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CHALLENGES!"**

SAJAC 20 **REPORTER** 18



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BRIAN MARKS



Two years ago, when the political environment turned from nasty to vile, I was accused by some of being too political in my message to SAJAC. "This is a social organization" I was told. "It is not the place for politics". Even though I thought my message was more of a warning for Jews and a hope for the future, I heard the cries and stayed away from any contentious topics last year.

So here we are two years later. Where are we and what do the short and long-term futures look like for Jews in this country and abroad?

Racism and anti-Jewish sentiment have always existed in this country. Discrimination is a generational lesson and the history of the South and Germany are too recent for us to realistically think that enacting anti-discrimination legislation is enough to lighten the darkest of hearts quickly.

However, the first part of change is tolerance and respect. We had made that first step. Some call it "political correctness." I call it a beginning. And over time, generations perhaps, the fundamental foundations of entrenched racism and bigotry will fall lower and lower from the surface. One day, many years after we have gone, it may disappear forever.

So, what has happened?

The "tell it like it is" philosophy that is part of this populist movement has set tolerance back 50 years. There is no free lunch. With every new stance against immigration, against refugees and by taking a stand against any religion, the floodgates to intolerance and bigotry open wide and reward it with a tacit legitimacy. Intolerance is a habit

that is hard to break and when we allow it to flourish, it does not take long for that ire to fall at the feet of Israel and the Jews.

The Anti-Defamation League reported this year that harassment, threats and vandalism targeting Jews in the United States surged to near record levels. It jumped 57% over the previous year. The figure represents the largest annual jump the organization has ever recorded and the total number of incidents (1,986) is the second largest number in four decades.

In the words of Jonathan Greenblatt, the Chief Executive Officer, "We never had a moment like this. We've seen so much intolerance sneak into the public."

Any five minutes of television news teaches us that this is the trend in every country that is seeing a surge of populism. Fascists, Nazis, white supremacists and fundamentalist find root in their real or perceived alienation from society and the more others are blamed for their plight, the stronger their movement and their justification for anti-Semitism grows.

Our history as Jews first and Southern African's second gives us a unique perspective to have seen and felt bigotry and discrimination at its worst. We should know better than anyone that intolerance is a choice and that when we foster and approve of an environment of discrimination and bigotry towards any selected segments of the community it is impossible for it to just stop there. It is not the act that we should fear but the state of mind that says that it is OK - ever!

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Message From the Editor

In the past 30 years or so that I have been involved with the SAJAC Reporter, I cannot remember a time when Jews and Israel have been under such a relentless onslaught.

Since the unclinking of the horrors of the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel, it seemed that Jews in both Israel and the diaspora had reached a level of acceptance and tolerance over the past 50 years that was quite satisfying.

Sure, Israel has always been attacked by the Arab world, and Jews have always suffered at the hands of the right-wing fanatics, but we had developed a level of acceptance by our allies that was comfortable.

Perhaps it was just a false sense of security. Fast forward to 2018.

Populist movements in Europe have unleashed the hounds. The attacks on Jews throughout Europe, including Germany, had been almost unheard of after the World War II, but has now reached almost epidemic proportions. Desecrated cemeteries, attacks on Jewish businesses and attacks on Jewish citizens and vandalism in predominantly Jewish areas is now almost commonplace.

Whether it is by the alt-right, the extreme left or the so called BDS movement, countries, like South Africa, or even the British opposition, that have traditionally been tolerant, have now turned away from decades of friendship and developed animosity, vindictiveness and hate.

So where does this leave us? What does this mean to diaspora Jews and ex pat Southern Africans living in America's finest city.

It means that solidarity, community and a collective dedication to our

fellow Jews is no longer an option, it is almost a requirement.

SAJAC has been the community glue for over 30 years, but its role in maintaining our identity is even more important today than it has been for a long time. Whether as an organization or as individual members our relationship with Shabbat San Diego and the spiritual side of Jewish life is defining. Our members involvement in the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Foundation, The JCC, Chai South Africa, Shalom Baby, Synagogues and organizations through the county and the country, is our most important means to stem the ongoing attacks and onslaughts. Solidarity is prime and this next year or two is going to test us. SAJAC will continue to play its role in defining and maintaining our identity. We welcome your support and assistance.

This SAJAC Reporter does not happen in a vacuum. Firstly, I would like to thank our loyal advertisers for their unflinching support. In addition, Derek Berghaus has once again plied his creative brush to the layout and design of the Reporter. Thank you. And finally, this year we welcomed the generous assistance of Hillel Katzeff who helped secure much of the advertising for this issue.

And to our readers. Thank you for your loyal readership and support of this vital organization. Remember that none of us is as smart or strong as all of us together.

Brian Marks

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The State of South Africa's Political Parties

The author offers a personal assessment of the state of politics in South Africa – just a few months before the 2019 national and provincial elections

BY BONOLO LOVEDELIA PELOMPE

There has been a state of mayhem, uncertainty and confusion in the politics of the country. Anarchic behavior has fully prevailed in all nine provinces. Political parties are facing major challenges within and amongst themselves.

Our young democracy has been tested to a greater length. The three major political parties being the African National Congress (ANC), Democratic Alliance (DA) and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) continue to dominate our media platforms. The sad part is that instead of the parties competing, they chose internal African National Congress (ANC).

The ruling party has been marred with controversy after controversy. Instead of focusing on delivering on their electoral promises, the party is always handling or managing its public relations. The credibility of the party is suffering due to the behavior of some notable leaders who are either associated with corruption, maladministration, nepotism, favoritism, violence and abuse of power. Recently, the interviews about service delivery have taken a back step as ANC leaders are defending scandals brought about by those who are supposed to lead by example. The infightings within the party are all concerned with leadership positions. Conferences are hijacked by violence, disruptions and interdictions from the courts. The infighting is so robust that it is hard to tell whether this is political tensions or major divisions. Either way, there is a perception that there is no political tolerance within the movement and that the unity is forced.

ANC members are singing in different tunes. The ideological posture of the party is unclear, and always returns to talk and public posturing.

Economic Freedom Fighters - EFF

The party and its leaders have matured to the highest level. Many young people are identifying with the party as it speaks to the issues that are closely related to them. The EFF is seen as hands on party that is genuinely concerned with improving and prioritizing the lives of the poor. Many, especially the poor and the marginalized are regarding it as a savior of the 21st century. The fact that the leaders are young, charismatic and highly qualified is an inspiration to many. The party highlights the importance of education and many believe that we are introducing a new revolution headed by academics.

Now, the EFF is a more stable, focused, genuine political party. Even on social media, the EFF is represented as the party of positivity, growth and development. Economic freedom is an

ideology that resonates with the majority.

Democratic Alliance -DA

The party will always be marred by their racial history. The DA is the only political party that has a substantial “white” membership and following. The issue of balanced racial representation poses a major challenge for the party. Race and class are the problems the party has to address effectively to guarantee growth and sustainability. Many suspect the DA leader Mmusi Maimane is nothing more than a ceremonial leader with the big “white bosses” pulling strings behind the scenes. The party’s national legislative representation fuels the allegations. As much as the party has managed to make inroads in the black community, many still treat it with caution.

Some have argued that the party is selling unrealistic dreams to the voters. The DA has always painted a picture of a South Africa where people live together harmoniously, however recent events in Cape Town have proven otherwise.

What's Next

As it stands among these three major parties the DA and the ANC are the problem children. The EFF is thriving on positive publicity without even trying very hard. For now, the EFF’s future looks very bright. It is seen as the party that wins its battles--holding the executives accountable (paying back the Nkandla money being one of their highlights).

The upcoming elections will be one of the most fiercely contested. With only few months to the polls, these political parties have so much work ahead to rally support, work on their issues and give South Africans the competitive and conducive environment to make their choices on the ballots.





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Lithuania.... A Historic Change has taken place in the History of our People.

BY PAMELA NATHAN



LEFT TO RIGHT TOP: 1. Active Synagogue in Vilnius. 2. Amoilsky-Gladstein Family Attendees inside Vilnius Synagogue: Sandy Neifeld/Amoils Bernstein, Pamela Gladstone Nathan, David Gladstone, Dalia Gladstone Aronoff, Nili Gladstone Asherie, Gideon Asherie. 3. Pamela Nathan in Vilnius at Monument to Tsemakh Shabad by sculptor Romualdas Kvintas.

Left to Right Bottom;

1. Close Up of Memorial Plaque in Kedainiai - mention of Gladstein family.
2. Gideon and Nili Asherie inside Kedainiai Museum
3. Holocaust Memorial outside Synagogue in Kedainiai designed by Rimantas Gyrgolis.

David Gladstone, my first cousin who lives in Israel, organized an incredibly informative and fulfilling heritage tour for our family to visit Lithuania in July. This is where our fathers were born and lived until they and many of their cousins emigrated to South Africa. As a result of research, we were very fortunate to be able to identify towns and even street addresses of places that our family lived and worked. In the week that we were in Lithuania, we visited Arogola, Kovno (aka Kaunas), Babtai, Seduva, Kedainiai and Vilnius.

We were fortunate to have a superb guide, William Zhitkauskas, who had a wealth of information to share. To start with, he clarified who the Litvaks were. I always thought it was the name given to the Lithuanian Jews specifically, but that was incorrect. In fact, the Litvaks were not bound by geography, nor did they live solely in Lithuania, but also in Belarus, Latvia, northeastern Suwalki and the Bialystok region of Poland, and even some border areas of Russia and Ukraine.

Most of the Jews that emigrated to South Africa were Litvaks. They have been described as being smart, analytical, learned, worldly, skeptical, proud, stubborn, dynamic, and energetic. They were Orthodox Jews who followed a non-Hasidic, Ashkenazi style of life and learning. They had a distinctly different Yiddish dialect and way of praying. Their culinary tastes

and varying ways of preparing food were also different. For example, the Litvaks prepared their gefilte fish savory rather than sweet and made their farfel (the egg noodle dough that was cooked in broth) as small pellets rather than rolled into flat sheets that were then sliced, as was the custom among their rival, Galitsianers.

William told us how Lithuania was historically home to a large and influential Jewish community that either fled the country or were murdered during The Holocaust. Before World War II, the Lithuanian Jewish population was about 160,000. Vilnius alone had a Jewish community of 100,000, with over 110 synagogues and 10 yeshivas. Today there are about 500,000 people living in Vilnius with about 2000 Jews. Kaunas (Kovno) has a population of 400,000 today with only 500 Jews.

It was good to learn that under a law adopted in 2011 Lithuania is offering 37,000,000 euros in compensation to the Jewish community by 2023. The money is being used for financing Lithuanian Jewish religious, cultural, health-care, athletics, educational and scholarly projects in Lithuania.

The Government allocates about 3.6 million euros annually to the Jewish Goodwill Foundation. Half that amount is set aside for future needs of the Jewish community. From 2013 to 2016 the Government paid 14.4 million



City Sign: Sandy Neifeld/Amoils Bernstein, Pamela Gladstone Nathan, Dalia Gladstone Aronoff, David Gladstone, Nili Gladstone Asherie, Gideon Asherie.

Here's his phone and email address:
 Tel./faks. (8 347) 51330, +370 685 54418
 kedainiumuziejus@gmail.com

Here's his mailing address:
 Kėdainiai Regional Museum
 Didžioji street 19
 LT-57255 Kėdainiai
 Lithuania

Then we met Laima, an English teacher at the local school. What a fascinating young Lithuanian woman she is. She told us how parents had been sent to Siberia by the Russians and were forced to give up their land under communist rule. They only returned to Lithuania when the Stalin regime fell. Then they were regarded as 'enemies' by the local Lithuanians, as they were thought to be Russians, even though they originally came from Lithuania.

Laima's class of students at the gymnasium had recently completed a project where they

euros to the Jewish Goodwill Foundation. One current ongoing project is for tombstones in the Jewish cemeteries to be cleaned and the inscriptions documented. We saw them at work when we were there.

William also explained how the most recent historical research clarifies how most of the atrocities that the Lithuanians inflicted on the Jews were based on orders imposed on them by German occupation policies. He also told us that Lithuania was the second country in the world to identify a Holocaust Memorial Day which is held yearly on Sept 23rd.

In all the little shtetls were visited, we were able to identify old houses originally owned by Jews as their houses had blocked doors on the street front with the entrance in the back. Why? Because they lived where they worked. Old synagogues were recognizable by the architectural window layout. There was a partial area of 'double story' windows that accommodated a space upstairs for women to pray. This area was adjacent to a large area with single story windows, which was the main area of the synagogue where the bimah stood, and where the male congregants prayed.

Records of our Gladshtein family are preserved in the Kaunas Regional State Archives. It showed that they originally came from Babtai as far back as 1874. They are actually included in a list of the Babtai Jewish Community. Further records showed that in 1892, they moved to Vilijampole, the Jewish district of Kovno, then to Arogola, and later to Kėdainiai where our fathers were raised. And guess what? another thing I didn't know, the Vilna Gaon studied at the Yeshiva in Kėdainiai. At the age of seven he was taught Talmud by Moses Margalit, who was the rabbi of Kėdainiai and the author of a commentary to the Jerusalem Talmud, "Pnei Moshe" i.e. "The Face of Moses".

Our grandmother, Pesel Amoilsky Gladshtein, was the eldest in the family. She and her husband Aaron Dovid, chose to stay behind in Kėdainiai to take care of their elderly father while many members of their family emigrated to South Africa.

First, we met with Rimantas Zirgulis. He is a historian and the local director of the Kėdainiai museum. There are two shuls one next to the other. One is now an art school and the other a cultural center. He explained how the Jews came to this part of Lithuania in the middle of the 18th century after the Scots decided to leave this area. It was in the 1920's that there was a huge emigration from there. At that time 60% of the population was Jewish. The museum is housed in an old synagogue. Outside the shul there are 2 meaningful, memorial sculptures that he helped design.

Rimantas appealed to us to spread the word to you all. He would sincerely welcome receiving any old photos, artifacts or other historical items to display in this Jewish museum. You can email photos to him which he can reprint locally.

drew a huge 'family tree' on the classroom wall and have recorded the names of over 1100 Jewish families who perished in Kėdainiai. Imagine how gratifying it was for us to actually find the name 'Gladshtein' included in one of the top branches of their tree as we were casually studying the inscriptions on the wall. There was yet another emotionally inspiring moment when we visited the mass grave the following day and saw that our grandparents' names were included on the memorial plaque that had recently been erected there. Tears welled up unconsciously in our eyes. It was a very touching experience.

And just a few weeks back, we found out that a memorial service took place for the Jews of Kėdainiai who were murdered there 77 years ago, on August 28, 1941. The memorial ceremony was held near the mass grave site that we visited. It was gratifying to know that it was attended by local and regional leaders, including our newly acquired friends, the director of the local museum Rimantas Gyrgolis and the teacher Laima Ardaviciene.

The concluding highlight of our trip was our visit to the Vilnius Jewish Public Library. I had met Zilvinas Beliauskas, the director, just a few weeks before I left, when he gave a lecture in San Diego. Meeting up with him again in Vilnius was a real treat. He is intent on making Jewish revival happen in Vilnius. He shared ideas of his upcoming projects which included reintroducing Jewish theater and musical productions.

We also met one of his colleagues, Elliot Matz, who is looking for funding to create an open air museum in Rumsiskis and we learned about Richard Freund who is doing underwater diving to reclaim Rokiskis. Richard Freund is a rabbi and archeologist who has uncovered a secret tunnel in Ponar where 100,000 Jews were exterminated, and verified by stories handed down by eye witnesses.

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**Zil's cell number is +370 687-76625.
 His email is zilvinas@zilvinas.be**

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On August 26th, 2018 Benjamin Netanyahu visited Lithuania and wrote on a Facebook post:

"The visit to Lithuania illustrates the historic change that has taken place in the history of our people – from the blood-soaked forests here, to the rebirth of the State of Israel, to which everyone of you has a part."



Immigration Update

BY MARLENE DAVIS STANGER

This has been a very challenging year for immigration attorneys. Ever since the Buy American Hire American executive order was implemented in April 2017, we have seen a sharp change in the way the immigration service – the USCIS – has been adjudicating petitions.

And the challenges are being compounded on an ongoing basis.

Imagine the following scenario. You did your undergraduate studies in South Africa then came to the U.S. as a student to do an MBA degree. After your MBA, you got permission to work for 12 months in terms of Optional Practical Training and then, your company liked you very much so, three years ago, they filed for an H-1B on your behalf to fill the position of Marketing Specialist and paid you an entry level salary in this category.

You are close to your third year and your expiration date is coming up. Now the company has to file to extend your status.

But towards the end of last year, the USCIS ended the practice of giving deference to prior approvals. Therefore, even though they approved you when your employer first applied, now when the extension is filed, they will be re-examining the petition all over again to see if you qualify.

Let us say the business did not do too well, and your salary is still at the level 1 range as indicated by the Department of Labor's wage assessment in your job category – still Marketing Specialist. What can you expect?

Well, the USCIS is highly likely to question whether your job qualifies for an H-1B at all – yes, even though they said it did three years ago. They will ask whether it is really a specialty occupation that requires at least a Bachelor's degree to do the job. They will likely imply that because your salary is at a level 1, this suggests the position of a trainee or an intern, and, as of September 11, 2018, they have the authority to simply deny the petition rather than sending out a Request for Evidence or RFE, if they deem the evidence submitted is insufficient to make the case.

They will not care that you have, perhaps, bought a home, in the interim, have established a life here, have commitments here – you could find yourself in a situation where your petition is denied and you have to leave.

In my own practice, because the USCIS has been issuing an exceptionally high number of RFEs and because we have a pretty good idea of what the trends are and what they are looking for, we can obviate the worst case scenario to the fullest extent possible – and typically this would be through advising employers of exactly what the USCIS

will be looking at and targeting.

The climate is extremely hostile to foreign nationals at the moment: consider that in a recent case in which I was involved for a brilliant foreign scientist – the USCIS questioned in an RFE whether he had made a significant contribution to this field, notwithstanding that two Nobel Laureates in Chemistry provided expert opinion letters to say that he did. The client was incredulous, as were we, and news spread rapidly through his research institute generating the rumor that the USCIS was making it more difficult for Chinese scientists to stay in this country.

During the course of this year, we saw the chaos that ensued as parents seeking asylum or refuge in the U.S. from untenable situations in their home countries were separated from their children and not all of them reunited, but this has receded from the headlines as more pressing matters have taken over. The Attorney General's announcement that gang violence and domestic violence would no longer be grounds for asylum means that many children who have traveled alone from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador to escape the former, and, mainly women, from these and other countries who have come here to escape the latter, will no longer have the chance of finding a safe haven in the U.S.

It has been a heart-breaking exercise to interview unaccompanied children through the pro bono program run by the Casa Cornelia Law Center where their families have sent them away, alone, to get away from gang activity that they cannot avoid in their home villages and towns, knowing that they are unlikely to find a solution here any longer.

There are various beliefs and opinions when it comes to immigration, but, from my perspective, it is quite clear that the current administration does not really want to support reforms for either illegal or legal immigration.

The net result, for both practitioners and those seeking to come to the U.S. to live and work is that it takes a lot more time, more evidentiary support to back up legal arguments, and more patience, to achieve the same results that used to be routine.

In my 19 years of practice, this year is one that stands out as the year in which the levels of scrutiny went higher than ever before with troubling patterns emerging from the USCIS. Even though, in all immigration cases, the standard of review is the preponderance of the evidence, that is, that it must be more likely than not that the criteria have been met, with current policies and practices, we know that it is more likely than not that the USCIS will make many more wrong decisions going forward than they have in the past. It is, therefore, more important than ever to seek counsel, make sure that all options are discussed, and that you feel comfortable with whatever strategy your attorney suggests as you pursue work and permanent residence in the U.S.

Marlene Davis Stanger is of Counsel with Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy and may be reached at 858.735.9660.



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Pepsi to buy Israeli manufacturer SodaStream for \$3.2 billion.

PepsiCo's deal to buy SodaStream comes as consumers move away from sugary soft drinks toward bottled water.

PepsiCo has agreed to buy one of its fiercest critics, seltzer-machine maker SodaStream International Ltd., for \$3.2 billion, the latest move by the beverage-and-food giant to broaden its offerings beyond sugary sodas and salty snacks. Israel based Sodastream makes countertop machines that allow consumers to carbonate tap water and other beverages at home by filling a reusable bottle and flavoring it with syrups.

As consumers have shifted from sugary soft drinks to bottled water, the Nasdaq-listed company has pivoted to promote itself as a maker of homemade seltzer rather than a maker of homemade soda. SodaStream has singled out PepsiCo and other beverage companies in public statements and advertising campaigns criticizing bottled-water makers for polluting the environment.

SodaStream's point of view is that they want a healthier, more sustainable planet, a goal the soda giant shares, PepsiCo finance chief Hugh Johnston said in an interview. "There was a good cultural match here in terms of the values." In discussions between the two

companies over the past several years, "we got more comfortable that, in fact, we think about things in the same way," he said.



Photo: John Sciulli/Getty Images

'Schtum is best' – Zimbabwe's Jews keep their heads low

For the tiny Jewish community in Zimbabwe, the events of last year when Robert Mugabe was displaced in a silent coup was the perfect opportunity to keep quiet and just go along with things. Zimbabweans were generally guarded when asked by foreign news outlets about the events.

The Jewish community in the capital Harare, once flourishing, is now made up of about 80 people divided between Ashkenazi and Sephardi shuls, said Dave Bloom, who was raised in Zimbabwe.

Such small numbers mean that keeping Jewish life going is a struggle. It also means Jews are unwilling to talk openly about the most significant change in their country this century.

The reality is that Zimbabwe has effectively been a po-

lice state for many years.

Such is the restrictive environment that no member of the Jewish community in Zimbabwe contacted by the JC this week was willing to speak on the record about the situation.

People on the small, password-protected Zimbabwe Jewish group on one social media website were warning fellow members against loose talk.



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The top 12 most amazing Israeli medical advances

Israeli ingenuity is responsible for some of the world's most amazing medical advances.

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ISRAEL'S TOP 12 MEDICAL INNOVATIONS:



1. ApiFix system to correct severe curvature of the spine (scoliosis) minimizes risks, scar size, complications, recovery time and cost.

2. Argo Medical Technologies' Rewalk robotic exoskeleton from was featured on the hit TV show "Glee" and enabled paraplegic runners in London and Tel Aviv to complete marathons.

3. Gamida Cell is developing stem-cell therapy products to treat blood cancers, solid tumors, non-malignant blood diseases such as sickle-cell anemia, autoimmune diseases and genetic metabolic diseases.

4. GI View Aer-O-Scope disposable colorectal cancer screening device, now in US trials, will make lifesaving colonoscopy screenings cheaper, safer and more accessible worldwide.

5. IceCure Medical's IceSense3 has been used by US doctors since 2011 to remove benign breast lumps in a 10-minute ultrasound-guided procedure that penetrates the tumor and engulfs it with ice. The system is being clinically tested over the next few

years against small malignant breast tumors as well.



6. InSightec's ExAblate OR uses MRI-guided focused ultrasound to destroy tumors and uterine fibroid cysts without surgery. The company has begun a Phase III trial of its next product, ExAblate Neuro, to cure essential tremor — a common movement disorder.



7. IonMed's BioWeld1 bonds surgical incisions using cold plasma — instead of painful stitches, staples or glue — within minutes, sealing and disinfecting the wound with minimal scarring and recovery time.

8. Nano Retina's Bio-Retina, a tiny implantable device inserted into the retina in a 30-minute procedure, turns into an artificial retina that melds to the neurons in the eye. Activated by special eyeglasses, the device transforms natural light into an electrical impulse that stimulates neurons to send images to the brain.

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Gemilut Chesed Helps South Africans in Need

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Since SAJAC's inception over 30 years ago, one of its missions has been to help fellow SA Jews in financial difficulties, by providing interest-free loans.

SAJAC's Gemilut Chesed Fund sub-committee, currently headed by Diane and Howard Schachat, is pleased to inform its members that SAJAC continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

The Fund, financed by our generous and caring members, helps with emergency resources, advanced as loans. All applicants are required to complete paper-

work evidencing their financial need, accompanied by an agreement to repay. In most cases, collateral and/or a co-signer is needed to secure the loan.

We also offer community resources when appropriate. The helpful responses from our members to individuals seeking employment continues to be greatly appreciated.

Please continue to make your voluntary online contributions to the Gemilut Chesed Fund. We depend on your kindness and generosity to make a difference.

Thanks for your continued support!

FREEDOM SWIM



BY HILLEL KATZEFF



It's been 40 years since I moved to the USA from South Africa. I am more American today than South African. But on a trip to visit family and friends in Cape Town two years ago, I fell in love with the place all over again. The magnificent beauty of the Cape of Good Hope, with Table Mountain as the centerpiece, Lions Head and the Twelve Apostles running down the spine of the Cape Peninsula to Cape Point. The color of the ocean is a stunning emerald green.

Robben Island

Growing up in Sea Point, I would often walk to school along the beach front and see Robben Island in Table Bay. At that time, I knew that Robben Island was a prison and didn't ask about it.

Historical significance

During my trip, Jeanie and I took a tour of Robben Island. I learn that over 1500 political prisoners were imprisoned on Robben Island. Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison on the Island. Ordinary criminals were also imprisoned on Robben Island. Today it is a museum with former prisoners often leading tours and is also a World Heritage Site.

I also learned that Henry Hooper was the first person to swim from Robben Island to the Old Cape Town harbor in 1909. It took him 7 hours to complete the historic swim

Personal Significance

While on my recent trip to Cape Town, I met Theodore Yach. I had heard about Theo's swimming accomplishments for

many years. He has over 100 successful Robben Island crossings as well as an English Channel crossing under his belt. He is a caring, kind, family man and successful businessman.

Theo generously gave me a copy of his autobiographical coffee table book called "In My Element". In words and photographs he chronicles his training and preparation for his epic long-distance swims. His book is available on Amazon.

Inspired by freedom, the challenge and making a difference. I was inspired by the idea of freedom and Nelson Mandela, as well as Theo's remarkable feats. Despite not being an avid swimmer, I decided to set a goal of attempting the Robben Island Crossing on my 60th birthday on March 5th, 2019. I also wanted to make a difference and raise funds and awareness for the National Psoriasis Foundation www.psoriasis.org. Psoriatic disease affects about 3-4% of the world's population. I have psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

The Robben Island Crossing – What it takes

According to the Cape Long Distance Swimming Association (CLDSA), the Robben Island (RI) crossing is held to the same rules and standards that govern English Channel attempts. This means that swimmers are permitted to wear a swim suit, goggles and a single swim cap. No wet suits, neoprene caps, or double swimsuits are allowed.

The RI crossing is internationally rated as a difficult open water sea swim and viewed as a training swim for the English Channel.

Despite the relatively short distance of the RI crossing, the first sentence on the CLDSA website is the following warning:

"Don't be lured into thinking that a Robben Island Crossing is an easy feat. Theodore Yach's hundred-odd swims can easily lead one to believe the swim is a 'walk in the park'. It is exactly the opposite!"

Distance

Swimmers who attempt the RI crossing typically swim from RI to either Blouberg Beach, also known as Big Bay beach (7.5km or 4.5 miles), or Three Anchor Bay (11.5km or 7 miles). I will know closer to my swim if I have earned the right to attempt the longer distance. It will depend on my training and conditions when I'm in Cape Town. www.clds.co.za/swims_and_routes/robben-island

Temperature

The average water temperature in Table Bay is 12C (53.6F). During the summer (January – March), the water temperature can reach 14-16C (57-61F). I'm hoping that this will be



the case when I attempt my swim in early March. The Antarctic is the source of the cold Atlantic current that reaches the coast of South Africa.

Training

I have been training for about a year now. I swim with the Tri Club three days a week in the ocean – year-round without a wetsuit. You can catch me on Wednesdays at 6:30am at Moonlight Beach, 7am on Friday's at Fletcher Cove and 8am on Sundays at Del Mar. I'm also a member of the La Jolla Cove Swim Club and swim at La Jolla Cove when I get a chance.

Support My Swim

I have a blog called www.FreedomSwim.com where you can read about my journey. If you would like to support my swim, you can find a link to donate to the National Psoriasis Foundation on the website. For people who make a donation, I will give them a commemorative swim cap that has the USA and SA Flag on opposite sides.

For more information:

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The Geo-Politics of Risk

Geoquant helps decision makers invest wisely

BY BRIAN MARKS

As the world gets smaller and global economics is as commonplace as shopping at the mall, the need to assess the risk of dealing with other countries keeps getting greater. Whether you are a large company or small and growing, it is essential to know who you are dealing with and whether the risk is worth the reward.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg, a political economist and the CEO and co-founder of GeoQuant has been in the risk assessment business for many years. A PhD graduate of UC Berkley, Mark was born in San Diego and is the son of SAJAC member Linda Rosenberg.

“After Berkley, I joined the political risk firm Eurasia Group, where I was the director of Analytics and Research Management for Africa,” Rosenberg said. “Part of what I did was to forecast political and economic risk at the country level, so Geoquant is a natural extension to that.”

GeoQuant fuses political science with computer science to address current inefficiencies in measuring political risk for investors, executives and other business decision-makers.

Most political risk analysis available today is ad-hoc based on cherry-picked data that is provided by analysts who have limited access to information--an unsophisticated strategy for an increasingly interconnected world, where the impact of politics on markets and industries continues to deepen.

“We provide investors with the ability to both anticipate

the earthquake-like shocks of geopolitical instability, while monitoring the more frequent ‘tremors’ of shifting policies, regulations, social contracts and political coalitions,” added Rosenberg.

GeoQuant is the first in the field to apply technology to this challenge, with a groundbreaking patent-pending software designed to scrape the web for large volumes of reputable data, news and social media content. This data is then enhanced by an in-house team of political scientists and regional experts, generating daily country scores and other high-frequency indicators that allow for more robust benchmarking and pricing of political risks around the world

Rosenberg, co-founded Geoquant with Israeli software wizard Dor Kelman, (who lived for many years in San Diego before returning to Israel). Since launching the company, Rosenberg has developed an increasingly large profile and has become a frequent guest and spokesman on the topic of political risk and risk analysis on television shows and academic panels throughout the country. A frequent guest on CNN Money and the Fox Financial Network, Rosenberg is often asked to provide insight into the fast-changing international business environment. Mark also teaches political risk analysis at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and has become a regular speaker at conferences and events on geopolitical risk.

ANGER: The oldest Jewish Tradition.

BY MICHAEL KRETZMER



Have you ever wondered why it is that whenever two cute Jewish kids' soccer teams play each other in a Jewish league with a Jewish ref and Jewish spectators there's an excellent chance that someone will call someone a Nazi or a Kapo?

Crazy, isn't it? Why are Jews so prone to anger, but thankfully, seldom violence? Why does almost every Yiddle in our tribe have a broiges, a farrible, an on-going Sicilian-like grievance with the shul, the school, the bridge circle, the bowls team, the rabbi, the ex-rabbi, the rabbi who died 32 years ago, the shul choir, a good eend, an in-law, a cousin, a parent, a sibling and even, God forbid, a kid? Why can't we Jews disagree elegantly, like the English, and just rub along in a civilised way in spite of our differences?

Well here's a thought.

Seems to me it's been like this from the get-go. We Jews are a tribe from a single family and it can't be a coincidence that the first stories of our peoplehood - the four defining generations from Abraham to Joseph - are a chronicle of angry family dysfunction.

Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael – my God can you imagine those breakfasts!?! Rebecca favouring Jacob to steal Esau's birthright from the blind and ailing Isaac. Both Jacob and Isaac fearing murder at the hands of their justifiably aggrieved brothers. Beautiful, kind Rachel watching wistfully in the wings while her beloved Jacob is deceived into marrying her poor old rachmonis of a sister Leah. Or Joseph being abandoned to slavery or death in the desert by his envious brothers. Broiges and farrible, every step of the way.

And not just the Patriarchs. Moses, Jonah, Abraham, Pinchas, Korach, the Prophets... I could go on and on and on. All prone to Herculean tantrums. And it goes even deeper. You don't have to be a Freud or any of the many Jewish graduates who become psychologists to know that angry fathers produce angry children and angrier sons. So maybe we should blame the Father? Yup, maybe God is the original Mr Angry.

Boy is He angry.

Raging at Moses, raging at Abraham, raging at the Children of Israel. Why is He always so angry? If He gave us fallible, doomed and suffering humans free will - indeed, obliged us go our own way - why so much damn emotion when we do?

At a Shavuot Tikkun Leil (the customary night of Torah study before the Festival of Shavuot), I think I got the answer. In a simple but magnificent shiur, my Rebbetzin described the Torah as the Ketubah (the marriage contract) between God and the Jewish People. I loved that idea and still do. And when you read the Song of Songs, that profound, beautiful, erotic poem from the Torah describing the intensely jealous love between God and the Jewish People, you start to understand what she and perhaps He is saying. God's wrath is that of the betrayed lover. Can there be any greater pain to the heart?

So who knows, maybe, paradoxically, all this rage is because we love each other.

The issue of anger management is important in Jewish thinking. According to Maimonides: The early sages said, that whoever angers is as if he has performed idolatry. They added that one who angers, if he is a scholar, his wisdom will depart from him, and if he is a prophet his prophetic spirit will depart from him. The sages added that the people who have tempers, their lives are not lives.

Ouch!

Actually I think this issue is critical to the future safety of Israel. When Jews on the Right call loyal Israelis and Jews on the Left "traitors", and when Jews on the left tell Jews on the Right that they are Nazis and racists, something is horribly, terribly, brutally, dangerously, unforgivably wrong.

Honestly, I don't know if this is resolvable when it comes to Israel. It is impossible to understand the other point of view,

however hard one tries. Maybe the Left will always find us on the Right racist, stupid and evil. And maybe we on the right will always find Jews on the left unbearably virtue-signalling, sanctimonious and childish. And the subject of Israel just gets us all by the kishkas,

But maybe if we recognise that we are talking to our brothers and sisters, we can dissolve the anger and keep the discussion, in the best tradition of Hillel and Shammai, civil, loving and focussed on the search for truth.

So this year:

- No ad hominems, ever– attack the argument, not the person
- No more blocking or censoring of people whose views you find disagreeable, ever!
- Talk to your ideological enemy with as much kindness as possible

What brought about the loss of our land and the 2000 years of the Great Exile? Not Roman might, but hatred, suspicion and division within our people.

As for me, possibly the worst offender I know, I promise to try harder in 5779.

Oh, and have a wonderful new year. Especially those of you on the left.

Originally from Bulawayo, Michael is a great mind that has spurned the rat race and has turned to farming geese, chickens and Mallards in England. Perhaps it is soothing his temper.



Michael Kretzmer keeping his anger in check on his farm.



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NEW CARTOON EXHIBITION SHOWCASES JEWISH LIFE

An exhibition at Camden's Jewish Museum illustrates Jewish life in 20th Century Britain through funny, yet poignant cartoons.

Refugees line up against an invisible barrier in Ella Baron's artwork.

"What of those who have used cartoons and comics as a medium to address the world?"

A new exhibition at the Jewish Museum in Camden, Jew(ish) Cartoons: drawing from the collection asks this question, and answers it in fascinating fashion.

The works form a kind of snapshot of physical and social movement in the UK in the 20th Century.

The theme of attitudes to migrants and outsiders, from wider society and amongst Jews themselves, runs through the exhibition. Many of cartoonists are refugees or the descendants of migrants.

The earliest work is a satirical cartoon from a contemporary newspaper in 1754, depicting British antisemitic fears at the "Jew Bill" Naturalisation act of the previous year, to which there was such fierce opposition that it was repealed and Jews had to wait a hundred years before naturalisation was a possibility again. In this cartoon Jews are described as vermin.

A fascinating collage work by the mysterious A McLevy, who did much of his work in chalk on the back of menus from Cohen's restaurant in the East End in the 1920s, depicts the JC fighting back against antisemite writer, GK Chesterton. A more playful work by the same artist has a car full of assimilated Jews driving "miles and miles from Stamford Hill", and is captioned "there are good things yet to hear, and fine things to be seen, before we go to paradise by way of Golders Green." On the back of the car is a large sack of chutzpah, a vital ingredient for any such journey.

A MCLEVY'S COLLAGE, THE JC PULLS NO PUNCHES

Golders Green is seen very differently in a couple of pencil drawings from Sarah Lightman's forthcoming *The Book of Sarah* (Myriad Books). Here, haunting spaces speak of loss and heartbreak, and the cost of trying to fit in. This theme is picked up in an original hand-drawn two page comic by Corinne Pearlman, "Whatever Happened to Great Grandma".

Self-awareness enables empathy. The final image at the exhibition, by rising star Ella Baron, is of modern migrants and refugees coming up against an invisible barrier, a barrier of perception. The medium can become the message.

Karrie Fransman contributes a fantastic self-portrait which went viral, *Everything is Foreign*, detailing the way she and everything in her work space has a foreign provenance.



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JEWIS & MUSICAL THEATER

Jews had a hand in writing nearly all the great musicals of the 1930s and '40s.

BY MICHAEL BILLIG

The extent of the Jewish influence on American popular music before the age of rock is seen clearly in the musical. This American art form attracted the attention of the greatest songwriters of the pre-rock era: Jerome Kern, George and Ira Gershwin, Oscar Hammerstein, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Cole Porter, Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe, not to mention Irving Berlin. Between them, they wrote the songs for practically all the great musicals of the '30s and '40s. Nor should one forget Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg, who wrote the songs for the greatest of the screen musicals, *The Wizard of Oz*.

With the exception of Cole Porter, all the above-named were Jewish. The tradition of the Jewish musical writer, in fact, continued into the rock era with Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein, and Lionel Bart.

Jewish Music?

Cole Porter was aware that he was working in a medium that was disproportionately Jewish. He once told Richard Rogers that he had discovered the secret for writing hits: "I'll write Jewish tunes," he claimed. Porter's comment was echoed by Jerome Kern, who, unlike Porter, was himself Jewish. Apparently, Oscar Hammerstein once asked what sort of music

Kern would be writing for a stage musical about the life of Marco Polo. Kern replied: "It'll be good Jewish music." In one sense the music wasn't "Jewish music" and Porter's tunes weren't "Jewish tunes." The Jewish composers were not simply adapting the Yiddish tunes of the ghetto for an English-speaking audience. They were drawing on the wider musical traditions of America. As Jeffrey Melnick has argued in his important book, *A Right To Sing The Blues*, the Jewish songwriters were, above all, adapting the music of African Americans. First, they took inspiration from ragtime music and, later, from jazz.



Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin, in particular, was fascinated by the syncopated rhythms of ragtime. His first huge success was "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in 1911, which, in fact, proved to be Tin Pan Alley's biggest hit up to that time. The previous year, Berlin had written "Yiddle On Your Fiddle, Play Some Ragtime." It had been a novelty number—an early song with essentially the same message as Chuck Berry's "Roll Over Beethoven." Move over, traditional music—something snappier is on the way. And the snappier stuff was coming from black music.

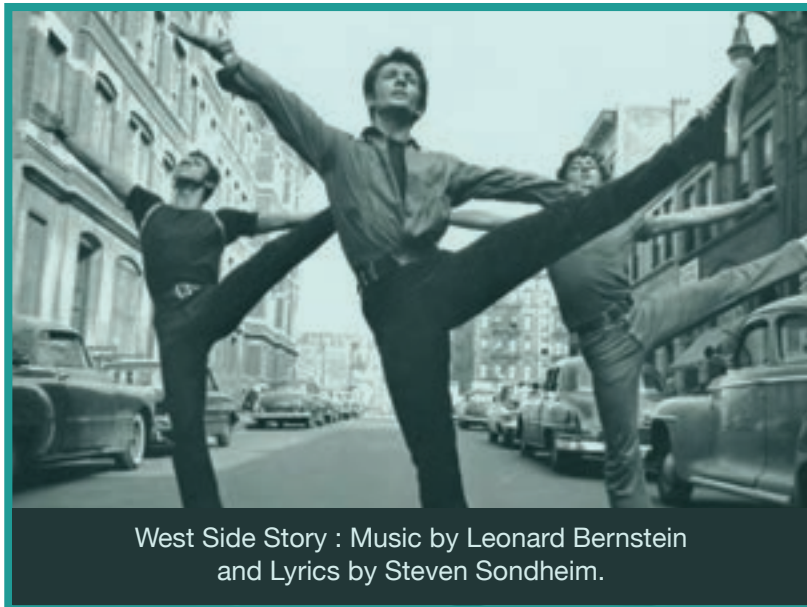
Berlin's song, unlike Berry's, addressed a

particular ethnic group: “Yiddles” should start picking out the ragtime beat on their fiddles. The enormous success of “Alexander’s Ragtime Band,” selling across ethnic divides, taught Berlin to address the whole of America, not just the Yiddles with their fiddles.

Was The Jazz Singer a Jazz Singer?

When, in the Twenties and Thirties, the craze for ragtime gave way to that for jazz. Al Jolson was the first big “pop” star of the jazz age. He was the son of a cantor. His hit “Swanee” was George Gershwin’s first big success. The charges of sentimentalizing and parodying African American music are easy to make in Jolson’s case. Like many other Jewish vaudeville performers of that era, Jolson did not appear on stage as a Jew. He blacked up his face, playing in the tradition of minstrelsy singing ersatz “minstrel” songs.

Jolson’s major film, the first “singing talkie,” was called *The Jazz Singer*. Interestingly, in the film Jolson played a popular Jewish blackface singer, Jack Rubin, who became famous for his sentimental songs. Unusually, this film told a Jewish story. It portrayed the conflict between the old ways, depicted by Rubin’s father, a traditional cantor, and the new ways of America, represented by Rubin’s Christian girlfriend. The message was essentially assimilationist. Despite the film’s success, it was a one-off: The major companies



West Side Story : Music by Leonard Bernstein and Lyrics by Steven Sondheim.

backed away from producing other obviously Jewish films. The film’s title showed how the word “jazz” was becoming loosely used. It is highly debatable whether Jolson, or the character he played in the film, should properly be termed a “jazz singer.”

There were Jewish jazz musician-composers—like Benny Goodman, Mel Torme, and Artie Shaw—who played with black musicians and who consciously aimed to develop, not debase, jazz forms. They did not seek to transpose the complexities of jazz into catchy show tunes. Certainly, they did not appear on stage with blacked-up faces, repeating the parodied gestures of the stage “coon.”

George Gershwin

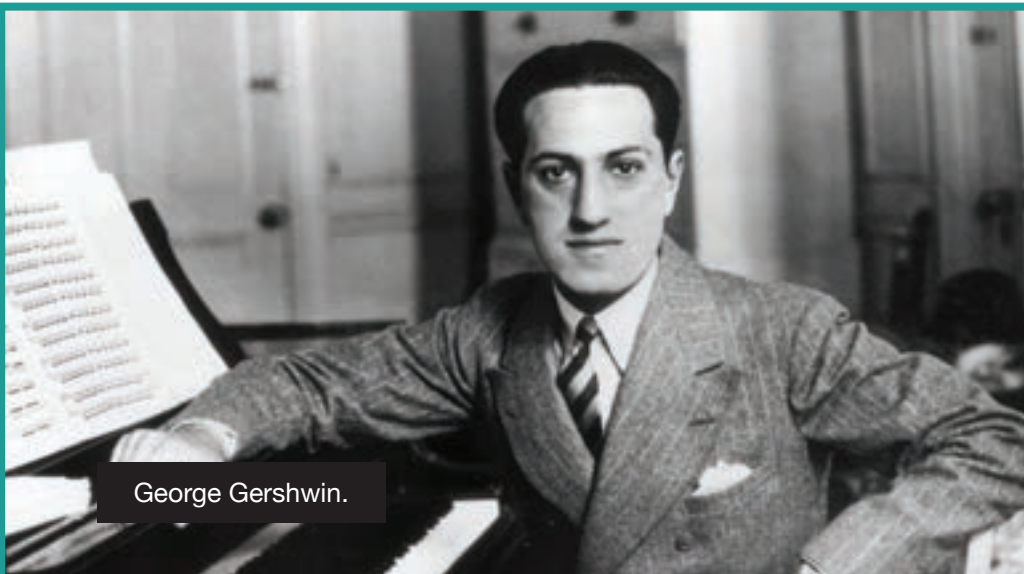
Towering over all the other Jewish composers of Tin Pan Alley stands the figure of George Gershwin. Not only could he write a hit tune and turn out

perfectly crafted songs for shows, but he wrote longer orchestrated pieces which bridged the gap between high and popular culture. He combined the traditions of European classical music with pop, jazz, and blues. *Rhapsody in Blue* is a classic case in point. It is neither a symphony nor is it jazz in a narrow sense. Nor is it an overture to a musical. It combines different musical forms to create something new.

In doing this, Gershwin was representing the position of the immigrant, wide-eyed and open-eared in the newly adopted lands. As a Jew, Gershwin, did not want to remain stuck in the confines of tradition but was eager to embrace new musical influences. He had no hesitation—no restricting prejudices—against celebrating the art of black Americans. In fact, Gershwin grew up in Harlem and from an early age he was fascinated by the music he could hear on the streets. Later, with his brother Ira, George would visit the music cafes and get to know local black musicians and composers, such as Willie “the Lion” Smith and James P. Johnson.

In Gershwin’s musical synthesis, Jewish music was not to the fore. Some claim that echoes of klezmer music can be heard in the famous opening bars of *Rhapsody in Blue*. Tellingly, this echo is soon swamped in the main piece by modern rhythms. Gershwin had made plans to write a musical version of the old Yiddish folktale, *The Dybbuk*. Significantly, nothing came of this. *Porgy and Bess*, dealing with black characters in the Deep South, emerged instead. George and Ira collaborated with DuBose Heyward to turn the latter’s novel into a musical. Thankfully nothing came of an earlier plan to commission Hammerstein and Kern to write the score and then to use Al Jolson in the main role, complete with blackface.

Reprinted with permission from Rock ‘N’ Roll Jews.



George Gershwin.

Fascinating Facts about Jews in India

Little-known facts about this ancient Jewish community.

India's Jewish community is thousands of years old. Here are five little-known facts about the role Jews have played in India through the ages.

Meeting Marco Polo

When Marco Polo traveled through India in the year 1293, he recorded a surprising encounter in his diaries about meeting Jews there who'd developed a thriving community on India's southwestern coast. These early Jewish settlers were likely descended from Jewish traders who came from Yemen in the 700s and were welcomed by the local prince. To this day, the Jewish community keeps a set of thousand-year-old engraved copper plates record the welcome extended by the local prince to one Joseph Raban, a Jew who settled in the area.

Hanukkah Refugees

The largest Jewish community in India is also the most mysterious: the Bene Israel, who lived unknown to the rest of the Jewish world for generations in the Kolaba district of India south of Bombay. The Bene Israel maintain they are descended from a group of Jews – seven men and seven women – who were shipwrecked in the area thousands of years ago. Some believe they are descendants of the 10 Lost Tribes of Israel who fled northern Israel in 721 BCE during the time of the Hanukkah miracle.



The Cochin Synagogue.

The Bene Israel Jews adopted Hindu names and dress, but kept some of their traditions. Locals called them shaniwar teli, or "Saturday oil pressers" because they refused to work on Shabbat.

The Jewish General Who Created Bangladesh

Lieutenant General Jack Jacob, the highest-ranking Jew in India's military, was born in Calcutta in 1923, part of that city's large Jewish community which traced its roots to 18th Century Baghdad.

In 1971, Jacob was chief of staff of the Indian Eastern Command, and watched as a eastern Pakistan (today the nation of Bangladesh) tried to break away from mainline Pakistan. Jacob led Indian troops into Pakistan to capture Dhaka.

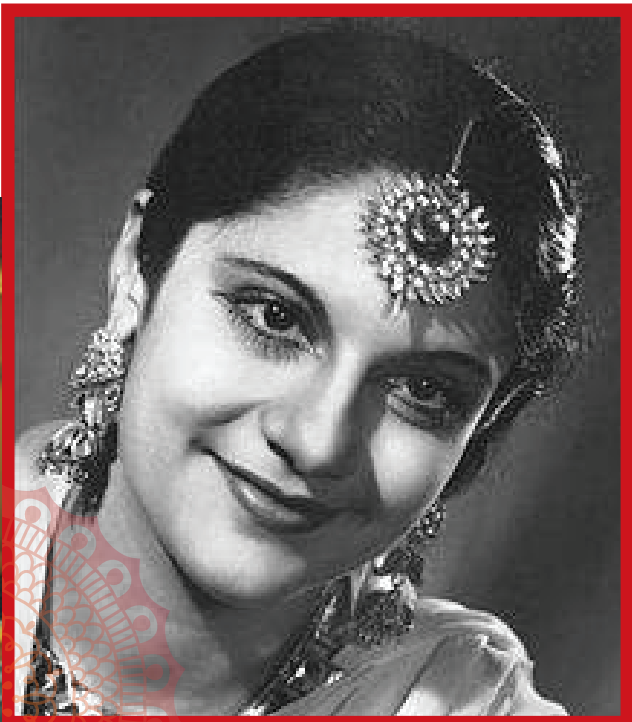
Lt. Gen Jacob

.Lt. Gen. Jacob went on to serve as Governor of the Indian states of Goa and Punjab. He visited Israel often, and became close friends with Israeli politicians Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin. Jacob passed away on January 13, 2016.

Movie Stars

Even though Jews are a tiny minority in India – 5,000 out of a population 1.3 billion – many of the greatest Indian movie stars – and several of India's Beauty Pageant winners – have been Jewish.





Esther Abrahams

Esther Abrahams was crowned the first Miss India in 1947, and later went on to become one of the earliest movie stars under the stage name Pramila.

As India developed its thriving film industry, Indian Jews were involved from the beginning. David Joseph Pendar wrote India's first "talkie" picture in 1931, and Jewish women soon stepped into acting roles that were often shunned by Hindu and Muslim women. Famous "Bollywood" stars such as Sulochana (Ruby Myers), Pramila (Esther Abrahams) and Nadira (Florence Ezekiel Nadira) all came from India's Jewish community, though few Indians realized these legendary actresses were Jews.

Little India in Israel

After the establishment of Israel, many of India's Jews began to leave for new lives in the Jewish state. From a population of approximately 30,000 Indian Jews in 1948, only about 5,000 Jews remain in India today. Approximately 80,000 Jews of Indian origin keep their unique traditions alive in Israel.

The Israeli towns of Dimona and Ashdod have been dubbed "Little India" by some residents, and it's common to hear words in Hindi and the Indian language of Marathi in some homes. Dimona's central municipal library even has a special section of Indian-language books, with local residents donating ever more books following trips back to India.



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Beyond Your Own Backyard

BY EVA TRIEGER

Celia Levy was bitten by the travel bug as a young woman, living in South Africa. This grew into a full-blown addiction. Fueled by her adventurous spirit, Celia, and late husband Nate, sojourned in many corners of the world. The duet shared a passion for exploration, but they were also mindful of their budget. In 1966, leaving their three young children in the care of Celia's mom, Nate and Celia embarked on a seven-week European adventure for about \$1,000.00. But this was just the beginning!

Levy became so adept at planning trips that she was invited to become a travel consultant and began helping others experience dream holidays and new lands. When the Internet changed the platform for travel planning, this entrepreneur got creative. In addition to her continued work with specific clients specializing in deluxe cruises and tours, and after visiting almost 100 countries, Celia was positioned for something new!

Combining her own interest in flowers, Celia carved out a niche, and joining forces with Nan Sterman, author, columnist and garden designer to form a unique travel club. Since 2011, the pair has offered horticultural tours to foreign countries. These have included Holland, Belgium, England, France, Spain, Costa Rica, Santa Barbara and Spain. This year's gardens are in the Western Cape Region in South Africa.

This unique tour treated guests to Cape Town with tours to Table Mountain, Robben Island, Kirstenbosch Gardens, and private tours to Fernkloof Nature Reserve and Karoo National Desert Gardens. They

included time for picnics and wine tastings. Celia believes in the details.

Levy does her homework well in advance of the tours. Her research includes securing local guides who accompany the group, finding high quality affordable hotels, and locating private gardens that are off the beaten path. She must consider dietary limitations as well as any handicapped accessibility issues.

Typically, the groups are smaller than 35 people, so that the garden lovers, journalists, photographers and landscapers can achieve their personal goals for the trip. These travelers are very focused." With an alumni rate of nearly 33%, Levy is definitely doing something right! Gaining access to private gardens and offering a local guide guarantees the opportunity for these like-minded individuals to form bonds and enjoy an easy camaraderie as they visit the gardens.

While the itinerary is different every day, it generally includes an early breakfast followed by visits to two gardens, a break for lunch followed by exclusive access and 'wandering' time at one to two more gardens. They enjoy a group dinner.

Travelers are exposed to local habits, habitats and surroundings while Levy and Sterman are mindful of any security issues or festivals taking place in each country. Approximately 90% of the tour is specifically the gardens, and the remaining ten percent may be excursions unique to the region. In the case of South Africa, there will be a safari option to a game reserve and a second trip to Victoria Falls. Levy and Sterman also follow up after the

tours and take feedback to heart. This enables them to tailor future groups if there is a preference for a buffet filled with local fair, an event unique to a country, like the Floriade festival or a London theater. Every suggestion is taken extremely seriously.

Levy orchestrates everything from a(zaleas) to z(innias), including flights and airfare, hotels, most meals and admission to the spectacular gardens. She seeks out the most knowledgeable, full-time local guides who are experts in their field and have entre to lesser-known but enticing gardens. She is responsive and loves to "expose the people to what they want to see."

Sterman was an early enthusiast of the sustainability movement. As a Southern Californian she is conscious about low-water gardens and has written and lectured on this topic. A host, co-producer and co-writer of television show, *A Growing Passion*, Sterman has also written several books on environmentally responsible gardening.

Suffice it to say that whether it is Kentucky Bluegrass, Ryegrass, Fescue, Zoysia or Bermuda, Celia Levy and Nan Sterman do not let any grass grow under their feet. These women are committed to providing an amazing, unique and custom-tailored experience to those lucky enough to book one of these garden tours. Through an e-blast, individuals are notified of upcoming tours and can make reservations, or Levy may be contacted at clevy@worldviewtravel.com, or by phone at 858-455-7770 for future garden tours or any other unique and special travel plans.



ChaiSouthAfrica celebrates 18 years of community giving



TOP: L to R: 1: Lauren Morris, Karen Wolmer and Alan Wolmer. **2:** David Mandelbaum, Felicia Mandelbaum, Claire Ellman and Charles Jaffe (Founders). **3:** Michelle Abramowitz, Shoshie Wohlgelernter and Beverley Pamensky.
BOTTOM: L to R: 4: Claire Ellman. **5:** Catering by Felicia G. **6:** David Diamond, Alan Katz, Michael Aron and Fiona Strashoon.

ChaiSouthAfrica recently celebrated their 18 years of successful community support at a South African style high tea held at the home of David and Claire Ellman.

Chai SouthAfrica raises awareness and funds to support Jewish Residential Homes in Southern Africa serving the Aged, Mentally and Physically Challenged, Mentally Ill and Children in Need. Founded 18 years ago by Claire Ellman, David and Felicia Mandelbaum and Charles Jaffe, the organization has raised more than R40 million to support these homes.

“When we founded this organization in 2000,” said Claire in her welcoming remarks at the high tea, “It was hard to imagine that we would receive donations from 39 states and from countries as far

as Australia, New Zealand, England and Hungary. But through the generosity of the South African spirit we have raised millions for this extremely critical and vital need.”

“This anniversary and tea is a celebration of our success and a big thank you to many of you for your generous support as donors or volunteers on the phonathon,” she concluded.

Claire also thanked her fellow founders and specifically thanked Sharleen Wollach and Mandy Katz for their selfless dedication to the success of this cause.

The tea was also attended by Harris Burman who spoke briefly about his gratitude to ChaiSouthAfrica for their immeasurable support. Burman is the executive Director of Highland’s House

in Cape Town and traveled from South Africa specifically for this event.

For many generations, Jews thrived in South Africa. Political instability and violent civil unrest sent thousands of Jewish South Africans packing for safer ground. Many Jewish South Africans chose to settle in San Diego. The community planted roots and thrived but no one forgot about the loved ones and community members still in Southern Africa. And ChaiSouthAfrica was born.

The tea was attended by over a hundred friends and donors who were treated to a delicious meal with scones, tea sandwiches, cheese blintzes and South African teas. Every attendee left with a gift bag of South African chocolates.



The Gefilte Manifesto

Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz are on a mission to reclaim and revolutionize Ashkenazi cuisine. Combining the inventive spirit of a new generation and respect for their culinary tradition, they present more than a hundred recipes pulled deep from the kitchens of Eastern Europe and the diaspora community of North America. Their recipes highlight the best of Ashkenazi home and storefront cuisine, tapping into the enduring Jewish values of resourcefulness and seasonality.

The Gefilte Manifesto is more than a cookbook. It's a call to action, a reclamation of time-honored techniques and ingredients, from the mind-blowingly easy Classic Sour Dill Pickles to the Crispy Honey-Glazed Chicken with Tsimmes. Make a stand. Cook the Manifesto. The results are radically delicious.



Jeffrey Yoskowitz and Liz Alpern, wizards in the kitchen.



Yotam Ottolenghi's New Cookbook highlights fresh flavorful meals that take 30 minutes or less

Fortunately for everyone who doesn't live in London, Yotam Ottolenghi is committed to sharing his recipes with the world by way of cookbook.

The British-Israeli chef's new book called Ottolenghi Simple features 140 recipes, of simple easy to cook recipes that the home cook can make in 30 minutes or less.

In addition to helping such acclaimed London kitchens as Nopi and several locations of Ottolenghi, the chef spends a significant amount of time developing recipes and writing cookbooks, some of his most treasured titles being Jerusalem: A Cookbook (2012), Ottolenghi: The Cookbook (2008), and Plenty: Vibrant Vegetable Recipes from London's Ottolenghi (2010).

"Each dish can be made in 30 minutes or less, with 10 or fewer ingredients, in a single pot, using pantry staples, or prepared ahead of time for brilliantly, deliciously simple meals," says Ottolenghi of Simple. "Brunch gets a make-over with Braised Eggs with Leeks and Za'atar; Cauliflower, Pomegranate, and Pistachio Salad refreshes the side-dish rotation; Lamb and Feta Meatballs bring ease to the weeknight table; and every sweet tooth is sure to be satisfied by the spectacular Fig and Thyme Clafoutis, he added.

Israeli cuisine continues to conquer the globe

Across the pond in New York, another Israeli chef is continuing to make waves.

BY AMY SPIRO

From London to New York, Paris and now even Bangkok, Israeli cuisine is continuing to win over taste buds.

For the second year running, Assaf Granit's Barbary was named the best restaurant in London by Time Out magazine. The publication said the eatery – which opened in 2016, “is labeled as ‘modern Israeli,’ though in truth, it’s anything but. What they’ve done is taken the ancient recipes from across North Africa (from the one-time Barbary Coast) and the Middle East that have gone on to influence food in today’s Israeli kitchen, then reimagined them.”



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A Jewish Revival in Russia

BY DR YVETTE ALT MILLER

Despite their declining numbers, there appears to be something of a Jewish Revival happening in Russia today.

Jews make up about 0.16% of the total population of Russia, according to the 2002 census, and Russia's Jewish community is shrinking. Numbering 2,279,800 Jews in 1959, many members of Russia's Jewish community have emigrated in recent decades. About 40% of Russian Jews left at the turn of the century to settle in Israel and today approximately 180,000 live in the Russian Federation.

At least four Jewish schools in Moscow teach a range of religious and secular subjects, including Hebrew. Even Moscow State University has a department of Jewish studies. Instead of one synagogue, Moscow today is home to about 20 synagogues. The iconic Choral Synagogue has been refurbished and attracts scores of worshippers each Shabbat.

In St. Petersburg, Jewish life has been revived as well: synagogues, a Jewish Community Center, schools, a Hillel and senior center all educate St. Petersburg's Jews. In a city that before 1917 banned Jewish residency, public Shabbat dinners now draw crowds of Jews.

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Choral Synagogue Moscow



Gallery at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center

Israeli Gymnast Wins Silver Medal

Israeli gymnast Artem Dolgopyat won a silver medal in gymnastics in the European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Glasgow.

Dolgopyat reached the finals of the European championship after finishing first in the qualifying rounds, with a score of 14.666. In the 2017 European championship Dolgopyat finished fourth, thereby missing out on the medal due to a penalty that cost him half a point. The bronze medal went to his teammate, Alex Shatilov.

This is the first time that three Israelis make it to the finals of the European championship. Other than Dolgopyat, Shatilov reached the finals as well, as did Andrey Medvedev in vault.



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South African's Abroad Register to vote for Total Change in 2019

A MESSAGE FROM CLLR ERROL ANSTEY



The National Election in 2019 will be our country's most important vote since 1994, and South Africans abroad can play an important role in ensuring real change for our country. For millions of South Africans, we will have to make a choice. Ultimately South Africans will choose whether we want:

- A Corrupt Government or A Clean Government.
- A Government that increases VAT or A Government that doesn't.

A Government that wants to take away your land for State use or a Government that protects your right to own land.

It is important that every South African abroad who cares about our country ensures that they are registered to vote and casts their vote for the DA in 2019. This is the only way the DA can deliver good governance to the people of South African and stop the ANC / EFF from amending the Constitution, to stop them from increasing VAT, to stop the Corrupt ANC and usher in a wave of Total Change build on Freedom, Fairness and Opportunity for all.

The Democratic Alliance received 84.44% of the overseas vote in the 2014 Election, which means that of the 18,132 total valid votes cast abroad, 15,311 were cast in favour of the DA. If we can get approximately 50,000 votes for the DA then that will equal one (1) more MP for the DA in Parliament who can vote to stop the ANC and EFF from changing the Constitution

YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY!

In order to vote in the 2019 elections, it is essential that you're registered to vote.

If you have ever voted before, then you should still be registered to vote. You can check your registration status on the IEC website.

If you are registered to vote, it is likely that you're registered in South Africa, but don't worry, closer to the elections you will have the opportunity to inform the IEC that you plan to vote abroad by submitting a VEC10 form when it becomes available after the President announces the date of the election.

If you aren't yet registered, to vote then you can apply to register at your nearest South African embassy, high commission or consulate-general during their normal office hours.

For South Africans in the USA, you can register to vote at the following SA missions abroad:

- The South African Embassy in Washington DC
- The South African Consulate General in Chicago, Illinois
- The South African Consulate General in Los Angeles, CA
- The South African Consulate General in New York City

Please visit this website for their contact details and opening hours: www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/

If you are travelling to South Africa, you can also register to vote at a local IEC office during office hours at any stage prior to an election. We strongly urge you to contact your local IEC

office prior to your trip to confirm their opening times and the dates that you will be able to register to vote. For more info on this, please visit the IEC website.

Eligibility to register

To be eligible to register, a person must:

- Be a South African citizen
- Be 16 years of age or older (applicants can register from the age of 16 but only vote from age 18)
- Possess a valid green bar-coded identity document, a valid Temporary Identity Certificate (valid for 2 months) or Smart Card
- Possess a valid South African passport and
- Submit in person the application form, the identity document and a valid passport to a Special Officer at the South African embassy, high commission or consulate-general. The application form for registration will be provided at the SA mission abroad.

Ahead of the elections in 2019, it is expected that there will also be overseas voter registration weekends for South Africans abroad – once these dates are made public, we will share this information on the DA Abroad website:

www.da-abroad.org

Once you are registered to vote, in order to vote abroad you will need to do the following:

- Ensure you have a valid South African ID book and Passport (you will need both to vote). Please CHECK that your passport is VALID and that it has not expired. If you need to renew your Passport, do so ASAP at a South African mission abroad or definitely the next time you go back home.
- Ensure you have submitted the VEC10 form to the IEC to inform them where you plan to vote abroad. This form will only be available from the date the President announces the date of the election.
- Head to your nearest South African Embassy, High Commission or consulate-general to vote on the announced election day

About the DA abroad

The DA Abroad is the DA's overseas network of volunteers who are making a difference and contributing to the success of our country through projects and campaigns that are aligned with the DA's vision.

Our role overseas is significant in raising the profile of the DA and its work in government around the world. We are also in a unique position to draw the attention of foreign governments, business and media, to issues in South Africa and encourage mobilization of our campaigns internationally.

Aside from our campaign objectives, the DA Abroad also aims to provide South Africans with an opportunity to be part of a global community of passionate South Africans.

We currently have a team working in the US, with volunteers in New York and Washington DC and California. You can find out more about them on our website: <https://www.da-abroad.org/da-abroad-team/usa/>

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, then please visit our website at www.da-abroad.org or email contact@da-abroad.org.



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Leatherock celebrates its 35th Anniversary in the fashion accessory business.

BY BRIAN MARKS

If anyone would have told Laurence and Rahleen Bloch that the small belt and leather factory they bought in San Diego 35 years ago would still be going strong, they probably would have fallen down laughing.

Yet here they are.

“Laurence had always sold leather products at flea markets and bazaars,” said Rahleen. “So, when I emigrated to San Diego and we were looking to start a business, this seemed as good a gamble as any. It turned out to be a really good gamble.”

All successful startup businesses take a lot of work and perspiration. The Bloch’s poured their souls into the business. Rahleen took care of the design, and Laurence, an accountant, ran the day to day operations. They certainly paid their dues and over the years built their businetes in the clothing accessory business.

“We had a slightly bohemian attitude to style, using a lot of stones and embellishment together with interesting leathers, and our aesthetic resonated with the retail market,” added Rahleen. “We added handbags to our product mix and managed to separate ourselves from the crowd.

We built a reputation for innovative designs and then took the show on the road.”

Exhibiting at accessory and clothing expos from Los Angeles to New York, Leatherock sold to mom and pop boutiques around the country but then landed contracts with stores like Nordstroms and several multi store chains. The business was on its way.

The fashion business has a reputation for chewing up small businesses so when a small privately held business flourishes in this competitive world is a testimony to the grit and fortitude of the owners.

“Business is never easy but over the past 35 years we have seen it all, said Laurence. Recessions, recoveries followed by other recessions and other recoveries. We have seen eras when belts were in vogue and when they are were not. And somehow through hard work and a faith in what we were doing...we have survived for almost four decades.

Rahleen and Laurence Bloch are active members in our community and have become an integral part of life in San Diego. Their vast group of friends would testify that this success could not have happened to a better couple.



The Scent of Heat: A Review

BY HOLLY KAMMIAR

I loved everything about “The Scent of Heat”! Immediately, I felt a kinship with the main character, Ariella, who touched a special place in my heart. This exotic Israeli love story is about a beautiful 19-year-old girl, coming of age in the 1950’s who is completing her mandatory service in the Israeli military while balancing the growing needs of her close-knit family. Ariella’s mother has been diagnosed with cancer, her older brother is falling in love, and her father and little sister need her more than ever.

However, Ariella has dreams of her own. She doesn’t want to simply stay home and take over her mother’s role as caregiver. Ariella aspires to flee then-small-town Tel Aviv to explore the bright lights and vast opportunities in America.

We watch her strive to improve her typing skills, master the English language, and connect with her aunt in America, all in the effort to increase her chances of making her dream come true.

Ariella’s conflicting demands and desires leave her vulnerable. In steps a handsome, wealthy older man who only has eyes for Ariella. Not surprisingly, he sweeps her off her feet. Arik takes her deep into the heart of Jaffa and Tiberius in Israel. The couple travels in style across Naples and Athens. Arik even introduces Ariella to the art world.

She is lovestruck, but grows alarmingly suspicious when the romantic stories he has spun for her about his life begin to unravel and Arik’s dark secrets are slowly revealed.

I was rooting for Ariella all throughout “The Scent of Heat”. This exhilarating coming of age story is an absolute must read! The way the story unfolds, it really feels like you’re there with Ariella. Even the street descriptions are incredibly vivid and picturesque, using the kind of details that only a local would know.

There are several twists and turns that I didn’t see coming, but I won’t spoil them here. If you like historical fiction or romantic love stories, you’ll like this book. It’s a real page-turner.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO SHALOM BABY

By Carli, Sholom and Zoe Solomon.

Thank You Shalom Baby For Making My Transition to San Diego So Welcoming!!

With my husband’s name being Sholom Ber and us having a baby, I suppose it was always my destiny to write a few words praising the wonderful program that is Shalom Baby.

Being a transplant and moving a whole family is never easy. But having a baby is the one thing, ironically, that actually helped us find peers sharing a mutual experience and set us up with a wonderful social support network.

I grew up in San Diego but haven’t lived here in over 15 years. Even though we knew a few people we were really moving here without any close friends. I joined Shalom Baby within the first few weeks of being in town and instantly felt a connection with all these other mothers. It made me feel so much more at home in a city that I had only been living in for a few weeks.

As a recent transplant and first-time mom, it is amazing to have a strong support system with people who relate to you but with whom you can also share the day to day challenges and love of being a mom in this city. This has is an incredible advantage and an amazing thing for me.

We have already made wonderful memories and relationships have blossomed beyond just the playgroup meet ups. My husband has made other dad friends, our daughter, Zoe has made adorable pint sized friends who I know will continue to be in her life through school and I definitely found girlfriends to share everything from diaper wipes to the wonderful PJ Library Books to sleep deprived conversations. It’s extremely special.

Zoe has had many firsts during playgroup from her first lentil to her face being covered in nutella, it’s really something I look forward to every week. No matter what city you’re in, establishing a community is pivotal in a new families life. I am so grateful to be a part of the Shalom Baby community and feeling so settled in the next chapter of my family’s life here in San Diego.

An enormous thank you to Jean, Judy and Vivien who make it all possible.

NEW COMERS 2018

Gayle and Willy Bagg have returned to the US after spending over 20 years in Melbourne, Australia.

They have 2 married sons... one living in NY and the other in Australia.

Willy has filled the position of executive director at Congregation Beth El.

South Africa's Jews protest soaring anti-Semitism

Anti-Israel sentiment spilling over into 'hateful slurs' against Jews: We're being warned our 'time' is coming, and told Holocaust will be a picnic by comparison.



A German flag with Nazi swastika graffitied on a wall in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies protested what it said was a huge spike of anti-Semitic and threatening messages, in social media and in face-to-face encounters.

SAJBD Chairman Shaun Zagnoev said that while anti-Semitism was not uncommon, the latest comments were far more inflammatory than usual, and said extremist anti-Israel expressions had crossed over into vicious attacks on Jews. in a statement. "We are being told that we are 'scum,' 'rats,' 'bastards,' 'pigs,' 'swine,' and 'fat-nosed f***ks.' We are further being warned that 'our time is coming' and that 'the Holocaust will be a picnic after we are done with you.'"

The statement cited several incidents, including a tweet from one user, Matome Letsoalo, that said the Board of Deputies should be "decimated".

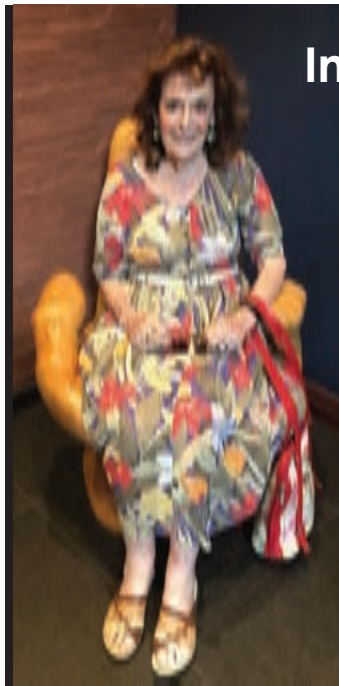
In addition, travelers from Tel Aviv were verbally abused as they arrived at OR Tambo International Airport.

Elsewhere in Johannesburg, a German flag with a swastika was painted on a wall in Hamilton Street, Coronationville.

"Every single one of these incidents is not only an attack on the Jewish community, but an attack on our very democracy," Zagnoev said. "Racism has no place in this country."

He said that the rise in anti-Semitism was connected to a strong anti-Israel sentiment expressed publicly in South Africa.

In memory of...



Ziona Rosenthal, beloved mother of Annie Lyons passed away on June 27, 2018 at Golden Acres.

Ziona was 94 years old and lived a full and loving life. She is sadly missed by all her family and friends.



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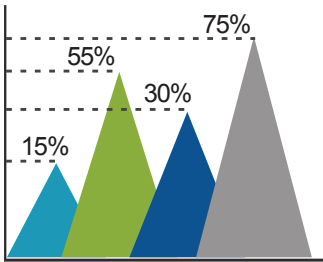
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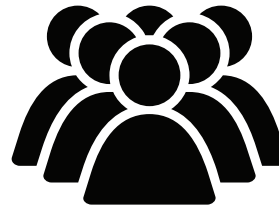
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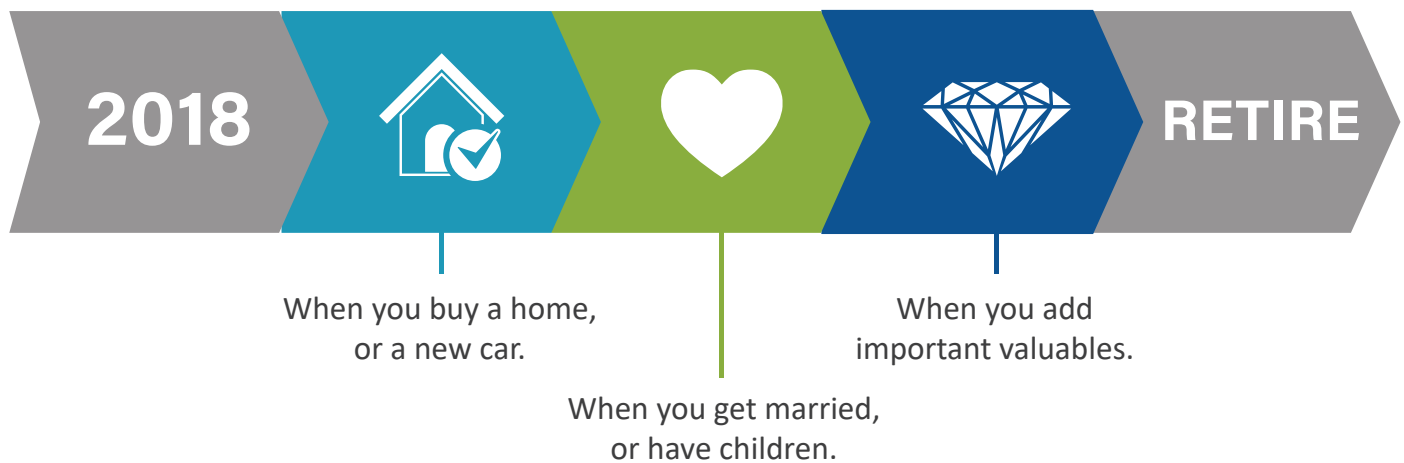
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5 Jews make Forbes' list of top 10 wealthiest Americans



Mark Zuckerberg is highest with net worth of \$61 billion, followed by a slew of other Silicon Valley stars — as well as former NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg..

Forbes published its 2018 roster of America's wealthiest this week, and five members of the tribe made the top 10 list.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg leads the Jewish pack at number 4, with a net worth of \$61 billion. He is followed by software giant Oracle's Larry Ellison at #5 with \$58.4b and Google co-founder Larry Page at #6 with \$53.8b.

The top three spots, by the way, are leaps and bounds ahead of the competition: Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Warren Buffet lead with \$160b, \$97b and \$88b respectively.

Adding character to your yarmulke

These days everyone is trying to personalize and add character to everything they own. And that includes yarmulkes. These 21 st Century Kippah wearers went just a little further than most.



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In memory of...

Memorial Service To Mark 77 Years Since The Murder - Bkiidan

Male and female members of the community from Keidan

LEO (JULY) STZ'RBKOB

Recently a memorial service was held for the Jews of Kaidan who were murdered 77 years ago, on August 28, 1941.

The memorial ceremony WAS held at in Kedainiai, near the mass grave with the participation of local and regional leaders and our friends - the director of the local museum Rimantas Gyrgolis and the teacher Limea Ardabiciana.

Aryeh (Livinia) Shcherbakov

Secretary of the Association of Former Residents of Israel



Orthodox Leaders Crack Down On 'Slutty' Long Wigs

AIDEN PINK

Orthodox leaders are increasingly policing the length of women's wigs, according to the New York Post. They were citing numerous women who say they have encountered criticism and even discrimination because of their artificial locks.

"People always say the longer it is, the sluttier it is," Esther Adina Sash, 30, told the Post.

Orthodox women traditionally wear wigs, also known as sheitels, to comply with modesty laws and not tempt men with their natural hair.

Sash, who has more than 39,000 followers on her fashion-focused Instagram account, said that rabbis have told her to stop wearing long wigs because she was setting a bad example for young girls.

Another woman named Esther, who asked not to be fully named for privacy reasons, told the Post that when she tried to buy a house in the majority-Orthodox town of Lakewood,



New Jersey, she was rejected because of the length of her fake hair. "We were told that we will scare off the crowd [and] they need to sell the rest of the lots," Esther said.

Wig policing is not new in the Orthodox world. The Voice of Lakewood newspaper has even banned wig ads that showed hair, the Post reported.

But some women are not backing down from the pressure. "It's hotter and sexier to have long hair," 28-year-old Brooklyn lawyer Mindy Meyer told the Post. "I'm not trying to conform. I don't care what people think about my long wigs because, as long as I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing, G-d is the ultimate judge."



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Habonim Dror Southern Africa (HDSA) turns 90 in 2020. This important milestone will be marked by a unique seven-day program in Israel. Kaleidoscope-HUG will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience:

- Sunday October 18 to Thursday October 22, 2020 - Kaleidoscope – a multi-dimensional exploration of Israel and the Palestinian territories through a wide-angled lens
- Friday October 23 to Saturday October 24, 2020 - The Habonim Ultimate Gathering (HUG) – a magical multi-generational gathering celebrating yesterday, today and tomorrow

Who's invited? Everyone from around the world who was once or is now connected to Habonim Dror Southern Africa (including Bnei Zion), regardless of how much or how long they were involved, is encouraged to attend and to bring spouses, partners and families. It will be possible to register selectively for specific tracks/sessions, depending on availability.

Kaleidoscope is a nuanced journey of depth and disruption in the open, experiential and informal educational style of Habonim.

Covering politics, culture, sport, law, business, technology, social action, education, healthcare and religion.

Engage with the brightest minds and most important personalities in Israel, including educators, writers, judges, scientists, doctors, film-makers, performers, social activists, entrepreneurs, executives, investors,

senior military strategists and top Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Kaleidoscope offers a view of Israel from the inside rather than the outside, and encourages participants to engage creatively and critically with a diverse range of perspectives.

Participants will be able to select from multiple streams of interest, as well as more conventional touring and recreational options.

HUG will open on Friday October 23 with a celebration of HDSA's 90th anniversary.

HUG will then offer participants a wide range of choices, including content-filled sessions, creative activities, and the option of simply relaxing with old friends and enjoying the resort's amenities and surroundings.

Unlike a typical "reunion," however, HUG will focus more on the present and future than the past.

HUG sessions will celebrate how Habonim informed and transformed our lives, find out about the Habonim of today and speculate on the Habonim of the future.

And we might even explore areas where it's still possible for us to change the world, or at least make an impact.

There will be great tarbut, shira, cocoa, taps and many hugs...

-
- Join us on this exciting and unique journey by connecting to our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/Habo2020 (This is a closed group by invitation or by your request to join only)
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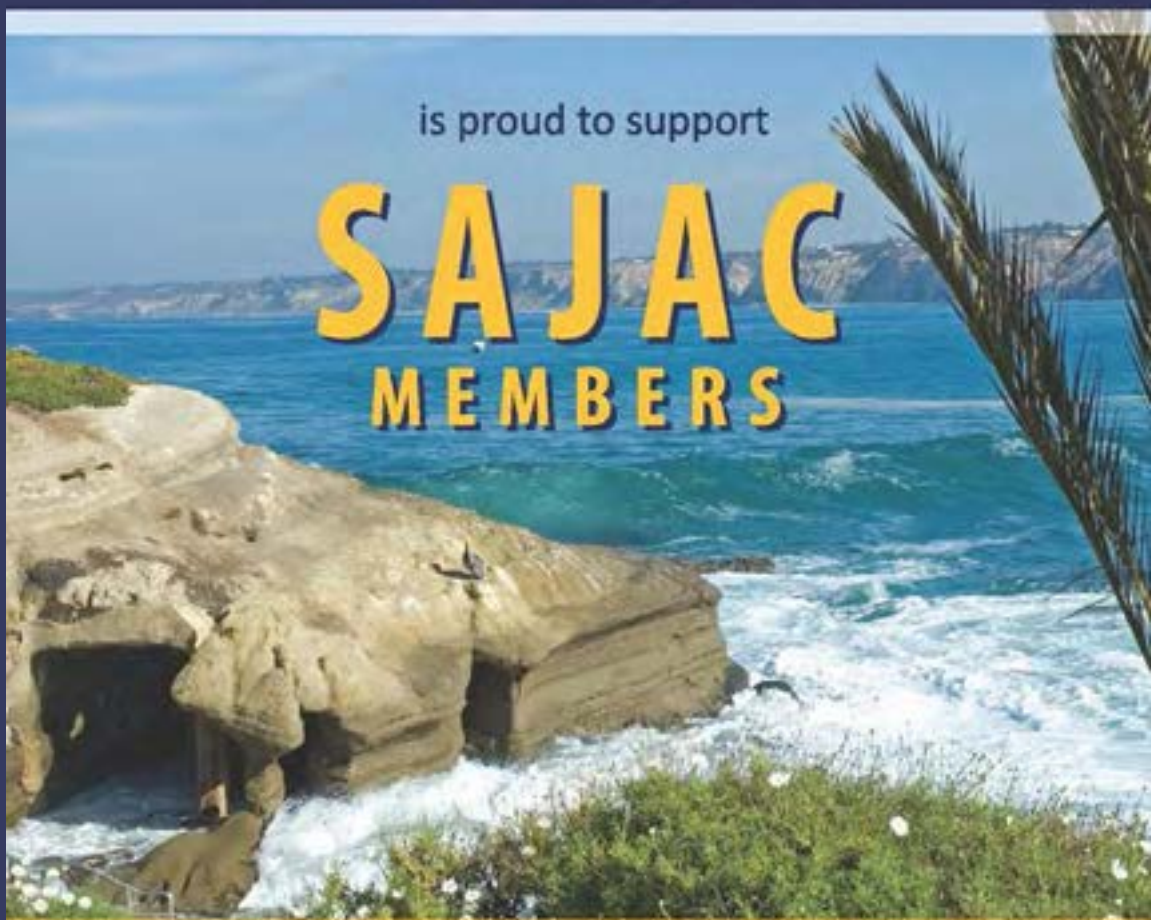
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