

# SAJAC REPORTER 2015

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## REBUILDING *Communities*



MUIZENBERG EXHIBIT  
to Visit San Diego



SHABBAT SAN DIEGO



**STURGIS BIKE WEEK**  
Finding Your Passion

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BRIAN MARKS



## Rebuilding Communities

As we continue to refine and re-define the role of SAJAC in contemporary San Diego and American Jewish life, one factor remains constant. SERVICE!

From our humble beginnings almost 30 years ago we have always been a service organization.

We started as a means to help an immigrant community assimilate into the American way of life -- and daunting as that was, we flourished. This Sajac Reporter continues that tradition. Within its pages are countless links that join a Southern African past to a vibrant new life in the United States. Whether you are looking for an old memory, or want to read about a new school for your granddaughter the Sajac Reporter Chronicles the life we once had, the life we now have and all the nuances in between. It has always tried to be a community magazine which fits perfectly with our theme for this year which is "Rebuilding Communities". Though our primary role has changed, SAJAC continues to make a difference by helping communities to discover and rediscover their sense of community. This has always been fundamental to our everyday Jewish life. Our members are in the shuls, the community organizations, volunteer groups, foundations and charitable causes. We have recently updated our website and our new E mail programs and increased use of social and electronic media will help us become an even greater force in championing these causes throughout our community. And, this year we will play an even stronger role.

SAJAC is one of the Champions in this year's Shabbat San Diego event which will be held on October 22-24 and whose role is primarily to help Jewish communities rediscover their Jewish heritage and to foster its growth, not just for a single week but for their future. Our role this year is to partner with Shabbat San Diego and to do everything in our power to encourage the South African community to participate in even greater numbers than we did last year. With pre-and post events and of course the Challah bake and Shabbat participation events, the South African community has played a strong role -- but this year we hope to push it over the top and generate maximum involvement.

Finally I would like to ask our community to help us redefine our role in our community. We have built a fantastic

foundation and network and I encourage each and every one of you to help define the role that SAJAC will continue to play. Whether we are viewed as a social club, community or service organization, or as a source to field a softball team, I want to see SAJAC woven into the fabric of our lives and viewed as an organization of strength that builds a sense of community and pride about being Jewish in our adopted land.

Thank you all for your continued support

**Brian Marks**

AS WE CONTINUE TO REFINE  
AND RE-DEFINE THE ROLE OF  
SAJAC IN CONTEMPORARY  
SAN DIEGO AND AMERICAN  
JEWISH LIFE, ONE FACTOR  
REMAINS CONSTANT. SERVICE!

## At time of President Obama's recent visit to Africa





## Message From the Editor

This year is a first for me. Even though I have been editing the SAJAC Reporter for nearly thirty years, this is the first year that I have edited the magazine while also serving as the president. I can tell you categorically that being the president is a very different challenge and it takes a while before you feel that you actually know what you are doing.

Editing the magazine has its own set of challenges, but the one thing you realize very soon is that without the help of a few dedicated and competent people, the task is a great deal more difficult.

This magazine would not have happened without the sterling work of Derek Berghaus, who not only designed and laid out the magazine but is also forced to hear all my kvetching, complaining, mumbling and grumbling. My unbounding thanks go out to him for all he does to keep things together. In addition I say a huge thank you to Diane Schachat and Dylan Marks for their help in securing and coordinating the advertising. Finally I would like to thank Pam Nathan who has, and always will be, the glue that holds everything together.





# Shalom Baby Is A Turning Point In Many People's Lives

By Theresa Dupuis



They say a picture is worth a 1000 words. Sometimes that's true. A few months ago I received a picture from my daughter-in-law with 11 babies, all in a circle, all dressed in their new born finest, their mother's feet lining the edge. I glanced at it dozens of times, and showed it to all of my friends and family. Gratitude, joy and pride were the top of the list of the emotions I felt.

For this was a picture from my daughter-in-law's and my grandson Henry's first Shalom baby gathering. There they were in a group with 11 other Jewish moms, meeting for the first time. Shalom Baby, powered by the JCC, and superbly staffed by amazing professionals, Judy Nemzer and Vivien Dean, is among the best programs we offer in our city for Jewish engagement and inclusion. New parents receive a welcome basket when their babies are born, and then are helped to establish play groups and gatherings for new families. Programs like these are how we plant the seeds for the next generation of community.

I passed the picture along to Jean Gaylis, a force of nature, the founder of San Diego's Shalom baby program, and one of our communities most respected leaders. I met Jean over a decade ago and learned about Shalom Baby then. At

that time, I could only dream that one day I would have a grandchild who would be a happy participant of this program. I feel so grateful for Jean's vision and foresight, and now have seen firsthand the difference that Shalom Baby makes in young lives.

My daughter-in-law and son are making friends through Shalom Baby at an important turning point in their lives. For many of us, it is the families you meet when your children are young that become your life-long friends. When I look at my own circle of dear friends, many now with children in high school and college, I feel so fortunate that we were brought together and bonded by our shared experience of being Jewish parents in the community.

I still look at the picture from time to time. (My grandson is the one in stripes.) Every time I do, my heart is filled with gratitude; gratitude that we have a strong, Jewish future and a vibrant community. This is the gift we give to the next generation. I have been a Jewish volunteer for many years. For me and for many of my peers, it is this gift, this wonderful blessing, that drives us to help secure that Jewish future. We are lucky. Lucky that we have strong institutions like the JCC, the Federation, the SDJA, working hard to help insure that Henry and his children will have an established Jewish identity to carry them through a world that seems to get crazier every day. Shalom Baby is an important first step to embrace our community's newest members, and we are a stronger Jewish family because of it.

**Footnote: We would like to recognize our gratitude to Claire and David Ellman, for their incredible generosity and philanthropy. They value family and "Dor L'Dor", and recently matched, dollar for dollar, a tremendously successful Shalom Baby campaign. They are true Menschen, proud Landsmen, and an inspiration to us all!**

**Theresa Dupuis is the Immediate Past President of the Jewish Federation of San Diego. She is the chair of the San Diego Jewish Academy.**



# Shabbat San Diego

## Rebuilding Communities



### What is Shabbat San Diego?

On October 22-24, millions of Jews in over 500 cities in 65 countries around the world will join as one, in celebrating a unique, cohesive and meaningful Shabbat.

Coordinated by The Shabbos Project, Shabbat San Diego is the local organization implementing this program in San Diego and their program and activities have been specifically tailored to best suit this community.

Shabbat San Diego is an independent grassroots level community-wide organization of volunteers that are dedicated to encouraging the entire San Diego Jewish community to participate in a unique, international Jewish identity event that inspires all Jews to experience Shabbat together on the same day. The International Unity Shabbat will take place in more than 500 cities and 65 countries around the globe on October 22-24. "On this special Shabbat, San Diego's Jewish community of individuals, couples and families will

enjoy the wellbeing that Shabbat has delivered over the past several thousand years," said Selwyn Issakow, who spearheads this unique event.

"It's a day when we should be in harmony with the world, not to impose our will upon it. It is a day when all of our work is done. Think of it as a world-wide expense-free vacation from the trials and tribulations of the work week, and a better way to understand our place in the universe," he added.

Each congregation in San Diego County will celebrate the Shabbat in its own manner with its own customs and practices. Each will honor this day of community togetherness and rest.

### Whose great idea was this?

The idea of a community wide Shabbat to unite Jews by observing a full, traditional Shabbat together as a community, originated in 2013 in South Africa. The Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein's Shabbat Project, was able to motivate tens of thousands of Jews in South Africa to participate in



a similar event. In 2014 The Shabbos Project went global. Shabbat San Diego used the knowledge gained from this experience and more than 10,000 San Diegans attended Shabbat San Diego events.

attended events was the community challah bake. "Can you imagine what it was like for several thousand people to get together to bake their



own challah from scratch," Issakow told me this week.

"We provided the ingredients and the recipes and a mini city participated in this mega community bake off. It was one of the most uplifting zexperiences," he said.

### Is Shabbat San Diego for me?

Shabbat San Diego is for all San Diegans, affiliated and non-affiliated. Communal activities will be structured to meet the needs of all. The tagline, "Keeping It Together" refers to Jews of San Diego and around the world, across divisions and all denominations. The purpose is to share this experience together.

Keeping It Together, also illustrates the unique restorative powers and the opportunity for deep physical, emotional and spiritual rejuvenation that the Shabbat experience affords each and every one of us.

Shabbat San Diego encourages a Shabbat experience that includes: spending time with family, visiting friends, attending services, studying Judaism, enjoying Shabbat dinner with traditional rituals, contemplating our life gifts, and singing. We hope that by experiencing the magic of Shabbat just once, we can rejuvenate family and community life, restore Jewish pride and identity, and build Jewish unity across our community.

### Why must I register for Shabbat San Diego?

When large groups of Jews gather in one place, there is always a need to be vigilant and cautious. For security reasons anyone who is not registered will not (under any circumstances) be allowed admission to the event. Registration is FREE although donations are always welcome and accepted.

### The Mega Challah Bake

Last year one of the most popular and well

## The Challah Bake

It was so popular last year that this year it is being held in two locations to accommodate the demand.

The bake will be held on Thursday October 22 at 6:30 pm.

### COASTAL LOCATION

San Diego Jewish Academy

11860 Carmel Creek Rd  
San Diego, CA 92130

### EAST COUNTY LOCATION

Tifereth Israel Synagogue

Social Hall and Patio  
6660 Cowles Mountain Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92119  
(619) 697-6001



## SHABBAT SAN DIEGO ACTIVITIES

The Shabbat activities are extremely varied and there is no one way to participate. However last years experience has provided a framework for activities that include:

### FRIDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 23RD

- Co-Ordinated Congregational, Organizational, and Private Shabbat Programs
- Congregational Services
- Shabbat Dinner with Kiddush and other materials
- Private Family and Friends Shabbat Dinners
- Private home hosts and signed up guests

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

- Morning services
- Lunch at select Congregations
- Afternoon study and lecture series
- Seu'dat Shlisit meals around the county

### UNITY HAVDALAH CELEBRATION

To conclude the Shabbat San Diego program a Unity Havdalah service will be held on Saturday evening October 24th at 7:30 pm.

The service will be held at: Transformed Town & Country Conference Center centrally located in Mission Valley

- Communal Havdalah Service followed by Musical Celebration
- Participate in a moving traditional Havdalah Service
- Followed by musical entertainment by international sensation and award winning Israel singer, David D'Or
- Dessert and refreshments

## Looking for more participation

Remember to:

**REGISTER** yourself and your family. **VOLUNTEER** to be part of the Shabbat San Diego team  
**ASK** all your friends to register and participate and ask them to ask their friends to register and participate  
**SHARE** the names and email addresses of all the unaffiliated Jews you know in San Diego County

**HELP** reach as many people as possible.

**SHARE** your ideas with the organizers.

**Check out the Shabbat San Diego website.**

**It is your guide to this year's activities.**

**[Shabbatsandiego.org](http://Shabbatsandiego.org)**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ENSURE THAT ALL ENJOY THIS SHABBAT?**







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# JITLI

My name is Gabriel Bloch, the counselor for 2016s JITLI trip to Israel. I had the privilege to take 10 kids on the trip of a lifetime, and this essay is a great representation of the trip and how it develops leadership skills in our community's teens. Jacobs International Teen Leadership Institute is a lot more than just a trip to Israel.

By Morgan Lanyon  
(participant)



An experience of a lifetime. Those few simple words, when spoken, generate an immense amount of pressure. What experience can possibly classify as being "once in a lifetime?" There is a one word answer for that question: JITLI.

The Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs International Teen Leadership Institute, which was founded in 2000, works to form connections between four groups of teenagers. These four groups consist of American Jews, Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs, and Palestinians, from four communities, San Diego, Sha'ar Hanegev, Segev Shalom, and Lakyaia. Forty kids all together, learning about one another's differences, and developing an understanding to reach a goal: to promote coexistence between different cultures and religions.

I have recently returned from my own trip on JITLI this summer, and I can already see how it has affected not only my thinking, but my view of the world.

My motivation to join JITLI was simple: the promise of a trip to Israel. Little did I know all that I would gain from this program. Growing up in what I would call "a perfect little bubble" in Southern California, I knew very little about the ongoing conflict in Israel. I knew what I felt was important, and that was all. I've always had an affinity for expanding my horizons and seeing the opportunities that the world has to offer. This is what really made JITLI sound amazing for me. I knew I wanted to know more, I just didn't know where to start.

I joined JITLI with little expectations, and the hope that I would gain something, anything, that would make me feel more connected to this chaotic world, and to find hope. I was in Israel last summer during the war, and hearing all of the rockets was the final push I needed to want to help make a change. Out of all the things I could hope for, I only had one wish. To

make connections. And this wish was crystallized under the Israeli sun, tangibly, via the first handshakes that greeted us as we landed in the Ben-Gurion airport.

There is no way to describe the feeling of that first bus ride together. All of your emotions and wishes suddenly unfold before your eyes, and you finally understand how amazing the experience will truly be.

As I previously mentioned, the entirety of this trip surrounds the idea of teenage Jews and teenage Arabs bonding with one another. This in the beginning made me a little nervous. Truthfully, I have never met a group of kinder individuals. We were invited into their homes with open arms, and shared our stories with one another.

To experience the life of someone that appears to be so different from me, and yet at the same time are so similar. To talk and laugh together, as if we've known each other for years. That is what JITLI is.

We not only travelled around Israel together, but we also roomed with one another, visited their homes, and really embraced each others cultures. We visited both synagogues and mosques, and we opened our eyes to the ways of each others life.

Before JITLI, I was someone who was all talk, and no action. I wanted to see a change in the world, and to work towards some form of peace. But I had no idea of where to start, and then I was asked if I had heard about JITLI. I can now say that I have 39 new, incredible friends. And even though we all come from different backgrounds, we all love each other.

JITLI has allowed me to come to new realizations about the world, and am grateful for the experience. JITLI opened my eyes. It not only made me realize things about the world and other cultures, but it made me learn about myself.

After having returned from this incredible experience, we, the San Diego group, have now been thinking about the future of this program. If you are a high school junior and intrested in the program, research [www.jitli.org](http://www.jitli.org) for more information. It honestly will be an experience of a lifetime.





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Please join Celia Levy on this wonderful trip, from May 12 - 20, 2016. Over eight days, we visit Spain's legendary gardens in the beautiful, historic, and romantic region of Andalusia. Andalusia is renowned for its Mediterranean climate, miles of olive groves, delicious food, and the historic gardens and architecture influenced by thousands of years of Moors, Romans, and Spaniards.

Every day will be as busy as it is exhilarating. We visit Malaga, Ronda, Cordoba, Seville, and Granada. In each place, we will enjoy beautiful private and public gardens, castle gardens, courtyard gardens, stunning architecture, and more.

We travel comfortably by private coach, accompanied by a professional European tour guide. We stay in four star hotels and inns where we get to experience the essence of each city. While the reservation deadline is November 1, 2015, we expect this trip to sell out so please don't delay.

2016 marks our fifth year of exploring the world's gardens together.  
We invite you to become part of our wonderful international travel family.

**Contact Celia at: [clevy@san.rr.com](mailto:clevy@san.rr.com) | 858 455-7770**

**Price: \$3,999 Double Occupancy (Land Only) \$850 Single Supplement**

Price covers lodging, tours, admissions, transportation and most meals, an evening of Flamenco, and our (wonderful) private European guide.

This tour is limited to the first 30 people who secure their spot with a \$750 deposit before November 1, 2015. Final payment is due by February 10, 2016. Airfare available upon request.

In Grenada, we visit the famous Alhambra, palace of generations of Sultans, each of whom added to and embellished its buildings and grounds. We visit Cordoba as the annual Patio Festival gets into swing. In Seville, we tour the beautiful Alcazar de Sevilla. **And there's much, much, more!**

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## Have you heard about ChaiSouthAfrica, but aren't exactly sure who we are and what we do?

ChaiSouthAfrica was started 13 years ago by 4 ex-South African's living in San Diego, Claire Ellman, Charles Jaffe and Felicia and David Mandelbaum. They saw that there was a need to take care of those vulnerable Jews still living in Southern Africa and started this nonprofit organization. We have grown over the years and currently support over **1200 residents in 12 Jewish residential homes in 5 cities – Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Zimbabwe.**

San Diego has become our main hub, however, we are proud to note that our donors reach across the States and into Canada. We are an organization that relies heavily on our volunteers who do an incredible job of helping us throughout the year including making thank you calls to our donors at our phonathons which is an incredible Mitzvah. For those of you with high school kids, it's a great way for them to earn community service hours, so please encourage them to sign up!

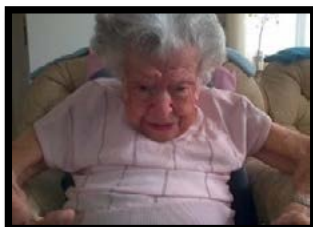
Thank you to all our volunteers and donors who contribute to our success, we couldn't do it without you! Interested in learning more about ChaiSouthAfrica? Visit [www.chaisouthafrica.com](http://www.chaisouthafrica.com) or connect with others on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/chaisouthafrica.com](http://www.facebook.com/chaisouthafrica.com). You can help our community grow by 'liking us' and adding your own pictures and stories.

Please enjoy a few updates from some of the homes we support!



### **Durbs by the Sea from Birth to Birthday!**

**Mrs. Martha Levi celebrated her 100th birthday  
& Mrs. Rose Simpson celebrated her 106th birthday.**



Happy Birthday, Martha!



Happy Birthday, Rose!



Rose Simpson



Rose reading her  
Facebook messages from  
ChaiSouthAfrica!



## Birthday Celebrations in Pretoria!



Norah Ginsberg celebrated her 100th birthday with a huge honor from Jaffa that was well deserved. Jaffa dedicated the Frail Care lounge to Norah for everything she has contributed to the Pretoria community over the years. In doing so Norah will be remembered by all the Pretorian's for many generations. Happy Birthday, Norah!

## Having Fun in Cape Town

Glendale residents enjoying a lovely outing at the sea!



Ready for their afternoon



Ari, Dale and Megan



Residents enjoying their outing



Gillian and Joey having fun in the fresh air



Megan following her shadow



Samantha taking in the sunshine

## Tea in Zimbabwe

Savyon welcomes the Zimbabwe community to a delightful tea every Thursday afternoon. Next time you are in town, please join them!





## Your Solution to the New HCA 1094/1095 Reporting

All employers will have to report coverage information for all employees for the year 2015. Brooks Jucha & Associates has the perfect system solution to make this new reporting requirement convenient and accurate. All employers with more than 50 employees will need to provide each employee a report summarizing their benefit cost and contribution.

**Are you ready?**

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# TEN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA YOU PROBABLY NEVER KNEW!



1. Table Mountain in Cape Town has been identified as one of the oldest mountains in the world.



2. Table Mountain itself is noted to have over 1500 different species of plant life which is more than England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland combined.



3. South Africa has the longest stretching wine route in the world.



4. The Palace of the Lost City hotel is the biggest theme resort hotel in the entire world and is the largest building project undertaken in the southern hemisphere.



5. The Karoo area is home to some of the greatest dinosaur fossil remains.



6. South Africa has the most luxurious train in the entire world, called the Rovos Rail.



7. South Africa is home to the highest commercial bungee jump in the world, called Bloukrans Bridge Bungee (216 meters)



8. South Africa is the only manufacturer of the Mercedes Benz C Class right hand drive cars.



9. The only street in the world to house two Nobel Peace prize winners is in Vilakazi Street, Soweto, South Africa. (Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu)



10. Three of the five fastest land animals in the world live in South Africa: the Cheetah, the Wildebeest, and the Lion.



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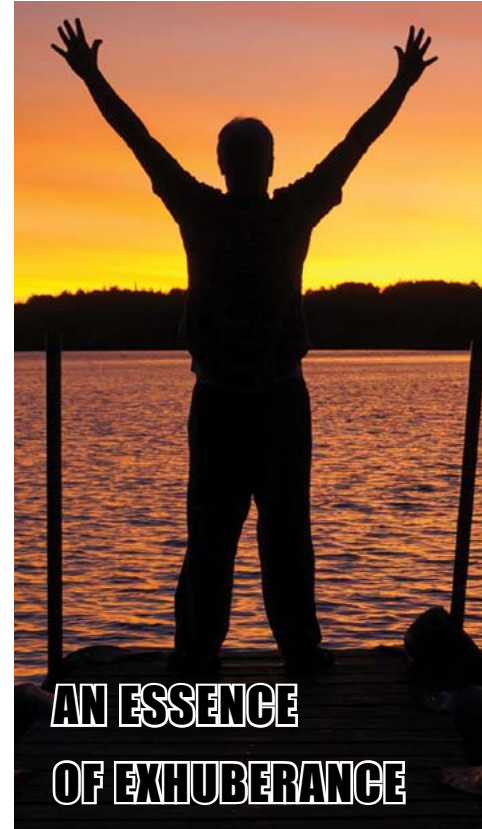
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**AN ESSENCE OF EXHUBERANCE**

By Sean Myers

And when people talk about you  
There's a coruscating in their eyes  
It's really so sublime  
That I get to know you  
From in and out your lines

You're the essence of exuberance  
And you rarely wear a frown  
I love that so about you  
You deserve to triumph a town

And when I think about you  
I can't believe you're mine  
You creep so deep inside me  
You're my halcyon state of mind

and I know that there are lives, outside  
of yours and mine  
but Sui Generis does describe you  
a splendiferous grape upon a vine  
I love to sit and watch you  
In this zoetrope of time

I love you son

Inspired by Ilan Myers





# LEGAL ADVICE

## SEPTEMBER SUNSET AND WHAT COMES NEXT – EB-5S



By Marlene Z. Stanger

September – end of summer, the racing crowd gone home, The Del Mar racetrack playing host to a newly implemented KAABOO music festival, and, on September 30th, the sun-setting on the current EB-5 regional center pilot program which since its inception in 1993, has allowed foreign investors to obtain green cards by investing in development projects without having to start their own businesses in the U.S.

### PROGRAM EXTENDED

The program has been extended in three-year increments until now and every time this comes up, the main issues debated are security, fraud, mismanagement, oversight. Projects in economically challenged rural areas have seen substantial investments pour into projects that create jobs in these areas as a result of this program and the demand for green cards on this basis continues to grow as the immigration service tightens its reins on adjudications and intensifies its scrutiny on all regulatory paths to U.S. residence.

Proposed legislation to continue the regional center program and for this investor visa program in general, will raise the price tag from \$1-million to \$1.2-million, and for those investors in the targeted employment areas – those areas with high unemployment, the price tag will rise by an even higher percentage from \$500,000 to \$800,000.

There's a requirement for job creation in the EB-5 category, pilot program or not – 10 new jobs for U.S. workers, either directly or indirectly – and you have two years from the time of being granted conditional residence on the basis of your investment, to remove the conditions by proving that you have met the criteria.

### IMMIGRATION INVESTOR PROGRAM

The Immigrant Investor Program was created by the United States Congress' Immigration Act of 1990 (IMMACT90) that overhauled immigration law and created an investor program to stimulate the U.S. economy by giving foreigners with sufficient resources the ability to get a green card by investing in an American commercial enterprise.

In 1993, Congress created the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program to increase interest in the EB-5 visa program

by establishing EB-5 regional centers - business entities approved for special designation by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) to administer EB-5 investments and create jobs. So it meant you did not have to create your own business in the U.S., either in a regular or high unemployment area (depending on the price tag you could afford), but could invest in projects already set up and running.

In the late 1990's, there were several major overhauls to the EB-5 program, prompted by the findings that all was not exactly kosher and, in 1998, significant changes to the program were implemented. Investors had to provide proof that the monies going into their EB-5 investments originated from lawful sources – as some immigration lawyers quip, “going all the way back to the mint...” - and that investors were personally involved with their EB-5 projects. Also, investment return guarantees were prohibited.

### NEW LEGISLATION PROPOSED

In June, bipartisan legislation was introduced by Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont). The bill proposes reauthorization and reforms on many key components of the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program.

The proposed legislation makes several changes that have widespread implications for the entire EB-5 program, not only the regional center program. There are many more checks and balances included in the proposed legislation but the most exciting thing for potential investors – is that there is a proposal for premium processing. This means that if you want to pay extra to the immigration service (and why not, where you've just sunk at least \$800,000 into the project?) within 15 days of submitting a rigorously scrutinized application, your petition will be adjudicated.

So when October 1 rolls round, you'll still be able to pay to play: we're waiting for the legislative update on the rules, but by all accounts, compliance may be harder, scrutiny may be higher, but the game will be won so much faster.

Marlene Stanger is a Counsel at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP.



# JTEEN

## launches crowd funding campaign on Go Fund Me



JTEEN is a non-profit movement for the Jewish youth of San Diego. They offer weekly classes, social events, community service programs, and much more. One of the major activities is to visit Jewish clubs at public schools around the city with pizza and a program.

Currently they visit CCA, TPHS, La Jolla High, LJCDS, Francis Parker, UC, and others. As many as 50 or 60 may attend a meeting, which requires many kosher pizzas and refreshments. This is why they are asking for your help to be able to continue offering fun & impactful Jewish programming for the youth of our city. JTEEN has recently launched a fundraising campaign on Gofundme.com. Through your generosity, JTEEN will be able to continue to provide these valuable services to our Jewish youth.

This November 8th, JTEEN, together with the Adopt a Family Foundation will be holding a special "Bubble Soccer" tournament at the SDJA to raise funds for soccer programs for Israeli children with PTSD in southern Israel.

**Jteen of San Diego is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) Tax ID: 47-2585851. If you would like a tax receipt, please message us.**

**The organization is run by Rabbi Dan Bortz, JTEEN Director**

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- There's kingklip on every restaurant menu.

A mini bus taxi passes you, just to stop right in front of you.

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- You save up for months to buy a video machine for someone to steal.

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- When purse snatching becomes a national sport.

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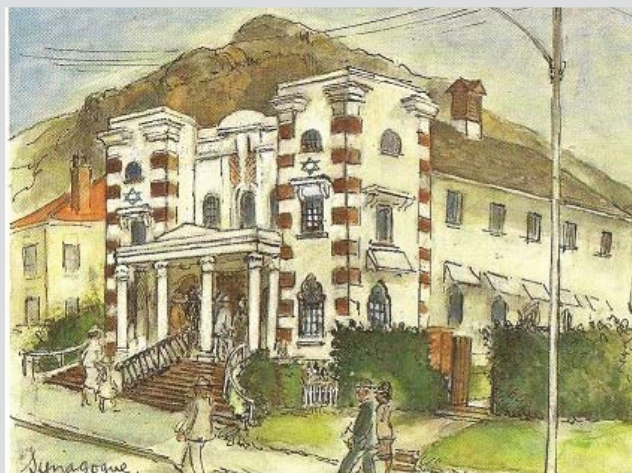




# Memories of MUIZENBERG

## EXHIBIT to Visit San Diego





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Most of us would say that it was a such an important part of growing up Jewish, that no matter if you lived there or not, stayed there or not, holidayed there or not or just took the train there once, Muizenberg is pretty much carved into the fabric of most of our lives.

And that is the foundation for the Memories of Muizenberg Exhibit that has visited Israel, England, Australia and Canada and is now slated to visit San Diego next year. The exhibit will be shown in Toronto this fall and will then travel to San Diego to open in 2016.

This exhibit, which will walk you down the wind-swept

streets outside the Balmoral Hotel, take you for a ride across the vlei, share a lolly ice with you at the pavilion and park your sun tanned body squarely in the Snake Pit has successfully provided the nostalgic memories for Muizenbergers and visitors alike throughout the world. With posters, photos, stories and memories this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and Sajac has agreed to help host the event.

**VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS**

This exhibit requires a financial commitment and its success depends on donations, sponsors and volunteers. If you can assist SAJAC in any way, please email your name, address and how you can contribute to the success of the Muizenberg exhibit to [sajacsandiego@gmail.com](mailto:sajacsandiego@gmail.com)



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# DARK DAYS AHEAD

## Africa's second-largest economy is in a huge mess

THERE is little in the way of bright news about South Africa's economy—and not just because power cuts are plunging neighbourhoods into darkness several times a week. According to figures released on May 26th, annual GDP grew by a mere 1.3% in the first three months of this year, a crawl compared with the 4.1% achieved in the fourth quarter of 2014. Unemployment is soaring. Even using a narrow definition, it stands at 26.4%, the highest since 2003.

“The numbers are saying ‘something has to be done, and done quickly’,” says Pali Lehohla, South Africa's statistician-general. But where to begin? Power shortages under Eskom, the failing state utility, have dampened manufacturing, drought has hit agriculture and tourism, a rare boon, has been hampered by much-criticised new visa requirements. Rating agencies have warned that South Africa is dancing dangerously close to junk status

### STRIKES ARE HURTING

Joblessness is particularly worrying. The expanded rate, which includes “discouraged” workers who have simply given up trying to find a job, rose to 36.1% in the first quarter of 2015.

Even many of those with jobs are unhappy. Strikes are hurting mining. Talks between unions and gold-mine bosses are due to begin in early June. But with unions opening the bargaining by demanding that basic pay for unskilled mineworkers be doubled, prospects of an early settlement seem poor. Last year similar demands at platinum mines sparked five months of labour unrest.

The weak economy is stoking social unrest and public violence. Foreigners, seen as competition for scarce jobs, were targeted in a recent spate of xenophobic attacks that left at least seven people dead. The IRR, a think-tank in Johannesburg, says that protests have nearly doubled since 2010. Many relate to the provision of basic services such as water and electricity. Inequality remains high. A report by the Boston Consulting Group, a consultancy, placed South Africa 138th of 149

countries for its ability to turn the country's wealth into well-being for its people.

### LITTLE SIGN OF IMPROVEMNET

So far the government of President Jacob Zuma has shown little sign of being able to improve matters. The African National Congress, the ruling party, is bogged down in internal political battles, not least over whether to pursue capitalist or socialist economics. The government's much-touted National Development Plan, a market-friendly strategy to encourage investment and growth, is largely ignored. Even by the ANC's own standards, it is failing: only 2% growth is expected in 2015 when the economy needs to expand by at least 5% a year to reduce unemployment.

Yet instead of addressing the economic crisis when he appeared in parliament soon after the poor numbers, Mr Zuma cracked jokes and mimicked the leader of the opposition, giggling: “he he he... hai

### The wrong way

South Africa's:

GDP, % change on previous quarter\*

Unemployment rate, % (narrow definition)



Source: Haver Analytics

\* Seasonally adjusted and annualised



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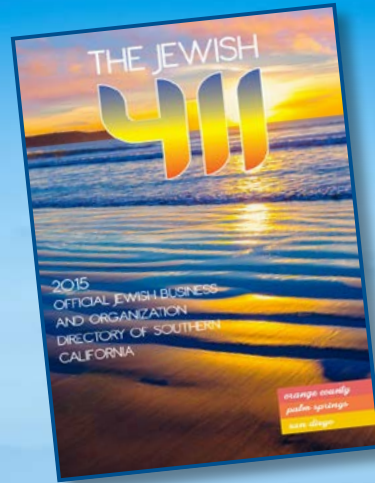


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## South Africans in Need can get help from Gemilut Chesed

Since the beginning of SAJAC nearly 30 years ago, one of its missions has been to help fellow SA Jews in financial crises by providing interest free emergency loans. The Gemilut Chesed fund is funded by our members to help those in need of emergency funds, advanced as loans.

This past year, SAJAC Gemilut Chesed is pleased to announce that we have continued to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those that we can help. We have extended loans that have helped ex- South African Jews in desperate financial positions. We have also helped a family which faced a dire situation when serious illness struck. Where loans alone cannot help, we have referred people to community resources.

We also appreciate the meaningful and helpful responses from our members when we have had people desperately seeking employment. Please do not take these requests lightly when you get those emails

from the Gemilut Chesed committee. Our members can make a huge difference in someone's life in helping them get on their feet! And please continue to make your voluntary contribution to the Gemilut Chesed Fund. The fund does not get any money from your regular dues and depends on your voluntary contribution to the fund. Thanks for your continued support!

Applicants for the interest free loans are required to complete all the paperwork demonstrating financial need and execute an agreement to repay. In most cases collateral is required to secure the loan. The SAJAC Gemilut Chesed is a confidential subcommittee of SAJAC. Brian and Suzanne Marcus will be handing over the reins this year to yet to be identified successors, after running this program for the past eight years. In the meantime you can contact them about this program at [brinnimarcus@gmail.com](mailto:brinnimarcus@gmail.com).

**Rabbi Eleazar said, "The reward that is paid for giving charity is directly related to the kindness with which it is given" (Babylonian Talmud, Sukkot 49b).**

**The SAJAC Gemilut Chesed is a confidential subcommittee of SAJAC and is headed by Brian Marcus.**



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# Two worlds brought together by the love of family



by **Reggie Lasarow**

On Motzei Shabbas 3 weeks ago I got my usual phone call from my daughter at 10.30 pm our time - and 8.30 in Jerusalem.

The opening gambit to me was: "come to Israel". I agreed, thinking maybe next month, 3 months - or whenever. Instead she said: "come tomorrow".

Without hesitation I agreed and she was immediately on the phone to my son, who was then also on the phone for me to stay at their house so that we could set the alarm for four am and leave for the airport at five.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that El Al was not as cramped as it used to be, and even though I got the middle seat I survived.

This is the first time I have arrived in Israel during the day and so was able to see the dividing wall between Israel and the Palestinians. I remarked to my daughter that they built tunnels instead!!

## PEACEFUL BUT AWARE

Baruch Hashem it was relatively peaceful. Of course one is always aware, especially when taking a cab since the news on the radio is always turned on.

I also found that whenever the cab arrived or dropped me off I would always say "thank you very much" with a smile and in response would always get: "it is my pleasure". Even though my daughter paid the fare. It did not take long for the Israeli charm to show itself.

Of course the usual bartering went on in Gaullah. Since it was now Shmits, (which is every seven years and the ground has to remain fallow, the Israeli fruit and vegetables were not at their peak this time.

Weather-wise, it was very hot, around 99 degrees, but the coldness of the air conditioner really saved us. Personally, I don't like this artificial coldness. One is transported from the Mediterranean heat to the polar regions with the click of switch.



On arriving at my daughter's flat the sun was bright with a slight breeze fanning the Judean hills and the undulating majesty like the sway of a woman's hips, beckoned with a softly unspoken welcome!

And then, as day began its journey towards evening, the sky took on the soft blush of a day's ending and twilight's vermillion spread across Jerusalem.

## ALL THIS TO THE HAUNTING STRAINS OF BEAUTIFUL ISRAELI MUSIC

I had strong memories from many years ago, when my first grandson was born and my son-in-law took me to see the wall. It was nearly midnight with the harsh raw cold of the November night. I remembered that as we walked along the Wall, the sounds of young Yeshiva boys singing prayerful songs seemed to come out of the stones in the Wall.

## THAT WAS WHEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH ISRAEL.

Coming back the plane was delayed and we left after 2 a.m. I had the aisle seat and a young woman sat at the window seat and covered her head and shoulders with the blanket and slept and slept. A few hours before we landed she awoke and we chatted. It was fascinating.

She was a journalist and that this was her first visit to Israel. She was not Jewish and showed me pictures taken with a Greek Orthodox priest and with religious Jews. She said she didn't know what to expect visiting Israel but thought it was absolutely fascinating. She was amazed by all its achievements and had already booked a ticket to return to Israel next year. She said that tiny little Israel is an example to the world. She asked for my email address and told me she had so enjoyed talking to me.

## AND SUDDENLY I WAS IN AMERICA.

A melange of cultures and ideas but with the bond of Hashem. I had crossed the world. Two continents and 2 worlds brought together by the love of my wonderful family - in Israel and in San Diego.



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## Anti-semitism in South Africa has reached new highs.

Jewish supporters protest against a proposal from South African trade minister Ron Davies to label goods originating from Israel as 'Made in occupied Palestinian territories'.

Anti-semitism in South Africa reached new highs.

The student anti-Israel movement in South Africa is more extreme than most. In February, the student government at the Durban University of Technology called for the expulsion of Jewish students, particularly supporters of Israel. In March, the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) responded to a protest in which the lives of Jews were threatened by denouncing the presence of the Community Security Organization, whose purpose is to protect Jews and who were cooperating with local police. The COSAS called the South African Board of Jewish Deputies, an organization that represents South Africa's Jews, "the Jewish ISIS" that "threatens our sovereignty through, illegal [sic], mercenaries, militia and invasion." They hastened to add that they had nothing against Jews, but only against those who have long represented them in South Africa, and concluded with this flourish: "Away racist Jewish deputies away!"

It is, therefore, no surprise that the South African Students Congress (SASCO) has gotten into the act by suspending three student members for visiting Israel on a trip sponsored by the South Africa Israel forum. "We view an act by some of our members to visit Israel as crossing the picket line." This move is more surprising than it seems. As offensive as boycotts like the one adopted by the American Studies Association are, no one there has proposed to discipline members who buck it. SASCO on the other hand, wishes "to state categorically that SASCO is a voluntary organization where members join and subordinate themselves to its constitution, its policies, and its resolutions. Therefore [they] urge all [their] members to respect, defend and advance all decisions of the organization without exception." SASCO may be an extreme organization, officially aiming to "ensure the destruction of capitalist relations of production and the ushering of a socialist society." But it is by

no means marginal; Haaretz calls it the "biggest South African student organization."

There is no adult in the room here. Obed Bapela, a deputy minister for Performance, Monitoring, and Evaluation in the President's office, has said that the ruling African National Congress will investigate the students for bringing the ANC into "disrepute" Bapela, by the way was present at the February protest I mentioned, in which the crowd chanted, among other things, "You Jews do not belong here in South Africa." Bapela apparently had no problem with that, but did find time to complain of the "foreign force" brought in by the South African Board of Jewish Deputies, reminding the crowd that "South Africa is our country."

Not all critics of Israel, even harsh critics, are anti-Semitic, but there can be no question about the running together of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment in South Africa, a nation in which, according to the Anti-Defamation League, 50 percent of respondents to its survey on attitudes toward Jews agreed that "People hate Jews because of the way Jews behave." Let's try to remember that the next time South Africa's leaders try to school us on solidarity.

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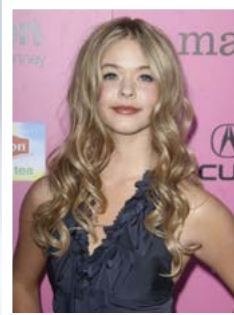


# 10 Celebrities You Didn't Know



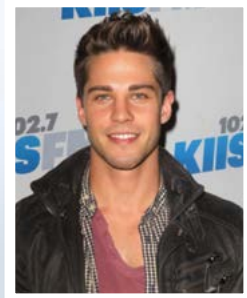
## Steve Nash

Although Steve Nash moved to Canada when he was 18 months old, he was born in Johannesburg to a Welsh mother and an English father. He didn't start playing basketball until he was 12 or 13 (like all good Canadians, he focused more on hockey) but told his mother that one day he would play in the NBA and would be a star. Pretty good prediction, given that played for the Lakers until this year — he has since retired — and is a two-time NBA MVP and an eight-time NBA All-Star



## Sasha Pieterse

Known for her role as Alison DiLaurentis on "Pretty Little Liars," Sasha Pieterse, 19, was born in Johannesburg before moving to the U.S. She became the came the youngest actress on the CW Network show. She began acting at age 6. Pieterse worked on a country music album and has released several singles. Apparently they start 'em young over in Joburg.



## Dean Geyer

Dean Geyer was relatively unknown to American audiences until he landed the role as Brody Weston on the fourth season of "Glee," an American musical comedy-drama TV series that aired from 2009, to 2015. Before that, he finished third place on "Australian Idol" and briefly had a band named Third Edge. Geyer calls Johannesburg home, although he moved to Australia when he was young. He wrote a song entitled "Change" about that move.



## Trevor Rabin

The famous 1980s rock band "Yes" had Trevor Rabin in the front as guitarist, songwriter, bass guitarist, and keyboardist. Rabin was born in Johannesburg to British parents. His father was the lead violinist for the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra. Yes did not achieve huge success until Rabin joined. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" was written by Rabin and became a smash hit and a timeless classic rock sensation.



## Dave Matthews

Dave Matthews Born in Johannesburg. He moved back and forth between New York and England from age 2 to 10, but returned to Johannesburg with his family. After graduating from high school in 1985, he was conscripted into the South African military but left the country to avoid service. A Quaker, he considered himself a pacifist and unable to fight. Fun fact: Matthews worked for IBM for a short time before he joined the music world and became the rocker we all know and love today



# were from South Africa



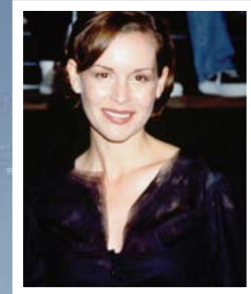
## Charlize Theron

Charlize Theron is one of the few people on this list who actually grew up in South Africa (her first language is Afrikaans). Born in Benoni in then-Transvaal Province, she grew up on her parents' farm outside Johannesburg. At 13, she was sent to boarding school and began studying at the National School of the Arts in Johannesburg until she moved to Los Angeles at 19 to join the movie business.



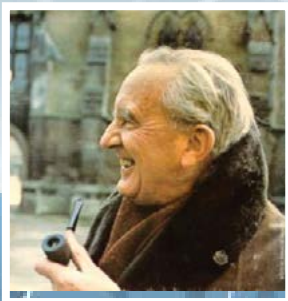
## Arnold Vosloo

Remember the movie "The Mummy" when the spirit of that really buff guy turned into a mummy and gross little scarabs ran in and out of his mouth? That South African actor Arnold Vosloo. He took his place in action-film history with that role, and its sequel, "The Mummy Returns." Vosloo first made a name for himself in the Pretoria theater scene, winning awards for playing Hamlet and Don Juan. He has also been featured in South African cinema including the hit film "Forgiveness." Other roles include "Blood Diamond" and "G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra."



## Embeth Davidtz

In the movie "Schindler's List," there is the subplot where the evil Nazi general played by Ralph Fiennes obsesses over his Jewish maid. The maid was Embeth Davidtz's breakout role into serious cinema. She is wildly talented and has played prominent roles in more than 40 films including "Matilda," "Junebug," "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," and TV shows "Californication," and "Mad Men." She was born in Indiana to South African parents who moved back to the country so her father could teach at Potchefstroom University. She earned an English degree at Rhodes University.

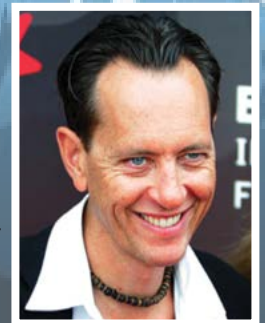


## J.R.R. Tolkien

J.R.R. Tolkien John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born in Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State (now Free State Province) and lived there until age 3 when he moved to England after his father's death. He's best known for authoring the epic "Lord of the Rings" series written between 1937 and 1949. Tolkien addressed societal issues in other works, expressing opposition to Stalinism, socialism, and his disgust of racism. He even wrote a fairly well-read piece about racism in South Africa.

## Richard E. Grant

Recognize this guy? He's been spotted in films including "Gosford Park," "Bram Stoker's Dracula," and TV shows such as "Downton Abbey" and "Girls." He was born in Swaziland, and his father was minister of education before the former British colony was emancipated in 1968. His mother was of German-South African origin. Grant studied drama at the University of Cape Town, and became successful in film and theater in London, especially after his breakthrough role in the bizarre British comedy, "Withnail and I." Otherwise,





## Fitness Center Member of the Month Jack Berghaus

Interview by Phyllis Quan Steinberg JCC

**PQS: Tell me a little about yourself:**

**Jack:** I moved here 28 years ago from Cape town, South Africa. I was in control of credit operations for a company there. I did have family here. In fact, my late brother was here studying engineering. And as part of his academic program, he had to work for a month in an engineering company. He worked for an asbestos company and became very ill. He petitioned to have me come to the U.S. And I brought the rest of my family with me. I have two daughters and a son. I have always been involved in sports. In school, I got my colors for running. I played soccer too. When I got married, I switched to rugby. I played tennis, cricket and ran. When I came here to San Diego, I trained with Scott Tinley. I helped to start the Challenge Athletes Run and have been doing it for 21 years now.

**PQS: How long have you been a JCC member? Have you always used the Fitness Center? Do you participate in any other JCC activities? If so, what?**

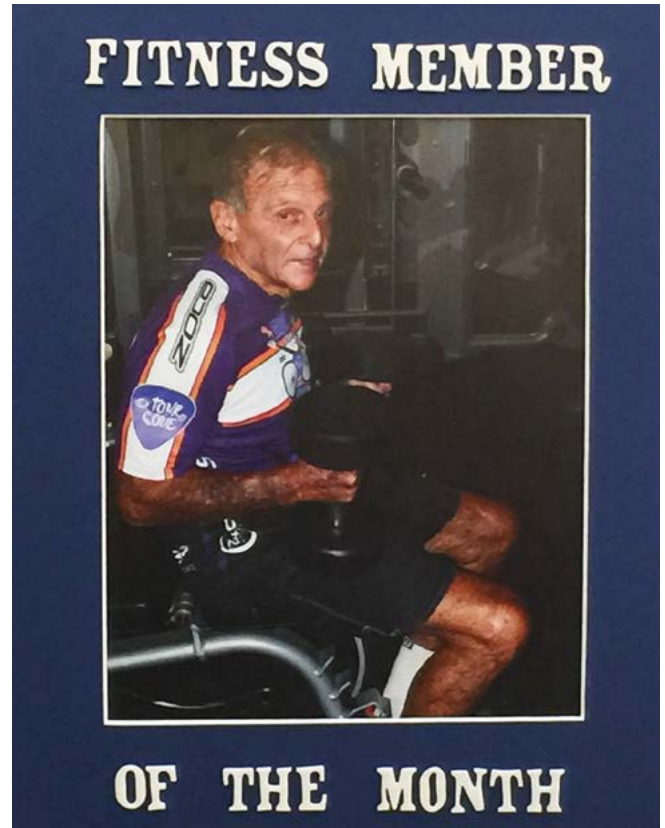
**Jack:** The atmosphere in the Fitness Center is wonderful. In other places, no one talks to you. The people in the Fitness Center make all the difference. They make the atmosphere. Other members greet you by name. We know one another. Yes, I keep fit and I do it in a wonderful environment.

**PQS: What are some special moments you have had here in the Fitness Center?**

**Jack:** Two men whom I met in the Fitness Center are Roger and Ed. And one day, Ed makes a statement: We should cycle to New York. And we started talking about that as the three of us were on stationary bikes side by side. Then the next day, Ed brings in a route that he has charted for the three of us. We have had such a wonderful time. This is not a race but an event for the three of us. The three of us have lunch once a month. The special moments have been the journey and will be when we arrive in New York City's Times Square. This is what makes the JCC Fitness Center special.



Jack at CAF 2014 Spinning Session



Ed, Jack, and Roger, the team riding to NY on their spinning bikes




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# Call me Pops!

By Brian Marks

Somehow, I was never one of those people who eagerly looked forward to being a grandparent.

I mean, I did not have that biological clock that is supposed to exist in every parent's brain that pushes and forces their children to deliver them a grandchild....and soon.

No I didn't have it. And to be perfectly honest I often felt quite guilty about it.

After all, I am not a cold person. On the contrary, most people think I am a pretty warm and social guy. I had my own children and loved being a parent and I was pretty good at it.

That's not to say there weren't times when I felt like running away from my kids, moving to Vanuatu in the romantic South Pacific and pretending I never had children. Actually I think that is a natural reaction after watching 17 years of Little League. But that did nothing to assuage my guilt for not wanting grandchildren. I tried my best to rationalize it.

I guess my first horror was that if I was old enough to be a grandparent, then I was actually old. And damn it, I did not feel old and was doing my best to pretend that I was not a day older than I was 20 years before. Both my children had grown up and I lived in this totally adult world. I tried to avoid places where I would come into contact with screaming kids or any kids for that matter. And I was quite successful at it. I avoided parks, zoos, beaches, dinner parties at friends with young children, anything school related, animated movies and toy stores. I managed to stay extremely adult.

Guiltily. But definitely adult.

So you can imagine my surprise when I learned I was going to be a grandpa.

After all this stealth and living in the grandfather protection program, I was going to be a zaydah, a gramps, a grandpa. And there was nothing I could do about it.

It was a shock. But what was even a greater shock was that I was ecstatic about it. How could I, the person who left the room when topics about grandparenting were discussed, be happy about becoming a grandfather? It was a conundrum and like most people in a conundrum I went through all the stages of self doubt.

Perhaps I was a closeted grandfather all the time and was just too afraid to admit it. Whatever the reason, my biological clock started winding up and the tick, tick, ticking over that long nine months got louder and louder. And then it happened – a little baby girl.

She was a tiny bundle of perfect humanity. And, as if to help me out a little, she had hair and looked surprisingly mature for a day old pup.

I guess the love affair began that day. I thought I was beyond finding true love again, but I was wrong. With each waking minute, day, month and year, this gorgeous little girl stole a little more of my heart and in the end I was forced to make that ultimate admission. I love being a grandparent.

Now it's not the same as having your own child. You don't get to see them as often as you'd like, and you have to share them with others who love them just as much as you do. And that is not always easy. But there is a unique joy in having your own love for a child and also in seeing the love and joy that she brings to your own children. Yup, it's been quite a journey for me.

I am happy that I had to overcome my feelings about grandparenting. I had no expectations about this and so each joy is unique and can just be enjoyed for its own purpose.

But, there was one area in which I would not compromise. There was no way I was going to be labeled with a moniker that froze me in old people time. Forget about Zaydah or gramps. I was simply too young for any of those. I am quite happy just being Pops!



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My wife Carole and I debated whether we should sit on a plane for 25 hours, and attend an uncle's birthday in South Africa. We decided that was too long to sit and instead, we opted to spend way more hours than that sitting on our motorcycle.

Once the decision was made, we immediately called the Best Western in Deadwood South Dakota, where (for a mere \$400 a night you can book a room that usually costs around \$75.00) you can stay just 11 miles from Sturgis South Dakota.

That was the start of our planning for a cross-country trip to Sturgis, where in 1938, a couple of guys who rode Harley Davidson motorcycles decided to escape the daily grind of their lives and Sturgis -- the largest motorcycle rally in the world was born.

This year Sturgis celebrated its 75th Anniversary and was the largest rally ever. Over a million people attended on about 750,000 bikes.

Carole and I got busy on the logistics.

How far should we travel each day? What should we see along the way and where will we stay each night?

I ride a modified 2010 Harley Davidson Road King Classic that I have customized for travel. It is an incredibly comfortable piece of machinery and so we packed our bags, strapped them on to the bike and were ready to go.

## THE TRIP BEGINS

We left on July 28 for Las Vegas where we stayed the night. We took off for Utah at 6.30 am to beat the heat and rode through Zion and Brice Canyons to Moab, spending time to view the red rocks and natural bridges cut out of stone. This is an amazing sight and really worth visiting. From there we went on to Gunnison Colorado, and rode through the Rockies, to Lusk Wyoming.

Then we rode to Deadwood South Dakota and Sturgis. It is hard to appreciate the mayhem, noise and spectacle created by thousands of Harley Davidson motorbikes in every shape and color.

No matter where we rode, slept or saw the sights, there was always one constant, --motorcycles, motorcycles and more motorcycles. Wherever we rode, from Mt. Rushmore to the Black Hills there was never a break

from the bikes coming and going.

There was this constant roar and the earth shook day and night. This was Motorbike Mecca.

## PEOPLE WATCHING

Now, the spectacle created by the motorbikes is absolutely amazing but nothing can compare to the spectacle created by the people who attend Sturgis. If people-watching is your thing, there is no better place to practice your craft than Sturgis, South Dakota.

You will see exotic tattooed guys with bodies like chiseled studs riding with 500 pound giants whose motorcycles look like toys beneath their gargantuan bulk. You see it all.

And then there are their biker women. Some are riding in the 80 degree heat in only a pair of leather chaps and a thong. Or some that felt underwear was not necessary at all. Many decided that body paint was a clothing item while others thought that strategically placed pieces of duct tape would do the trick. Sturgis is no place for the squeamish.

## BIKE WEEK

The riding was amazing and the weather almost flawless. And while







# MOTORCYCLE RALLY 2015



By Steve Janks

the sights like Mt, Rushmore were breathtaking – we were here for Bike Week.

Every Motorcycle dealer from Harley to Indian, BMW, Honda and custom bike shops were there. They exhibited bikes ranging from a standard Harley to V8 custom bikes that ranged from mere ten grand to well over 100,000 dollars.

In addition, there were thousands of vendors selling everything and anything related to the biking world. If you needed parts, accessories, clothing, toys or literally anything bike related -- you can find it in Sturgis.

## AND THEN THERE IS THE FULL THROTTLE SALOON

Some of you may remember this tavern from the popular reality show, but nothing can really prepare you for the real thing. Finding parking was a challenge but once we entered, this place defies all description. We literally fought our way through and eventually found a table and ordered a drink from a young woman whose clothes were painted on her body. I mean painted and nothing else.

No sooner were we sitting and the stage exploded into rock and roll with Midget Wrestling on one stage. On another stage, guys were doing Burn Outs, which is a kind of standing wheelie which continues until the bike's rear tire explodes and the crowd goes crazy.

But even these activities were fairly sane when compared to a man with hooks through his back flesh (remember a Man Called Horse) swinging from the bar's ceiling.

## MORE SIGHTS

Sturgis was quite a trip but after an exhausting 3 nights 4 days, we left town and rode the 480 miles to Yellowstone National Park. About 150 miles from the park we hit a rain storm, put on our rain gear and kept going. We arrived at our hotel in Jackson Hole after the longest riding day on this trip. We were happy to be there safe and sound.

We went to the famous Million Dollar Cowboy bar for a welcoming tequila shot (and a Martini for Carole) and said a quick 'thank you prayer' to the road gods for getting us safely to our destination in what



was very dangerous weather and conditions.

The next day it poured, however nothing can stop an enterprising kid from Jo'burg and so we rented a car and enjoyed Yellowstone from a different perspective.

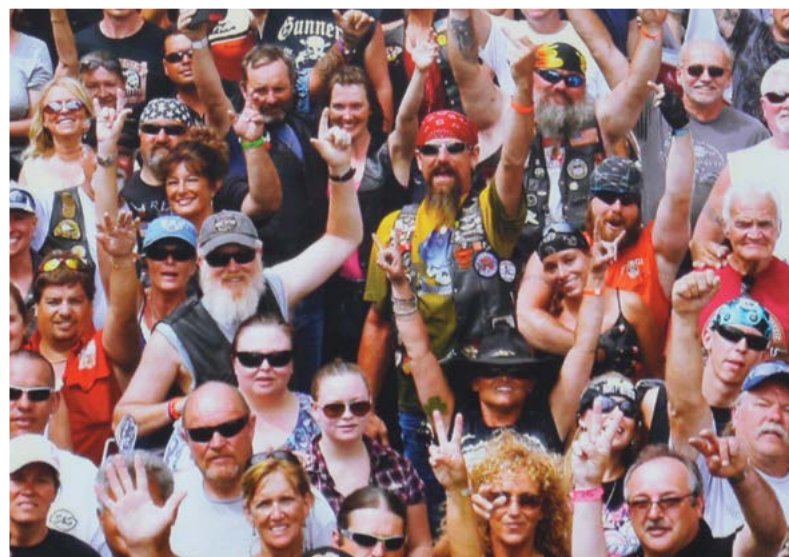
## HOMeward BOUND

It was finally time to head on home. The first leg was from Yellowstone through

Salt Lake City to Las Vegas. The conditions were extremely trying with temperature soaring to 117 degrees. When we stopped to hydrate, Carole had turned from bright red to purple and it was extremely hard to leave the shade of this little Oasis. Of course we did and rode the rest of the way to Las Vegas where we spent two amazing nights to cool down and absorb our experiences, before returning home to San Diego.

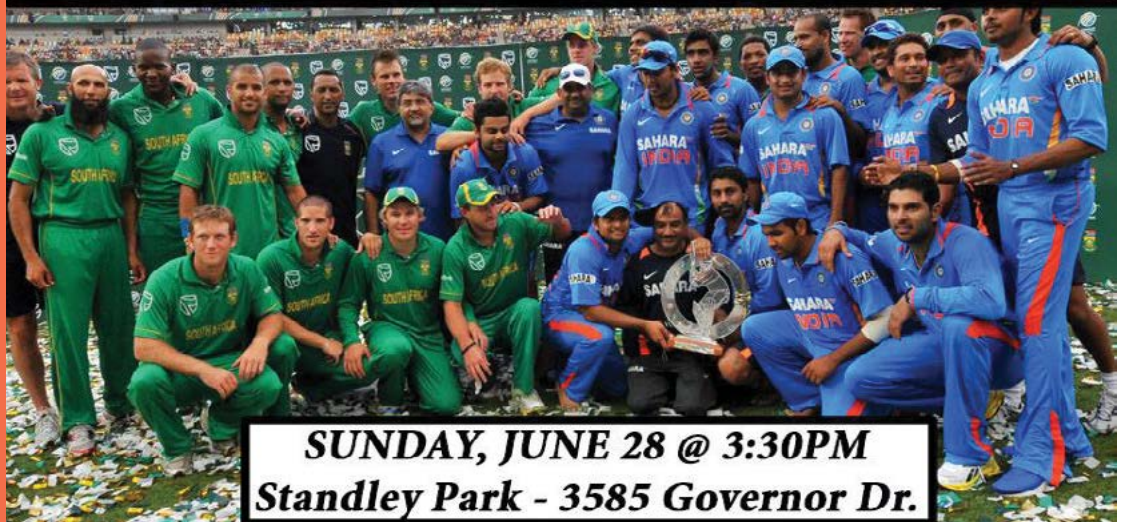
In the end we had ridden over 3,600 miles and had seen and experienced a side of this country from a perspective that many people our age just never will.

In the end all I can say is that we are in our sixties and have the courage to take the bike by the horns and live out our passion. Everyone should find a passion, and whether it is riding a Harley or knitting do not forget to live. Life is worth it.





## South Africa vs. India Test match



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This was Stanley park and the scene for the second annual San Diego test match between the South African ex pat Springboks and an Indian side that promised to keep hold of the title that they won last year.

In the end, despite the fact that the Springbok side included cricketing legends Darryl Bestall and Joe Pamensky the Indian team was just too strong for the 'Boks.

But to be honest, that was not the point.

The real point was that there was boerewors, and there were samoosas and quite a bit of beer and refreshments. Organized by David Bortz, both teams brought energetic cheering sections that made this an absolutely splendid day and the continuation of a tradition that will continue for many years to come.

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# We Remember...



## Neil Rabinowitz

I really should have brought that flask of Johnny Walker Black my brother was talking about.

Two weeks ago, I spent the night hanging out with my parents. My dad was having a bad night, and I could tell he was struggling. When I got back to my apartment I sent him a text that said, "I know things are getting really tough, but try and hang tough the best you can." His response was, "Thanks Bro, you know I'm going to fight this fight until I can't fight anymore ... Just stay in my corner with me," to which I responded "I'm like the old guy from Rocky." And he said, "That's exactly what I want."

My dad was a fighter, through and through. He endured many ailments and tragedies in his life, but as most of you know, he never, ever complained. Not once. It was remarkable to be around, and it seemed to inspire everyone who came into contact with him, be them strangers or loved ones.

I loved hearing my dad say "Tomorrow is another day." I encourage everyone here to take those words into your heart. No matter how bad things are, my dad has shown us all that there is simply no other option that to pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and move forward with a big smile on your face.

His unconditional love and admiration for my mom never wavered and I am so proud to come from a home built upon such a strong bond.

And finally, to return to this thought of staying in my dad's corner during his fight, that is not exclusive to myself or my family. If you look to your left and to your right, it's easy to see how loved and supported my dad truly was from his many, many friends. Thank you for being here for us and for him.





## We Remember...

### Elliot Kretzmer This was a man!

By Linda Rosenberg.

This September 4th is the first time in 93 years that we will not scramble to be the first to wish my dad, Elliot Kretzmer, Happy Birthday. And it is only now that I finally understand what it feels like to be a two year old. Like my granddaughter Maya, I asked for something, got what I asked for, and then changed my mind. I asked for my dad to die painlessly in his bed at home. I asked to be there when it happened. And now I just want to shout NO! NO! NO!

Elliot was and remains a source of pride and inspiration to all who knew him. He was a role model and a man of absolute morality and integrity. In all the years he never compromised his principles, nor his dignity. He never gave in to expediency nor did he gratuitously speak ill of anybody. He is also the most honest person I know..

Elli and E. J., as Beryl used to lovingly call him was an amazing husband. He took care of Beryl until her very last day, insisting that she remain at home in a loving and caring environment and in doing so he made an incredible home for both of them.

He was a wonderful father, grandfather and great grandfather. When we were children our home was always warm and loving, a safe haven and even today it is a place we always love to come back to. His advice was always insightful, well-reasoned, intuitive, timely and in most instances, invaluable.

He was respected by his peers. I spent much time with his friends and colleague before and was always so proud of the high regard and esteem in which they held him as a city councilor, a mayor and a co- worker and a friend. He had an incredible sense of humor and always had a ready joke or appropriate little story. He had a phenomenal mind, an incredible memory and an enormous depth of knowledge of politics, the arts,

literature, history and music.

He and his wife Beryl made Aliyah in 1994 when he were already 72 and they made a new home for themselves in Israel. He never looked back, became fully engaged in Israeli life, politics, Israeli food, went to ulpan and learnt to speak an excellent Hebrew by reading street signs, the contents of the food packages in the supermarket and then looking up in a dictionary any words he did not recognize.

He and Beryl volunteered a few days a week to help the Agudah Lemaan Hachayal hand out sandwiches and water at the trampioda on kvish arba and thereafter volunteering in the Esra shop in Kfar Sava.

He kept abreast of current affairs, arts, and cinema and to the amazement of her grandchildren even the latest pop groups, movies, video games and film stars.

Elliot loved words, and he used them to make us all feel special. He created personalized designer in-jokes and special greetings for everyone. Most unforgettable was the cheerful "Good morning Mrs. Kay," with which he greeted my mother every day. He surely took the words "in sickness and in health" to heart.

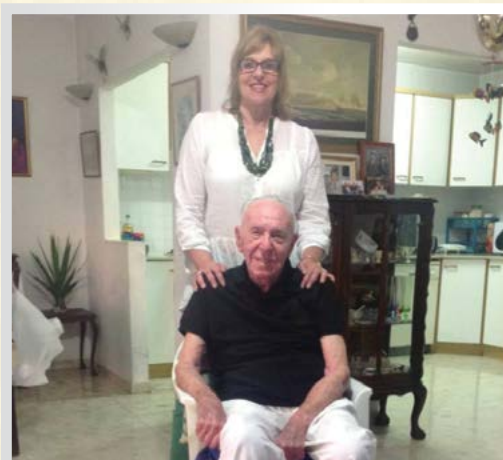
With Elliot no pun was ever unintended. He used words to highlight the subtleties and ironies of life. And, humble man that he was, when he thought someone else could say it better than he could, he didn't hesitate to quote.

He loved the words of Desiderata, "Go placidly among the noise and the haste. As far as possible be on good terms with all persons. If

he compare herself to others he may become vain or bitter for always there will be greater or lesser persons than herself. Be gentle with herself. He are a child of the universe. No less than the trees and the stars he have a right to be here."

And finally, a quote from Julius Caesar that he loved and that says everything there is to say about him,

"His like was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world THIS WAS A MAN"



Linda Rosenberg visits with her father Elliot Kretzmer who was the Mayor of Johannesburg from 1991-92.



## We Remember...

### Debbie Castle

Debbie's passion and devotion to her family knew no boundaries. For those she loved there was nothing she would not do, always with the desire to take care of them, and always with generosity and class. Her beautifully exuberant personality touched all those who knew her. She loved to learn about virtually everything and was always so appreciative of her life.

In her professional life, Debbie taught children and was the best of the best. She never failed to amaze the parents (not too easy at a Jewish school), teaching the kids how to interact with each other, developing their skills with an extensive array of art projects, and showering them with unconditional love and support. She even taught them to sing. She just loved children and enjoyed watching and helping them develop. At the end of every day she was able to draw from her experiences, always with amusing stories to share. Debbie's sense of humor and insightful observations of life were delightful.

Learning was a passion. I would so often come home to find Debbie watching amongst others, the Discovery Channel or Animal Planet and then came.... The Cooking Channel. Debbie was a fabulous cook, often watching with a pen and paper handy. I would lose count of the number of times she would suddenly disappear, off to the market to purchase all the necessary ingredients for our next fabulous meal. She was remarkably talented.

Our Pesach seders were always an event. Happy to have a large crowd, Debbie loved to prepare all the food and the table was always elegant and beautiful. She loved her home, was always happy to share it, and was endlessly hospitable to a never-ending stream of friends who would visit us from all over the world.

Our travels took us all over the world from Japan to Alaska, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Israel, Greece and all those fabulous places in between, and even zip-lining in Costa Rica. But her favorite and final trip that excited her



the most was our walk around Victoria Falls, the day in the amazing Chobe elephant reserve in Botswana, the drive along the Garden Route from Cape Town to Knysna and Plettenberg Bay. While there one morning at 6.30am in the early African rain to realize her dream of feeding and riding an elephant .... for Debbie it was magical. She just loved it. It was one of her greatest life experiences.

Debbie was endlessly generous and consistently went out of her way to support me, by sharing in my passions, musical pursuits, and endeavors. While she would always say of herself, "my place is in the audience," she nevertheless had an artistic appreciation of how the production should be. She also had an excellent musical ear and was always my most valuable and best critic. Her support of my musical efforts was somewhat legendary, to the extent that she was honored with a special tribute by anonymous donors at my concert this year. She also loved the San Diego Jewish Men's Choir and never missed a performance. When I started my group Odyssey nearly 10 years ago she insisted that it be hosted in our house. Without fail she would be there for every performance and most rehearsals too. Her loyalty and devotion were ever present.

She so bravely endured a nearly two-year battle with cancer and did so with such gracefulness and courage.

To her family she was the most loving wife, mother, daughter and sister, and to all of them, their best, most generous and incredibly loyal friend. She told me many times that she had a joyous life, but wished that it would have been longer. She was the best soul mate I could ever wish to have and will forever be so deeply missed. She will always be remembered for her cheerful disposition, wise outlook and approach to life. She embraced and loved it all.

Brian



## We Remember...

### Clara Gersholowitz



Granny Clara with her daughter Reena and Granddaughter Lisa

## Clara Gersholowitz fondly remembered

Clara Gersholowitz, mother of Reena Racki passed away peacefully on August 4th 2015 in Cape Town. She was 98. Until very recently, despite her very advanced age, she remained passionately involved in all things Jewish, including lecturing on Shalom Aleichem just a couple of months ago. We shall greatly miss her joyous celebration of life, her amazing and generous spirit and her profound knowledge of Jewish Culture.



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