “The Birth of a Community”, where Jews are suddenly being seen as a model for white South Africans to maintain their iden-



The cover of Emeritus Professor Milton Shain’s “A Perfect Storm: Antisemitism in South Africa 1930-1948”.

tity in an African continent which is decolonising.

The author feels that Malan was “certainly driven” to his actions by the pressure exerted by the “radical right” who moved the “Jewish Question” from the margins to the centre of South African politics.

“In 1938, the general election really played it in a big way which people have minimised in the past,” he points out, explaining: “In South African historiography, minorities are not looked at until recently, in the new South Africa where there is this awareness of culture and celebration of diversity.”

Malan, when in opposition, had in turn pressurised the United Party, who eventually introduced the Aliens Act in 1937 which effectively stopped German Jews coming to the country. “This was a very frightening period for the Jews,” Shain states, referring in addition to the presence of groups “aping Fascism” such as the Ossewabrandwag.

The lessons of history were evidently not lost on the judges who stated in making the award: “In a time when violent xenophobia regularly rears its ugly head across the country, the continent and the globe, this marvellous book is a timely reminder of what can happen when politicians in pursuit of power demonise a vulnerable group.”

World News in Brief

Arab Knesset member calls IDF soldiers ‘murderers’

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week said he will examine the possibility of having Arab Member of Knesset Haneen Zoabi impeached following a speech in which she called Israel Defence Forces soldiers “murderers”.

Netanyahu spoke to Israel’s attorney general “to examine the process of ousting Zoabi from the Knesset”, the prime minister wrote on Twitter.

“In her actions and her lies, [Zoabi] crossed every line and there is no room for her in the Knesset,” wrote Netanyahu.

Zoabi, a member of the Joint Arab List political party, also demanded that Israel apologise to “political activists” who participated in the 2010 Gaza flotilla that was intercepted by the Israeli Navy while it attempted to breach the Gaza blockade.

Nine Turkish militants were killed in clashes after the Israeli commandos who boarded the flotilla. The newly reached Israel-Turkey reconciliation deal includes \$20 million in Israeli compensation for the families of the Gaza flotilla casualties.

Herself a passenger on the flotilla in 2010, Zoabi claimed that Israel agreed to compensate the families because the nine Turks were “murdered”. She also said the reconciliation deal is an admission of guilt by Israel with regards to the flotilla incident. (JNS.org)

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Wiesel gave the Holocaust a face and the world a conscience

SARAH WILDMAN
WASHINGTON

Elie Wiesel (pictured), the Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate who became a leading icon of Holocaust remembrance and a global symbol of conscience, died last Saturday at age 87.

A philosopher, professor and author of such seminal works of Holocaust literature as “Night” and “Dawn”, Wiesel, perhaps more than any other figure, came to embody the legacy of the Holocaust and the worldwide community of survivors.

“I have tried to keep memory alive,” Wiesel said at the Nobel peace prize ceremony in 1986. “I have tried to fight those who would forget. Because if we forget, we are guilty, we are accomplices.”

Often, he would say the “opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference”.

The quest to challenge indifference was a driving force in Wiesel’s writing, advocacy and public presence. Though he considered himself primarily a writer, by the end of the 1970s he had settled into the role of moral compass, a touchstone for presidents and a voice that challenged easy complacency about history.

Wiesel spent the majority of his public life speaking of the atrocities he had witnessed and asking the public to consider other acts of cruelty around the world, though he drew the line at direct comparisons with the Holocaust.

“I am always advocating the utmost care and prudence when one uses that word,” he told JTA in 1980.

President Barack Obama, who met frequently with Wiesel and took his counsel, said he had been a “living memorial”.

“Along with his beloved wife Marion and the foundation that bears his name, he raised his voice, not just against anti-Semitism, but against hatred, bigotry and intolerance in all its forms,” Obama said in a statement. “He implored each of us, as nations and as human beings, to do the same, to see ourselves in each other and to make real that pledge of ‘never again’.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wiesel was “bitterly mourned” by the state of Israel and the Jewish people. “Elie, the word-smith, expressed through his extraordinary personality and fascinating books the triumph of the human spirit over cruelty and evil,” he said in a statement.

Wiesel won a myriad awards for his work, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal and the National Jewish Book Award. “Night” is now standard reading in high schools across America. In 2006, it was chosen as a book club selection by Oprah Winfrey and, nearly half a century after it was first published, spent more than a year atop the best-seller list.

“There is no way to talk about the last half century of Holocaust consciousness without giving Wiesel a front and centre role,” said Michael Berenbaum, a professor at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles and former director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum’s research institute. “What he did, extraordinarily, was to use the Nobel Prize as a tool to call attention to things, and as a vehicle to scream louder, shout more, agitate more.”

Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, then and now a part of Romania, in 1928, Wiesel was deported to Auschwitz in 1944 with his family. He was 15. His mother and one of his sisters would disappear forever when the family was forced aboard the cattle cars, murdered immediately. His father, who travelled with him to the camps, died of dysentery and starvation in Buchenwald before liberation. Two sisters would survive the war.

In “Night,” Wiesel describes pinching his face to see if he is dreaming when he sees the murders of infants.

“In those places, in one night one becomes old,” Wiesel told NPR in 2014. “What one saw in one night, generations of men and women had not seen in their own entire lives.”

Wiesel was liberated from Buchenwald in 1945. He went on to study at the Sorbonne and moved to New York at the end of the 1950s, where he lived in relative obscurity. He worked hard to find a publisher for “Night”, which initially sold poorly.

“The truth is in the 1950s and in the early 1960s there was little interest and willingness to listen to survivors,” said Wiesel’s long-time friend Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg, who had read a copy of “Night” in Israel in the early 1960s. “In 1963, someone told me this author is alive and well in New York City and I somehow managed to find him and go see him.”

Wiesel was “gaunt” and “working as a



freelance reporter, a stringer, for a French newspaper, an Israeli newspaper and a Yiddish newspaper - and for none of the above was he making a living,” Greenberg said.

In the late 1960s Wiesel finally began to emerge as one of the pre-eminent voices in Holocaust literature. By the end of his career, he had written some 50 books.

In 1972, he enthralled Yeshiva University students with his excoriation of the American and American Jewish leadership for its silence during the Holocaust.

How many Jewish leaders “tore their clothes in mourning?”, Wiesel said. “How many marched on Washington? How many weddings took place without music?”

His 1966 book reporting the plight of Soviet Jews, “The Jews of Silence,” made possible the movement that sought their freedom.

In 1978, Wiesel became the chairman of the Presidential Committee on the Holocaust, which would ultimately recommend the building of a Holocaust museum in Washington. As his public presence grew, he began to visit the sites of other genocides.

In 1985, Wiesel’s reputation grew beyond the Jewish world when he challenged President Ronald Reagan on live television over his intention to visit a German cemetery that housed the remains of Nazi soldiers. In the Oval Office to receive the Congressional Medal of Achievement, Wiesel chastised Reagan.

“This is not your place Mr President,” Wiesel famously said. The president visited the cemetery anyway but changed his itinerary to include a visit to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Wiesel challenged the White House again in 1993, when he charged the newly-inaugurated President Bill Clinton to do more to address the atrocities then unfolding in Yugoslavia.

At the inauguration in 1993 of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Wiesel said, clearly: “I don’t believe there are answers. There are no answers. And this museum is not an answer; it is a question mark.” That question mark, he applied to global atrocities, as well as historical ones.

His later years saw him wade into politics. He was friends with Obama but also loudly chastised the president for calling for an end to settlement construction and for brokering the Iran nuclear rollback-for-sanctions-relief deal, positions that led to criticism, even from long-time admirers. His very public support for Netanyahu was also questioned.

The final years of his life also saw financial turmoil. His personal finances and \$15,2 million in assets of the Elie Weisel Foundation for Humanity were invested with Bernie Madoff, who was convicted in 2009 of fraud. Wiesel’s fortune and the reserves of his organisation were wiped out.

And yet he did not cease his work. Just months after the scandal broke, in June 2009, he led Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on a trip to Auschwitz.

“Wiesel never pretended that he understood the Holocaust. He spoke of it as a horror beyond explanation, a black hole in history. As the virtual embodiment of the catch phrase ‘never forget’, he did more than anyone else to raise awareness of the Holocaust in American life,” said Ruth Franklin, author of “A Thousand Darkneses: Lies and Truth in Holocaust Fiction.”

Wiesel is survived by his wife, Marion, and a son, Shlomo. (JTA)

Nicholas Winton, the ‘British Schindler’, dies at age 106

LONDON - Sir Nicholas Winton (pictured), the man who famously organised the Kindertransport that rescued 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, has died.

Winton, known as the “British Schindler”, died Wednesday last week at age 106.

The baptised son of Jewish parents, Winton was a 29-year-old stockbroker when he arrived in Prague in December 1938. He was planning to go on a skiing holiday in Switzerland, but changed his plans when he heard about the refugee crisis in Czechoslovakia, which had just been occupied by the Nazis.

In the following nine months, he organised eight trains that carried children, the vast majority of them Jewish, from Czechoslovakia to safety in Britain.

Winton’s heroism was unremarked until the 1980s, when his wife found evidence of the rescues. The discovery led to a reunion with some of the children and a documentary on this virtually

unsung hero.

Britain’s chief rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, praised Winton for his “exceptional courage, selflessness and modesty.

“He lived to see thousands of descendants of those whose lives he saved who were proud to call themselves members of his family, and who were inspired by his example to undertake outstanding charitable, humanitarian and educational initiatives,” Rabbi Mirvis was quoted as saying by the BBC.

Winton received many honours in his later years, including a knighthood. Last year, the Czech government flew him to Prague in a military plane to receive the country’s highest honour.

The “Schindler” reference was to the German industrialist Oskar Schindler, who is credited with saving some 1 200 Jews in the Holocaust and whose story was made into an Academy Award-winning film, “Schindler’s List”. (JTA)



A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Six degrees of separation

If you are familiar with the concept of six degrees of separation, you will know it embraces the theory that everyone is six or fewer steps away, by means of introduction, from any other person in the world.

The chain of “a friend of a friend” can be made to connect any two people in a maximum of six steps.

It’s a fascinating theory that has provided endless entertainment and been tested in research and multiple games and experiments. It got me thinking about the Chev’s links to people and families which are a whole lot closer than six degrees.

Of course, you’re probably thinking, we’re a small, Jewish community in which everyone knows everyone and what they had for breakfast. What I mean is that the real, tangible connectedness between people in our community provides us with an amazing opportunity to offer services where they are most needed - and to access resources wherever we face challenges.

In our interaction with someone, we might discover a child with a disability who would benefit from our day programme, a relative with addiction challenges who could be assisted through our outpatients programme, a daughter going through a divorce in need of therapeutic support or legal advice, or a



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Michael Sieff

potential donor, happy to offer support.

One member of a family can provide a window into what the rest of the family might need and how we can help. We have, for example, a resident at Sandringham Gardens who has two sons in Selwyn Segal and those young men work in our World of Work protected employment programme.

We care for each person as an individual, but seeing the family unit as a whole is an added, and valuable, perspective.

Our broad network of well-connected people - board members, donors, volunteers, staff

and community - provide us with invaluable introductions to professionals and business-people at every level.

As the world continues to shrink and modern networks of communication link us to one another in both meaningful, and frivolous ways, the ever-increasing connectedness between human beings provides a beacon of hope.

Jewish geography is popular all over the world but I would suggest that at the Chev, we are truly “linked-in” experts at the game. And that, ultimately, is to everyone’s advantage.

May our partnership continue to thrive.
feedback@jhbchev.co.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

The Grahamstown of yesteryear: Those were the days that were...



Aviad Sella of the Jewish Agency hands Leon and Juliette Reich their aliyah papers at a farewell earlier this year.

ANT KATZ

Leon Reich gave a fascinating lecture at the Johannesburg Jewish Genealogical Society (JJGS) recently when he went down memory lane, recalling the Jews of Grahamstown, where over a period of 35 years, he served as a town councillor and mayor, sat on the council of Rhodes University and was the gabbai of the local shul. And this was where he and his wife Juliette brought up their children and worked as hoteliers and bottle-store operators.

Reich studied law, but never practised. He became a hotelier by happenstance while doing his articles. He took over the Grand Hotel as a bankrupt enterprise in 1958. Many things attracted him to Grahamstown, he told the JJGS, but “the greatest attraction

was the fact that there was a Jewish community, a shul and a reverend”.

He is a passionate Zionist and was also instrumental in starting the now world-famous Grahamstown Festival and the Settlers Monument.

Reich discovered that “there were Jews among the 1820 British Settlers”. The better known names among these settlers were the Norden brothers, the Slomans, Simons and Nortons, he says. The small Jewish community of Grahamstown was there from day one and was the first in South Africa. Originally services were held in a private house.

One Jewish settler, Benjamin Norden, tried his hand at farming before moving to Grahamstown and eventually to Cape Town where he founded the Cape Jewish community, says Reich.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies



Above Board
Jeff Katz
National Chairman

Beyachad pre-election debate

With just under a month to go until polling day, election fever is building countrywide. Last week, our Gauteng Jewish community had an opportunity to be part of the debate through a lively pre-election panel discussion at Beyachad. It was great to see such a large a turnout from our community.

The event was organised by the Board as part of our election awareness and education project and I want to thank the representatives of the ANC, DA, Cope and ACDP who participated in the debate, as well as Mandy Wiener for the professional manner in which she chaired it.

Given the pressing issues facing our country, the discussion was understandably robust at times. That being said, the civil and constructive nature of the exchanges, with participants focusing on the issues rather than on personalities, was encouraging. This, after all, is how democracy should work, with everyone being given a fair and respectful hearing.

Ultimately, we all want the same thing - a well-run, corruption-free city whose elected leaders are fully committed to finding solutions to the kind of problems experienced by ordinary citizens, from crime through to unemployment and the deterioration of public services in particular healthcare and education.

Ideally speaking, all those elected to office on August 3, must see themselves as a team working towards common goals, regardless of which particular party they represent.

What is true for our political democracy is just as true for how we, as a Jewish community, deal with our own internal affairs. The Board likewise encourages

open and honest discussion between our constituents on issues of common concern, with the proviso that this at all times be civil.

We must never become so polarised and distrustful of one another that those holding different perspectives come to be regarded as “the enemy”. The colloquium held in Cape Town two weeks ago to discuss the question of women singing solo at Yom Hashoah ceremonies, was a successful example of various constituencies within the Cape community coming together to debate, frankly but without unnecessary antagonism, a matter over which there are strongly-held and widely differing viewpoints.

Temple Israel - 80 years of service

On behalf of the Board, I am extremely pleased to congratulate Temple Israel on its upcoming 80th birthday celebrations. Despite the challenges posed by changing demographics in the Hillbrow area, Temple Israel continues to serve as a place of worship, while at the same time it has succeeded in transforming itself into a vibrant centre of social outreach for the broader Johannesburg and Hillbrow populations.

In doing so, it has given practical expression to the timeless Jewish values of caring and compassion for those in need of a helping hand, and indeed in realising the noble Jewish ideal of tikkun olam - healing the world.

In congratulating all the dedicated people who are or have been involved in this unfolding story, I would like to pay a special tribute to Reeva Forman, a long-serving and highly respected member of the SAJBD whose name has become synonymous with both Temple Israel and tikkun olam through our country.

• 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

One of Benjamin’s three sons, Joshua, was killed in the War of the Axe when the townsfolk withdrew into the confines of their famous cathedral and it was left to the three Norden boys on horseback to fend off the attackers.

In 1946 a memorial plaque was placed inside the cathedral to commemorate Joshua Norden’s bravery. Reich once took a group of tourists staying in his hotel to the cathedral where he overheard the bishop mentioning the plaque as the only plaque to a Jew in a church in the world.

One of the anecdotes concerned a “rather troublesome” Rhodes student, Derek Rosenberg, who decided to pull a prank on then-State President Blackie Swart (who had come to open the annual Arts Festival).

Rosenberg borrowed a top hat and tails and an open Singer car. Just before Swart’s arrival, Rosenberg’s driver turned into the street lined by military personnel. The “president” too short to pull it off without standing on coke crates, stood up and started bowing. (Swart was a very tall man.)

The soldiers lining the route saluted him. At the venue “the military band started up and Rosenberg was told to inspect the troops”, says Reich. But, when the band suddenly stopped playing, “Rosenberg realised that the real president had arrived. His cover blown, he drove hell for leather through an old unused gate and onto the main road.”

The old cemetery in Grahamstown contains gravestones of some of the seven Jewish children who, with their parents, arrived with the first wave of settlers. The oldest Jewish child’s grave dates back to 1823, he says.

When Reich arrived in 1958, Barney Borman was the gabbai of the shul and he Radomsky family were the prominent Jewish family in the town. Hymie Radomsky and Reich were the only two Jews ever to be city councillors.

Jews owned many of the hotels, including the Trepidors (from whom Reich had bought the Victoria Hotel). Another was Azer Edelson, whose sons subsequently ran a large prominent Durban hotel. Elias and Daisy Cohen ran the very successful Stone Crescent Hotel. Daisy’s family now live in Johannesburg and one of her granddaughters, Stephanie Hodes, was national chairman of SAUJS.

The Suttners owned the Carlton Hotel and Lockey Suttner ran the Odeon Cinema. The Goldbergs ran the Graham Hotel.

Juliette Reich’s uncle and aunt, The Rubensteins, helped run the Grand Hotel and at the Victoria Hotel Reich had a popular Jewish barman, Sam Eisenberg. Juliette’s sister and brother-in-law Henry and Peggy Cohen, worked with them at the Grand Hotel. Louis Gluckman ran Leon’s bottle store, having previously run the Cathcart Arms Hotel.

Jewry in the legal profession included advocate Norman Addleson (later a justice), Boysie Green and Gordon Levy. Rhodes University boasted many distinguished Jewish lecturers and professors over the years.

Although the Reichs worked very hard in their hotels, “we participated in the life of the community”, says Reich, who was immediately elected to the shul committee.

Four parties put best foot forward in election debate



ANC Councillor and Member of the Johannesburg Mayoral Committee Ros Greeff and Herman Mashaba, DA mayoral candidate for Johannesburg, at the election debate arranged by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Representatives of four parties contesting the local government elections in Johannesburg on August 3, went head to head at Beyachad last week over whose vision for tackling the tough issues facing the city, should get the nod on polling day.

The debate, adroitly moderated by well-known radio journalist and author Mandy Wiener, was held under the auspices of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies as part of its “Make Us Count” election awareness and educational campaign.

The four panelists were long-serving ANC counsellor and Member of the Mayoral Committee Ros Greeff (standing in for Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau, who was unable to attend), DA mayoral candidate Herman Mashaba, Cope President Mosiuoa Lekota and the ACDP’s Steven Swart. The EFF was invited to participate, but declined to do so.

SAJBD Gauteng Council Chairman Shaun Zagnoev gave the welcome and introduction to the

evening. The lively discussion, while sometimes robust, was conducted in a generally good-humoured and constructive spirit.

Greeff put much stress on what she asserted was an excellent track record on the mayor’s part as a reason for voting ANC, citing as examples the financial stability achieved for the city and the boom in construction and new infrastructure that was evident for all to see.

With reference to the Tshwane unrest, she nevertheless conceded that the party’s National Executive Committee would have to engage in “honest self-examination” after the election in order to address how best to manage the selection process for party candidates in future.

For his part, Mashaba pledged an administration that would he run on thoroughly professional lines, with scrupulous accountability in all public spending and focused programmes to improve services, curb crime and create more jobs.

While acknowledging that

racism remained a problem, he deplored what he saw as being a deliberate ploy by the ANC to put exaggerated emphasis on this in order to cover up its own failings, as well as to falsely portray the Democratic Alliance as being the “white man’s party”.

Lekota called for a shift to take place from the current top down mode of governance to one giving wider powers to communities to choose their own leaders and become more involved in grass-roots decision making.

Swart stressed that South Africa, certainly at the local level, was clearly moving into a new era of government by coalition, a scenario in which smaller parties like his own could play a crucial king-maker role.

The ACDP had in fact already done so in the Western Cape and it continued to be an influential presence in the province. Swart further emphasised the ACDP’s commitment to upholding traditional Judeo-Christian values, without which the social and moral challenges facing the country would never be effectively

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Cope leader Mosiuoa Lekota, makes a point at the debate.

dealt with.

“In implementing programmes like ‘Make Us Count’, the Board aims to encourage the Jewish community to identify with and participate in their country’s culture of political democracy. We are very grateful to our four panelists for giving of their time to assist us in realising these goals,” Zagnoev said.

He gave an overview of the SAJBD’s “Make Us Count” campaign, which had first been run, with much success, for the 2014 national elections. To date, it had included a registration drive to encourage the Jewish community to ensure that they were registered to vote and the putting together of a multi-faith and multi-national election observer team to assist the Independent Election Commission on voting day.

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World News in Brief

Rocket fire hits Sderot kindergarten building

SDEROT - Rocket fire from the Gaza Strip hit a kindergarten building in Sderot last week Friday.

In response, Israeli combat aircraft hit components of Hamas’ infrastructure in Gaza, the army said in a statement on Saturday. No one was injured in the exchange. The kindergarten was empty at the time it was hit. (JTA)

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You don’t have to make excuses for your old tech

The next 10 years will see the most rapid advances in the history of technology, but sometimes it will be okay to be left behind, writes ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK.



GOLDSTUCK ON GADGETS

The coming 10 years will see technology advance so rapidly, it will sometimes feel like we’ve moved to another planet. That is terrible news for those who already feel they’ve been left behind, or are bewildered by the pace of change since the beginning of the 21st century.

But there is good news. In most cases, no one will force them to embrace new technology. Of course, they will be at a massive disadvantage if they don’t, but in many cases they won’t experience it as a disadvantage - unless friends, family and colleagues try to rub it in their faces.

One of the greatest drawbacks of rapid adoption of new technology in the mainstream market is that those who hold onto the old are often ridiculed and made to feel inadequate. However, there is another way of viewing this behaviour by seemingly hip, happening people who regard themselves as being in the know and therefore superior to those who haven’t embraced the new.

Such people are, in fact, in need of validation. Typically, they have spent a large amount of money on new technology. Whether or not the cost was justified is beside the point. The truth is that they feel a need to justify it to everyone else. That, often, is the psychology lurking behind Apple and Samsung users, for example, mocking each other for using the “wrong” technology.

But there is no such thing as wrong technology. If it works for you, that’s what matters. If someone else feels superior to you because of what works for you, the problem clearly lies with them.

Feeling superior because of the technology you use is like

feeling superior because of the city or town in which you were born. And anyone who feels superior because of an accident of birth is demonstrably a fool.

Just as you shouldn’t have to make excuses about where you were born, you shouldn’t have to make excuses about the technology you use.

For example, you don’t have to make excuses if:

- You use an old BlackBerry or Nokia. It still works, right? It still does everything you want it to do right? That’s the only thing that matters, unless it puts you at a practical disadvantage or is costing you more to use.
- You prefer printed newspaper to online news. It can be shown that someone who reads a newspaper from cover to cover is more informed, with better general knowledge across news, entertainment and sport, than someone who relies only on headlines fed by social media. People who rely on digital news typically filter out everything that does not fit their specific interests, and their range of interests tends to narrow.
- You like paper books instead of e-readers. Guess what? Paper is superior technology here, as a book doesn’t need to be recharged, and lasts for decades after a current e-reader is obsolete. Yes, you have to buy each book separately, but doesn’t it look great on what we one called a “bookshelf”? Most of us have yet to install a Kindle-shelf in our homes.
- You don’t have a solar-powered geyser. South African electricity is still among the cheapest in the world, and the savings from solar power versus electricity for this purpose seldom results in a return on investment. The reason? The upfront cost of installation and the ongoing cost of regularly replacing batteries is sometimes never recouped during the typical home-ownership lifespan.
- Your family doesn’t have the latest gaming console or tablet. The physical world out there is far more interesting than any digital world - but only if you allow it to be.



Those without the latest toys are far more likely to allow it.

These are just a few examples, and some are generalisations. Everything depends on your own circumstances, needs and resources.

The flipside of this reality is that the opportunities represented by technology in the next decade will be massive for those who embrace change. The way we work, play, live, transact, travel, learn, educate, medicate and communicate will be utterly changed.

While it will be possible to live comfortably in the cracks between the new and the old, the real question is why you would want to do so. You don’t have to justify it to anybody else: just be certain that it is what you want for yourself.

• Arthur Goldstuck is founder of World Wide Worx and editor-in-chief of Gadget.co.za. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram on @art2gee

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Beverley, one of SA’s prize exports, stages Romeo and Juliet in Johannesburg

SUZANNE BELLING

Beverley Bagg (pictured) became a ballerina by default. At the age of three ballet lessons were recommended by her physician “because my posture was so poor - and the rest is history...” she told SA Jewish Report.

She transitioned from dancer in leading roles to master teacher in Canada and has now returned to South Africa to stage the production of Romeo and Juliet for the Johannesburg Ballet Company at the Johannesburg Theatre. It opens on Friday, July 15.

“I am very excited about it. It is a lot of work, trying to give so much information to the company,” she said. “It is a big ballet, with many characters and dancers.”

Bagg grew up in Sandringham in Johannesburg and attended the local primary and high schools until (then) standard 7, when she moved to the Johannesburg High School for Art, Ballet, Music and (later) Drama.

She then attended the Royal Ballet School in London and subsequently danced as soloist and in principal roles for 15 years with PACT Ballet in Johannesburg.

Her repertoire included Princess Aurora and Princess Florine (Bluebird) in The Sleeping Beauty, Odette-Odile in Swan Lake, the Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker, Swanhilda in Coppélia, Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, Giselle in Giselle, Kitri in Rudolf Nureyev’s production of Don Quixote and the lead in George Balanchine’s Theme and Variations.

She also performed works by renowned choreographers, including Jiří Kylián, John Cranko, Goh Choo San, André Prokovsky and Sir Frederick Ashton.

In 1982 she took a one year sabbatical from PACT Bal-



Photo supplied

let and was invited to join the Frankfurt Ballet under the directorship of Egon Madsen.

She has a diploma in biomechanics and physiology from the University of the Witwatersrand and integrates this knowledge into her teaching.

She moved to Canada in 1993 with her husband (they have since divorced) and their two sons, who are now 26 and 25. In Canada she coached students in preparation for the Adeline Genée and other competitions, apart from being

ballet mistress of Ballet BC in Vancouver and ballet mistress of Alberta Ballet in Calgary, Alberta.

She also staged Swan Lake and Giselle for the South African Ballet Theatre and The Washington Ballet. She danced professionally in Canada, including roles with Alberta Ballet in Mozart’s Requiem and Fumbling Towards Ecstasy.

When she returns to Canada she would like to coach ballet and conduct master classes. However, “if the opportunity arose to come back here, it would be wonderful”.

One of the reasons she emigrated was the increasing crime in this country. She added wryly that her cell phone had been stolen on this latest trip, only a day before the interview with the SA Jewish Report.

She spent six weeks in Cape Town, “which I love”, before coming up to Johannesburg to stage the latest production.

On the role of the arts today, she said: “I understand the stress on ethnic art and culture. This is 100 per cent correct. But classical art formed Western civilisation and it would be a shame for that to be overruled by the hunger for ethnicity.”

Cooking

Winning cookbook shows Israel ‘through different eyes’

MICHAEL BELLING

A more cosmopolitan book is hard to imagine, especially a cookbook, but this one dealing with Israeli cuisine, was published in English in South Africa, written by a woman from Lithuania, and won an international prize in China.

Nida Degutiene’s “A Taste of Israel”, published by Random House South Africa, took the prize in the Jewish cuisine category of the Gourmand International cookbook awards in Yantai, China, on May 29.

The book was a surprise winner in this prestigious three-day international competition, sometimes referred to as the Oscar awards for cooking. Authors from 209 countries participated, with more than 3 000 works submitted. Writers from 103 countries made it to the finals in China.

Degutiene’s husband, Darius Degutis, was in 2009 appointed to a five-year term as Lithuanian ambassador to Israel. This was Degutiene’s first encounter with Israeli food. She was largely unaware of Israeli or Jewish life before her arrival in the country, but travelled a lot, learning whatever she could about the country and its inhabitants.



Photo supplied

Nina Degutiene proudly displays the certificate for her international award-winning cookbook.

“When you live in Israel it’s plain to see that food holds a special place in Jewish life,” Degutiene wrote in the introduction to the cookbook.

“From early morning until dawn the next day, Israelis are always noshing on something and enjoying one another’s company, and on any given holiday the festive table groans under the weight of a multitude of dishes and goodies.

“This book is a way of seeing Israel, a place so unknown to many, through different eyes,” she said.

Subtitled “From classic Litvak to modern Israel”, Degutiene - who is not Jewish - covers a huge variety of Israeli food, from the Ashkenazi cholent, kugel, tzimmes and

latkes to the Libyan shakshuka, Moroccan chraime, Iraqi sabich and Lebanese fatoush.

The book was first written and published in Lithuanian and then later translated into English and sold first in South Africa in 2015 and then in the United States.

Degutiene matches her dishes to the various Jewish holidays and even offers a basic guide to keeping kosher.

“It might look a little bit strange that I’m Lithuanian, writing about Israeli food and Jewish food, being in China and representing South Africa,” she said while accepting her award.

“This book actually is a result of my five years of my life in Israel.”

She thanked both Lithuania and South Africa and added her gratitude to Israel as well.

“I would like to thank Israel because this is a country that is very easy to fall in love with.”

The runners-up in the Jewish Cuisine category were the Hebrew-language “Jewish Wedding Cookbook” by Nomi Abeliovich and Ofer Vardi and “Jewish Festival Food” by Marlena Spieler.



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Waverley Shul celebrates 60 glorious, memorable years

OWN CORRESPONDENT

On Sunday June 26, a glittering affair took place in the Samson Hall of Waverley Shul in Johannesburg: It was the shul’s diamond anniversary - 60 years of serving the community. The hall sparkled with magnificent decor and many prestigious guests were in attendance.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein was the keynote speaker. He delivered an outstanding presentation, stressing his memories of the shul where he held the position of rabbi of the Youth Shul in the early years of his career.

Rabbi Nossel, the present rabbi, described how he celebrated his barmitzvah at Waverley and how proud he was of his association with this community.

Judy Jaye, daughter of the shul’s original architect, Dr Joseph Ingber gave an inspiring talk on her father and the first rabbi, Rabbi Jacob Newman. Bradley Tapnack and George Wertheimer also presented snapshots of founder members of Waverley.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation ceremony, where silver yads were awarded to the founders and members of the families of those original visionaries. The shul was indeed privileged to make this presentation to three original founders, Claude Brewer, Wally Segal and Natie Aremband.

These visionaries on the original committee were honoured for their determination, devotion and dedication to the building of the shul, which for 60 years has been a home, a shelter, a place where all members who attend the services are spiritually uplifted and inspired.

To be successful every Jewish function needs a good



Three rabbis enjoy the celebration: Rabbi Gabi Bookatz; Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein; and Rabbi Dr David Nossel.

meal! This was certainly the case where everyone enjoyed a mouth-watering dinner.

Beila Copans, who catered for the shul for over 40 years, was also honoured and presented with a yad. Her legendary peppermint crisp cake will forever be remembered by all who attended shul brochas.

The Waverley Synagogue has certainly stood the test of time. From its humble beginnings until today, the shul has always played a prominent part in the Johannesburg Jewish community.

The original founders were indeed visionaries who worked tirelessly to establish a congregation that forever would be an icon, a beacon of light in the Johannesburg community and beyond its borders.

This memorable occasion was filled with many nostalgic moments, memories that will never be forgotten and people who will always be celebrated by the members who continue the tradition of warmth and friendliness in “our wonderful Waverley Shul”.

UJW in Pretoria brings winter cheer to a squatter camp



DIANE WOLFSON
PRETORIA

Under the leadership of Sivea Stein, the Jewish women of Pretoria tangibly helped one of the squatter camps north of Pretoria, with 170 mostly white residents living there in squalid conditions, mostly in tin shacks.

Under the heading, “Feed the Love”, the Union of Jewish Women handed out donations of blankets, food and toiletries last Sunday.

In a letter received from the underprivileged community, they gave thanks for making sure that they slept warmer and are more comfortable and stated it provided them with confirmation that Pretoria Jews are a community that continues to care with compassion.

Pictured are Pretoria’s Union of Jewish Women handing out blankets, soup and toiletries to member of the camp they visited. They are Hermione Karpas; Sivea Stein (chairman); Dalia Tabul; Ciska Lewis; Jenna Myer; Melanie Fish; Tracy Myer; and Rhona Lief.

ORT JET lands in Durban

MARCELLE RAVID

ORT JET received a heart-warming welcome in Durban recently at a launch to showcase the services offered by this division of ORT SA. ORT JET’s Durban operations are sponsored by The Daitz Foundation, represented at the function by Brian Moshal.

Durbanites will now be able to access this successful model of business entrepreneurship training and mentorship, which is well-known in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Guest speaker was Ian Fuhr, “serial” entrepreneur and owner and founder of Sorbet spas.

Pictured are Ian Fuhr (Sorbet); Ariellah Rosenberg (CEO ORT SA); Brian Moshal (trustee, The Victor Daitz Foundation); and Cindy Silberg (ORT JET).



Great Park’s Rabbi Dovid Hazdan with some of the blankets distributed to needy children.

Keeping out the winter chill with warm blankets

OWN CORRESPONDENT

This week, the warmth of the Lag B’Omer bonfires extended beyond the Jewish community. Great Park youth together with learners from the King David schools in Johannesburg, distributed over 1 000 blankets and jackets to children cared for by Afrika Tikkun.

The children attending the Early Childhood Development at Uthandu Centre, across from the Constitutional Courts, sang and danced and expressed appreciation to the Jewish community.

Hazel Jossel of King David High Linksfield, together with her committee, joined the proceedings, with the eco-friendly blankets they brought for distribution to the needy.

Marc Lubner, CEO of outreach organisation Afrika Tikkun, spoke about the importance of doing chesed and explained his organisation’s “Cradle to Career” programme.

Rabbi Dovid Hazdan of the Great Park Synagogue said the greatest gift in life is that we are fortunate enough to give.

Mascha finally finds a home in sunny SA

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Holocaust survivor Mascha Schainberg, who survived four years of the atrocities of Auschwitz death camp, says she “couldn’t be happier to accept her South African citizenship as South Africa has become her new home”.

Pictured is Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba with Schainberg, when she received her South African citizenship at the naturalisation ceremony on June 29.

Schainberg is a positive and charming woman who is an inspiration to all.



Holocaust survivor Mascha Schainberg with Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba

iXperience - cutting-edge training for students from around the world

TALI FEINBERG

“You feel like you’re working at Google,” says Solomon Serfati, a Jewish student from Miami describing his time at iXperience, a “summer abroad” programme started by Jewish Capetonians Aaron Fuchs and Darren Kramer.

iXperience is a unique “summer school” for top university students from around the world, who take intensive classes on cutting-edge subjects, do internships at companies ranging from Uber to Accenture, and explore Cape Town on excursions and cultural tours.

Fuchs, who was born and bred on a farm near Somerset West, went on to study at Yale and work on Wall Street. But he “wanted to do something creative, in technology and education”, and returned to Cape Town with a vision for iXperience, known as iX. A chance meeting with former poker player Darren Kramer helped make his startup a reality, with Kramer coming on board as an investor and equal partner.

The modern, tech-driven iX campus at the V&A Waterfront, might as well be at any Silicon Valley startup, or Google for that matter. Students type on laptops or engage in group activities in working environments that include desk treadmills, hammock chairs and Astroturf. The cafeteria tables have plug points and the high glass walls mean everyone is connected.



International students studying iOS app development in Cape Town.

“People are happy when they know they are progressing and developing, and that is what we do here, on a drastic scale,” says Fuchs. The iX website states: “We’ve built the only summer study abroad programme that combines the three most important aspects of career acceleration: intensive learning, hands-on professional experience, and cultural and personal exploration. Our vision is to challenge traditional education not just in South Africa and the United States, but all over the world.”

Students spend eight weeks in the city, doing four weeks of intensive courses such as coding, app development, product management and Wall Street finance.

Fuchs explains that skills such as

app development are hardly ever taught in formal settings, which is why this programme is so valuable to its knowledge-hungry students. Instructor Alejandro Castillejo, who teaches a course in iOS, adds that he himself learned these skills through online tutorials, and “a programme like this would have saved me a good three months”.

Students then spend a four-week internship at one of 55 companies, where they offer skills, enthusiasm and hard work. Fuchs adds: “We are always looking for companies to partner with; and these interns always add value. They come with a skills set and work for free, and you’ll be surprised how much they can offer.”

A crucial part of the programme

is encouraging students to embrace a balanced lifestyle and learning beyond the classroom. iX organises excursions ranging from shark-cage diving to safaris and students are encouraged to hike, surf, and enjoy the nightlife before and after class.

In addition, there is an intensive cultural programme, including trips to the SA Jewish Museum and Iziko Slave Lodge. This is vital, as it “prepares students for when they meet South Africans during their internships and activities”, explain Thobekile Mbanda, who manages this aspect. Students can volunteer at children’s homes, animal shelters and in townships, and are encouraged to interact with South Africans beyond the programme.

In addition, five South African students are sponsored to attend iX each year. “We look for those who really show a level of excellence but can’t afford a programme like this,” says Fuchs.

While iX may appear to be a “bubble” for foreigners, it is actually perfectly placed in South Africa, offering life experiences and learning in a multicultural environment. When students observe problems to be solved and meet fellow South Africans, it gives them an opportunity to apply their skills to social and economic solutions.

Solomon Sefarti is shomrei Shabbos and said it has been easy to be observant while on the programme. He commends the Cape Town Jewish community for being so welcoming to him and other students, and said he would love to bring his family to visit.

Indeed, the programme injects millions of rands into the Cape Town economy, especially in the quieter winter season. Now in its third year, it has over 300 students currently working and playing in the Mother City.

As an entrepreneur who chose to return to South Africa when he could have worked anywhere in the world, Fuchs feels that startups need to be taken more seriously in this country, and that mentorship and investment are sorely needed.

Plans for the future including an iX “university” that teaches futuristic subjects such as artificial intelligence.

Chazzones Club honours Bennie Puterman



Photo: Philip Kalmonowitz

Seated are back: Ezra Sher, Norman Mindel, Ronnie Penn, Lilly Picker, Gershon Stein, Ashley Lazarus. Front: Martin Greenberg, Bennie Puterman, Esther Bassin (chairman).

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Chazzones Club in Johannesburg was started 21 years. Bennie Puterman at the time felt there was a need to form such a club and he got together with a small group of people who enjoy cantorial music.

Puterman was elected chairman of the club and remained in that position until earlier this year when he retired due to ill health.

Puterman was recently honoured for his passion, commitment and leadership. A suitably engraved silver Kiddush cup was presented to him by members of the club.

Twenty members of the club meet monthly at the homes of the various members. Chazzones music is played from the collections of the various members. Music of international and local chazzonim are played and discussed.

Puterman and a small committee have organised annual concerts with local and international guest chazzonim. Adult and child choirs have also participated in the events. Funds raised from concerts are donated to local charities nominated by the members.

- Funds collected at monthly meetings are also donated to needy individuals and organisations.
- Anyone interested in participating in the club and its activities or donating chazzones music to the club may contact Esther Bassin, e-mail ebassin@polka.co.za

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Battiss ‘in totality’ at Wits Art Museum with some 700 pieces



Jack Ginsberg stands at one of his favourite Fook period paintings of artist Walter Battiss. Ginsberg has donated his 700-piece collection to Wits Art Museum.

MARGOT COHEN

Art collector and philanthropist Jack Ginsberg, considers Walter Battiss who lived from 1906 - 1982, South Africa’s greatest water colourist, screen printer and draughtsman.

Over more than 35 years Ginsberg assembled an extraordinary collection of 700 artworks, books and ephemera on Battiss. The collection, currently on view at Wits Art Museum (WAM) has been donated to WAM by Ginsberg. The exhibition runs until October 9.

The exhibition has been divided into five sections, culminating in Battiss’ legendary Fook period. Viewers can walk step-by-step through Battiss’ life and gain insight into his rock painting, calligraphy, silk screens, woodcuts and, of course Fook Island. There is also a “risque section” which may shock some viewers.

The first period is about the artist’s life as a student, artist and teacher during the 1920s.

Born in Somerset East, Battiss lived in Fauresmith in the Free State where he matriculated. He became a clerk in the magistrate court in Rustenburg, spending his leisure hours painting the surrounding landscape.

He gained his teaching diploma and by 1933 was appointed art master at Pretoria Boys’ High School where his dynamic influence was to operate with interruptions for almost 30 years.

In 1938, after his first visit to Europe and meeting with Henri Breuil, the French priest and archaeologist and expert on cave paintings, Battiss published his first book “The Amazing Bushman”.

Battiss married art educationist Grace Anderson and started to acquire symbolic characters in his works, while he also worked on woodcuts.

By 1944 Battiss was exhibiting copies of rock paintings in Johannesburg. He undertook an expedition to the Namib Desert in 1948 where he lived among the Bushmen and won an award for painting and woodcut at the International Olympiad Exhibition in London.

During this period he met Pablo Picasso, whose creative styles transcend realism and abstraction, Cubism Neoclassicism, Surrealism and Expressionism. Picasso’s influence soon became evident in Battiss’ watercolours.

This second phase of the exhibition, Battiss called fragments of African history - “but they are also fragments of myself” Battiss said.

By 1952 the artist was invited to lecture on South African art at the University of London. Silkscreen and woodcuts by him were prolific during this third phase.

During the 1960s Battiss was exploring and travelling in East Africa and Greece. A notable work during this phase was his famous African Paradise of 1961/62.

Battiss was one of the first South African artists to incorporate African culture and indigenous history in his work.

As an international artist, traveller and philosopher, Battiss was many things to many people. He wrote 10 books and is considered an international authority on cave and erotic art.

Silhouettes which date from 1968 - 1978, form another section of the exhibition.

The fifth phase of the exhibition is Fook - an imaginary island created by Battiss, a place with its own currency, postal code and language, and is connected to his five trips to Greece where he visited 16 islands and produced 54 screen prints.

Battiss became a Fellow of the Royal College of Art, London and the International Institute of Arts and Letters, Zurich.

His hippie-like stance and unquenchable thirst for knowledge, extended to travels and research.

This collection will become part of WAM’s permanent holdings and forms the nucleus of a major Battiss archive, which will be available to scholars for research.

Helen Suzman Foundation takes the SABC to court



OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Helen Suzman Foundation has launched an urgent court bid in the High Court in Pretoria to stop the SABC from implementing its decision to censor reporting of protests. The application is against the SABC, its board, COO Hlaudi Motsoeneng and Communications Minister Faith Muthamb.

The provisional court date is July 29, but it could be moved forward depending on the availability of lawyers.

“It is impermissible for the SABC to distort or refuse to cover important news, as a result of political partisanship or otherwise. It is very worrying - it appears that this censorship is politically motivated,” the Foundation, named for famous liberal Jewish politician Helen Suzman, said.

The HSF aims to halt implementation of Motsoeneng’s decision on protest coverage, pending the final determination of review proceedings it had launched, or the outcome of the Independent Communications Authority of SA’s (Icasa) hearing into the

matter. The SOS coalition and Media Monitoring Africa brought a complaint to Icasa.

“The HSF seeks wide-ranging relief on an urgent basis, suspending the implementation of the SABC’s policy and practice not to cover violent and other protests, as well as relief preventing the SABC from adopting or implementing any censorship policy which would be contrary to the mandate of the public broadcaster,” the Foundation said.

It added that the SABC, as a public broadcaster, was obligated to cover events of national and public importance. These included political protests and news which might portray the presidency or any political party in a negative light.

The HSF said it believed in an open and democratic society, the protection of the rights to freedom of expression, a free press, and the ability to receive information freely.

“Censorship, by the public broadcaster no less, strikes at the very heart of these rights, and undermines and erodes our constitutional democracy,” it said.

Palestinian boy who murdered Hallel, wanted to be a ‘martyr’

JERUSALEM - The 13-year-old Israeli girl killed in her West Bank bedroom last week Thursday, Hallel Yaffa Ariel of Kiryat Arba, a Jewish settlement near Hebron, was also a US citizen. Muhammad Nasser Tarayrah, a 17-year-old Palestinian boy from a nearby village, stabbed Ariel multiple times while she was sleeping. Civilian guards shot and killed him.

The State Department issued a statement condemning the murder “in the strongest possible terms”.

“This brutal act of terrorism is simply unconscionable,” the statement said. “We extend our deepest condolences to her family. We also understand another individual who was responding to the attack was wounded by the attacker. We extend our hopes for a quick and full recovery.”

Tarayrah, who had posted on social media about wanting to die as a martyr, reportedly jumped over the fence to enter the settlement, activating an alarm. Guards were already heading to the area when he started stabbing the teen, according to reports.

Human Rights Watch, in a statement called the murder a “ghastly crime. The fact that settlements are illegal under international law does not make their inhabitants, the children as well as their parents, subject to lethal attack.

“At the same time,” she said, “the killing provides no legal justification for the Israeli government to punish the alleged attacker’s family members. Destroying the home of the attacker’s relatives and cancelling their work



Rina, the mother of Hallel Ariel, a 13-year-old Israeli girl who was fatally stabbed by a Palestinian attacker in her home, mourns during her funeral near Hebron, on June 30.

permits is an unlawful act.”

Meanwhile, Israel’s minister of public security said Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg had some of the “blood” of recent Israeli terrorism victims on his hands for allowing Palestinian incitement and hate speech to appear on the social media site.

“Facebook, which has brought a positive revolution to the world, since the rise of Islamic State and the wave of terror has become a monster,” Israeli Minister for public security, Gilad Erdan told Israel’s Channel 2 TV, according to the Times of Israel. Erdan, a member of the Likud party, added that “to my great sorrow, some of the blood of those who have been murdered, including in the latest attacks, of Hallel” was on Zuckerberg’s hands because Facebook failed to report the killer’s incendiary posts. (JTA)

'Book Character Day' sees KDVP learners dress up

NIRVANA ROGERS

King David Victory Park Pre-Primary's junior group recently enjoyed "Book Character Day". This event is dedicated to getting children closer to the books they already love and helping them discover brand new books they'll love just as much.

From Dr Seuss to the Mermaid, Red Riding Hood to Spiderman, Cinderella to the Cat in the Hat and many more of the favourite book characters, learners dressed up and came to school to laugh, learn and grow.

The youngsters were excited about dressing up as their favourite characters and even brought along their favourite book to class.

They each had a turn to describe to the rest of their class the character they were dressed up as to.

Young children's minds are fed with stories and information and reading is the best way to improve the mind, learn and expand knowledge.



The junior group of King David Victory Park Pre-Primary with teachers Leeat Confait and Lorin Cohen. enjoy "Book Character Day".

Sydenham Pre-Primary has its own South Africa Day



SUE BENJAMIN

Sydenham Pre-Primary held its own South Africa Day and "celebrated in the true spirit of ubuntu". South African flags, ethnic clothing, rugby jerseys and cricket shirts were the order of the day.

The highlight of the morning was when Linda Twala from Alexandra township, arrived with a group of pre-schoolers and their teacher who spent the morning at Sydenham Pre-Primary. The adults and children had a wonderful time exchanging greetings and singing in different African languages.

The celebrations wouldn't be complete without pap and gravy and the singing of Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika concluded the morning.

Enjoying the festivities are (back): Eli Nussbaum; with in the front Ben Lewus; Jayden Lewus; and Shyla Hermann.

Prizes galore at TA's Chinese auction fundraiser



Comedian Nik Rabinowitz (right) sharing a light moment with Torah Academy administrator Rabbi Shabsy Chaiton, event organiser Nechama Sarchi and Nicole Knopp.

SUZANNE BELLING

The buzz was on everybody's lips: a Chinese auction. What is a Chinese auction? The answer is, this "auction" was a combination of a "raffle" and an "auction", a novel way of raising funds for charity.

Last week's Chinese auction was an all-out effort by Torah Academy Nursery School to expand the current school, increase the building and furnish three new classrooms.

Rabbi Shabsy Chaiton, administrator of Torah Academy, explained that the difference between a raffle and a Chinese auction is that a raffle offered multiple prizes drawn from one "hat" from which names were drawn, but the Chinese version had a separate prize in different draws.

"This allows ticket buyers to choose which prize to focus on, as opposed to having the first, second and third prize winner," he said.

A record 600 people attended the event held in the HOD hall in Johannesburg. It included a full bar, finger supper and décor by Kari Berkowitz.

The event organiser was Nechama Sarchi, assisted by the Torah Academy Nursery School staff, the Lubavitch House staff and the PTA.

Guests were entertained by Esther Chaiton's pre-grade girls, with renowned comedian Nik Rabinowitz as master of ceremonies.

The main winners of the auction were Pam Yachad - a car; Goldie Raitport - a trip to Cape Town for two with luggage and accommodation; Baila Arenstein - one year's free nursery school tuition at TA; Mickey Ettelson - "split the pot", a cash prize of R7 000, being half the money contributed to the pot by participants; Aron Grinshtein - accommodation at Mahikeng Lodge; and Philip Jacobson - prizes from the Glenfidich Collection and an Afrimode voucher.

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Unmanned Israeli sea vessel successfully test-fires torpedo

TEL AVIV - Israel's Elbit Systems defence company last week announced a recent successful test torpedo launch by its Seagull unmanned sea vehicle.

The test, conducted in the Mediterranean Sea near Haifa, confirmed the Seagull's ability to fire lightweight anti-submarine torpedoes. The Seagull, a 39-foot-long unmanned surface vehicle, is designed to carry out an array of maritime missions, including securing sensitive sea areas and protecting ships against threats posed by submarines and mines.

Ofer Ben-Dov, vice president Naval Systems Business Line at Elbit Systems's ISTAR Division, said: "The success of this test demonstrates Seagull's modular mission system capability, enabling a highly effective anti-submarine warfare configuration of high-performance dipping sonar using two single tube torpedoes.

"The test highlighted Seagull's unique capacity to detect and engage submarines, in addition to its ability to detect and destroy sea mines - all using the same multi-mission USV system in modular configurations." (JNS.org)

Mideast Quartet report blames both Israelis and Palestinians for stalled peace

BRUSSELS - A long-awaited report released last week Friday by the Middle East Quartet - the US, Russia, European Union, and United Nations - blames both the Israelis and Palestinians for the ongoing impasse in the peace process.

The report said that "continuing violence, recent acts of terrorism against Israelis, and incitement to violence are fundamentally incompatible with advancing a peaceful two-state solution and are greatly exacerbating mistrust between the communities."

Additionally, the report slammed the Palestinians for publicly glorifying terrorists as "heroic martyrs" including the naming of streets, squares, and schools after terrorists.

Meanwhile, the report also took Israel to task for its construction of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, stating: "The continuing policy of settlement construction and expansion, designation of land for exclusive Israeli use, and denial of Palestinian development is steadily eroding the viability of the two-state solution." (JNS.org)

Iranians chant 'death' to Israel and America

TEHRAN - Iranian demonstrators last week Friday chanted "Death to Israel" and "Death to America" in anti-Israel rallies across the Islamic Republic. The rallies were held for "Al-Quds Day" on the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Tens of thousands of people marched in Tehran, with similar rallies taking place in other parts of the country, according to Iranian media.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was quoted by state television last week Friday as saying that Western nations are capitalising on the religious differences between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims in order to sway global attention away from the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

"The global arrogance [the United States and its allies] wants to create discord among Muslims... Unity is the only way to restore stability in the region... We stand with the dispossessed Palestinian nation," Rouhani said. (JNS.org)

What's On

Friday (July 8)

- UZLC hosts David Batzofin on "Local is Lekker". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (July 10)

- "Yiddish Nostalgia in Song" presented by Russel Lurie (soloist) and Evelyn Green (accompanist), narrated by Helen Heldenmuth and Tamar Olswang. Venue: 34 Fifth Street, Orange Grove. Time: 15:00. Refreshments will be served. Donation to Yad Aharon. Bookings: Russel Lurie 082-331-3019 or Evelyn Green (011) 728-5570, or 082-704-2322.

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College auditorium in Houghton. This programme is compiled by Don Albert. A short DVD of big bands A BBC presentation) will be presented followed by an audiovisual presentation - on rare swing and big band music. Time: 14:15 sharp. Enquiries: Marilyn at 072-243-7436 or Jack at 082-450-7622.

- JJAC invites Jewish singles aged 27 - 49 to come and watch the Wimbledon Men's tennis final at Metzuyan. E-mail whatson@jjac.co.za for details.

- Second Innings hosts Dr David Fig on "Will President Zuma Succeed in Going Ahead with Nuclear Procurement?" Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Tel (011) 532-9701.

Monday (July 11)

- JH&GC in association with the Professional Journalists' Association of SA hosts a screening of the documentary "Telling Truths in Arusha". Venue: JH&GC, 1 Duncombe Rd, Forest Town. Time: 19:30. Seating limited. No charge but donations welcome. Booking: shirley@jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-3100/2148.

Tuesday (July 12)

- UJW Memory Stimulation Group, run by an occupational therapist, meets every Tuesday morning during July. Time: 09:30. Donation: R50 per person. Information: Cindy, UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

- JH&GC hosts a presentation by Jeff and Dunreith Kelly Lowenstein on "The Kindertransport: A Family's History and Journey of Return". Venue: JH&GC, 1 Duncombe Rd, Forest Town. Time: 15:30 - 17:00. Seating limited. No charge but donations welcome. Booking: shirley@jhbholocaust.co.za or (011) 640-3100/2148.

Thursday (July 14)

- Afrika Tikkun hosts Mark Barnes CEO of the Post Office, "The Outspoken Maverick", discussing his insights on the SA economy at a corporate breakfast. Venue: Wanderers Club, Illovo. Time: 07:00 - 09:00. Cost: R500 pp (excl VAT) or R4 500 per table of 10 (excl VAT). Contact: Margaret Mouton tel (011) 675-7533, cell 060-579-5194 or e-mail margaret@eqsevenmanagement.co.za

- Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosts an exhibition, "Anne Frank: A History for Today". Please note that the opening has been postponed (from July 1) to today. The exhibition will run until July 21. Opening times: 07:30 - 18:00 daily. Venue: Nelson Mandela Gateway, V&A Waterfront. RSVP: Dianne at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre by Monday July 11, (021) 462-5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za

Sunday (July 17)

- Second Innings hosts journalist Phylicia Oppelt on "The Political Space Before the Local Government Elections". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 visitors (incl tea and light refreshments). Information: Tel (011) 532-9701.

Tuesday (July 19)

- JWBS hosts a movie, "Broadway Musical - A Jewish Legacy" with talented composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Roger & Hammerstein and George Gershwin. Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, Sandringham Gardens. Time: 09:30 for 10:00 Cost: R80 (incl tea and refreshments). Contact: (011) 485-5232 or gloria@jwbs.co.za

Wednesday (July 20)

- Second Innings hosts an outing to The Windmill at Hartbeespoort Dam. Time: The Bus departs at 09:30 sharp from Golden Acres. Cost: R190 (incl the bus, lunch and tea/coffee). Bookings: Betty Jankelewitz or Pearl Kahn, tel (011) 532-9701.

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SHERI SILVER
NEW YORK

In thinking about “Jewish” desserts, certain dishes immediately come to mind such as babka, the sweet yeast cake; Rugelach, the pastry of Ashkenazi origin; and Hamantaschen, the filled-pocket cookie or pastry, recognisable for its triangular shape and association with Purim.

And, if you ask me about “the black and white cookie”, I don’t think I’m alone here, but I didn’t actually know why. I did some re-search and discovered that the iconic cookie has ties to Glaser’s Bake Shop on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, which opened in 1902.

I can claim a lifelong love affair with the black and white. (In case you’re interested, I eat the black side first and save the preferred white side for last.) So, for a popsicle with a Jewish twist, I created a black and white cookie pop.

But how to execute? That
It took some time to work out how to execute the idea. I really wanted to get that cookie taste - icing and all - into the pops themselves.

The answer? A cookie milkshake base - half chocolate, half vanilla - with little pieces of cookie (half chocolate, half vanilla) running through. And not only were these so super easy - requiring a blender and just five ingredients - they were super delicious, too.

Black and white cookie popsicles
This recipe yields 8 to 10 popsicles.

- Ingredients**
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk, divided
 - 1/2 cup heavy cream, divided
 - 2 tablespoons sugar, divided
 - 1-2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa

- powder
- 8 ounces (227 grammes) black and white cookies (I used an 8-ounce package of small cookies - about 2 inches (about 51 millimetres) in diameter. If you can’t find them, just use a similar amount of any size cookie and follow the directions accordingly.)

- Directions**
- Divide the cookies in half - place the chocolate halves aside.
 - Place 3/4 cup of milk, 1/4 cup heavy cream, 1 tablespoon sugar and half the vanilla cookie halves into a blender. Chop the remaining vanilla halves into small pieces. Blend the mixture for 30 seconds.
 - Pour into popsicle moulds, going only halfway up. Place a few chopped cookie pieces in each mould. Add popsicle sticks and freeze till frozen.
 - Clean out your blender and add the remaining 3/4 cup milk, 1/4 cup heavy cream, 1 tablespoon sugar and the cocoa powder, along with half the chocolate cookie halves.
 - Chop the remaining chocolate halves into small pieces. Blend the mixture for 30 seconds. Keep refrigerated till ready to use.

When the pops are frozen, remove from freezer and add the chocolate mixture and a few chocolate cookie pieces to each mould. Freeze overnight.

To release the pops, hold moulds briefly under hot water. (The Noshers via JTA)

- Sheri Silver is writer of the blog *Donuts, Dresses and Dirt* where she shares all of her passions, including baking and cooking, gardening and shopping.

Recipes



Black and white cookies are the inspiration for these delicious, easy popsicles.

Photo: Sheri Silver

Cookie popsicles - just what the doctor ordered

Sport

Algeria cancels friendly to stop ‘bullish’ Jewish coach

JACK MILNER

“Cancel the match, we don’t like your coach!” This seems to be the attitude of Algeria who is due to play a friendly soccer match against Ghana in September.

Ghana is coached by Israeli Avram Grant and the match, which was supposed to have taken place in Algeria, has been cancelled to prevent the head coach of Ghana’s national team, Black Stars, from entering the Arab country.

Algeria has built up a new-found warm relationship with the Palestinian Territories and as a result it is being encouraged to make “anti-Israel moves”. Allowing the Israeli coach into the country to play in such a high-profile match has been suggested would reflect poorly on how important the Algerians’ relationship is with the Palestinians.

They claim the issue has nothing to do with soccer per se, but rather that in light of their strong solidarity with the Palestinians, the Algerian Soccer Association claims, Grant’s arrival with the Ghanaians might “infuriate the Algerian population”.

This all came out when Ayman Gada, an Algerian journalist, wrote on his Facebook page on Monday: “The Algerian national team cancelled the friendly match with Ghana because it refused to host Ghana’s Israeli coach, Avram Grant.”

Positing that it would “upset the Algerian population” is no doubt to placate world football body Fifa which does not tolerate the mixing of sport and politics. However, it could set a precedent, one that Fifa would not like. Grant, 61, has been coaching Ghana’s national team for the last two years.

In 2007 Grant was given the opportunity to coach London football jewel Chelsea, but was eventually fired by Russian-Jewish owner Roman Abramovich, because Grant failed to add



Black Stars coach Avram Grant with Ghanaian midfielder Andre Ayew during the Africa Cup of Nations tournament. Algeria cancelled a friendly against Ghana to keep coach Grant out of their country.

any silverware to the club’s cabinet. Remarkably, Grant missed out on winning the European Cup when Chelsea captain John Terry missed a penalty kick; he slipped when he kicked. That was actually the boot that resulted in his being kicked out of Chelsea.

Grant is a controversial character by nature and recently was called upon to apologise for making some “insensitive remarks”. The Israeli, however, says he does not need to say sorry for the “bulls***t” comments he made after the Black Stars’ win against Mozambique in the Accra Sports Stadium during the international football break.

Grant at the time asked Ghanaians to concentrate on football and not the bulls***t, a comment that appeared to have been made in reaction to calls from the media for the Israeli

to stay in the country more instead of his many travels to Europe.

Grant said: “If this nation would concentrate on the football and not the bull***t, just the football because there is a lot of passion, we can reach a higher level. It is a long term target, but it’s achievable.”

The comments did not go down well with Ghanaians who slammed Grant for that remark. But Grant remains unrepentant, stating he has no reason to apologise. He claimed his comments were “taken negatively”.

He backed his point with the fact that he has said similar things in an interview with Sky TV and also speaks to his own children in the same manner.

The Black Stars coach speaking at UGBS

last week Friday night said: “I didn’t apologise because I don’t need to apologise. I didn’t insult anybody and I don’t insult. If you follow my career, I never insult anybody. They took it out of context. I didn’t know that here it’s taken as an insult.


“If you see my interview with Sky, if you see how I speak to my children, we always say ‘cut the bullshit’.

“I don’t know why people took it negatively because that was not the intention.”

Grant was appointed manager of the Black Stars after coach Kwesi Appiah was relieved of his duties as the head of the senior national team. The Israeli led Ghana to the final of the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations where the team was beaten on penalties by the eventual champions, Ivory Coast.

World News in Brief

Rodney Berman

A portrait of Rodney Berman, a man with short, wavy grey hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to his right with a gentle smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

The tribute, having occurred during the current cycle of play at Wimbledon, prompted Forbes to recall that the highest recorded score in games for a set at Wimbledon, was 32-30, in 1968, when Alex Olmedo and Pancho Segura beat Forbes and Segal.

Meretz party leader Zehava Gal-On said that “the decision to build 800 housing units in response to the terrible terrorism of the past few days is a cynical exploitation of the situation to expand settlement construction and prevent, as the [Middle East] Quartet warned, any possibility of a peace agreement with the Palestinians based on the principle of two states. The announcement that housing units would be constructed for Palestinians, too, is a mockery.” (JNS.org)

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