

★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 38 No 2

MARCH/APRIL 2021

Pesach 5781

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Lindy with a why

Why there is good in goodbye



By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

In my very first Lindy with a why, writing about my role, I said that the CJC is a cornerstone of our community, creating a wonderful opportunity for both unity and diversity every month.

Six years later, a little more experienced, a little wiser and a little more tongue in cheek, I would say of my role that I haven't done my job properly if I haven't inadvertently upset someone each month... And isn't that the joy and privilege of taking a community as diverse as ours and trying to create something of interest for everyone, in every issue?

I like to joke that most publications have a demographic, 'men over 30' or 'young women 18-24'. My demographic has been 'Jews' and it has been both totally daunting and marvelous fun to try to speak to that demographic every month. I also had the privilege of representing *all* Jews, however they identify, however they practice, and that has been a gift to me too.

Sixty-eight Lindy with a why's later I feel so lucky to have grown up professionally in this community. The night that the first issue went to print, I lay awake in bed, a knot in my tummy. I was so worried that everyone would hate my column, hate my editing style and turn up with pitchforks at my door the day their Chronicles arrived in their postboxes.

I have since learned a far more nuanced truth. You can't be for everyone, and that's ok. What a wonderful blessed relief it was to learn that here, between the pages of the newspaper that has been my

professional home for all this time. I also learned that you can't die from a typo — although they have been known to cause severe indigestion.

I found out that if you want to be a writer, you should just write. I don't stare at the empty page in horror on deadline day anymore. I just start writing! (still on deadline day). And that is directly because my job expected me to write a column every month. It didn't matter if I thought I had nothing to say. I *had* to write. And that has made all the difference to my personal discipline and my work.

Six years ago, I was gifted the chairman of a lifetime and I have grown profoundly and immeasurably under his guidance. I am grateful that he saw my leadership potential, before even I had seen it. I have watched his hand fall lighter and lighter upon my work — and like a child learning to ride a bicycle, hardly knew he wasn't holding me until I saw that I was flying.

I've been helping my eldest daughter with her Dvar Torah for her Bat Mitzvah these past few weeks and one of the lessons in it springs to mind as I type my last paragraphs as the editor of the Chronicle. There are no small moments, only moments in which we fail to recognise the incredible things happening around us every day.

I'd like to believe that I, along with the CJC team, have made as much as we could with every story that was gifted to us to chronicle in my time as editor. And so, in parting, I say a deep and sincere thank you to you — our CJC readers — for supporting us as we recorded our Cape Town communal history for generations to come.

CHAG KASHER V'SAMEACH!

Lindy Diamond has resigned as editor of the CJC and will be immigrating with her family in the near future. We are excited to announce that we have appointed Desrae Saacks as acting editor and wish her all the best as she takes on her new role.

liz Kaplan
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In memory of Ettie Buch z’l

24 Nov 1920 – 9 March 2021



Our beloved Ettie Buch, passed away in the early hours of the morning on 9 March 2021.

She was our longest standing active member and incredibly — at 100 years old — still raised funds for BZA WIZO until the very end.

Ettie became involved while she was still at school. There followed 72 years of work for our organisation as Chairman of BZA WIZO’s Strand, Fresnaye and Tikva branches over the years.

Twinkling eyes, a marvellous sense of humour and a sharp wit that never dulled over time, were her trademarks. A true Eishet Chayil, Ettie was an exceptional woman with a huge zest for life, her love for Israel and wholehearted involvement in that calling was complete.

It was such a privilege to know this



wonderful woman, who will be sorely missed by us all. We wish her family long life.

Baruch Dayan haEmet

The Chairman, Honorary Officers, Executive, Members and Staff of Bnoth Zion WIZO.

New acting editor

By Desrae Saacks

For many years I have worked on the sidelines of the Cape Jewish Chronicle, laying out and proofing the pages, sharing thoughts and opinions on its content, direction and format, and building an understanding and appreciation for what a truly precious resource it is. I am finally putting my money where my mouth is and stepping up to the role of editor.



contribution, and to reach as many as possible of the Jewish Cape Town community, in all its expressions of religious, social and political leanings. I would like to offer us all a window on the many remarkable organisations and individuals that make up this vibrant, active and diverse

community.

I look forward to the task at hand, made more challenging by the somewhat dystopian reality in which we have all lived the past year.

In the absence of the many physical gatherings that were available to us all in previous years, let the Chronicle be our meeting place. This is where we can share our thoughts, achievements, news and company with each other; and with posterity by way of the rich archive that past issues comprise, and that we continue to grow.

With COVID negatively impacting the budgets of both our commercial and organisational contributors, the Chronicle too has been impacted. (read more on page 7).

Looking forward to your engagement and support.

I really hope to make a constructive

Call for anecdotes and memories of Rabbi Desmond Maizels

Rabbi Desmond Maizels served as the community Rabbi of Camps Bay Hebrew Congregation from shortly before Shavuot in 1984 until 2013 and thereafter as the Rabbi Emeritus, remaining inextricably entrenched in the lives of all our members, both past and present.

The Camps Bay Shul community is deeply indebted to Rabbi Maizels for going above and beyond and we wish to pay tribute to his memory by compiling a book for the Maizels family which will be shared online with all he touched and inspired, not only in Camps Bay but throughout Cape Town, South Africa, Israel and worldwide.

We all have our special anecdotes and treasured memories of this remarkable man, so we would like to invite you to join us in contributing to this memorial tribute. While all would like to mention his extraordinary virtues and the extent of the roles he fulfilled, we would prefer to focus on the personal stories and experiences that, in themselves, will illustrate the depth of his character, be it in a serious or humorous vein.

While we will endeavour to include extracts from all written contributions, we might not be able to include all the photographs, yet will try to use as many as possible. So please send us your special photos and also please supply a date and context for your story and/or photos with names.

Emails to be sent to Judy Kaplan: admin@campsbayshul.co.za or Melanie Schneider: melanie@campsbayshul.co.za

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
5 March/21 Adar	Ki Tissa/Parah	6.15pm	6.59pm	7.50pm
12 March/28 Adar	Vayakahel/Pekude/Hachodesh	6.15pm	6.50pm	7.41pm
19 March/6 Nisan	Vayikra	6.15pm	6.41pm	7.31pm
26 March/13 Nisan	Tzav/Hagadol	6.15pm	6.31pm	
27 March/14 Nisan	Pesach 1st day		7.22pm	
28 March/15 Nisan	Pesach 2nd day		7.20pm	7.19pm
2 April/20 Nisan	Pesach 7th day		6.22pm	
3 April/21 Nisan	Pesach 8th day		7.12pm	7.11pm
9 April/27 Nisan	Shemini		6.13pm	7.03pm
16 April/4 Iyar	Tazria/Metzora		6.4pm	6.55pm
23 April/11 Iyar	Achre/Kedoshim		5.56pm	6.47pm
30 April/18 Iyar	Emor		5.48pm	6.40pm

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

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VOLUME 37 No 3
Peach Edition
APRIL 2020
www.cj.org.za

Krawitz awarded for decades of service to community

United Jewish Campaign Chairperson Alison Krawitz presents Philip Krawitz for outstanding service to the UJC at the Top Donors event held at the UJC on 17 March. Philip is currently the Chair of the UJC Board of Trustees and acts on many other communal bodies. He has been volunteering in Jewish communal organisations for over 25 years.

See pages 24 and 25 for more from the Top Donors event

Local entrepreneurs make a business of saving lives

Entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in Cape Town. In an emergency, every second counts. Born out of the emergency first responder community in Cape Town, the technology company RapidDeploy has captured the world's attention with its ability to reduce response times in an emergency and improve responder safety and situational awareness.

In 2012, Cape Town native Brett Meyerowitz, co-Founder and RapidDeploy CEO, started building his career in the UK, where he was the CTO for one of the world's largest online retailers. His first cloud-native retail brand in 2013 then became a volunteer paramedic for the Community Security Organisation (CSO) in Cape Town. His passion for technology and his growing awareness of the need for better emergency response times led him to create RapidDeploy.

See page 44 for more from BZA WIZO

World WIZO turns 100

WIZO recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. The organization has a long and proud history of providing support and services to the Jewish community in Cape Town and beyond.

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English R350 Zapper

VOLUME 37 No 4
MAY 2020
www.cj.org.za

Telling South African stories

Josh Rubin, one of the Cape Jewish Chronicle's two official photographers during our national lockdown has been devoted to photography. Now, as a full-time photographer and short documentary maker, Josh is dedicated to telling stories that often go unreported.

He has enjoyed his work for the Chronicle. "Since I left school I've been slightly out of touch with the Jewish community, so it was really nice to work with the Jewish community and to meet people within the community."

During lockdown, Josh covered many areas, such as the CBD as well as townships and the Cape Flats. He has been doing work with gangs since around the age of 17, so when he read about the gang issue in the Chronicle he jumped at the opportunity to cover stories in that sphere. He was then approached by Shy Nasser Biny who wanted footage regarding gangs on the Cape Flats. To Josh, sharing stories about gangs gives an opportunity to represent gang members in a way that is different to how they are portrayed in the media.

Josh notes, "This is a passion of mine. I like to do things that other people don't generally do. Most people think very badly about the gangs and I want to tell the story of why these guys are the way they are, and what brought them to this point. I've met many gangsters, and I've spent time with them setting up my camera just to build up relationships. I see people who have been brought up in a system that is completely broken, they're not just bad guys; they're people who are trying to survive."

#ReinventyourROAR: a tribute to the entertainment industry

Almost every industry has been affected by the coronavirus, and the entertainment and live events industry has been no exception. With many actors, technicians, directors and crew members being stranded during the time, successful show producer, creative director and stage director David Bloch, sought to support the industry by creating a tribute to those in the live events industry with a video titled "ROAR".

David lives in Johannesburg, but was born and bred in Cape Town and is a proud Hebraist. He has been in the entertainment industry for 21 years. He explains how he came up with the concept: "Our industry was the first to go and it will be the last to come back and I was feeling particularly down and demotivated. I was very overwhelmed by how many people were in distress both financially and mentally. I was talking to a friend of mine from overseas, and she was saying the reality might be able to work with me and I organically grew out of a conversation. I came across my track for Abar which I had produced for a show back in 2014, and it suddenly resonated with me. Through it, we reach out to all my friends and colleagues who I have worked with over the years. I wanted this to be something personal for myself as well as for my friends out there."

July 2020

Hegol, a volunteer food delivery application that was started in Israel, has just made its way to South African shores. It is a platform that connects volunteers with those in need of food, especially during lockdown.

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VOLUME 37 No 9
OCTOBER 2020
www.cj.org.za

Love of Judaism inspires one-of-a-kind artworks

Carole Smolnan, who hails from South Africa and now lives in London, works with a plethora of materials to create unique artworks, ranging from personalised chocolate, challah covers and Torah mantles. Her art is a reflection of her deep love for her faith and her community.

She is the wife of a rabbi and has been married for over 30 years. She has a son and a daughter. She is a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and has been married for over 30 years. She has a son and a daughter. She is a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and has been married for over 30 years.

October 2020

Counseling volunteers call for support of vulnerable learners. The UJC is seeking volunteers to provide support and guidance to students who are struggling during these difficult times.

JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 38 No 1
FEBRUARY 2021
www.cj.org.za

A tribute to Rabbi Desmond Maizels z"l

Our community lost a great Rabbi and mentor on 15 January when Rabbi Desmond Maizels passed away suddenly in Cape Town. He was a pillar of our community and his passing is a significant loss.

Rabbi Maizels was born in Cape Town and spent his childhood in Johannesburg. He was a member of the Cape Beth Din and the Board of the Cape Jewish Community. He was a devoted husband and father, and a dedicated leader in his community.

See page 11 for full tribute to Eric Samson

Remembering Eric Samson z"l

The Cape Town Jewish community was shocked and saddened by the news of the passing of Eric Samson. He was a beloved member of our community and his passing is a significant loss.

Eric was born in Cape Town and spent his childhood in Johannesburg. He was a member of the Cape Beth Din and the Board of the Cape Jewish Community. He was a devoted husband and father, and a dedicated leader in his community.

See page 11 for full tribute to Eric Samson

Friends of UJC 12th annual year-end event goes online

More than 150 guests logged in from around the globe on 29 December for the 12th annual celebration of the Friends of the UJC Cape Town Friends. The event was a success and a highlight of the summer season in Cape Town.

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Fundraising for food parcels

The 'Good Food Network' was due to launch this year. Anna Shovel, who is currently fundraising for food parcels, is a passionate advocate for those in need. She has been working on it for two years. It was to be an online marketplace giving small businesses and producers their own affordable online store. As COVID-19 approached, she was devastated that her big dream and all the work and investment would now be meaningless.

She soon realised, however, that there would be an opportunity to reinvent her work if she looked for the opportunity. Instead, the experience and technology platform she had developed for the 'Good Food Network' led to the launch of the 'Good Food Network' in its new form. It is a daily school meal for 10 million children with a daily school meal. For many, this is the only source of food received for the whole day.

May 2020

posters to assist the community. Ladies of Love (Ladies) started as a single song in 2014 by Daniel Dilliberto. Today, it has rapidly extended its reach and impact.

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VOLUME 37 No 7
AUGUST 2020
www.cj.org.za

Ladies of Love smashes sandwich-making world record

Over the last three-and-a-half months, Ladies of Love has extended their reach and impact. They have smashed a world record for sandwich-making, producing over 150,000 sandwiches for those in need.

The record was set on 15 August 2020. The team consisted of over 100 volunteers who worked tirelessly to produce the sandwiches. The record was broken in just over an hour. The team was led by the Ladies of Love team, who have been producing sandwiches for those in need since 2014.

August 2020

Women's longest running project, Kensington Jewish Centre has closed its doors. The centre, which has been a pillar of the community, is no longer operational due to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

THIS IS A WAKE UP CALL! WE CANNOT BE COMPLACENT!

THIS IS A WAKE UP CALL! WE CANNOT BE COMPLACENT!

VOLUME 37 No 10
NOVEMBER 2020
www.cj.org.za

SAZF appoints new Executive Director

The South African Zionist Federation (SAZIF) has appointed a new Executive Director. The new director will lead the organization in its efforts to support and uplift the Jewish community in South Africa.

The new director is a highly qualified professional with extensive experience in the field of community development and social work. He will be working closely with the Board of Directors and the members of the organization.

Life lessons from an advertising industry legend

Mike Abel is a man who needs little introduction. He is a highly successful advertising executive and a respected leader in his industry. His book, 'Life Lessons from an Advertising Industry Legend', offers valuable insights and advice for anyone looking to succeed in business and life.

The book is a collection of stories and lessons learned from Mike's years of experience in the advertising industry. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to learn from the best in the business.

Meet the Israelis: real people, real opinions, real dialogue

The Meet the Israelis programme aims to promote dialogue and foster genuine discussions with Israeli individuals. The programme provides a platform for Israelis to share their perspectives and experiences, fostering understanding and mutual respect.

The programme is a unique opportunity for South Africans to engage with Israelis and learn from their experiences. It is a chance to build bridges and promote peace and cooperation between the two nations.

Garden rejuvenation at Glendale

The Garden Rejuvenation project at Glendale is a community initiative aimed at improving the local environment and creating a more vibrant and welcoming space for the community. The project involves the planting of trees and the maintenance of existing gardens.

The project is a great example of community spirit and environmental stewardship. It is a chance for the community to come together and make a positive impact on the world around us.

November 2020

connecting people who is working very well. A bird's eye view of the beautiful Mogen David vegetable garden in Beaufort West.

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From photojournalist to fundraiser

Chad, who has been a photojournalist for many years, has recently transitioned into fundraising. He has been working on a project to support those in need, and his efforts have been highly successful.

Chad's passion for photography and his commitment to social justice have driven him to use his skills to make a positive impact on the world. He has been working on a project to support those in need, and his efforts have been highly successful.

WIZO Century City branch launches feeding scheme in Milnerton

WIZO recently announced the launch of a feeding scheme in Milnerton. The scheme provides food parcels for those in need, ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious and healthy food.

The scheme is a great example of community support and care. It is a chance for the community to come together and make a positive impact on the world around us.

JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 37 No 8
Rosh Hashanah 5781
SEPTEMBER 2020
www.cj.org.za

Wishing all our readers a healthy, happy and prosperous 5781

As we enter the Jewish New Year, we wish all our readers a healthy, happy, and prosperous 5781. We hope that this year will be a year of growth, success, and fulfillment for everyone.

We are grateful for the support and love of our readers, and we look forward to continuing to provide you with the latest news and stories from the Jewish community in Cape Town.

September 2020

Alumni Network. We are so proud to welcome this generation of Jewish Leaders into our Alumni. The network provides a platform for alumni to stay connected and support the community.

JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 37 No 11
DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021
www.cj.org.za

Home Is Where the Art Is - an exhibition by and for Capetonians at Zeitz MOCAA

The exhibition 'Home Is Where the Art Is' is a celebration of the diverse and vibrant art scene in Cape Town. It features works by local artists and is a must-see for anyone interested in contemporary art.

The exhibition is a great example of community support and artistic excellence. It is a chance for the community to come together and appreciate the talents of our local artists.

Impactful story of Progressive Jewry told in new SAJIM exhibition

The new SAJIM exhibition tells the story of Progressive Jewry in South Africa. It explores the challenges and triumphs of the Progressive Jewish movement and its impact on the community.

The exhibition is a powerful and inspiring story that is a must-see for anyone interested in the history and future of the Jewish community in South Africa.

December 2020 / January 2021

900 Followers. 5% Other Readers by Region. 55-64 19% 35-44 16% 25-34 18% 18-24 25%

The challenges facing our Chronicle

By Lindy Diamond

In March 2020, as we faced a world pandemic and strict lockdowns, we had to make the very difficult decision to cancel the print run of the Chronicle for the first time in 36 years.

From that Pesach edition last year, and for the 11 issues that followed, the Chronicle has reached our community in digital format through our impressive website and through our extremely dynamic presence on Facebook and Instagram. The front covers of these issues are featured on page 6, and in the digital issue of the Chronicle each PDF can be accessed by clicking on these front cover images. You can also go onto our website and click on the archive to read any of the past issues you may have missed.

Financial pressure and a switch to digital

During this very critical and challenging year, like many other print publications, we were unable to continue using the business model that had worked for decades before – our commercial advertisers were taking a hard financial knock and many were forced to withdraw their advertisements. Our communal organisations were obliged to cut their spends in order to get through the year and so reduced or cancelled their monthly bookings. Just the cost of printing and posting each Chronicle to our 5000 households, excluding all our fixed monthly costs, is about R20 per unit and when our contributors withdrew, we were left with no choice but to stop the hard copy to save the organisation.

Many of you, our readers, embraced the new digital format. We now average 3000 downloads per month of the Chronicle PDF and over 4500 website visitors. We have an online product of which we can be proud.

However, we know that there are readers who are unable to access our paper digitally. There are also many readers of all ages who just love the print copy. You like to let it 'live' in your homes, ready to be picked up and enjoyed by your whole family. You like to read it on Shabbat and chaggim, and even during loadshedding!

The way forward

Having consulted community leadership we have decided to strive to have at least three print issues a year. We are hoping to print and post hard copies of the Chronicle to our 5000 households for Pesach, Rosh Hashana and Channukah – this issue being the first.

But this will require buy-in from community organisations, commercial advertisers and you, dear community member. We would really value your response to receiving this print edition in your home. We would also appreciate, indeed need, your financial support by payment of your annual subscription – perhaps even sponsoring a subscription for someone who cannot afford it. By doing so, you will help keep the Chronicle, both digital and print, alive.

An archive of the CT Jewish community

A community leader recently commented "If the Chronicle didn't exist we would have to create it!"

We are hoping to print and post hard copies of the Chronicle to our 5000 households for Pesach, Rosh Hashana and Channukah

Where else can you get a snapshot of the broad spectrum of our amazing communal organisations in one place?

Our role is unique. We are not a newspaper – we do not cover fast moving news but rather create a record or time capsule of what this community looked like, in any month of any year, going back to 1984.

To this end we are busy creating a full digital archive, spanning the entire history of the Chronicle, accessible from anywhere in the world, so that wherever you are you can use the Chronicle as a tool to gain insight into what the community looked like at any given time. Reading old Chronicles is fascinating. The shelf-life of our stories is impressive and you can track the changing community through the articles and faces contained in each issue.

I am very proud to have been a small part of this invaluable repository – in print and digital – and I hope to be a proud reader of what has happened in our vibrant Jewish community at the tip of Africa for many years to come.

“Pesach, the festival of Jewish freedom, will again be celebrated under unnatural and isolating conditions. The UHS thanks the Cape Jewish Chronicle for the excellent work it does in keeping our community connected”
Matthew Gruszd, Chairperson United Herzlia Schools Governing Body

“Whilst comprising an extraordinary rich array of over 50 organisations, each playing an important and significant role, our relatively small community displays a cohesiveness which is envied by many in the Jewish world.
It was this 'sense of community' which initially gave birth to the Cape Jewish Chronicle in 1984. Thirty-six years later, the CJC is still fulfilling its mission.
I am thrilled that, after the past very challenging and difficult year, we once again are able to enjoy a printed edition of 'our Chronicle'.
Myra Osrin, Founder of the Cape Jewish Chronicle

“This is the most incredible resource available to ourselves and to our affiliates to showcase the incredible work that is done in our community.
Just as we exited the desert after 40 years of wandering, we will slowly emerge from a year of various levels of lockdown. My hope is that when we return to full normality we take every opportunity presented by our community; attend the functions, lend a hand at the many institutions and grass roots organisations which are our affiliates and become involved.”
Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies

“The Chronicle is an important record showcasing the essential work of the SAZF in connecting our community to Israel. It provides an educational forum on important Israeli political, cultural and innovation advances, and serves as a platform for us to feature our various partners and affiliates”
Karen Marsden, Chairperson South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council)

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Stronger together

By Stuart Diamond, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

The 2019 Springbok Rugby World Cup team played and united the country under the StrongerTogether hashtag. It was, as Siya Kolisi said, a campaign aimed at the power of each South African to make this country a more cohesive whole.

As I move into my final days as the Executive Director of the Cape SAJBD, I wonder how we can get our Jewish community to be inspired by #StrongerTogether.

We need to remember that we are indeed stronger together. I have often heard that in good times, Jews forget about unity and look for points of division. Let us not spend our time hoping for the times of crisis that draw us closer together. The truth is that the outside world sees us as Jews, as a collective. It should not take times of personal attack — like BDS campaigns, antisemitism or COVID-19 — for us to practice communal unity.

Cape Town is blessed to have a full bouquet of communal services throughout the sectors, led by the most inspirational and dedicated directors. However, it is you — the members of the Cape Town community — that make it truly special and unique and I believe each Jew can contribute and leave their unique stamp on this community, while still being a part of the whole.

I need to acknowledge the talent of leadership that exists in the professional communal arena and thank all my colleagues for their passion, dedication and sound

advice during my time as Executive Director.

To the Cape Council — just-past and current — and their executives,

thank you for allowing me to follow my passion and take you on a journey with me. A special thank you must go to my two chairpersons, Rael Kaimowitz and Tzvi Brivik. Both offered me experienced sounding boards, wisdom and the precious gifts of their time and I am a better leader because of their leadership.

To my professional team — Gwynne, Jodi, Mathilde and Tyla — thank you for your continued support and the professional manner in which you serve.

I would like to thank my daughters Ariella, Aerin and Ava for forgiving my absences so that I could fulfil this role to the fullest potential and my wife Lindy for being my teammate. Her support has enabled me to fulfil this demanding but rewarding post and have a full life to return to at the end of each day.

It has been my honour not only to work for the Cape SAJBD but to serve you — our Jewish community — so thank you. To be able to hear your unique stories first-hand as I immersed myself in my role has been life-changing. Cape Jewry is unique. You are each strands of thread that when woven together makes a beautiful tapestry. Remember, as we chart the next swathe of uncharted waters, that we are and will always be #StrongerTogether.



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Relationships build a strong organisation

By Tzvi Brivik

The Cape SAJBD does incredible work for the community. Through the events in which it participates, we breed diplomatic channels and exercise quiet diplomacy.

Recently we were involved in a United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week event celebrating our interfaith community and relationships, which we are privileged to have. In the interfaith space, Gwynne Robins has done incredible work to ensure we deliver on our constitutional mandate of promoting and engendering harmony and relationships with other communities.

As an executive director, Stuart Diamond shared what is an extensive network in the Western Cape that facilitated the opening of doors, so we could have meetings set with various key role players, both in provincial government and key institutions. He also had the benefit of historical relationships through the lay leadership of the current Cape SAJBD members, as well as past members.

It is being able to function so effectively and respond so rapidly that makes our organisation the premier organisation.

It is therefore with great sadness that, in the last month, we announced the departure of Stuart from the organisation. Stuart has been our executive director for close to three years and almost everyone reading this newspaper would have had some involvement with him or some communication from him. He has worked tirelessly for this organisation and the benefit of our community.

Many may not appreciate that the work of the Cape SAJBD is not your typical 9 to 5 job; in fact, we have many affiliates with many different interests, we participate in and create so many events during a year, and video calls for work often continue late into the night, sometimes over weekends. Much can be said about Stuart's diplomacy in his relationships with members of our community and affiliates, as well as those relationships with other senior leaders outside of our community.

At the end of the day, the continuity of these relationships relies on people — the way that we interact with people, the words we use with people — and Stuart understood that well.

The Cape SAJBD has numerous administrative roles which it fulfils by thoughtful leadership and accountability, also on behalf of other organisations such as the COVID-19 Risk Committee, which requires great attention to detail. Stuart set a beautiful example with his accountability background, leading professionals, senior members of our community, and ordinary persons to all express their love, loss and gratitude for the reliable service he has done for this community, together with his wife, Lindy.

We wish Stuart the best of luck with his new ventures. #WordsMatter, and so we say, "Todah rabah u'lehitraot nitracha bekarov!"



CHAG PESACH SAMVEACH

Wishing you and your family peace, prosperity and all the joys of Pesach

— THE CAPE SAJBD TEAM





Celebrating 25 years of our constitution

by Tyla Dallas

This year marks the 25th anniversary of our Constitution and our young democracy.

Whilst this is indeed a time for us to celebrate — with our rights to human dignity, equality, freedom of religion, belief and opinion firmly entrenched — the current dispensation leaves much to be desired.

Government corruption at the highest level, poor service delivery, unemployment, poverty, lack of housing and the high levels of crime in South Africa have created the perfect climate for animosity and discrimination to fester — and oh, how it has — manifesting as racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, xenophobia, and homophobia, and permeating throughout our society.

The socio-economic and political instability that has marked South Africa for decades has only been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and has led to increases in violence as, desperate for someone to blame, race turns against race, religion against religion, and so forth.

However, it is not all doom and gloom, and we should seek solace in the many 'highs' this

Constitution has afforded us. We have had five free and fair general elections, we have an independent judiciary who recognise and uphold constitutional supremacy, we have freedom of the press, and we have independent trade unions who protect and support our labour force.

[Our constitution] is the culmination of the hard and long struggle our people faced for freedom, justice and equality, and should be celebrated.

Indeed, our Constitution is something to be proud of and is of world-class quality. It is the culmination of the hard and long struggle our people faced for freedom, justice and equality, and should be celebrated. To find out more about the making and working of our Constitution, and its important role today, visit the online exhibition and archive *Our Struggle Our Freedom Our Constitution*, launched by the Constitution Hill Trust at www.ourconstitution.constitutionhill.org.za.

In honour of the day the Constitutional Assembly adopted the Constitution, the anniversary of

the Sharpeville Massacre (which is now Human Rights Day), and the United Nations' Day of Observance for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, we will be hosting a webinar from 19:00 to 20:30 on 18 March, titled '25 Years of Our Constitution: A Jewish Perspective'.

We have invited two distinguished retired judges, Judge Albie Sachs and Judge Dennis Davis, to discuss the highs and lows over the last 25 years under this Constitution, reflect on the lessons learnt, and give their educated predictions for the next 25 years.

Judge Dennis was a Technical Advisor to the Constitutional Assembly where the negotiations for South Africa's interim and final constitutions were formulated and concluded.

Judge Albie played a significant role in important legal issues arising in the ANC during Apartheid and was a member of the Constitutional Committee charged with drafting a charter for a new non-racial state. He was pivotal in the inclusion of a Bill of Rights and an independent judiciary in this new Constitution and was appointed a justice on the first bench of the Constitutional Court of South Africa by Nelson Mandela in 1994.

'25 Years of Our Constitution: A Jewish Perspective' will take place from 19:00 to 20:30 on 18 March. To register for this event, email Jodi at sajbd2@ctjc.co.za

**25 YEARS
OF OUR
CONSTITUTION**

A Jewish Perspective

18 MARCH 2021

19:00-20:30

with



**Advocate
Anton Katz SC**



**Judge
Albie Sachs**



**Judge
Dennis Davis**

*if you've missed this fantastic event,
please email jodi at sajbd2@ctjc.co.za
for a link to watch*

Growing Glendale's edible garden on Tu Bishvat

by Mathilde Myburgh

On Thursday 28 January, weeks of planning and selection culminated in the planting of fruit trees in Glendale Home's all-new garden, in celebration of Tu Bishvat.

Tu Bishvat is celebrated on the 15th day of the Hebrew month Shevat annually, and is also called *Rosh HaShanah La'llanot*, which literally translates to 'New Year of the Trees'. The day is often celebrated as a Jewish arbour day, focusing on ecological awareness. Last year, the Cape SAJBD celebrated by running an awareness programme at Holy Cross RC Primary School in District Six and planting four fruit trees.

This year, we donated two pomegranate trees, two lemon trees and two Williams pear trees to Glendale Home, towards its edible garden project. Ben Getz from Urban Harvest, who designed

and landscaped the Magen David-shaped edible garden with his crew, planted the trees close by. In attendance were Vice Chair Adrienne Jacobson and Executive Director Stuart Diamond, alongside Glendale Home Chair Judith Cohen, Board Member Rael Koping who manages its Wellness and Care Portfolio, Executive Director Shelly Korn, and Executive Director of the United Jewish Campaign, Barry Levitt.

Residents enjoyed a programme starting at 09:30 for tree planting, followed by a delicious lunch and an afternoon Tu Bishvat Seder with sensory activities around the theme, 'Don't judge a book by its cover.'

"The residents had such a great time, and the trees are so beautiful. They make a great addition to Glendale's new orchard. Thank you so much for the generous donation," Daphne Avinir, operations manager at Glendale said.

Stuart Diamond encourages the community to get involved with the ongoing edible garden project at Glendale Home.

"If anyone is willing and able to donate, they do have space for a further three fruit trees and would

love to install a wooden bench or two in the garden."

Anyone interested in contributing to the edible garden can get in touch with Glendale Home on 021 712 0270 or via email to office@glendalehome.co.za



Ben Getz and staff from Urban Harvest plant fruit trees



Ben Getz waters a newly-planted sapling



Six fruit trees in total were planted: two pomegranate trees, two lemon trees and two Williams pear trees



Judith Cohen, Adrienne Jacobson, Rael Koping, Shelly Korn, Barry Levitt and Stuart Diamond from Glendale Home, the UJC and the Cape SAJBD respectively, attended the event



Urban Harvest staffers show off the Magen David-shaped edible garden.



The Board and Holocaust compensation

by Gwynne Robins

In 1945, the war ended and Jews started to emerge from the camps, from the forests and hiding.

They had lost their families, homes, businesses and possessions, and their bank accounts had been confiscated. Finally, although a 1951 survey had shown that only 5% of West Germans admitted feeling 'guilty' towards Jews, their Chancellor Konrad Adenauer admitted that "unspeakable crimes" had been committed in their names, and they were willing to compensate by paying reparations. Nahum Goldmann, World Jewish Congress president, established the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany (Claims Conference) to negotiate a programme of indemnification to the Jewish people caused by Germany through the Holocaust.

At that time, Dr Erwin Spiro, a former judge in Germany who had settled in Cape Town in 1936 after being denied the right to work because he was Jewish, threw himself into the cause of obtaining financial compensation for our survivors, regarding it as a moral obligation. Ever since, assisting survivors with Holocaust compensation has been an important function of the Cape SAJBD.

This was particularly problematic last year because of COVID-19. Survivors are expected to provide the Claims Conference annual proof that they are still alive. In mid-November, they started to receive life certificates meant to have been posted to the German Claims Conference postbox by the end of October. But the deadline had passed, the post office would not accept post to Germany, courier companies would not deliver to a post box and physically-compromised seniors were reluctant to visit the post office or a commissioner of oaths.

After many emails to the New York office and a phone call to Frankfurt, it was finally agreed that an exception would be made because of COVID-19, the forms could be emailed, the German address was a mistake, and the deadline was extended to the end of November. Great relief all round.

Apart from the *Wiedergutmachung* (the first Holocaust compensation pensions), more programmes have

become available and regulations relaxed, as the number of survivors decreased — self-interest playing a larger role than guilt in many.

When German industries like Siemens, BMW, Volkswagen and Opel, keen to extend into America, became confronted with numerous class action lawsuits, they formed a foundation called Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future in 1999 to pay slave and forced labourers on condition they promised not to sue them. These forms were lengthy and complicated and it took time to complete. As most survivors had been in ghettos and camps and were enslaved, over 140 000 Jewish survivors from more than 25 countries had to be paid, and I received many phone calls: "Why has Mrs X been paid, and I haven't?" until eventually they all received the payment.

Then Jewish groups started investigating the money deposited in Swiss banks and insurance companies by Jews who were later murdered. The Swiss banks refused to release the money without proof of death. Unfortunately, Auschwitz did not provide death certificates. The efforts to undermine their secrecy laws brought much antisemitism to the fore in Switzerland, but in the end, enough evidence was uncovered through an international commission under former US Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. It meant that the banks were forced to provide the details of thousands and thousands of unclaimed dormant accounts, the names could have filled two phone books. People were invited to come into our office to go through them, or I would do so for them. Some hopeful claimants phoned every few days as they remembered the names of other family members who might have invested money.

As the numbers of survivors shrank, previously rejected applications from Holocaust survivors for "Ghetto Pension" payments were re-evaluated, following three court decisions, and we received names of survivors, not all of whom we knew. One lived in the Strand and we had no address. I contacted Broth Zion Association and the synagogue until someone was found who knew who she was and accosted the startled woman on the beach.

Another had not been entitled to

compensation because it did not apply in countries, like Greece, occupied by Germany for less than eighteen months — even though her father had been deported and she had been permanently injured by a blow from a Gestapo rifle butt. But she had moved. I knew she had joined the Milnerton Jewish Seniors — a member recalled that she had gone to her daughter on the Isle of Man. The Jewish community there said she had moved to London. The Board of Deputies of British Jews in London gave me the details of two survivor organisations. One had not heard of her, one said she had moved to Brighton. The Jewish community in Brighton traced her to a seniors' home. I contacted the delighted social worker who went to the home to tell her news — but the survivor had died two weeks earlier!

New compensation programmes

still arise, a Hardship fund, a child survivor fund, a Ghetto Pension, one for the 100 000 victims sent on Dutch trains to death camps, others for Austrian victims, a Hungarian fund, a French "Compensation of Victims of Spoliation Resulting from Anti-Semitic Legislation in Force". As each new programme arises, we advertise it through the Cape Jewish Chronicle and assist survivors with their queries.

Nothing can compensate for the trauma, the loss of families and friends, for the horrors, starvation and fear, but if these funds can add a little dignity, a little comfort, it is better than nothing.

Gwynne Robins has historically aided community members with Holocaust Compensation queries and concerns. If you have a query, contact her on sajbd1@ctjc.co.za

One of our key areas of involvement is **Human Rights**. We work to combat antisemitism and other forms of racism and hate speech, to ensure respect for the diversity of our community so that community members can practise their religion or secularity in any way they choose, without being unfairly disadvantaged.





Where interfaith work and social justice intersect, with Rev Pippa Jones

by Gwynne Robins

We can always benefit from being exposed to ideas from outsiders.

Such was the experience of members of the Cape SAJBD's Interfaith and Intercommunity subcommittee and guests from Ikamva Labantu, Healing of the Memories and Mensch when we attended a Zoom meeting with Rev Pippa Jones.

She was visiting Cape Town as an intern for the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative as part of her Master's thesis on Building Inter-Religious Relations through the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. Pippa was collecting material for her thesis on how interfaith activity could help social justice and was working under Iman Dr Rashied Omar.

"9/11 changed me", she told them. She had been working in New York and was near the Twin Towers when the planes struck and she made a vow that she wanted to dedicate the rest of her life being part of the answer by working in social activism.

She had taught English in England, Prague, Vietnam, Sydney and Melbourne and returned to university to do another degree in comparative religions, qualified to be an interfaith minister and started to work with indigenous people.

In Australia, she found that most people had no idea of the history of the dispossession of the Aborigines. "Australia Day, which marks British colonisation, should really be Invasion Day."

Rev Jones believes there is no chance of healing if people do not realise their complicity and she found many similarities in South Africa which were suffering from a broken, crushed and confused identity. In trying to become an agent of healing, one should avoid well-meaningness. Instead of telling people what one wanted to do for them, one should rather ask what they needed.

Loret Loumouamou, the Africa Coordinator from the Institute for Healing of Memories, who had worked all over Africa, explained that most people had no knowledge of

their history, and even the language they spoke was usually the language of the foreign colonist.

Gina Flash pointed out there were big challenges in South Africa and the Jewish community struggled with being Jews and being South Africans with a tension between doing things the religious way or the way society did. There was too much guilt and too much history and the community needed a sense of responsibility towards others.

Ann Harris remarked that coming from England, she often crawled with embarrassment and shame at British colonial history. The small Jewish community often forgot that their sacred sources were quite clear about their duties towards the other.

Pippa wrote later that, "It had been a privilege to sit in everyone's company and hear their stories, to learn a little of who they were and what they did in service. I was very moved. I am not Jewish but most of the important people in my life are; my guiding lights, my teachers, my friends and colleagues. So, I resonate on a heart

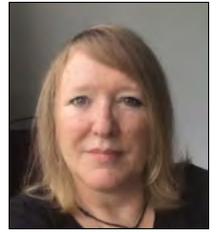
and soul level."

More on Rev Pippa Jones:

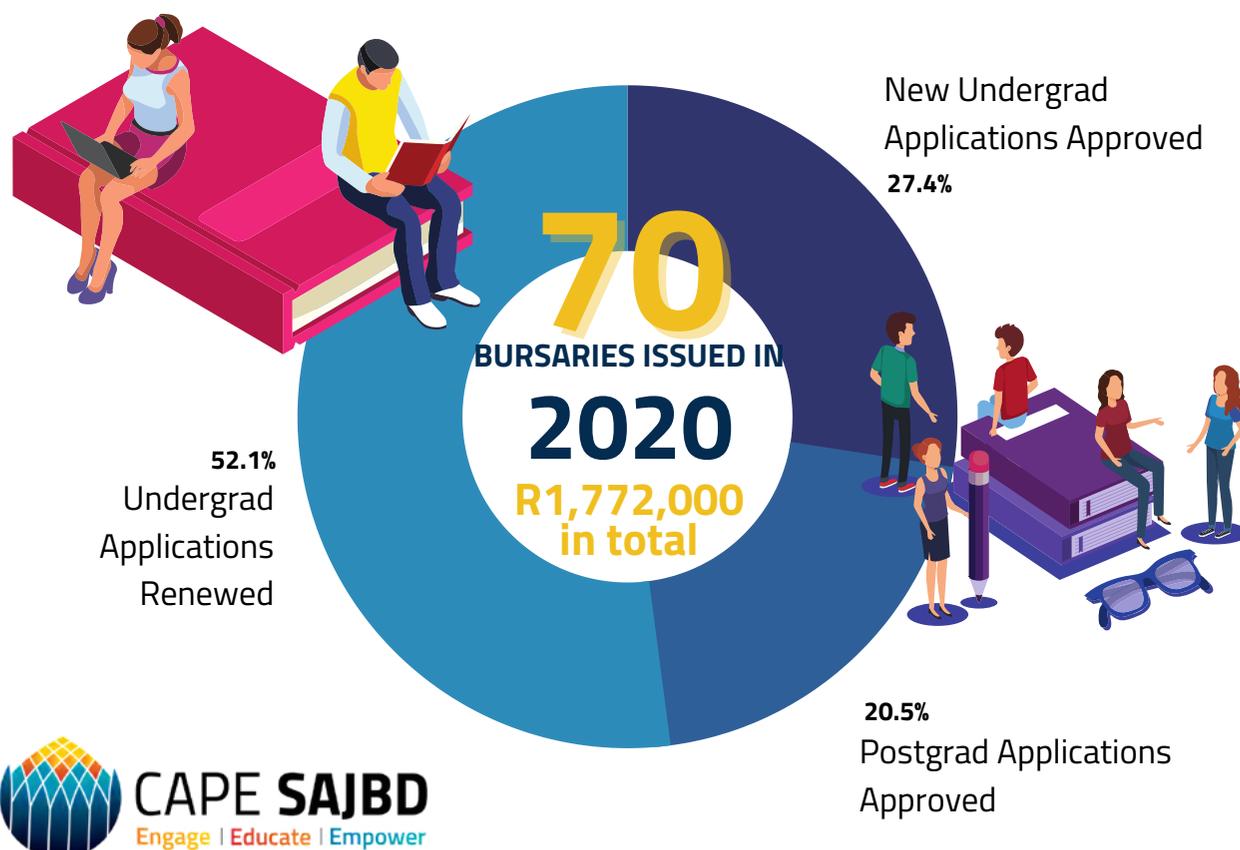
Rev Jones is on the board of trustees at the One Spirit Learning Alliance.

She is a teacher and educator by profession (specialising in Adult Education), an Interfaith minister and Disaster Chaplain. She is a graduate of One Spirit Interfaith Seminary in New York and was ordained in 2012. Pippa completed a Bachelors of Theology with a Major in Comparative Religious Studies at the Australian Catholic University (ACU). Additionally, together with three fellow One Spirit graduates, she is the co-founder and co-leader of Sydney Sacred Centre.

Pippa is currently in the Netherlands with a view to blending her love of and expertise in education with her passion for a global perspective and all things Interfaith.



Rev Pippa Jones



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Prospects, community building and antisemitism for Wellington's Jewish immigrants

by Gwynne Robins

A town 72km from Cape Town, on the banks of a river (the Krommerivier) in an agricultural centre growing deciduous fruit, wine and table grapes, and making brandy and whisky, was bound to be a magnet for Eastern European Jews, who were used to being the economic link between farmer and market. So it is not surprising that there was already a sizeable community by the 1890s with the Friedman, Garb, Israelson, Kaminer, Katzeff, Kesler, Saacks and Van Gelderen families.



Wellington Independent Friendly Society Hall

Many served in the South African War and 11 of them attended a Jewish thanksgiving ceremony to celebrate the Peace of Vereeniging in 1902 — Corporal Herman, Lance Corporal Canin and Privates Becker, Cohen, I and C Goldstein, Jaffe, Jesner, Kowarski, Selinsky and Watner.

The Wellington Jews were sufficiently aware of the importance of history to preserve their minute books from 1902 to the late 1920s, so we have the minutes of their first meeting chaired by Mr Boas in Mr I Garb's home in 1902 to discuss forming a congregation. They agreed to rent two rooms — one to be used for the forthcoming high Holy Day services, the other as an office, with the Wellington Zionist Society sharing the office costs (Mr Boas was its president). They drafted rules, bought chairs and furniture, agreed to charge 2/6d (two shillings and sixpence, around R200 in today's terms) monthly for membership and elected Charles Goldstein president. The following year, with a donation from the Paarl Congregation, they

bought land for a synagogue with Mr Boas chairing a building committee. Mr B Swartz built an ark and they bought a Sefer Torah for £12/10s (12 pounds and ten shillings, around R20,000 in today's terms). In 1903, they asked the Council for land for a cemetery and until this was finally granted in 1906, they used the Paarl Cemetery.

There was a recession after the end of the South African War when the British troops left and the Witwatersrand refugees returned home, and it took time before they could afford to build a synagogue. In the meantime, when they outgrew the room, they hired the Friendly Society Hall from 1916 — the Independent Friendly Society was formed in 1894 as a community service organisation. Some of their neighbours were not friendly and would throw stones on the roof while they were praying inside or would put dead birds outside.

This unfriendly behaviour hastened their decision to go ahead and build a synagogue of their own and Isaiah Goldstein, a well-to-do mineral water manufacturer, laid the foundation stone on 24 August 1921. At that time, the community consisted of 50-60 families who paid membership fees ranging from 7/6d to one guinea per month (between R220 and R620 in today's terms).



Wellington Shul and Rabbi's House

The synagogue which seated 80 in the men's section was opened with a ceremony the following year. It would be difficult to throw stones onto its roof. The Cape SAJBD has in its collection the synagogue door latch key made in America presented on that occasion with an inscription, "Wellington Heb Cong, presented 23 August 1922."

David Michalowsky donated a chandelier and the bimah was

provided by the Jewish Ladies Benevolent Society which held annual balls to raise money, which they also used to pay for land on which to construct a Jewish Communal Hall (1924) and to bring down the overdraft. The synagogue and rabbi's house was on the corner of Milner and Jan van Riebeeck Streets.

Unfriendly behaviour continued as jealousy at the success of Jews in this predominantly Afrikaans town increased. In 1925, the Town Council refused to grant a liquor license to a Jew or anyone not of European descent. The late 1920s and early 1930s were difficult years economically with a worldwide depression, soaring unemployment and widespread poverty leading to what was called a "Poor White problem", particularly in rural areas — with Jews as convenient scapegoats.



Wellington Diemersfontein Guest House

In 1934, the antisemitic Greyshirt movement held a meeting in the Wellington Town Hall and it provided the Wellington Economic Press with material for an article on "Luther and the Jewish evil" as well as an extract from Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. In 1935, the Gentile Protection League held a meeting in Wellington and formed a Wellington branch to protect the Christian people. There was also an active Wellington Afrikaner Broederbond to protect the Afrikaans people, and although only two of its members were also members of the antisemitic Ossewabrandwag (OB), after a debate, they agreed that the whole branch should support the OB.

Research into the minutes of the Wellington Afrikaner Broederbond, 1937-1994, shows much hostility to its Jewish citizens. The researcher Johan Zaaiman remarks that before 1937, Jews dominated the local



Wellington Shul and Rabbi's House

economy and this tendency became more marked after 1937 when there was an influx of Jewish people who had fled Nazi Germany. As the 1937 Aliens Act stopped the immigration of German Jews, and although only about 6,500 found refuge in South Africa, Wellington is unlikely to have had such an influx. Rather, the comments seem to indicate Zaaiman's own bias.

In 1942, Woolworths' founder, German-born Max Sonnenberg, bought the Diemersfontein fruit farm in Wellington as a family retreat and this might be the source of Zaaiman's belief, as Sonnenberg campaigned heavily to resettle several thousand German Jews in South Africa in the 1930s. Diemersfontein has remained in the Sonnenberg family and became a top wine farm under his grandson David, with the house serving as a guest house situated in magnificent gardens.

In 1941, the Wellington Hebrew Congregation became affiliated to the SAJBD which was actively fighting antisemitism. In 1942, the house adjoining the synagogue was purchased for the rabbi and in 1945, another property was acquired to convert into a communal hall and Hebrew School.

After the war in 1946, the Broederbond decided that it was clear that Jews were running a growing number of local businesses and they should open an Afrikaner cooperative to counter it — one was opened without the Broederbond's involvement.



Wellington Synagogue door latch key

continues on page 15



continues from page 14

Prospects, community building and antisemitism for Wellington's Jewish immigrants

What were the Jews running? In 1947, Jews owned eight farms, two shoe factories, a blanket factory, a fertiliser factory, dried fruit, canning and dehydrating plants. David Michalowsky ran the Railway Hotel and Isaac Weintraub the Commercial Hotel and, earlier, the Zilbergs had run the Masonic Hotel. Jews were also hawkers, general dealers, shopkeepers, jewellers, butchers, barbers, bakers, outfitters, doctors, attorneys, etc.

In 1953, the SAJBD held a regional conference in Wellington with representatives from Worcester and Paarl attending. Antisemitism went into decline after the war, with Afrikaner Nationalism now triumphant and the council elected Philip Sarembock as mayor from 1957 to 1960, and again from 1975 to 1978.

By 1966, the community was becoming concerned by their declining numbers and no new residents had moved into the town. Six years later, they celebrated their golden anniversary with a mincha service where Rabbi Lapin from Cape Town giving a sermon, and they approached the Cape SAJBD to increase its subsidy from R50 to R60 a month, as their expenditure exceeded their income. In 1977, the Cape SAJBD held a meeting in Worcester attended by delegates from Wellington to promote closer cooperation because of declining numbers living in the country communities.

Three years later, only 45 Jews remained in Wellington. The synagogue was closed in 1982, most of the remaining nine Jewish families in the town joined the Paarl congregation. The synagogue was sold to the Apostolic Church and the front now incorporates both the Magen David and a cross. The proceeds of the sale went to communal organisations, the Sefer Torah to Herzlia school and a Havdalah bessamin box to the Milnerton Synagogue.

By 2002, there were only three Jewish families left in Wellington. The upkeep of the cemetery was always a concern, and in the 1960s they appealed to former members for contributions. It is presently maintained by the municipality.

Unfortunately, antisemitism is still alive and well in Wellington, and in December 2018 most of the 63 graves in the Jewish Cemetery had been damaged, many of the tombstones were broken in half, and some had been smashed into even smaller fragments.

"It's greatly upsetting, especially if it's your family member's final resting place", Cape SAJBD Executive Director Stuart Diamond said.

The Board together with members from Paarl and Wellington met with local government to discuss the repair work, and the fundraising that would be needed. They owe a debt of gratitude to Mark Kaufman and other members of the Paarl Jewish Community who have put a great deal of time and energy into the Wellington Cemetery restoration project.

According to Mark Kaufman, the new fence had been cut and stolen, people entered the Tahara house through the roof and ransacked the building, stealing a toilet and the beautiful wooden doors at the back. The Drakenstein Local Municipality has agreed to erect a boundary wall at the cemetery after the attack.

The Board of Deputies has now ensured that the tombstones, instead of being laid upright, have been placed at a slight angle in a bed of concrete, minimising chances of vandalism in the future. Mr Diamond has learnt that the tradition of putting headstones upright was brought from Eastern Europe, as flat stones would be covered by snow. The Cape SAJBD has also created a cemetery vandalism WhatsApp group together with the Community Security Organisation (CSO).

Much of the information in this article comes from Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities, Volume II, researched by the South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth and Johan Zaaiman's The local role of a Wellington Afrikaner Broederbond branch, 1937-1994, Historia vol.55 n.2, published in Durban in November 2010.

The Country Communities subcommittee of the Cape SAJBD looks after the cemeteries of the defunct country communities. For queries, contact stuart@ctjc.co.za

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Consider This

Pesach – halachah and aggadah: questions and answers



By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani

When asked, many Jews respond that Pesach is their favourite festival.

Pesach is a festival that is primarily celebrated at home and not in synagogue. The seder on the first night of Pesach (many have sederim on the first and second nights) is an occasion to which everyone looks forward. It is replete with ritual, and vigorous discussion and debate is encouraged. Indeed the ritual begins days before as we clean our homes ridding ourselves of any *chametz*, culminating in the ritual of *bedikat chametz* on the evening before Erev Pesach. After the preliminary blessings and the ritual of *Yachatz* (dividing the middle matzah), the relaying of the story of Passover begins with the *Arba Kushyot* (the Four Questions) asked by children. Not only is this ritual a chance for the younger members of our household to shine, but it also teaches a profound lesson: Judaism encourages critical analysis of, and debate about, life, our sacred texts and even God.

The Haggadah provides guidance on how to answer questions posed by four different kinds of children: the wise child, the wicked child, the simple child, and the child who does not know how to ask. While answers are provided by the liturgy to the question of the meaning of Passover observance, the questions posed by the *Ma Nishtana* formulation are not directly answered. Questions are more important than answers. An answer is definitive and represents one view while questions are open ended and allow for different interpretations and understandings. While many may argue that not providing definitive answers will lead to religious anarchy, Judaism has always been a religion and culture of openness and debate, one only has to study the Talmud and Midrash.

Halachah certainly requires definitive answers and the rabbinic writings illustrate the democratic nature of the legal process. Debates and discussions are meticulously recorded, and the final answer stated is that of the majority. What is fascinating, however, is the fact that the redactors of the Mishnah and Talmud chose to include the minority opinions as well. The decision not to ignore divergent opinions is illuminating and unique in the history of religion. I like to think that the decision to document divergent voices was made with a deliberate eye to the future. Even though halachah has to be definitive, the sages recognised the dynamism of life and the world and understood that different times and circumstances need different solutions. Acknowledging opposing views leaves the answers given by halachah slightly ajar, allowing for new answers when times and circumstances require new understanding.

It is for this reason that aggadah (stories, anecdotes, parables and arch narratives) is as equally important as halachah for a Jewish understanding of life, the world, Torah and God. The narratives of the Torah and the rest of the Tanach and the midrashim of the rabbinic and medieval periods and the modern era assist us in understanding the motivation and thought processes of our scholars and sages. This rich collection of tales and philosophical insights supplement the halachah that governs our everyday lives in this physical, quantifiable world. The aggadah, both classic and modern, allows us to question and to search. Just as halachah guides us in our relationship with God as we go about our daily, pragmatic lives, so aggadah is a vehicle for our spiritual connection to our Creator. This beautiful synchronisation between Jewish law and Jewish lore is clearly illustrated in the Pesach Haggadah that combines midrash and halachah and leaves room for discussion as we retell and re-enact the story of *Y'Tziat Mitzrayim*, “the Exodus from Egypt”.

Wishing you Chag Kosher v'Sameach

Purim fun at Temple Israel

We went all out to celebrate Purim this year!

We packed and delivered *Mishloach Manot*, donating a portion of the proceeds to Souper Troopers to fulfil the mitzvah of *Matanot La'evyonim*. We made delicious cocktails, had a full egalitarian Megilah reading and of course performed our very own Purimalema song!



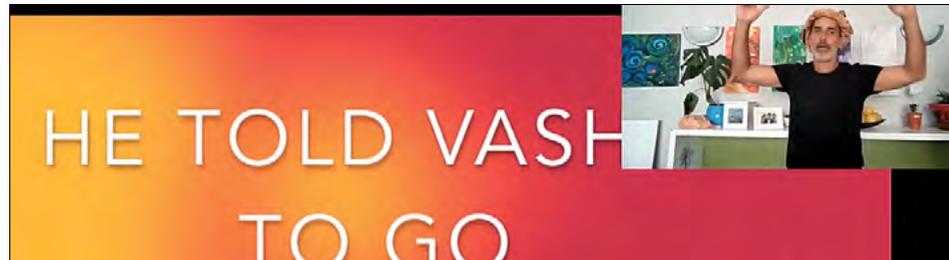
Phina Hoberman with her Mishloach Manot



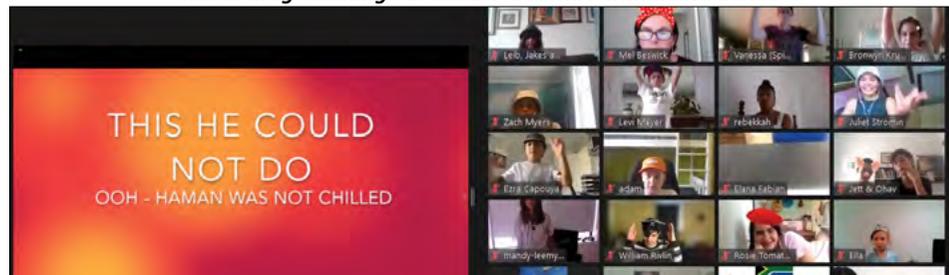
Full Egalitarian Megilah reading



Cocktail making demo with Gill Saks



Rabbi Greg teaching our cheder kids the Purimalema dance



Cheder class dancing the Purimalema dance

Erev / First Night Service and Communal Seder

Shacharit / First Morning National Online Service

Second Night Young Family Seder

Also -Cooking demos

Everyone welcome

Pesach

5781

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/call 021 762 1745 /email wynberg@templeisrael.co.za

Mazaltov to those who celebrated Bnei Mitzvah with us last month



Jake and Joe Epstein
13 February

Finn Rajna
27 February

Jett Verboom
13 March

Jordan Cohen
20 March



Serving and strengthening the SA community in ISRAEL



ABSORPTION
 "I have always appreciated my contact with Telfed & knowing the support is always there". Annette Gordon



PRAS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMME
 "Adi is like a beam of sunshine when he comes to visit my dear dad. We are very grateful for PRAS". Ann Shlom



SCHOLARSHIPS
 "Without Telfed's involvement, my daughter would not have been able to study her finance degree". Naomi



SASI SCHOLARSHIPS
 "The contribution you have made to me has impacted my life in ways I never imagined. Your support has made my studies in Israel possible and has changed my life". Saul



LONE SOLDIERS
 "Thank you so much! I love the present. All the guys were getting jealous and asking who's looking out for me" A.F.



SOCIAL WELFARE
 "I really felt that all you want to do is to help others in a way that shines that all Jews are בני גומלי חסדים". Dalya L.



VOLUNTEERISM
 "I feel privileged to be part of the S.A. Jewish community's warmth, kindness, hospitality and sincere Zionism" Rafi Herbst



EMPLOYMENT
 "Thank you for helping me complete my preparations. You were able to help me where others couldn't!" Kiki Stephenson



HOUSING
 "This place has been an amazing home for the first 4 years of my Aliyah. It's a fantastic and unique set-up to be proud of". Shaun Lubczanski



EVENTS
 "Thank you Telfed for the online initiatives that allow me to take part in SA community events far away in the South of Israel". Sarah Fleisch



INFORMATION SERVICES
 "I have no words at all for the guidance and help we have received with this huge decision and move". Jenny Lang

Web: www.telfed.org.il Email: info@telfed.org.il Toll-free Tel from SA: 0800 997 495 Facebook: /Telfed



Wishing all our clients, families and friends a Blessed Passover

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DIRECTOR'S CUT

By Chaya Singer, Executive Director SAZF Cape Council

As Jews join together from around the world to celebrate the festival of Pesach, we are taught to commemorate our journey as a nation from slavery to freedom, by telling our children the story told to us by our parents, as recorded in the 'Hagaddah'.

This is from the Hebrew verb 'l'hagid' or 'to tell', which emanates from the Divine instruction that we should tell our children throughout our generations of the story of the liberation of our forebears from slavery, and experience again in our own generation the freedom that comes from learning the life lessons of the past.

The imperative to record and remember, is a fundamental tenet not only in Jewish tradition but in Jewish law, and is at the heart of Jewish continuity. We tell this ancient story through the symbolism of the seder, across time and space, wherever we live in the world, at every time in history, sometimes in perilous secrecy, as a message of hope and faith to survive, and at others to be humbled and thankful, to be living in prosperity and freedom.

This Jewish commitment to literacy, storytelling and education, informs our collective memory of more current events too. At a time when the generation of Holocaust survivors are passing on, the responsibility of gathering and preserving their eye witness testimony, to the systematic murder of six million Jews in Europe, four generations of my own family among them, is an essential deterrent against antisemitism. Together with our many friends, Jewish communal institutions are mandated to ensure that we will never allow this chapter in our history to repeat itself ever again.

The generation that remembers a world without an independent Israel is also passing on, those who fought and built, and who know of all the lives lost and saved when persecuted Jews

had nowhere else in the world to go. It is for organisations such as the South African Zionist Federation to protect our ancestral and biblical Homeland, which we read of in the Haggadah, and ensure that there will never be an abandoned Jewish refugee again.



This Pesach we stand up against human trafficking and slavery, against hate, dehumanisation and othering, against racism and xenophobia. We stand with all victims of mass atrocities and genocide, including the Tutsis, Yezidis and the Rohingya. We come together in friendship, to share matzah, the bread of affliction and the bread of healing.

As a South African, Pesach is also a time to reflect on our country's journey from Apartheid to Democracy, to honour those who died and lost in the Struggle in the fight for Human Rights and equal opportunity, and I am reminded that reconciliation towards social cohesion is a process that starts around a table of family and friends.

This year we celebrate the historic Abraham Accords, and the series of normalisation agreements which have been signed between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and Kosovo. As we share the lessons, cultures and customs of our histories, we are empowered to reach forwards to attain shared ambitions and aspirations for the future. We are committed to building post conflict bridges, because hearts and minds can change when people are given opportunity to connect. It starts with telling our stories.

L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim. Chag Sameach!



Fruits of peace: Chaya Singer and Israeli Ambassador Lior Keinan share Emirati dates

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By Karen Marsden Sank, Chair SAZF Cape Council

The Israel of our youth epitomises the physical nature of the verb 'to build'



They physically cleared swamps to build fertile plots of land, they built buildings and cities and more recently they have built skills and resources in the technology space which has resulted in them becoming leaders in many of these arenas.

But the term 'to build' is still relevant today and here in South Africa it feels more relevant than ever when it comes to the building of relationships between Israel and ourselves and in and amongst ourselves.

Building relationships is about finding commonality. It's about putting aside differences to build something that is for the common good of both parties. We witnessed this first-hand with the recent signing of the Abraham Accords last year. The differences between Israel and the UAE did not evaporate but their focus on what they had in common allowed for this landmark relationship to be built.

The role of the SAZFCC going forward will be to build — to continue to build relationships with other community organisations, to build relationships with all demographics of our community, to build relationships between various sectors of business and to build a relationship with Israel that is no longer based on their economy as it was during the time of our youth, but with Israel as the strong and successful nation it has become today, and to use that as a foundation to forge strong bonds between our two countries.

Since our new leadership stepped in late last year we have been meeting with each affiliate of the SAZFCC; getting to know them, sharing our vision and establishing renewed working relationships for the benefit of all our organisations. We have had an extremely welcoming response and our affiliates, which are the core of the SAZFCC, are excited for the way forward. We have harnessed some of the finest leadership talent our community has to offer and for this we are not only proud, but also grateful — grateful to those who have volunteered their time and skills to help us build a SAZF that can take us into what is fast becoming a new world of shared ideas and resources all based on our common love of Israel.

With Pesach upon us and Israel at the forefront of the world vaccination programme, we are truly a light unto the nations, helping to forge the way towards the freedom that we have all lost over the past year.

Chag Sameach. Wishing you and your families a joyous Pesach.



Aliyah goes ahead despite the plague

The January 25 2021 Aliyah flight from South Africa landed at Ben Gurion airport just hours after the Israeli skies were 'hermetically sealed' in a bid to contain the spread of the new COVID-19 variants.

It was the last flight to arrive on Israeli soil for what was to be weeks, and passengers were transported by bus to IDF-managed accommodation at what have become known as 'Corona hotels' around the country.

After ten days of quarantine and multiple health checks, Israel's most recent Olim were welcomed into their new communities during what has been a most unusual and challenging time to make Aliyah.

The previous year saw the arrival of 350 South African Olim, with 1000 individual application files having been opened over the same period. To date more than 50 South Africans

have made Aliyah in the first few months of 2021.

Telfed (SAZF Israel) reports that new Olim have had to deal with greater administrative and bureaucratic challenges. According to Telfed CEO, Dorrn Kline, "Many government offices were closed to the public, with most of their employees working from home. It made the process of receiving one's ID card difficult. However, with the lifting of strict lockdown procedures, the government offices have reopened, and new Olim can once again make online appointments with the Ministry of Interior and receive their ID cards after they conclude their quarantine period." At the time of writing, Israel had already started to remove many of the lockdown restrictions, bringing a sense of gradual return to normality.

Pandemic restrictions and complications have clearly not stopped the swell of immigrants



The Olim of the 25 January Aliyah flight from South Africa

from South Africa to Israel. The uncertainty experienced during this time may even have contributed to prompt those considering the move to fast track the process.

After more than a year of a modern plague, how sweet for some to confirm that against considerable odds, this year Pesach is indeed in Jerusalem (or thereabout).

MEET OUR NEW MANCOM

- KAREN MARSDEN SANK** - CHAIRPERSON
- LEORA HESSEN** - VICE CHAIR
- DANIEL LEVITT** - VICE CHAIR
- ADV JONATHAN SILKE** - HON LIFE PRESIDENT
- HAGAI GOLAN** - TREASURER
- BRENT STEIN** - TREASURER
- BENJY BLUMENTHAL**
- LAUREN FINE**
- DALE IMERMAN**
- TAMAR LAZARUS**
- GITA OSRIN**
- JORDAN SELIGMANN**
- JODI SHER**
- RABBI SAM THURGOOD**
- GAVI ZIEGLER**



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ICC's 'Palestine' ruling is a threat to international law

By Natasha Hausdorff

The decision of the International Criminal Court's three-judge 'pre-trial Chamber' last week confirmed the widely held view that the Hague-based Court has succumbed to the dangerous politicisation of international legal institutions. All pretence has been dropped.

Established by the Rome Statute in 1998, and charged with bringing the perpetrators of mass atrocities to justice, the Court suffers from an abysmal record. In 2012 it was resoundingly criticised for spending nearly a billion US dollars and taking 10 years to deliver its first judgement and matters have only worsened since then, with an independent expert review culminating in a damning report in 2020. The abandonment of any façade of adhering to the international rule of law must surely now be the final nail in the Court's coffin.

Over a year ago, ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda requested confirmation of the Court's territorial jurisdiction with respect to her proposed investigation of Israel and the Palestinians. Given that Israel is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, the Prosecutor's question turned on whether the Palestinian Authority, which purported to join the Rome Statute in 2012, constitutes a "state" for the purposes of the Court's founding treaty and, if so, the extent of its territory.

This question necessarily involved consideration of the most fundamental principles of public international law, including the legal criteria for statehood. The Chamber was warned off wading into the political quagmire of the Prosecutor's approach, which sidestepped the law. Seven ICC member states (the Czech Republic, Austria, Australia, Hungary, Germany, Brazil and Uganda) and numerous experts in international law provided amicus briefs, strenuously objecting to the Prosecutor's claims of jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of the Court can be delegated to it by the States involved in any matter that comes before the Court. In accordance with Article 12 of the Rome Statute, this occurs

either when the state becomes a party to the treaty, or when it otherwise accepts the jurisdiction of the Court in a matter. The State of Israel is neither a signatory to the Rome Statute, nor has it accepted the ICC's jurisdiction in this matter; there is therefore no delegated jurisdiction for the Court to assume. And yet, the Decision of the Majority determined that jurisdiction exists through a combination of intellectual acrobatics and the wholesale refusal to engage with arguments raised by amici, and even by the Chamber's presiding judge, Péter Kovács, in his detailed and rigorous 163-page Dissent.

Judge Kovács did not hold back in his criticism of the Majority's Decision, published on Friday afternoon, 5 February. In his Dissent, the Hungarian judge stated, "I find neither the Majority's approach nor its reasoning appropriate in answering the question before this Chamber, and in my view, they have no legal basis in the Rome Statute, and even less so, in public international law."

The Majority swept aside international law concerning statehood, which requires the existence of a permanent population, a defined territory, effective government and the capacity to carry out foreign relations. The lack of care for consistency by the Majority is simply extraordinary. Having, for example, stressed the importance of a textual interpretation of the Rome Statute, they proceeded to selectively quote Article 12 in their 'textual analysis'. This "surprising" approach to "wilfully disregard" parts of the text was also called out by the presiding judge.

Perhaps, most astonishingly, the Majority stated in clear terms that they would not engage at all with certain legal arguments, including as to the applicability of the Oslo Accords. By English public law standards, such a refusal to take into account, or engage in any analysis of, fundamental issues would amount to "Wednesbury unreasonableness".

Ultimately, the Decision is a political one for three reasons. First, the question of jurisdiction is what separates judicial bodies from

Familiar face now heads Klita communications



Danny Adeno Abebe

The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration welcomed Danny Adeno Abebe to its team as head of its Spokesperson, Communications, and Information Department.

Familiar to South Africans as erstwhile Habonim shaliach based in Johannesburg, Danny made Aliyah from Ethiopia at the age of nine. He was an IDF correspondent and then worked as a journalist for 15 years.

Danny said in a Facebook post announcing his appointment, "I intend to use my role as a public, recognised figure to advance the national goals

that the Ministry advances and I'm proud to be taking part in public service."

Telfed CEO Dorrin Kline welcomed Danny to the Klita team. "We merited to promote Aliyah together during his stint as the Habonim shaliach to South Africa. His positive shlichut experiences in South Africa stand him in good stead for the challenges he will face as spokesperson at the Ministry of Absorption. Telfed looks forward to continued cooperation with Danny to better South African klita (integration) in Israel," he said.

The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration provides government assistance to new Olim and Returning Residents.

political ones, and by sidestepping the absence of proper jurisdiction here, the Court has placed itself firmly in the political camp. Second and concurrently, the Majority judgment ignores international law and eschews legal analysis which a Court would be expected to apply. Third, the Decision employs political instruments to justify its approach in order to avoid a legal assessment of the issues; it relies on UN Resolutions, policy statements that reflect the interests of the states that voted for them and, crucially, do not have legal force.

The truly damaging impact of this Decision on the credibility of the Court is not merely rooted in its circular reasoning, or even the politicised timing of the Decision. The destructive impact of this Decision is that it further devalues international legal institutions and poses a threat to the international rule of law.

For the Court to be wielded as a political tool in this fashion also

pushes peace backwards, in particular at this moment of rare progress in the Middle East with unprecedented normalisation agreements between Israel and the Arab world. That this enormous stride away from a rules-based global order has been enthusiastically welcomed by the internationally recognised terrorist group Hamas, ought to be a sufficient warning. We are witnessing the weaponization of international judicial bodies for political gain. It is something which ought to concern all human-rights-protecting democracies around the world. The double standards which start with Israel are unlikely to end with Israel.

Natasha Hausdorff is a Barrister at Six Pump Court Chambers and a Director of the NGO 'UK Lawyers for Israel', which submitted an 'amicus brief' on the question of the ICC's jurisdiction.

This brief first appeared in the Law Society Gazette on 12 February 2021 and is reprinted with permission.



Youth Movements roundup

South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS):

After a very successful 2020 despite all the challenges that were thrown at us, SAUJS is once again excited for a year full of even more growth. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new leadership for 2021. Our new chairperson, Deena Katzen is a third year BCom Accounting student at the University of Cape Town. In 2019, Deena served as the National Chairperson of SAUJS before deciding to move from Johannesburg to Cape Town, where she joined our UCT SAUJS Committee. Our new vice-chairperson, Kevin Pogrud is currently completing his honours year of his Mechatronics degree at UCT. Our vision for 2021 is to ensure that SAUJS provides a community for young Jewish adults, something which is often difficult to maintain after leaving a Jewish school. We have big things planned to make 2021 our best year yet. To stay up to date, follow us on Facebook @SAUJS Western Cape and look out for our Orientation Week activities which will be coming up soon!



Diller Teens Cohort 6: Aaron Schwartz, Adam Selikowitz, Ben Vogelmann, Darren Greenspan, Doron Zinman, Elle Franck, Ilan Meltz, Jade Rubin, Jared Daitsh, Jonah Schwartz, Katya Golan, Lilla Fleischmann, Michaela Perkel, Olivia Diamond, Rachel Castle, Ruby Kurgan, Sabrina Brivik, Silvie Richards, Tan-Tan Kuti-Alexander, Zoe Kaplan. Staff: Martine Kawalsky, Julia Kaimowitz, Rachel Rod and Talia Scher

Diller Teen Fellows

Cohort 6 — Young and talented future Jewish leaders have embarked on a journey with Diller Teen Fellows to further explore their personal connections to Judaism, and their leadership potential. Our twenty selected fellows engage with relevant topics and grapple with new ideas in our bi-monthly workshops. Topics explored include: Jewish Identity, Pluralism, Peoplehood, Leadership, Community involvement, Israel and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). If you

have any questions about our program, or would like to be involved please email our Coordinator, Martine Kawalsky at diller@ctjc.co.za.

Habonim

We recently said goodbye to Errol Anstey, our Manhig (Honorary President) for over 20 years, with many more years of service besides. In his stead, we have enlisted Wayne Sussman as our new Manhig. We have also acquired a wonderful new bayit in Gardens for our Cape Town Ken.

Netzer

Introducing our Regional Rosh Cape Town for 2021:

My name is Cayla Dawn Shmaryahu and I am 20 years old. I have just been chosen to be the Netzer Cape Town Representative and this will allow me to help make decisions about the movement and lead it to new heights in the upcoming years. I am currently doing a second gap year after going on Shnat Netzer in 2020 and I have been a member of Netzer since 2017. Netzer is the place where I have always been comfortable and felt at home, a place that is very close to my heart. I am very excited about this new chapter in my life. *Nilmad V'Na'aseh* — We will learn and we will do!

Bnei Akiva

We ran our amazing Machanehs during the December holidays! Our new national team has been announced, who are sure to make this year special for Bnei Akiva South Africa. We have also launched our Matanot Le'evyonim drive for Purim 2021.

Seeds of Hope planted on Tu B'Shvat

South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) celebrated Tu B'Shvat by partnering with the Seeds of Hope Community Gardening Project in Khayelitsha.

Based at the Makukhanye Centre, Pastor Aaron Makili and his team have planted a community kitchen garden on the plot surrounding their community centre. The garden consists of vegetables and herbs and the produce is used in the soup kitchen, also based at the Centre, which daily feeds 230 individuals (including many children). The garden is worked by local volunteers, helping to restore self-esteem and purpose to the many who have lost employment during the pandemic.

However, the productivity of the garden has been hampered for want of an irrigation system, whilst the quality of the soil is poor and sandy. The need of the local community in Khayelitsha for food security is great, particularly in these uncertain times, and that's why SAFI and the JNF stepped in to help. On Tu B'Shvat, a donation was made to the Seeds of Hope project to assist them with their most pressing needs for basic water irrigation, tools, seeds and improvement of the soil through fertilisation and enrichment. This donation was an active remembrance of our responsibility to care for the land; making it green, verdant and productive in a way which is sustainable and ecologically sound. What better way to do this than to assist a nascent micro-farming initiative which is wholly dedicated to serving the needs of its local community?

Together, we really can plant seeds of hope.



SA Zionist Federation Cape Council Chair, Karen Marsden Sank presenting donation to Pastor Aaron Makili with Trystan Tregenza Hall

Maintaining the history of Muizenberg

By Jaime Uranovsky

The multicoloured beach huts that dot the Deep South's coastline form an integral part of Cape Town's history and constitute one of the most iconic representations of beach-going in the Mother City during the summer.

These huts hold particular meaning for locals and holidaymakers of generations past (many of whom were and are Jewish) who flocked to Muizenberg and its surrounds to take advantage of the sand and surf. Indeed, for many in the South African Jewish community and beyond, the sight of the huts brings back fond memories of time spent on the beach with family and friends. While the Municipality has been responsible for the upkeep of the beach huts over the years, the huts are hardly a priority and have fallen into disrepair. Moreover, they are maintained on an ad hoc basis, such as when a step needs replacing. This has resulted in what local resident and professional photographer Angela Gorman calls, "a complete mongrel of bits of wood".

Indeed, it was the state of the beach huts which inspired Angela to take matters into her own hands last year and to create the Beach Hut Trust, dedicated to fixing and saving the iconic beach boxes. She explains, "It started ... when we come out of that hard lockdown and were allowed back on the beaches and we went to go and have a walk on Muizenberg Beach. We just saw the absolute state of disrepair of those beach huts and, being photographers, both my husband and I can't walk past there without wanting to take a picture ... and I was just shocked by it. Then I wrote on my own Facebook page how sad I was to see the disrepair and someone said, 'Oh go on, you can start something; you fix it', and so I started a 'Save Our Beach Huts' Facebook page and it just grew exponentially." Soon after, fellow Deep South residents Charles Maisel and Daniel Blaauw joined Angela in the quest to ensure the survival of these colourful landmarks.

Charles, a social entrepreneur and non-profit innovator extraordinaire, has a long history of spearheading award-winning projects that enact social change. Some of these include the Men on the Side of the Road Project, Black Umbrellas (currently one of the largest business incubators in South Africa and a partner entity of the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation), and Be!Bold — a university entrepreneurship programme. On the value of the project Charles says, "The image of your childhood is going to Muizenberg beach, sitting by the beach huts and not knowing much about them but knowing that that the historical image in your mind is very engraved, especially in the Jewish community, and that makes it such a feel-good project".

Initially, the Trust aims to refurbish the 31 beach huts along Muizenberg but, ultimately, hopes to renovate all 67 huts, which stretch as far as St James and

Simonstown. The team has already completed its first hut on Muizenberg. The work of the Trust is more urgent than one might think since, if the huts are not maintained, the City will destroy them. Angela, Charles and Daniel are trying their best to ensure that this does not happen. Charles explains, "It's all about history. Even though the huts are not recognised that way as part of the Historical Society, it's the history of the individual, history of what you remember as being a kid, or of your grandparents and... hopefully we can create the history of the future now... because if we don't fix them the City is going to remove them forever; they have already told us... So, if you think about it like that, those huts gone forever from the landscape of Cape Town, that's a bit of a travesty".

As news of the project spread, it touched the hearts of individuals around South Africa. For example, Everite, a company which produces nutec (a synthetic material that is fire-resistant, waterproof, and, as Angela says, is "virtually indestructible"), has offered to donate nutec boards for the initial 31 huts along Muizenberg. The Director of Everite, who lives in Pretoria, was inspired to get involved because of his own love of the beach and his memories of the huts. Another company, based in Somerset West, will be helping with the stairs. Angela notes, "It's no longer a Muizenberg project. It's a national project and it's been amazing".

Recently, Pick n Pay has partnered with the Trust by launching recyclable cloth bags with images of the beach huts on them. These bags are available at Pick n Pay stores nationwide and R5 from each one will be donated to the Trust. Angela estimates that these sales will allow them to complete two more huts.

Another supporting initiative is the selling of beach-hut-coloured buffs by Trust member Daniel, mentioned above. Daniel, who Angela refers to as 'Mr Tourism of Muizenberg' donates 20% of his profits to the cause.

The team is always looking for new partnerships with both individuals and organisations and would love to connect with people who have memories of Muizenberg and the huts themselves. Charles explains, "The idea we've had as well is for people to also tell us their stories, their experience of the beach huts and how they made them feel, and their history, and engage with the public in that way". Angela, Charles and Daniel are also interested in input from individuals regarding how to use the beach huts in the future. Charles says, "We're still playing around with different ideas once they are fixed, beautiful and safe, but we are open to ideas: maybe having small businesses in there, some tourism related activities".

For more information:

Facebook: Save Our Beach Huts

Instagram: saveourbeachhuts

Email: saveourbeachhuts@gmail.com



Family Announcements

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

MILTON GERDIS

We would like to thank Rabbi and Rebbetzin Liebenberg, family and friends for their heartfelt support and kindness shown with such compassion on the passing of our beloved husband, father, brother and brother-in-law.

Deeply mourned by Nola, Saul, Ronnie and Mathy Gerdis

MARTIN MARGOLIUS

18/3/1936 – 30/11/2020

We wish to thank all family and friends for their love and kindness shown during the untimely passing of our husband and father.

From his devoted wife Rose, children, Jerry, Hazel and Marcia, daughter-in-law, sons-in law, grandchildren and great granddaughters.

AMALIE SHELDON

The sudden and tragic passing of Amalie, adored by all who knew her, has revealed the incredible support of our wonderful community.

The outpouring of love and generosity, the calls, messages, meals and endless thoughtful treats, are so appreciated by all her family and were a comfort at this traumatic time. Sincere thanks to everyone who reached out to us.

Very special thanks to Rabbi Feldman for his constant, caring support. His words at the funeral distilled the very essence of the special woman that was Amalie! Members of the CSO and NSRI rendered the most unbelievable service and our gratitude for their professionalism and kindness is enormous.

Beautiful Amalie was universally loved as is reflected in the wonderful tributes and shared memories from far and wide. Warm, generous, friendly, vivacious, stylish, hospitable — always with a smile — her presence lit up the room and her light will never be dimmed. She coped with her numerous health issues with fortitude and grace.

Gratitude that she is at peace now.

Amalie's loss is irreparable and she is deeply mourned by her grieving family and friends, husband Alan, children Ross, Craig, Jodi, mother-in-law Lilian, sister Pearl and her nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace Darling Amalie

To place a family announcement,
email: chron@ctjc.co.za



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Scouting Israeli innovation – necessity not a luxury

by Amit Lev, Trade and Investment Commissioner to Southern Africa

Innovation has always been a known and vital component for the success of a business. Whether it is innovation in technology, business models or operations, without the basic innovation component it is difficult to set up and operate a successful global business.

The economist Theodore Levitt said “creativity is thinking up new things and innovation is doing new things”.

First prize is for an organisation to innovate from within, however they get caught up in day to day operations and don't have the appropriate resources and time to innovate in-house.

So where does one go to find innovation?

According to Prof. Terry Winograd, a famous computer science professor at Stanford University and an early advisor for Google, Innovation is like real estate — the three key ingredients are location, location, location.

This is relevant to Stanford but also

to Israel, a small country of nine million people but with over 6000 active start-ups, over 350 global research and development centres, 3rd place in the number of companies traded on NASDAQ and many more innovative indicators that depict Israel's uniqueness in innovation to almost all industries and services.

The President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa praised Israeli Technology at his address to the Women in Business leaders in 2019; he labelled Israeli technology as a model for his own country to follow as it is “leading by leaps and bounds”.

The Trade Mission is part of the Israeli Ministry of Economy and its purpose is to create exposure and familiarity with Israeli innovative technologies relevant to SA companies and vice-versa.

In turn, the aim is to translate innovation into economic value

by helping these companies find suitable technologies by providing them with knowledge, connections, outreach, scouting, research and the facilitation of e-B2B sessions between Israeli and SA companies.

The advantage of working with Trade Missions is that:

One — it saves time and resources as this is done by the Trade Mission's professional team who have the knowledge and experience to match the SA company with the relevant Israeli company from a technological and maturity stand point (from startups and R&D centers to established companies and government officials).

Two — the services are free (funded by the Ministry in Israel) devoid of hidden commissions or levies.

Three — The local company will get as clear, credible and unbiased

an overview as possible of the tech companies in the market and not according to a particular portfolio of companies.

The Israeli Trade Mission has been assisting SA companies to scout technologies and invest in Israeli companies and VCs (because what's good for the pension money of teachers in Boston and firefighters in New York should be good for Capetonians' looking for better yield as well).

It has also been facilitating B2B meetings with hundreds of Israeli companies in the last three years in various sectors from agriculture, water, healthcare up to cyber security, fintech, telecom and many more.

In the last three years the Israeli Trade Mission helped to create more than 22 million USD in business deals and investments between Israeli and SA companies.

The Israeli Trade Mission's team will be glad to be in touch with any company in SA for requests regarding scouting projects or other initiatives.

Email johannesburg@israeltrade.gov.il for more information.

The President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa praised Israeli Technology at his address to the Women in Business leaders in 2019; he labelled Israeli technology as a model for his own country to follow as it is “leading by leaps and bounds”.



Israeli Trade Mission to SA is your Gateway to Israeli Innovation

Connect to the most advanced Israeli Tech Solutions in the world for businesses, Start-ups, Investors, and Service Providers.

Israel has positioned itself as one of the leading ecosystems for Innovative Technologies with more than 6000 companies from various segments such as agriculture, healthcare, fintech, cyber, telecom and more.

The Israel trade mission at the Israeli embassy to SA will help you connect to the top technologies' companies from Israel to improve your business's core performance and strengthen your tech offering .



Find us online:

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Empowering and supporting those who need it most



Pesach celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and their eventual freedom from slavery.

The Union of Jewish Women is committed to bettering the lives of all South Africans, offering them freedom from the constraints of poverty, loneliness, lack of education, unemployment and hunger.

Since 1931, Jewish women across South Africa have brought freedom to some of society's most disadvantaged sections. We celebrate our 90th anniversary with pride of our incredible achievements.

Our successes in Cape Town and our country communities are legendary including our Kensington Educare Centre which celebrates its 79th birthday this year.

We are passionate about working with grassroots organisations, helping to empower and support them. We help them by raising funds, securing goods in kind and offering our time and expertise when needed. We do this all with the goal of achieving self-sustainability for the project.

The UJW also responds to emergency situations. By appealing to our incredible Cape Town community, we are able to collect goods needed to support those who have been devastated by fires, floods and other disasters.

The COVID virus had a devastating effect on our lives and our communities. Our 'Women of Action' rose to the challenge by temporarily suspending all other projects and setting up the UJW feeding programme. With the funds we were able to raise (over R300 000) we were able to feed and support not only the 700 children and teachers who attend our preschools, crèches and educare centres but also their families and communities.

We also raised funds for our 'baby bag for beginner's' project and were able to distribute over 150 baby bags during that time, gifting many indigent new moms with all they needed to look after and care for their new-born babies.

One of the most important lessons to come out of COVID was the value of collaboration. During the first days of COVID we realised very quickly that the way forward for us all was to connect and work closely with other organisations. Ladles of Love helped feed some of our projects, dropping off sandwiches and eggs on a weekly basis. We supplied baby bags to CAN for some of their refugees. ORT Jet assisted us with an incredible donation of Lego for our children who were stuck at home.

On Mandela Day we were privileged to work with other incredible NGOs on a fundraising event hosted by the Mensch Network. We had a Zoom cook-a-long which saw people from all over the globe attending to support our feeding projects.

We also collaborated with Jewish Community Services (JCS). On Mitzvah day we raised funds and collected goods to fulfil the wish-list of their cottages.

Cape Town UJW wishes everyone Chag Pesach Sameach. We thank you for your ongoing unwavering support and look forward to working together to ensure we are developing, assisting and spreading love, hope and joy to those in our broader community who need it the most.



Myron Friedman manager of Dischem store in Sea Point hands over the donation from the Dischem Foundation to Shelley Levy, project manager at the Union of Jewish Women. A big thank you to the Dischem Foundation for their incredibly generous donation and for supporting our 'baby bags for beginners' project.



Kensington Educare Centre children say a big 'thank you!'

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Lisa Chait with Harold Heneck's Life Story

I think my father enjoyed reflecting back on his long and interesting life, nudged along by an attentive and expert narrative shaper. The finished book is a great family read and a wonderful memoir.
– Glen Heneck

Oh wow, goodness gracious me this is wonderful. I'm looking at my Life Story book hot off the press. Good heavens it's amazing! Do other people know what you do Lisa?
– Anne Jacobs (95)



Anne Jacobs



Cecil & Jo Jowell filming in Springbok

Our beautiful film captures my father's story and our family history in the most moving and riveting of ways. A Life Story is so much more than a 'nice to have'... it's a 'have to have'! An incomparable gift. Thank you Lisa.
– Jo Jowell Goldstein & Jowell family members now and always.



Cyril Ferber

What an amazing journey Lisa took me on – an experience of a lifetime. Her endless patience, endurance, kindness and ability to squeeze every bit of information from someone who doesn't always communicate readily was just incredible. Lisa connects and engages with her clients in a very special way.
– Cyril Ferber



Ben & Cecilia Jaffe z"l

Lisa and her team crafted an extraordinary movie about the Lifestories of our grandparents, Ben and Cecilia Jaffe. It perfectly portrayed our vision.
– Stephen Jaffe, grandson

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Celebrate with Bnoth Zion WIZO

Chariots of Hope — transforming lives the WIZO way

Central to the mandate and vision of the Women’s International Zionist Organisation (WIZO) is doing what matters and making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Through the kindness of generous donors, WIZO SA has been able to purchase top of the range, Israeli-designed wheelchairs for children and distribute them across South Africa. These wheelchairs have been designed, developed and manufactured by Israeli NGO, Wheelchairs of Hope, an organisation that seeks to provide wheelchairs to children in need of mobility.

They can be used for children between 5-9 years of age and up to 40kg who have enough independent back strength to support themselves in a sitting position. Since 2018

WIZO SA has distributed more than 180 wheelchairs.

Despite the various challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought, WIZO South Africa has continued to actively make a difference in the lives of children who have faced many trials and traumas.

Over the last six months In Cape Town a wheelchair was given to a child at Sunrise Special Care Centre and to two children at the Sive Nathi Children’s home. A brave, nine-year-old girl named Zarah who had to have her leg amputated because



Children from the Ithembelihle School in Primrose, Germiston receive their life-changing wheelchairs

of bone cancer also received a wheelchair and it has significantly transformed her life.

In Johannesburg, we were delighted to give six wheelchairs to children at Afrika Tikkun’s Community Centre, five to the Kutullo Disability Care Centre and at the Ithembelihle School, 15 children received wheelchairs. In Durban, six children received wheelchairs through the Association for the Physically Challenged.

WIZO SA has been honoured to be part of something that has enabled children with disabilities to become mobile, remain healthy and participate more fully in community life. This mobility is a key factor in



Tamar Lazarus presents a wheelchair of hope to a young recipient at the Siva Nathi Children’s Home in Cape Town

building the children’s self-esteem and helping to create a better future for them and their families.

Since 2017 over 5000 children across six continents have received a Wheelchair of Hope and we at WIZO SA are proud to be a part of this amazing Israeli initiative.

If you know of any children, schools, organisations or institutions that could benefit from one of these wheelchairs or if you would like to support this work financially, please email wizosouthafrica@gmail.com

“What an honour it is to be Chairman of BZA WIZO Cape Town in this most auspicious year. 120 years of women banding together to support our critical projects in Israel, forming a sisterhood bond like no other. We certainly stand on the shoulders of these giants. To 120 more!”

Janene Currie, current Chairman of BZA WIZO



“Biz hundert un tsvantsig”

At 120 years, Bnoth Zion WIZO is the longest running Jewish communal organisation in Cape Town!

Become a Lifetime Member and ensure the legacy continues for 120 more

To celebrate our 120th anniversary, we are offering a special Lifetime Membership opportunity to our members, who would like to take up this prestigious option.

Lifetime memberships cost R5000. Payment can be made over two years

Contact the office for more details 021 464-6700 x 131

or bnothz@ctjc.co.za

EFT and other payment options are below

EFT: Bnoth Zion WIZO, Standard Bank, Branch Code 020909, Acc Number: 070-406-251

Ref: Lifetime—your initial and surname



PAY BY CARD



www.walletedoc.com/pay/WIZOCPT

WIZO Cape Town lends a hand

For more than 20 years Mickey Linda, affectionately known as Mama Mickey, has dedicated her life to helping the destitute in her community in Khayelitsha.

Her focus has been children at risk, mothers and the elderly and her work has evolved from running a creche and serving meals from community halls into what it is today – the Yiza Ekhaya soup kitchen serving approximately 200 children and 160 referred pensioners daily.



The children receiving Easter eggs

During COVID many people from the clinics could not take their medicine as they had no food to eat, so these people were sent to Mama Mickey. The number of people looking to her for help has risen greatly and Bnoth Zion WIZO Cape Town, under the convenorship of Esta Levitas, has responded to this great need doing whatever we are able to support Mama Mickey with her essential work.

WIZO is committed to alleviating the suffering of the hungry and impoverished and to supporting all in need.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference!



Gill Raphaeli, Tamar Lazarus and Michal presenting seedlings to Mama Mickey

Longest running Jewish communal organisation turns 120



How it all began...

In 1897, Herzl's clarion call to world Jewry to establish a homeland for the Jewish people was made at the 1st Zionist Conference in Basle.

Four years later, on 19 August 1901, Moses Zuckerman, a leading Cape Town Zionist, called for a meeting of Jewish women. Within a couple of months, the Bnoth Zion Association was established and 160 members had committed themselves to the Zionist cause.

These fearless and adventurous women faced trials and opposition but remain focused and dedicated to working towards the goal of a Jewish National homeland.

Since then Bnoth Zion has continued to work for Israel and also to empower generations of women through education, social opportunities and activities to work for their beneficiaries in Israel that assist women and children in need.

In 1932 Bnoth Zion became part of the SA National Body of Zionist women as a Federation of World WIZO and in 2004 Bnoth Zion incorporated the name WIZO to Bnoth Zion WIZO

The women of Bnoth Zion have always risen to the challenges of the time and will continue to do so, following in the path taken some 120 years ago by a band of intrepid women.



BZA WIZO Founders First Chairmen: 1901: Moses and Rebecca Zuckerman Mrs Mary Millin 1901



1912 Bnoth Zion Committee: Miss Levitt, Mrs Slome, Miss Frank, Mrs Glaser, Miss Katz, Mrs Zuckerman, Miss Winnitsky, Miss Misnekov, Mrs Gurland, Mrs Pepper, Mrs Gronitski and Mrs Zinn



With glam 50s hats are Chairman Sylvia Smaller, Phyllis Sacher and Freda Raphael



Golden Jubilee Ball in 1951



Current 2021 BZA WZO Cape Town Executive: Tamar Lazarus, Donné Querido, Bella Silverman, Moonyeen Castle, Barbara Flax, Adrienne Judes, Janene Currie (Chairman), Suzanne Luck, Li Boiskin, Kim Daitsh, Shelley Friedman, Tessa Scher and Felicity Isserow



Golf Day 2013: Sheleen Kassel, Karen Shandel, Gill Raphael, Desray Conne, Tamar Lazarus, Tessa Scher, Suzanne Luck, Terry Stevenson, Donné Querido, Nadine Owens Loughnane, Janene Currie, Felicity Isserow, Claudia Codron and Kim Daitsh.

"I am delighted to extend a big mazal tov to all the ladies of Bnoth Zion, both past and present, as we all celebrate 120 years of this incredible organisation. What an accomplishment! May you go from strength to strength and continue to transform lives as you fulfil the WIZO mandate of doing what matters!"

Shelley Trope-Friedman, WIZO SA President

Supporting projects in Israel

NEVE WIZO Five townhouses in Herzlia provide a warm home and substitute family for children who have been removed from their homes by court order. Each home has its own set of house-parents, who provide the children with a healthy lifestyle, rehabilitative care and as normal a life as possible.

IRONI CARIERA A diagnostic treatment and rehabilitation centre in Tel Aviv for delinquent youth from dysfunctional homes. They are taught basic vocational skills in many fields and a team of professionals attend to their psychological and emotional needs.

THREE DAY-CARE CENTRES These centres provide day-care facilities for hundreds of mothers, new immigrants and children from problematic families as well as ordinary Israeli citizens. In their formative years, the children receive the education, enrichment and care they need. Some day-care facilities also have a special section which caters to the needs of autistic children.

BEIT HALOCHEM Caring and expertly-trained staff supervise innovative therapies which help severely-maimed veterans of Israel's many wars and victims of terrorist attacks, to rehabilitate them emotionally, psychologically and physically.

The centre also has outstanding sporting facilities with coaches who train paraplegic athletes in many different sports.

"I wish BZA WIZO a hearty mazaltov on this momentous anniversary of 120 years. May WIZO continue to grow for evermore. WIZO has given me the best years of my life and I am so grateful to have grown with this amazing organisation. WIZO has been close to my heart to which I have proudly supported with love and tenacity for more than 72 years – a special and unique organisation and may it be blessed for many years to come."

Ettie Buch z'l, our longest-standing member until her recent passing

Did you know? WIZO is recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organisation with consultative status on ECOSOC and UNICEF. WIZO sits on the commission for the Status of Women.

Did you know? In 1926 Bnoth Zion started the first Hebrew Nursery School in Cape Town and it was the forerunner of the Hebrew Nursery Schools Movement in South Africa.

15 STEPS TO FREEDOM

brought to you by:



A Pesach message from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson

The festival of Passover calls for early and elaborate preparations to make the Jewish home fitting for the great festival. It is not physical preparedness alone that is required of us, but also spiritual preparedness — for in the life of the Jew the physical and spiritual are closely linked together, especially in the celebration of our Sabbath and festivals.

On Passover we celebrate the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery and, together with it, the liberation from, and negation of the ancient Egyptian system and way of life, the “abominations of Egypt.”

Thus, we celebrate our physical liberation together with our spiritual freedom. Indeed, there cannot be one without the other; there can be no real freedom without accepting the precepts of our Torah guiding our daily life; pure and holy life eventually leads to real freedom.

It is said: “In every generation each Jew should see himself as though he personally had been liberated from Egypt.” This is to say, that the lesson of Passover has always been a timely message for the individual Jew. The story of Passover is the story of the special Divine Providence which alone determines the fate of our people.

Just as we cannot shirk our responsibility towards our child by the excuse that “my child is a wise one; he will find his own way in life therefore no education is necessary for him”; so, we must not despair by thinking “the child is a wicked one; no education will help him.”

What is happening in the outside world need not affect us; we might be singled out for suffering, G-d forbid, amid general prosperity, and likewise singled out for safety amid a general plague or catastrophe.

The story of our enslavement and liberation of which Passover tells us, gives ample illustration of this. For the fate of our people is determined by its adherence to G-d and His Prophets.

The story of Passover is the story of the special Divine Providence which alone determines the fate of our people.

This lesson is emphasised by the three principal symbols of the Seder, concerning which our Sages said that unless the Jew explains their significance, he has not observed the Seder fittingly: Pesach [the Paschal Offering], Matzoh and Moror [bitter herbs].

Using these symbols in their chronological order and in accordance with the Haggadah explanation, we may say: the Jew can avoid Moror (bitterness of life) only through Pesach (G-d’s special care ‘passing over’ and saving the Jewish homes even in the midst of the greatest plague), and Matzoh — then the very catastrophe and the enemies of the Jews will work for the benefit of the Jews, driving them in great haste out of “Mitzraim” [Egypt], the place of perversion and darkness, and placing them under the beam of light and holiness.

One other important thing we must remember.

The celebration of the festival of freedom must be connected with the commandment “You shall relate it to your son.”

The formation and existence of the Jewish home, as of the Jewish people as a whole, is dependent upon the upbringing of the young generation, both boys and girls: the wise and

the wicked (temporarily), the simple and the one who knows not what to ask.

Just as we cannot shirk our responsibility towards our child by the excuse that “my child is a wise one; he will find his own way in life therefore no education is necessary for him”; so, we must not despair by thinking “the child is a wicked one; no education will help him.”

For, all Jewish children, boys and girls, are “G-d’s children” and it is our sacred duty to see to it that they all live up to their above-mentioned title; and this we can achieve only through a kosher Jewish education, in full adherence to G-d’s Torah.

...three principal symbols of the Seder... Pesach [the Paschal Offering], Matzoh and Moror [bitter herbs].

Then we all will merit the realisation of our ardent hopes: “In the next year may we be free; in the next year may we be in Jerusalem!”

Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson



1

KADESH (SANCTIFY)

ACT:
Recite Kiddush and drink the 1st cup of wine reclining to the left

CONTEMPLATE:
Kadesh means to separate. All journeys begin with separation. To arrive at your destination you must leave the place you are in.

DISCUSS:
What “Egypt” (limits) do I need to break free from this Pesach?

2

URCHATZ (WASH)

ACT:
Wash hands as you would for Bread but without a blessing

CONTEMPLATE:
Our hands represent action. We wash our hands from the dirt of distraction. The misappropriation of our energy

DISCUSS:
In which areas can I improve and clean up my act?

3

KARPAS (DIP)

ACT:
Dip onion, parsley or potato in salt water. Make blessing to eat.

CONTEMPLATE:
The salt water represents the tears of slavery. We need to taste the brokenness of enslavement to be ready to leave “Egypt”.

DISCUSS:
In what ways do I avoid facing uncomfortable parts of myself?

15 STEPS TO FREEDOM

HOW TO USE THESE CARDS

- 1) CUT OUT EACH CARD.**
- 2) PUT ASIDE TO USE AT YOUR SEDER***
- 3) ENCOURAGE SHARING**

*not a substitute for the Hagaddah

Compiled by Rabbi Nissen Goldman from selected teachings on Chabad.org

If you benefitted from the cards at your seder or have ideas to improve them please send feedback to rabbi@jewct.com

A PESACH SEDER COMPANION SET

<p>4</p> <p>YACHATZ (BREAK)</p> <p>ACT: Break the middle matzah (but don't eat it yet) Put half of it away for Afikoman later.</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: As long as we feel whole, there is no room left to grow. It's when we realize we are but a half - that we can't do this alone - that the miracles begin. Where is G-d? Wherever you let him in...</p> <p>DISCUSS: Share a time where you discovered your light through being broken?</p>	<p>5</p> <p>MAGGID (TELL)</p> <p>ACT: Time to tell the story. Begin with 4 questions, then read Haggadah Make blessing and drink 2nd cup reclining.</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: What we've gone through + learned in life, is to pass on to others. Our story isn't ours to keep. Share it, help another!</p> <p>DISCUSS: Why is remembering the exodus a daily commandment?</p>	<p>6</p> <p>RACHTZA (WASH)</p> <p>ACT: Wash for bread. Again. This time with a blessing</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: Freedom isn't a once-off but a work in progress. A level higher means a new challenge. Keep that ego in check. Rinse and repeat.</p> <p>DISCUSS: Why this time 'with a blessing'?</p>	<p>7</p> <p>MOTZI (BLESS)</p> <p>ACT: Recite blessing of Hamotzi. Still don't eat the matzah.</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: Before I eat I thank G-d for the food in front of me. I am mindful of the blessings in my life.</p> <p>CONSIDER: What are some things G-d has blessed me with?</p>
<p>8</p> <p>MATZAH (CRUNCH)</p> <p>ACT: Blessing on the mitzvah of Matzah + finally eat some.</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: Matzah is called 'Bread of Faith'. Because of it's ego reducing properties. Unlike bread it doesn't rise. Eating Matzah at the seder is known to reduce our sense of self-inflation.</p> <p>DISCUSS: Why is selflessness so liberating?</p>	<p>9</p> <p>MAROR (BITTER)</p> <p>ACT: Dip the bitter herbs in Charoset (not too much) make a blessing on the Mitzvah. Shed a tear?</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: Celebrating our Jewishness provides meaning to the sacrifices of those who got us here.</p> <p>DISCUSS: What is so great about bitterness? Why do we want to remember that?</p>	<p>10</p> <p>KORECH (SANDWICH)</p> <p>ACT: Try Hillel's world famous Maror on Matzah sandwich. Lean left.</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: When we live as a vehicle for the Divine, the bitter, the sweet and the tasteless responsibilities of life wrap together in a single sandwich.</p> <p>CONSIDER: All the different cards you've been dealt are from the same unifying, guiding and loving hand</p>	<p>11</p> <p>SHULCHAN ORECH (FEAST)</p> <p>ACT: Dinnertime! Pass the gefilte fish.</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: G-d wants you to enjoy his world. Take time to pause during the journey to celebrate your growth</p> <p>DISCUSS: What is something your'e really proud of yourself for?</p>
<p>12</p> <p>TZAFUN (DESSERT)</p> <p>ACT: Eat the Afikomen for dessert. Recline like a free person.</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: We eat humble pie again, this time on a full stomach, acknowledging that even in our good times, we are always one second away from E.G.O - Edging G-d Out.</p> <p>CONSIDER: Where my self interest ends, is where transcendence begins.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>BERACH (THANK)</p> <p>ACT: Blessing after meal (Bentsh). Then blessing on wine drink cup #3 reclining</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: Gratitude. is not only the best attitude, it's the very opposite of entitlement. It says, the world doesnt owe me anything. Everything is a gift!</p> <p>DISCUSS: Name something you're feeling grateful for right now?</p>	<p>14</p> <p>HALLEL (PRAISE)</p> <p>ACT: Psalms of Praise. Pour Elijahs Cup + the 4th & final cup of wine. Blessings.....then bottoms up!</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: This moment in the seder is a time of open doors. Open your heart. Ask for blessings, don't hold back. Abundance flows...</p> <p>DISCUSS: Give one blessing and one praise to the person sitting next to you.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>NIRTZAH (CLOSING)</p> <p>ACT: Do nothing. Your job is done. Look up from your wine. It's His job now...</p> <p>CONTEMPLATE: If G-d wanted a perfect world he could've created one. He wants your humanness, your efforts. Put your best foot forward, leave the rest up to him.</p> <p>SING "L'shana Haba'a B'yerushalayim" "Next Year in Jerusalem"</p>

United Jewish Campaign



Philip Krawitz, Chairperson of the United Jewish Campaign Board of Trustees pays tribute to

ALISON BERK KATZEFF

Outgoing Chairperson of the United Jewish Campaign

As Alison Berk Katzeff hands over to Lance Katz, our new dynamic Chairperson, I am sure she will look back with pride, not just on the hundreds of millions of Rands that she has brought into our Communal coffers, but also on the innovative changes which she has made; positioning the UJC to march bravely into a new technologically driven world. Alison was an innovator of note who did her best to modernise our approach to fundraising and to set new standards in the field of marketing and communication.

I clearly recall having “pushed” a nervous Alison into the hot seat despite her misgivings. Alison faced her first address to the Top Donors’ Dinner with trepidation and then produced a sparkling performance which she has repeated ever since on numerous occasions in the public eye. Alison has built a strong team around her, and despite family and travel requirements, she has always managed to keep her finger on the pulse and her eye on the ball. The UJC team is deeply grateful for her leadership, dedication and passion which ensured the organisation grew from strength to strength over the past years, despite operating in one of the most challenging economic climates.

I am delighted that Alison has accepted our invitation to join the UJC Board of Trustees where she will no doubt continue to make her mark. We wish her some well-deserved rest after a hectic term spanning more than 6 years and look forward for what the future holds under Lance’s leadership.

Philip Krawitz - Chairperson, UJC Board of Trustees



ALISON BERK KATZEFF
Outgoing UJC Chairperson



LANCE KATZ
Incoming UJC Chairperson

Lance brings a wealth of experience and strategic vision to our organisation which will be critical in meeting the growing demands in our community and the shifting landscape of philanthropy.

UJC COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN 2020 AT A GLANCE

THANK YOU This past year has been **extraordinary**, indeed. Perhaps the most dramatic interruption to ordinary life in modern history! Through it all, your dedication and commitment to the **Cape Town Jewish Community** is especially appreciated.

35 CAUSES
3 DIVISIONS

Welfare
Communal
Israel

14 500

The number of Jewish people living in Cape Town

93
NEW DONORS

2040 VISION The UJC has embarked on a **2040** strategic plan in order to ensure communal structures will work at optimum efficiency in the future.

1922
DONATIONS

98% Families & Individuals
2% Trusts & Foundations



FUNDS RAISED:

60,365,906

YOUR DONATION MAINTAINS: schools, welfare organisations, and other communal bodies.



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

36% Jewish Care Cape
47% United Communal Fund
17% Israel United Appeal



500 families receiving food parcels

What are some of the monthly expenses of our welfare beneficiary organisations?

R20 000 per month to cover medical aid for the children at Oranjia Children's Home

R30 000 per month to provide holistic care for 1 senior citizen residing at Highlands House Home for the Jewish Aged

R2350 per month allows the Foodbank to feed 1 family

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FUND SAVING LIVES

COVID-19

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Community launched an Emergency Covid-19 Campaign.

R 27.6 mil raised

The funds raised covered the most immediate and vital needs in our community including food, COVID-19 testing, PPE, extra staffing of facilities and financial relief for organisations & families.

AGE BREAKDOWN OF DONATIONS:

65+ YRS GAVE R19.4MIL

45-64 YRS GAVE R13.3MIL

24-44 YRS GAVE R1.6MIL



CHILDREN ARE DENIED A JEWISH EDUCATION BECAUSE OF GENUINE FINANCIAL REASONS



PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY
DONATE TO THE EMERGENCY FUND

VISIT

ujc.org.za for the complete annual report



Dear therapist: I can't accept my father's death from COVID-19

By Lori Gottlieb

Dear Therapist,

I need help with grieving and my feelings of anger toward this microscopic virus that has taken my father. I know that even when somebody is terminally ill, there's no way to be fully prepared for loss. But isn't grieving even more difficult when death comes out of the blue, with no warning, in a matter of two weeks, and the person you know and love is suddenly no longer alive?

I was not there for his last breaths. I was not there for his last words. I'm trying to combat my guilt, because I have lived in a different country from my father for the past seven years, and have been able to see him for only a couple of weeks every year and a half or so. COVID-19 not only took away my father; it took away the opportunity to be home for my planned trip in April, when I would have spent time with him before what became his last few months. He was only 62, and was waiting for my sister to get married this year and have his first grandchild.

I need help with acceptance, because I cannot accept that I will not see his face, feel his warm embrace, and laugh at his silly jokes while he sings another Beatles tune.

How do I stop trying to find something or someone to blame in order to accept what has happened so I can stop being angry at the world?

Paulina Valencia, Venezuela

Many people don't know that Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's familiar stages of grieving — denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance — were conceived in the context of terminally ill patients learning to accept their own death.

Dear Paulina,

I'm so sorry that your father died, and I can imagine the depth of your sorrow right now. You're right that it feels profoundly unfair that one day you had a perfectly healthy father, and two weeks later he was dead. And along with him died your vision of the future, which included not just dancing with him at your sister's wedding and seeing him experience grandparenthood but also decades of silly jokes and warm hugs and the sound of his voice singing those Beatles tunes — a voice that has felt like home for your entire life.

I have no magic words that can erase your pain, but even if I did, I wouldn't try. That's because your pain is the result of deep love. It's your love for your father that creates the pain, and I can't — nor would I want to — take away your love.

What I can do instead is help guide you through this profound heartbreak — which is, in essence, what grief is — so that instead of 'accepting' your father's death, you begin to accept your feelings in all their wild glory: the rage, the guilt, the sadness, the despair, the envy of people whose parents survived COVID-19 while yours did not. Because when you accept these feelings, fully and without judgment, you will slowly begin to heal.

Healing doesn't mean that the pain goes away. It means that the pain becomes a sacred part of you that you carry inside forever. Often grieving people come to me hoping I can help them find 'closure,' but I've always felt that closure was an illusion.

Many people don't know that Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's familiar stages of grieving — denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance — were conceived in the context of terminally ill patients learning to accept their own death. It's one thing to 'accept' the end of your own life, but for those who keep on living, the idea that they should be getting to acceptance, or what we think of as closure, might make them feel worse ("Why am I not 'over this' by now?").

Besides, how can there be an end point to love and loss? Do we even want there to be? The price of loving

so deeply is feeling so deeply — but it's also a gift, the gift of being alive. If we no longer feel, maybe we should be grieving our own death. The grief psychologist William Worden takes into account this perspective by replacing Kübler-Ross's stages with tasks of mourning. In his fourth task, the goal is to integrate the loss into your life and create an ongoing connection with the person who died while also finding a way to continue living.

Right now, though, the pain of your father's death feels unbearable. A patient once told me that her grief made her feel "alternately numb and in excruciating pain." Yours may feel like that or it may feel different. You might also experience a sense of surreality: How can people go on with their days as if nothing has happened? How can they binge-watch TV shows and share gingerbread-cookie photos on Instagram when the world seems to have stopped? And comparing your loss with others' is natural, too: Is it worse if the death is sudden or expected? If the person is 62 or 80? If you saw the person regularly or hadn't seen him in a year? But grieving is not a contest, because there are no winners when it comes to losing someone you love.

Still, while there's no hierarchy of grief, the coronavirus has made the grieving process more complicated because the rituals that normally support human sorrow — being at a loved one's bedside, saying goodbye, viewing the body, having a funeral, getting hugs and meals and sitting in the same room with people who care about us — have been taken away. And then there's the experience of being constantly surrounded by COVID-19: seeing people wearing masks every time you go to the supermarket, hearing reports of more deaths on the news every day. These reminders can be retraumatizing, as if your loved one had died in an automobile accident and all you saw every day were endless images of car crashes.

So what can you do in the face of your loss amid these extra challenges? You can be kind to yourself and practice self-compassion. You can embrace the rage — because it's valid. You can disinvite the guilt when it attempts to pay you a visit

by reminding yourself that there's nothing you could have done differently. (It wasn't safe for you to travel. You didn't know your father would get the coronavirus. Your father knew how much you loved him, even if the devastated part of you might suggest you believe otherwise.) And you can bear in mind the concept of impermanence. Sometimes in their pain, people believe that the agony will last forever. But feelings are more like weather systems — they blow in and they blow out. Just because you feel gutted this hour or this day doesn't mean you'll feel that way this afternoon or next week. Everything you feel — anxiety, anguish, joy — blows in and out again. There will always be pain. Hearing a Beatles song on the radio might even plunge you into momentary despair. But another song, or another memory, might bring intense joy minutes or hours later.

So when you do fall into self-blame, rumination over how things might have gone differently, and protesting the death itself — all of which are ways to not experience the more tender feelings of sadness and loss — be gentle with yourself. Get sleep, eat well, move your body, go outside, find emotional respite by engaging in hobbies you enjoy or watching a movie. Connect with others over Zoom, and create rituals to memorialize your father such as sharing memories or photos with friends and family, which you might even compile into something tangible, like a book or album or video.

There is no way around your grief, but there is a way to move through your pain. Be patient with yourself. Try to remember that eventually you will come to view the world as neither all good nor all bad. Hold a space for the fact that you hurt so deeply because you were loved so deeply. And let that braid of pain and love be a reminder that you are human, and you're exactly where you need to be.

Lori Gottlieb is a contributing writer at The Atlantic and a psychotherapist based in Los Angeles. She is the author of Maybe You Should Talk to Someone and co-host of the podcast Dear Therapists.

This article first appeared on December 28, 2020 on The Atlantic, and can be read here.

**The Chairman and Committee of Nechama
Wish our Community
Chag Kasher Ve Sameach**

Excerpts from Pesach-past from community members

For the original, full length articles, visit <http://cjc.org.za/community-reflections/>

Gratitude through acts of service

By Adam Zartz for Pesach 2019

For me, Pesach is a very special holiday and a time when I remember my late father, Theo Zartz.

He would conduct the Seder with so much enthusiasm and we would sing every song with joy, taking care not to miss a single note. One of the greatest things my father taught me was to be proud of who I am and where I have come from. Not a day passes when I don't draw on his legacy and appreciate that it's the lessons he taught me that have made me to be proud of the way that I deal with challenging issues.

I could not be more grateful to him for teaching me, even in the face of adversity, to be proud to be a Jew.



How the 'Hillel Sandwich' got its name

By Kalman Green for Pesach 2016

Every Passover night, after eating matzah alone and maror, the bitter herbs, alone, we customarily eat matzah and maror again, but this time together, with the maror between two pieces of matzah in what looks like a sort of sandwich. Why?

Because about 2100 years ago, there was a Jew named Hillel who held that the matzah and maror must be eaten together. But why do we need to announce, "This is what Hillel did..."? — just eat it! The reason is this: Hillel was one of the most beloved people in Jewish history.

Hillel loved everyone. There are endless stories about his great patience, about how he'd greet everyone with a cheerful face and with happiness. But Hillel's greatest claim to fame came when he coined his saying: "Don't do to your fellow what you personally hate — this is the entire Torah."

Hillel was saying that whatever you don't want people to do to you, don't do to others — in contrast to the popular saying, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

"This is the entire Torah." It was the first time in Jewish history that a Jewish leader came along and said that to love another person is the entire Torah. Thus, Hillel became a symbol of Ahavas Yisroel, of love of fellow Jew — and even in the non-Jewish world, the tales of Hillel's patience and his sayings are well known and accepted. That's why the Jewish People returned that love to him — perpetuating him on the day upon which he rose to greatness and saying "Thus did Hillel!"

So, Seder night, my friends, as we celebrate our Freedom, and declare "Thus did Hillel!" as we eat our "Hillel sandwiches", we should bear in mind not just the sandwich that Hillel invented and try to do the mitzvah as he did.

"Thus did Hillel!" is a call to each of us, whoever he or she may be, to remember how one must love another Jew — to be patient like Hillel, humble like Hillel, and above all, loving of every Jew like Hillel - to remember that the entire Torah is really nothing more than a commentary on the mitzvah of loving one's fellow Jew.



Shifting points of view

By Lindy Diamond for Pesach 2017

Shifting our focus off ourselves, there is an Egyptian heroine we gratefully remember at our Seder tables. Pharaoh's daughter, despite the considerable danger to herself, defied her father and brought into motion events that would lead to our freedom. Not only a woman, but a non-Jewish woman without whom the outcome of our story as Jews would have been very different.

Akin to the 'Righteous Among the Nations' who faced unthinkable personal danger helping Jews escape the gas chambers of Nazi Germany, Pharaoh's daughter saved Moses from certain death and facilitated the liberation of the children of Israel. She shifted her focus onto someone other than herself and changed everything. Her name was Bithiah.

I know we remove drops of wine from our glasses when we speak of the plagues, so as to lessen the joy of our redemption, remembering that everything comes at a cost. Do we think of it enough, and speak of it tactfully to our children, so that they can consider their place in a world that should be seen from many points of view? If we can recognise the existence and importance of people like Bithiah, perhaps we can try to understand extenuating circumstances in the actions of others — even when they are 'other'.



A time to appreciate all that we have

By Dani Wilke for Pesach 2016

The epitome of Pesach is my family's inexplicable love for matzah. Despite its somewhat cardboard appearance, and sometimes taste, for us it is a highlight of the holiday.

Many people find it a challenge to remove bread and other chometz from their diets, but in my household it is a time for invention and improvisation. Some of our staple Pesach treats include matzah pizza, geshmirta matzah, matzah granola, and a newly found creation, matzah French toast.

While I cherish the time I have to sit around a table and celebrate our story with people whom I love, I believe that we should keep in mind those who are unable or do not have the luxury of spending this special time with their families.

I believe that it is essential to fulfill the mitzvot of eating matzah and having a Seder. These few days, as previously mentioned, set us apart from others and add towards our Jewish identity. It contributes to our identification of ourselves as different from others along with an opportunity to celebrate a very valuable piece of our Jewish history.

Despite the diverse traditions, we should all embrace the limited time that we are blessed with to sit around a table with our families. This is a time to connect with Hashem and one another to appreciate what we have today that our forefathers and mother's did not have.



A personal reflection on Pesach

By Yaron Wiesenbacher for Pesach 2018

Now, I have no research or numbers to determine how many Jews celebrate Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur, Purim or Succot or any of the other 28 chags we have. But what I do know is that most Jews find a Seder table every year. Whether they're religious or not, most Jews will sit with their families on the first night of Pesach and tell the story of how Moses left Egypt.

Some families take half an hour to tell the story and some families, well, some families take eight days to tell the story. I personally don't believe the story. It's a little bit far-fetched and I struggle to fathom that they left in such a rush that the bread wasn't able to rise. What Jew in their right mind would not forecast the time of departure correctly? My grandmother arrives at the airport for a flight, two days before the boarding time.

But please, while I still barely have your attention, I have a burning question that I want to put forward. It's a question I've been battling with my entire adult life. Why the sliced carrot on top of the gefilte fish? Why?

The only answer that I have ever been given is that it just does. It just does Yaron. It just does.



Excerpts from Pesach-past from community members

For the original, full length articles, visit <http://cjc.org.za/community-reflections/>

Gratitude in adversity

By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb for Pesach 2019

I find it easy to feel gratitude these days, having found myself here, in this beautiful if complicated city; in this progressive, accepting and warm community — forging a new life in a new place, surrounding myself with new friends who are quickly becoming family.



It is often easy to feel gratitude at the beginning of a new journey, and I appreciate the opportunity to name my blessings, take stock of what I have.

As a female rabbi, I have learned that my experience differs in some (but not all) ways, from the experiences of my male colleagues. I experience, as most women in male-dominated professions do, subtle yet noticeable examples of discrimination and dismissal. I have experienced being asked for my thoughts or opinions after a male colleague has already been asked, or worse perhaps, answering a question posed by someone only to have them turn to a male colleague for confirmation that I have answered correctly!

I have experienced microaggressions, and belittlement in the form of compliment. I have been told that I look too-young or too-pretty to be a rabbi — all by people who then expressed surprise or even annoyance when I didn't say 'thank you.' While I know that the way a rabbi presents him or herself is an important reflection of both themselves and their community, I also know that my male colleagues are rarely asked what they're planning to wear to a synagogue service or event, and that the Jewish women of the world rarely spend their time debating the hemlines of my male-colleagues' pants or the length of their shirts-sleeves. Whereas what I wear, wore, or am thinking of wearing — both on and off the bimah — is a subject of ongoing discussion — now a world-wide phenomenon!

At the same time, I am grateful for these additional challenges to my rabbinate. My experiences make me uniquely attuned to the struggles of other women, and to minorities who share many of these experiences of women. I am grateful to have had these experiences motivate me to become a passionate advocate for awareness and change.

I am Jewish therefore I question

By David Jacobson for Pesach 2016

Questions are so central to the Seder that according to Maimonides' Mishneh Torah, changing the night's procedure is permitted in order to provoke children to ask, "What's the story?"



This enables our children to move from passive observers in our faith to active and engaged participants. It has proved to be an incredibly successful model for education and has helped us transmit our faith from one generation to the next for thousands of years.

In essence, questions are a mark of freedom, so it's no wonder they are the cornerstone of celebrating the festival of freedom.

Too often our response as a community to those who question communal ideology is one of derision, or worse, one of isolation and vilification. Pesach teaches us that we should not only be grateful for the questions asked of us, we should actively be encouraging even more questioning.

Remembering the spirit of Pesach past

By Ann Harris for Pesach 2016

The week before Pesach, the kitchen became the battleground. Surfaces spread with powdered bleach and scrubbed with hard brushes, gas and coal ovens dismantled and reassembled, the latter carefully blackleaded. And the linoleum on the kitchen floor — there was even a legend that Grandpa's beloved cat Rachmones (yes, that was his name!) was forced to wear socks for the duration in case Heaven forbid, he should bring a crumb in on his paws.



Then the Pesach dishes, pots and pans from the cellar, china and cutlery from the attic and a great enamel bath in the yard in which the glass soaked.

The shopping was only done about three days before Erev Pesach. No Pick n Pay, Checkers or Spar then and no packed goods. Just new sacks of sugar, tea, salt, coconut, almonds and potato flour at the little Jewish corner grocery shop, cinnamon and ginger if we were lucky and unpleasant cooking oil. The basic veggies came from the greengrocery next door, sacks of potatoes, onions and carrots straight from the farm. No variety of fruit in war time, apples, apples....and apples. My father's medical connections with the outlying farms provided the vital eggs and also tomatoes.

My great uncle Abraham, the respected shochet who lived next door brought home the chickens and quantities of liver to chop, and fresh brisket for the tzimmes. The whole fish came on a cart from the nearby fishing town. And what about the matzah? In our town, it was a privilege to get your matzah from the last baking before Yomtov. You had to be in the top drawer of the community to be so favoured.

Ours always arrived when the table was already set, too hot to handle.

The Seder then and now...

By Irma Chait z"l for Pesach 2018

For various reasons the 'cast' of those participating in the Haggadah's dramatic, miraculous narrative has changed somewhat over the years. Many of you readers may be nodding your heads, recalling those early days when you battled to get enough trestle tables and chairs to seat your 20 or 30 'players'. Gradually the numbers diminished as people moved on or away... in this world or to the next.



In earlier days Noah (not the original) would open the proceedings in the traditional way, with all moving on pretty smoothly, other than his having to control the chattering... of children and adults! To keep people on their toes — children and adults — he would call on individuals randomly to read the various sections: some in the Hebrew, and those likely to battle and delay the narration, in the English.

The problem was that owing to the numbers of readers, we would at times need about three different haggadot. So there'd be repeated calls of "What page are we on?" from all sides, readers included. Much conferring. Glares from the boss.

For the kids, as still today, Ma Nishtana they handled very well, with unsought assistance from their elders. For this, and generally, one could give much credit to Herzlia for its input. Other kids' special moments have always included the Dayenus and the big search for the Afikomen ("Not in my linen cupboard!")

And the range of ages at the tables? Young, growing-ups, fully grown and some over-grown, like my Dad, Oupa Jay, (from PE) who was with us till into his 90s.

He would rattle off his special part, Lefichach, at breakneck speed, ending with a resoundingly triumphant Halleluyah! After he'd reached 85 or so, he'd then retire to an armchair in the lounge, demanding, "When are we going to eat?"



ORT Jet Cape Town empowers entrepreneurs in the Jewish community through mentorship, networking, and entrepreneurial training. We continue to make a significant impact!



Highlights from 2020



Arthur Gillis,
Can your business survive
COVID-19?



Michael Bagraim,
Labour law under new
normal



Nikki Wohlman,
Celebrating
Women



Pippa Ehrlich,
My Octopus
Teacher

"From the onset of lockdown ORT Jet adapted and pivoted to an online offering. We continue to deliver, empower, and support through the challenges of 2020. Thank you to our speakers, mentors, donors, and the Cape Town Jewish community who supported ORT Jet during 2020. These strong connections and partnerships have enabled ORT Jet to grow and become the organisation it is today." **Lisa Sandler & Brenna Frankel, Joint head ORT Jet Cape Town**

Chag Pesach Kasher Ve'Sameach. Wishing you and your families a healthy, peaceful and meaningful Pesach.



MOST SA JEWS (BOTH OF ASHKENAZI AND SEPHARDI HERITAGE) ARE ELIGIBLE TO REINSTATE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND, ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT.

A common misconception is that European citizenship and EU passports can only be obtained if one has documents providing his/her lineage. The fact is that not having any documents proving lineage, doesn't lead to disqualification of eligibility. Jews of Ashkenazi heritage can rely on documents obtained in Lithuania or Poland.

Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

In his experience, the majority of South African Jews are descendants of Jews whose European citizenship was illegally deprived, and therefore they are entitled to reinstate it, and accordingly obtain an EU passport.



Adv. Horesh has been operating in SA market with the Jewish community since March 2018. He arrives regularly to South Africa, and can meet in person with Jews who are interested to do so.

Ashkenazi: This ad refers to Jews of Polish & Lithuanian heritage only. The most important thing is the understanding that prior to the end of WW-I, the European map was very different than the one we know today. Countries like Poland and Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and until 1918 these territories were only known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Great Russian Empire who ruled all of north eastern Europe. Accordingly, until 1918, residents of these territories were Russian citizens, as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships didn't exist. Therefore, since applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based on whether one's ancestor was a Polish or Lithuanian citizen, whoever is a descendant of an ancestor who left Europe prior to 1918 will not be eligible.

In addition, it is highly important to remember that since borders in Europe were shifted once again during and after WW-II, one's eligibility for Polish or Lithuanian citizenship depends on the city from which his/her ancestor hailed. Horesh explains: Shifted borders resulted in cities changing nationalities, and that the resultant effect for descendants of Jews left Vilnius is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined whereas a similar



Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived in Poland for seven years. Horesh is recognised in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship.

application for reinstatement of Polish citizenship may very well be approved!

Sephardi: This ad refers to all Jews of Sephardi heritage – Jews who arrived from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, as well as many descendants of Jews who arrived from Holland and the UK. Most descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are eligible to reinstate Portuguese citizenship and, accordingly, an EU passport. If applicable, Adv. Horesh will apply for (on behalf of the applicant) an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which, an application for Portuguese citizenship is most likely to be approved.

Horesh has an in-depth knowledge and a full understanding of European immigration laws.

Horesh resides in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – enabling him to travel to Poland and Lithuania, as well as to Portugal, where he collaborates with local professionals who assist him in tracing documentation required for successful applications of reinstatement of European citizenship.

Adv. Horesh closely collaborates with professionals who assist him in tracing documentation in Europe required for successful applications of reinstatement of EU citizenships.

My travel schedule has been postponed due to COVID-19, at the moment I plan to arrive in May. I'm offering to review and advise your case for free. You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or whatsapp +48783953223

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Shayna Tarlie
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Sasha-Lee Wolfsohn
6 Distinctions

4 Matrics achieved 8 Distinctions

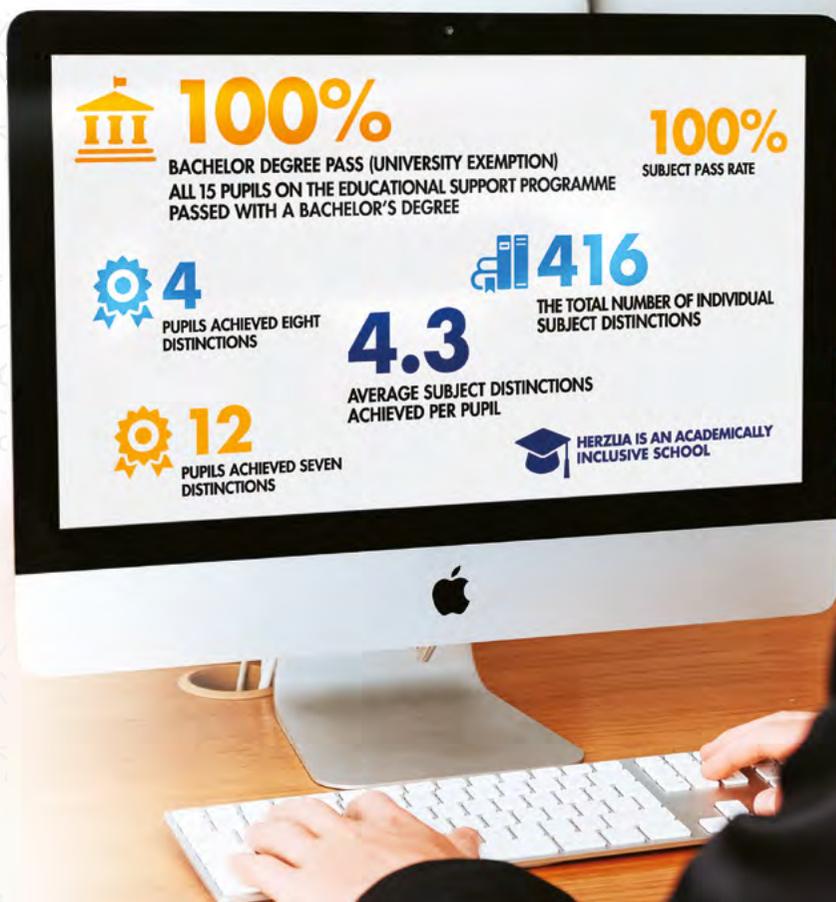
12 Matrics achieved 7 Distinctions

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איחוד בתי הכנסת האורתודוקסים
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CAPE COUNCIL

BURNING BRIGHTLY

Cape Town's Heroes: God's Partners in Creation

CHIEF RABBI DR WARREN GOLDSTEIN

Picture the scene. The Jewish people are leaving Egypt in their millions chased by the Egyptian army. They arrive at the Sea of Reeds. With the Egyptian army behind them and the sea in front of them, they are trapped. It's at this point that a great miracle happens – the splitting of the sea. But before it does, something equally extraordinary takes place. Because the truth is, the sea didn't just split. One man, Nachshon ben Aminadav, had to jump in before the miracle happened. And he didn't just jump in. He waded in until the water reached his nostrils. It was at that point that the sea split. At great personal risk, yet with supreme, serene faith in Hashem, Nachshon threw himself into the churning waters and saved the Jewish people.

Over the past year, we've seen similar heroics from our Cape Town Jewish community, and from our incredible network of communal organisations and community volunteers.

The COVID-19 crisis has posed an existential threat to our community. Sometimes, it has felt like the water has reached our nostrils, like we are drowning. Yet our precious Cape community has amazing heroes who threw themselves into the task of saving the community, and mitigating the impact of the Corona Virus, with astonishing determination. And while the threat remains, it is in their merit, and as a result of their courageous efforts, that Hashem has brought us through onto dry land.

The driving idea behind these efforts is that we are, in the words of the Talmud, God's partners in creation; that He requires us to take the initiative – to jump into the water, so to speak – and play an instrumental part in healing His world. Of course, if we are all God's partners in creation, that automatically makes us partners with each other, as we work together towards a better world. And that is precisely what has happened during the COVID-19 crisis – with different organisations, different schools, different welfare institutions, different individuals setting aside those differences and working together in unprecedented ways for the common good.

There are too many heroes to document in the space of one article. But I would like to mention just a few of them.

Perhaps no organisation has thrown themselves into the pandemic quite like the CSO Medical Response. They've gone beyond the call of duty, beyond what can reasonably be expected, devoting extraordinary efforts to provide those suffering from the disease with the care they need. And they've risked their lives every day doing so.

Working with Hatzolah, they've also launched a revolutionary programme to monitor community members who have contracted COVID-19 or are awaiting test results, tracking their temperature,

heart rate and oxygen levels on a daily basis. This is just one example of the spirit of partnership that has supercharged the COVID-19 response.

Another group of heroes are the workers of the United Chevrah Kadisha, run by the UOS. The selfless and holy work carried out by the undertakers, throughout this pandemic, but particularly during the second wave in December and January, is chesed in the truest sense – actions whose merit we cannot even imagine. On call 24 hours a day, working literal graveyard shifts at all hours of the night, these heroes have performed their work with dignity and sensitivity under exceptionally difficult conditions.

I've been particularly inspired by how our Rabbis and Rebbetzins have come to the fore, providing emotional support and spiritual guidance when we need it most, and often under incredibly challenging circumstances. Whether it's leading funerals, coordinating shiva houses via Zoom, running virtual prayer gatherings, continuing Torah classes undeterred, or providing congregants with much-needed counsel even when they couldn't connect with them physically – their dedication has been remarkable.

Another example of the power of partnership is the Geshur Fund – born from a realisation that COVID-19 is as much a financial crisis as it is a health crisis. To date, the Geshur Fund has brought relief to 60 companies, ranging from single-manned operations to businesses employing 450 people. The Cape Town community have been ever-willing partners in these fundraising drives. Indeed, just a few weeks after its 2020 annual appeal, The UJC launched an emergency COVID-19 campaign to save the community – and raised more than R30m!

The reality is that partnerships have characterised the Cape Town Jewish community's response across the board. The UJC, the SAJBD Cape Council, all the Jewish day schools, the David Susman Community Foundation, the Kaplan Centre, JCS, Tikvah, Glendale, Cape Jewish Seniors, Highlands House, Nechama – working together, they have helped the community weather this crisis, mitigated its impact, and embodied the idea of being God's partners in creation.

It's hard to think of an individual who epitomised this idea of partnership and service more than Rabbi Desmond Maizels, of blessed memory. Earlier this year, Cape Town lost one of its greatest sons, a person who had community running through his veins. Rabbi Desmond Maizels was one of a kind – shochet, mohel, dayan, community rabbi – and one of the world's great kashrut experts. He left his mark on communities all over South Africa, but of course, his beloved Cape Town community is where Rabbi Maizels made his greatest contribution. Indeed, the Cape Town Jewish community is unimaginable without him.

Rabbi Desmond Maizels, and indeed, all the Jewish organisations who have worked together throughout the COVID-19 crisis have demonstrated what it means to fulfill the great calling of our lives: to be God's partners in creation. They've shown us that no challenge is insurmountable, no difficulty cannot be withstood. That a better world is within our grasp.

To our wonderful Cape Town Jewish community, *Chag Kasher V'sameach* – a beautiful Pesach, and deeply meaningful, enriching Seders. May God bring health and healing to our community, to our country, to our world.



A VIEW FROM THE BAR

Is being HIV positive a disability deserving special protection? What about COVID-19?



By Anton Katz

Jacques Hoffmann applied for employment as a cabin attendant with South African Airways.

He went through a four-stage selection process comprising a pre-screening interview, psychometric tests, a formal interview and a final screening process involving role-play. He was found to be a suitable candidate for employment. However, he was subject to a medical examination, which included a blood test for HIV/AIDS.

The medical examination found him to be clinically fit and thus suitable for employment, and the blood test indicated he was HIV positive. The medical report was altered to read that the appellant was 'H.I.V. positive' and therefore 'unsuitable'. Hoffmann was informed that he could not be employed as a cabin attendant because of his HIV positive status.

Mr Hoffmann challenged the constitutionality of the refusal to employ him in the courts. He argued that SAA's rejection constituted unfair discrimination, and violated his constitutional right to equality, human dignity and fair labour practices. SAA denied it acted unlawfully. SAA argued that his exclusion from employment had been dictated by its employment practice, which required the exclusion from employment as cabin attendant of all persons who were HIV positive.

SAA justified this practice on safety, medical and operational grounds. SAA said that its flight crew had to be fit for world-wide duty. In the course of their duties, they are required to fly to yellow fever endemic countries. To fly to these countries, they must be vaccinated against yellow fever, in accordance with guidelines issued by the National Department of Health.

Persons who are HIV positive may react negatively to this vaccine and may, therefore, not take it. If they do not take it, however, they run the risk not only of contracting yellow fever, but also of transmitting it to others, including passengers. SAA added that people who are HIV positive are also prone to contracting opportunistic diseases. There is a risk, therefore, that they may contract these diseases and transmit them to others.

If they are ill with these opportunistic diseases, they will not be able to perform the emergency and safety procedures that they are required to perform in the course of their duties as cabin attendants. SAA emphasised that its practice was directed at detecting all kinds of disability that make an individual unsuitable for employment as flight crew. SAA contended it had a similar practice that excluded from employment as cabin crew individuals with other disabilities, such as epilepsy, impaired vision and deafness. SAA added that the life expectancy of people who are HIV positive was too short to warrant the costs of training them.

The Constitutional Court sharply analysed the medical evidence in its consideration of the alleged unfair discrimination.

It stated: "At the heart of the prohibition of unfair discrimination is the recognition that under our Constitution all human beings, regardless of their position in society, must be accorded equal dignity. That dignity is impaired when a person is unfairly discriminated against. The determining factor regarding the unfairness of the discrimination is its impact on the person discriminated against. Relevant considerations in this regard include the position of the victim of the discrimination in society, the purpose sought to be achieved by the discrimination, the

extent to which the rights or interests of the victim of the discrimination have been affected, and whether the discrimination has impaired the human dignity of the victim. Hoffmann is living with HIV. People who are living with

HIV constitute a minority. Society has responded to their plight with intense prejudice."

The Court held that prejudice can never justify unfair discrimination. The Constitutional Court rejected SAA's defences; it found SAA had acted unlawfully and ordered them to immediately offer Mr Hoffmann employment as a cabin attendant.

It stated: "People who are living with HIV must be treated with compassion and understanding. We must show ubuntu towards them. [Ubuntu is the recognition of human worth and respect for the dignity of every person.] They must not be

condemned to 'economic death' by the denial of equal opportunity in employment.

This is particularly true in our country, where the incidence of HIV infection is said to be disturbingly high."

As COVID-19 continues its seemingly destructive path through humans South African society may wish to consider whether the HIV Hoffmann case is of any relevance. There are obvious and significant differences between HIV and COVID-19. HIV viciously targeted minority sectors in society. COVID-19 has a far wider impact. It targets millions and millions more people. And many people who test COVID positive experience no symptoms. Not so with HIV. So medically HIV and COVID are vastly different.

But certain similarities cannot be ignored. Many have lost their lives. Governments have been criticised. There has been a media frenzy with blanket coverage of the epidemic and pandemic. Social practices have changed radically. And conspiracy theories have been rampant.

What is important is that we treat each other with respect and the dignity and self-worth of every must be recognised and protected. That means in all respects, from employment opportunities to when rights must be limited for the benefit of the entire society they are limited in the least restrictive manner.

Vaccine roll out must be done in a fair and just manner with no corruption or other unlawful opportunism occurring.

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Rice-Tic South Africa celebrating our 50th year of providing quality products wishes all our Jewish Customers Chag Pesach Sameach

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"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." – Dr. Seuss

SEA POINT | FRESNAYE | BANTRY BAY

**OUR PROM, YOUR PROM
EVERYBODY'S PROMENADE**



We, at the SFB, are passionate and proud guardians of this amazing space and what it represents to all of Cape Town. This 4KM strip is abuzz with activities and full of people from everywhere. Even our President has been seen strolling! Thanks to Cllr Jowell and City Parks, it's madly popular, especially now, during Covid. The SFB aims to keep it as clean as possible with Straatwerk, providing up to 12000 Doggy Poo Bags monthly (soon to be biodegradeable!). Did you know, that by joining the SFB, as a member, you are contributing to our projects and new developments and enabling us to extend above the main road.

We want to do SO much more! Volunteer for the SFB!
THE NEW FACE OF THE SFB EXCO



Lydia Abel



Michael Ender



Shada Francis



Ruth Friedman



Yusuf Kadwa



Juanita Levetan



Gordon Metz



Victor Morris



Miles October



David Polovin



David Rose



Ilana Shone

JOIN

sfb.org.za



admin@sfb.org.za
078 873 0423
Toni van Eyssen



Follow us for regular community updates

PLAN

The Planning Committee reviews applications for departures, municipal laws and provides professional guidance with:

- Heritage considerations
- Title deed amendments
- General consultation/ assistance to city, owners and residents in the SFB area re: compliance, legality and approvals

Contact admin for assistance

SAFE



24/7 patrols of the beachfront and side roads
24hr emergency number for SFB members

NEW DEVELOPMENTS COMING SOON!

CLEAN



7 days a week Prom cleaned
5 days a week side roads cleaned
1 day a week beaches cleaned
12 000 Doggy Poo Bags used monthly

CARE



Kevin Alexander and his team of fieldworkers assist with work opportunities, shelter and reintegration of the homeless, together with the City and SP CID.
Supporting us supports PROJECT HOPE
The SFB's approach to homelessness in our area.

The Ratespayers and Residents Assoc. is a voluntary organisation and relies on fees, donations and sponsorship.



WHAT STORY ARE YOU TELLING THIS PESACH?

Wishing you and your family a safe & meaningful Pesach



Warmest regards
The PJ Library in South Africa Team



All Jewish families in South Africa are invited to receive the monthly gift of **free Jewish children's books!**

If your child is aged between 3-8 years of age and not already in a participating school, you can sign-up here:

WEB: pjlibrary.org.za FACEBOOK: @PJLIBRARYSA



Chag
PESACH
Sameach

From all of us at
Oranjia Jewish Child and Youth Centre

We wish to thank every member of our community for the incredible support and love shown to our welfare organisations and our children in particular, during these troubled times. Our hope is to see improved health and happiness for all of us as we continue to navigate uncertain waters. Together, we really are stronger. Thank you!

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MENSCH EMPOWERING PEOPLE CREATING CHANGE



JOIN THE MENSCH PROFESSIONAL CHANGE-MAKERS NETWORK

We offer:

- **SKILLS TRAINING 2021** kicked off with our 'HIIT' Series of Skills for Non Profit Management
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** Watch this space for our Mensch Impact Leadership Programme
- **NETWORKING AND** Online & curated in-person opportunities to connect and create change
- **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.** Speak to our team about your needs so we can connect you to opportunities
- **JEWISH LEARNING AND** Join us to light candles, break bread, welcome chaggim and connect the dots
- **RITUAL SPACES,** & a community of Mensch offers Jewish South Africans a space for our identities to enhance one another
- **LIKE-MINDED FOLKS.** connecting with those that inspire, motivate and drive us forward to create change.



VOLUNTEER, FUNDRAISE, ADVOCATE & SUPPORT

Just some of the ways you can get involved:

- **VOLUNTEERING DAYS** online & in-person We host and co-create volunteer days like MANDELA DAY & MITZVAH DAY - join us!
- **VOLUNTEER WITH A NETWORK MEMBER** Got time and skills to share? Let us know how you can help & we'll connect you.
- **GOT A SIMCHA COMING UP - CREATE YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER** Create your own 'Back-a-Buddy' style page on our site.
- **BE AN AMBASSADOR - SHARE MENSCH CONTENT & RAISE AWARENESS** Be part of the solution and share GOOD news!
- **SUPPORT ONCE-OFF, MONTHLY OR IN-KIND TO MENSCH & OUR BENEFICIARIES** A little goes a long way :)



MENSCH CHANGE-MAKER OF THE MONTH

Bryan Opert

Was the Exodus from Egypt the first foray into coaching?

Pesach is not about the Exodus; it only starts with the Exodus. It is about the creation of a nation that can look after themselves — whether they appear to be on the edge of chaos or just journeying towards contentment. G-d was in fact the first coach!

“Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains.” This opening line of Rousseau’s ‘The Social Contract’ summarises his philosophical system. While I do not claim to be an expert on Rousseau, I do however find the contrast between this quote (from the 1700’s) to that of Victor Frankel’s - who survived the Holocaust, as fascinating.

In his book, ‘Man’s Search for Meaning’, Frankel famously says “Everything can be taken away from a man but one thing: — to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.” Rousseau, it appears, sees man as limited in his choices and thus needing to focus on his external struggles. Frankel, on the other hand, minimises the effect of context and places the power within man. While Rousseau correctly points out the ‘standard’ reality of man, Frankel emphatically states that man can move beyond. This, I believe, is where coaching finds its place and why I’m so passionate about it.

The belief of the coach is that each person’s challenges should be accessed and addressed through their own thinking process. The task of the coach is to focus the client on their present with a look to their future. The coach assists them to find their strengths and access abilities they might not have known existed. The coach does not lecture, does not teach, does not direct. They hand the power to the client in a focused

manner, allowing them the space to build belief in their own resources and the vital skill of problem solving.

Coaching is built on the idea that the quality of everything we do depends on how we think about it first. Nancy Kline in her book ‘Time to Think’ enumerates 10 components required to create a Thinking Environment. Within such an environment the coach makes space for the coachee to think for themselves with rigour, imagination, courage and grace. The coach listens, asks incisive questions and sometime nudges the client to imagine solutions they had not previously considered.

The coachee comes face to face with their authentic self (with all its imperfections), but more importantly the client uncovers their hidden gems.

This wisdom is ancient. It is taught as a narrative in the Biblical Exodus story. This story is not about freeing a motley, spiritually broken clan and creating a powerful nation. There were easier ways to achieve this! This narrative is one of an unfolding of the power of individuals and true leadership. The lessons are eternal. This is possibly a very early example of coaching!

The process begins with the nation being completely passive as Egypt slowly disintegrates before their very eyes. But this is not good enough. One does not free oneself from chains that bind without pro-actively engaging with all facets of life. Slowly the Israelites ‘are given’ greater responsibility for their own lives - and their own inner-strengths are manifested. It was a slow process. Sometimes they succeeded and other times they failed. Their ‘muscle’ of self-development was flexing and strengthening.

They are faced with the sea and successfully cross it, they are forced

**LEARN THROUGH CREATIVITY AT SALISBURY HOUSE**

Salisbury House has had a wonderful three months filled with learning, fun and time spent getting to know each other.

The aim of Salisbury House is to learn through creativity. The majority of our skills are practiced through our theme work, where we combine all our subjects to study a specific topic. We put a big emphasis on compassion, perseverance and critical thinking, all of which are important in order to meet the challenges of the future.

In our multi-grade classroom children are taught according to their ability, not their age. This means that each child has their own individual learning plan, keeping the WCED CAPS curriculum in mind.

We have Hebrew and Jewish studies lessons three times a week,

the highlight of which is always our Shabbat celebration. Our Jewish Studies lessons are built into our theme work and we practice the various Midot throughout our daily lives at school.

At Salisbury House we celebrate the chagim in style. We culminated our topic of tree-dwelling animals by celebrating Tu B’shvat. We enjoyed a hike in Newlands Forest where we observed birds and squirrels. We then had enormous fun exploring the river and taking part in a scavenger hunt. Purim was also included in our topic of mythological animals, and we had plenty of fun ideas for our dress-up costumes.

Salisbury House is an independent Jewish primary school where we strive to inspire children to be creative and critical thinkers, as well as responsible citizens ready to meet the challenges of the future.

Visit <http://www.salisburyhouse.co.za> for more information.



Celebrating Tu B’shvat: Ms Aimée Chiat, Robert Straszim, Elijah Hoffenberg, Tayah Weir, Noa Schapiro, Maya Schapiro and Rabbi Greg Alexander

to collect manna, they prepare for the Divine Revelation, and ultimately they are able to protect themselves when attacked by the nation of Amalek.

For 40 years they develop a resilience in their ability to bounce back from adversity. They built a set of personal strengths — so they not only coped, but thrived. This is so beautifully shown as their children too learned these skills as they entered their Promised Land. This is the real lesson of Pesach.

Once I attained my degree in coaching, I used this skill to create the NGO ‘Quantum Growth’. The key focus is to bring the benefits of coaching to areas where English is not spoken as a first language. Coaching was and continues to develop in a Western culture using concepts from psychology, sociology, and anthropology. To massage this into a workable solution for other audiences took time, learning, failing and a refinement of methodology.

We eventually succeeded!

Working with Leadership Teams at schools in the Western Cape, we help create a space for individuals and teams to reflect, learn and grow within their chosen personal, professional, leadership and strategic agendas.

By being a part of the Mensch Network, I was introduced to and coached participants and leaders from the ‘The Scalabrini Centre for Refugees and Migrants’ and ‘Waves for Change’ (W4C). It is a privilege to be part of a Jewish social change organisation like Mensch which is helping to bridge ours and less privileged communities in meaningful and empowering ways.

To watch each participant drawing on their own inner wisdom, manifesting and actively using it to improve their lives and those around them — is like watching a contemporary re-enactment of the Biblical Exodus — The Story of Pesach. It is indeed an honour.

Bryan Opert is a valued member of the Mensch Network who has generously given his time to coaching other Network Members. To find out more visit www.mensch.org.za

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2020: A year of many challenges ...

A word from our Director



The start of any year is always a hive of activity at the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre (CTHGC) and the beginning of 2020 was no different.

The team was refreshed from their leave and busy finalising all the arrangements to welcome school learners to our daily education workshops, educators were traveling to facilitate teacher training workshops across the Western Cape, hosting of weekly talks at the Centre, tourists were visiting our permanent exhibition and then... COVID-19 hit our shores.

Like most organisations, we were forced to rethink how we would continue with the offerings of our Centre. Guided by the vision and mission of the CTHGC, our team embraced a new way of working and were enthused by the plethora of opportunities that allowed us to think creatively and use the resources we had at hand. The development of on-line education resources and teaching, lectures and panel discussions through webinars have been very successful. This hybrid method of working, we believe, will continue in conjunction with our physical offerings in the future. We have greatly extended our reach to local, national and international audiences which under normal circumstances would not have been possible.

During this time of social upheaval we have been working closely with our sister centres in Johannesburg and Durban under the umbrella of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation. We have included a message from Tali Nates which outlines a number of collaborations over the past year.

It is with deep gratitude that we thank our trustees, our generous benefactors who believe in and support the work we do, our dedicated group of volunteers who give so selflessly of their time and last but not least you, our Friends of the CTHGC, for participating in the many physical or virtual programmes we have hosted this year.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy year and we look forward to seeing you, either in person or virtually, in 2021.

Warm wishes, Heather Blumenthal and the CTHGC Team

Survivor portraits

Our Survivors continue to be a source of inspiration for us all – their resilience, tenacity and sense of spirit, is extraordinary.

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Professor Omer Bartov was our guest speaker for World Holocaust Memorial Day and delivered a heart rendering lecture on his family's origin and their subsequent demise called: Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczac. Italian editor, writer, essayist and literary critic, Alberto Rollo, discussed how prominent Italian writers explored Jewish identity within their works and the changes in the landscape brought by the writings of Primo Levi and Giorgio Bassani.

Continuing in this vein we decided that the month of February would be dedicated to our survivors who made Cape Town their home. The artists of Highlands House ambitiously took on the project of painting a series of 41 survivor portraits, the result a wonderful exhibition.

Survivors Ella Blumenthal and Helene Joffe shared their personal testimonies and Luc Albinski explored 'The Heroines of the Warsaw Ghetto Doctor Corps' with particular reference to his grandmother Dr Halina Rotstein and his mother Wanda.

It is through testimony that the flame of the Holocaust burns brightly for us to learn, memorialise and commemorate those who perished under the hands of the Nazi regime.



Professor Omer Bartov with Holocaust survivor Miriam Lichterman



Holocaust survivor Hélène Joffe

A new collection for the SAGHF archive

Recently, we received a large collection of letters, documents and ephemera related to the Engel/Cohn families.

The families were German Jewish who immigrated to South Africa in the late 1930s from Breslau present day Wrocław, Poland to Cape Town. Heinz Engel was a factory owner who was forced to sell his factory because of the Nazi's policy of 'aryanisation.' Heinz immigrated to South Africa in 1936 and was eventually followed by his fiancé, Eva and her parents Paul and Gertrud Cohn. Heinz was unable to secure passage for his parents, Arthur and Hermine Engel and brother, Rudi, who perished during the Holocaust. Little is known about their fate.

Once in Cape Town Heinz found it difficult to obtain work in his field. He even tried to start his own import/export business using his contacts in Germany. However, when the war broke out his operation could not continue. After war he opened a garage in Gardens, Cape Town. He and Eva later had three children, Elizabeth, Dennis and Colin.

Coming up in 2021

We are excited to announce that in 2021 the SAHGF Archive in collaboration with UCT Special Collections will be launching a new interactive digital showcase website, Ibali. Once the site is live visitors will be able to learn more about the families and individuals as well as interact with select artefacts and documents from our collections.



Notification of Jewish Property tax, Breslau, Germany



German Passport of Dr Paul Cohn stamped with the infamous red 'J' which identified him as Jewish.

...but an abundance of opportunities



Second and third generation testimonies

As we hear of more Holocaust survivors passing, it serves as a reminder of how important second and third generation testimony is. It is through the stories of children and grandchildren of survivors that their memories continue.

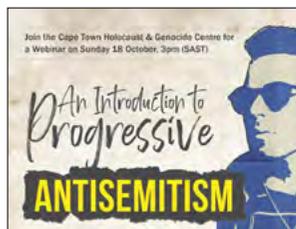
At the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre we undertook a project to contact second and third generation survivors and asked them to film a short clip as a tribute to their parents or grandparents. We were overwhelmed at the positive response and the poignant memories that were shared. It is more important now than ever before to keep these memories alive. We need to make the past part of our present so that it will live on into the future.

To view the second and third generation testimonies log onto our YouTube channel or view them on our website www.ctholocaust.co.za.



Webinars at the CTHGC

The Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre initiated Zoom as a medium of communication within the first week of the lockdown.



Dr David Deutsch was in Cape Town for a series of lectures and workshops and with our campus closing on 16 March, a week before the official lockdown, he was unable to present in person, so we used Zoom to engage with this brilliant and talented speaker.



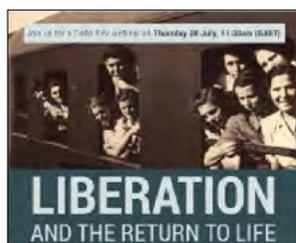
Since then we have offered continuing adult education to our community and beyond through Zoom talks, lectures and enrichment programmes both local and international. This kept us stimulated and able to engage in events we would otherwise not have had the opportunity to attend. Our Mervyn Smith Memorial series of lectures with Dovid Katz, a Vilnius based Yiddish and Holocaust scholar was extremely well received, with attendees logging on to them from across the globe.



Other diverse and interesting topics on offer last year were The Namibian Genocide and Remembering Through the Arts presented by Dr Pedzisai Maedza, Dr Bjorn Krondorfer; Dr Monica Rice; Dr Robert Sommer; Dr Lina Pine participated in a panel discussion on The Holocaust & Masculinities: Critical Inquiries into the Presence and Absence of Men which offered attendees another unique



lens through which to view this history. We were delighted to host the author of Survivor Café: The Legacy of Trauma and the Labyrinth of Memory, Elizabeth Rosner, and Rabbi Moshe Cohn's webinar on the Unique challenge to Jewish mothers in the Ghettos offered a rare insight into the role of motherhood in the ghetto.



This is only a glimpse into all that was on offer from the CTHGC, and of course now Zoom has become our everyday means of learning. We look forward to offering much more this year and look forward to seeing all our friends from home and abroad online.



Educational programmes onsite and online

In the early months of 2020 we believed our year would be as any other; we had school bookings, we had already hosted international speakers and were looking forward to more.

Lockdown changed all that and our team understood immediately that those who would suffer most through this lockdown would be learners and teachers at under-resourced schools. With this in mind we set to work.

We created resources for Grade 11 learners and educators in both print and video formats. Our work was submitted to and accepted by the Western Cape Education Department and uploaded onto their website. The WCED printed our resources and delivered them to 849 of their 1749 schools, doing so via soup kitchens that had been set up. At a conservative estimate, 29,000 Grade 11 learners had access to our resources. Most of these learners would not have had the opportunity to come through our doors, even before COVID, so our reach has been remarkable. We are in the process of developing the Grade 9 resources and will be offering the same opportunities to the 68 933 Grade 9 learners in the Western Cape.

Please visit our website and click on the Education tab to see the work we have done.

Our annual White Rose Creative Project was also moved online and it was an incredible success with over 101 entrants from schools around the peninsula. Our online prize giving was extremely well received and we will be running the project online again this year. Please visit the White Rose Project on our website to enjoy the exhibition and be amazed at the level of work submitted.

For more well-resourced schools, we offered online lessons, and in November, our beloved survivor Ella Blumenthal did an online talk with Deutsche Schule learners who were overwhelmed and enthralled by her.

As of the first week in March this year, we will be hosting schools at the centre. We have in place all COVID protocols and although we have had to limit



Western Cape Rugby Academy

numbers for each school, there is still enthusiastic uptake for our programmes. Because some schools are unable to get their students to us, we are going out to them and conducting socially distanced programmes in their environment. Alongside this we continue to offer online programmes to those who request them.



CTTH hits the next gear in 2021

While many businesses and schools across the country are contracting, retrenching, and even closing due to the effects of the pandemic, this year CTTH is blessed to be able to mark its largest intake and student population ever despite all the obvious challenges.

The CTTH student population has grown by nearly 30% to top 60 pupils across the boys' and girls' divisions, our campus on Maynard St has also expanded, and to support the growth, our teaching faculty has increased in size.

Our home-base, the historic Ponevez Shul, has been fully renovated and restored making it a magnificent and historic space bursting with the sounds of youthful prayer and Torah study.

Torah education



Sasha Katz in the newly renovated Ponevez Shul. Photo credit Nissim Brett

The heart and soul of the school is its Torah education. Students have between two and three Torah periods a day in addition to the Tefillot and full gamut of General Studies high school courses. Besides for graduates in universities in Israel, South Africa, and the USA, we also have alumni studying full time in top Yeshivot and Seminaries in Israel, like the world-famous Mirrer Yeshiva, Yeshivat Shaalvim, and Midreshet Harova, as well as serving in the IDF!

World-class SAT results

CTTH is South Africa's only Jewish International High School, and instead of IEB or NSC Matric exams, our students take the SAT exam, which is recognised as the leading college entrance and benchmark exam worldwide. We prepare our students for the SAT via a rigorous six-month programme honing the critical thinking and reasoning skills required to excel in this exam. The SAT is time pressured and cross-disciplinary including maths, writing, reading and critical thinking all in one sitting of four hours.

In 2020, CTTH students achieved remarkable results in the SAT, and the CTTH average (1313/1600) was a full 25% higher than the global average, with students scoring as high as the 99th percentile! These results open doors of admission to top universities around the world, as well as make them eligible for financial scholarships. Students have even been recruited by Ivy League schools just based on their marks!



Robotics in action with Adam Kleiman. Photo credit Nissim Brett

Robotics, coding, and Israel education

How do you educate students for occupations that don't yet exist in a fast-changing globalised world? This is a question we struggle with all the time, and with it in mind, the school implemented a new coding and robotics course starting from grade 9 in partnership with Resolute Robotics, and it is already seeing much success in the classroom.



Newly renovated Ponevez Shul. Photo credit Nissim Brett.

To make Israel education and Ivrit contemporary, fun, and entertaining, while meeting the students on their own level, after much research, we partnered with both Israel Unpacked and Ulpan-Or, and 89% of our students choose to take Hebrew, even long after it is mandated by their graduation requirements.

Learning out of the classroom

As another part of our graduation requirements, students need to learn how to give back to their community. For this, we launched a new program called *Litrom be-Yachad* to nurture young producers of change in the Cape Town Jewish community by building connections between our students and many Cape Town Jewish organizations. Students shadow, volunteer, and discover what these organisations do for the community and how they too can help.

We are deeply grateful to Herzlia Schools for opening their extra-murals to our students, and we have also started an

in-house Chess League, are building and planting an edible garden, and have a huge array of extra-curricular Torah clubs where students can take on more out of school learning for incentives and fun. Student Societies range from debating to yoga, photography to first aid.

Schooling may have changed more in the past year than in the past 100 years due to COVID-19, however, there have been many unexpected blessings in these changes. By thinking creatively beyond the limitations of the classroom, emphasising individual attention, and most of all, by fostering an innate love of Torah and Yiddishkeit, we can be confident that our students will continue to blossom and grow despite all odds.



Chess League members Liad Gelgor and Jarred Zolty. Photo credit Nissim Brett.



Joseph Melzer; inside Israel, inside the classroom. Photo credit Nissim Brett



CTTH Girls Division 2021



CTTH Boys Division 2021

B"H



 Naomi & Devorah	 Yishai	 Rafi	 Chezi	 Micah	 Shloimy
 Nachum	 Akiva	 Rosa	 Deidre & Michael	 Kieran	 Yaakov
 Yacov	 Ava	 Kyle	 Layla	 Azi	 Penina
 Bluma	 Avia	 Noah	 Tamar	 Aharon	 Esther
 Aryeh	 Batya	 Levi	 Batya	 Emily	 Golan
 Esta	 Benji	 Esti	 Esther'Ke	 Neviah	 Yankel
 Doron	 Elisheva	 Menachem	 Shayna	 Ruvi	 Daniel
 Hannah	 Yehudah	 Yarden	 Shaya	 Leeya	 Joey
 Laya	 Ryan	 Neriya	 Menachem	 Jordan	 Rila
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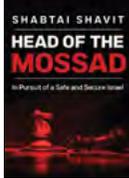


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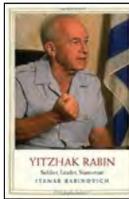
THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES by KRISTEN HARMEL. An engrossing novel. Eva Abrahams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida reads of the return of rare looted books to Holocaust survivors. She sees a photo of a book which had previously belonged to her in 1940's France. Eva worked in the Resistance recording the names of unaccompanied children by coding each one in an 18th century text. She returns to Berlin to recover this book and help decode the names of those they attempted to keep safe.



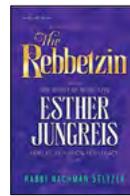
HEAD OF THE MOSSAD by SHABTAI SHAVIT. This memoir deals with Shavit's seven years in office from 1989 and provides an inside account of his intelligence philosophy, the operations he directed and anecdotes from his life. An essential book for everyone who cares for Israel's security and future.



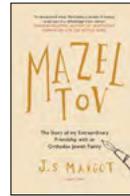
HOW YIDDISH CHANGED AMERICA & HOW AMERICA CHANGED YIDDISH by ILAN STEVENS & JOSH LAMBERT. This book demonstrates that Yiddish is not just a language but a rich cultural identity. Yiddish influenced Broadway, Hollywood, literature and politics. A revelation to those unfamiliar with Yiddish and for experienced Yiddish linguists a treasure.



YITZHAK RABIN by ITAMAR RABINOVICH. An informative biography written by a former Israeli ambassador to the United States. Rabinovich provides an insider's perspective on Rabin's life, influence and the mark he left on Israeli history.



THE REBBETZIN by RABBI NACHMAN SELTZER. The inspiring story of Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis who accomplished so much and touched so many lives. Renowned author, Rabbi Nachman, interviewed many to write this unforgettable story. He vividly captures the life of one of the twentieth century's most legendary, charismatic and spiritually inspiring Rebbetzins.



MAZEL TOV by J.S. MARGOT. In 1987, a 20-year-old miniskirt-wearing student responded to a job ad from an Orthodox Jewish couple in Antwerp to tutor their four children. Nothing prepared her for the myriad of customs she would have to adhere to in the Schneider home. Being an atheist from a Catholic background, she knew nothing about this way of life, but with time she began to embrace it.



COLOR OF LOVE: A Story of a mixed-race Jewish girl by MARRA GAD. In 1970, Marra was adopted by a white Jewish family in Chicago. Her biological mother was unwed, white and Jewish and her biological father was black. Marra grappled with her identity as in black spaces she was not 'black enough' and in Jewish spaces she was mistaken for the help. The book explores inheritance showing that despite what is stripped away love will return.



EXILE MUSIC by JENNIFER STEIL. A captivating novel of a family who had to flee Vienna in 1938. Orly had an idyllic childhood filled with music, her father played in the Philharmonic and her mother was an opera singer. Her family secured visas to leave Austria and settled in Bolivia. Steil traces the challenges faced by the family initially and after the war ended. Besides the loss of their past way of life in Vienna, they now need to deal with the sight of former Nazis settling in Bolivia.

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Girls eating matzah on Passover at the Rothschild Center, Vienna, Austria, postwar Image courtesy of Yad Vashem Archives

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Image: Children with Tallit and Tefillin (prayer shawls and phylacteries) in a Bar Mitzvah celebration at an orphanage in Bukarest, Romania, 1944. Image courtesy of USHMM



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THE HIGHLANDS HOUSE
NEW BEGINNINGS

Reflecting on the past year at Highlands House

By Jaime Uranvosky

The COVID crisis



Before Highlands House entered hard lockdown in March 2020, other measures, like screening visitors, sanitising, and advising social distancing, had been implemented.

Despite these measures, a resident tested positive for COVID in early May and passed away. Between 5 and 12 May, all residents and staff members were tested for COVID and through this testing, asymptomatic residents and staff were identified. A strict quarantine and isolation policy was implemented and all services were provided in residents' rooms. All residents were then allocated one of several GPs, at no cost to themselves. Strict PPE measures and staff education were also introduced.

During this time, 12 residents and over 30 staff members tested positive. To date, more than 35 residents have tested positive and, sadly, five have passed away. 30 residents have, however, recovered. The success of the above measures is illustrated by the available global data: the projected infection rate in such a facility (currently housing 168 individuals) was 50% and the projected mortality rate was between 20% and 30% (20-40 people).

COVID antigen testing using point-of-care nasal swabs is ongoing for residents (360 tests to date) and staff (350 tests to date). Recently we have introduced antibody testing to identify those residents and staff who have been infected with COVID in the past, yet were not identified by antigen testing. Since the introduction of antibody testing, a further 22 residents who tested negative for antigens have tested positive for antibodies.

For now, residents remain confined to Highlands House except for medical-related visits. Under the current Level 3 Lockdown Regulations, family and friends are not allowed to visit residents. As soon as these restrictions are lifted, visits to the home will be permitted. All services within the home have resumed and residents are encouraged to participate in the life of the home as usual. Until all staff and residents are vaccinated, it is not safe for residents to leave the home freely. It is hoped that Highlands House residents will be eligible for vaccination under the second tier of vaccinations.

Looking to the Future

Currently, the facility's biggest obstacle is its finances.

Annually, the home runs at a deficit, since around two thirds of the residents are subsidised. Dr Leon Geffen, acting CEO, explains, "Our vision is to provide world-class care despite the financial challenges we are facing. As such, we aim to benchmark ourselves against global care facilities". Likewise, the home utilises a standardised, internationally used assessment instrument developed by interRAI to assist with care planning.

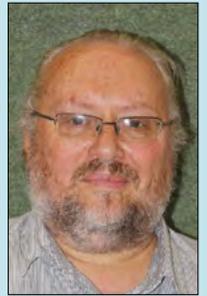
Additionally, a capitation programme has been implemented, whereby doctors receive fixed monthly fees for residents under their care. All medical records are now electronically stored and Highlands House itself is in the process of going paperless. An assessment is also currently underway, evaluating the quality of all services available to residents.

Once Harris retires, Leon Geffen will become the CEO on a parttime basis, so that he can continue his GP practice and his role as Director of the Samson Institute For Ageing Research. Glen Heneck and Stuart Hendler join the team in the form of non-executive leadership and Delia Kaplan, who has over 21 years of experience at Highlands House, will oversee day-to-day operations.

Farewell to Harris Burman

After serving diligently as the Highlands House Executive Director for over 26 years, Harris Burman will be retiring in 2021.

Clive Rabinowitz, who was Vice-President of the home at the time and was part of Harris' appointment, remembers how the latter displayed "compassion combined with the ability to lead" – this is what made Harris stand out from the rest. Clive adds, "He inspired loyalty among his staff and he always had the greater community in mind".



Harris Burman, Executive Director who is retiring

Indeed, all who witnessed Harris' extensive and tireless work at Highlands House praise his organisational skills and the countless improvements he made to the home physically, structurally and in terms of the quality of services offered to residents. He introduced daily mandatory meetings with staff and divided the management of the home into different areas — these changes helped to make Highlands House into the world-class facility that it is today. As such, Leon Geffen says, "He committed fully to improving the quality of life of the residents".

Bernard Osrin recalls how his late father, Eliot, credited the transformation of Highlands House and its services to Harris. Indeed, it was through him that so many of the renovations occurred. Harris' innovations included upgrading all facilities, constructing a lifestyle centre and bettering the food quality. Bernard adds, "He had a very good relationship with residents because he had quite a soft side to him – he's a humanitarian... He didn't see it as a job; he came from the point of view of care".

Harris' character and kindness are lauded by all. Delia Kaplan shares, "He always made himself available to staff and provided guidance. He was very caring and committed to the residents and is a gentle, kind, considerate person. Highlands House is Highlands House because of Harris' invaluable contribution, and both the residents and the staff are thankful for his decades of service".

Farewell to Barbara Friedman

Barbara Friedman, Personal Secretary to Harris Burman, will be retiring after 18-and-a-half years at Highlands House.

Colleagues will remember her warmth and her enthusiasm and willingness to get involved. Harris particularly valued Barbara's ability to act as a communication filter, directing people to the correct channels so that issues could be effectively resolved. He also praises her generosity of spirit, evinced by the many evenings she spent on behalf of the home volunteering on UJC-organised telethons to raise community funds.



Barbara Friedman, PA to Harris Burman

Harris says, "I would often ask Barbara when I passed her desk, what she was mumbling about. The answer came a few months later when a sign she'd found read: 'If you see me speaking to myself, know that I am asking someone for good advice'".

Delia Kaplan, Deputy Director of Highlands House, says, "With her sense of humour and lively spirit, Barbara engaged with many residents and was very well liked by all. She engaged with many staff and was always there to assist family members. Her warmth and vitality will be missed, and we wish her well in her new chapter of life".

Reflecting on the past year at Highlands House



THE HIGHLANDS HOUSE
NEW BEGINNINGS

By Jaime Uranvosky

Tribute to Lydia Martin

L ydia Martin, beloved employee of 33 years at Highlands House, passed away in December 2020, aged 54.

Lydia joined the Highlands House team as a clerk in her early twenties, later becoming an assistant to the then newly formed Operations Department around 25 years ago. Once the previous Head of Operations left, she manned the post before formally becoming the Manager of Operations in December last year.



Lydia Martin, former manager of operations, who passed away

The response from her colleagues is unanimous: Lydia was gentle, reliable, compassionate, diligent, dedicated and meticulous. She is remembered as an invaluable member of Highlands House and for always putting residents first. She was a woman of her word who had an elephant's memory, wrote down every detail, and who was incredibly hardworking.

Lydia oversaw various sectors, including housekeeping, laundry, reception, domestics, vehicles and the Maintenance Department. Maria Jonathan, who worked with Lydia for about 30 years, says, "The thing about her was respect and her gentle manner – really a lady of character. Residents loved her. Whether it was something in her private life or something in Highlands House, she had the same high standard". Ursula Martin, another colleague of Lydia's adds, "What an amazing person. Very thorough. She really left a legacy". Lydia is deeply missed by all.

Staff member reflections

The past year has been an adjustment for residents and staff members alike. Here, some of the home's employees share their experiences.

JOAN DE VILLIERS

Before joining Highlands House as a nurse last year, Joan worked in ICU for two decades. Joan says, "I love that I can form meaningful relationships with the residents and my colleagues. What I really enjoy are the different aspects of nursing here. At the moment here, there is the testing of residents being done to see who got infected and even though they were asymptomatic they tested positive; I find that really interesting".



Maria Jonathan, receptionist at Highlands House

MARIA JONATHAN

Maria has been the receptionist at the facility since 1988. For Maria, one of the most rewarding elements is observing the home's continuing metamorphosis. She explains, "From walking into a gloomy Highlands House with black walls with all these plaques, and now you have a brighter, more cheerful approachable Highlands House". Maria is proud of the services offered to residents and says, "It's really an honour; I love working here. The team of managers has really pulled us through and done an exceptional job".

NEIL SMITH

Neil started off as a handyman at the home and initially saw the job as temporary. However, 27 years later, he is the Maintenance Manager and runs a team of four, after continuously broadening his skillset. Neil is responsible for everything from plumbing, tiling, bricklaying, painting, plastering, to electrics. He says, "I've learnt a lot. My knowledge in the maintenance field has grown since coming here. There are the ups and the downs as Manager but it's been a good experience".

COLEEN JANSEN

Coleen is the Unit Manager on the Special Care Unit and has worked at Highlands House for 27 years. She began as a carer and loves the sense of community.

For Coleen, the early days of COVID were the most overwhelming. She explains, "We had to think creatively to keep residents stimulated because they couldn't go to the lounges or the garden. I think management did a very good job of supporting us and educating us about how to cope with our residents".

Life in Highlands House: residents' perspectives

COVID has certainly had an impact on life at the home; however, two residents explain how they've made use of their time during the pandemic and their thoughts on the measures taken.

JENNI BURNETT has been at Highlands House for around nine years and has served on the Residents Committee for almost as much time, including two terms as Chairlady. She also runs the library and carts books. Jenni has found solace in Skype and speaks to family members and friends across the world, such as in the UK, the US and even in Hong Kong. She explains, "Skyping is my therapy. I've been skyping since last year and only stopped during lockdown, when we had to stay in our rooms. I've become part of everyone's family all over the world".

Jenni's favourite aspect of Highlands House is the care. She says, "Care can encapsulate lots of stuff. I'm here, I'm safe, I'm looked after. We can't ask for more."

DAVE MYERS, a five-year resident who is currently Chairman of the Residents Committee, most values that he can maintain his independence. Over the years, he has completed about ten online courses and also paints.

Dave was one of the first residents to contract COVID last year but, despite being in the high-risk category, remained entirely asymptomatic.

While Dave enjoys more solitary activities, he explains that morale has taken a dip for many since residents are unable to visit family members or to receive visitors. However, he explains that since activities like movies and music sessions have resumed, there are always things for residents to do.

Dave says, "I can't praise the management enough. Look, they've made decisions that we didn't like but they made decisions we didn't like for our benefit. Every single decision they make is the right one. I can only be positive about this place; I don't believe that there's anywhere that can compare".



Dave Myers, resident and current Chairman of the Residents Committee



Cape Jewish Seniors Association

DIRECTOR: Diana Sochen 021 434 9691 director@cjsa.org.za ADMIN: Amanda 021 434 9691 admin@cjsa.org.za search CJSA on Facebook

A year unlike any other

We have all experienced a year unlike any other.

Every plan, desire or opportunity literally went out the door on the 27 March 2020 when we went into lockdown for, what we thought was three weeks. Who would have thought that 47 weeks later (more or less 329 days) many of us would still be indoors, isolated and not knowing when the curfew and lockdown will end!

As an organisation working with the senior members of our community, we really felt the pressure. All our members really enjoy visiting each of our centres, the daily programmes we provide, the interaction with the members, the special outings and social suppers which came to a standstill.

Without missing a heartbeat, the CJSA team met via Zoom to plan our way forward. At that stage we thought that the arrangements would be for a couple of weeks, but how wrong we were.

The shift from physical contact to virtual contact with members for activities, counselling and intervention began immediately. WhatsApp, emails and telecommunication is the usual manner of interaction and Zoom has been the platform we have used the most to maintain psychosocial support for our members.

The majority of our members had never been on Zoom, WhatsApp was not extensively used so we had to get in gear and begin to educate and assist members in becoming more tech savvy and opening a new world to all. We were so pleased with the responses we received and the fact that the majority of our members grabbed the opportunity with open arms and embraced the new tools of interaction. The Pandemic, loneliness and isolation has brought in new members as the various Zoom programmes we offer has allowed people to interact and not feel so isolated.

Going onto Zoom enabled us to surf the web and offer a unique service; choosing programmes from around the world of interest to our members which we regularly show to the members. Members are offered Ageless Grace exercises twice a week, the bi-weekly quiz sessions are looked forward to, weekly pop in sessions with an interesting speakers have a great following. Weekly Yiddish with both beginner and intermediate participants from all

over South Africa and the highlight of the month being the concert organised by Cantor Ivor Joffe with a host of superb artists who entertain our members.

Social workers meet with their own members weekly to meet and greet, chat, and generally catch up. This is appreciated and the groups grow weekly. Social workers have had to be more accessible — boundaries are stretched and have been difficult and often office hours are not adhered to, nevertheless we are all adjusting.

We have also introduced a weekly Shabbat Meal in conjunction with Berkies and Merle and members from as far afield as Tableview and Muizenberg and every suburb within have incredible volunteers who drop off the meals in time for Shabbat. To date we have served over 4500 three course meals to our isolated and house bound members. Those who are able to afford to pay for this service have done so, but no one is turned away. Thanks to generous donors, we have received sponsorship for the meals which are delivered at no charge. Donations for these meals, will always be gratefully received.

Members have shown appreciation for the services offered to them during this time and the realisation that CJSA is a valuable organisation has fast set in the minds of many as an essential service and not a nice to have organisation.

We warmly welcome social worker, Rebecca Yoko to our CJSA Team. She is working with our Sea Point members and is already proving to be making a difference as she is getting to know members via Zoom and when she delivers Shabbat meals. Rebecca is also working very hard to encourage more of our members to join the zoom sessions and her patience and perseverance is paying off.

We do not know how long we will be continuing to work in this lockdown way, but assure everyone that the service we provide will be in the best interests of every member. Hopefully we will be able to open our doors in the near future.

Wishing everyone Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach. Stay Safe and healthy wherever and however you observe this Festival.

Sochen

Diana Sochen, Director

Please note that the CJSA Wine is available and Kosher for Pesach at a donation of R80 per bottle. Please Support this fundraising initiative !!

Social and Personal

Even during the lockdown period, there have been numerous occasions of celebrations.

We welcome new members

Kathy Eberlein, Herschel Ginsberg, Darryl and Marilyn Krook, Selwyn and Marilyn Levin, Gary Manta, Karen Miller, Rodney Roberts, Arnold and Lily Roth, Phillipa Wener and Tessa Zieve

Mazaltov to the families celebrating births

Ruth Katzenberg — great granddaughter
Esther Maisel — granddaughter
Connie and Balfour Valkin — granddaughter

Mazaltov to families celebrating Bar Mitzvahs

Henny Bernstein — great grandson
Edmund and Gillian Cress — grandson
Debbie and Harry Epstein — twin grandsons
Brian and Gail Kirsch — grandson
Ada Newman — great grandson

Mazeltov to those who got engaged

Hannah Abramsohn — granddaughter

Our sincere condolences to members and families of members who have recently passed away:

Marcelle Almelah and family on the passing of her husband, Solly
Glicky Bloom and Phoebe Chernotsky on the passing of their brother
Barry Berkowitz on the passing of his brother
Sheila Burland on the passing of her husband, Bugs
Debbie Cohen and family on the passing of her husband, Ian
Judy Dadon on the passing of her mom, Truda Goldman
Issy Goldman on the passing of his wife, Truda Goldman
Barbara Kahn on the passing of her sister-in-law, Truda Goldman
Eve Joffe on the passing of her brother, Michael Lang
Rhona Handler on the passing of her sister, Molly Sandler
Susan Jacobson on the passing of her mom, Tania Rebbetzin Maizels on the passing of her husband, Rabbi Maizels
Averil Myers on the passing of her brother, Ivan Katz
Samson Family on the passing of Eric Samson
Rica Schlosberg on the passing of her husband, Benny
Audrey Shantal on the passing of her brother-in-law





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JCS@WORK

Not only giving a hand-out but a hand-up.

By Lynne Hendricks
Social Work Project Coordinator

Jewish Community Services (JCS) have cared for the indigent and vulnerable members of the Cape Town Jewish Community, for over one hundred and fifty years. Each passing year we have evolved and continue to grow and adapt to meet the various needs and challenges of our clients, in the changes that have developed due to the social economic climate. Each era bringing with it new challenges and expectations. One thing however remains the same for JCS and that is putting the safety and security of our clients first.

Over the years JCS has spent copious amounts of resources on accommodation to ensure that our clients have suitable housing. We went from renting rooms and flats to purchasing some apartments to try meet the growing need. The latest purchase being a 17 bedroom, en-suite guest house which has opened the doors of possibilities for JCS, to move with the times and enter the realm of forward thinkers once again.

The 17 Bedroom guest house is being turned into a home for those that were residing in backpackers/rooms or rented apartments. These individuals were living a life of loneliness, low self-esteem, and self-worth. It allows for interaction, co-existing and living in an environment that is safe and secure. Sharing and communicating and even enjoying a wonderful Shabbos meal together.

Aside from this being a home to the clients in residence, JCS will be introducing programmes to empower and upskill the clients in the hope that they will be able to seek new work opportunities, which will assist each individual in becoming independent and able to move on and out of the residence. Various topics are planned to

be introduced including but not limited to budgeting, dealing with conflict, how to conduct yourself in an interview, etc. JCS will be collaborating with Staff Wise to assist the residents on this path.

By mastering this model, we will shape the way forward for our clients in the future, building self-esteem, self-worth and enabling the clients with the correct skillset to take them forward on their paths.

JCS Executive Director, Hazel Levin, expands on the need for this initiative: "COVID-19 has exacerbated the need of

the vulnerable and indigent members of the Cape Town Jewish Community. Loss of loved ones, income and dignity have been at the forefront since the start of the pandemic and JCS has risen to the challenge, with a new residential home that will assist the vulnerable and indigent members of our community during these extremely traumatic times. This residence provides comfort, security, care and growth opportunities to those individuals that have been affected."

For more information please contact a JCS social worker on **021 462 5520** or email info@jcs.org.za.

"The 17 Bedroom guest house is being turned into a home for those that were residing in backpackers/ rooms or rented apartments. These individuals were living a life of loneliness, low self-esteem, and self-worth. It allows for interaction, co-existing and living in an environment that is safe and secure. Sharing and communicating and even enjoying a wonderful Shabbos meal together."



#JewishCommunity #SharedLiving #SocialUpliftment



A STAFFWISE STORY OF FREEDOM IN 2021



A modern story of strife and plague weaved its way into our world in 2020. A plague that affected lives and livelihoods. This is how *your* story goes...

In April my friend _____ (insert name), who had been running a business for ____ (insert no. of years), was forced to close their doors. They retrenched ____ (number) people; gave up their income and for many, their dreams. They applied for TERS, approached the Geshur Fund, and their bank just to keep things going. As they managed their own business and family challenges, many reached out to Staffwise, and also referred ex-colleagues/retrenched employees, for support.

In 2021, this is a story we all know too well. Some businesses managed to thrive and survive, while others suffered under immense pressures.

_____ (business name) showed courage and creativity and amongst all the strife reinvented themselves and worked hard to build up _____ (business name).

Through networking, career support and recruitment services, Staffwise brought together _____ (name of a friend who lost their job) and _____ (name of the business that thrived and survived).

As we head toward Pesach we recount the story of the splitting of the Red Sea and the years of wandering in the desert that followed. This was not an easy time for the Israelites, but a time that challenged them and ultimately brought them to the Promised Land.

STAFFWISE's doors are OPEN to SUPPORT _____ (your name or a friend) who is seeking new work opportunities AND we would love to support _____ (BUSINESS NAME) in their process of finding new team members and helping to build capacity in their teams through our HIGH QUALITY RECRUITMENT SERVICES.

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will be closed for Pesach
from Monday 29 March to Monday 5 April
and will re-open Tuesday 6 April

We wish the community a
Pesach kasher v'sameach.

Thank you for your wonderful
support and encouragement!

USING MY NUDEL

What's in a name?

By Craig Nudelman



In February, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthetwa, officially changed the names of 10 locations in South Africa.

One of these was a very controversial decision – Port Elizabeth is now called Gqeberha. A furor occurred, with the more than 50 000 people signing a petition to change the name back to Port Elizabeth. Others cheered the decision, saying that the renaming of streets, public spaces and cities is an important act of the decolonisation of South Africa. So why are names so important and why are we so attached to them?

It was my wife's birthday at the beginning of the month, and even though her name is clearly visible on her Facebook profile, the messages she received contained plenty of misspellings of her name. Now, my wife's name is Gabrielle, but Gabi for short. Her name is not Gaby, Gabbi, or Gabby. It is Gabi. When someone spells it wrong, she takes umbrage to it, as do I when someone spells my name Graig (I have no idea why they even think there's a 'G' there) or when my surname is incorrectly spelled Nudleman, Nadelman (and there is a Craig Nadelman, to make things confusing), or the worst of all, Noodleman. My name is Craig Nudelman, not Graig Noodleman!

But it's not just the spelling of the name that is important. It is how it is said, too. When people mispronounce my name, and I'm sure yours, it is frustrating. Our name is our personal brand and identifies us, just like a company. It tells people who we are, what we do, and even how we do things. It represents the transactions we make and can even create things. Without our names, we would not have an identity. From birth to death, we are remembered by our names, from our school years to graduating from university, buying our first car, and marrying the person we love.

During our wedding speech, Gabi spoke about my Hebrew name, Chaim Lior, Chaim meaning 'life', and Lior meaning, 'my light', and said that I was her light in her life. It was beautiful. So, too, we chose Hebrew names for Jessica and Livi that invoke aspects that we wish them to have. Jessica's name is Yaffa Rania, 'a beautiful song of G-d', whereas Livi's is Levia Raya, Levia being a lioness, and Raya being a friend, or good person.

But names can have negative connotations too. I was driving through town the other day and I noticed (as I'm sure you have, too) that there is still a street named after D.F. Malan, the first Prime Minister of the apartheid

regime. That this is the road right by Cape Town station and the Civic Centre is just beyond the pale. Keeping a name of a street by the individual who was instrumental in introducing the first apartheid laws is insensitive and is not in line with what we should strive for in South Africa. But where do we draw the line?

This is where the name changes of towns, cities, airports, and streets become a bit blurry. Where does our colonial history begin, and what names should we change? Mcebisi Ndletyana, in his paper for the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, writes about the changing of place names in post-apartheid South Africa. He states that the naming of places (toponymy) is representative of who settled in the area and who or why they want to honour that person or place. He argues that places, "speak to the irrepressible urge within mankind to assert identity." Thus, he says, "naming (...) is not a neutral exercise. It is mediated by power relations, depending on the political order."

We can see that those who colonised South Africa had a political agenda, asserting their identity on the land. Grahamstown, Harrismith, Ladysmith, Port Elizabeth, among countless others, are places which perhaps, one could say, don't belong in a post-colonial or post-apartheid South Africa. But name changing takes effort, time, money, and buy-in from key stakeholders. Critics have said that these name changes could affect tourism in South Africa. However, Chester Missing, the controversial political commentator who is also a puppet, responded to this after the renaming of Port Elizabeth. On Twitter he stated, "The idea that giving our cities South African names is bad for tourism because the tourists won't be able to say the name is moronic. Experiencing new things is the whole point of tourism."

So, what should we make of our names, whether they are our own, our business's, or our places and spaces? One thing that has stuck with me is what Dale Carnegie said about the power of names. He said, "A person's name is to him or her the sweetest and most important sound in any language." Names carry far more meaning than we may realise on a daily basis and affect us profoundly. So maybe next time you visit Gqeberha, don't be hesitant to say it and revert back to Port Elizabeth.

Embrace the change and be part of something new and different.

Chag Pesach Sameach!

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MOST SA JEWS (BOTH OF ASHKENAZI AND SEPHARDI HERITAGE) ARE ELIGIBLE TO REINSTATE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND, ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT.

A common misconception is that European citizenship and EU passports can only be obtained if one has documents providing his/her lineage. The fact is that not having any documents proving lineage, doesn't lead to disqualification of eligibility. Jews of Ashkenazi heritage can rely on documents obtained in Lithuania or Poland.

Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

In his experience, the majority of South African Jews are descendants of Jews whose European citizenship was illegally deprived, and therefore they are entitled to reinstate it, and accordingly obtain an EU passport.



Adv. Horesh has been operating in SA market with the Jewish community since March 2018. He arrives regularly to South Africa, and can meet in person with Jews who are interested to do so.

Ashkenazi: This ad refers to Jews of Polish & Lithuanian heritage only. The most important thing is the understanding that prior to the end of WW-I, the European map was very different than the one we know today. Countries like Poland and Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and until 1918 these territories were only known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Great Russian Empire who ruled all of north eastern Europe. Accordingly, until 1918, residents of these territories were Russian citizens, as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships didn't exist. Therefore, since applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based on whether one's ancestor was a Polish or Lithuanian citizen, whoever is a descendant of an ancestor who left Europe prior to 1918 will not be eligible.

In addition, it is highly important to remember that since borders in Europe were shifted once again during and after WW-II, one's eligibility for Polish or Lithuanian citizenship depends on the city from which his/her ancestor hailed. Horesh explains: Shifted borders resulted in cities changing nationalities, and that the resultant effect for descendants of Jews left Vilnius is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined whereas a similar



Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived in Poland for seven years. Horesh is recognised in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship.

application for reinstatement of Polish citizenship may very well be approved!

Sephardi: This ad refers to all Jews of Sephardi heritage – Jews who arrived from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, as well as many descendants of Jews who arrived from Holland and the UK. Most descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are eligible to reinstate Portuguese citizenship and, accordingly, an EU passport. If applicable, Adv. Horesh will apply for (on behalf of the applicant) an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which, an application for Portuguese citizenship is most likely to be approved.

Horesh has an in-depth knowledge and a full understanding of European immigration laws.

Horesh resides in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – enabling him to travel to Poland and Lithuania, as well as to Portugal, where he collaborates with local professionals who assist him in tracing documentation required for successful applications of reinstatement of European citizenship.

Adv. Horesh closely collaborates with professionals who assist him in tracing documentation in Europe required for successful applications of reinstatement EU citizenships.

My travel schedule has been postponed due to COVID-19, at the moment I plan to arrive in May. I'm offering to review and advise your case for free. You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or whatsapp +48783953223

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overcome, we have put the health
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aiming for a steady return back into
Maccabi sport and will be hosting our
trials for all sports over the next 2-3
months. From there the final squads
will be selected and will begin their
preparation. We look forward to a
healthy, active and successful 2021.

On behalf of the entire organisation
and all its members, we wish
everyone a meaningful Pesach and
prosperous year.

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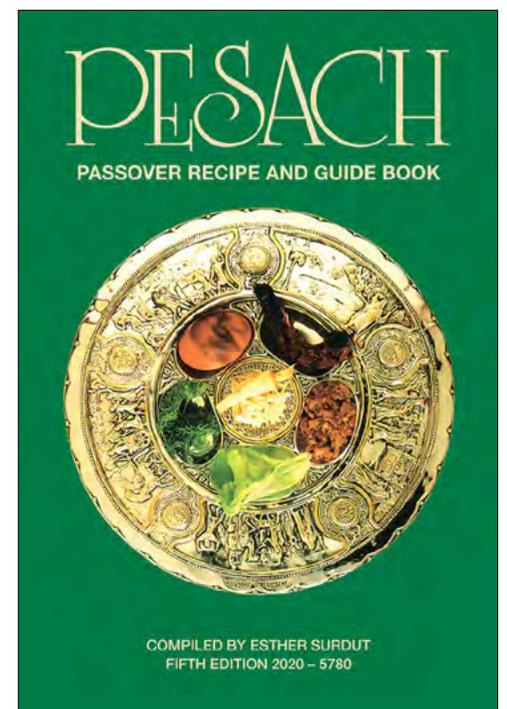
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