

# views

for openers

## Looking Back...

As of this Sukkot, it's been 20 years since my Beth Rivkah high school class of Melbourne, Australia, graduated. Amazing, because we hadn't even lived 20 years yet when we graduated!

My old friends marked this milestone with a reunion at the very school we spent our formative years, and those of us abroad (like me) got to FaceTime in ... which was especially handy because, unlike the rest of our old friends, we didn't have to worry about what to wear from the neck down. (Full disclosure, it was 8 a.m. EST, most of us expats were still in PJs!)

The funny thing was that some of us (the ones who were gifted with better memories, not that it helped with any exams or tests at the time) actually remember going to a "science of the future" exhibit when we were in Grade 4 (what Australians call 4th grade). There they had this fantasy device where you could use a phone and see the person you were talking to. We were all so enthralled ... and here we are, living that very future!

Of course, we had to compare what changed in 20 years: Back when

we were in school, there was no Facebook, no WhatsApp and not even cell phones. Not everyone had call waiting, and we often had to deal with busy signals and keep trying until the person answered.



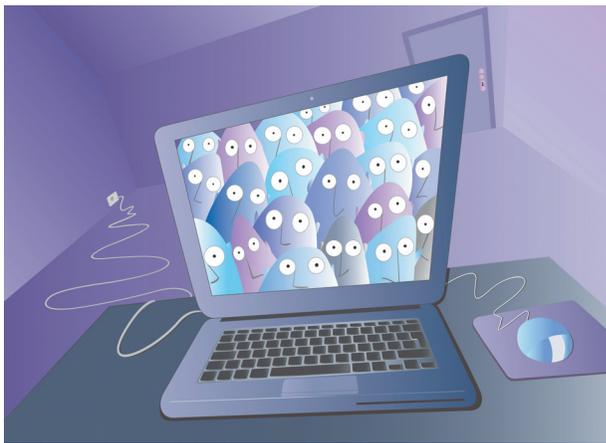
Rochel Burstyn

Technology sure is amazing these days, but I suspect that maybe in another 20 years or so, it will be even more spectacular. By then, someone will have figured out how people FaceTiming each other in other countries can touch each other ... or taste each other's food.

I mean, the girls (I can't call them grown-ups, to me they're forever 17) kept showing me the cake; and I got sick

of drooling over the little screen, so I finally headed over to Bake Station and bought myself something that looked similar. (Two pieces, I might add, something I might not have done if all my old friends were actually in my presence, politely not eyeing my thighs.)

Even though there commonly exists a little panic before reunions like these ("Please don't let me be the fattest one there!"), once they're in full swing and everyone's insecurities have been hung up with the coats,



the laughter is hard and constant, and there's so much joy in the room. Everyone goes home smiling like they hadn't smiled in a long time.

There's nothing like a reunion with old friends, who share many of the same old memories, who remember you as the slightly wacky person you were before you became a responsible grown up and/or parent. Catching up can feel like coming home, like visiting a special place that no longer exists outside the grainy pictures in photo albums.

Which is why it's so special that my class graduated on Sukkot (maybe it's weird — we always were a bit of a weird class). Sukkot is a holiday that is a tangible reminder that our homes and time on this planet are only temporary, that the scenery is constantly changing.

On Sukkot, we go out of our homes, step out of the familiar and take up residence for a week in a hut, braving the elements and other irritants (*BEES!*) but basically enjoying the change in pace and fresh air.

May all your reunions be happy, clear of rain and without stings. Same blessings for Sukkot! 🍂

*With thanks to my old friend/classmate and fellow expat Naomi (Ruschinek) Clapman for her help with this article.*

letters

## Morally Perplexed?

Regarding "Happy Birthday, World?" (Sept. 14, page 5), your inflammatory "cheap tiki torches in their hands and the morally perplexed leader of the free world stoking their confidence" makes you complicit in the hate and divisiveness that many of the Jewish community feel toward the president of the United States.

We "deplorables" remember the previous president who was and is a "morally perplexed leader":

- Who swooned over Jeremiah Wright for 20 years while he cursed Jews and America;
- A "morally perplexed leader" who slighted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by making him come to the back door of the White House;
- A "morally perplexed leader" who forced through the incredibly dangerous Iran Nuclear Agreement;
- A "morally perplexed leader" who

freed up over \$150 billion to the new Nazis in Iran that is now being used to fund terrorism against Israel, create nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles;

- A "morally perplexed leader" who abstained and let the anti-Israel United Nation's resolution be approved where the Western Wall was ceded to a "Palestinian State";

- A "morally perplexed leader" who created an environment that encouraged his successors to appoint anti-Semite Keith Ellison vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee and endorse anti-Israel, anti-American and anti-Semitic Black Lives Matters and George Soros.

We "deplorables," who are Americans, Jews and Zionists, regret the *Detroit Jewish News'* depiction of the president of the United States, especially after giving a truly "morally perplexed leader" a pass.

Ed Kohl  
West Bloomfield

## Yiddish Limerick



On Yom Kippur tzu shul ich vel gayn  
Ich vel fastn un davn again.  
Ich bin mid, dos is shver  
but I davn with care,  
Neilah, Kum shayn.

Tzu shul ich vel gayn: to synagogue  
I will go  
Ich vel fastn: I will fast  
Un davn: and pray  
Ich bin mid: I am tired  
Dos is shver: this is hard  
Neilah: the concluding prayer  
Kum shayn: come soon

By Rachel Kapen

## Hershes To Be Honored By Holocaust Memorial Center

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus will host its 33rd Anniversary Dinner, Sunday, Nov. 5, at Congregation Shaarey Zedek (27375 Bell Road) in Southfield. The annual fundraising event, which begins with a strolling dinner at 5:30 p.m., will honor Susan and Nelson Hersh for their commitment to helping others and the shared ideal of the power of individuals to make a difference.



Susan and Nelson Hersh

Beginning at 7 p.m., national and international award-winning journalist and former NBC News network anchor Ann Curry will deliver the key-

note address. A dessert afterglow will follow.

A prominent orthodontist with a practice in West Bloomfield, Dr. Hersh serves as vice president of the West Bloomfield Board of Education and on Gov. Snyder's Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education. In addition, he annually volunteers in Dobczyce, Poland, as an English teacher, providing field trips to Auschwitz and dispelling negative stereotypes about both Jews and Americans. Susan Hersh is a dedicated volunteer who devotes her time to her temple and children with disabilities.

Curry, a former international correspondent, has covered wars in countries and regions including Syria, Darfur, Lebanon, Israel, Afghanistan and Iraq and also has reported on nuclear tensions and humanitarian disasters, such as the tsunamis in Japan and Southeast Asia and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

The recipient of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Medal of Valor, Curry also has won seven national news Emmys, numerous Edward R. Murrow Awards, Gracie Allen Awards and National Headliner Awards. She also has been honored with an Excellence in Reporting award by the NAACP and by Women in Communications with a Matrix Award, along with several humanitarian accolades.

At this year's event, Rozie and Bernie Friedman are serving as dinner chairs and Jackie and Larry Kraft as dinner advisers. The VIP reception is being sponsored by Schechter Wealth and the dessert reception by Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss.

Registration is required. For tickets or more information, call Ruth Stern at (248) 536-9601, visit [holocaustcenter.org](http://holocaustcenter.org) or email [ruth.stern@holocaustcenter.org](mailto:ruth.stern@holocaustcenter.org).