

# ★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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## Fundraising in the magic of the Stellenberg Gardens

Guests gathered from around the globe on 30 December for the annual summer party of the Friends of the UJC Cape Town.

Overseas and Johannesburg-based patrons and friends attended this wonderful evening in the Ovenstone Homestead at Stellenberg Gardens in Kenilworth. This annual event has become a highlight of the summer season in Cape Town.



Silvana Silverman, Marla Sacher, Alan Silverman, Sharon Sneider, Marc Bartkunsky, Joceline Basserabie and Arnold Basserabie

Continues on page 29

## New York, New York



Rabbi Greg Alexander blowing the shofar at Yankee Stadium during Elul while on sabbatical in New York City with his family.

See page 40 for more

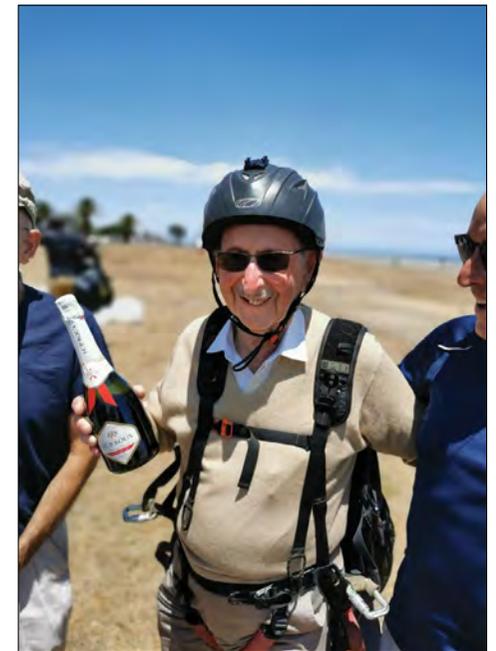
## 90-year-old Dr Hymie Ehrlich: the oldest paraglider in Cape Town

On 13 January, Dr Hymie Ehrlich elegantly descended onto the Sea Point Promenade after paragliding off Signal Hill — and literally landed on his feet.

This would be an impressive feat for anybody, but it was even more impressive because it was his 90th birthday — what a way to celebrate!

The GP, who still practises three days a week, is no stranger to this sky-high sport. To celebrate his 86th birthday in 2016, Hymie went paragliding with Fly Cape Town Paragliding (FCTP), together with his granddaughter Lisa Friedman and her husband, Shlomi.

After the flight, Hymie asked whether he was the oldest to have flown with the company, but this title had been claimed by an 88-year-old. Hymie was told that FCTP would gift him with a free flight for his 89th birthday, and in 2019, Hymie became the oldest person in Cape Town to paraglide. FCTP not only treated him



to a complimentary flight, but also supplied him with the camera and video footage for free.

The 90-year-old cemented his title this year when he broke his own record as the oldest paraglider in Cape Town. After landing, Hymie stated, "It was a wonderful experience... a great occasion"

## Bachelorette with a difference

Coffee Time hosted bride-to-be Natalia Segerman and her guests for her bachelorette party in January.

They also enjoyed spending time in the Astra workshops doing crafts with the workers.

Natalia and Ryan Rabinowitz were married on 19 January in Cape Town.

See page 42 for more from Astra Centre



## Regular contributors

Page 3	Lindy with a why
Page 4	Community noticeboard Shabbat times
Page 5	The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning
Page 6	The Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre
Page 8-9	SA Cape Board of Deputies
Page 10-12	SA Zionist Federation
Page 14	Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School
Page 15	Telfed
Page 16	ORT SA Cape
Page 17	SA Jewish Museum
Page 18	Union of Orthodox Synagogues
Page 19	Jacob Gitlin Library
Page 20	Chabad on Campus
Page 21-23	Cape Jewish Seniors Association
Page 24-25	United Herzlia Schools
Page 26	Anton Katz on impeaching presidents
Page 27	The Herzlia Foundation
Page 28	Family Announcements Mensch Changemaker of the month
Page 30-31	United Jewish Campaign
Page 32	Jewish Community Services
Page 34	Simcha Page
Page 36	Chronic Ads
Pages 36 - 37	Craig Nudelman on epilepsy awareness
Page 38	Habonim Dror SA United Herzlia Schools
Page 39	The Sinai Academy
Page 40-41	Temple Israel
Page 42	Astra Centre PJ Library
Page 43	Union of Jewish Women ORTJET

## Features

Page 13	Jewish Literary Festival 2020
Page 16	Paying tribute to Hayley Sevitz Varenberg
Page 29	Friends of the UJC, Cape Town
Page 42	Bubbles the knitter



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# Lindy with a why

## Why bagel theory holds the Jewish world together



By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

**The December holidays found me gliding through the Indian Ocean on the MSC Orchestra, enjoying my first ever cruise.**

I loved it. From the delicious Italian food, to the feathered and sequined dancers, to lounging by the pool, it was pure holiday magic from start to finish.

I cover my hair, so I ended up wearing hats everywhere on the ship. It was a summer cruise, and I didn't look too out of place. I also wore my Hebrew name on a chain around my neck, as I have done every day since it was given to me on my Momentum Trip to Israel by my roommate. So picture me, dressed as secular as I can on a summer cruise, (with shoulders, knees and head covered) and my name, illegible to everyone on board (so I think) around my neck, when I get a tap on the shoulder.

'Do you know what that is?' demands a grey-haired man with a walker, not in an unfriendly way. "Yes, it's my Hebrew name" I respond, slightly nervously. His whole face lights up and suddenly we are playing Jewish Geography in the middle of the sea. Stu and I walk away chuckling and wondering if by the end of the cruise we could make a minyan.

Well, we definitely found more than our minyan on that ship. But it was only half the fun finding the people who were Jewish. The other half of the fun came from letting them know that we were Jewish too.

The phenomenon of bageling, or bagel theory, posits that Jews have such a strong need to connect to other Jews that they find ways to 'out' themselves when in the company of people that they suspect are Jewish.

There are two kinds of bageling, overt plain-bagel bageling, when

you walk up to someone and say "Hi, I'm Jewish, you?" and subtle, fancy-bagel bageling, when you sidle up to someone at the buffet and whisper "Boy, I wish they were serving kneidel with the soup tonight".

My favourite way to bagel, when I am out with my kids, is to call my eldest daughter's name loud enough for the suspected Jews to hear, and then watch for a reaction. This is usually followed by me sighing and saying "oy" a lot until they get the message — or perhaps wonder why I'm complaining so much. My best is when I watch the suspected Jewish person bagel me back in the way I just bageled them, by shouting near me with a vague nasal quality "Joshie!! Oy, can you just stay still!" and then smiling at me. I swear, these interactions warm my heart.

I do sometimes get it wrong. There is a sort of 60ish-year-old female type, with a slight Afrikaans accent and a short hairdo, I think she is Jewish from a small town, but it turns out she's Afrikaans. And sometimes Greek families confuse me too. But generally I get it right. And you probably do too. That subtle something that says "I know you, you are like me".

One of my best memories of our trip was the 'Check your Mate' one evening, where one of the couples who were chosen to go up were not only the longest married couple on the ship, but also members of The Tribe. Listening to them on stage reminded me of my parents-in-law, it was fabulous and hilarious, but sorry I can't share; what happens on the ship stays on the ship.

Finding Jews on board made us feel at home. It's what sews the Jewish world together. That ship was so full of 'bagel' I'm surprised it could float.

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# Community Noticeboard

## THE ACADEMY OF JEWISH THOUGHT AND LEARNING

Upcoming courses to be held in Cape Town.  
Please see programme on page 5

## CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE CENTRE

Public lecture series in honour of  
International Holocaust Remembrance  
See page 6 for full programme.

## SAZF FILM CLUB

*The Kindergarten Teacher* Sun 9 Feb 6.30 pm  
See page 10 for details

## JEWISH LITERARY FESTIVAL

15 March 2020. Booking now open.  
See page 13 for more

## SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH MUSEUM

*The Radiant Portal.* Zvi Suchet explores Talmudic symbolism through his unique photographic illustration.  
See page 17 for more

## MOVED HOUSE?

REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS  
email: [chron@ctjc.co.za](mailto:chron@ctjc.co.za)



## Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		earliest	latest	
31Jan/1Feb/5 Shevat	Bo	6.30pm	7.34pm	8.28pm
7 Feb/12 Shevat	Beshalach/Shirah	6.30pm	7.29pm	8.22pm
14 Feb/19 Shevat	Yitro	6.30pm	7.22pm	8.14pm
21 Feb/26 Shevat	Mishpatim/Shekalim	6.30pm	7.14pm	8.06pm
28 Feb/3 Adar	Terumah	6.30pm	7.06pm	7.57pm

N.B. Please note that the times indicated are the earliest times for candle lighting. Please consult your Rabbi.

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# Upcoming Courses **Cape Town**

## Women & Power

An exploration of women's voice and silence in Tanach

4 Wednesday Evening Sessions  
**Starts 12 February**

Join the Academy and Aviva Thurgood in partnership with Beit Midrash Morasha for an in-depth look at eight stories of Tanach that are often glossed over due to their explicit and unusual nature. We aim to explore and understand how women have used and been used to gain or lose power and voice, which often resulted in changing the course of Jewish history.

## Ketuvim Where is G-d?

9 Thursday Evening Sessions  
**Starts 6 February**

"... in Torah, God speaks to human beings; in the prophetic works, God speaks through human beings; in the Writings, human beings speak to God."  
- R Jonathan Sacks, To Heal a Fractured World, p. 155

Join the Academy in partnership with Ohr Somayach Sea Point and Sephardi Hebrew Congregation Seapoint in learning the final section of the Tanach, from the famous Psalms (Tehillim) to the books almost no-one ever reads like Daniel and Ezra. In many ways it is the outline of the Diaspora Jewish lives we lead today.

In partnership with Beit Midrash Morasha



In partnership with Ohr Somayach Sea Point & Sephardi Hebrew Congregation Seapoint



Join The Academy's tree-hugger, Ilana Stein, for the prequel to the birthday of the trees in Cape Town's ultimate Garden of Eden: Kirstenbosch. Reignite your sense of wonder (amongst the others) as we stroll through one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world, as we consider the birds, bees, trees and flowers around us, from a Jewish perspective. **Let's stop running for a moment and smell the flowers.**

**Tu'Bishvat Kirstenbosch Walk**

SUNDAY MORNING  
9 FEBRUARY

No Charge for Session, but entrance fee is payable to Kirstenbosch gardens.

4 Wednesday Evening Sessions **Starts 12 February**

# 1948

**"We have no alternative."**  
- Golda Meir

**ISRAEL70**

Join the Academy, Rabbi Ramon Widmonte and Saul Adler in partnership with Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation and Constantia Hebrew Congregation, as we explore the effects of the UN partition plan, navigate pre-1948 independence and tackle the issues which David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and other leaders faced in the creation of the State of Israel.

In partnership with Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation & Constantia Hebrew Congregation



4 Thursday Morning Sessions  
**Starts 13 February**

**TANACH**

## THE BOOK OF JUDGES SHOFTIM

A FEW GOOD MEN... AND WOMEN

Good leaders create followers; great leaders create leaders.  
- Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Join the Academy and Rabbi Ramon Widmonte in partnership with Camps Bay Shul in exploring the iconic leaders of the Jewish people in the chaotic first period of self-rule in the land of Israel.

In partnership with Camps Bay Shul



Contact us to sign up and for more information

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of Jewish Thought and Learning

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## Western Cape History teachers attend Yad Vashem seminar

It was with palpable excitement that 19 educators from the 8 districts in the Western Cape, together with Heather Blumenthal and Linda Hackner, boarded a flight to Israel for a 10-day seminar at Yad Vashem in December.

The purpose of the workshop was to give Grade 9 history teachers a deeper insight into Holocaust history and to learn from some of the best educators in the world. The course consisted of many different teaching styles — with practical pedagogies, intensive lectures and discussion formats being used. Many of the teachers commented that their teaching had been 'Hitler centred' rather than looking at the broader issues as well as the people who were victimised. What resonated for them as South Africans was the understanding of how essential it is to humanise people who have suffered, and how their teaching would change as a result of attending the course. The tour through the Yad Vashem Museum and other memorial sites was extremely emotional, after which they had a debriefing session. They met survivors and were able to engage with each individual, ask questions and have meaningful discussions.

Apart from the intense learning, the group was also taken on specific tours. They visited the Old City where they were able to see, touch and say prayers at the Western Wall, visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and attended a Friday night service at a local synagogue in Jerusalem, which was followed by a very lively Shabbat dinner. Later in the week they enjoyed an evening tour of the tunnels, and Yad Vashem was also able to arrange a visit to the Temple Mount where they could see the outside of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. This visit, together with having been at the Wall and also through the tunnels, afforded them a deeper understanding of the issues that concern this part of the world. A visit to Masada and the Dead Sea guided by Amir Golani — a well-known Israeli Archaeologist — were among the many highlights of their trip.

Although the members of the group had not met each other prior to the seminar, they all bonded very quickly and the shared experience resulted in a memorable trip and an incredibly successful seminar. Each and every participant felt that their students and colleagues would benefit from their positive experience and new found knowledge.



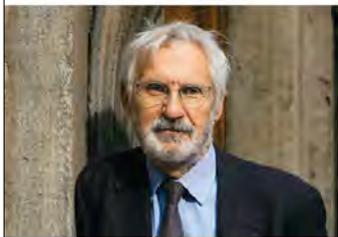
# PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES IN HONOUR OF INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Including a temporary exhibition of Holocaust survivor portraits by Highlands House residents, supervised by Haim Menashehoff



**SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY, 3PM**  
**OMER BARTOV**

Omer is the John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History at Brown University and will present on the anatomy of a genocide using the Polish city of Buczacz as a case study.



**FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY, 10AM**  
**ALBERTO ROLLO**

Alberto is an Italian editor, essayist, literary critic, and award winning author and he will explore literature and the Jewish Identity in Italy after the Holocaust.



**WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY, 6PM**  
**ELLA BLUMENTHAL**

Ella is a 98-year-old survivor of the Warsaw ghetto, the Majdanek, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps and will share her testimony.



**THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 10:30AM**  
**HELENE JOFFE**

Helene is a 84 year old child survivor who went into hiding in France during WWII and will share her testimony.



**THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY, 6PM**  
**LUC ALBINSKI**

Luc a second generation survivor will present on the heroines of the Warsaw Ghetto Doctor Corps

Light refreshments will be served  
Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or [admin@holocaust.org.za](mailto:admin@holocaust.org.za)  
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## KEEPING IT REAL

Stuart Diamond,  
Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

### Switching off to be switched on



**After a full year at the Cape Board, I ventured off with my family on an 11-day cruise into the Indian Ocean.**

I had made a decision to leave my cell phone locked in our safe in Cape Town and this decision was one that proved so beneficial to our time away. Switching off allowed me the opportunity to read, play with my kids, and connect with my wife.

Every day we are faced with news of issues that affect us. We live in a society that drives us to remain switched on, connected, and know all that is taking place, in real time. But what does this constant need to be switched on mean for leaders in our community? Often we are present, but not present. Or as I say, "at the table but at another dinner party".

2020 will continue to throw challenges and opportunities at us and being able to lock that phone away and give ourselves the ability to be present will enable us to make the best decisions for our community and families.

By switching off my phone for 14 days, I reminded myself that the world would keep going without me.

I learnt that being present in the moment is a skill that we as leaders and lay leaders need, and that even when Eskom switches us off we can switch our minds on to positivity.

Let's all use 2020 to switch off more, so we can be more switched on.

**The Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) welcomes Mathilde Myburgh, who is joining the organisation as a communications coordinator as of January 2020.**

Mathilde has a background in print, digital and social media. Her career started in Johannesburg in 2013, after she obtained a Bachelor of Business Science (BBusSci) degree with a specialisation in Management, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. She worked in print media for the next three years, producing work in the areas of municipal issues, court reporting, community coordination and human interest for national and community newspapers.

Mathilde spent time getting to know the tourism industry in 2016 and 2017, working in domestic and international travel as a Travel Consultant.

In 2017, her own passion for discovery and need to explore brought her and her partner to Cape Town, where they've settled in Sea Point. Here, she joined a business consultancy

that advises on innovation opportunities as a Content Lead, curating and editing all reports, presentations, workshop materials and insight capturing.

Outside of the office, Mathilde's interest in human rights, dignity and compassion frequently draws her to projects in advocacy, group facilitation and education, where she regularly engages with members of the community, organisational groups and parties interested in uplifting minority groups, particularly on the subjects of diversity, sensitisation, compassion and communication.

She is excited to enter her position with the Cape SAJBD, as it "offers me a world of insight into the Jewish community, which I feel very welcomed into, and gives me the opportunity to do my part in ensuring the communities' rights, interests, values and activism are voiced and celebrated in Cape Town".



## Wellington Cemetery update

**On 24 December 2019, a year after the desecration of 39 tombstones, the Wellington Cemetery Restoration team visited the site.**

The latest report is that all 63 tombstones have been placed flat and that the new wall has had its foundations laid and some of the wall has started to go up. To ensure that the new wall and pathways can be complete, we

still require funding.

If you are able to assist with information on past community members, please contact the Cape Board at 021 464 6700 and/or email [sajbd2@ctjc.co.za](mailto:sajbd2@ctjc.co.za).

On behalf of all those involved, the Cape Board thanks Mark Kaufman and Raymond Schkolne for their dedicated work and passion towards this project.

## Community Announcement

**On 5 December 2019, the Cape Board hosted a Special General Meeting.**

The meeting was quorate and began with an introduction by chairperson, Rael Kaimowitz, explaining the reasons and background as to why the resolution was necessary.

The delegates present voted for or against the advertised resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the Constitution be amended by the deletion of clause 19(a) thereof in its entirety and the substitution in its stead with the following:

"19(a) The election of twelve (12), or up to a further three (3) members to make up for any shortfall in the election of the three (3) members as provided for in clause 20(a), of the Cape Committee shall take place at a Meeting of the Council, which Meeting of the Council shall be held not later than ('election date'):

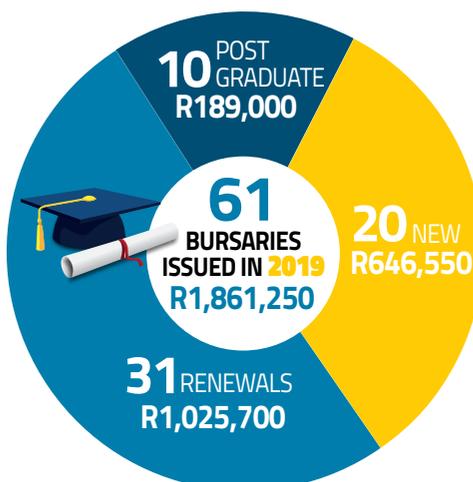
- (i) Two calendar years following the previous Cape Council Conference; or
- (ii) Any date fixed at a Meeting of the Council by two-thirds of the majority of the persons present and entitled to vote at such a Meeting of the Council."

The current elected Cape Board will therefore serve for an additional period that will not exceed 30 September 2020.

The resolution was passed with 38 people in agreement, two against and no spoilt ballots.

## BURSARIES ISSUED

### 2019



## Reconciliation Day 2019

**On 16 December, a Reconciliation Day march was held in District Six going from Muir Street Mosque to the New Apostolic Church, then to Zonnebloem College, before ending at the Moravian Church for refreshments under the trees.**

The event is organised each year by an interfaith committee on which the Cape Board is represented.

Originally called Dingaans Day, then the Day of the Vow or Covenant, Reconciliation Day was proclaimed a national public holiday by the Union government in 1910.

In 1838, the group of Voortrekkers about to be facing the Zulu army, said a prayer, in which they asked G-d to grant them a victory and, in return, they would build a church and celebrate the day with thanksgiving, as a holy Sabbath. They viewed their subsequent victory at the Battle of Blood River as divine intervention, instead of the triumph of gunpowder over assegais.

Legally, a vow made in a prayer could not bind all Afrikaners irrevocably for all time. However, when it became necessary to encourage nationalism and patriotism, as in the Transvaal Civil War, which ended in 1864, the vow was brushed up and made a church holiday by the General Synod of the Afrikaners' Natal Churches, with Kruger following suit the next year when he made Dingaans Day

a ZAR holiday. The need to strengthen the fighting power of Afrikaner nationalism was reinforced when Britain annexed the ZAR in 1877, which event Afrikaner historian, FA van Jaarsveld, regarded as decisive for the establishment of 16 December as a historical festive day. When the ZAR rebelled against Britain in 1880, the Burghers renewed the vow at Paardekraal.

At the 1938 centenary celebrations of the Great Trek, Dr DF Malan, leader of the Nationalist Party, referred to the difficulties of keeping South Africa a "white man's country". It was at the Blood River that "the future of South Africa as a civilised Christian country and the continued existence of the responsible

**What better place to focus on the need for reconciliation, and the bitterness and hurt that apartheid and racial injustice has caused, than in District Six?**

authority of the white race was decided. You stand today in your own white laager at your own Blood River, seeing dark masses gathering an isolated white race."

When his party came to power in 1948 with him as prime minister, apartheid policies were put in place. Four years later, his government decided that Dingaans Day placed too much focus on a Zulu king and shifted the focus onto the vow and it became a festival celebrating Afrikaner nationalism.

For Afrikaners, the date symbolised a 'victory' over African people. For those opposed to white domination and racial discrimination, the date became a rallying point for protests and the ANC, SACP and other political organisations would mount protest action on that day. uMkhonto we Sizwe launched its first acts of sabotage on 16 December 1961 involving inter alia Joe Slovo, Jack Hodgson, and 'Rusty' Bernstein.

Fast forward to 1995, and the new democratic government made 16 December a Day of Reconciliation promoting national unity and reconciliation, to heal the rift between the peoples of South Africa still suffering from decades of injustice.

What better place to focus on the need for reconciliation, and the bitterness and hurt that apartheid and racial injustice has caused, than in District Six, where the group areas act tore down the houses and disrupted the lives of 60 000 people who had lived together in harmony for a century. Fifty years later, the devastation caused by the apartheid bulldozers can still be seen and the pain is still fresh in the hearts of so many people.

The Jewish community joined hundreds of



*Stuart Diamond blows a shofar in the Muir Street Mosque alongside Sheikh Mogamat Moerat*



*Bishop Augustine Joemath thanks the crowd who are relaxing after the event on the Moravian Hill lawn*

people on this march of reconciliation, with Stuart Diamond, the Board's director, blowing a shofar in the Muir Street Mosque and addressing the crowd on the importance of reconciliation and intergroup harmony.



*Marshal Sue Kramer outside Moravian Hill*

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**SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL**



SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



**Camp Visits**

By Julie Berman, Executive Director (SAZF Cape Council)

madrichim spend the next three weeks with minimal sleep, giving every inch of their love, energy and knowledge to our children. To top it all, the madrichim have to pay to attend these machanot themselves.

can one understand and appreciate how amazing these machanot are. The SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council) are proud to be associated with all our youth movements - Bnei Akiva, Habonim Dror and Netzer, who continue to inspire, instill and solidify Jewish Identity in our youth.

Only once you have visited the camps and seen the madrichim and chanichim in action interacting,

Kol Hakavod to you all!

Once again Esta Levitas, Chairman SAZF (Cape Council) and Julie Berman Executive Director SAZF (Cape Council), hit the road to visit the Bnei Akiva and Habonim machanot.

Every year, we marvel at the amount of hard work that goes into the preparation for the machanot by these young madrichim, who for months prior to December, spend hours in between their school or university studies preparing the various techniot which are exciting and stimulating.

A week before the channichim converge on the campsites in their hordes, the madrichim have been hard at work on A-Guard. These



Julie Berman visiting Habonim machaneh with previous Cape Town Shlichim and their families: Julie Berman, Shirley Segall, Rinat Shifran (2005/2006), Dotan Segall, Ronen (1999/2001) & Ravit Segall with daughters Avigail & Shira



Esta Levitas with two channichim at Bnei Akiva, Hannah Miller (CT) and Jonathan Urdang (JHB)

FILM CLUB



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A FILM BY NADAV LAPID

A young child's gift for poetry makes him an object of fascination for his kindergarten teacher. Her desire to protect and nurture his talent from a world that bulldozes purity leads her to claim some of his work as her own.

**MOVIE** The Kindergarten Teacher  
**DATE** Sunday 9 February 2020  
**TIME** 18h30  
**VENUE** Nelson Mandela Auditorium - Gardens

**Bookings:** Contact Yvette 021 464 6714 or sazfevents@ctjc.co.za

Light refreshments will be served. NO CHARGE, donations welcome.







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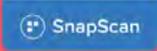
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SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



BNEI AKIVA



2019 – It's a wrap!

By Hayden Norrie, Chairman, Bnei Akiva Cape Town

It is no coincidence that with such an unbelievably passionate, caring and hardworking pair of shlichim that Cape Town reached record numbers. Avia and Lavi have truly brought something special to Bnei Akiva. Unfortunately, however, all good things must come to an end and it is time for them to continue their journey back to the Holy Land. We will never ever be able to thank them enough for the impact they have had on our community. We would like to wish them behaztlachah in Israel! We would also like to welcome our new shlichim for 2020, Idan & Liora Horowitz, who we know have so much to offer to not only Bnei Akiva, but the entire Jewish community. We are looking forward to a remarkable year together.

It was an unbelievable 2019. We had amazing mifgashim, shabbatonim, and an incredible machaneh with a record number of channichim. Over 950!



Bnei Akiva Cape Town takes over Machaneh!

HABONIM DROR



Excited for the New Year

By Aaron Scher, Rosh Ken Cape Town

Habonim Cape Town Ken is ready to take on the new year and Habonim's 90th year in South Africa.

We're starting this year off with an exciting opening Ken event with our channichim and madrichim having a reunion after camp at our bayit.

Our Ken VP are about to have the annual seminar where the year is planned out to bring fun, Chinnuch and excitement to the chaverim of Cape Town.

After having just come off Machaneh'19 L'Dor V'Dor, the

For any further information please contact roshkenct@habo.org.za



Chaverim at Machaneh'19 L'Dor V'Dor

NETZER



Summer Machaneh was a BLAST!

By Jason Bourne, Mazkir Netzer South Africa

Netzer held its annual summer machaneh in December and we could not have had more fun.

With awesome events like Israel day, Colour Wars and dam time we were all extremely sad to leave. For all of you that missed out and are experiencing FOMO, do not fear. Netzer will be having tons more events this year so make sure to look out for updates on when and where. See you all at our camp reunion this February!



Netzer's Summer Machaneh 2019

SAUJS



SAUJS is back and ready for all 2020 has to offer!

By Grant Norrie, SAUJS WC Chairman

With the year ahead already planned, students can look forward to a variety of social, political and religious events that cater to them and their wants.

As always, we have tried our best to tailor all of our projects to the wants and needs of our members as our goal is to make sure every one of our members knows that they have a voice and a place in SAUJS.

The SAUJS committee is so excited and privileged to give Jewish students their best varsity experience yet!



The campaign of the year award given to SAUJS at the World Union of Jewish Students Conference in Jerusalem



SAZF CAPE COUNCIL



**Visit by Israeli youth – Gesher kids**

By Julie Berman,  
Executive Director  
(SAZF Cape Council)

Once again, Habonim Dror Olami together with the SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council) and the Kibbutz Movement Israel, joined forces to bring Israeli kibbutznik children living along the Gaza Border to attend Habonim machaneh in Onrus.

These children spend very traumatic lives waiting for the next siren to be sounded where they have three seconds to find a bomb shelter to protect themselves from the onslaught of the bombs and rockets being fired from their hostile neighbouring countries.

We wish we could take more children and offer them this reprieve, but sadly, due to financial constraints, we are only able to host a maximum of 20.

The SAZF Cape Town are indebted to Searle Derman, who very generously hosted the group at Aquila Private Game Reserve which was one of the highlights of their trip. They were taken up Table Mountain, visited the penguins at Boulders Beach and hosted to a delicious braai at the home of Tamar Lazarus. The rest of their time was spent amongst their peers at Habonim machaneh in Onrus.

We would like to thank DIVOTE KZN for the backpacks as well as all the other donors who made this trip possible as well as Habonim who opened their hearts to these youngsters.

We hope that in 2020 we will manage to bring some youth to Bnei Akiva camp in Mossel Bay as well.



On arrival at Cape Town International Airport



The Gesher kids at Aquila Private Game Reserve

**SAVE THE DATE**

**19 - 20 FEB**  
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# ALIYAH, MASA & HIGHER EDUCATION EXPO 2020







## Fabulous feminine energy infuses JLF 2020

By Beryl Eichenberger

**There are so many wonderful authors attending the next Jewish Literary Festival on 15 March, 2020 that with more than 40 sessions you will be spoilt for choice.**

To whet your appetite here's a taste of just two of the extraordinary women who will grace our session rooms.

Joanne Fedler, born and raised in South Africa and now based in Sydney, Australia, is the internationally bestselling author of 11 books which have sold over 750 000 copies worldwide. She is a writing mentor and founder of Joanne Fedler Media, and is about to publish *The Sabbatical*, the third in the internationally bestselling series that includes *Secret Mothers' Business* and *The Reunion*.



Joanne's session, *The Midlife Breakthrough*, addresses what 'breaks' when a woman is no longer needed as a mother to her young adult children. She will talk about the experiences that animate *The Sabbatical*, in which women share the liberating and sometimes dark truths

about their lives. This book traverses menopause, empty nests and marriage breakdowns against the bleak backdrop of climate change and our children's uncertain future.

Joanne will also participate in a panel on "Writing intergenerational trauma", with a contribution that may surprise fans of her first novel, *The Dreamcloth* (2005). Says Joanne: "I wrote my first novel many years before I knew about intergenerational trauma or epigenetics. It's the story of a ghost who haunts Mia — her maternal grandmother — who pushes her towards human suffering, as if to ensure she will continue to bear witness to the pain of the past. With the rise of our understanding in epigenetics and the insights from family constellation work, I've come to understand that book as a love-song to my predecessors, those I never knew, whose spirit lives on in the deep recesses of the characters I create on the page; what Susan Sontag calls, 'the conscience of words.' I will look at how fictional characters can become the holders of our past and give voice to the lost voices of our ancestors."

Johannesburg author Terry Kurgan's discovery of her Polish grandfather's war diaries and photographs signals the beginning of a quest to understand her family's encounter with Europe's dark history. In the process, she also uncovers her grandmother's secrets and traces the consequences of these across three generations.

Her award-winning book *Everyone is Present*

(2019 Sunday Times Alan Paton Award) is a 21st century account of a refugee journey that is deeply relevant today. It is also a striking and original work of creative non-fiction.

It begins with a snapshot taken by Kurgan's grandfather in 1939 on the eve of the war.

Presenting this evocative image as a repository of multiple histories — public, private, domestic and familial — she sets off on a series of meditations on photography that give us startling insights into how photographs work: what they conceal, how they mislead, what provocations they contain. Each essay takes up the thread of the story of her family's epic journey across Europe as they flee Nazi occupation, country by country, and then follows them through the Middle East to India, until they finally reach Cape Town, South Africa.

Kurgan will talk about what has been described as her "richly satisfying essays that are part memoir, part detective story, part investigative reportage, and which demonstrate her sophisticated understanding of a medium that has long engaged her as an artist.



Booking is now open, so take advantage of the Early Bird Special of R340 Day ticket per adult until February 14. February 15 until March 15: R380 per adult Children 12 and under: R100, Teens 13 to 17 years: R115 (no early bird. ) Ticket price includes access to all sessions during the day, a delicious lunch from Café Riteve and coffee vouchers. Visit [www.jewishliteraryfestival.co.za](http://www.jewishliteraryfestival.co.za) or [www.quicket.co.za/events/95372-jewish-literary-festival-2020/](http://www.quicket.co.za/events/95372-jewish-literary-festival-2020/). For more information or to subscribe to our mailing list contact: [info@jewishliteraryfestival.co.za](mailto:info@jewishliteraryfestival.co.za)



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# A Successful Year at Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School

On 2 December 2019, PJJDS held its annual prize giving ceremony. The PJJDS choir serenaded the audience with their angelic voices. The school said a very sad goodbye to Mrs Lizbe Botes who together with Rabbi Gavi Ziegler steered the school to new heights in 2019 and of course there were also a number of very worthy prize winners.



**PJJDS Choir at Prize Giving 2019**



**Principal Mrs Lizbe Botes and Campus Rabbi Gavi Ziegler**



**Leadership Prize**



**Torah Leadership Prize**



**Victor Ludorum Prize**



**Foundation Phase Academic Award**



**Intermediate Phase Academic Award**



**Chess Intramural (WP Chess Player)**

**Contact: [reception@pj.org.za](mailto:reception@pj.org.za)**



# School is out, it's time to expand your horizons!

**Mazal tov to all the matriculants! Your hard work and perseverance have paid off.**

You are now at a juncture as you make important, life-changing decisions. Will you start university or take a gap year? What will you study? Where will you study? Have you considered your options in Israel? Thousands of international students are choosing to study at Israel's world-class tertiary institutions. If you are considering making Aliyah, you may be eligible for a free degree in Hebrew. For those who wish to study in Israel (in English or Hebrew) as international students, we, at Telfed, have a unique programme designed especially for you! Telfed has negotiated significantly reduced tuition fees for South African students at partner universities.

Telfed's SASI programme (South Africans Studying in Israel) is in its 4th year, with 32 South African students currently studying at Israeli



South African students on Telfed's SASI programme pictured in Jerusalem in December ahead of the SASI shabbaton

universities. Thanks to the generosity of The Eric and Sheila Samson Foundation, the Krawitz Family and other donors, South African SASI students with a demonstrated financial need can apply for a housing grant. This is just one of multiple layers of support that makes education in Israel more affordable and accessible to SA students.

Extending beyond the lecture halls, SASI students participate in a social programme that provides a deeper understanding of Israel. Since the

academic year began in October, our 2019-20 SASI students have taken in the sights and sounds of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem with a thrilling Segway tour through Jaffa and a magical shabbaton in the Old City of Jerusalem.

SASI student, Ariella Lazarus, shared her experiences with us: "Through the SASI social programme we had the opportunity to go on a Segway tour through Jaffa. As we rode through the beautiful, historical streets we were able to enjoy an

original experience while meeting new people and catching up with old friends from South Africa. We also had a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience a Shabbat in the Old City of Jerusalem. We toured the Mahane Yehuda Market on Friday afternoon and met inspiring residents of the Old City, followed by a Friday night service at the Western Wall standing among Jews from around the world. Our Shabbat was not only filled with the spiritual upliftment that comes from being in the holiest city but it was also

filled with incredible memories with our new and old friends that we met through this special programme. I truly recommend SASI for any South African that wants to study, experience and live in Israel but still keep their South African heritage close to their heart."

Visit our website to learn more about SASI: <http://www.telfed.org.il/SASIProgramme>, or email [info@telfed.org.il](mailto:info@telfed.org.il).

## Most South African Jews of Sephardi origin are entitled to EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that South African Jews of Ashkenazi heritage are of Lithuanian descent, and that only those who are able to prove their eligibility for Lithuanian citizenship are able to obtain a European passport. The fact is that most South African Jews do qualify for European citizenship, whether they can prove their Lithuanian lineage or not, and most South African Jews of Sephardic heritage are also eligible for European passports.

empires: Russia, Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian empire. Neither Poland nor Lithuania existed until 1918.

At the end of the WWI, the territory was divided, and countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and others were born/reborn. Only then did residents become citizens of these countries. As a result, people who, for example, were born in Riga (nowadays Latvia) could actually be Lithuanian or Polish.

Horesh advises that eligibility for a Lithuanian or Polish passport depends on the city from which your grandparents (or their parents) hailed.

Horesh says many South African Ashkenazi Jews of Lithuanian origin have been refused Lithuanian citizenship because their heritage is actually Polish. They would, accordingly, be entitled to Polish citizenship and a EU passport.

After World War II, the borders in Europe changed, resulting in cities changing nationality. The resultant effect for descendants of Jews who were born in Vilnius, for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined, but an application for a Polish passport may very well be successful.

**Sephardi:** the descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago)



Avi Horesh

are most likely eligible for a Portuguese passport. If applicable, Horesh is able to obtain an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which an application for European citizenship can be made and will most likely be successful. Portuguese citizenship enables one to enter the United States without the need to apply for a visa.

In addition, Horesh is filing many applications for descendants of Sephardi origin who arrived in South Africa from Greece, Turkey, and North Africa. Descendants from other countries in the Middle East – even Holland – are also potentially eligible.

Horesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven years in Poland, and is recognised as a leading lawyer in the

field of European citizenship, with a full understanding of local immigration laws.

Living in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – offers him quick and easy access to Poland and Lithuania. Accordingly, he is able to work closely with local professionals who assist him in tracing the documentation required for successful applications for European citizenship.

In addition, and as a result of his close ties with Portuguese authorities, to date he has had a 100% success rate with applications for Portuguese citizenship.

**Horesh is available to discuss your specific details. He is often in South Africa, and can meet you in person to discuss your specific needs.**



Adv. Avi Horesh has in-depth knowledge of the applicable legislation and in his experience, the majority of South African Jews have ancestors who were illegally deprived of citizenship. As their descendants, these Jews are eligible for European citizenship which will result in them obtaining a EU passport.

**Ashkenazi:** It is important to understand that until 1918, all of Eastern Europe was divided between three

## Paying tribute to Hayley Sevitz Varenberg

By Lindy Diamond

**35-year-old Hayley Varenberg, who made aliyah from South Africa in 2009, was killed in the 947 bus crash in Jerusalem on first night Chanukah 2019.**



Hayley sitting in the sun with her husband's shadow in the foreground, as he takes the picture. This was the last picture of Hayley and Eli 'together'.

She was on her way to a gathering of her husband Eli's family for the first night of Chanukah when the bus she was on swerved drastically from its path and crashed into a bus stop, killing her and three other passengers and injuring at least 14 other people.

I remember Hayley from our student days. The only two Jewish students on our campus, we were both studying to become teachers. We had come from a Jewish world into a very secular one, and we reacted so differently to the challenge. I would talk about being Jewish, answering questions and debating, I wore my badge loudly, if that makes sense, ready on my soapbox. But Hayley really lived her Judaism, quietly and determinedly. She was modest, kind, considerate and non-judgmental. She was comfortable with being a Jewess. Younger than me but wise beyond her years. The world is truly poorer not having her in it.

Her family's statement soon after the tragedy read as follows: "Hayley was dedicated to her family and her community, indescribably kind, modest, caring, and accepting of everyone. She is survived by her husband Eli, parents



Hayley with her husband Eli Varenberg

Alan and Pauline, siblings Belinda, Ariella and Joshua, uncle Aubrey and 6 adoring nieces."

Her funeral took place at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, in Israel.

Her parents, Alan and Pauline Sevitz, sent the following tribute to the CJC in mid-January:

"The tragic passing of our beloved Hayley has left a massive void in our family.

"Hayley came into her own in the eleven years since she made Aliyah, facing life challenges courageously and with a smile. Having sat shiva in Israel we were privileged to learn about her dedication to her shul community, and to the boys high school where she taught. Her mentoring, kindness and warm personality touched so many people.

"Hayley's smile was her trademark and she will be remembered for it. Her family and friends will remember her for how she put everyone before herself. She has acquired the crown of a good name which surpasses all other crowns. (Ethics of the Fathers)

"May her name and memory be for a blessing. We miss you Hayley."

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# The Radiant Portal: Magical Realism at the museum

The SAJM's summer exhibition opened to a large audience on Sunday 1 December 2019.

**T**he *Radiant Portal*, by South African fine artist Zvi Suchet, is a collection of illustrated photographs on the theme of Jewish mysticism. These evocative images form the artist's entry into the realm of Magical Realism, a genre that weaves elements of fantasy into realistic settings, as he explores the complex world of Talmudic symbolism through his own identity and experience. Zvi Suchet is the Hebrew name of world-renowned photographer, Marc Hoberman, whose coffee table books have been best sellers for decades.

The *Radiant Portal* is a departure from Hoberman's usual work, in terms of both thematic content and form. Inspired by his Jewish identity, Zvi's distinctive mix of photography and photo illustration was recently reviewed on Aish.com as "a complete refresh of a centuries-old subject."

After guests had had a chance to briefly view the artworks, SAJM Director Gavin Morris delivered his opening remarks and introduced Rabbi Sam Thurgood, who offered his own interpretation of several images as well as insights regarding what Jewish mysticism can add to the personal experience of prayer.

Delicious snacks and wine were served as guests took their time to view the exhibition more fully and engage in some interesting discussions.



Margie Volks, Zvi Suchet and Hazel Hoberman



Rabbi Nissen Goldman, Zvi Suchet and Rabbi Oshi Feldman



Zvi Suchet with Mpho Mosalakae



Zvi Suchet with SAJM Director Gavin Morris



## SAJM honoured by Progressive Principals Association



PPA coordinator Zaida Julius with Gavin Morris and SAJM Education Officer Belinda Selikowitz

On 19 November 2019 Gavin Morris and Belinda Selikowitz were proud to represent the SAJM at the Appreciation and Retirees lunch given by the Progressive Principals' Association.

**T**he lunch is organised annually to honour retiring principals and to thank partner organisations who have assisted the PPA in its endeavours to uplift underprivileged schools. Gavin accepted an award of "appreciation for your unwavering commitment, dedication and support of the PPA initiatives" on behalf of the SAJM's Diversity Education Outreach Programme.

In his acceptance speech he stressed the importance of embracing multiculturalism and teaching tolerance and invited any principals whose schools have not yet participated in the programme to make a booking.

We look forward to seeing new and old schools taking part in our outreach programme in 2020.



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OF SOUTH AFRICA  
איחוד בתי הכנסת האורתודוקסים  
בדרום אפריקה  
CAPE COUNCIL

# BURNING BRIGHTLY

## Rebbetzin, what guiding thoughts can enrich my parenting as a fresh school year bursts open?

### REBBETZIN NECHAMA BRETT

PBM for Women

Look Before You Leap; Listen Before You Speak



I recently saw a saying in one of Rabbi Berel Wein's books: *"Do not engage mouth until you are certain that brain is in gear"*. We so often engage in one-sided conversation, intent upon delivering our message, failing to listen to what the other person is telling us. Cultivating a good listening ear is a skill, but it doesn't just happen. We need to train ourselves. Rabbi Yisrael Salanter used to teach his students to not start talking until the person had completely finished. As a parent, and especially a parent of teens, it is so easy to jump to conclusions and formulate an answer before having heard the full question, pre-judging our communication. Listen carefully to what your children say to you. The conversation may not seem important to you, but it certainly is to them. As Rabbi Wein says, *"Just as you look before you leap, you should certainly listen before you speak."*

### REBBETZIN LEE LIEBENBERG

Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation

Not One-size-fits-all



*"Educate each child according to their way"* (Mishlei 22:6). I have two children and each is unique in character, abilities and tastes. The way I parent the one has to be different to the way I parent the other. It's not 'one-size-fits-all' when it comes to parenting. We must not allow our own insecurities, schools or peer groups to influence us into making the incorrect choice for each individual child. This concept is learned from the Torah. Had Yitzchak and Rivka delved deeply into Esav's nature at an early stage, they could have harnessed his latent skills, strengths and courage for the service of Hashem.

### REBBETZIN TANYA ZIEGLER

Camps Bay Congregation

Be Present and Enjoy the Ride



When I was pregnant with my first child, a friend of mine gave me the best advice. She said *"Everyone is going to give you advice, but the truth is - each birth is different."* It told me to trust my intuition and enjoy the experience. I would say that parenting works on the same principle. Each child is unique. The journey that you have with your child will be yours and yours alone. Be present for the journey and enjoy the ride. Hashem has the plan.

### REBBETZIN DEBBIE SUIZA

Herzlia Middle School

Strong Jewish Education



A strong Jewish Education is the cornerstone of every Jewish soul and can come from many sources. Without this, how do we know what it means to be Jewish, how to celebrate being Jewish and what to pass on to our children? It is important that we help to instill a deep sense of pride in our children.

However, schools cannot do this alone! Research shows that children are far more likely to have a long term commitment to Judaism when parents are active participants in their child's Jewish education as well as live their Judaism at home. I strongly urge each and every parent to be partners with their child's school. Working together, the common goal of Judaically enriching your child's life will be achieved.

### REBBETZIN JODI CANNON

OhrSom Student

Who is THIS Child?



In the book of Proverbs, we learn a fundamental parenting principle, to educate each child according to his way. How does this relate practically to our parenting in 2020? As we begin the arduous task of planning schedules for the year, it is important to remember to keep each individual child in mind. What will help this child grow in 2020? What will this child be able to manage? Most importantly, who is this child in his or her very essence? Let's try not to focus on what all the other kids are doing and which extra murals and lessons are popular, but rather spend some time understanding each child and his or her potential, strengths and challenges and then build the year according to his or her needs and what we believe as parents will result in a more content, happy and healthy child at the end of 2020. Wishing you all much *hatzlacha* in your parenting in the coming year!

### REBBETZIN ZEESY DEREN

Chabad of the West Coast

The Day Starts the Night Before



The first thing that every parent should be mindful of is sleep! Sleep is core to the success of the next day. In Judaism we learn that the day starts the night before. *"And it was evening, and it was morning - day one."* (Genesis - Bereishit 1:5). Just Google sleep times needed for different ages; there are clear guidelines. Keep in mind that it can take kids about an hour of rest in darkness before they actually fall asleep, so factor that into their bedtimes. Although it's an effort, the parents MUST put the child to bed before the overtired stage kicks in (that can sometimes be as early as 7pm). This will avoid the bedtime battle and the misbehaviour of a perfectly good child who turns into a nightmare due to exhaustion! A calm night routine, with *Shema* before bed and some gratitude reflections, begins the success of the next day. We also start the day with *'Modeh Ani'* - thanking Hashem for the new day (before washing hands after waking). If we can get this right in our homes, our children will be calmer and happier...improving their spiritual, physical and emotional growth.

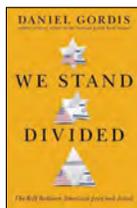
*"It is important that we help to instill a deep sense of pride in our children. However, schools cannot do this alone! Research shows that children are far more likely to have a long term commitment to Judaism when parents are active participants in their child's Jewish education as well as live their Judaism at home."*



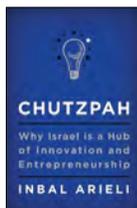
# JACOB GITLIN LIBRARY

Please visit [www.gitlinlibrary.co.za](http://www.gitlinlibrary.co.za) to view all new books and the entire Gitlin collection

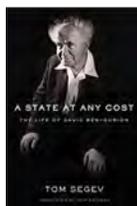
## ISRAELI INTEREST



**WE STAND DIVIDED** by DANIEL GORDIS. This award-winning author urges a reconciliation between Israelis and American Jews. Though born in America, Gordis has lived and worked in Israel and is able to share the views of Judaism as envisioned by Americans and Israelis. He suggests that the relationship had enmity from the outset. Gordis does not focus on Israel's handling of the Palestinian conflict or its attitude towards non-Orthodox Judaism.



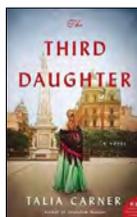
**CHUTZPAH** by INBAL ARIELI. Having worked extensively with Israeli entrepreneurs, Arieli traces the success of their innovations and start-up companies. As children, they were raised to accept mistakes as part of the learning process, which resulted in them becoming resilient and independent thinkers. The unique Israeli culture encourages chutzpah, the pursuit of the unorthodox and awareness of the unpredictability of life and business.



**A STATE AT ANY COST** by TOM SEGEV. Drawing on Ben-Gurion's prolific writings Segev reveals the man behind the myth — the pragmatic politician who became the first Prime Minister in 1948. Segev states that Ben-Gurion opposed the pre-emptive strike that launched the Six-Day War because more territory would increase the number of Arabs under Israeli control. A visionary leader whose efforts led to Israel being the independent sovereign state it is today.



**THE ESCAPE ROOM** by MEGAN GOLDIN. Four highly successful Wall Street investment bankers participate in an escape room team building exercise. As they ride the elevator to their final destination, they realise that they are trapped and have to solve riddles while fighting for their lives. As hours turn to days, the stakes intensify leaving them to face the dark choices they made to get ahead. Goldin skilfully sets alternative chapters in the past and present.



**THE THIRD DAUGHTER** by TALIA CARNER. An unforgettable story of a young Jewish girl who married a wealthy stranger at fourteen to better her life away from the Russian pogroms. On her arrival in Buenos Aires, her husband sells her to a brothel. Despite this, she never lost her dream of bringing her family to America. With time, she gained fame as a tango dancer and was able to help bring down the criminal network that turned young women into slaves.



**THE LAST TRAIN TO LONDON** by MEG WAITE CLAYTON. A historical novel based on the actual life of Dutch resistance rescuer, Truus Wijsmuller. She smuggled children out of the Reich to nations that would take them. Clayton highlights two children in particular — Stephan Neuman, an 18-year-old Jewish boy who cannot escape in the Kindertransports to England, and his Christian friend Sofie-Helene Perger whose mother is a journalist and critical of Hitler.



**THE CONVERT** by STEFAN HERTMANS. When Stefan learns that, the village of Provence in which he lives, was the scene of an ancient pogrom and hidden treasure he begins to look for clues. He discovers a letter among extraordinary documents found in Cairo in the nineteenth century. The writer is a Christian noblewoman who fled from her family, converted and married the son of the chief rabbi of France. Hertmans traces her courageous journey to Jerusalem.

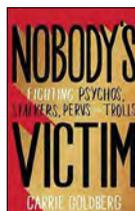


**THE WOMAN WHO HEARD COLOR** by KELLY JONES. Lauren O'Farrell, a Jewish American art detective confronts elderly Isabella Fletcher about the possibility that her mother Hanna may have collaborated with the Nazis. As Isabella reveals the events of Hanna's life, Lauren finds herself immersed in a story of courage and the truth about a painting by Wassily Kandinsky, last seen before WWII. The title comes from Hanna's ability to 'hear' sounds as colours.

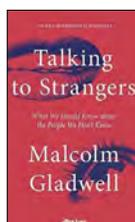


**AN UNORTHODOX MATCH** by NAOMI RAGEN. In her latest novel Ragen depicts the struggles of a secular Jewish woman who tries to be part of the religious community of Boro Park. However, it is not so easy to join this frum world despite being welcomed by the rabbi. When she meets Yaakov, a scholarly widower raising three young children she is further rejected by this closed group. Ragen shows both sides as she shares Leah's moral quandaries.

## PSYCHOLOGY



**NOBODY'S VICTIM** by CARRIE GOLDBERG. The author, a victim's rights attorney, shares insight gleaned from personal experience. She uses past and ongoing cases involving extreme stalking, vengeance driven retaliation and abuse in which families, reputations and livelihoods are dismantled. A much-needed analysis of victim protection in this Internet age showing how those suffering from these abuses may take control to protect themselves both online and off.

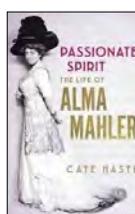


**TALKING TO STRANGERS** by MALCOLM GLADWELL. An intellectually stimulating book showing that most of us are incompetent at judging strangers. Gladwell includes the spy who spent years undetected at the Pentagon; the man who saw through Bernie Madoff; the suicide of Sylvia Plath and the false conviction of Amanda Knox. He explores why we act the way we do and emphasises that society could not function if we did not give everyone the benefit of the doubt.

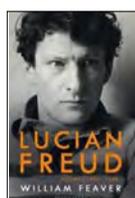
## BIOGRAPHY



**PAT CONROY** by BERNIE SCHEIN. A candid memoir about the cherished friendship of Schein and Conroy. Both grew up in South Carolina with Schein being a Jew in a majority Christian South. They bonded and were both activists in the civil rights struggle against institutional racism and bigotry. Bernie knew the Conroy family intimately and he shares Pat's difficult relationship with his military father, which Conroy would draw on repeatedly in his fiction.



**PASSIONATE SPIRIT: THE LIFE OF ALMA MAHLER** by CATE HASTE. Using Alma's sensual diaries and interviews with her granddaughter, biographer Haste recounts the story of this Viennese socialite. Mahler dreamed of being the first woman to compose an opera but was stifled by traditional social values. She married composer Gustav Mahler, architect Walter Gropius and novelist Franz Werfel. She facilitated the creative pursuits of her husbands.

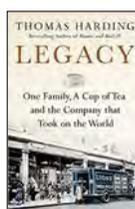


**THE LIVES OF LUCIAN FREUD** by WILLIAM FEAVER. During the Nazi occupation, Lucien went to England where he attended boarding schools and served in the Navy. After travelling through Europe, he began his career as a portrait painter rising to the top of the British art scene. A womaniser, eccentric, gambler whose acquaintances varied from nobility to famed artists and petty criminals. Feaver quotes from his interviews with Freud in this beguiling biography.

## HISTORY



**THE JEWS SHOULD KEEP QUIET** by RAFAEL MEDOFF. Based on recently discovered documents, Medoff shows Roosevelt's private sentiments towards Jews. His administration deliberately suppressed European immigration below the limits set by U.S. law. He rejected pleas to drop bombs on the railways leading to Auschwitz. Medoff explores how Rabbi Stephen Wise, American Jewry's foremost leader, was pressurized to stifle criticism of FDR's policies.



**LEGACY** by THOMAS HARDING. This author recounts the rags to riches saga of Lehmann Gluckstein and his family. In the 1800s, they escaped the pogroms of Eastern Europe and settled in the East End of London. Through hard work, perseverance, obstacles, poverty and antisemitism, they created a tobacco factory, which grew to become catering company: J. Lyons. For over a century its corner houses were on every high street and its products in every home



# join the family.

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## Exploring ageing with sensitivity

As we know there is a rapidly ageing population throughout the world. We recently attended a most worthwhile event with a representative of *Eshel*, an Israeli organisation making strides to ensure that all aged people have the opportunity to live their best lives being exposed to all sorts of ways in which to spend their days well.

Many elderly speak as though they know everything, but of old age they are, in fact, as ignorant as children. Often they are completely unprepared for what they are to face when it comes to getting old and the road that lays ahead.

- The people by your side will only continue to grow smaller in number. Your parents and grandparents' generation have largely all left, whilst many of your peers will increasingly find it harder to look after themselves, and the younger generations will all be busy with their own lives. Your wife or husband may depart earlier than you, or than you would expect, and what might then come are days of emptiness. You will have to learn how to live alone and to enjoy an embrace solitude.

- Society will care less and less for you. No matter how glorious your previous career was or how famous you were, ageing will always transform you into a regular old man and old lady. The spotlight no longer shines on you and you have to learn to contend with standing quietly in one corner, to admire and appreciate the hubbub and views.

- The road ahead could be rocky and full of ups and downs. You might have to live with illness and ailments. Maintaining a positive mentality and getting appropriate, adequate exercise is your duty, and you have to encourage yourself to keep at it consistently.

- No one wants to prepare for bed-bound life, a return to the infant state. Our mothers brought us into this world on a bed, and after a journey of twists and turns and a life of struggle, we could return to our starting point — the bed — and to the state of having to be looked after by others. The only difference being, where we once had our mothers to care for us, we may not have our kin to look after us now. Even if we have kin, their care may never come close to that of our mothers'. You will, more likely than not be cared for by nursing staff who bear zero relation to you, wearing smiles on their faces all whilst carrying weariness and boredom in their hearts

- Not everyone is caring and kind and many know that the elderly have savings. There are some who endlessly think of ways to cheat one

out of money through scam phone calls, text messages, mail, food and product samples, get-rich-quick schemes, products for longevity or enlightenment. Beware and be careful. A fool and his money are soon parted, so spend your pennies wisely.

- It would do us all well to see life for what it is, to cherish what we have and to enjoy life whilst we can. As we get older, all the better should we be able to understand what respect is and what it counts for, to understand what it means to let go of your attachments, to mentally prepare yourself. The way of nature is the way of life, go with the flow and live with equanimity.

*Hardly the day started and... it is already six o'clock in the evening.*

*Barely arrived on Monday and it's already Friday.*

*... and the month is almost over.*

*... and the year is almost up.*

*... and already 50 or 60 or 70 years of our lives have passed.*

*... and we realise that as we lose our parents, friends and others, we realise that it is too late to go back...*

*So... let's try to take full advantage of the time we have left.. Let's not stop looking for activities that we like... Let's put colour in our greyness... Lets smile at the little things in life that put balm in our hearts. Enjoy serenely the time that remains — eliminate the*

*'after'... I do it*

*after... I will say*

*after... I will think about it*

*after... we will leave everything for 'later' as if 'after' was ours.*

*Because what we do not understand is that:*

*after, the coffee cools...*

*after, the priorities change ...*

*after the charm is broken...*

*after the health passes...*

*after the children grow up...*

*after the parents get older...*

*after the promises are forgotten...*

*after the day becomes night...*

*after the life ends...*

*and all that afters, we find it's often too late.*

*So... leave nothing for 'later'...*

*Because in always waiting for later, we can lose the best moments, the best experiences, the best friends, the best family... The day is today... The moment is now.*

*We are no longer at the age where we can afford to postpone until tomorrow what needs to be done right away.*

(An excerpt of the sensitive exploration of old age and the emotional worlds of the elderly as expressed in *The Sky Gets Dark Slowly* by Mao Dun)

Diana Sochen Executive Director

## Out and about with members



Trienie Weimar, Susie Summerfield and Paulette Gruber enjoying the Stellenbosch Botanical Gardens



Paula Baskir, Social Worker Monique Nieuwenhuys, Rita Wagenheim, Julia Petersen and Hilda Sandak-Lewin at the end of year lunch in Southern Suburbs



CJSA Southern Suburbs and Bo Kaap ladies knitting for our outreach programme

## Social and Personal

### Births

Henny Bernstein — great grandson

Roni Snitcher — granddaughter

Eve Weinkove — granddaughter

### Barmitzvah

Dorothy Bagraim — grandson

Shirley Greenstein — Grandson

Dale Matthews — grandson

Moira and Zack Shapiro

— grandson

Shirley Stoltzman — grandson

### Engagement

Janice Bloch — grandson

Shirley Elvey — grandson

Anna Glass and Isaac Joffe

### Marriage

Janey Casper — grandson

### Birthdays

Ruth Mink, Selmae Miller, Eunice

Movsowitz, Morris Rozen (80th),

Pearl Selibowitz, Doreen Seidle

and Dawn Veiner (80th)

**We extend our sincere condolences to our members those who have lost family members:**

Frida Farkas — husband

## Special events in February

### BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR ALL FUNCTIONS

#### OUTINGS

##### Southern Suburbs

3 February Soet Emporium, Durbanville

10 February Babylonstoren

17 February Chart Farm

24 February Kalk Bay

##### Sea Point

12 February Soet Emporium, Durbanville

19 February Babylonstoren

26 February Little Stream

##### Milnerton

11 February Hotel Verde

25 February Babylonstoren

##### West Coast

4 February Hotel Verde

18 February Babylonstoren

#### MEN'S SCHMOOZE

##### Milnerton

7 February Chabad Bochrin

##### Southern Suburbs

19 February Richard Mendelsohn

##### Sea Point

26 February Brian Opert

#### SHABBAT SUPPERS

##### Southern Suburbs

31 January

##### Milnerton

7 February

##### Sea Point

21 February

#### TWILIGHT SUPPERS

##### Southern Suburbs

12 February Michael Bagraim

##### Sea Point

11 February Dave Stewart

##### Milnerton

27 February Dave Stewart



# Cape Jewish Seniors

**Subscription 2020**  
 Your CJSA subs for 2020 of R180 are now due. We appreciate it greatly if your subscription is paid timeously. Subs can be paid at any of our branches or via EFT. Our banking details are ABSA Cheque Account Number 4062830510 Branch Code 632005

*Happiness is wanting what you've got, not getting what you want.*

<b>Monday 2</b>	<b>Tuesday 3</b>
<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In with Elaine Lizzi R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Pop In Jazz morning with Irving Freeman The hit parade with Jewish Influences R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.15 Outing to Toeka specialist shop and restaurant. A must to view R40. Tea for own account</p>	<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 12.00 Bridge classes R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Movie Morning Ottolenghi's Mediterranean Feast and Jerusalem on a Plate R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 1.30 Mosaic and beading classes with Sonia Norrie R30 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 9.30 Outing and horticultural tour of the Vineyard Hotel. R150 including tour, tea and transport. (Note there are stairs)</p>
<b>Monday 9</b>	<b>Tuesday 10</b>
<b>GOUDINI</b>	<b>GOUDINI</b>
<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop In Jazz morning with Irving Freeman The Jewish Influence in Broadway R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Beryl Eichenberger speaking on her trip to Egypt R10 12.15 Milnerton Committee Meeting</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing to the Red Shed and stroll around the Waterfront. R30. Tea for own account. 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 10.00 Talking Point with Colin R10 12.00 Bridge classes R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Outing to Pajamas and Jam R30 Tea for own account. 1.30 Mosaic and beading classes with Sonia Norrie R30</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p>
<b>Monday 16</b>	<b>Tuesday 17</b>
<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Birthday Pop In Richard Mendelsohn Walking the Camino R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Another good morning (by special request) with Rabbi Opert R10 3.00 Shiur with Rabbi Bernstein R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing to Stellenbosch Botanical Gardens R45. Tea for own account.</p>	<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 10.00 Talking Point with Roni R10 12.00 Bridge classes R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Birthday Pop In with Dr Craige Dietrichs on Our Golden Years; Ageing Disgracefully R10 1.30 Mosaic and beading classes with Sonia Norrie R30</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 9.30 Outing to the Red Shed and a stroll around the Waterfront. R30. Tea for own account.</p> <p><b>Muizenberg</b> 10.30 Pop In with Urs Huber speaking on his trip to Vietnam R10</p>
<b>Monday 23</b>	<b>Tuesday 24</b>
<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.30 Pop in with the Companions R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Pop In with Ivor Shaskolsky — an introduction to coaching R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.45 Outing and horticultural tour of the Vineyard Hotel. R140 including tour, tea and transport. (Note there are stairs) 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 10.00 Talking Point with Marcia R10 2.00 Beginners Bridge R10 17.30 Twilight Supper with Tzilli Reisenberger R80</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Outing to Soet Emporium in Durbanville. R30 Tea for own account. 1.30 Mosaic and beading classes with Sonia Norrie R30</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p>
<b>Monday 30</b>	<b>Tuesday 31</b>
<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Pop in Bingo morning with prizes R10 2.00 Reminiscing with Hazel R10 2.30 Yoga with Leina R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Pop In with Rabbi Opert R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Outing on the Cape Town Harbour Water Taxi Tour. Hop On Hop Off. Booking must be done in advance. R80 including transport. Refreshments for own account 2.00 Yiddish mit Rita R10</p>	<p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Joycelyn R25 10.00 Talking Point with Marcia R10 2.00 Beginners Bridge R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.15 Outing to Toeka specialist shop and restaurant. A must to view R40. Tea for own account 1.30 Mosaic and beading classes with Sonia Norrie R30</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 2.00 Knitting Group. All welcome R10</p>

DIRECTOR: Diana Sochen 021 434 9691 director@cjsa.org.za ADMIN: Amanda 021 434 9691 admin@cjsa.org.za www.cjsa.org.za

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<b>MEYER HIRSCH GOLDSCHMIDT FOUNDATION</b>	<b>THE HAROLD AND BEATRICE KRAMER FOUNDATION</b>	<i>Goldschmidt Family Foundation</i>	With the Compliments of <b>CAPE GATE</b> FENCE & WIRE WORKS (PTY) LTD	<b>Pick n Pay</b> Inspired by you

# Events Calendar MARCH 2020



<p><b>Wednesday 4</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Craft with Yvette and Jeannette R20 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20 12.00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25</p> <p><b>Suburbs</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 10.00 Bnoth Zion 11.00 DVD Series R10</p>	<p><b>Thursday 5</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.15 JOY programme with Alon Ashel Learners. All welcome. 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 10.30 Dr Craige Dietrichs speaks on Our Golden Years, Ageing Disgracefully R10 1.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 10.30 Pop In with Ivor Shaskolsky speaking on an introduction to coaching R10</p>	<p><b>Friday 6</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 10.30 Men's Schmooze Group <i>Getting High or Getting Happy</i> with Rabbi Deren R10</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 11</b></p> <p><b>GOUDINI</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 10.00 Craft with Judy R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 12.00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 10.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p><b>Suburbs</b> 10.10 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 9.45 Bnoth Zion 11.00 DVD Series R10</p>	<p><b>Thursday 12</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.15 JOY programme with Alon Ashel Learners. All welcome. 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 10.3 Pop In with Shirley Kantor on her family's journey from Vilna to Calvinia R10 1.00 Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 10.30 Pop In with Irving Freeman on the Jewish Influence on Broadway (part 1) R10</p>	<p><b>Friday 13</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 18</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.30 Outing and horticultural tour of the Vineyard Hotel. R150 including tour, tea and transport. (Note there are stairs) 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 12.00 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 10.00 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p><b>Suburbs</b> 10.00 Men's Schmooze Group with ADV Steven Powell R10 10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 11.00 DVD Series R10 17.30 Twilight Supper with Glynis Breytenbach R80</p>	<p><b>Thursday 19</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.15 JOY programme with Alon Ashel Learners. All welcome. 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 2.00 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 10.30 Pop In with Irving Freeman The hit parade with Jewish Influences R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 10.30 Beryl Eichenberger speaks on her trip to Egypt R10</p>	<p><b>Friday 20</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 25</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.30 Outing to the Red Shed and a stroll around the Waterfront. R30. Tea for own account. 10.30 Men's Schmooze Group with ADV Steven Powell R10 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Art Classes with Karen Cohen R25 9.30 Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson R20</p> <p><b>Suburbs</b> 10.00 Ageless Grace with Yvonne R20 11.00 DVD Series R10</p>	<p><b>Thursday 26</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.15 JOY Programme with Alon Ashel Learners and Seniors. 10.15 Yiddish mit Veronica R10 11.30 Exercises with Mariamne R10 1.45 Bridge and Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>Milnerton</b> 9.30 Kalooki R10 18.30 Twilight Supper with Lisa Chait on 'Stories from the Road' R80</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> 10.30 Pop In R10 Kalooki R10</p> <p><b>West Coast</b> 10.00 Art with Sharon Lopis R10</p>	<p><b>Friday 27</b></p> <p><b>Sea Point</b> 9.30 Shopping with Malcolm R20</p> <p><b>S/Suburbs</b> Shabbat Supper Claremont Shul R60 for Members R180 for non-members Booking Essential.</p>



PROFESSIONAL STAFF: **Sea Point:** 021 434 9691; **Milnerton:** Hajiera Safidien-Maloon 021 555 1736; **S/Suburbs:** Monique Nieuwenhuys 021 761 7960; **W/Coast:** Stacey Melmed 074 405 5186

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THE JEWISH HERALD

# #HERZLIA80



In 1940, when the world was at war, at this darkest time in our history, a group of brave pioneers came together in Cape Town and said; "Our people will survive; and not only will we survive, we will flourish and ensure that our young children will be proud, knowledgeable Jews. We will provide them with an anchor; with a safe harbour; where they will thrive and continue to learn what it means to be Jewish, in both good and turbulent times." And so, Herzlia was born.

Our first class opened its doors in 1940. In 1956 Herzlia offered Grade 12 for the first time and in that same year moved to the present High School campus. The school continued to expand and the modern structure of UHS came into being with the building of Constantia and Milnerton campuses in 1973 and the incorporation of Weizmann in 1976. In 1982, the Middle School was born and in 2000 the Hebrew Pre-Primary Schools were incorporated.



# CELEBRATING EIGHTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

'Im tirtzu', they said, and it was no dream. No wonder then that these words were chosen to be our school's motto. Herzlia stands as a testament to the early visionaries and benefactors who understood the importance of establishing a Jewish Day School in Cape Town. Today the Herzlia candles burn brightly, lit by the dreams, the vision and the tireless brave actions of so many, who provided us with a stepping stone towards a bright future.

Our school badge tells a story – "An oil lamp, an anchor and a six-pointed star and a banner saying Im Tirtzu."

The lamp reminds us that to be Jewish means to learn, and to teach, as it says in the Shema, 'Veshinantum levanecha'-You will teach your children; The anchor reminds us how fortunate we are to live in a beautiful city and how our school and Jewish traditions provide us with an anchor to hold our community steady; The Magen David reminds us that we are not alone and we belong to a people with a long and proud history; And finally, our motto is taken from Theodor Herzl, 'Im tirtzu, ein zo aggadah' – which translates to "If you will it, it will be no dream". This motto reminds us on a personal level that we should always dream and strive for more, that we are among the most privileged of generations to live in an age when the ancient dream "to be a free people in the Land of Zion and Jerusalem" has become a reality. We know who we are. We're proud of who we are.

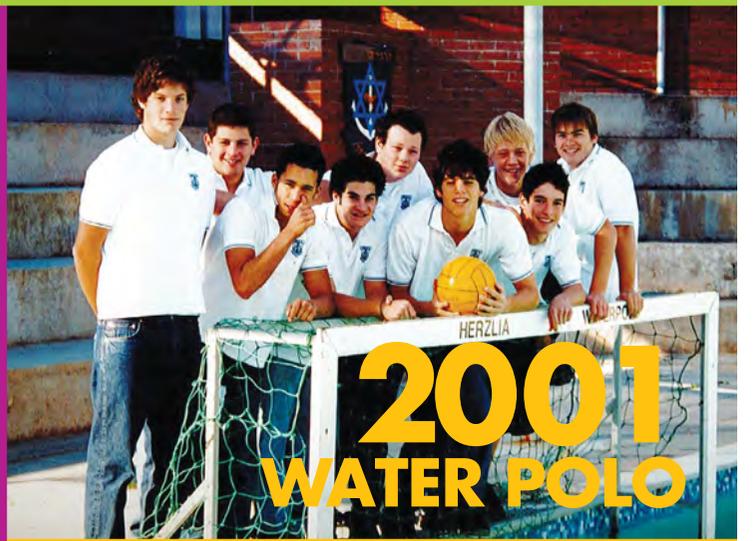


August 13th, 1974

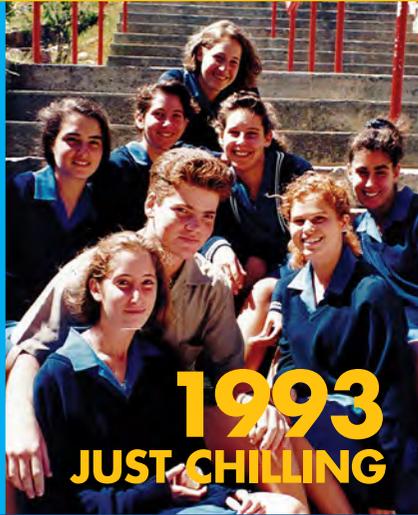
# NG 1976



## 1958 ATHLETICS DAY



## 2001 WATER POLO



## 1993 JUST CHILLING



## 1966 BLAZERS AND TIES

hinsky. In addition to three Honorary Committee members, the following were elected for the ensuing year: Messrs. Shimon, M. Berman, N. G. Puteran, M. J. Galloon, W. P. H. Kurgan, J. Menowitz, E. Michaels, D.uner, E. Osri, in, H. Rabkin, B. ick, A. R. achar, A. er, E. evitt, S. Senkowitz. evitt, Mesdames H. and M. Mark.

## 1996 SHIMON PERES VISITS HERZLIA



## 1957 FIRST ASSEMBLY AT THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL

## The impeachment of President Trump v motions of no confidence in the President of South Africa

**Human society, and this applies to communities large and small, is ordered in a manner that requires leaders.**

Leaders to regulate, to govern, to protect and direct the future of the community. So, when a four person family goes on a vacation there needs to be a 'leader' to decide on what to do and where to go as the holiday progresses. Of course, each person could in theory 'do their own thing.' But just imagine if there were no rules of the road, and no lanes existed to regulate which side of the road vehicles must drive on. Chaos would ensue, which is in no-one's interest.

There must be a leader (or group of leaders called government) to regulate traffic lanes and general rules of the road. Obvious questions arise as to how is this leader elected or appointed, for how long and in what circumstances must he or she be removed? Now these same ideas and principles apply to larger more complex societies and all manner of decision making. Nation states

are formed not only to regulate its members, but also to protect them from outside influence and attacks. Also, communities need to make hard choices on its priorities. Some societies may emphasise education of its children, while others may prioritise caring for the aged or health care. Almost all societies decide who to let join, and who to remove. It's called immigration and deportation. And they determine what conduct is prohibited, how to police the offending conduct and the consequences for violations.

But what if the leader, the President, Prime Minister, King or Queen, makes 'bad' or unwise decisions or indeed acts unlawfully. Every State has rules how to deal with rogue leaders. And those rules differ markedly from state to state. Some states only deal with misconduct and others concern both misconduct and simply unwise decision making. In the United States, the leader, the President, is granted wide ranging powers; he is commander in chief of the armed forces, and he has the power to nominate federal judges,

who are appointed for life, amongst other powers. The US President is elected directly by the electorate on the basis of a complicated voting scheme through what is called the Electoral College, which is a body of people representing the different States in the US. There are two parliamentary bodies in the US, the House of Representatives and the Senate. When it is suspected that the President's conduct has crossed a certain line, the House of Representatives has the authority to impeach the President. Impeachment does not in itself remove the President from office; it is equivalent to an indictment or the laying of charges in criminal law. Impeachment is only the statement of charges against the President. The House of Representatives decides whether to charge (impeach) the President, and if it decides to impeach, the Senate holds a trial to determine whether the President has conducted himself in a manner that warrants his removal from the office of the President. The House decides on a simple majority basis (51%) whether to impeach, whereas for the Senate to uphold the charges and cause removal of the President 67 of the 100 senators must vote affirmatively. Impeachment and removal can only occur when the President has found to have committed treason, bribery or other high Crimes and Misdemeanours. The only penalty the Senate can impose is removal from office and disqualification from future federal office. The impeached and removed President retains all the benefits and privileges of the office.

In South Africa, the Constitution sets out different procedures for, on the one hand misconduct by the President, and on the other a loss of confidence in the President. Significantly, unlike in the US the election of the President is not by way of direct public voting. Voters vote for a party which, through the votes they gain, obtain seats in parliament. And it is parliament who vote for who becomes the President. Now, if parliament decides by a simple majority of 50% that it has no confidence in the President and/or Cabinet it can vote the President and/or Cabinet out of office. There is no absolutely reason or justification required. It is parliament's power to vote the President out of office because it does not feel comfortable in the manner he is governing the country. The President and Cabinet must resign if a motion of no confidence is passed. The President would be entitled to all benefits for life a retired President receives after resignation pursuant to a no

confidence vote. On the other the national assembly could vote by a super majority (two thirds) that the President is to be removed if certain grounds are present. Parliament may resolve that the President has committed a serious violation of the Constitution or the law, or is unable to perform the functions of the office. A forced removal on the ground of a serious violation of the Constitution or the law deprives the person from all benefits of the office and he or she may never serve in any public office.

Two thoughts come to mind: 'Sed quis custodiet ipsos custodes?' is translated as "But who will guard the guards themselves?" In posing that question, the Roman Poet Juvenal was suggesting that wives could not be trusted and that keeping them under guard was no solution because guards could not themselves be trusted. So, as many persons around the world have seen over the centuries, leaders cannot always be trusted to conduct themselves in a lawful manner, and there obviously need protections against and constraints on the exercise of all public power. Removal/impeachment by the people's representatives is a partial solution. But on the other hand, in societies where the governors are put together through a coalition of political parties, good governance can be seriously compromised when the coalition starts fraying. Recent examples in South Africa are in cities where it was necessary for the executive mayor to have been elected by more than one party. No one party obtained 50% of the votes. As soon as the partnership in the coalition had pressures put to bear the position of the mayors became tenuous. It was relatively easy for the mayor to be voted out through no confidence motions. That situation is certainly not ideal for stable governance. An ever changing President and/or Cabinet is not desirable. So, ultimately there needs to be a fine balance struck between not making it too easy to remove a President who has been properly elected and making sure that if the President conducts himself unlawfully serious consequences, such as removal from office, will inevitably follow.

*Anton Katz SC, a senior counsel practicing at the Cape Bar, was a member (2011-2018) of the UN Human Rights Council working group on mercenaries*



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SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION



## Family Announcements

### 90TH BIRTHDAY — THANK YOU

#### DOREEN SEIDLE

I would like to thank my family and friends for their gifts and donations to various charities on the occasion of my 90th birthday.

### THANK YOU

#### PAUL RAWRAWAY

Sincere and heartfelt thank you to each and every one who helped me realise my dream of running the New York Marathon in November 2019.

Your financial contributions, messages, calls and outpouring of love are appreciated beyond measure.

Forever grateful, Rolene and Paul Rawraway

### CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

#### JULIAN ELLISON

We would like to thank all our family and friends most sincerely for their kindness and support shown to us after the passing of our dearest Julian.

So deeply mourned by Barbara, Carmel, Joel, Zachary, Saffron, Jordan and Ryan.

#### ESTHER KRIGER

We would like to thank our friends for their love and support during our beloved Esther's illness, and now, after her passing. We will miss her every day, but she will live on in all of us.

With love, the Kriger, Schlosberg and Talpert families

#### ELLEN (LEVI) STERNBERG

25 July 1924 - 20 November 2019

We would like to thank all the rabbonim, Jewish organisations, friends, family and colleagues for their heartfelt support and kindness shown with such compassion on the peaceful passing of our beloved mother, mother-in-law, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother z"l.

During the week of shiva and throughout our mourning, your meals, visits, calls and messages were sincerely appreciated.

Elli's love of family and cherished memories made over a wonderful lifetime will sustain us forever.

Michael and Leora Sternberg, Susan Luck, Peter and Andrea Sternberg (LA), Henry Levi (London), her 6 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren

### CONSECRATIONS

#### MERVIN SEGAL

The consecration of the tombstone in loving memory of Mervin Segal will take place at Pinelands 2 Cemetery on Sunday 16 February at 11am.

#### ANITA SHENKER

The consecration of the tombstone in loving memory of Anita Shenker will take place at Pinelands 2 Cemetery on Sunday 23 February at 10.30 am.

This will be preceded by the consecration of the tombstone of Anita's sister, **MARLENE KLEINBERGER**, at 10 am.

The presence of family and friends will be greatly appreciated.

To place a family announcement, email: [chron@ctjc.co.za](mailto:chron@ctjc.co.za) or phone Tessa 021 464 6736 (am)

## MENSCH CHANGE-MAKER OF THE MONTH

By Mani Kuti-Alexander

### So much to do and such little time

**On 20 September an estimated 4 million youth around the world took part in a school walkout to protest government inaction on the climate crisis.**

These marches were organised by the #FridaysForFuture movement, a campaign headed by Greta Thunberg, the 17-year-old girl who famously sat outside the Swedish parliament house every Friday with her 'Skolstrejk för klimatet' sign. One person became 4 million and it seems to be a very exciting time in the fight for climate justice.

And yet the headlines are filled with news of the devastating fires in Australia and the Amazon, cyclones killing Pacific Islanders, floods near-destroying farms in England, whole cities in Indonesia. Most of the time awareness is raised, help arrives and the disaster is contained. But it doesn't seem as though anything substantial is being done to address the root of the problem. No one is doing anything about climate change.

I was privileged to spend September to November in New York City where I met and worked with the amazing activists at the local chapter of Fridays For Future. I struck with over 300 000 students and marched from the courts at Foley Square down to Battery Park at the bottom of Manhattan to hear Greta Thunberg (who had just arrived by sailboat) speak. I spent my Wednesday evenings at planning meetings of the NYC Youth Climate Coalition and learned to do things like organise events and write press releases. The friends I made were crazy! They occupied intersections, protested outside the UN headquarters, hung posters in ridiculous places, had stories written about them by magazines like Teen Vogue. Many of them took part in an Extinction Rebellion action in which they were arrested for civil disobedience. Their passion continues to amaze and inspire me.

The city in which these kids live is well-resourced and they know that if climate change goes unchecked, it is not them who will suffer. It will be the 'frontline communities' of Bangladesh, Kenya, Haiti and us, the people of South Africa who will battle the effects of global warming. It moved me to know that there are so many people who care about others and are willing to sacrifice education, time and energy to stand up for what is right.

When faced with our troubled history, it is often hard for us as Jews to acknowledge our privilege. If our water scarce country encounters trouble too hard to endure, many of



*Mani Kuti-Alexander at an FFF protest in front of the Italian consulate following the Venice floods*

us will simply move elsewhere. This cannot be said of our fellow citizens living twenty minutes away.

Like elsewhere, it is those in poverty who will suffer. In this country, the number of people falling into this category seems to be perpetually growing. In this way we could be compared to the New Yorkers and I see it as our duty to take action. There is so much to do and such little time.

The Carbon Majors Report of 2017 states that just 100 companies have been responsible for more than 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions since 1988. Pardon me for coming across as 'conspiratory', but it looks as though someone is pulling strings behind the scenes. Corruption is rampant in whichever government you chose to look at and it's safe to assume it is these very companies keeping leaders in power. This is hardly new information, but that doesn't mean it should be tolerated. We, the youth, have spoken up. We have an estimated ten years before the effects of climate change become irreversible, this is a matter of urgency.

And still so many ask why the youth refuse to be quiet, why they can't just stay in school. It begs the question; why should we get an education if the educated aren't listened to? Why should we go to school for a future we don't even have? We are not just standing up for ourselves, but for our neighbours and for generations yet to inherit this earth. Kids around the world are already fighting for gun control, women's rights, immigration reform, LGBTQ+ rights, Black Lives Matter, disability rights, voting rights, political reform, among countless other issues.

Take responsibility and fix what's broken. We will not shut up. We need climate justice now!



# Fundraising in the magic of the Stellenberg Gardens

On arrival at the Stellenberg Gardens, pre-arranged private tours were conducted by Sandy Ovenstone and her head gardener. Guests from far and wide mingled and enjoyed the ambience at this magnificent location. Four talented Herzlia musicians: Benji Anstey, Gabriel Sieff, Adam Selikowitz and Gabriel Dubb entertained guests upon arrival and during the garden tour. Acoustic Element provided background music during canapés and drinks.

Guests were treated to gourmet food of the highest calibre, with catering by Avron Almeleh of Avrons and Jacques Erasmus of Hemelhuijs.

Alan Silverman welcomed guests to Cape Town and introduced Andrew Ovenstone, owner of Stellenberg, who gave a history of Stellenberg Homestead and Gardens. Jonathan Bloch, Director of Investec Wealth & Investment spoke on behalf of the bank and the Friends' ongoing partnership with them.

Marco Van Embden, Chairman of Friends and the David Susman Community Foundation (Community Foundation) addressed the guests and shared the successful 11-year journey, with the main focus being

ensuring support for the sustainable future of the Cape Town Jewish community and to celebrate Jewish Life in the Mother City. The proceeds of the Friends events support the David Susman Community Foundation. These funds, ably managed by Investec, have grown significantly since inception, with dedicated oversight by a Board of Trustees. A number of important bequests and legacies have added to the financial strength of the Foundation. The Foundation is crucial to the Cape Town Jewish community, as it serves as a protection mechanism against any future adversity which may befall it.

We thank our Patrons, Friends, Donors and loyal supporters, and believe that the Friends as well as the Community Foundation will continue to grow from strength to strength.

We would like to make special mention of and thank our generous annual sponsor Investec, who have supported every event since inception 11 years ago.

For more information on the Friends of the UJC Cape Town contact Robyn Slot on [friends@ctjc.co.za](mailto:friends@ctjc.co.za), call +27 21 464 6700 or visit: <https://ujc.org.za/friends-of-ujc>.



**Arie Fabian and Marco van Embden, Chairman Friends of the UJC Cape Town**



**Andrew Ovenstone, owner of Stellenberg and guest speaker**



**Jonathan and Marla Sacher**



**Yvonne and Eskel Jawitz**



**Sacha and David Jowell**



**Herzlia musicians Adam Selikowitz and Gabriel Dubb entertain the guests**



**Lauren Moshal and Terry Locketz**



**Gerard Mosse and Linda Mirels**



**Friends of the UJC Cape Town Committee: Marco van Embden, Chairman, Nina Kovensky, Karen Abrahamson and Terry Locketz**



**Jonathan Bloch addresses the guests on behalf of Investec Private Bank**



**Frances Kirsh, Natie Kirsh and Barbara Levy**



**Alan Locketz, Lawrence Abrahamson and Jonathan Smidt**



**The magnificent Harvest table by Jacques Erasmus of Hemelhuijs and Avron Almeleh**



**The majestic Stellenberg Homestead**



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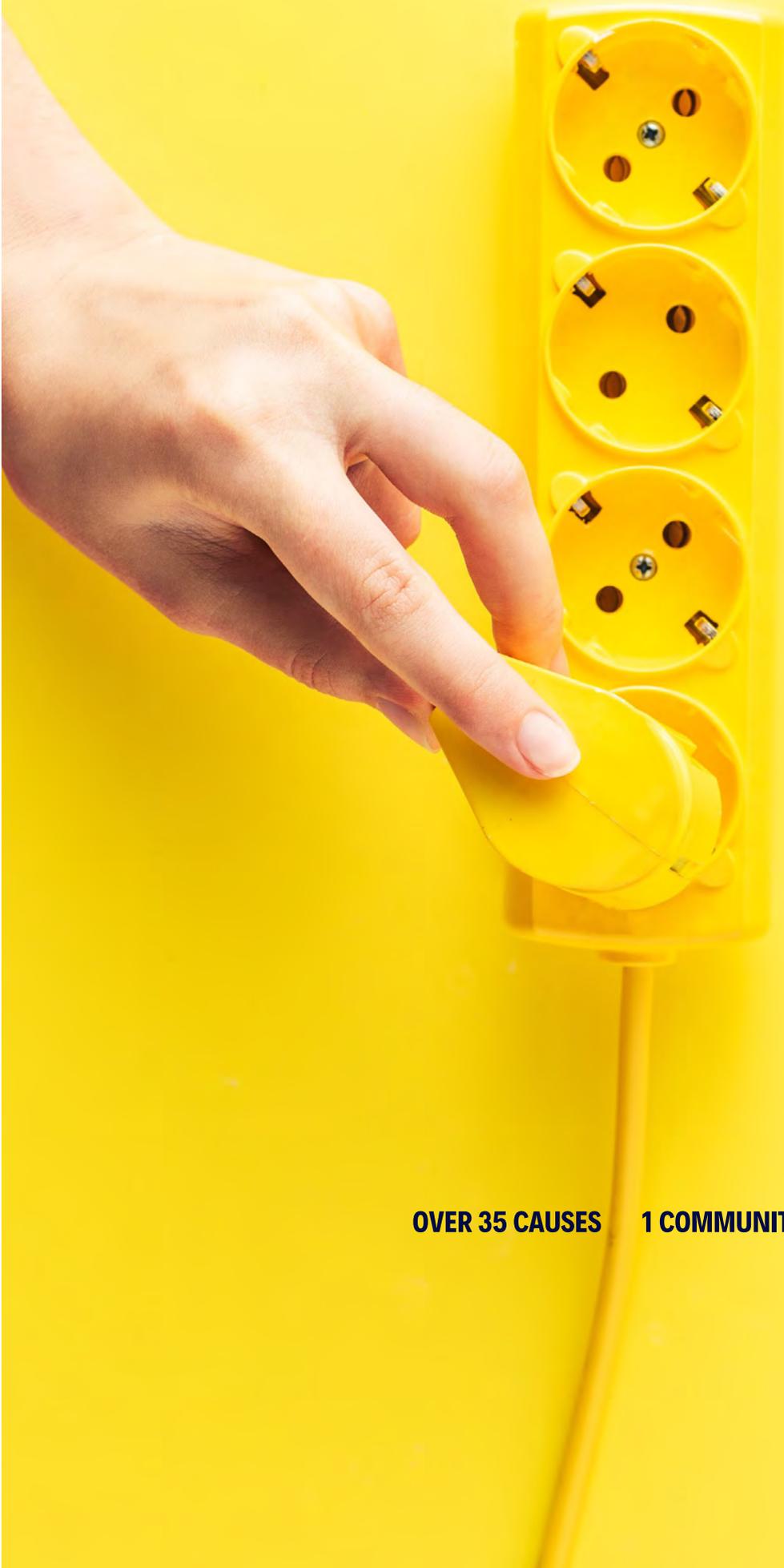


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## JCS@WORK Food Assistance and more!

**BY LAUREN COHN**  
Foodbank Coordinator

**The JCS Foodbank is overflowing with love, support, gratitude and appreciation and I am so humbled and proud to be associated with this amazing initiative.**

I often reiterate to friends, and strangers alike, that our Cape Town Jewish Community is a very special and unique one, always 'showing up' and never hesitating to help others in need. I have experienced this firsthand in our schools, through our community Shuls and now in our welfare organisation.

It is thanks to our community that we continue to provide for the basic need of food to our 'tribe', always with dignity, respect and honour. This week, we completed packing monthly food parcels that went out to over 230 people. In addition, each month we distribute approximately 248 Tikvah parcels and I am so proud to say, for the first time ever, in the month of November, we distributed 142 Shabbos Meal hampers to 280 recipients. **Due to the increasing cost of living, the cost of the parcels continues to increase. The cost per monthly food parcel is currently as follows:**

<b>Individual:</b>	<b>R 800</b>
<b>Couple:</b>	<b>R1200</b>
<b>Family of 4:</b>	<b>R1800</b>
<b>Family of 7:</b>	<b>R2100</b>
<b>Shabbat Meal:</b>	<b>R 250</b>

Over the past 18 months, I have seen the need within our community continue to increase. Every month we are providing to more families in crisis, more products, more regularly. As a welfare organisation, we are the first to feel the impact of the current economic climate in South Africa. We rely so heavily on our community and are grateful every day to have you.

Please remember the Foodbank and Tikvah when giving a gift for a birthday, anniversary, Shabbat or the chaggim. In lieu of a gift, rather consider making a donation to our organisation and we will acknowledge your contribution by way of a letter. What you may think is a small amount adds up and assists us to fulfil our commitment to ensure that no community member goes hungry.

In addition to monetary donations, we also gratefully receive donations of food items. We would like to thank a member of our community who donated jars of Marmite to our Foodbank recently. He did this because, as a child, he loved Marmite and wanted everyone to share in its joy. We extend this invitation to you, our community, to get involved by donating items that form part of who you are, and assist us to provide for our Jewish community.

We also enjoy treating our psychiatric residents to lunch time meals over the weekend. These outings are sponsored by individual community members and bring an abundance of joy and excitement to our

recipients. It is always overwhelming for me to witness the appreciation for what most of us take for granted.

We strive to do more, provide more and make more of an impact on our recipient families every single day. In order for us to carry out the projects that we have planned for 2020, we welcome corporate donations. If you are interested in giving back to our community, we would be honoured to partner with you.

As always, we thank our marvellous group of volunteers who seem to 'show up' before we request assistance. Our work is physical and intense but there is never complaining or giving up until the job is done. You continue to motivate us to provide even more and for this, we remain deeply grateful.

Should you wish to get involved with our JCS Foodbank or Tikvah, please contact me on **021 462 5520** or email [lauren@jcs.org.za](mailto:lauren@jcs.org.za) so that we can get the ball rolling. Food is something that always brings our 'tribe' together. The JCS Foodbank will always be the place that keeps our 'tribe' together.

**"Over the past 18 months, I have seen the need within our community continue to increase. Every month we are providing to more families in crisis, more products, more regularly. As a welfare organisation, we are the first to feel the impact of the current economic climate in South Africa."**



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## LEVERAGING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

ROSE LERER COHEN PhD  
rlerercohen@gmail.com



THE GATEWAY TO YOUR FUTURE  
OBTAINING AN EU PASSPORT

## YOUR ANCESTRAL LINK TO LITHUANIA

Your ancestors who were born in Lithuania and immigrated to South Africa, Israel or elsewhere to start a new life and thus broaden their horizons. In so doing, they have GIFTED you, the chance of receiving citizenship of the country of their birth.

The Lithuanian Government is restoring citizenship, they are giving you the opportunity to broaden your horizons. With over a decade of success, with clients in South Africa, the UK, Australia, the US and Israel, we look forward to sharing our knowledge and expertise with you and obtain your EU passport.

## Are you eligible for Lithuanian Citizenship?

According to family lore, and occasionally with documents in your possession, you discover that your ancestors immigrated from Lithuania to South Africa. You have heard that Lithuania is reinstating citizenship to persons who can prove their eligibility.

You ask yourself, Am I eligible? Would I be entitled to Lithuanian Citizenship Reinstatement, and thus be granted a passport that would enable visa free access to over one hundred and fifty countries, enabling travel-freedom?

If you are indeed eligible, you can go back three generations. Therefore, if you have a great-grandparent who held Lithuanian citizenship, you should be able to qualify to become Lithuanian Citizen yourself. You will have to prove the family connection through an unbroken chain of documentation all the way up the family tree until you reach your ancestor with Lithuanian ties.

Following my first conversation with a potential client, they complete an eligibility questionnaire. This enables me to gain an understanding of the

ancestry and provides the framework for assessing eligibility.

The first and most important step in the process to attain Lithuanian citizenship reinstatement is to prove your eligibility.

What is eligibility? According to the Oxford English Dictionary eligibility is the fact of having the necessary qualities or satisfying necessary conditions.

The conditions for assessing eligibility are as follows:

### 1. Lithuanian Citizenship Law:

Under the Law of Citizenship of Lithuania, for descendants to be eligible for citizenship reinstatement, it is mandatory that the ancestor held citizenship of Lithuania until June 15, 1940.

On February 16, 1918 Lithuania became an Independent country, Kaunas/Kovno serving as the capital. Lithuania remained independent until it was occupied by the Soviet Union on June, 15 1940 following the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.

Independent Lithuania was divided

into twenty-three districts and further subdivided into sub-districts. Our ancestors immigrated to South Africa from many of these districts and sub-districts. A number of districts are for example: Alytus, Biržai, Kaunas Kėdainiai Klaipėda Kretinga Marijampolė Mažeikiai Rokiskis Siauliai Taurage, Telsiai and Ukmerge, Utena, Vilkaviškis, Zarasai. As an example, one of the sub-districts of Siauliai is Kelme. Uzventis, my ancestral town is in the sub-district of Kelme.

The former Prussian territory of Memel became an autonomous part of Lithuania under the Memel Statute in January, 1923, until it was re-annexed by Germany in March 1939. It comprised the three districts of Klaipėda Pagėgiai and Šilutė.

### 2. Archival research:

Rigorous archival research must be carried to locate documents of eligibility in all Lithuanian archives. The archival document must show/state clearly that your ancestor was a citizen of Independent Lithuania. This clause is part of Citizenship law based on a court decision of October

2017 and cannot be overlooked.

If a document is located in the archives showing that your ancestor lost or rejected Lithuanian citizenship, eligibility will be denied. If conditions of eligibility are met, the process is set into motion.

Once these two conditions are fulfilled, supporting documents are located to create the application package. These documents must demonstrate continuous thread between you and your ancestor.

I have facilitated successful applications for Lithuanian Citizenship in South Africa, Australia, the UK, the US and Israel and will be pleased to assist and guide you with your application.

You can contact me at rlerercohen@gmail.com or call 087 5510 790 with questions and to discuss your application. We can also set up an appointment to meet in person on my planned visit South Africa.

Please view my website and [www.kin-search.com](http://www.kin-search.com) to learn more about me and of the professional services I offer.

I will be pleased to assist you with your application for Lithuanian Citizenship. Please contact me at rlerercohen@gmail.com. Your free consultation will include assessing your eligibility, reviewing your documents, discussing supporting documents and answering questions. View my website [www.kin-search.com](http://www.kin-search.com)

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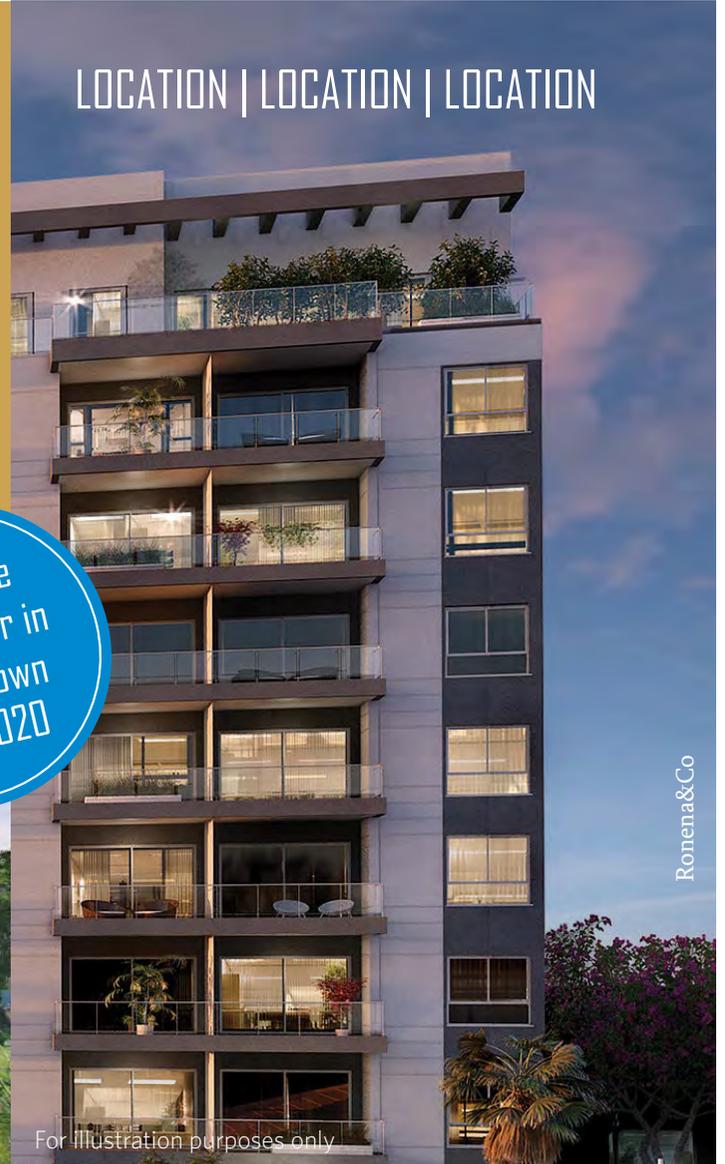


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**USING MY NUDEL**

**"But you don't look like you  
have epilepsy"**



By Craig Nudelman

**When you read this title, I'm betting you think it sounds pretty silly.**

You'll be surprised to know, however, that when one of the tourists I was taking on my Jewish walking tour the other day said these words to me, it wasn't the first time that a ridiculous assumption was made of this condition which I've lived with since I was 10 years old.

The conversation took place at Café Riteve, where the British couple and I were having a coffee following the tour. As usual, I asked for a decaf Americano. The wife seemed incredulous — I could see her wondering why one would order coffee if not for the caffeine. I explained that I simply liked the taste of coffee, and I'm limited to decaf because the stimulants in coffee trigger my seizures. When she told me I don't look like I have epilepsy, I told her that diabetics don't look like they have diabetes! The conversation moved along to other subjects, but I was left wondering, what is it about epilepsy that sparks the curious ideas people have of the condition and those of us who live with it? That set me along a path of researching the history of epilepsy, which is the fourth most common neurological disorder.

It is clear that the uncomfortable reaction people have when they find out that I have epilepsy is nothing

new. In fact, the stigma around the condition dates back centuries. The history of epilepsy has been extensively covered in texts, and some of these show how people initially believed that the source of epilepsy was divine or spiritual. The first documented case of someone having a seizure was in ancient Mesopotamia around 2000 BCE. The person described in the text was diagnosed as being under the influence of a moon god and underwent an exorcism. The ancient Babylonians were also of the belief that this was a disease that was caused by evil spirits. However, the Greeks had a different view of the disease. They saw it as being positive, believing that the person affected was inhabited with a divine or sacred spirit. In fact, one of the names given to the condition was the 'sacred disease'. As such, they believed that important figures, such as Hercules, had epilepsy.

Hippocrates was the first to challenge these ideas of a spiritual source for seizures, stating that linking it to the spiritual was spread ignorance through a belief in superstitious magic. From spiritual disease, he called it a 'great disease', resulting in the term grand mal, the name for what is usually identified as the 'typical' seizure.

Continues on page 37

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Continued from page 36

## “But you don’t look like you have epilepsy”

However, his work on epilepsy did not end people's ignorance, and there are still many cultures where epilepsy is associated with evil spirits, witchcraft, or deviant behaviour.

Hopefully you know that this is not the case. Epilepsy is a very complex disorder. According to Epilepsy.com, it is a condition whereby an individual has had an epileptic seizure. That means that just because a person has had a seizure, it does not necessarily mean the person has epilepsy. Dr Robert Fisher, states that “Epilepsy is a disease characterised by an enduring predisposition to generate epileptic seizures and by the neurobiological, cognitive, psychological, and social consequences of this condition.” There are many different forms of seizures, ways they manifest, and how they are triggered.

Because of this, research around epilepsy is ongoing. There are now new classifications — no longer can

we say someone has had a grand mal or petit mal seizure. In 2017 the International League Against Epilepsy described 13 different types of seizures. As all brains are not the same, the place in which the neurons in an epileptic's brain are excited will also be different.

When I was 9 I was quite a lethargic child, and I often used to watch TV on my parents' bed in the afternoon. In the beginning of 1997, I started getting a ‘funny feeling’ which made me feel uncomfortable — I had to sit up, lay down, move my shirt, wiggle around, and eventually it would stop. Of course I didn't know that I had epilepsy — I had never heard of it before. I also thought that it would stop and didn't want to bother my parents. But my parents did notice and when I went to a neurologist and had an EEG I was diagnosed with epilepsy. I had complex-partial tonic-clonic seizures, where the neurons in my right temporal lobe became excited and affected my left temporal

lobe. That was a lot of information for a 9-year-old to digest.

I remember getting books or pamphlets, either from the doctor's rooms or the library, about famous people who had epilepsy. I remember reading that Jonty Rhodes had epilepsy. The reason he is a cricketer, it said, was because he used to be a swimmer, but due to the dangers of swimming and having a seizure in a pool, he changed sports and became one of the best fielders in the world. That didn't make me a cricketer, but it showed me that epilepsy was not going to hamper my lifestyle too much.

I have had an interesting journey with epilepsy — it is a part of me and a part of my identity. I am never ashamed to say I have epilepsy and, sometimes, I am quite proud of it since I have learnt to live with it and manage it. I also believe in educating people about the condition and to that end, here are steps to follow if

you see someone having a seizure:

STAY with the person and keep calm.

Keep the person SAFE — move sharp objects out of the way and avoid a crowd forming.

If the person is not aware and awake, turn the person onto his or her SIDE.

Do NOT put anything in their mouth.

Do NOT restrain.

STAY with them until they are awake and alert.

The silly comment over coffee with the Brits didn't bother me. I quite like it when people speak openly about epilepsy, even when they voice their misconceptions, as it gives me the opportunity to challenge their thinking and provide them with more information.

To that end, perhaps now is the right time for you to educate yourself about epilepsy. You can find out more on epilepsy.com or epilepsy.org.za.

## Most Jews of Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian origin are entitled to EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that South African Jews of Ashkenazi heritage are of Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian descent, and that only those who are able to prove their eligibility for Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian citizenship are able to obtain a European passport. The fact is that most South African Jews do qualify for European

European citizenship which will result in them obtaining a EU passport.

**Ashkenazi:** It is important to understand that until 1918, all of Eastern Europe was divided between three empires: Russia, Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian empire. Neither Poland nor Lithuania and Latvia existed until 1918.

changed, resulting in cities changing nationality. The resultant effect for descendants of Jews who were born in Vilnius, for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined, but an application for a Polish passport may very well be successful.

**Sephardi:** the descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are most likely eligible for a Portuguese passport. If applicable, Horesh is able to obtain an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which an application for European citizenship can be made and will most likely be successful. Portuguese citizenship enables one to enter the United States without the need to apply for a visa.

In addition, Horesh is filing many applications for descendants of Sephardi origin who arrived in South Africa from Greece, Turkey, and North Africa. Descendants from other countries in the Middle East — even Holland — are also potentially eligible.

Horesh resides in Israel, but has spent seven



years in Poland, and is recognised as a leading lawyer in the field of European citizenship, with a full understanding of local immigration laws.

Living in Israel — a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius — offers him quick and easy access to Poland, Latvian and Lithuania. Accordingly, he is able to work closely with local professionals who assist him in tracing the documentation required for successful applications for European citizenship.

In addition, and as a result of his close ties with Portuguese authorities, to date he has had a 100% success rate with applications for Portuguese citizenship.

**Horesh is available to discuss your specific details. He is often in South Africa, and can meet you in person to discuss your specific needs.**



Avi Horesh

Destroyed Warsaw, January 1945

At the end of the WWI, the territory was divided, and countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and others were born/reborn. Only then did residents become citizens of these countries. As a result, people who, for example, were born in Riga (nowadays Latvia) could actually be Polish, Lithuanian or Latvian.

Horesh advises that eligibility for a Lithuanian

Latvian or Polish passport depends on the city from which your grandparents (or their parents) hailed.

Horesh says many South African Ashkenazi Jews of Lithuanian origin have been refused Lithuanian citizenship because their heritage is actually Polish. They would, accordingly, be entitled to Polish citizenship and a EU passport.

After World War II, the borders in Europe

citizenship, whether they can prove their Polish, Lithuanian & Latvian lineage or not, and most South African Jews of Sephardic heritage are also eligible for European passports.

Adv. Avi Horesh has in-depth knowledge of the applicable legislation and in his experience, the majority of South African Jews have ancestors who were illegally deprived of citizenship. As their descendants, these Jews are eligible for

**My next visit in South Africa (Johannesburg, Durban & Cape Town) is in March 2020**  
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# Habonim Dror SA turns 90

For ninety years, Habonim (and later, Habonim Dror), has been a part of the landscape for Jewish youth in South Africa.

Norman Lurie, inspired by Sir Wellesly Aaron, who founded the Jewish youth movement in Britain, while he was studying at University in the United Kingdom, brought the idea back to South Africa in 1930.

His charisma and inspiration ensured that Habonim quickly grew into the largest, most popular Jewish Youth movement in South Africa in the twentieth Century. Originally, along with Cape Town-born Bertie 'Sandpiper' Stern, Habonim was envisioned as a scout movement, and it adopted motifs and facets of the Scouts; embracing a closeness to nature, learning survival skills, uniforms with scarves, toggles, belts and berets and principles of 'good citizenship'.

However, the historical circumstances of World War II and the establishment of Israel, quickly transformed it into a Zionist movement committed to building the fledgling state and educating South African youth about Israel — and its importance for world Jewry in general and South African Jewry in particular.

Since those early years, hundreds of thousands of Jewish youth have passed through the shichvot of Habonim Dror, generation upon

generation. And, while we may age and grow out of the youth movement, the ethos, the experiences and the education of the movement which shaped our characters, never leave us. It is a part of our identity, to be a boger of Habonim. Habonim Dror Southern Africa (HDSA) turns 90 in 2020. This important milestone will be marked by a unique seven-day program in Israel based at the Yearim Hotel in the forests just outside Jerusalem:

Sunday October 18 to Thursday October 22, 2020 — Kaleidoscope — a multi-dimensional exploration of Israel through a wide-angled lens challenging participants to critically examine what they see, hear and experience.

Friday October 23 to Saturday October 24, 2020 — The Habonim Ultimate Gathering (HUG) — a magical multi-generational gathering celebrating yesterday, today and tomorrow. This will be a combination of fun, debate and meeting up with old friends in the true spirit of the movement. Organisers are hard at work to ensure Kaleidoscope-HUG will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and urge all current and former members to register via the website [www.habo2020.com](http://www.habo2020.com).

A special and significant discount for limited numbers is available for South African bogrim who sign-up by the end of February.

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### Consider This

By Rabbi Greg Alexander



## Sabbatical in the Big Apple

**My family and I have just returned from a sabbatical in New York City. The idea was to spend as much time as possible sitting in the different shuls, NGOs and Jewish organisations of this amazing Jewish community and see what we can learn from them. What is on the cutting edge of their agendas and teaching, how are they structuring their synagogues, programming and music, social justice initiatives, staff teams and more? Anything that we can learn from or collaborate with in some way.**

So Andi and I and the kids spent many hours shul-hopping and synagogue-crawling our way from the tip of Manhattan to Brooklyn and everywhere in between. Our time there included the High Holy



Rabbi Greg with Rabbi Sara Luria

Days and Sukkot and this was the first chance we have had since we came to Temple Israel 13 years ago to sit in someone else's shul over the yomtovim and see what they do.

So what did we find? The first thing to say will come as no surprise — New York's Jewish community is massive. More than a million Jews in the city, more than two million in New

York State and you can pretty much find every kind of Jewish expression or practise, whether religious, social or cultural, happening on a corner near you. And all you need to do is connect and show up. And we did — a lot.

We found tiny communities like *Beloved*, a start-up run by a rabbi and her husband out of their home in Brooklyn where they invite people to a Friday night and a Shabbat morning once a month, and run shiurim, meditations and yoga for small groups. And the *Ahavas Yisroel* shul in Green Point, Brooklyn (yes, I did get a kick out of the fact that we have a *Temple Israel* in Green Point, Cape Town) which was set up by German Jewish immigrants in 1886 in a lovely little shtetel that reminded me of many South African shuls I have made a minyan in — and our family helped make up the minyan there too. To *Tamid Tribeca* at the bottom of Manhattan where Rabbi Darren Levine is bringing in a whole different crowd. (Joburgers will remember him from his High Holy Day stint at *Bet Emanuel* when he was still a rabbinic student). At his start-up shul, you will find a mix of mostly young families but from all backgrounds, Jewish and not, all interested in connecting to Judaism downtown where there are not a huge number of offerings. *Tamid* is the only non-Orthodox show in the neighbourhood and like *Beloved*, *Tamid* is independent but their approach is open and liberal. In fact, Rabbi Darren describes their approach (and whole philosophy) as "you are welcome". They are creating a "Jewish space of openness".

To the other end of the size spectrum with the establishment giants like *Central Synagogue*, and *Emanu-El*. They tower over the island with magnificent historical buildings, ginormous communities (with a waiting list for membership) and extraordinary programming. Rabbi Angela Buchdahl at *Central* has broken many ceilings (first woman to lead *Central Synagogue*, first Asian-American rabbi, first ordained rabbi and cantor (both) etc) and has been instrumental in making music the centre of their service. And they have an exceptional musical team.

We were blown away when on the Friday night we attended, we heard a very familiar melody begin. At first we weren't sure,

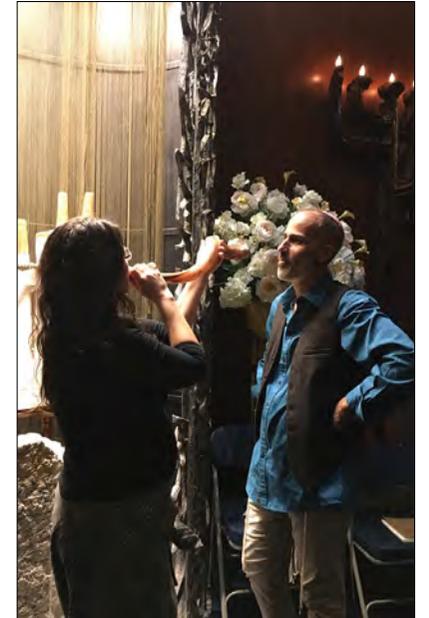
but when they broke out with 'Hariu' we knew that they were singing our tune! For those who haven't been to *Netzer* camp or to a Chessed/Rina Fri night at Temple Israel, Hariu is one of the liturgical hit-tunes to come out of South Africa and apparently it has made it to NYC. We told Rabbi Angela later that I had been at the *Netzer* camp when Rina Epstein and Talya Davidoff composed that piece that is now a favourite of our Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat.

Moving to *Emanu-El*, not only do they have one of the largest synagogue sanctuaries in the world (2000 seats) and over 2000 family members, but with the Streicker Centre they have taken the lead in standout Jewish programming with big-name speakers, sold-out ticket events (and these are \$50 a seat) and creative adult-education. On the evening we attended in the lead up to Rosh Hashanah, they reconstructed the ancient Yom Kippur ritual of the scapegoat (not practised since the time of the Temple in Jerusalem) by walking a live goat with two wicker baskets tied on his back through the crowd while we placed notes with something we wanted to be rid of in the baskets.

While the buildings, staff and budgets of each of these synagogues dwarf our own, it was heartening to see that we speak the same language, share the big picture goals and often wrestle with the same problems.

In between those ends of the spectrum lie two of the other shuls we spent time in — *Romemu* and *LabShul*, both new players on the scene in the past decade, who are doing innovative things to relook at the way that synagogues function today. *Romemu* is described as "Neo-Chassidic" with a deep and powerful service grounded in Chassidic teaching and yet fully inclusive and egalitarian. It is affiliated with Jewish Renewal where Andi is doing her rabbinical studies.

*LabShul* describes themselves as an "artist-driven, everybody-friendly, God-optional, pop up, experimental community for sacred Jewish gatherings" and they do push the



Andi blowing Shofar at slichot

envelope to bring Judaism to people who would not normally set foot in a synagogue. Running events in night clubs, cafes, theatres and outdoors, LabShul uses art installation, bands and projections to bring new depth to old tradition.

While these are just a few of the communities we got to see, (and these are just the shuls!) you get a sense of how rich the experience was for us and how much we still have to process getting back home. I hope to engage with as many people as possible to share what we found there and how it can help us bring new ideas to the excellent work this community does here in Cape Town.

### Mazaltov to those who celebrated Bnei Mitzvah with us last month:



Zac Turest Swartz  
18 January



Adam Poulton  
25 January



Times Square

## Sherman Shabbat/ Mitzvah Day

In November 2019 Temple Israel celebrated Sherman Shabbat with a Challah Bake, T'filin Wrap, Shabbat and Havdallah services and our annual Mitzvah Day event at Gracie Love in a Bowl, all celebrated in true Egalitarian, Inclusive style



Wynberg Cheder making bagels with Rabbi Jonathan Rubinstein



Visiting rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein from Bread and Torah teaches us about baking challah



Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani, guest rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubinstein, Rabbi Emma Gottlieb and Gill Saks



Rabbi Malcolm and Daniella Beswick laying T'filin



Preparing the dough



Learning about being a soferet with visiting rabbi Linda Motzkin



Greg and Gabriella Flash planting seedling



Gordon telling us about the Gracie Love in a Bowl Project The project addresses poverty in the shack community of Hout Bay by growing organic vegetables to donate to the very young and vulnerable and the elderly who are sick. They provide 180 000 nutritious vegetarian meals per year to the Imizamo Yethu community.

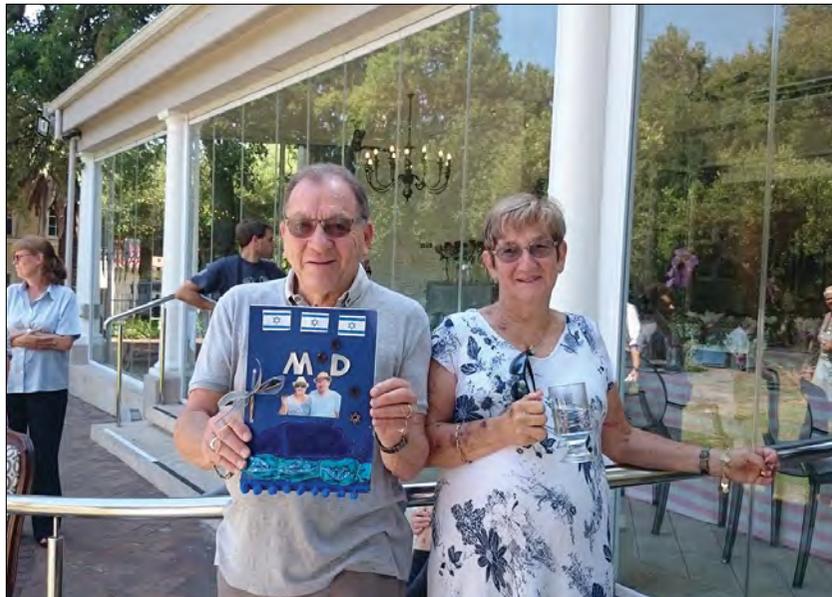


Gill Saks, Maureen Feinberg, Rabbi Linda Motzkin, Pam Symons, Jacobs Saks and Dani Saks getting their hands dirty.



Early Morning T'filin Wrap

## David and Maeve Samuels make Aliyah



**Astra bids farewell to David and Maeve Samuels — two of the Centre’s most valuable volunteers, who gave of their time for more than 20 years.**

Maeve’s quiet and calming presence at Coffee Time, both in the bakery and as front-of-house, was incredibly beneficial — especially during frenetic times! David worked tirelessly project-managing all the new building developments that took place during this time. These include Coffee Time as well as the three beautiful Group Homes which are internationally acclaimed facilities. David and Maeve will be missed by Staff and Workers alike. We wish them well and look forward to seeing them on future visits to Cape Town.

## A magical Chanukah party

Astra workers were kept entertained with music by Ivor Joffe and magic by Greg Gelb at the annual Chanukah Party. The party was sponsored by Saville and Shelly Furman.



Greg Gelb, performing his special brand of magic with participants Michael Ipp and Riva Sandler

## Bubbles Roberts: A knitter of note

By Jaime Uranovsky

**Bubbles (Sylvia) Roberts is not your typical nonagenarian.**



For her 90th birthday two years ago, Bubbles would accept no presents. Instead, she requested friends and family bring balls of wool. Having received 250 balls, Bubbles was able to continue what she has been doing for years: knitting a variety of beautiful items for those who need them.

Bubbles has been knitting since she was a small child and donating her creations for years. She recounts, “I’ve knitted for Tygerberg: 1000 beanies for babies, all of them with donated wool. I knitted a lot for the Union of Jewish Women and then I went over to WIZO. They keep three or four creches going in the townships, so I make baby blankets, beanies for children and knee rugs.” Bubbles, however, knits for all ages: “Sometimes old ladies sit down for long periods of time with nothing to do and they get cold. I’m fortunate that I can put a blanket over myself. Sometimes they don’t have that luxury.”

As a child, Bubbles taught her own mother to knit. “She could do everything but she couldn’t knit, so I taught her when I was about ten,” she

reminisces. For Bubbles, it does not matter how small the amount of wool at hand; a little goes a long way and she creates out of scraps, sometimes just two or three inches long. In fact, she notes, often the knitted items made of different coloured scraps are more beautiful than those of one colour. The amount of wool also determines whether the item will be knitted for a baby, child or adult.

Bubbles does not go a day without knitting. She explains, “There’s never a dull moment. When you sit and you knit it’s like therapy. If I feel miserable, I sit down and I start to knit and it clears my mind. That’s my favourite aspect of knitting.”

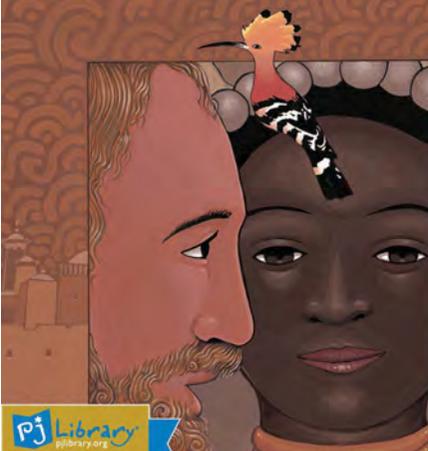
Bubbles is always in need of more wool to continue creating and donating. To donate wool to her project, contact Bubbles on 021 439 6625.

**PJ Library**

Welcome back to PJ Library 2020

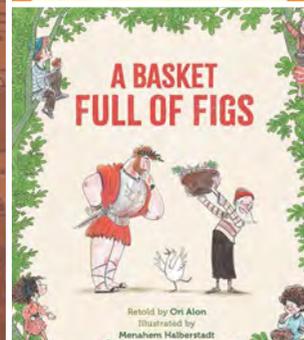
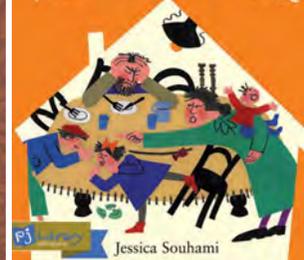
For queries or to register your child for PJ Library in South Africa email [andihendler@gmail.com](mailto:andihendler@gmail.com) or visit <https://pjlibrary.org.za/Enrol>

**The Wisdom Bird**  
A Tale of Solomon and Sheba



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The Little, Little House



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# Mitzvah Month 2019

## Four Organisations came together to start Mitzvah Month 2019

The Union of Jewish Women (UJW) Cape Simcha Group in collaboration with Mensch, Herzlia Constantia Primary, Grass Boots Football Club and The Samurai Karate Dojo Plumstead Sensei and Black Belts created a morning of games and sporting fun for 60 children from the UJW Cape Simcha Group's Noluntu Soup Kitchen, Khayelitsha.

The Noluntu Soup Kitchen children and Herzlia Constantia soccer, karate and netball teams had an incredible day at Herzlia Constantia sporting grounds on 3 November 2019, showing unbelievable sportsmanship and sharing invaluable skills training, making it a day to remember.



Noluntu girls warming up



Ria Siko Temele (Noluntu House Mother) with the boys from Noluntu Soup Kitchen



Nwabi Jiya, Hillary Osrin; Simcha Group, Muriel Levin; Chairman Simcha Group, Patsy Fivelman; Chairman UJW Cape, Judy Kaplan; Simcha Group, Ria Siko Temele; Noluntu House Mother, Ayabonga, Anothando, Hanan Brivik, Tzipi Brivik; Simcha Group

On 26 November a group of 12 year old girls from the Mitzvah Club and their moms joined UJW Cape at Stonehaven to pack Baby Bags for the UJW Cape Baby Bag Project.

It was a wonderful afternoon involving these young girls, giving them an opportunity to see what can be done to help those in need in our community. The girls and their moms packed 60 bags filled with toiletries, blankets, clothes and much more; everything a new mom needs to take care of her baby.

The UJW Cape Baby Bag Project has been successfully run for the past 2 years, handing out over 500 bags at Somerset Hospital to high risk new moms. Many of these moms face daunting challenges, some of poverty and single parent homes and most of them leave hospital with nothing for their babies.

On 5 December we had the privilege of delivering the baby bags to delightful, thankful and very appreciative moms at Somerset Hospital. A huge thank you to The Graham Beck Foundation and Weizmann Primary for their very generous donations to the UJW Cape's Baby Bag Project and to the Mitzvah Girls and moms for getting involved and giving of their time to pack the bags.



Baby Bag Mitzvah Club 2019 — the Weizmann Primary Girls



Baby Bag Moms Mitzvah Club 2019 — Moms at Somerset Hospital

**Deloitte.**

**ORT Jet**

## ORT JET Mentor and Donor *Appreciation Evening*

On Thursday 7 November, Deloitte hosted ORT JET Cape Town's Mentor & Donor Appreciation Event as an opportunity to celebrate our mentors and donors – those who have so generously shared their business knowledge, resources, and skills to uplift entrepreneurs and business owners in the Jewish community.

The highlight of the evening was the talk by guest speaker, Ariella Kuper, who shared a powerful message, "Adversity to Opportunity". Ariella's dynamic message resonated with all of us. Her oratorical skills, extensive general, cultural and world knowledge has earned her an admired reputation in business and placed her in demand by leading figures at notable charity events.

The event conveyed our sincere gratitude to all for the time and energy given to mentees over the past 2 years.

Our sincere gratitude also to Ryan Dogon and his team at Deloitte for our partnership and for hosting our ORT JET events - it is not just the 4 walls, but the welcoming and familiar space which allows our speaker events to take flight.

ORT JET is built on the values of integrity and commitment. We offer networking, training, and invaluable mentorship to all entrepreneurs in our community. Since 2012, we have proudly facilitated over 300 businesses under mentorship.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, a donor or join as an entrepreneur please connect with [lisa@ortjetcapetown.org.za](mailto:lisa@ortjetcapetown.org.za).

For more information visit - [www.ortjetcapetown.org.za](http://www.ortjetcapetown.org.za)



Ariella Kuper addressing ORT JET mentors, donors and mentees



Hazel Levin, Shannon Pam and Michael Walker



Bettina Moss, Karen Kaimowitz and Bev Da Costa



Lydia Abel, Ariella Kuper and Shelley Friedman



Lynn Rosenberg, Kayli Levitan and Ari Nerwich



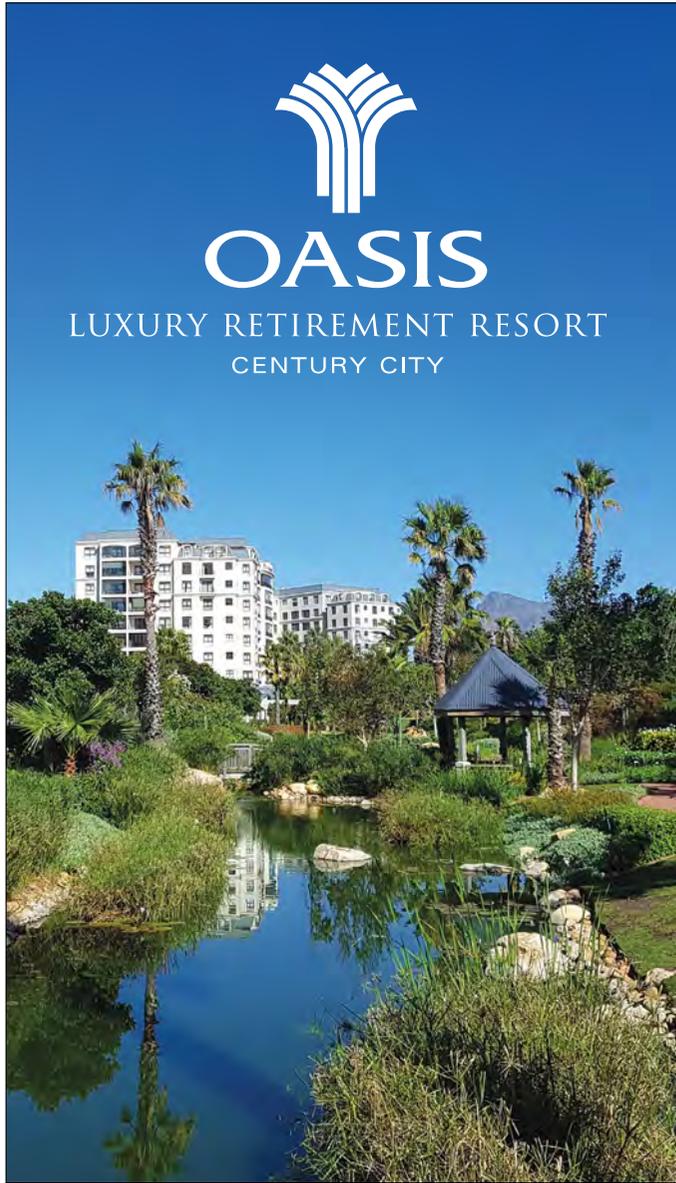
Liora Raff, Arthur Levin, Dalia Katz, Ariella Kuper, Eleanor Miller, Monene Murray and Raoul Miller



Paul Da Costa, Mike Cohen and Steven Sollinger



Brenna Frankel, Ariella Kuper, Ryan Dogon and Lisa Sandler



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