

CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE

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COVID-19 WELLNESS MONITORING PROGRAMME

SAZF appoints new Executive Director

The South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council) recently announced the appointment of Chaya Singer to the position of Executive Director.

Chaya is the former Parliamentary and Diplomatic Liaison for the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), a position she held for four years, representing the community at local and international civil-society, interfaith, media, government and diplomatic forums.

Prior to joining the Board, she served

terms first as the Chairperson of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), thereafter as Chairperson of the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), and is the only South African to ever be elected to this position.

She held ex-officio voting positions on various international SAZF affiliate organisations, and is currently a member of the World Jewish Congress Jewish Diplomatic Corps.

Chaya is also a former National Deputy Director of the SAZF.

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

The Meet the Israelis programme aims to promote dialogue and foster genuine discussions with Israeli individuals.



Meet (some of the) Israelis; Eliana; American olah chadasha, Smadar; Ethiopian olah, Naftali; settler, Yuval; left-wing activist and Yitzi; ultra-orthodox student

This way, the international community can get an idea of what a 'typical' Israeli's real-life experiences are, as opposed to engaging solely with news reports addressing conflict. The group runs in Israel and the US and is about to hit South African shores, led by South African coordinator, Guillermo Lapidus.

Before COVID-19, visiting companies, schools or travelling groups attended sessions in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. The participants split into groups of five or six and each group is paired with a panel-member — the Israeli.

Typically, a panel consists of six people representing a range of the Israeli demographic: an Ethiopian-Israeli, a Haredi, an Arab-Israeli, a soldier, a leftist and a settler. Sometimes the panel also includes a student and/or a member of the

Bedouin community. The panel-members spend about 15 minutes with each group of participants, where they share their stories and answer questions before rotating to the next group. The programme typically runs for 90 minutes. In this way, participants are exposed to the way in which six individuals live as Israelis.

While the pandemic halted live sessions, the programme has been able to extend its scope by operating internationally via Zoom, with each 15-minute segment taking place in virtual rooms. Guillermo explains, "We realised that we can reach many more people this way, COVID or no COVID. We've discovered a new way of connecting people which is working very well."

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Life lessons from an advertising industry legend

Mike Abel is a man who needs little introduction.



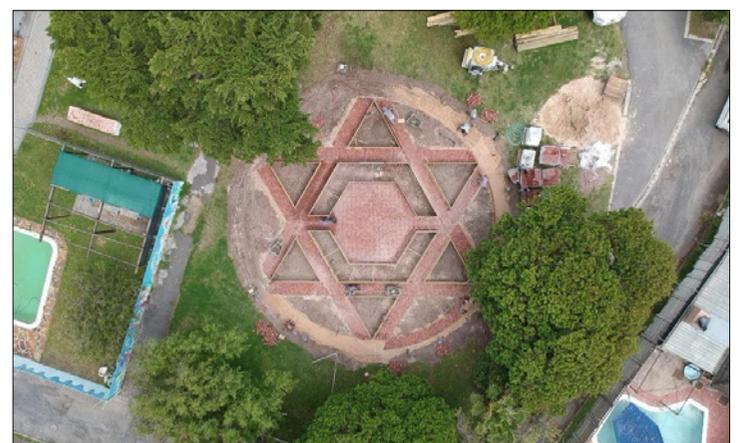
Indeed, M&C Saatchi Abel, of which Mike is co-founder and CEO, is one of South Africa's top marketing and communications companies, and has garnered various accolades over the years including the Large Agency of the Year Award at the 2019 Financial Mail AdFocus Awards. Since 2020 signifies the company's tenth birthday, it was the perfect time for Mike to pen *Willing & Abel: Lessons from a Decade in Crisis*.

As Mike explains, "For many years I've been doing a lot of talking, public speaking, mentoring and coaching... in terms of imparting wisdom and insight and knowledge and case studies that I've garnered through my 30-year career, and you have a limited ability in terms of the number of people that you are able to reach. About 18 months ago I thought that the best way to share these things would be through writing a book". The book, written in conversation with Tudor Caradoc-Davies, comprises 11 chapters, each of which addresses a different principle or teaching.

In Mike's own words, "I always wanted the book to be useful... a series of lessons learnt that people could apply to their own life, their own business, their own situation and take it on, so we always knew it was going to be a catalogue of stories and insights". In this way, it is relevant to everyone, whether one is a learner just leaving school or a seasoned entrepreneur. He adds, "It spans all industries...It's a book about life, about personal issues, about business struggles and about emigration. It covers my move to Australia and my move back to South Africa and my belief in this country"

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Garden rejuvination at Glendale



A bird's eye view of the beautiful Magen David shaped vegetable garden at Glendale.

Read all about it on page 6

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Lindy with a why

Why I love to find the Jewish connection

By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



I love Googling. But sometimes through no fault of its own, Google doesn't get (what it obviously believes are) my more obscure search requests.

This month I wanted to write about a charming peculiarity of some Jewish people (me) to find the Jews in whichever segment of the entertainment industry we happen to be enjoying at that moment. The actual connection to Judaism may be vague. It doesn't matter.

When those names roll on the opening credits, I start scanning for a little bit of yiddishkeit. The plot develops, and I look for the signs that aren't the obvious stereotypes, but subtle little nods that only Jewish writers, or ad-libbing Jewish actors would include. And after the movie, if I'm unsure, I do a little Googling to confirm my hunch.

It isn't really important the level to which they identify as Jewish, or if they identify at all... I will claim them! And, amusingly, I have also claimed some non-Jews, perhaps because of a Jewish-sounding surname, or because of that one time they tweeted about 'matza-ball soup', or because they grew up in New York.

When I wrote, at the beginning of the year, about the idea of 'acting Jewish loudly in public so that other Jews know you are Jewish' Google quickly and definitively returned the phrase 'to Bagel' and I had what I needed to finish my column.

But this month has been more challenging. All my searches related to finding a phrase for proudly identifying Jewish people in the entertainment industry yielded results pertaining to antisemitism, the Holocaust and some bizarre 'Jews control the media' rubbish.

It seems that I am either not getting my search phrasing correct, or there isn't a term for what I consider to be one of my most enjoyable pastimes.

So, what do we call it when we find great pleasure in pointing out fellow Jews in movies, on stage and on the radio? It's such a funny thing to do; their religion has no bearing on their talent nor on the subject matter of their movies or songs, and yet connecting to them in this way feels comforting, and it opens our Jewish communal tent to include even our more secular interests.

My children nod politely when we are watching a movie and I go "Hey, do you know he is Jewish?" Sometimes I get a confused reply like "You mean Harry Potter is Jewish?!" or "What do you mean Count Dracula (in Hotel Transylvania) is Jewish, how can a vampire be Jewish?", and then I have to explain that I mean the actor, not the character, and we continue watching, with them never realising how much joy it gives me to pass on these tidbits of useless trivia.

I guess it comes back to the importance of representation in mainstream media. Just as it's vital for children of colour to have access to dolls that they can identify with, it's important for the LGBTQIA+ community to have intelligently-written characters that they can identify with in the movies on offer each year, and it's wonderfully comforting to see Jewish actors, astronauts and scientists for my children to link their Jewish identity to.

I do sometimes feel a bit like the father in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* when I'm dragging secular culture back to my ethnic roots whenever I can, but it feels so good to feel proud of fellow Jews all over the world doing amazing things and I want my children to recognise Jewish people in their everyday lives.

It may not be the most useful of pastimes, but at least if we should ever meet a Jewish celebrity face-to-face, we'll know that we should start to Bagel.

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Meet the Israelis

Each programme's content depends on client specifications. For example, if the client wishes to engage with student experiences and politics, then perhaps only a leftist, student and settler will make up the panel.

The organisation, while pro-Israel is non-partisan. Guillermo notes, "We don't affiliate ourselves with any religious denomination. The participant or panellist might, and that's okay. We don't dictate what they say. They must be honest. The whole thing is about opening a dialogue and at the end of the day the people in the group they might agree to disagree and that's fine... The whole idea is about discussing and

talking to a citizen of the country".

Meet the Israelis is designed for any group or organisation (Jewish or not) who wants to learn more about Israeli life. The only rule is that participants remain respectful of each other. For Guillermo, Meet the Israelis allows people to develop an accurate understanding of Israel so that, if they wish to make Aliyah, they are well-prepared and, if they do not, they are able to defend themselves as Jews when talking to others about Israel.

"Real people, real opinions, real dialogue – that's the essence", says Guillermo, who has lived in Cape Town for forty years, made Aliyah twice and whose family resides in Israel.

For more information, contact Guillermo at guiqi56@gmail.com, on 074 255 0885, or visit www.meettheisraelis.com

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
6 Nov/19 Cheshvan	Vayera	6.15pm	7.01pm	7.57pm
13 Nov/26 Cheshvan	Chaye Sarah	6.15pm	7.08pm	8.04pm
20 Nov/4 Kislev	Toldot	6.15pm	7.15pm	8.11pm
27 Nov/11 Kislev	Vayetzei	6.15pm	7.21pm	8.18pm

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

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A SAFIM pop-up in lockdown



Lockdown has had devastating consequences on local artists and crafters.

To mark what would have been their 6th Annual Gala Dinner and Auction this year, the South African Friends of Israel Museum, Jerusalem is launching a campaign in partnership with Pick n Pay Feed the Nation Foundation to provide digital vouchers to assist the arts community. They have also set aside funds to provide support now to those within the art eco-system who need it most.

This year, their Auction will continue virtually, but with an exciting pre-auction twist; on Sunday 22 November SAFIM will host a unique drive-through exhibition at The Palms, in Woodstock, so that Capetonians can really experience the works on auction.

This 'Pop-up in Lockdown', or Pop-Down, will run throughout the day, providing an opportunity for guests to engage with the artwork and be treated to a unique experience. The day will culminate with an online auction conducted by Ariella Kuper and managed by Strauss & Co allowing everyone, no matter where they are in the world, to participate and enjoy their 2020 selection of contemporary South African art.

"This year, as we explore the virtual world for our auction, we can showcase our country's talented artists to a far wider audience, and our drive-thru art exhibition, the first of its kind in South Africa, is a safe, contactless, novel event to get our Cape Town Friends back out to encounter art in person," says SAFIM director Sarin Goott.

SAFIM'S ANNUAL AUCTION IS GOING ONLINE

22 NOVEMBER 2020

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POP-DOWN

A SAFIM pop-up in lockdown

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SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

CAPE BOARD OF GUARDIANS
Operating as JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES (JCS)

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of members of JCS will be held via electronic video conferencing (ZOOM) on 25 November 2020 at 13H00, for the following business:

1. To approve the adoption of a revised Constitution, which inter alia, allows JCS to better promote and achieve its objectives.

The General Committee invites all Members to register their intention to attend the Special General Meeting by contacting Jewish Community Services at info@jcs.org.za. Once membership has been verified, attendees will receive the link to the meeting as well as an electronic copy of the proposed revised Constitution, together with the current Constitution. **Registration closes on Wednesday 18 November 2020.**

Please Note that, in terms of Section 9(c) of the Constitution, a member in good standing shall be entitled to vote, but shall not be entitled to vote by proxy. A husband and wife shall each have one vote.

Please Note Further that, as the Executive has not set a membership fee in terms of Article 4 of the current Constitution, all members of the Jewish Community are considered to be in good standing.

By Order of the General Committee

PAUL BERMAN
Chairperson, Jewish Community Services

Garden rejuvination at Glendale

Glendale's dream of an edible vegetable garden began two years ago when they were contacted by the Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (EOLI).

EOLI wanted to use Glendale as the context for one of their leadership groups who were completing a research project on food gardens. There was potential to develop the large garden at Glendale to improve the quality of life of the residents, and EOLI's leadership group researched options by visiting vegetable gardens all over Cape Town, and gained insight from local landscapers and gardeners.

Glendale currently spends approximately R25 000 per month on fresh fruit and vegetables, and the vegetable garden will lower this cost significantly

Award-winning landscape architect Tarna Klitzner was brought in to assist and through a six-month process of consultation with residents, staff and other stakeholders provided Glendale with a plan that includes many garden rooms interconnected by circle pathways. This plan also ensures wheelchair accessibility.

The Glendale vegetable garden takes inspiration from Mandala style gardens. This has resulted in a unique Magen David shaped space. The garden will contain fruit, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers; and will be watered through drip irrigation using borehole water. In the centre of the garden there is a covered hexagon shaped Garden Room that will have seating so that it can be used as an outdoor therapy room and a space

for activities and relaxation. During Sukkot it will be transformed into Glendale's Sukkah.

"The Garden Project has become a symbol of hope for Glendale residents in that the future vision is of a beautiful communal space which will attract people to Glendale and get involved through volunteer projects" said Judith Cohen, Chairperson Glendale Home Governing Board.

"Through the generous specified donation of a resident's family member just prior to Lockdown, we were in a position to embark on building the vegetable garden.

The project had to be placed on hold for six months. The dream which we believe will become a reality is that the vegetable garden will produce enough organic healthy produce to feed our residents. Glendale currently spends approximately R25 000 per month on fresh fruit and vegetables and the vegetable garden will lower this cost significantly" explained Judith.

"The vegetable garden is in line with our strategic objective to become more sustainable and to promote wellness for our residents. At Glendale we are bursting with excitement and can't wait to begin gardening. We look forward to a time in the future post-COVID that we will be able to invite visitors to come and experience the garden with us" said Glendale Director, Shelly Korn.

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Life lessons from an advertising industry legend

By Jaime Uranovsky

While Mike acknowledges South Africa's challenges and issues, he remains hopeful about the country's future: "What has changed is that there are active citizens in South Africa and I'm reassured and encouraged by the growth in active citizenry in the way that the independent media has played an enormous role in liberating us from the state capture project... What we do have is a remarkable country with remarkable people and incredible assets ...We are world leaders in many industries in terms of the brilliant minds of this country and I think if we get behind the positive and fight the good fight, we can pull the country out of this mess". Indeed, Mike believes that South Africa's youth can become part of the solution by recognising the opportunity within the country and by contributing to it instead of leaving.

"There is a wonderful saying that 'where there is chaos, there is money to be made', and what it means in

my view is that chaos creates new opportunities". He references his own company which he started in "an overtraded market in a downturned economy at the peak where everyone was predicting it would be a disaster". In beating the odds Mike says, "We've focused on the opportunity, on innovating, on bringing great products to the market, and on talent. I've had one saying on my wall my entire career: 'The people who have the best people win'".

Mike credits much of his worldview to his upbringing and to his Jewish heritage. "I am very invested in the Jewish belief that, in life, you get because of what you give and not because of what you take, so I have always wanted to contribute to society since childhood days... our role is to make the world a better place and to contribute meaningfully and actively".

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COVID-19 and Substance Abuse Relapse

CHARMAINE NICKS Social Worker, JCS Cape

COVID-19 and lockdown have triggered anxiety and depression in many people who have not struggled with mental health issues prior to this. Love and belonging are basic human needs and without these needs being met, mental health can be seriously compromised. Individuals in recovery from addiction, the stress and isolation may have put people struggling with addiction at risk for relapse.

Clients were isolated from their support systems for a protracted period. They were no longer seeing their social workers or psychiatrists regularly and were not able to attend their AA or NA meetings. It took a little time before systems were put in place to ensure recovering addicts could make contact with their sponsors or attend Zoom meetings with the NA.

Finding money for sufficient data to ensure they could make contact with their support system was a challenge. It is well known that social support, especially from families, is an important factor in ensuring clients maintain their recovery. Those that had family support, could no longer meet up with family members, adding to their distress. Social support in terms of family and friends, professionals and support programmes, which usually scaffold and help keep individuals in recovery, have been ripped away and fear of contracting COVID-19 along with stress, anxiety and depression from loneliness can result in clients self-medicating to deal with these overwhelming feelings.

What can you do to help yourself or your family members and friends who are struggling with cravings, depression or anxiety when there is a concern about a possible relapse?

Try to ensure routine is maintained. Get up at the same time each day, practice meditation, pray and journal as usual, do a short workout, eat breakfast and start work at your usual time even if you are isolating at home.

If you notice your family member is looking dishevelled, slurring or asking for money or

more food than usual (food, clothing and other items are sometimes used in 'channelling', that is, to be swapped for drugs or alcohol), ask them if they need help. If it is you, reach out for help. Ask your sponsor, social worker, doctor, psychologist or psychiatrist for assistance. Do not just give money out at these times, ensure the money gets paid to the accounts needing to be paid directly or buy electricity for your family member. While nobody wants to enable, we also want to ensure that our family members have sufficient food and electricity as well as enough data to chat to their sponsors or those supporting them.

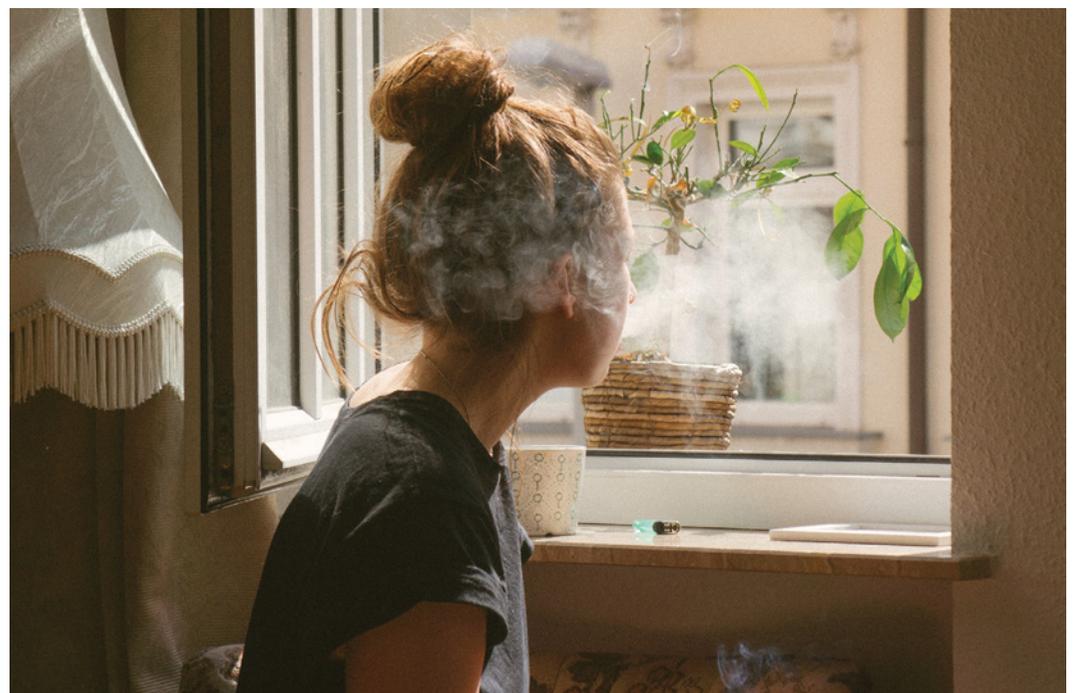
Make contact with your loved one who is struggling with addiction. If it is you that is struggling, make regular contact with your family members, professionals and support groups. Contact your social worker, NA/AA

sponsor or the last treatment programme you were in for extra support.

Families need to educate themselves and understand that addiction is a disease. It is not about someone deciding to use/abuse substances and alcohol and the disease was activated because there was low will power. Only when society understands this, can we stop judging and reduce stigma, thereby encouraging people who are struggling with addiction to ask for help. This will lead to a decision from both sides, family members and those struggling with addiction, to maintain relationships.

Should anything in this article resonate with you, or if you would like to discuss any concerns with a JCS social worker, please contact us on **021 462 5520** or email info@jcs.org.za.

“Only when society understands this, can we stop judging and reduce stigma, thereby encouraging people who are struggling with addiction to ask for help. This will lead to a decision from both sides, family members and those struggling with addiction, to maintain relationships.”



#JewishCommunity #CoronaVirus



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CAPE
SA JEWISH BOARD
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KEEPING IT REAL

On precariousness, proactivity and pride

By Stuart Diamond, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD



The 2020 year has not been an easy year for us, individually or as a community.

But it's specifically when our backs are against the wall that we push back hardest and achieve our greatest communal feats. We should be proud of our achievements and the impact we have on society.

Every night between 7pm and 8pm is music hour in my house — a time when my wife and I get the house in order. I clean the kitchen with my headphones on and the volume turned up. This month's repertoire has ranged from the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* all the way to Tom Petty; and they have, in their unique ways, left me inspired to ensure that the Cape Council's work is not only about responding to issues of antisemitism but inviting us to step up proactively and be #PROUDJEWS.

In the story *Fiddler on the Roof*, set in 1905 in the small town of Anatevka in Tsarist Russia. Tevye, a poor milkman, and his wife Golde contend with marrying their three eldest daughters, Tzeitel, Hodel and Chava, while attempting to hold on to their ancient Jewish traditions in the face of the changing times that lead to the Russian revolution.

Here is South Africa our country and community face their own issues, yet we have built a strong base with strong communal structures that we should be proud of. In the opening of *Fiddler*, Tevye refers to the idea of a Fiddler, balancing precariously on the roof. In engagements with our stakeholders, I often hear a similar message of our community being in the balance and how one wrong step could result in a terrible fall.

The other song that I have been reflecting on is the message of defiance against unnamed forces of difficulty and

oppression, in the mid-tempo song by the late Tom Petty titled *I Won't Back Down*.

The lyrics go:

*Well I know what's right, I got just one life
in a world that keeps on pushin' me around
but I'll stand my ground, and I won't back down*

The song inspires me to ensure that we as a community stand up proactively, raise our voices and ensure that as Jews we can live our best lives, proud of the contribution we make to the Cape landscape.

Fiddler on the Roof reminds us of the vital importance of Jews being reliant on tradition and faith in times of change and turbulence. The COVID-19 pandemic has shook our foundations and now we must slowly rise and regain our stability.

In line with this, the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies will start the #PROUDJEWS campaign where our communal members and affiliates will be given the opportunity to highlight proactively the positives of our Cape Jewish community. I will be stepping up as a #PROUDJEW, will you?

Laying the groundwork for a productive term

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD



I am very excited to initiate the new term with the launching of the subcommittees and various working groups, the mandate for which the Board has set out in its constitution.

The core objective of the constitution is fighting antisemitism, and in doing so taking a strong stand for religious and civil rights and the welfare of the community. The other objectives include safeguarding the status and welfare of the Jewish community and promoting harmonious relations between our community and all other sections of the population in the Western Cape.

In line with these aims and objectives, the Board has established various subcommittees. The subcommittees are to identify, in both a reactive and a proactive manner, any project or communal issue which would promote concepts set out in the constitution.

The antisemitism and legal subcommittee safeguard religious rights and the status of the Jewish community. The subcommittee considers any antisemitic transgressions and, where corrective action or legal action needs to be taken, makes recommendations to the Board.

The advocacy subcommittee engenders

relationships with government, be it at a provincial or local level, and other authorities as well as non-governmental institutions. Its main aim is to promote harmonious relations, which it does by introducing the Jewish community to others within the Western Cape and similarly allowing those communities to meet with us.

The core objective of the constitution is fighting antisemitism... other objectives include safeguarding the status and welfare of the Jewish community and promoting harmonious relations between our community and all other sections of the population in the Western Cape.

There is a deep and long-lasting relationship between the country communities and us, including such communities at Paarl, Strand, Somerset West and Stellenbosch. The Cape SAJBD represents the interests of all Jewish communities within the Western Cape.

Some of the work that we need to do includes maintaining Jewish cemeteries, funerals and community-building events.

The education subcommittee will act to both educate our community on the work the Board is doing and also prepare induction programmes for future Board members.

The Generation Next subcommittee had from 2017 to 2020 engaged young adults and otherwise unengaged organisations and provided a voice to the youth and the young leaders. Some of the work which it had done includes liaising with Jewish student organisations on university campuses, supporting SAUJS during the Israel Awareness Week and finally working together on a calendar of events for young adults to encourage a collaborative environment.

Also, we have established working groups which will each have a limited and focused task to consider, investigate or address and in respect of which it will then report back. These include a Constitution and Electoral Document working group to revisit these documents under the recent elections, if necessary, as well as a Code of Conduct working group.

Also, we are planning some exciting and engaging workshops regarding our affiliates as well as various unaffiliated groups. To improve our service to you, our affiliates, and the community, we will be reviewing our communication policies.

So, all in all, in addition to our usual calendar of events, our work is cut out for us!

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A year of community for SAUJS



by Cassandra Mayekiso, Director, SAUJS Western Cape

This year can be categorised as the year of community amongst Western Cape Jewish students.

It started with internal planning and strategy sessions amongst the committee with assistance from the Cape SAJBD. Due to the strong foundation that was created in the previous year, SAUJS had the opportunity not only to maximise on student sign-ups through University Orientation and the Opening Party (which was the largest event that SAUJS has run in the past five years) but also to engage with each student in the community. Being able to provide that level of connection has been incredibly meaningful and rewarding.

We were able to run three Purim events. These included the joint Hamantaschen Bake-off with Chabad on Campus, the megillah

reading with Ohrsom Student and the Hamantaschen Handout at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Not breaking from our obligation to address South African issues, we then held a #FightBackSA workshop at UCT which was very highly requested and well attended. Going into the COVID-19 pandemic, we relied on our social media platforms to connect with each of the students, to share credible information, host a very necessary mental health talk, a yoga event and a Bachelor evening which was not only entertaining but also brought all the branches of SAUJS together.

We bid farewell to our outgoing

committee without too many tears as many of the students have been re-elected and aim to take Jewish student life to new heights. Together, they possess a strong vision and plan on how to best represent the

This month, we will conduct our annual strategy session for the coming year in which we will ensure that we prepare for upcoming events, campaigns, trips and partnerships.

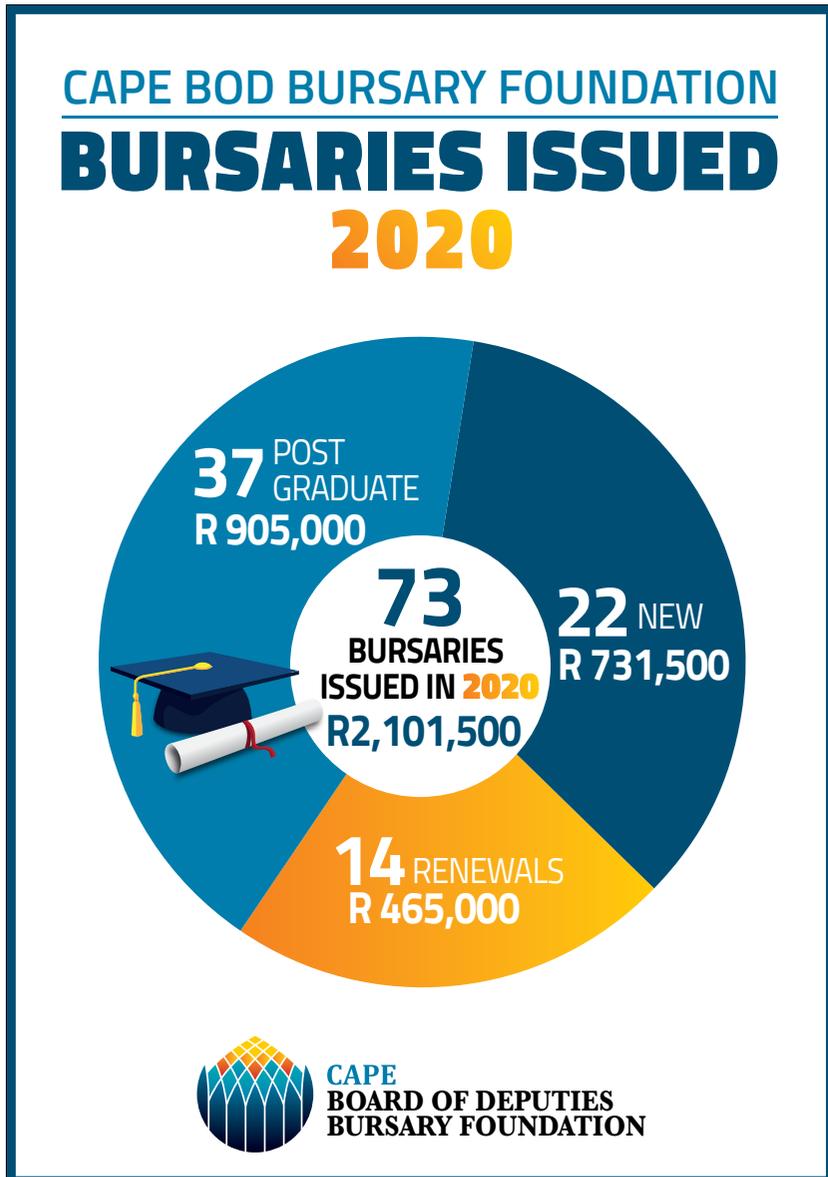
interests of Jewish leadership in this country. This month, we will conduct our annual strategy session for the coming year in which we will ensure that we prepare for upcoming events, campaigns, trips and partnerships.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Deena Katzen, SAUJS Western Cape Chairperson. She is in her fifth year in serving the South African Union of Jewish Students. She

previously served as a member of the WITS and UCT committees, National Zionist Officer and National Chairperson. She is currently completing her BCom Accounting degree at UCT.

The Committee that Deena will be working with includes a few familiar faces. Kevin Pogrund, Vice Chairperson in his fourth year of Mechatronics, Catherine Heron, Post Grad LLB, Justin Myerson studying Business and Computer Science, finishing with Honours next year and Grant Norrie who is completing his degree in Electrical Engineering, all at UCT.

This is a promising group of students who have proven to be dedicated to bettering Jewish life on- and off-campus and continue to put the needs of the community before their own.




Good luck, matrics

We wish all matriculants commencing final exams this November strength, health & success.

Believe in your efforts!

We will always believe in you!

CAPE SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES



Robertson — a Jewish history

By Gwynne Robins



The Cape SAJBD has been closely related to the Robertson Jewish community over the years.

Not only did the Robertson congregation send a delegate to the historic conference in Bloemfontein in 1912 — at which our National South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) was established — but it was Morris Alexander, the founder and chairman of the Cape Council in 1904, whose visit to Robertson in 1912 resulted in the formation of the Robertson Zionist Association, and whose visit in 1935 — during a time of increased antisemitism and Grey Shirt activity — resulted in the affiliation of the Robertson Hebrew Congregation to the Cape SAJBD.

Among the treasured possessions of the Cape SAJBD on display in the Samson Centre is a gilded silver Torah shield of folk-art design, given to the Cape SAJBD by the Robertson Hebrew Congregation. In its centre, there are Tablets of the Law engraved with the Ten Commandments, flanked by two gilded filigree pillars and two small rampant lions, and above the Tablets, a filigree crown is attached.

Since they first came together as a minyan in 1881, the Robertson Jews have played a role in this fertile valley at the heart of the wine route — known as the valley of wine and roses — whether as ostrich feather buyers and farmers, as bookkeepers, butchers and bioscope proprietors, as tinsmiths, tailors, teachers and traders, as hoteliers and doctors, or as wagon makers, and even as violin makers in the 1980s. They were part and parcel of the Robertson economy.

Philip Buirski and Lewis Rosenzweig served on the Robertson Municipal Council in the 1920s. Abraham Josefowitz, the rabbi's son, became deputy mayor in 1972. Norbert Pinto was the first person to start growing coriander in the 1950s, distributing seeds free to other farmers to persuade them to do the same, and selling his coriander — which was formerly imported — to the Robertson Spice Company.

Sadly, it was also Robertson that provided the first South African and the first Jew to be killed in action

in the war against Hitler. This was Sydney Lazarus, who was shot down by the Italians near El Wak and is buried in Nairobi. His parents, Lewis and Ethel Lazarus used to farm in Robertson.

The Robertson Hebrew Congregation was established 115 years ago, in 1895, when the community built the Knesset Israel Synagogue with a Talmud Torah. The Hebrew School later moved to a building the congregation built at 54 Victoria Street as a mikveh. Today, evidence of the mikveh at this property can be seen by a different, higher roof at the back of the building, which is supported by much thicker walls than the rest of it, which was added in the 1960s.

They also bought the pre-existing burial ground that was first used in 1885, to bury Lewis's two infant sons, Leon and David Rosenzweig. The first Jewish wedding in Robertson was solemnised by Rev. Rabinowitz of Cape Town in 1895. At one time, the community supported a Burial Society, a Philanthropic Society, a Junior Zionist Society, a young Israelite Club and Literary Society, and a Zionist Association.

The cemetery was damaged in floods in 2005 and was restored by Rabbi Stuart Serwator and Becky Saacks,

one of the town's longest-standing Jewish residents, with headstones laid flat (although there was an incident of vandalism in 2018). From 1996 to 1999, Rabbi Serwator was the last teacher at the Robertson Hebrew School.

Over the years, as the children left to go to the big city to study and settle and their elderly parents followed, the numbers dwindled, until by 1967 they could no longer gather a minyan. In 1975, they entered into a discussion about their future with the Cape SAJBD.

“After COVID-19 has come to pass, we will push on with cleaning and maintenance. If you have family buried in the cemetery, please contact us. We will continue to take care of all Jewish cemeteries, funding dependent, in the Cape boundaries as a commitment to our Cape communities.”

Although they still had 10 members two years later, only four were living in Robertson, so they proposed that the Cape SAJBD set up a trust fund from the proceeds of the sale of the congregation's property that

would be used to maintain the synagogue, look after the cemetery and go towards the Cape SAJBD's bursary fund for tertiary education of Western Cape Jewish students in financial need.

The shul was sold in 2009 by the Cape SAJBD to a member of the public who turned it into his holiday home but maintained all the original structures. The ladies' gallery became a bedroom, the lounge was in front of the Ark, a fireplace was installed and a picture of Anne Frank

mounted along the staircase. As for the contents of the shul, the pews and lectern went to the Hermanus shul, and the Torah shield was donated to the Cape SAJBD.

The following year, Cape SAJBD chairperson Li Boiskin and director David Jacobson visited the Robertson Museum to hand over a JNF tree certificate and a cheque from the proceeds of the sale of the synagogue and rabbi's house.

They were accompanied by Becky Saacks, who lived in Robertson for 57 years, and devoted much of her time to researching the history of the Jews of Robertson and the surrounding areas. Becky also founded, developed and ran the Robertson Museum and its collections since 1972, and was instrumental in the Municipality purchasing Druid's Lodge in 1976 to turn into a museum. It was Becky who suggested that money be given to the Museum in honour of the Jewish community that had been in existence there since the 1880s.

The Cape SAJBD even had a connection to the Museum, which had been officially opened by the Board's Honorary National Life Vice-President Dr Frank Bradlow when it relocated to Druids Lodge in 1985. His connection was as a scholar and authority on the well-known artist, Thomas Bowler, and his consequent association with Bowler's close family, who previously owned the house.

Current Executive Director of the Cape SAJBD, Stuart Diamond has remarked that the Cape SAJBD has an incredibly good relationship with the Robertson community, and a local member of the community cares for the cemetery. “After COVID-19 has come to pass, we will push on with cleaning and maintenance. If you have family buried in the cemetery, please contact us.

We will continue to take care of all Jewish cemeteries, funding dependent, in the Cape boundaries as a commitment to our Cape communities.”

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



The deconsecrated Robertson Synagogue



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By Esta Levitas, Chairman, SAZF Cape Council

Farewell thoughts after a remarkable year



To have served as Chairperson of the SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council) for the past year, has enabled me to serve a cause greater than myself, and removed me from the focus on myself and my issues. I owe a deep sense of gratitude to the Mancom committee, which lent me unstinting support and service and helped us in pursuit of achieving our goals.

provide food parcels and really look after those in our own community. In the broader community, the work of SAFI has not stopped and countless families and individuals have been provided with food hampers. SAFI joined forces with local churches and pastors to try to support and take care of some of the most vulnerable in our city. Under trying circumstances the work of Diller has flourished unbelievably and our P2G Partnership activities continued as well.

The late senator John McCain once said that "The richest men and women possess nothing of real value if their lives have no greater object than themselves," Barack Obama speaking to students said "It's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realise your true potential and discover the role that you'll play in writing the next great chapter in the American story."

Despite the restrictions that lockdown imposed, the work of the SAZF (Cape Council) has been wide and varied and has contributed greatly to communal life.

Critical to all the work that was accomplished by the SAZF were the staff: Natasha, Yvette, Galya, Maxine, Sharon and Martine; ably led for the past 12 years by Julie Berman. Julie will be making Aliyah at the end of the year and a new start as Director will be made by Chaya Singer. I want to thank all the staff for their unstinting efforts and for the support they afforded me and wish Julie fulfilment on her new beginning in Israel and Chaya great success in her challenging new role.

The past year was a year like no other in living memory and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will likely forever change the way in which we live our lives and operate within society. As an organisation, the SA Zionist Federation needed to re-invent itself in order to remain relevant. Instead of withdrawing into splendid isolation, it used all the benefits bestowed by technology to stay in touch with its constituency through a series of webinars presented by outstanding teachers and leaders from all over the world. All these presenters partook in the spirit of volunteerism and donated their honorariums to the outreach projects of the SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council).

The past year has radically transformed the neighbourhood around Israel. There is a new paradigm in which Israel is no longer the problem, but rather the problem solver. Moderate Arab states have come to the realisation that Iran and its proxies pose a real and existential threat to many of their governments and way of life and that the challenges can be mitigated by aligning themselves with Israel. No longer does the centrality of the Palestinian issue loom large which has always in the past blocked any progress to recognising Israel. There is now no room for Palestinian rejectionism and they must at last bear the responsibility of not walking away from direct negotiations with Israel. My sincere hope is that these momentous changes will lead to 'a mantle of peace' being spread over all the peoples of the region.

Over the past several months we have also worked very hard to ensure that new *shlichim* will be joining us in Cape Town next year and also focused a lot of attention and effort into the Israel-related education at the schools.

Taking care of those less fortunate has been a real focus. Through JCS and Highlands House we were able to

Continued from page 1

SAZF appoints new Executive Director



Chaya Singer at Gauteng Youth Expo in 2019 where she was recognised for her work in Social Cohesion.

Chaya has an effective track record advocating for Human Rights, and last year the Gauteng Provincial Government presented her with its Youth Excellence Award for Social Cohesion, which recognises inspiring young people whose development has had a significant impact on people and communities in Gauteng. Chaya has an extensive Jewish education, holds a Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice and Art History from Wits, and is graduating this year with an MA in Government, Diplomacy and Conflict Studies.

"We are confident that Chaya's qualifications, skills, relationships, and international and local experience, makes her uniquely qualified to take the SAZF Cape Council and the Cape Town Jewish Community forward. We welcome her warmly and wish her every success in her new position", said SAZF MANCOM member David Lazarus.

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ISRAELI WOMEN CHANGING THE WORLD

PART 2

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.



"You can always try another approach; even change your subject when a scientific strategy or experiment fails."

- Ada Yonath

Ada Yonath

- ✦ Ada Yonath is an Israeli crystallographer best known for her pioneering work on the structure of the ribosome.
- ✦ She was working at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science in the 1970s when she started mapping the structure of ribosomes, parts of cells that copy genetic code.
- ✦ To examine the structures on an atomic level, she used x-ray crystallography, a method that she pursued even though many scientists doubted it.
- ✦ Her new mapping helped scientists make better antibiotics, and her discovery landed her the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2009.
- ✦ Yonath was the first Israeli woman to win the Nobel Prize out of ten Israeli Nobel laureates, the first woman from the Middle East to win a Nobel prize in the sciences and the first woman in 45 years to win the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.
- ✦ After studying chemistry at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, she earned her PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science, to which she has maintained her ties as a researcher. Alongside her work there, Ada Yonath has also worked for several European and US universities.
- ✦ She is the current director of the Helen and Milton A. Kimmelman Center for Biomolecular Structure and Assembly of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

"It makes me happier when I'm in the villages. That's where I feel best. Seeing the joy in the faces of the children and the hope in the eyes of the mothers, it's so rewarding."

- Sivan Ya'ari



Sivan Ya'ari

- ✦ Sivan Ya'ari is the founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, a non-profit organisation that brings Israeli solar, agricultural and water technologies to African villages.
- ✦ She founded the organisation in 2008 after earning her Master's degree in International Energy Management from Columbia University.
- ✦ Sivan has been working in Africa for over 20 years, and in the past decade has brought clean water and light using Israeli technologies to over 1.8 million people across 10 African countries.
- ✦ As a result, qualified medical staff have been able to provide more services to remote villages, students can continue to study after sunset, and drip irrigation allows individuals to grow their own crops year-round.
- ✦ Among other innovations, the group builds much-needed medical clinics, installs computers in classrooms and powers solar refrigerators to store vaccines and other medicine.
- ✦ In 2012, Innovation: Africa received special consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The following year, the organization was granted the United Nations Innovation Award. In 2019, Innovation: Africa won the Innovative Diplomacy Award from the Abba Eban Institute.

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*Winds of Change in
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Interreligious Diplomacy with Rabbi Rosen

By Galya Tregenza Hall

There are many words I could think of to describe Rabbi David Rosen — learned, influential, dignified, respectful and inspirational would be accurate when describing this remarkable man, but the one word that keeps coming to mind after listening to him speak in September is *kind*.



We were thrilled to host Rabbi Rosen for a webinar on 15 September and the more than 200 people who registered for the event spoke of the high esteem in which he is held.

Rabbi Rosen spoke with great authority around the theme of *The Gulf, Israel and Interreligious Diplomacy*. He shared anecdotes and very important insights that he has acquired following years of work in this arena.

Rabbi David Rosen is the Jerusalem-based International Director of Interreligious Affairs for the global Jewish advocacy group, AJC. In addition to interreligious representation and education, his work involves mediation and peace building and he is heavily involved in multi-religious engagement on ecological issues. He is a member of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate's Commission for Interreligious Dialogue.

He spoke with tremendous knowledge and provided insights and discernments about the changing Gulf, but what really stood out to me was the kindness and the humanity of this esteemed man. The way he spoke of the so-called 'other' was a lesson for us all. His words were gentle and filled with everything required to build bridges of hope and mutual respect. His tone was gracious and his ideas seemed to be always shaped by a generous spirit and the determination to truly understand the people around him with humility and thoughtfulness.

We read in the Book of Proverbs that, 'The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing' (Proverbs 12:18). Rabbi Rosen is a fine example of someone successfully achieving the latter.

From the Gulf to Mozambique with Seth Frantzman

By Galya Tregenza Hall

On 30 September we hosted Seth Frantzman for a webinar where he discussed whether Israel's growing relationships in the Middle East and Africa could counter extremist Muslim ideology.

Given his extensive experience and knowledge of these issues, he was very well placed to address and unpack the fundamental themes contained within his topic.

Seth Frantzman is the Middle East Affairs correspondent at the Jerusalem Post and Executive Director of the Middle East Centre for Reporting and Analysis. He is a former lecturer at Al-Quds University on US foreign policy and has a PhD from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has reported from and conducted research in Iraq, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the UAE, and is the author of *After ISIS: America, Israel and the Struggle for the Middle East*.

Around 220 people registered for the webinar and all who attended were provided with a comprehensive analysis of what led Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain come to the place of signing normalisation deals. Frantzman detailed the

circumstances of the different Gulf States and spoke from his experience about the new face of the Middle East.

He also spent some time commenting on what might be coming next regarding Isis or other extremist groups that are closer to our part of the world. He noted that we in South Africa should take the links between Isis and Mozambique very seriously and not allow countries like Mozambique to be destabilised. He noted that it behoves South Africa to take a forward approach in this matter.

A rigorous Q&A session followed the talk and concluded a fascinating webinar. Seth Frantzman is a very knowledgeable man with a great deal of first-hand experience of the Middle East and we all gained greater understanding and perspective of the region through his presentation.



SAFI welcomes Trystan Tregenza Hall on board!

We are delighted to welcome Trystan Tregenza Hall onto the team as he takes up a short-term role with South African Friends of Israel.



Trystan comes from Cornwall and spent three years living in Israel where he worked for Bridges for Peace (BFP) at their international Headquarters in Jerusalem. He worked as the International Projects Co-ordinator and through his work he travelled throughout Israel interacting with the various communities that make up Israeli society. He also spent a year working for the BFP Headquarters in Wales. He has a deep love for and understanding of Israel and is someone who has much to bring to the work of SAFI.

The ACDP and SAZF join forces to make a difference

By Cllr Demetrius Dudley, ACDP Whip, City of Cape Town

The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) has had a relationship with the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF) since our inception in 1993. We have a love for Israel that reaches deep into our being, faith and hopes.

In the Bible it says in the Book of Genesis — "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12). This, in short, sums up my love for Israel and her people.

As a City Councillor for the ACDP, I welcomed the opportunity to work together with the SAZF Cape Council through Julie Berman. The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown has left many people destitute, hungry and hopeless. Julie and I shared the same heart and vision to be able to help as many people as we can and through the support of the SAZF, I have been able to reach many desperate people and families. Through our work together, these people have been blessed with substantial food parcels and bread.

Through our joint operations, we were and still are, able to touch so many lives and make a difference. Our efforts were not political or carrying hidden agendas but came purely from a desire to help and I have no doubt that our work together has been pleasing to God.



There's no place like home

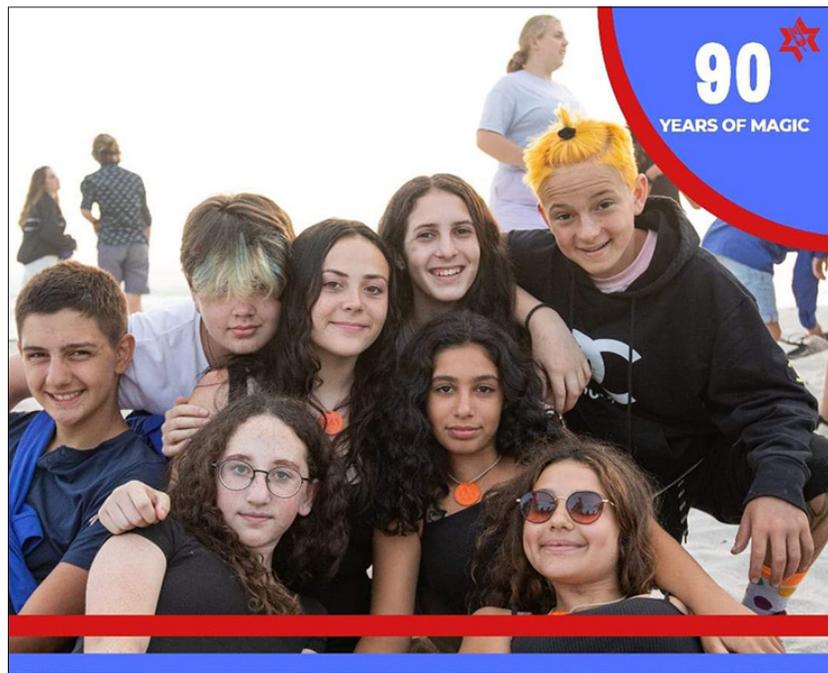
As I'm sure we've all heard from the timeless movie *The Wizard of Oz* — 'There's no place like home'; and it's true! Home is where we feel comfortable.

Home is a feeling of happiness and joy. It's a place we look forward to going after a long day's work. A place we can truly be who we are. This year, though, Bnei Akiva will unfortunately not be going home. During December, our beautiful campsite will remain empty. There will be no pitched tents. No Channies and Maddies running to shul or the tuck shop every day! No pre-Shabbos photos in front of the *cheder ochel* and no jumping on trampolines.

However, what we still have is Shabbos. We have our friends. We have a new experience to look forward to! With Bnei planning for Machaneh in December, we are excited to see what is to come! We are excited to explore all the new opportunities.

Mostly though, we are excited to share it with our Maddies and Channies and create new experiences together!

Getting excited for December



Channichim at the beach at Machaneh'19

With all the uncertainty due to the current pandemic, Habonim has had to adapt to the current online environment.

Obviously, this means we have to adapt our current Machaneh structure to follow certain protocols and ensure, as always, the safety of our channichim.

Habonim can assure all our chaverim that the *Va'ad Poel* (VP) for Machaneh are working tirelessly to plan a range of different possibilities that we can run. The plan we choose to run will depend on the current situation with the pandemic and with the safety of our channichim at the forefront of all our decisions.

Although we cannot come together on a 'normal' Machaneh this year and celebrate all the usual things we look forward to at Machaneh, the VP is making sure that our channichim are going to be getting Habo magic in their December holidays this year, in whatever shape or form.

Aleh V'Hagshem



A new Chair for SAUJS Western Cape

We welcome Deena Katzen, as the new SAUJS Western Cape Chairperson.



Deena is in her fifth year in serving the South African Union of Jewish Students. She previously served as a member of the WITS committee, University of Cape Town committee, National Zionist Officer and National Chairperson. She is currently completing her BCom Accounting degree at the University of Cape Town. Together with the rest of the committee we know that SAUJS WC will continue to grow and carry out its mandate of providing a safe space for Jewish students on campus and creating opportunities for growth and learning.

The South African Union of Jewish Students, Western Cape (SAUJS WC) has seen many changes. Throughout this transitional period the one element that has remained true to our core has been our dedication to Jewish students and fostering a deep and meaningful sense of community that will last a lifetime.

Grant Norrie rose and grew into his role of Chairperson of SAUJS WC. He led with the help of an excellent Executive, SAUJS WC through a year filled with pizza making, coffee tasting, lunch and learns, social media campaigns around Zionism and Identity, strategy sessions, *hadrachas*, hosting international delegations, self-defence workshops, UCT socials, mental health talks and environmental cleaning campaigns and connecting Jewish students to the core of their Judaism.

We look forward to another term of growth and fantastic events with our new chair.

Join Netzer for Machaneh 2020



Join Netzer South Africa for a Summer Machaneh Experience this December 2020



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Consider This

Crossing the COVID-19 River

By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani



The Talmud (Chullin 7a-b) tells the story of Rabbi Pinchas ben Yair who had to cross the river Ginai in order to fulfill the mitzvah of pidyon sh'vuim, of redeeming captives.

In ancient and medieval times Jews were often kidnapped by robbers or slave dealers or were unjustly imprisoned by the ruling authorities to be released against a ransom paid by the Jewish community. Redeeming captives was considered a religious duty of paramount importance. The Rambam stated that the mitzvah of pidyon sh'vuim supersedes that of giving tzedakah. The river Ginai represented an obstacle to Rabbi Pinchas' endeavour to perform this all-important mitzvah. Having no means of crossing, Rabbi Pinchas commanded the river to divide its waters so that he may cross by walking on the riverbed. At first the river refused until Rabbi Pinchas threatened to pray that its waters dry up. A man appeared carrying a sack of wheat designated to make matza for Pesach. Once again Rabbi Pinchas commanded the river to divide its waters so that the man could cross without getting his wheat wet which would render it pasul for making matza. After he crossed safely an Arab merchant appeared with his wares. Once again Rabbi Pinchas commanded the river to allow the trader to cross by dividing its waters.

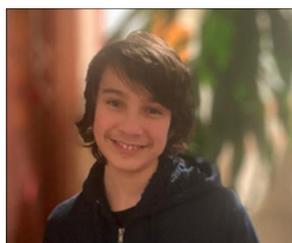
The crossing of bodies of water is a metaphor that appears in ancient literature, symbolising passing through the challenges of life or transformation and change. Thus, the newly freed Israelites had to pass through the Sea of Reeds to escape the pursuing Egyptian army and enter the wilderness, moving from the place of narrowness and restriction into the place of potential for growth and creativity. Joshua was tasked with leading the Israelites into the Land of Israel from the plains of Moab. The obstacle that had to be crossed was the Jordan River. As the kohanim carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the water, the river divided so that the Israelites could cross on dry ground.

Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon River that formed the border between Gaul and Italy, an act that led to civil war and the elevation of the Roman general and former governor of Gaul to Emperor of Rome.

Currently the world is crossing a river, a River called COVID-19. Unfortunately the pandemic cannot be commanded to "divide its waters" so that we may pass through safely. This crisis that has caused so much damage to our world is an adversary that has to be tackled with respect and caution. We cannot afford to be nonchalant and dismissive, even in this country in which, at the time of writing we are on level one and the number of infections is relatively low. We need to be ever vigilant and disciplined, following the protocols of wearing masks when in public, constantly washing and sanitizing our hands and maintaining physical distancing even when performing the mitzvah of comforting mourners.

Unlike the Ginai River we cannot give COVID-19 an ultimatum but, just as Rabbi Pinchas was determined to save the lives of the captives he was going to redeem, so we are obligated to save lives by adhering strictly to the safety protocols stipulated by medical professionals and legislated by the law of the land. The man carrying wheat for matza represents our determination to continue with life despite the pandemic, but to do so safely and sensibly, whilst refraining from taking any unnecessary risks. And finally, Rabbi Pinchas' concern for the Arab merchant represents the directive *V'ahavta l'Rei-acha Kamocho*, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). COVID-19 has made all of us aware of our fragility and also of our responsibility to and for each other, no matter our differences of religion, ethnicity or socio-economic status. We are all in this crisis together and what one individual does or does not do affects everyone else. If we all work together with respect for the lives of all we can cross to the other side of River COVID-19.

Mazaltov to those who celebrated Bnei Mitzvah with us last month



Jethro Wann 24 October

Creating connections over the High Holidays

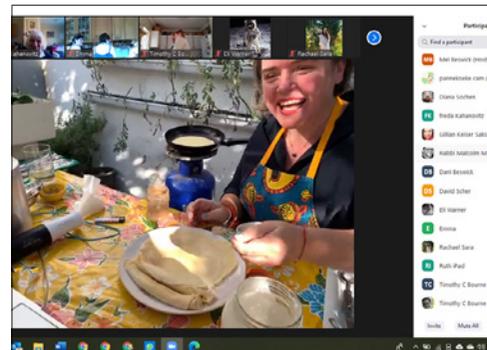
Despite the pandemic, Temple Israel was able to pull off an incredible season of meaningful holiday celebrations and observances!

S'lichot kicked off our online offerings with a powerful evening of watching Acts of Defiance together in Zoom, followed by a discussion on race-relations today, before the S'lichot service at midnight.

Rosh Hashanah itself proved that our community could successfully blend ancient rituals with modern technology and dynamic, creative and in-depth online worship, culminating in an amazing shofar-medley video. Click here to watch: <https://youtu.be/-MfiMbMGMc0>

In small groups, we gathered in three locations for Tashlich and it was wonderful to see one another off-screen. The rabbis also provided a do-it-yourself guide for those who did not want to gather and an at-home ritual for those who are unable to leave their homes right now due to the pandemic.

Yom Kippur was touted as one of the most meaningful ever by many of our members. Online Kol Nidrei included spiritual music and an amazing video about our incredible community. We were online throughout the day on Yom Kippur with morning, afternoon, Yizkor and Neilah services as well as afternoon Limmud-style shiur sessions in partnership with the other South African Progressive shuls.



Gill Saks teaching us how to make pancakes from her sukkah.

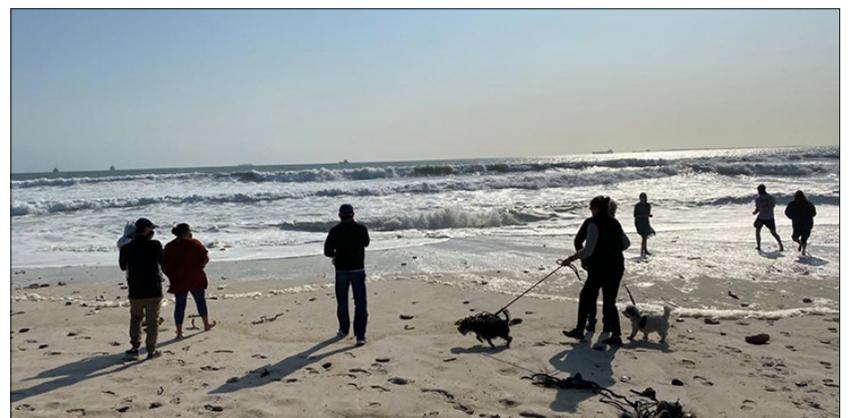


Rabbi Malcolm blowing the shofar during Tashlich at Sunrise beach

For Sukkot, our online services continued, evening and morning, as well as a fun and delicious Pannakoeke in die Sukkah cooking class with Gill Saks.

On Simchat Torah, our evening service was followed by a Torah Dance Party with Gabriel Shai and some of our recent Bnai Mitzvah students returned to reprise their maftir readings as we read selections from each of the books of the Torah.

Overall, the chaggim were a huge success and we are amazed by how many people joined us throughout, both from Cape Town, all over South Africa and abroad! We are very proud and grateful to all our rabbis, service leaders, musicians, technicians, video-editors and everyone else who made it possible for us to be both together and apart. We are hopeful for what 5781 will bring and pray that next year it will be safe to gather in shul once more, but we know that this holiday season will not soon be forgotten.



Tashlich at Sunrise beach



We are stronger together

LIQUIDCRYSTAL / 6119



LULAV

REPRESENTS THE SPINE WITH WHICH WE STAND STRONG.



WILLOW

RELATES TO THE LIPS THROUGH WHICH WE SPEAK OUT FOR OTHERS.



MYRTLE

REFERS TO THE EYES WITH WHICH WE SEE THOSE WHO ARE OVERLOOKED.



ETROG

SYMBOLISES THE HEART WITH WHICH WE FEEL FOR OTHERS.

As we embark on the new year of 5781, after the celebrations of Rosh Hashanah, the introspection of Yom Kippur and after the joy and excitement that Succot, Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah bring; it is important to reflect on all the positive aspects of how we, as a Herzlia family, have dealt with the challenges thrust upon us by the COVID-19 crisis.

There is no better symbolism than that represented by the Lulav and Etrog: Much like the Lulav, our Herzlia family has stood tall and strong in the face of challenges that none of us could have ever foreseen, like the Willow we have spoken out positively and in support of one another, like the Myrtle

we have literally looked after those vulnerable in our community and like the Etrog we have shown real heart – compassion for those who have had health and financial challenges, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant socio-economic crisis.

At this time we would like to thank you all for your support, for your positive approach to change and for your understanding and patience. In the face of adversity and great challenges we have come out on the other side 'Stronger Together', because Herzlia is more than just a school, Herzlia is about community and family.



CELEBRATING EIGHTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE





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

International Day of Older Persons turns 30

In 1990 the United National General Assembly designated 1 October as the day to promote the dignity, independence, rights and participation of older persons.

This year, the United Nations notes the severe impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought on older persons around the world — not only on their health, but on their rights and well-being. Since the onset of the pandemic, the UN has given priority to the needs of older persons in its collective preparedness and response action at global, regional and country level.

In South Africa, we observed Older Persons Week from 30 September to 6 October. But we at the CJSA hope you agree that we celebrate our seniors daily!



Batmitzvah girls from Marais Road Shul assisting with Rosh Hashana deliveries — what a mitzvah

Decade of Healthy Ageing

The Decade of Healthy Ageing also commences in 2020 bringing together experts, civil society, government and the health professions to discuss the five strategic objectives of the Action plan on Ageing and Health.

Specifically, Goal three aims to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being of all at all ages” and ensure that every human being regardless of age will have an opportunity to fulfil their potential in dignity and equality.

The World Population Prospects 2019 report indicated that by 2050, one in six people in the world will be over age 65. The number of persons aged 80 years or over is projected to triple, from 143 million in 2019 to 426 million in 2050.

Outside of conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's, we can no longer take for granted that significant memory decline is part of the ageing process. Studies show a close link between lifestyle choices and cognitive decline among

seniors. Simply put, the level of memory decline in old age is not a given, but rather something that is affected by a multitude of factors, many of which are being continually discovered.

Harvard Medical School's Harvard Health Publishing website article states practical steps that can help guard against decline. Experts think that advanced education may help keep memory strong by getting a person into the habit of being mentally active. Jobs that keep you mentally active, pursuing a hobby or learning a new skill can function the same way. Read; join a book group; play chess or bridge; write your life story; do crossword or jigsaw puzzles; take a class; pursue music or art; design a new garden layout. (We have a *faribel* — they forgot to mention that you should join the CJSA!)

In addition, the importance of diet and exercise, as well as guarding against diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, depression, cholesterol and an underactive thyroid.

A key issue that crops up often in retirement research is mounting financial pressure, which is preventing people from saving enough or at all for their golden years. Work also provides a necessary sense of purpose for many. A sense of purpose in life, definitely plays an important role in maintaining physical function among older adults.”

Longevity

On the positive side, the increase in longevity as well as the implementation of healthy habits, is likely to result in a healthier population above the age of 60.

While many might be looking forward to retirement at 60, the possibility of another 20, 30, or 40 years of life and minimal cognitive decline, might put into question the idea of retiring at 60. If indeed, as the body of research suggests, ageing is in fact informed by various conditions, and not all 65 year old or even 80 years olds are in the same state of health or cognitive decline, how fair then is the mandatory retirement age of 60 or 65 that is implemented by many companies?

How much of an impact the coronavirus pandemic will have on those statistics remains to be seen. The growth of the older population can be credited to “the advancement of public health, medicine, and economic and social development, and their contribution to the control of disease, prevention of injury, and reduction in the risk of premature death,” as well as a declining birth rate.

Socialisation plays an important part in the well-being of everyone. Isolation during COVID-19 has been acutely felt by all with the CJSA professional team. Thinking and acting out of the box we have encouraged members to interact wherever possible on Zoom and to check in regularly with one another to ensure that everyone is held together and kept part of the community in which they live.

Our Shabbat Meals — a very real way of keeping in touch — are reaching over 100 people weekly. We are so grateful to our fantastic band of volunteers who selflessly deliver each week and especially to

the team at Berkies who prepare and pack each meal. A special thanks to Merle Ruben who initiated the idea for Pesach and behind the scenes quietly creates miracles and beautiful parev dishes.



Social Workers Stacey and Monique with the Rosh Hashana deliveries

We know how desperately everyone is hoping to meet again at our centres, but until this can happen, we urge each one to take care, be safe and positive — and stay in touch with us. Together — we CAN!

Diana Sochen

Executive Director.

Social and Personal

Even during the lockdown period, there have been numerous occasions for celebration.

Births

Janice Bloch – Great Granddaughter
Hannah Sofer – 20th Great Grandchild

Barmitzvah

Mervyn and Arona Shrand – grandson

Wedding

Ruth Katzeff – granddaughter

Special Birthday

Dan Korn – 80th Birthday

Our sincere condolences

Rose Brenner on the passing of her husband, Bernard
Mike and Averil Myers on the passing of his father, Harry Myers
Freda Tucker on the passing of her brother, David Wener



I gave away other people's money and it made my day!

By Miriam Lipshitz

Well, to be accurate, I didn't give away other people's money but I recently had the privilege and pleasure of phoning South African Olim in need to tell them that they were the recipients of someone else's generosity and would receive an unexpected gift for Rosh Hashana.

Telfed reached out to our community in Israel, inviting them to donate their NIS750 government Corona grant to assist those in need. The response was staggering: in three weeks, over NIS100 000 was donated by our unbelievable community. WOW!

To back track a little, in July this year, the Israeli government approved a NIS6.5 billion economic stimulus plan. Each citizen over the age of 18 received a NIS750 grant. Parents with children under 18 years received an additional NIS500 per child. Spending the money is central to the effectiveness of this 'helicopter money' aid package.

Over the two days during which I phoned the recipients of the donations, I was humbled. Their joy was tangible; they cried and I had tears in my eyes with them. Your gift to them, before Rosh Hashanah, now meant that they could buy their children a present for the chag, or that they could add something special to an otherwise mundane holiday meal. One charming lady laughed and laughed saying that now she could finally buy herself a much-needed pair of shoes; others were so overwhelmed that they were speechless.

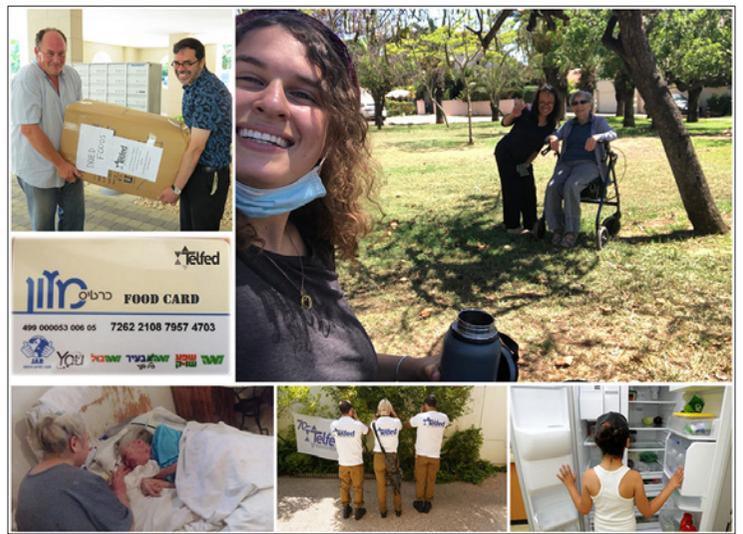
I made new friends over those two days. Those phone calls, kick started by communal generosity, opened a floodgate for many of those to whom I spoke. Beyond their very genuine appreciation of everything which Telfed and our community is able to do for them, they needed to talk. And we talked and got to know each other. I now have invitations to tea and homemade cake from Carmiel to Eilat and I look forward in time to meeting these new friends when I drop in for tea!

Although it is a platitude, easily touted to potential donors, that it is better to give than to receive, my recent experience reinforced just how true this is. I was elated at being able to brighten someone else's day and chag.

Kathy Calvin, CEO and President of the United Nations Foundation said: "Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." That NIS750 grant donation made a difference and lifted a weight off someone's shoulders.

Thank you to those who support Telfed's work, for making a difference and putting a smile on someone's face in these strange times. And, yes, you made my day too!

Telfed provides social welfare assistance to over 400 South African Olim on a monthly basis,



distributing NIS2.2 million in financial aid and food cards per year. This assistance ensures that those with a genuine need are clothed, fed and sheltered during their most difficult moments.

"This grant had me in tears of joy and relief. It is very special of you, especially since we have been on lockdown for months and it seems that we shall have to remain so for very much longer. My partner, B. has been confined to a wheelchair and oxygen 24/7 for the same period. I am doing my very best to make her life easier and to assist her as best I can. That is why your gift is so much more appreciated. I cannot thank you enough." H.

For more information, visit www.telfed.org.il

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

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

Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

*Due to Corona virus, I'm not sure when will I visit SA again. However, I do plan & hope to arrive by the end of 2020
You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or whatsapp +48783953223*

USING MY NUDEL

Make management great again

By Craig Nudelman

On 3 November America will hold one of its most important elections in its history.

I know that might seem like a bold claim, but in the past four years, the United States (US) has degenerated under the Trump administration. The white supremacists and radicals, who for eight years had to keep quiet under Obama's presidency, exploded out of the woodwork and wreaked havoc upon a 224-year-old democracy. Donald J. Trump has ensured that the US is more polarised than it ever has been. Analysts have suggested that the election result will not be called on election night. Instead, it may take days, or even weeks, to determine whether we will see a 46th President of the United States or retain the disgrace of the 45th stain on the oldest democratic nation in the world.

What can we take away from Trump's lack of adequate leadership and mismanagement? Perhaps we can use it as an opportunity to understand the potentially negative impact of poor management and in turn to motivate ourselves to become better people. This is especially important in a COVID world. The social, economic and political effects of COVID have had irreparable social, economic and political repercussions. Business today is NOT 'business as usual', and for organisations to survive and thrive in the future, there is going to need to be a commitment from leaders to put the wellbeing of their people first. I, personally, have been a victim of COVID's economic effects, having been retrenched from Herzlia after four years of teaching. As such, it is important to question whether leaders have risen to the occasion and tried to create a positive workplace environment during this tough time, or if they have fallen into negative habits and created a workplace which is counterproductive.

There are lots of different ways to judge quality of leadership and management. Two clear red flags are favouritism/nepotism, and when a manager does not take care of their people. I'll go on to discuss how Trump demonstrates both of these actions. However, more generally, I'm hoping to show that by analysing these two important qualities in a leader, we can learn what steps can we take to become better managers ourselves.

To begin, let's analyse who Trump surrounds himself with. Nepotism and favouritism is rife within the White House. Christine Adams, writing in The Washington Post, writes about Trump's need for personal relationships and loyalty. Quoting Philip Bump, a national correspondent for the US elections, she states that Trump's top speakers and key people will be, "anyone named Trump, anyone who can speak Fox and anyone willing to pay some form of fealty." She also states that Trump uses his children as the gatekeepers at the White House. To receive an audience with the President, one has to have a "personal connection to his children."

So too in the workplace, managers who pick favourites tend to create a negative atmosphere among their staff. Fiona Adler, founder of Actioned.com, suggests that there are inevitable people who are similar to their managers and share their interests, culture, values, or work ethic. However, this should never determine who is promoted or whose opinions are placed above others. These actions lead to disengagement and disenchantment within the workplace, with the other staff noticing the unwarranted attention paid to certain individuals. In essence, don't put someone who has no prior

knowledge into a position that is important, à la Jared Kushner.

Trump also does not take care of his people. In a Forbes.com article, Frances Bridge uses organisational psychologist and Professor Adam Grant's idea that a good leader cares about their employees. Comparing a salesman with good or bad leadership skills, he says, "You hear a lot of, 'Well I put my customers first.' The sad thing is that the way you treat your employees actually spills over to affect your customers. So, it's pretty hard to run a customer friendly organisation if you don't care about your own employees first and foremost." Trump has not been nice to the people he has hired. As of October 2020, the turnover for Trump's 'A' Team' (the most influential positions within the executive office of the president) is 91%, with 65 people being promoted, dismissed or resigning (often under pressure). This is a highest number since Ronald Reagan's presidency. Trump has had four Chiefs of Staff, six Communications Directors, four Press Secretaries, four National Security Advisors and three Directors of Intelligence – which is a pretty astounding turnover in any context.

Caring for one's employees is multifaceted, but as employees we hope that all managers are committed to this. A lack of empathy, not leading by example, focussing on blame, not supporting your staff, a lack of focus and no respect for employees are all attributes which make for an unhappy workplace and a high turnover of staff. Especially during this time, we need to make sure we take care of staff. If your employees are struggling and you can't assist them in a helpful way, you can't have a successful business.

This article will be published two days before the American election. I will be up all night, watching and waiting for something positive to happen. The two key negative management traits that I've focused on in this article are just the tip of Trump's massive iceberg, which will sink America if he is elected for another four years. I hope that we can learn from Trump how NOT to manage the people we work with and this can help us build stronger, kinder, more resilient workplaces in the post-COVID world. I don't want my daughters to see another four years of a Trump presidency.

Bizrat Hashem, may we welcome Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States.



Family Announcements

BEREAVEMENT

DEBBY CHIAT

Debby, previously of Rondebosch, wife of the late Albert, died in Netanya Israel on 26 September 2020.

An *eshet chayil* who was loved and respected by all who knew her.

Deeply mourned by her children Lenny, Neville, Marcelle and late Evelyn and their families.

The funeral was in Netanya on 27 September 2020.

CONDOLENCES – THANK YOU

DAVID WENER

We would like to thank Rabbi Hillel Bernstein and Rebbetzin Gina of the Milnerton Hebrew Congregation as well as our wonderful family and friends for their love, support and kindness shown during our beloved David's illness and his passing.

David will remain forever in our hearts and we will cherish all the memories we shared.

Deeply mourned by his loving wife Phillippa, his children Simone, Lisa, Hylton and their families, his sister Freda and brother Selwyn.

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



ONLINE OPEN LOSS SUPPORT GROUP 2020

Are you struggling with the loss of a loved one?

We are offering an online support group for anyone who has experienced a significant loss. Meeting once every 3 weeks.

Facilitated by experienced grief counsellors.



For further details, contact admin@nechama.org.za or 021-462 5520/066 081 3397 during office hours 08H30 – 12H30

Sunday 29 Nov 2020

Join our 2020 global **MENSCH Mitzvah Day** of virtual volunteering!

Join ONLINE from around the world!

Register online at: [mensch.org.za/mitzvahday2020](https://www.mensch.org.za/mitzvahday2020)

Mensch Mitzvah Day goes virtual in 2020!

This year we will be celebrating Mitzvah Day on Sunday 29 November.



On Mitzvah Day, we give our time, to make a difference to the community around us. We may not all be able to be together in person — but we can Volunteer Virtually and have impact!

COVID-19 continues to impact both our own lives, and the livelihood of so many of our fellow South Africans already facing the daily challenge of poverty. Mitzvah Day gives us the opportunity to re-ignite our efforts to feed those who are hungry, and also, to consider how to 'build back better' our food systems in 2021.



VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING – how will it work?

Join Mensch this Mitzvah Day for an online global cooking class in which you will learn new recipes, connect with friends and family



around the world as you cook; learn about nutrition, the food system in South Africa and what the experts are saying about what needs to happen to avoid mass hunger AND create jobs and better communities in the process. AND your hard work will feed someone in need of a nutritious meal!

FOOD-TO-GO – where will the food go and how?

In South Africa we are partnering this year with Mensch Network members SA Harvest who will receive the fruits of our labours on the day, and make sure it reaches those that need it most. As this is a global event and we look forward to people join us from Australia, the UK, USA and Israel to name a few locations, we will be suggesting food charity organisations in each location, for food to be donated!



WHAT'S ON THE MENU – our target!

Mensch will host a global cooking class on Zoom

which you will join. You'll learn a new recipe and make a hearty nutritious soup and bake your own bread! Our aim is for each household to make 4 litres of soup.



We are aiming to cook 1000 litres of soup, made by 250 people or families, from the safety of our homes! This will feed a minimum of 2000 people, that otherwise would not have eaten that day.

BEYOND COOKING – be inspired!

While your soup cooks and your bread rises, learn and be inspired about the future of food sustainability from our expert panel of speakers.

For more information and to register please visit our website www.mensch.org.za/mitzvahday2020.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with admin and marketing: If you are keen to assist please email Jodi@mensch.org.za.

Lets make it happen, together!

Mensch Mitzvah Day this year is brought to you in association with the SA Jewish Response to COVID-19 and Beyond Campaign



MATRIC EXHIBITION 12 OCTOBER – 27 NOVEMBER 2020 SA JEWISH MUSEUM

MUSEUM SHOP HOURS

We have amended our shop opening hours.

Sunday to Thursday - 11am to 3pm

You are still able to pre-order anything you require from the shop by emailing shop@sajewishmuseum.co.za



SAJM
South African Jewish Museum

When is a country a country?

By Anton Katz



On 31 May 1910 four separate countries (the Cape Colony, the Natal Colony, the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony) unified to form a 'new' country named the Union of South Africa; in 1960 the Union left the British Commonwealth and became a Republic.

In 1918 South Africa signed the Treaty of Versailles, the peace treaty that ended World War I, and was a founding member first of the League of Nations (1920) and thereafter the United Nations Organization (1945). The Republic of South Africa offered independent status as states to ten Bantustans or homelands.

Between 1976 and 1981 four of the ten accepted independence; viz, Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei. Only South Africa and the four 'states' recognised their independence. The rest of the world rejected the notion that they were independent sovereign states. In 1994 as apartheid ended the four 'independent' states were reintegrated into South Africa. At about the same time the independent

state of Yugoslavia was breaking up in a horrific civil war. Today, there are six recognised independent states which had for most of the 20th century made up the country of Yugoslavia. At the establishment of the United Nations there were 51 member states; due to colonisation and other developments there are 193 member states of the UN today.

All over the world states of all kinds must deal with ethnic, religious, language and other groups who seek independence from the larger group or union. From Quebec in Canada, Biafra in Nigeria, Catalonia in Spain to the Western Togoland group in Ghana secession movements exist. Secession is the formal withdrawal or separation from a country. The withdrawal of the group from the parent State allows it to become its own sovereign State, and all the legal ramifications independence entails. In South Africa there are moves for independence for the Western Cape from South Africa by, for example, the Cape Party <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2020-08-12-fringe-talk-of-western-cape-secession-is->

[reactionary-and-unachievable/](#) and the Ama Thembu in parts of the Eastern Cape historically known as Thembuland.

Statehood in the Israeli/Palestinian and Morocco/Western Sahara (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic) are major flashpoints in international politics generally. Morocco, which became independent in 1956, withdrew from the Organisation of African Unity in 1984 because the OAU accepted the Western Sahara as a member State. Morocco only rejoined the African Union in January 2017. Eighty five States recognised the independence of Sahrawi Arab Republic, although forty four have frozen or withdrawn that recognition of statehood. South Africa has recognised the Sahrawi Republic as an independent sovereign state and established formal diplomatic relations with the 2004. A Sahrawi Republic embassy is operative in Pretoria.

Disputes about statehood often lead to grave violence by way of civil war and also serious economic and diplomatic challenges.

In considering the question of what makes a country a country international law is an important starting place. International law is clear on the rights and duties, privileges and responsibilities of States. However, the birth and origins of States is somewhat less certain in international law. The death or demise of a State is not dealt with by international law. The acceptance of new states into the international community is effected mainly by means of recognition on the part of existing states. This process is obviously influenced by political considerations; but certain objective factual criteria for statehood have developed and been adopted to guide the decision to whether recognise a group claiming statehood. The traditional criteria for statehood are contained in the Montevideo Convention of 1933. It states: "The state of a person of international law should possess the following qualifications: (a) a permanent population; (b) a defined territory; (c) government; and (d) capacity to enter into relations with other states."

Now, recognition of a new emerging state can be either unilateral or collective. Most times recognition occurs unilaterally when one state recognises the existence of another new state. There are two schools of thought as to the purpose or consequence of recognition. The one is called the constitutive school and the other the declaratory school.

The declaratory school is better from a legal point of view. It says that an entity becomes a state when it meets the factual requirements of statehood, and all that recognition does is acknowledge (declares) as a fact something that was hitherto uncertain.

On the other hand, according to the constitutive school recognition of the claimant state creates statehood. So, in the controversial Palestinian situation, about 138 states recognise Palestine as a State, but is not so recognised by some 50 other states. Is it a state only for those that recognise it, and not for others? That is a most undesirable situation. A preferable position would be for an independent non-political body made up of experts to determine claims of statehood on the basis of the objective factual criteria set out in the Montevideo Convention. Of course, the experts must not be compromised by perceptions of bias or other political issues.

Many interesting and tough legal questions arise in the context of secession of and the recognition of states. For example, how exactly are each of the four Montevideo criteria to be evaluated? So, on the issue of permanent population no minimum population size is required. More than 50 states have populations of less than one million. Tuvalu and Nauru, both independent sovereign states which enjoy a full vote in the UN General Assembly because they are member States, have less than 15 000 inhabitants each. Compare that to India which also has one vote, but has a population of 1.3 billion. Microstates are now accepted as full individual sovereign members of the international community.

The only thing that is certain is that just as the political map of the world has shifted radically and many times over the centuries, so it will change again and again in the future. Bearing in mind the increasingly interdependent world we humans inhabit the real question is what makes sense and is sustainable. Climate change, global pandemics (such as COVID-19), mass migration of humans, international terrorism and other criminality, space exploration and rapidly growing technology and interconnectedness require and demand that a globally integrated response and approach to governance of these issues.

The key challenge that will arise is how the nation state fits in to this global approach. And linked to that challenge is the tough issue of which groups claiming to be independent countries deserve recognition and statehood.



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

A common misconception is that European citizenship and EU passports can only be obtained if one has documents providing his/her lineage. The fact is that not having any documents proving lineage, doesn't lead to disqualification of eligibility. Jews of Ashkenazi heritage can rely on documents obtained in Lithuania or Poland. Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

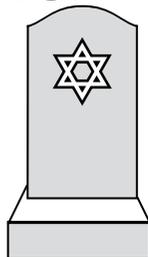
Horesh resides in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – enabling him to travel to Poland and Lithuania, as well as to Portugal, where he collaborates with local professionals who assist him in tracing documentation required for successful applications of reinstatement of European citizenship.

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

Due to Corona virus, I'm not sure when will I visit SA again. However, I do plan & hope to arrive by the end of 2020. You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or whatsapp +48783953223

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In South Africa there were Mutual Aid Societies/Associations (Landsleit) from many mainly Lithuanian towns including: Anykster, Birzer, Chelm (Poland), Dwinsk, Keidan, Kelmer (Lithuania), Kovno, Krakinowo, Kroze, Kupisker, Kurland and Riga, Lutzin, Malat, Minsk, Ponevez, Poswohl, Plungian, Rakishok, Schavlaner, Schawler, Shater, Tels, Utianer, Wilner and Zagare.

As part of telling the Jewish History of South African Jews my aim has always been to translate into English and publish historical publications of Landmanshaften, namely Yizkor Books and other commemorative and celebratory booklets. My work on this started many years ago. I appeal to anyone who may have information or publications of SA Landmanschafts to please contact me.

I am also seeking publications of any Jewish Communities in Johannesburg. For books or any further information, please contact me.

David Solly Sandler sedsand@iinet.net.au

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