SALCE 20 REPORTER 17



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

// BY BRIAN MARKS

It's thirty years ago, but I can remember it like it was vesterday.

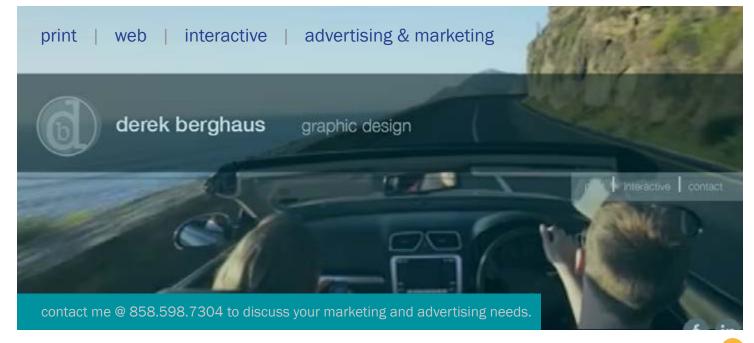
A whole bunch of Southern African immigrants meeting at Mervyn Kodesh's house making plans to form an organization designed to lay an easy path for the people that followed us. Such plans, such ambition, such noble aspirations. But we would not be denied.

Led by Leah Levin, that original board set a path that brings us to our 30th Anniversary. The only SAJAC to survive out of the many groups that sprouted up from Toronto to Los Angeles. But we didn't just survive, we thrived. Today, even though our mission may have changed, SAJAC still provides our community with a unifying element that links our history and past to the dynamic future.

For thirty years we have welcomed the newcomers, chronicled our history through the SAJAC Reporter, kept the community informed with the annual Directory, hosted countless barbecues, tennis tournaments, golf games, dinners and special events. Today we are a major sponsor of Shabbat San Diego, provide a safety net for those in financial crisis though our Gemillut Chesed, and use our vast email and internet presence to tell, sell, promote and present - while advising everyone of happy simchas and sad losses.

And this year we went even further. We used our community presence to team up with the San Diego History Center, whose amazing year long exhibit told the long overdue story of the History of Jews in San Diego. We combined our 30th Anniversary celebration, the amazing exhibit, and an awards ceremony to honor the lifelong achievements of four outstanding members. It was a memorable night not soon to be forgotten.

Somehow Pam Nathan and I have served SAJAC for every one of the past 30 years. I guess that somewhere in our souls we really value the work that SAJAC does. With one foot in the past and the other aimed towards the future, I would like to know that the organization will be in strong hands as we inevitably roll back our roles in the organization. If you really were to ask yourself if there is a better way to serve your community, I am guessing you would be hard pressed to find a better way to serve. I hope you agree and start to play a real role in this vital community asset.





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Message From the Editor

I happened to be looking at some very over-year increase in incidents - assaults, history the other day and remembered was a quarterly and there was no shorta new and vibrant community with new immigrants pouring through the doors. It seems like it was a simpler time.

But here we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary, and times are a good deal more complicated. Yet here we are again putting another SAJAC Reporter to bed.

If nothing else it's a testimony to our resilience. Though most of our members are no longer newcomers, there is a strong bond that has been forged through the years to underscore how important it is for us to hang onto this communal spirit and the Reporter has always been a unifying element in our ongoing history. Yet there is a spirit of hate that is trying to tear us apart.

No matter what your politics, everyone should be concerned as Jews around the world are under attack -an onslaught not seen since Germany and Europe in the thirties.

In its annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents, the ADL reports that there has been a massive increase in the amount of harassment suffered by American Jews, And to our readers and advertisers on particularly since November, and a doubling in the amount of anti-Semitic bullying and vandalism at non-denominational K-12 schools.

In 2016, there was a 34 percent year- Thank You!

old Reporter magazines from our ancient vandalism, and harassment — with a total of 1,266 acts targeting Jews and Jewish that there was a time when the Reporter institutions. Nearly 30 percent of these incidents (369) occurred in November age of news and information. We were and December. The surge has continued during the first three months of 2017, with preliminary reports of another 541 incidents, putting this year on pace for more than 2,000 incidents. Americans of all faiths have felt the increase and in a poll ADL released several months ago, a majority said they are concerned about violence in the U.S. directed at Jews.

Regardless where one places the blame for these acts, the reality is that it has never been more important for Jews to stand together and to foster a communal spirit. It has always been our common identity that has held us together and our troubled history has always taught us that if we stand together in unity we will never allow the armies of hate to defeat us.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the loyal band, without whom this magazine would remain just words in my mind. Derek Berghaus has once again given the magazine its stylish look while "newcomer" Gabriel Bloch's work as advertising director has assured us a magazine full of excited advertisers.

this 30th Anniversary issue, thank you for your loyal support and a sincere appreciation for your valuable contributions to the success of this magazine

SAJAC REPORTER 2017

editor-in-chief: Brian Marks | advertising director: Gabriel Bloch

graphics: Derek Berghaus



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SAJAC presents its first ever **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** to four outstanding people

As Sajac celebrates our 30th Anniversary, we though it fitting to honor several deserving members of the community who have not just answered the call to communal duty, but have gone way beyond and have excelled in effort, commitment and achievement.

The winners of the first ever Sajac Outstanding Achievement Awards were Claire Ellman, Jeffrey Essakow, Sharleen Wollach and Pam Nathan.

SAJAC honored these four winners at our 30th Anniversary Gala which was held at the San Diego History Center as part of the year long exhibition honoring the History of Jews in San Diego. The event which included a tour of the exhibit, a beautifull catered dinner and an awards ceremony (that also included inscribing the four honorees into the Sajac Circle of Fame).

Claire Ellman: Claire's selfless contribution to both San Diego and South African Jewry and her outstanding work in support of the State of Israel has put her is a class of her own. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her quiet energy that is felt throughout San Diego and abroad.

Jeffrey Essakow: As a co-founder of the Challenged Athletes Foundation, Jeffrey's level of dedication and commitment has overseen this organization's rise to global stature serving challenged athletes around the world.

Pam Nathan: For over 30 years, Pam has (often) single-handedly kept SAJAC going as an energetic and vibrant organization. Her tireless efforts have not only kept the organization alive in the face of overwhelming odds,

but has managed to make it thrive and become a role model for South African organizations throughout the

Sharleen Wollach: Sharleen is one of those tireless workers whose contribution is essential to the success of many organizations. Apart from her work at the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego, Sharleen is the strength and backbone of so many causes and organizations that it is impossible to list. Her legendary organizational skills, boundless energy and her refusal to say no ... made her the poster child for this year's award.

Sajac hopes to make this awards Gala a regular event on the community schedule.



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disease, menopause, and many other health problems a woman may

We couldn't be more proud of our talented team and its dedicated individuals. In 2016 alone. Drs. Goodwin, Saffer, Bales, French, and Meshkat were all awarded Top **Doctor** by the San Diego County Medical Society. What an incredible feat to have five doctors from our practice earning this impressive

This is quite an exciting year as WCOG will be expanding locations to include the Carlsbad Women's Center, a new state-of-the-art facility, dedicated to serving comprehensive health needs of women in every stage of their lives. In addition to the new location, West Coast will be introducing two new excellent doctors to our team. Dr. Christine Carter Sterling and Dr. Ariel Shuckett will enhance our office and increase our ability to provide reliable, advanced healthcare to all our patients.





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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOUTH AFRICA

// BY CLAIRE ELLMAN

On my recent visit to South Africa I took the opportunity to visit many of the homes that ChaiSouthAfrica supports so that I could give you, our donors, a firsthand account and report. It was heartbreaking to see how many of the homes are in serious disrepair and do not have the funding to make the structural upgrades needed, and to grow with the resident's ever increasing needs

As an aging population, their needs have changed from decades ago, when they entered as young children, and young adults. Now, the pressing items include the need for adult diapers, walkers, oxygen and increasing medical attention. With only 15% - 44% of residents able to pay their monthly dues, and little government subsidy, most of the

homes are using their endowment capital to sustain their day to day expenses. For example, it costs an average of R21,000 per person per month at Highlands House with an annual operating cost of R26 million!

To give you a sense of the current circumstances at the homes I visited, here are a few highlights, or lowlights, that

HIGHLANDS HOUSE, IN CAPE TOWN, is working on revamping their coffee shop, most of it has been completed though more funds are required for the finishing touches. Although the average age of the almost 200 residents is 86, they continue to provide the most incredible entertainment. watch their Facebook page to see all the fun activities! They are currently facing a major dilemma as their building needs to be upgraded including all the plumbing, electrical as well as the infrastructure. The cost is huge and they do not have the funds!

Oranjia currently have 8 residents, three girls and five boys. One girl celebrated her Bat-Mitzvah in March and two boys will celebrate their BarMitzvah's later this year. Oranjia have a day care program which they are seeking fundraising to expand.



This Day Care program has been established as a best practice and preventative measure to children having to come into residential care. If their fundraising is successful it will allow them to build a facility to cater for 20 school children and youth daily. These are children who have been identified by Jewish Community Services as kids who are living in difficult circumstances. This would give the children a safe place to go after school where they would be assisted by tutors and have access to social and child care workers. They would be fed and then be taken home to sleep with their families

GLENDALE has currently completed phase 1 and phase 2 of their renovation. Their goal was to have all 6 phases completed by the end

of this year however they have run out of funds. So far, the renovation has cost R20 million and looks beautiful. Each resident has their own spacious room as a kibbutz style cluster. The higher functioning residents still spend their days at Astra Jewish Sheltered Employment Centre together with the residents from Rosecourt and Vriende - homes for Jewish adults with special needs. Rosecourt received an adiacent property from the community which they need to raise funds to start building. They are currently at maximum capacity and have a waiting list.

In Johannesburg construction is completed and the kids moved into the new Arcadia Home & Daycare Centre. Kol Ha'kavod to the Chevrah Kadisha and the Johannesburg community for coming through for these 56 children who will benefit from this state of the art facility.

The Chevrah Kadisha is totally committed to an on-going program of upgrading and renovating their other facilities, and the local community is anxiously awaiting these plans. Sandringham Gardens is currently the focus as there are extensive renovations and refurbishments both underway and planned. The dining room, nosh bar and gardens are being given a major makeover, and there are plans in process for the Lifestyle Centre and an additional two wards in the Frail





Care facility. In fact, every part of Sandringham Gardens is on their radar but the size of the facility ensures that, like Rome, it cannot be rebuilt in a day!

As the needs of a dwindling Jewish Community grow, and as the brick and mortar buildings age, there is an ever-increasing need for funding. It has become apparent that the ex-pat community and those that are interested in preserving the incredible institutions of South Africa, will all be

called upon during the coming months and years to do what they can to ensure the stability of a fragile community. I love visiting the homes, and supporting their causes. It makes me think about all the wonderful days spent in South Africa and I make it my business to stop by and visit - you should too next time you are there.

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WHAT **HAS 2017** BROUGHT TO IMMIGRATION

// BY MARLENE DAVIS STANGER

Immigration was one of the hot topics of the GOP's platform on which Donald Trump was elected President. It is not a matter of if, but when changes will be implemented to change the immigration landscape and herald in a new era.

The areas in which we can expect to see changes to both legal and illegal immigration will certainly make it more challenging to live and work in the U.S. Trump is pushing his Buy America, Hire America agenda and this quite clearly feeds the immigration debate. At the beginning of August, Trump and Senators Tom Cotton (R-AK) and David Perdue (R-GA) proposed the RAISE Act - a bill aimed at replacing the current green card process for employment-based immigration with a points system - similar to those in place in Canada and Australia.

This bill would decrease the number of green cards available through family based immigration, will get rid of the Green Card Lottery, reduce the annual number of refugees, and restrict access to public benefits. If this bill finds traction, it would eliminate the 5 employment-based categories with a point system, awarded on a sliding scale based on education, salary, investment, achievements, age and English language proficiency. Those with STEM and professional degrees, entrepreneurs investing at least \$1.35 million and coming to manage a new U.S. endeavor, those with jobs offering salaries exceeding the median household income in the state of employment, those with very high achievements would be favored. It would be necessary to earn at least 30 of 100 points and spouse's eligibility would either enhance or jeopardize this score. Those meeting the cut off would be able to apply for green cards. Employers would have to attest that no U.S. worker was being displaced.

Family unity programs will be sacrificed on through high net worth and high net value employment based immigrants. The number of family based green cards will be reduced, the cut off age for dependent children will drop to 17, and certain categories will be eliminated including 21 year-old US children sponsoring parents, for green cards, citizens sponsoring adult children, and citizens sponsoring siblings. This will impact many. It is also expected that non-immigrant categories will be affected.

Everyone has heard about the H-1B lottery that takes place every year in the second week of April. There is a belief that salaries paid to foreign employees in H-1B status depress the wages to U.S. workers. This is not the case since the Dept. Of Labor mandates that U.S. employers pay the prevailing wage for the job in the area where the employment will take place.

But perceptions are strong motivators for change because whatever it takes to keep the voters happy will rise to the top of any plans to change immigration.

The legislation that has been proposed so far this year is directed at companies that employ high numbers of people in H-1B status and the common thread is

that only the higher paid foreign nationals will be able to work in the U.S. in this status. Also, entry level positions could all but disappear.

It will become more difficult for many foreign students graduating from U.S. schools to get H-1Bs, but also compliance requirements for those hiring H-1B employees will be more stringently enforced with fines for employers violating immigration laws having increased substantially. The system will be squeezed from the front and back ends of the process.

Another rumor concerns the H-4 spouses of certain H-1B employees who are granted work authorization in the U.S. It appears that this H-4 EAD program - as it is called - could also come under fire. (EAD stands for Employment Authorization Document).

There are hundreds of thousands of children who came to the U.S. with their parents and received work authorization based on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program. This program, too, is earmarked for scrutiny but to date, neither this, nor the H-4 EAD program has been harmed. The Travel Ban concerning the nationals of six Arab countries has been a contentious issue this year and continues to be so, though the various State Supreme Courts have weighed in and substantially stayed the implementation of this program.

People should not be surprised to find that it takes longer to get visa appointments and have their visas issued by U.S. consulates abroad since it is reported that many Dept. Of State positions remain unfilled.

It remains necessary to be well prepared on arriving in the U.S. to present documents to support why you are coming here and when you intend to leave - particularly if coming here as a tourist.

If you are a student or a tourist, the burden of proof is on you every time you enter the U.S. that you do not have immigrant intent and that you plan on leaving the U.S. after your visit. You must prove your home ties and ability to support yourself during your vacation or visit.

The bottom line is that all of immigration policy is political and is a very emotional subject for many - on both sides of the divide. So the hot tips for this year are be sure to enter the lottery again this year because this program is on the chopping block (look at the Dept. Of State website regarding Diversity Visa 2019); if you can enrol for an advanced degree in a STEM subject in the U.S., then do so! Don't stop at a Bachelor's (or if you are only going to do a Bachelor's degree -STEM it is; and, if you happen to be here illegally, make sure your tail lights work!!

There will be lots to talk about in next year's edition so watch this space.

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SAJAC HOSTS NEWCOMERS TEA

// BY MICHELLE DIAMOND.

Danny Gavson generously hosted a newcomer's tea for San Diego's new families.

It was a wonderful afternoon sharing stories about recent and past experiences and meeting new friends. SAJAC continues to demonstrate the importance of community and networking, as it takes a village to support one another. Thanks to all the organizers, including Brian Marks and Pam Nathan, who diligently keep SAJAC moving forward, making it relevant year after year.



"We are Avril and Clive Shefts. We have moved to San Diego after living on the East coast for 13 years. I am originally from Cape Town and Clive is from Johannesburg. We have 3 children, Aharon 12, Adina 10, and Ariel 7. We love San Diego and are thrilled to be part of this wonderful community."

-Avril Shefts









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Housing Affordability:

Causes and Consequences in

California:

// BY LINDA BERNSTEIN.

he consequences of California's mounting affordability crisis are large and far reaching.

Not only will this affect individuals and their families by diminishing homeownership, wealth accumulation, and quality of life, but it is also driving our middle class and skilled workers out of the state and inhibiting California's ability to grow its economy. This affordability problem largely stems from the state's inability to build housing on a scale even close to population or economic growth. California needs a deliberate and concerted effort to address this challenge and ensure that it remains a driver of economic growth nationwide. The problems didn't spring up overnight. They are the result of decades worth of structural issues and policy incentives, so this will not be an easy fix.

However, there are some actions that can be taken now to begin chipping away.

First, California needs to begin to remove state and local barriers to development. Again, this could serve as the basis for an entire study on its own, but this would include everything from reforming California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the state level to root out abuse while maintaining strict environmental standards to loosening the permitting and zoning approval of new developments at the local/ municipal level. Second, California needs to address public opinion as it relates to new housing in their areas. Although difficult to quantify, the "Not in my back yard" (NIMBY) attitude underlies much of the resistance to development at the local level. This is perhaps one of the most difficult of the recommendations to implement because, while Californians recognize both the need for new housing, they do not want to see those new units in their neighborhood. Connecting the dots between supply, lack of affordability, and a deteriorating quality of life will be paramount in suppressing resistance. If local elected officials are going to pay a price at the ballot box for approving new developments, they will have little incentive to support housing.

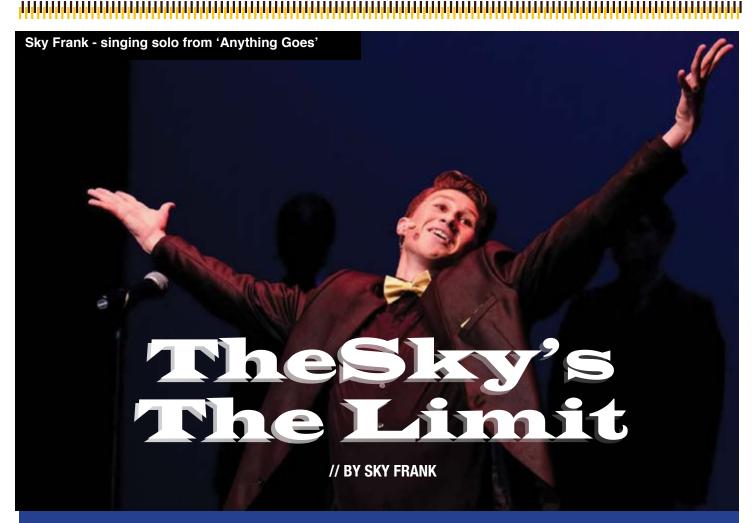
Third, more education is needed. Although the deteriorating affordability in California has priced many households out of the market, there are some families that are qualified and can afford a home but do not. Our annual Renter Survey showed that 69% of millennials said they would buy a home now if they could get in with a low downpayment. However, in that



same group of millennials, only 19% knew about FHA and other low-downpayment financing options. In these cases, financial literacy and other educational vehicles can pay significant dividends.

Other solutions include developing more creative financing solutions for populations who are unbanked, with no formal credit history, or who operate businesses as independent contractors and sole proprietor without formal employment histories, but who may still be good credit risks to take. This is an area where financial innovation can help many non-traditional households take advantage of the benefits of home-

California can also begin to chip away at the barriers to housing turnover by lobbying and addressing some of the unintended consequences of policies that have been enacted. This is the challenge of our time facing the state. And, while it is daunting, it is not insurmountable. California still has a strong economy that can provide a firm foundation to begin to address housing affordability, but it needs to get serious and it needs to act now.



These past weeks have been a dream come true.

It started by entering the San Diego Ben Vereen Awards as a male nominee, I was excited and ready to soak up whatever valuable information I could in the time that I was there. We met Ben for the first time on my birthday, May 26. Gosh! He is such a powerful, knowledgeable person -- so down to earth. He sat down with us and gave us some very useful advice that I will keep for the rest of my life. Ben spoke about time. This was my second time in NY, having been with a few ideals and mantras to keep in mind. Like, "if you are here, this is where the universe wants you to be, and if you are here then the universe is in line. "

How cool is that?? I felt very connected with every- streets. thing he was saying. A lot of things stuck with me.

Later we were onstage, holding hands with all the new, amazingly talented friends we'd made. I was rapidly Sky Frank". Our bodies were trembling with anticipation with just one thing going through all of our minds.

Aside from the competition, the week that we had spent together created friendships and bonds that regardless who won, we would never forget the times we have spent with each other. We know those memories will improve our lives forever.

Then, out of nowhere, Ben called my name. Sky Frank!

My body was shot with adrenaline and my mind went blank. The competition was over and everyone was clapping and screaming, confetti was raining down. And I hadn't even thought about the adventures that were to come in New York.

Aside from the actual competition, rehearsal, and prep that went into The Jimmy Awards, we had the chance to experience the city. Some of us for the first my Nana Pam (my grandma) for my fifteenth birthday.

New York is awesome, aside from the humidity. I loved the food, loved the vibe, and I loved the energy on the

Being recognized like this is the stuff of dreams. This program is so meaningful, not just because of the stage time or recognition, but simply for being part of repeating my name in my head "Sky Frank, Sky Frank, it. I believe programs like this are essential because of the knowledge that is being passed on to the future artists of this industry. It creates a path for young minds to lead. The people standing on that stage are the minds that will create the future of Musical Theatre. Being on that Broadway stage was an absolute honor and I can hardly wait to get back there. It was an incredible pleasure and such an amazing time working with choreographers Kiesha Lalama and Leo Lencicki, as well as Director Van Kaplan, who I believe were

the John Gore Organization. I learned so much from wonderful dream. these people and I could never thank them enough for the incredible experience with the Jimmy's.

How did I get started in theatre?

that sought attention. I have vague memories of being local Jewish Community Center. But my passion for to all my amazingly supportive friends. Thank you. acting ignited in the 7th grade when I moved schools to SCPA. Thinking I was going to be in the Jazz Band, I eventually decided that musical theatre was the best fit for me. My inspiration through high school was our MT teacher Bill Doyle. Having no prior singing or acting coaching, Bill was responsible for teaching me almost everything I know. I wanted to make him proud, so I worked very hard to hear those words. I love that man. He's like my second father. Love ya Bill!

After high school, I want to go to college for Theatre or Musical Theatre, learn as much as I can, improve my craft, soak up everything, meet like minded people, form relationships. My plan is to work in the theatre, then move to Film and Television, and then feel

all responsible for the Rising Star Award presented by free to create and release my own original music. A

I would like to give a huge thank you to Rick Hernandez, The Ben Vereen Awards, The Jimmy Awards, The Broadway League, Broadway San Diego, Christann Heideman, my parents Romy and Warren Frank, Pam I have always been a theatrical and confident child Nathan, Andy Nathan, Penny Nathan, Uncle Charles, my sister Nikka, Bill Doyle, Roxane Carrasco, the crew in a production of Peter Pan as a very small child at my at the Balboa Theatre and at the Minskoff Theatre, and





















Savanna Bloch is one of a growing group of women directors who dominated the 2017 Los Angeles Film Festival. Women-directed films accounted for 46 percent of the film's screenings at this year's Festival, which resulted in women directors dominating the fest's awards ceremony.

Savanna, who is the daughter of Gabby and Nigel Bloch was a first-time director at this year's festival and her movie, "And Then There Was Eve", walked away with the coveted La **Muse Fiction Award.**

Savannah is a graduate of the USC school of Cinematic Arts. Her thesis film, No Time For Holiday, was distributed by Shorts International HD and ranked in the top ten films about teen angst in the United States. After graduation, she started shooting and directing promotional content for non-profits and start-up companies around the world. This type of work led her to the townships of South Africa, interviews with natives Bolivians and to Jordan, where she filmed children of the Syrian war.

Savannah returned to Los Angeles armed with a handful of stories and a new perspective to focus on narrative directing. In 2012, she directed Sister Cities as part of the Hollywood Fringe festival where she met "And Then There Was Eve" co-writer, Colette Freedman. This turned into an amazing collaboration and the film was born.

And Then There Was Eve is about Alyssa, a successful photographer who wakes up one

morning to find her apartment ransacked and her husband mysteriously missing. Left without even a photograph to offer the police, she turns to his colleague Eve, a talented jazz pianist with a flirtatious charm and disarming grace. Eve helps her confront her husband's longtime struggle with depression and to, over time, accept his absence. While getting to know this woman through such unusual circumstances, Alyssa is surprised to find herself falling in love again.

However, Eve is in fact Kevin, after a year of transgender transition, and the reason that Alyssa doesn't recognize her former husband is because Alyssa had a mental breakdown that erased Kevin's face from her memory and their final conversation in which Eve came out to Alyssa as transgender.

The film has been extremely well received and looks like it is the kick off to an amazing career for Savanna Bloch, Director.





BEEKEEPER: STAYING TRUE TO THE TRADITIONS OF METAL MUSIC.

There is a long-standing tradition of Jewish musicians playing in heavy rock and metal bands. Bands as diverse as Kiss or Death have featured Jewish individuals, but it is a little more unusual when three Jewish kids from San Diego embrace their love for music and create a thrash metal band that is already making waves locally and recently returned from a successful tour throughout California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada.

The band Beekeeper, comprises drummer Dylan Marks, guitarist/vocalist Ally Levine and bassist Adam Wollach. They have been playing shows for a few years but since the recent release of their highly acclaimed debut album, Slaves to the Nothing, they have ramped up their activity considerably. Beekeeper has been opening for more and more impressive touring acts at local music veues while headlining concerts on their recent tour.

"We're a local band with SAJAC connections," said Dylan This was truly a labor of love shared by three special friends recently. My dad is president of SAJAC and Wally's (Adam who truly love the harder side of music.

Wollach) mom Sharleen recently won the SAJAC. achievement award. So our roots in this community run deep.

"This band came out of a shared love of vintage metal music like Judas Priest, Slayer and Sepultura," he continued. It started as a project, but soon turned into an extremely serious examination of our roots and where we take this musice

The album Slaves to the Nothing is very immediate, catchy and intense and the band's old-school influences shine through, giving a modern update via contemporary production techniques.

Though Marks and Wollach play in several bands, Beekeeper is a special project to them. Marks wrote all the music, most of the lyrics and produced the album, while Wollach, a sound engineer, mixed the album.



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SAJAC AND SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER CO-HOSTED EVENT TO PROMOTE MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Earlier this year, SAJAC teamed up with executives from the San Diego History Center to promote the year long exhibit that chronicles the history of the Jewish community in San Diego.

The Salon, as it was called, was hosted by Selwyn and Hilary Isakow at their home in La Jolla, and was attended by both Don Bell and Lisa Culver from the History Center.

Ms. Culver's presentation threw light on the exhibit, spoke at length of the role South Africans have played in recent San Diego history, and encouraged participation in the center's activities through membership, donation and sponsorship.

She was followed by Brian Marks, the president of SAJAC, who announced the upcoming 30th Anniversary Gala to be held at the History Center. In addition he added that the event would not only celebrate the anniversary and encourage viewing of the exhibit, but would also be the presentation of the first ever Outstanding Achievement Awards that were to be given to several members of SAJAC who have devoted their lives to community service.

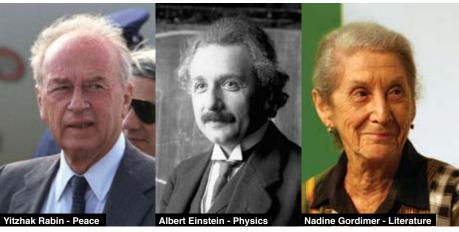
The event was attended by over thirty members, and the spirit of cooperation has continued and was extremely evident at the recent awards gala which was acknowledged as an incredible success







Despite their small numbers, more than twenty percent of all Nobel prize winners are Jewish.



At least 197 Jews and people of half- or three-quarters-Jewish ancestry have been awarded the Nobel Prize,1 accounting for 22% of all individual recipients worldwide between 1901 and 2016, and constituting 36% of all US recipients2 during the same period.3 In the scientific research fields of Chemistry, Economics, Physics, and Physiology/Medicine, the corresponding world and US percentages are 26% and 39%, respectively. Among women laureates in the four research fields, the Jewish percentages (world and US) are 33% and 50%, respectively. Of organizations awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 22% were founded principally by Jews or by people of half-Jewish descent. Since the turn of the century (i.e., since the year 2000), Jews have been awarded 25% of all Nobel Prizes and 27% of those in the scientific research fields. (Jews currently make up approximately 0.2% of the world's population and 2% of the US population.)

- Chemistry (36 prize winners, 21% of world total, 31% of US total)
- Economics (30 prize winners, 38% of world total, 50% of US total)
- Literature (15 prize winners, 13% of world total, 33% of US total)
- Peace (9 prize winners, 9% of world total, 10% of
- Physics (52 prize winners, 26% of world total, 37% of US total)
- Physiology or Medicine (55 prize winners, 26% of world total, 39% of US total).







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Inside the Boom of Israeli Cuisine in America

// BY JAMIE FELDMAR

Israeli food is having a moment in America. Or, rather: Israeli food continues to have a moment this year, with a slew of Israeli chefs expanding to new cities, winning awards and achieving a new level of culinary influence even among non-Israeli chefs. Israeli food has been simmering at our collective consciousness for a few years now — it started around the time Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi released the cookbook "Jerusalem" in 2012, and has continued through the successes of Israeli-American chefs like Michael Solomonoy, Alon Shaya and Einat Admony. We've covered the cuisine before, rounding up 10 Israeli dishes to know around this time last year, when we started to peek beyond falafel and hummus.

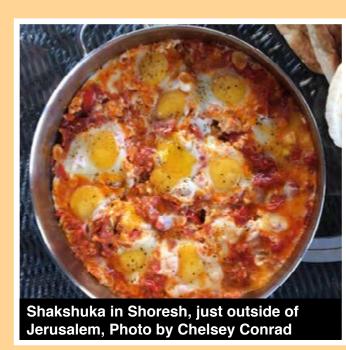
But with a slate of new restaurants in the works from high-profile Israeli chefs in America, the liberal incorporation of Israeli flavors and techniques across many kitchens, and the seemingly insatiable appetite of the dining public at large, it's time to take a look at the cuisine more closely.

First things first: It's nearly impossible to define Israeli food. Israel is an immigrant nation encompassing Jewish, Arab and Christian populations with roots in places as varied as Bulgaria, Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Greece, Russia, Lebanon, Syria, Ethiopia, Hungary, Yemen, Jordan and more, creating a particularly dynamic food culture. "It's a story of different people from different places who each brought a cuisine with them, until people started putting a big circle around it and calling it 'Israeli cuisine,'" says Gadi Peleg, the managing partner of the hotly anticipated New York restaurant Nur, from Israeli celebrity chef Meir Adoni (Peleg is also a partner at the wildly popular Breads Bakery in New York, whose head baker Uri Scheft is Israeli). "If you think about it, it's not that different from how American food evolved," says Peleg, citing the melting pot of immigrant dishes that have morphed into iconic edible symbols of

"But because the formation of Israel happened so recently - just

a generation or two ago - [this evolution] is all happening in real time," says Michael Solomonov, chef-owner of Zahav in Philadelphia and its newly opened sibling Dizengoff in New York, who has arguably become the most public face of Israeli cooking in America. Solomonov, like many chefs bringing Israeli cuisine to the forefront in the U.S. blends dishes that American diners instantly recognize as "Israeli" (i.e. hummus) with others that aren't so apparent (cobia tartare with avocado and cucumber). It's all rain under the same umbrella, says Solomonov: "The globalization of Israeli food is what makes it matter." His Philly-based eatery Zahav, which has been open for eight years, compiled its recipes into an eponymous cookbook last year and snagged a James Beard Award for cookbook of the year this past spring.

The food itself, regardless of its genealogy, seems almost perfectly engineered to appeal to the palates of American diners today. It's seasonal and vegetable-driven, therefore carrying a faint halo of "healthfulness" without the salad-bar stigma. Flavor-wise, it's smoky, tangy, acidic, all elements American diners know and love. Most of its cooking techniques are simple, making it feel accessible to diners even if not all of the flavors are familiar. "There is no boring facet to this food," says Emily Seaman, executive chef at Dizengoff, who spent years cooking Mexican food before becoming smitten with Israeli flavors and begging Solomonov for a job. "You can hit gold in every direction."



Alon Shaya, the Israeli-born, James Beard Award-winning chef-owner of Shaya in New Orleans, believes that the cuisine will continue to evolve. "When Israel was created, you had people coming from war-ravaged countries. It took a few generations to get to the point of being able to get that sense of creative freedom back. The younger people in Israel today are just getting a chance to start flexing their creative muscles. Creativity is blossoming across the country, and it's finally getting starting to spread around the world. People everywhere are taking hold of it, and it's pretty awesome to

No longer the butt of jokes, Schmaltz makes a comeback

// BY MELISSA CLARK

Schmaltz doesn't get the respect it deserves.

The butt of countless jokes about clogged arteries and an early grave, this rich, rendered, onion-scented chicken fat is synonymous with the heavy, plodding food of the shtetls. Even now, as medical science has given a nod to the moderate consumption of saturated animal fats, and the culinary elite has fallen hard for the likes of lard, tallow and duck fat, poor schmaltz remains the babushka-clad cousin not invited to the table.

This is a shame, because schmaltz is one the most versatile and flavorful fats you can use. Imagine the gentlest of butters infused with the taste of fried chicken, but with a fluffy lightness that melts in the mouth. When it's properly made, schmaltz has a brawny, roasted character that comes from the bits of poultry skin that brown in the pan. (Those crunchy, golden-fried pieces of skin are called gribenes, and they are an addictive snack in their own right.)

Shchmaltsl: A versatile gift from heaven!

Schmaltz is also the backbone of Central and Eastern European Jewish cooking. A Yiddish word that actually refers to rendered poultry skin of all kinds (goose, chicken or duck), schmaltz is a staple ingredient for matzo ball soup, chopped liver and latkes. And it was schmaltz, not olive oil, in which Hanukkah latkes were fried. The holiday may be known as the miracle of oil, but for many Ashkenazi Jews, the celebration was fueled by poultry fat.

Frying latkes in olive oil grew in popularity in the United States in the 1980s, when home cooks started using olive oil more often in general, for health reasons. But by then schmaltz had been in decline for decades, after Jewish immigrants in America discovered cheap hydrogenated vegetable oils.

"Crisco was the number one factor in helping Jews assimilate into American society in the 1920s and '30s," said Tina Wasserman, the former food columnist. "Putting Crisco in a pan and watching the solid white fat melt is identical to watching schmaltz melt, so it was familiar," she said. The fall of schmaltz was cemented with the cholesterol scare of the 1970s, which turned the wonderfully rich substance into a punch line.

Comeback

But schmaltz has persisted, and in certain quarters you can catch the oniony whiff of a comeback.

The food writer Michael Ruhlman said he decided to write his 2013 cookbook "Schmaltz" because, after years of vilification, many people were scared to eat it. Ruhlman, the rare schmaltz proponent who is not Jewish, fell in love with it after trying it with a neighbor."I got tired of hearing people talk about schmaltz as a 'heart attack on the plate,'" he said. For Noah Bernamoff, an owner of the Mile End restaurants in New York, embracing schmaltz meant rebelling against his parents' generation. Now he proudly uses schmaltz as much as possible at his restaurants. "We use a disgusting amount of schmaltz," said Bernamoff with love.

RECIPE



SCHMALTZ AND GRIBENES

Makes ½ cup schmaltz, 2 cups gribenes

34 pound chicken skin and fat, diced (use scissors, or freeze then dice with a knife)

3/4 teaspoon kosher salt

½ medium onion, peeled and cut into ¼-inch slices (optional) 1. In a large nonstick skillet over medium heat, toss chicken skin and fat with salt and 1 tablespoon water and spread out

in one layer. Cook over medium heat for about 15 minutes, until fat starts to render and skin begins to turn golden at the

2. Add onions and cook 45 to 60 minutes longer, tossing occasionally, until chicken skin and onions are crispy and richly browned, but not burned.

3. Strain through a sieve. Reserve the schmaltz. If you want the gribenes to be crispier, return to the skillet and cook over high heat until done to taste. Drain gribenes on a paper-towel-lined plate.















Millennial Rabbi

// BY RABBI DAVID BORTZ

n 2005, I left San Diego & UC Santa Barbara for Jerusalem to explore my Jewish roots. In 2011, I returned home as a

Rabbi, ready to infuse some of the inspiration into the community that I never had as a teenager, creating JTEEN. Entering our 6th year, we are excited to continue our growth and reach to our youth - our Jewish future. We are adding two new programs: A "Hot Topics" course where we'll discuss current topics on the minds of teens, from drugs & alcohol, to relationships and social media. Also, we are planning a Leadership & Entrepreneurship program where teens will create events & programs with the guidance of adult leaders. This is in addition to our public school Jewish clubs, Judaic Honors evening classes, community service projects, social events, and more.

Every week during those years in Yeshiva, I learned from some of the deepest, most insightful minds on earth (I may be biased). I couldn't keep the 100's of mind-blowing ideas to myself, so I started emailing one short idea to friends and family every week before Shabbat. I did this for years, at one point filing them under categories on a blog I called Quill of the Soul. This name came from a Hassidic saying: "Speech is the pen of the heart, but a song is the pen of the soul." It's nearly impossible to give over how you're feeling in words, to explain what lights your heart on fire; but with this book I tried.

Four years ago, I decided to compile my favorite posts into a book. Little did I know how long it would take me to finish! A few months ago, I finally published: "Beneath The Surface", available on Amazon. As Rabbi Akiva Tatz likes to say, if you buy 2 copies you will surely understand it better! As we know all too well, teens aren't always the most expressive people when speaking to adults. But a senior from SDJA who received my book at our end of year Banquet just wrote to me something that made all those years of effort worth it: "I just finished reading your book and I am forever grateful, forever impressed by your skills as an author and above all as a teacher. It all happened a week ago when finally had the time to pick up a book and read once again. Last week I decided to start reading your book for inspiration and guidance to this journey and search for the divine soul that I have within me. Each chapter engraved in your book taught me valuable lessons that have helped me become more connected to our Jewish faith and my journey towards self-enlightenment. Thank you. Thank you so much for your time and lessons..."

Under the name "Millennial Rabbi" (are you seriously not following me on Instagram? Shame on you), on Shabbats I will be speaking at various communities in the States about my journey and lessons I've learned along the way, from Jiu (Jew) Jitsu fighting to our Shabbat Tent at Coachella. I hope to bring some of our unique SoCal flavor of Judaism to communities abroad. Maybe a trip to Joburg is in order?

Our work at JTEEN has only been made possible thanks to our supporters and board, made up primarily of South African ex-pats. If we look around the Jewish world - in the Diaspora where help is needed most - we often see South African Jewry leading the way, and I am proud to have roots there. May we continue to bring our inspiration, love and warmth to our Jewish community here in San Diego, setting a great example for the next generation. It is up to us, and needed now more than ever.



The Butterfly Project

Current Butterfly Count: 167,736

The Butterfly Project's Education Team // By Cheryl Rattner Price, Executive Director

The Butterfly Project has many champions without whom this work would not be possible. But amongst all of our supporters, we want to take time this month to recognize a special group of women who stand out for all of their hard work, dedication, and tireless commitment to sharing The Butterfly Project's message to students across the country.

The Butterfly Project's Education Team, made up of Co-Founder Jan Landau, Sonia Fox-Ohlbaum, Judi Gottschalk, and Arlene Keeves, is a passionate group of retired educators who meet weekly to discuss, write and plan lessons and curriculum that enhance the The Butterfly Project classroom experience. Several team members are children of Holocaust survivors and bring their parents' personal stories and artifacts such as family photographs, yellow star, and a concentration camp uniform, into the classroom while presenting lessons.





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Chief Rabbi changes prayer for the country

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein has changed the Prayer for the Republic of South Africa - a prayer rabbis say every Saturday morning in shul.

"Bless us with a President who is morally worthy of this nation of heroes, a President and government of integrity and honesty, dedicated with selfless devotion to the service and upliftment of all the people of South Africa." This was added to the previous version.

The chief rabbi explains his motivation to do this: "Given the circumstances of what is happening in South Africa right now, it is important that we as take a stand against the immorality of corruption and state capture. We believe in the power of prayer to change the world and so our prayers must say what we want."







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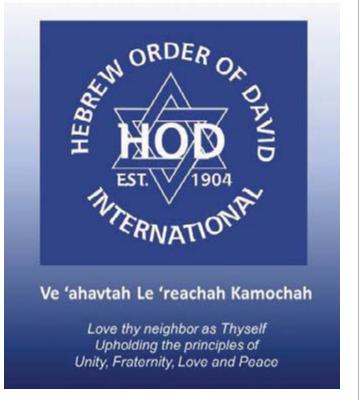
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The Hebrew Order of David is coming to San Diego!

The Hebrew Order of David International is an International Fraternity of Jewish men dedicated to the continuity of the Jewish people and performing acts of charity to enhance the lives of HOD brethren and the community at large. Many of you will be familiar with the HOD from your days in South Africa but it is no longer a South African organization only. We welcome Jewish men from around the world as Members.

The Hebrew Order of David International is the successor



organization to a Jewish brotherhood, the Hebrew Order of Druids which was originally established in England in 1896 as a friendly society for the benefits of its members.

In 1904, a branch of the order was formed in South Africa and in 1916, the name of the order was changed to the Hebrew Order of David.

The Order has flourished in South Africa for over 100 years. As emigration from South Africa commenced in the 1960's, a number of other lodges were formed around the world. Today lodges operate in South Africa, Israel, England, Canada and the U.S.A.

We are expanding rapidly and there are now eight Lodges in North America located in Atlanta, Boca Raton, Toronto, Dallas and Houston. We plan to open a new Lodge in San Diego in the near future.

If you are interested in learning more about joining this outstanding organization please contact Aubrey Meyerowitz at lcm2077@aol.com or call him at 619-261- 2077.



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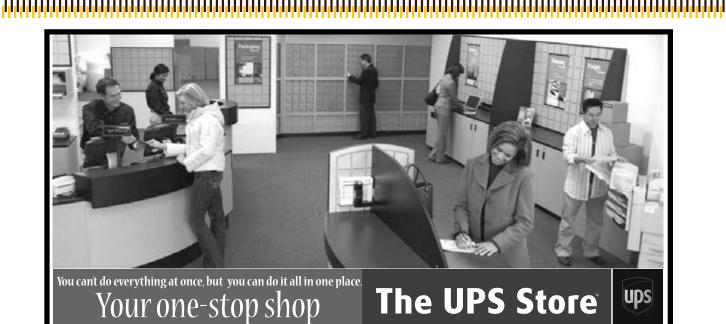
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FEW THOUGHTS

RABBI ZALMAN CARLEBACH

Chabad Of Downtown San Diego

Almost 13 years ago my wife and I moved to San Diego. When we were deciding where best to establish our lives we had a choice of San Diego or South Africa. Personally I love the South African Jewish community, as it is one of unity and unique in the attitude towards our heritage. The Lubavitcher Rebbe led the way and we are very happily settled in Downtown San Diego.

A little while ago, while on the plane returning from a wedding in Toronto, I came to the realization that Yiddishkeit is not just strong in South Africa but everywhere, especially here in Diego. I was seated in 6D listening to a Torah class and the fellow in 6C, Rob says matter-a-factly "Hmm, a Yarmulke". He then wondered about Jewish life in San Diego and asked, "Do you make Minyan?" I was flabbergasted.

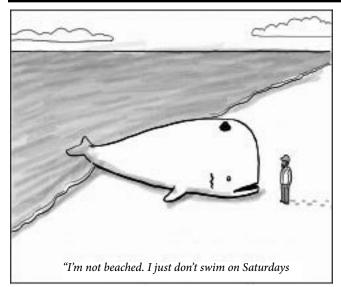
Most people ask. "How many Jews live in San Diego?" "How do you get Kosher food?" "Where do your kids go to school?" "How did you choose downtown or was it chosen for you?" But never in 13 years has a local Yid asked me that ancient, but powerful, question "Do you make Minyan?" I was fortunate to answer that Baruch Hashem we have a daily minyan downtown and have a very vibrant community.

My new friend Rob (or Reuven) will be helping us make Minyan soon enough.

Interestingly, in the Torah portion of Va'etechanan, Moses reminds Jewry that they "are a holy people to the Lord, your G-d: the Lord your G-d has chosen you to be His treasured people, out of all the peoples upon the face of the earth". While Tevye on fiddler-on-the-roof humored us about "G-d choosing someone else once in a while", we are, indeed, a unique nation chosen to observe six hundred and thirteen Mitzvot, thus shining light unto a somewhat dark world. Jews aren't perfect; we don't always get along with each other, we don't always follow G-d's instruction manual and don't always sanctify G-d's name, but we are gifted with unbeatable souls that come-what-may, are on fire for Judaism.

Communities are often judged by membership, crowd size, financial stability and other measurements of so-called success, but not in downtown. 13 years out west has taught me that the real gauge of a healthy community is bright souls feeling connected to their heritage, their people and to their G-d. We do "make Minyan" more often than not, but the question itself is just as powerful as the actual Minyan because it's a sign of our connection. Our community is comprised of treasured Jews thirsting for authentic Judaism who reach out, whenever they can to quench their thirst through Minyan, Mikvah, Torah study or just a nice Shabbos dinner.

I am honored to live amongst such inspiring Jews! Rabbi Zalman Carlebach Chabad Of Downtown San Diego formerly of Johannesburg, South Africa.





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Maccabi Games

Not Just For Jews Anymore

// BY PETER BAILEY. HOD HASHARON

Glancing through the team lists of many of the participating countries, and listening to the spectators at the various sporting events, one fact became obvious: Many non- Jews participated in the 2017 Maccabiah Games.

While watching the rugby game between the South African and Israeli open men's teams, I made two extremely disturbing discoveries. The first was that the vast majority of the members of the South African team were not even nominally Jewish, but were apparently selected because they were good rugby players fortunate enough to have a Jewish parent, grandparent or, in one case, great-grandparent. I was informed that the US team was selected using the same criteria, although I was unable to confirm this.

This phenomenon was not restricted to rugby, but was evident in other sporting disciplines as well.

The other astounding fact emanating from the games is that Israel did not field its best rugby team, instead resting these players for the coming European International Competition.

All of this draws one to make the following conclusions: From the Diaspora perspective, winning a medal is more important than the Maccabiah ideal of fostering Jewish fellowship through sport, while from the Israeli perspective, success at the Maccabiah Games is not of sufficient importance. This raises the question as to whether the games, in their present format, have become irrelevant.

The Maccabiah Games should once again be a global sporting event for the Jewish people, with an emphasis on Jewish fellowship and learning about and experiencing life in Israel, the only Jewish country in the world. My view, and that of many of the Jewish spectators I discussed this with, is that it is far more important to field a Jewish team even though it might be a weaker team, with an emphasis on pride in competing in what is called the "Jewish Olympics."

Anti-Semitic incidents surge 86% in US in 2017- ADL Anti-Semitism audit

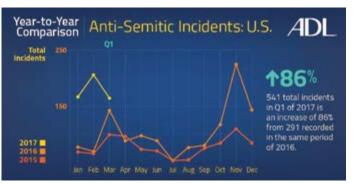
// BY ERIC CORTELLESSA

WASHINGTON - Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States saw a massive spike of 86 percent in the first quarter of 2017, according to new data compiled by the Anti-Defamation League.

The jump in incidents comes after a 34% increase in 2016 from the previous year, most of it in the last few months of 2016.

"There's been a significant, sustained increase in anti-Semitic activity since the start of 2016 and what's most concerning is the fact that the numbers have accelerated over the past five months," the group's CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement.

The Jewish civil rights group's annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents found 541 reported anti-Semitic incidents in the first four months of the current year, including 380 episodes of harassment, 161 bomb threats to Jewish institutions and 155 cases of anti-Jewish vandalism.



The incidents took place throughout the country, with the majority concentrated in areas with large Jewish populations, including California (211 incidents), New York (199), New Jersey (157), Florida (137) and

"Clearly, we have work to do and need to bring more urgency to the fight," Greenblatt added. "At ADL, we will use every resource available to put a stop to anti-Semitism. But we also need more leaders to speak out against this cancer of hate and more action at all levels to counter anti-Semitism."

For the last several months, Jewish groups have expressed concern about the growing trend of anti-Semitic vandalism and harassment across the country.

Since January, recurrent bomb threats have hit Jewish community centers, Jewish day schools and other institutions nationwide, causing the evacuation of dozens of centers and prompting some parents to remove their children from JCC programs.

There have also been repeated incidents of swastikas being drawn on schools and other buildings, and hundreds of Jewish tombstones that have been vandalized in the US.

"The 2016 presidential election and the heightened political atmosphere played a role in the increase," the organization said in a press release. "For example, in Denver, graffiti posted in May 2016 said 'Kill the Jews, Vote Trump.' In November, a St. Petersburg, Florida man was accosted by someone who told him, 'Trump is going to finish what Hitler started.'"

Since the waves of bomb threats to Jewish centers started in January, some Jewish leaders have expressed frustration at the administration's handling of the matter - including a seeming reluctance on the White House's part with to forcefully condemn these events.



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A new beginning for South Africa

// BY CLLR. ERROL ANSTEY (DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP, CITY OF CAPE TOWN)



One in two South Africans live in poverty, surviving on less than \$80 a month. Our nation's unemployment rate is at its worst in 14 years. A massive 9.3 million South Africans are without work. And over 17 million people are trapped, dependent on social grants for survival.

ANC President Jacob Zuma, who recently survived his eighth Motion of No Confidence in South Africa's Parliament, is at the helm of an economy at 'Junk' status. President Zuma and other leaders within the party have countless allegations of corruption against them. During Zuma's term, our government has racked up close to \$20 billion in unauthorised, irregular, and fruitless & wasteful expenditure.

Fractured and incapable of firing their corrupt leader, the ANC has proven that it is no longer fit to govern South Africa. Our only hope is in the Democratic Alliance (DA).

The DA, which has grown enormously in its capacity as official opposition over the last few years, is campaigning for change.

In the Local Government Elections a year ago, we increased our majority in the City of Cape Town and, with the help of coalition governments in some cases, went on to govern the City of Johannesburg, Tshwane and Nelson Mandela Bay. Making the way for 16 million South Africans to experience some form of DA governance.

Leading South Africa's major metropolitan cities, in addition to 29 smaller municipalities and one province, affords us the chance to showcase what DA governance looks like, in the build-up to the 2019 General Election.

In just one year, there have been some incredible changes in our newly won metropolitan municipalities.

The DA-led City of Johannesburg has set to work providing access to water, sanitation, electricity and roads to ten informal settlements this financial year. Whereas the previous ANC-led administration set itself a target of upgrading only two in the same amount of time.

DA-led Nelson Mandela Bay is in the best financial position it's

been in for over seven years. 12 000 informal households are in the process of receiving running water and sanitation for the first time; a number that will continue to grow until all residents have a home they can be proud of.

DA-led Tshwane has attracted close to \$180 million in investment in just nine months - exceeding its own target. The Capital City was on the verge of bankruptcy when the DA-led coalition government took over last year - with a deficit in excess of \$150 million owing to two decades of reckless governance by the ANC.

And residents in the DA-led City of Cape Town, where we are governing for the second term, have more hope for finding a job than in any other metro in South Africa. In the past year, despite the poor economic conditions which persist nationwide, the City attracted over \$206 million worth of investment, resulting in the creation of 6,236 new jobs.

As the 2019 General Election fast approaches, DA activists and local governments are working furiously to campaign for change. Each one of them behind DA Leader Mmusi Maimane's belief that "the DA is the hope that will defeat the corruption that oppresses our people, the hope of a prosperous nation at peace with itself and the world, the hope that we can make South Africa a better place for our children."





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Defying the Jewish tattoo taboos

// BY CARON KEMP

There are many myths parents relay to their children in order to affect behavior. Eating carrots helps you see in the dark, or you'll catch a cold if you go outside with wet hair. These assertions trickle steadily through the generations. So, God forbid we should be denied the right to be buried in a Jewish cemetery, we refrain from adorning our bodies with tattoos. Explicitly prohibited in Jewish law, as we are told, inking has been one of the biggest taboos in our religion since time began.

I was sitting shiva for my mum when I decided that, nevertheless, I wanted a tattoo.

I wanted something meaningful and profound to extract from an extremely painful experience, a permanent, sensitive and reflective tribute felt appropriate if not rebellious; even as a 30-something-year-old mother of three.

When I stumbled across the work of Gabriel Wolff who, as part of an international trio, designs bespoke tattoos using Hebrew calligraphy from his studio in Buenos Aires, I knew I had found my direction.

Producing true works of art, Hebrew Tattoos prides itself on reclaiming Jewish identity in a way traditional Judaism doesn't offer, building a bridge between ancient characters and modernist artistic freedom.

Debunking the notion that Judaism and tattoos continues to be an incompatibility, over the past 15 years, the team has created unique body art for thousands of people worldwide The tattoo itself, then, is a creative, effective way to convey that personal and internal truth to the external in a way that words could never do."

After gentle welcomed guidance from Wolff – who grew up in the Chabad community in Munich – I settled on the words kol yom hu matana (every day is a gift) - a fitting acknowledgement of the journey I have been on and the lessons learnt, framed within a context so close to my heart.



New film chronicles the surprising renewal of Judaism in Africa.

You're a young Jewish woman on a six-month volunteer stint with a women's rights group in Ghana, West Africa. Your passion for women's issues helps you dismiss your initial edginess in this strange unfamiliar setting. Then Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are approaching and you long for the warm family holiday gatherings back home, in Montreal, Canada.

So what does a wandering Jew do?

She looks for a synagogue. But a synagogue in Ghana?

Most say they never saw or heard of any Jews. One man says he knew a few Jews but could not provide any details. Then an age old traditional Jewish resource came to Gabrielle Zilkha's rescue: Her Jewish mother. Mom in Montreal, Canada searched the Internet and found a brief reference to a Jewish group in a small rural village quite distant from the village outside of Accra, the capital of Ghana, where Gabrielle was staying.

Although skeptical, Gabrielle decided to check it out. She arranged a visit and after a day long bus ride to the small village she asked a cab driver about a man named Joseph. It drew a blank. She added, "he's a Jew." His face lit up:

"Oh, OK." He drove her to a house where she was welcomed and taken to a guest room. When the door to the room opened, much to her surprise and delight, she was staring at a large Star of David on the wall -- she was home.

This is where filmmaker Gabrielle Zilkha's journey into Judaism in Ghana—and the inspiration for her documentary film, Doing Jewish: A Story From Ghana—began.

In that moment, though, looking at the Star of David she wondered: "Is this just a token or do they really practice Judaism?" That guestion was answered the next morning-the Sabbath-when she entered a small crude building called the synagogue she saw a Torah, men with yarmulkes and talits - and the entire congregation of black African men, women and, children chanting prayers in Hebrew.

The film explores the history and revitalization of a lost community. Doing Jewish is a fascinating, engaging and inspiring story of Jewish renewal—out of Africa.

SHABBAT SAN DIEGO 2017:

"Together we'll Sing and Dance To the Sky, With Our Spirits So High"

// Michael R. Mantell, Ph.D.



Let's be honest. We all need regular time out from the chaos, conflict and confusion that floods our lives these days. We all need more time to reflect, to feel peaceful, to dilute the stress

That's just what Shabbat San Diego will bring you this year, in partnership with more than 1200 cities in 90 countries around the globe. Come together to experience Shabbat as a mitzvah in our time. Shabbat has so many positive effects on you and your well-being, especially in terms of your personal spiritual growth. It's a welcome day of peace and rest, a very special time with family and friends, an opportunity to unplug and to reconnect with nature and those that you love. It's a time "to raise our spirits

Our goal is to insure that all who will join us this year will truly feel the serenity, beauty and soulful enrichment of this special Shabbat, October 26 - 28. Shabbat San Diego is a global opportunity for each Jewish person to enjoy their most memorable Shabbat yet, as a member of the San Diego community, and in solidarity with worldwide Jewry.

As a community, we will demonstrate unity of individuals and organizations as over 20,000 attendees and 130 Partner organizations come together as one.

From our legendary Challah Bakes in 5 locations throughout San Diego on October 26th, lighting candles joyfully on October 27th, celebrating Shabbat with friends new and old in all types of synagogue services, informative lectures and at heart-warming meals, and joining as one for our renowned Havdalah celebration with the Moshav Band on the evening of October 28th, this year promises to be the largest and most community binding and personally transformative gathering of Jews in San Diego, ever. There are more than 100,000 Jews who live in San Diego County, and with only 17% of our community affiliated with any of the 130+ Jewish organizations, Shabbat San Diego has its job cut out to help promote and advance the spiritual growth and unity

We aim to bring as many people, Jews, interfaith families, and others, of all ages to enjoy one Shabbat together, without regard to their level of knowledge or observance, political views, life styles, affiliations or non-affiliations. To create, through inclusivity, respect and co-operation, a magnificent quilt of community unity that reflects our diversity. We believe, like Margaret Meade, that "committed people can make change happen."

We always have room for more volunteers. The more volunteers who join our efforts the more we can reach new participants who can have a new or enriched experience leading to greater selffulfilment and increased connection to each other.

Just go to our website www.shabbatsandiego.org and sign in to attend or to get involved and volunteer. Be sure you don't leave any family or friends behind - ask them all to sign in and then join in with you. We want to reach as many Jews in San Diego as possible - those who already participate with one of our local synagogues and organizations, and those who don't.

Don't be left out. Sign in now at www.ShabbatSanDiego.org.

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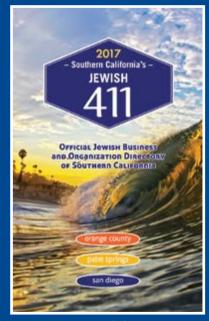
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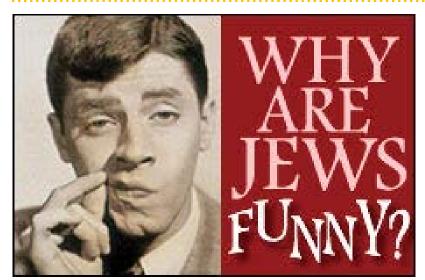
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// BY MARK SCHIFF

For as long as I've been a comedian, I've been asked two questions over and over: Why are there so many Jewish comedians? And why do you think Jews are so funny?

"During the silent film era, none of the top comedians were Jewish because Jews need to be verbal to be funny, wrote Lawrence Epstein in his book The Haunted Smile. Epstein continued, "Imagine your mother as a mime: Not funny."

He uses "Seinfeld" to illustrate that point: Many of their scripts were 20 pages longer than most other TV shows. The excess language betrays nervousness -- a distinctly urban and Jewish approach to dealing with anxiety. In real life, Seinfeld is not nearly as wound up.

The great comedian Alan King had many routines about his "bigshot rich doctor" brother. In the audience's mind, this lowered King's own status a notch or two so they could relate to him. A comic cannot go on the stage and complain about the color of his Porsche or talk about his summer home outside of Paris. I myself

grew up in a sixth-floor walk-up in the Bronx. I lived in such a poor neighborhood, rainbows came in black and

Most of the comedians that made us all laugh in the 1950s, '60s and '70s were Jewish. Jerry Lewis influenced many comedians and also fought anti-Semitism.

After being sent to the principal's office, Lewis was asked why he behaved the way he did, The principal then said, "Is it because you're a Jew and don't know any better?" Lewis then hit the principal, who fell against his desk and lost two teeth. He was expelled.

Many Jewish comedians got their start in the Catskill Mountains - the Borscht Belt. It was almost a substitute for the shtetl. The familiar food, the presence of families and other Jews and the warm environment offered a deep sense of security.

When I started doing stand-up comedy in New York in 1978, we created our own little shtetl. All I saw every night, either walking the streets or in a comedy club, was mostly other Jewish comedians. About 80 percent of the comics I worked with were Jewish.

Two things we all had in common were: we all knew we were funny. and we all had to express ourselves in ways we were not permitted to when we were growing up. Many nights after our shows, we would go to diners and hang out till 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock in the

The problem with the 21st century, is that the newly assimilated Jewish comedians may not be as funny as their ancestors, because they are too far away from their original roots.

My old Uncle Louie would eat fish all day, smoke cigars and ask his wife why she was always sniffing him.

I ask you: Are the new grandparents, aunts and uncles of today half as funny as the ones from the older generations?





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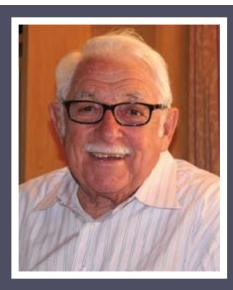
Shana Tova







In memory of...



Nathan Solomon Levy (Nate) z"I

Following is the eulogy given by Ryan Marks at the funeral for his grandfather, Nathan Solomon Levy, who passed away on March 18, 2017, at the age of 88.

On behalf of his grandchildren, Martin (Meir) Levy, Adam Wollach, Lee Weinstein and all seven great-grandchildren, I would like to offer a few words about our beloved "Bob," as we called him.

When I reflect on my grandfather, one of the first things I think about is that he was cuddly. He was so easy to hug, to hold hands with, to cozy up to, to massage in shul. And that's not just because he was adorable – he was, a big teddy bear – but also because he was so open and unconditional with his love and support. He was a safe space.

That's not to say that Bob was a "softy," with some new age understanding of what a grandparent should be. Because he decidedly was not new age; he was of another, older, great generation. And I think it was his ability to represent the values of that generation so well, while remaining open and relatable to us grandchildren, that allowed us to receive his wisdom, and allowed him to play such an important part in our lives.

What do I mean when I say he was of another generation? He was a gentleman. And being a gentleman was not something he aspired to or thought about, I don't think; it was his natural disposition, a manifestation of his intuitive understanding of the way one should be. When we visited, he always

walked us out to our car and opened the car door. The other day, when I picked him up from the hospital, he was wheeled out to the car, and then he stood up and started to get in the backseat, saying that the front would be more comfortable for Gran.

He believed in the dignity of hard work, of being busy, of contributing and providing. And he exemplified that dignity until his last day. He never had to give it up. He never had to sit by, to succumb to physical weakness or incompetence. Despite our protestations, he still carried tables at the end of a Rosh Hashana dinner, still got down on the floor to play with his great-grandchildren, still did the dishwashing and grocery shopping, still drove his car, volunteered, and worked: he showed a house just last week! He still put on a tie most days, shaved every day, and trimmed his mustache twice a week.

It was never lost on us how lucky we were to live most of our lives with our grandparents; to see them on a daily or weekly basis; to sleep over at their house; to have them at our baseball games, recitals, and graduations; to travel with them (as many of you know, they took all of us grandchildren on multiple trips around the world). They were part of the village that raised us. And Bob shaped us with his wisdom, his support, his 63-year romance with Gran, his loyalty to our family, his willingness to listen to and learn from us.

Bob was always the "young" grandfather, who didn't act his age. So his passing was shocking to us; he was supposed to live forever. But we are comforted by the thousands of memories we have of Bob, by the incredible good fortune of years by his side, by the knowledge that his life was blessed: blessed by a beautiful marriage, a beautiful family, a successful career, an honored place within the community, good friends, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

And while we know that moving on won't be easy, we are strengthened by each other, by the fact that we still have our incredible Gran here with us, that we can be by her side and have her by ours, as we move through this together and support each other through all of life's challenges.

May his memory be a blessing.

Nathan Levy z"l is survived by his wife Celia; children Diane (Howard), David (Melanie) and Sharleen; grandchildren Ryan (Lisa), Martin (Chani) Adam and Lee (Dan), and seven great-grandchildren.

In memory of...



Regina Berman (Mom)

Loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Regina was the best mother one could wish for. Always supportive of her children's varied endeavors and if she spoilt the children it was with love. She always put her own needs aside in order to ensure her family was taken care of. Throughout her life she was respected and well-liked by colleagues and friends. In a time when women could work but didn't have "careers", her many business accomplishments went largely unrecognized. She took over and successfully ran a nursery school (with little formal experience); as the head of Springs Publicity Association (Chamber of Commerce) she brought the first Mardi Gras parade and celebration to Springs; Regina became a real estate agent late in life and was mostly self-taught. She tackled difficult tasks with quiet determination.

Selfless beyond words and totally devoted to her 5 children, she made the ultimate sacrifice by encouraging and helping us, one by one to leave South Africa for a better future. Her weekly letters were always newsy and amusing and encouraging and overflowing with love and understanding.

In the past few years as her memory faded she shared wonderful stories about her childhood, growing up in Aliwal North. She never complained and always kept a positive attitude; and was a favorite among the care-staff at the assisted living facility.

Courageous till the end, has joined her husband Norman after 22 years of missing him.

Mom we love you!

by Moira Berman

ETTIE SACK

Ettie was born in Johannesburg, South Africa on October 12, 1936.

She was the 3rd child of Dennis and Sonia Ringo. observant orthodox Jews with a tradition and family values which Ettie continued throughout her life.

Ettie lived her life with an unstoppable sprit, passion and unwavering belief and trust in HaShem. She



kept a kosher home, perfected each recipe into an art form that tantalized all taste buds.

On the 29th of August 1961 she married Ivor after a short romance and began their adventure which lasted 56 years. They moved to Vereeniging, a rural heartland. This was a culture shock for this elegant lady who in short order made tradition and family her first priority. With her infectious laugh and magnetic personality she made lifelong friends.

She had a daughter, Renee, and three sons, Michael, David and Stephen. She was very involved in every aspect of their lives. Her motivation was always education. No matter where her children went to get that education, she was there. The steadfast cheerleader and advocate.

In February 1987 Ettie, Ivor, David and Stephen immigrated to America. A new life "driving on the other side ofathe road".

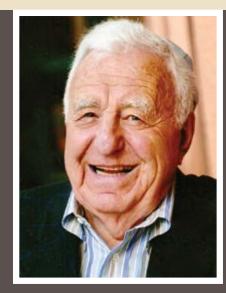
Her family soon grew; having three daughters-in-law and six grandchildren the pride and nachas of her life. All of whom had a loyal friend in Ettie (Mama) in whom they confided. She was their role model and mentor. She embraced all their individual passions, learnt their favorites and was always there with a compassionate listening ear and hugs.

At the same time she set her personal bar up high. An energetic go getter with impeccable taste and a distinctive style, always finding solace in HaShem.

A teacher who taught us "the true meaning of a life well lived" passed away on January 13, 2017.

She will always be missed and lovingly remembered.

by Reny Sack



Harold Shapiro

Harold Shapiro (z"l) was born on April 15th, 1930 in Boksburg-- a small town on the East Rand. He was certainly a rarity! He was the only survival of the three and weighed less than 3 lbs at birth. He was raised and educated in Boksburg and thereafter attended Wits University obtaining his Bachelor of Commerce degree and graduated as a Chartered Accountant. At University, hae captained the water polo and soccer teams.

In 1953, Harold was selected to represent South Africa in the water polo team as captain at the Maccabi Games and South Africa won the gold medal!

In 1956, Harold married Shirley Meltzer and moved to live in Johannesburg where they raised and educated their 2 sons, Warren and Bradley, and daughter Myrice, all of whom he was extremely proud.

He joined a well known firm of chartered accountants where he eventually became the Senior partHarold firmly believed in having a strong Jewish community and was passionate about participating in its growth. He was a leader in Shul affairs, serving as President, Chairman, Treasurer and various other positions at the Cyrildene Observatory Shul in Johannesburg. A strong Zionist, Harold served as a dedicated leader of the Jewish Board of Deputies, Israel United Appeal and United Communal Fund.

Harold was a very kind and compassionate person who was always assisting those in need and treated everyone with respect and dignity. He lived his life not only immersed amidst strong values and morals but also with a profound love for the State of Israel. If you had met Harold only one time, you would never forget him.

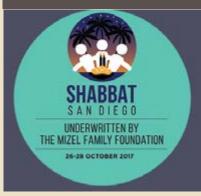
Harold and Shirley emigrated to the San Diego in January 1994 to live in the same city as their chilwas one of a triplet of 3 boys, which in those days dren. He continued to immerse himself in community work by volunteering on various Boards and committees. He worked at Congregation Beth El as their Executive Director and held the position of Treasurer for SAJAC. Harold and Shirley joined Congregation Adat Yeshurun, where he served and advised as a Board member for a few years.

> Above all, his family meant the world to him: his wife Shirley, to whom he was married for 61 years; their three children Warren, Bradley and Myrice; their childrens' spouses; and his ten adored and adoring grandchildren.

> Sadly he succumbed to his illness on February 6th of this year but left us a wonderful legacy. He will be remembered by many with his motto in life being "You can't go wrong by doing the right thing"....

We will love and miss him forever.

Thoughts of Myrice Golberg



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French Wine Night: 10/12, RSVP at info@malteddiner.com.

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