

SEPTEMBER 2010

JACOB GITLIN LIBRARY

OVERVIEW OF FUNCTIONS from 1 October 1999 to January 2010

Organized by Dr Ute Ben Yosef

- 1) 3 November 1999  
**Dr Sally Frankental** : Reflections on Jewish Identity: Issues and Challenges for the 21 century. 11<sup>th</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture.
- 2) Last Sunday November 1999: **Aubrey Katzef**, First Gitlin Library Discussion Forum: *The assassination of Chaim Arlossoroff*.
- 3.) 30 January 8.00 p.m. Gitlin Library Discussion Forum. Introduced by **Dayan Gross** Chaired by John Simon. *The image of "victimhood" in South African Jewish consciousness*
- 4) 23 February 8.00 p.m.  
Gitlin Library Public Meeting: Panel Discussion of chapters in the Book:  
*Jewries at the frontier, ed. By Prof Milton Shain and S Gilman.*  
Chairman of the Discussion: **Prof Richard Mendelsohn**  
Panel:  
**John Simon** - *At the frontier: The South African Jewish Experience*  
**Milton Shain** - *Ethnonationalism, Anti-Semitism and identity Politics: The North American and South African Experiences.*  
**Sally Frankental** - *A Frontier Experience: Israeli Jews Encounter Diaspora in Cape Town, South Africa.*
- 5) 27 February Discussion Forum  
**Lillian Lomofsky**: Introducing the book.  
JOSEPH HARMATZ. *FROM THE WINGS*. A Long Journey: 1940 – 1960. Classification: 964.302, a Holocaust memoir.
- 6) 26<sup>th</sup> March: the Gitlin Library Discussion Forum introduced by Professor **Yehoshua Gitay** : *Who are the Israelis? religious-secular tensions in current Israeli society.*
- 6) 30 April 8.00 p.m. Gitlin Library Discussion Forum  
**Dr David Scher**: Morris Alexander
- 7) 28 May 8.00 p.m. **Board Room**: Gitlin Library Discussion Forum  
**Harris Burman**: *Ethical Dilemmas*
- 8) 14 of June 8.00 p.m. **Sukkah Hall**: Introduction to Jewish Music, A musical evening, introduced by Fay Singer.
- 9) 25 June (Sunday) **Board Room**: Gitlin Library Discussion Forum: introduced by **Mr Solly Kessler**:  
*"Hate speech: What happened to freedom of expression?"*
- 10) July 2000. Book Launch. **Chief Rabbi Harris**.
- 11) 30 July. Board Room. Discussion Forum. Combined debate by **Rabbi Jack Steinhorn** and **Dr Y Gitay** with ensuing discussion: *"Individualism and Community in Religious Life"*.
- 12) Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture  
22 August, Prof **Dan Ncayiyana** Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UCT.
- 13) **JEWISH BOOK WEEK**: Tuesday 29 August to Thursday evening  
31 August 2000 with display of books by prominent Cape Town Books shops  
Venue: Israel Abrahams Hall – Albrow Centre

**Lectures:**

Tuesday 29 August 8.00 pm

14) **Glenn Frankel:** *Rivonia's Children: the high costs of conscience in White South Africa.*

15) Wednesday 30 August  
10.30 am

16) **Prof Shirley Kossick:** *Contemporary fiction – with special reference to Jewish Women writers*

17) **Eve Gray:** *The Perils of Publishing and selling – with special reference to Jewish books.*

18) **Prof Marcia Leveson:** *People of the Book: Images of the Jew in some South African fiction.*

19) Thursday 31 August **Benjamin Pogrud:** *Dialogue, with special reference to the book "war of Words, memoirs of a South African journalist."*

20) **Poetry Reading by and of Jewish poets in Cape Town.** Convenor: Peter Kantey

**26 November 2000: Discussion Forum: Aubrey Katzeff and Mervyn Smith:** *The Jewish detention camp in Mauritius* One of the inmates of the Mauritian detention camps was **Hella Rapinsky. Mrs Ida Jacobson, and son Isaac Borochowitz** were present. His wife Karen Borochowitz gave a talk about Mrs Rapinsky. They made a presentation to the library of the English translation of a diary by one of the other inmates, **Dr A. Zweigbaum.**

22) 25 February 2001: **Prof Thomas Rajna**

*On his musical oeuvre. With special reference to his Jewish background as a composer.*

He played his compositions on tape recorder, video and CD and explain their meaning.

23) 25 March 2001 **Heidi Grunebaum and Yazir Henri Shariff**

*Making peace work and the need for dialogue*

(Subject included: Themes include: aspects of Muslim-Jewish identity, dialogue, relationships and events in the Middle East)

24) 29 April 2001

**Prof Yehoshua Gitay and Rabbi Dr Jack Steinhorn**

*In search for the essence of Israel*

Discussing the book by Yoram Hazony:

THE JEWISH STATE: The Struggle for Israel's soul.

25) 10 June 2001

**Harris Burman.**

*Is it a lie or is it a story?*

(A topic connected to the Jewish Seniors Awareness Week.)

**JEWISH BOOK WEEK AUGUST 2001**

Sunday 26 August 8.00 p.m.

26) **Dr David Scher. Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture**

*"Sonceba – he who strives for mercy"*

Aspects of the life of Adolph Schauder

27) Monday 27 August

**Prof Ben Turok**

*"Jews in the South African Liberation Struggle"*

28) Tuesday 28 August. 8.00 p.m.

**Irene Friedland**

*"The South African friends of Beit Hathefutsoth Country Community Project"*

29) Wednesday 29 August 7.30 p.m.

*The Cape Town launch of the book by Gus Saron: The Jews of South Africa.*

Main Speaker: **John Simon.** (The Chairman of the Jacob Gitlin Library)

The Gitlin Library invites you to a Tour through the Jewish Museum conducted by Prof Richard Mendelsohn.

30) Thursday 30 August 7.30

Close of Book Week

*Poetry Reading.* Intermittent violin performance of Jewish music in the cassette collection of the Library, performed by **Larry Brandt.**

31) 25 October 2001

**Raymond Ackerman**

*"Running an ethical business"*

32) 17 January 2002 In conjunction with the Cape Town Holocaust Centre:  
**Professor Elaine Newton: They shall not die twice: Literature of the Holocaust.**

2002

33) 24 February 2002

*To Clone or Not to Clone*

Panel discussion with **Prof Jacque Greenberg** (Geneticist), **Father Bryan Dolan**, Roman Catholic Moral Theologian and **Rabbi Dr Jack Steinhorn**

34) 28 April 2002

**Prof. Johan Cook**. Dept of Semitic Languages and Culture. University of Stellenbosch.

*The Dead Sea Scrolls: no more scandals.*

35) 19 May 2002

**Claudia Braude**

Cape Town Book launch *cum* Discussion Forum on her new book: Contemporary Jewish writing in South Africa – an Anthology.

*Jewish identity in Post-Apartheid South Africa.*

36) Sunday 30 June 7.30

**Aleck Goldberg**, "Profile of a Community" the Jewish Community in South Africa". Book launch with a symposium entitled:

*South African Jewry – Yesterday – today – tomorrow*

*Speakers: Himself: Yesterday, Mervyn Smith, Today.*

37) 18 August 2002

**14<sup>th</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture:**

**Dr Jos Gerson.** *The Challenge of Fundamentalism in the Jewish World and Elsewhere.*

## JEWISH BOOK WEEK 2002

Monday 21 October – Thursday 24 October

37) **Monday 21 October 2002 at 8.00 p.m.**

**Dr David Scher**

*"Chaim Weizmann and. the rise of modern Zionism"*

38) **22<sup>nd</sup> October** Screening of the history of **Aliyah to Israel**, 10 minutes of which was shown during the W.P. Zionist Council Conference. The film, first in the *Tkumah* series, was introduced by **Dr Sally Frankenthal** who as an anthropologist showed the profound human dimensions of this experience.

39) **23<sup>rd</sup> October** **Fay Singer** *Israeli Music after 1948*. This was the happiest of all my Bookweek events.

40) **Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> October: Poetry Evening**, at 7.30 p.m. chaired by Sarah Pascall. The evening coincided with a launch of the poetry collection "*After Image*" by **David Friedland**, which has just appeared. David presented poems from this book. The other poets are **Peter Kantey, Gloria Sandak-Lewin, Gad Kaplan, Patricia Schonstein-Pinnock, Azila Reisenberger, Alan Hurwitz** and **David Fainman** who had just won the first prize of the International Society of Poets in Washington and has been awarded Poet of the Year (2002).

41) **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October** **Gitlin Library Discussion Forum**

**Aubrey Katzef** "*The Greyshirts: the South African Jewish Response: an Overview*". It happened to be the anniversary of the day the last boat from Germany, the "Stuttgart" had arrived in Cape Town (1936). The

contribution took the shape of a formal lecture, followed by lively discussions, reminiscences and contributions on the part of the audience.

42) **Benjamin Pogrund.**

19 November 2002

*Israel: Moral and practical Dilemmas and Challenges*

43) **Lunch Hour Book Talk** (an experiment that failed due to lack of attendance)

19 December 2002. 1.00-2.00 p.m. Tamara Levine and interpretation of the book:

"Be my Knife" – by David Grossman.

44) **19 January 2003**

2003

**Patricia Schonstein Pinnock**

Reading from her newly completed manuscript "A Time with Angels" of the novel due for publication.

45) 16 February 2003. In conjunction with the Cape Town Holocaust Centre

Book Launch **Maja Abramowitch**

*To forgive ... but not forget. Maja's story.*

Introduction by the author with ensuing questions.

46) March 2003

**Shelley Weiner**

**Lunch Hour Book Talk.** 24 March 2003

Shelley Weiner introduced her latest novel ARNOST. (About 5 people attended)

47) 29 June 2003. 8.00 Auditorium

**Prof. Anny Wynchank**

*Couscous and Croissants: Colonial Life in Jewish Morocco.*

48) **Jewish Bookweek 2003**

Opening: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 6.00 p.m.

**Exhibition of Austrian Jewish Writers in Exile**

*Time Creates Images*

*"Die Zeit gibt die Bilder"*

The Exhibition was be opened by The Austrian Consul General Mrs Christine Kivinen

Guest Speaker: Alisa Douer (Vienna, Austria)

The opening was followed by a reception

49) **5 August 8.00 p.m.**

**Prof Gunther Pakendorf**

*"By the Rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept..."*

*Jewish writers in Austria and the experience of Exile*

**FILMS with DISCUSSIONS:**

6 August 8.00 p.m.

50) **Alisa Douer**

*"He who saves a single soul, saves a world entire"*

51) **Thursday 7 August 8.00 p.m.**

**Alisa Douer**

*"Vienna 1938 : a return to a distant land"*

52) **Sunday 10 August 3.00 p.m.**

**Simon Wiesenthal**

Video show: *"The Art of Remembrance" First Release*

53) **Monday, 22 September 2003**

In conjunction with the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and the Goethe Institute

**Bernard Schlink**

*"The Presence of the Past"*

54) **18 September 2003**

**15<sup>th</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture**

**Prof Robin Cohen**

*"Diaspora": Beyond the Jewish Experience.*

55) 30 November 2003

Panel

**Machal: South African Soldiers and Nurses in the 1948 War of Independence.**

Panel:

**Rolfe Futerman** (Chairman)

**Lesley Marcus**

**Audrey Meyersfeld**

**Morris Galp**

**Meyer (Ted) Levine**

**Arnold Ruch**

29 February 2004

2004

**Aubrey Katzef**, and **Jonathan Silke**: Discussion Forum: David Ben Gurion: Statesman or Autocrat?

57) 28 March 2004

Gita Gordon

*Book Talk: From Lithuania to South Africa – Fact or Fiction?*

May 2004.

**Dr David Scher**

**Theodor Herzl: A Life Revisited**

Lecture in honour of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Theodore Herzl.

59) 27<sup>th</sup> June 2004

**Julie Peires**

*Apartheid and the Holocaust: how they differ*

17 August 2004

**Prof Mike Berger**

*Understanding Evil: an epidemiology of antisemitism*

61) 28 November 2004

**Prof Howard Phillips**

*"The Oldest Jewish Document in South Africa: now found?"*

62) **23 December Shul Hall: Marais Road Shul**

In conjunction with the cultural committee of the Green and sea Point Hebrew Congregation: (Mr Terence Felder, convenor)

**Fred Zartz**

Performance of Yehuda Leib Gordon's epic poem: *Al Kotzo shel Yud.* (*The point of the letter yud*)

63) 16 February 2005. **Rabbi Steven Greenberg.**

*"Gayness and God: Reconciling Orthodox Judaism and Homosexuality"*

64) 1 March 2005

**Lorna and Leon Levy.**

“Ray Alexander Simons:

Memories of a great South African Trade Unionist and Activist”

65) 16 March 2005

**John Simon**

*Benjamin Disraeli and the Jews*

on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth.

66) 14 April 2005. In conjunction with the Cape Town Holocaust Centre

**Lithuanian Ambassador Alfonsas Eidintas.** About his book: *Jews, Lithuanians and the Holocaust*

67) 15 May 2005

**Joel Pollack.**

*The Kasrils Affair: Jewish Politics in South Africa*

68) 28 June 2005. 17<sup>th</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture

**Prof Milton Shain**

*Humpty Dumpty was Pushed: Anti-Jewish Conspiracies and the South African Experience"*

**Jacob Gitlin Library Week**

6. 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005. In collaboration with Beit Hatefutsoth Country Communities.

**South African Jewish Country Communities.**

Exhibition of Country Communities photos mounted on 6 panels

2. Exhibition of paintings, amongst others, by Monty Teperson, paintings of Springbok and surroundings.3. Exhibition of Library Books on the subject, including Yiddish books.

4. Exhibition of memorabilia in two display cabinets.

The function was based on the launch of the books:

**Beit Hatefutsot Country Communities vol 2**

And the publication of

**The Jews of Namaqualand.** Authors: Phyllis Jowell and Adrienne Folb.

69). **Tuesday 6 September 2005 at 7.30 p.m.:** Opening Evening: Introduced by David Scher Chairman of the Gitlin Library

Ian Mann, Chairman of Bet Hatefutsot will speak on the background of the BH Country Communities.

**Phyllis Jowell and**

**Irene Friedland: “The Byways of Country Life”**

Dr David Scher: Questions and Answers

70) **7 September 2005**

Colloquium. Informal evening  
Memories of Growing up in the Country.  
Multimedia Presentation of Country Communities .

Panelists:

Cecil Jowell

Dr Hannah Reeve Saunders (on Picketberg)

Ivan Harris

Guiseppi Ciucci. An Italian (non-Jewish sponsor) Reminiscing. Each: 10 Minutes

Vote of thanks by Joyce Kropmen

71) **Thursday 8 September 2005 at 7.30 p.m.** Auditorium Slide Show: Jews of Namaqualand, introduced by Phyllis Jowell, lecture by Adrienne Folb.

72) 27 November 2005

**Doron Isaacs**

*The death of Aliyah: What future role for Israel in Jewish Identity?*

73) 13 February 2006 Book Launch, under the joint auspices of the U.O.S., S.A. Jewish Museum and S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, Cape Council

**Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein**

2006

**"Defending the Human Spirit"**

Introduced by John Simon with a lecture by Chief Rabbi Dr Goldstein

74) 23 March 2006

**Jack Bloom**

Book Launch of his Memoir entitled:

"Out of Step: Life-Story of a Politician and Politics and Religion in a World at War"

Lecture entitled: "*It Starts with Jews, but does not end with Jews*" Reflections on the Jewish Mission in a world at war"

75) Sunday 21 May 2006

**John Simon:**

*"The 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the resettlement of Jews in England"*

76) 15 August 2006

**Dr Tamara Levine** 18<sup>th</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture. *In Search of Self: From Innocence to Understanding in Israeli Literature*

**LIBRARY WEEK**

**JEWISH ROOTS IN CAPE TOWN.**

**A JOINT EFFORT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM.**

Display of blown up photos (by the S.A. Jewish Museum) on 4 exhibition stands, depicting historical Cape Town. subjects:

**Home-life**

**Religion** - Shuls

**Culture**, i.e. Yiddish Theatre, concerts, etc.

Background music

77) 23 October

**Professor Howard Philips.** *Putting down Jewish Roots in Cape Town (1841-1920)*, Digital slide show.

78) 24 October 2006

*Putting down roots in Cape Town - Continued*

*First Person Memoirs*, compiled and introduced by

**Gwynne Robins**

With the voices of  
**Clara Gersholowitz**  
**Sara Pascall**  
**Gwynne Robins**  
**John Simon**  
**Ute Ben Yosef**

79) 25 October 2006

**Helen Robinson**

*Commercial Roots in Cape Town*

80) 25 October 2006

**Helen Robinson.** *Jewish Trading in the Cape Town Suburbs.*

81) 18 February 2007

**Moshe Lederman.** *Humour in present-day Israel.*

2007

82) 10 June 2007

**Julie Peires:** Presentation of her revised book "*The Holocaust and Apartheid: A Comparison of Human Rights Abuses*" With a panel discussion: Judge Dennis Davis and Judith Cohen.

82) 19<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture

**Robin Fryde.** 19<sup>th</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture. *Sidney Mendelssohn and the collecting of Africana*

83) November 2007

*Celebrating Jewish Poetry* presented by Lucretia Sahlertz, with musical interludes by **Matthew Reid.** (clarinette).

Poetry Readers:

Afrikaans: **Lucretia Sahlertz,**

✓ English: **Fay Singer, Gilad Stern (mainly poems by Olga Kirsch)**

Hebrew: **Keren Tahor**

English: **Percy Gersholowitz**

2008

The Jacob Gitlin Library Functions in 2008 were organized under the auspices of the WPZC 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

84) Thursday 21 February 2. at (8.00 pm) **Ronnie Gotkin:** "*Love and Darkness: Poems by Yehuda Amichai*".

85) 21 February 2008 (at 8.00 pm) **Ronnie Gotkin.** "*Love and Darkness: The writing of Amos Oz*"

86) 12 June 2008

The Jacob Gitlin Library and the S.A. Jewish Museum organized the Cape Town book launch of "*Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities*" Vol. III: *Southern and Eastern Cape* (Former Transkei and Griqualand. Mossel Bay, Grahamstown, King Williamstown, Molteno, Grabouw published by the S.A. Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth introduced by Rose Norwich and Adrienne Collenburg . The main speaker: **Dr Bernie Radomsky.** The refreshments were sponsored by **Cecil Jowell.**

87) Tuesday 5 August 2008.

The book launch: **Iana Slomovitz** *Touching the Earth.* Illustrated poems. together with **Caroline Blackburn,** and assisted technically by **Gillian Lasker Lourenco.** Under the auspices of the 60 Years anniversary Celebration.



88) 9 September 2008. **Dr David Scher**. 20th Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture: "*The Birth of Israel: Myths and Realities*,"

89) 7 October 2008

Film Presentation of ***O Jerusalem*** In the Labia Theatre, 68 Orange Street, Gardens.

Based on the book with this title by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre. "*The Bitter struggle for the City of Peace*"

Starring Saïd Tagmahqui, JJ Field and Maria Papas

To commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel

For Friends and members of the Jacob Gitlin Library.

95) 23rd February 2009

**Prof Dr Stephen Finn**

Book launch, reading and discussion about the subject of "*Bullying in South African Schools*"

2009

96) Sunday April 2009

Memorial Tribute to Dr Jos Gerson of blessed memory. (who had passed away on 27 April 2008)

**Dr Ken Hughes**

*Benedict Spinoza*

Vote of thanks and tribute by Prof Milton Shain.

97) 4 August 2009

**Prof Dr Max Price** Vice-Chancellor UCT

21th Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture

98) 6 September 2009

**John Simon:**

*Vladimir Jabotinsky: Fighter – Visionary – Zionist*

As from 1910, thanks to the advise of Gwynne Robins and Julie Berman who took the matter up, I have received help and support with the functions from the newly appointed staff members, Tammy Glanger and Janine Scher who took over the organization of the functions, including the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture delivered by Peter Collins.

Janine in addition established new programmes i.e. such her a monthly Sunday Children's Reading, done by herself, Reading to groups of Cape Seniors and the very successful Hebrew Discussion Forum.

A younger generation of members of the Library is gaining momentum.

I regarded these functions as a vital area of public relations. They stimulated debate in an open and free atmosphere. They created a congenial atmosphere between the Library and the public. And I feel that I have succeeded in this effort. Our readership and audience has become a family, happy and proud to belong to the Library.

2,653 membership

## APPENDIX

Functions organized with the help of Tammy Glanger and Janine Scher plus support by Jocelyn Poswell

## 2010

- 1) 26 January 2010 **Janine Scher** to Sea Point Place for a reading and talk to the Seniors
- 2) Sunday 31 January 2010 Janine Scher. *Story Time* children's reading in the Board Room
- 3) 10 February 2010. Music concert at the Baxter.
- 4) Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010 Janine Scher. **Story Time**
- 5) 7 March 2010. 22<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture by Prof Peter Collins. *Isaiah Berlin*.
- 6) 9 March 2010. Janine. Talk to Muizenberg Seniors.
- 7) 2 March 2010. Janine. Sea Point Place visit.
- 8) 16 March 2010. Sea Point Place Seniors visit.
- 9) 23 March 2010. Janine. Talk to Milnerton Seniors.
- 10) 28 March 2010. Janine Scher. *Children's Story Time*
- 11) 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010 **Hebrew Discussion Forum**. Facilitated by **Janine Scher**. introduced by **Yossi Eshed**, Shaliach. Topic: Israeli Identity
- 12) 25 April 2010. Janine Scher. *Children's Story Time*
- 13) 28 April 2010. Janine. Talk on the Library to Bnoth Zion.
- 14) **Tuesday 11 May**. Janine Scher Sea Point Place. Reading from and discussing of the book: **Outwitting History**
- 15) 17 May 2010. Hebrew Discussion Forum. Janine Scher. Yossi Eshed. *Israeli Humour*
- 16) **23 May 2010**. In conjunction with the Cape Town Holocaust Centre. **Ute Ben Yosef**. *The Life and work of Felix Nussbaum* introduced by Dr David Scher, Terence Matzendorf.
- 17) 30 May: Sunday **Children's Story Time** by Janine Scher

18) 8 June 2010 Janine Scher. Young Adults event: An Evening of Laughter and Discussion introduced by **Rabbi Levi Silman**

19) 27 June 2010 **Janine Scher**. Children's Story-Time.

20) 15. June 2010 Janine Scher. Sea Point Place. Reading.

21) Tuesday 13 July Hebrew Discussion Forum. Janine

*The Kibbutz - What was its secret of success? Was it a success? Doesn't the Kibbutz live anymore? What do we miss in the Kibbutz?*

22) 20 July Janine Scher visited Sea Point Place and read to the Seniors.

23) 25 July Janine Scher. *Children's Story Time*

24) 27<sup>th</sup> July **Poetry Evening**. David Friedland, Patricia Schonstein, Peter Oshovsky, Ilana Slomowitz and Yvonne Malherbe, an Afrikaans poet who writes on Judaism and the Holocaust. Introduced by Janine Scher

25) 25 August Cape Jewish Seniors Sea Point visited Library with Diane Sochen and were read to and shown around by **Janine Scher**.

26) 24 AUGUST 2010. Hebrew Discussion Forum, facilitated by Janine Scher, introduced by Yossi Eshed who introduced the topic:  
ISRAELI MUSIC: WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL? Do Western and Oriental cultures blend harmoniously?