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

Carole Smollan, who hails from South Africa and now lives in London, works with a plethora of materials to create unique artworks, ranging from ceramics to personalised chuppot, challah covers and Torah mantles.



Artist, Carole Smollen

Since the age of 19, Carole has largely created from her studio and is internationally acclaimed for her work. While still in South Africa, she was commissioned to produce pieces for individuals such as Nelson Mandela, F.W. De Klerk and Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

"For 30 years I exhibited my ceramics all over the world in museums and galleries. My main production was large murals in public buildings. The one I'm most proud of is the ceramic diptych in the

Constitutional Court formulated in Mandela's time as leader."

Once she emigrated, her career in Britain was sparked when the Board of Deputies of British Jews commissioned her to create a chuppah for a travelling exhibition. Since then, Carole has designed hundreds of personalised chuppot for weddings all over the world.

Cape Town is no stranger to Carole's work. In fact, she donated the last of her large Torah mantles to Beit Midrash Morasha after the 2018 fire.

Continues on page 7

Counselling volunteers call for support of vulnerable learners



Lindi, Micaela and Kaylee

Micaela Tadmor, Kaylee Kantor and Lindi Levin are volunteers at the Hope House Counselling Centre.

All three have a background in psychology and came together with a common goal of wanting to help those in need.

"We decided to do a collection after the social worker from Hope House Counselling Centre, who runs the substance abuse programme, approached us and told us about the lack of resources these Primary School children have and how desperate they are for useful items" said Kaylee.

Their situation has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"COVID-19 resulted in many of these young children losing a lot of school time and staying at home with nothing to do. Many of us had the privilege of 'online learning'. and we want to try our best to uplift their spirits and possibly lessen the impact this pandemic had on their well-being" explained Lindi.

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Creative project goes online in 2020

The Holocaust Centre runs an annual art and writing project for high school learners in the Western Cape. Called the White Rose Project, it takes its name from a group of German university students, the White Rose Movement, who resisted Nazi oppression.

The aim of the project, this year titled *Memory and Resistance*, is to encourage a greater understanding of the need to protect human rights and freedom of expression.

Whilst this annual project always has relevance, it seemed that this year, it resonated more fervently. Students who would ordinarily have worked on this project with their teachers (as this forms part of their school curriculum) had to find new ways to work on them during lockdown.

Their responses were heartfelt and clearly expressed whether the through Art, Writing, Video or Music Categories. Despite all the challenges, the White Rose Creative Project 2020 had a record number of entries coming from a more diverse group of learners than ever before.

The judging of the competition has always been by a panel of high calibre external judges, and this year was no exception. Judges were not able to physically see the artworks on display as the entire Project was 'visualised' online.

Visit the exhibition online <https://ctholocaust.co.za/white-rose-exhibition/> to view the 101 entries across the four categories.

See page 27 for more



Leah Benjamin's Sophie Inside and Out

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Lindy with a why

Why I was nervous about fasting this year

By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



I've been fasting on Yom Kippur since my bat-mitzvah.

In my younger years, Yom Kippur meant not eating or drinking, but definitely binge-watching something very diverting, so as to make the time fly. I would end the fast with a throbbing headache, but I would manage. I was responsible for myself only and could wrap myself in something comforting and count down the hours to breaking of the fast, traditionally at my grandparents.

Then I got married and had children. Yom Kippur cocooned at home with series and blankets became a thing of the past. Now I was at home all day, fasting, with three perpetually hungry children needing meals and snacks with the obligatory washing up in between. It was hard, and time managed to bend itself in ways that made 26 hours feel like 48, but at the end of it, we would arrive at my grandparents and my children could range free while flickering candles and wine and delicious food and my wonderful family soothed my frazzled nerves.

Once my children were a bit bigger, I clicked to the fact that spending the whole day at shul on Yom Kippur made the day more manageable, and full of time spent with other people who had clicked to the same idea. It was amazing. I was away from the temptation of series and bed, my children were lovingly catered for with snacks as well as friends to play with. The day at shul became its own kind of cocoon, a bubble of people going through a similar experience. I've had some amazing conversations among friends, sitting on the Astroturf, or the steps of the piazza, soaking up some gentle sun between services. I missed those friends so much this year.

In 5781 I recognised how far I've come in my own Jewish journey; I spent Yom Kippur without any of the helpful crutches I have had so far to help

me through, except for my Machzor and copy of Eli Wiesel's *Night* which thankfully live in my house. I had, for the first time, been worried about what the day would end up looking like and if I would 'pass' this test.

Catering for breaking of the fast has also seemed to me to be the final frontier of Jewish adulthood. Getting married? Easy! Having kids? Walk in the park. Catering and preparing for 20-30 hungry people on a day when you are fasting yourself? Very, very grown up. In fact, I had made a promise to myself only to start doing it when my kids had children and were going through that phase where they need the flickering candles to sooth their frazzled nerves after a day of fasting with kids.

This year I had to cater for Yom Kippur myself. I know it was just for my immediate family, but still. I hadn't ever had to do it before, and I seemed to have a mental block around thinking about feeding people on a fast day. At the same time, I had to step up to the plate without any of my usual crutches for the actual fasting.

Not only that, but the sweet traditions that follow the fast weren't in place this year. My mom-in-law didn't turn to me in shul at the final shofar blast and pop a sweetie in my hand to break the fast on. We didn't go to my step-grandmother for breaking of the fast as I've done every year for practically my whole life. My aunt and uncles weren't home with us from overseas. My mom wasn't with me, looking effortlessly graceful and only moderately subdued from a day of fasting.

I ended up looking at it as a 'mikveh-of-fire'. No crutches, no community, no breaking with my extended family, and I did it!

I hope you all fasted meaningfully this year, and that 5781 sees us being able to practice all our family traditions, in the ways that are most familiar and beloved to us.

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Global Jewish Pen Pal Program

The Global Jewish Pen Pal Program is accepting participants who are interested in being matched with a Jewish pen pal in another country.



All participants who sign up will be matched with someone of a similar age from a different country. Participants can choose to communicate with their pen pal virtually through email or video calls, or through hand written letters.

Participants have the opportunity to learn about Jewish life around the world while simultaneously building new friendships. The Global Jewish Pen Pal Program further engages participants through sending out monthly conversation starters (topics to talk about with pen pals), highlighting a pen pal pair of a month, sharing Jewish recipes and fun facts from other countries, and hosting pen pals as guests on the Global Jewish Pen Pal Program radio show called 'The Pen Pal Perspective'. Additionally, there are chances for pen pals to meet other pen pal pairs through online events.

The programme is free and is open to Jewish individuals of any age who can read and write in English. To follow updates from the programme 'like' the Global Jewish Pen Pal Program on Facebook or follow [global_jewish_pen_pals](https://www.instagram.com/global_jewish_pen_pals) on Instagram. To sign up to be matched with a pen pal, fill out the form at this link: <https://forms.gle/LcGsvVxTeG7nobsq5>

Global Jewish Pen Pal Program connects and strengthens the international Jewish community through building one on one, personal interactions. The programme offers opportunities for people to learn about Jewish life around the world in different ways. Madison Jackson is the founder of this programme. She is a 22-year-old from Cleveland, Ohio who is passionate about Jewish life in countries around the world and has spent time living abroad. This programme is not affiliated with any organisation, but is a project of Madison's individual passion. If you have any questions you can reach out to her at globaljewishpenpals@gmail.com.

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends	
		Earliest	Latest		
2 Oct/14	Tishrei	Sukkot 1st day	6.15pm	6.32pm	
3 Oct/15	Tishrei	Sukkot 2nd day	7.24pm	7.25pm	
9 Oct/21	Tishrei	Shemini Atzeret	6.15pm	6.37pm	
10 Oct/22	Tishrei	Simchat Torah	7.30pm	7.31pm	
16 Oct/28	Tishrei	Bereshit	6.15pm	6.43pm	7.36pm
23 Oct/5	Cheshvan	Noach	6.15pm	6.49pm	7.43pm
31 Oct/12	Cheshvan	Lech Lecha	6.15pm	6.55pm	7.49pm

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

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From page 1

Counselling volunteers call for support of vulnerable learners

The goal is to provide these young children with stimulating and productive ways to keep themselves busy. Hope House Counselling Centre does a lot of Trauma-Informed programmes and social development at these two Primary Schools, Zeekoevlei Primary and Levana Primary in Lavender Hill. The schools will be identifying children most in need and communicating this with Hope House.

"The minute we shared our poster on social media we were overwhelmed with the number of people willing to donate items. We are still waiting for many promised items to be delivered as we only shared our poster very recently but we are optimistic that the collection will be very successful" said Micaela.

The three are looking for clothes, educational games, toys and hygiene products or literally anything that could be of use for Primary School aged pupils. The collection will be running until the end of November.

Currently Micaela works at Phyllis Jowell School as an administrator, Kaylee is about to write her Board Exam to be a Registered Counsellor and Lindi works at Herzlia Weizmann as a Special Needs facilitator. Kaylee is an alumnus of King David Linksfield in Johannesburg and Micaela and Lindi are alumni of Herzlia Schools.

For details contact Micaela 0721091666, Kaylee 0825683192 or Lindi 0826115210.

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Holocaust Centre is 2020 Travelers' Choice winner

The Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre is a 2020 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Winner which puts them in the top 10% of attractions worldwide.

“We are thrilled with all we have accomplished during this trying time. The CTHGC is always in

front of the wave with our dedication to our education programmes, our adult programmes and our use of technology and online opportunities,” said Heather Blumenthal, CTHC Director.

“The CTHC team has been working tirelessly to bring Holocaust education to learners and educators in the Western Cape. They have not been able to visit the centre, so we

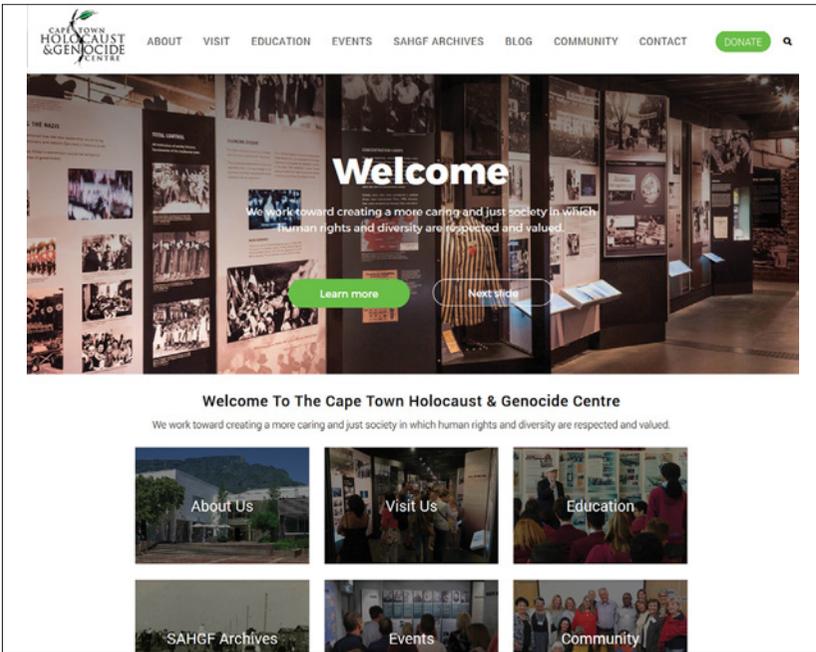
have created online resources for all Grade 11 learners and educators consisting of 8 video lessons, and resource material for both learners and educators, to accompany each lesson. The Western Cape Education Department has uploaded our resources onto their e-portal learning channel and is also printing them so that those learners who do not have access to computers, phones or data, will have the information in hard copy,” she continued.

They have also revamped their website, which is really worth a visit (www.ctholocaust.co.za).

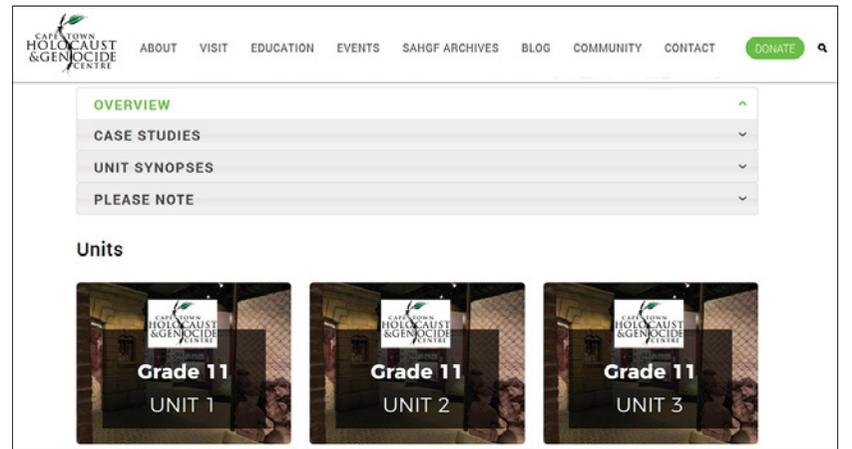
“Our website has been completely revamped and we invite you all

to log on to our beautiful, interactive and easy to navigate site and browse the education resources as well as the events, talks, short films, book readings and so much more that we have offered during lockdown.

“We innovate but never lose sight of our core mission which is to remember and honour those who perished in the Holocaust, celebrate and learn from those who survived and educate to ensure that such atrocities will never happen again”.



The Holocaust & Genocide Centre's new revamped website



Incredible online resources available through the digital platform

MOST SA JEWS (BOTH, OF ASHKENZI & SEPHARDIC HERITAGE) ARE ELIGIBLE TO REINSTATE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that European citizenship and EU passport can only be obtained if one has documents proving 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 Lithuanian or Poland. Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proofs at all!

In his experience, 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 a 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 things is the understanding that prior to the end of WW-I European map was very different than the one we know today. Countries like Poland & Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and till 1918 these territories were only known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Great Russian Empire who ruled all of north eastern Europe, and in accordance till 1918, residents of these territories were Russian citizenship, as Polish & Lithuanian citizenships didn't exist. Therefore, since applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based once 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 application for reinstatement of Polish citizenship may very well be approved!



Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived 7 years in Poland.

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

Horesh is recognized in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship. Horesh resides in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – enabling him to arrive easily to Poland and Lithuanian, as well as to Portugal, where he closely 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 in Europe documents required for successful applications of reinstatement EU citizenships.

Due to Corona Virus I'm forced to suspend planned visits to South Africa. You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or +48-783-953 223.

Continues from page 1

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

By Jaime Uranovsky

Some of Carole's most dazzling pieces, those of her miniature Torah mantles, were inspired by a meaningful trip to Vilnius in 2001.

She explains, "I was invited to make a mural for the Tolerance Centre [in Vilnius] and after that I took a guide and a car and went through all my family's shtetels, and finally stood in my great-grandfather's house which was the most amazing experience. In Tallinn I saw a miniature Torah mantle, and I just fell in love with the idea of having your own Torah, so that's how the miniature Torah mantles grew".

Carole went on to create 150 miniature Torah mantles which were exhibited in Yeshiva University Museum in New York. The artist continues to complete mantle commissions, which are often ordered for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, bar and batmitzvahs and other special occasions. Carole turns each of these mantles into a future heirloom by embellishing them with names and personal details such as an ancestors' travel

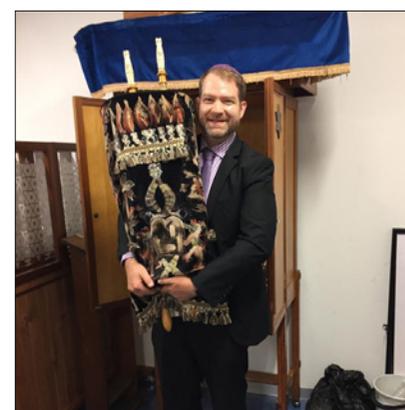
documents. 35 of her mantles are set to be permanently housed in the Lost Shtetl Museum in Seduva, which opens next year. This is immensely special for Carole, as this signifies her family's return to Seduva — the shtetl where her ancestors once lived. Even more auspicious is that one of these mantles is adorned with her grandmother Nurek's travel documents — after 120 years, Nurek will 'return' to Seduva.

The pandemic has changed the way that Carole works but it certainly has not slowed the demand for her work. For example, her most recent Torah mantle commission involved Darth Vader and was requested for a bar mitzvah in Turkey. On working during COVID-19, Carole says, "It's affected me because I'm home and I don't go to the shops so I have rediscovered all the things in my cupboards and drawers and actually used a lot of treasure that I'd forgotten I had. Beautiful

laces and pieces that I'd forgotten about because I work very fast, and so I don't take a lot of time to prepare. This way, I've had a lot of time. It's actually been a revelation for me". Currently, Carole is working on a set of panels as part of a fundraiser for the Royal Free Hospital.

For this textile artist, her pieces are how she connects with her religion, especially as a South African Jew with Lithuanian roots. She explains, "Much later in life I began to learn about Maimonides and learn the background to Judaism, and I just found it all so fascinating. There were so many images that came up when I read and learnt these stories, so that's been my inspiration. I'm not outwardly deeply religious in terms of my practice but I do love Judaism, so this is my way of making *hiddur mitzvah* (showing the beautification of the mitzvot)".

This prolific artist also dabbles in other ancient arts such as Chinese, Indian and Islamic artforms. She has, for example, created a chuppah for the Hong Kong synagogue containing Chinese and Hebrew scripture, and has been commissioned to create a 340-piece artwork for a Muslim art



Rabbi Sam Thurgood from Beit Midrash Morasha in Arthur's Road, with a Torah in the mantle created by Carole Smollen



Torah mantle picturing Shlomo Ben Zalkind and Gittel Levinthal, the artist's grandparents, who left Zhagare, Lithuania in 1895 for the Cape of Good Hope

gallery, which took her two years to complete.

Carole is a member of the American Guild of Judaic Art and is set to feature in a book titled, *Post-war Judaic Art* by Jim Cohen.

She hopes to exhibit in South Africa one day.

For more information, watch her YouTube video, *Ritual Textiles of the 21st Century* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA4EpcToqGE&ab_channel=CaroleSmollanFiberArtStudio



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KEEPING IT REAL

Stuart Diamond, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

Over the last six months, the Cape SAJBD ran its elections for the next Cape Council, which culminated with its 'Global Issues, Local Impact' conference.

What I have learnt through this process is that today, more than ever, the value of increasing global and local issues awareness and education is significant work. The Cape Jewish community is not an island, and its ability to respond will be defined by its ability to grasp the global and local issues that surround it.

The global village that we call home is transforming at a rapid pace. In this growing and changing era, there is an urgent need to include global awareness issues in formal and informal discussions in our communal structures. The modern generation is facing many challenging circumstances, and this requires our community to focus more on understanding the topics before them.

At the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies, we believe strongly in the objective of education. If we fail to engage, educate and debate about the issues of the day, we run the risk of unpleasant consequences.



In the *Kol Ha'Olam Kulo* writing by Rabbi Nachman of Braslav, he writes that "the whole world is a very narrow bridge, but the important thing is not to fear at all." While often the discussions will lead to places of discomfort, we hope that the seeds of knowledge planted will help us to cross the narrow bridge, educated and without fear.

As we enter the new term of the Cape Council, the Cape SAJBD will continue to provide the opportunity for us to engage with the vital global issues that will undoubtedly influence our local community on the tip of Africa.

Results of the Board elections

By Mathilde Myburgh

Public Ballot

Voting on the Public Ballot of #Elections2020 closed on Tuesday 18 August at 17:00.

After provisional results were released the next day to allow for any objections to the successful candidates, our Electoral Commission had received no objections in the matter and declared the outcome final on Thursday 20 August.

Affiliate Ballot

Voting on the Affiliate Ballot occurred during our #Conference2020 on Sunday 6 September titled 'Global Issues, Local Impact' and closed at 17:30. Following provisional results and by an objection deadline on Tuesday 8 September at 17:00, only one objection was received by the Electoral Commission, which did not hold.

We hereby on behalf of the Electoral Commission and the Cape SAJBD announce the full Cape Board 2020-2022:

Ann Harris, Adrienne Jacobson, David King, Dawn Nathan-Jones, Glen Heneck, Jacqui Benson, Jonathan Silke, Justin Asher, Lester Hoffman, Li Boiskin, Raymond Schkolne, Rowan Polovin, Simone Sulcas, Tzvi Brivik, Viv Anstey

The Electoral Commission congratulates new board members on the outcome, and the Cape SAJBD professional team say welcome. We look forward to #StandingUp and #OptingIn with you over the next term.

WELCOME TO THE CAPE BOARD

2020 - 2022



ann



adrienne



david



dawn



glen



jacqui



jonathan



justin



lester



li



raymond



rowan



simone



tzvi



viv



Welcome to our new affiliates

by Gwynne Robins



The Cape SAJBD is happy to welcome into its family of affiliates its five new members — Chabad on Campus, the David Susman Community Foundation, the Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute, Mensch and Moishe House.

What do our new affiliates represent? Chabad on Campus acts as a resource for Jewish students and faculty at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the surrounding Jewish community. The David Susman Community Foundation is a stabilisation fund committed to preserving our community and its multifaceted manifestations of Jewish life in case of major challenges, such as COVID-19 now represents. The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (EOLI) upskills current professional and lay leaders and hopes to recruit potential future leaders. The Mensch network supports and facilitates Jewish changemakers and change-making activities to bring about social transformation in South Africa, and Moishe House provides a home for young adult Jews with a rent subsidy and programme budget so that they can use their home to create their ideal Jewish communal space for young adults.

Why do we have affiliates? Why are we the Board of Deputies?

The Cape SAJBD was started when the Cape Town Jewish community was living in a British colony and followed the lead of Britain in most things. Even the form of synagogue service was per the ritual adopted by the United Hebrew Congregation of the British Empire, not that of Eastern Europe — where most Cape Jews came from.

Similarly, when the Cape SAJBD was established in 1904, it followed the British model — there was no such body in Eastern Europe. The London Committee of Deputies of British Jews was established in England in 1760 with representatives of the

'two nations' — the Sephardi and Ashkenazi congregations. They might have taken their name from the non-Jewish London Board of Dissenting Deputies. It was a gathering of representatives — deputies — of some, but not all, of the different synagogues, each sharing the cost of the board. Membership came with affiliation fees. In 1853, there were 58 deputies and by 1927, 143 were elected from 45 affiliated London synagogues, 89 by provincial and nine from the colonies, and the press were invited to all its meetings. By 1919, it was agreed that secular societies could also become members. Today, the Board of Deputies of British Jews has 300 deputies directly elected by affiliated synagogues and communal organisations, from youth movements to social welfare charities and regional councils, except Haredi synagogues which have chosen not to affiliate. There are also some under-35 observers, appointed to ensure that a new generation of communally-minded activists can contribute to its work on behalf of the community.

Now we come to the Cape SAJBD. When it was established in 1904, its deputies came from Oudtshoorn, Uniondale, Wynberg, Somerset West, Strand and Malmesbury Hebrew congregations, the Maitland Ahavath Zion Association, the Grand Order of Israel (Cape Town) and the Parade Dealers' Association — eight affiliates in total. The absence of the Gardens Synagogue and Port Elizabeth Hebrew congregations was due to the antagonism of Rev Bender, who regarded himself as the leader of South African Jewry and saw no reason for a competing voice. These affiliates come together at the biennial conference to elect new deputies.

With the inclusion of Chabad on Campus, the David Susman Community Foundation, EOLI, Mensch and Moishe House, we now have 70 affiliated organisations. They are all important bodies who will bring their voices to our diverse community. *Baruch Haba* to you — Welcome!

Yichus and Nachus and the new term of the Board of Deputies

By Tzvi Brivik

What gives me great *Yichus*, defined as 'bragging rights from a respected history', is our community.



Its width and breadth, its scope and capacity of action and for good deeds. This enthusiasm for who we are and where we are as well as the desire to do good is shared by all members of the newly elected Board.

The elections themselves were the culmination of many months work, and over a year's preparation.

Much thought has been put into how our community could best be engaged to ensure that both the members of the public and the our affiliate organisations participated in the election meaning that they knew who we were, what some of our ideas are, and skills each member brings to the table. In other words this was a democratic and well-informed election.

The election itself could not have been pulled off so smoothly without the support of the outgoing Board, led by Rael Kaimowitz, as well as Stuart Diamond and the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission is an independent body established by the Board in terms of its new constitution to oversee the elections, it is currently chaired by Advocate Anton Katz SC and includes Advocate Doron Goldberg and Richard Friedman. The Electoral Commission has advised us that the elections were free, fair and democratic.

This community was established over 170 years ago and the Board itself was established roughly that many years ago. In the time our community grew, and so did its needs. The needs are both inward facing and outward facing.

The inward facing needs included Jewish day schools, shuls, an ability for us to take care of each other from birth, through pre-schools all the way into our old age, in addition services to take care of the disabled, and less advantaged in the community. In time, that developed even more to include leadership programmes and higher learning institutions. This gives me great *Yichus*!

Outward facing projects included advocacy groups to promote our community and ensure a harmonious relationship with the current government, protect our Jewish way of life and encourage interaction with other communities. We are not alone on this peninsula and in this country. We also stand firmly behind the State of Israel. This also gives me great *Yichus*!

These different organisations are referred to in our constitution as affiliates meaning that they are officially connected or attached. Many of the affiliates were created by ideas brought to the Board by elected representatives and developed into independent organisations by the Board.

We speak for those affiliates, and for all the unaffiliated members of the public.

But what about *Nachus* defined as 'Happy and proud of someone's accomplishments'? That is what we, as the new Board, intend to give back to you.

We are bound by our constitutional mandate to secure our Jewish way of life so that we can practice our religion without interference. We will do what is necessary to fight antisemitism using all means possible — it cannot be tolerated.

In addition — and within our No Place for Hate campaign — we will, where possible, intervene to ensure that our community is a peaceful one. We have for ourselves set the bar high and will lead by example.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a healthy and happy 5781.

Treasure on the Titanic, and in our country communities

by Gwynne Robins

The most valuable cargo on the 'unsinkable' Titanic when it sank in 1912 were ostrich feathers, insured in today's terms for R40 million.

Caledon, Riversdale and Uniondale all had Jews who were dealers in ostrich feathers or had moved into something else, once the feather boom collapsed (due to the arrival of the coming of the open-topped motor car, which blew the large feathered hats off the heads of the fashionably coiffed passengers).

Merely two years after the loss of the Titanic, all the new Jewish ostrich millionaires were saddled with bales of unsaleable ostrich feathers. By 1917, 23 ostrich farmers and related industries were insolvent and many had become general dealers. It has been said that one should never underestimate the effect of women on capitalism.

Uniondale was 116km from Oudtshoorn, the epicentre of the ostrich industry. So, unsurprisingly, many of the early Jewish settlers had settled in Uniondale attracted by the ostrich feather boom. One early settler was the smous Joseph Ryan, who bought farms in the area and brought out his father, his wife and daughters, his sister and brother-in-law (Rabbi Zelig Shear).

Rabbi Shear was a mohel and

shochet, who had been head of a Lithuanian yeshiva, and who became a general dealer and ostrich farmer and, in turn, brought out his brother Woolf with his wife and eleven children. Rabbi Shear had arrived with his own Sefer Torah and was Uniondale's first minister. When members of the Uniondale Dutch Reformed Church had disputes, it was to Rabbi Shear they turned for a fair judgement. The rabbi listened patiently, took up a Chumash, closed his eyes, opened a page, pointed to a passuk and issued a ruling. The parties to the dispute left feeling that true justice had been served.

Other early residents were feather buyers Bern Lazarowitz, Theodore Bloch and Isaac Tobkin, as well as Jacob Blaiberg and Jacob Noll who had shops near the railway station. During the South African War, British troops raided Noll's stores and he applied for compensation. By the early 1900s, there were 37 Jewish families in Uniondale, all of whom kept kosher. A section of the abattoir was reserved for kosher slaughtering.

In 1902, brothers-in-law Joseph Ryan and Rabbi Shear founded the Uniondale Hebrew Congregation with Abraham Cooper as a trustee. The next year, its representative Mr Levenberg joined the delegation to petition against the 1903 Immigration Bill. In 1904, Mr L Jacobs was its representative when Morris

Alexander established the Jewish Board of Deputies, and in 1905, he brought to Alexander's attention that the Cape Parliament intended to pass a Half Holiday Bill that would prevent Jewish shop owners from closing on Shabbat. Luckily Alexander, on behalf of the new Board, was able to have it amended. When the Cape SAJBD was formed in 1914, Uniondale affiliated and they attended its conferences.

Cooper, as a trustee, obtained some land by deed of transfer and partners Ryan and Rabbi Shear helped finance its purchase in 1902. A beautiful building with Italian tiles and walls decorated with stars and animals was completed in 1906. Ostrich farmers had money.

Their children's religious education was important and by 1914, they had built a Talmud Torah with afternoon cheder classes for its 50 pupils, and later a library, a rabbi's house and a mikveh were built next to it.

Uniondale had a Ladies Benevolent Society, a Women's Zionist League Society, a Young Zionist Society and a Zionist Society and in 1933 made a generous donation to the German Jewry Fund.

Like the other country communities, their numbers started to drop, and the last synagogue service at Pesach was held in 1963 when three families and some visitors attended.

In 1965, when there were no longer any ministers in the town, Rabbi Duschinsky, the Cape SAJBD's Country Communities rabbi, tried unsuccessfully to arrange for a shochet/ teacher to visit.

The Cape SAJBD became trustees of the Uniondale Hebrew Congregation and its assets in 1971. The Lindes, the last remaining family, left in 1972 and asked that their money goes to charity with a small amount left to maintain the synagogue property and the cemetery. The shul was donated to the Uniondale Municipality on condition that it was not used for religious purposes, and it was subsequently taken over by the Lions Clubs International.

The synagogue is now one of the tourist attractions in the town. As for the cemetery, the Cape SAJBD attended to subsequent complaints about its condition and in 2003 it was restored, with the tombstones laid flat to prevent vandalism.

Much of the information in this article comes from Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities, Volume III, researched by the South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth.

The Country Communities Subcommittee of the Cape SAJBD looks after the cemeteries of the defunct country communities. Contact stuart@ctjc.co.za for more information.

New resolutions passed at SGM

On 3 September 2020, the Cape SAJBD held a Special General Meeting (SGM) of affiliate bodies and board members to consider certain amendments to the Cape SAJBD Constitution and Electoral Regulations (as adopted 16 February 2020).

The SGM was held digitally via Zoom with four weeks' prior notice given to affiliate organisations and board members. The meeting started at 19:00 and concluded at 19:30. There was a total of 73 participants, which included delegates of affiliated organisations, board members and staff. As the quorum was 30, the meeting was quorate. A two-thirds majority was required to pass the proposed changes. This would be done by a show of hands. Only the delegates from affiliated organisations and current sitting board members had the right to vote. Neither the staff nor those newly elected members through the public ballot, whose term of office had not yet begun, could vote.

All resolutions were agreed to unanimously, and thus carried. Resolution 3 was not proceeded with.

Email tyla@ctjc.co.za for the full list of changes to the Cape SAJBD Constitution and Electoral Regulations.

Cemetery maintenance continues



Work continues at the Uniondale Jewish cemetery in terms of maintenance and upkeep. This is a community effort and one the Cape SAJBD hopes to more closely support through its Country Communities Subcommittee. Contact Stuart Diamond at stuart@ctjc.co.za to get involved.



What is the point of the Board of Deputies?

By Stuart Diamond

Since the fourth century BCE, the Jews in the Diaspora have found it necessary to have a kehillah, a semi-autonomous organised Jewish community structure that could intercede with the rulers to protect and promote the interests of the Jewish community.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies is the direct descendent of this.

The Board developed out of a 1903 deputation organised in Cape Town. They wanted to ask the attorney-general to declare Yiddish a European language so that Jews could immigrate without hindrance. The Transvaal and Natal formed a Board of Deputies a few months later, with Cape Town following suit in September 1904.

The Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape SAJBD) is the representative body of the Western Cape Jewish community. It means that even though we have been in existence for 116 years we cannot sit back on our laurels. It is with understanding of the important role that we play, that the Cape Council continues to strategically act in the best interests of the community on a wide range of issues. We have a continued responsibility to act swiftly to protect the rights of our community.

The Kaplan Centre Survey results released in 2019 demonstrated that

communal members are grappling with what our community organisations' functions are. In the months ahead, the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies will run a campaign to inform the community of who we are and how we are meeting our objectives.

This month we will start our campaign with our constitutional objectives that guide what the Cape Board does on a day-to-day basis. Objectives need to be clear and well defined as they provide:

- The ability to control and set boundaries
- Enhance motivational levels of the lay and professional members
- Provide direction and for the NPO and individuals
- Give the NPO a sense of direction
- Act as a base for decision making
- Encourages strategic thinking for the NPO
- Foundation for measuring performance

The objectives of the Cape SAJBD are expressed in section 2 of its Constitution, and the Cape SAJBD shares the same objectives as the National body, which is the representative body of the Jewish community at a national level in South Africa. These objectives are:

OBJECTIVES	2	3	
	1	4	
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

#WhatWeAreAbout #OurObjectives



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR — GUEST OUTLOOK

By David Lazarus

It never fails to amaze me what a vibrant, diverse and dynamic community we have in the Western Cape!

The Cape Jewish Chronicle is the window into our activities and the 30-40 pages every month (sometimes many more) fill us with pride as we digest the goings-on around us.

Reflecting on my own experience as a member of the SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council), where I'm privileged to participate with my colleagues on the Executive Committee, the Management Committee, the Media Committee and the SAFI portfolio, I'm often asked by those who know I represent the SA Friends of Likud in the Western Cape, why I haven't tried to resuscitate Betar.

After all, I spent nearly 17 years in the movement, running it as Rosh Western Cape for the last five and

attending nine machanot! The answer is simple: there's no need to do so in such a thriving Zionist environment. We have Habonim, Bnei Akiva and Netzer who carry the flag for Israel despite promoting different ideologies. United Herzlia Schools do a fantastic job. Diller Teen Fellows are a natural extension to all the Zionism absorbed during their times in the youth movements and the schools. So no, another youth movement would be superfluous.

This makes quite a change from the '60s and '70s when the SA Zionist Federation, particularly the Zionist Youth Council, was always politically aligned with the parties sitting in the Knesset: Mapai, the Labour movement, was represented by Habonim; Herut, Jabotinsky's Revisionists, was represented by Betar (remember Harry Hurwitz and closer to home, the Wolmans and the Berkman); and Mizrahi was, and still is, represented by Bnei

Akiva. We had fireworks then!

Add to the above bodies WIZO, Bnoth Zion, Union of Jewish Women, P2G, the Israel Centre, the Israel Film Club, Ulpanim. What a list!

Our primary objective at the SA Zionist Federation is to educate our Jewish community, youth and adults, about Israel; to correct and counter false narratives about the Jewish State; to encourage Aliyah; and to also reach out to non-Jewish communities who also love Israel plus educate and inform critics of the facts.

In doing so we need to fulfil our mandate of supporting Israel irrespective of the politics of the day. In this respect there is frequent overlap, co-ordination and co-operation with the SA Jewish Board of Deputies who are often approached by the media to comment on South African Jewry's reaction to Israeli and Middle East politics.

In South Africa both the SA Zionist Federation and the SA Jewish Board of Deputies have to walk a fairly thin diplomatic tightrope as our government is not well disposed towards Israel and this creates anxious moments for all of us, especially in the Western Cape with its large and strongly pro-Palestinian Muslim community. To complicate matters, there are also those who disagree with Israel's policies. It creates problems when Jews (who, like everyone else, are entitled to their own opinions) bicker amongst themselves, particularly in public, thereby undermining cohesive community support for Israel.

Life would be boring if there were no obstacles so we at the SA Zionist Federation are kept on our toes as we continue to tackle any difficulties that arise. Israel — and the Truth — is our *raison d'être*.



SA ZIONIST FEDERATION (CAPE COUNCIL)

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

08 NOVEMBER 2020

SAVE THE DATE

For more information, please contact
021 464 6725 sazfl@ctjc.co.za



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Getting to know Golda

By Galya Tregenza Hall

Golda Meir was a remarkable Israeli politician who helped found the State of Israel and later served as the country's fourth Prime Minister.

She was the first and only woman to hold the post and was in office from 1969-1974 and the SAZF, in conjunction with Go2Films, was delighted to host a webinar about this fascinating woman.

All those who registered for the event were able to watch the exclusive SA premiere of the documentary, 'Golda'. Then, on 27 August 2020, an incredible line up of panellists joined to hold a discussion about the Israeli stateswoman. The incoming National President of the Union of Jewish Women SA, Bev Goldman, facilitated the discussion.

The panel included Udi Nir who is the writer, producer and director of the Golda documentary. He recounted how he had been asked to produce the documentary and when conducting his research in various archives, he came across never seen before footage of Golda.

Also on the panel was Professor

(Emeritus) Meron Medzini who was the spokesperson for Golda Meir during the 1970's. Prof. Medzini, a sprightly 88-year-old, gave detailed and fascinating insights into Golda's life and also shared several humorous anecdotes from his time working with her.



Gusti Yehoshua Braverman, head of Diaspora Affairs for the World Zionist Organisation, was the third panellist. She highlighted Golda's unique position as being the only woman in her cabinet and with August being Women's month in South Africa, this webinar provided an ideal opportunity to honour such a remarkable woman.

Golda Meir was a formidable figure in Israeli politics who devoted her life to the service of the Jewish state, and the documentary and panel discussion about her provided a fantastic opportunity to better understand the woman behind the legacy.

Israel and Identity — exploring Israeli Society with Muhammad Zoabi

By Galya Tregenza Hall

The theme of Israel and Identity was at the forefront of our webinar with Muhammad Zoabi.

Muhammad, an Arab citizen of Israel, is a public speaker and a social activist. He uses social media platforms to raise awareness and discussions about issues of Israel's Arab minority and the local LGBTQ community. Since



2014, Muhammad has been in the Israeli public eye for raising issues not commonly addressed in mainstream Arab and Jewish circles in Israel.

Muhammad gave a synopsis of the history of the Arab Israeli community as well a fascinating overview of the Zoabi family in Israel, a family that has been very involved in Israeli politics and society. He provided some background to certain family members such as Seif Al-Dein Zoabi who was the first Arab to serve in the Haganah, the first Arab member of the Knesset, the first Muslim mayor of Nazareth and the former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset. Another relative, Abd Al-Aziz Zoabi, is known for being the first Arab Deputy Minister in Israel, appointed under the leadership of Golda Meir. He founded the Jewish Arab Association for Peace and Equality and also served as the mayor of Nazareth. Abd Al-Rahman Zoabi is a further relative who was Israel's first Arab Supreme Court Judge, appointed in 1999.

Muhammad gave an incredibly honest and fascinating presentation, including opening up about his own personal coming out story and the issues facing the local LGBTQ community in Israel today.

Following on from his presentation, Simon Anstey from Chai FM interviewed Muhammad and together they continued to explore and unpack several social and political issues around the themes of his Arab Israeli identity and also his Gay Muslim Arab identity.

When asked about the recent, ground-breaking deal reached between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Muhammad responded with great hope and positivity and also excitement about Israel becoming less isolated in the region. He noted that the fact that more and more neighbouring Arab countries are willing to work and co-operate with Israel is something that will help Israelis feel more at home and more comfortable in their own region and could also serve to bridge the gap with the Palestinians.

An engaging Q&A session concluded the webinar that was absorbing and thought provoking from start to finish. Muhammad's layered identity serves to provide an important look at Israeli society and his insights were both valuable and informative. He is a man who loves Israel and is committed to being an active and engaged member of his society.

Our evening with Muhammad Zoabi was an opportunity to delve deeper into some of the complexities and challenges that churn away within Israeli society today. It was an opportunity to learn and to engage. Ultimately, it was an evening that highlighted the Israel that we love — not a perfect country but a nation where diversity exists and thrives and where the different narratives and expressions contained within society are heard.

The SAZF hosted the webinar in partnership with the World Zionist Organisation and we extend our sincere thanks for their support.

South African Christians pray for Jerusalem

By South African Friends of Israel Leadership

We recently saw an uproar in the country due to remarks made by the Chief Justice about Israel during a webinar organised by the Jerusalem Post.

He took a stand to pray for peace in Jerusalem and urged others to do the same as inscribed in our Biblical scriptures. South Africans stood firm with him against the naysayers of our generation who have accused Israel of being an illegitimate state, in particular the ruling party and the BDS movement. Christians in this country showed that nothing would deter them from showing their love and support for the only democracy in the Middle East.

SAFI decided to host a 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem' webinar. The event took place on 7 August and saw Christians from across Africa united with South African Friends of Israel in prayer.

The event was also an opportunity to celebrate the Master KG 'Jerusalem' hit which many believe to be a sign of prophetic support for Israel from Africa. We have seen people of all races join in song and dance for Jerusalem and in less

than a week of our Prayer Event we saw a remarkable peace deal with Israel and UAE which is a historic and significant development.

We hope that with increasing Arab and Israeli friendships in the Middle East that the South African government would lay its anti-Israel narrative aside and work rather towards reconciliation and restoration in the region.

South African Friends of Israel will continue to stand by Israel and pray for the peace of Jerusalem and indeed the peace of the region. We will continue to speak to our fellow South Africans about the truth regarding Israel and seek to be a vessel that spreads love, truth and hope.

We as South African believers unapologetically stand with Israel and we refuse to be silenced or pushed into political correctness. Israel is the homeland of our Messiah and the land of the Bible.

We would like to thank all those that took part in our Prayers Event and all those who are united in safeguarding the sacred truths of the Bible.



SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL



Meet Our Rosh Chinuch

Rachael Sara has been involved in the leadership of Netzer South Africa since 2018 and is currently *Rosh Chinuch* (Head of Education) as well as Rosh Cape Town.

She spent her gap year in Israel on Shnat in 2015 and has been back to Israel every year since then. When she is not busy with Netzer, she is still involved with the youth in various capacities, as an interfaith programme facilitator, teaching students for their Bnei Mitzvah or running *Cheder* (Hebrew School) classes.

In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors (while following all safety regulations) and learning to play the ukulele. As she is passionate about Torah, Jewish Education and Community, Rachael hopes to one day be a Rabbi.



Rachael Sara — Rosh Chinuch and Rosh Cape Town



Micro-grant awarded to Sarah Katz

The Diller Teen Fellows Alumni Impact Initiative Program provides an opportunity for the 5000+ Diller Teen Fellows Alumni around the globe putting their talents, skills and passions into action.

It is designed for alumni to receive funding in order to support their ideas that serve their larger local communities. Sarah Katz, a Diller Alumni 2018-2019 participant, has been awarded a micro-grant from the Helen Diller Family Foundation as she embarks on a monumental "impact project" — The COVID-19 Inter-school Devices and Data Matric initiative.

The current lockdown has highlighted and exacerbated educational disparities between students from advantaged backgrounds and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The initiative aims to provide high quality devices, ongoing data and routers to the 108 current matric students of the matric class of

Gardens Commercial High School.

Through the Diller Teen Fellows programme Sarah has been inspired by the importance of Jewish Peoplehood, *Tikkun Olam* (social activism) and the diversity that exists in our South African community. When asked about the Diller values inspiring the project, Sarah said, "Diller speaks to the importance of one's Jewish community branching out to the broader community of one's country/city. This initiative aims to connect the matric students at Herzlia High School with matric students at Gardens Commercial High School, and hence forming a sense of connectedness and shared responsibility amongst students from different cultural and religious backgrounds."

We are very proud that Sarah has found a way to engage with this crisis head-on, and we await the incredible outcomes this project is bound to achieve.



Celebrating Jewish and South African holidays

Over the past month, Habonim Dror has been very active holding weekly meetings for *Bogrim* as well as running various seminars for each age group of our *Channichim*!

From educational seminars to quiz nights, our *Madrichim* are ensuring that our *Channichim* are kept entertained.

Specifically, our *Bogrim* recently joined online to celebrate Rosh Hashanah together and to welcome in a sweet New Year! We have also recently celebrated Heritage Day and looking at different cultures within South Africa and the importance of diversity within our country. Habonim Dror



Two Channichim on Habonim Machaneh

is constantly running events and seminars for *Bogrim* and *Channichim* to encourage Jewish youth to come and get involved.

Email roshkenct@habo.org.za for more information.



Adapting to the times

Wherever there is change and wherever there is uncertainty, there is opportunity.

The world, even months into the Coronavirus pandemic, is still changing. Restaurants now have digital menus. Schools and universities are now online. People have set goals and have pursued those goals during lockdown. Everything is changing and there so much opportunity. With this, Bnei is changing too.

With our madrichim hard at work, we are planning and exploring dynamic ways of engaging with our chanichim as well as with the community. At the same time, we have the most

amazing opportunity to work in tandem with the Joburg and Durban branches of Bnei.

With events for all ages, and shiurim and learning for channies and maddies, Bnei is still striving to push the boundaries and innovate during this time. As the Holocaust Survivor Viktor Frankl once said: "When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves".

Bnei Akiva are using this situation we find ourselves in to change, adapt and innovate.

Kadima Bnei Akiva!
Hayden Norrie, CT Chairman

ONLINE HEBREW ULPAN

Conversational Hebrew lessons via Zoom

Starts 13 October

For more information email admin@sazf.org



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ISRAELI WOMEN CHANGING THE WORLD

PART 1

Israel is a small country making a big mark on the world. These Israeli women are both admirable and unstoppable. They have been successfully impacting the world stage and are a source of tremendous inspiration.



"Passion is the greatest renewable energy source. If you have passion I think you can achieve anything."

- Inna Braverman

Inna Braverman

- ✿ Inna Braverman is a technology entrepreneur who founded Eco Wave Power in 2011, a company that takes the energy from ocean waves and converts it into electricity.
- ✿ Braverman was born just weeks after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and suffered respiratory arrest due to the pollution in the region. This has made clean electricity a very personal journey for her and she has made it her life's mission to mitigate pollution and find a new source of energy.
- ✿ Her renewable energy company has done impressive work in the wave energy field and has also been instrumental in encouraging the commercialization of wave energy.
- ✿ Wave energy is key as it could transform the world's energy mix and help win the global fight against climate change.
- ✿ Under her leadership, Eco Wave Power installed the first grid connected wave energy array in Gibraltar.
- ✿ Braverman has received several awards including the following:
 - Selected by Smithsonian Magazine as one of eight young innovators with ingenious ideas for the future of energy.
 - She was featured in Wired Magazine for her accomplishments and named on their list of 'Females Changing the World.'
 - CNN chose her as 'Tomorrow's Hero' and she was named as one of the most influential women of the 21st century.
- ✿ In 2014, Braverman presented her ideas on the use of wave energy to the United Nations Climate Summit and in 2015 she participated in the UN Climate Change Conference.

"Nobody asks permission to kill. We don't ask permission to save lives."

- Gal Lusky



Gal Lusky

- ✿ Gal Lusky is the founder and CEO of Israeli Flying Aid (IFA).
- ✿ She spent a decade volunteering for a variety of NGOs and was involved with delivering aid to those suffering in the Rwandan genocide as well as helping with disaster relief in Sri Lanka following the 2004 tsunami.
- ✿ In 2005 Lusky launched IFA, a non-profit, volunteer-based NGO that delivers life-saving aid to communities affected by natural disaster and human conflict, transcending differences, prejudices, race, nationality, religion and creed.
- ✿ IFA team members are a perfect reflection of the heart of Israel, a nation and a people that believes firmly in the dignity and sanctity of human life.
- ✿ Lusky is changing the face of emergency disaster relief by creating international smart networks that deliver crucial aid in high-risk areas.
- ✿ Israeli Flying Aid conducts many missions to nations that are normally off limit to Israelis. Despite the dangers, IFA deploys undercover rescue volunteers to countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel or will not accept foreign disaster relief. They have been working in places like Haiti, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Chechnya.
- ✿ After the 2008 cyclone in Burma, Lusky and four IFA volunteers fed 80,000 starving Burmese citizens over two weeks.
- ✿ They have been working at a grass roots level in developing countries that have a high number of orphans such as in Tanzania, where local superstitions about albino children have led to them being abandoned. IFA is helping to provide the children with better protection and they have also purchased land in a country in North Africa to build an orphanage that will house 200 children, from newborn to 3 years old.
- ✿ Israeli Flying Aid's first delegation to Chad was deployed in 2019. IFA went to assess the severe humanitarian situation in the county and to deliver much-needed supplies to orphanages and refugee camps.
- ✿ IFA was one of the first international NGOs to begin working in Syria in the early days of the conflict. Lusky and her team of 200 volunteers, most of whom speak Arabic fluently, have brought in tents, food, medical supplies, hygienic products, baby formula, clothes and even chemical suits. They have sent millions of dollars' worth of medical equipment and supplies to support 14 hospitals and clinics in Syria, and have equipped and trained Syrians in search-and-rescue and firefighting.

Consider This

Eco-worriers

By Rabbi Greg Alexander



There are times that you can open the Torah and it seems to speak to the moment with ease.

“Love your neighbour as yourself.” “Honour your parents.” “Don’t take vengeance or bear grudges”. These could be written yesterday and their currency is undebatable. And then, there are those commandments that just seem to have failed the passage of time. Take this one, for example:

“When you shall besiege a city for a long time, in making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy the trees thereof by wielding an axe against them; for you may eat of them but you shall not cut them down; for is the tree of the field human to withdraw from you into the besieged city?” (Dt. 20:19)

OK, so I don’t know about you, but I’m not planning on besieging any cities in the near future. And of course trees aren’t human! Did I need the Torah to tell me that? Is this the case of a 3500 year-old commandment that we can forget and move on? Well, not according to a whole lot of famous rabbis, including the greatest legal mind in Jewish history.

Maimonides (1138 — 1204) wrote “And not only trees, but whoever breaks vessels, tears clothing, wrecks that which is built up, stops fountains, or wastes food in a destructive manner, transgresses the commandment of not wasting (*bal tashchit*).” (*Sefer HaMitzvot* 6)

Bal tashchit is the mitzvah to not destroy anything wastefully, and Maimonides didn’t just make it up. He based his legal code on the Talmud, which contains a host of conversations about rabbis not treating ‘stuff’ casually and thinking before destroying. Take the example of Talmudic eco-warrior Rav Chisda (*Bava Kama* 91b). Whenever he had to walk between thorns and thistles, he would lift up his garment and rip his skin rather than his clothing, since nature would cure his skin but not his clothes.

What would Rav Chisda think about our consumer culture today? Clothes,

packaging, even electronics. We don’t buy things to last decades or even years. Most of whatever isn’t recycled or dumped into the ocean is sent to landfills, where it will leak chemicals into the earth.

In fact, there were other rabbis at the same time as Maimonides who took things even further than vessels or clothing, suggesting that the mitzvah of *bal tashchit* extends even to the destruction of a ‘grain of mustard’ in order to ‘love that which is good and worthwhile and to cling to it.’ (*Sefer HaChinuch*)

Waste nothing — zero. So for thousands of years, Jewish sages and texts have been glaring at us as we wasted, and shook their heads as we binned. And we still do this. All. The. Time. Waste so much that we just don’t need to. Buy things we know will be used once and then tossed. Wrap things in plastic that will end up in landfill or down the throat of a bird or wild animal.

And we chop down trees. Lots of trees. A scary number — every second a chunk of forest the size of a rugby field is cut down. Every second. In just 40 years, a forest area the size of Europe has gone. Half of the world’s rainforest has been destroyed in just one century. If we don’t act and the current rates of deforestation continue, the world’s rainforests will be gone in 100 years. We are living at a time that severe storms, heat waves and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets are accelerating.

If you thought that eco-Judaism was some new hippy thing, well take note — it’s got a long history. And we need this now more than ever. While we watched the Coronavirus statistics, we took our eye off the climate change stats. And they demand action. Now. Our environment is being destroyed in front of our eyes, on our watch, and we don’t need Swedish teenagers to tell us that — it’s obvious to everyone.

Make a change, act now. Consume less, waste less, enjoy life more. Let’s do this together and save our planet. It’s a mitzvah.

Temple Israel brings Elul online



Preparing for the drive-by

Throughout Elul, Temple Israel has offered a number of ways to connect meaningfully even though we haven’t been able to join together in person.

We had a daily WhatsApp group with thoughts, quotes, music and poetry relating to Elul that included a daily video of one of our rabbis or community members blowing Shofar.

Our live Shofar Drive-by event outside the Green Point stadium was a great success. Members of the community drove by (with windows closed), while shofar blowers (safely distanced) blew the shofar.

Also during the month of Elul, Rabbi Greg held weekly online morning meditation sessions, as well as the shofar being blown at the end of each of our online Havdalah services and at our weekly online shiurim.

In many ways, we brought Elul into the homes and hearts of our community members, perhaps even more so than we would have had we not be thinking creatively about how to connect and observe Elul during these unprecedented times.

Mazaltov to those who celebrated Bnei Mitzvah with us last month



Michael Minitzer
3 September



Lily Faclier
12 September



Pannekoeke in the Sukkah
From our sukkah to yours join us online for a pancake making demo. Bring along your ingredients and join in the fun.
Sunday 4th October
email marketing@templeisrael.co.za to book your spot



SIMCHAT TORAH 5781
THE CELEBRATION OF THE TORAH
ONLINE
FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER AT 18H15
AN EVENING OF DEEP DAVENING,
TORAH CELEBRATIONS AND
A ROCKING OUT CONCERT WITH GABRIEL SHAI
EMAIL MARKETING@TEMPLEISRAEL.CO.ZA TO BOOK YOUR SPOT



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THE MUSICAL
MOVIE
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STARRING HERZLIA STUDENTS
PAST & PRESENT

DIRECTOR **JOSH HAYMAN** | PRODUCER **DANIELLE WYNTER**
 MUSICAL DIRECTION **STEFAN LOMBARD** | THEATRICAL DIRECTION **PAUL & MICHELE GRIFFITHS**

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Telfed adapts and grows through 2020

By Telfed Chair, Batya Shmukler

At this time in the year, the word that seems to come to mind is 'uncertainty'.

So much has changed in recent months and we are slowly adjusting to a new way of living. I have witnessed events over the past few months that I could not have imagined.

At Telfed we have adapted to meet this new, strange reality. From the onset when Israel began its lockdown, Telfed's services were categorised by the Israeli government as essential allowing our office to remain open and fully operational throughout the pandemic. During this time, we saw an increase in requests for assistance, adjusted our Aliyah procedures, switched to virtual events and adapted our volunteering programmes to comply with government guidelines.

Our community continues to come together in support of one another, Aliyah numbers have been increasing from around the world, and our Pras scholarship students and volunteers have been dropping off welcome parcels outside the doors of new Olim who have gone straight into quarantine. In our recent 'Pay it Forward' campaign, government grants that were donated to needy Olim were immediately transferred to over 400 members of our community in order to assist them during this difficult time. I have been filled with an overwhelming sense of pride by the generosity of spirit within our community.

Our Olim continue to reach new heights, inspiring us with their remarkable contributions to society. Following the signing of the historic peace agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, it was a South African-born Oleh, Captain Tal Becker, who captained the maiden EIAI flight to Abu Dhabi.

Recently, we lost a valued member of our community and a Telfed stalwart, Cape-born Annette Milliner Giladi z"l. Annette was a champion of Zionism and Aliyah, and served our community as a dedicated volunteer for over 4 decades, including a term as vice-chairman of Telfed. Annette was the recipient of the Israeli Ministry of Aliyah and Integration's Award of Appreciation for Olim for Extraordinary Contributions to Society and the State. Her son Stanley wrote, 'Annette would leave no stone unturned to help anyone who was in need, irrespective of who they were, but G-d help anyone who spoke out against Israel. Her love of Israel was trumped only by her love for her family.'

Rosh Hashanah is a time of new beginnings. This year, we will begin the New Year with many unknowns but also with hope and courage. One certainty is that we have a strong, resilient organisation that is committed to doing whatever is necessary to support our community. To learn more about our remarkable organisation, I invite you to visit our website: www.telfed.org.il. I would like to use this opportunity to extend my appreciation to our Telfed family, dedicated staff, lay leaders and volunteers, and to the donors who continue to help us ensure that members of our Olim community have food to eat and a roof over their heads.



Israel began three-week nationwide lockdown on erev Rosh Hashana

By JNS.com

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on 13 September that a countrywide lockdown would begin on 18 September and last for at least three weeks.

At the press conference, Netanyahu said that the restrictions would include a ban on traveling more than 500 meters from one's residence. Schools are closed, but at least some public-sector businesses remain open, subject to unspecified restrictions. All essential services and stores, such as grocery shops and pharmacies, remain open as usual. Ben-Gurion International Airport remains open.

As for synagogue-attendance

guidelines during the lockdown, prayers in 'capsules' of up to 20 people outdoors and 10 people indoors are permitted. The number of groups allowed inside a building (a synagogue or other structure used as one) are determined by the number of entrances to that building.

Netanyahu said he was aware of the "high price" that the public would be paying and vowed that those hurt financially by the lockdown would be compensated.

According to Health Ministry data, as of 14 September there were 156 823 confirmed coronavirus cases in Israel, among those 40 561 active; 529 patients were in serious condition and 214 in moderate condition; 135 on ventilators; and a national death toll of 1126.

USING MY NUDEL

Escape from reality

By Craig Nudelman

It's been a hard year. From COVID and lockdown, to the S189(A) at Herzlia and the personal implications of this for me, 2020 will be a year to forget.

However, one has to get through things in one's own way. Sometimes the most obvious choice is alcohol, although this isn't something on which one wants to get too reliant! So what else is there? There's exercise, yes, but sometimes motivation is hard. The real way that I escape (besides from being with my amazing family) is through books and Netflix. Over the past few months, I have read a lot of fiction, including, but not exclusive to: *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon; *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (I watched the series too); and *Dune* by Frank Herbert (and I am very excited to watch the new film coming out in December!).

What is really interesting about these book choices is that they are all about either dystopian or alternate historical fiction. It feels like every time we turn on the news these days we're facing some sort of dystopian nightmare, so how can reading these kinds of books feel like a break from the normal? I guess it all boils down, once again, to escapism. There are different forms of escapism and these days people are more likely to find sanctuary being anti-social with friends and family than out in the real world. Many people, according to Joshua Wilder in *Psychology Today*, are more concerned with their virtual worlds they have created online than real, face-to-face relationships. He gives the example that some people go so far as to become more concerned about their fictional characters than themselves, stating that they, "put more effort into slaying a dragon than learning math, and be more concerned with what their character eats than what they themselves eat". This has caused many to become more homebound and less likely to go out into the real world. But COVID has created a similar environment.

Due to extraneous factors, we have become less able to go outside and be social. Hundreds of millions of people are unable to participate in their usual day-to-day activities and have been forced to stay at home. We also have had to adapt to having terrible news flung at us constantly, which can create a very negative environment for ourselves and others in our households. Our own self-isolation has created the perfect

storm for reading and escapism. According to Hugo Selzer, the president of the International Publishers Association, books

have become a way to escape the realities of COVID. He says, "Books and reading are the ideal way of escaping our four walls, but also to understand what is happening around us, how to overcome this and how to make our lives better in the future".

We have now been tasked with trying to re-gain a sense of normality (something I wrote about last month) and to feel as though we can control our lives, inasmuch as we can. One of the ways in which people have tried to do so is by being involved in something called 'Cottagecore'. Cottagecore, according to Wikipedia (don't tell my pupils I'm using Wikipedia as a source!) is "an Internet aesthetic that celebrates a return to traditional skills and crafts such as foraging, baking, and pottery (...)". One can see this on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Tumblr. We have become a people who are now going back to basics and trying to use our own skills to escape, rather than rely on other people and our industrialised worldview.

Escaping from reality may seem like a negative, but it has allowed us to adapt and adjust to a world which is topsy-turvy. From our crises in South Africa (where we face not only Lockdown but loadshedding and corruption on a grand scale) to the US (where wearing a mask has now become a political statement) we have to look inward to find how we can best manage ourselves. We have to control what we can in whatever means possible. If we don't, we may find that we will spiral out of control thinking about all the disasters befalling the world.

Although my wife and daughters are amazing and have been a source of joy and light, I have found another way to escape from the world in which we live. When I read about dystopian realities or the science fiction/fantasy worlds, I'm actively trying to have a way of seeking the structured model of a novel: a beginning, middle, and an end. By doing this I can control just one aspect of my life, through the difficulties I am facing, and create a sense of order and balance. I hope that you, too, have been able to find balance, control, and a sense of stability in these tough times.

May the force be with you!





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

Spring has sprung

Another month has gone by and even though each day and week seems to be so similar, I do feel now that Spring has sprung and there is a change on the horizon.

Lockdown is now at level two and as long as we all remember to be vigilant and mindful, it is hoped that the plateau will continue and that in the very near future we will be able to venture out more often, visit one another and get back to a sense of normality with our daily living.

We recently held our regular CJSA Executive meeting on Zoom and the main topic of discussion was the way forward — when and how to open, taking into consideration that we have to be extra careful, observing protocols at all time and ensuring that no one is compromised at all when they cross the threshold of any of our centres. Unless anything unforeseen happens we are planning to reopen our doors so that people can slowly start to meet up and integrate. Luckily, we are getting to the warmer months with more opportunity to be outdoors so hopefully we will be able to host some meetings in the Spring fresh air.

Zoom Activities

So much is happening every day — there have been so many interesting Zooms on offer, that even though there have been stringent lockdown rules, it has been possible to still keep in touch with one another.

The first week of the month is now a regular date with Cantor Ivor Joffe and his friends who have given us fabulous concerts which are so well attended, not only by our own members, but guests as far afield as Israel, England and Australia — all happy to be part of an uplifting morning where they can hear music that is loved and at the same time see friends.

The survival and revival of Yiddish in the 21st Century

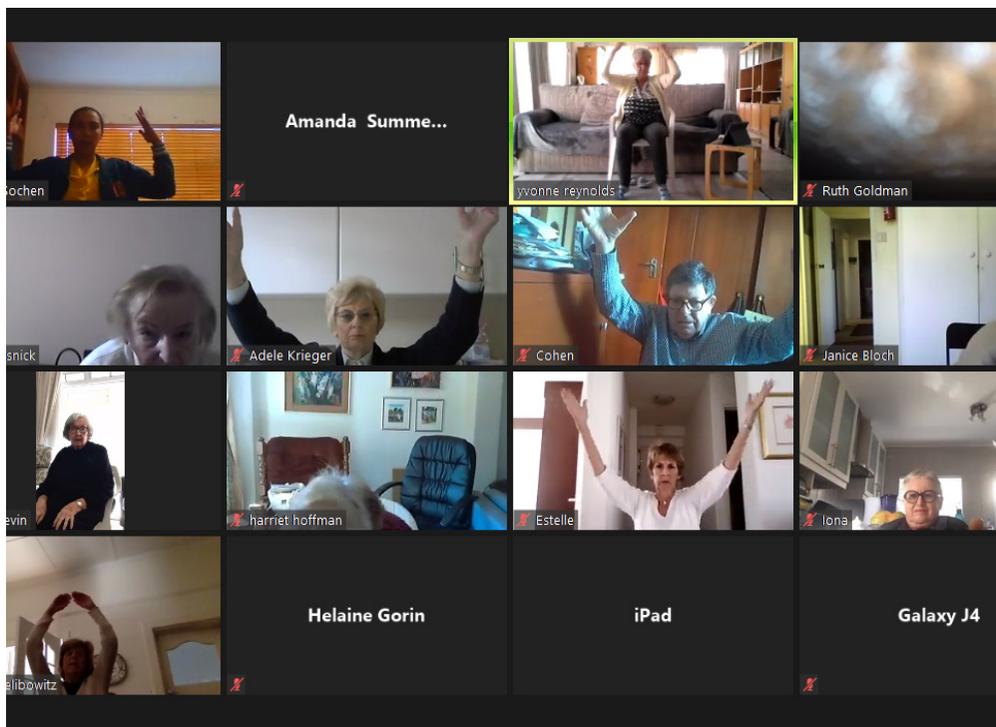
The #Yiddish Zoom event that took place on 23 August comprised a panel discussion moderated by The Hollywood Reporter's Scott Feinberg, followed by the world premiere of the documentary 'Leah, Teddy & the Mandolin — Cape Town celebrates Yiddish Song'. This fundraiser for the CJSA was viewed internationally and focused attention on the COVID-19 Emergency Fund to meet the welfare needs of our community at this time. Scott Feinberg, in Los Angeles, interacted with panelists in Boston, New York, London and Melbourne and then, after the screening, did a Q+A with them as well as Heather Blumenthal and Philip Todres, the directors of the documentary.

The feedback from all over the world was fantastic and this has resulted in 'Leah, Teddy & the Mandolin' being available on demand from Webtickets. If you have not seen the movie, or would like to see it again — it's simply a click away.

<https://www.webticket.co.za/v2/Event.aspx?itemid=1502915734>

Shabbat Meals

The weekly Shabbat meals have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who has ordered. Some of our volunteers have not missed a Friday since the beginning of April and we salute each one of you. Merle Rubin and Berkies have outdone themselves with the meals they have served and the special 'Rosh Hashanah in a Box' meal ensured that each recipient could have the



Get moving with our weekly Ageless Grace exercise classes where members log on to Zoom to get fit and connect with each other.

feel of the special Rosh Hashanah Shabbat even if it was different to what one usually does at this special time of the year.

Le Chaim

Our main fundraiser for the year is the sale of our Shabbat wine which is always eagerly anticipated and enormously enjoyed at each Shabbat meal. This year's batch has arrived and is available for purchase. We hope that everyone will support us. They do make a lovely gift for any occasion.

Charidy Fundraiser

For the first time ever the seven Welfare organisations banded together to do a Charidy Fundraiser. The build-up to the event has been fantastic with each organisation preparing their

own Jerusalem dance which was put together professionally and distributed far and wide throughout the community as a teaser for the event.

Welfare AGM

This year's AGM will be like none other as we will be hosting the Welfare AGM via Zoom on 23 October 2020. Please save the date so that you can view, from the safety of your homes, the incredible work that is being done in your community by the teams that look after our community.

On top of the activities, our professional team cope daily with many phone calls, regularly having phone counselling sessions with members who would normally visit the centre to chat to their social worker. Most members are called at least once a week, just for a check in or chat which we know is greatly appreciated by all.

Hopefully, we will soon be able to produce our regular calendar of events as we once again open our doors to our centres and welcome you back with open arms. Until then be well, keep safe and sanitise.

Sincerely

Executive Director CJSA

Social and Personal

Births

Anita Stoch – great grandson
Victor and Maxine Boyd – twin grandchildren

Welcome to new members

Pam Katz. Ronnie and Linda Levinson, Margaret Nachman and Ros Wacks

Condolences

Noah Chait – wife
Lisa Chait – mother
Pam and Dennis Hotz – sister
Polly Sachs – brother

Getting to know the new Rabbi at Muizenberg Shul

Rabbi Ryan Newfield is the Rabbi tasked with revitalising the Muizenberg shul. The CJC found out a little bit more about what makes him tick.

How long have you been in Cape Town, and what were you doing before becoming the new Muizenberg Rabbi?

We were here in November to see if we liked it, and arrived in Cape Town at the end of February just before lock-down. What a time to start! It was obviously not ideal, but we look forward to seeing people in person again as soon as possible.

What are your plans for services during the High Holidays?

We unfortunately will be closed for the high holidays but I have a 6-part High Holyday prep course open to the public.

Does your shul have facilities for kids and do you run children's services?

We plan on doing something for the kids when the shul opens. I would like at least once a month to have something special for kids, where the



Rabbi Ryan Newfield with his wife Andrea Rivka, daughter Haia and son Asher

services and meals are geared towards families with kids.

The actual premises has a side room built in honour of Bobba Rochel by the Kaplan family and we could host programmes there during services.

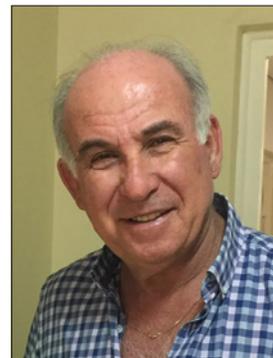
I also would like to have an organic garden at some point as there is space. Helping both kids and adults connect to the earth's blessings.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise us!

I have travelled in over 50 countries in the world. I am a qualified yoga instructor and surf waves way beyond my skill level. Sometimes I guess I have too much faith if there is such a thing!

Rabinowitz elected to Jewish genealogy board

South African-born Australian, Eli Rabinowitz was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) at its International Jewish Genealogy Conference, presented virtually on 12 August. The Conference drew more than 2300 registrants from 28 countries.

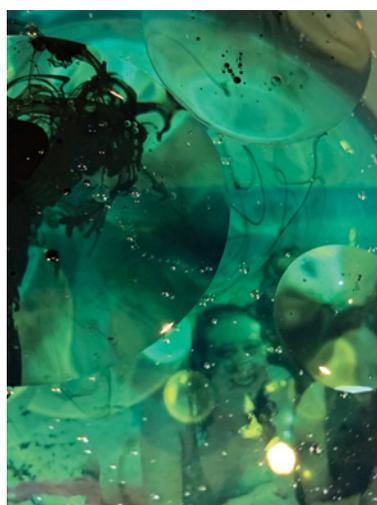


Eli has researched his family's genealogy and associated Jewish cultural history for over 30 years. Eli has travelled extensively, writing about Jewish life, travel and education on his website, Tangential Travel and Jewish Life. <http://elirab.me>

Eli writes and manages 87 Jewishgen KehilaLinks, and over 750 WordPress posts. His articles have appeared in numerous publications. Eli has lectured internationally: at educational institutions, commemorative events, at IAJGS and other conferences, and online platforms.

He established the Partisans' Song Project, and was awarded a U.S. government cultural grant for his WE ARE HERE! Human Rights and Social Justice initiative, <https://wah.foundation>.

IAJGS is an umbrella organisation of more than 91 Jewish genealogical organisations worldwide. The IAJGS coordinates and organises activities such as its annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and provides a unified voice as the spokesperson on behalf of its members. The IAJGS's vision is of a worldwide network of Jewish genealogical research organizations and partners working together as one coherent, effective and respected community, enabling people to succeed in researching Jewish ancestry and heritage. Find the IAJGS at: www.iajgs.org and like them on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/iajgsjewishgenealogy>



MATRIC EXHIBITION
12 OCTOBER –
27 NOVEMBER 2020
SA JEWISH MUSEUM
ZOOM OPENING
12 OCTOBER | 18H00



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**JEWISH
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**
CAPE TOWN

www.jcs.org.za



GIVING A HAND UP NOT JUST A HANDOUT

At Jewish Community Services, we pride ourselves in empowering our Clients to become independent and self-reliant. COVID-19 has further increased the unemployment rate. Many of our clients are skilled and educated, and are finding it difficult to secure employment, JCS is committed to upskilling and assisting our clients, to the best of our ability, and empowering them, building their self-esteem and self-worth – not only giving a hand-out but a hand-up!

In 2019 two Employment Pilot Projects were launched: The Sheltered Employment Programme and The Employment Initiative Project. The Clients were on the last leg of the programmes when Lockdown happened. However, the Lockdown did not mean that all our clients just sat back and waited for the hand-out. A few became creative and branched out, like Clare whom we approached to share her story:

“I was approached by Lynne Hendricks to write a short biography about my time as a client with JCS. I was advised that I could refuse if I was uncomfortable, but for me it was a no-brainer. JCS and the incredible team that not only work there, but give of their hearts, to helping people like me is something I am proud to speak about. Without this help I don't think I stood a chance. My name is Clare. This is my story.

I had never needed help before. I had my own business, a brand new car, a nice place to call home where my kids could come for visits, but I was lonely. I employed a guy off the street for my recycling business. He always looked decent, worked hard, and he soon became my best friend, spending evenings with me until late at night. Before long I wasn't making it to work every day. I had started drinking, and one day I was involved in a bad car accident, not my fault but that didn't matter. My car was a write-off, I ended up in Pollsmoor, too embarrassed to tell or ask anyone to get me out, and I spent 30 days behind bars. When I got out, I found that my landlord had removed all my belongings and put them on the pavement. I had lost everything. My home, my business, my car. With only R500 to my name, I found out the chap I had employed was parking cars on Blouberg beach. I made my way there, bought a tent, and the beach became

my new home. My family soon found out and wanted nothing further to do with me. The guy (let's call him T) was smoking tik again, but he somehow managed to feed me every day. The staple diet for street people, dry bread and drink called O'pop. It wasn't long before he too ended up in the tent, driven by my need to be loved. The abuse came next. I would be beaten for no reason and twice ended up in hospital fighting for my life. The hospital called my family, but when they heard why I was there, they were not interested. Left with no other choice, I went back to the beach. One day I contacted a lady I used to teach sewing to and she offered me a place to stay with her and her girlfriend, but I soon realised they wanted way more from me.

I took to the internet and got hold of Hazel Levin, who at the time was doing community work. She referred me to JCS and together they helped me find safe accommodation. I finally had hope. The JCS team did whatever they could to get me back on my feet and it was working. I was given groceries, rental assistance, counselling and financial assistance for things I needed.

The biggest shock was yet to come. About two months in, I met the son of my landlord, and you won't believe it, it was T's best friend from Bellville. My worst fears came true, two days later T was on my doorstep. He took all my money, ate my food and sold everything he could find in my cottage. Then one day, he arrived wielding a knife and kidnapped me. You may think I could've shouted for help, but I knew I would die in the process. We ended up in Bellville in the tent he'd taken from the beach. He placed members of his gang as guards to make sure I couldn't leave. I had to go to the toilet in front of them. I wasn't fed for days. One day I was alone with him when I told him I thought there was money

in my account. He took my card and warned he'd kill me if I moved. That day I ran so fast, I was starving, barefoot and badly beaten. The Police contacted Lynne who got me to a place of safety where T would never be able to touch me again. Without hesitation, JCS brought me groceries and toiletries and asked if they could pay my rental. I stayed there for two years, got a good job and a gorgeous flat. The JCS team that supported me were so proud of my progress.

Then I was diagnosed with Lupus, which resulted in kidney failure. The hospital didn't think I'd make it. Again JCS was there, making arrangements for me in case I didn't survive. However I did recover, I was very weak and not coping. JCS moved me into a house where I shared accommodation with a garden and pool. I created a veggie garden, decorated the house and started sewing. I had pamphlets made for my sewing, and when lockdown happened, I started making masks to sell. Today I have orders coming my way every week.

JCS still helps me with groceries and rent while I grow my business, but finally I am in a place where I have a great relationship with my mom and sister, my daughters haven't blocked me, and my business is showing promise. Without JCS and the wonderful ladies who work there, where do you think I would be now? I would especially like to thank the JCS director and the team of social workers and admin staff, who have at all times gone the extra mile for me, believed in me and made me feel I was worth saving. JCS you have given me back my life, a better more hopeful one. You've helped me to make good decisions and without you, I know I would be dead.”

This is just one example of how our initiatives can help our clients lift themselves out of the situations they find themselves in. To find out how to you can support JCS by getting involved in one of our employment initiatives, please contact **Lynne Hendricks** or **Hazel Levin** at JCS on **021 4625520** or email info@jcs.org.za

Names have been changed in order to protect the confidentiality of clients.



The long arc of justice and the Stalingrad strategy

By Anton Katz



In every single court case time is a key component of fairness.

One or more of the litigants would prefer the case to be heard and finalised as soon as possible; while their opponents would be satisfied were the case to never be heard, and if it is, many years in the future. So, in a commercial case the claimant wishes his claim to be heard quickly, so he or she can receive his claimed money; while the opposition or defence hope the case is never heard, and he or she would not have to pay the claimant a cent. In a criminal matter, when the accused is on bail he or she would hope the actual trial never happens or happens years into the future when the memory of witnesses diminishes and evidence may have disappeared by witnesses going missing or even dying. But the prosecution would wish for the trial to begin as soon as possible. If the accused is in custody and not on bail, he or she would wish the trial to commence soonest.

There is a legitimate concern in South Africa and many parts of the world that the court system is slow and cumbersome. Persons who may

have a good case may decide not to pursue their case because of a perception, and often a correct one, that the matter would take too long to be finalised. And the length of cases is extended by the numerous possibilities of appeals.

In Pirkei Avot, a compilation of the ethical teachings and maxims from Rabbinic Jewish tradition, it is said: "Our Rabbis taught: ...The sword comes into the world, because of justice delayed and justice denied..." And Martin Luther King, Jr. famously refrained: "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." President Barack Obama loved and popularised the quote, and had it woven into a rug in the Oval Office. If the arc of the moral universe will inevitably bend toward justice, then there is no reason for humans to strive toward that justice, because its going to happen anyway. It would be only a matter of cosmic influence, and no human role is needed. But that isn't what Reverend King meant. Humans need to work, endeavour and fight hard for justice, and hopefully, more often than not, it will eventually be delivered.

In South Africa delaying tactics in court proceedings have become known as the Stalingrad strategy. This is a tactic of wearing down the plaintiff or prosecution by vigorously fighting anything the plaintiff or prosecution presents by whatever means possible and appealing every adverse ruling to the nth degree. The accused or defendant avoids the merits of the case; but rather takes point after point after point. Former President Jacob Zuma has a reputation of using the Stalingrad strategy of deploying every possible legal device to prevent his prosecution arising from alleged corruption in the arms deal from proceeding. His advocate has said in court: "This is not a battle where you send a champion out and have a little fight and that's it – this is more like we will fight them in every room, in every street, in every house."

This strategy is named after the Russian city besieged by the Germans in World War II. In broad terms a Stalingrad defense is a dogged inch by inch defense of attrition. The Russians defended Stalingrad against the Nazi war machine street by street and house by house. The term has acquired a negative connotation in the context of court proceedings. It suggests that the defendant does not have a solid defence, but is merely seeking to delay his inevitable loss. The first recorded use by a court of the term "Stalingrad Defense" is in a 1981 judgment in the North District of Illinois: "The corresponding Stalingrad defense by defendants (intended to exhaust the opposition and their more limited resources, in turn leading to acceptance of a modest settlement offer). ..." The judgment discusses the historical background of the Stalingrad defence: "This is a case where there was no real defense so the attorneys for the Defendant had no choice but to fight every inch of the way. Objections, motions, and obfuscation, was the defense. It was the only defense possible. Truth was the enemy. Stalingrad was saved by the Russians in World War II by literally wearing out the Germans, and this type of defence by lawyers in the last century came to be known as the Stalingrad defense. Wear the opponents out. Fight for every step. However, the plaintiff's attorneys brought every possible action under multiple state law and under federal law that could possibly apply and the battle became irreconcilable. Thus, rancour and accusations became the byword. This is not to indicate that the attorneys defending or prosecuting the case violated any rules of ethical conduct. However, fighting on

ridiculous matters became paramount. This in turn caused undue rancour. *Argumentum ad hominum* became the key and flavoured the entire case and continues to do so."

A key to this strategy is money. Those without the luxury of a war chest of funds will not be able to effectively mount such a strategy. In so many cases, the courts have expressed their frustration with these tactics.

But on the other hand, procedural fairness is also imperative. Fairness in court cases demands that parties and their legal representatives have enough time properly to prepare for the case. For example, the discovery of documentation often takes time. In many cases, disputes about documents before the case even starts takes months to resolve. And then there is the lengthy court roll. It takes sometimes more than a year before being able to obtain a court date for a hearing in certain busy divisions. Most Judges and Magistrates have huge work loads with thousands of pages of reading before a case. In order to do justice to a case the judicial officer requires time. Time to read and let the facts and the law percolate. Having heard the arguments it can take time for a judge to deliver a fair judgment. The Chief Justice has indicated that judgments should be delivered within three months after argument. Some judges deliver within three months, but others can take longer. I've known cases where the judge has taken two years to produce a fifteen-page judgment. There are an ever-increasing number of cases of all types, from shipping cases, building disputes, conflicts in sports, labour issues and family law disputes. The demands of the courts are considerable. To appoint more judges to ease the work-load is expensive. And more support court staff (stenographers, ushers, typists, interpreters and others), court equipment, court rooms and buildings would be required.

There can be no doubt that justice is expensive. And part of justice is the timeous resolution of disputes. A decent society requires justice. The provision of justice is just like the other demands on government. Medical care, education, policing and security, housing and a clean environment are only some of the costly demands. An oft-repeated complaint is that well heeled parties can 'buy' justice. To the extent that there may be some validity to the complaint it must never be forgotten that justice is an indispensable public commodity, not dissimilar to many others.

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A tribute to Jackie Sachar z"l

24 November 1948 – 15 April 2020

By Maureen Sachar

Jackie Sachar passed away on 15 April, the seventh day of Pesach, aged 71.

Jackie was educated at SACS and Herzlia, and later went on to study at the University of Cape Town and New York University, where he graduated with his Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA).

Jackie loved New York where he made many friends during his time as a student. He returned to New York every year and faithfully looked up these friends so as to stay in touch with them.

Jackie was first and foremost a family man. For him, family came first. He was a devoted husband and father, and an adoring Zeide.

As Rabbi Liebenberg mentioned at his funeral, Jackie loved Shul and it was certainly his second love. On the last Shabbat at Wynberg Shul during the singing of *Adon Olam*, there were so many tears shed, but not by

Jackie. He was so positive about the move to Claremont and was buoyed up with enthusiasm for it. Fortunately the merger went incredibly smoothly and Claremont became Jackie's home-away-from-home. He made his own little space in 'Speakers' Corner', brought his *shtender* along from Wynberg in which he had packed his tallit, his tefillin, his Siddur, his Tanach and photographs of his beloved grandchildren which he would look at from time to time during the services. Jackie befriended the members of Claremont Shul, many of whom have become firm and loyal family friends.

Jackie was an ardent Zionist and a man who was fully committed to his



Jewish community. To this end, he served on the Management Committee of the SA Zionist Federation and for many years stood outside Parliament on a Friday, proudly holding the Israeli flag, despite the many obscenities that were shouted at him through passing car windows and passers-by. He never flinched and remained loyal to this pursuit until his health no longer allowed it.

He served as Chairman of the Wynberg Hebrew Congregation for many years and also served as a member of the Kashrut Committee at the Union of Orthodox Synagogues.

He was a staunch member of the Monday night shiur meetings at Claremont/Wynberg Shul, the Thursday Businessmen's Shiur at

Family Announcements

BEREAVEMENT

SAUL LEVITAN

Beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away in Perth after a long battle with illness.

Deeply missed by Brenda, Ariella, Tali, Keith, Judian, Harry, Tori and Chana.

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

Bass, Gordon Willis and latterly at the Thursday night Pirkei Avot evenings at the home of John and Lesley Zieff.

Jackie loved the colour purple and had an array of purple clothes and shoes. As a hobby, he collected all manner of purple items and some knew him as 'Mr Purple'.

Jackie is deeply mourned by his family and remembered very affectionately by all who knew him.

CoronaCare platform launches emotional wellness campaign

CoronaCare for South Africa is a collaborative nationwide match-making platform connecting concerned South African donors, corporates, small businesses, artists, musicians and NPOs in an effort to provide for our most disadvantaged communities.

To date they have supported over 136 NPOs with food relief and are working towards sustainable food projects so that communities can work towards feeding themselves long after the food vouchers have run out.

Their most recent endeavour has been to launch a sister account, @theifeelproject on Instagram and Facebook, to showcase our latest campaign — The 'I FEEL' Project. The 'I FEEL' Project is focused on emotional well-being aimed at empowering people to actively participate in managing and improving their mental health. This collaborative platform is for people to share their experiences in short video clips and have meaningful discussions.

COVID-19 has made us vulnerable — for some it has exasperated pre-existing conditions, and for others it has brought out struggles they are facing for the first time or ones they haven't dealt with in many years.

With crisis, however, comes opportunity. The 'I FEEL' Project wants to create a supportive space where people can share how they feel, empathise with one another, communicate and connect, share ideas and promote healthy ways of coping. The message is that emotional health and talking about these issues is important and healthy, especially if one has the goal to grow within oneself, one's family and one's community.

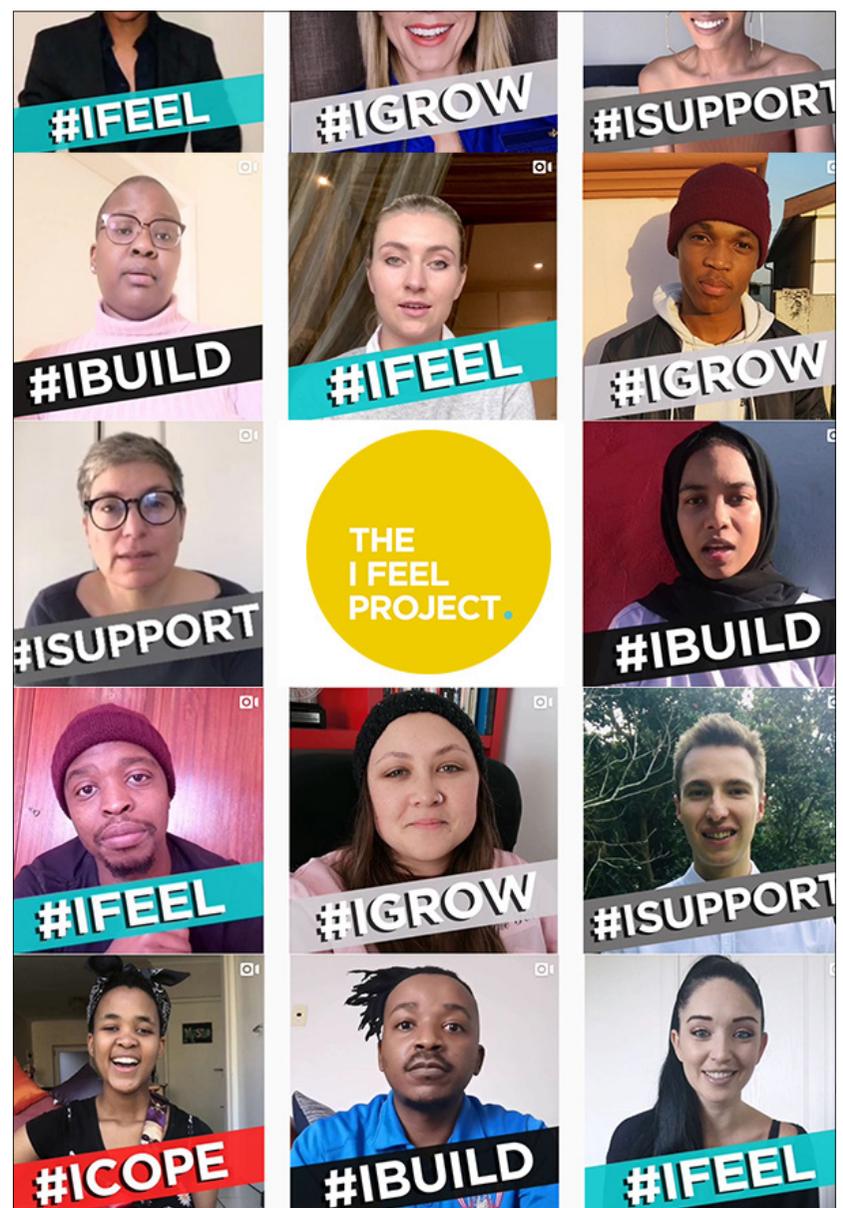
So far, they have received deeply vulnerable and brave testimonies from dozens of people, with stories of anxiety, depression, healing and courage from across the country's provinces. Rikki from Joburg bravely shared her story of battling with trigeminal neuralgia, while Munashe in Cape Town gave tips on overcoming fear.

A big component of the campaign/account is to provide psychoeducation. The 'I FEEL' Project wants this to be a year of opportunity, change and growth by supporting people to face their adversity in an informed and empowered way.

If you want to SEE more, HEAR more, FEEL more head over to @theifeelproject!

If you would like to get involved, search theifeelproject on Facebook or email coronacaresa@gmail.com.

They can't wait to hear your story and to share it with those who need to hear it most.



The cultural genius of the Abraham Accords

By Michael Sussman for JNS.com

Mu-wazana plays a critical role in virtually every aspect of life in the Arab world.

Unlike its Western version — ‘keeping up with the Joneses’ — *mu-wazana* does not have a negative connotation. Rather than depicting the need to amass material goods to match the status or worth of one’s neighbours, *mu-wazana* means maintaining balance with other tribes or nations. In the Middle East, this is considered not only a positive, natural phenomenon but a matter of survival.

The U.S.-brokered Abraham Accord between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, announced by President Donald Trump on 13 August is especially relevant in this context. Its key genius lies in the way that it plays into the culture of *mu-wazana*. Indeed, to restore and maintain this type of balance, the rest of the Gulf States — and other Arab countries — will wish to follow Abu Dhabi’s lead. More importantly, they will not want the UAE to be the sole beneficiary of Israeli hi-tech, defence systems and agricultural advancements — or the only one among them with an embassy in the Jewish state.

The flip side in Arab culture — revealed in folklore that dates back to the period prior to the advent of Islam in the seventh century, when nomads would sing to the hoofbeats of their camels as they trekked through the desert — is revealed in a widely quoted Bedouin proverb: “I am against my brother; my brother and I are against my cousin; my cousin and I are against the stranger.”

This apothegm sums up the importance of competition between and among groups, sub-tribes and individuals. In such a hierarchy, without balance, one person’s or group’s gain is the other’s loss. This concept of balance derives from the nomadic “way of the desert,” when it was common for tribes to fight over scarce resources, including water. Tribal raids were common, and reciprocity or proportionality of war did not exist. A weak tribe raided by a stronger one, therefore, would be enslaved, taken over or obliterated. It was thus advantageous for a tribe to have more people and better weapons, for example, to safeguard its survival.

In the corporate world, too, photos of ruling families and tribes line the walls of major companies. In the

political arena, key cabinet positions — including those of defence, foreign affairs and intelligence — are allocated according to tribes, not only giving their representatives a seat at the table, but helping to establish loyalty to the country’s ruler and maintain *mu-wazana*. Even Jordan’s parliament is dominated by tribal, rather than religious or ideological, parties. One reason for this is that the tribe as a unit supports all legal, financial and social aspects of the lives of individuals.

This primacy of the collective and ‘balance’ in the Arab world is foreign to Western culture, which emphasises the rights and freedoms of individuals. Westerners doing business in the Middle East, thus, frequently encounter difficulty as a result of this difference.

Western corporations in Arab countries often make the mistake of allocating benefits to their local employees based on individual merit, for example, rather than recognising the authority of the tribal leaders to decide on such matters. The unwitting ‘imbalance’ created by the heads of such corporations has led tribal chiefs to restore *mu-wazana* by orchestrating problems in the

workplace to serve as a reminder of their ‘balanced’ status with CEOs.

This brings us to Iran, which created ‘imbalance’ in the region through expansionism, backed by its military and many proxies, and by spreading fear among the Arab countries. This is why Bahrain — whose population is predominantly Shi’ite, but whose ruling family is Sunni — has expressed willingness to follow the UAE’s lead and make peace with Israel. Even neighbouring Saudi Arabia appears interested in making a similar arrangement, as was evident in the permission it gave to an EAI Airlines plane to use its airspace at the end of August to transport a delegation of American and Israeli dignitaries to Abu Dhabi for the purpose of ironing out the details of the Abraham Accord.

Herein lies the great success of the peace plan, brokered by Trump between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and UAE President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan: It is the fruit of identifying an opportunity of an ‘imbalance’ caused by Iran, and formulating a treaty that fits into the culture of *mu-wazana*. As such, it is bound to be a precursor to many more such treaties.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the CJC’s editor or editorial board.

MOST SA JEWS (BOTH, OF ASHKENZI & SEPHARDIC HERITAGE) ARE ELIGIBLE TO REINSTATE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ACCORDINGLY AN EU PASSPORT

A common misconception is that European citizenship and EU passport can only be obtained if one has documents proving 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 Lithuanian or Poland.

Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proofs at all!

In his experience, 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 a 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 things is the understanding that prior to the end of WW-I European map was very different than the one we know today.

Countries like Poland & Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and till 1918 these territories were only known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Great Russian Empire who ruled all of north eastern Europe, and in accordance till 1918, residents of these territories were Russian citizenship, as Polish & Lithuanian citizenships didn’t exist. Therefore, since applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based once 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 application for reinstatement of Polish citizenship may very well be approved!



Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived 7 years in Poland.

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

Horesh is recognized in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship. Horesh resides in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – enabling him to arrive easily to Poland and Lithuanian, as well as to Portugal, where he closely 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 in Europe documents required for successful applications of reinstatement EU citizenships.

Due to Corona Virus I’m forced to suspend planned visits to South Africa.

You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or +48-783-953 223.

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13 ways Israel is helping the world fight forest fires

By Abigail Klein Leichman for ISRAEL21C via JNS

This year alone, Australia battled its largest-ever bushfire, California has more than 500 blazes burning, many of them mega-fires, and forest fires have been reported in 14 other U.S. states. In August, Argentina registered 8493 fire alerts and Cyprus wasn't far behind.

The frequency and intensity of wildfires are growing across the globe. Reasons include hotter and drier weather, poor land use management and human negligence.

Israel's worst fire was in December 2010 in the Carmel Forest when 44 people died in the blaze. It was a wakeup call for the state, forcing authorities to rethink strategies and bring the dangers of wildfire to everyone's attention. It even motivated employees at the nearby Google office in Haifa to build the company's first crisis alert product.

Since 2018, the country's professional and volunteer firefighters and foresters have not only had to tackle regular forest fires, but also had their hands full with daily terrorist arson attacks launched from Gaza on southern Israel.

In August alone, more than 450 such fires burned almost 495 acres of Western Negev forest, not counting agricultural fields. Over the last couple of years, thousands of acres of Israeli parks, fields, and forests have been reduced to ash.

"The difference between Israel and other places is the size of the country, the density of the population and long periods of dry windy weather," says Professor Avi Perevolotsky, former chief scientist at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) and a retired Volcani Research Center specialist in natural resources management.

"We don't have large areas like in Australia that can burn for days without damaging population centres."

With such an obvious and dangerous growing problem, it's no surprise that Israeli thinkers, innovators and aid experts are devoting a great deal of time and energy in the hunt for solutions that will do anything from prevention and early warning to fighting the fires itself. It's also no surprise that these solutions are now attracting the attention of people all over the world.

"We try to think out of the box," says Shay Levy, head of the National Fire and Rescue Authority's Wildfire Doctrine Department and a renowned lecturer on forest fires.

Animals can help thwart fires

In addition to fire-prevention maintenance such as pruning lower



Firefighters extinguishing a forest fire near Jerusalem in November 2019. Photo by Noam Revkin Fenton/Flash90.

branches to disconnect them from ground level, Israel uses grazing herds of goats, cows and sheep to create protective firebreaks around woodland areas. California, which until the 1980s used buffalo to do the same, is learning from Israel how to reintroduce this natural practice, says Levy.

Planting forests that prevent and survive flames

Forests planted by KKL-JNF cover 10 percent of Israel or 250 000 acres. They include millions of Jerusalem pine trees. In the past, fire-damaged pines were immediately removed, and new ones planted the first winter after the fire.

However, foresters learned that pines regenerate naturally and even proliferate after they're burned. They're highly flammable and must be thinned to prevent adding fuel to forest fires.

Today it is understood that broadleaved trees (hardwoods) are a natural firebreak. Around 2006, KKL-JNF began switching from pine plantings to less-flammable cedars, oaks, terebinths, arbutus and carob, as well as fig, pomegranate and mulberry.

Phones give early warning

Humidity data collected over four years by OpenSignal's WeatherSignal Weather app — using sensors in 40 000 smartphones worldwide — gave Tel Aviv University environmental studies Ph.D. student Hofit Shachaf a unique way to identify and warn authorities about conditions that promote forest fires.

Drones find fire hotspots

Eliran Oren hadn't yet graduated from Lev Academic Center — Jerusalem College of Technology before co-founding FlyTech IL in late 2016. The company trains drone pilots, provides

professional aerial photography and sells related technology. "We have special thermal imaging techniques to help them find hotspots that are just starting," Oren told ISRAEL21c. "They can assess and investigate hotspots and sometimes lead firefighters to the fire."

Streaming live video of active fires

To help emergency responders get where they're needed faster and more accurately, Edgybees uses unmanned aircraft to stream live video from active fire areas and adds real-time augmented reality data. "We send that information back to the command centres and allow the people on the ground to plan escape routes for evacuees and where to put first responders," says CEO Adam Kaplan.

High-precision firefighting from the air

Hydrop, a new high-altitude, high-precision firefighting solution developed by Israeli defence contractor Elbit Systems, enables firefighting from the air even during night-time or in poor visibility conditions.

Fighting treetop fire

Fighting Treetop Fire is developing a system of algorithm-controlled laser beams that zap combustible foliage, controlled from a safe distance via helicopter or truck.

Cooperation abroad

In September, a 10-man delegation from Israel's Fire and Rescue Authority took off for California to help firefighting efforts for the next two weeks.

Last year, Israelis flew to assist Brazilian firefighters combatting blazes in the Amazon rainforest

and Ethiopian firefighters faced with a complex fire in Simien Mountains National Park.

Helping blaze victims

Forest fires take an immense toll on residents and aid workers alike. Israeli aid agencies and companies regularly step forward to offer everything from basic supplies to water generators to trauma counselling.

Pinpointing poor air quality

The current combination of COVID-19 and widespread wildfires present serious respiratory risks as toxic smoke exposure extends far beyond areas of fire.

This is why clients in many countries are turning to live air-quality reports provided by Israeli company BreezoMeter.

Rather than relying on sensor information satellite imagery — both of which can become unavailable during a wildfire — BreezoMeter factors information from numerous data sources such as real-time traffic satellites, active fires and meteorological input.

Is it safe to go out?

Israeli weather intelligence platform ClimaCell won the "StandWithAus" hackathon held in Tel Aviv at the beginning of the year in response to the Australian bush fires.

The ClimaCell team devised AirKoalaty, an application now operating in Australia, to help people make an informed choice about when the air outside is safe for specific activities

Drinking water from the air

In partnership with the American Red Cross, the U.S. affiliate of Israeli company Watergen sent a GEN-350 atmospheric water generator on a specially outfitted truck to provide safe drinking water to aid workers in Paradise.

Letting the forest rehabilitate alone

An important lesson learned in Israel over the past decade is to let burned forests rehabilitate naturally, under close observation.

"The soil is very apt to erosion after a fire, so we don't even work in the burned area," KKL-JNF Jerusalem region forest supervisor Chanoch Zoref explained to ISRAEL21c after some 4000 brush and urban fires devastated several regions of Israel in November 2016 in central Israel.

This article first appeared unabridged in ISRAEL21c.

The photographer who swims with sharks and polar bears

By Abigail Klein Leichman for ISRAEL21c

Prize-winning nature photographer Amos Nachoum says there's no such thing as a killer whale or a man-eating shark.

Supersized sea creatures certainly do sink their prodigious choppers into prey. But despite an occasional 'test bite' of a person, sharks and other underwater predators have no natural appetite for humans. If they did, Nachoum wouldn't have made it to a healthy 70 years of age.

Nachoum's photos of sharks, whales, dolphins, seals, anacondas, crocodiles and other magnificent animals grace the pages of publications such as *National Geographic*, *Time*, *Life*, *The New York Times*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *People* and *Esquire*. His many awards include *BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year*.

"I found out in the 1980s and '90s that there was a lot of fear and misconceptions about these animals. I took it on myself to bring people an emotional connection with them, not just to take pictures," says Nachoum.

The award-winning 2019 documentary *Picture of His Life* by Israeli filmmakers Yonatan Nir and Dani Menkin spectacularly depicts Nachoum's quest to photograph polar bears underwater.

"Twelve people have landed on the moon; over 4 000 people summited Everest. Only five people swam with polar bears," Nachoum says with pride. "And I was the only one able to capture [on film] not one but two or three polar bear families in the water."

One polar bear chased him to a depth of almost 25 meters.

"This is against all knowledge of how deep polar bears can go. Only two people out of the four who dived before with them reported seeing them go below 10 meters. So I learned something new and shared it with everyone else."

Nachoum escaped the deep-diving bear simply by swimming faster and deeper. These animals may not crave a human lunch but being in their habitat does present dangers.

"Wildlife photography is difficult and there is always a level of safety I need to calculate to remain alive," he says.

"When you go in the water, you lose 50 percent of your ability to think fast and properly because your brain/computer doesn't have solid ground under its feet. Your spirit needs to adjust itself all the time."

Full of chutzpah

Nachoum related strongly to the famous Theodor Herzl quotation, "*Im tirzu einzo agada*," "If you will it, it is no dream."

"That was very profound in my upbringing," he told ISRAEL21c. "That was my main drive. No matter what people told me and how they rejected me, I thought I can do it."

Nachoum's father wanted his son to be a carpenter, not a photographer.

"My family were all hardworking people, so for them what I wanted to do was very unacceptable," he explains.

Nevertheless, after serving in the 1973 Yom Kippur War and other battles, Nachoum departed for New York and drove a taxi to support himself.

"It took a lot of chutzpah. I had no money, no higher education and an Israeli accent. I had no family in America to depend on, and I chose not to live in Israeli 'kibbutzim' in Queens or Brooklyn," he recalls.

In 1977, Nachoum started running diving trips to Eilat, and soon branched out to exotic locations such as the Galapagos Islands.

Since 1980, Nachoum's *Big Animals Global Expeditions* has taken more than 5,000 people to explore and photograph land and sea creatures from the North Pole to Antarctica.

Diving and climbing with predators

The success of *Big Animals* allowed Nachoum to develop his expensive photography passion.

"When I decided to be a full-time photographer in the late 1980s, underwater photography was popular, and I had to find a niche that would be my signature. And that was to be with the ocean giants," he told ISRAEL21c.

"The magazines didn't pay enough, so I created my own expedition company to cover my expenses. That's part of the chutzpah."



Diver Andre Hartman encounters a great white shark off the coast of South Africa. Photo © Amos Nachoum

He wants people on his expeditions, and those looking at his images at home, to feel an intimate connection with the animals and understand the urgency of conservation efforts.

One poignant image he shares in TEDx presentations shows a grieving young orca mother carrying around her dead calf for a week. "Orcas suffer 30 to 40 percent mortality in the wild because of the poisoning of the sea," says Nachoum.

He explains that he aims to be an "imaging storyteller" about nature.

"Diving with whales, polar bears, anacondas and Nile crocodiles seems crazy. But I'm a photographer

first, not a diver or a climber. I dive and climb to get my images for the sake of protecting nature and leading by example."

Expeditions and conservation

The pandemic put a halt on the trips but Nachoum hopes to resume leading expeditions in December.

"I'm planning to add more conservation activities to the adventures," he says.

"People will participate in research during the trip, measuring water and air temperatures, animal behavior and populations. We'll send the information to leading conservation agencies to enrich their knowledge."

His specialty trip for the next year or two will focus on blue whales in the Azores and in the southeast Asian island nation of Timor-Leste.

"The blue whale is the largest animal that ever lived on the planet," he says. "It's over 100 feet long, 120 to 180 tons, bigger than any dinosaur. But it eats only plankton."

The itinerary for next year ranges from anacondas and jaguars in Brazil to rays and orcas in Baja. He also plans a private project to search for clouded leopards in the rainforest.

Nachoum, a California resident since 1992, has long since earned the respect of his family back in Israel.

"I have no regrets for following my heart in spite of the hardships I went through to get to where I am today," he says.

He tells parents: "Encourage your kids to express what is in their minds and hearts, to excel in what interests them rather than try to fit them into a square hole."



A polar bear family swimming over Amos Nachoum's head. Photo © Amos Nachoum

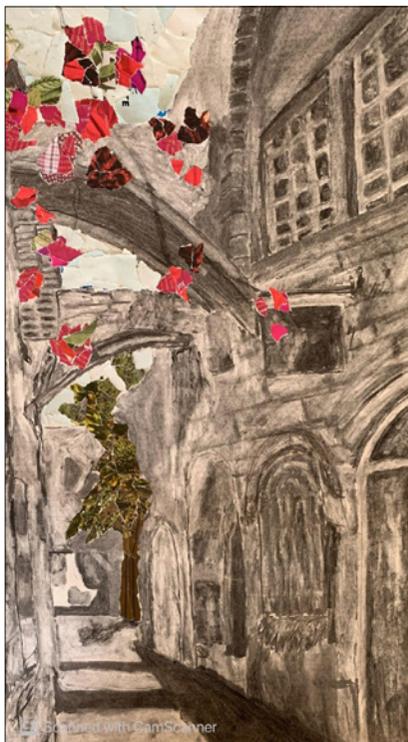
The White Rose goes online in 2020

Category B — Art (Senior)

Benjamin Zar — Herzlia High School
Untitled

“The piece was inspired by a modern photograph of the Jewish Quarters on Rhodes island. The photograph was so stunning as the architecture of the ancient buildings was fitting in showing the historical heritage of the Jew’s claim to the island.

The choice of charcoal for the buildings is symbolic in it’s darkness, as a place that was once considered a home but is now left uninhabited. The floral tree in the top left corner, created using a collage, I believe is in reference to the idea of the Jews of Rhodes always being a part of the island. The beauty that the colour provides in contrast to the charcoal reflects how even through pain and misery, there is always hope in the Jewish people of Rhodes.”



Category B — Art (Junior)

Leah Benjamin — Herzlia Middle School
Sophie: Inside and Out

“For my project I have chosen to focus on Sophie Scholl who was a key member of the White Rose resistance movement which opposed the Nazi regime during World War II. I took an old coat and hand sewed patches of colourful material into the lining. I then wrote quotations by Sophie, or by her family to her, some of her character traits, family member’s names and more on the patches. Sophie was so much more than she appeared. On the outside she appeared to be just a normal German girl, from a good German family, with a good German boyfriend in the army. What people didn’t realise from first glance was that she was extremely intelligent and brave. On the outside the coat looks plain and like any other coat, but on the inside it is unique and remarkable, just like Sophie.”



“We want to sincerely thank every learner who put in such tremendous effort to send in an entry, every judge who gave of their time and expertise to thoughtfully judge each entry and of course our generous patron and sponsor, Kathy Ackerman-Robins for making this year’s ‘new normal’ White Rose Creative Project such a success” said The Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre’s Linda Hackner.

The White Rose 2020 winners across all categories are as follows:

Category A — Writing (Junior)

- 1st Rubi Koff — Herzlia Middle School
- 2nd Taya Allardice — Herzlia Middle School
- 3rd Ethan Myers & Jonathan Querido — Herzlia Middle School

Category A — Writing (Senior)

- 1st Sakeena Lagardien — Rustenburg Girls High School
- 2nd Nika Hofmeyr — Rustenburg

- Girls High School
- 3rd Brian Daniels — Bishops Diocesan College

Category B — Art (Junior)

- 1st Leah Benjamin — Herzlia Middle School
- 2nd Isaac Showell — Herzlia Middle School
- 3rd Eliana Hepple — Cape Town Torah High

Category B — Art (Senior)

- 1st Anna Nagel — Rustenburg
- 2nd (tied) Sara Khan — Peter Clarke Art Centre
- 2nd (tied) Daniel Kruger — Bishops Diocesan College
- 3rd Robyn Gernetzky — Herzlia High School

Categories C – Video (Junior)

- 1st Ava Rathner — Herzlia Middle School

Categories C — Video (Senior)

- 1st Jenna Dugmore — Rustenburg Girls High School

Special Award — Exceptional entries

- Ameera Behardien — Rustenburg Girls High School
 - Matthew Newton — Bishops Diocesan College
- Winning Junior Art**
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