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Southern African Jewish Association of Canada

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Rosh Hashanah • October 2016



The Southern African Jewish Association of Canada (SAJAC) is a volunteer networking organization helping fellow Southern Africans settle in Canada.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have just completed the interview process of students applying for the SAJAC bursary. We were, again, surprised at the high quality of the students, both from an educational and character point of view. I am personally amazed that each year the quality of the candidates is better than the previous year.

However, we have a problem. A few years ago, Natic Maister made a very generous donation to the Bursary fund, but this money will come to an end this September. I want you all to be aware that this donation played a major role in helping our very worthy applicants.

In addition, the profits generated by the *SAJAC Magazine* have been reduced because of slightly lower revenue and an increase in expenses. The obvious result of this is that we will have less revenue to finance the increasing need for our very important bursaries.

We have already experienced the impact of this reduction in funds. This year we couldn't support as many students as we would have liked to, and those who we did support, received less money. This situation can only get worse if we don't get more donations and advertising



revenue. Even small donations add up and make a real difference in the lives of our young people.

Thank you to Heather, Tracy, Ilana, Sol, Edna for all the work they have put in.

Wishing you all a happy New Year and a meaningful Fast.

Chag Sameach.

Colin Baskind
President, SAJAC

Graphic Design Help Wanted for the SAJAC NEWS

Do you have skill in Graphic Design? Can you do the layout of the SAJAC NEWS ready for printing. Do you have 18–20 hours free in February and July prior to publication?

If yes, then you can volunteer to help with the SAJAC NEWS.
Please e-mail Heather at sajacnews@sympatico.ca

SAJAC Seniors and Social Group

THE LAST function of 2016 will be our Israel Day. Please call or email for further information. A light lunch will be served followed by entertainment and the future plans for SAJAC Seniors will be discussed. A newsletter will be mailed nearer the date but please diarise the date. Visitors and newcomers to Canada are most welcome at our events.

Shana Tova and a healthy New Year to all.

Thea Abramson
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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Once in a while we are taken back to our childhood and we sit with a grin on our face enjoying the memory. This happened to me recently when we were in Rome for Shabbat. We went to Friday night service at the Great Synagogue of Rome, which was built in 1901 on the banks of the Tiber, overlooking the former ghetto. The aluminum dome is the only square dome in the city and makes the building easily identifiable even from a distance.

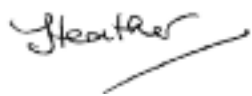
The inside is amazing. It is very ornate with a magnificent gold leaf and marble Aron Kodesh. What brought back the wonderful memories was the sight of the Rabbi and Chazan in clothing like they wore in the shuls in Johannesburg in my childhood. Long black robes, ornate Talis and a black silk four-cornered hat. There was a choir of men and boys. We had to climb 50 steps to get to the women's balcony. They are neither Sephardic nor Ashkenazi. They are Italki Orthodox. Their tunes are very strange and monotonous but we could follow in the siddur. The acoustics are atrocious. Everything echoes and there is no wood to absorb the sound.

It got me thinking that wherever we go around the world we take our memories with us. A sight, a smell, a taste, all bring back memories. There is still time to contact the South African Legacy Project at the Ontario Jewish Archives and share your memories with them. They are looking for home movies, pictures, letters, photo albums and your stories of immigration. Everyone has a story to tell. Call 416-635-5391 to share your history.

Rosh Hashana – a time to remember those wonderful dinners with friends and family who are no longer with us. We make the recipes that have been handed down and I get the feeling that those cooks come down to the kitchens before Yom Tov to supervise the cooking.

Thanks to Colin, Sol, Edna, Ilana and Tracy for all your help.

I wish you a Shana Tova and may you be inscribed for good health, peace, mazel and brocha.



Heather Super, Editor



I've learned...

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad G-d doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will look elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Andy Rooney (ex-60 Minutes USA), a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words.

Shana Tova u'Metuka

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SAJAC BURSARIES

THE SAJAC BURSARY FUND

All profits from the advertising revenue of *SAJAC News* go into this fund. Bursaries are awarded to Jewish children of South African origin who need funds to further their university or college education. A full financial declaration is required. Applications close at the end of March and the bursaries are awarded after Pesach. Bursaries are available for consecutive years until course completion.

NATIE AND ESTHER MAISTER BURSARY

The Natie and Esther Maister Bursary was established by Esther z"l and Natie Maister. The bursary is open to students who are born of South African parents and are applying for university or college education in Canada preferably those pursuing a Jewish education. The applicant needs to show that he or she has a history of volunteering and support this with a letter from an organization where he or she has volunteered.

THE PAM AND CHARLES PINCUS BURSARY

The late Charles and Pam Pincus were deeply committed to education, and extraordinarily talented and effective as parents, grandparents and teachers. Charles had a profound impact on the education of countless doctors and other medical professionals, both over the course of his illustrious career as a surgeon in South Africa, and then as an extremely popular teacher at the University of Toronto Medical School. Pam played a passionate and active role in supporting all these activities, and was also much loved as an inspired and creative early childhood teacher. Their unique styles as teachers were marked by warmth, insight, imagination and humour. Their family has established The Pam and Charles Pincus Bursary in their memory to assist a South African Jewish student in pursuing pre-medical, social sciences or teaching at a university in Canada. May their legacy continue to be an inspiration, and their memory a blessing.

For **application forms**, e-mail your name and address to sajacnews@sympatico.ca.

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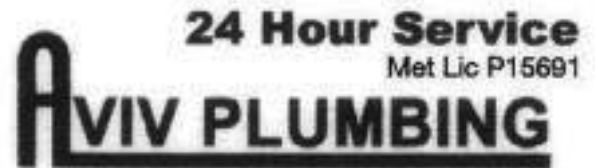
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Time for a “wee dram”

RICHARD STEYN

Preface

In January 2005, I was privileged to be part of a group of middle aged, Jewish, expatriate South African men at the inauguration of our single malt scotch club. Now known as the “L’Chaim Single Malt Club”, we have consumed hundreds of bottles of scotch whisky, some delightful, some truly undrinkable and in doing so, we have had enormous fun and have built an unshakeable bond of friendship. Our monthly meetings are not drinking binges by any means, we taste and evaluate the whiskies on offer and vote on them; the votes are tabulated and an impeccable record is maintained so that we can refer back to what whiskies we have tasted and how they were rated.

Sadly, in January this year, we lost one of our members. Hilton Berger passed away after an extended and extremely brave fight with cancer; to relate that our members were bereft is an understatement. Hilton was a unique individual, disarming, charming, interested and smart; he had incredible zest and energy and his irrepressible demeanour made us drink more, laugh more and he infused us with that same energy. And so, humbly, I dedicate this essay to the memory of Hilton Berger, we miss him and will always remember him with great affection.

An Introduction to the delights of single malt scotch

Growing up in Middelburg, I was exposed to liquor from an early age. My Father was prominent in the town, he was the Mayor for some years, a successful lawyer and our home was socially active. In our “lounge” was a triangular “cocktail cabinet” in a corner, within which were various kinds of alcohol. Whisky was prominent; in those years, single malts were unheard of. The names still resonate, Vat69, Black&White (nothing to do with apartheid, just 2 Scottish dogs) White Horse, Bells and, on very special occasions, Dimple Haig. My Father had his own scotch club – once a month, he, Mickey Bernitz and Mr. De Villiers (local Standard Bank manager) would meet and demolish a bottle of scotch over a few hours. The scotch was always drunk with soda water and ice. Just before I went off to Wits University, I shared my first scotch with my Father, I could barely swallow the

sip it tasted so revolting! It’s been downhill ever since!

Surprising as it may seem, the subject, the science and the technical variations are vast and I could write about these forever. Of course, readers of *SAJAC* magazine may not be interested much (or at all) in the knowledge which is available nor in the manufacturing process of an alcoholic beverage. Bearing in mind that single malt scotch emanates from Scotland and that the Scottish people are not only delightful characters (mostly) but that they also have a fierce, proud and historic connection to their finest product, I will try to make this article as lighthearted and anecdotal as possible.

Please remember that the liquor is always a combination of natural ingredients:

- Fresh spring water
- Barley
- Yeast
- Oak casks

It was Robert Burns (1759-1796), poet and philosopher who said: “freedom and whisky gang together”.

But he also said (in a letter to John Tennant, December 22nd, 1788), “the whisky of this country is a most rascally liquor; and by consequence only drank by the most rascally part of the inhabitants.”

Early civilizations found various ways to create alcoholic beverages; even the Torah has many references to the consumption of wine, even as far back as Noah who was troubled by excessive wine drinking. In Scotland, it seems that distillation started in about 1494, these were informal until the 1670s when distilleries were licensed so that they could be taxed. With typical Scottish feistiness, the owners were content to make whisky illegally and thus dodge the tax collectors.

“The ruddy complexion, nimbleness and strength of these people is not owing to water-drinking but to the aqua vita, a malt spirit which is commonly used in that country” – a tax collector in 1736.

A couple of definitions

Single malt scotch whisky is malt whisky from a single distillery in Scotland, that is whisky distilled from fer-

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mented mash made exclusively with malted barley.

Peat is an accumulation of partially decayed vegetation or organic matter. Peat is used by some distilleries such as those on Islay (an island) to dry malted barley. This process imparts a very distinctive smoky taste which I'll discuss in more detail.

Note: the composition of peat varies – in the Speyside region especially, heather is a significant component of peat and so the scotches from that region often have a floral aroma.

The mystique

This is where the fun begins. I don't want to burden readers with the technicalities but I can assure those who have not indulged in single malt scotch whisky that it opens an exciting exploration of an infinite variety of intense experiences for your taste buds and your mind. The question arises as to why, if the ingredients of a single malt scotch whisky are as simple as I described above, there should be so many variations on the basics. Some of the variations are subtle and overlooked by those without some expertise whilst others are dramatic and palpable.

And of course, like wine, or art, the enjoyment of any single malt scotch is completely subjective. In our club, when we vote, there is seldom unanimity. And, even more importantly, consensus is not based on knowledge of what we are tasting because the tastings are blind – only after voting will the host reveal the identity of the scotch. In addition, the higher the price of a scotch does not necessarily mean that it is "better"; in fact, the opposite is often true.

Here are the factors which influence how the scotch will taste on the palate:

- The regions in Scotland which produce single malt scotch – there are several, the Highlands divided into North, South, East, West & Speyside, the Lowlands, Islay, Campbeltown and the Islands, comprising Skye, Mull, Jura, Arran and Orkney.
- The amount and quality of peat used in the malting process.
- The mineral content and flavour characteristics of the water used by the individual distillery.
- The distilleries' proximity to the ocean.
- The type of barley used.
- The style, shape and general condition of the stills.
- The knowledge and experience of the still master.
- The kind of barrel used for aging and maturing of the distilled liquid.

In researching this article, I was able to identify 94 active single malt distilleries in Scotland (other countries do make single malt whiskies but they are not permitted to call them "scotch"). For those who live in Ontario, we are limited in choice by what the good people at the LCBO allow and so our range is restricted. Some of our club's members travel extensively and bring back excellent scotches from their destinations so we have been able to expand our tastings beyond the LCBO. As at June 2016, our club had tasted scotch whisky from 61 distilleries (I'm excluding non-scotch). We rate our tastings out of 10 – the highest we have awarded was 9.4 and the lowest 3.8.

At this point, I want to dispel the myth that single malt scotch as a hobby is tainted by snobbery, that these bottles of alcohol are outrageously expensive and beyond the pockets of most. It is true that there are some very expensive single malts, mostly they are rare collector's items. Recently, the LCBO advertised a Bowmore 50-year-old for about \$35,000! But in reality, there many varieties which are comparably priced against other spirit liquors. For example, Glenlivet Founders Reserve is available at the LCBO for \$52.95 for a 750ml bottle.

I also want to discuss those single malt scotches which are "peaty". To me, it seems similar to the British Brexit issue – the country is very passionately divided between remaining in or leaving the EU. In the single malt world, there are those who shun peaty scotches to the point of despising them and others who relish the unique nose, taste and balance of some acclaimed distilleries' products which are replete with peat. Those opinions are equally passionate. I don't have the vocabulary to describe what a peaty single malt tastes like – it is unique by all measures and, I'm sure, unlike any other flavour of anything you may have tasted before. Most of the peaty single malts are produced by the distilleries on Islay, probably Bowmore, Lagavulin and Laphroaig are the most famous.

When the whisky has been distilled, the volumes flow into casks or barrels and they are left to mature for a number of years. The barrels are made, generally, of oak and are often re-used barrels in the sense that they had had sherry, port, bourbon or other alcohols in them. The impact is that the whisky absorbs very slight traces from the barrels, thus giving a more subtle, even sweet taste to the scotch. Many of the largest and best known distilleries are located in the Speyside region, like Glenfiddich, Glenlivet, Balvenie and Aberlour – they often use "flavoured" barrels to add to the finish of the scotch.

Aberlour is one of my favourite distilleries but, as with most distilleries, one needs to be careful because each

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scotch is unique – their 16-year-old is outstanding at \$90 (but no longer available at the LCBO), the 12-year-old is excellent value at \$65. Then there is A'Bunadh which sells for \$100. Most single malt scotches are around 40% alcohol/volume, this cask strength scotch is 59.5% so beware – it can have you reeling before you know. It should only be consumed in very small quantities but the taste is magnificent. It beats any sleeping pill! Jim Murray, who makes a living from tasting whisky, writes in his latest Whisky Bible about A'Bunadh: "Wow! Even by this great brand's very high standards, that is one enormous entry on the palate with the fruit truly radiating into every crevice, helped along the way by lively warming spice: a kind of hot cross bun on steroids." Really! I think what he means is sip gently or your mouth will explode.

So, if you are gazing at the selection of single malt scotches at your local LCBO, determined to get your feet wet, the box will tell you the name of the scotch, its region of origin e.g. Speyside, the percentage of alcohol by volume, the volume of liquid in the bottle and perhaps its age. If there is an age statement, the age MUST be the age of the youngest whisky in the mix in completed years. So, a Talisker 10 year means that the youngest whisky in that bottle is at least 10 years old. My advice to a novice:

- Don't spend too much – \$50-\$60 will get you a very palatable scotch
- Avoid the peaty scotches until your palate has evolved (and it may never, in my case, I haven't been able to embrace them)
- The internet has enormous resources about every aspect of the industry including critiques of most popular scotches.

Enjoying a wee dram with friends is truly relaxing, convivial and it does not lead to inebriation even if the drams are not so wee. Generally, single malts should be drunk

neat or with a splash of water but do whatever suits you. I did object once (strenuously) when someone added diet Coke to an 18-year Highland Park.

I hope that you have enjoyed this journey with me and, if you haven't indulged before, that I have piqued your interest. Scotch has been and is enjoyed all over the world by the most humble and the most famous. I enjoyed writing about single malt scotch much, much more than about the fate of the Rand! I end with some memorable quotes.

"Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whisky is barely enough." Mark Twain

"There is no bad whisky. There are only some whiskys that aren't as good as others." Raymond Chandler, novelist & screenwriter

"Happiness is having a rare steak, a bottle of whisky, and a dog to eat the rare steak." Johnny Carson

"...the Highlanders regale themselves with whisky, a malt spirit, which they swallow in great quantities, without any signs of inebriation: they are used to it from the cradle, and find it an excellent preservative against the winter cold, which must be extreme on these mountains." Tobias Smollet (1721-1771) *Humphrey Clinker*

"Whisky, and that of the crudest and most shuddering quality, is undoubtedly the Scotchman's peculiar vanity. The amount that he can consume without turning a hair is quite appalling. I have seen a Scot drink three bottles of Glenlivet on a railway journey from King's Cross [LONDON] to Edinburgh, and when he got out at Edinburgh, he strutted deucedly to the refreshment bar and demanded further whisky."

Thomas William Hodgson Crosland, *The Unspeakable Scot*, Grant Richards publishers, London, © 1902

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Rot is the process of decaying. Left unattended and uncared for all organic materials will begin to rot: the fruit left on a counter for weeks, the untreated wood in a garden shed, even the metal poles of a fence will begin to oxidize, which is a form of rotting.

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Unfortunately, Technology Rot does not smell bad like rotten apples do, thereby alerting its owner of something decaying; rather Technology Rot reveals itself in a variety of other ways:

- Moving mechanical parts that process information will start to wear down, degrade and eventually break. Symptoms include regular computer crashes, overheated computer towers, loud noises and whirring sounds.
- Faulty, 'buggy' software that deteriorates its performance overtime thereby creating computer vulnerabilities and degrading reliability. Symptoms include frozen programs, slow load ups, software crashes, and worse of all viruses and bugs.

We have daily discussion with business owners about the ever changing pace of technology, always bemoaning the fact that as soon as they have set up a new technology in their office, something newer comes along. As a result, many of these business owners choose not to take the step towards that update or upgrade.

What most of these business owners don't discuss though, is what is happening to their business as their old, outdated technology slowly begins to rot.

Ignoring the lifespan of the mechanics of servers, networks, computers, printers, and avoiding software updates or not implementing them in a timely manner, means that systems are left in a highly vulnerable state

prone to increased failures and viruses. Not only does this create extreme security concerns to any business and their clients, but also slows down productivity and efficiency, thereby affecting a business' bottom line profits.

One of the more prominent issues we have experienced as a result of rotting technology is the increased risk of hackers corrupting or stealing important business information. Ransomwares – viruses designed to lock out and encrypt a hard drive, demanding thousands of dollars to unencrypt important information – are becoming way more commonplace due to the increase in rotted and corrupted software.

Another major issues we are seeing more often are outright hard drive crashes that wipe clean all data off a 15-year-old server that was not properly backed up.

Our hearts go out to these business owners who, without the right support or direction, let their technology rot to the point of no return. The very same point where they might throw that rotten apple in the garbage without taking even one bite.

The truth is, these nightmares are completely avoidable; given the right support, the right tools, and the right implementation done by the right IT Specialists, technology can be properly maintained for a lifetime of good health and longevity - without breaking the bank!

With all this Technology now an integral part of our personal and business lives, the rot that we are experiencing is something that should not be ignored or abandoned.

Trusting your technology to "Just work" is not the correct, nor feasible option, and the old adage of: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is a nonsense mentality that cannot be the standard approach now or in the future.

Stay on top of your Technology. Don't let it rot to the point of obsolete. Ask for advice. And seek real IT Specialists who recognize the importance of keeping your Technology – and business – safe, secure and functioning.

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Can an age-old profession be reinvented?

DANIEL TALKINS

After four years working as a senior corporate accountant for one of Canada's largest public accounting firms, I was beginning to grow tired of the stuffy nine-to-five corporate culture. Accounting is very traditional and tends to rely on antiquated business models, but I saw room for innovation.

So in 2015, I took a leap of faith. I quit my salaried job and co-founded Future Balance CPAs, a virtual accounting firm, with colleague Sarah Allison.

For most accountants, their path is already mapped out – you do your time at an established firm, learn all the internal operations and then you open your own business based on that same model.

For Future Balance CPAs, we had to chart our own course. I wanted my firm to be drastically different, with a focus on providing accounting and bookkeeping services to start-up's and small businesses. We're based out of a co-working space in Toronto, which has the added bonus of lower overheads, and we work remotely using cloud-based technologies.

Our challenges

Much like any other entrepreneur trying to break away from an established business model, it wasn't always easy. It even took months just to convince the Institute of Chartered Accountants to register our business name (they were used to names like "Smith & Smith LLP"). We also needed to figure out the right pricing structure. Since start-up's and small businesses need to know how to budget, we decided to offer progressive fixed pricing.

For many small businesses, visiting an accountant to file taxes is a yearly chore. They're often not aware of the finer points of what accountants do, or how important their own numbers are. Real-time information can really help enhance crucial business decisions. Without the information being current, you're going to lose out, but if you're on top of it, it may improve your bottom line.

Unfortunately, for the businesses that only visit their accountant once a year, it's not front and centre. As a result, many have problems with cash flow.

The solution

For our clients to reach their financial goals – and for us to support them – we needed them to have better books with real-time information at their fingertips. QuickBooks Online allows everyone involved, including Future Balance accountants, bookkeepers and business owners, to collaborate. Amazing features like the dashboard allow them to see their real-time financials, including what they're owed. There are other add-ons they can integrate, and these apps help them pay bills on time and speed up bookkeeping processes.

Today, we're not even a year old and we have clients across Canada – from real estate agents to fashion designers to photographers – who we work with entirely remotely. Regardless of location, we've been able to establish strong rapport and professional relationships with our clients using cloud-based technology.

Overall, the growth of our business has been fantastic. Online accounting is the future and we're riding the crest of that wave.

info@futurebalance.ca

Daniel Talkins is a Canadian Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) who founded Future Balance CPAs to help growing businesses manage their accounting and bookkeeping needs via the cloud, while incorporating the subscription pricing model. Daniel is located in Toronto and presently serves all of Canada.

Browse his website for further information and webinars geared towards the modern entrepreneur.

www.futurebalance.ca

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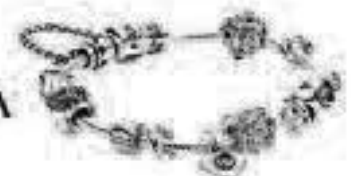


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ADAM HUMMEL

I've always been inspired by stories of those who have changed the world by thinking outside the box – those times when someone has looked at a situation, and thought of something never before thought of, a radical new approach to something that up until that point has just been done in a certain way.

Lemkin coined the term “genocide”

One of those stories is about a man named Raphael Lemkin. Though his name is not instantly recognizable, his work is: Lemkin coined the term “genocide” and drafted the international law against genocide.

On learning his story, I was immediately struck by how such an ordinary man, with a simple edge and an unwavering determination to advance the cause of justice, could foresee a dark future and take strides to preemptively fix it.

The beginning of Lemkin's story is fascinating: As a young Jewish boy growing up in Eastern Poland, Lemkin was drawn to stories about massacres, and was perplexed by the idea that humans have such potential for destruction. As he grew older, he leapt into the world of academia, still perplexed by the human capacity for war, but most immediately interested in the study of human language (at the time of his death he could speak nine languages and read 14).

After graduating with a linguistics degree, Lemkin decided he wanted to become a lawyer, and so enrolled at the University of Lvov in the early 1920s.

At the same time that Lemkin was picking up his textbooks and preparing for class, a few countries over, a young Armenian named Soghomon Tehlirian walked up behind the Turkish Talaat Pasha, who was out for a stroll in Berlin. Tehlirian raised his arm, pistol in hand, and shot Talaat in the head. Talaat died immediately, and Tehlirian was arrested for murder.

As Tehlirian's story made its way to the press, it emerged that the murdered Talaat was, in a previous capacity, the Minister of the Interior for the Ottoman Empire. In that role, Talaat was almost single-handedly responsible for the Ottoman massacre that started in 1915, and that claimed the lives of almost 1.5 million Armenians. Tehlirian was an Armenian survivor of that

massacre – today called the Armenian Genocide – whose entire family was slaughtered before his eyes.

After escaping the massacre, Tehlirian joined a group determined to hunt down and kill all those responsible for the perpetration of this heinous crime, and in March 1921, he achieved his goal with one simple gunshot.

At the time of Tehlirian's arrest and trial for murder, where he was eventually acquitted, Lemkin was studying law in Lvov. Watching the murder trial unfold, Lemkin asked a professor the following question: how could someone be charged for murdering one person, while the person responsible for murdering millions was walking freely on the streets of Berlin?

The answer Lemkin received was something akin to the following: there is no law on which to rely, and no mechanism that exists, to prosecute someone accused of mass murder.

Changing the system

Now surely, anyone asking that question would not be satisfied by that answer, but drafting legislation or creating an entirely new legal mechanism is no easy feat. Nonetheless, Lemkin was an outside-the-box thinker, and decided that the criminal justice system, pretty static for hundreds of years, needed a mechanism to deal with 20th century crimes. Changing the system was the exact task that Lemkin set his sights on.

Following his becoming a lawyer, Lemkin watched as the Nazis, the 20th century's second genocidal regime, gained power throughout Europe. At that time, he coined the word for which he is best known today, “genocide”, from the Latin for “killing a race or family”, and drafted the legal definition and basis on which to charge someone criminally with the same. With perseverance, he challenged his law professor's answer by creating a basis on which to convict someone of mass murder – the law of genocide.

Unfortunately, the coining of the word “genocide” did little to stop the Holocaust, and in fact 49 members of Lemkin's family perished at the hands of the Nazis. Lemkin, however, continued to push, and worked tirelessly leading up to the Nuremberg Tribunals to have charges of genocide brought against those Nazis standing

Shana Tova

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trial. Though the Nuremberg trials resulted in no genocide convictions per se, the principle was one of the legal bases of the tribunals. Genocide was now a principle of international law.

After the war, and with the creation of the United Nations, Lemkin continued to push for the development of the law of genocide. After intense lobbying, on December 9, 1948, the UN formally adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the Genocide Convention).

The adoption of the Genocide Convention by the UN was an immense accomplishment for the Jewish son of Holocaust victims, however, that was not quite enough for Lemkin. Following the passage of the Genocide Convention by the UN, he worked tirelessly to ensure that as many countries as possible ratified the legislation, and committed to upholding the values and principles laid out therein.

As a result of his pursuit for justice, which included endless lobbying, traveling, writing, researching, and nudging, in 1959, at the age of 59, Lemkin died of a heart attack while waiting for a bus. This giant of international law and justice was buried in New York with 7 people attending his funeral.

Everything about Lemkin's story is fascinating to me. It is not just how the story of Tehlirian piqued an interest in Lemkin that ultimately became his life's work and legacy, but also his drive, his ambition, his determination, his diligence, his relative anonymity, and his reliance on the law that strikes me as heroic. Lemkin made a difference for difference's sake, and not for his own. But he also saw a problem that few others saw, and decided that this problem needed a solution, to which he would devote his unique way of thinking, and the rest of his life.

New beginnings

Rosh Hashana is a time for new beginnings. It is the start of a new year, the time when we celebrate G-d's creation of the world, and face him head-on and try to start things afresh. We apologize, ask forgiveness from those we have wronged, and vow to do things differently next

year. So isn't this opportunity for new beginnings the perfect time to change the status quo?

Surely we all see problems with the world around us. Though perhaps things aren't as dire as the media and internet lets on, there are plenty of issues that need fixing. Some of the things that need fixing however are not as complicated as we might think; they simply require creative solutions.

For example, I recently read an article that proposed radically altering the Olympic Games in light of the controversy surrounding Rio 2016. Rather than having one city host every event, the new model would see a different city host a different event, based on the popularity of that event in that city, and the ability of the city to use the infrastructure in the future.

What a great idea! Alleviate the financial burden of being an Olympic host, and enable those countries who could never dream of hosting an Olympic event to in fact make a contribution on the world stage in a significant way, and actually feel counted.

Or this: Bernie Sanders' proposal to use American post offices as mini-banks. This breathes new life into a fledgling American institution, gives greater access to simple banking services for people in small towns, and, at least in Bernie's mind, would show the big banks that they can be challenged. This idea has gained so much traction that it has even made it into the Democratic Party's platform for the upcoming election.

These are just a few examples of changes to the status quo, but as I hope Lemkin's story has highlighted, there are people in this world who solve problems that others simply do not see. They do this by shifting a certain paradigm, by refusing to accept what is wrong with the world, and by sensing an opportunity for their ideas that have the potential to foment change. As the new year is upon us, let us all try to make the world a better place, to find radical solutions to unknown problems, and to do so not for the glory, but for the greater good.

Adam Hummel is a lawyer at Mamann, Sandaluk & Kingwell LLP. He is also the Social Programming Co-Chair of UJA's Young Leadership Division for the 2017 Annual Campaign. aahummel@gmail.com

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My 3rd Ride to Conquer Cancer – June 11 & 12, 2016

DARRYL LEVENBERG



From left: Ivor Teitelbaum, Arnold Hersch, Darryl, Alfred Emdon

I can say that this was my most challenging and grueling ride over the past 3 years. When I think that only 5 weeks ago I had just completed my 6th “tequilo” treatment and could barely walk up the stairs, I asked myself if I could do it – and never doubted that I could complete it. I had many people around me telling me to skip this year’s ride or only ride part of the way – well none of those were options for me. I knew that I needed to do the entire 2 day ride, and that if I didn’t do the ride I was giving into the illness. This was no option. Even as my doctor had informed me a couple of weeks before the ride that the bone scans and MRI had confirmed that the spread had increased in my ribs, spine and pelvis, I knew I just had to do it.

I started training with very little energy and weak muscles, and knew that it was going to be a rough few weeks. Around this time I got a call from my best friend Arnold Hersch who lives in Sydney, Australia who kept on wanting to come and visit me during my treatment. I told him I did not want him to just come and sit at my bed, and that when I finished my treatment he could come. Well

that was not good enough for him and he called to tell me that he was coming to join me on the ride in 4 weeks. He started training by using his son-in-law’s bike and said he was booked to arrive on the Tuesday prior to the ride. You can imagine my feeling that he was prepared to just start training and fly to Toronto just for this ride. Needless to say I was truly overwhelmed by his decision and it gave me the extra motivation to train. Arnie and his wife Ilana’s gesture to do this for me was an incredible display of the friendship and support that we have had over the last 50 years.

On the Wednesday after his arrival we went to Alfie Emdon who has been coaching and doing everything to prepare both mine and Arnie’s bikes for the ride. After an hour of meticulous adjustments (that’s just how Alfie is), we were ready for a test ride – a 15km ride and Arnie felt the bike was perfect for him.

Saturday at 6 am Steph and Ilana took us down to the start of the ride at the CNE grounds where there were 4,500 riders gathered to start the 9th Ride to Conquer Cancer. It was an awesome sight to see. With speeches

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by the CEO of Princess Margaret Hospital, the beneficiary of the funds, an emotional speech by a cancer survivor, and the singing of the Canadian national anthem by the brother of last year's speaker who tragically past away in November – the mood was somber, yet you could feel why we were all gathered here to embark on this meaningful ride.

The team that we are part of is called Steve's Cycle Path who, over the past nine years has raised over \$6.6 million dollars with these last 2 years of over a million dollars, each year. An absolutely remarkable achievement spearheaded by Steve Cohen, CEO of Sallit Steel, and his team of incredible volunteers. A huge thank you to Wayne Gelb for all of his contributions, looking forward to riding with you next year!

We were ready to embark on this 2 day ride – Arnie, Myself, Alfie and Ivor Teitelbaum gave each other hugs and high fives and were off. Making our way through downtown it was quite a site to see with riders as far as the eye could see. With my adrenaline pumping I had to pinch myself to remember that I was here ready to do the first days 96km.

As we rode to our first pit stop 22km out to top up our water bottles the weather temperature started to climb and by the time we reached our second stop 25km later, the temperature was 34 degrees with the wind blowing into us. Making sure you are hydrating and carbo loading is critical and a big thanks to Ivor and Alfie for taking care of our nutrition. I could feel the intense heat and the wind which made it very challenging, but we pedaled on turn by turn. Although Ivor and Alfie are avid riders and could have gone on ahead and been close to finishing, they graciously stayed with us km after km even as I told them go ahead. They insisted that they would ride with us to the finish on this first day, which is such a display of selflessness.

As we continued riding I could feel my ribs and back aching and Ivor (being a doctor) asking me if I was sure that I wanted to continue. All I could think about was why I was doing this and my pain was but a small price to deal with. I often thought about Terry Fox, who is one of my heroes, of what he was able to accomplish with just 1 leg – how could I give up.

Just a short 8 hours later the 4 of us rode to the finish line together. I was pretty exhausted but had completed the first days ride.

That evening the dinner for the Steve's Cycle Paths team was incredible, where we were graced with numerous speeches, one by a survivor of nine years.

Breakfast at 6am and to the starting line shortly after that, we were off on the second days ride with only

120km to go. The weather was much cooler at a pleasant 23 degrees. Arnie and I rode side by side from pit stop 25km, 50, 75, 100 and then the last leg of the ride. My body was feeling the distance, but now the end was just 20km to go and my thoughts of why I was riding and the incredible support from everyone gave me that extra adrenaline to just peddle on. Seven hours later Arnie and I rode across the finish line in Niagara, where we were overwhelmed by our family and friends there to help us celebrate. We had completed my toughest ride and the most meaningful in so many ways.

I thank each and every one for your endless care, support and generosity! You are all the engine that keeps driving me on this journey.

A total of \$17.5 million was raised for the Princess Margaret Hospital, where all these funds will be used for ongoing research to eradicate all kinds of cancers that have taken the lives of way to many.”

Time moves so quickly and in just a few months it will be time for the annual Movember campaign. Over the past 4 years we have raised a total of \$75,000 and will be aiming to reach \$100,000 this year. If you would like to participate, you can join my team by searching for the “Lev's Mo's & Bro's” once the Movember 2016 site is ready. It would be great if you either join our team individually or round up some friends or coworkers and join together. We will be having our shave off party at the end of November, and those who would like to participate please send me your email address and I will add you to my distribution list. I look forward to reporting back in the Pesach edition of SAJAC NEWS with the results of the campaign.

On a personal note since I completed my 6 rounds of “Tequilo”, I have now started on an additional medication to try to slow down the spread to any of my organs. These come with a variety of side effect but if it helps then it's all worth it. As I have mentioned before there is no cure at this time for prostate cancer and that is why it is vital to make sure that we all take our health seriously and do our yearly check ups in order to find out early enough if something is brewing. The funds that you raise go towards finding a cure for all these devastating illnesses.

At this time of the coming New Year, with so much violence and unrest in the world, let us hope that this coming year will be one of peace and understanding.

I wish you all a year of good Health and Simchas.

“It is not the years in your life but the life in your years.”

With huge gratitude,
Darryl

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Mother and Son Bnai Mitzvah

ELANA SUPER PRESEMENT

If you were in standard 5 in 1983 at King David Linksfield, then you may be in this photo. That's me, back row second from the left with Claudia to my left and Benje to my right. I shared my Bat Mitzvah with 69 other Bnot Mitzvah. I don't remember much about it, except that the service consisted of some songs, some prayers and the telling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt, as it was the end of March.

Growing up in my Jewish Johannesburg bubble, whether at King David or Sydenham-Highlands North Shul, all Bar Mitzvahs looked the same, and all Bat Mitzvahs looked the same, yet the boys' experience versus the girls' could not have been more different. I sat with my dad downstairs often, at least until I was "too old", and waved up at my mom. I watched my brother chant his Torah portion, voice cracking and knees shaking, as I sat with my mother and grandmother peering from above. This was my normal and my comfort zone. It wasn't until we began to plan our daughter's Bat Mitzvah that got me thinking.

I should preface this by explaining that I married a Canadian guy who grew up in a traditional conservative Toronto family, and recalls his Bar Mitzvah taking place in the massive and intimidating Beth Tzedek. While it was important to me that our daughter participate in the Bat Mitzvah program at Chabad Markham, where she had grown up going to Shul often with her grandparents, it was equally important to my husband that she studied a Torah portion as he had, and chanted from the Torah as part of her Bat Mitzvah celebration. It never occurred to me growing up that girls could read from the Torah. I realized in that moment that I had never actually seen the inside of a Torah. I loved that she would have this opportunity. I loved that she and her father and grandfathers could share this common and unifying experience. In the weeks leading up to her Bat Mitzvah, I was offered the opportunity to have an Aliyah, to stand beside my daughter on the bimah and hold a Torah scroll while she chanted her well-studied portion. This would be a monumental moment for me, to join with my daughter and other women afforded an opportunity to embrace Judaism in a



way that I never could. I chickened out. I couldn't do it. It was way too far out of my comfort zone, and I regretted it the moment that it was over.

Fast forward to our son's Bar Mitzvah this past June, by all accounts a traditional conservative Bar Mitzvah at an egalitarian synagogue in Toronto. As we embarked on the journey of planning, I realized that participating in the religious celebration was now very important to me. If I didn't seize this opportunity to join my family in the rituals and customs of the Bar Mitzvah service now, then when? He is our youngest. There would be no more Bar or Bat Mitzvahs. This was my shot. This was my chance to get a redo on my own Bat Mitzvah, to somehow step out of my comfort zone and rewrite my normal. With the encouragement and help of his wonderful Bar Mitzvah teacher, I decided to not only have an Aliyah, but also to learn, understand and chant one of his Torah portions. Ba'alotecha verse #4 would be mine. I studied and practiced. I sang in the shower, in the car, in front of the mirror. On the day of our Bnai Mitzvah, with my teacher on my left and my husband on my right, and a real Yad in my hand, I did it! Yes, one of the scariest things I have ever done, my voice cracked and my knees shook, but at 45, I became a Bat Mitzvah.

If you grew up in South Africa and have your own Bat Mitzvah group photo like this one, there is a chance that you have never had the opportunity to read from the Torah. If the opportunity ever presents itself, I encourage you to grab hold with both hands and ride that scary wave. Take it from me, you won't be sorry.

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Market update for Fall 2016

DANIEL BLOCH

Toronto and most areas of the Greater Toronto Area have seen record breaking home price increases, as much as 20% over 2015 values in some pockets of the city. Many economists foresee the market as one of the best in the world with foreign investment being a major contributing factor driving up values. Many say there is still room for prices to go higher, as evidenced by Vancouver's soaring real estate market. As a Toronto Realtor, I have frequently witnessed up to 20 offers on homes in high demand areas.

Homeowners are taking advantage of these high selling prices by putting their home on the market in order to downsize, which is helping to create inventory for buyers who are scrambling to secure a property for their growing families. There is still greater demand by sheer number of buyers over number of homes available and so a Seller's Market persists. We anticipate that the Fall market will mimic this year's Spring activity closely, with homes coming to market underpriced in order to create a frenzy of bidders.

Getting a top price for your home is a great realization of your real estate investment, but you may ask yourself "where should I go now?". We have noticed an upward

trend in condo sales from people trading their large gardens and unused rooms for the low maintenance lifestyle of condominium living. Those willing to do a little bit of renovation work are likely to secure a deal on a large unit in a well-established building.

When thinking of buying a condo there is much to consider. When trading up a larger space for condo living, you will want to pay attention to things such as nearby amenities, community events and transit routes. You will want to look at buildings with reputable property management services.

The Status Certificate will reveal items such as the financial standings of the corporation, any scheduled major repairs and other pertinent information that could influence your decision to invest in this type of property for the next phase of your life.

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News from back home, weekly - or even daily

THE SA JEWISH REPORT launched a new website two-and-a-half years ago - together with a new weekly newsletter service to anyone, anywhere in the world. The weekly newsletter is published 52 weeks a year, even on the weeks that the paper doesn't, and the website is updated 24/6 (based on SA time). With the emailed newsletter comes access to download that week's newspaper, if there was one, as well as links to their latest news and information.

The website, which offers users the opportunity to become a free subscriber on the right hand side of every page, has a very easy address to remember: www.sajr.co.za and has, to date, published over 15,000 content items.

It is generally extremely popular with expats and 35% of their readership emanates from outside of South Africa. Canadians are sixth on their most-frequent user list - with 10,345 unique users having visited the website, many of them several times a week. Of course, that number pales into insignificance when compared to the total number of users - by the end of their third year they will have had over one million hits!

So, why not log on to www.sajr.co.za and click to subscribe. They have a very tight privacy policy on their database and if you don't enjoy receiving their weekly newsletter, e-Paper and information, there is always a weekly opt-out. We're guessing, however, that you are more likely to do quite the opposite, by sending their details to your own friends, family and expat SA groups to encourage them to also subscribe.

And, for the benefit of SA and world Jewry that have family and friends in Canada, www.sajr.co.za will be publishing this and all future editions of SAJAC NEWS too, so others in the world can download and read it



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A once-in-a-lifetime event on the high seas

HEATHER SUPER

Sometimes you are in the right place at the right time and are part of an extraordinary experience.

I am sure that many of you have had the experience of being on a cruise ship and going to the Shabbat service. We were on the *Jewel of the Seas*, a small ship, crossing from Ft. Lauderdale to Rome and were so lucky to have Rabbi Raphael Ostrovsky on board. He is a retired Conservative Rabbi in his mid-80s from a small town outside Chicago where he had a congregation for 32 years. What a charming man. In 1997 he organized an exhibition of Holocaust memorabilia, philately and photography from the collection of Milton Kohn that was seen by thousands of people of all races and religions in the area. He is the kind of Rabbi who wears Israeli Flags and David's Tower in Jerusalem on his neck ties.

He had organized the announcement of a Yom HaShoah service in the daily Cruise Compass for the following Wednesday.

Yom HaShoah arrived and at 5 pm we made our way to the room next to the Windjammer. There was a table with 6 LED candles. I put my yellow packet with the Yellow Holocaust Magen David on the table. Then Rabbi Ostrovsky arrived with 30 copies of his 11-page Holocaust booklet that he had compiled in 1997 when he ran the Yom HaShoah project for the five shuls in his area. He has been using it ever since. Slowly people arrived and then more and more including the three Israeli security crew from the ship. We were about 80 Jews from all over the world. From Columbia, Guate-

mala, Spain, France, Israel, South Africa, America and Canada. We were amazed at the turnout. Everyone shared booklets.

Rabbi Ostrovsky called up anyone who had direct connections to the Holocaust to come and light the six memorial candles. Nine people came up including my husband Russell who lost 80 members of the Super family including his grandparents from the town of Lutzen in Latvia. They switched on the LED candles and I read the dedication from the Yellow Candle Project.

We read the words of Eli Wiesel and Anne Frank, of survivors and children of survivors. We read poems and psalms and writings and prayers and we cried.

And we sang the songs of the ghetto in Yiddish led by a very, very old woman. And we linked arms and swayed and cried.

Then Shmuel (Shelly) Zweig, a New Yorker with five adult children, who has lived in Israel for 37 years and fought in the Israeli Army, came forward to read the prayer for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel, as the following week was Yom HaZikaron and we cried.

And then we sang Hatikvah and the rafters shook!

We were all so proud to be Jews!!

I shall always treasure my 1997 copy of Holocaust Readings for Jewish Martyrdom and Heroism, Yom HaShoah Memorial Observance for the six million Martyrs compiled by Rabbi Raphael Ostrovsky.



Jewish Life Magazine - Free download!

I'm the editor of a South African publication called *Jewish Life Magazine* (www.jewishlife.co.za). I recently came across an article on the SA *Jewish Report* website discussing your organization and publication, which I downloaded and enjoyed.

I thought that you and your readers might be interested to learn that we recently launched a free app for our magazine – available on both iOS and Android – featuring our current issue along with more than 20 issues from our archive. South Africans love being connected with all things South African, and we're sure that they would enjoy having regular access to our magazine.

iOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/jewish-life-magazine/id1081431246?mt=8>

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HELP ME SARA:

Why screen time needs to be screened

SARA DIMERMAN, PSYCHOLOGIST

The next time you're in a waiting room, look up from your phone at the people around you. Chances are that 90 percent will be like you and me, looking at some type of electronic device. Even the very little child may be holding a tablet or a parent's cell phone. When I take the time to look up, I feel a sense of wonder and sadness. Wonder that we are fortunate enough to live in this digital age of information and that we never need to sit idle or feel bored. Sad that the opportunity to engage with other people is vastly diminished. This may cause us to miss out on learning something from that engagement or meeting someone who might play a significant role in our lives. We might even miss reconnecting with someone we haven't seen in years because they pass by while we're looking down.

The implications for our children are far more concerning. We not only model a preoccupation with staring at screens, but we encourage it, too. We pacify children while at a restaurant or sitting in a public area with an electronic gadget. Even while in their company, we are often consumed by having to respond to a text within seconds or taking a phone call. How then can we expect them to resist the attraction of electronic devices? And how can we set limits for them when it is so hard for us to do the same? It is almost impossible to help our children learn how to self-monitor and set limits without being committed to the idea ourselves.

If our consumption and preoccupation was with a substance or behaviour such as gambling, our friends and family members would be encouraging us to get help, but because we are all similarly addicted, our excessive use of electronics has become a societal norm.

Without setting these limits for ourselves and our children, we risk stunting their growth in areas that don't require cognitive or intellectual performance. For example, if very young children learn to prefer spending time sitting, watching television, playing a video game on the iPad or computer, they might not have sufficient opportunity to develop important gross motor skills learned through play. Even social skills may be underdeveloped as kids become more proficient at engaging with computers instead of human beings.

Even when we are more conscious of the effects of

screen time on ourselves and our children, it is difficult to break this habit. But keep working at it. Monitor the amount of time your family is spending in front of screens – watching television, using the computer, hypnotized by video games or playing on phones or iPads. Then come up with a game plan so that you can all become more conscious of balancing your time wisely. Try these tips:

- Establish a “screen-free” time between 6 and 8 p.m., for example, so you can eat dinner together and play a family game or catch up on things around the house.
- Ask each family member to keep a log of their time using screens (help young ones with this task). Although this may be tedious, you may be shocked at the number of hours you're looking at screens - both individually and as a family.

Through the ages

PRESCHOOL

Kids this age are as fluent and comfortable with digital language as they are with their mother tongue. Their fingers are adept at navigating the keys and it's as if they are programmed to understand their devices as well as the people who created them. As common as it is for parents to offer their cell phones or tablets to their preschoolers and as wonderful as it is that they have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, try to balance this with good old-fashioned activities such as puzzles and creative exercises.

SCHOOL AGED

From smart boards in every classroom to homework sent via email and blog and templated report cards, schools have embraced technology. It's important to help school-aged children appreciate life beyond technology and make sure that homework is complete before students engage in leisurely computer activities. Although it's often difficult to monitor when your child is actually

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using his computer for homework versus watching favourite YouTube videos, keeping screens in common areas of your home can help.

TEENS

It can be increasingly difficult to keep up with teens' understanding and use of technology. Continue to set clear limits and ensure that technology is not adversely affecting the way they interact with the family. If activity on the computer (Facebook, YouTube or even binge-

watching television) is affecting their ability to get homework done, for example, then you need to step in. Also, encourage your teens to put their phones away in the classroom, unless needed, so that they can concentrate on what is going on in front of, instead of under, their noses.

Sara Dimerman is a psychologist, author and parenting expert in the Greater Toronto Area. Read more at helpmesara.com. HelpMeSara <helpmesara@sympatico.ca> Originally published in ParentsCanada magazine, July/August 2015.

Book about the immigration of Jews from South Africa to Canada

THE FREE BOOK, *From Diaspora to Diaspora: the immigration of Jews from South Africa to Canada*, by Stuart Schoenfeld, Joan Schoenfeld, and Gail McCabe, has been uploaded to the Academia.edu web site, and is available via a free download.

The abstract of the book states the following:

By examining what it meant to Jews in the period from 1970 to 1990 to move from one diaspora – the Jewish Community of South Africa – to another – the Jewish community of Canada, we get a detailed case study of a much larger phenomenon: the way in which transnational cultural and social networks affect group identification. How do people who think of themselves as part of a diaspora explain why they have chosen not to go to a homeland that wants them but to go to another diaspora country? How do they understand their relationship to those in the diaspora that they have left and to those in the diaspora they have entered? How do they explain their relationship to the “homeland” and its people and to the diaspora as a global transnational network?

The 30-page book is downloadable, after creation of a free Academia.edu account, from the following web page: <http://tinyurl.com/Canada-Jews>

Southern African Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG)

THE JEWISHGEN SA-SIG provides a forum for a free exchange of ideas, research tips and information of interest to those researching Jewish family history in the communities of South Africa, Lesotho (Basutoland), Botswana (Bechuanaland), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), Swaziland, Mozambique, Kenya, and the former Belgian Congo.

The SA-SIG maintains a comprehensive set of web pages that provide a portal to the SIG's extensive collection of information about Southern African genealogical research, as well as access to other resources such as South African- related databases and the SA-related microfilms available in the Mormon Family History Library (FHL).

A concise compilation of the key South African genealogical resources, together with the relevant contact information, can be found on the SA-SIG website. The SA-SIG web pages should be the first point of reference for anyone who is researching South African Jewish genealogy. The SA-SIG home page can be found at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/>

For further information, please contact: Roy Ogus, Vice President, SA-SIG, r_ogus@hotmail.com

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Dynamic time in Canadian immigration

HOWARD GREENBERG AND MELISSA M. BABEL

This is a time a very dynamic time in Canadian Immigration. In this article we have summarized the most pertinent updates, including: anticipated changes to the Citizenship Act, the increase to the cap on applications to sponsor Parents and Grandparents for 2017, the upcoming implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorization requirement and the current status of Express Entry.

Citizenship will become a more accessible option in Canada

Significant changes are coming to the Citizenship Act which are expected to make it easier for many permanent residents to be granted Canadian citizenship. Many of the new requirements are reversing the changes made by the Conservative government, and bringing us closer to the old requirements for Canadian citizenship. Not all of the requirements are being removed, but what will change includes:

- Removing the ability to revoke Canadian citizenship from dual nationals for reasons other than fraud;
- Reinstating the credit for the time spent in Canada prior to becoming a permanent resident;
- Removing the requirement for new citizens to declare an intention to reside in Canada;
- Reducing the requirement for physical presence in Canada from 4 years in the previous 6, to three years in the previous five; and
- Removing the requirement to remain in Canada for at least 183 days in each year that counts toward citizenship.

The changes to the Citizenship Act will mean that an individual will be able to apply for citizenship as early as two years after becoming a permanent resident, if he or she spends every day in Canada and has proof of filing Canadian taxes. This change will make citizenship

accessible to many more people and is a positive change that should come into effect in the first year of the Liberal government's mandate.

Sponsoring parents and grandparents - 10,000 applications to be accepted in 2017

Family reunification is a priority for the Prime Minister and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. We have seen faster processing times for sponsorship which is reuniting couples in a few months, instead of up to two years. Additionally, the annual cap on sponsorship applications for Parents and Grandparent has doubled from 5000 to 10,000 per year. This change will impact the 2017 application process, which will commence on January 3, 2017. We expect that the application package will become available in the fall of 2016, which should allow enough time to prepare the sponsorship applications for filing when the program opens, provided an individual's Canadian tax filings are up to date.

Over the past several years, the program has reached its 5000 cap within days of opening. In some years, there were line ups of couriers waiting to deliver the packages to IRCC's office. Even with the increased cap in the program, anyone wishing to file a sponsorship application this year would be wise to consider having the application ready to be submitted on the first day the program opens, to avoid disappointment and waiting another year to put the application in the queue.

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) will become mandatory September 30, 2016 for some foreign nationals entering Canada by air

In April of 2015, IRCC announced the introduction of the electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). An eTA is required for a visa-exempt foreign national to enter, or transit through, Canada by air. The purpose of the eTA is to identify possible grounds of inadmissibility (prin-



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cially medical or criminal) prior to the person arriving in Canada.

Beginning on September 30, 2016, anyone who requires an eTA will not be permitted to board an aircraft bound for Canada without having an eTA number electronically linked with the passport used to enter the country.

The best approach to the upcoming implementation of the eTA system is to apply early. Individuals who have an older criminal conviction or medical condition may face delays in obtaining an eTA. If the eTA is refused, a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) application may need to be submitted at a visa office overseas which can significantly delay travel to Canada. Anyone with a criminal conviction or serious medical condition should consider planning well in advance for entries to Canada from September 30, 2016 onward.

Impact of eTA Requirement on Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents

A Permanent Resident of Canada has always had an obligation to carry a valid PR Card or PR Travel document in order to travel to Canada by air, but this requirement has not been consistently enforced by all airlines. From September 30, 2016 onward, based on the new eTA requirements, a PR will not be permitted to board a commercial carrier (airplane, train etc.) bound for Canada without a PR Card or Travel Document.

Some dual citizens have regularly traveled outside of Canada and have subsequently returned using a non-

Canadian passport. This practice will no longer be possible as Canadian citizens are not permitted to obtain an eTA on their visa exempt passport. These individuals, if travelling by air, will need to enter Canada using a Canadian passport (or official travel document) as proof of their Canadian status.

Express Entry Update

The minimum points required to receive an Invitation to Apply under the Express Entry system continues to be very high, with only a small number of Invitations being issued in each draw. The 39th Draw occurred on July 27, 2016, with 755 invitations being issued and a minimum CRS Score of 488.

This trend is expected to continue until later in 2016 when the remaining “paper” applications submitted before January 2015 should be finalized. Foreign students in Canada should be preparing to enter the Express Entry pool as soon as they qualify for permanent residence to take advantage of any rounds of invitation where the points drop.

Now is a good time to prepare for and submit an Express Entry online profile, particularly in Ontario in order to take advantage of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) when it reopens. This program, which allows applicants to be nominated by the province and as a result obtain a bonus 600 points under Express Entry, is a popular process and can substantially increase the likelihood of being granted permanent resident status in Canada.



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Sucralose sweetener linked to blood cancers

DR. THALIA CHARNEY

If you are adding tabletop sweeteners such as Splenda or Lifesmart to your beverages or tend to purchase foods marketed as “low calorie” or “diet”, you may be putting yourself at risk!

The Center for Science in the Public (CSPI) has just downgraded its previous safety rating of sucralose from “caution” to “avoid”. This was prompted by an animal study published on January 29, 2016, in the peer-reviewed International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health by the highly regarded Ramazzini Institute. The study revealed a significant risk of leukemia and other related blood cancers in male mice.

These findings had already been presented, albeit unpublished, in 2013, prompting the CSPI at that time to rate sucralose as a “caution”. According to CSPI, in contrast to less rigorous industry-funded studies, this new study has more test subjects and exposes them to the sucralose for longer periods of time.

There are additional claims that sucralose may interfere with normal gastrointestinal bacteria and function, but no studies are available to back this up yet. While not proven, you might want to avoid it if you have any inflammatory bowel disease until proven otherwise safe.

Sucralose is added to numerous food products. It is

often mixed with other sweeteners such as dextrose and/or malodextrin, both of which are usually derived from genetically modified corn. Below is a very small list of some products I found with added sucralose. If you find it in your kitchen please make a product switch!

Product Alert: Sucralose

- Canned Foods: Life Smart, Del Monte Pear Chunks
- Sparkling Water Beverages: Selection, Market Pantry
- Atkin’s Meal Advantage Protein Bars
- V-8 Splash (diet version)
- Mt. Olive Sandwich Stuffers
- Heinz Reduced Sugar

Dr. Thalia Charney, MA, ND, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine is author of, The Confident Food Shopper: The Guide to Food Labels and Fables, available August 2016 in print. The renowned Dr. Shiv Chopra, a huge advocate for transparency around food and the author of Corrupt to the Core, calls her book, “A ready encyclopedia on the best and worst of food labels.” email info@theclassroomdoc.com or call 416-642-0727.

To find out more about labels follow her blog at: www.theclassroomdoc.com/blog

Understanding eating disorders

Eating Disorders are NOT a lifestyle choice. They are biologically-based chronic mental illnesses.

Lethality: Eating Disorders are 12 times more likely to lead to death than any other mental illness. They are the most lethal and complex of all mental health disorders. **The Integrative Nature of the Disease:** Eating Disorders affect physiological, biological, behavioral, emotional, cognitive and social functioning, which require substantive therapeutic collaboration between professionals, parents, & families. Treatment requires a team approach combining medical, nutritional, psychological, and psychiatric professionals.

Eating Disorders are Relational/Attachment Disorders: Eating Disorders require a strong healing connection within the therapeutic relationship. Through psychotherapy, “external” developmental and therapeutic attachment experiences are transformed into “internal” regulatory capacities. This takes a long time.

The Nature of the Treatment Process: Food is medicine but food is the greatest source of fear. This makes it particularly challenging to treat Eating Disorders. The nature of treatment is different for everyone yet many require intensive, long term, and multiple forms of treatment. It is best if Eating Disorders can be treated within the first year of onset.

Nature of Eating Disorder Recovery: Recovery involves learning evidence-based information that goes against what society teaches about eating and weight. It involves taking risks and facing one’s fears, and gaining the courage to be unique and different in a way that does not have to involve thinness (and therefore pain).

National Initiative for Eating Disorders
Contact Wendy Preskow T: 416 859 7571
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DANI's Year in Review

DEBORAH — ONE OF THE SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

When you walk into the DANI Center, the first thing to greet you will probably be Kasper, the Service dog. Kasper is a black lab, who enjoys lying quietly on the main lobby's floor. The second thing that will definitely greet you, will be the fresh aromas of the cooking and baking. But did you know that there is much more to DANI?

- DANI has a day program where the participants participate in learning many life skills. These skills are taught by our own DANI Staff, in partnership with other members of the community. The participants learn skills both inside the program room, as well as outside the Center, by going on many outings, such as the library and Ripley's Aquarium.
 - Not only does DANI have a Café that is open from Mondays to Thursdays from 11am to 2 pm, they also have a pop-up cafe that is held inside various offices and schools throughout York Region and Toronto. The volunteers also run the Kiosk in the Garnet Williams Centre.
 - Prior to the High Holidays, DANI's chef, along with DANI's employees from DANI's Supported Employment Program and DANI's many volunteers, bake many various types of cookies and baked goods. These baked goods are then assembled into cookie gift packages, with the assistance of our staff team and volunteers.
 - The Shabbat Project. An event to attend at least once in your life. It will change your challah baking perspective forever. DANI had a table at this event and I attended this event for the first time. To sit in a room packed with women, of all different ages and backgrounds, coming together to make Shabbat challah at the same time, was absolutely memorable.
 - Shortly after the High Holidays, we are into Winter. DANI has now made our Canadian winters much more enjoyable and warmer. On Saturday nights after Shabbat, DANI holds a Game Night in their Café.
- Shelves are filled with various types of games, some from our childhood and some from our adulthood. Adults and children come out and enjoy buying our chili, pizza, nachos and hot chocolate.
- This year DANI held its first Business Luncheon in our restaurant. DANI was honoured to have many Government officials speak at the event. I also spoke at this event, talking about my disability and my many accomplishments achieved while working at DANI.
 - DANI held an Art show. This event is held annually. The DANI Day participants work diligently creating the art, under the guidance of the Staff. The participants also made a quilt, which represents the unity of everyone attending DANI. This year there was a special twist to the Art show...the participants also put on a Fashion show and walked the DANI red carpet runway!
 - The DANI play...an event that will blow you away. And the Oscar goes to the entire Staff and participants, for entertaining us so, where you are laughing and enjoying yourself the entire evening. The participants and Staff begin practicing for the play from the moment the High Holidays are finished, up to the actual day of the performance. Not only is the play put on by participants and Staff, the play's background scenery is constructed by them too. This year they put on Shrek Jr. the Musical at the Richmond Hill Performing Arts Theatre.
 - Mother's Day, a time to shut down your kitchen and come to DANI for High Tea. Sit down, relax, and enjoy our freshly made wraps, fresh fruit, scones and coffee. A fun way to celebrate and spend time together with the entire family.
 - Every year DANI holds a Gala and Casino event, as a way to help fundraise money for DANI. This year's Gala was extra special, as it was DANI's 10th anniversary. Mazel Tov to Kathy Laszlo and Susie

Sokol, DANI's founders. There were many honorees at this event, as well as speeches by various dignitaries. I too spoke that evening.

www.dani-toronto.com
info@dani.toronto.com

Hope to see you all soon!

- Last, but definitely not least, DANI has just launched its new website. Come to DANI, enjoy a delicious lunch in our cafe, while you check out our website.

DANI, a Non-Profit organization, stands for Developing and Nurturing Independence, is located at 501 Clark Avenue West, in Thornhill, Ontario. For further information about DANI and their events please call 905-889-3264



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DANI is a non-for-profit organization that supports adults with physical and/or cognitive challenges. DANI teaches vocational and life skills and creates opportunities for them to enjoy a meaningful and dignified quality of life.

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Two years of collecting stories from Southern African Jews in Ontario

Dr. Mark Friedlander is pictured here during the 1994 March of the Living program where he volunteered as a chaperone and physician. Born in Zimbabwe, Dr. Friedlander immigrated to Ontario in 1987 after being accepted into a specialized program at the University of Toronto in Anesthesia. Since graduating from this program, he has worked as a staff anesthesiologist at the North York General Hospital and has volunteered on numerous surgical missions around the world in countries such as, Ecuador, Peru, Russia and Vietnam. His fascinating immigration story is one of many documented by the Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre for its Southern African Legacy Project



For over 40 years the Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre (OJA) has been collecting and preserving material documenting the history of Ontario's Jewish community. Two years ago the OJA set out to collect the stories and archival records of Ontario Jews from South Africa and Zimbabwe. The goal was to fill a gap in the OJA's collection related to this community's unique experiences and contributions to Canadian society. While the OJA previously held almost no material on the Southern African community, it now holds a rich collection of material representing the stories of over 86 Southern Africans!

The OJA has collected from Southern African Jews in Ontario:

- Over 2000 photographs
- Over 130,000 MegaBites of digital images and textu-

al records (or over 800 electronic files)

- Over 2 metres of textual records (or around 10,000 pieces of paper)
- Over 500 minutes of video
- Over 60 issues of the SAJAC News
- Over 640 recipes
- Over 1800 minutes of recorded oral history interviews

A dynamic website featuring the stories of the Southern African community and highlights from the OJA's collection will be launched in 2017. Please stay tuned for more information.

Share Your Story!

- *To be a part of this exciting initiative, please contact Archivist Melissa Caza by e-mail at mcaza@ujafed.org or by phone at 416-635-5391 x. 5110.*

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Rabbi Isaac Goss: Visionary and pioneer of Jewish education in SA

RABBI IZAK RUDOMIN MA

Anyone who was a student or worked at the King David Schools in Johannesburg from their start in 1948 to the 1980s will remember the formidable Director of the South African Board of Jewish Education Rabbi Isaac Goss. He was also the rabbi at the Linksfield-Senderwood Shul from its start in the main halls of the King David Schools in Linksfield during the 1950s to the 1980s by which time it had its own splendid building, still functioning, on the school grounds of King David High School in Linksfield, Johannesburg.

Personally I have very strong memories of Rabbi Goss and his amazingly erudite and scholarly speeches he gave to us as young students and to everyone including adults at special events and during his passionate sermons. He was a visionary and a great intellectual, a new sort of modern Rabbi born trained in South Africa and used to the new world of academics and professionalism in an age when many of his contemporaries were still old-time Lithuanian Jews. Rabbi Goss was at least a generation ahead of his time age-wise, and certainly light years ahead in his vision of the possibilities that Jewish Education could reach when most people at the time were against full-time Jewish education for their children.

Professionally “Isaac Goss MA” as he was first known was a student and then master of Classics and all genres of Classical and Popular Literature. He was truly a MASTER of all the intellectual sources and authors of the Western World. He was familiar with all sorts of great and famous writers in English, Latin, German, Afrikaans, Yiddish, Hebrew and a few others languages! In particular he was a master of Greek and Roman Philosophy, the works of William Shakespeare, Goethe, George Bernard Shaw, Achad Ha’am, Sholom Aleichem and myriads of all sorts of writers and thinkers from Europe, America, Israel and South Africa. He would quote so many of them in his speeches and talks all the time as if he had just had a discussion with them and was reporting the current results and upshot of his “meeting of the minds” with so many of them.

Rabbi Isaac Goss was a passionate Zionist and lover of Israel. He was a Hebraist and Educator who worried about the level of Hebrew Language and Jewish Education at the King David Schools that he guided from his office at the SABJE with frequent field visits to the schools to examine students and teachers alike in their learning, teaching and how to best facilitate the transfer

of knowledge of Hebrew language and Judaism to pupils who were interested more in South Africa’s English-speaking liberal culture and its many attractions that made study of Hebrew and teaching it a great challenge at most times.

Rabbi Goss wrote hundreds of articles in the local South African English, Yiddish and Hebrew papers, magazines and journals to advocate his vision of increased high quality Hebrew and Jewish Education and love of Israel and conveying Zionist idealism at all times.

For the Jewish communities living in Johannesburg’s posh suburbs of Linksfield, Senderwood and surrounding areas Rabbi Goss was their spiritual leader and as the Shull rabbi of the Linksfield-Senderwood Hebrew Congregation he would often galvanize the many congregants in support of Israel when there were wars in the Middle East between Israel and its neighbors during the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

My own earliest memories of Rabbi Goss was when we as Bar Mitzvah age boys in the 1960s were called into the King David school hall to hear Rabbi Goss give a talk about Judaism and the Shabbat. He spoke about a special ingredient that he called “The Sabbath Spice” a special something that makes Shabbat a unique holy day for the Jewish People. That phrase of “The Sabbath Spice” stuck in my mind and heart since that time. At first I was not sure exactly what he meant by using those particular words. But then over the years as I became more Shabbat observant myself, I started to really appreciate the inner depth of those words “The Sabbath Spice” that’s an ingredient of spirituality and “Yiddishkeit” that enriches and deepens the flavors of enjoying Shabbat, be it the special Shabbat foods, the Shabbat atmosphere or Shabbat prayers and songs, just the wonderful special ambience and holiness and aura that surrounds all of Shabbat. A concept that Rabbi Goss first implanted in us and that is still inspiring many of us to this present time!

May all our memories be a blessing and an honor to the memory of special rabbis and people like Rabbi Isaac Goss and all the other many unique and devoted rabbis and teachers who educated us as young Jews in South Africa.

Rabbi Izak Rudomin MA was a student at King David School, Linksfield 1962 - 1971, Jewish Studies teacher at King David Schools 1975 - 1976, President AFSAJE: American Friends of South African Jewish Education 1993 - Present. Email address: rudomin@jpi.org

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Waverley Shul celebrates 60 glorious years

BY SA JEWISH REPORT, JULY 06, 2016

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 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 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”.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN FRIENDS OF BETH HATEFUTSOTH is researching and documenting the history of all the Jewish communities in the country towns and villages of South Africa. (The large cities are excluded) Currently five volumes have been published in the series 'Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities'. As so many South African Jews have made their homes elsewhere, we would like to make contact with them and make them aware that their South African roots are being documented. Our database contains a description of each town, the arrival of the first Jewish settlers and where they came from and names and occupations of all Jews who lived there.

We would appreciate any information from expats who lived or had family or friends in any of these towns. Photographs and anecdotes would be an additional bonus.

To see our website for more information go to <http://www.jewishcountrycommunities.co.za> .

Adrienne Kollenberg, Co-chairman

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South African Jewish History books

DAVID SOLLY SANDLER

I WAS BORN in Johannesburg South Africa in 1952 and all my forebears originated in Lithuania. I spent most of my childhood, 1954-1969, in Arcadia from age three until 17, when I finished school. I did my National Service in the SADF and did Articles and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1976.

In 1979 I married and have two daughters Sarah and Esther. At the age of 28, in 1981, I left Johannesburg and I have lived in Perth, Western Australia, ever since. In early 2007 I retired, and compiling the four books has been the equivalent of about seven years full-time work.

PG there are still a few more compilations to come.

Shalom

David Solly Sandler <sedand@iinet.net.au>

THIS WAS A MAN - The life story of ISAAC OCHBERG 1878-1937

by Bertha I Epstein, his daughter. Compiled by David Solly Sandler.

Isaac Ochberg was born in Uman, Russia on 31 May 1878 and died on the Pretoria Castle on 11 December 1937. He was buried in Cape Town on 13 December 1937.

“He never refused to support a worthy cause; on the contrary, his creed was that since he had been enabled to achieve success in his own enterprises, he had a moral duty to help those less fortunate.”

THIS WAS A MAN was first published in 1974 and has been reprinted with the permission of the Ochberg Family and at their request some passages of the book have been edited.

An addendum, jointly written by Bennie Penzik and David Solly Sandler, has also been added.

This book is on sale online

<https://www.createpace.com/4630678>

and is also available from Bennie Penzik

[<benzipen@smile.net.il>](mailto:benzipen@smile.net.il)

David Solly Sandler <sedand@iinet.net.au>

The PINSKER ORPHANS

The life and times of the children from the three Pinsk Jewish Orphanages in the 1920s compiled by David Solly Sandler

The Pinsker Orphans book is in part a follow up of

The Ochberg Orphans book and in fact, in 1921, 44 of the Pinsker Orphans were selected by Isaac Ochberg and taken with the rest of the Ukrainian War and Pogrom Orphans to South Africa.

The book contains over 100 letters written in Hebrew and English by the Pinsker Orphans who remained behind to Alter Bobrow, their teacher who helped establish the orphanages in 1917. He accompanied the children who went to South Africa.

The book tells of the life and times of the children from the three Pinsk Jewish Orphanages in the 1920s and is but a small part of a much larger and forgotten part of Jewish History, the horrors suffered by the Jews in The Pale of Settlement between the two world wars.

These horrors have been overshadowed by the Holocaust. The book also tells of the help given by the Jewish communities around the world including the JDC to their brethren in need.

This book is on sale online

www.CreateSpace.com/4232204 and is also available from David Solly Sandler <sedand@iinet.net.au>

ELI ZAGORIA'S ART

Eli Zagoria, an Old Arc, still made his living from art, doing portraits and painting in his small studio at the back of his house when he passed away early in 2013 in his 90s. He estimated that he drew over 15,000 portraits over his lifetime.

I'm sure some South Africans who now live in Canada will have family portraits that were done by Eli.

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I am in the process of compiling a book that includes all the the art in the books mentioned above.

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In 1921 half of the Ochberg Orphans were placed in the care of Arcadia (the South African Jewish Orphanage) and half in the care of Oranjia (The Cape Jewish Orphanage). Arcadia Jewish Children's Home and Oranjia Jewish Child and Youth Centre still exist today in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa taking care of Jewish Children in need.

All the proceeds on sale of this third volume, *The Ochberg Orphans*, and the preceding two volumes *100 Years of Arc Memories* and *More Arc Memories* go to Arcadia and Oranjia.

Arcadia and Oranjia are totally dependent on the charity of the Jewish Community.

For donations contact:
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All royalties from online sales of *The Ochberg Orphans*, *This Was a Man* and *The Pinsker Orphans* (see prior page) go directly to The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (Joint).

As you will read in *The Ochberg Orphan* book, the Joint played such a large part in the Ukraine, feeding the starving people and establishing and supporting orphanages, hospitals, schools and many other Jewish institutions in the 1920s. The Joint also played a vital role to help Isaac Ochberg accomplish his mission.

In 2014 the Joint is celebrating its centenary and in February 2014 with the riots taking place in the Ukraine the Joint is taking special measures to help the needy of the 300,000 Jews still living in the Ukraine.

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AS A FELLOW South African, I'm proud to share some of Beit Issie Shapiro's amazing accomplishments.

WHO? Beit Issie Shapiro (BIS) in Ra'anana is Israel's leading developer and provider of innovative therapies and state-of-the-art services for children and adults across the entire range of disabilities. Founded in 1981, BIS is the brainchild of the late Issie Shapiro, who helped set up the Selwyn Segal Home in Johannesburg before immigrating to Israel in the 1970s.

WHY? We believe in building a more inclusive society by promoting equal rights of people with disabilities and ensuring full participation in communal life.

WHAT? We are truly unique! We develop innovative models and effective solutions to address unmet needs in the field of disabilities. We have developed accessible apps and hands-free mobile devices for people with severe motor problems, such as ALS, and people who are quadriplegic.

HOW? Technology giants such as Google and SAP Israel Labs chose to collaborate with BIS, guaranteeing that these innovations will change lives on a global scale; BIS hosted an International Conference on Disabilities, with 1200 participants from 23 countries; and we showcase initiatives and provide a voice for people with disabilities at the United Nations under the leadership of our ex-South African Executive Director, Jean Judes.

Meet Amit: The power is in her eyes!

Amit is 5½ years old and has Rett Syndrome. She is dependent on others for almost everything due to her severe motor disabilities and because she is unable to communicate verbally. Her power lies within her eyes. Thanks to the eye-tracking computer, she can truly participate in activities at school, sing along, choose what she wants to do and eat, remind her mother she promised they would play dress-ups, explain where and when she is in pain, as well as when she needs a little quiet time.

Meet Shani: 'I can finally use a cell phone'

13-year-old Shani has severe physical disabilities and wants to be like all teenagers her age. With the ground-



Photo Credits
Rick Guidotti

breaking Sesame Enabled technology, people like Shani with spinal cord injuries, CP, ALS, MS and others who are unable to use their hands, have had their lives transformed by this technology. For Shani, "it helps me and so many others who can't use our hands, to connect to the world."



What can you do?

- Join our Canadian Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro mailing list (cfobis@rogers.com) to keep abreast of activities we're hosting (Kicking for Kids Soccerthon in May, Mah-Jong tournament in November) in support of BIS in Israel.
- Consider making a donation in honour of a birthday, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one.
- Participate in our unique EchoAge birthday program (www.echoage.com) where kids learn the power of *tzdakah* and *tikkun olam*.

There are so many heart-warming stories like Amit and Shani and we know we are making a difference and transforming lives across the globe.

- If you would like to get involved or find out more, please contact Sandy Kahn, Administrative Coordinator of Canadian Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro at cfobis@rogers.com

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Dr. Wainberg qualified at the University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa. He did 2 years of post graduate training in England and in the United States. Dr. Wainberg returned to his Alma Mater where he lectured for some time while commencing his private practice. Since 1971 he has dedicated himself to family practice. Including crowns, bridges, veneers and prosthetic implants. As well as aesthetic dentistry. Dr. Wainberg has a deep passion for caring for his patients well-being. He is an active member of the Toronto Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, and other professional post graduate dental study groups. He feels extremely privileged to resume his life long love for Dentistry together with Dr. Alvin Sher who shares his pursuit of excellence

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The story of Princess Alice (Prince Philip's mother) Queen Elizabeth's mother-in-law

There's a long-established ban on the British royal family visiting Israel. Ever since the Jewish state was founded at the end of the British Mandate, either Britain's foreign office or their royals have determined that an official visit would be inappropriate. Perhaps this is due to the fact that Israel has, technically, always been at war; maybe it's due to a desire not to antagonize Arab sentiments; or it might be because the royals prefer to visit countries with monarchies – however corrupt – rather than republics.

In any event, no British royal has ever officially visited Israel. But one royal has twice circumnavigated this ban. Each time the foreign office was at pains to emphasize it was a “private” visit, but on two occasions Prince Philip, husband to Queen Elizabeth II, has come to Israel for, indeed, a most personal reason: to visit his mother's grave.

Queen's mother-in-law is buried in Israel

It might seem strange but the Queen of England's mother-in-law is buried in Israel, in a small crypt at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Princess Victoria Alice Elizabeth was born in Windsor Castle, England, in 1885. European royal families being what they are – inbred – the young princess, who was Queen Victoria of England's great-granddaughter and whose parents were a German prince and princess, was related to most of the continent's royalty. But although born into great privilege, the young princess also came into the world with congenital deafness. This disability may have engendered in the young girl a compassion for the underdogs and outsiders.

When Princess Alice was 18, like a good daughter of royalty she married a fellow royal, Prince Andrew of Greece. Thereafter Alice Princess of Battenberg's official title became Princess Andrew of Greece and Denmark. The couple had four daughters and a son but after more than twenty years of marriage, in 1930, the family began to break apart. Prince Andrew left the princess for his mistress, whom he joined on her Mediterranean yacht off Monte Carlo, where he soon became a gambling addict.

Princess Alice was devastated. After a nervous breakdown she was sent to a Swiss sanatorium; meanwhile her daughters had all moved to Germany with their German



prince husbands and her son was sent to his grandmother England. It took years of therapy but eventually Princess Alice was well enough to leave Switzerland, whereupon she devoted herself to charitable works.

When World War Two broke out, she was living in an apartment in her brother-in-law's palace in Athens. The situation was uncomfortable – not only was she living alongside the brother of the man who left her, but her son was fighting for the British while her daughters' husbands were all fighting for the Germans.

Princess Alice saves the Cohens

One day, Princess Alice, who was working with the Swedish and Swiss Red Cross, received word from a Jewish family who needed her help. The Greek royals knew the family of Haimaki Cohen – in 1913, the Jewish former Member of Parliament from the north of Greece had housed the royals during a flood. In return, the king had offered to help the Cohens. Now was the time. Although Haimaki died early in the war, his widow Rachel and their five children were, like every other Greek Jew, in peril. Remembering the royal offer, Haimaki and Rachel's eldest son Freddy contacted Alice.

While Freddy and his brothers planned to cross the Aegean Sea into Egypt to join the Greek Free Forces fighting the Nazis, he worried that his mother and sister, Tilde, would not be able to make the trip. So he called in the promised favor.

The princess accepted and in October 1943, Rachel Cohen, her son Michel and Tilde moved into the top floor of the princess's home. The Cohens remained there until liberation. When the Gestapo came to the apart-

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ment, Princess Alice used her deafness as an excuse not to understand them, and the Germans left the house unsearched.

Although the Cohens survived until liberation in 1944, theirs was a most exceptional story. The vast majority of Greek Jews were murdered. In Salonika, home to the country's largest community, more than 45,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz in the summer of 1943. Only 300 escaped deportation. By the end of the war, approximately 65,000 of the 75,000 Jews in Greece had been killed.

Sister Andrew

A deeply religious woman, in 1949 Princess Alice founded her own order of Greek Orthodox nuns, which she named the Christian Sisterhood of Martha and Mary. Dedicating her life to helping the sick and the needy, the princess, who had had five kids, took a vow of celibacy and became known as Sister Andrew. She lived and worked and dressed as a nun, wearing the traditional habit with rosary beads. She lived in isolation on the island of Tinos until 1967, when the Greek army staged a coup d'état and she left for London. Taking up residence in Buckingham Palace, where her son lived, of course, having married the Queen of England, she died two years later at the age of 84.

Although her life was bookended by birth and death in English royal castles, before dying Princess Alice had made it known that she wished to be buried alongside her aunt, who had also forsaken the life of a princess for that of a nun, in Jerusalem. It took nineteen years, but in 1988 her wish was granted and Princess Alice's remains were reburied in a crypt on the Mount of Olives.

Five years later, Yad Vashem honored Princess Alice as a "righteous among the nations" for her wartime effort in saving the Cohen family. "I suspect that it never occurred to her that her action was in any way special," said her son, Prince Philip, at the time. "She was a person with deep religious faith and she would have considered it to be a totally human action to fellow human beings in distress."

It is said that when one of Rachel Cohen's sons, Jacques, offered the princess his thanks after the war, she replied quite forcefully that she only did her duty; and that the only reason the story of her bravery became known was because a relative of the Cohens suggested a Jerusalem street be named in her honor.

Princess Alice did have a tree at the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem named in her honor. And so it is that, despite an official royal ban, the capital of Israel is the site where the Queen of England's mother-in-law is laid to rest, and where her lifesaving deeds during Europe's darkest hours are officially remembered.

Imagination

By Max Skuy

Little child, lay down your head
Now is the time to be in bed
Fast asleep soon you'll be
And in your dreaming you will see
The Little Folk from all around
They live in castles underground.
They are not even one foot tall
And sit on toadstools, oh so small.
They'll take you by your little hand
They'll lead you to their wonderland.
You'll dance and play, till break of day
And as you waken, they will say –
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Thank you for joining me tonight in exploring a subject, which, if truth be told should extend for a series of at least a dozen lectures in order to adequately cover the topic at hand. I would like to apologise in advance for leaving out many of the business leaders who have played a vital role in South Africa over the past 175 years. I hope I will not score too highly on the “fari-bel” index! I will simply endeavour to paint broad brush strokes in a small corner of a very large canvas. Right at the outset, though, I want to acknowledge the co-operation of Gwynne Robins and David Sacks for assisting me with research.

I will endeavour to start off with a little about the early pioneers. I will then focus on some of the giants of the 20th century covering the period when the Jewish population reached its highest numbers, and our influence and contribution appeared to be the greatest. Thereafter I will try and touch on Jewish contributions in the fields of agriculture, industry and the retail sector. I would then like to recognise the role of some of our leaders in the field of organised commerce. Hopefully, I will be able to tell you a little about my own experiences as a third generation family member of Cape Union Mart. Finally, I will speak about the contribution by our leaders to the well-being of our country and our very own Jewish community.

The early pioneers

Way back in the mid-19th century, Jonas Bergtheil started accumulating land in the Cape Colony. He soon acquired nearly 200,000 acres of land and is probably the forerunner of Jewish prominence in the real estate industry. Typically, he paid attention to the welfare of fellow Jews in Europe who were coming under increasing pressure. He was a strong advocate of Jewish immigration to South Africa and brought out 40 German families who founded the New Germany settlement in Natal.

It is a fallacy to believe that Jewish immigration laid the groundwork for a mainly “smous” industry. The bulk of the immigrants were not simply unskilled hawkers earning money by peddling goods. It is true that the leg-

endary Sammy Marks was renowned for literally turning a case of Sheffield knives into a fortune. However, according to Sarah Gertrude Millin in her role as a social historian, Jews started out as peddlers going “across the veld with a pack of goods on their backs”. However, a few months later they reappeared! “This time with a Cape cart and horse...often they opened a shop”. Many came with knowledge of tailoring, textiles, cabinet making and shoe making. There were also Jewish blacksmiths, pitch dealers, lime burners, lumbermen, gardeners and dairymen (like Tevya the milkman).

Many immigrants stopped off in London at the “Poor Jews’ Temporary Shelter” while waiting for a boat. About 40 percent were on their way to South Africa, and 90 percent of these were from Lithuania. Reports from the Shelter between 1895 and 1908 showed that of 9,408 respondents, 23 percent said they were in trade and commerce, 29 percent had been in the garment trades, 9 percent were shoe and boot makers, 7 percent were carpenters, 2 percent were in agriculture. The remaining 27 percent were butchers, bakers, printers, coopers, barbers, furriers, jewellers, locksmiths, bricklayers, cigar makers and painters.

In a paper given at the first South African Zionist Congress in 1905, Rabbi Hertz said that “it was essential that Jews at least should be taught the truth; that they themselves should no longer look upon themselves as interlopers, as exploiters; but rather as active participants in the up building of the national life”. “The smous had used his commercial and entrepreneurial spirit to turn his pack into a village shop, the tailor and cabinet maker had used their skills and entrepreneurial spirit to develop the fashion and furniture industries”.

Port Elizabeth became an important centre of the wool trade in which Jewish merchants, notably the Mosenthal brothers played a leading role. From bases in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth they set up a chain of trading stations in the interior of the Cape, usually manned by Jewish immigrants whom they had brought out from Germany. Jews had to help each other. The Mosenthals helped to stabilise the rural economy by providing long-term cred-



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Shana Tovah - Brian & Chana Shevel

it to storekeepers and, through them, to farmers. Before the advent of commercial banking, the firm's notes were widely accepted in the development of banking and the financing of diamond and gold mining.

In the 1840s, Aaron and Daniel Depass, brothers from Britain, developed shipping, fishing and coastal trading enterprises in the South Western Cape. They also had interests in the newly discovered diamond fields in South-West Africa, and Daniel was one of the pioneers of the sugar industry in Natal.

Barney Barnato, possibly the first Jewish tycoon in South Africa, partnered with Cecil John Rhodes to found De Beers Consolidated Mines. They controlled the production and marketing of diamonds with a model that has endured to this day. On the discovery of gold in the 1880s, they did much to develop gold mines based on the wealth and skill they had acquired in diamond mining. It was the legendary Samuel Marks and his partner Isaac Lewis who established a number of industries in the Pretoria area. Their endeavours covered production of dynamite for the mines, a distillery and even a glassworks. The steel plant which they established in Vereeniging was the forerunner of the State controlled ISCOR.

20th century leaders

The 20th century in South Africa saw the rise of myriad Jewish leaders in the fields of commerce and industry. This was the age of real giants whose fame and fortune have endured. Sir Ernest Oppenheimer was born in Friedberg, Germany. He began his working life at 17 with a diamond brokerage in London and was sent to South Africa by his employer in 1902 at the age of 22. In 1927 he managed to wrest control of De Beers from Cecil John Rhodes and consolidate the company's global monopoly over the world diamond industry. As an adult he converted to Anglicanism and was buried at St George's Church in Parktown. He was succeeded by his son, Harry, who went on to head up the Anglo American Corporation. Despite his father's conversion, Harry had both a brith-milah and a bar mitzvah in the Kimberly Synagogue. Harry converted to Christianity when he married his wife. Despite their conversion, the Oppenheimers were often targeted as Jewish stereotypes.

In 1904 Issy Schlesinger founded the African Life Assurance Association. In 1949 he passed his empire to his son, John, who went on to become one of the doyens of the entertainment industry in South Africa. John Schlesinger was at the centre of the Johannesburg art scene from the 1960s. When John left South Africa in 1979 he donated the bulk of the Schlesinger collection to

the University of the Witwatersrand. If truth be told, though, the real visionary of the insurance industry was Donald Gordon, who started Liberty Life in the 1950s with initial capital of just R100,000. Donny, as he was colloquially known, was shocked by the meagre pension of £12 per month paid to his father after decades in productive employment. By the time he retired as Chairman of Liberty Life in 1999, the company was valued at over R40 billion and was the largest listed Life Assurance Company in South Africa. His innovative insurance products which incorporated growth from equity investments, are probably the reason that many baby boomers are today retiring on decent pension pay outs. Donny was also the visionary behind the development of Sandton City, one of the world's most successful shopping centres. In the year he retired, he was named as "The Achiever of the Century in South African Financial Services" by the *Financial Mail*.

In 2005 Gordon was awarded a knighthood by the Queen in recognition of his services to art and business. He also set new standards in the field of philanthropy by donating R100 million to set up the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, the first private teaching hospital in South Africa. He also established the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) in Johannesburg. The Donald Gordon Foundation, formed in the 1970s, is believed to be the largest private charity in South Africa with projects in education, welfare, healthcare and wildlife.

The late Mendel Kaplan became recognised throughout the world as a great business leader, a great philanthropist and a great Jew. He transformed Cape Gate, founded by his father, Isaac, "from a modest business selling products like wrought iron and garden benches into a vast conglomerate producing its own steel". Cape Gate became one of the largest privately owned companies in South Africa. Mendel financed numerous philanthropic projects in South Africa, Israel and in Jewish Communities around the world. In 1980, together with his brother Robert, he founded the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT. In 2000, the Kaplans established the SA Jewish Museum. Mendel's Foundation also provided over 2500 bursaries for higher education for the children of Cape Gate's employees. As an industrialist Mendel set new standards in terms of corporate social responsibility. Cape Gate provided black employees with a range of services and aid programmes including a crèche to care for children of employees during working hours, interest-free loans for the purchase of their own homes, and scholarships for tertiary education of employees' children. He also contributed much to the development of community projects in the Boipatong



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township, an area from which Cape Gate drew a large part of its labour force.

Although we Capetonians have claimed him as our own, Eric Samson spent most of his life in the steel business operating from his base in Johannesburg. He joined his father's fencing and wiring business, Pan Africa Staalhandel in 1958, and became managing director of the business in 1965 after it merged with competitor, S Machanick and Co. He then founded Machanick Steel and Fencing - Macsteel. By 1974 he had bought out his partners to become the company's sole owner. He went on to build Macsteel into an industrial empire across three continents. Before divesting the American operation, Macsteel was one of the largest privately owned companies in South Africa.

Eric and his wife, Sheila, set up the Eric and Sheila Samson Foundation which has seen the family recognised as absolute leaders in the field of philanthropy. Eric serves on the Board of the Nelson Mandela Fund, as well as on numerous Jewish Communal boards. He has been recognised as a leading philanthropist in the Jewish world by having the title of Honorary Life World Campaign Chairman of Keren Hayesod bestowed upon him. From hospitals to schools to all Communal causes and beyond in South Africa, the USA and Israel, the Samson family is regarded as one of the most generous families in the world. Although in so-called "retirement", Eric continues to busy himself with both business and Communal endeavours.

In Natal, the Gundelfinger, Beare, Moshal, Gevisser and Frame families became legendary for their contributions to the South African economy. The Gundelfingers, who specialised in general importation, ironmongery and wholesale and retail trading were strong advocates of encouraging local "infant industries" through tariff protection. Karl Gundelfinger was president of the Natal Chamber of industries and later president of the South African Chamber of Commerce.

Aaron Beare joined a small family furniture factory in 1925. Beare Brothers were one of the pioneers of higher-purchase trading. They added household appliances to their stock and began to concentrate on retailing. They listed the company in the 1960s. Today the Aaron Beare Foundation is one of the largest charitable foundations in the country. Aaron's son, Jonathan, has become a financial giant by investing in numerous companies run by young people, and his involvement in everything from property to the hotel industry, has seen him establish his own independent fortune. Like his father, he is also renowned for his philanthropy. The Moshals and Gevisser also listed their company and similarly created

the Jakamar Trust, which is one of Natal's major charitable foundations. I am privileged to be involved with John Moshal on the National Executive Committee of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, and am blown away by the hundreds of bursaries awarded by the family both in South Africa and in Israel.

Philip Frame became a legend in the textile industry after launching his manufacturing operation in Durban in 1928. By 1960 the Frame organisation had become a series of listed major industrial companies operating mills, factories and sales offices throughout South Africa. When Philip Frame died in 1979 the Group's workforce numbered way over 30,000. It is reputed that Philip Frame claimed that sorting out his Estate would take as many years as it took to build it!

Now let us look at the Cape. In the early 1900s, Ellis Silverman emigrated from Latvia to Cape Town. A qualified tinsmith, he soon began working in Saldanha Bay in a factory making the tin cans that were being used to preserve rock lobster. In 1905 he partnered with a local boat owner, James Kasner, to establish the Saldanha Bay Canning Company. Robert Silverman, born Robert "Milliner", was adopted by his uncle, Ellis Silverman, at the age of 6. He formally changed his surname to "Silverman". After the war Robert returned from Italy and in 1949 married Bella. They went on honeymoon, during which time Robert honed his studies in technology. When he returned to South Africa he built a fishmeal factory which became the basis for the growth of the Saldana Bay Canning Company.

In the early 1960s they acquired a floating fishmeal factory known as the Willem Barendz. This proved to be an extremely successful venture and was listed as W Barendz. Unfortunately, the authorities forced them to give up this venture as the boats were catching too much fish. Robert then partnered with Rudy Frankel to form Swafil in Walvis Bay. Politics forced them to exit Namibia in the late 1970's. Today, Saldana Bay Pilchards racks up sales of over 30 million cans per annum. This equates to one tin of pilchards being consumed every second of every day throughout the year by someone, somewhere in South Africa! In the early 1990s Robert set yet another example in corporate responsibility by creating a scheme to assist all first time homeowners in his company to buy their own homes. They established a clinic for their employees, where their employees and their children receive primary healthcare. The Silverman family are also recognised for their decade's long involvement with Jewish Communal causes and their generosity to our Community.

Jewish business leaders in the Western Cape became

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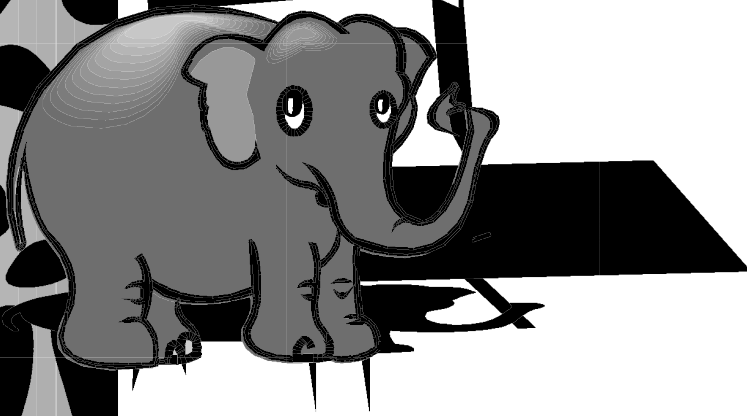
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synonymous with the retail industry. Although originally founded by Max Sonnenberg in 1931, the late David Susman was responsible for building Woolworths into the model company that it is today. Woolworths has been a leader in quality and technology and its “Good Business Journey” has earned it recognition as one of South Africa’s most admired companies. Woolworths led the recent charge into overseas markets where it is achieving considerable success. In 1948 David Susman volunteered as a fighter pilot in the fledgling Israeli Air Force. His lifelong association with virtually every Jewish cause in our Province is evidence of his commitment to our Community. He preceded me as Chairman of both the United Herzlia Schools’ and the United Jewish Campaign’s Boards of Trustees.

Morris Mauerberger started off selling door to door – mainly at the back doors – of homes in Sea Point. He worked on commission earned by collecting weekly instalments from servants in the various homes. When Gus Ackerman needed funds to start a business, he went to Morrie whose own business had prospered and had developed as shippers and traders of stature. Clever Morrie agreed to finance stock to the extent of £1,250, but also wanted 10% of sales from the new stores. Morrie also funded Sam Kirsch and Leon Segal who opened stores of their own. Eventually the three Mauerberger-funded men went into partnership to launch South Africa’s first chain store group. After much debate, and clearly because anti-Semitism remained a feature of their lives, they decided to call their group “Ackermans” – a name that could be Afrikaans, coloured or white as easily as it could be Jewish. They introduced the concept of pricing at 1/11 – 1 shilling and 11 pence – because it sounded cheaper than 2/ – and also because it obliged sales assistants to ring up the sale and open the till to extract change. After 4 years, 15 stores had been opened and the Group continued to expand thereafter.

Greatermans was created to be “greater than Ackermans”. A young Raymond Ackerman learned important lessons from his UCT lecturer, Professor Hutt, who helped him formulate his famous “four legs of the table”. Essentially, they covered profits and expense control, giving customers the merchandise they wanted, social responsibility and people, including family and employees. After opening 89 Checkers stores within the Greatermans Group, Raymond was fired at the age of 35 for his revolutionary ideas, especially the concept of price cutting.

Jack Golden had started a business called Pick ‘n Pay and was happy to sell his 3-store chain for R620,000. Raymond was definitely the father of South African con-

sumerism and his concept of “The Consumer is Queen” certainly resonated with women. His ongoing fight against price fixing, his battle for lower fuel and bread prices, and his introduction of the “Hypermarket” concept made him a legend in his time! The rest is history, and today Pick ‘n Pay operates some 1,200 stores in South Africa, with more than 100 in the rest of Africa. Their turnover exceeds R70 billion and they employ more than 70,000 people.

Another doyen of the Cape retail scene was Stanley Lewis. Jewish traders were known as “Shinis”. When 4 of them got together they decided to name the group after the four Shinis, and so it became Foschini! Foschini is today an enormous public company whose Board is chaired by Michael Lewis, Stanley’s son. They have recently acquired a number of overseas chains and are clearly on their way to becoming an international retailing force to be reckoned with.

Sydney Press joined the Edgars Group as a temporary employee when Edgars moved to Cape Town in 1935. In 1946 Edgars went public following a period of strong growth under Sydney’s leadership. By 1990 the company’s turnover had reached R2 billion and continued to experience stellar growth thereafter. Unfortunately, in the latter years, the Group has performed poorly under new owners, but still remains a force to be reckoned with.

Another major retail chain, Truworths, is currently headed up by Michael Mark, who has set new standards of excellence in the retail arena. Benchmarked against leading international companies Truworth’s metrics outperform most of its global peers.

In the banking sphere, two nice Jewish boys, Bernard Kantor and Stephen Koseff, created Investec, which has established itself as the leading South African bank catering for high net worth individuals. They have expanded internationally and are universally recognised for the excellence of their innovative banking and financing products. Another bank with a Jewish founder and an ongoing Jewish flavour is Sasfin, headed up by Roland Sassoon and his heir apparent, his son, Michael.

Take the property field and think of the incredible performance of Gerald Leissner, who heads up Apex. Think of the healthcare industry and consider the incredible achievements of Adrian Gore in building Discovery into the market leader in its field. I hardly know anybody who doesn’t have Discovery as their health provider of choice! Like so many of his peers, Adrian continues to take an active role in Jewish Communal life and currently plays a leadership role in Jewish education in Johannesburg.

Although his major endeavours emanated from his

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Swaziland ventures, one cannot ignore the huge impact of Natie Kirsch, who was ranked the 435th wealthiest person in the world in 2015 by Forbes Magazine. His empire spans many countries, yet his heart is still very much in South Africa. The influence of top business leaders like Brian Joffe, Adrian Gore, Stephen Koseff, Colin Coleman and others, on the government of the day should not be underestimated. More the pity that their sage counsel is often ignored. Indeed, in everything from stockbroking to farming to winemaking to retailing, insurance, banking, clothing manufacture or real estate, the Jewish Community of South Africa has made an incredible contribution.

The CEOs

Whilst there has been great recognition of many outstanding Jewish businessmen, little recognition has been given to the women who have played such important roles in supporting the growth of their husbands' endeavours. For example, Wendy Ackerman has for many years served on the Pick 'n Pay Board and, as Raymond readily acknowledges, she played an instrumental role in supporting him when he was fired and took the huge risk of buying 3 stores and starting Pick 'n Pay. Without a doubt, it is unlikely that Raymond would have taken this risk without the support of Wendy. Just a fortnight ago, Wendy was acknowledged at a special concert marking a milestone birthday. Outstanding artists from around the globe who had benefitted from Wendy's largesse had been flown in to perform as a "thank you" to her. For me the most moving moment was when her daughter, Suzanne, asked all those present in the auditorium who had been helped by Wendy, to stand up. I nearly fell out of my chair when I saw about a third of the hundreds present rising to acknowledge Wendy!

Sheila Samson is another extremely powerful force behind the throne. Eric seldom makes any major move without Sheila. When it comes to philanthropy, Sheila regularly pushes the bounds of Eric's incredible generosity even further. Indeed, many wives of top business leaders should be termed "CEO's" – "Chief Emotional Officers". They keep the families together and manage inter-generational challenges with their unique "EQ's" – "Emotional Intelligence". Their advice is often invaluable, especially in the field of human resources!

In a number of cases daughters have stepped into the breach to play leading roles in managing family empires. Suzanne Ackerman is Director of Transformation for Pick 'n Pay, and plays a key role in positioning the company for acceptance in the new South Africa. Alison Katzeff

watched her dad, Sam, become a formidable force in the liquor industry with the Drop Inn Group. Although Sam sold out in 1992 the family retained the properties and Alison now manages the family affairs, including their substantial property portfolio. Alison, who has an MBA degree, not only occupies herself with her family interests, but has also taken leadership roles, both as Chairman of United Herzlia Schools and as Chairman of the United Jewish Campaign. Alison's feminine touch has brought a whole new dimension to the roles that she has fulfilled and I dare say that she has once again proved that often the best man for the job is a woman!

Another example of the leading role that Jewish women are playing in the South African business scene, is that of Tanya Golan who, together with her husband, Hagai, established Portfolio Bureau. They recently sold a 50% share in the business to Anchor Capital for R125 million. Whilst building a substantial company, Tanya, like Alison, still found time to chair Herzlia School's Board of Governors. In my own business, two of my daughters serve as directors and play active roles in the Company's operations.

Organised commerce

One should never forget the role of a number of Jewish business leaders in leading organisations like the Chambers of Commerce and Chambers of Industry. Mike Getz was a leading light in the Chamber of Industries. Leaders like Lassie Salber, Hymie Wolffe and Robbie Stern all headed up the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce. To their credit they consistently opposed Apartheid and regularly confronted Government in respect of their discriminatory laws. I was proud to be numbered amongst the ranks of such illustrious Past Presidents and went on to become President of SACOB (The South African Chamber of Business). When called before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission I had the opportunity to produce evidence of the consistent stand that our Chamber had taken over many decades against racism.

Repairing the world

One can never underestimate the role played by Eliot Osrin, who served on the Boards of many companies such as Clicks, Foschini, Atlas, Board of Executors, Gerber Goldschmidt, Freddy Hirsch, Heneck Sacks, Atlas and others. He played a leading role in alerting companies to their corporate social responsibilities and their philanthropic duties. Thanks to Eliot, many top

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Jewish businessmen were encouraged to set up charitable trusts which today are the lifeblood of Cape Town's Jewish Community.

Raymond Ackerman founded the Raymond Ackerman Academy of Entrepreneurial Development and Donny Gordon, as previously mentioned, founded the Gordon International Business School (GIBS) at Wits. The Samsons have funded numerous schools and Eric's ongoing involvement as a trustee of the Nelson Mandela Fund sees him and his family playing a leading role in the field of philanthropy. Charitable trusts and foundations such as The Jakamar Trust, the Donny Gordon Foundation, The Mauerberger Foundation and The Eric and Sheila Samson Foundation give evidence of the extent to which Jewish business leaders set an incredible example of ongoing philanthropy. Needless to say, the generosity of Cape Town business leaders is the reason why Cape Town has such a well-organised and well-funded Jewish infrastructure.

Eliot Osrin persuaded business leaders to set up charitable trusts by assuring them that in so doing they would achieve a little bit of immortality. An example of how true this is, is the fact that very few people remember the businesses started by Morris Mauerberger, but his name lives on eternally through the Mauerberger Foundation.

My story

Permit me a moment of self-indulgence as I tell you a little about the Cape Union Mart story. My late grandfather, Philip Krawitz, founded P Krawitz and Company in Johannesburg in 1933. He moved to Cape Town in the 1940's and decided to rename his company "The Mart". The Registrar of Companies felt that was too generic, so he then suggested "The Union Mart", acknowledging the Union of South Africa. When that, too, was rejected, he added the prefix, "Cape", and so the "Cape Union Mart" was born. My grandfather's failing health forced my dad to leave his job at the OK Bazars where Miller and Cohen had given him some excellent training. Unfortunately the war broke out and my dad, Arthur, was conscripted into the army. When he was de-mobbed in 1945 he returned to a literally bankrupt business.

My dad pleaded with his creditors to allow him time to repay overdue debts rather than putting him into liquidation and getting a penny in the pound. My late mother worked tirelessly by his side, and together they struggled to get the business back on its feet. We lived in a R20 a month apartment in Sea Point, and my mom and dad shared a third-hand motorcar for more than a decade. Everything my parents had, went into sustaining the business.

In 1970, while I was in my final year at UCT, my dad suffered a heart attack and like Bill Gates, Richard Branson and Steve Jobs, I became a university drop-out and went to run the business. My dad was terrified of my ambition and nearly suffered another heart attack when I suggested that we open a second store in Parow. Fortunately, our overdraft was coming down and the building which my dad had bought with no less than four bonds, was nearly paid off. This allowed me to use available cash flow to start growing the business. Along the way we had bought a uniform company which was doing really well and we then purchased the Hepworths manufacturing operation with its 22 workers, to provide us with a regular supply of traffic, fire and security clothing. We named this factory "K-Way" as my dad was always known as "Mr K" and usually insisted on doing things his way.

Fast forward to 2016 and our factory now employs some 230 people and produces more than 500,000 high tech garments per annum. The Group employs more than 3,000 people and we have just opened our 200th store. The Group now comprises four chains, namely Cape Union Mart, Old Khaki, Poetry and Tread+Miller – our new baby focusing on urban footwear.

I feel very privileged to have two of our daughters actively involved in the business, both in executive capacities and as directors on our Board. We have made the leap from entrepreneurial to professional management by employing a wonderful CEO, by the name of André Labuschaigne. Indeed, as is evident in South Africa's history, Jews and Afrikaners get along pretty well together.

I am still actively involved in the business, but have now dedicated much of my time to both Jewish Communal affairs and a wonderful black upliftment organisation, known as Ikamva Labantu.

In summary

Without a doubt, Jewish business leaders have made an incredible contribution to the South African economy. They have created hundreds of thousands of jobs and are generally known for their high standards of corporate responsibility. Jewish employers are leaders in education and training of their staff, and most are regarded as model employers. Their philanthropic endeavours set new standards of generosity, and despite numerous challenges, they remain committed to the future success of South Africa. Indeed, they have fulfilled the biblical injunction of being a light unto nations and an example for all others to follow.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Births

IT'S A BOY!

MAZAL TOV TO:

Michael and Marilyn Bank on the birth of a grandson. Mazal tov also to parents Daniel Bank and Leah Potash and grandparents Reuben Potash and Gail Thau and great grandmother Sarah Potash.

Terry and Mervyn Kaplan and Tikvah Abro on the birth of a grandson, Kaleb Eli, in South Africa. Mazal tov to Jonathan Kaplan on the birth of his son.

Mandy and Matthew Pisarek on the birth of Mason Leo. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Malcolm and Valerie Abrahams and Seymour Pisarek and Sonia Pisarek, as well as great-grandmother, Lily Donenberg.

Daniella and Gabriel Hackman on the birth of Matthew Aaron. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Ian and Janice Abramowitz and Cindy Hackman, and to great-grandparents, Renee Schamroth, Sally Friedman and Rae Abramowitz of Johannesburg.

Kelli and Yuval Blum on the birth of a son. Mazal Tov to grandparents, Stan and Lisa Abramowitz and Shimon and Bini Blum (Eilat, Israel), and to great-grandparents Lou and Sylvia Sack, Rae Abramowitz and Fani Blum.

Romy and Jeremy Pilarski on the birth of Ryan Samuel. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Raymond and Diane Katzeff and Richard and Marilyn Pilarski, and to great-grandmother, Ria Mann.



IT'S A GIRL!

MAZAL TOV TO:

Teddy and Sandy Levy on the birth of a granddaughter in Atlanta.

Dale and Yossi Garber on the birth of Naomi Yael. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Arthur and Sheila Talkins and Debbie Garber in Chicago

Ben and Simone Reitzes on the birth of a daughter. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Larry and Shirley Markman and Alan and Danielle Reitzes and to great-grandmothers, Eleonore Bloch of Cape Town, South Africa and Renee Levy of Paris, France.

Mark and Heather Waldman on the birth of a granddaughter, Ayelet Ruth, in Israel. Mazal tov also parents, Jessica and Jeremy Israel, and to grandparents, Hymie and Shirley Waldman and Michael and Hazel Israel of London, England and Jos and Sheila Pitluck.

Brandon and Rina Gerson on the birth of Hannah, Mazal tov also to grandparents, Cyril and Vanessa Gerson and Mark and Sally Zigler, and great-grandmothers, Faye Dobrin and Doreen Furman (UK)

Samantha (Goldstein) and Barry Dubrow on the birth of Rochel, in Philadelphia, Mazal tov also to grandparents, Darryl and Renee Goldstein and Lowell Dubrow and great-grandmother, Lorraine Grevler, in South Africa.

Danny and Sarah Talkins on the birth of Miriam. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Arthur and Sheila Talkins and John and Debbie Allison and to great-grandparents, Zena Frankel and Dave and June Simon.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Births continued

Yosi and Dale Garber on the birth of Naomi. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Arthur and Shelia Talkins and grandmother Debbie Garber (Chicago).

Gavin and Jennifer Neumann on the birth of Rachel Emily. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Ronnie and Lorraine Neumann and Abe and Frances Wang.

Ram and Chaya Rabins on the birth of Shternie.

Roxanne and Lee Hart on the birth of Ella Sloane. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Melanie and Hilton Stein and great-grandmother, Marlene Chatzkelowitz.

IT'S TWINS! MAZAL TOV TO:

Jonathan and Amanda Sussman on the birth of twin boys, Luke and Coner. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Pat and Trevor Sussman, Gail Hill and Ian Goodwin.

Bar Mitzvah



MAZAL TOV TO:

Rael and Adi Tooch on Ethan's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents Farrell and Miriam Spiro and Marion and David Fletcher.

Ira and Natalie Brooke on Samuel's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Maish and Glenda Preskow and Jennifer Jacobs

Dion and Diane Widrich on Jesse's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Ian and Charlotte Spitz and John and Ethne Nussbaum.

Elana and Steven Presement on Max's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Russell and Heather Super and Barry and Carol Presement.

Warren and Simone Meyer and Larry and Alina Majerovits on Lee Majerovits's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Rachelle and Leo Lewkowitz and Jake and Marion Majerovits, and to great-grandfather, Benny Karon and great-grandmother Heddy Hoflich

Nadine and Raoul Dubery on Jake Samuel's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Sandra and Irwin Durbach.

Tanya and Shlomi Bohbot on Yohonaton's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Sandra and Irwin Durbach.

Shaul and Baila Ellenbogen on Shmuel's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Lea and Dan Ellenbogen.

Tanya and Shmuel Bollen on Yehudah Leib's Bar Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Lea and Dan Ellenbogen.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bat Mitzvah



MAZAL TOV TO:

Gregory and Patricia Kaplan on Maya's Bat Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Michael and Adrienne Kaplan and Al and Leah Landau, and great-grandparents, Solly and Libby Joffe.

Craig and Tara Rosenblatt on Zoe's Bat Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Caroline and Basil Rosenblatt and Natalie and Sheldon Cutler, of Montreal.

Jay and Simone Fischbach on Zoe's Bat Mitzvah. Mazal tov also to grandparents Alwyn and Moira Snipelisky and Andre and Judi Fischbach.

Engagements

MAZAL TOV TO:

Clifford and Karen Rybko on Dorrion's engagement to Rachel, daughter of Mike and Sue Andrew.

Stan and Lisa Abramowitz on Greg's engagement to Lauren, daughter of Allan and Robyn Ptasznik. Mazal tov also to grandparents, Lou and Sylvia Sack and Rae Abramowitz and Lew Ekstein.

Steven and Lynette Latinsky on David's engagement to Pam, daughter of Dina Scott and Alex Leaf.

Marriages



MAZAL TOV TO:

Ilana and Leslie Radus on Renette's marriage to Jason, son of Avery and Linda Wislesky.

Laurie and Rosalie Buntman on the marriage of Leanne to David, son of Tony and Rose Carpino.

Brian and Sue Behrman on Richard's marriage to Ashley Burke, daughter of Nancy Cooper and the late Jeffrey Burke. Mazal tov also to grandmother, Anne Burke

Darryl and Renee Goldstein on the marriage of Warren to Naomi, daughter of Barbara and Yossi Cohen.

Stanley and Janet Dogon on Ricky's marriage to Rachel, daughter of Herb Eisenberg and Goldie Rosenberg. Mazal tov also to grandmothers, Esther Dogon, Lila Hurvitz and Frieda Rosenberg.

Wedding Anniversary

MAZAL TOV TO:

Allan and Hilary Rabie on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Brenda and Colin Baskind on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.



From right to left, Anton Rabie, Ben Varadi & Ronnen Harary

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Condolences TO:

Janet Dogon, Soxi Melamdowitz, Lauren Levy and Lila Hurvitz on the loss of their sister and daughter, Beverley Zidel, in South Africa.

Michael Peires on the loss of his sister.

Marissa and Milton Rosenberg on the loss of Marissa's mother, Zena Levitt.

Joan Goldin, Keith Levitt on the loss of their mother, Zena Levitt.

Shelley and Jeff Berman on the loss of Shelley's mother, Bella Rosengarten, in Vancouver.

Mark and Linda Abramsohn on the loss of Mark's mother, Selma.

Abe Abramsohn on the loss of his wife, Selma.

Wayne Abramsohn on the loss of his mother, Selma.

Jerrold and Charlene Pearl on the loss of Jerrold's father, Eddie Pearl.

Malcolm Pearl on the loss of his father, Eddie Pearl.

Hazel Pollack, Jonathan Pollack, David Pollack, Robyn Goodman and families on the loss of their husband and father, Lawrence Pollack, in South Africa

Dora Mirels on the loss of her husband, Morris Mirels.

Gail and Ed Freeman on the loss of Gail's father, Morris Mirels.

Hilton Mirels and Felicia Lurner on the loss of their father, Morris Mirels.

Dora Mirels on the loss of her sister, Eva Peskin, in Australia.

Allison and Richard Solomon on the loss of Allison's father, Robert Goldin.

Joan Goldin on the loss of her husband, Robert Goldin

Michel, Earle and Graeme Goldin on the loss of their father, Robert Goldin

Robyn Lewis on the loss of her husband, Eric Lewis.

Ralph and Karin Lewis on the loss of Ralph's father, Eric Lewis.

Peta, Gary, Kenny and Ralph Lewis on the loss of their father, Eric Lewis

Bernard Isaacs on the loss of his sister

Darryl and Stephanie Levenberg, and Louelle Levenberg on the loss of their mother, Bessie Levenberg

Sharon Krikst and family on the loss of Sharon's mother, Myra Zion, in Israel

Jacob, Joshua and Leah Goldschmidt on the loss of their wife and mother, Tanya.

Mannie and Julie Mankowitz on the loss of their daughter, Tanya Goldschmidt.

Harriet and Larry Shapiro, and David Evvy Mankowitz on the loss of their sister, Tanya Goldschmidt.

Selwyn Silberman on the loss of his mother, Marilyn Simchowitz (nee Silberman) in Sydney, Australia.

Ron Lindsay on the loss of his wife, Linda.

Glenda and Ben Ephron Cooper on the loss Glenda's father, Abraham Ephron in South Africa.

Cheryl and Michael Gould on the loss of Cheryl's father, Abraham Ephron in South Africa.

Candy and Earl Engel on the loss of Candy's father, Abraham Ephron in South Africa.

Fay Ephron on the loss of her husband, Abraham Ephron in South Africa.

Libby Joffe on the loss of her sister Rene Sacks in South Africa.

It is brought to our attention from time to time that some announcements in this column have been inaccurate or omitted. We obviously regret any errors and/or omissions. In order to avoid this, we strongly recommend that announcements be sent to the SAJAC editorial team via fax at (905) 764-8405 or e-mail at sajacnews@sympatico.ca. We are fortunate to serve a growing Jewish Southern African community and we rely on you to keep our community announcements up-to-date.



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