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REPORTER  
2007

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## Editor's Message



It's Sunday morning in August and today I did what my parents did every Sunday morning in summer in Muizenberg, probably for 50 years or maybe a little longer. I went for a long walk on the beach, had a swim, then – true to being my father's daughter – took off my wet cozzie in the parking lot, wrapped myself in a towel, and headed home. I called my folks, now living in Highlands House, from my cell phone on the way home from the beach. My dad, 94 (his birthday is December 1), chuckled in his inimitable heh-heh-heh way and said he was proud of me, but to be careful. "You mean that the towel doesn't fall?" I asked him. "Yes," he confirmed.

Last summer, a war raged in Israel. Summer one year later, and a war continues to rage in Iraq, though for most of us, whose kids typically do not leave school and join the US defense forces, this does not impact our day-to-day lives. But it really does impact us. The political fall-out, the election year looming, the divisive and nasty political wranglings that will escalate and foment as we move towards 2008 all impact us in some way or another. As immigrants, we watched this year as the immigration reform debate took a nose-dive and as the government agencies dealing with immigration caused a massive fiasco in the month of July – anyone in the green card process this year knows exactly what I mean... And as for gun control, we witnessed a terrible tragedy at Virginia Tech and many wondered, again, whether our politicians are awake. And, back in SA, the building continues furiously as airports are amped-up, stadiums are erected, slums are gentrified, plans are solidified, as 2010 looms. Crime dominated debate in Parliament earlier in the year when I visited. And, of course, Cape Talk, continues to be a source of interesting discussion, including words of some very staunch Islamists whose impassioned calls into the radio station often make Jews in Cape Town baulk.

The beach and politics aside, there's still sports, arts, culture, food, travel, religion - all kinds of things to discuss. And whatever happened to those adorable babies featured in the SAJAC's 1989 magazine? Guess what? You'll find all of this and more as you start reading the special collector's edition of the Reporter commemorating SAJAC's 20 years in San Diego.

Among us, as I have said before and as we all know by now, are some astoundingly talented people - some talented in more than one field. Take Suzanne Marcus, a successful psychologist and also an artist. She painted the stunning artwork for this year's cover as well as the picture of the Muizenberg bathing boxes. And talking of Muizies, a major

exhibition is being mounted and your input is required – as you will read inside these pages.

You'll meet some South Africans who are not from San Diego but whose noteworthy achievements will interest you anyway, and some who are from here, but whose talents may not have been known to you until now. And then there are many people who have been honored and recognized in their fields - sports, design and retail, community service - and whom we will also have the opportunity of honoring in this magazine.

Once again, this Reporter comes to you with warm wishes for a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness in your lives and in the lives of your loved ones.

It has been my pleasure to edit this magazine over the past few years but now it is time for fresh ideas and new visions as SAJAC heads into its next decade so I wish you Shalom and Shanah Tovah.

**Marlene Stanger**

*Thank You*

**SAJAC wishes to thank Lawrence Sher and Anthony Tolentino of Alphagraphics for the hard work and support they have provided in ensuring that this magazine was produced and printed in time for Rosh Hashanah. We appreciate their efforts.**

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## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By **Diane Marks Schachat and Glenda Sacks Jaffe**  
**SAJAC Co-Presidents**

Braais, home-made cakes, South African connections, links to "home", playing "when we" and Jewish Geography were just some of the nostalgic reasons former South Africans enjoyed the benefits of SAJAC 20 years ago. When a newcomer arrived, the word spread quickly; someone delivered a cake; another escorted them to the grocery store or the hairdresser. A community Braai was the highlight of the year, a place where you could eat boerewors and where your favorite South Africanese was understood by all. Reminiscing about SA sweets was the order of the day, paper goods were still *infra dig*, and "a good time was had by all."

Twenty years later, South African Americans have evolved, integrated and assimilated into the community and are less dependent on SAJAC's welcome and nurturing. Not only are we surviving in San Diego; we are thriving, and are at the forefront of leadership in the Jewish community.

Starting two decades ago with SAJAC founder and first President, Leah Levin, former South Africans have made a positive impact on this city. Roles such as Board Presidents, Founders of organizations, educators, doctors and community workers are abundantly occupied by our landmen. Organizations such as the Jewish Senior Center would not have existed without the vision of our own Ronnie Diamond. Chai South Africa, supporting homes for the aged and handicapped, was established and is administered to this day by Claire Ellman, Charles Jaffe, Felicia and David Mandelbaum. Shalom Baby was the brainchild of Jean Gaylis, bringing a whole new Jewish world to parents and their newborns. Jane Scher saw the need to assist businesses in Israel, hard-hit by the lack of tourism, and implemented the website [www.shopinIsrael.com](http://www.shopinIsrael.com), now used universally and appreciated by Israeli business owners.

Rhoda Gaylis has brought song and *vreiligheid* to the community with San Diego Jewish Men's Choir, a wonderful asset to the Jewish community. Many other former South Africans, too numerous to mention, have also made significant impressions on the community.

Now, in 2007, if South African Americans are so well established and independent, does SAJAC still have a role? Some of the answers may lie in the work still performed by SAJAC members. Aside from the various leadership roles mentioned above, many families in crises have benefited from much-needed lifelines in the form of *gimilut chesed*, financial and other assistance. During times of illness or loss, families have

received delicious home-made meals delivered to their doors. Newcomers are still warmly welcomed with a home visit and a beautiful basket packed with Shabbat goodies and a SAJAC Directory (including yellow pages and other community resources) with contact information for every member. Our state of the art website provides up-to-date information about members and events.



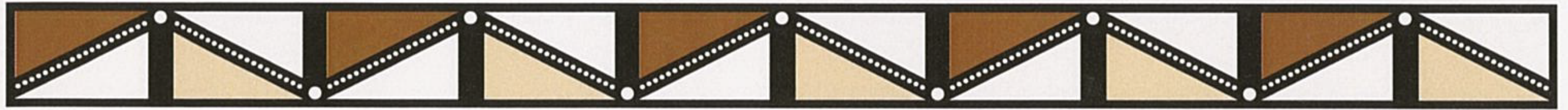
Singing out just a few who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, we offer a special thanks to those members and their teams who have played an ongoing role in working for SAJAC and giving to the community: Pam Nathan for serving as President for five years and actively serving SAJAC, Marlene Stanger for producing this magazine for four years, Denise Sneag and Merle Gaylis for expert accounting and book keeping, Tanya Freedman for organizing meals with her team of volunteers, Wendy Miller for welcome baskets, Celia Levy for sending out *mazel tov* and condolence cards, Moira Berman for her dedication and hard work in many areas, and Steve Shulman for designing and implementing our website. We thank Les Kacev who ran our *Gemilut Chesed* for 20 years and has now passed the baton to Suzanne and Brian Marcus.

Last but not least, we thank our wonderful Board of Trustees for volunteering their time and expertise to help SAJAC and the community. We look forward to handing over the reigns to the next Co-Presidents. It is a rewarding and fulfilling experience knowing that you are giving back to the community, making friends and working with wonderful people.

As in the past, SAJAC's role depends on its members. It is up to each of us to decide how we'd like to advance into the next decade (or two). What would you like to see? Is SAJAC important for the next generation to know its roots? If so, what can you do for your South African Jewish American Community? It's up to you.

***May Chayil il Chayil***, from strength to strength!





## SAJAC EVENTS

### AGM

On January 16, 2007, the South African Jewish American Community (SAJAC) held its Annual General Meeting in the beautiful home of Jill and Norman Smith in La Jolla. **Co-Presidents Diane Marks Schachat and Glenda Sacks Jaffe** presented their report to over seventy attendees. As an entirely volunteer-driven organization, members of the Board and volunteers were thanked for all their time and efforts.

Diane Marks Schachat recognized Pam Nathan, Immediate past president, for five years of consistent and dedicated service, Les Kacev for 20 years of Gemilut Chesed fund raising, Steve Shulman of High Clarity for his expert pro bono web design and production, Moira Berman, secretary for maintaining accurate records and minutes, Marlene Stanger for editing the Reporter, SAJAC's annual publication, and Tanya Freedman for coordinating meals for people in crisis.

Glenda Sacks Jaffe presented the year in review, specifically addressing the question, "What does SAJAC do?" She listed ongoing support services, such as helping people in need and welcoming newcomers, community resources such as a members' directory, email campaigns, website and the Reporter publication.

She described events that took place in 2006, such as a Newcomers English Tea held in the magnificent home and grounds of Traci and John Smaller, a cooking demonstration by Sharon Glass (renowned South African chef), a spiritual and emotional Jewish experience by Miriam Chaya and the annual SAJAC Golf tournament.

The announcement of the 2007 Board of Trustees included **Diane Marks Schachat and Glenda Sacks Jaffe (Co-Presidents), Pamela Nathan (Immediate Past President), Moira Berman (Secretary) and Tanya Freedman (Vice President). Board members included Andi Neugarten, Michelle Abramowitz, Linda Bernstein, Sheldon Cohen, Michelle Diamond, Merle Gaylis, Tamara Klein, Brian Marcus, Suzanne Marcus, Rochelle Marcus Kahn, Wendy Miller, Jeanine Patz, Andrea Sher, Steve Shulman, Carol Slavin, Reuben Spilkin, Marlene Stanger and Sharleen Wollach.**

The highlight of the evening included a panel of teens and young adults, of South African heritage, who had visited Israel on special programs and who described their emotional and passionate experiences there. **The panel included Mark Silberstein (Facilitator), Jenna Essakow (USY), Ryan Marks (Junior year abroad and experience in the Israel Supreme Court), Justine Goldberg (March of the Living), Adam Wollach (Birthright) and Liad Braude (Scott Stone).**

*Justine Goldberg (March of the Living) - See page 8*



The South African Jewish American Community (SAJAC) Annual General Meeting included a discussion panel on trips to Israel. (Back row l-r): Justine Goldberg, Jenna Essakow, Adam Wollach, Ryan Marks, Mark Silberstein

### SHARON GLASS COOKING DEMO

On October 19, 2006 two fabulous cooking demonstrations were held featuring Sharon Glass from South Africa. She taught both sold out crowds how to prepare simple recipes with easy ingredients that tasted delicious and looked superb. Sharon gives cooking lessons in Johannesburg, has written numerous cook books and travels the world giving her signature demo's.

These events were graciously hosted by Beryl Frank in her beautiful La Jolla home. Andi Neugarten expertly chaired, assisted by Carol Slavin and other SAJAC members.

Sharon delighted the audience with tales about her demos far and wide. Afterwards, guests had the opportunity to sample all the tempting treats, for which recipes were provided, and the opportunity to purchase her fabulous books.

### SAJAC CO-SPONSORS VISIT BY Dr. MARK MATHABANE

On March 1, 2007, SAJAC was proud to join with an organization called WeCare to present Dr. Mark Mathabane, who presented at Cathedral High School in Carmel Valley. Dr. Mathabane, who was born into poverty in South Africa, spent 18 years in Alexandra, Johannesburg. A love of learning, books and his dreams of tennis stardom carried him from despair, hate and anger to the possibility of hope. Dr. Mathabane is the author of Kaffir Boy and other novels.





### SAJAC HOSTS HANK ROSEN



Hosts Carol and Roy Slavin with Hank Rosen

On Sunday, May 27, 2007, at the home of Carol and Roy Slavin, 84-year-old former Merchant Marine Academy cadet, Hank Rosen, relived some of the horrors he experienced when, for 30 days and 30 nights in the spring of 1943, he and his comrades drifted in the Indian Ocean off the Island of Madagascar, after their ship had been torpedoed by an Italian submarine.



Linda Busschau and Moira Berman with Hank Rosen

His, and the few others who had survived their harrowing ordeal, were eventually rescued by a Greek freighter and taken to Durban where, weighing 97 pounds, Hank was admitted to Hospital.

When the Jewish Community in Durban heard about Hank, they went out of their way to help him and took him into their hearts and their homes.

For those of us who were not able to attend this incredible evening, it is still possible to learn about Hank and what happened to him. His story is told in his book *Gallant Ship, Brave Men*, self-published by Xlibris Corp.



Guests listen intently as Hank Rosen tells his story

### SHALOM BABY TURNS FIVE

Shalom Baby has become synonymous with Jewish playgroups, complimentary Judaica gift baskets welcoming little ones, and meaningful friendships for Jewish families in the San Diego area.

Since its inception in 2002, Shalom Baby has grown to a nationally-recognized model for other communities. Thanks to tremendous support from the Lawrence Family JCC, United Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Foundation and many other philanthropic individuals and foundations, Shalom Baby has become a household name – not only in San Diego, but across the country. San Diego's Shalom Baby is the organization other communities turn to when they, too, want to reach out to young Jewish families.

For those unfamiliar with Shalom Baby, the program was created to welcome Jewish and intermarried families to the Jewish community and to pave the way for future involvement. Two of SAJAC's own "Landswomen" have been instrumental in the establishment of this immensely successful and popular program. Its inaugural establishment in San Diego was the brainchild of Jean Gaylis, a former early childhood educator and community volunteer. Its immense success and superb programming is the responsibility of Judy Nemzer, Coordinator of Shalom Baby. And as the saying goes... "the rest is history"... What has evolved over the past 5 years is now dozens of playgroups, infant massage classes, guest speakers, the celebration of Shabbat and Jewish holidays, Baby Book Club and much, much more.

Alma Hadash, Director of the JCC's Dept. of Early Childhood, proudly announced Shalom Baby's recent association with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. "Offering an innovative and new specialty to Shalom Baby, is 'P.J. Library,' a program generously and graciously funded by San Diego's Viterbi Family Foundation," stated Hadash. She went on to explain that children ages 6 months-6 years who sign up for P.J. Library





will receive a book or CD every month featuring a Jewish theme for an entire year, free of charge. All materials have been pre-selected by early childhood experts. She added that this incredible program came to fruition through the vision and help of Charlene Seidel, of the Jewish Community Foundation.

Most recently, SAJAC and Shalom Baby enjoyed Family Day Celebration which took place in the Torrey Hills neighborhood. Families participated in face painting, sports with ActivKidz, pony rides, a petting zoo, arts, crafts and cookie decorating. Thanks to Danielle Friedman for organizing a great group of children to help with the activities.

In 2006, Shalom Baby, in partnership with the JCC and with Congregation Kehillat Avahat Yisrael, set up Jewish Childbirth classes at the JCC. Rav Menashe East teaches the religious aspects and Vivianne Jakobs, a registered nurse (mazaltov to her and her husband, Ron, on the birth of Gideon Samuel and Daniel Enrique, their precious twin baby boys), teaches the childbirth classes including labor coaching.

Shalom Baby is also grateful to the core group of dedicated volunteers, especially Laura Abelkop, Brenda Abelkop, Michele Black, Jean Gaylis and Yael Edelstein for their continued support and help in volunteering their time to deliver Shalom Baby baskets. Thank you to Sharon Friedlander for many hours of time to help assemble the baskets. The success of the program is largely due to volunteers such as these committed and dedicated volunteers.

For more information about SHALOM BABY, please contact Judy Nemzer, Shalom Baby Coordinator at 858-362-1352 or shalombaby@lfjcc.com.

## TANYA FREEDMAN'S "Mitzvah Meals"

Prepared and delivered with love for families in the community who have experienced illness or loss.

The following have helped by delivering meals during this past year:

Jill Epstein; Irene Gavson; Merle Gaylis; Shoshana Gross; Gill Hoffman; Janith Jaffe; Carol Kaplan; Jody Levinson; Suki Lurie; Dani Marcus; Wendy Miller; Tammy Moch; Andi Neugarten; Jeanine Patz; Sheryl Rabinowitz; Debbie Rappoport; Rachelle Rosin; Nicky Saloner; Lisa Shepherd; Robyn Shifren; and Gila Silver.

SAJAC thanks you all.

## Timbrels and Torahs

by Pamela Nathan



Helene Bortz and Rene Frank

On Sunday, Oct 29th, 2006, SAJAC sponsored a women's community event 'Timbrels and Torahs' at the beautiful home of Brenda and Jeff Sacks. We enjoyed a very relaxing and meaningful few hours participating in a truly 'one of a kind' event, looking out on the beautiful La Jolla seascape.

After indulging in a scrumptious buffet lunch, we watched the inspiring documentary film, 'Timbrels & Torahs', produced and directed by Academy Award-nominated, Judy Montell, and Miriam Chaya, an amazing lady and mentor - talented writer, actor, director, producer, educator and filmmaker. The film had been very well received at the San Diego Film Festival in 1994. It was this film that had inspired me to have my very own Simchat Chochmah when I turned 60, last June.

Miriam Chaya flew in from Berkeley. It was wonderful to hear the stories about the three women in the film. They had entered into new stages of life and had chosen to re-define themselves with their personal Simchat Chochmah ceremonies.

Miriam Chaya performed a solo piece about her spiritual journey. This was followed by a workshop, specifically designed for women, paying attention to generational issues, life transitions, and aging with dignity. All who were present thoroughly enjoyed exploring their personal spiritual journeys and sharing the wisdom they have gained from living with others.

Miriam Chaya encourages all women to consider having such a celebration when they turn 60 or at a time when they feel is a 'transition' for them. If you'd like to get a copy of the DVD or for more information, please contact Miriam at mirchaya@aol.com.



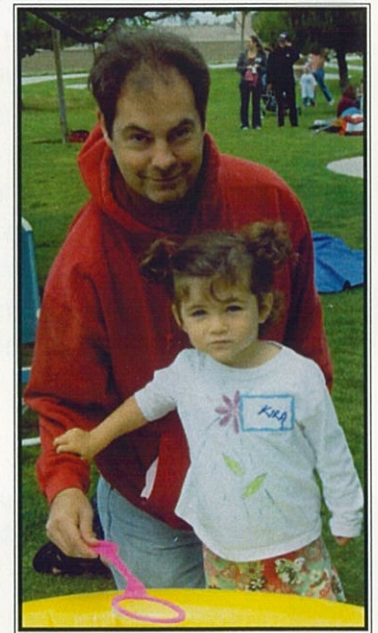
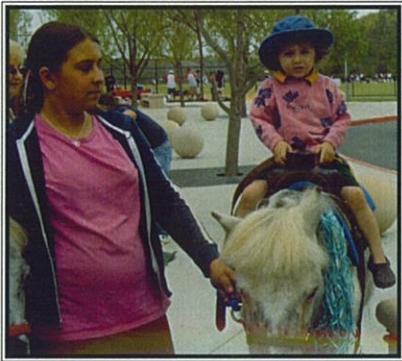


## FAMILY DAY

On Sunday, May 20, 2007, SAJAC and Shalom Baby co-hosted another wonderful family day at the Torrey Hills Neighborhood Park.

Multigenerational families – both the blood relatives and our close and loving friends who have become like families to us - kleibed naches watching the little ones play with bubbles, have their faces painted, pet the animals and ride ponies.

There was food, music and tremendous fun all round. This annual event is definitely one of the highlights of the SAJAC calendar and really symbolizes the new chapter in this organization's life. Raba for 20 years of service to our community.

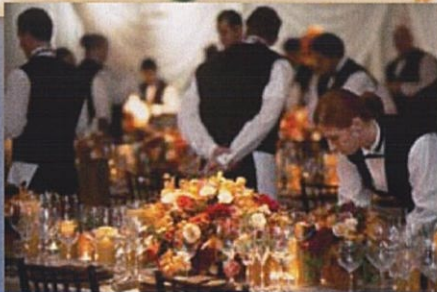






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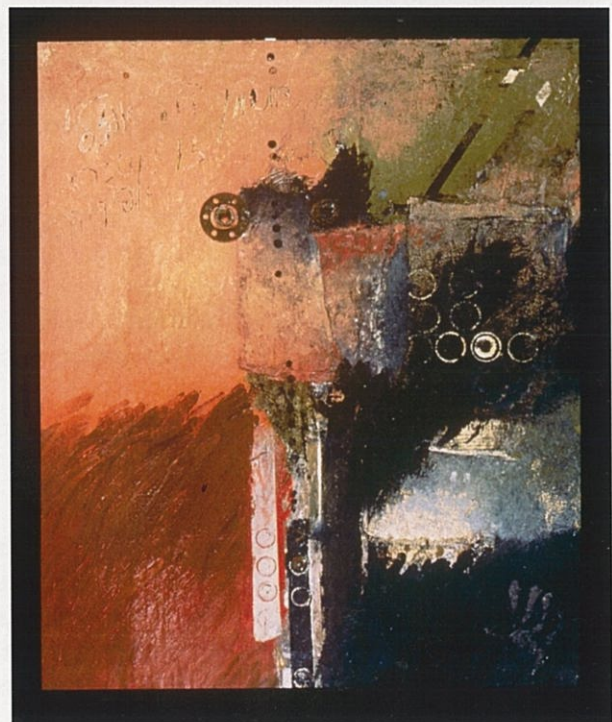


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## A TRUE STORY

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston, and walked timidly without an appointment into the Harvard University President's outer office.

"We want to see the president," the man said softly.

"He'll be busy all day," the secretary snapped.

"We'll wait," the lady replied.

For hours the secretary ignored them, hoping they would go away. The secretary grew frustrated and finally went into the president's office. "Maybe if you see them for a few minutes, they'll leave," she said to him.

He sighed in exasperation and nodded. He detested country hicks cluttering up his outer office. The president, stern faced, strutted toward the couple. The lady said: "We had a son who attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. My husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him on campus."

The president wasn't touched. "Madam," he said, gruffly, "we can't put up a statue for every person who attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery."

"Oh, no," the lady explained. "We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard."

The president glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, "A building! Do you have any idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical buildings at Harvard." The lady was silent. The president was pleased. Maybe he could get rid of them. The lady turned to her husband and said quietly, "Is that all it costs to start a university? Why don't we just start our own?" Her husband nodded.

The president's face wilted in bewilderment. Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford got up and walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California, where they established the university that bears their name, Stanford University, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.



## March of The Living

**By: Justine Goldberg**

I recently attended the March of the Living trip where I spent an intense week in Poland studying the Holocaust through the eyes of many survivors, while participating in harrowing tours of numerous concentration camps and cemeteries, followed by a second week celebrating life in Israel. We came together as Jews on Yom Ha'Zikaron in Poland, to commemorate the loss of the soldiers who fought for a Jewish state and

then celebrated the birth of our country on Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel.

One of the main events on this trip was a march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, which was an amazing surreal feeling because 10,000 Jews of all different ages from around the world united to re-live the memories of the Holocaust. It was an incredible experience marching with all different ethnicities and demonstrating our strength to continue to live and never ever let a tragedy like this happen again. We were honored to have with us a survivor who accompanied us and facilitated our knowledge with his stories from his experiences. This first hand experience really got to us as we could almost visualize what he went through.

This is an excerpt from my journal:

Walking through the dull, drab country where the Jews had been murdered to the dazzling, heart of the Jewish people strengthened my Jewish identity.

That transition from Poland to Israel translated into an intense feeling of love and devotion to my fellow Jewish people. We marched from Auschwitz to Birkenau, along with ten thousand other Jews from around the world brought a sense of unity and the idea that we, as Jews are powerful people and will NEVER EVER let a devastating tragedy like the Holocaust happen again. Our final march in Israel, symbolized the idea that we will stand strong and will ensure that we will fight to keep our people and the state of Israel alive.

The change from Yom Ha'Zikaron to Yom Ha'Atzmaut was another experience where I was able to commemorate the loss of the soldiers who fought for the Jewish land and then celebrate the birth of our country. I developed a feeling of profound pride for my Jewish community. As I celebrated the birth of our homeland, I realized how vital it is to maintain one's Jewish identity and to support those have fought for the Jewish state through blood, sweat and tears. While in the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem, which was dark and desolate filled with burning candles in tribute of the 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust. I felt chills run down my back as I listened to the children's names being read out loud while walking through the memorial. A wave of depression set in as I realized how many children were killed for simply being Jewish. This transition from dark to light as I walked outside enabled me to realize that there is light and hope for us to not only remember those who perished but ensure that this does not EVER happen again.

The various transitions that I experienced while on the March of the Living have changed my life. The suffering that the Jews endured through the Holocaust, struggling in the wars, and fighting to maintain the state of Israel has taught me that it is imperative to pass our knowledge and history onto our children and future generations. The "Hatikvah" serves as a symbol for to the Jews to continue to maintain hope and faith. It is our symbol of strength, unity, and promise. I pass my experiences on to you, to not only remember those who were persecuted for bearing there Jewish faith, but to instill a sense of pride because you, like those who were persecuted bear your Jewish faith.





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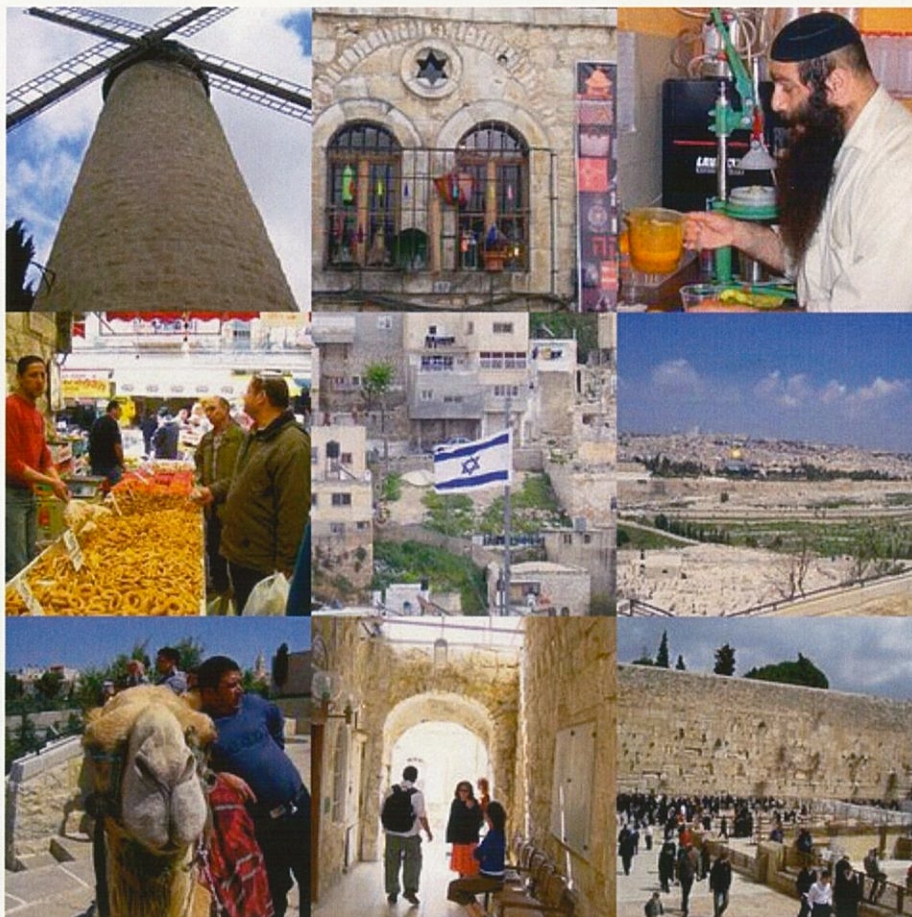
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## Jerusalem 2007-04-20

By Brian Marcus

So what am I doing in a Jerusalem coffee shop on an idyllic Friday afternoon rather than my regular Peets La Jolla Village?

Our two younger daughters spent their 2007 spring semester abroad following a "road less traveled" by enrolling in the girls Yeshiva where they studied on a previous Jewish Awareness Movement ("JAM") trip to Israel. The classes are all in English, taught by outstanding rabbis and scholars, and require no previous knowledge. So with a house already rented in Jerusalem for the six months, we found it an ideal opportunity to spend our Pesach in Israel.

The sidewalk café is typical of any European city but we are a long way from Europe! The buzz of Sabbath eve here is palpable. The crowd is beginning to thin out as the day goes on but an hour or two ago the entire strip of shops here was overflowing with Israelis and Jews of all types, colors and affiliations.

My waitress is of Russian heritage. She is at university in Jerusalem and feels no longing for her homeland. The huge number of Russian immigrants have generally been well absorbed after some tough years in the 1990's when job growth could not keep up with the influx. The other significantly visible immigrant group is the Ethiopian Jews. We see them as security guards at the restaurants and cafes, wearing their knitted kippot and always smiling. Our Israeli guide at Ein Gedi was delighted to see a young Ethiopian family with kids in tow taking the time out to enjoy the natural beauty of Israel. To him this was a good sign of their integration into Israeli society.

Next to the coffee shop is the local bakery. Here too, the lines for challot and Shabbat desserts fill the sidewalk. Earlier today I went shopping for our Shabbos challot and provisions in the market place or shuk . . . people crowding the alleys, vendors yelling out prices as Shabbos approaches, the aroma of exotic spices, stalls of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables piled





high all hoping to make it to someone's Shabbos dinner table. As much as the Kotel is the center of the spiritual Jerusalem, the shuk is the center of the physical Jerusalem.

The gentleman sitting next to me is also a visitor to Jerusalem: a non-Jew visiting from Adelaide, Australia. His wife gave him the trip as a 50th birthday present to satisfy his lifelong desire to visit. He shared my sentiment when I described this city as being the center of the Earth. Hearing so many languages in the streets and seeing so many forms of clothing: from the shtreimel-hatted Chassidic to the tie-dye clad hippie Jew, from black-cloaked Armenian Christian clergy to the shrouded Muslim women, it is no wonder that the world religions all covet this place. Although he had been here only two days, he was quite overwhelmed and thrilled at the majesty of Jerusalem.

I realized for the first time how similar this city is to San Diego when I started noticing the flowers and vegetation. Jerusalem is situated on the same latitude as San Diego and also at the edge of a desert. I have extended my stay to experience some of the learning opportunities in Jerusalem. We all owe it to ourselves to continue to study. The amount of Jewish learning in this city is quite overwhelming. In fact, they say that there has never in the history of the Jews been a time when so many people are devoted to the study of Torah. While this seems hard to imagine, it all becomes real when one wanders the streets of the religious neighborhoods in Jerusalem. I took an afternoon off my introductory Jewish studies classes at Ohr Sameach yeshiva and Machon Pardes to immerse myself in the religious neighborhoods. I found my way to the Jerusalem Mir Yeshiva, originally established in Mir, Poland, the hometown of my father and his family. Here were over 5000 bochorim from all over the world, mostly in their 20's, filling the study halls to overflow capacity, studying with enthusiasm and gusto. At the height of the Mir yeshiva in Europe, in the 1920's and 30's, when it was also attracting students from around the globe, it had at most 500 students!

Shabbos is coming soon and I have to finish this off now. I must decide with my girls where we should daven tonight. There are so many choices! Almost every second city block has a shul! Last week went to a Carlebach minyan, held in a bomb shelter in Nachlaot. It was brimming with ruach and song, packed to the hilt with every type of Jew imaginable (and some types you could not imagine. . . .) Tonight we are considering an egalitarian Orthodox minyan on Emek Refaim.. Shira Chadasha, which is also known for its singing and ruach. I will let you know how it goes!

Shabbat Shalom and BaShana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim

## MY FAMILY TREE

By Geoff Schwartz

Sometime in the 1960's, Jerry, my cousin from Massachusetts USA, visited us in Cape Town. Before we attended a gathering to meet all the local family, I drew a quick family tree to make it easier for him to identify the relationship as he was introduced to each person.

That action started my research into my father's family data. It is now about 40 years since I started with a manual chart (which I still have), followed by the wonderful world of computers. This allowed me to publish a 79-page booklet in 2002, containing some 400 names.

I commenced with my paternal grandparents, both interred at Woltemade, Gate 12, Maitland, and their 10 children. My father was the youngest and the oldest was the only one who settled in the U.S. I am one of the few that met and knew all nine aunts and uncles, as well as all my cousins. It got more difficult to meet the third and following generations.

I have found that my inquiries get two responses: one is the very helpful response and the other shows no interest at all and "Why should I divulge my age?" Perseverance is very useful.

My current endeavor is to input old family photographs for the next printing. A family tree has to be continually updated so email is important.

I would be happy to help anyone working on their family tree so please feel free to contact me at [maureens@san.rr.com](mailto:maureens@san.rr.com)





## YASHER KOACH and MAZALTOV

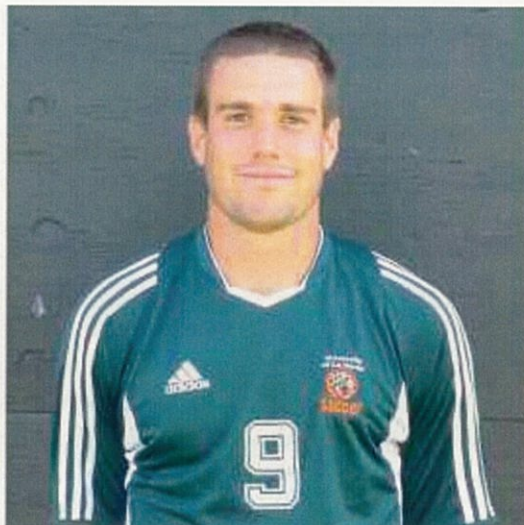
Gilad Hoffman, a student at La Verne University, was selected to the 2006 Men's Soccer All-America First Team for Divisions II and III by the Jewish Sports Review. Hoffman earned the First Team honor for the second year in a row after first being named to the 2005 squad. The All-America Teams are voted on by members of the Jewish Sports Review. Hoffman tallied 17 points for the Leopards in 2006.

Ronnie Diamond was an honoree at the Jewish Family Service's Heart and Soul spring gala in March this year. Ronnie is founder of the University City Seniors Center, which has been going strong for about 7 years. He stated in an interview in the La Jolla press that the most important part of receiving recognition for his project was that it increased the community's awareness of the importance of caring for elders. "They're our parents and it's nice that we can look after them and give them interesting activities and entertainment."

Colin and Jane Scher were saluted by The Marla Bennett Memorial Friends Society of Magen David Adom for "their leadership, financial support to innumerable charitable organizations and their generosity of spirit."

Rahleen and Laurence Bloch, owners of Leatherock, received Best Accessories Company award from the Fashion Institute of San Diego a while ago but the Reporter has not had the opportunity to acknowledge this until now. Their beautiful handbags and belts have graced the pages of some of the nation's top magazines including In Style, Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Marie Claire. Those spotted wearing Leatherock belts include Vanna White, Cher, Beyoncé, and the Olsen sisters. They were generous sponsors of products at the Heart and Soul spring gala where Ronnie Diamond was honored, so the circle of giving just grows. . . .

Heather Sarkin has been invited to join the Board of Governors at the Tel Aviv University because of her outstanding contributions. See separate article by her justifiably proud husband, Norman.



Gilad Hoffman



Rahleen and Laurence Bloch



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## HEATHER SARKIN ELECTED TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

By Norman Sarkin



Heather Sarkin (back row, second from right) with recipients of the scholarship she created at Tel Aviv University.

Due to her commitment to and work at the Tel Aviv University, Heather Sarkin has been invited to join the university's Board of Governors. The story started over 25 years ago when she received her certificate as a sign language interpreter after which she began selling TDD machines for and to the deaf community in Los Angeles and San Diego. This was well before the desk top and lap top computers. The profits were donated to charity.

About 20 years ago Heather decided to set up a scholarship program for the deaf and hearing impaired at Tel Aviv University. She has been funding the scholarship program for the past 20 years and this year she had 13 recipients (2 of whom are Israeli Arabs).

The scholarship, which is named after Heather's parents, is such a great success that she created another scholarship for disabled students in the name of her grandchildren.

Scholarship funds go directly to the Dean of Students who allocates them to our marvelous administrator and her committee, who, in turn, distributes them to those students who have been selected based on their achievements. The program has been a major success.

One of the scholarship recipients is a young man, Gilad, in his 4th year of medical school. He is the first deaf student at Tel Aviv University to reach such a status. He not only lip reads, but also reads and writes in English, Russian and Hebrew. On a recent trip to Israel, Gilad - who recently had a cochlear implant - made an extraordinary remark to me. He said "it was the first time I heard the dog walking across the floor, and the birds singing outside, sounds I will never forget."

Heather is extremely proud of the work her committee does at Tel Aviv University and hopes to continue for years to come.



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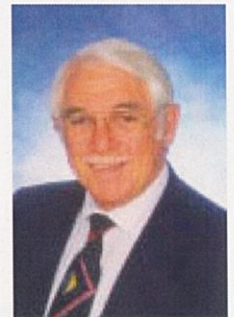
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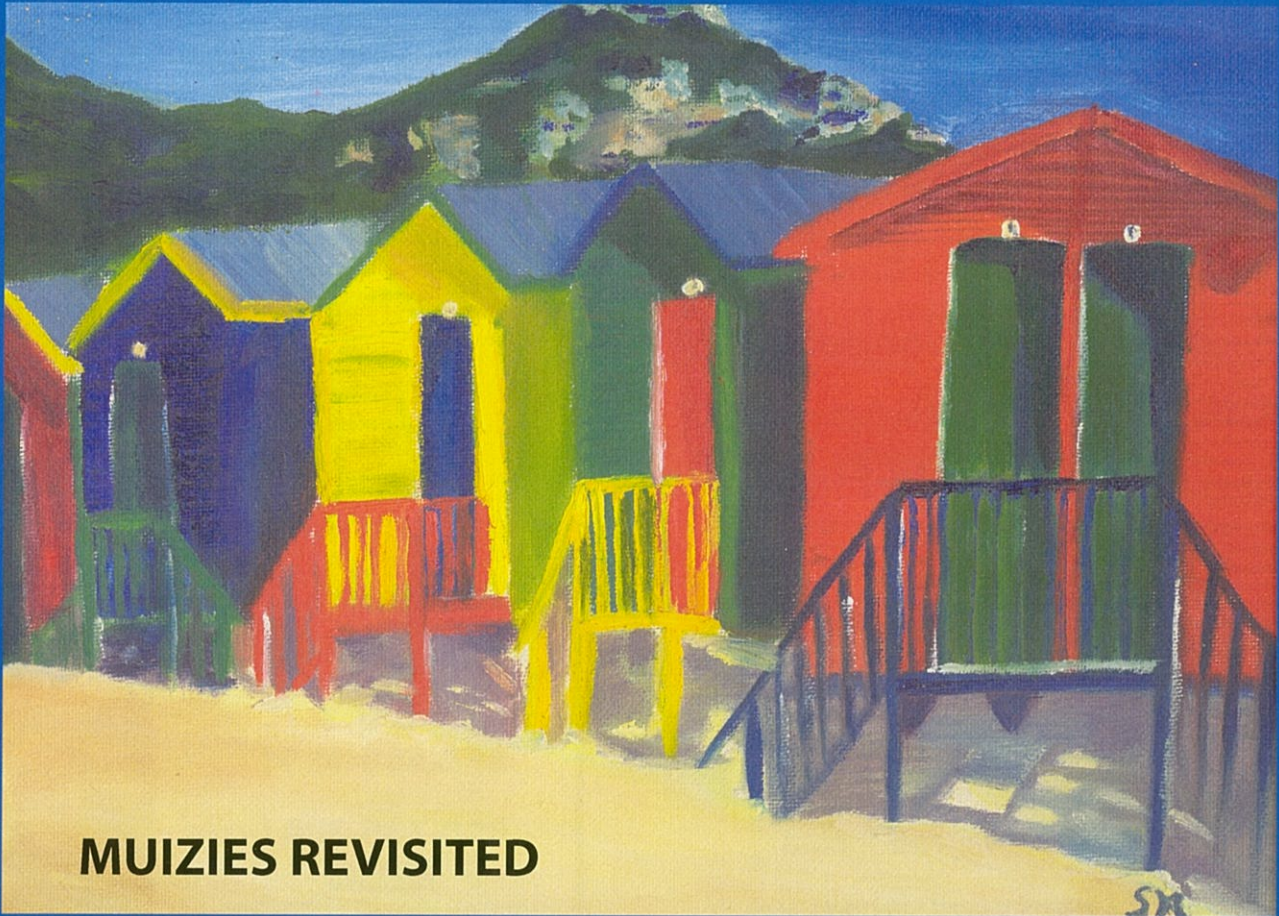
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## MUIZIES REVISITED

Here is your opportunity to share your memories of Muizenberg by participating in an exhibition on "Jewish Muizenberg: past and present." A small committee of professional researchers and ex-Muizenbergers is working on acquiring information and visual items, such as photographs, documents and memorabilia, for this major exhibition.

All are invited to submit details of your memories of MUIZENBERG for this exhibition by the end of 2007. SAJAC will be sending out a questionnaire that you will all receive. If you have something to share, please do so. Don't have regrets afterwards that you should have participated but didn't. The exhibition will be mounted at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre (RCHCC) in Johannesburg, with an accompanying program of lectures and films. The exhibition is intended to travel to other major center in South Africa.

A preliminary questionnaire will be sent to you via email and those wishing to participate in this historical event should complete and submit this asap. You will then be contacted to be interviewed or to arrange to loan your memorabilia, photos, etc.

The Research Team is headed by Prof. Jocelyn Hellig and the steering committee consists of Joy Kropman, Jocelyn Hellig, Hazel Cohen and Yvonne Jawitz. Email address: [memoriesofmuiz@gmail.com](mailto:memoriesofmuiz@gmail.com)  
Tel: 011 728 8378; Fax: 018 468 5895



## A TASTE OF ZANZIBAR

By Marlene Stanger

Susan Edelstein is Executive Chef and General Manager of Zanzibar in Pacific Beach.

**MZS:** Where did you get your culinary arts training and what are the major influences in your content and style of cooking?

**SE:** I trained at Leith's School of Food & Wine in London. Prue Leith is an ex-South African who was knighted, or whatever the equivalent is for women, for her contribution to British food. It was a 7-month course styled on the Cordon Bleu but more contemporary. I think her brilliance was to cut out fussiness and irrelevant garnish. Food had to speak for itself. It was the early eighties and the food revolution was well under way. It was just post nouvelle cuisine, largely influenced by the artistry of Japanese cuisine - less being more. And then came recognition of the Mediterranean, healthful-life-style diet. All these things influenced my cooking style. The collision of many culinary cultures, traveling in Europe and living in London which is also a city of immigrants: spicy Indian food on every corner, tandoori paste and creme fraiche available at the local cafe. Young hip chefs re-inventing the wheel. . . .

Also food in my parents' home was a major influence. Daily food was always fresh and tasty, salad was a norm, simplicity and sophistication was my Mom's cooking style.

**MZS:** Prior to joining Zanzibar, what were some of the highlights of your career as a chef?

**SE:** Prior to Zanzibar, my American cooking experience included cooking for the Hollywood Who's Who. including our Governor, John Travolta & Danny Devito. And catering Emmy awards, the Oscars, Premiers and the like. I got great exposure to the world of celebs, excess, beautiful homes, and the statues of self homage. I worked in Hong Kong as a "locum" for a chef for a 6-week stint. I experienced the pleasure of culinary wonder-

ings and explorations between 3 pm and 6 pm everyday when I hit the food markets, where everything is fresh - but butchered in front of you. My visual landscape included snake markets; squatting women in the streets cleaning seafood in plastic buckets filled by water hoses, throwing the waste water back in to the street; old women rolling dumplings all day. . . a meditation. The restaurants were massive with tables of 10 or more. I was the oddity arriving on my own to eat.

I also had my own restaurant, Frog, in Johannesburg, which was rated among the top three in the country and was successful beyond my reckoning. This led to great personal growth and the ability to make a

unique contribution to the culinary world in South Africa, introducing ingredients never previously used there: products like sun-dried tomatoes, the now ubiquitous balsamic vinegar and arugula were introduced by Frog, a magic little world on Jan Smuts Ave. Boutique wineries sought us out to promote their rare wines. Frog was a restaurant where people could finally get great food in a funky and informal environment. Thabo, Cyril, Anneline, Barbara and Richard Branson were regular guests.



Executive Chef, Susan Edelstein

**MZS:** What are your goals and aspirations with regards to your imprint on the culinary landscape of this city?

**SE:** I refer to food at Zanzibar as Daily Food. My contribution, I believe, is bringing well-prepared, sophisticated but simple fresh contemporary food that is 'alive' at affordable prices and my objective is that this food makes you feel good, healthful and offers a sensual and pleasurable experience.

**MZS:** Where in the world have you had your most memorable meal?

**SE:** My most memorable meals were on the coast in Portugal. A long walk over dunes to remote beach spots - fresh fish doused in lemon garlic parsley butter grilled with herbs on a makeshift fire grill, salad of greens and tomatoes and Portuguese bread to mop up the sauce, the sun shining, colors dazzling, happiness. . . I couldn't get enough.





continued from Page 19

MZS: Can you share with us one recipe that is easy to make and absolutely incredibly delicious to eat?

SE: When I make this at Zanzibar, the staff all love it and get little taster bowls.

**Penne Pomodoro**

- 1 lb whole wheat penne
- 1 3/4 lb diced fresh tomato
- 2 oz pine nuts
- 1/2 C olive oil
- 1 heaped tsp chopped garlic
- 3 - 4 T finely sliced basil
- 1/2 lb crumbled feta ( not too small)
- 2/3 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

Bring large pot salted water to boil. Cook pasta till al dente, drain and run with cold water, drain. Place into a large bowl. In a large saucepan, over medium heat, add oil, garlic and pine nuts. Cook stirring till pine nuts and garlic begin to color golden. Immediately add tomatoes and basil and cook 2 minutes till tomatoes are just heated through. Add to bowl of pasta and mix thoroughly. Add salt, freshly ground black pepper and feta. Don't over-mix at this point. Serve at room temp. Variation: I sometimes add a large handful of fresh spinach or arugula leaves, or use freshly grated parmesan instead of feta.

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## SEEING THROUGH BLIND EYES

By Norman Sarkin

My granddaughter, Lee, (13) organized for me, my wife Heather, daughter, Ingrid and grandson, Ben (10) to go to the museum - "Dialogue in the Dark" - in Holon near Tel Aviv.

This is a most remarkable experience of "seeing" the world through blind eyes. This museum is one in about 17 countries that experiences the "world of the blind."

It teaches one to use all our senses and not just to accept them. Touch, smell and hearing come into play all the time. We had a guide called Meier, aged 36, who has been blind from birth. You are given a cane and have to, with his help and guidance, live through the characteristics of a world without pictures.

We walked through the city where sounds are helpful at the traffic lights (beep, beep, etc); the cane to warn us where the sidewalk ended; cars honked, dogs barked and we stumbled on; we also visited a market where we had to feel the fruit and could distinguish between potatoes, tomatoes, oranges, etc.

"Mind Your Step!" - and carefully we stepped into a small boat. We felt the rocking - the engine noise, the wind and the spray. We stepped out into a park and heard birds and the rustle of the wind in the trees, smelled the flowers too. Ben "hopped" on to a bicycle that was parked there - rang the bell and we all could feel the frame and wheels, etc.

All these experiences taught us that being blind means the exclusion from many everyday things we, the seeing world, take for granted, but that lack of vision is compensated by another kind of "seeing" whereby everyday life assumes a different quality, namely that of a non-visual nature.

We were asked to learn to see by not seeing - by touch, feel, smell, etc. That is how "Dialogue in the Dark" was born, an exhibition which tries to take as a starting point the ideals and non-visual perceptions of blind people, in order to discover the unseen within and around us.

Please go to this museum - it is well worth the time - you must call and reserve a time with an English-speaking guide. The number in Tel Aviv is 03-650-3010.

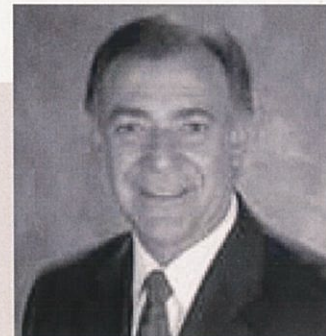
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### BIOGRAPHY

Leon Snaid was admitted as an attorney in South Africa in 1971. He lived in Israel for two years before returning to South Africa where he commenced practicing for his own account in 1973. He immigrated to San Diego in 1981, passed the California Bar Exam and has practiced Immigration Law since 1982.

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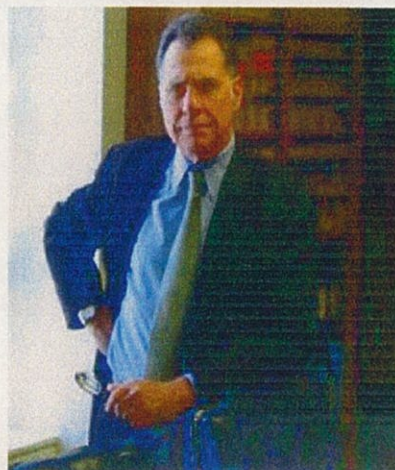
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# The Fabulous

**REPORTER:** You are both recognized nationally and internationally in the entertainment industry in the fields of film and television - Minky as a writer/producer/director and Sherril as an editor/post production supervisor - what were the influences in your lives that led you to choose the careers you did?

**Minky:** Even as a child I knew I'd work in the field of arts and culture. After training as an actress at the University of Cape Town in the '70s, I worked in the theatre for 10 years. In the '80s I went back to WITS and did an Honors degree in Drama and Film. This was a major stepping-stone on the path to a career in movies. But the real bridge was provided by my sister, Sherril, who was already working as a film editor. She put me in contact with a producer who was looking for a researcher. Research eventually led to screenwriting, which led to directing. I'll always be grateful to Sherril for the kick-start.

**Sherril:** Like my big sister Minky - I always had a passion for theatre. I'd watched Minky go through the heartache that goes with narrow possibilities for creative expression and decided I needed to make another choice if I wanted financial stability. I decided to get a degree in English and Psychology. Then I traveled through Europe and the U.S. and upon my return, took off for Namibia, wondering what I was going to do with my "more secure" education, and knowing that in my heart I still loved the art of performance/storytelling, and film. I had also been an avid photographer since childhood, always intrigued by visual mediums and aesthetics.

At one point I was waitressing, saving money for more travels. The restaurant was used as a film location and they had forgotten to cast a waitress - and there I was. . . .The film crew invited me to watch the dailies (rushes) and as I sat in the darkened screening room I had an epiphany. . . .I felt that I knew how to put all of these formless shots together. I felt I really had "a vision" for what I wanted to do.

**REPORTER:** Who or what was the inspiration for keeping you going in your chosen career paths?

**Minky:** Persisting in the arts in South Africa requires not so much inspiration as sheer cussedness. Money and resources are in short supply and culture is undervalued. I probably persist because I have a very stubborn streak and a need to do this work. At the same time, my partner Ivan Vladislavić is hugely supportive of my work, and our relationship has provided a solid basis from which to pursue a career.



*Minky Schlensinger and Ivan Vladislavić*

**Sherril:** Hmmmm. . . .dogged stubbornness at times, and just a love of what I do the rest of the time. There really hasn't been any one individual that's kept me on this path. . . .I don't have a whole lot of heroes in Hollywood, and never had the benefit of a mentor. So I guess my inspiration to keep going has mostly been the love of my craft. . . .I get to tell stories through performance all day long.

**REPORTER:** What has been your greatest success to date?

**Minky:** The highpoint when it comes to theatre was work-shopping the stage-play 'Sophiatown' with the Junction Avenue Theatre Company in 1985, then playing the role of Ruth Golden, 'the Jewish girl,' at Joburg's Market Theatre, as well as in various European countries.

In film, premiering my documentary 'Belonging' at the Berlin Film Festival in 2004 was a highlight. More recently writing and directing on the drama series 'Home Affairs' for SABC1 has been rewarding, reaching the semifinals of the International Emmys in 2006 and selected for competition at Switzerland's Rose d'Or and Canada's BANFF TV festivals in 2007.

**Sherril:** Each project feels like a success when I can sit back in a darkened room and watch the film unfold. . . .knowing the masses of footage that I started with and seeing the final result of this huge collaborative team that has toiled for months, sometimes years, and finally ending up on the screen as a cohesive, and sometimes wonderful movie!

My recent feature, "Conversations With God" was definitely a highlight in my career. One of the reasons is that it has become more and more important for me to work on material that connects me to my interest in healing and consciousness. I've been really fortunate that several of the





# Schlesinger Sisters

features and documentaries that I've worked on over the past few years fall into this category....

The 3-D animated film that I did for Disney and Pixar was a wonderful experience. It is called "It's Tough to be a Bug" and is a spin-off of the film "A Bug's Life"... it's an interactive experience where enormous spiders drop down from the ceiling and "bugs" tickle your ankles!! It all takes place in the Tree of Life (a humungous Baobab) in the heart of Disneyworld and Disneyland--- screening to thousands of people every week. It will be there for years and may be one of the most viewed films I'll ever work on.

**REPORTER:** What has happened to you in your lives that could only have happened because of the careers you have chosen - eg. places you have been, people you have met?

**Minky:** I've filmed in the United Kingdom, Bosnia, Uganda, Namibia, Israel/Palestine and attended festivals in Switzerland, Germany, Holland and Italy. None of this would've happened were it not for my career – for one thing I could never afford it! As a South African filmmaker, it's been a real privilege to shoot in Soweto and Alexandra townships, and in rural areas such as Ulundi in KwaZulu Natal. These are areas white people don't usually get to spend time in, and I'm grateful for the access and opportunity.

**Sherril:** Living in LA for the past 17 years came about because of my work in film. I had no interest or desire to live in LA – but one can't work in film and turn down an opportunity to work in Hollywood!! Prior to moving to LA I was fortunate to work on films all over Southern Africa, and so for five years I pretty much lived out of a suitcase in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Cape Town and the Transkei. I spent six months living in Victoria Falls and would pass elephants on my bicycle on my way to work! I have met all sorts of "names" in the business, but can't say this has been the aspect of my work that "moves" me. I have deep respect for film makers and actors that are doing wonderful work, but I have issues with the way Hollywood culture creates idols out of film stars....

**REPORTER:** You both live with people who are themselves highly successful in their fields as an author and as a writer/musician. Who are these men and how does it work having two creative forces living together?

**Minky:** My partner since the mid '80s is Ivan Vladislavić, the writer. His books include short story collections 'Missing Persons' and 'Propaganda by Monuments', and the novels 'The Folly', 'The Restless Supermarket' and 'The Exploded View'. He's been translated into various languages including French, German, Croatian, Dutch and Swedish. His latest book 'Portrait With Keys' has just won the 2007 Sunday Times Alan Paton Prize for non-fiction, as well as the University of Johannesburg prize. I find living with a creative force (and Ivan is a force of nature) totally fulfilling. At times, we make heavy demands of each other. He does all the grocery shopping, cooks and keeps the household afloat when I'm in shooting mode.

**Sherril:** My wonderful husband's name is Steve Weisberg. He's a musician, composer and arranger. He recently produced a CD with the legendary soul singer – Howard Tate. You can visit [www.howardtate.net](http://www.howardtate.net) for more info on this extraordinary singer.

This past year has been a wonderful adventure for us. Steve and Howard and a nine-piece band have toured all over Europe and I have been fortunate enough to take time off between projects to accompany them as "Road Manager." That's the beauty of a freelance life. Last week Steve was the Musical Director at a Disney Tribute concert at the Royal Festival Hall in London as part of the Meltdown Festival. Once again, I was able to travel with him and stepped in as Production Supervisor when they found themselves short-handed. Because Steve's schedule is often as unpredictable as mine – it makes for a much more harmonious partnership – he "gets" my hours and I understand his. I think we have a really good grasp of one another's creative dreams – and I couldn't wish for a more enthusiastic supporter. Of course, I'm his # 1 fan!!



*Sherril Schlesinger and Steve Weisberg*



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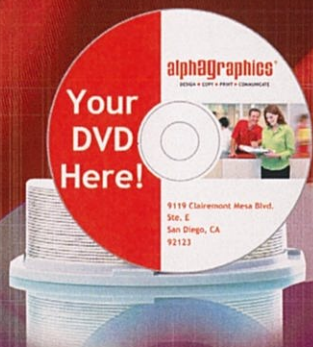
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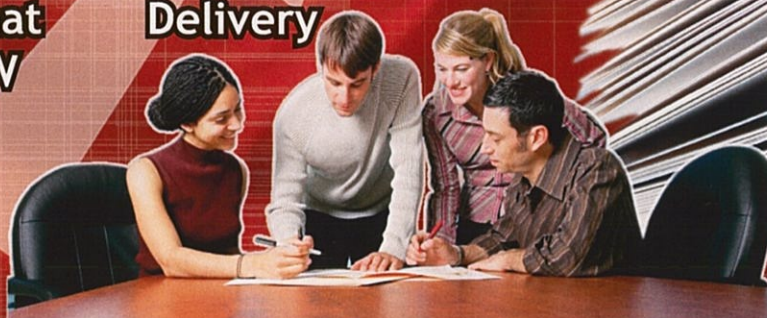
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# ChaiSouthAfrica 2007 Update

By Claire Ellman

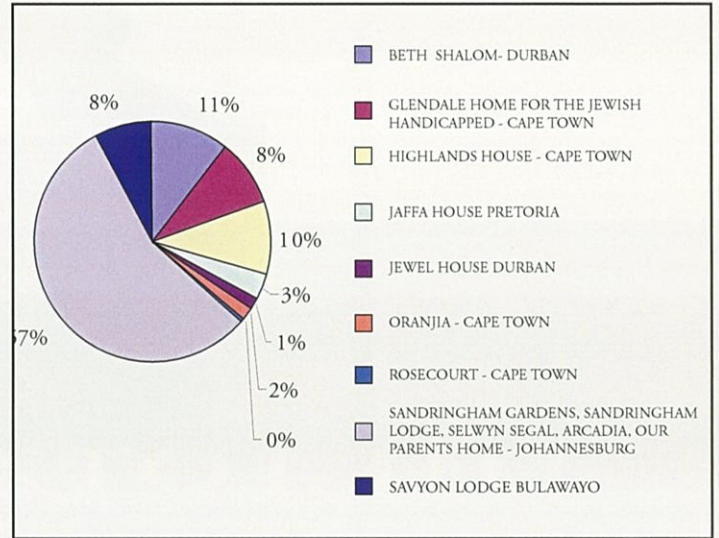
ChaiSouthAfrica worldwide is continuing to provide essential "extra" funds to the residential Jewish homes in Southern Africa we support. These include the Aged homes, homes for mentally disabled and ill, and homes for children in need in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban and Bulawayo. Euro Chai and Chai Canada continue to support our mission and large donations from them are sent regularly to these homes. We are grateful for their continued support. To our part-time director, Glenda Sacks Jaffe, it's great to have you on board. Also special thanks to Sharleen Wollach for her administrative support. A special thanks to our terrific volunteers who step forward to assist us at our phonothons.

The Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego continues to administer our fund and we are so grateful to them for their support, guidance and fiduciary oversight. Thanks especially to Charlene Seidle and all the staff at the JCF for all their assistance.

Here are letters and pictures from some of the homes, which will give you an idea of how your donations make a difference- THANK YOU.



Felicia and David Mandelbaum, Claire and David Ellman, and Charlene Seidel.



## HIGHLANDS HOUSE

On behalf of the Committee, Staff and Residents of Highlands House, thank you most sincerely for the magnificent donation of \$6,348.00 equating to R44,004.34 received from Chai South Africa.

It is most heartwarming for all of us who work, love and/or are associated with Highlands House, to know that there are people no longer resident in Cape Town, who constantly think of us.

We are most appreciative of their support to the Home and our residents in their twilight years.

To all of you at Chai South Africa, there are no words to express our appreciation for your dedication to and support of Highlands House of which we are very proud.

Once again, our heartfelt thank you. We have written/e-mailed to thank your donors personally and will be shortly forwarding you our updated resident family list.

With kind regards,

Harris Burman  
Executive Director



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Portrait done by Monty Teperson, talented artist and resident of Highlands House.

### SAVYON LODGE

On behalf of Brian and all who work and those who reside at Savyon, I would like to thank you most sincerely for once again facilitating the wonderful donation to Savyon.

I am sure that you understand how much this is appreciated, especially as things are becoming so much more difficult in Zimbabwe. A donation such as this will go some way to help in the day-to-day expenses that are experienced by the staff of Savyon, who try to make sure that the residents are kept as comfortable as possible. Thank you, and all at Chai S.A. for your caring.

G-d Bless you all.  
With kind regards and best wishes,  
Theresa Bengis

### VRIENDE HOUSE

Residents at Vriende in the new refurbished lounge. Vriende House is about to have roof repairs carried out, and the cost of this is R18 000. Thanks so much and kind regards,  
Merle

### GLENDALE



Glendale residents having fun.

Your last kind contribution received went into our newly-established medical assistance fund (not to be confused with Medical Aid Schemes) as previously explained Provincial and Government Hospital services are so inadequate and in some instances almost non-existent so it was decided not to rely solely on these institutions. Many of our residents are now ageing and understandably require extra medical care. This fund has been established in order to take care of their medical needs. Glendale currently houses 63 residents permanently, Twenty-three are either indigent or pay less than R500 per month. It is important to note that the cost to house a resident is approximately R6000.00 per month, so your kind donations, past and present, do much to narrow this deficit. We have just been quoted R225,000.00 to replace the existing roof of the home which came as a great shock to us as this amount was not budgeted for, now or in the near future. Thank you all for your assistance and - above all - your kind thoughts and deeds from afar.

On a happier note, we are sending you two pictures of four happy residents. Their smiling faces do much to brighten our day and make our work worthwhile.

Best wishes and kind regards  
Solly Greenstein





### ROSECOURT FOUNDATION

Rosecourt Foundation has plans which are going into Council this week, to rebuild the bedroom area of Rosecourt House. Funds collected for the homes from Chai SA, have been deposited into a special "Building Fund" account, and will be used toward the costs of the restoration and rebuilding of the home. The original Rosecourt house falls under the "Table Bay Conservation Scheme", which means, like a National Monument, the outside structure of the house has to be retained. However, the bedroom section was added on and does not fall under the scheme. The plans are to rebuild this section and provide appropriate accommodation for the residents. Their present accommodation (bedrooms) is most unsuitable. At the same time the original house will be restore



Thanks to efforts of ChaiSouthAfrica donors a new kitchen was built at **Beth Shalom**. Family members of major donors at plaque unveiling.

### JAFFA



Jaffa's New Entrance

The funds we receive from you go into our refurbishment fund from where we draw to refurbish Jaffa. The amounts from you assist where needed. Our latest project is a new dining room for residents with difficulties but who are not ready for frail care. Attached is a picture of Jaffa's new entrance.



New lounge refurbishments at **Our Parents Home** donated in honor of Herman Merkel through ChaiSouthAfrica.



Old and new bedrooms at **Selwyn Segal** – your donations helped to provide these renovations





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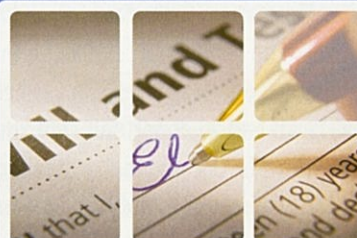




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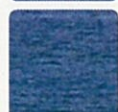


### Roger C. Rappoport

*BA LLB (University of Cape Town, South Africa)  
LLM (Harvard)*

Roger is a corporate and securities partner on the business and technology team at Procopio. He specializes in meeting the critical needs of growth companies in a wide range of legal and business

issues including corporate formation, entity selection, corporate governance, contract negotiation, venture capital financing, primary and secondary securities offerings and mergers and acquisitions. To meet his client's diverse business needs he works collaboratively with attorneys from Procopio's intellectual property, real estate, environmental, litigation, trusts and estates and tax practices to provide a seamless, integrated service. Roger is a regular speaker on the topic of funding strategies for emerging growth companies and venture capital financing.



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## SAN DIEGO'S FIRST MEGILLAH READING BY ORTHODOX WOMEN

By Donna Amdur East

Quite amazing was the scene on Sunday March 4th as 80 women ranging from 2 months to 80 year convened to read the Scroll of Esther in celebration of Purim. Most young Orthodox women in San Diego have a limited participation in the communal services for their Bat Mitzvahs. But in the new modern Orthodox synagogue in Carmel Valley, Kehillat Ahavat Yisrael, Maya Lewis had an opportunity not known to Orthodox women in San Diego prior. She decided that, instead of a short speech and a party, her Bat Mitzvah would be the first women's megillah reading in San Diego. Once Maya expressed the desire, the spiritual leader of the community, Rabbi Menashe East, encouraged her to conduct



Daniella and Gary Lewis and daughters, Maya and Yael.



Maya Lewis, dressed as Queen Esther, with her sister, Yael.

a service that has been in existence throughout Modern Orthodox communities world-wide: a Women's Megillah reading. In this reading, she and other women – invited family and friends - would chant the Esther scroll, fulfilling the Rabbinic obligation of reading the Megillah on Purim day.

Maya prepared for months to execute a flawless rendition, chanting nearly half the 10 chapters. Though a wispy young woman, Maya, with her powerful, melodic voice set the stage for the other readers and all those present. To their great surprise, as the Lewis's started to ask

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friends and family to take parts of the reading, the response was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, too many women expressed interest! Most fascinating was the range - readers spanned all ages and geographic areas, uniting from across the Orthodox spectrum. Twelve-year-olds through grandmothers from San Diego's North County to College - and many areas in between - as well as women originating from France, Yemen, Israel, the UK, South Africa (and even some Americans!) all offered a distinct flavor in their chanting. The room was filled with excitement and unity as it was the first Orthodox Women's Megillah reading in San Diego. When asked about the historic event, Rabbi East said "when the Halacha is clear, when the sincere passion is evident, this community must provide an opportunity for women, and really all people, to serve G-d as meaningfully as possible."

After the reading, many women buzzed with excitement, saying that they too would like to read next year, bringing the new practice to their own communities. When Sari Esserman from La Jolla, an Israeli Orthodox friend of the Lewis family, was approached to read from the scroll, her initial reaction was reticence. But as she practiced and delved into the text she found new meaning in the words and was excited and confident to chant the scroll. After the service, she said, "I felt that the text come to life. Today I was an active participant in the Purim story, not a passive listener."

Kehillat Ahavat Yisrael hopes to continue yearly with a women's only Megillah reading. Please feel free to join the synagogue for services Friday night and Saturday at 11860 Carmel Creek Rd. Please contact Rabbi Menashe East for more information at eastmenashe@hotmail.com.

Dear friends,

Recently, I was privileged to attend one of the most memorable occasions in my life. I was invited to attend the first (and hopefully annual) meeting of Christians United For Israel ("CUFI") in the ballroom of the Westin Hotel at Horton Plaza. There were well over the 1000 capacity crowd, with an adjacent room for the overflow.

We came to hear a number of speakers, but were initially warmed by the talk of David Brog, who introduced Pastor Dr. John Hagee, the founder and Chairman of CUFI.

I sat among friends. One couple has been in San Diego for at least 50 years (maybe more). And others, like me, immigrants (I have been a citizen now for 25 years.) However, none of us had ever heard words like we heard that night.

Us ex-South Africans remember vividly our childhoods - a long time ago. I grew up in a small town, where anti-semitism was the norm, accepted as the way of life. Sometimes this was openly expressed, but mostly covert.

But to hear Pastor Hagee talk about Israel and about banishing anti-semitism from Christian hearts, was truly a speech that he was delivering by Divine inspiration.

What a talk!! What a man!! What a privilege to be amongst such a receptive audience. (If only the Israeli prime minister could deliver such momentous words.)

We could hardly believe what we were hearing. To hear the Pastor tell of the millions of Christians, and hundreds of Clergy who stand four-square behind the Jewish People and Israel, and of the upcoming events was mind boggling.

It was a true inspiration which I feel compelled to share with all. Find out about more by going to the CUFI website at [www.cufi.org](http://www.cufi.org).

Shalom, Shalom,  
Norman Sarkin



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## Public Awareness Campaign To Promote Jewish Burial

By Rabbi Yisroel Dinerman

Judaism, teaches us to realize the importance of the stages in life of our people. The traditions from the Torah are a link throughout the generations. One important facet of the stage of life that may be difficult to talk about, but important to know about is what to do when a member of the Jewish community passes away, and how best to adhere to the traditions and dignity to the deceased.

The Torah instructs us the importance of a proper burial. The Torah lists how our patriarchs and matriarchs are buried. Many of our sages considered the act of burial as one of the 613 Mitzvot. The concept of "Chesed Shel Emeth" (True Unconditional Kindness) is attributed to the mitzvah of burial.

Communities throughout the world have organized a "Chevra Kadisha" translated as a Sacred Society to properly prepare the deceased for burial. The preparations done for burial such as the Tahara (ritual washing) & the dressing of the Tachrichim (burial shrouds) all have sacred meanings and importance. Where in many communities this was taken for granted that these traditions are performed, here in San Diego the deceased prior to the passing, or the grieving family members after the passing have to make known their desire to have these sacred rituals done, otherwise it may well be overlooked.

Am Israel Mortuary is the facility where the Chevra Kadisha does its sacred task.

One way to ensure is that these traditions are adhered to is to pre purchase "kosher" burial plots. The Talmud states that one who prepares a plot in good health is rewarded with long life. The peace of mind that this does to prevent emotional strain to family members during time of grief is also very important.

To learn more information about this important issue, please contact Rabbi Yisroel Dinerman at 858 547 0076 ext. 3056 or email jewishburial@hotmail.com.



## NURTURE AND NOURISH YOUR CHILD'S SELF ESTEEM

By Debra Jedeikin, MA Clin.Psych., LMFT

Research indicates a clear link between behavior, self-esteem and achievement. Children with poor self-esteem have difficulty learning, they feel insecure, they lack persistence. They are oversensitive to what others think and they tend to blame others when things go wrong.

### INDIVIDUAL SELF ESTEEM

Celebrate your child's uniqueness. This means nurture a child's individuality and accept him/her for who they are. Focus on their needs, strengths, desires, beliefs, and special qualities. This means providing the opportunity for each child to develop their special areas of interest. Avoid comparisons with siblings, classmates or friends. Avoid competitiveness, rather help your children notice, without judgment, the differences between them and others. Teach them how to enjoy these differences rather than comparing themselves. This is a skill that has to be learned and, as with everything else, our children model on us

As parents we need to help our children to be aware of their own worth. We can do this, not by telling them how proud we are of their behavior - which merely reinforces external approval - but through words such as "you must be proud of yourself." In this way we are helping children to build strong internal references rather than relying on external approval to feel worthy.

1. Learn to really appreciate their positive qualities -- Every child has some good and strong points. Start by making a list of these admirable qualities.
2. Express your appreciation of their positive qualities -- Give sincere praise. Even saying that you like their ideas is already a boost. Laughing at their jokes is another one.
3. Love them unconditionally and spend time with them -- Giving them your time tells them that they are loved and valued. Try to spend time alone with each child once a week at least and do what your child likes to do. This can work wonders. Do things you BOTH enjoy on the weekend. Create an atmosphere conducive to communication. Really listen to them -- It shows how important they are. It reaffirms their self-worth. Take time each day to be there 100% for your child and listen carefully. Let the child know if you cannot listen with attention. Sched-



ule an appointment with the child at a specific time later in the day

4. Trust and respect them -- Give them responsibilities, and make allowances for mistakes. Allow them to do things by themselves and avoid doing it for them whenever possible. This develops their own confidence in their own capabilities.

5. Avoid deprecating remarks (put-downs) -- Such remarks can injure self-image deeply and can damage the future of the child. Tell them that if they cannot do something they are trying to that they will be able to when they are older. Try not to use platitudes such as "Never say I can't."

6. Develop your own self-esteem!!!!!! -- Low parental self-esteem has been found to be one of the major causes of low self-esteem in children.

### SELF ESTEEM AS A MEMBER OF A LARGER GROUP

In addition to individual self-esteem, it is equally important for a child to feel as though they belong to or are part of a larger group. Groups include the family, the classroom, a sports team. Group participation highlights the need for good social skills, working with others to achieve a common goal, and a will-

ingness to interact and depend on others within the group.

Good social skills are essential to a successful identity as a member of a larger group. Proper manners, respecting others, and a willingness to do his/her share of the work are important indicators of social skills. Practice these skills at home.

Teach children to listen and repeat back another person's point of view. Encourage cooperation and compromise. "Win-win" solutions should be encouraged.

Your words and actions should convey these messages:

- I want to be your mother (or father).
- I am interested in you and what happens to you.
- I enjoy being with you.
- You are a unique person with your own strengths and weaknesses.
- You and I have a relationship that is important to me.

Show your unique and beautiful children just how much you appreciate their specialness and enjoy every minute!!

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## Rosh Hashanah Greetings

**"Shana Tova Tikatevu" from Kehillat Ahavat Yisrael**

**"Shana Tova Tikatevu" from Selwyn & Barbara Lurie**

**Fanny Krasner Lebovits wishes family and friends a happy and healthy New Year**

בס"ד



### FIVE REASONS TO LOOK INTO PRE-NEED JEWISH BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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**2** THE TALMUD GUARANTEES "ONE WHO PREPARES HIS / HER KOSHER BURIAL IN GOOD HEALTH IS REWARDED WITH LONG LIFE."

**3** SIGNIFICANT MONETARY SAVINGS OVER AT-NEED BURIAL COSTS

**4** SAN DIEGO BURIAL PLOTS HAVE INCREASED ON AVERAGE 7.5% ANNUALLY OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

**5** THE ABILITY TO CREATE FAMILY OR SPOUSAL PLOTS

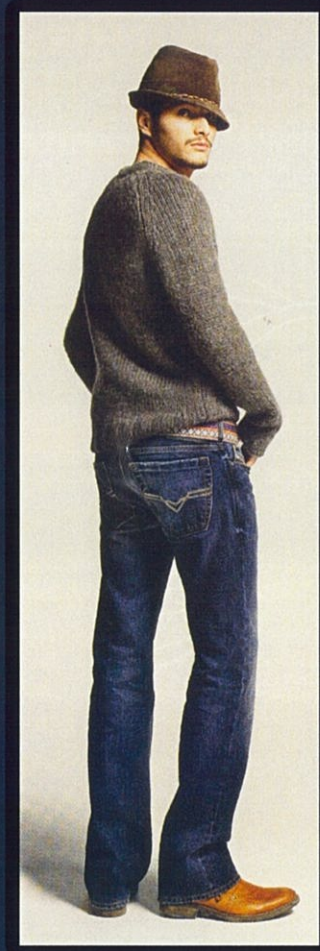
A public awareness campaign for the sanctity of traditional Jewish Burial The Garden of Eden Sections San Diego County's Centrally located traditional Jewish Cemetery under the auspices of the Chevra Kadisha - Jewish Burial Society. Jewish custom and tradition is fully adhered to. For more information please contact Rabbi Yisroel Dinnerman (619) 788 7272 or [Jewishburial@hotmail.com](mailto:Jewishburial@hotmail.com)





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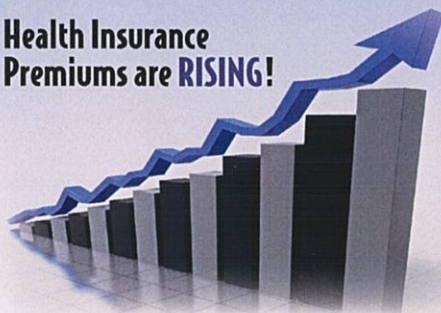
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## Challenged Athletes Foundation enjoys incredible success

By Jeffrey Essakow

As athletes and sport enthusiasts we know what it means to "PR" (to set a Personal Record.) It is to reach a new level beyond where you have ever been; to set new standards for oneself and provide a new measure for future growth; to realize the many years of work have paid off through a special performance. Last year, through the San Diego Community's support, the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) reached a PR.

CAF takes great pride in sharing with you some of the incredible accomplishments it has achieved this past year:

- Raised a record \$3.462 million.
- Given a record number of grants (482) through its Access for Athletes program to physically challenged athletes in 45 U.S. States and the District of Columbia, and 16 foreign countries.
- Launched the QUALCOMM Million Dollar Challenge and raised more than \$1- million for a new CAF headquarters facility. This Million Dollar Challenge; the second iteration, which will seek to surpass the success of the inaugural edition, will take place Oct. 20-26, 2007.
- Opened our first chapter – in Florida – to help spread CAF's message to communities throughout the Southeastern United States.

In addition to these important milestones, CAF is also very proud of the development of its other outstanding programs:

CAF's Catch a Rising Star program provides post-rehabilitative support and mentorship to individuals with physical disabilities. In 2006, CAF held nine successful Catch a Rising Star clinics attended by a total of 97 athletes. These clinics focused on the following disciplines: mobility/running, strength and conditioning, cycling, swimming and multisport.

Operation Rebound offers an invaluable resource to our wounded military heroes – mentoring from experienced, successful athletes who have "been there" and "done that." Through both hospital site visits and bringing the injured vets to the Sempra Energy San Diego Triathlon Challenge (SDTC), CAF ambassadors provide education and visualization of "what's possible" to these young men and women. Since the program was created three years ago, it has touched more than 100 injured soldiers.



### "The Young Gents"

San Diego Triathlon Challenge  
November 2006

**Bill Bell**  
(Swimmer 1.2 miles) 83 years young

**Jack Berghaus**  
(Biker 56 miles) 81 years young

**Nate Essakow**  
(Walker 13.1 miles) 80 years young







Reach High is a program that educates our communities and serves as a resource to physically-challenged and able-bodied communities across the U.S. "Community outreach is one of the pillars of what we do, and through Reach High, we are now reaching close to 60,000 people annually," says Virginia Tinley, CAF's executive director. "We're proud to be a driving force in building awareness and understanding of what people with physical challenges can do, and to positively impact public perceptions in this area."

In 2006 we had our first ever "Old Gents" relay team consisting of Bill Bell 83 (Swimmer) Jack Berghaus 81 (cyclist) and Nate Essakow 80 (walker). Their combined age of 244 years made them the oldest ever relay team who competed against the youngest team of 3 La Jolla High School athletes captained by Brandon Pinn. Their combined age was 51 years. Although the "Old Gents" did not beat the youngsters, they sure put up a valiant show. Congrats Bill, Jack and Nate who continue to demonstrate that age does not get in their way.

2007 promises to be another exciting and successful year for CAF and the athletes we support. We hope you'll continue to ride along with us as we continue our efforts to change lives around the world – and set new PRs in the future.



**"The Young Gents"**

San Diego Triathlon Challenge  
November 2006

**Bill Bell**  
Swimmer 1.2 miles  
83 years young

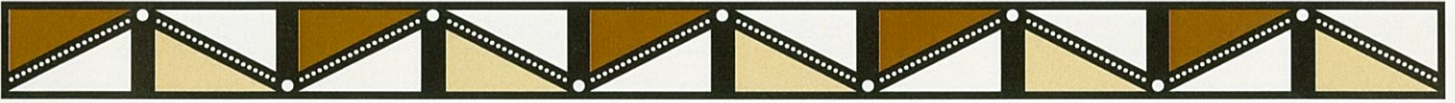
**Jack Berghaus**  
Biker 56 miles  
81 years young

**Nate Essakow**  
Walker 13.1 miles  
80 years young



Group of Jewish South Africans who participated in Challenged Athletes annual triathlon event in San Diego.





# Reconnecting to our Roots

By Hillel Katzeff

*"They are the scatterlings of Africa  
Each uprooted one  
On the road to Phelamanga  
Beneath the copper sun  
And for the scatterlings of Africa  
The journey has begun"*

from "Scatterlings of Africa" by Johnny Clegg

At its height in the 1970's, the Jewish population of South Africa topped out at about 170,000 and accounted for about 2.5% of the white population (about 80% from Lithuania). Today, it is about half that. Emigration is still on the minds of many younger South African Jews, according to a survey, about a quarter of under 30 year olds are planning to make their home elsewhere because of continuing concerns about personal safety and security.

We have scattered again, this time to our new home of Israel, but also England, Canada, the USA, Australia and others. It is not unusual for us to end up on several continents. My family is a good example. On a recent trip to celebrate my parents' 57th wedding anniversary, my two sisters and I met up to travel together. Each of us had different passports - British, South African and American - and we were headed to Israel, where our parents live. On the plane, I met Neill Abrams, who like me was on his way to visit family in Israel. He lives in London with his wife and daughters, and not surprisingly, he has friends who have settled in San Diego.

At Protea Village, a retirement community near Netanya, where my parents have settled for their golden years, about half of the English-speaking retirees are ex-South Africans. At the village I met Babette and Les

Serebro, originally from Johannesburg, who are fortunate to have their children and grandchildren live nearby.

My thoughts have centered on our shared experience in South Africa and our common destiny of being scatterlings from Southern Africa.

I ask: Is it possible to transmit our knowledge and values, which emanated from our years as being Jews in South Africa, to subsequent generations? How can communication barriers be overcome to keep families intact even though we may be thousands of miles apart and scattered among the nations of the world? What has happened to the family members that did not make the trip out of South Africa? What are we doing to bridge this gap? As ex-South Africans, who have benefited from our new lives in the USA and who enjoy a good reputation in the local community for being honest and hard-working members of society, what are we doing to keep the fabric of our extended families together?

We use many tools to overcome the divide in communication, including the phone, email, Skype and getting on a plane to visit our relatives when we can. Bobbas and Zeidas may get to know their grandchildren, but in many cases not in the same way as we used to. But our ability to

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Ada and Oscar Katzeff

have virtual family meetings is no substitute for the real thing.

It may be a simple thing that helps us make the connection. Chewing into a stuk of biltong, or singing or listening to familiar melodies and songs at shul or in a choir can help us reconnect. The San Diego Jewish Men's Choir, under the musical direction of Rhoda Gaylis sings familiar songs. The choir rehearses weekly and is available to sing at any family simchas. If it is singing that helps you make the connection, visit their website at [KolHakavod.com](http://KolHakavod.com) and see how you can participate in the choir or the audience.

Some SAJAC families saw the need to help the aged, physically challenged and mentally handicapped living in less than adequate conditions in South Africa. Claire Ellman, Charles Jaffe, David and Felicia Mandelbaum took the lead to form Chai South Africa to raise money to take care of our people who live in Jewish residential homes in Southern Africa. To help you make the connection and to learn more about Chai South Africa, visit their website at [ChaiSouthAfrica.com](http://ChaiSouthAfrica.com).

In an attempt to help bridge the gap, I have developed a program called FamilyGiving, which centers families around a "Little Blue Box" and helps us have a conversation about what is important to us. That discussion may be about how we can help others and help reconnect us to our core values in Yiddishkeit and that of Tzedakka. To find out more visit [FamilyGiving.org](http://FamilyGiving.org).

SAJAC itself plays a central role in keeping us connected to our community. Our South African Jewish American Community plays an important role by welcoming newcomers to the San Diego area, helping them integrate into the American Jewish community and broader community. SAJAC provides assistance for those in need and strives to promote friendly relations and understanding amongst Jews of all countries. The new website [sajac.com](http://sajac.com) offers enhanced features

to help us stay connected with each other. Thanks to all the volunteers over the years for keeping our torch lit. Mazel Tov to all of us, and Todah Raba for 20 years of service to our community.

We can look back and see the huge impact that South African Jews have made for justice during the apartheid years and in the formation of a post-apartheid South Africa, including the tireless work of: Richard Goldstone, Joe Slovo, Nadine Gordimer, Helen Suzman, Ronnie Sacks among many others. Now, we may very well be "Scatterlings of Africa" and many of us have ended up in the four corners of this earth, but we have a unique heritage that needs nurturing so it may be treasured by our generation and the ones that follow.



Les Serebro at work on his painting.





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## University of Cape Town alumni reception in San Diego

On May 12, 2007, more than 50 Alumni and Friends of the University of Cape Town and their guests gathered at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines for an early evening reception.

The reception was one of several UCT Alumni & Friends events that took place in California during a visit by the Vice-Chancellor of UCT, Professor Njabulo Ndebele. Joining the Vice-Chancellor on the trip were UCT colleagues, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Alumni Affairs, Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, and Director of Development, Jim McNamara, as well as

poetry and several volumes of fiction. In his talk, the Vice-Chancellor spoke about new developments on campus, as well as some of the challenges facing the University as it seeks to develop a stronger profile as an internationally-competitive research university. He encouraged Alumni and Friends to remain connected with UCT, and each other. He also answered questions about access and admissions to UCT, and UCT's growing popularity as a study abroad destination for US students.



Vice-Chancellor Ndebele with Dr. David Coplan, Professor and Chair of Anthropology at Wits.

Tina Barsby, Director of Alumni Relations for the UCT Fund, the US supporting organization for UCT based in New York.

The overall purpose of the Vice-Chancellor's trip was to advance UCT's relationships in the areas of development, alumni relations and international linkages

In his introductory remarks, Professor Nhlapo was delighted to note the many and varied connections to UCT that had brought the group together. UCT Alumni from the 1960s through 2000 were joined by former exchange students, UC San Diego study abroad staff, visiting South African researchers, and UCSD faculty with research interests in South Africa, including former Fulbright Scholars who had spent time at UCT.

Professor Ndebele has been Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UCT since 2000 and is well-known on both sides of the Atlantic as the author of



Vice-Chancellor Ndebele with a group of UCT alumni and friends.

Alumni greatly enjoyed meeting members of the UCT Executive and re-connecting with old friends. There is clearly enthusiasm for more alumni activity in the San Diego area, and several alumni volunteered to keep in touch and to co-ordinate events locally. For more information, please email San Diego Alumni Contact, Glenda Sacks Jaffe ([glenda.jaffe@sbc-global.net](mailto:glenda.jaffe@sbc-global.net)), or Tina Barsby at [uctfund@comcast.net](mailto:uctfund@comcast.net).





# Talking 'bout my kid's generation...

Coordinated by Beryl Frank



Eighteen years ago, 22 children were born in San Diego to South African parents. An article in the SAJAC Reporter in November 1989 drew attention to this wonderful event. The years have flown by, most of these children are still in San Diego and we'd like to acknowledge this event as these children will be graduating soon from high school or be going off to college. The kids or their parents have provided the following information.

## Elan Frank



Elan was born August 18, 1989 at Scripps Memorial. He has had the privilege of being at the San Diego Jewish Academy since kindergarten and looks forward to graduating in June 2008. He loves all sports, his favorite being basketball and golf, at which he excels. Elan is always willing to help where needed in community projects and recently assisted where wheelchairs had to be assembled for delivery to

those less fortunate.

## Natasha Jacobs



Natasha, born February 10, 1989 has grown into a beautiful woman. Her childhood was filled with family and friends who treasured her. Now she is off to college and to face the world. She was a member of USY from her Batmitzvah until her senior year. USY, I believe made her into the giving and dedicated human she is today. Luke and I are so proud to be

her parents as she is warm, loving, full of laughter and a total neat freak. She is truly going to make an impact on the world. She will be attending Mira Costa College and transferring to a UC School.

## Gilad Jaffe



Gilad was born in San Diego in 1989. He went to the JCC pre-school, and then on to the Jewish Academy as well as San Diego Hebrew Day School. He graduated from University City High School in 2007, and is going to UC Berkeley where he plans to study pre-med. Gilad loves to work out at the gym every day, and also loves to hang out with his friends. His

passion is the biological sciences and time will tell where this will lead him!

## Saul Moch



Saul graduated from San Diego Jewish Academy and will be going to Indiana University in Bloomington in the fall. He has not decided what his major is but there is an excellent business school and he'll be exploring that as an option.





### Amy Rudman



Amy Rudman was born September 28, 1989 at Scripps Memorial. She has a brother, 16 months older, and a sister, 4 years younger. The Rudman family moved back to SA when Amy was one - then moved to Boca Raton, Florida, in 1996, when she was 7. Amy will be a senior at Spanish River High School in Boca Raton and will graduate May 2008. Amy is

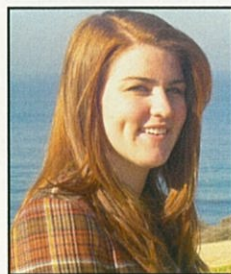
Student Council President for her senior year as well as Dance Team Captain. She has been involved in Leadership at school since 6th grade. She volunteered at the hospital for community service and has been involved in many community projects, including building houses for Houses for Humanity.

### Gabrielle Scher



Gabi Scher attended the San Diego Jewish Academy and has just graduated from La Jolla Country Day School. She enjoys playing tennis and spending time with her friends. This fall, Gabi will attend Boston University's School of Management. In the future, Gabi hopes to become involved in Marketing and Advertising. She is grateful to have grown up surrounded by such a strong community.

### Robin Schonland



Robin was born May 25, 1989 and started school at the La Jolla JCC and went on to Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School up to 8th grade. She graduated high school from the Regional Institute for Torah and Secular Studies in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she spent her entire high school years. Robin's next phase is to spend a year at a seminary in Israel, at Bnos Chava on

the Neve Campus in Jerusalem. Thereafter, she plans to go to college in New York.

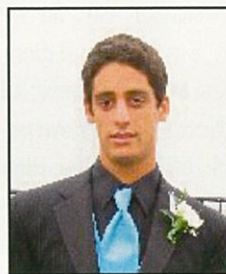
### Lee Wollach



Lee recently graduated as a 'lifer' from San Diego Jewish Academy. A lifer is one who spent kindergarten through 12th grade at the same school. Lee is headed toward University of Redlands to study Business Administration and Management. She has enjoyed playing softball throughout high school, with her team becoming CIF champions this past year.

She also recently returned from the San Diego Jewish Academy senior trip to Israel and Eastern Europe a wonderful adventure and educational and cultural experience to bring closure to her fabulous years at the school

### Ryan Fainstein



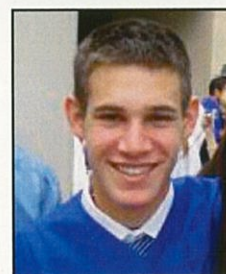
I'm Ryan and I would say I'm a typical 18-year-old. I enjoy relaxing in the summer, exercising at the gym, socializing with friends, surfing the internet, and closely following the news and sports. I don't enjoy letting people know that my parents are not visiting the United States on holiday (because of their accents.) I went to the San Diego Jewish Academy

through fifth grade. I then went to Standley Middle School and University City High School. In September I'm attending UCLA, where I expect to meet lots of Jews, have a good time, and earn a useful degree in a field I have not yet determined.

### Ashley Aronson

Ashley is now 18 and has just graduated from Westview High School in Rancho Penasquitos. He attended the Chabad Hebrew Academy until Grade 5 and then went into the public school system. He played soccer for many years and "reffed" many games on the weekends. He was on the Westview swim team but excelled in his favorite sport, water polo. He is definitely a water baby and most often can be found surfing all around San Diego in his spare time. He really enjoys art and photography. He will start off at Mira Costa College in August before transferring where hopefully he will pursue his interest in graphic design.

### Jonathan Goodman



After preschool at the JCC and kindergarten at the Jewish Academy, Jonathan left many of his South African friends to attend Soille San Diego Hebrew Day School. He remained at Hebrew Day through 8th grade and then went on to high school at La Jolla Country Day. He graduated from LJCDs in June 2007.

Jonathan has been accepted to the University of Pennsylvania but has decided to defer his acceptance for a year in order to spend the year studying at Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi in Israel.





**Jared Brett**



Jared was born on February 15, 1989 and attended the San Diego Jewish Academy for elementary school, Mesa Verde Middle School and Westview High. He graduated in June 2007. He had a distinguished school career and served as Peer Counselor, was an AP Scholar with Distinction, a member of National Honor Society, recipient of the Academic All

American Award 2007, and was Sports Editor of "Nexus" school newspaper. In addition, he won the Male Athlete Award 2007 Westview High School, played PQ Premier competitive soccer. played soccer on the Varsity team for three years (CIF champions 2006), captained the soccer team, played Varsity Team Lacrosse for four years, played competitive baseball and founded and was president of Westview's Surf Club. He also participated in Drama, playing the lead role in the play "Enter Laughing." and won best actor in major role for Westview High School 2007. He will attend UC Berkeley in the Fall.

**Tammy Sacks**



Tammy has attended the San Diego Jewish Academy since kindergarten. She enjoys swimming, softball, and skiing. She is very involved in community service. Tammy has helped with UJJ's Community Youth Foundation, JSERVE, the Jerusalem Zoo Exchange program, Jewish Civics Initiative, Special Olympics, and was nominated for the Union-

Tribune All-Academic softball team. She reads Torah on Rosh Hashannah at Beth El. Tammy is excited about college next year and she hopes to be an elementary school teacher.

**Brandon Pinn** could not be reached prior to deadline.

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peace and happiness.*







