

## BIOS OF CVJHP DELEGATION

### Cemetery Plaque Unveiling and Jews of Cabo Verde Symposium, March 6, 2024

**Carol Castiel, President, CVJHP** is former Director of Current Affairs Programming at the Voice of America. In the late 1980's she managed scholarship programs for Portuguese-speaking Africa at the Africa-America Institute (AAI) in New York City. After learning about the Moroccan Jewish ancestry of several Cabo Verdean grantees, Carol was inspired to join forces with Januário Nascimento, a descendant of the Auday family, in the mid-1990's who was pressing for the restoration of the Archipelago's several Jewish cemeteries. To help raise funds and global awareness, Carol founded the not-for-profit "Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project, Inc.," in 2008. She donates her time and expertise to managing all aspects of CVJHP. She holds an M.A. in International Affairs and speaks Portuguese, French and Spanish. Carol retired from VOA after 24 years and is now a freelance consultant/journalist.

**Simão Levy, CVJHP representative, Cabo Verde** was born in São Vicente but has lived in the capital, Praia, for 12 years! Levy began his career in 1991 in the tourism sector on Sal Island. There, he was director of the Aeroflot Hotel, which was managed by a Canary Islands-based company. Recently, he became manager of an inbound tourism and service agency called "LEVY TRAVEL" of which he is a partner/manager. Simão Levy is a descendant of the legendary LEVY family from Santo Antão. Simão speaks Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian!

**Januario Nascimento, descendant, CVJHP honorary board member,** holds a master's degree in law of the Sea and a doctorate in geography, specializing in water management. He is President of ADAD, a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental protection and a consultant. He was born in the island of Santo Antão where the majority of Moroccan and Gibraltarian Jews settled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He is a descendant of the Auday family from Tangier. He has pioneered preserving Cabo Verde's Jewish heritage since the 1990's. Carol Castiel met and joined forces with him in the mid-1990's.

**Raquel Levy Toledano** is a medical doctor, specializing in gynecology and reproductive care. She holds a PhD in Biology. Raquel is deeply involved in Moroccan Jewish genealogy. She is on the board of Le Cercle de Généalogie Juive in Paris and a co-administrator of the Avotaynu Y-DNA Project, a foundation aimed at identifying the male ancestors of the Jewish people. She founded the "Généalogie des Juifs du Maroc" Facebook group and NAJMA (Nos Ancêtres Juifs Marocains et Algériens), a genealogical society dedicated to Moroccan and Algerian Jews.

**Michel Toledano** is an MD and a PhD, specialized in Oncology and Internal Medicine. He is married to Raquel Levy Toledano! He is the director of basic research at the Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique in France. He is a world leader in his field-Redox system (involved in aging and cancers). He has published hundreds of articles in peer-reviewed journals and has participated in or chaired numerous international scientific meetings.

**Ruben Suiza is the Chief Rabbi in Lisbon** at Synagogue Shaare Tikvah. He was born in Melilla, Spanish Morocco. Previously, he served for 40 years as Rabbi of the Sephardi Hebrew Congregation in Cape Town, South Africa whose congregation consisted of 250 families who trace their ancestry to the Greek Island of Rhodes. His duties included teaching, acting as Shochet, Sofer Stam, and Mohel of the larger Cape Town Jewish community. He was appointed as Registrar of the Cape Town “Beth Din” as well as a Dayan (rabbinic judge), serving both the Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities.

**El Mehdi Boudra is president of “Association Mimouna,”** an NGO which he founded in 2007 in Morocco. Mimouna aims to preserve Moroccan Jewish culture and advance Muslim-Jewish dialogue. He is a nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for Middle East programs. Boudra serves on the boards of many civic organizations in Morocco and the United States such as the American Sephardi Federation. He is the lead organizer for the “Jewish Africa Conference.” He speaks Arabic, French, Spanish and English. He holds a BA in Int’l studies from Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, & an MA from Brandeis University in the U.S.

**Wayne Sussman is Director of American Jewish Committee's (AJC) Africa Institute.** Wayne appears regularly on South Africa's television networks such as eNCA, SABC, and Newzroom Afrika. He was Daily Maverick's chief elections analyst for the 2021 elections in South Africa. He regularly writes in-depth analysis on by-elections and political developments in South Africa for the Daily Maverick. Wayne is the Chair of the Morris Isaacson Centre for Music in the Soweto township. He also chairs two prominent organizations in the South African Jewish community.

**Anne-Sophie Sebban-Bécache is Director of American Jewish Committee (AJC) in Paris.** Previously she served as an attaché at the political Chancellery of the French Embassy in Israel and at the Permanent Mission of France to the UN in New York City, focusing on human rights and humanitarian affairs. She founded a grassroot Jewish students association, “Les Eveillés” (“The Enlightened”), to foster debate on French social issues and empower young Jewish leaders. She holds a BA in political science, a master’s in public affair from Sciences Po Paris, and a Ph.D. in geopolitics, focusing on Israel’s strategies in the Horn of Africa.